

A Timeline of Leather Culture in the United Kingdom

1950s The influential motorcycle cult, the Rockers is formed. These leathermen went on to influence pop culture in the UK, most notably the punk rock movement of the 1970s.

1965 The 69 Club, the first European leather club, opens its doors in London.

1967 Homosexuality is decriminalised in the United Kingdom, for adults over the age of 21.

Throughout the 1970s the London leather bar scene becomes internationally-known, Attracting celebrities such as Freddie Mercury and Anthony Perkins.

1974 ECMC (European Confederation of Motorcycle Clubs) is founded as first the European confederation of gay leather & fetish clubs.

1987 Police investigations into same-sex male sadomasochism (dubbed Operation Spanner) begin across the UK. The investigation runs for three years, during which appx. 100 gay and bisexual men were questioned by police.

1993 House of Lords judgement, **R v Brown** ruled that consent was not a valid legal defence for actual bodily harm in Britain.

1994 The age of consent for homosexual acts is amended to age 18, still two years above the heterosexual age of 16.

A Note on **Women & Leather** in the UK

Sadly, Kynk 101 was unable to find any free, substantial information on the lesbian leather movement in the UK. We have no doubt that this subculture exists, albeit significantly hidden. We invite anyone in the community who is knowledgeable in this area to reach out to us at admin@kynk101.com.

2000 The age of consent for homosexual acts is levelled with that of heterosexual acts at the age of 16.

2006 The Bishopsgate Institute launches the UK Leather and Fetish Archive, dedicated to archiving history and heritage of leather, rubber, kink, BDSM and fetish community in the UK.

These are just a handful of the key moments in UK leather history. If you're curious to learn more, we'd encourage you to reach out to your local leather communities. Members are welcoming to newcomers, especially those who are sincere in their interest.