



# **The Wales LGBTQ+ Timeline Collection**

Ceredigion Edition

# Introduction



In 2021 the Welsh Government commissioned training in LGBTQ+ Language and History for local museums, libraries and archives to encourage the celebration of local stories of sexual orientation and gender identity.

This is part of the work being done on raising awareness and understanding of the diverse population of Wales and compliments the Welsh Government Action Plan which aims to:

- tackle inequalities experienced by LGBTQ+ communities;
- challenge discrimination;
- create a society where LGBTQ+ people are safe to live and love authentically, openly and freely as themselves.

The training provided effective learning points and practical tools to enable staff and volunteers to move forward with a fully inclusive programme resulting in an expansion beyond the organisation to the general public, such as family historians, local historians and community groups. Allowing the promotion of historic material in ways not realised before and enhancing work with partner organisations in not only in making LGBTQ+ material accessible to the public, but also in collecting and preserving this heritage.

An outcome of the LGBTQ+ Language and History training is the construction of timelines for each of the 22 counties of Wales. This

provides a means by which local people, allies and events can be celebrated instead of replicating mainstream narratives and celebrities.

A baseline of highlighted moments from history was constructed by Norena Shopland from her Welsh historic material collection on sexual orientations and gender identities, and from that contributed to the Hanes LHDT+ Cymru / LGBTQ+ Research Group Wales established to encourage and promote research into Welsh LGBTQ+ history. Their website, LGBTQ Cymru is funded by Swansea University to record as much information as possible on this history.

<https://lgbtqcymru.swansea.ac.uk/>

People are encouraged to add to and keep expanding the timelines to make them as comprehensive as possible.

**With thanks to Mair Jones of Queer Welsh Stories, and Jane Hoy of Aberration Cymru for additional material for this edition.**

# 17<sup>th</sup> CENTURY >

London-born Katherine Philips (nee Fowler) marries James Philips and moves into Cardigan Priory. She is the first woman to have a play commercially produced; a 17th-century Civil War poet of distinction; someone who broke the rules of poetry; one of the first notable female poets in UK and world history; and one of the first to write of same-sex attraction.

She became known as the Welsh Sappho and several of her poems regularly appear in lesbian anthologies.



> 1647

> 1839

> 1846

# 19<sup>th</sup> CENTURY >

Sarah Jane Rees (1839–1916) more well-known by her bardic name Cranogwen is born. She has two significant same-sex relationships, first with Fanny Rees and later with Jane Thomas.



## 1846

On Tuesday last, a groom was riding a pony in the streets, at Cardigan, with a side-saddle, and dressed in female attire. He was stopped in High-street by P.C. Lyon, and made to dismount and undress.

It appears that he was riding the horse for the purpose of training him for a lady's riding. We believe a communication has been made to the chief constable on the subject, to know whether the policeman did not exceed his duty.

*Source: Pembrokeshire Herald and General Advertiser, August 7 1846*

# 1861

The death penalty for buggery was abolished when the Offences Against the Person Act 1828 was replaced with the Offences Against the Person Act 1861.

A total of 8921 men had been prosecuted since 1806 for sodomy with 404 sentenced to death and 56 executed. Homosexuality remained illegal until partially decriminalised in 1967 in England and Wales, and 1980 in Scotland.

# 1865

Cranogwen wins the National Eisteddfod at Aberystwyth with the poem *Y Fodrwyl Briodasal* (*The Wedding Ring*).

All eisteddfodau entries must be anonymous and when it was revealed a woman had won there was shock and disgust.

The poem features four women talking about marriage but at no point is a bridegroom ever mentioned.



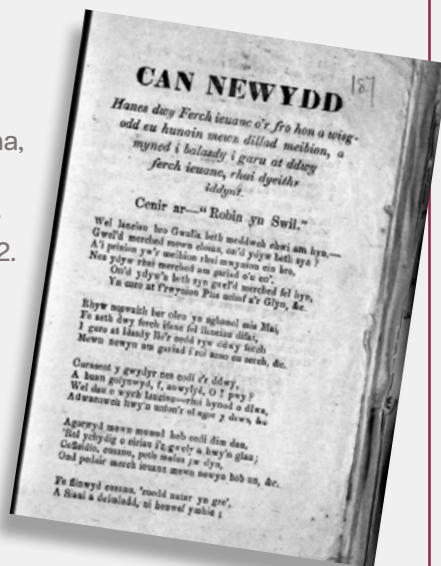
# 1866

# 1865-1872

Abel Jones, (Bardd Crwst) writes the bawdy ballad *Can Newydd* about cross-dressing women having sex with women.

It was translated by Gryg Muse, set to music by triple harpist Cerys Hafana, and performed at Aberration LGBTQ+ History Month, 2022.

For more see:  
[A Queer Bawdy Ballad](#) and  
[A Queer Welsh Ballad](#)



# 1866

George Powell (1842-1882) was born into a landed gentry family at Nant-Eos, near Aberystwyth. Described by art historian and curator Harry Heuser as 'not

quite eminent but eminently queer' George was a great collector of art and curiosities, homoeroticism being a dominant theme. This collection was bequeathed to the University of Aberystwyth. Powell was great friends with poet Algernon Swinburne, known to have had relationships with men, who often visited Nant-Eos, and the out-gay artist Solomon Simenon. When Solomon was convicted of homosexuality and his career destroyed, George remained his friend.





## 1873

Cranogwen wins the Aberaeron Eisteddfod chair for poetry.



## 1874

Fanny Rees (1853-1874) a local milliner's daughter dies. She is lamented by her partner Sarah Jane Rees, Cranogwen.



## › 1895

## 1885

The British Parliament enacted Criminal Law Amendment Act 1885, section 11 of which, known as the Labouchere Amendment, prohibited gross indecency between males.

It thus became possible to prosecute homosexuals for engaging in sexual acts where buggery or attempted buggery could not be proven.

The Labouchere Amendment became known as the Blackmailers Charter because it was so easy to accuse men, regardless if it was true or not, of being homosexual.

## 1895

Oscar Wilde, tried for gross indecency over a relationship with Lord Alfred Douglas, was sentenced to two years in prison with hard labour.



# 20<sup>th</sup> CENTURY >

## 1896

Percy Meye is a popular skirt dancer and singer working mainly in north Wales.

To learn more, listen to Jane Hoy's podcast account of a 1904 Aberystwyth event featuring the female impersonator.

## 1906

Rachel Barrett (1874-1953), born in Carmarthen, was a leading suffragette and editor of their newspaper, taking many photos of their campaigns for the vote.

She survived being force-fed in Holloway prison. She was in a relationship with suffragette AR Wylie who later became a Hollywood scriptwriter.



Photo credit: By Lena Connell (1875-1949) - <http://collections.museumoflondon.org.uk/online/object/451268.html>, Public Domain, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=47031512>



## > 1924

## 1914

The First World War broke out in August 1914. Army historian A.D. Harvey writes that “at least 230 soldiers were court-martialled, convicted and sentenced to terms of imprisonment for homosexual offences” during World War I.

## 1924

Edward Prosser Rhys (1901-1945) grew up in Mynydd Bach. He was from a family of blacksmiths and went to Ardwyn Grammar School Aberystwyth until his health broke down and he returned home. He became a journalist and settled in Aberystwyth when he was appointed editor of *Y Faner* in 1923.

Edward wrote poetry from an early age, and at the 1924 National Eisteddfod in Pontypool, he won the Bardic Crown for poetry. His winning poem, *Atgof* (Memories), expressed his desire for both men and women, causing a huge stir and Prosser was heavily criticised. He was supported by his lover Morris T Williams and his friend, writer Kate Roberts, who wrote of her desires for women. Prosser married, and Morris later married Kate but they remained friends. All three were deeply involved in forming Plaid Cymru and encouraging the Welsh language.



## 1920

Lewis Davies (1913–2011) was a Welsh librarian and philanthropist who in his later years established a foundation (the Rhys Davies Trust) devoted to the promotion of Welsh writing in English.

Like his more famous brother Rhys, he was gay. He studied at the University College of Wales, Aberystwyth, trained as a librarian.

Source: [Wikipedia](#)

## 1921

The Criminal Law Amendment Act was revised in the House of Commons to include a section making sexual “acts of gross indecency” between women illegal. While the Act was passed by the Commons, it was defeated by the House of Lords.

## 1934

Illtud Evans (1913-1972) was born John Alban Evans in London but went to Towyn Grammar School and grew up bilingual. He entered Lampeter University, St David's College, as Bates English Prizeman in 1931, but was expelled in 1934 for allegedly ‘admitting his homosexuality.’ He converted to Catholicism in 1937, became a priest and ‘Illtud Evans’ by 1943. He was editor of the English Dominican journal ‘Blackfriars’ from 1951 and contributed to *New Blackfriars*, *Time and Tide*, the *Times*, the *Observer*, etc. He moved to California in the 1960s, died in Greece in 1972 and is buried in a Greek Catholic Cemetery. Businessman Cliff Tucker (1912-1993), and his life partner Tony Dyson, a lecturer at Bangor University and activist for gay rights, were friends of Illtud's, and the two men campaigned for Illtud's exoneration, writing to the college, and using research from minute books to campaign for Illtud to be awarded his degree posthumously, and they succeeded.

Sources: [Mair Jones](#), *Queer Welsh Stories*; [John Rylands Research Institute and Library](#) > [Special Collections A to Z](#) > [Tony Dyson Papers](#)



## 1951

## 1939/40

Mary Lobb (1878 – 1939) deposits a collection of photographs at the National Library Wales featuring herself and her partner May Morris.



## 1944

Roger Rees (1944 – 2015) was a Welsh actor and director born in Aberystwyth, Cardiganshire.

He and his partner of 33 years, playwright Rick Elice, married in 2011, shortly after same-sex marriage in New York was legalised.

Source: [Wikipedia](#)

## 1945

World War II ends. Following the war, moral attitudes to homosexuality changed.

## 1946

Michael Dillon has one of the first sex reassignment surgeries from female to male.

## 1951

Roberta Cowell, a former World War II Spitfire pilot, becomes the first transgender woman to undergo male-to-female confirmation surgery.

## 1954

Alan Turing, an English mathematician, logician, cryptanalyst and computer scientist, influential in the development of computer science, committed suicide.

He had been given a course of female hormones (chemical castration) by doctors as an alternative to prison after being prosecuted by the police because of his homosexuality.



Photo credit: Wikimedia Commons  
File:Alan-Turing-Rephotography.jpg

## › 1957

Goronwy Rees (1909–1979, Principal of University of Aberystwyth resigns. Rees was born in Aberystwyth which he described as a 'priest and professor ridden town'.

He went on to a brilliant academic career in Oxford University, moving in intellectual and left-wing homosexual circles. He became lifelong friends with senior diplomat Guy Burgess (1911–1963) and pursued a career as a journalist. He was a member of the Wolfenden Committee.

In 1956, a series of anonymous articles appeared in the newspaper *The People* about Burgess who had emerged, (along with Kim Philby and the Cambridge Five) as a spy for the Soviet Union. The articles emphasised Burgess' so called dissolute and homosexual lifestyle and the author was revealed to be Goronwy Rees. An enquiry was held by the University in which Rees was found to have behaved inappropriately for his position. Rees resigned from his post and returned with his family to England where he resumed his journalistic career.

Goronwy is believed to have had a relationship with "Hamish" St. Clair-Erskine MC (1909–1973)

## 1967

Ten years after the Wolfenden Report, Cardiffian MP Leo Abse introduced the Sexual Offences Bill 1967 supported by Labour MP Roy Jenkins, then the Labour Home Secretary.

## 1970

Gay Liberation Front (GLF) was established.



## 1971

*Come Together*, the newspaper of the Gay Liberation Front, was formed by the GLF's Media Workshop in 1970.

Issues 1-16 have been digitalised by the Bishopgate Institute. The magazine mainly covered London but did include regional details.

Source: *Come Together, Issue 16 (undated)*

## 1972

An advert in *Gay News*, included two listings for the National Gay Liberation Front Groups:

Aberystwith (sic) GLF, c/o Polly Bluck, Room 80, Alexandra Hall Victoria Terrace, Aberystwith.

## 1974

Labour MP Maureen Colquhoun comes out as the first lesbian MP.

glf/regional

ABERYSTWYTH, c/o Students Union, University College of Wales, ABERYSTWYTH, Wales.

## 1986

## 1982

Welshman Terry Higgins dies of AIDS in St Thomas' Hospital London. His partner Rupert Whitaker and friend Martyn Butler set up the Terry Higgins Trust (which became the Terrence Higgins Trust), the first UK AIDS charity.

## 1984

MP Chris Smith is elected making him the first openly out homosexual politician in the UK parliament.

Lesbians and Gays Support the Miners, a campaign of LGBT+ support for striking workers in the miners' strike of 1984 and 1985, is launched. The film *Pride* covers their story.

Correspondence page in *Gay Times*, September edition:

### Humanists are intolerant

I must confess I am just about fed-up of hearing the tireless rantings of the Gay Humanist Group, which appears to exist for the sole purpose of slagging off Christians, especially gay Christians. If we defend the rights of people to choose their own lifestyle, then that includes their religious viewpoint. Yet it seems as far as the GHG are concerned, we have no right to believe in Jesus. And we gays accuse the Tory-toilet-roll newspapers of being narrow minded!

I note that the gay religious groups do not 'push' their beliefs with anything like the force that the GHG uses, though it appears to have nothing positive to offer. Now they have degenerated to the level of personal sniping at Richard Kirker, Secretary of the Gay Christian Movement, through the medium of your letters column. I also note that the gay religious groups do not spend their time running down the GHG – does this suggest, perhaps, that they have more profitable things to do?

Yr eiddoch yn gywir [Yours faithfully]  
Dafydd Frayling, Aberystwyth, Dyfed

## 1988

Section 28 of the Local Government Act 1988 enacted as an amendment to the United Kingdom's Local Government Act 1986, on 24 May 1988 stated that a local authority “shall not intentionally promote homosexuality or publish material with the intention of promoting homosexuality” or “promote the teaching in any maintained school of the acceptability of homosexuality as a pretended family relationship”.

There was not a single prosecution under Section 28 because nobody knew what ‘promote’ meant or what a ‘pretended family relationship’ was supposed to be.

Gay rights protestors were believed to be responsible for the daubing of five buildings in Aberystwyth on 4 February 1988. The Town Hall, Ceredigion District Council’s housing department in Portland Street, the unemployment office in Eastgate, the Pantyfedwen building in Market Street and the town library were daubed with male and female slogans and the words “Smash clause 28” in red paint.

Source: *Cambrian News*, 5 February 1988

Aberystwyth University Students have their exhibition on Clause 28 removed from the University Library.

John Davies (born 1938 in Rhondda) ex Warden of Pantycelyn, the Welsh Hall of Residence at University of Aberystwyth and respected Welsh historian comes out on S4C TV as bi-sexual in support of labour MP Ron Davies (no relation) who was accused of cruising for gay sex.



## 1990

## 1989

Berwyn Rowlands starts a film festival in Aberystwyth which becomes the Wales International Film Festival, with a weekend of LGBT+ films, and lasts until 1997 - a precursor to Iris LGBT+ Film Festival a decade later. A postcard ‘Find Your Ruby Slippers in Aberystwyth... Dewch i’r Wyl hwyw yn Aberystwyth...’ Advertising ‘Another Gay Weekend!’, 21-23 November 1997, was produced as part of the Welsh International Film Festival in Aberystwyth and a copy can now be found in Amgueddfa Cymru - Museum Wales.

Source: Joseph Ali, ‘How a boy from Anglesey created the biggest LGBT+ film festival prize in the world,’ *Wales Online*, 23 November 2020

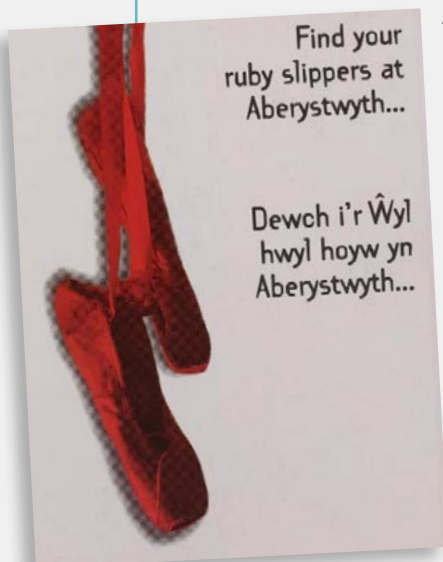


Photo credit: Image: © Amgueddfa Cymru - Museum Wales

## 1990

CYLCH (Cymdeithas y Lesbiaid a Hoywon Cymraeg eu Hiaith), a society for Welsh language gay and lesbian people, is founded in Aberystwyth, publishing Y Ddraig Binc (The Pink Dragon) magazine. They protest against Section 28 and in 1992, their stall at the National Eisteddfod in Aberystwyth is vandalised and defecated on. Papers relating to CYLCH from 1991-1995, are held at Llyfrgell Genedlaethol Cymru - The National Library of Wales.

Source: Collections Online, Amgueddfa Cymru – Museum Wales, Banner, CYLCH; Ychwanegwyd at Mân Adnau 1545, Llyfrgell Genedlaethol Cymru - The National Library of Wales

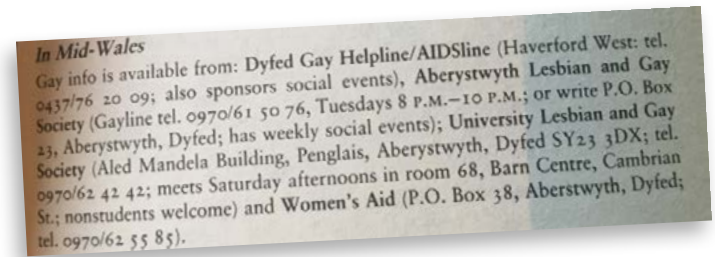
# 1991

Patricia Duncker was born and grew up in Jamaica. She taught writing and 19th and 20th century literature in the Department of English at the University of Aberystwyth in Wales from 1991 until 2002.

Her first novel, *Hallucinating Foucault* (1996), about a gay student won the Dillons First Fiction Award. Other works include, *James Miranda Barry* (1999) featured the famous trans doctor; and 'Bonne excitation, Orgasme Assuré: The representation of lesbianism in contemporary French pornography'. *Journal of Gender Studies*. 4 (1): 5–15.

# 1992

*Are You Two Together?: Gay and Lesbian Travel Guide to Europe* by Lindsay van Gelder and Pamela Robin Brandt:



# 1996

# 1994

Source:  
*Gay Times*, March 1994



# 1995

Source:  
*Gay Times*, May 1995



# 1996

*The Cliff Tucker Theatre* was at the University of Wales, Lampeter, on the banks of the River Dulas. It was opened by Sir Anthony Hopkins in 1996 and contained teaching rooms, lecture theatres and a large computer room. It was named in honour of Cliff Tucker, a former student and benefactor of the university and the partner of A. E. (Tony) Dyson (1928–2002).

Source: *Wikipedia, University of Wales, Lampeter*



# 1998

Politician Ron Davies is caught in a scandal after being attacked in London after agreeing to meet a man. The incident generated a great deal of homophobia and the historian John Davies (born 1938 in Rhondda) wrote a response in the Welsh journal *Barn* in November, 1998.

“Dydw i ddim am wneud odid un sylw ynglŷn â'i rywioldeb honedig, ond does dim amheuaeth fod y digwyddiadau hynny wedi peri i gyfunrhywiaeth fod yn destun trafod yng Nghymru. Ac er mawr foddhad i mi, mae'r ymateb wedi bod yn bur adeiladol. Mae hynny'n fater o gryn syndod hefyd, ohwerwydd roeddwn yn credu bod homoffobia wedi'i wreiddio'n ddwfn yng nghymdeithas draddodiadol macho y cymoedd glofaol ac yn ddyfnach eto yn y broydd gwledig Cymraeg.”

“I do not want to make any comment about his alleged sexuality, but there is no doubt that those events have caused homosexuality to be a subject of debate in Wales. And, to my great satisfaction, the response has been quite constructive. That is also a surprise, because I thought that homophobia was deeply rooted in the macho traditional coal mining society of the mining valleys and deeper in the Welsh-speaking countryside.”

John Davies' experiences as Warden of Pantycelyn, and these homophobic responses, influenced him to come out.

Source: *Queer Welsh Stories*, 18 February 2019



# 1999

# 1999

Source:  
*Gay Times*, August 1999

● **Lampeter. Ceredigion, B&B.**  
**Exclusively gay. Comfortable residential town house. Station pick up. Emrys and Bob.**  
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## ABERYSTWYTH (01970)

**BOAR'S HEAD** Queen's Rd. 626 106. Lively mixed bars, especially Fri/Sats  
**FOUNTAIN**, Trefechan Tu mixed gay/str.  
**LGB SWITCHBOARD** 621718 Tu 6-10 PO Box 23, Aberystwyth.  
**UCW LGB SOCIETY** 621700. Sat: 6.30-7.30 SU bar, 2pm Union Committee Rm

**LAMPETER UNI LGB SOC** 01570-422619 or  
Email: lampeterlgb@angelfire.com

# 21<sup>st</sup> CENTURY >

## 2000

The UK Labour government stops banning homosexuals from the armed forces after the European Court of Human Rights rules it unlawful.

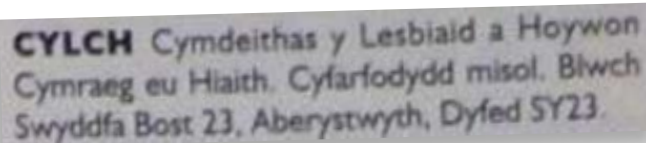
The government also introduces legislation to repeal Section 28 in England and Wales – Conservative MPs oppose the move. The bill is defeated by bishops and Conservatives in the House of Lords.

Scotland abolished Clause 2a (Section 28) of the Local Government Act in October though it remains in place in England and Wales.

## 2000

Jaci Taylor is elected mayor of Aberystwyth, the first openly lesbian mayor of a UK town.

## 2000



Source:  
*Gay Times*, February 2000



## > 2003

## 2002

### Clydach Murders

Alison Lewis wept in court as she told of her love for Mandy Power who, along with her disabled mother and two daughters were allegedly “massacred” by Lewis’ brother-in-law builder David Morris (39) of Craig-cefn-parc, Swansea.

Lewis (35) told how she represented Wales and Great Britain at karate before turning to the “lesbian” world of women’s rugby. She began playing on the wing for Ystradgynlais and was soon selected for the full Welsh side and the first of her seven caps at international level. She told Swansea Crown Court the majority of the Ystradgynlais players were lesbians. “I became aware of it almost immediately. It was not a secret,” she said. “I had had crushes on women. I never chose to be gay. It was something that was there.” Her first lesbian experience was with Tracey Hillyer during a rugby sevens tour to Aberystwyth in 1996.

The story, the biggest homicide investigation in Welsh history, is covered extensively in the press and in 2022 a documentary is made *Murder In The Valleys* questioning the conviction of Morris.

Source: *Barry & District News*, 10 May 2002

## 2003

Section 28, which banned councils and schools from intentionally promoting homosexuality, is repealed in England and Wales and Northern Ireland. Employment Equality Regulations made it illegal to discriminate against lesbians, gays or bisexuals at work.

## 2004

The Civil Partnership Act 2004 is passed by the Labour Government, giving same-sex couples the same rights and responsibilities as married heterosexual couples in England, Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales.

The Gender Recognition Act 2004 is passed by the Labour Government. The Act gives transsexual people legal recognition as members of the sex appropriate to their gender (male or female) allowing them to acquire a new birth certificate, affording them full recognition of their acquired sex in law for all purposes, including marriage.

## 2005

*Wrecked* at Boat Club run by Sara and Rosie, was a monthly lesbian nightclub. In 2021, during lockdown, some of the regulars who had taken part in an oral history workshop wrote the song 'Lesberados' based on their stories. Aberration commissioned Cerys Hafana to set it to music.

## 2005

Llanddewi Brefi village road signs are stolen on several occasions and sold on bidding sites following the naming of the location as the home of Daffyd Thomas, known as 'the only gay in the village,' a fictional character played by Matt Lucas in the TV show *Little Britain*.



Photo credit: Gerald Davison



## 2009

## 2007

*Amnesia: The James Brighton Enigma*, a Canadian drama film, directed by Denis Langlois and released in 2005 dramatizes the true story of "James Brighton", a gay "mystery man" suffering from dissociative amnesia who was found naked behind a dumpster in Montreal in 1998. He was eventually confirmed as Matthew Honeycutt, a young heterosexual man from LaFollette, Tennessee, who was attempting to escape from his fundamentalist Christian family. The film was shown as part of the London Lesbian and Gay Film Festival on tour at Theatr Mwldan, Cardigan.

Source: *Barry & District News*, 18 September 2007

## 2007

The London Lesbian and Gay Film Festival is held at Theatr Mwldan in Cardigan the first time in West Wales.

## 2008

Aberystwyth University Department Of Theatre, Film And Television Studies Examination Paper May 2008 Dr30130 Theatre And Gender

4. How does gay and lesbian theatre attempt to challenge the cultural dominance of heterosexuality?
6. In what ways do various forms of cross-dressing demonstrate transgression, empowerment, and a disturbance of gender categories?

Source: *Past Exam Papers, Aberystwyth University*

## 2009

Cardigan's Gareth Milton joins S4C Welsh language drama series *Caerdydd*, which follows the lives of a group of friends living in the Welsh capital as the fun-loving Jamie Roberts, a nineteen-year-old gay man.

## 2012

The Aber Staff LGBT Network was set up in 2010. It's open to anyone who works at the university (in any capacity), and any postgraduates who identify as lesbian, gay, bi, trans, queer or questioning, plus friends and allies of our community.

Source: [Aberystwyth University website, Staff Networks](#)

## 2010

The Equality Act 2010 makes discrimination against lesbians and gay men in the provision of goods and services illegal.

## 2011

The biography, *Cofiant Kate Roberts 1891-1985* by Alan Llwyd which discusses Robert's sexuality, is launched in the Orangery in Aberystwyth.

Source: [BBC cymrucylochgrawn](#), 18 November 2011

## 2011

University Of Wales, Aberystwyth  
Department Of Theatre, Film And Television Studies  
Examination Paper January 2011

5. 'Although gay men and lesbians found community backstage, theatre often perpetuated conservative, normalizing values in front of the footlights, forcing queer artists to remain closeted' (Jill Dolan, *Theatre & Sexuality*). With reference to at least two texts, companies and/or practitioners, discuss the significance of 'coming out' in relation to gay and lesbian theatre practice.

Source: [Past Exam Papers, Prifysgol Aberystwyth/ Aberystwyth University](#)

Aberystwyth University  
Department Of Theatre, Film And Television Studies  
Examination Paper May 2011

7. How and why does gay and lesbian theatre attempt to challenge the norms of heterosexuality?

Source: [Past Exam Papers, Prifysgol Aberystwyth/ Aberystwyth University](#)

## › 2012

First Pride on the Prom gathering in Aberystwyth.



Get Wrecked



Source: [Women Zone: connecting lesbians across Wales, May/June 2012](#)

## › 2013

## 2013

Aberystwyth Arts Centre:

"In Uganda, a new bill threatens to make homosexuality punishable by death. David Kato - Uganda's first openly gay man - and his fellow activists work against the clock to defeat the legislation while combating vicious persecution in their daily lives. But no one is prepared for the brutal murder that shakes their movement to its core and sends shock waves around the world."

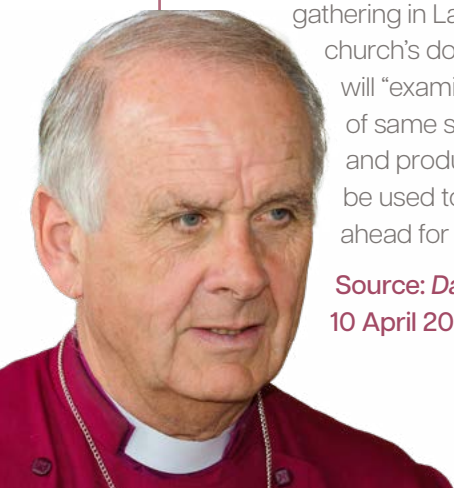
We are showing this film with a Q&A session featuring Bisi Alimi, Nigerian LGBT and human rights activist. 7 February 2013 - 8:15pm - 10:15pm

## 2013

Archbishop Barry Morgan present a vision for the Church in Wales and announced a new study of gay relationships at a meeting of the governing body.

Dr Morgan further announced at the gathering in Lampeter that the church's doctrinal commission will "examine the whole issue of same sex relationships" and produce a report that will be used to "map out the way ahead for us".

Source: *Daily Post*, 10 April 2013



## 2013

A Mappa Mundi/Theatr Mwldan Co-Production by Jeffrey Hatcher, directed by Lloyd Llewellyn-Jones, presented by arrangement with Josef Weinberger Limited, at Theatr Mwldan, Cardigan.

*The Compleat Female Stage Beauty* tells the story of Ned Kynaston, the best-known and most beloved actor of the age, famous for being the most beautiful woman on the English stage. The character is based on the real-life actor, Edward Kynaston (c.1640–1706) pictured here, who specialised in female roles and whose sexuality and gender identity have often been discussed. In 1662 King Charles II, "with his penchant for the ladies and following the French fashion, allowed women onto the stage for the first time. With the birth of 'the actress', Kynaston's career was threatened and a great theatrical tradition came to an end."

Source: Theatre Wales, *The Compleat Female Stage Beauty*



## 2015

## 2014

Same-sex marriage becomes legal in England and Wales on 29 March under the Marriage (Same Sex Couples) Act 2013.

## 2014

*Aberration*, based in Aberystwyth, launches its first LGBTQ+ History Month event, followed by a cabaret later in the year. Since then, *Aberration*, run by Helen Sandler, Ruth Fowler and Jane Hoy have been delivering LGBTQ+ events every year.



## 2015

Mike Parker, well-known gay author, stands as MP for Plaid Cymru, Ceredigion. He describes his experience in his book *The Greasy Poll*.

## 2015

*Mês Bach a Gwreiddiau* (Small Acorns and Roots) Dafydd Gwylon's autobiography is published.

'Mae'r gyfrol yn cynnwys profiadau personol yr awdur fel dyn hoyw a hefyd hanes dynion hoyw yn y ganrif ddiwetha. Mae'r awdur yn disgrifio peth o'r rhagfarn a'r anawdserau fu'n effeithio ar iechyd ac iechyd meddwl dynion hoyw. Bu hanes dynion hoyw yn brin yn Gymraeg a'r drafodaeth am rywioldeb.

The book includes the author's personal experiences as a gay man and also the history of gay men in the last century. The author describes some of the prejudice and difficulties that have affected the health and mental health of gay men. The history of gay men was rare in Welsh and the discussion about sexuality.' Source: [gwales.com](http://gwales.com)





## 2015

Highly acclaimed artist Clive Hicks-Jenkins exhibits *Dark Movements* at Aberystwyth Arts Centre.

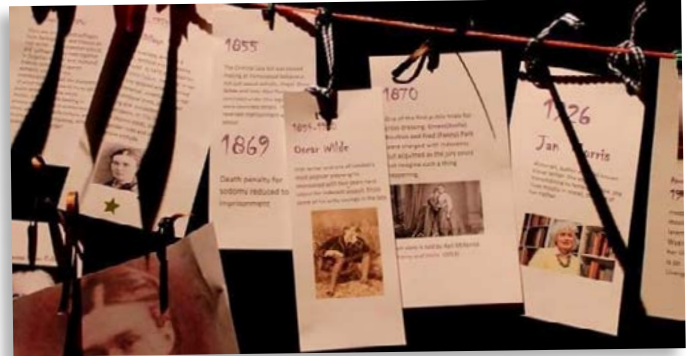
## 2016

Hannah Blythyn, Jeremy Miles, and Adam Price became the first openly gay members of the Welsh Assembly.



## 2016

*Aberration: Between the Lines* – an evening for LGBT History Month displays a washing line of LGBTQ+ history.



## 2019

## 2017

BBC documentary, 'Sweet Sixteen: A Transgender Story,' follows Lily Jones, a teenager from Ceredigion, in her transition. 'This intimate coming-of-age film follows a Welsh transgender teenager, Llyr Jones, as she turns 16. Coming from a rural farming community, she is breaking new ground with her transition.' The third and final episode appears in 2020, 'Lily: A Transgender Story.'

Source: BBC One Wales, 30 November 2020; Joseph Ali, 'One woman's remarkable five-year story of changing gender: Lily Jones from Aberystwyth transitioned from male to female and her story is being told on a TV documentary,' 7 December 2020

## 2018

Ceredigion County Council showed their support for International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Bi-phobia (IDAHOT) on Thursday 17 May, by raising the rainbow flag outside Council Offices at Penmorfa, Aberaeron and Canolfan Rheidol, Aberystwyth.

Source: *Ceredigion County Council website*, 9 May 2018

## 2019

The Cardigan LGBTQ+ group recently met for the first time and intend to arrange monthly meetings for informal gatherings.

Cardigan LGBTQ+ formed part of West Wales LGBTQ+, together with Carmarthen LGBTQ+ and Pembrokeshire LGBTQ Plus, who formed part of the parade at Swansea Pride that year.

The group met on the last Sunday of each month at The Grosvenor, Cardigan.

Source: *Cambrian News*, 15 May 2019

## 2019

Mair Jones founds *Queer Welsh Stories*, an online blog on Welsh LGBTQ+ History, also with Twitter and Instagram accounts.



## 2019

'Write It Out: New LGBTQ+ Writing from Ceredigion and Carmarthenshire' was published by Conwy Publishing, following a series of creative writing classes for LGBTQ+ adults in Ceredigion and Carmarthenshire.

Source: Amgueddfa Cymru - Museum Wales, Collections

## 2020

The first *Queer History Story Walk in Wales* is presented by *Living Histories Cymru*, now *Queer Tales From Wales*, and the Amgueddfa Ceredigion, Aberystwyth, featured talks, stories and performances about Cranogwen, Percy Maye, Goronwy Rees, John Davies, Wrecked Lesbian Nightclub, Gentleman Jack.



## 2021

## 2021

Owen J Hurcum became the world's first non-binary mayor and Wales' youngest ever elected mayor of Bangor City Council in Gwynedd, Wales.



## 2021

LlyfrEnfys-Luke Blaidd, a student at in Aberystwyth begins compiling a bilingual LGBTQ+ dictionary.

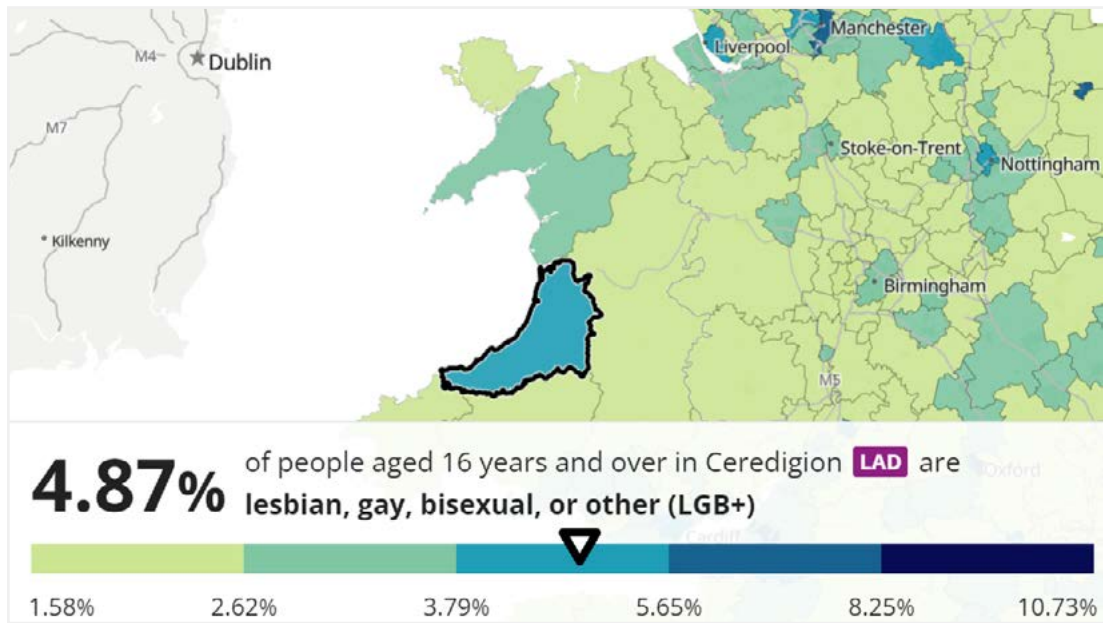
A series of blogs on this work appears on LGBTQ Cymru, a website dedicated to recording a history of sexual orientation and gender identity in Wales.

## 2021

*It Happened in Aber.* Amgueddfa Ceredigion commissioned Jane Hoy of *Queer Tales From Wales* to write about local LGBTQ+ characters in Aberystwyth for an audio-guided history walk.

# 2021

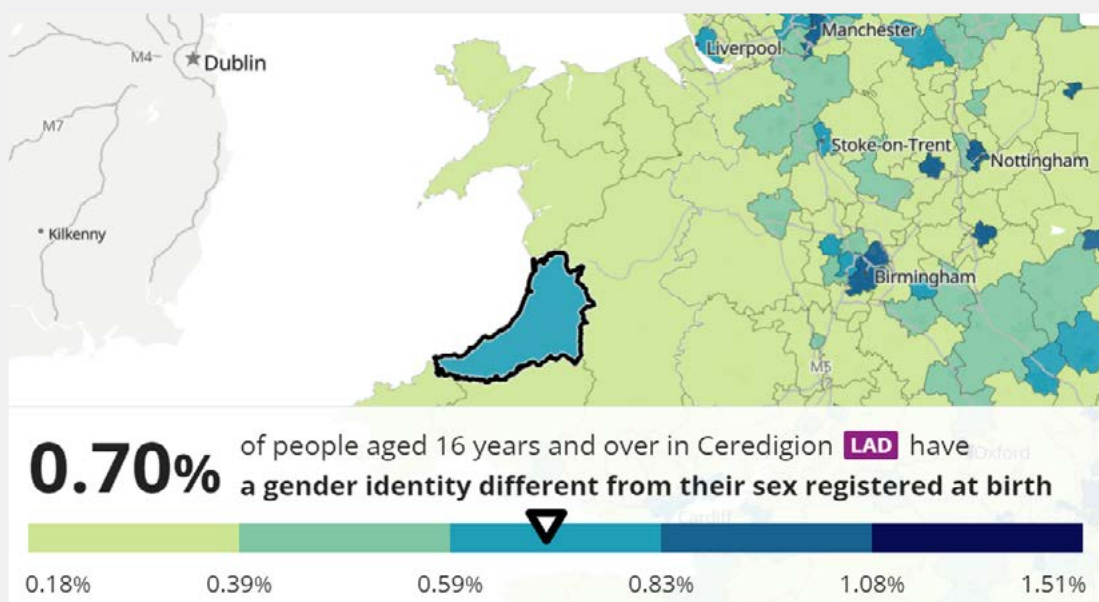
The 2021 UK Census was the first in world history to include questions on sexual orientation and gender identity. Some care should be taken over the figures as not all people answered the question.



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## Queer Square Mile

### Queer Short Stories from Wales

Edited by  
Kirsti Bohata,  
Mihangel Morgan  
and Huw Osborne

## 2022

Mihangel Morgan, lecturer in 20th-century Welsh literature, in the Welsh Department at Aberystwyth University co-edits *Queer Square Mile* (Parthian, 2022), a collection of queer stories from Wales.

## 2022

*Ysbrydion (Spirits)* an award-winning film by Amy Daniel, made for the National Eisteddfod of Wales and Aberriation. Four people share their experiences of growing up LGBTQ+ in rural Ceredigion.

## 2022

Tregaron Eisteddfod finally takes place, 2 years late due to COVID, with Mas ar y Maes returning with a host of LGBTQ+ events and safe spaces, particularly in Paned o Gê's stall. Welsh Ballroom Community, Trawsnewid, drag queen story hours, Aberriation, and much more. Marc Rees, has been involved with Mas ar y Maes since the beginning, stated that "Having been involved in its gestation it's brilliant to see Mas ar y Maes going from strength to strength and that an LGBTQ+ programme of activities, events, performances and discussions is forming such a key part of Eisteddfod. We've come a long way and we have a long way to go but hosting our own Parti Pinc on the iconic Pavilion stage was a pivotal milestone moment".

Source: Amgueddfa Cymru - Museum Wales, Collections Online



# 2023

## 2023

Some Aberriation events:

ABERRIATION YN Y DRE GOES TO TOWN

16 MAY VG LEE LESBIAN AUTHOR & FUNNY WOMAN! FREE ENTRY

29 JUNE MIKE PARKER READING FROM HIS NEW BOOK 'ALL THE WIDE BORDER' FREE ENTRY

13 JULY (TBC) QUEER DIARY TEENAGE LGBTQ+ DIARY EXTRACTS WITH BETH WATSON... AND YOU! DONATIONS

19 OCT AIM KING CHILL SPOKEN WORD + LIVE BEATS FREE!

16 NOV ABERRIATION'S GOT TALENT A FUN & FABULOUS NIGHT OF LOCAL LGBTQ+ TALENT MUSIC / DRAG / SPOKEN WORD / SURPRISES!

DOORS OPEN 6PM ONSTAGE 7ISH BANK VAULT 1 NEW STREET ABERYSTWYTH

FREE JUST TURN UP COLLECTION FOR ALL OUT BRING CASH!

ABERRIATION.ORG.UK

Queer Diary

Live teenage diary readings from Live (grown-up) queers

PLUS: \*Cringey Poetry \*GCSE Artwork \*Thirsty Fanfic \*Throwback Soundtrack

Would you read yours?

ABERRIATION YN Y DRE

16 NOV ABERRIATION'S GOT TALENT A FUN & FABULOUS NIGHT OF LOCAL LGBTQ+ TALENT MUSIC / DRAG / SPOKEN WORD / SURPRISES!

DOORS OPEN 6PM ONSTAGE 7ISH BANK VAULT BAR 1 NEW STREET ABERYSTWYTH

FREE JUST TURN UP COLLECTION FOR ALL OUT BRING CASH!

INFO: ABERRIATION.ORG.UK

## 2023



Aberystwyth Pride returns for the first time since Pride on the Prom, as 'Pride in Aberystwyth,' organised by Ren Williams of Queer Little Family, Queer Little Shop and Queer Little Space CIC.

## 2023

Aberystwyth LGBTQ+ Monthly Socials start, with a variety of socials in different queer-friendly Aberystwyth venues.



**Aberystwyth LGBTQ+ Monthly Social**



## 2024

## 2023

An episode of S4C's *Hansh: May Na Daffs a Taffs* follows Lampeter drag queen Serenity, known as the Queen of Ceredigion, showing the LGBTQ+ sites of Lampeter and Aberystwyth to Northern Irish RuPaul's Drag Race winner Blu Hydrangea.

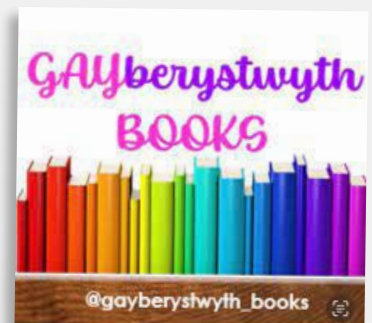
Source: S4C, 30 June 2023

## 2024

Aberration presents *Gay Gardeners Question Time* with national journalist Alys Fowler at their new venue *The Bank Vault* in downtown Aberystwyth.

## 2024

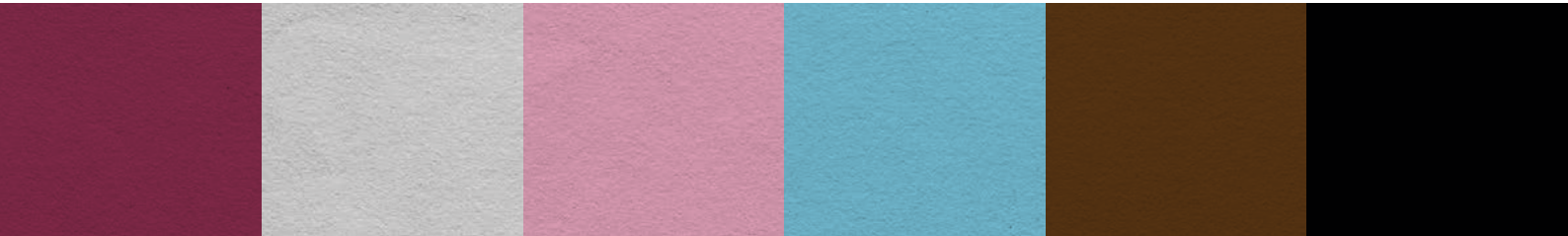
Gayberystwyth Books founded as a pop-up shop selling LGBTQ+ books.



## 2024

*Bwstfilod Aflan (Unclean Beasts)* performed by Music Theatre Wales at Aberystwyth Arts Centre features poet Edward Prosser Rhys, winner of the Bardic Crown for poetry in 1924.

This was preceded by Aberration's 'Land of Might Have Been' featuring Prosser Rhys, his lover and friends, and their queer ancestors.





## Thank you

These have been just a few highlights from Ceredigion's sexual orientation and gender identity history.

If you think we've missed anything that should be included, please do let us know by using the web link below.

We will update the timeline on a regular basis.

[www.lgbtqcymru.swansea.ac.uk](http://www.lgbtqcymru.swansea.ac.uk)



**Draig Enfys**



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