



The Wales LGBTQ+ Timeline Collection

Sir Gâr / Carmarthenshire 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 folks from Carmarthen LGBTQ+ for additional material for this edition.

10th CENTURY >

Hywel Dda, (Howel the good) was a king of Deheubarth who eventually came to rule most of Wales. One of his noted achievements was the codification of laws in Wales commonly known as Cyfraith Hywel (the Laws of Hywel Dda) which were written at Ty Gwyn ar Daf (Whitland Abbey) between c940-945. In the laws the rights of hermaphrodites (modern intersex) are defined:

36. If a person be born with the members of a man and those of a woman, and it be doubtful of which it may make use; some say, that according to such as it principally may use, its privilege is to rank; but, if it make use of each, the law says, that it is to rank

with the highest privilege, and that is the privilege of a man: and, if it should become pregnant, the offspring is to have the patrimony of the man who caused the pregnancy; but, if it should make a woman pregnant, the son is then to obtain its patrimony.



> c940-945

> 1136

12th CENTURY >

The word androgynous, meaning partly male and partly female in appearance, or of indeterminate sex, was, and is, often used by writers either as a description or as a slur –by unsexing an individual, it makes it easier to present that individual in a different, often derogatory light.

Gwenllïan ferch Gruffydd (c. 1100 – 1136) was Princess consort of Deheubarth [in modern Pembrokeshire] who led a “patriotic revolt” against the English during the Great Revolt of 1136 at Kidwelly Castle where she was killed in action. Gerald of Wales wrote:

In this district, after the death of King Henry, whilst Gruffydd, son of Rhys, the Prince of South Wales, was engaged in soliciting assistance from North Wales, his wife Gwenllïan (like the Queen of the Amazons and a second Penthesilea) led an army into these parts; but she was defeated by Maurice de Londres, lord of that country, and Geoffrey, the bishop's constable. Morgan, one of her sons, whom she had arrogantly brought with her in that expedition, was slain, and the other, Malgo, taken prisoner; and she, with many of her followers, was put to death.

The writer Geraint H. Jenkins in his *A Concise History of Wales* comments that Gwenllïan was, ‘a beautiful princess so terrifyingly androgynous that she was liked by Gerald of Wales to the Queen of the Amazons.’ As the Amazons were unmistakably women, it leaves the question why Jenkins would refer to her as ‘terrifyingly androgynous’.

Sources: *The itinerary of Archbishop Baldwin through Wales, A.D. MCLXXXVIII. By Giraldus de Barri; translated into English, and illustrated with views, annotations, and a life of Giraldus, by Sir Richard Colt Hoare, bart., 1806, p168; Geraint H. Jenkins, A Concise History of Wales, Cambridge University Press, 2007, p78*

Photo credit: CC BY-SA 3.0 Wolfgang Sauber
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gerald_of_Wales



19th CENTURY >

1810

David Thomas was tried on the traverse of an indictment for an assault on David Thomas, a private in the Local Militia, with intent to commit an unnatural crime; the Jury returned a verdict for a common assault, and he was sentenced to 6 months imprisonment, to pay a fine of 10/- and to find sureties for his good behaviour for three years.

Source: *Carmarthen Journal*, 8 September 1810

1842

Romance in Real Life

Considerable excitement was caused in Tenby, on the 21st ult, by the appearance of a person in male attire, who had a short time before introduced herself to several families in the town as a female and partook of their hospitality under that character. On her first visit she stated that her name was Miss Ellen Hatfield, and gave the following account of herself: - She was 19 years of age, was born at Halifax, in Nova Scotia, and was daughter of Joseph and Mary Hatfield, the former a native of Scotland, the latter of England. Joseph Hatfield was educated for the bar and afterwards ordained a clergyman of the English church, at College, at New York. He died about four years ago. Ellen Hatfield was placed by her guardian, Mr Newtown, about three years ago, in a Popish church, near Halifax. Soon after the death of her mother, about six years since, her father married again, and after his death her step-mother married her guardian, Mr Newton. >...



1842

...Continued

She remained in the convent five months, and then returned home, and was afterwards sent to another convent, here she continued nine months, and then eloped with the Rev. Archibald Campbell, a clergyman of the English church; they were not married. They embarked in the Elizabeth, of Halifax, Captain Morris, the crew consisting of 25. The vessel ran aground on a sandbank, about four miles from the shore of a small island called Hook's Island. She and Mr Campbell were allowed by the captain to go ashore alone in the boat. Mr Campbell, in consequence of previous indisposition and over-exertion in rowing the boat, died on the beach three days after their landing. She supposed the island to be uninhabited, but at the expiration of eight days she found an old gentleman living there from disgust of the world; she lived eight days upon oranges, and knows nothing of what became of the vessel. Thence, after a stay of more than a month, she sailed in the William Hutt, of Halifax, Capt. Morris (another Captain Morris), and arrived at Swansea

on the 21st October. Thence they sailed almost immediately in a vessel called the Seven Stars, Capt. Reece, to Cornwall, and wandered about in that neighbourhood for three months, during the whole of which time, since her departure from Halifax, she dressed in man's clothes; about five weeks ago she put off her man's costume at Pontardulais. She says her father left 15,000l to herself and two sisters; when she left home she had about 20l in cash, a check, and a will. On her last visit she was taken by the police-officer before the Mayor and one of the borough magistrates, and have her name Albert Valentine Cavendish, but refused to give any further information. Several attempts were made to discover her sex, which failed. Mr N. Millard, surgeon, was then sent for, who stated that she was a female on which she was immediately discharged. She stands about five feet high, fair complexion, speaks rather broad, and is supposed to be from the neighbourhood of Laugharne.

Source: *The Standard*, 11 May 1842

1843

Serious outrages were committed in this district, arising from the heavy imposts of turnpike gates, known by the name of "Rebecca Riots." A mob of about 600 men assembled at St. Clears, headed by a mysterious tall man, in woman's garments, and made nightly attacks on the turnpike gates

throughout the county. The leader saying, in Welsh-
"My daughters."

Source: *County Observer*,
27 November
1869

Photo credit:
Wikimedia Commons
File: RebeccaRiots.gif



1851

EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCE. – On the 28th last, at Llanfynydd, Sarah, the wife of Evan Jones, shoemaker, gave birth to a child which is a perfect hermaphrodite, and the registrar is consequently puzzled how to register it. The medical faculty have as yet failed to solve the problem submitted I to them in this case. Had not this fact been communicated to us from a source which we have every right to rely upon, we should have been inclined to doubt its authenticity, but there is no reason to doubt the correctness of our information.

Source: *Pembrokeshire Herald*,
14 November 1851



› 1879

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.

1875

Suffragette and newspaper editor, Rachel Barrett (1874–1953) was born in Carmarthen. Her partner was writer I.A.R Wylie - they both supported Radclyffe Hall during the obscenity trial against Hall's lesbian novel *The Well of Loneliness*.

1879

Alfred Ernest Jones was born 1 January 1879 in Gowerton and studied at Llandovery College. He had significant international influence in the field of psychology, and was instrumental in preventing homosexual men from practicing.

1882

Vernon Lee (1856–1935), was born in France, but lived most of her life in Italy. Lee, a lesbian and a friend of Oscar Wilde was known as the ‘cleverest women in Europe’.



In August 1882, she visited Llanarthney to stay with her cousin Adah Hughes and took the opportunity to visit Middleton Hall (now the site of the National Botanic Garden of Wales), the old family home. It no longer belonged to the family but she was given permission to enter and view the portraits of her mother and grandparents still hanging in the hall. This visit later misfired due to Lee's controversial novel *Miss Brown* (1884), a thinly veiled portrayal of the Pre-Raphaelite and aesthetic circles popular in the 1880s. Several of Lee's characters are described in gender reversal terms and it caused anger from various locals who believed she was portraying them. Lee never visited Wales again.

Photo credit: Wikimedia Commons

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.



1893

1893

'I have seen it stated that the practice is growing amongst females of knocking about for their diversion in male attire. The idea is by no means confined to the lower orders, if, indeed, it obtains largely amongst them at all; but I have seen names mentioned pretty high up the list that are calculated to astonish those who don't quite understand the lengths a fashionable woman will go to in order to amuse herself. I don't know whether any of the Cardiff fair knock about in this way, but according to the *Llanelly Guardian* several well-known feminines have I been thus amusing themselves at Burry Port to the undisguised amazement of the more sober residents of that quiet little place. What next?'

Source: *Evening Express*, 28, 1893

See over for more on 1893

1893

The Midnight Outrage in South Wales

The Ceffyl Pren (wooden horse) was part of a European form of rough justice which went by many different names and consisted of ritual humiliation by locals in which offenders would be paraded around the village tied to a wooden frame, or horse. As the perpetrators did not wish to be identified they would blacken their faces and cross-dress in female attire and cross-dressing becomes one of the key features of the Rebecca Riots (1839-1843) a series of protests undertaken by local farmers and agricultural workers in response to levels of taxation.

Often, judgement on people depended on local gossip and therefore guilt or innocence was not proven. One incident in 1893 which caused a lot of media attention occurred about half a mile to the east of Clynderwen when a Ceffyl Pren dispensed justice

1893 continued over...

1893 continued...

on a Mrs. Jenkins who, according to gossip, had been guilty of impropriety with John, the blacksmith. The men, who 'were dressed in the most grotesque and fantastic fashion. Some wore petticoats and other articles of female apparel, including the modest chemise; others were attired in a nondescript style, and all had their faces either blackened by burnt cork or some other ebonising substance, or were covered with improvised masks,' invaded Mrs Jenkins house with the intention of dragging her to John's wife to whom she was expected to apologise. As they dragged the woman around in the middle of the night a crowd formed around them and later four men were identified and charged although it is not reported what happened to them.

Source: *Evening Express*, 23 January 1893

1894

Gareth Hughes (1894-1965) born in Llanelli, becomes a silent film star, then a missionary. The Hollywood historian, William J. Mann included details about Gareth in his book, 'Behind the screen: how gays and lesbians shaped Hollywood,' in which he wrote, 'pretty little Gareth' was a "flaming little queen" and that he hung out with groups of known gay men.

Sources: *Queer Welsh Stories*; William J Mann, *Behind the screen: how gays and lesbians shaped Hollywood, 1910-1969*, New York: Penguin Books, 2002



1895

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



› ...1895

› 1911...

20th CENTURY ›

1908

'In the reminiscences of R. H. Isaac, stationmaster at Kidwelly, he said, 'In those days (1860s-70s) I have seen gangs of women, dressed as men, working on coal and iron stone tips, and loading and unloading iron-stones and coal to and from railway trucks.'

Source: *Carmarthen Weekly Reporter*, 23 October 1908

John Richard did 'unlawfully commit a certain act of gross indecency with another male person named Patrick John O'Brien on the 12th and 14th days of July, 1908, at the Parish of Ciffig. He pleaded not guilty and was released on his own recognizance's in the sum of £10 (about £1,500 today).

Source: UK, *Calendar of Prisoners, 1868-1929*

1911

Ken Etheridge (1911-1981) was born in Ammanford, Carmarthenshire He painted the homoerotic painting 'Rugby Changing Room, Carmarthen' in 1959, queering a traditional masculine scene in Welsh culture. It is now displayed in the World Rugby Museum. Reputed to be gay, his 1950s queer short story 'Nobody Lives... Nobody Dies...' was included in *Queer Square Mile* in 2022.

Sources: Art UK; Kirsti Bohata, Mihangel Morgan and Huw Osborne (eds), *Queer Square Mile: Queer Short Stories from Wales*, Parthian Books, 2021

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.

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.

1929

Carwyn James (1929-1983) born in Cefneithin, becomes a Rugby Union player and an especially successful coach with the British Lions in 1971. In the book, *When Lions Roared: The Lions, the All Blacks and legendary tour of 1971* authors Tom English and Peter Burns, note how in Seventies society, Carwyn was unable to be open about, and proud of, his true self. Gareth Edwards said: “You could say some of us were naive at the time, or whatever you want to call it, but he was carrying a burden that today wouldn’t be a problem in the same way. But nobody assumed anything back then and nobody spoke about it openly.”

Sources: *Queer Welsh Stories*, 10 January 2020; Tom English and Peter Burns, *When Lions Roared: The Lions, the All Blacks and legendary tour of 1971*, Arena Sport, 2017; Delme Parfitt, ‘The troubled side of rugby genius Carwyn James - through the eyes of the 1971 Lions he turned into immortals,’ *Wales Online*, 18 May 2017



1931

1931

Welsh artist Arthur Giardelli (1911–2009) had been born in Surrey but had lived most of his life in Pendine, Carmarthenshire.

While in Florence in 1931, Giardelli met the American painter and art critic, Fairfield Porter (1907–1975) and the two men became close friends, spending as much time together as they could, visiting churches and museums, and discussing poetry and art. Based on his strong affections for Giardelli, Porter realized he was bisexual, even though, according to Giardelli, “there was no physical relationship” between the two men, “only a deep emotional attraction.” Twenty-six years later, in 1957, Porter wrote to Giardelli: ‘I hadn’t such a friend as you at home; but suddenly I had one in Florence, the unattainable became simple. For that I am always grateful. These things count, I hope you know, and I hope what I say will not seem strange to you. I loved you, and I think you loved me.’ Giardelli, who had long

since married and fathered two children, responded: ‘Indeed,

I have often thought of you, but I never analyzed our relationship and was quite surprised to read your analysis of it, which was no doubt correct. I suppose that was how things were--although I don’t know: words seem to pin down an experience & yet the truth of the matter flutters off.’

Porter returned to the United States in May 1932, and became engaged to Anne Channing. Shortly after their engagement, Porter told Anne about his bisexuality and his love for Giardelli. As Anne Channing Porter recalled years later, ‘He just told me that that was how it was, and we both lived with it.’

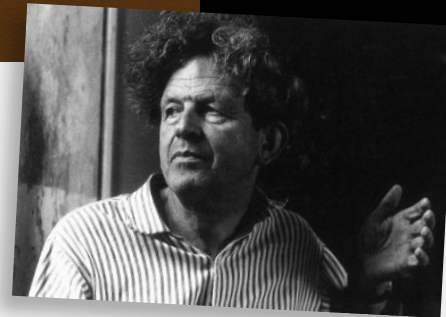


Photo credit: By Unknown photographer - Stephens, Meic (6 November 2009). Fair use

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

Cliff Gordon (1920-1964) was born in Llanely and went on to become an actor and writer. He is most famous for the film *Valley of Song* and for discovering Shirley Bassey.

In 1942 Gordon was arrested for gross indecency in a case that became known as the 'Abergavenny Witch Hunt' when 20 homosexual men were prosecuted but Cliff's case was dismissed. In November 1953 he travelled to Newtown to meet a group of gay men but the meeting was broken up by the police and Cliff was arrested. He was charged with attempting to procure 'another male person to commit an improper act' but once again he narrowly escaped a prison sentence and was acquitted in February 1954. This time though the media had used his real name and there was no doubt as to his identity – his career was over. He died at St Helen's Hospital in Hastings on 16 October 1964 aged just 44 years.

Source: Forbidden Lives: LGBT stories from Wales by Norena Shopland; The Abergavenny Witch Hunt by Will Cross.



1957

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

The Wolfenden Committee is formed. When it concludes in 1957 it recommends a partial decriminalisation for male homosexuality.

When these recommendations are not followed by the government the Homosexual Law Reform Society is formed to campaign for the recommendations to be enacted.

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.



Leo Abse

Photo credit: © National Portrait Gallery, London

1970

Gay Liberation Front (GLF) was established.



1974

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

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.



1988

1983

Carwyn James (1929–1983) from Cefneithin, Carmarthenshire was a Welsh rugby union player and coach. He won two Welsh international caps but is most famous for his coaching achievements with Llanelli, the 1971 British Lions and the Barbarians, with all of whom he beat the All Blacks. Known as the greatest coach Wales never had, it's thought he was held back because of his sexuality.

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.

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.

1992

West Wales antique dealer Alan Daniel was ordered to pay £750 in fines and court costs after being convicted of gross indecency with a pensioner in a public toilet. The 48-year-old, of Crwbin, Kidwelly, was arrested by vice squad officers who kept watch on the conveniences at St Clears following complaints from the public.

Source: *Carmarthen Journal*, 22 January 1992

1993

Ceri Sherlock (1954-), a Welsh theatre, film and television director was born in Llanelli and educated at Ysgol Dewi Sant, and Llandovery College before moving to London.

In 1993 Sherlock directed the Welsh language film *Dafydd*, a gay teenager, played by Richard Harrington, making a living as a rent boy in Amsterdam. It was first shown on S4C and BBC 2 as part of the Wales Playhouse series, and it won a Welsh Bafta award. It can now be viewed on YouTube.

› ...1993

› 2000...

21st 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

Controversy over the repeal of Section 28

An Elliot Cooper of Carmarthen writes to the *Western Mail* claiming the current legislation protected children from homosexuality being 'actively promoted'.

Source: *Western Mail*, 11 February 2000

The Rev. Elyn Rees of Salon, Ammanford also claimed the repeal would 'pollute' children's minds.

Source: *Western Mail*, 12 February 2000

2000

Gay Times carried ads in their Carmarthenshire listings for: Llanelli G&L Association which used to meet weekly on Wednesdays 6-8pm; Springboard Sauna Club on the 2nd floor at 26-27 King Street, Monday to Saturdays 1-9pm; Trinity College LGBSoc which was open to non-students had a phone number of call for people wanting to attend; people could also call the Sexual Health Helpline on Thursdays 6.30-8.30; and Outlook West held discussion on the 1st Thursday of the month at 10 Water Street as part of the Swansea Lesbian Line.

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Source: *Gay Times*, February 2000



2001

MPs Chris Bryant (Labour, the Rhondda) and Adam Price (Plaid Cymru, Carmarthen East and Dinefwr) appear at Cardiff Mardi Gras (now Pride Cymru).

Bryant said, "If you'd asked anyone for their stereotype of the Rhondda before the election it would have been that they would never elect anyone like me. But I ended up with more votes than anybody else in Wales in the election - which goes to show that kind of prejudice is a thing of the past. There are a lot of young people growing up in Wales who discover that they are gay and can feel some kind of freak. So it's important that we have role models and that we work to ensure equality in the law."

Price described the event as "a celebration of diversity that is characteristic of the tolerant and inclusive Wales we all want to see ... Unfortunately, there are still too many instances of gay men and lesbians facing discrimination."

Source: *Western Mail*, 1 September 2001



2002

In Llanelli, Debbie Rees, chairwoman of the Wales TUC's gay and lesbian steering committee, launches campaign for the town's register office to start offering civil "partnership services". Carmarthenshire County Council says it will consider the idea.

Source: *Queer Ontario*, News clippings on spousal rights, Jan. 2000 - Dec. 2004



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.



2004

2008

Homosexuality and homophobic bullying were explored by Llanelli schoolchildren during a series of workshops aimed at stamping out bigoted behaviour in Carmarthenshire.

Source: *Evening Post*, 18 November 2008

2008

Angela Eagle becomes the first female MP to enter into a civil partnership (with partner Maria Exall).

2009

Welsh rugby star Gareth Thomas becomes the first known top-level professional male athlete in a team sport to come out while still active in professional sport.

2009

Charmaine Rees and Karen Williams are thought to be the first in a lesbian civil partnership in Llanelli. The pair, who had been together for eight years, said their union was no different to any other wedding being staged at the Town Hall. "I'm over the moon that I'm getting married," Charmaine said. "It's a wonderful experience and no matter who you love you should have the chance to commit yourself to them."

Source: *Evening Star*, 27 July 2009



2010

2010

Rugby referee Nigel Owens spoke about why he called police over homophobic abuse at a recent game. He was on duty at a Welsh premiership game between Llanelli and Neath at Parc y Scarlets last month when a fan allegedly began shouting anti-gay abuse. Mr Owens told the *South Wales Post*: "It's the first time it's happened when I have heard it so loud, the stadium was fairly empty and everyone there must have heard it, I know the players did. The reason something needs to be done about it, and why I took it to the police, however, is I recently spent six hours talking to a young rugby player who was contemplating taking his own life because he felt that he couldn't deal with coming out. I have been through it myself and was telling him people would understand. Then a few days later you get an idiot like that shouting homophobic abuse. It's really not on."

Source: *Pink News*, 16 December 2010

2010

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



Photo credit: Original picture from Florian Christoph, cropped by Blackcat

2011

Andrew Craig Williams, a writer from Ammanford, is interviewed for *We Are Cardiff*. In it he explained, 'I learned to knit in 2004. It started as a little hobby, and has turned into an obsession. I curated an art exhibition as part of Queer Cymru in 2005.'

Source: *We Are Cardiff*, 19 October 2011

2014

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

2014

Gay Ammanford, a gay and lesbian support group, slammed a national newspaper article which branded the area homophobic. *The Observer* magazine's article, 'Story of a Male Escort', gave a frank interview with Josh Brandon a 21-year-old originally from Ammanford who claimed that during his teenage years he became addicted to drugs, was expelled from school and had to move to London, where he became professional a male escort. Gay Ammanford hit out at the article which, it said, gave the impression his upbringing in Ammanford was somehow responsible for his lifestyle, is a homophobic area and that 'Josh' had escaped a "Tesco town". A gay man and Gay Ammanford service user who did not wish to be named said: "Having been born and bred in Ammanford, I have never experienced any prejudice against me due to my sexuality. If anything the area is one of the most supportive and accepting communities in the county." Cairn Newton, media and liaison officer for Gay Ammanford added, "We find the wider Carmarthenshire area is a strong and welcoming community and a safe place to live or visit which also offers good schools."

Source: *South Wales Guardian*, 17 September 2014; *The Guardian*, 31 August 2014



2017

2015

Mês Bach a Gwreiddiau (Small Acorns and Roots) published by Dafydd Gwylon tells the story of his life and family, including being a gay man in 1970s Wales. Dafydd has been a role model for the LGBT+ community in west Wales for decades. An advocate for the Welsh language, he spoke in 2023 at a Carmarthen LGBTQ+ History event in Welsh, talking about the challenges of life as an openly gay man in the '70s and '80s. Dafydd is dedicated to weaving queer and Welsh identities together. He campaigned against Section 28 and has contributed to radio and TV programmes about gay men's history.

Sources: Katie Hoggan, 'Pinc List 2023: Wales' most influential LGBT+ people. It's our annual celebration of the LGBT+ people making a difference in Wales and beyond,' *Wales Online*, 17 June 2023

2016

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

2017

Weatherman and presenter, Owain Wyn Evans (1984-) was born in Ammanford and in 2017 married his partner Arran Rees, from Merthyr.

Photo credit: Wikimedia Commons



2017

Carmarthen
LGBTQ+



Carmarthen LGBTQ+, founded in 2017 by Nettle, Aled, & Moth, is a local, unfunded and grassroots community group, planning socials, brunches and more for the LGBTQ+ community of Carmarthen and the surrounding area.

2017

Queering the Map is a Canadian initiative to create a community-based online collaborative and countermapping platform on which users submit their personal queer experiences to specific locations on a single collective map. Since its inception, users have contributed more than 500,000 posts in 23 languages to the platform. Several people have left pins in Carmarthenshire.



The bridge where we couldn't keep our hands off each other, out under the stars. We've both moved on since then but that holiday is still one of my best memories.

This is where I grew up, where I crushed over every girl and obsessed over celebrities. I wish I knew just how many people were like me.

I met you at a Christmas party. You were drunk but I was sober. You kept trying to smoke a breadstick. We left after a while, walked around at midnight and found ourselves in the park. We talked for hours, my feet were blistered and my head hurt and god you made me so happy. I wish I had kissed you. - Eira



2019

2018

When Carmarthenshire Council's refuses to raise a flag for LGBTQ+ History Month, Carmarthen LGBTQ+ decide to raise their own in Notts Square. "It's common these days for local authorities and other public bodies to say how much they value their LGBT+ citizens," wrote the group on their Facebook page, "We wouldn't want our council to be seen as old-fashioned, parochial or homophobic/transphobic - so let's help them celebrate this LGBT History month in Carmarthenshire by flying some freedom flags!

Source: Carmarthen LGBTQ+, 'Help Carmarthen Council celebrate LGBT+ History Month,' Facebook, 24 February 2018



2019

Carmarthen LGBTQ+ publishes an e-book in which they share their own stories for LGBTQ+ History Month.

Source: Carmarthen LGBTQ+ Facebook page



2019

Dr.Mz and Carmarthen LGBTQ+ created a partnership in 2019 to test the need for a local LGBTQ+ youth group, providing positive, safe space for local young people. Dr Mz continues to provide a safe space weekly for LGBTQ+ young people to connect.

Source: Dr Mz web site.



2019

Llanelli LGBTQ+ Support Group started off as a community project run by CETMA, a social enterprise based in Llanelli. CETMA had organised the first LGBTQ+ event in Llanelli with 2015's LGBT day.

Following the success of the event, more and more people were interested in or were seeking some form of support. To start providing this, CETMA organised monthly coffee mornings where anyone could just turn up and have a simple chat. In 2016, CETMA organised another LGBT Day, which was a larger event than the year before. Further events were organised in 2017, and 2018, with coffee mornings and a Facebook page created.

After the 2018 event, it was decided to constitute the group. On 14th January 2019, the constitution was incorporated.

2020

"Urban types have specialist bars and it's more delineated to which belonging you have, where as queers in Carmarthen don't have anywhere else to go," said Gwilym Roberts. Buying a farm in the middle of Carmarthen with his partner, 48-year-old Gwilym is a facilitator of a LGBT+ youth group LGBTQ at Dr. M'z. A queer affirmative counsellor, Gwilym thinks that outspoken people like himself initiating open discussion allows for people to feel more comfortable. "I think the trick is to get bolshy types like me to create openings for people to flourish" he said.

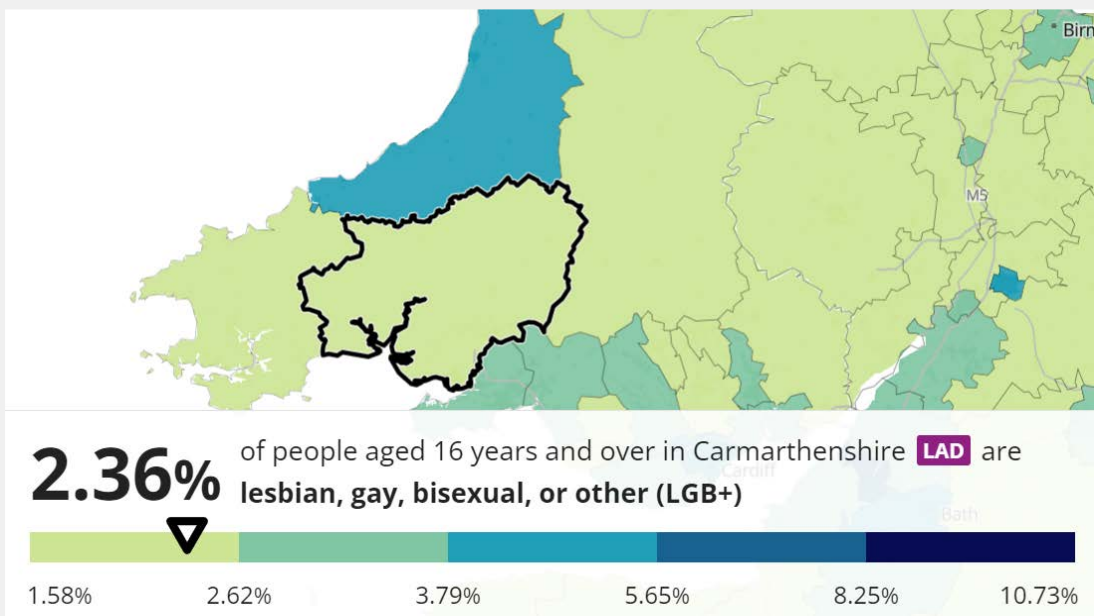
Source: Joseph Ali, 'What it's really like living in rural Wales as part of the LGBT+ community,' *Wales Online*, 25 September 2020



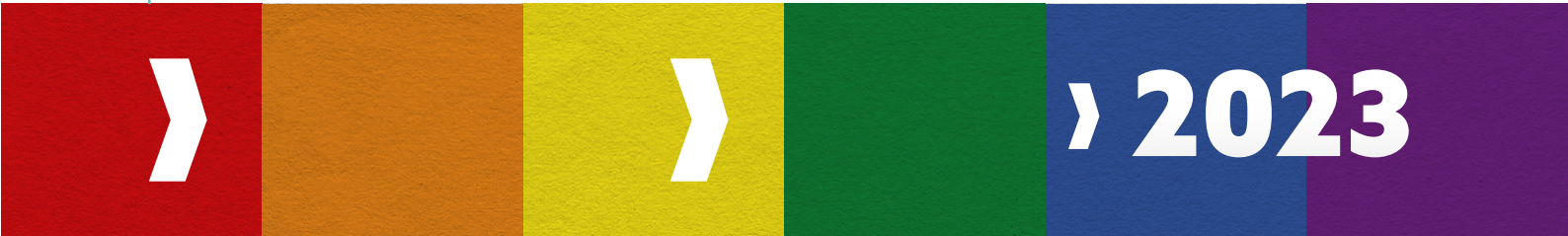
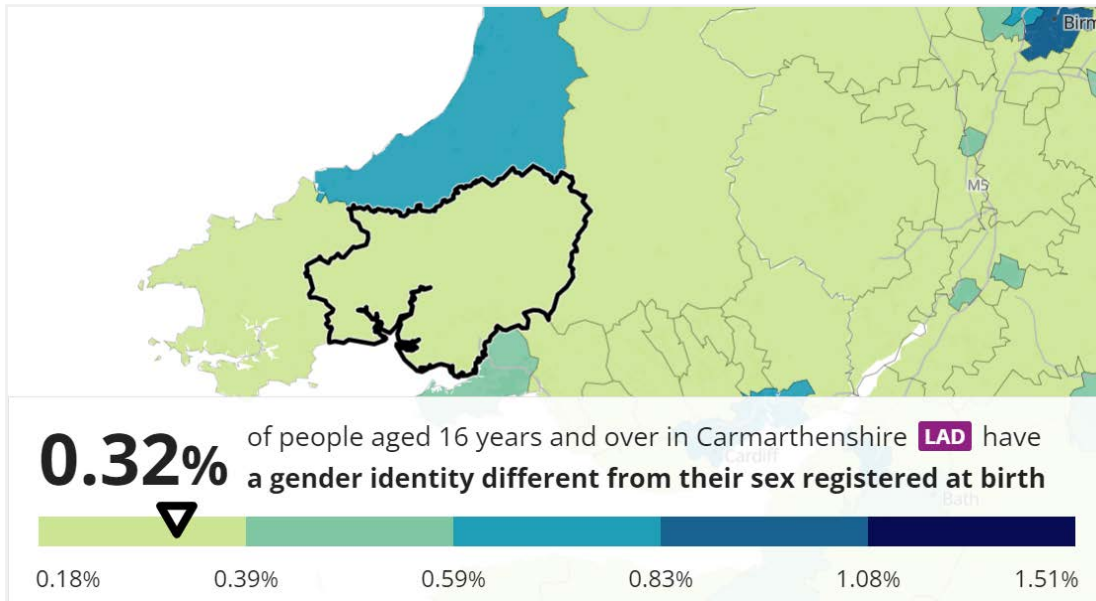
2021

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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2023

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.



2022

Following the success of Carmarthen's first Pride event in the summer, the Carmarthenshire LGBTQ+ Project hosted the winter event on Saturday, December 10. Unlike the usual outdoor summer Pride events, it took place inside at the Haliwell Centre at University of Wales Trinity St David with drag performances and an indoor market.

Source: Katie Hoggan, 'Carmarthen hosts its first Winter Pride festival for the LGBTQ+ community,' *Wales Online*, 15 December 2022

2023

'Cwiar Na Nog,' a queer space in Eisteddfod yr Urdd is launched in Llandovery, as a safe space for young people, inclusive of LGBTQ+ people, with Welsh-language pronouns.

Source: Urdd Cymru > Urdd Eisteddfod > Arts Projects > LGBTQ+ website

2023

The first Carmarthen Pride is held on the 16th of September, planned by a committee from the local LGBTQ+ community, On Your Face Collective and volunteers, with day and night events. Starting with a parade outside St Peter's Church, it made its way down King Street, into Nott Square, Hall Street and end at the bottom of Guildhall Square. Posting on its Facebook page, organisers of Carmarthen Pride said they asked people whether they would "prefer to call it a parade or a march and the results were 50/50, so we've decided to refer to it as both." Performers include Welsh Ballroom Community, singer Adjua, the band Telgate, and drag queens Catrin Feelings and Serenity.

Source: Ian Lewis, 'Carmarthen set to hold Pride celebration,' *In Your Area*, 11 September 2023; Carmarthen Pride Facebook page

2023

Llanelli Pride is held at the Selwyn Samuel Centre, 14-16 July 2023



2023

2023

Llandovery Pride is on 29 July 2023 at the Market Square.



2023

Llandeilo Pride is held on 8 July with a parade going through Rhosmaen Street from CK's car park to King Street and followed by a festival which moved from venue to venue with different artists performing throughout the day.

Source: Cerys Lafferty, 'Llandeilo's first ever Pride event expected to be huge success,' *Herald Wales*, (no date given) 2023





Thank you

These have been just a few highlights from Sir Gâr / Carmarthenshire'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



Draig Enfys



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