



The Wales LGBTQ+ Timeline Collection

Morgannwg / Glamorgan 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.

ANTIQUITY >

Emperor Elagabalus

A hoard of more than 300 coins was found in Sully Moors in the Vale of Glamorgan in the late 19th Century, which shows Emperor Elagabalus (c.204–222). Elagabalus was infamous for his sexual promiscuity and questions have been raised about his gender fluidity, “The obscure young emperor made headlines ... when it was reported that North Hertfordshire Museum in Hitchin has changed the pronouns it uses with reference to a coin of Elagabalus in its collection, and would now refer to the emperor as a trans woman using “she” and “her”.”



Photo credit: Wikimedia Commons; Public Domain.

Source: Joe Ali, ‘The fascinating ancient artefacts that show Wales’ LGBT+ history dates back thousands of years’, *WalesOnline*, 11 February 2022; Esther Addley, ‘Was Roman emperor Elagabalus really trans – and does it really matter?’ *The Guardian*, 24 November 2023



6th CENTURY >

British monk Gildas is one of the best-documented figures of the Christian church in the British Isles during the sub-Roman period and was renowned for his Biblical knowledge and literary style. He was educated at a monastic centre in Glamorgan where he became a renowned teacher. *The Preface of Gildas on Penance* is attributed to him and included in it is a reference to penances for sodomy – but the type of sodomy is not specified.

Another similar penitential is Canon 8, of the *Synod of the Grove of Victory*, a church council held in Caerleon, around AD 569 officiated by Dewi Sant (Saint David), ‘he who commits the male crime as the Sodomists shall do penance for four years. But he who [had relations] between the thighs, [three] years. However, if by one’s own hand or the hand of another, two years.’

Photo credit: Encyclopædia Britannica



14th CENTURY >

1326

King Edward II, who was born in Caernarfon, is deposed by his wife Queen Isabella. Edward flees to Caerphilly with Hugh Despenser, the Lord of Glamorgan. Hugh and Edward were believed to be lovers, and they took refuge from the queen's army in Caerphilly Castle. They were eventually arrested in Neath, and Edward was forced to abdicate. Hugh was charged with treason and interfering in the royal marriage. He was hanged, castrated, drawn, and quartered.



Caerphilly Castle

Photo credit: Wikimedia Commons; WelshDave, CC BY-SA 4.0



1885

19th CENTURY >

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.

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.



1894

Vincent Clarke, 34, an engineer was arrested on 10 February and charged with 'unlawfully did attempt feloniously and against the order of nature, carnally to know Denis Desmond, and with him to commit and abominable crime, at Cardiff, 10 February, 1893.' He was found guilty and sentenced to four months in Cardiff Prison.

David Rennie, a sailor, from Cardiff was charged with 'feloniously and against the order of nature did carnally know one Robert King, at Cardiff, 27th April, 1894.' He was found guilty of sodomy, and sentenced to four years' penal servitude.

Thomas Barker was charged with 'feloniously and against the order of nature did carnally know one John Tyner, at Cardiff, 15th June, 1894. He was found not guilty and discharged.

Source: Glamorgan, Wales, Calendar of Prisoners, 1850-1920, via Ancestry



1896

1896

The New Woman at Penarth

"Entertaining the Inhabitants. The first appearance of a specimen of the new woman was recorded at the Penarth Police Court on Wednesday, when Ellen O'Neil, "a lady of colour," who looked very coy in "breeks," was charged with obstructing the thoroughfare at Maughan-street on the previous evening. Evidently (according to the evidence of P.C.'s Adams and Chant) Ellen was the source of illimitable delight to a crowd of about 100 persons on account of her novel make-up. The stern myrmidons of the law however were as hard as adamant towards the joke. Mr J. S. Batchelor and District Councillor Morris dismissed the jokist, at the same time telling her that by her conduct she troubled both the police and themselves."

Source: *South Wales Daily News*, January 2, 1896

1896

Glamorganshire Assizes. John Morgan (42), sailor, and Thomas Coles (21), carpenter, were charged with an offence against nature, and being found guilty were sentenced, Morgan to 12 months' imprisonment and Coles to three years' penal servitude.

Source: *South Wales Daily News*, 19 November 1896

1897

Nauseous and Disgusting.

Jeremiah Sullivan and Isaac Jones, of Maesteg, pleaded not guilty to a charge of committing gross indecency with each other on 5th July at Maesteg. Mr Douglas Lewis (instructed by Mr R. C. Griffiths, Bridgend) conducted the prosecution, prisoners being undefended. Evidence in support of the charge was given by Police-constables Edward Jones and William Jones, William Duplow, a labourer, and Dr. W. H. Thomas. In defence Sullivan pleaded that he was mistaken as to Jones's sex and was drunk, and Jones, that he was suffering from a peculiar physical malformation, which rendered him different from other men. Prisoners were found guilty, and the learned Commissioner, in passing sentence upon them of 18 calendar months each, said the case was about as nauseous and disgusting as could be well imagined.

Source: *South Wales Echo*, 25 November 1897

1897 & 1899

Those who were responsible for compiling 19th century criminal records were often nervous about using words like 'buggery' and would sometimes curtail it, despite few people ever seeing these records at the time.

Source: Glamorgan Archives, Q/S/C/7 - Calendar of Prisoners, 1895-1902

See images below



1899

On the 3rd April, 1897, at Barry, unlawfully committing an unnatural offence with another male person, named Henry Walter Antcliff.	1st July	Ditto	.. Guilty of b—y.
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Feloniously committing the abominable crime of b'gg'y with Richard John Green, on the 2nd December, 1899, at Ystradyfodwg.

20th CENTURY >

1902

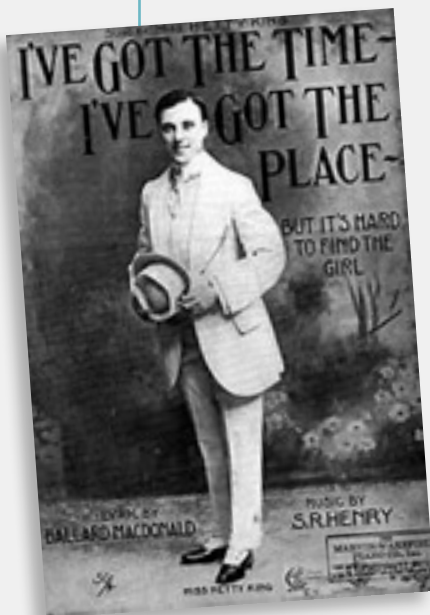
Amazonian Stowaway from Barry. Went On Board in Male Attire. An American report by last mail says: -The Belfast steamer Lord Erne has arrived in Baltimore with one more person on board than Captain Maginis supposed he had on leaving Barry for Las Palmas, and that person was a woman with long plaits of hair and a pronounced German countenance. No less extraordinary is the fact that her presence was not discovered by the master of the vessel until she was 25 days out, although two members of the crew shared the same room with her. The woman it appears, is the cook's wife, who possessed with the idea that they might be parted for ever if he returned to the United States alone, prevailed upon the husband to smuggle her on the vessel. To make this piece of strategy possible of accomplishment, she donned male

attire. The silence of the cook's room-mate once assured, the rest was easy, and for over three weeks not an inkling of the romance on the freighter got out, although inspections of the quarter by the officers were frequent, and once the boatswain felt the texture of the curtain behind which the fair stowaway was concealed. Immigrant Commissioner Wells will pass judgment upon the case of Mrs Ratcliff. She was sent to a hospital, but not being an American, and her husband having no naturalisation papers, there are complications ahead. Whether it will be made obligatory for Captain Maginnis to take Mrs Ratcliff back in his ship remains for the Commissioner to decide.

Source: *Barry Dock News*, 22 August 1902



> 1911



1906

Hetty King (1883–1972), described as the modern-day Vesta Tilley, started appearing regularly as a male impersonator from 1905. She was at the Cardiff Empire in 1906.

Sources: [Wikipedia](#); *Barry Dock News*, 31 August 1906

1911

Margaret Bondfield (1873–1953) was a Labour Party politician, trade unionist and women's rights activist. She became the first female cabinet minister, and the first woman to be a privy counsellor in the UK.

She formed several branches of the Women's Labour League including one in Ogmere Vale, Glamorgan in 1911. She had an intense friendship with Helen Lockwood (1889-1969), Professor of English at Vassar College, New York.



1913



Freda Danilo, a male impersonator, appears at Romilly Hall giving 'impersonations in male attire' in September and then at Vint's Electric Palace, the town's first permanent picture-house, which opened in 1909, when she is described as 'great' - the Reflections gift shop now stands on the location.

Sources: *Barry Dock News*, 26 September 1913;
Barry Dock News, 3 October 1913

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.



1916

1916

George Maggs, 26, labourer was, on 4 August 1916 'within the Parish of Barry did commit an act of gross indecency with another male person, to wit, one Albert Lew.' He was found guilty and committed to six weeks hard labour.

Ahmed Said, 25, fireman 'on the 31st day of August, within the Paris of Penarth, did commit the abominable crime of buggery with a male person named James Swainson. He was found guilty and given 12 months hard labour.

Simon Antonis, 40, sailor, 'on the 16 day of September, 1916, within the Parish of Barry did commit an act of gross indecency with a male person named John Fisher. He was given 12 months hard labour.

Source: *Calendar of Prisoners, 1868-1929*

1916

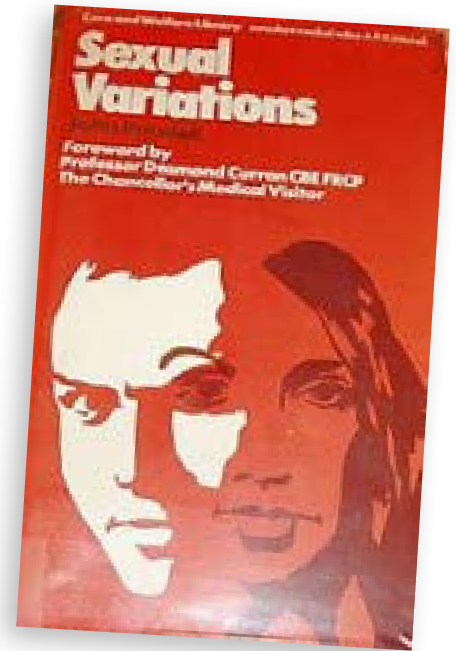
"Gower has followed the custom of other parts of the country, and it is not unusual now to see women dressed in male attire working in the fields."

Source: *Cambrian Daily Leader*,
26 July 1916

1918

John Randell (1918-1982) a pioneer in trans studies was born in Penarth and many trans people in Wales still remember him. Randell went on to set up the first Gender Identity Clinic in Britain in 1966 and helped organise the First International Symposium on Gender Identity. He became the most famous person in British transsexual surgery and for over 40 years every person seeking reassignment had to go to his Charing Cross Clinic in London. According to figures given by Randell himself, he had seen 2438 (1768 male and 670 female) transgendered patients by 1980 causing the *News of the World* in 1980 to claim that he and his surgeon, Peter Phillip, had made London the 'sex-change capital of the world'.

Source: King, D., (2002), *Pioneers of Transgendering: John Randell, 1918-1982*, in *GENDYS 2002, The Seventh International Gender Dysphoria Conference, Manchester England*.



1945

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.

1927

Dorothy Edwards (1902–1934) a Welsh novelist writes the short story, *The Conquered*, included in *Queer Square Mile* due to its queer readings. Dorothy committed suicide by throwing herself under a train near Caerphilly railway station, leaving a note saying, "I am killing myself because I have never sincerely loved any human being all my life. I have accepted kindness and friendship and even love without gratitude, and given nothing in return."

Source: Wikipedia; *Queer Square Mile: Queer Short Stories from Wales*, Edited by Kirsti Bohata, Mihangel Morgan and Huw Osborne (Parthian Books,

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



1966

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.

1962

Eddie Izzard (1962-), British comedian and actor, also known as Suzy Izzard, was born in Aden but brought up in Skewen, Neath Port Talbot where they went to school in Porthcawl.



1966

Ruth Jones is born Bridgend in 1966 but grew up in Porthcawl and attended Porthcawl Comprehensive School. She became an actor appearing in several comedies such as *Gavin and Stacey* and *Little Britain* where she appeared as the lesbian barmaid, Myfanwy in Llandewi Breffi. The character enters a civil partnership with Rhiannon in the second series.



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

In December 1971, Plaid Cymru's monthly newspaper, *Welsh Nation*, published a letter from Cardiff Gay Liberation Front. Its content was an attempt to fuse the demands of the GLF with those of the Party's aims. It had been written by Stuart Neale, active in both organisations. Neale grew up in Penarth and was educated at Penarth Grammar School. In 1972, he was the first openly gay man to stand in election as a Plaid Cymru candidate. "Neale says he gradually came to terms with his own sexuality; his mother, however, was not reconciled, and when he first revealed it, was referred to a psychiatrist who, unlike many at the time, was not unsympathetic to his reality."

Source: Syd Morgan, 'Stuart Neale' on LGBTQ Cymru website blog.



1984

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.



1984

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.

1984

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



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.

1994

MPs voted to lower the age of consent for homosexual men from 21 to 18 to put it in line with the age of consent for heterosexual men. Those MPs from Glamorgan who voted to reduce the age to 18, were Jon Owen Jones (Cardiff Central), Rhodri Morgan (Cardiff W) and Alun Michael (Cardiff S and Penarth), Ray Powell (Ogmore), Gareth Wardell (Gower), all Labour MPs. In the end, voting was 427 to 162, an overwhelmingly majority of 265 for 18.

Source: *The Herald of Scotland*, 22 Feb 1994; *Gay Times*, April 1994



1998

1998

The UK's hottest drama show of the 1990s, *This Life*, ends. Jason Hughes (1970-) born in Porthcawl, played gay lawyer Warren Jones, a character that had an impact as young gay men wrote letters to Jason with stories of how they were inspired to come out to their families. In an *Independent* interview, heterosexual Jason was asked if he had known any gay men at school to which he replied, “Oh God, no.” So he visited gay bars while researching the role, “I had an obligation and a responsibility to them. To make it believable,” he said.

Source: Wikipedia; Janie Lawrence, ‘Gay, Welsh, stupid? *That's life*’, *The Independent*, 19 March 1998



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

A letter from Russell White of the Populist Party in London appeared in the *Barry Gem* arguing the 'Promotion of homosexuality in schools is unacceptable,' claimed that it was 'totally unacceptable that local taxpayers' money should be used' without considering that LGBTQ+ people are taxpayers. He went on to make wild accusations that the Christian Institute 'has shown that more than £1 million is already being diverted from education and health to fund projects promoting 'gay' lifestyles.'

Source: *Barry Gem*, 17 February 2000



> 2003

2002

Prisoners in our own home. A Barry gay couple claimed they had become victims of a series of vicious hate attacks by local youths. Colcot residents Annette and Angela Gauder, who changed their name by deed poll, said they were living like prisoners after stink bombs, water balloons, faeces, and even bricks have been thrown at their home.

Source: *Barry & District News*, 22 August 2002

2003

Thrilled by our gay marriage. Lisa Slade and Julie Stamps from Barry created history after taking part in Wales' first lesbian commitment ceremony. Taxi driver Lisa (31) spoke about the effort it took her, and Morrisons' employee Julie (23) to publicly declare their love. Visiting the registry office in Swansea, Julie and Lisa were asked if they would be willing to launch the first of the same-sex ceremonies. They agreed, waiting until July 1, because the registrar was on holiday. Lisa added: "We were told there'd be media attention, but we never expected all this hype. It really surprised us." The ceremony was held at Swansea Council's Celebration Suite at County Hall and the reception was at the Golden Cross pub in Cardiff.

Speaking about the proposed changes in legal rights, Lisa added: "The one thing that worried both of us living together is we would have to pay 40 percent tax if one of us passed away, and that's a lot of money. There should not be any discrimination as we all pay our taxes."

The Rev Geoffrey Fewkes, of Pantygwydr Baptist Church in Swansea, criticised the ceremonies. "They are not good socially, morally or financially. These commitment ceremonies – whether held for gays or heterosexual are not legally binding – they can not and should not replace marriage."

Source: *Barry & District News*, 3 July 2003; *Barry & District News*, 10 July 2003

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.



2010

2008

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



Photo credit: Wikimedia Commons
Open Government Licence v3.0

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.



2010

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

2011

Julie Baker and Michelle Northcott from Trawsryw Cymru/Transgender Wales (now defunct) gave evidence at The National Assembly for Wales, Petitions Committee on 'Equality for the Transgender Community' in Wales. Julie noted, 'I was lucky. I worked for General Electric Company plc, and, at that time, I was working in Sobell McMichael in Hirwaun ... My life was made fairly easy during my transition. I finished at Hirwaun on a Friday night, and, on the Monday morning, I was a female, starting to work at the Marconi Marine (VSEL) side of the company. I have stayed with GEC all my working life, strange as it may seem.'

Source: The National Assembly for Wales, 'P-03-301 Equality for the transgender community', 11 January 2011. All documents available on the Senedd Cymru/ Welsh Parliament website.

2014

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

2016

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



2016

2016

The 'First Report of the Women and Equalities Committee, Session 2015-16, on Transgender Equality, HC 390, and the Government response, Cm 9301' is held in the House of Commons. Two Welsh MPs supported the motion for a new trans equality action plan:

Stephen Doughty (Cardiff South and Penarth) (Lab/Co-op): The right hon. Lady is making a strong speech, and I wholeheartedly support it. Will she join me in praising the work of many public sector organisations, including South Wales Police and the British Army, which has been praised for its work with trans communities and the wider LGBT community? It is by showing leadership in the public sector and through such organisations that we can deliver real equality.

Chris Elmore, (Ogmore) (Lab/Co-op): Transgender people make an enormous contribution to our society. As well as allowing us to discuss the difficulties that

transgender people face each day, I hope that this debate can be used to celebrate transgender people across the UK. The hate and prejudice that lurks in our society is sickening, but what is remarkable is the positivity that shines in contrast to that. Ranging from the brilliant author and historian Jan Morris, to the late businesswoman and documentary star Stephanie Booth, some of our most remarkable people in Wales identify as transgender.

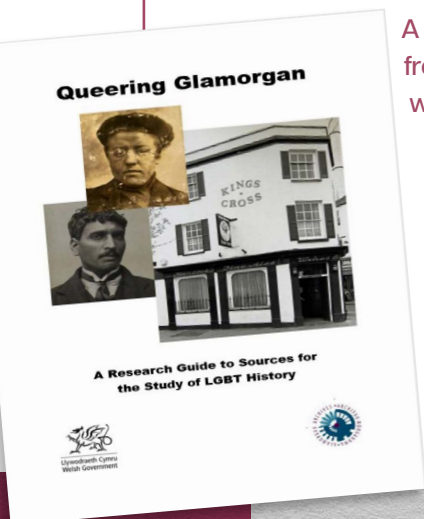
The full account can be read by searching for 'First Report of the Women and Equalities Committee, Session 2015-16, on Transgender Equality.'

Source: *Hansard, Transgender Equality, Volume 617: debated on Thursday 1 December 2016*

2018

Glamorgan Archives publishes *Queering Glamorgan*, co-authored by Daryl Leeworthy and Norena Shopland and funded by the Welsh Government. It is a research guide designed to aid those in researching sexual orientation and gender identity in some archive collections.

A free copy can be downloaded from Glamorgan Archives website.



2021

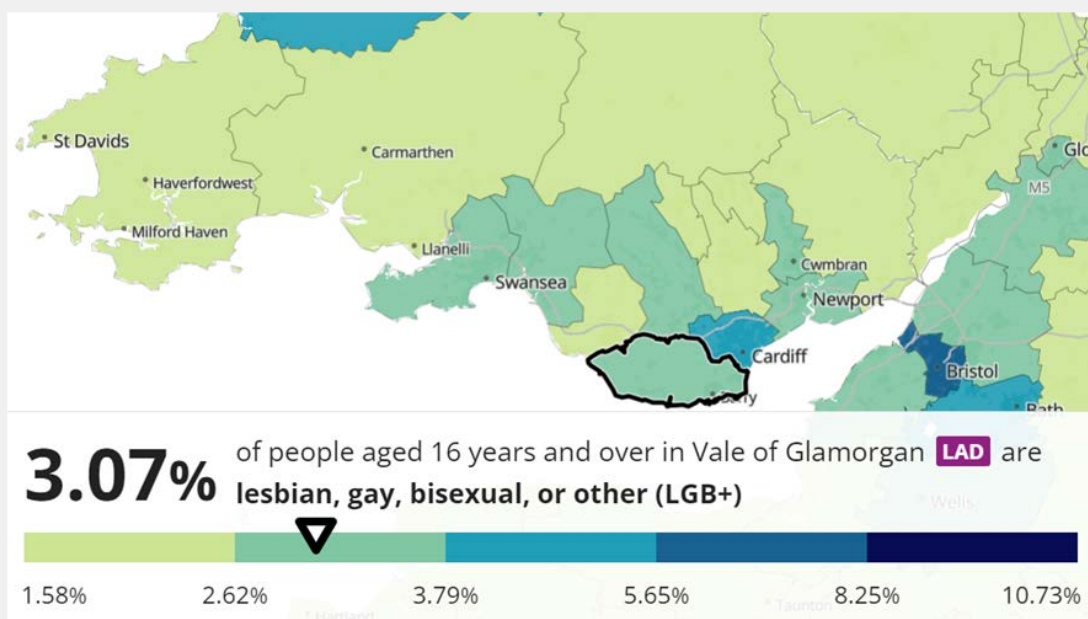
Owen J Hurcum became the world's first non-binary mayor and Wales' youngest ever elected mayor of Bangor City Council in Gwynedd, Wales.



2021

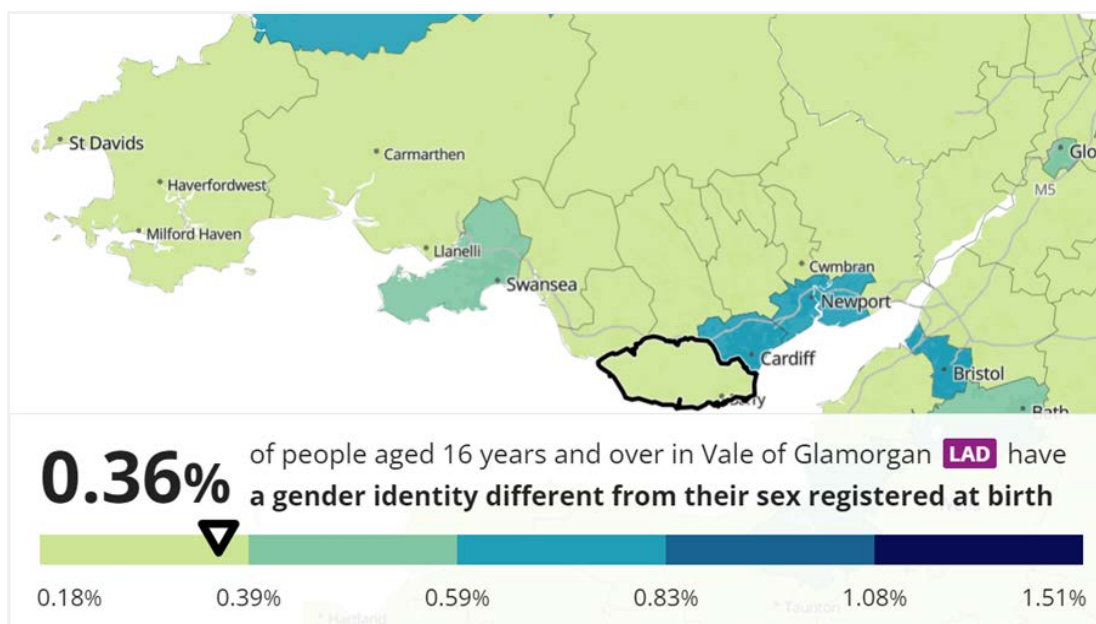
2021

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

2022

Vale of Glamorgan Council employees can join GLAM, an LGBTQI+ Network. Tom Narbrough, Chairperson for the GLAM Network commented, 'Our consistent progress through the years has helped highlight us as a Council that embraces diversity and inclusion and one that works hard to address any issues for the benefit of all staff groups.'

Source: Vale of Glamorgan Council / Cyngor Bro Morgannwg website

2023

The book, *Queer and Trans People of Colour in the UK*, is published. One of those interviewed is 'Stanley, a mixed-race trans man, academic and artist. He is of Black Caribbean and white Welsh and Irish working-class heritage. Stanley came of age in the 1980s and 90s and has been involved with trans and gender projects, giving many academic papers on childhood gender nonconformity both locally and in Europe, as well as contributing to transgender and queer publications, anthologies, and art exhibitions within the UK.' In Stanley's interview, he describes growing up mixed race in a majority white, Welsh community, and the difficulties of talking about race and difference.' Stanley, and others, discusses 'artwork and cultural interventions created both by themselves and other queer and trans people of colour as ways in which to speak to the erasures of histories and the challenge of representation in contemporary culture. These stimulate reflection on life at the intersections and the development of a critical, decolonising consciousness.'

Source: Stephanie Davies, *Queer and Trans People of Colour in the UK: Possibilities for Intersectional Richness*, (Routledge, 2023)

2023

In the book, *Anxieties of Migration and Integration in Turbulent Times*, two refugees talk about their experiences in South Wales:

stand their struggle. Gora explains:

When I arrived I didn't know any other gay asylum-seekers. The refugees I knew were straight and I wasn't going to mix with them because they were homophobic. I wanted to meet people like me, who have gone through similar situations and will understand my struggles. I met a lot of Welsh gays at the clubs but nobody I could call a friend. The club gays are white and I'm tall and black and I stand out. They think I'm 'exotic'; at the club they are friendly but outside the club I'm just another foreigner on the street.

Mehdi confirms this, saying:

People who say that Wales is diverse are clearly blind. I'm a gay refugee from Tunisia – I'm a minority within a minority – within a minority! It's almost impossible to find people like me around here because Cardiff is so small! The gays here are visible but they are not very welcoming and they don't socialise with ethnic minorities because they don't take us seriously. And don't get me started with the straight refugees! I can't hang out with them; we are from different universes.

Source: Mari-Liis Jakobson, Russell King, Laura Moroşanu (eds), *Anxieties of Migration and Integration in Turbulent Times*, (Germany: Springer International Publishing, 2023)



2023



Thank you

These have been just a few highlights from Morgannwg / Glamorgan'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

 search **Draig Enfys**