



# **The Wales LGBTQ+ Timeline Collection**

Gwynedd 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.

# 13<sup>th</sup> CENTURY >

## 1284

The future King Edward II (1284–1327) is born at Caernarfon Castle, less than a year after Edward I had conquered the region, and as a result is sometimes called Edward of Caernarfon. When he ascends the throne in 1307, he is a disinterested king and is reliant on Piers Gaveston, with whom it is believed he had a relationship.

Edward I creating his son, Edward of Caernarvon (the later King Edward II), Prince of Wales, 1301.

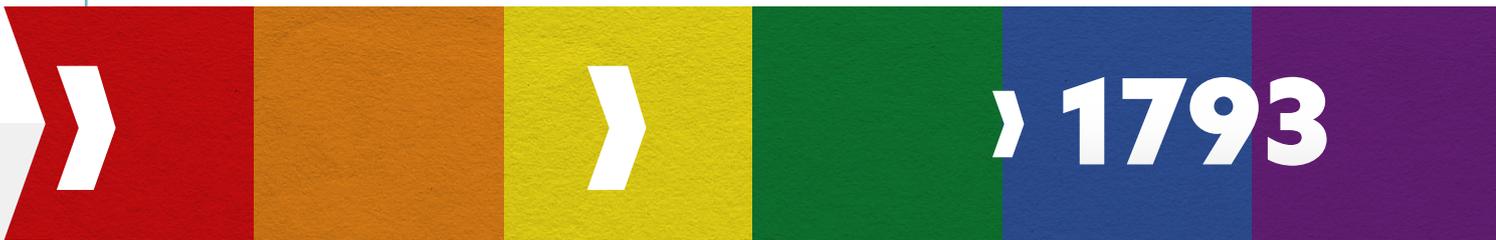
Piers is assassinated due to his excessive influence on the king, and later Edward takes as his companion Hugh Despenser, who one chronicler noted he “loved ... dearly with all his heart and mind.” However, Hugh



Photo credit: Wikimedia Commons; Public Domain.

also has excessive influence on Edward and added to many other troubles, Edward's queen Isabella brings an invasion force to Britain and puts their thirteen-year-old son on the throne. Hugh is disembowelled, castrated and quartered. For many years, Edward has been referred to as a 'gay' king, however it is now accepted a more accurate description is sexually fluid.

Source: Wikipedia



# 18<sup>th</sup> CENTURY >

## 1793

Marged ferch Ifan (Margaret daughter of Ifan) also known as Marged uch Ifan; Marged vch Ifan or Margaret Evans (1696–1793) was a Welsh harpist and wrestler, made famous by men's writings of her masculinity. At a time when servants are rarely written about, it was noted that she “had a maid of congenial qualities” and how Marged had died shortly after her long-serving maid: “Bu ei hoff forwyn farw ychydig o'i blaen, wedi ei gwasanaethu am ddeugain a dwy o flynyddau” (her favourite maid who died just before her had served for forty-two years). Marged died in January 1793 at Pen-llyn and was buried on 24 January in Llanddeiniolen churchyard but the grave no longer survives.

Source: Norena Shopland, *Forbidden Lives: LGBT stories from Wales* (Seren Books, 2017)



Marged ferch Ifan was baptised and married at St Mary's church in Beddgelert

Photo credit: Wikimedia Commons; By Llywelyn2000 - Own work, CC BY-SA 4.0

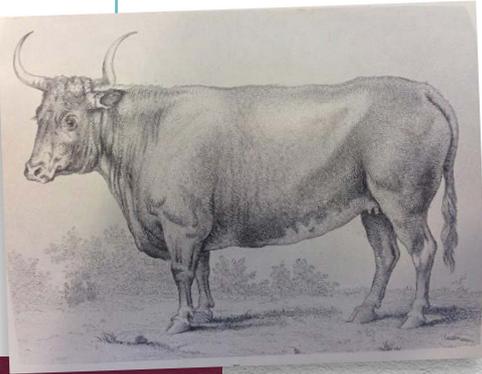
# 19<sup>th</sup> CENTURY >



## 1812

The North Wales Gazette in Bangor published a piece on free martins, 'infertile female cattle with masculinized behaviour and non-functioning ovaries ... The animal originates as a female (XX), but acquires the male (XY) component in utero by exchange of some cellular material from a male twin,' "Free Martins are inferior to spayed heifers and make bad beef, being very coarse grained and very flabby."

Source: Wikipedia; *North Wales Gazette*, 9 April 1812



## 1822

The now famous Anne Lister, known as 'Gentleman Jack,' stays at the White Lion Inn, Bala while on a tour of Wales.

Source: West Yorkshire Archive Service, Anne Lister diary, SH:7/ML/E/6/0031. Available online.



## 1861

## 1837

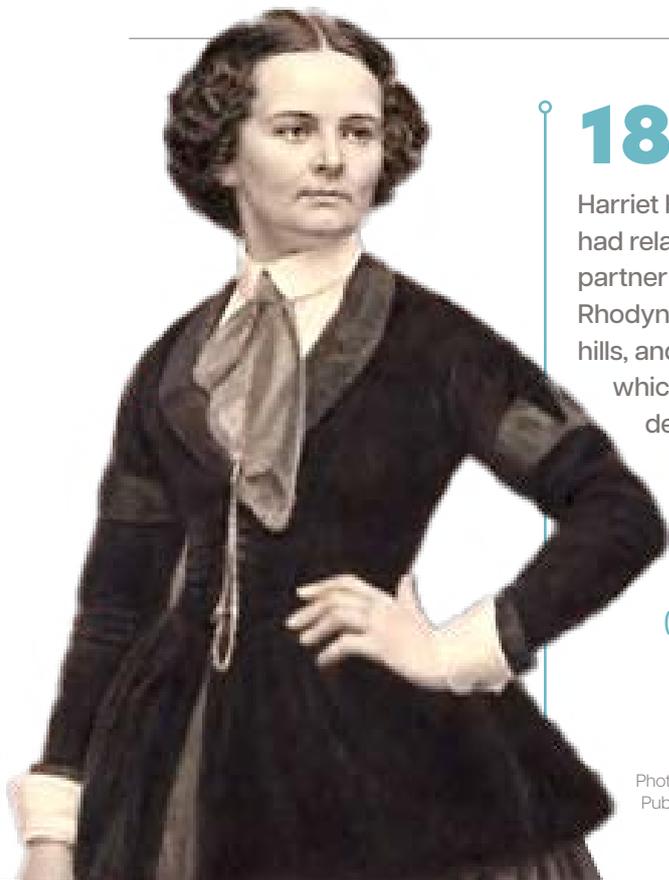
On the 18th ult. at Llanberis, aged 76, Catherine Thomas; she had been celebrated by most of the modern Welsh tourists as the far famed Catrin of Cwmglas who in her younger days was gifted with greater bodily strength than any man in the country, of which many anecdotes are recorded, such as her having in fact held a man of 14 stones at arms length suspended over a quay, rescuing some stolen goods from a powerful young robber, &c. In appearance she exactly resembled a strong man dressed in female attire, with extraordinary deep gruff voice, and strong black beard which she shaved regularly. She held a pretty extensive mountain farm under Mr. Asheton Smith, and was much esteemed as a kind and hospitable neighbour. Charitable to the poor, and exemplary in the whole of her conduct, she had one singularity which was never to allow any individual whatever to sleep a night in her house.

Source: *North Wales Chronicle*, 14 February 1837

## 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.



## 1867

Harriet Hosmer (1830–1908), the distinguished American sculptor who had relationships with several women, was a friend of Mary Lloyd, the life partner of Frances Power Cobbe. On 8 September Harriet wrote from Beyn Rhodyn, Dolgelly, to a friend, 'have made a jump and landed on the Welsh hills, and I never breathed such air. I could walk twenty miles at a stretch, which stretch has no reference to length of leg. We have been on a most delightful excursion nearly all day, under the guidance of Miss Lloyd. She has reason to be proud of her country as far as its atmosphere and beauty are concerned ... Miss Lloyd is hospitality itself. Miss Cobbe jollity itself, and we three are as snug as possible.'

Source: Cornelia Care (ed), *Harriet Hosmer, Letters and Memories*, (London: John Lane The Bodley Head, 1913)

Photo credit: Wikimedia Commons; Public Domain

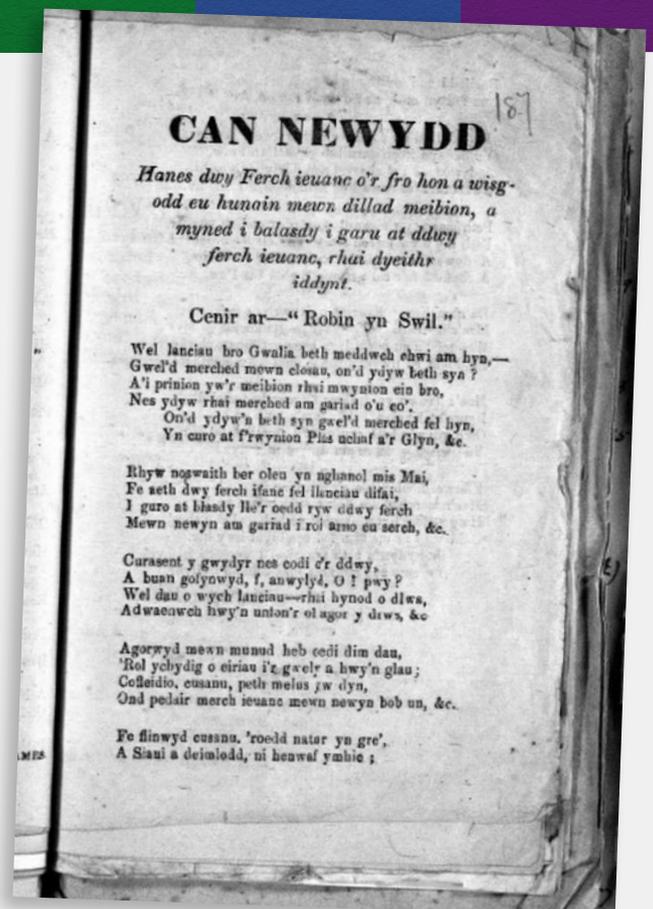


## 1870s

## 1870s

Llyfrgell Genedlaethol Cymru/ National Library of Wales find an 1870s ballad, *Can Newydd* (New Song) in their collection. It concerns women who cross-dress as men to have sex with women. Shortly after the ballad was discovered in 2021, another copy was found in the Archives and Special Collections, Bangor University. One of the places the women supposedly visited was at Ffermdy (Farmhouse) Tu Ucha'r Glyn, near Harlech.

Sources: Norena Shopland, *A Queer Bawdy Ballad*, Llyfrgell Genedlaethol Cymru/ National Library of Wales blog, 9 February 2022; Mair Jones & Norena Shopland, *A Queer Welsh Ballad*, Amgueddfa Cymru/ National Museum of Wales, 24 March 2022



## 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.

## 1885

Bangor University is formed. It becomes a significant place in the LGBTQ+ history of Wales with alumni including Tony Dyson, Alan Bray, Kate Roberts, Frances Barber.

## 1888

Tom Barger, the well-known female impersonator, appears at the Penrhyn Hall, Bangor in November.

Source: *North Wales Express*, 16 November 1888



## 1894

## 1889

Serious Charge Against a Lodging-House Keeper. At a special police court, on Thursday before Thomas Owen, Esq., R.N., and Thomas Forcer Evans, Esq Sergeant M. Toohill charged James Hughes, lodging-house keeper, Church-lane, with committing an unnatural offence with James Martin, a light infantry marine belonging to H.M.S. "Neptune." After hearing the evidence of the prosecution, the case was adjourned - Mr. T. R. Evans, who defended, asked if the accused could be let out on bail, which was refused.

Source: *Carnarvon and Denbigh Herald*, 20 December 1889

## 1894

Miss Bacon, a young lady who is somewhat prominent in London as the advocate of rational dress for women, in the course of a cycling tour of 1200 miles, which she has just completed, paid a visit to North Wales. She came to Conway and continued her journey as far as Bangor and Carnarvon, where, it would seem, she found the first and only sign of astonishment on the part of the natives. At the other places, perhaps, she was taken for a young man - a being who is not sufficiently novel to attract attention. It is pleasant, however, to learn that Miss Bacon experienced no discomfort, and she says that she received better treatment than did a lady and gentleman on a tricycle whom she had met a few days previously. Those had met with the rudest behaviour, and had been followed in some places for distances by interested crowds.

Source: *Carnarvon and Denbigh Herald*, 28 September 1894

## 1895

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



## 1896

On 13 October, aged 77, March Charlotte Lloyd (1819–1896) artist/sculptor and life partner of Frances Power Cobbe, died at their home, Hengwrt, Dolgellau.

Photo credit: By John Lloyd - Library of Congress, Public Domain



## 1899

## 1899

The Offer of Miss Cobbe. On Tuesday night an important meeting of the Library and News-room Committee was held at the Board School-room to consider the generous offer of Miss Frances Power Cobbe to give her valuable library to the institution on condition that a suitable building be erected wherein to place them. Alderman Lewis Lewis presided. It was unanimously resolved to write to Miss Cobbe tendering the Committee's warmest thanks.

Source: *Cardigan Bay Visitor*, 12 September 1899



Photo credit: Wikimedia Commons; Public Domain

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

## 1900

Carnarvon Summer Assizes. Alleged Indecent Offences. Robert Williams, aged about 35, an ironmonger, Bangor, was indicted for unlawfully committing an act of gross indecency with Wm. John Thomas, on the 2nd May – Mr R. Montgomery (instructed by Mr S.R. Dew) prosecuted, and Mr Marshall, Q.C. and Mr Trevor Lloyd (instructed by Mr Thornton Jones), defended – The jury found him “Not guilty,” and prisoner was discharged.

Sources: *Carnarvon and Denbigh Herald*, 13 July 1900; UK, *Calendar of Prisoners, 1868-1929* via Ancestry

## 1902

Henry Paget, the 5th Marquess of Anglesey (1875–1905), known as ‘The Dancing Marquess’ and subject to speculation about his sexuality, was president of the National Eisteddfod in Bangor and a member of the Gorsedd of Bards, with the name “Cadrawd Hardd” (Beautiful Cadrawd).

Source: George Herd, ‘Tiara and scandals: The ‘Dancing Marquess’ of Anglesey,’ BBC News, 7 March 2020



## 1917

## 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

A Woman Anti-tithe Leader. The funeral took place at Llangwm, near Corwen, on Saturday, and was very largely attended, of Mrs. Janet Pugh, of Bwlch Carneddog Farm, of which she was the tenant. Mrs. Pugh, who was in her 76th year, was a notable figure in the tithe war of a quarter of a century ago, being foremost among the fighters in the historic disturbance at Llangwm, at which 38 arrests were made. The old lady habitually appeared in public wearing male attire, and her figure in a bowler hat and cord trousers was familiar at many local markets and fairs in the neighbourhood.

Source: *Llangollen Advertiser*, 8 December 1916

## 1917

Dressed As a Girl. An extraordinary case of a boy being brought up from infancy as a girl came to light at Carnarvon on Whit Monday. While looking for an Army absentee, supposed to be masquerading in female attire, Sergeant Owen noticed a young woman who betrayed certain masculine peculiarities. Upon being challenged, she denied she was a deserter, and gave her name and place of residence in the Llanberis district. An examination by the police doctor established the fact that the person was a male. Inquiries show that the young man, who is 20 years of age, had always been treated by his grandparents as a girl.

Source: *Herald of Wales*, 2 June 1917

## 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.

## 1923

John Cowper Powys (1872–1963), English philosopher, lecturer, novelist, critic and poet, lived in Corwen, Merionethshire, where he set two novels, and then in Blaenau Ffestiniog, where he died in 1963. He wrote *A sailor and a homosexual: Essays on Joseph Conrad and Oscar Wilde* (1923).

## 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.



## 1950s

## 1950s

Alan Bray (1948–2001), an English historian and gay rights activist and Roman Catholic, had a particular interest in Christianity’s relationship to homosexuality. He attended Bangor University studying History and English, and while there ‘became intrigued by the Anglican Catholic religion, and upon graduation he trained to become a priest. His studies at the seminary lasted only one year.’ He later became involved with the Gay Liberation Front in the 1970s and actively campaigned for gay rights.

His interest in sexual politics influenced his work on history, which culminated in two books, the groundbreaking, and highly acclaimed *Homosexuality in Renaissance England* (1982) and *The Friend* (2002), published posthumously. He died of heart failure due to AIDS at the age of fifty-three while living in Notting Hill, London with his life-long friend Graham Wilson.

**Sources:** [Wikipedia](#); [Encyclopaedia.com](#); [Stephen Gee, ‘Obituary: Alan Bray,’ \*The Guardian\*, 18 December 2001](#); [The Independent, Obituaries: Alan Bray](#), 25 January 2002



Photo credit: Wikimedia Commons;  
By James Steakley - Own work, CC BY-SA 4.0

## 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



## 1961

## 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.

## 1961

Caradog Prichard publishes his story, *Un Nos Ola Leuad* (One Moonlit Night), a tale of a young man's growing-up and education in the slate fields of Bethesda, Caernarfonshire. The author mixes up "Laurie Lee type nostalgia with sexual and other violences, to describe mundane characters alongside Gwynedd transexuals, who also live in the village, and like their frocks."



Photo credit: Wikimedia Commons

## 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.



# 1974

## 1974

The West Wales Gay Outdoor Club was founded by Reg Connolly, who recalls:

“The group was advertised as a CHE (Campaign for Homosexual Equality) Special Interest Group and used the then CHE London Information Centre (CHELIC) as a postal address. Using CHE’s prefix and address was to give the non-existent group some credibility in order to advertise. The idea of gay people camping, mountaineering, or cycling was then quite radical. The GLF (Gay Liberation Front)/CHE type scene was only four years old and even that was radical – the idea of Gays “coming out” and taking political action, prior to that the only accepted way to act was by being skittish or fey and cruising one another.

But the idea of gays actually wanting to go out into the country, in daylight mind you, and get wet and cold and sleep in tents without even a teensy weensy

orgy – well, it drove most people into paroxysms of laughter...

But the advert stayed in – and the laughter and the tired jokes about camping made me even more determined to give it a try – and the letters slowly trickled in and eventually (July 9th) about eight of us met in CHELIC (22 Great Windmill Street London W1) and organised our first weekend – in Snowdonia (12-14 July).”

Celebrating 50 years in 2024, they are now the oldest and largest outdoors club in the UK for everyone in the LGBTQI+ community, consists of about 20 groups, which are either geographically based or specialise in a type of activity (e.g., climbing).

**Source: West Wales Gay Outdoor Club, *Our History*. Accessible on their website.**

## 1976

Griff Vaughan Williams was born on 9 November 1940 at Bangor. When the government failed to enact the recommendations of the Wolfenden Report (1957) recommending partial decriminalisation of homosexuality, several activist groups were set up and Griff joined the Homosexual Law Reform Society and the Campaign for Homosexual Equality (CHE). In 1976 he attempted to have CHE's annual conference in Llandudno which resulted in a very public fight about discrimination.

Source: Norena Shopland, *Forbidden Lives: LGBT stories from Wales*, Seren Books, 2017

## 1976

Michael Johnson of Bangor, wrote to the British Weekly, "As an ordinand I have followed carefully and dutifully the debate in many Christian newspapers on homosexuality as provoked by recent documents, books, episcopal statements and meetings, and now I am filled with revulsion at the prejudice, ignorance and lack of love which Christian heterosexuals exhibit in their dogmatic pronouncements and condemnations. I thank God daily that I am homosexual, since it is apparently this aspect of my personality which enables me to reserve judgment on matters I do not understand and to preserve my moral integrity. Of late I have good cause to think 'There but for the grace of God go I,' and pray 'I thank thee that I am not as other men.' The publication of this letter will clearly prevent my ever being ordained; it is however not my own future and the plans which God may have for it which are at stake, but the truth of the gospel of loving understanding even if some cannot stretch their Christianity to loving forgiveness.

Source: *British Weekly*, 19 March 1976



# 1984

Terrence  
HIGGINS  
TRUST



## 1979

Pickets stood outside the W. H. Smith and Sons branch in Bangor to protest at the refusal of the firm to sell "Gay News" - a magazine for homosexuals. Shoppers were asked if they found "Gay News" less offence compared with some "girlie" magazines on sale in the shop. The pickets were local students taking part in a 'Gay Action Week' organised by the National Union of Students. Twenty people took part in the picketing and said that they had had a very good reaction from shoppers. About 400 signatures were collected on a petition which was sent to the headquarters of W. H. Smith in London.

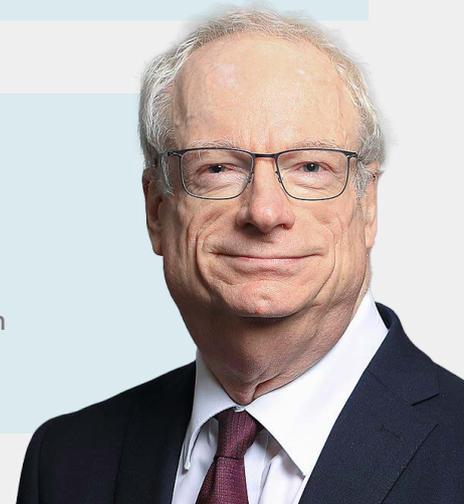
Source: *North Wales Chronicle*, 22 March 1979

## 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.

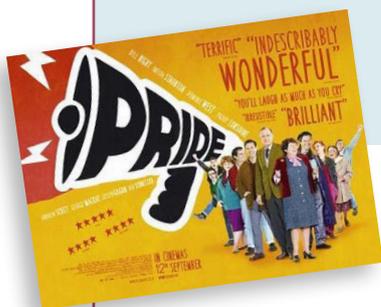
## 1984

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



## 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. See 2014.



## 1984

“To be a woman is tough; to be a homosexual woman is doubly difficult. That is a belief that has prompted a small group of women living in the Bangor area to open an advice and support group for lesbians. Bangor Lesbian Line, set up in the previous October, was born out of the city’s Feminist Discussion Group formed some ten months earlier. “There is no place for a lesbian in many jobs,” said one woman bitterly. “There is so much discrimination and the constant connotation that you are weird or sick. Even gay men are more socially acceptable. Many comedians are openly camp but lesbians aren’t accepted in the same way and gay men have many more bars and social events than the women.” Most of the Lesbian Line organisers had moved to Bangor from other parts of Britain, where some say they encountered hostility at work and at home. It is fear of similar hostility in North Wales that makes the women reluctant to have any information published, that may identify them. They received calls from Rhyl and Abergelle to the East, from Dolgellau and the Lleyrn Peninsula to the South and West, from all over Anglesey and even from parts of mid-Wales.

Source: *North Wales Weekly News*, 19 April 1984



## 1985

## 1985

An Iraqi student at Bangor University was assaulted by two fellow students who said that the trouble originated from a hoax letter bearing their names which was sent to the Gay Society at the University. Said Tofeek, aged 32, of Victoria Drive, Bangor, who was studying for an MSc degree, admitted that he assaulted post graduate student Mr Hussain Mohammed Omed, 35. He was fined £100. In evidence, Tofeek said he had lost his temper and had struck Mr Omed because he suspected he was the author of the letter. His wife had threatened to leave him after two men from the Gay Society had called at their home. Mr Omed, of Daniol Road, Bangor, denied writing the letter to the Gay Society.

Source: *Western Mail*, 23 January 1985

## 1985

The Lesbian and Gay Group from Bangor University complained in their student magazine *Y Seren* (The Star) that attendance at their stall at fresher’s week was very low. They estimated that with 2000 students at Bangor there should be 150-200 members but they had only half that. The reason they said was due to fear of being seen talking to Gay men and women. “... please remember that a few words of visible support can make a hell of a lot of difference to a hell of a lot of people.” They met every Thursday and there was a move to try and get more social activities going. They wrote that North Wales was regarded as ‘the pits’ by heterosexual people for clubs, the numbers being very few. For gay people it was even worse with the only places being ‘The Cavern’ in Llandudno with a fairly large clientele and ‘Olivers’ in Chester over the border in England which it said was nearly always packed.

Source: *Seren*, 14 February 1985

# 1985

Kate Roberts (1891–1985) is born in the village of Rhosgadfan, on the slopes of Moel Tryfan. She becomes one of the foremost Welsh-language authors of the 20th century and specialised in short stories, many of which are included in the anthology *Queer Square Mile*. She married Morris T. Williams a printer, and they bought the printing and publishing house Gwasg Gee (The Gee Press),

Denbigh. It has been speculated that Morris had a relationship with Edward Prosser Rhys and that Kate herself may have had Lesbian tendencies. For example, Roberts sent a letter to her husband describing the joy she felt when kissing another woman in Pontardawe, saying that nothing had ever made her more happy. She died on 14 April 1985.

Source: Wikipedia; Kirsti Bohata, Mihangel Morgan, Huw Osborne (Eds), *Queer Square Mile*, (Parthian Books, 2021)

Photo credit: Wikimedia Commons



# 1986

Toilets at Garth Road and at Kyffiq Square, Bangor were apparently being used as cottages. Cottaging is a gay slang term, originating from the United Kingdom, referring to anonymous sex between men in a public lavatory (a “cottage” or “tea-room”), or cruising for sexual partners with the intention of having sex elsewhere.

Source: *North Wales Chronicle*, 13 March 1986; Wikipedia



# 1993

## 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

Tommy Nutter (1943–1992) was born in Barmouth and became famous as a tailor, for reinventing the Savile Row suit in the 1960s, and dressing many famous people. He died in 1992 of complications from AIDS.

Source: Wikipedia

Photo credit: Wikimedia Commons; By Unknown, but possibly David Nutter



## 1993

Endaf Emlyn, a musician, film, and television director, was born in Bangor brought up in Pwllheli. His film *Gadael Lenin (Leaving Lenin)*, which includes homosexual relationships, won the audience award for the most popular British feature at the 1993 London Film Festival.

Source: Wikipedia

# 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. The MP from Gwynedd who did vote to reduce the age to 18, was Dafydd Wigley (Plaid Cymru, Caernarfon). 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



Photo credit: Wikimedia Commons; By 'Vertigogen'

# 1994

## BANGOR

**PUB ALTERNATIVE**, UCNW S U Building, coffee lounge bar, Deniol Rd. Open Fri to l & gm. Membership required. Call Gayline.

**GAY LINE** 0248 351263, Fri 7-9pm. c/o Greenhouse, 1 Trevelyan Terrace, LL57 1AX

**LLINEDD HOYW GWYNEDD** Ffon: 0248 351263 Dydd Gwener 7-9pm. Cymarth neu wybodaeth. c/o Y Ty Gwydr, 1 Rhes Trevelyan, LL51 1AX.

**LESBIAN LINE** 0248 351263, Tues 6-8pm.

Source: *Gay Times*, May 1994



# 1999

# 1995

## BANGOR

**GAY LINE** (01248) 351263, Fri 7-9pm. c/o Greenhouse, 1 Trevelyan Terrace, LL57 1AX/**LLINELL HOYW GWYNEDD** Ffôn: (01248) 351263 Dydd Gwener 7-9pm. Cymorth neu wybodaeth. c/o Y Ty Gwydr, 1 Rhes Trevelyan, LL51 1AX.

**LESBIAN LINE** (01248) 351263, Tues 7-9pm

**MAVERICK** L&G youth group. Contact through Gayline or Lesiban Line

Source: *Gay Times*, May 1995

# 1999

## BANGOR (01248)

**ANTI HOMOPHOBIA ALLIANCE** c/o Greenhouse, 1 Trevelyan Terrace, Bangor, LL57 1AX. 351263

**FRUIT SALAD** SU Disco, 3rd Tu, Details Gay Line or UW LGB

**JOCKS BAR** LGB night at Bangor SU, Deiniol Rd, Fri. **GUM/STD CLINIC** Ysbyty Gwynedd, Penrhosgarnedd, Rec info: 370 376. GUM Nurse: 384053. Appts: 384 054.

**LGB YOUTH GROUP** PO Box 33, Bangor, Gwynedd LL57 2ZE. 361334 Tu Th 7-9pm. or visit: <http://www.gaywales.com/youth>. 0800 458 7747.

**LESBIAN LINE** 351263, Tues 7-9pm

**LLINELL HOYWON BANGOR GAYLINE** 01248 351263 Thu 7-9pm write c/o Greenhouse, 1 Trevelyan Terrace, Bangor, Gwynedd LL57 1YT

**SEXUAL HEALTH CLINIC**, Sackville Rd, Bangor. 351423 We 5-7, Th 10-12, 6-7.30.

**UW BANGOR LGB SOC** c/o LGB officer. SU, Deiniol Rd. LL57 2TH 388000

**CAERNARFON LESBIAN GROUP**, PO Box 24 Caernarfon, Gwynedd LL55 2WH. (07775) 634 003.

Source: *Gay Times*, May 1999

# 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

Mesmac, North Wales advertises in *Gay Times* a community initiative for men who have sex with men. They met at 2 Bryn Difyr Terrace, Bangor. Also included in the advertisements section was: N Wales LGB Mental Health User Network who met at Abbey Road Centre, 7/9 Abbey Road, Bangor; Pink Link, newsletter and website as part of Mesmac; and a B&B at Aberdyfi, Snowdonia 'exclusively gay' run by Richard.

Source: *Gay Times*, February 2000



## 2002

## 2001

*Gay Times* publishes a feature article on Sygun Fawr Country House which at that time had been run by partners Chris Jennings and Ian Davies for three and a half years.

Source: *Gay Times*, June 2001

## 2002

In 2002, John Sam Jones, born in Barmouth, had his book *Welsh Boys Too* named a 'Stonewall Honor Book' by the Stonewall Book Awards. It is a collection of eight fictional stories inspired by the lives of gay men living in Wales. Jones also gave evidence to the *Welsh Affairs – First Report*, detailing his experiences of working with young LGBTQ+ people.

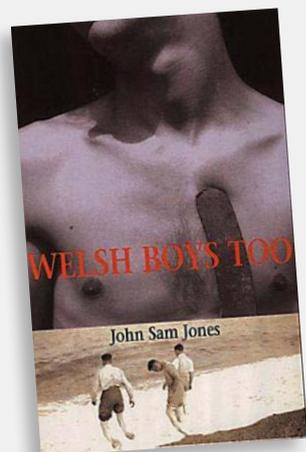
Source: The full report to the Welsh Affairs committee can be read on the LGBTQ Cymru website under Blogs.

Photo credit: Wikimedia Commons; By <https://covers.openlibrary.org>

## 2002

Tony Dyson a shy, private English lecturer who became an unlikely campaigner for homosexual law reform died on 30 July 2002. In 1958, as a 29-year-old English lecturer at the University College of Wales, at Bangor, he persuaded some of the great liberal voices of the day to sign a letter to *The Times*, calling for the implementation of the Wolfenden report recommendation that homosexual acts in private should no longer be a criminal offence. He also had the courage to write to hundreds of MPs, despite the attention it would draw to himself, which could have led to police interest. His partner was Welshman Cliff Tucker, a senior BP executive and inner London Labour councillor and they lived together for 35 years until Tucker's death.

Source: *The Guardian*, 10 September 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.



## 2008

## 2004

The Princes' Memorial Garden at St Peter ad Vincula church, Pernal was opened by Jan Morris.



## 2008

After the See of Bangor was made vacant, openly gay Dr Jeffrey John, the Dean of St Albans, was in the running. Two years previously, he celebrated a civil partnership ceremony with the Rev Grant Holmes, both remained celibate. However, Canon Peter Jones, chancellor of Bangor Cathedral, threatened to quit if Dr John was appointed Bishop of Bangor. He said: "I would be strongly opposed to the appointment. I would consider my position. Jeffrey John is a strong advocate of changing the Church's traditional teaching on homosexuality and I accept the teaching of Holy Scripture that homosexual acts are wrong." This came - at a time of heightened pressure in the Anglican Church. The subject of gay clergymen had caused a large rift, highlighted during tensions at the Lambeth Conference in Canterbury. At the centre of the conflict was the Archbishop of Canterbury, Welshman Dr Rowan Williams. But the Archbishop of Wales, Dr Barry Morgan, has said that if his fellow bishops in Wales voted for a homosexual priest to be a bishop, he would have no objections in principle. Jeffrey John was not elected.

Source: Jo Caulfield, 'Bangor's gay bishop row sparks controversy in the Church of Wales,' *Seren*, Freshers Edition, 2008

## 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

## 2011

Does the gay and lesbian community have literary voice in Welsh? If it already exists – does it deserve to be louder? Bangor University and the National Writers Centre at Tŷ Newydd, Llanystumdwy explored the subject in a discussion chaired by Menna Machreth at Bangor University during the Eisteddfod. Sian Cleaver, studying for a Masters in Translation Studies at Bangor, was working on translating Pembrokeshire author Sarah Waters' book 'Tipping the Velvet' and discussed the challenges she faced in finding and using Welsh words which have sexual connotation – in particular slang words within the context of the book. Lloyd Harris has just graduated from the School of Welsh at Bangor and outlined material already available for and about the gay community in Welsh. Bethan Jones Parry, Director of the Welsh Programme at Tŷ Newydd, said "We intend to arrange a course – or even courses for the gay and lesbian community at Tŷ Newydd in the near future. This session will be invaluable as it will help us to make sure that we are on the right track."

Source: Prifysgol Bangor/ Bangor University website, 29 July 2011

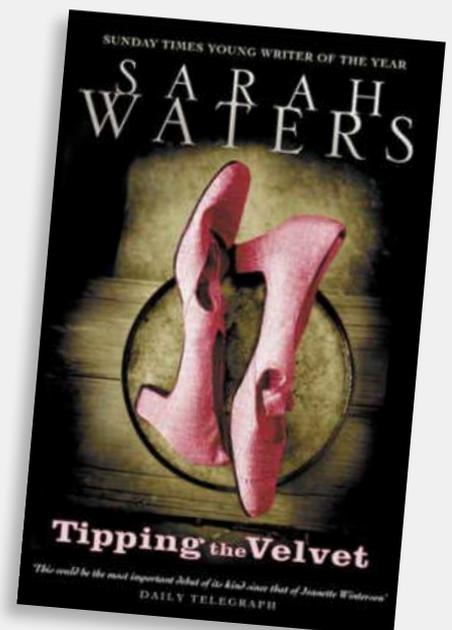


Photo credit: Wikimedia Commons  
By Virago Press. Fair use

## 2012

Several Bangor University students revealed they had been asked to leave the Embassy nightclub. The students were approached by security in what they described as homophobic related incidents. A 19-year-old music student said she was approached whilst kissing another female. She was told to stop what she was doing as it wasn't allowed. The same student also witnessed a homosexual friend, on a separate occasion, being told directly by a bouncer to "Leave before something was done about it." "I was told stop or you'll have to leave" said Amelia Anderson, a Bangor Media Student. "I was annoyed by it because there was a heterosexual couple kissing but they were never approached." Clive Lewis, the club's manager said he was not aware of the issue, but that, "We do not tolerate those kinds of views. We welcome anyone, from any background or with any view, as long as it's a reasonable view, to come to our venue and enjoy themselves." "If people have any problems we are here to listen," said Martyn Curzey, Secretary of Unity, Bangor's lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender society.

Source: [Sinnead Towey, Seren, 8 December 2012](#)

## 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.



## 2017

## 2017



GISDA funded by the National Lottery Community Fund, LGBT + Youth Project is set up to offer support to young people who identify as LGBT + (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Trans +). They run weekly Youth Clubs from Caernarfon, Blaenau Ffestiniog and Pwllheli, which provide a safe and relaxing place for our members to express themselves without restriction. They meet regularly at Te a Cofi, 23 Y Maes, Caernarfon.

Source: [GISDA website](#).

## 2017

Belinda Mulcahy and her partner Jo James were left stunned when a barman at a Hafan y Môr Holiday Park in Pwllheli handed them a receipt with the word "lesbians" on it. The pair had been out for a meal to celebrate Belinda's birthday but as Jo said, "We hadn't done anything overt. We hadn't been kissing at the bar or holding hands. We could have been friends. We could have been relations. We could have been a whole host of things. So the fact he decided to identify us as lesbians was a bit horrifying. We were shocked at how stupid this man had been." A spokesperson from Hafan y Môr, one of 36 Haven parks operated by the Bourne Leisure Group apologise and said the barman had been disciplined.

Source: [Carrie Lyell, 'Couple left stunned by "lesbian receipt" at Welsh holiday resort,' \*Diva\*, 25 August 2017](#)

# 2019

Owen Hurcom organises the first Pride event in Bangor, but “that was just a small scale toe-in-the-water thing. We got about 400 people, which was fantastic, but it was done on a £200 budget in a couple of weeks.”

Source: Daisy Jones, ‘The UK’s First Non-Binary Mayor on Being Elected at 23,’ in *Vice*, 17 May 2021

# 2021

The UK’s First Non-Binary Mayor is Elected. Part-time university student Owen Hurcom was appointed mayor of Bangor, Wales. At 23, Hurcom was also the youngest mayor to have ever been elected in Wales. “I chose Bangor for a myriad of reasons. As soon as I arrived here, I fell in love with the place. I grew up in London but I always knew I’d return to Wales, which is where my family are from. I chose Bangor Uni, then within a week I knew I wouldn’t be leaving ... Bangor city council has been a lovely working environment ever since I came out. I’ve enjoyed the support. It’s nice to have that representation that non-binary people don’t often get. I know that when I was growing up, it would have been inconceivable to see a non-binary [person] presented in a way that I hope I am, rather than the stereotypical caricature that we’re used to in the media.

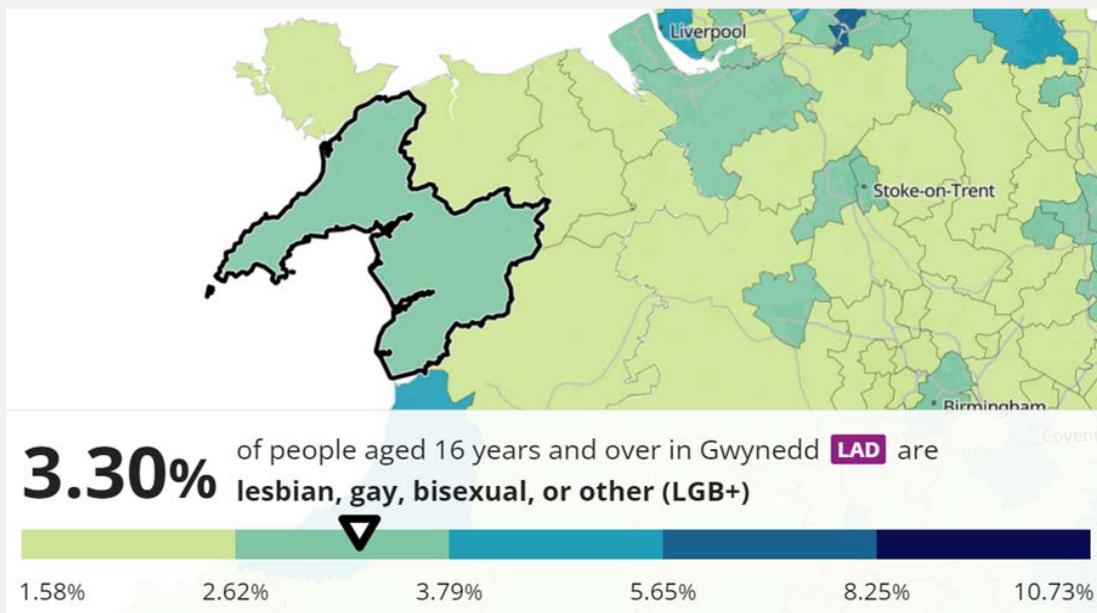
Source: Daisy Jones, ‘The UK’s First Non-Binary Mayor on Being Elected at 23,’ in *Vice*, 17 May 2021



# 2021

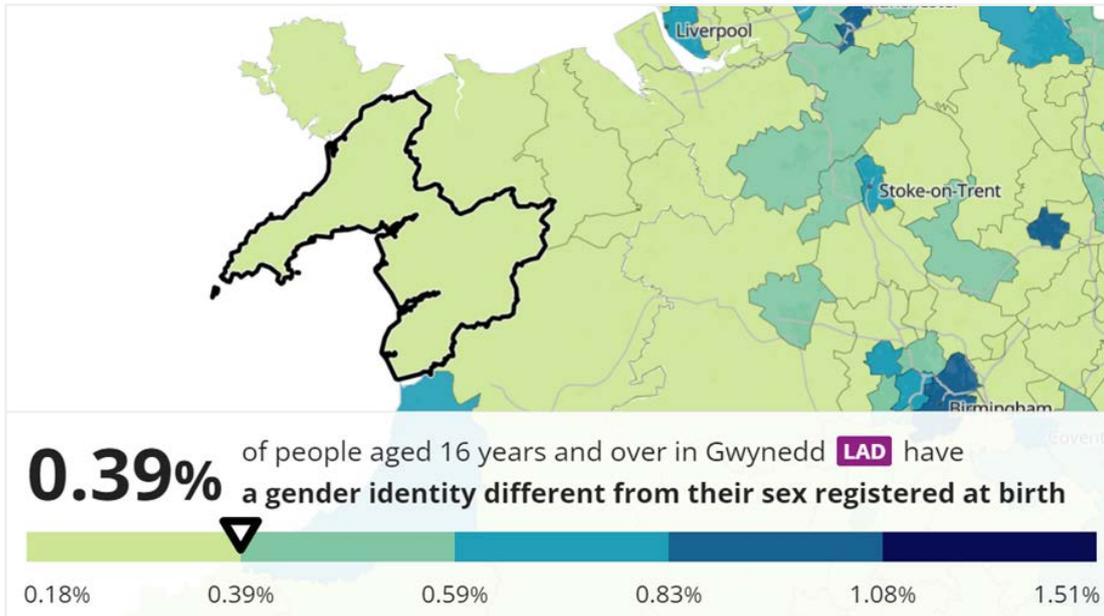
# 2021

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# 2023

## 2022

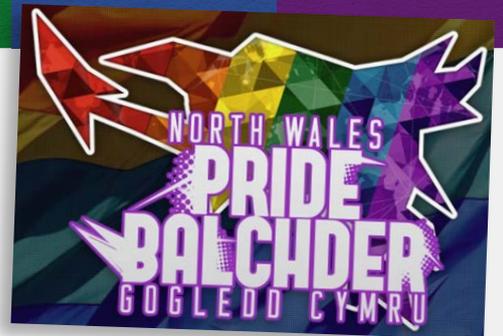
Bangor University organised its first 'LGBTQ+ and Wales' conference, 'Y Ddraig Amryliw / The Multicoloured Dragon,' consisting of: an introduction by the Vice Chancellor, Iwan Davies, followed by a talk on the 'Theatr of Aled Jones' by Dr Gareth Llyr Edwards of Aberystwyth University and 'LGBTQ+ History Training and why do we need it' by Norena Shopland; 'LGBTQ Society, Sociology and Contemporary Wales' by Dr Rhian Hodges of Bangor University; Mirain Iwerydd, who came out on her Twitter page in December 2021, then 'The Multicoloured Lives of our Children's Literature' by Dr Siwan Rosser of Aberystwyth University; a talk by Iestyn Wyn of Stonewall Cymru and a closing discussion by Dr Gareth Evans Jones of Bangor.

Source: Mair Jones, 'LGBTQ+ History Month 2022: events and highlights in Wales,' [thenational.wales](https://thenational.wales), February 2022

## 2023

The first North Wales Pride takes place. 'Gwynedd-based MPs, Hywel Williams and Liz Saville Roberts, praised the success of Caernarfon's first Pride event as an opportunity to come together in the name of inclusion and diversity.' The event, which saw about 1,000 people join celebrations in Caernarfon on June 24, was organised by Balchder Gogledd Cymru (North Wales Pride) and included a parade through the town, workshops, live bands and stalls. The Plaid Cymru MPs tabled a parliamentary motion in Westminster marking the event and thanking organisers for their efforts. They said: "There are now Pride events across the country, and they are very good at celebrating the diversity of our culture. "We were delighted that Balchder Gogledd Cymru chose Caernarfon for this year's celebrations. More information can be found on North Wales Pride/Balchder Gogledd Cymru Facebook page.

Source: Matthew Chandler, 'First Caernarfon pride event hailed a success in Parliament!' *North Wales Chronicle*, 27 June 2023





## Thank you

These have been just a few highlights from Gwynedd'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)



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