



The Wales LGBTQ+ Timeline Collection

Newport 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

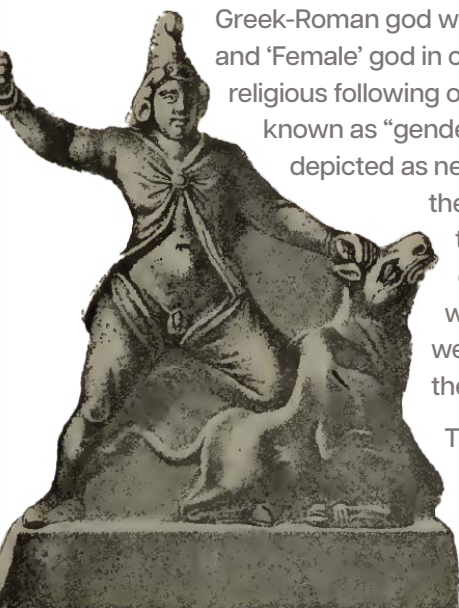
for each of the 22 counties of Wales. This provides a means by which local people, allies and events can be celebrated instead of replicating mainstream narratives and celebrities.

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 >



Greek-Roman god was known as both a 'male' and 'Female' god in certain texts and had a religious following of 'Galli' priests. They were known as "gender-variant" priests, sometimes depicted as neither man or woman. Some of their depictions represent them wearing clothes and ornaments often associated with femininity in Ancient Rome, wearing makeup and changing their hair colour.

The head of a sculpture found in Caerleon, near Newport, points to the existence of the

Photo credit: Wikimedia Commons

cult of Attis, and potentially Galli priests in ancient Wales too.

Source: Joe Ali, The fascinating ancient artefacts that show Wales' LGBT+ history dates back thousands of years, WalesOnline, 11 February 2022

c. 569

Canon 8 of The Synod of Victory held at Caerleon, 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.'



19th CENTURY >

1803

Charles Octavius Swinnerton Morgan or Octavius Morgan as he is more popularly known, was born on 15 September 1803 to the aristocratic Morgan family of Tredegar House. He served as an MP for Monmouthshire from 1841 to 1874 and died on 5 August 1888 aged 84. In a work entitled *Memories of Monmouthshire* (the date is unknown) generally attributed to Reginald James Blewitt, a fellow Monmouthshire MP and owner of Llantarnam Abbey, Morgan is described in such a way as to question his sexuality.

"Octavius Morgan as a young man was vain, flippant and conceited. Like the Morgans, he was a pygmy

in stature, of a pale, languid complexion, rather effeminate. Although he could converse volubly on most subjects, his voice was squeaky." When aiding the ladies with their makeup, "the most punctilious mother would have said with a smile, 'Never mind, my dear, it's only Octavius!'" Not a great deal is known about Morgan's private life, he never married, but it should be borne in mind that the view expressed in *Memories of Monmouthshire* is only that of one man.

Source: Anon, Memories of Monmouthshire, date unknown

1847

A female sailor

On Wednesday a woman was charged at the Newport police-office, Monmouthshire, with walking about in male attire.

The defendant, who wore seamen's clothes, in her appearance, gait, and gestures appeared to be every inch a sailor; and in boldness of conduct presented a striking contrast to the quiet-looking seaman, her husband, who stood beside her. It seemed that for no less than ten years she has scorned her proper clothing and devoted herself to hard and incessant toil. In various capacities she has voyaged to Quebec, Bombay, and other distant places, and at time has shipped in coasters, never, shrinking from her share of duty, but loading and unloading the cargoes with the crew. On one occasion, it is said, she carried between the vessel and the shire, in a day, no less than 70 sacks of flour;

while at the winch her courage never flagged and her strength never failed. During two of the ten years spoken of, however, she did a little duty on land, working as a navy upon the railway to Exeter. Yet her sex was never suspected. Her last voyage was from Truro, as an able bodied seaman at 2l 5s per month. She arrived at Newport a short time ago, but her sex became by some means revealed; and, as she continued to remain here and dress as usual, the sergeant of the dock police preferred the charge.

The defendant said she was married on the 12th of July last, and shipped as cook and steward from Truro about three months ago, in order to support her husband, who had met with a misfortune. The woman was discharged, and left the court, obtaining the protection of an omnibus, however, to prevent being mobbed.

Source: *The Era*, 23 May 23 1847



1861

1855

Another Female Sailor

On Wednesday evening last, a young woman, dressed in sailors' clothes, was taken to the station-house, for being drunk and disorderly. On the following day she was taken before the magistrates. Her name is Susan Brunin, of Newport. She had been at sea for three months, and passed for an able seaman. A captain of a vessel, in the Cardiff Docks, also engaged her, and actually paid her a month in advance, but on finding that he had engaged a female, he refused to keep his contract. The magistrates reprimanded the prisoner, and advised her to return to her home, and adopt a more decent mode of living. She was then discharged.

Source: *Monmouthshire Merlin*,
18 August 1855

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.

1887

Naughty People at Malpas.

A Woman in Man's Clothes. At Newport County police court, on Saturday - before Mr Thomas Beynon and other magistrates - John Hodgkinson, labourer, and Elizabeth Hodgkinson, his wife, were charged under the Criminal Law Amendment Act with knowingly permitting their house to be used for immoral purposes ... The only female who was singled out as a permanent "lodger," was a big-framed girl named Hardman, familiarly known as "Nell." ... P.C. Watkins said that on one occasion he saw the female Hardman walking about Malpas in a suit of mason's working clothes. - Mr Gardner: Did she appear to manage the clothes pretty well? The Officer: She did not appear to be able to keep up the trousers very well. (Laughter.) - Mr Beynon (to the officer): Have you seen her dressed in women's clothes? - The Officer: Yes. I saw her in court this morning. She's gone now. - A voice in court: Here I am. - A woman then appeared partially intoxicated, and after an altercation was ejected.

Source: *Weekly Mail*, 14 May 1887



1895

1893

Evan Frederic Morgan, 2nd Viscount Tredegar (July 13, 1893 – April 1949) was a Welsh poet and author. A noted eccentric, he kept at his seat of Tredegar House in Newport a menagerie of animals including a boxing kangaroo, honey bear, baboon and macaw. His weekend house parties, which attracted such figures as Aldous Huxley, H. G. Wells, Augustus John and Aleister Crowley, gained local notoriety, as did the host's extravagant lifestyle. Despite his known

homosexuality and reputation for dissipation, he married twice.

For more information see Newport based Will Cross' biographies *Not Behind Lace Curtains: The Hidden World of Evan, Viscount Tredegar* and *Aspects of Evan*.

Photo credit: Wikimedia Commons



1895

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



1898

Amelia Vella from Newport admitted to being a female sailor. The eldest of seven children, her father described as a donkeyman and a ship mechanic was Frank Vella from Malta; her mother was in the Abergavenny Asylum. Amelia in 'proper' clothes in sailor clothes.

Amelia worked on a coal supply ship to various European destinations and on-board shared sleeping quarters with five men. Amelia knew there would be difficulties when the watch turned in and had to be very careful. She would sit on a seat in the foc'sle until the men were in their bunks, and then, "I would turn in 'all standing,' as sailors say; that is, with all my clothes on, and when the foc'sle lamp was blown out I used to undress quietly in my bunk."

Source: *Forbidden Lives: LGBT stories from Wales* by Norena Shopland



1914

20th CENTURY >

1900

Bessie Bonehill (1855–1902), famous all over the world as a 'male impersonator' appeared at the Newport Empire.

Source: *Western Mail*, 19 February 1900



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.

1915

Girl disguised as fireman

Found in the streets early on Wednesday dressed in dungarees, a fireman's jacket and cap, and with a greasy muffler wrapped around her neck, Nellie Davies, a girl of attractive appearance, was charged at Newport with masquerading as a man. Superintendent William Brooks said the girl, who was an inmate of the Newport Workhouse, had run away, going to a boat at one of the wharves, where she had taken off the clothes she wore at the workhouse, dressing in clothing owned by one of the seamen. Defendant explained she was on her way to see friends who would give her female attire when stopped by the police. Promising she would return to the workhouse, the girl was bound over for six months.

Source: Cambrian Daily Leader March 25, 1915

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.

1945

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



1951

1946

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

1946

Janet Paraskeva is born in Newport on 28 May. She becomes a British government official working extensively on issues affecting young people. She was also Chair of the new Olympic Lottery Distributor responsible for staging the London 2012 Summer Olympics and Paralympic Games. Paraskeva has been a strong advocate for gay and lesbian rights and lives with her partner Mary.

Source: Wikipedia

1951

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



Janet Paraskeva

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



1958

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.

1958

Margaret Haig Thomas, 2nd Viscountess Rhondda dies on 20 July. She was a Welsh peeress, businesswoman and active suffragette who was significant in the history of women's suffrage in the United Kingdom. She was raised at Llanwern House, near Newport, until the age of 13, when she went away to boarding school. She married Newport landowner Humphrey Mackworth in 1908 at 25 but the marriage did not last and she went on to have significant relationships with women. As part of the campaign for women's suffrage she attempted to blow up a Royal Mail letter-box in Risca Road, Newport In 1913 with a chemical bomb. She died in Westminster Hospital, London on 20 July

1909 David Lloyd George, Chancellor of the Exchequer, came to stay at Llanwern when this picture was taken. Lady Rhondda is in the white shirt and black tie with Lloyd George standing behind her.



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.



› 1977

1977

Scandalous and erroneous ideas

A member of Newport borough council, Councillor Mrs Brydon expressed her concern about the education system over the five years she had been governor. 'As my knowledge has grown ... so has my concern,' she said. She repeated scandalous and erroneous ideas about homosexual people, 'We have members of the teaching profession actively and publicly supporting such organisations as the Campaign for Homosexual Equality and the organisations which advocated sex with children. It is unfortunately that a minority of teachers are allowed to make statements supporting these way out ideas as teachers. The majority of teachers should actively dissociate themselves from such

people who bring the teaching profession into disrepute. Parents should be able to ask at the school if a teacher is associated with any of these way out organisations. I am sure a lot of parents would object if they knew their children were being taught by people advocating homosexual activities and the legalisation of sex with young children. not so long ago I had to ask at a governors' meeting if the Campaign for Homosexual Equality had asked to visit Newport schools. I received a very satisfactory reply from the headmaster. But how many governors would think of asking questions about this?'

Source: *South Wales Argus*, 20 September 1977

1977

Gwent ban on “gay” literature

Gwent’s education committee rejected a request by the Newport branch of the Campaign for Homosexual Equality to be allowed to distribute information on sex education to schools. The subject had previously been discussed at a meeting of the education policy sub-committee which recommended the request be refused. The full meeting of the education committee approved the recommendation without discussion.

Source: *Free Press of Monmouthshire*, 15 April 1977

1981

Gareth David-Lloyd, Welsh actor and writer born on 28 March in Bettws, Newport, is best known for his role as bisexual Ianto Jones in the science fiction series *Torchwood*.

Photo credit: Wikimedia Commons, Gage Skidmore



1984

1982

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

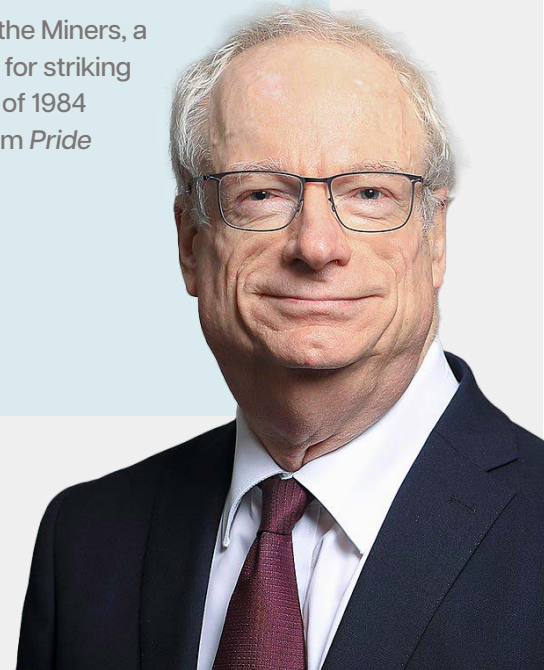
1984

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

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



Photo credit: Wikimedia Commons © Roger Harris



1987

Dr. Liliane Marie Catherine Clopet (1901–1987), a GP, author, and life partner of Kathleen Freeman, died in Newport in 1987.

Source: Wikipedia, under Kathleen Freeman as Liliane does not have her own page.

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.



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

2000s The Greenhouse, one of the largest saunas in Wales, opens for gay and bisexual men.



European Court of Human Rights

Photo credit: Wikimedia Commons
CherryX - Own work, CC BY-SA 3.0

2000

Controversy over the repeal of Section 28

Nick Bates, Newport AM, said, 'the idea that homosexuality could ever be 'promoted' among children was always pretty ludicrous. What young people need is frank and honest advice that will enable them to develop in the way that suits them best.'

Source: *South Wales Argus*, 16 March 2000

14-year-old Eleanor Parsons from Newport, wrote to a newspaper supporting the repeal. She concluded, 'It is unrealistic to think that young people are not aware of sexual issues. Many are even supportive of it. the recent coming out of Stephen Gately caused a lot of talk but his fans accepted it. they understood that it didn't change the sort of person he was or the messages he portrayed. He never denied being gay, he just never revealed it. other role models have confessed to being gay in the past and it still hasn't affected their careers, such as Elton John. Doesn't this show that sexual orientation is not important? It doesn't affect the way people work and those who change their opinions when discovering someone is gay are obviously biased.'

Source: *South Wales Argos*, 21 February 2000



2003

2002

Brutal murder

A Gwent father-of-eight was planning to return to his girlfriend and their baby son when he was brutally murdered by his gay lover. Mark Collins was jailed for life at Cardiff crown court for murdering Paul Scott at the home they shared in Ifton Place, Lliswerry. Paul was a keen gymnast when he was a pupil at Lliswerry High School and he had represented Wales.

Source: *Barry & District News*, 23 December 2002

2003

Farewell in flowers to drag queen

The body of Jason Massiey (32), alias Lady Ding, of John Street, Markham, Caerphilly, was found floating in Pen-y-Fan pond, Manmoel, Newport. He was believed to have been suffering from depression. Fellow drag artist Miss Kitty (27) of Riverside, Cardiff, was the on-stage partner of Jason in their long-running show at Cardiff's Kings Cross. "Jason was my best friend and I don't think I could ever replace working with him – and as a friend I loved him dearly." Chris Marshall, manager of the King's Cross pub in Cardiff, said: "Jason was probably the wittiest and most talented drag queen I've ever seen. He would have made it very big given the opportunity, so it's a great loss. Friends made a floral tribute to Massiey at Cardiff Mardi Gras.

Source: *Barry & District News*, 4 August 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.



2006

2006

More than 70 civil partnerships in Gwent

Alan Haines and Darran Richards were among the first couples in Gwent to “tie the knot” at a civil partnership ceremony.

The Civil Partnership Act 2004 came into force in 2005 allowing gay partners to put their relationships on an official footing, and giving them, for the first time, the same rights as heterosexual married couples.

Alan and Darran formalised their relationship, after 20 years together, at Newport Register Office on December 21 last year. Mr Richards, 40, admitted he and his partner had prepared themselves for criticism after their story appeared in the Argus.

But instead people came up to congratulate the couple and they received much support and good wishes, with family, friends and colleagues keen to congratulate the pair.

“There was a brilliant response,” said Mr Haines, 43. “They were great about it.”

And it wasn’t just those close to the couple who were pleased to hear the news.

“I went to the doctor and he shook my hand. It was really nice,” said Mr Haines, a hospital nurse, and said having a legal status had made them feel more secure.

FACTS

The Office for National Statistics’ latest figures show that more than 15,000 civil partnerships have been formed in the UK since they were introduced last year.

In all, there were 15,672 same-sex partnerships between from December to the end of September - 537 in Wales, 14,084 in England, 942 in Scotland and 109 in Northern Ireland. The most popular area was London and the South East, where a quarter of all partnerships were formed.

Source: *Barry & District News*, 4 December 2006

2007

Gay fostering

Rev. Martin Reynolds, a gay clergyman in the Anglican church in Wales and in a 27-year long partnership with Chris, a hairdresser had been fostering a boy with severe behavioural difficulties for fifteen years. The first gay couple in Wales to be allowed to foster a boy by Barnardo's. They were first asked to foster the boy when he was four and Barnardo's could not find another home for him because he was so disruptive.

Reynolds had recently tried an experiment. He rang a Catholic agency and, posing as an atheist, asked whether he might be considered for fostering. He was told there would be no problem with that. Later he rang back and admitted he was gay and was refused.

In 2007 Rowan Williams, the Archbishop of Canterbury, wrote to the government demanding that religious adoption agencies should not have their consciences challenged by being required to consider gay couples as adopters. An angry Rev. Reynolds told the press that the Archbishop used to live next door to them and the boy played with his children. 'He knows that gay couples can provide a loving home for disadvantaged and at-risk children,' said Reynolds.

There was a great deal written on this story in the press.

Source: *The Guardian*, 25 January 2007



2009

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

Gwent police and North Wales police were the first public organisations to fly the rainbow flag in Wales.



2009

Gay Gwent officer gives insight into police life

GWENT Police showed their support for Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender (LGBT) history month, by raising the rainbow flag at police headquarters. PCSO Dale Morris said an equality awareness month has made a “big impression” on gay and bisexual people working within the force.

The Maindee officer was speaking at the beginning of Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender (LGBT) history month, which takes place every February to celebrate the lives and achievements of the LGBT community.

PCSO Morris was out when he joined the force four years ago and is also the chairman of the Gwent Police Gay Support Network (GPGSN), established in 2002.

GPGSN has more than 20 members compared with just three or four two years ago, and also offers support to straight people who may have gay relatives and want information.

PCSO Morris said he has only encountered one problem while at the police, when he suffered some verbal abuse from a colleague: “That’s what encouraged me to join the staff network, to get my confidence and to actively challenge people if I encountered it again, which I never have.”

He said the person in question was dealt with accordingly, adding: “I’ve always had the support and backing, not only from colleagues, but from friends and senior members of staff. I’ve noticed a big change since I’ve been part of the network.”

A rainbow flag was flown outside the headquarters in Croesyceiliog to mark the month, the fifth year the flag has been raised by Gwent Police.

PCSO Morris, who lives in Newport and has a partner within the police force, said police attitudes towards people in the LGBT community have changed “dramatically” over the past ten years.

He added that initiatives like this not only offer support to people working in the force, but encourage gay people to report homophobic attacks as they may not have done previously through a fear of being ignored or outed.

People can now report these kinds of crimes anonymously.

Chief Constable Mick Giannasi said: “Flying the [rainbow] flag shows, in a small but visible way, our support and commitment to our diverse workforce. We hope to create an environment and where all staff feel comfortable and appreciated and work together towards a safer, more diverse police service.”

Comments left on the website were mostly discriminatory including:

mintex, Cwmbran wrote, ‘whatever next?. why do the gay brigade HAVE to fly flags and make such a big noise about what their sexual orientation is?.myself i am not gay but i wouldnt want to go around and have flags flying to tell everyone. why do gays feel the need to constantly advertise that they are gay. WHY?????????????’

clare1984, Newport replied, “i’m not gay, but most of the “gay brigade” as you put it dont go around throwing thier sexuality in people’s faces, but the reason that some Gay and bi sexual people like to show off thier sexuality is because it took this minority in society a long time to come near to equality with the majority. I don’t care what people are, race, sex, sexuality, religion as long as they treat me with the same respect and toleration as i give to them. Diversity is the spice of life, and picking on somebody becuae of thier race, sexuality or religion is bullying in my eyes.

vic flange, wrote, ‘Agreed.. i dont fly a straight flag outside my shop ... what he does in the bedroom , park or tunnel club is none of my concern. i would rather the police fly a flag when they clean up the streets of newport...’

Source: *Barry & District News*, 11 February 2009



2009

2010

Gwent Police LGB & T liaison officers take part in DVD to tell youngsters that “It gets better today”

Five Gwent Police officers and staff members have filmed a short DVD to spread the message to lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGB&T) young people that “It does get better and we can make it happen”

The five officers - who are all LGB&T liaison officers - have been filmed talking about their own personal experiences, as well as outlining the LGB&T Liaison Officer service for victims of homophobic, biphobic and transphobic hate crime. The overall aim of the short film is to give a positive message to young LGB&T people who may be suffering bullying or hate crime, and to reassure them that the police will be there to support them. The film is to be used as a wider Stonewall Cymru viral campaign.

The film was shown for the first time at an event at University of Wales, Newport, Caerleon Campus, as part of LGB&T History month. Gwent Police attended to talk to young people as well as representatives from partner agencies including Victim Support, Gwent Crown Prosecution Service, and THT (Terence Higgins Trust).

The film can be seen on <https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=mgeg-YthHwA>

Deputy Chief Constable Jeff Farrar, Gwent Police said: “We are proud to be the first force in Wales

to introduce LGB&T liaison officers and since the service was introduced our officers have dealt with eight cases, many of which are still receiving ongoing support and advice as the investigative process continues. The feedback we have had from members of the public has been very positive indeed. The film is another way we hope to reach out to young people who are perhaps experiencing feelings of isolation. We really want them to know that it does get better today and we can make it happen.”

Andrew White, Director of Stonewall Cymru said “This film shows proud officers as part of a proud force doing some great work. I hope that it will drive further improvement in Gwent and serve as an inspiration to lesbian, gay and bisexual people in the county.”

Julie Baker, Transgender Wales (Chair and Co-Founder) “The transgender population is a growing one that traditionally has not reported hate crimes because of lack of confidence in police. We are some years behind that of the LGB communities, and it will take a number of years to catch up. It’s important that everybody reports hate crime, no matter if it’s a few words or something more serious’.

Source: *South Wales Argus*, 25 February 2010



2010

2010

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

2010

We are Family

An exhibition for LGBTQ+ History Month exploring the theme of families and sexuality in the Roman World is held at National Roman Legion Museum, Caerleon. "Roman families were just as diverse as those today so come and find out more and think about what a family means to you!"

Source: images from the collection of Norena Shopland

Extracts from exhibition labels:

Some Romans were known to love men and women equally. The Emperor Hadrian was in an open relationship with a young man called Antinous even though he was already married to a woman. His love for Antinous was not unusual and was even compared to the mythological love story of Jupiter and Ganymede.

Romans lived in a world of open sexuality filled with sexual images. Examples of these images can be seen in the display case, some of which show same sex couples. The Romans did not see loving someone of the same sex as anything extraordinary.

The objects in this case are part of the "We are family" exhibition. They seem to suggest that Romans were at ease with sex and sexuality. It was not unusual to see images like these on everyday items such as oil lamps and dinnerware.



2019

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.

2019

A campaign to fundraise for the first statue of a named woman in Newport begins. The statue is to be of Margaret Haig Mackworth, Viscountess Rhondda.

2015

Umbrella Cymru, gender and sexual diversity support specialists, opens.



2016

Rainbow Newport, sharing stories, activities and events going on within Newport and surrounding areas for the LGBTIQ+ community, opens.



Photo credit: Image public domain from Wiki Commons

2019

The Moordale School in Caerleon is used as a location in the highly popular TV series Sex Education. A leading character is Eric Effiong, the gay son of Ghanaian-Nigerian immigrants played by the openly queer actor Ncuti Gatwa.



Photo credit: Image public domain from Wiki Commons

2021

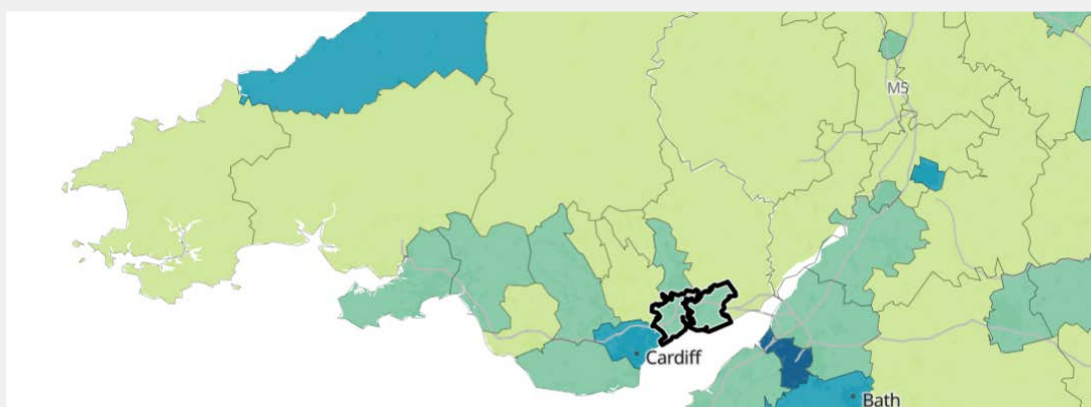
Owen J Hurcum became the world's first non-binary mayor and Wales' youngest ever elected mayor of Bangor City Council in Gwynedd, Wales.



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.

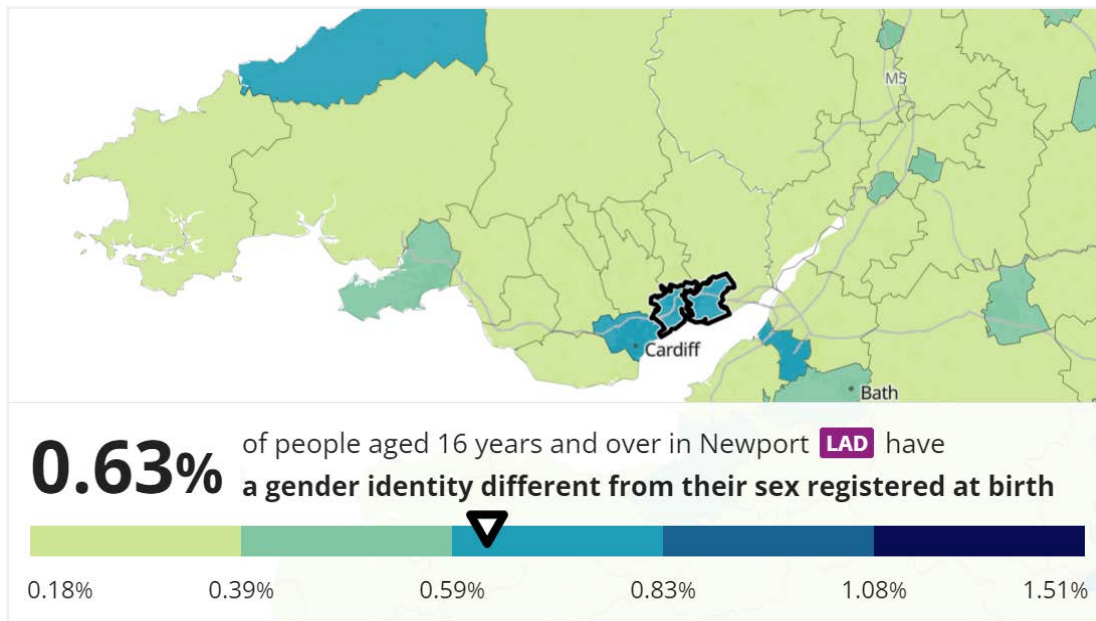


2.88% of people aged 16 years and over in Newport **LAD** are lesbian, gay, bisexual, or other (LGB+)



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.

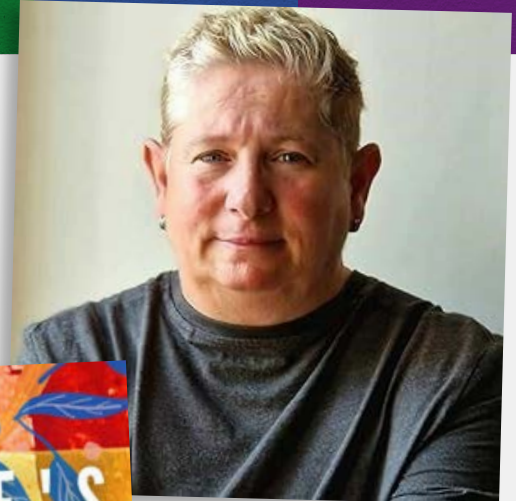


2021

2021

Kim Harry was born and bred in Newport, South Wales. She has paused her career path from being a DJ, singer, and musician, well known amongst her local LGBTQ community to concentrate on her love of writing full time. In 2018 she gained a BA Honours degree in English Literature and Creative Writing. She has several poems published in anthologies. After the success of her first novel 'Jamie's Story' (2021), 'The Past Should Stay Dead' (2022) is the second novel in the Beechwood Estate Series set in Newport. 'Back from the Edge' (2023), is the third instalment. She lives with her wife of over 20 years and their two children in South Wales.

Source: Amazon



2022

I hid my partner upstairs

Baroness Debbie Wilcox recalls her experiences teaching during the Section 28 era in the 80s and 90s, when promotion of homosexuality by local authorities was prohibited.

'A Rhondda-born girl with a working-class upbringing, she became the first female leader of Newport Council back in 2016 is now the front bench spokesperson for Wales in the House of Lords. But it was during her time as a student at Porth County Girls Grammar School from 1968 to 1975 that she soon discovered she was not like her other students.

From school, she began her journey into teaching. Having left drama school she started educating others in the subject in south London, before returning to Newport with an ex-partner to be closer to home.

But with Section 28 having been introduced, it meant Debbie had to navigate her job as a gay person while hiding her sexuality from colleagues.

"Oh my goodness. After being in London for five years where everything was so open about being gay, to come back to a small valleys town. Blimey, it was like going back in time," she said.

"Although I must say the people I worked with were absolutely lovely, but there was no way I could tell them that I was gay. So, you know, this lifetime of hiding began when I came back to Wales. I was teaching in Llanwern High School (previously Hartridge High School). I had a couple of close friends in school who knew I was gay, but never talked about it."

Source: [Wales Online](#), 5 September 2022



2023

2022

The first Pride in the Port, Newport's LGBTQI+ weekend pride festival, takes place.



2023

GWIR

GWIR is an LGBTQ+ youth group based in Newport and offers a safe and supportive space for young people aged 11-25. GWIR meets twice a month in person and offers a safe space for young LGBTQ+ people to meet other young people in their community, take part in activities and be in an empowering and inclusive environment.

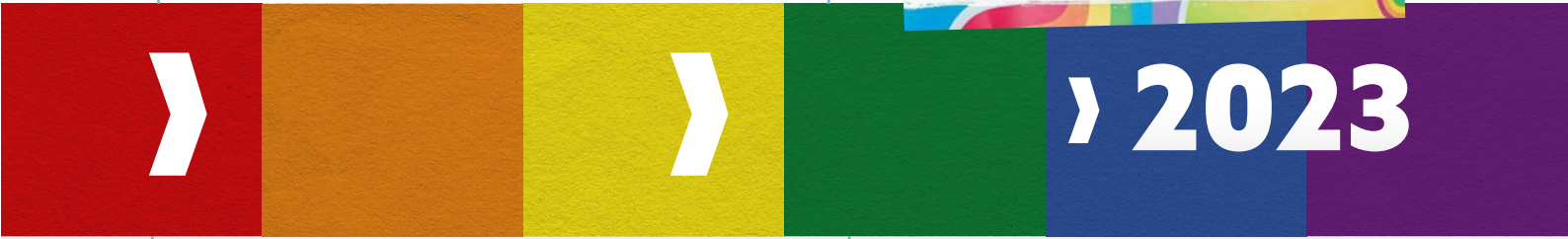
Source: [Media Academy Cymru website](#)

2023

As part of LGBTQ+ History Month, Newport City Council flew the Progress flag outside the Civic Centre throughout February. Council leader Jane Mudd and Councillor Laura Lacey, the council's LGBTQ+ champion, were joined by Dan Earnshaw, chair of the staff Pride network and vice-chair Emily Curry as well as Adam Smith, of Pride in the Port, for the raising of the flag. Councillor Mudd said: "This year marks the 20th anniversary of the abolition of section 28 and although that marked a watershed, there is still work needed to make a more equal and inclusive society for everyone. LGBT+ History Month is an opportunity to celebrate what has been done and focus on an even better future."

Source: Newport Council website > News

2023



2023

A special Pride Bus was launched, in collaboration with Newport Bus, to commemorate Pride month in June.



Source: Sallie Phillips, 'Pride in the Port returns to Newport city centre for 2023,' *South Wales Argus*, 1 September 2023

2023

@communityyouthLGBTQ+ Community Youth Project-LGBTQ+ @CYPLBTQ



LGBTQ+
Young People's Support and Social Group (Ages 13-25)

If you or someone you know is looking for a safe and supportive place for LGBTQ+ young people, then Community Youth Project can help! Our LGBTQ+ group provides a confidential and safe space for all LGBTQ+ young people. We also provide 121 support for young people too.





Thank you

These have been just a few highlights from Casnewydd/
Newport'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**