

The Wales LGBTQ+ Timeline Collection

Sir Benfro / Pembrokeshire 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.



12th CENTURY

1136

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

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

"In this district, after the death of King Henry, whilst Gruffydd, son of Rhys, the Prince of South Wales, was engaged in soliciting assistance from North Wales, his wife Gwenllian (like the Queen of the Amazons and a second Penthesilea) led an army into these parts; but she was defeated by Maurice de Londres, lord of that country, and Geoffrey,

the bishop's constable. Morgan, one of her sons, whom she had arrogantly brought with her in that expedition, was slain, and the other, Malgo, taken prisoner; and she, with many of her followers, was put to death."

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

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

Giraldus Cambrensis or Gerald of Wales (c.1146-c.1223) was a Cambro-Norman priest and historian born at Manorbier Castle. As a royal clerk to the king and two archbishops, he travelled widely and wrote extensively and his Topographia Hibernica (Topography of Ireland) includes this description:

"Duvenald, king of Limerick, had a woman with a beard down to her navel, and, also, a crest like a colt of a year old, which reached from the top of her neck down her backbone, and was covered with hair. The woman, this remarkable for two monstrous deformities, was, however, not an hermaphrodite, but in other respects had the parts of a woman; and she constantly attended the court, an object of ridicule as well as of wonder. The fact of her spine being covered with hair neither determined her gender to be male or female; and in wearing a

long beard she followed the customs of her country, though it was unnatural in her. Also, within our time, a woman was seen attending the court in Connaught, who partook of the nature of both sexes, and was an hermaphrodite. On the right side of her face she had a long and thick beard, which covered both sides of her lips

to the middle of her chin, like a man; on the left, her lips and chin were smooth and hairless, like a woman."

Source: Gerald of Wales, Topographia Hibernica, 1188. See Wikipedia for complete text, and Llyfrgell Genedlaethol Cymru / National Library of Wales website for an original copy.

17th CENTURY

1646

Katherine Philips (January 1631–1664), also known as 'The Matchless Orinda', and 'The Welsh Sappho,' was an Anglo-Welsh royalist poet, translator, and woman of letters. She had two significant relationships with women, Mary Aubrey (1631-1700), of the Welsh Aubrey family, whom she knew from school, and Anne Owen (c.1630/33-1692). Katherine moved with her mother and brother from London to Castell Pictwn/Picton Castle in 1646 when her mother married Sir Richard Philipps. Anne Owen lived at Landshipping, an estate just across from the castle and the Phillips were inlaws of Anne's husband. Katherine wrote many poems to both women expressing her love for them and 'To my Excellent Lucasia, on our friendship, 17th July 1651' [Lucasia was Katherine's name for Anne] is one of her most famous:

I did not live until this time Crowned my felicity, When I could say without a crime, I am not thine, but thee.

This carcass breathed, and walked, and slept, So that the world believed There was a soul the motions kept: But they were all deceived.

For as a watch by art is wound To motion, such was mine: But never had Orinda found A soul till she found thine;

Which now inspires, cures and supplies, And guides my darkened breast: For thou art all that I can prize, My joy, my life, my rest.

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

Photo credit: Wikimedia Commons Public Domain

1646



Bartholomew Roberts (1682-1722) was born in Casnewydd Bach (Little Newcastle) in 1682 and became one of the most successful pirates in the Golden Age of Piracy (1650s-1730s). Terry Breverton in his The Book of Welsh Pirates and Buccaneers describes Robert's friend John Waldon as a 'hotheaded and argumentative man, known as 'Miss Nanny' by the crew.' One 'noted writer' on pirates believes that 'Miss Nanny' was an 18th-century term for a homosexual, but Breverton cannot find any such reference, nonetheless, the 'noted writer' uses this to make the connection that Walden was Robert's lover. Breverton asks surely this 'fact' would have been noted in the interrogations and trial transcripts of over 200 men. If anything, Breverton seems to think that Roberts was asexual.



Photo credit: Wikimedia Commons By A General History of the Robberies and Murders of the Most Notorious Pyrates, Public Domain

Sources: Terry Breverton, The Book of Welsh Pirates and Buccaneers (Glyndwr Publishing, 2003); Richard Sanders, If a Pirate I Must be...: The True Story of Bartholomew Roberts - King of the Caribbean Pirates (Aurum Press, 2007); For more on Roberts and homosexuality see Bartholomew Roberts (1682-1722), LGBTQ Cymru, Research into the LGBTQ+ history of Wales.



) 1771

18th CENTURY

1705

Pontfaen is a small rural village and parish in the community of Cwm Gwaun, north Pembrokeshire and includes the country hourse of the Laugharne family. Francis Jones studied this family in the paper Pontfaen (1977) and records information on Vaughan Laugharne (1678-1705) who died aged 27 and unmarried. Laugharne's will, dated 6 April 1705, left money to 'my special friend' George Owen of Breskyly and John Vaughan of Trecoon who he also appointed to be guardians of his godson.

When we consider people in the past there is set of criteria that is used to differentuate between friends and possible same-sex relationships. Three awareness points from this criteria can be seen in the account of Vaughan Laugharne - being unmarried, the usage of phrase such 'special friend', and leaving a bequest. While we cannot make definitive statements about Laugharne it opens the possibility for further research.

Source: Francis Jones 'Pontfaen' Cylchgrawn Llyfrgell Genedlaethol Cymru Journal title National Library of Wales journal Rhifyn Cyf. 20, rh. 2 (Gaeaf 1977), p. 177-203.

44 How foul, how fatal, were the monstrous crimes, Which brought perdition upon Sodom's race! The diffrict stinks e'en to the present times, And smoke and sulph'rous steams still mark the place!

William Evans, vicar of Llanhawden, Pembrokeshire, translates into English the Welsh 'Canwyll y Cymry' (The Welshman's Candle) by Rhys Prichard (1579-1644) in 1771. It was an important work of the time and owned by many in Wales. It includes many references to Sodom and Gomorrah.

Source: 'The Welshman's Candle' by Rhys Pritchard: English translation, 1771. Available on People's Collection Wales.

19th CENTURY

1810

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

Source: Carmarthen Journal, 8 September 1810

1821

Accused Michael Grame (Alias: Michael Gramont); Parish: Unspecified; County: Unspecified; Status: Seaman

Offence Attempted sodomy. Accused a seaman on board the Speedwell of Beaumaris who having broken his thigh at sea was left at Milford. Accused a foreigner and a seaman belonging to the schooner Nancy. No indictment.

Location and date Parish: Milford Haven; County: Pembroke; Date: 10 August 1821

Source: Crime and Punishment database, Llyfrgell Genedlaethol Cymru/The National Library of Wales

1842

1842

Romance in real life

Considerable excitement was caused in Tenby, on the 21st ult, by the appearance of a person in male attire, who had a short time before introduced herself to several families in the town as a female and partook of their hospitality under that character.

On her first visit she stated that her name was Miss Ellen Hatfield, and gave the following account of herself: - She was 19 years of age, was born at Halifax, in Nova Scotia, and was daughter of Joseph and Mary Hatfield, the former a native of Scotland, the latter of England. Joseph Hatfield was educated for the bar and afterwards ordained a clergyman of the English church, at College at New York. He died about four years ago. Ellen Hatfield was placed by her guardian, Mr Newtown, about three years ago, in a Popish church, near Halifax.

Soon after the death of her mother, about six years since, her father married again, and after his death her step-mother married her guardian, Mr Newton.

She remained in the convent five months, and then returned home, and was afterwards sent to another convent, here she continued nine months, and then eloped with the Rev. Archibald Campbell, a clergyman of the English church; they were not married.

They embarked in the Elizabeth, of Halifax, Captain Morris, the crew consisting of 25. The vessel ran aground on a sandbank, about four miles from the short of a small island called Hook's Island. She and Mr Campbell were allowed by the captain to go ashore alone in the boat. Mr Campbell, in consequence of previous indisposition and over-exertion in rowing the boat, died on the beach three days after their landing. She supposed the island to be uninhabited, but at the expiration of eight days she found an old gentleman living there from disgust of the world; she lived eight days upon oranges, and knows nothing of what became of the vessel. Thence, after a stay of more than a month, she sailed in the William Hutt, of Halifax, Capt. Morris (another Captain Morris), and arrived at

1842 continued over...

1842 continued...

Swansea on the 21st October. Thence they sailed almost immediately in a vessel called the Seven Stars, Capt. Reece, to Cornwall, and wandered about in that neighbourhood for three months, during the whole of which time, since her departure from Halifax, she dressed in man's clothes; about five weeks ago she put off her man's costume at Pontardulais. She says her father left 15,000l to herself and two sisters; when she left home she had about 201 in cash, a check, and a will. On her last visit she was taken by the police-officer before the mayor and one of the borough magistrates, and gave her name Albert Valentine Cavendish, but refused to give any further information. Several attempts were made to discover her sex, which failed. Mr N. Millard, surgeon, was then sent for, who stated that she was a female on which she was immediately discharged. She stands about five feet high, fair complexion, speaks rather broad, and is supposed to be from the neighbourhood of Laugharne.

Source: The Standard, 11 May 1842

1848

Cross-dressing has been a feature of protests, or 'rough justice' for centuries. Ceffyl-pren [wooden horse] last until the mid-19th century. Like other movements, such as the Rebecca Rioters, men would often dress as women. During a Ceffyl-pren in St Dogmaels, James James, a local labourer was arrested while riding the wooden horse dressed in female attire.

Source: Pembrokeshire Herald, 2 June 1848

) 1861

1859

John Pavin Phillips from Haverfordwest started a series of letters in the journal Notes and Queries. His letter began by recalling some fifteen or sixteen years he

> remembered a hairy woman being exhibited in London. She had a flowing beard and moustache, of a soft and silky texture, but in all other respects was perfectly feminine. She was a young married woman, and was the mother of children. His letter sparked off an extended series of letters discussing bearded women.

Source: Notes and Queries, 22 October 1859

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.

Image of Madame Delait

Photo credit: Wikimedia Commons By Scherr - Wellcome Images

Charge of indecency

John James and George Hughes were charged with indecent conduct at Saint Thomas Green, Haverfordwest on the morning of Good Friday. Mr W. John appeared for the prosecution. The accused denied the charge. The magistrates, after hearing the evidence (which is unfit for publication), adjourned the case till the next sessions, for the attendance of additional witnesses.

Source: Pembrokeshire Herald, 25 April 1862

1868

Pembrokeshire Easter Quarter Sessions

Peter Campbell, 19, soldier, was charged with assaulting Williams Griffiths, with intent to commit an abominable crime, at Pwllcrochan, on the 15th of March, 1868. Mr T.R.O. Powell (instructed by Mr Hulm) prosecuted: the prisoner was not defended. The details of this case are unfit for publication. The jury found the prisoner not guilty, and he was discharged.

Source: Pembrokeshire Herald, 10 April 1868

1876

Photo credit: Wikimedia Commons

1876

Welsh artist, Gwen John (1876-1939) was born in Tenby and throughout her life was attracted to both women and men. Her brother, the artist Augustus John (1878–1961) wrote of her intense feelings for a woman while an art student in London and when she walked to France, she was followed for a while by a woman who was smitten by her.

In Paris she had a sustained relationship with the French sculptor Auguste Rodin (1840–1917) and a short affair with the Finnish artist Hilda Flodin (1877–1958). In later life she developed intense, but unrequited feelings for Véra Oumançoff (1886-1959).

She died in Dieppe, and the location of her grave was unknown until 2015 when Llinos Wynnen, a TV producer, became obsessed with finding her grave. As part of the series Mamwlad gyda Ffion Hague the team went searching for the

resting place of one of Wales' greatest female artists and found it in Janval Cemetery under the name of Mary John (Gwen's middle name). The TV company Tinopolis and S4C commissioned a memorial slate plaque inscribed: "Mae pobl

fel cysgodion i mi ac fel cysgod ydwyf innau" ("People are like shadows to me and like a shadow I am to them").

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



Mrs Jarley's Living Wax-Works was a show whereby various tableaux of famous characters, both real and fictitious, were presented in the guise of waxworks. In January, the show visited Tenby and the Bearded Lady in 'the Chambre of Horrors' sings her song, written by herself which, it seems, was only published in the Tenby Observer:

When I get to each town in Mrs. Jarley's caravan,

The people all begin to stare, for they think that I'm a man;

But when told by Mrs. Jarley that I'm of the other

Oh! the rude remarks they make would a martyr nearly vex.

Says one, Oh! there's a guy," and another, Oh! my

That's the queerest looking object that ever I did spy,"

And the children when they see me, point and shout aloud with glee,

Oh that woman with the whiskers is looking straight at me.

Oh! 'tis just enough to kill me, I cannot stand it long, I wouldn't mind a mild remark, but they make them awful strong;

Had I known of all this pain, all this sorrow, all this woe

I'd have seen in California, Mrs. Jarley and her show.

Oh! I cannot stand it long, say don't you think it

That I should be a laughing stock each evening for the throng;

Last night I heard a yokel say, oh! it was so bold and free.

(Sarah) that old gal with the whiskers has got her eve on we."

There's another sort of party that I really cannot stand,



It is the swell that makes remarks, and thinks it something grand.

Just a sample of their nonsense I'll endeavour now

'Tis really quite surprising how they let such people

Said one the other night, "I say, Chawley, here's a, fwight,

What a deuced awkward cweature to meet out late at night."

And another lisping coxcomb, as conceited as could be.

Said I'm sure the girl is over head and ears in love with me."

Oh! I feel so very lonely, and I feel so very sad,

To be always laughed and gibed at, is really much too bad;

My mistress she is very kind, and bids me do not care

A fig for what the people say about my face and hair.

But I like to tell the wrong that I suffer all along, But here comes Mrs. Jarley, so I must end my song.

Your approval please to give of Mrs. Jarley and the

And the woman with the whiskers who stands before you now.

Source: Tenby Observer, 18 January 1877



) 1877

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.

1890

Sexually fluid Nina Hamnett (1890-1956) was born in Tenby. An artist and writer, she was better known as the Queen of Bohemia and her autobiography Laughing Torso (1932) was a best seller. She was on the fringes of the famous Bloomsbury



Group a group of writers, intellectuals, philosophers and artists in the first half of the 20th century, many of whom were sexually fluid. Vanessa Bell (1879-1961), sister of Virginnia Wolfe (1882–1941) who had a well-known relationship with writer Vita Sackville-West (1892-1962), wrote to her husband, describing 'a morning spent listening to Hamnett's 'appallingly sordid histories of her love affairs. She is known in Paris as a could it be a "Lesbian"? Amorous Sapphist will do as well."

Source: Wikipedia; Emily LaBarge, 'Nina Hamnett,' London Review of Books, Vol. 43 No. 13 · 1 July 2021

1893

1893

An Irish Girl Masquerading at Milford Haven. A singular incident has been reported at Milford Haven. On Friday night, at a late hour, the dock police had their attention arrested by a curiouslyequipped seaman who entered the dock. It was discovered by the police that the party was a female masquerading in men's clothes. She was, she asserted a native of Cavan, Ireland, and, having had a dispute with her parents, absconded, and came from Dublin on the steam-trawler Dolphin, one of the crew of which, she said, had asked her to accompany him in the trawler, and he would obtain for her a situation on the vessel's arrival at Milford Haven. In the meantime a love match sprang up between her and one of the deck hands, who, it is alleged, promised to marry her, gave her money

with which to purchase her wedding dress, but on the eve of the proposed marriage declined, the boat afterwards going to Fleetwood. Since then the girl has been in service at Milford Haven, but having been dismissed, destitution followed, and having converted a cape into a pair of trousers, and come into the possession of a jacket and cap, she donned them, and proceeded to the docks, where she said she was trying to obtain a situation on one of the trawlers as cook. Money was collected for her, and the girl left, saying she was going to return to Ireland by the Cork boat, which left Neylandon Saturday, but it is believed she has been seen since.

Source: Evening Express, 31 October 1893

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



1898

Daniel John Drew Codner (46), musician, was indicted on a charge of "unlawful committing acts of gross indecency with another male person named James Jones, at Pembroke Dock, on the 1st of April." Mr H. A. Jones, solicitor, Pembroke Dock, and the Rev. W. G. Spurrell, Cosheston, were defendant's sureties. Defendant not appearing, the recognizances were forfeited.

Source: Evening Express, 13 July 1898

1909

20th CENTURY

1906

We are aware that the Editorial duties, even of a weekly publication, are multitudinous, but that the editor of our Narberth contemporary must find them even embarrassing, is evidenced by the following choice tit-bit of information, culled from this week's issue of the "News." "I feel constrained to point out this fact owing to a rumour having reached my ears that certain young women, who are not resident in Timbuctoo, have on one or two nights of late been masquerading in male attire. They ought to recognise the risk they run if they are detected by the police." This certainly opens up a new and extensive field of investigation for the enterprising journalist, in what, for want of a better phrase, we would style the "New woman" sphere of journalism.

Source: Pembrokeshire Herald, 28 December 1906

1908

At the Milford Haven Sessions, Thomas Roch, of the Bridge End Hotel, Hakin was charged with committing an unnatural offence on Alfred Hughes (19) of 7 City-road, Haverfordwest, and Edwin Evans (21) of 5 Castle-street, Lower Pennar, Pembroke Dock. The case was dismissed due to lack of evidence. Blackmail was rife at this time and the case is worth further investigation.

Source: Cardiff Times, 29 August 1908

In the afternoon procession at the Grand Carnival, Narberth, Master Jack Evans came as a hermaphrodite – one can only imagine!

Source: Welshman, 17 September 1909

The play, The Adventure of Lady Ursula, by Anthony Hope (most well-known for his novel, The Prisoner of Zenda (1894)) is produced by an amateur dramatic company at the Assembly Rooms, Tenby. Throughout the 19th century plays featuring cross-dressing heroines were extremely popular but a reviewer for the Tenby Observer was aware that such plot lines were dying out: 'It is not for the born dramatist, but only for the made dramatist, to wonder whether it is safe to work the feminine male business yet again.' He was also aware that

THE PHOTO EC MISS EVELYN MILLARD

dressing women in male attire was primarily for the male gaze, 'he has disguised a woman in masculinity by the somewhat extraordinary process (not so to him) of making her femininity the more apparent ... The dramatist who does not know his business would shrink in terrified scepticism from the scheme of turning a woman into a man by bringing into singularly bold relief most of those lines with which we are accustomed, from knowledge guided by a

furtive investigation of British Museum statuary, to associate the female form divine. I once knew a man-a very foolish man he must have been, now I come to think of it-who tried in vain to do away with the feminine-male idea even with the requirements (usually far from overwhelming) of a comic opera plot. He was much too knowing ever to succeed, either as a writer or a producer of plays. I tried to save him from disaster, by pointing out to him and proving in black and white, that the London stage was seldom without a heroine in doublet and hose for more than two months at a stretch. I referred him to the successes in this direction of Miss Lily Brayton, Miss Julia Neilson, Miss Ellaline Terriss, Miss Gertie Millar, and a host of other popular actresses. But he obstinately adhered to the opinion that the time had come when the public would no longer tolerate such impossible situations as those upon which Anthony Hope built The Adventure of Lady Ursula, and refused absolutely to disguise the sex of his heroine in tight-fitting garments.'

Image from a separate production.

Source: Tenby Observer, 21 January 1909

19205

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.

1920s

Cliff Gordon (1920-1964), born on 11 February in Llanelli, was a writer and actor, most well-known for his film Valley of Song (1953).

A year after Cliff was born his mother Martha moved about a hundred miles west back to her native village of Neyland to marry Ernest Campbell Jones with whom she had five more children. As he grew up Cliff would make the long trek across the estuary to attend the Pembroke Dock County Intermediate School which catered very much for the middle classes. He could not speak Welsh and later wrote, "If I am asked by a cheeky Londoner to speak some Welsh, I gabble the verse of Sospan Fach at speed. This has satisfied every challenger except one little *** who was excavated to Bala during the war." In later life he gained great success and is credited with having discovered Shirley Bassey. However, he was arrested for gross indecency and lost his career.

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



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.

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.

) 1953

1953

In 1953 an MP who described himself as "an Englishman with an Irish name sitting for a Welsh seat" wrote a letter. From his cliff-top home on Strumble Head looking out across the Atlantic, Desmond Donnelly (1920-1974) MP for Pembrokeshire, wrote to the Home Secretary asking him to consider homosexuality. He wanted it added to the 1926 Royal Commission on Lunacy and Mental Disorder and thereby remove it from criminality. In the House of Commons in April, Donnelly laid out his arguments why homosexuality should be decriminalised - blackmailers were becoming rich; prisoners became indoctrinated and homosexuals

became indoctrinated with criminal techniques. He added "I think it is quite unusual for the law to interfere in what is essentially a moral issue." Reading from The Church of England Moral Welfare Society pamphlet he quoted, "In no other department of life does the State hold itself competent to interfere with the private actions of consenting adults." And concluded, "To stand by at this moment and do nothing about this matter is a grave indictment of our existing society."

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

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

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

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

1957

The Wolfenden Committee is formed. When it concludes in 1957 it recommends a partial decriminalisation for male homosexuality. When these recommendations are not followed by the government the Homosexual Law Reform Society is formed to campaign for the recommendations to be enacted.

1965

1964

Bernard Williams (38) of 31 Haven Road, Haverfordwest, appeared on two charges of gross indecency with a male. Evidence against Williams was given by his former friend, Roland William George Gwilliam (22) of Cromie Avenue, Haverfordwest who, the court was told, had 'given over his allegiance to the Crown,' namely he would not be prosecuted if he acted for the prosecution. Gwilliam stated that he and Williams had gone to bed together naked, and had indulged in kissing and other conduct while in Williams' house ... Williams was asked, 'Are you a homosexual?' to which he replied, 'I wouldn't say that exactly, I would say I am bi-sexual. I must admit that I would dearly like to marry and have a family as I love small children but at the moment I feel more at home in men's company rather than women's.' Asked if he had an affinity to young men he replied, 'Yes, I think it is fair to say I do. The company of young men gives me pleasure.'

Source: West Wales Guardian, 18 December 1964

1965

Summonses of homosexual cases in Pembrokeshire this year were among those submitted to the Home Secretary by the Homosexual Law Reform Society, who wanted a law passed that such behaviour between consenting adults in private should no longer be a criminal offence. The Society then gave the summary: "The questioning in October 1964 of a 24 year old Pembrokeshire labourer, Brian Swales, described by the prosecution as "of low intelligence" about a comparatively minor (non-homosexual) offence led to the conviction early in 1965 at Pembrokeshire and Haverford-west Winter Assizes of 7 men, all of whom pleaded guilty to homosexual offences, mostly committed in private. Although this labourer -who admitted 7 charges of buggery, and was sentenced to hospital in-patient treatment for an indefinite period - was said by

1965 continued over...

1965 continued...

Source: Wikipedia

the police to be so below average intelligence that it was "difficult to get a coherent, account from him" and has been diagnosed as an "unstable mental defective" in 1959, his confession was used to obtain written statements from 6 out of 10 men interviewed by the police from among the 13 men named by him. These men were all subsequently charged, although the prosecution offered no evidence against one of them, Gordon. Walter Roy Jones, of whom the prosecution said at committal proceedings that he was "estimated to have a mental age of between 5 and 8 years" and that an Order had been made under S.60 of the Mental Health Act ... Sentences passed ... on the remaining 6 men - of whom 4 admitted buggery with Swales, but 2 only confessed to gross indecency, and were thus only charged with that offence-were: 1 months imprisonment on a 19 year old youth who had a previous conviction for gross indecency and asked for 12 other offences to be taken into consideration; £20 fine [about £500 today] on a 49 year old man (described as "simple minded"); £25 fine on a man of 29 for an offence committed in private, which he said he was "unaware it was a crime;" £10 fine on a 30 year old man for gross indecency; 2 years probation for a man of 21 for buggery; and a conditional discharge

for a 50 year old man for gross indecency. The report by the Homosexual Law Reform Society added this case and others, "exhibit some very disquieting features of prosecution policy both with regard to the nature of the evidence upon which it was decided to prefer charges of consenting private behaviour,' and challenged the right to prosecute by inducements to confess and that 'stringent instructions should be issued to Chief Constables to ensure that such methods of interrogation are not used.'

A separate piece in the Western Mail identified the men Edwald Albert Arran (19) of Foley-Way; Robert David Todd (21), of Prendergast; John Charles Hubert Williams (50) Foley Way; John Henly Pritchard (30) of Port-field Avenue; Colwyn Bevan (29) (the man who said he was not aware that practices in private were illegal) of Hawthorn Rise, all of Haverfordwest, and Daniel James Alcock (49), of Wendros, Boncath, Just two years later, in 1967, homosexual acts in private were partially decriminalised.

Source: Western Telegraph, 13 May 1965; Western Mail, 27 February 1965

1966 Photo credit: Wikimedia Commons 1966 Sarah Ann Waters OBE (born 21 July 1966 in Neyland) is a Welsh novelist. She is best known for her novels set in Victorian society and featuring lesbian protagonists, such as Tipping the Velvet and Fingersmith. Her PhD thesis, entitled Wolfskins and togas: lesbian and gay historical fictions, 1870 to the present, served as inspiration and material for future books. As part of her research, she read 19th-century pornography, in which she came across the title of her first book, Tipping the Velvet. Sarah came out as lesbian in the late 1980s and has been in a relationship with copy editor Lucy Vaughan since 2002.

Photo credit: Wikimedia Commons

By Virago Press, Fair use

Tipping the Velvet

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.

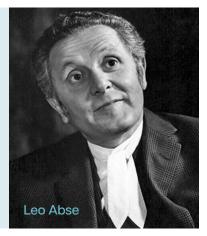


Photo credit: © National Portrait Gallery, London

1970

Gay Liberation Front (GLF) was established.



1974

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

1982

1976

The Rev. Bryon Jones, Haverfordwest writes to the Western Mail:

"A number of letters have appeared In your newspaper recently condemning the homosexual and his place in the Christian ministry. in principle I would support this, but not in the narrow sense of some. To condemn homosexuals for what they are is no better than condemning the blind for having no sight. Both are defects of nature. One cannot condone homosexual acts, but why is this singled out from the other capital sins of pride, envy, anger, covetousness, gluttony and sloth? Is it because we have found a scapegoat in the homosexual to cover up our own shortcomings particularly pride, the root of all sin, of which we are all guilty to a greater or lesser degree?

Source: Western Mail, 26 May 1976

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.





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.

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

> Photo credit: Wikimedia Commons © Roger Harris

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

1994

MPs decided in a historic vote to lower the age of consent for homosexual men from 21 to 18. Nick Ainger (Pembroke) and Cynog Dafis (Plaid Cymru Ceredigion and Pembroke N) voted to support the age of 18. Voting was 427 to 162, an overwhelmingly majority of 265. The bid to equalise the age of consent for homosexual and heterosexual sex at 16 was rejected by 307 to 280, a majority of 27. As the decisive second result was announced, one dejected gay rights campaigner shouted from the public gallery: "Thanks for nothing!"

Source: The Herald Scotland, 22 February 1994

1994

'Good as You LG&B support group, Lampeter Uni,' advertises in Gay Times.

Source: Gay Times, March 1994

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.

2003

Man guilty of gay taunts

Nathan Michael Jones in Haverfordwest. Pembrokeshire but who had since moved to Cardigan, pleaded guilty to harassment by shouting and making rude and offensive gestures of a sexual nature towards a man outside his own home. The court heard how youths on Elm Lane, the Mount Estate, were shouting comments about the man's sexuality outside his home. Jones admitted he had called the man a "gay b**d", "shirtlifter" and "f*ing poof." Jones was released on bail on the conditions he lived in Cardigan and did not contact the victim directly or indirectly.

Source: Barry & District News, 2 October 2003

2004

2003

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

2004

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

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

Purple is one of the colours of the gay flag, so chefs Shaen Swanepoel, aged 34, and 35-yearold Manfred Ohlenschlager, proudly wore purple bow ties and scarves, and decorated their hired limousine with purple bows and ribbons for their civil partnership ceremony. Shaen, a South African, and Manfred, who is German, lived in Pembrokeshire for a year and worked at the Hope and Anchor Inn, Goodwick. The couple, who had a week's honeymoon in Paris, said: "Our advice to others in our situation is 'be bold and go for goal'. We did not seek the spotlight but we are proud of our achievement."

Source: Barry & District News, 25 January 2006

2006

Triangle Wales publishes its report on housing needs. Under 'Good Practice Examples,' heading it cited Pembrokeshire County Council policy which was in the "process of revising its tenancy agreement to include specific mention of sexual orientation. This is part of its drive to mainstream the issue of sexual orientation. For example, the Council has Introductory Tenancy Scheme that are aimed at preventing and tackling anti-social behaviour among its tenants. There is a clear message coming from the council that certain behaviour, including homophobia, will not be tolerated, and that the retention of a tenancy depends on adhering to good behaviour."

Source: The housing needs of lesbian, gay and bisexual (LGB) people in Wales, Triangle Wales, October 2006

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

Snowdrops was founded in late 2009 by Hazel Luff and Stephanie Susan Woods to serve the Transgender community, encompassing support for partners, family and friends in Pembrokeshire and the West Wales counties.

Source: Snowdrops website.

Pembrokeshire Police raise the profile of hate crime. To coincide

with LGBTQ+ History Month,

Haverfordwest Neighbourhood Policing Teams set up a stand at Pembrokeshire College. Temporary Chief Inspector Amanda Diggens said "The aim of the stand was to raise the profile of hate crime and ensure people know that we take it seriously. We want to encourage victims to come forward and report these incidents to the police so that we can do something about it. If you or someone you know has been a victim of hate crime, please report it, and help make a difference. Soon we will have specially trained hate crime officers on the division, who will add to the support that we already offer."

Source: Barry & District News, 20 February 2009



2010

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

2010

2010

Sherman Cymru's play Llwyth [Tribe] is staged at Milford Haven's Torch Theatre on 27 April. Director Dafydd James wanted to explore what tribes exist today for example: language, friendship, sexuality and what defines them, as well as the nature of the conflict when tribes collide. "Though rugby and international day is a back-drop, what's at the heart of the tribes are notions of family, Welsh-language culture

> and gay male identity. Though this is a story about five gay men, really at its core is an attempt to explore the very idea of Welsh culture," explained Dafydd. 'I like to think of it as a mix of Queer as Folk and Moulin Rouge with a little Braveheart.'

Source: Barry & District News, 26 April 2010

Photo credit: Wikimedia Commons

2010

Dyfed Diners. A monthly Dining Club in West Wales for like-minded men and women, providing a setting for gay people to meet in an unpressured and comfortable atmosphere over a meal and a drink. Members attend as few or as many functions as they wish. Meetings are held in various venues across Pembrokeshire, Carmarthenshire and Ceredigion on Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday evenings in the middle of the month. There is also a Saturday Social at the beginning of the month and a Sunday Lunch at the end. Members are sent an invitation each month by post which gives all details, including a 'deadline' by which invitations may be accepted; The cost of the meal is charged at the restaurant or pub to each individual who settles his or her bill in the usual way. Venues are chosen on the basis of good food that is also good value for money. A comfortable atmosphere is important, as is the acceptability of casual dress. A map is always provided with the newsletter.

Source: Swansea Pride, 2010 programme.



First UK openly gay mayor, first mayor in a civil partnership: Guy Woodham (2012-2013) for Milford Haven.

Source: Wikipedia, List of the first openly LGBT holders of political offices in the United Kingdom

Photo credit: Wikimedia Commons CC BY-SA 3.0

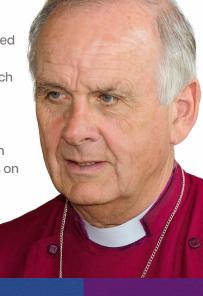


2013

The then, Archbishop of Wales Barry Morgan presented a vision for a radically changed Church in Wales and announced a new study of gay relationships at a meeting of the governing body. Dr Morgan announced at the gathering in Lampeter that the church's doctrinal commission will "examine the whole issue of same sex relationships" and produce a report that will be used to "map out the way ahead for us" ... he described his efforts to ensure that legislation going through parliament provided "protection for clergy in not having to conduct

same sex marriages" but also "a mechanism whereby the Church in Wales could conduct same sex marriages if, in the future, it decided to do so ... The Bill, as it now stands, says that the duty of clergy in the Church in Wales to solemnise marriages, would not be extended to marriages of same sex couples, and contains a clause introducing a procedure specific to the Church in Wales, whereby if the Governing Body resolved in future to allow the marriage of same sex couples in its churches, the Lord Chancellor could by order in Parliament, make that possible. That gives us both protection and allows us to make up our own minds on the issue in the future."

Source: David Williamson, 'Archbishop Barry Morgan present vision for Church in Wales,' Daily Post, 10 April 2013



2014

2013

A series of letters appears in the Tenby Observer by a variety of people debating same-sex marriage and Christianity. One gay man wrote, 'As for the teachings of the Bible and exact wording, people are casually forgetting that there are some verses of the Bible in which violence towards women is condoned, just because they are married and are 'property' of the man. These views are so deeply abhorrent to modern society they are now widely condemned and swept under the carpet. Exact wording of a document from 1,500 years ago should not dictate how people today are treated. Christians I respect your faith and you should respect my civil right to exist quietly and live my life with my partner as a married couple.' After several letters, the editor shut down the correspondence.

Source: Tenby Observer, 15 March 2013

2014

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





William Elliott (left) and Colin Sharp

Photo credit: Milford Mercury

2014

First UK openly gay mayor and deputy mayor: William Elliott (mayor) and Colin Sharp (deputy mayor).

Source: Wikipedia, List of the first openly LGBT holders of political offices in the United Kingdom

2016

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



Photo credit: Wikimedia Commons By Welsh Government -GOV.WALES, OGL 3

2018

2016

Milford Haven is thought to be the first town in UK to elect both an openly gay mayor, Cllr Stephen Joseph, and deputy mayor, Cllr William Elliott. Speaking on becoming only the second openly gay mayor in Pembrokeshire, Cllr Elliott said: "I think it sends the right message out that Milford is a community that is open and accepting of anyone, regardless of their sexuality, gender, race, or religion, which is a positive thing for the town and its people."

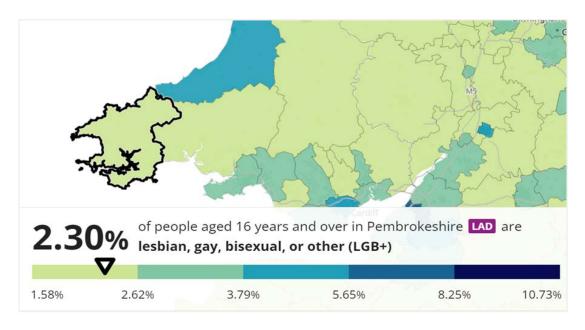
Source: Joanna Sayers, 'Mayor's pride as town becomes first to elect openly gay mayor and deputy,' Western Telegraph, 28 April 2016

2018

Pembrokeshire hosted the Pride Youth Games (PYG), at the Stackpole National Trust Estate the first time the event had been held in Wales. The event, organised by PRIDE Games and LGBT Sport Cymru in partnership with Sport Pembrokeshire and The Stackpole Centre ran from August 17 to 19. It has been held since 2008 and past venues include Manchester, Carlisle and Stirling.

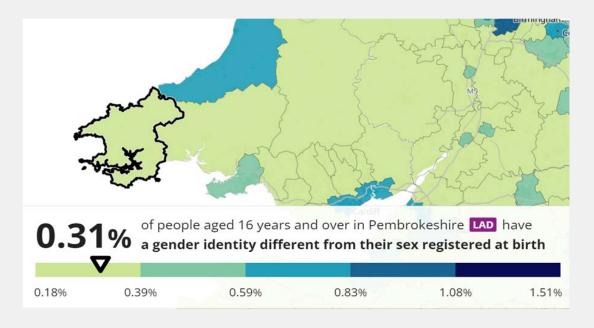
Source: The Pembroke and Pembroke Dock Observer, 'County to host 'Pride Youth Games,' 6 August 2018

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 appropriately and the guestions. gender identity. Some care should be taken over the figures as not all people answered the question.



> 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.



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

Pembrokeshire County Councillor Joshua Beynon was included in the 2021 Pinc list, consisting of the most influential LGBT+ people in Wales over the past year. Councillor Beynon, number 30 on the list which included Owen Hurcum, the world's first non-binary mayor and writer Russell T Davies, said: "Despite it being 2021, there are still many negative and backwards views towards members of the LGBTQ+ community. I hope this list inspires people to be the best version of themselves and celebrate their accomplishments and individuality."

Source: Jack Riley, 'Pembrokeshire County councillor named one of Wales' most influential LGBTQ+ people,' Western Telegraph, 24 August 2021

2022

2022

One in 34 Dyfed Powys police officers identify as gay or lesbian, the first figures of their kind suggest. A Freedom of Information request sent by the PA news agency asked Dyfed-Powys Police for a breakdown of the sexual orientation of its more than 1,000 officers in November. Of the 766 that responded when snapshot staffing figures were gathered, 22 (2.9%) said they were gay or lesbian. Meanwhile, 0.8% identified as bisexual and less than 1% said they prefer to self-describe. Chief Inspector Lee Broadstock, co-chairman of the LGBT+ network representing gay, lesbian, bisexual and trans officers across the country, said: "If we're not representative of our communities then we don't understand that community ... the true number of LGB officers in each force is likely to be higher, with no sexuality recorded for 61,000 out of 131,000 officers" across England and Wales.

Source: Patrick Jack and Ryan Hooper, 'FOI figures look into Dyfed Powys police officers' sexuality,' Western Telegraph, 28 February 2022

2022

Pembrokeshire's first dedicated cabaret venue opened its doors in March, offering a different kind of night out. The Boulevard Showbar, based at the former Astoria on Charles Street in Milford Haven featured resident drag artiste, Miss Kitty, performing her show 'Thursdays are a Drag' each week. Creative director Drew Baker said: "We want Boulevard to be a place where everyone feels fabulous - and where there's something for everyone. We will be LGBT-friendly and absolutely everyone who comes through our doors will be as welcome if they venture out alone as they will be if they visit us with friends."

Source: Jack Riley, 'Pembrokeshire's LGBTfriendly cabaret opens in Milford Haven,' Western Telegraph, 16 March 2022

When learning support assistant Dan Phillips told his Pembrokeshire school he wanted to come out as trans, UNISON's Wales Union Learning Fund (WULF) team helped organise trans awareness training for all 220 staff. When Dan was growing up in rural Pembrokeshire, the lack of representation of trans people in general – and trans men in particular – meant it took him a long time to fully understand who he was. "When I was growing up, I didn't even realise trans was a thing you could be, especially because pretty much all the representation of trans people in the media – if it existed at all – tended to be the other way: you never saw trans men," he recalls. "I'd always felt there was something a bit different about me, but it took me a while to work out what that was - as I got older, basically the internet was my saviour!"

Source: 'Transgender Awareness Programme helps Dan and his Pembrokeshire school colleagues,' Wales TUC Cymru, 17 October 2022

2023

Children in Wales is the national umbrella body for organisations and individuals who work with children, young people and their families in Wales. Mike Mainwairing, Training Officer, runs 'Intersectionality / Black LGBTQ+ Lives Matter' in June stating, 'We need more black LGBTQ+ role models for our young people.'

Source: Mike Mainwairing, Intersectionality / Black LGBTQ+ Lives Matter, Children in Wales website.



2023

2023

'New data released from the Office of National Statistics has shown how many people in Pembrokeshire identify as transgender, non-binary or other genders.' In Pembrokeshire, the data found that 93.41 per cent of people (aged 16 and above) identify as the same gender as they were assigned at birth. Just 0.06 per cent of people in Pembrokeshire identified as trans women or trans men. Another 0.04 per cent of Pembrokeshire's population identified as non-binary. Some 92,094 (89.8 per cent of people) in Pembrokeshire identified as straight. Meanwhile 1,093 people in Pembrokeshire (1.07 per cent) identified as gay or lesbian. A similar 1,050 (1.02 per cent) identified as bisexual. A total of 220 said that they were part of 'all other sexual orientations.' (The article does not mention that many people did not answer the

Source: Jack Riley, 'How much of Pembrokeshire's population identify as LGBTQ+?' Western Telegraph, 6 January 2023

2023

A teacher at Ysgol Greenhill, Tenby, won a prestigious award for inclusion after being nominated by her students. Health and Wellbeing Teacher Gemma Evans received the LGBT+ Inclusive Teacher of the Year Award on July 13, at a glittering ceremony hosted by Just Like Us, The Young People's LGBT+ Charity. Mrs Evans attended the ceremony in London alongside nominees from schools all over the UK, and was accompanied by Kay Davis who has been instrumental in leading change around diversity. In her acceptance speech, Mrs Evans said: "We find ourselves in an extremely lucky position living in Wales as we are introducing a new curriculum that has diversity as a golden thread running through all subject areas to ensure our learners become ethically informed citizens."

Source: Sarah-Jane Absalom, 'Ysgol Greenhill Tenby teacher wins prestigious award for inclusion,' Western Telegraph, 19 July 2023



Thank you

These have been just a few highlights from Sir Benfro / Pembrokeshire'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



