



# **The Wales LGBTQ+ Timeline Collection**

Torfaen 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.

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

## 1861

The death penalty for buggery was abolished when the Offences Against the Person Act 1828 was replaced with the Offences Against the Person Act 1861.

A total of 8921 men had been prosecuted since 1806 for sodomy with 404 sentenced to death and 56 executed. Homosexuality remained illegal until partially decriminalised in 1967 in England and Wales, and 1980 in Scotland.

## 1885

The British Parliament enacted Criminal Law Amendment Act 1885, section 11 of which, known as the Labouchere Amendment, prohibited gross indecency between males.

It thus became possible to prosecute homosexuals for engaging in sexual acts where buggery or attempted buggery could not be proven.

The Labouchere Amendment became known as the Blackmailers Charter because it was so easy to accuse men, regardless if it was true or not, of being homosexual.

## > 1895

## 1895

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



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

## 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.

## 1920

Roy Jenkins (1920–2003) a Welsh politician, born in Abersychan, was Chancellor of the Exchequer and Home Secretary under the Wilson and Callaghan Governments. Jenkins was sexually fluid and Tony Crosland (1918–1977) a British Labour Party politician and author, described their relationship as ‘an exceedingly close and intense friendship.’ Roy was instrumental in the 1967 partial decriminalisation of homosexuality.

Sources: John Campbell, *Roy Jenkins: A Well Rounded Life*, Jonathan Cape, 2014 & Norena Shopland, *Forbidden Lives: LGBT Stories from Wales*, Seren Books, 2017



## 1924

## 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.

## 1924

The National Eisteddfod is held in Pontypool during which Edward Prosser Rhys (1901-1945), a Welsh journalist, poet and publisher, won with his poem 'Atgof' (Memory or Reminiscence). The poem is extensively about heterosexual sex, but there is a short section about a same-sex experience which caused some controversy. It has been speculated that the feelings expressed in the poem could be about Morris T. Williams, a close male acquaintance of Prosser Rhys who at the time was married to Kate Roberts, who is also suggested to be sexually-fluid. Mihangel Morgan points out in *Queer Wales*, the author’s ‘special friend he describes as, ‘a charming yellow haired youth’ (‘[I]lanc gwalltfelyn, rhadlon’) and one night they fall asleep together and awake:

A'n cael ein humain cofleidio' dynn;  
A Rhyw yn ein gorthrymu; a'i fwynhau;  
A phallu'n sydyn fel ar lan y llyn ...

1924 continued over...

1924 continued...

And finding ourselves in a tight embrace  
With Sex overwhelming us; and enjoying it;  
And suddenly stopping as above the lake ...  
Followed immediately by remorse:  
Llwyr-ddeffro ... ac ystyried beth a waned  
Fe aeth f'ymennydd fel pwll tro gan boen;  
Roedd Cyfeillgarwch eto'n sarn dan draed,  
A ninnau gynau'n siwr [sic] santeiddio'n hoen!  
Mi lefais: Gad fi'n llonydd bellach Ryw,  
Yr wyf yn glaf, yn glaf, o eisiay Byw!  
Fully awake ... considering what had happened  
My brain became a whirlpool of pain;  
Again Friendship was a stepping-stone underfoot,  
Hadn't we just sworn to make it a sacred joy!  
I cried: Let me be now, Sex,  
I am sick, sick, for wanting to Live!



Rhys winning the crown in Pontypool

This short extract, Morgan argues is 'hardly the Great Poem of Welsh literature: it's rather a sort of bisexual anti-sex mea culpa.'

Source: Wikipedia; Mihangel Morgan, 'From Huw Arwystli to Siôn Eirian: Representative Examples of Cadi/Queer Life from Medieval to Twentieth-century Welsh Literature,' in Huw Osborne (ed), *Queer Wales: The History, Culture and Politics of Queer Life in Wales*, (Cardiff: University of Wales Press, 2016)



› 1951

1945

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

1946

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

1951

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

## 1954

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

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



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

## 1957

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



## 1967

## 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

## 1967

After recommendations of the Wolfenden Report (1957) were ignored by the government, several people attempted to have them enacted. However, it was Leo's bill that on 27 July 1967 finally achieved what the Pontypool and Torfaen MP had campaigning for. He claimed to have an insight into the damage and pain blackmailers could inflict on people trying to hide their sexuality. He cited his friend Lord Tony Pandy the former House of Commons speaker George Thomas who was threatened with expose of homosexual trysts. "He was living at a time when any overt expression of his homosexuality could have led to utter personal disaster and the end of his public life" Abse reflected, adding that he had intervened several times to protect George Thomas at one point lending him £800 (a small fortune at the time) to pay off the blackmailer. Leo was the area's representative in Parliament from 1958 to 1987 and had inspired nine Private Member's Acts. A bust of Leo, made by Luke Shepherd was presented to Torfaen Council to commemorate his work in the borough.

Source: Wikipedia; *Barry & District News*, 18 November 2008

Photo credit: © National Portrait Gallery, London

## 1970

Gay Liberation Front (GLF) was established.



## 1971

Police kept a watch on a 'cottage,' public lavatories at Clarence Road, Pontypool, through holes in the ceiling to watch for homosexual men. Six were arrested for gross indecency and each was fined £20 (about £350 today). Cottaging is a gay slang term, originating from the United Kingdom, referring to anonymous sex between men in a public lavatory (a "cottage" or "tea-room"), or cruising for sexual partners with the intention of having sex elsewhere.

Source: *South Wales Argus*, 19 November 1971



## 1979

## 1974

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

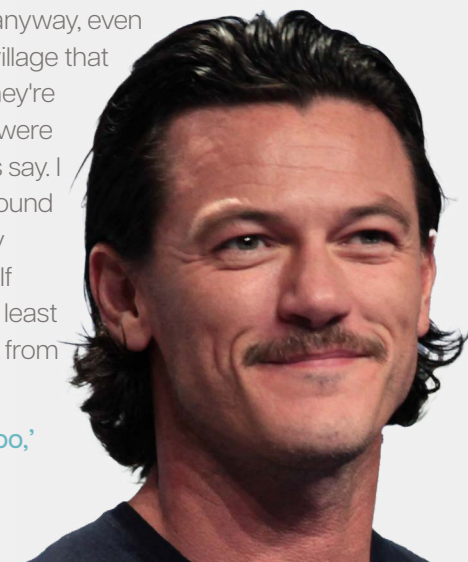
## 1979

Luke Evans (born 15 April 1979) is a Welsh actor and singer born in Pontypool, and brought up in Aberbargoed, who made his breakthrough in the *Clash of the Titans* 2010 remake and has since appeared in action and thriller films.

In 2020, he starred in a three-part TV miniseries *The Pembrokeshire Murders*. Luke is openly gay but is unwilling to discuss his sexuality in the press, asserting his personal life to be private however he did do an interview for the American LGBTQ+ publication *Advocate* while appearing on stage in Boy George's musical *Taboo*: "I had a very difficult upbringing. I was brought up as a Jehovah's Witness. And I'm the only child. And my mom and dad still are Jehovah's Witnesses, so I was never able to sort of naturally come out. It would have been very difficult anyway, even if my parents weren't Witnesses, to come out in the village that I was brought up in. [But] they both know now and they're both fantastic.' When the interviewer asked if actors were good liars, Luke replied, 'Look at George Michael, let's say. I mean, he hid it for so many years, and then he gets found out in a really awful way.... Y'know, you start a slippery slope downward, and I didn't want to start that at 22. If that means I'm going to be a poor man at 60, then at least I've lived a happy, open, gay life and not had to hide it from anybody.'

Source Wikipedia; Paris Barclay, 'Breaking the Taboo,' *Advocate*, 9 August 2011

Photo credit: Wikimedia Commons; By Gage Skidmore, CC BY 2.0



## 1982

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



## 1984

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

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

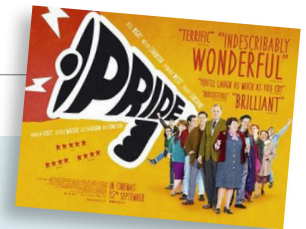


Photo credit:  
Wikimedia Commons  
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## 1987

## 1987

A newspaper advertisement inviting applications from people "of any sexual preference" for the post of manager at Cwmbran's new centre for young people was condemned by ministers and churchgoers. They claimed the wording "implied the homosexual or lesbian way of life is acceptable to society." The £333,000 centre was intended to act as a social meeting place, provide short term "crises accommodation" for homeless youngsters, offer vocational training and information on job opportunities and benefit rights. The centre's management committee chairman Stuart Cameron replied at the time that the advertisement was worded along the lines of those accepted daily in the national press.

This sparked off a series of letters in the *Free Press of Monmouthshire* including that from a Mrs A. Weeks from Griffithstown who asked if the council

chairman, Mr. Bill Cooper, 'if the advert "had no implications in that way whatsoever," did it state that candidates would be considered "regardless of sexual preference?"' She stated, 'I am sure that the majority of people, especially parents of young children would prefer their children to be taught Christian values than those of a sexual deviant.' Mrs J. Davage was of the same view, 'No one wants to discriminate against any individual but the paragraph which included the words "sexual preferences," was really stating the obvious and therefore as totally unnecessary and only served to attract people with sexual deviances ... I hope and pray that this type of advertisement never appears again in your newspaper.'

Sources: *Free Press of Monmouthshire*, 6 March 1987; *The News and Weekly Argus*, 11 June 1987



## 1987

In a discussion on how to stop public toilets being used by rent boys, various area police commented on their areas with Inspector Mike Blizzard at Pontypool said: "It's just something that now and then raises its head. There's no problem as such." And temporary Inspector Paul Bryant of Cwmbran Police said: "There wouldn't appear to be a serious problem."

Source: *South Wales Argus*, (date unknown) May 1987

## 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.



## 2003

## 21<sup>st</sup> CENTURY



### 2000

The UK Labour government stops banning homosexuals from the armed forces after the European Court of Human Rights rules it unlawful.

The government also introduces legislation to repeal Section 28 in England and Wales – Conservative MPs oppose the move. The bill is defeated by bishops and Conservatives in the House of Lords.

Scotland abolished Clause 2a (Section 28) of the Local Government Act in October though it remains in place in England and Wales.

### 2003

Due to the lack of privacy and places to meet, many men would use public places to meet/and or have sex. Apparently, gay men were meeting in a Cwmbran town centre public toilet, in the car park behind the Moonraker Pub, for lunchtime sexual encounters, claimed *The Argus*. It followed the arrest of a 42-year-old local man for committing indecent acts in the toilets. He was later fined £150 by Newport magistrates. Police put up signs outside the toilets notifying users that they are being monitored by CCTV cameras.

Source: *Barry & District News*, 30 May 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.



## 2005

## 2005

Male protestors, men dressed in 19th women's clothes, protested at the lack of restoration to a section of the Monmouth & Brecon Canal. The boatmen said they were trying to resurrect the spirit of the Daughters of Rebecca, a 19th rebel group who protested against road tolls and included a number who cross-dressed. The men thought council plans to restore Cwmbran town had overlooked the possibilities of its canal but Torfaen council said it did recognise the importance of the canal.

Source: BBC Wales, 'Transvestite protestors on the Mon & Brec restoration,' 1 May 2005



Rebecca Rioters

## 2006

A gay mother-of-three was targeted by a gang of up to 20 youths who attacked her and a friend with rock-filled snowballs. Tiffany Squires, 33, from Pontypool said it is the latest in a growing list of incidents in which she has been attacked for her sexuality. In the last nine months Ms Squires says windows have been smashed in her home in Trevethin five times. She had made numerous complaints to the police who carried out door-to-door enquires but nothing more is known.

Sources: *Barry & District News*, 7 December 2005 & 3 January 2006

## 2008

As the Civil Partnership law comes into effect, venues for civil ceremonies were being advertised at the registrar office in Pontypool and at the Commodore Hotel, Cwmbran, The Parkway Hotel, Garndiffaith Millennium Hall and the Civic Centre in Pontypool. The new law gave civil partners certain rights under the Adoption and Children Act of 2002 which meant a person could take parental responsibility for their civil partner's child, with the agreement of their civil partner, if that person already has parental responsibility. In addition, same sex couples would be able to apply to adopt a child jointly, and would be treated in the same way as married partners by the Child Support Agency. A civil partnership can only be ended by death, dissolution or annulment. The grounds for dissolving a partnership are the same as for a marriage.

Source: *Barry & District News*, 8 December 2008



## 2008

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

## 2008

Ian 'H' Watkins, previous from the band Steps, visited a Cwmbran school to educate pupils about homophobic bullying. A BBC documentary, on *Week In Week Out*, visited Llantarnam School during its travels around Wales and the students watched a DVD of homosexual teenagers talking about their sexuality and the struggles they had been through. They then took part in a quiz and workshop. Fiona Campbell, progress manager at Llantarnam School, said: "We want to raise awareness of equality and diversity." For Ian, who had only come out publicly the previous year, said tackling homophobic bullying was something close to his heart. Taila Steel, a Llantarnam pupil, thought the homophobic bullying day very informative: "I've never seen anyone being bullied for being gay but it's shocking to think it happens. I would still be friends with someone if they told me they were gay. It's awful to judge people because of their sexuality." David Bright, Head Teacher at Llantarnam School, said: "It was a very successful day and I've had a lot of positive feedback from teachers and pupils."

Source: *Barry & District News*, 5 February 2008



## 2008

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

Photo credit:  
Wikimedia Commons  
Open Government  
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**HEDDLU  
GWENT  
POLICE**

## 2009

Gwent Police showed their support for LGBTQ+ history month, by raising the rainbow flag at police headquarters in Croesyceiliog. The force invited reporter Ben Frampton to interview a gay officer, PSCO Dale Morris who said an equality awareness month had made a "big impression" on gay and bisexual people working within the force. PCSO Morris was out when he joined the force four years previous and was also the chairman of the Gwent Police Gay Support Network (GPGSN), established in 2002 and it then had 20 members compared with just three or four two years ago, it also offers support to straight people who may have gay relatives and want information. A flag was flown outside the headquarters in Croesyceiliog to mark the month, the fifth year the flag had been raised by Gwent Police and they were named among the top 100 employers promoting equality



in the workplace for the third year running. The force ranked 89th out of 317 organisations in the Workplace Equality Index produced by equality group, Stonewall. Only five other Welsh organisations made it into the top 100.

Source: *Barry & District News*, 8 January 2009; *Barry & District News*, 11 February 2009



## 2014

## 2009

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



## 2010

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

## 2012

Splag Wales, the Support Group for Parents of Lesbians and Gay Men host their Support Group and AGM in the coffee shop of the Parkway Hotel in Cwmbran on 30th June.

Source: *Splag Wales*, Newsletter Issue 44, May 2012

## 2014

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

## 2016

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



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

## 2017

Torfaen County Borough Council flies the Rainbow Flag outside the civic centre in Pontypool for a week, from August 25, to celebrate Pride Cymru week. On Friday, Torfaen staff were invited to dress down and wear rainbow colours to support the LGBT community. Torfaen CBC's executive member for communities, housing and anti-poverty with responsibility for equalities, David Daniels, said: "Leo Abse championed the change in legislation and was the Member of Parliament for Pontypool at that time so there is a particular connection with our area.

Source: Carys Thomas, 'Torfaen council and community celebrate LGBT issues with Rainbow Flag,' *South Wales Argus*, 21 August 2017



## 2017

## 2017

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



2010 - The grandstand in Pontypool Park - one of the best kisses I've ever had with a beautiful girl - realised how queer I was. //



My first kiss with a girl - my beautiful friend who's no longer with us. R.I.P.. Tamsin //



Realised I was more attracted to women than men. //

## 2018

Adam Smith, chairman and founder of Rainbow Newport speaks to the *South Wales Argus* about his background. 'I had an ok upbringing but I knew from high school that I was different – I didn't feel that I fitted in. I didn't know what was going on. I think it was at about 14 I started having feelings for guys. At the time I was living in Cwmbran with my mum and dad and I shut myself away - the only people I spoke to was my family. I had female friends, but never found them attractive. I came out when I was about 17, and as a result I moved with my dad down in Newport.' Adam later worked for Pride Cymru and was Chair of Pride in the Port, Newport.

Source: *South Wales Argus*, 28 March 2018

## 2019

Matthew Cleverly from Pontypool graduates from the Rose Bruford Class of 2017 with a BA (Hons) in American Theatre Arts course. Now, London based, he works as a freelance actor, playwright, ESL teacher, and Child Entertainer. He realised he was bisexual when meeting a group of like-minded individuals at school and 'observed the treatment of those individuals that did 'come out'.'

Sources: *The Mandy Network*; Jack Strange, 'Valley Boys Like Boys - Growing up Gay in the Welsh Valleys,' *The Gay UK*, 8 March 2019



## 2020

## 2019

In an interview, Jack Strange said, 'As I drive through the Welsh town of Pontypool I've lived in since I was born, with a population of approximately 36,000 people, I'm surprised to see a rainbow flag flying high outside the civic centre in the middle of the town. It's LGBT history month, but the flag doesn't just stay up during February. Instead, it has become a permanent feature, flying proudly with the Welsh flag and the European Union flag ... Growing up gay in Wales, I found it incredibly difficult. The town I live in is rather behind the times ... Lisa McNally is a mother from Cwmbran, South Wales. She witnessed her son, Lewis experience homophobic bullying ... "I have walked through school with Lewis to chants of 'faggot', 'gay boy', 'bummer', and I have endured this when walking through the town centre with Lewis, too. He ignores them. I found it hard to do so."

Source: Jack Strange, 'Valley Boys Like Boys - Growing up Gay in the Welsh Valleys,' *The Gay UK*, 8 March 2019

## 2020

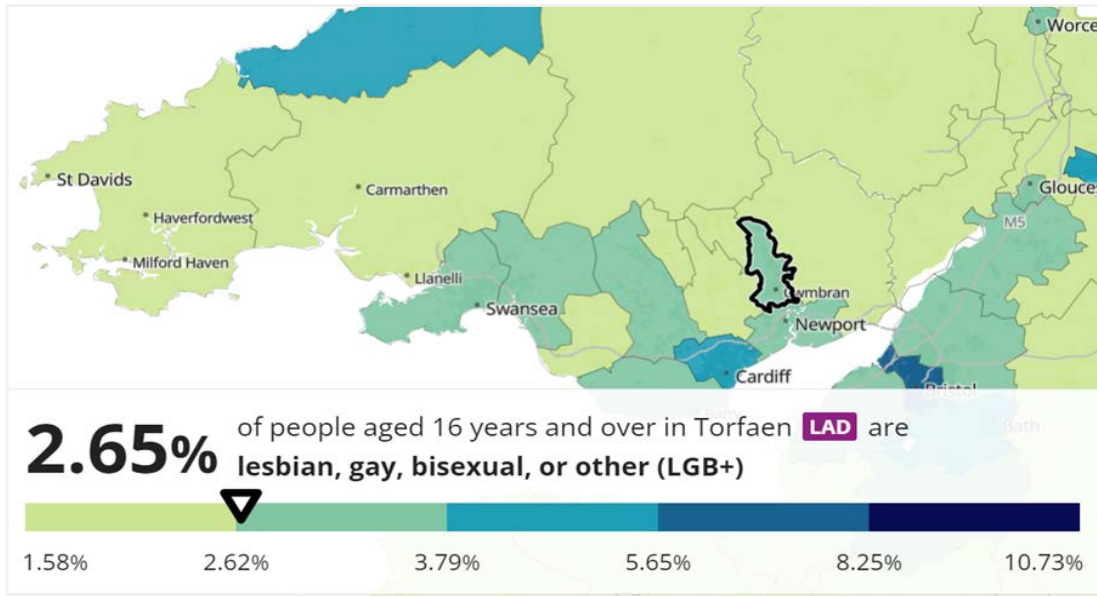
The Kings, Queens and Everyone In Between group was set up by the Torfaen council's youth service to offer lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender young people and their friends a safe place to meet. Founding member Hollie-Mai said: "This group is amazing for helping to educate people about the issues the community faces."

Torfaen Council is also working with Stonewall Cymru to offer staff training in supporting young residents who are members of the LGBTQ community.

Source: *Torfaen Council Facebook page*, 17 May 2021

# 2021

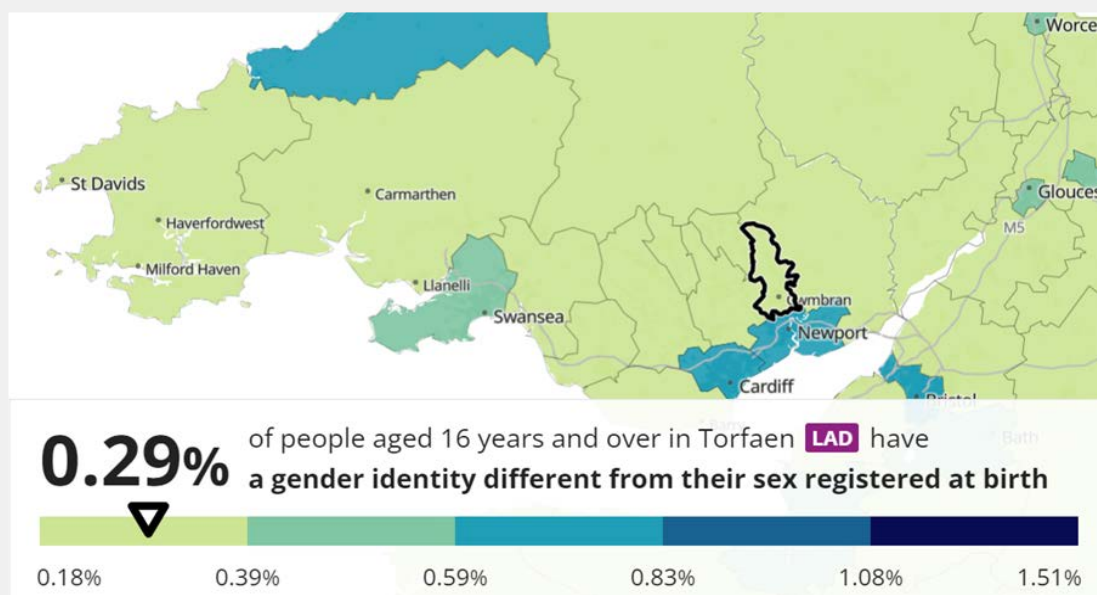
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## 2021

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



## 2022

Proud Councils - a group of eight south Wales local authorities committed to improving support offered to LGBT+ staff within councils - was shortlisted for the public sector equality award in the PinkNews awards. The group - Newport, Caerphilly, Torfaen, Blaenau Gwent, Rhondda Cynon Taf, Merthyr Tydfil, Cardiff, Bridgend and Swansea councils - also seek to ensure local government across Wales is a visible leader in the field of LGBT+ rights, actively championing LGBT+ inclusion in communities.

Source: *South Wales Argus*, 'Councils applauded for supporting LGBT staff,' 13 June 2022



## 2023

## 2023

A council campaign to push LGBTQ+ rights helped a top councillor to “accept” he’d been “denying” his identity as a gay man. Richard Clark, who was the deputy leader of Torfaen Borough Council, revealed how awareness-raising campaigns by the council had helped change his life when councillors agreed to support local Pride initiatives which promote acceptance, equality and celebrate the work of LGBTQ+ people. The councillor, who has lived all his life in Croesygeiliog, said, “I, for one, feel proud of who I am and what this council does in support of equality.”

Cllr Clark was the second Torfaen councillor to have spoken publicly about their experiences as a gay man. At June’s council meeting his Labour colleague, Nathan Yeowell, who represents Panteg, revealed the toll feeling unable to discuss his sexuality as a young man had taken on his mental health.

Source: Twm Owen, ‘Torfaen’s LGBTQ+ campaign helps top councillor to be proud and accept his identity,’ *Herald of Wales*, (no date, possibly August 2023)

## 2023

On 18th July, Torfaen Council was being presented with a motion by Independent Councillor, Giles Davies, to acknowledge the LGBTQ+ community in the borough of Torfaen as well as to acknowledge support by the local authority for a pride event in Torfaen. The motion reads:

“This council notes that the LGBTQ+ community is an important part of our society and that it is important to support and celebrate diversity in all its forms. This council also notes that the LGBTQ+ community has faced significant challenges over the years, including discrimination and prejudice. This council therefore resolves to support LGBTQ+ Pride events across the borough in their communications including social media channels, highlighting the importance of Pride and why we must continue to support our LGBTQ+ family members, friends, colleagues, and constituents. This council also resolves to promote equality and diversity in all its forms and to work towards creating a more inclusive society for all.”

Sources: [Torfaen Pride website](#)



## 2024

The first Torfaen Pride is to take place on 1 June in Pontypool Park. 'Club F.O.D is one of the few charities in the UK that focuses on preventing and reducing social isolation for LGBT+ people. CEO, Jamie Wake, was initially tasked with establishing dedicated LGBT+ dedicated nights, events and activities when he moved to South Wales from Reading where we had already established popular events. After he had moved, he started exploring the possibility of setting up a dedicated LGBT+ night and was repeatedly told that Torfaen needed its own pride event, and so Torfaen Pride was born. "Not only is it our intention to build a successful pride event here in Torfaen, but also to build a sense of community and develop dedicated LGBT+ nights and activities across Torfaen for the LGBT+ community. We are also in the development stage of establishing an LGBT+ community hub for Torfaen and the surrounding valleys."

Source: Torfaen Pride website; Pink UK website



› 2024



## Thank you

These have been just a few highlights from Torfaen's sexual orientation and gender identity history.

If you think we've missed anything that should be included, please do let us know by using the web link below.

We will update the timeline on a regular basis.

[www.lgbtqcymru.swansea.ac.uk](http://www.lgbtqcymru.swansea.ac.uk)



**Draig Enfys**



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