



The Wales LGBTQ+ Timeline Collection

Wreccsam / Wrexham 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.

18th CENTURY >

1778

Ladies of Llangollen having fled Ireland so they could live together were looking for a place to settle down. In May 1778 they travelled through north Wales, often visiting local attractions including Chirk Castle.

Once settled in Llangollen, they often visited the Castle, which they admired and knew the Myddelton's who owned it. They bought cheese from the staff there and exchanged plants and gardeners. In the rental book for Chirk Castle for 1796, (NLW Chirk, F 12410, f. 17), there is an entry for Lady Eleanor Butler and Miss Ponsonby for £1.11.6. They are one of the very few on the entire large estate who were not in arrears. The volume does not provide any detail of the land Butler and Ponsonby rented.

Source: *Early Tourists in Wales* website, *Ladies of Llangollen finances*.



Photo credit: Wikimedia Commons



19th CENTURY >

1857

Anne Cartwright from the Rhos on Sea was, in 1857 attempted to follow her young man to Australia from Liverpool. Despite being dressed in sailor's attire (although it is not stated how she managed to acquire them) she "prematurely betrayed her sex." She was shipped back to the parental home but tried again. This time she took her brother's clothes, stole 4s 6d but only got as far as Wrexham. She ended up spending the money on drink and was so tipsy she attracted the attention of P.C. Sheen who locked her up. She told them she wanted to go to Australia as a cabin boy having performed several

voyages in that capacity. It seems to have been a lie as she certainly was not cut out to impersonate a sailor and was once more sent home.

Source: *Wrexham and Denbighshire Adviser*, 29 August 1857



There were thousands of 'female sailors' and 'female soldiers' - those who cross-lived often for decades and served on board ships and in military regiments - throughout history.

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.

1865

Thomas Manuel, 23, was arraigned for having at Wrexham, committed an unnatural crime with one William Williams, on the 10th of July, 1865. Prisoner pleaded not guilty. Mr Swetenham prosecuted. John Bonnor, a hawker, residing at Chester, John Lucas Watson, P.C. Hoffrens, and Wm. Williams, were called upon to prove the case. The evidence at Prisoner's request, was interpreted into Welsh, by Mr Isaac Clarke. The jury found the prisoner guilty of an attempt to perpetrate the offence. The judge, addressing the prisoner, said – You have been found guilty of an attempt to commit the abominable offence of sodomy. I am afraid that anything I might say to you would be thrown over. Therefore I shall content myself with passing a sentence upon you of 18 months' imprisonment, with hard labour.

Source: *North Wales Chronicle*, 5 August, 1865



1883

1882

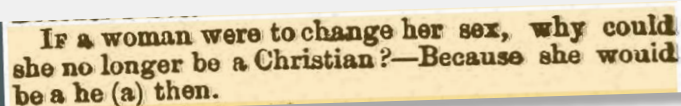
Singular Conduct of a Tailor. At Wrexham, a tailor, named James O. Williams, was charged with masquerading in female attire.

The prisoner paid a visit, to a Salvation Army meeting, dressed in a black bodice and skirt, a red and white plaid shawl, and a black straw hat, trimmed with black ribbon. His sex was suspected, and a large crowd, some 500 or 600 strong, gathered round him.

He was ultimately taken into custody. The prisoner said it was a joke. He was fined 5s. and costs.

Source: *Western Mail*, 29 August, 1882

1883



If a woman were to change her sex, why could she no longer be a Christian?—Because she would be a he (a) then.

Source: *Wrexham and Denbighshire Advertiser*, 21 December 1883

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.

1889

An individual giving the name of John Nolan who was sentenced by the Wrexham magistrates to a month's imprisonment for being drunk and disorderly, has been unmasked. When in gaol, "John" proved to be a woman, and she admitted having worn male attire for the last seven years.

Source: *Rhyl Record and Advertiser*, 4 May 1889



› 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.



21st CENTURY >

1906

At the Wrexham Petty Sessions, Albert Edwards, 28, labourer, was charged with attempting to commit sodomy with Ernest Edward Griffith, on 31 January 1905 and was charged with gross indecency. He pleaded guilty and was sentenced to six months imprisonment with hard labour.

Source: *UK Calendar of Prisoners, 1868-1929* via Ancestry.

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.



1951

1918

Freda Danilo, a male impersonator, appears at The Hippodrome with ‘a new American military speciality.’

Source: *Llangollen Advertiser*, 7 June 1918

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.

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-Repphotography.jpg



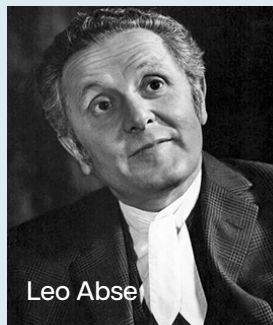
1974

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

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.

1976

A letter to the *Wrexham Leader* from someone called 'Tolerant' wrote, 'following heated the correspondence in the Leader on homosexuality, perhaps it would comfort the unusual but not 'unfortunate' people, who relate to the same sex as their own, to know that some of us regard them in the same light as the left-handed, i.e. simply possessed of a social handicap. Against nature? well that could be argued - but so is the use of contraceptives, mowing the lawn and cutting your nails ... Loving each other is what matters, love is never lost, just handed on.'

Source: *Wrexham Leader*, Letters, 16 June 1976

1976

Peter Swingler, 28, of Hightown, Wrexham and secretary of the Chester branch of CHE (Campaign for Homosexual Equality) wanted to raise awareness around equality. He told the *Evening Leader*, that as a teenager he had dated girls and even got engaged 'purely because it was the conventional thing to do,' but 'I'd been aware of my feelings for some time, and the most awful part in those days was having absolutely nobody to talk to. It was after the engagement was broken off that I had my first sexual encounter. For quite some time afterwards I felt a lot of personal distaste because it was against everything I had been brought up to believe in. My advice to anyone with 'gay' inclinations is to try and come to terms with their sexuality, and, in easy stages, tell your family and closest friends, then tell other people as the need arises. It is not an illness.

Source: *Evening Leader*, 26 July 1976



1976

1976

A man from Ruabon appeared before Wrexham magistrates charged with committing an act of gross indecency with another man. He was remanded on a bail of £25 but the outcome is not recorded in the newspapers.

Source: *Evening Leader*, 26 October 1976

1976

R. Llewelyn Parry, the Secretary of Capel Cymru 85 in Llay had spoken out against homosexuality and in a letter to the *Wrexham Leader*, complained about the attacks on him. 'According to Mr Alun Brown (May 28) I am a "victim of blind prejudice." Prejudiced may be, as most men are against homosexuality, but hardly blind as I was an instructor of native troops stationed in India during Hitler's war. I must have seen sex in all its forms with its atrocious and chaotic consequences ... Mr N. D. Wallace (May 28) writes that I hate passionately so many aspects of society, but I would suggest that the hatred is within him arising from the insecurity that afflicts all homosexuals and those who deviate from the natural order ... my critics have confirmed my worst fears, that the character of the British people as we have known it is gradually changing by mass immigration and homosexuality. They have all said what a beautiful thing homosexuality is, which means that child birth must inevitably decline with the present advance of homosexuality.

Source: *Wrexham Leader*, Letters, 11 June 1976

1976

Robin Guest, of Cefn Mawr, Newbridge, Chairman of the Welsh League of Young Liberals, in a letter to the *Wrexham Leader*, defended their position in response to an adverse letter a week earlier criticising their stance. Guest, wrote that they had called for recognition that 'two people of the same sex can have genuine feelings of love for each other, based on the same emotions as a heterosexual relationship. The writer calls this 'unnatural living' despite the fact that homosexuality is known to have existed virtually throughout history. If a thing exists

in nature then surely it is natural. It undoubtedly is natural to a considerable number of people, whose wish is to be able to display their love for each other in society in the same way that heterosexual couple do. To suggest as Mr Parry does that the Young Liberals are encouraging people to become homosexual, regardless of their true sexuality, is grossing misleading and ignorant.'

Source: *Wrexham Leader*, 4 June 1976



1981

1978

Wrexham's Church in Wales Benefice Committee on Social Responsibility issued a report on its first problem study – that of homosexuality and lesbianism. The Wrexham committee wrote, 'we talked a lot. We met with a member of the Campaign for Homosexual Equality. We confess that we found it as difficult to come to a definite and common mind on the subject as we did in trying to discover its causes ... the committee feels "better informed now" and comes to the conclusions: Christians must accept people as they are, without judging their particular sexual orientation ... Christian must examine the question of 'sexuality' as such, and not just its apparent deviations.'

Source: *Wrexham Leader*, 'Church Report on gays', 2 June 1978

1981

The Chester branch of CHE (Campaign for Homosexual Equality) claimed discrimination against gay people at both Chester and Clywd County Council (On 1 April 1996, under the Local Government (Wales) Act 1994, Clwyd County Council was broken up and replaced with the following authorities: Flintshire, Wrexham County Borough, Denbighshire and parts of Conwy). It was claimed that an employee of Clywd County Council had worked for some time in a department dealing with young people but when it was announced that he had been appointed an official of CHE, he was transferred to a department dealing with the elderly. CHE believed this was discrimination and that 'there are no anti-discrimination laws for gays, whereas there are for the minority groups, such as black people and Jews.' CHE was trying to set up meeting with various bodies to discuss the matter.

Source: *Evening Leader*, 14 September 1981



1982

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.

Concerns were growing about cottaging near the Parciau, Bradley Road. The park had long had a reputation as a meeting place for homosexuals but more men had been visiting in the past two years. Park workers had found messages in the cubicles and recognised many homosexuals because of their frequent visits but believed violence could flare as youngsters had started taunting them. A spokesman for the Chester branch for Homosexual Equality explained why homosexuals were forced to meet in places like public toilets. "Gays are still repressed and many are frightened to 'come out' and reveal that they are homosexual. They chose somewhere they can meet and this becomes their 'cottage'. We don't encourage cottaging because it can be dangerous and leaves homosexuals open to attack. I must stress that sex does not take place in the toilets – it is only a pick-up place." He said a 'Gay Centre' was unlikely to work in Wrexham, as it does in Chester, because the people were less tolerant ... the Beastmarket was a well-known "cottage" at one time, and the toilets at the Albion car park were gaining a reputation.

Source: Max Glaskin, 'Families fear trouble at toilets where 'gays' meet', *Wrexham Leader*, 23 April 1982



1985

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.



1985

Stifyn Parri attended Rhosllanerchrugog school and later Ysgol Morgan Llwyd where he enjoyed acting, writing, and singing - he recorded an album at just 15 years old. He landed a role in C4's *Brookside* as Christopher Duncan – shocking a nation with the first soap opera on-screen gay kiss.

Source: Martin Williams, 'Cardiff talent agency's 10 years among the stars,' *Daily Post*, 16 May 2011

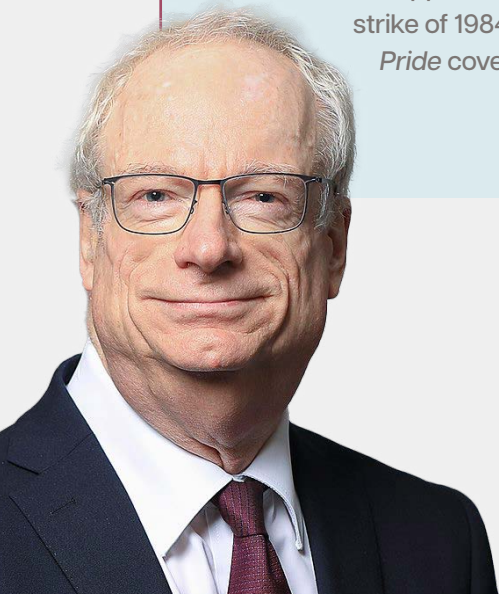


Photo credit: Wikimedia Commons
© Roger Harris

1986

R. Llewelyn Parry, the Secretary of Capel Cymru 85 in Llay was back in the correspondence page of the *Wrexham Leader*, with a letter complained about the TV programme, *Y Byd Ar Bedwar* [The World on Four] on S4C, 6 June that ‘techniques of homosexual love are taught in detail.’

Source: *Wrexham Leader*, 19 September 1986

1986

A letter from Gwyn Price, Cefndre, Wrexham reacted to an adverse letter in the paper the week before, claiming the writer, W.W. Lewis was ‘a soul in torment. Why blame homosexual people for the spread of AIDS, when it can be imparted by anybody who may come in contact with blood infected with the disease? He then touts the view that people who walk the streets with arms entwined should not be treated like everybody else. What makes W.W. Lewis so antagonistic to other people’s sexual needs?’

Source: *Evening Leader*, 30 December 1986



› 1994

1988

Section 28 of the Local Government Act 1988 enacted as an amendment to the United Kingdom's Local Government Act 1986, on 24 May 1988 stated that a local authority “shall not intentionally promote homosexuality or publish material with the intention of promoting homosexuality” or “promote the teaching in any maintained school of the acceptability of homosexuality as a pretended family relationship”.

There was not a single prosecution under Section 28 because nobody knew what ‘promote’ meant or what a ‘pretended family relationship’ was supposed to be.

1994

MPs decided in a historic vote to lower the age of consent for homosexual men from 21 to 18. Voting was 427 to 162, an overwhelmingly majority of 265. Dr John Marek (Wrexham) voted for the motion. 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.

Source: *Herald of Scotland*, 22 February 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.

2000

Wrexham Glyndwr Students' Union LGBT+ Student Society is made up of LGBT+ students who study at Wrexham Glyndwr. The society operates under the name WGSU LGBT+ Society, and are open to any student that self-defines as any aspect of the LGBT+ spectrum.

Source: [Wrexham Glyndwr Students' Union website](#)



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.

2005

After more than 20 years together, two Druid priests exchanged vows during Wrexham's first gay civil partnership ceremony. Wearing white robes, Philip Main and David Girvan made their promises to each other on the day of the Winter Solstice, a pagan celebration. Speaking after the service, the pair, who held a commitment ceremony as Druids more than 16 years ago, said they were "elated."

Source: *BBC News*, 21 December 2005



2008

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



Photo credit: Wikimedia Commons
Open Government Licence v3.0

2009

2009

Trooper James Wharton, 22, of Wrexham, made Army history when he appeared as an openly gay soldier on July's cover of the 60-year-old publication. It had been less than a decade since homosexuality was legalised in the armed forces, and many saw James' appearance as the final acceptance of diversity in the Army. He said: "I joined the army six years ago and am now a Trooper with the Household Cavalry. Being gay in the Army is like being gay anywhere else. Sometimes you get stick, but mostly it's fine. I've always known I was gay, but I came out in the

Army when I was 16. I would encourage any gay people wanting to join to sign up. I love my job, you get to travel and I've had few problems because of my sexuality." James Wharton's autobiography, *Out in the Army: My Life as a Gay Soldier*, is published in 2013 to positive reviews.

Source: Francesca Elliott, 'Trooper James Wharton from Wrexham makes history after appearing as openly gay soldier on the front of Soldier Magazine', *Flintshire Chronicle*, 6 August 2009



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.

2010

Rugby player Gareth 'Alfie' Thomas transferred from Cardiff Blues to the Crusaders based at Wrexham and was living at the Rossett Hall Hotel. The year before, Gareth had come out as gay. It was "a dramatic turnaround for one of Wales's greatest sporting icons, who a couple of years ago was so weighed down with the fear and shame of his hidden sexuality that he was on the brink of suicide." In 2014, Gareth wrote, *Proud: My Autobiography* and has since worked on raising awareness on matters of sexuality and health.

Source: Emma John, 'Gareth Thomas: the interview,' *The Guardian*, 10 October 2010



2014

2013

Rustic Rainbow is a social group for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Trans people in North Wales aimed at people who love living in rural Wales. Non-scene-based group. Activities include walks, visits to historical Welsh places of interest, garden parties, bbqs, dinner parties and film nights.

2014

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

2014

When churches in Wrexham were asked about their lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender approach most offered a warm welcome. Ben Whitehouse contacted a number of churches in Wrexham to ask if would be accepted into a congregation as a gay Christian and wrote up the responses in his blog, 'Here's what happened when I emailed all the churches in Wrexham telling them I was gay & wanted to join their church,' *Wrexham.com* noticed the blog and asked Ben to keep them updated. "Every time I've moved house I've contacted local churches," he said, "and canvassed whether I'd be welcome in the church congregation and whether I'd be welcome to take communion (in whatever form that takes within that community)." While most were welcoming, one St Johns, on the corner of Herbet Jennings Avenue and Borrass Road, said: "We have one or two members who would be likely to make things quite uncomfortable for you."

Sources: Ben Whitehouse, 'Here's what happened when I emailed all the churches in Wrexham telling them I was gay & wanted to join their church,' *The Blog By Ben Whitehouse*, 20 February 2014; *Wrexham.com*, 22 February 2014



2019

Wrexham Council flies the rainbow flag outside the Guildhall. Cllr Andrew Atkinson, Lead Member for People – Youth Services and Anti-poverty said “Wrexham is a place for everyone. We’re proud to celebrate our inclusivity and diversity and help to raise awareness of LGBT causes”.

Source: *Wrexham Council News* website, ‘Rainbow flag flying in Wrexham’, 4 February 2019

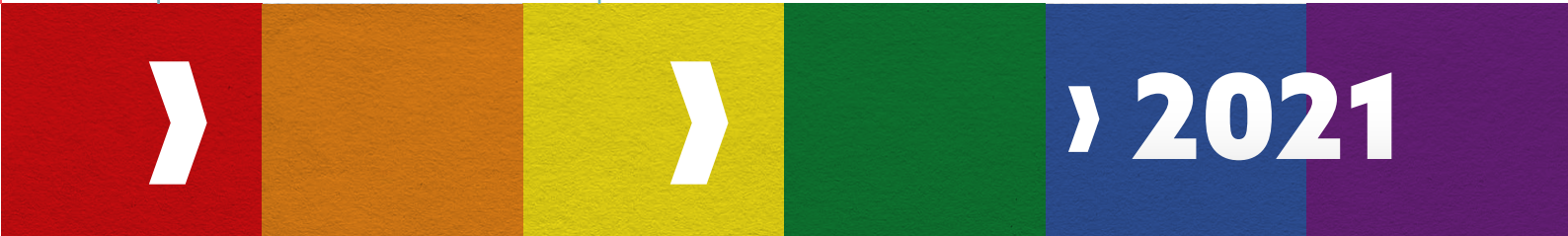
2020

Stonewall Cymru publishes its ‘Black LGBTQ+ Organisations you should know about.’

Source: Stonewall Cymru website

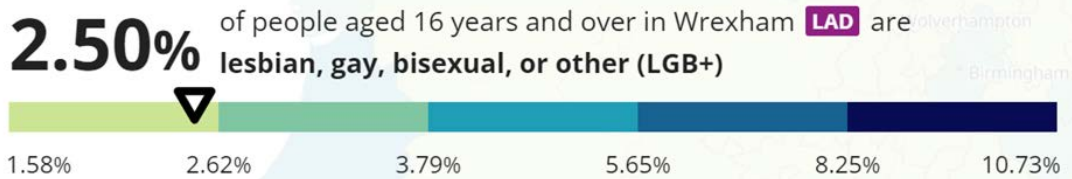
2016

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



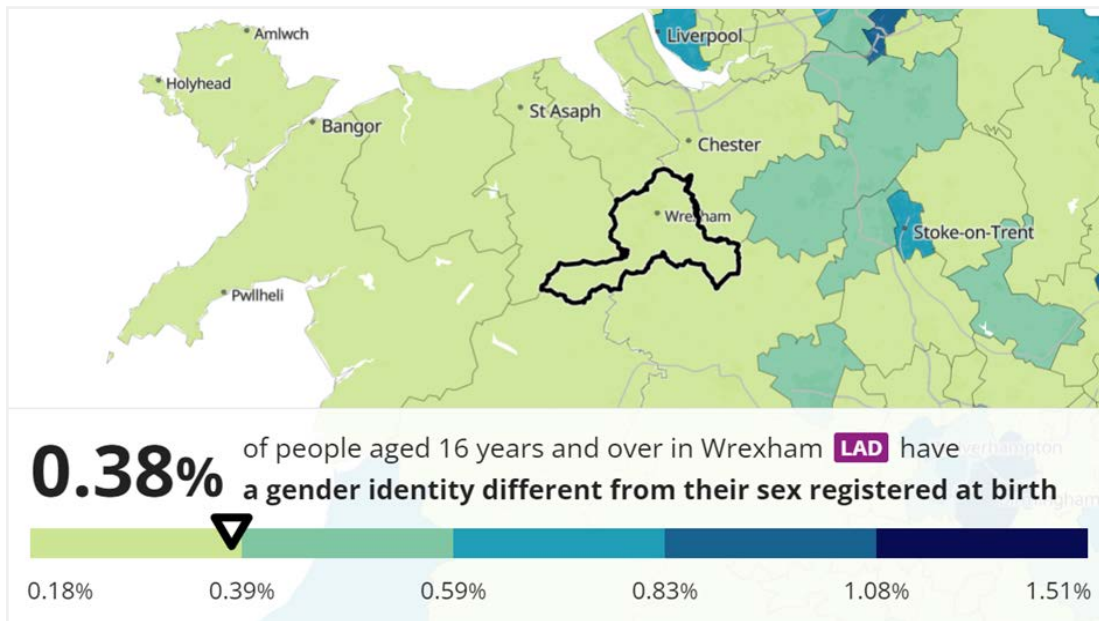
2021

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2021

2021

Wrexham AFC, the oldest club in Wales and the third-oldest professional association football team in the world, is recognised for their LGBTQ+ inclusion work at the Puma-sponsored Football v Homophobia Awards, in the Non-League category. Hollywood stars and owners of Wrexham AFC, Rob McElhenney and Ryan Reynolds, acknowledged the club's "inclusive and forward-thinking" reputation. In 2020 the club launched Proud Dragons, an LGBTQ+ fans group, with the hope of getting that part of the inclusion message out there, however, "We'd had new shirts made for us with rainbow names and numbers, and all our sponsors had agreed to have their logos in rainbow too," said Steve Lloyd, the Wrexham Supporters Trust's Community Lead, "But the weather and Covid meant we never got to hold the game."

Source: Jon Holmes, 'Why Wrexham's Football v Homophobia Awards success will be welcomed by club's new Hollywood owners,' *Sky Sports*, 5 February 2021

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

Jamie Insole, Wales Policy Official for University and College Union (UCU Wales) responded to the Welsh Government's *LGBTQ+ Equality Action Plan* noting under Existing Good Practise:

Glyndwr University currently runs a LGBT staff network. On arriving at the institution, an interviewee described choosing not to disclose her identity on an entrance equality form. This decision was influenced by her previous negative experience of teaching in a male dominated workplace where LGBT issues were dismissed or treated with contempt (i.e., "bi people are just greedy"). However, having taken an active role in the network since arriving, she describes several positive features. Not being chaired by management, the LGBT network provides a relaxed space which is frequented by a wide range of LGBT staff across

the university including leaders, early career staff and people working in HR. The culture is both social (organising LGBT film screenings) and change driven. In explaining how the network fed into the equality committee and wider university planning, she described; "excellent feedback mechanisms", saying that "we can talk about whatever we want to talk about". With respect to the wider culture, it was felt that Glyndwyr was "much more open and supportive than (cultures) outside the institution."

Source: [Jamie Insole, Response To: LGBTQ+ Equality Action Plan Consultation, 2021. Available online.](#)



2022

2022

Welcome to Wrexham, an American sports documentary series is aired. In an episode titled "Family Business" viewers meet LGBTQ parents whose children are central figures in the series such as Striker Ollie Palmer and his dad Andy, an ex-police officer, 'It was months and months of deciding what route do I take,' said Andy in the documentary. "How do I go about telling my children their dad is also gay?" "Father and son reflect on the events of 20 years ago, when

LGBTQ rights were not as advanced in the U.K. as they are today. The country was still under Section 28, a piece of legislation that meant homosexuality was rarely if ever discussed in schools. There were very few out gay role models in society and equal marriage would not be enacted in the UK for at least another decade. Andy tells Ollie: "Do you know what my dad said to me, when I told him? He said, can you go to the doctor and get any tablets for it? That's what people of his era would think."

Source: [Jon Holmes, 'Coming out story of footballer's gay father told in 'Welcome to Wrexham,' Out Sports, 9 November 2023](#)



2022

One in 34 North Wales police officers identify as gay or lesbian, according to a survey. A Freedom of Information request sent by the PA news agency asked North Wales Police for a breakdown of the sexual orientation of its more than 1,500 officers in November. Of the 1,125 that responded when snapshot staffing figures were gathered, 33 (2.9%) said they were gay or lesbian. Meanwhile, 1.7% identified as bisexual and less than 1% said they prefer to self-describe. The proportion of officers identifying as bisexual ranged between 0.8% in Dyfed and Powys and Suffolk, and 4.4% in Warwickshire. 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. Broadstock said 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: Jack Harrison, 'First figures of their kind show number of LGB police officers in North Wales,' *The Leader*, 27 February 2022



2023



2023

First Wrexham Pride announced. The event was confirmed for July 27, 2024 and has been organised by Pride Wrexham in partnership with William Aston Hall. Kate Hutchinson, chair of Pride Wrexham, said preparations for the event were still in its infancy but had reached a stage where celebrations can go ahead after years of planning. She said: "A number of us have been trying to get a pride for Wrexham now for a number of years and for one reason or another it's always stalled a little bit. She said: "There's a lot of people in Wrexham who are from the LGBT community who go elsewhere; if they want to go for a night out and feel free to be themselves they go to Chester, they go to Liverpool, they go to Manchester, they go somewhere else."

Source: Rhys Evitts, *The Leader*, 29 August 2023

2023

Over 150 people attended the National LGBT+ Police Conference held in the East Midlands on 28 July when police officers and staff from almost every UK Police force come together to support their LGBT+ colleagues and communities. The Julie Barnes-Frank Award for Excellence in LGBT+ Policing was presented to PCSO Connor Freel from North Wales Police who works in the Flintshire South area for his contributions to LGBT+ Policing and his valued efforts towards trans inclusion in UK Policing. Connor also lectures at Wrexham Glyndwr University about equality, diversity and inclusion and societal attitudes.

Source: [Heddlu Gogledd Cymru/ North Wales Police website](#), 4 August 2023





Thank you

These have been just a few highlights from Wrexham / Wrexham'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

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