



The Wales LGBTQ+ Timeline Collection

Ynys Môn / Anglesey 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.

19th 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.

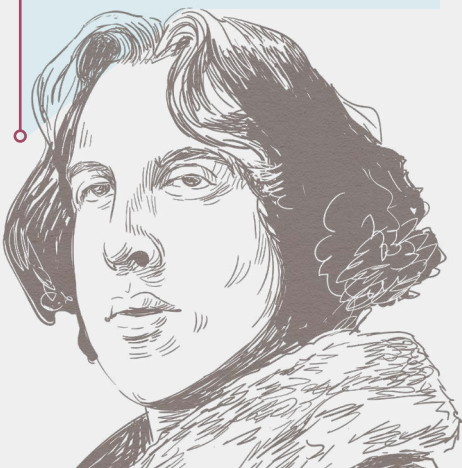
It thus became possible to prosecute homosexuals for engaging in sexual acts where buggery or attempted buggery could not be proven.

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.

> 1898

1895

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



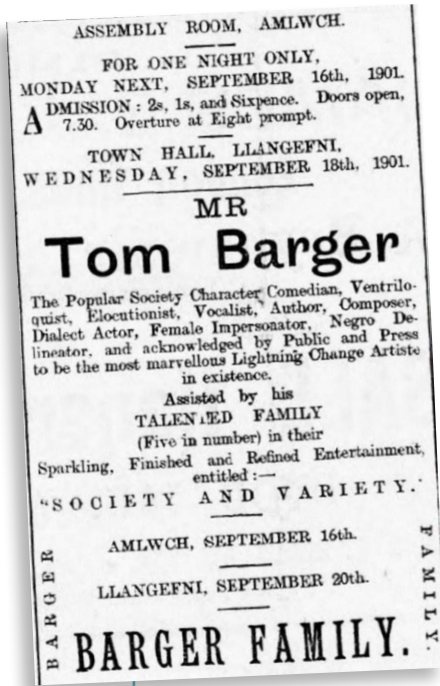
1898

Henry Paget becomes the 5th Marquess of Anglesey but squandered most of his fortune on a lavish lifestyle. In 1870, the homosexual reformer H. Montgomery Hyde characterised him as the “most notorious aristocratic homosexual at this period.” One journalist wrote, “I am driven to the conclusion from much that I have seen that there are men who ought to have been born women, and women who ought to have been born men ... Bearing the form of a man, he yet had all the tastes, something even of the appearance, of not only a woman, but, if the phrase be permissible, a very effeminate woman.” His home, Plas Newydd, is now a National Trust property and Henry was featured on their *Pride and Prejudice* journal cover in 2017.

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



20th CENTURY >



1901

Tom Barger, a Welsh female impersonator, appears at Amlwch and Llangefni.

Source: *Y Clorianydd*, 12 September 1901

1904-1906

Rachel Barrett (1874–1953), a Welsh suffragette and newspaper editor taught science at a school in Llangefni after she graduated in 1904. Her suffragette activities did not go down well and a fellow teacher disapproved of the publicity. Rachel went on to have a long-term relationship with the Australian author Ida A. R. Wylie (1885–1959).



Photo credit: Wikimedia Commons By Lena Connell (1875-1949)

Source: Wikipedia



1914

1906

William Thomas Rowlands first came to light in November 1906 when a short piece appeared in the *Evening Express* entitled *Man in Female Attire*. 'A young man impersonated a woman with such fidelity as to deceive the police'. William Thomas Rowlands, from Llangefni on Anglesey was alleged to have obtained twenty different articles of female attire by false pretences, and walking about Carnarvon in female costume. On 26 November, William appeared in court at Carnarvon, described as a 'youth of 17 who had, until recently, resided at the Llanerchymedd Workhouse' on Anglesey. The charges being 'obtaining, by false pretences, ladies attire consisting of a skirt, nightshirt, a motor veil, and a blouse, from the Bee Hive, Llanberis.' William continued to dress as a woman until 1909 when nothing further is known.

Sources: William appears in several newspapers from 1906-1909.

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.

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.



1957

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.

1957

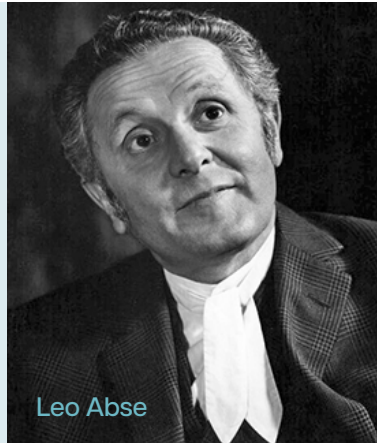
The Wolfenden Committee is formed. When it concludes in 1957 it recommends a partial decriminalisation for male homosexuality. When these recommendations are not followed by the government the Homosexual Law Reform Society is formed to campaign for the recommendations to be enacted.



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

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.



1982

1971

Stuart Andrew (born 1971) is a Conservative politician. He has been MP for Pudsey in Leeds since 2010. Stuart Andrew grew up on a council estate in Anglesey, going to school in Menai Bridge.



A Conservative supporter from an early age, he switched to Labour for a time. He met his partner Robin while working for a hospice in Lancashire and they decided to move to Leeds together. He was a Leeds city councillor from 2003 to 2010. During a debate in Parliament, he recalled having been attacked in the street and beaten unconscious "because of who and what I am."

Source: LGBT Archive, www.lgbtarchive.uk

1974

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



1982

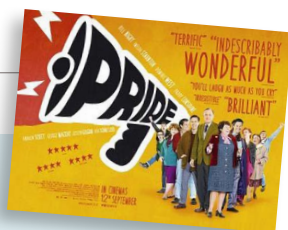
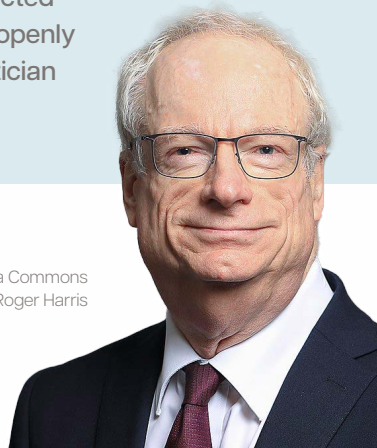
Welshman Terry Higgins dies of AIDS in St Thomas' Hospital London. His partner Rupert Whitaker and friend Martyn Butler set up the Terry Higgins Trust (which became the Terrence Higgins Trust), the first UK AIDS charity.

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
© 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.



1997

1994

MPs voted to lower the age of consent for homosexual men from 21 to 18 to put it in line with the age of consent for heterosexual men. The MP from Ynys Môn who did vote to reduce the age to 18, was Ieuan Wyn Jones (Plaid Cymru). In the end, voting was 427 to 162, an overwhelmingly majority of 265 for 18.

Source: *The Herald of Scotland*, 22 Feb 1994;
Gay Times, April 1994

1997

When Labour came to power in 1997, Alun Michael from Bryngwran, Anglesey, becomes a Minister of State in the Home Office and Peter Tatchell writes, “Home Office Minister, Alun Michael, who is also Labour’s spokesman on gay matters, agrees: “We have come into office with an enormous range of issues which we are committed to deal with, and there is a hierarchy of priorities”. In terms of government pledges on gay equality, Michael says the age of consent is “the most important issue”. If that is the case, Labour’s vagueness and hesitation on the consent issue casts a pessimistic shadow over the future of law reform.”

Source: Peter Tatchell, *New Labour, New Hype?*
Peter Tatchell website.

21st CENTURY >

2000

Controversy over the repeal of Section 28. David E Sutcliffe from Amlwch, Anglesey wrote an open letter stating, 'a leopard doesn't change its spots, people are born that way, either heterosexual, homosexual or bi-sexual. It isn't possible for homosexuality to be caught from or taught by other people, it isn't a disease. No amount of promotion or therapy will change one's sexuality. Therapy experiments over many years after World War II, were a failure. The fear that heterosexuals can be converted by the promotion of homosexuality in school is quite unfounded.' An anonymous writer replied that 'Sutcliffe's regular pontification on this page somewhat tiresome' before using the same tired excuse of 'protecting the children.' The writer added, 'your readers may be disappointed to learn that MP/AM for Ynys Môn, Ieuan Wyn Jones, shares the same stance as Mr Sutcliffe. Mr Jones states that: "I have come to the view, after considerable

thought, that it is not right to use the law to force a moral code of behaviour." ... the writer urged readers "who feel strongly about this matter to write to Mr Jones asking him to reconsider his stance on this important issue." David Dalzell, from Cemaes Bay also objected, 'I hope that your readers are not taken in by the diatribe from David Sutcliffe concerning Clause 28. The Clause does not stop sex education or promote bullying in our schools. It is in place to prevent the promotion of unnatural sex practices in schools by people within the education system. The Labour Government is trying to remove Clause 28 today to [please] the homosexual lobby, a vote catcher. Clause 28 must stay for the protection of our children.'

Source: *Bangor Mail*, 23 February 2000; *Bangor Mail*, 8 March 2000; *Bangor Mail*, 5 April 2000



2000

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

Chris and Neil advertise their B&B at Moelfre in *Gay Times*, as 'gay owned.'

Source: *Gay Times*, February 2000

Cottaging. Toilets at Llanfairfechan, Conwy were used for cottaging [meeting in toilets for sex]. Detective Brian Powell Jones (39) of Beaumaris, Anglesey and in the North Wales force, was arrested there for 'soliciting for immoral purposes' but was cleared of a charge of importuning. He persistently denied he had soliciting for immoral purposes in the toilets at Llanfairfechan between June 14 and July, 1998.

Source: *North Wales Daily Post*, 25 January 2000; *Daily Post*, 25 January 2000

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

Map puts Wales straight on 'gayer' places to live. Carmarthenshire and Anglesey are tied joint 13th from bottom in the list of 375 places, with exceptionally low numbers of same-sex cohabiting couples.

Source: *WalesOnline*, 7 April 2004

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.



2007

2006

Berwyn Rowlands, from Llangoed, attended Ysgol David Hughes, and later made a career making and promoting Welsh films and TV. Coming to terms with his own sexuality, Berwyn took strength from his family who continued to love and support him. "The second that happened, I didn't look back, my father and my mother gave me their blessing," he said, "I never quite understood whether I'm one of the luckiest gays in Wales, but the only trouble I had really was myself. It was my need to come to terms with my own sexuality." In 2006 Berwyn set up the Iris Prize, now the world's largest LGBT+ film prize.

Sources: Wikipedia; Joseph Ali, 'How a boy from Anglesey created the biggest LGBT+ film festival prize in the world,' *Wales Online*, 23 November 2020

2007

Bywyd Môn/Anglesey Life, an assessment document providing a picture of Quality of Life on the Island included a section on LGBT:

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender People (LGB&TG)

The DTI estimates that 5-7% of the population is lesbian or gay, however this is hard to confirm due to a combination of stigma, discrimination, a desire for privacy and a lack of collected data. A recent Inside-Out survey (2007) across north and mid Wales reported insensitive and inappropriate treatment by health services for people from this group. LGBT people report the need to travel away from Anglesey to access services which are more anonymous and/or more sensitive to their needs. Gay men are still the population with the highest numbers of HIV infection; however, most new infections are now accounted for by people who are heterosexual. There are concerns

2007 continued over...

2007 continued..

that younger gay men may be taking more risks as HIV is now seen as a manageable chronic condition and fewer people in the UK are dying of it. These risks also lead to vulnerability to other sexually transmitted infections.

The Cynnwys Project found that:

- > Reduced access to health services by LGB&TG people and subsequent impact on their physical and mental well-being
- > Need for mainstream advice and support agencies to incorporate the needs of LGB&TG clients within their practices, procedures and policies

- > Safer community – ensuring LGB&T people can live safely and free from homophobic incidents and hate crime
- > Need for a holistic approach which incorporates the individual’s culture, religion, beliefs and other issues such as disability, gender, race
- > Lack of qualitative and quantitative research in Wales about the needs of LGB&T people, especially on transgender and transsexual issues.

Source: Anglesey County Council, *Bywyd Môn/ Anglesey Life*, 2007



2010

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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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

Bywyd Môn/Anglesey Life, edition of 2010 included:

People who are Lesbian, Gay or Transgender

As outlined in the Profile of North Wales recent document (Public Health Wales, 2010), according to the charity Stonewall Cymru, a figure of five to seven per cent for the proportion of the population who are lesbian, gay and bisexual people is a reasonable estimate. However, there is no robust data on the number of lesbians, gay men and bisexuals in the UK as no national census has ever asked people to define their sexuality. Various sociological/commercial surveys have produced a wide range of estimates, but there is no definitive figure available.

2010 continued over...

2010 continued...

According to Stonewall Cymru, information on the health of the lesbian and gay population in Wales is hard to determine. Using research evidence gathered from health surveys conducted in England, they note that individuals who are lesbian or gay can:

- > Consult late with medical practitioners because of the fear of intrusive and judgmental questioning;
- > Experience higher levels of emotional and physical vulnerability when admitted into hospital or receiving healthcare;
- > Exhibit to a greater proportion than the general population, many of the illnesses and diseases associated with being discriminated against by others;
- > Be vulnerable to experiencing higher levels of mental health issues;

- > Lack the social structures to promote wellbeing and good health.

In Wales, Stonewall Cymru believes that among the lesbian and gay population there is no reason to suspect these health factors are any different from across the rest of the UK. However, the demographic nature of the lesbian and gay community can mean that such considerations are exacerbated by rural isolation, economic inactivity and peer group oppression. Stonewall Cymru have published a report exploring the health needs of lesbian, gay and bisexual people in North and Mid Wales – Inside Out Project (Stonewall, 2007).

Source: Anglesey County Council,
Bywyd Môn/Anglesey Life, 2010



› 2014

2010

North Wales' first Mardi Gras take place at the Mona Showground and headlined X Factor stars Craig Siggers and Josef Al-Smadi otherwise known as Diva Fever. Organiser Keith Parry, of Mesmac North Wales said, "This is an event that the north Wales gay community has been waiting for. We at Mesmac decided after 13 years of working in North Wales that this was the right time to have it here, and Anglesey is the perfect place to hold it. This event will show lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people that they are not alone, as there are thousands of us living in north Wales."

Source: *Bangor and Anglesey Mail*,
14 July 2010

2011

Christian Voice planned a demonstration, advising their readers, "You can pray for the 'Mardi Gras' event to be washed out and for take-up of the over-priced tickets to be minimal. Or you can pray for fine weather and good attendance so that more people can be reached with the liberating Gospel of Jesus Christ!"

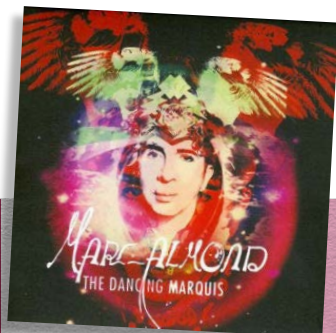
Source: *ChristianVoiceUK*, 31 March 2011

2014

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

2014

Singer Marc Almond releases his eighteenth solo studio album, *The Dancing Marquis*, Cherry Red Records, 16 June. The title track, named for Henry Paget, 5th Marquess of Anglesey, is co-written by Neal Whitmore and produced by Tony Visconti.



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

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. 23 people have left pins on Ynys Môn/Anglesey.

Sources: Wikipedia; Queering the Map



On this cliff we laughed, we cried, we felt fear, and we felt love. We weren't dating yet, but five months later we were. It's been two years since we started dating now. We watched the moon rise and the sun set. We watched as darkness covered the ocean below our feet. It was the most beautiful sight second to you. I will never forget the way the moonlight hit the waves and reflected in your eyes. I'll never forget the lights dancing in the distance, some going out as people fell asleep when we stayed awake on this cliff. //

A lesbian went to school here! //

My entire life spent in this village before University, including the moment when I thought 'I'm gay?... Oh, that makes sense' //

2018

Girl.Boy.Child is a unique performance that draws on research into queer/LGBTQ histories that emerged from a collaboration between historian and renowned gay singer songwriter David McAlmont and Professor Richard Sandell, researcher and museum practitioner at the University of Leicester and the National Trust. McAlmont's unique performance brings to life some extraordinary tales of people who challenged conventions of sexuality and gender as well as the places they created and inhabited. He focuses on the lives of three individuals, including Henry Paget, the 5th Marquis of Anglesey. A performance took place at Plas Newydd, on 25 and 26 October 2018 and a YouTube video is available to watch.

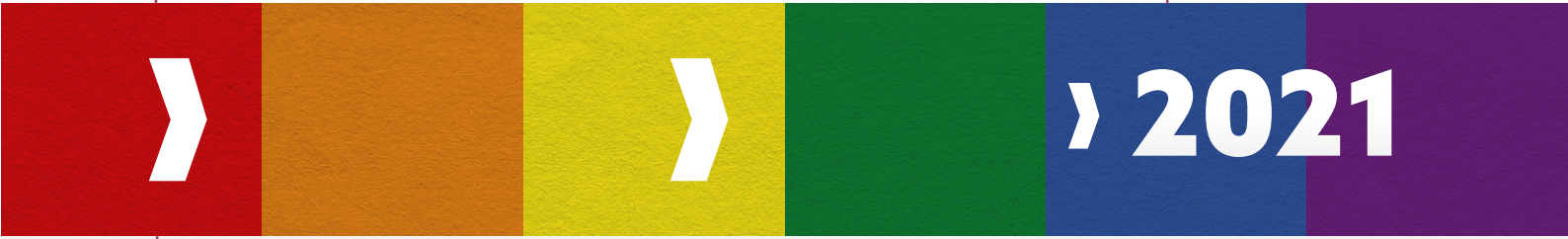
Source: Professor Richard Sandell, 'Outside and beyond: Girl. Boy. Child: a poignant queer tale for our times,' University of Leicester website, Museum Studies at Leicester; YouTube



2020

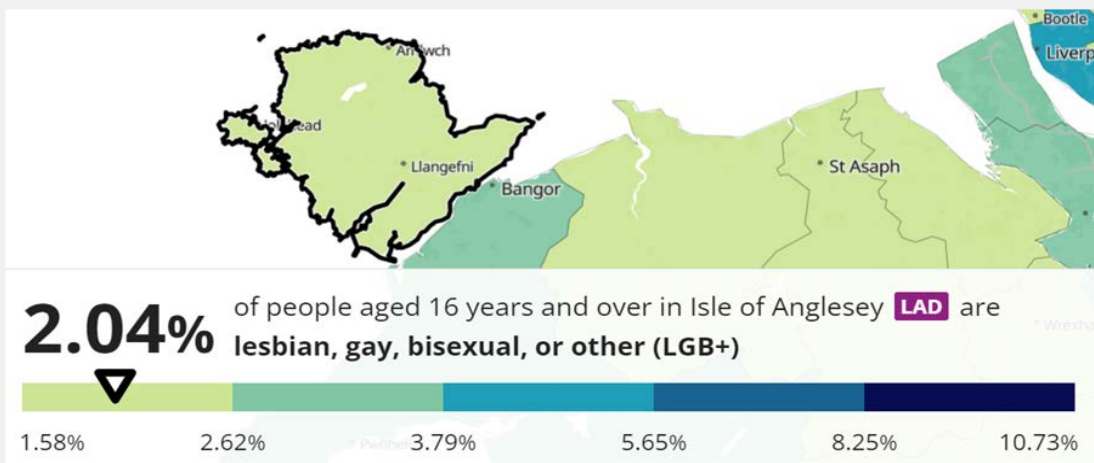
A man accused of the crossbow killing of a retired lecturer lied to police because he did not want to reveal his gay affair.

Source: *The Guardian*, 14 February 2020

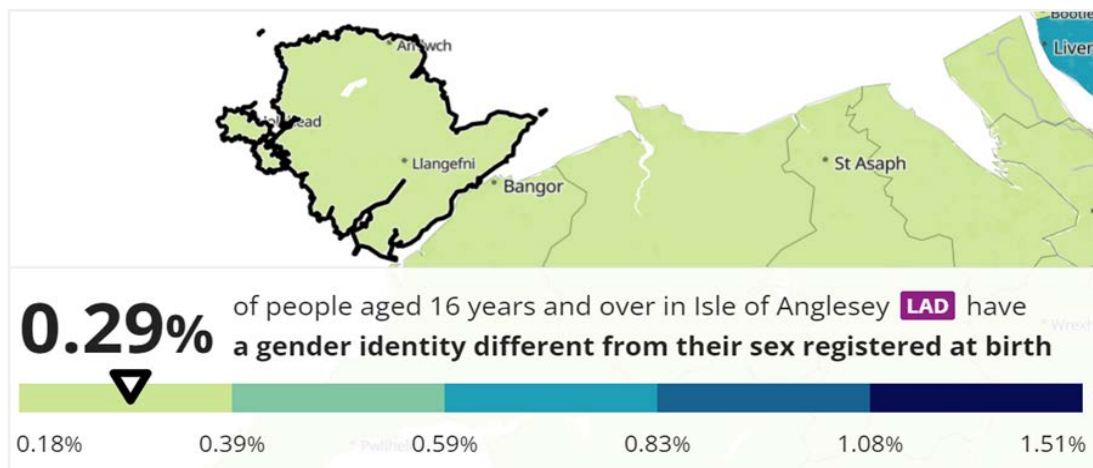


2021

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.



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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

Dillon Hughes from Valley on Anglesey, spoke to the BBC calling for better support services outside of Welsh cities. In response to the Welsh Government's LGBT Action Plan, Dillon called for them to address these challenges: 'I don't want to just survive. I want to be happy;' 'Call for same sex affairs to be grounds for split;' 'I was told I'd be delivered from homosexuality.' Dillon, 18, said at times growing up in Valley felt like "the Dark Ages." The NHS worker said he still feared people judging him in his local community. "If a guy wearing make-up or all in drag went to the pub, everyone would stare at you as if you're an alien," and assumed he would have to move away to feel comfortable with himself, but now wants the community to learn and adapt.

Source: Kate Morgan, 'LGBTQ+: 'I thought I'd have to leave Wales to be myself,' *BBC Wales News*, 30 October 2021

2023

Anglesey Youth Service works with anyone aged 11-19, regardless of gender, background or ability.

There are 23 youth clubs throughout the island where young people from the age of 11 upwards can meet their friends for a chat and relax!

They offer support and guidance as well as providing fun sessions such as cookery, arts and crafts, dance and drama, team games, physical activities and they have an LGBTQ+ Club available in every school.

Source: Cyngor Sir Ynys Môn/Isle of Anglesey County Council website

2023

Bryony, was living in New Zealand but had come back to the UK for Christmas in 2019 when she matched with Laura on Tinder. She had planned to return to the UK in the summer of 2020, but because of her connection with Laura and the uncertainty of the pandemic, she decided to come back earlier. Bryony and Laura decided to quarantine together, a risky move, but it ended up being the best decision they made. Being together 24/7 put their relationship into overdrive, and they learned everything about each other in record time. In June 2021, during a trip to Cornwall, Bryony proposed to Laura and they married on Llandwyn Island, known for its connection with Saint Dwynwen, the Welsh Patron Saint of Lovers. In 2023 they were expecting their first child.

Source: 'The most incredible Anglesey elopement on Llandwyn Island,' Samantha Kay website; 'Love In Lockdown: A Tinder Success Story And Intimate Coastal Elopement,' *Dancing With Her* website



› 2023



Thank you

These have been just a few highlights from Ynys Môn / Anglesey's sexual orientation and gender identity history.

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

We will update the timeline on a regular basis.

www.lgbtqcymru.swansea.ac.uk



Draig Enfys

 search **Draig Enfys**