



The Wales LGBTQ+ Timeline Collection

INTRO

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/>



Each county timeline has a dedicated host who will encourage the celebration of local people, allies and events during celebratory periods throughout the year. People are encouraged to add to and keep expanding the timelines to make them as comprehensive as possible.

CARDIFF EDITION

This Cardiff edition is hosted by the Museum of Cardiff and has been expanded by Jordan Taylor, Kelsie Neak, staff and volunteers. Additional material has been contributed by Mark Etheridge of Amgueddfa Cymru – Museum Wales, and local people who have contributed ideas and stories.

If you have anything you would like to donate to the Museum of Cardiff or to Amgueddfa Cymru – Museum Wales we would love to hear from you.



Museum of Cardiff is a social history museum that shares the history of Cardiff through people's personal experiences.

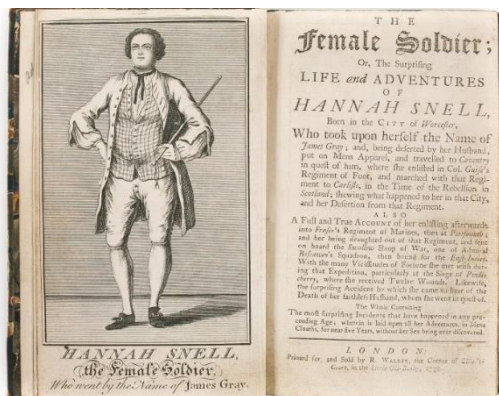
Many of the objects, ephemera and photographs collected have personal stories attached to them, so it is the people who have shaped the city that tell its story. We collect items from the past and present, our work is never done when it comes to adding to Cardiff's story.

AMGUEDDFA CYMRU

The Museum of Cardiff works closely with Amgueddfa Cymru – Museum Wales and in particular Mark Etheridge who is the Curator of LGBTQ+ History. Amgueddfa Cymru is actively collecting LGBTQ+ history, ensuring the collection is fully representative of all the community across Wales, to help tell the story of Wales' rich LGBTQ+ history.

19TH CENTURY

There were thousands of 'female sailors' and 'female soldiers' throughout history. Those who cross-lived often for decades and served on board ships and in military regiments. Some gained great fame such as Hannah Snell.



1842

A female sailor

On Thursday last, just as the Lady Charlotte, was about to sail from Cardiff, the attention of P. C. Perkins, was drawn to a person in a sailor's dress, who was exhibiting money rather carelessly, and expressing great anxiety for the sailing of the packet. Perkins accosted him, and on his refusing to give any account of how he got the money, or where he came from, took him to the Station House. Mr. Superintendent Stockdale, after asking a few questions, suspected that the apparent sailor boy was a girl, and charged her with being so, which she resolutely denied. A woman was made to search her, and the young sailor turned out to

be a pretty looking Welsh girl. Finding disguise to be useless, she gave an account of herself, her assumed name as the sailor was Edward Williams, but her real one is Mary Davis. She is 20 years of age. She lived with her father, who is a decayed farmer, about nine miles from Merthyr, and between that place and Neath. Having a brother away from home, she determined to go in search of him. She had received a letter lately from him enclosing £5, and it contained a request that she would come to him; this letter she had lost, and so entirely had she forgotten her brother's address, that she did not know whether the letter came from America, Australia, or Ireland. Her purpose in the present instance was to go to Bristol, and from thence to America. She was taken every care of at the Station House and visited by the Worthy Mayor and the Rev. T. Stacey who after hearing her statements, were convinced she was of weak mind. She was directed to be sent to the Union House, until her friends could be communicated with, and her money was left in Mr. Stockdale's hands. Mr. Stockdale deserves great credit for his humane attention to the poor girl, who, had she been suffered to go into the town, would doubtless have been robbed of her little pittance. She has resumed her feminine dress; the reason she gave for abandoning it was that she thought she could travel more safely amongst sailors as a man than as an unprotected girl. She cannot speak a word of English.

Source: *Welshman*, 23 September 1842

1855

On Wednesday evening last, a young woman, dressed in sailors' clothes, was taken to the station-house, for being drunk and disorderly. On the following day she was taken before the magistrates. Her name is Susan Brunin, of Newport. She had been at sea for three months, and passed for an able seaman. A

captain of a vessel, in the Cardiff Docks, also engaged her, and actually paid her a month in advance, but on finding that he had engaged a female, he refused to keep his contract. The magistrates reprimanded the prisoner, and advised her to return to her home, and adopt a more decent mode of living. She was then discharged.

Source: *Monmouthshire Merlin*, 18 August 1855

Another female sailor

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Source: *Monmouthshire Merlin*, 18 August 1855



1859

Cardiff Police Intelligence. A Female Sailor – Singular Case

Ann Stuart, aged 18, without bonnet, shoes, or stockings, was brought up by Sergeant Giffard on the following charge. It appears at a very early hour this morning the prisoner made her appearance at the Police-station and sat down among several vagrant men, and whilst conversing with them she said she had served two years and a half on board ship as a sailor, and as there were French and American vessels lying in the docks here, if she could get a jacket and a pair of men's trousers she would go for a sailor again. She said she had no friends, and if she could not go to sea she would drown herself, for she was tired of the life she was then leading. Sergeant Giffard then took the prisoner into custody on the latter charge. He said she had been before the magistrate of the Thames Police-court, London, and the master of the vessel she had sailed in had been compelled to pay her her wages as a sailor. The magistrates asked the prisoner where she came from, and she replied that Scotland was her native place, but she had been walking through the country, and that accounted for her appearance at Cardiff. The magistrates ordered the prisoner to be detained at the Workhouse.

The arrest record of Ann Stuart in Cardiff Borough Petty Sessional Division Records, PSCBO, Glamorgan Archives:

Ann Stuart —
Inspector Giffard about 4/12/59
This morning prisoner came
to Station in Bath St. Station
in the Station with some
male vagrants and she
served two years on board ship
as a man of board ship

1867

Throughout history, society has been fascinated by 'masculine' women, those whose extreme masculinity leads to questions of gender identity, and one of the most famous in Wales was Marged ferch Ifan. The *Cardiff and Merthyr Guardian* highlighted Marged's story, adding, "The town of Cardiff contains a few of these worthies, who, when they shuffle off this mundane stage, will doubtless be noticed in some future post obit memorial."

Source: *Cardiff and Merthyr Guardian*, 25 October 1867

1883

The *Cardiff Times* reproduced an interview with American star, Lulu, Queen of the Air, a male circus acrobat who deliberately cross-worked as a woman in order to increase audience numbers.



Source: *Cardiff Times*, 13 January 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.

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 1967 in England and Wales and 1980 in Scotland.

1887

John Nash, 34, and Henry Jones, 20, two soldiers, the former belonging to the Welsh and the latter to the Western Regiment, were charged with an act of gross indecency at Cardiff on the 9th of October. Prisoners elected to give evidence on oath, and made statements in which they emphatically denied the charge, and urged that it was improbable they should have acted as described by the witnesses, assuming they had gone to the latrine for a wrongful purpose. The jury found the prisoners not guilty, and there were forthwith discharged.

Source: *South Wales Echo*, 9 November 1887

Vesta Tilley, one of the best-known male impersonators of her era appears at the Grand Music-hall, Westgate-street Cardiff. "Wearing masculine evening dress, as usual, and carrying an opera hat under her arm, whilst she occasionally puffed a mild cigar, she quickly captured her audience, who again and again demanded her re-appearance."



Source: *South Wales Daily News*, 30 August 1887

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

Alleged Unnatural Offence

At Cardiff Police Court to-day, before the Stipendiary (Mr T. W. Lewis), Ismail Hassan (27), an Arab seaman, and Nathaniel Miles (19) were committed for trial at Glamorgan Assizes on a charge of committing an unnatural and abominable offence on the night of the 4th inst. in Dumballs-road. *Discharged.* Ismail Hassan, an Arab, and Nathaniel Miles were found not guilty of a nameless crime at Dumballs Field, Cardiff.

Sources: *South Wales Echo*, 6 May 1898
& *Evening Express*, 6 August 1898



Cardiff in the late 19th century.

19TH CENTURY

1906

An inquest was held at Cardiff on Thursday touching the death of Francis Knight, the hermaphrodite child of Henry Knight, commercial traveller, Penylan-road. The mother said the child, which had been delicate from birth, was so formed that it was impossible to tell whether it was a boy or girl. Dr. Boyd, who made a post-mortem examination, said death was due to a clot of blood on the aorta. A post-mortem was the only means of ascertaining the sex of the child, which he found to be a girl. A verdict of "Death from natural causes" was returned.

Source: *The Cambrian*, 25 May 1906.

1906

Binkie Beaumont, a theatre manager and producer, is born in 1908. He was brought up in Cardiff and later friends with John Gielgud despite Gielgud's partner John Parry moving in with Beaumont.

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. See **2021** for details on Chris Bryant's book.

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.

1929

Welsh actor and author Vittorio Giorgio Andre “Victor” Spinetti (1929-2012) was born in Cwm, Blaenau Gwent. Spinetti lived with his partner of forty-four years, Graham Curnow. He trained at the Royal Welsh College of Music & Drama in Cardiff, of which he later became a Fellow.

1939

Peter Gill, a Welsh theatre director, playwright, and actor is born in Cardiff on 7 September 1939. Described in *The Guardian* as one of British theatre’s unsung heroes.

Source: The Guardian, 4 September 2019

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

Bail was allowed by the magistrates at Newtown, Montgomeryshire, when committing Cliff Gordon, described as a B.B.C. dramatist, of Churchill-way, Cardiff, for trial at Chester Assizes charged with attempting to procure another male person to commit an improper act at Newtown on Nov. 13.

Source: *News of the World*, 31 January 1954



Cliff Gordon

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. 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.

1962

A letter to the *South Wales Echo*: “I must admire Mr. Leo Abse (MP for Pontypool) for his courage in presenting a Bill to amend the laws relating to homosexuality. The victims of blackmail are their own executioners; they ruin not only their own lives but the lives of innocent people. A. Margaret Patten, Melrose Avenue, Penylan, Cardiff.”

Source: *South Wales Echo*, 27 February 1962

1965

A Canadian, LGBTQ+ romantic drama film, *Winter Kept Us Warm* debuted as the opening film of the Commonwealth Film Festival in Cardiff, Wales on September 27, 1965. The film’s gay subtext was carefully coded by David Sector, who wrote the film based on his own experience falling in love with a male fellow student but feared that a more explicitly gay film would not attract an audience. Even some of the film’s cast have claimed in interviews that they did not know at the time that the film was actually about homosexuality.

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.

1970 – Gay Liberation Front (GLF) was established.



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This key enabled access to a nightclub called SIRS on St. Mary St. Lewis Robinson tells us: “Sirs opened during the 1970s and closed sometime in the 1990s... It was gay man only club and people were invited to become members. ‘Sirs’ was a one off and a great place to go. I have lots of happy memories there. There was a great sense of freedom going there because everyone could be themselves, you didn’t have to hide who you were or pretend to be someone else. There was a single door to ‘Sirs’ via the street entrance, you needed the key to get into this door. There was no signage or anything to indicate it was ‘Sirs’ so a regular person had no idea there was a gay club there.”

Come Together, the newspaper of the *Gay Liberation Front*, was formed by the GLF’s Media Workshop in 1970. Issues 1-16 have been digitalised by the Bishopgate Institute and can be accessed by clicking on the above link. The magazine mainly covered London but did include regional details including Howard Llewellyn in Cardiff, and a number for Community Services.

CARDIFF: H. Llewellyn, RIB,
58, Charles St., Cardiff.
Phone 44441

Community
Services
Printed
BUZZ: 0272-36117
Cardiff
RIB: 0222-44441

And in issue 16 further regional ads appeared for CHE (Campaign for

Homosexual Equality), Cardiff Friend and bars:

CARDIFF CHE
c/o CHE national office, 28, Kennedy St., M2 4BG.
Meets Chapter Arts Centre, Mondays at 8pm.
Cardiff Friend, c/o 58, Charles St., Cardiff. - provides
counselling/befriending service for gay people with
problems.
Bar; Roberts bar, Royal Hotel. Club; Show Biz Club.

CARDIFF GLF
c/o Rib, 58, Charles St., Cardiff.

Source: Come Together, Issue 16 (undated)



© Museum of Cardiff collection,
CARCM:2012:58

This lamp used to hang above the entrance to the Kings Cross pub in the City Centre. The Kings Cross pub attracted the LGBTQ+ community from the 1970s until its closure in 2010.

A visitor to the 2012 Cardiff Mardi Gras recalled: "Cardiff Kings Cross was my first experience of a gay night out. It was a lovely night and really opened my eyes to how open and accepting a gay night out in town can be. Shame that it's closed."

1971



F2021.72.2 © Amgueddfa Cymru -
Museum Wales

Badge worn by a member of Cardiff Gay Liberation Front. Cardiff Gay Liberation Front was founded in July 1971, but after several independent meetings it merged with Cardiff Campaign for Homosexual Equality, and the combined group held weekly meetings in Chapter Arts Centre.

1973

Homosexuals seek fair deal in education.

A move to end discrimination against homosexual teachers will be launched in Cardiff at the weekend.

Homosexuals throughout the country will visit the city on Saturday in connection with a campaign designed to educate children about homosexuality. At least 80 members from local Campaign for Homosexual Equality groups will be at the national council meeting at University College, Cardiff. But their pleas could fall on deaf ears at Cardiff City Hall. Already the education committee have told Cardiff's CHE group to quit their regular meeting place at Chapter Arts Centre in Canton. General Secretary of CHE Mr. Paul Temperton said: "We think the only way we can achieve better understanding with people about homosexuality is to tell the young what it is all about." Ald. Sidney Doxsey, deputy chairman of the city education committee, who once described the local homosexual group as "weirdos," said today he would not comment on the plan before it is discussed at

CHE's meeting on Saturday. But he said he had received many letters of support for his outspoken demands that the local CHE group should be banned from meetings at the arts centre. He said, "Last night I sat in at one of their meetings and I haven't changed my view that this non-conventional organisation has nothing to do with art and should not therefore be allowed to meet at the arts centre."

Source: *South Wales Echo*, 4 September 1973

Chemical castration

In January 1973 at Cardiff Assizes, William Coleman (61) was charged with offences of indecency and attempted buggery. He had a long history of sexual offences. Coleman was placed on probation for three years on the condition he attend the East Glamorgan Hospital psychiatric clinic once a week for treatment of Cyproterone acetate for chemical castration.

Source: *New Scientist*, 8 March 1973

1974 – Labour MP [Maureen Colquhoun](#) comes out as the first lesbian MP.

1974

Gay Liberation takes over a conference.

About 50 members of Gay Liberation groups took over the congress of psychosexual difficulties at Bradford University in September. Among the

groups was the National Transvestite Group from Cardiff.

Source: *The Times*, 14 September 1974

1975

An anonymous writer from Cardiff sends a letter to the *South Wales Echo* entitled, *Homosexuals Don't Need Pity*, adding, "As a homosexual male I do not live in fear; I do not feel I have to hide my sexual orientation from my friends or family. I do not feel crippled, handicapped, abnormal. And do you know why? Because I have come to terms with my sexuality. I'm not ashamed of it and do not hide in a closet."

Source: *South Wales Echo*, 29 November 1975



F2020.6.14-15 © Amgueddfa Cymru – Museum Wales

In the LGBTQ+ collection at St Fagans National Museum of History are two badges showing a pram and the double female symbol. The donor of these badges volunteered at Cardiff Women's Centre on Coburn Street in the 1980s. She recalls how "I was part of Cardiff Women's Centre which was based in Corburn Street. Being a lesbian and a lesbian mother myself I volunteered there for quite a number of years".

1980

In two separate cases Cardiff magistrates fined men £20 each for “importuning for an immoral purpose” in the men’s public toilet at Cardiff Castle. Thomas Davies, aged 30, of Kingcraig Street, Roath, and Peter James Davies, aged 20, of Caernarvon Way, Trowbridge, both admitted the offence. Davies’s solicitor, Mr Peter Davies, said he understood the toilet has a certain notoriety. Source: *South Wales Echo*, 30 July 1980.

Source: *Gay News*, 18 September 1980

Welshmen fight for Gay Equality.

The *South Wales Echo* publishes an article on ‘a national campaign for homosexual rights is to be led for the first time from South Wales – by Professor Michael Jarrett, of the archaeology department at University College, Cardiff.

Source: *South Wales Echo*, 29 August 1980

Noel Sullivan from the group *Hear'Say* is born on 28 July 1980 and grows up in Cardiff.

1982 – Welshman Terry Higgins dies of AIDS in St Thomas' Hospital London. His partner Rupert Whitaker and friend Martyn Butler set up the Terry Higgins Trust (which became the Terrence Higgins Trust), the first UK AIDS charity.

1984 – MP Chris Smith is elected making him the first openly out homosexual politician in the UK parliament.

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

1985

Lesbians in Wales meet at the Welsh College of Music and Drama causing a flurry of letters of complaint.

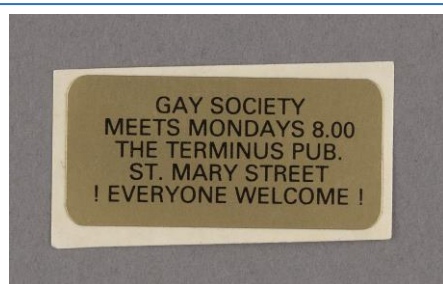
Source: *Western Mail*, 4 April 1985

March of the sinful gays a letter writer proclaimed in objection to the first gay march in Wales. Source: *South Wales Echo*, 20 May 1985

City club where boy meets boy – the *South Wales Echo* prints a long article on one of Cardiff’s most famous LGBTQ+ venues, the Tunnel. Source:

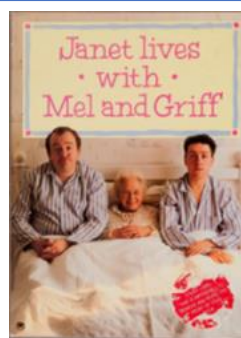
South Wales Echo, 20 November 1985

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.



F2021.19.1 © Amgueddfa
Cymru – Museum Wales

The first Pride march in Cardiff is organised by the Cardiff University Gay Society (Gay Soc), a social and support group. This gold sticker is from late 1984 used to advertise meetings in *The Terminus* pub on St Mary Street, Cardiff. Meetings later moved to *The Kings Cross* pub. The society organised the first pride march in Cardiff in 1985.



© Amgueddfa
Cymru – Museum
Wales F2020.6.40

The controversial children's book, *Jenny Lives with Eric and Martin*, had been published in 1981 in Danish and in 1983 by Gay Men's Press. The author aimed to give children knowledge about different types of family relationships, but when found in a public library in 1986 the book was condemned. In 1988 comedians Mel Smith and Griff Rhys Jones (originally from Cardiff) parodied the book, making fun of the furore.

1988

AIDS article upsets Tory.

A row erupted when Tory Mr Ian Batty complained about descriptions of homosexual acts contained in an article in the Cardiff student weekly *Gair Rhydd* as part of an Aids Awareness Week.

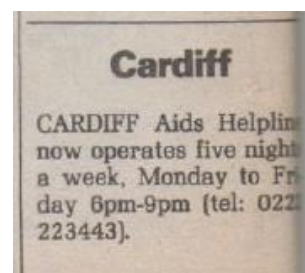
Source: *Western Mail*, 16 February 1988

1990

The novel, *Fire in the Bay* by Tom Davies is published. The novel, located in Cardiff Bay, features a number of individuals described as transvestites, including Sophie James, a beautiful young Somali.

1994

Cardiff Aids Helpline in the classified ads of *Gay Times*, April 1994





These stickers were produced by the Older Lesbian Network (OLN) Wales for the Cardiff Mardi Gras in the 1990s. Susan Edwards, the ex-senior archivist at Glamorgan Archives, describes the activities of the OLN. "The Older Lesbian Network always used to have a stall at Mardi Gras. It started in 1994, it was an offshoot of the OLN in London. It organised events, debates once a month. There was a newsletter and when we started, we used a typewriter to type everything up and photocopied everything! There were lots of arguments about what would go in the newsletters, i.e., what was appropriate. The OLN had two sides to it - fun versus feminism. It really has its origins from 1980s feminism."

1998

In British law there was nothing to stop a gay man or woman individually adopting a child, subject to approval. In reality this was rare. Some research carried out at Cardiff University 1998 found that only three out of 2000 approved adoptions were by gays.

Source: *Heinemann Themes in Psychology: Human Relationships*, Christina Ryecroft & David Moxon, 2001

1999

A conference on *Eunuchs in Antiquity and Beyond* is held at Cardiff University on July 27. One paper includes *Natural Eunuchs in Roman Law: "Not Diseased or Defective"* by Mark Brustman. "Being naturally impotent for procreative sex, innately gay men were referred to in the ancient world as "born eunuchs" or just "eunuchs."" A link to the full paper is on the LGBTQ Cymru site under Welsh History, 1990s

The first Cardiff Mardi Gras takes place in Bute Park, Cardiff, in September 1999 as a response to an increase in hate crime in South Wales.

Cardiff County Council follows the announcement of by the Scottish Executive to scrap the controversial law which bans councils from promoting homosexuality. Councillor Reece made a personal speech in which she described the stigmatisation that lesbians and gay men feel and the way in which the legislation hinders the provision of comprehensive educational, social and welfare services. She was backed up by Councillor Nigel Howells who described Section 28 as "an abhorrent piece of legislation". "It provides a shield for homophobic bullying in schools, prevents education and was a bigots charter which legitimises discrimination against an easily demonised section of society," he said.

Source: *BBC Wales*, 30 October 1999

20TH CENTURY

2000

In April, protests are held outside the Senedd in Cardiff Bay, against MP David Davies' (Monmouthshire) erroneous exhibition of 'gay' literature which he believes school libraries would have to stock if Section 28 is repealed. Gavin Cox, Assistant to Montgomery AM Mick Bates, in his complaint against the poor argument put forward by Davies said "Section 28 as a mode of protecting young children legitimises homophobia and may well result in more harm than good. The longer that children are taught that heterosexual marriage is the only correct form of relationship, the longer intolerance will exist and children will continue to suffer."

Source: *News Wales*, 5 April 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.

2001

At Chapter Arts Centre the play *Carrying Lyn* by Paul Jeff, Lyn Levett, Richard Morgan, Mike Pearson, John Rowley was staged. It was a multi-site performance when a group of men carried disabled trans performer Lyn Levett from Cardiff Central Station to Chapter. The route passed 12 fixed points, was videoed and these 10-minute fragments were collected by cycle couriers and then taken back to Chapter for the audience.

Source: *Theatre in Wales*

2002

Wales' gay club, *Club X*, on Charles Street, Cardiff, renews its flirtation with the funkier side of house on May 17, with electrofunkateers K-Klass and delectable double act, The Superstarz. The club is also expanding its ring of punters to include straight clubbers in addition to its current gay clientele with a new hard house night, Generic, on the first Friday of each month, again open til 6am.

Source: *Barry & District News*, 10 May 2002

2003

Thrilled by our gay marriage

Lisa Slade and Julie Stamps from Barry created history after taking part in Wales' first lesbian commitment ceremony. Taxi driver Lisa (31) spoke about the effort it took her, and Morrisons' employee Julie (23) to publicly declare their love. Visiting the registry office in Swansea, Julie and Lisa were asked if they would be willing to launch the first of the same-sex ceremonies. They agreed, waiting

until July 1, because the registrar was on holiday. Lisa added: "We were told there'd be media attention, but we never expected all this hype. It really surprised us." The reception was held in the Golden Cross pub in Cardiff.

Source: *Barry & District News*, 10 July 2003

2004

Gwent Police back Mardi Gras. "Gwent Police will be looking for new recruits in Cardiff this weekend as tens of thousands of people attend the Welsh Lesbian and Gay Mardi Gras. The force will have a recruitment stand in the market on Cooper's Field, and officers will offer information on joining up."

Source: *South Wales Argus*, 3 September 2004

Cardiff Lions RFC formed, the first gay and inclusive rugby team in Wales.



2008

Russel T. Davis brought the first openly queer character to the *Doctor Who* Universe: Jack Harkness, portrayed by John Barrowman. There was an on-screen kiss between Jack and The Doctor. Jack was also the central character in *Torchwood*, a spin-off of the 2005 revival of *Doctor Who*, which aired from 2006 to 2011.

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.

South Wales Gay Men's Chorus is formed by Andrew Bulleymment.



F2021.73.1-4 © Amgueddfa Cymru – Museum Wales

Uniform worn by a member of South Wales Gay Men's Chorus.

2008

Cardiff Dragons FC was founded in 2008 and is Wales' first and only LGBTQ+ football team. Their first match was held on Sunday 26 October 2008 where they beat the London Romans 5-4 at Caedelyn Park, Whitchurch.



This shirt was worn by Cardiff Dragons from 2008 to 2011. David Amos recalls how the Cardiff Dragons were set up: "I never thought for one minute that there would be a team in Cardiff. In 2008 I was contacted (through the Gay Football Supporters Network) by two men from Birmingham who were coming to university in Cardiff... they asked if there were any teams in Cardiff... and I said no. They said they would put something on the net to see if anyone would want to come along to a training session. That's how it all started in July 2008. 13 people came to our first training session... it's gone from strength to strength to strength."

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.

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

2010

On 2 November, Liberal Youth Wales took their anti-homophobic bullying campaign to the Senedd in Cardiff Bay at 12.30pm to present their petition to the chair of the National Assembly Petitions Committee, Christine Chapman AM.

The petition read:

"We, the undersigned, call on the National Assembly of Wales to urge the Welsh Government to issue compulsory guidance to all schools (faith, state or private) concerning homophobic bullying. We strongly urge that changes are implanted quickly and urgently."

Commenting on the petition, campaigns officer for Liberal Youth Wales Oliver Townsend said:

"The Assembly Government promised to publish guidance on anti-homophobic bullying ten months ago, but has failed to deliver.

"Meanwhile, children in schools across the county continued to be bullied for simply being gay or transgendered. It is just unforgivable to ignore this problem any

longer and we are determined to make the Assembly Government listen."

Source: *The Guardian*, 2 November 2010

2011

The *Guardian* features: 'Cardiff today – Bloggers meet up, LGBT month and can love be found online? As the first of February, today will also see the start of a month-long celebration of Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender History Month (LGBT). National Museum Wales is hosting a packed programme of exhibitions, events and activities and there will be a special evening lecture at National Museum Cardiff on Ancient Greek Homosexuality on Thursday 10 February, 6pm.

Source: *The Guardian*, 1 February 2011

In December, *Mr Gay UK* is won by Cardiff man Samuel Kneen.

2012

Welsh Pride, the first LGBTQ+ exhibition is held at the Pier Head, Cardiff Bay. It consists of 20 panels of people, events, and allies and exhibition stands. At the launch, the then National Poet of Wales, Gillian Clarke, read out her poem *Sarah at Plas Newydd, July 5th 1788* and, as far as we know, this remains the first and only poem in the world to be dedicated by a national or Poet Laureate to the LGBTQ+ people of a country.



Songbirds Choir formed in 2012, a community choir for LGBT+ women and non-binary people based in Cardiff (and the only such choir in Wales).

Consultations on legislation to allow same-sex marriage in England and Wales began in 2012. There was only one government consultation in Wales and this took place on 15 May 2012 at the United Reform Church, Cardiff. Response to the Equal Civil Marriage Consultation was published on 12 June. A copy can be found in Glamorgan Archives Ref: 16 – Same-sex consultation – 2012 D1227

Extract from the report:

Another argument used by those in opposition was that marriage was a 'tradition' and so should not be redefined. The groups discussed this and agreed that the use of the word marriage has continuously changed including both the legal and cultural role of marriage. The participants felt that describing something as 'a tradition' was not a reason to block change as many traditions, good and bad, have changed over the years as society matured.

Some concerns have been expressed about the use of 'husband' and 'wife' and how these may have to be removed from forms and legislation. This was seen as a particularly weak argument given the fact that the words 'husband' and 'wife' have always been used by LGBT people to describe their partners even before there were civil partnerships. Therefore, there would be no need for a change to vocabulary of marriage.





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2014.37

Passes like this one were given to artists who performed at the 2013 Cardiff Mardi Gras, held for the first and only time at Cardiff's Millennium Stadium. Artists from that year included Beverley Knight and Rylan Clark. The first ever Cardiff Mardi Gras event took place on September 4th 1999 with 5,000 in attendance, since then it has grown in popularity and now attracts over 50,000 people. In 2014 Cardiff Mardi Gras changed its name to Cardiff Pride.



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collection, CARCM: 2019.9

These rainbow laces were donated by Cardiff Dragons. Cardiff Dragons FC are Wales' first and only LGBTI+ football club.

In 2013, Stonewall launched their Rainbow Laces campaign to address homophobia in football. Rainbow laces were given to all Premier League and Football League Clubs and players were encouraged to wear the laces to show support for LGBTQI people in sports.

2014

Cardiff Mardi Gras is renamed Pride Cymru, and has been operating under this name ever since.

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.

2017

Pride Cymru relocates from Bute Park to City Hall Lawns and has been held there ever since.

Museum of Cardiff hosts *Celebrating LGBT Cardiff* their first LGBTQ+ exhibition.



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Cymru – Museum Wales

Banner made by Glitter Cymru in 2018, and used at various pride events including the first Welsh BAME Pride held on 10 August 2019 at Cathays Community Centre, Cardiff.

2018

At the National Eisteddfod held in Cardiff in August 2018, LGBTQ+ events (programmed under the title 'Mae ar y Maes') were included as part of the official programme for the first time.

G(end)er Swap expanded into Wales with a social meetup and clothes swap at Shift in Cardiff.

2019

The first Wales Deaf Pride is held at Pride Cymru.

Organised by Glitter Cymru, the first Welsh PoC and Ethnic Minority Pride was held on 10 August 2019 at Cathays Community Centre, Cardiff.

Glitter Cymru presented in the Senedd “the experiences of arrival and settlement of LGBTQ+ forced migrants in Wales”, the very first report of its kind. This report called for an umbrella LGBTQ+ Plan for Wales, kickstarting the idea for the *LGBTQ+ Action Plan*. This report is also vital in the inclusion of LGBTQ+ forced migrants in the upcoming Nation of Sanctuary Report.

2020

TransAid Cymru started as a local mutual aid group in Cardiff, called South Wales Trans Nonbinary Mutual Aid (or SWTN Mutual Aid). They were set up in June 2020 with the ethos of the fundamental principle of mutual aid: ‘that we are all responsible for caring for one another and changing our conditions.’

Glitter Sisters started as the womynx and enby part of Glitter Cymru. This is the only group for Queer PoC womynx and ebnys in Wales.

Glitter Cymru held the very first Queer PoC Womynx panel in Wales, chaired by one of Stonewall’s Founders, Olivette Cole-Wilson.

2021

As part of the Welsh Government's *LGBTQ+ Action Plan* a 5-session training course in *LGBTQ+ Language and History* is commissioned for local museums, libraries and archives. The only government in the world to have done this.

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.

The *Queer Emporium* opens in Cardiff at 2-4 Royal Arcade, St Mary's Street, with 20 LGBTQ+ run businesses and creators, as well as events, and an outdoor cafe!



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Amgueddfa Cymru
– Museum Wales

The Queer Emporium badge. The Queer Emporium is believed to be the first Queer Emporium in the UK, and possibly the world.

Norena Shopland talks to Cardiff born MP Chris Bryant about his book *The Glamour Boys: The Secret Story of the Rebels who Fought for Britain to Defeat Hitler*. The full interview can be seen on Pride Cymru's Facebook page.

2022

Glitter Cymru and DPIA launched the "LGBTQ+ Asylum Housing Needs Report", the very first report of its kind in the UK, advocating for LGBTQ+ only asylum housing.

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

If you think we've missed anything that should be included, please do let us know.

We will update the timeline on a regular basis.

Thank you for reading

The staff and volunteers at the Museum of Cardiff.