# Prestatyn’s first Pride parade sparks local debate on community and inclusivity



On Saturday, the quaint coastal town of Prestatyn became a vibrant hub of celebration as it hosted its first-ever Pride parade, drawing together members of the LGBTQ+ community and their allies. The event showcased a dynamic array of participants, including drag performers like The Royal Serenity, Opal Rose, and Heather Boa. Among the attendees were local business owners, charity fundraiser Richard Kendrick, and Police and Crime Commissioner Andy Dunbobbin. The parade also served as a poignant tribute to James Lee Williams, the mother of drag icon The Vivienne, who was a notable LGBTQ+ advocate before her passing earlier this year, earning recognition as one of the most influential changemakers in the community.

Local businesses embraced the spirit of inclusivity by decorating their establishments in support of Pride, creating a festive atmosphere that welcomed attendees of all ages. The event, held in partnership with the Cross Foxes pub, was strongly promoted by Prestatyn Town Council with the message: "Celebrate love, inclusivity and diversity. Everyone is welcome!" However, despite the overwhelming support evident on the day, not all views regarding the event were positive. Conservative MS Gareth Davies publicly questioned the need for a Pride event in a town like Prestatyn, expressing concerns on social media that echoed sentiments from some constituents who felt the event might not resonate with the town’s demographic, which he described as "very socially conservative."

In a robust response, drag performer The Royal Serenity defended the significance of the event, especially in a smaller community such as Prestatyn. Noting that hate crimes against the LGBTQ+ community had risen sharply in recent years, she emphasised that discussions around pride and representation need to evolve. The Royal Serenity highlighted that the parade's attendees, adorned in rainbow colours, represented a diverse cross-section of the community, illustrating the collective desire for visibility and acceptance.

Davies’s comments suggested a disconnect between some local residents and the need for LGBTQ+ events, as he posed challenging questions: "Who wanted this event? Who funded it? Is it in the best interests of the residents?" The Royal Serenity countered these assertions by stating that the event not only promoted local business—encouraging visitors to explore the town—but also fostered a sense of belonging and community for individuals who might feel isolated. She articulated that the economic boost from visitors could benefit a range of local services, from bars and eateries to hotels, countering the notion that such gatherings are misplaced in a smaller, more conservative setting.

Moreover, The Royal Serenity pointed out the importance of smaller Pride events, arguing that they are essential for promoting LGBTQ+ visibility and community cohesion outside larger urban centres. She asserted, "This brings Pride to small towns like Prestatyn. It creates safe spaces for individuals to connect and access resources they might need." Her impassioned message underscored Pride's role as a celebration of identity and an opportunity for all community members, regardless of their orientation, to come together in solidarity.

As discussions around the event continue, the broader implications of hosting a Pride parade in smaller towns like Prestatyn highlight a crucial moment for the LGBTQ+ community in Wales. With other regional Pride events scheduled in neighbouring areas, including the upcoming North Wales Pride in Bangor and Abergavenny Pride, public engagement and grassroots support are paramount in ensuring that these celebrations thrive. Each event contributes to a growing recognition of diversity in rural and suburban settings, fostering acceptance and understanding in a way that transcends geographical boundaries.

### 📌 Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.rhyljournal.co.uk/news/25223235.prestatyn-pride-celabatory-colourful-necessary/), [[2]](https://www.rhyljournal.co.uk/news/25223235.prestatyn-pride-celabatory-colourful-necessary/)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.rhyljournal.co.uk/news/25223235.prestatyn-pride-celabatory-colourful-necessary/), [[2]](https://www.rhyljournal.co.uk/news/25223235.prestatyn-pride-celabatory-colourful-necessary/)
* Paragraph 3 – [[1]](https://www.rhyljournal.co.uk/news/25223235.prestatyn-pride-celabatory-colourful-necessary/), [[4]](https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-wales-65939954), [[5]](https://www.denbighshire.gov.uk/en/leisure-and-tourism/libraries/lgbtqplus-timeline/lgbtqplus-timeline.aspx)
* Paragraph 4 – [[1]](https://www.rhyljournal.co.uk/news/25223235.prestatyn-pride-celabatory-colourful-necessary/), [[6]](https://www.dailypost.co.uk/whats-on/whats-on-news/north-wales-first-ever-pride-24186580)
* Paragraph 5 – [[2]](https://www.rhyljournal.co.uk/news/25223235.prestatyn-pride-celabatory-colourful-necessary/), [[7]](https://www.southwalesargus.co.uk/news/23605763.abergavenny-pride-feature-first-ever-parade-2023/)

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.rhyljournal.co.uk/news/25223235.prestatyn-pride-celabatory-colourful-necessary/> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.rhyljournal.co.uk/news/25223235.prestatyn-pride-celabatory-colourful-necessary/> - The article reports on the Prestatyn Pride parade, which took place on a Saturday and featured numerous members of the LGBTQ+ community and their allies. Participants included drag performers The Royal Serenity, Opal Rose, and Heather Boa, as well as business owners, charity fundraiser Richard Kendrick, and Police and Crime Commissioner Andy Dunbobbin. The parade also honoured the mother of The Vivienne, James Lee Williams, an advocate for LGBTQ+ rights who passed away earlier this year. Local businesses in the town centre supported the event by decorating their premises, and attendees of all ages participated in the parade and the Pride event at the Cross Foxes pub. Prestatyn Town Council promoted the event with the message: 'Celebrate love, inclusivity and diversity. Everyone is welcome!' However, Conservative MS Gareth Davies questioned the necessity of a Pride event in a small coastal town like Prestatyn, raising several concerns on social media. In response, The Royal Serenity, a drag performer and National Diversity Awards nominee, addressed these questions, highlighting the importance of Pride events in small towns for LGBTQ+ visibility, community building, and challenging ignorance. The Royal Serenity also emphasised the economic benefits of such events for local businesses and the positive impact on both the LGBTQ+ community and the wider public.
3. <https://www.thepinknews.com/2023/06/12/pride-cymru-2023-line-up-led-by-pop-legends-sophie-ellis-bextor-and-steps-claire-richards/> - Pride Cymru 2023 is set to be a vibrant celebration of the LGBTQ+ community in Cardiff, featuring performances by pop legends Sophie Ellis-Bextor and Steps' Claire Richards. The parade route has been updated to pass by iconic LGBTQ+ venues on St Mary's Street, with no moving vehicles allowed in the parade. The event aims to be inclusive and accessible for all, attracting people from diverse backgrounds. The main stage at Cardiff Castle will host music, with Sophie Ellis-Bextor headlining on Saturday night and Claire Richards on Sunday. The event also features performances from Jodie Harsh, the House Gospel Choir, and July Jones, among others. Pride Cymru 2023 promises to be a significant event in Cardiff's LGBTQ+ calendar, celebrating love, inclusivity, and diversity.
4. <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-wales-65939954> - Pride Cymru 2023 has been hailed as its largest parade to date, with thousands of people taking to Cardiff's streets to celebrate the LGBTQ+ community. The event, returning for its 24th year, took place in June, marking a shift from its traditional August schedule. Organisers describe the parade as 'Cardiff's most colourful event,' aiming to be inclusive and accessible for all, attracting people from various backgrounds. The festivities included music at Cardiff Castle, with Sophie Ellis-Bextor headlining on Saturday night and Ian 'H' Watkins and Clare Richards from Steps on Sunday. Attendees expressed the significance of Pride in showcasing the community's presence and progress.
5. <https://www.denbighshire.gov.uk/en/leisure-and-tourism/libraries/lgbtqplus-timeline/lgbtqplus-timeline.aspx> - Denbighshire County Council provides a timeline highlighting significant events and milestones related to the LGBTQ+ community in the region. In 2018, DJ Drag Artist Stephine performed live at the Lola Bar in Prestatyn. The following year, in 2019, North Wales libraries hosted drag queen story-telling events featuring Mama G, aiming to defy gender stereotypes and promote kindness, inclusion, tolerance, and acceptance. Additionally, the Welsh Gender Service was launched in September 2019, and a housing scheme for vulnerable members of the LGBTQ+ community in Denbighshire was introduced before Christmas 2019, offering 24-hour residential support services for individuals aged 16 to 25.
6. <https://www.dailypost.co.uk/whats-on/whats-on-news/north-wales-first-ever-pride-24186580> - North Wales Pride is set to host its first-ever Pride parade in Bangor on June 25, celebrating the 10th anniversary of North Wales Pride. The event will begin with children and family activities at Storiel, followed by a parade starting at the lower end of Bangor High Street and ending at Y Ranch, where the official Pride party will take place. This marks the first major Pride event in North West Wales since 2016, aiming to bring communities together and reduce rural isolation for the LGBTQ+ and wider community in North Wales. The event will maintain a rural flavour to showcase the best of North Wales.
7. <https://www.southwalesargus.co.uk/news/23605763.abergavenny-pride-feature-first-ever-parade-2023/> - Abergavenny Pride is set to feature its first-ever parade on Saturday, June 24, 2023. The event will commence at 11 am in the square by the Grofield Pub in Baker Street, proceeding through various streets in Abergavenny town centre, and ending near the Baker Street cinema. The main event will run from 12 pm to 5 pm, offering live entertainment, a kids' area, stalls, food, and a bar. Evening entertainment will include drag artists, a comedian, and a DJ. Organisers anticipate a larger turnout compared to the previous year, aiming to celebrate the LGBTQIA+ community in the heart of the town and demonstrate their presence and support for those still working out their sexual or gender identity.