

**Leap into summer with
GayWest For May and June 2018**



£ 2 for non members

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Notice - Join us on Facebook you may find it easier by going to the link at the bottom of our Website home page.

Chair's Blog

Welcome to those long sunny days, relaxing with your favourite drink! Well one can hope. Lots of things happening here at the GayWest bunker, we have some ideas for outings for this year and details will be put on the news pages of our website and on Facebook and at the Rainbow Café. Please, if you have any suggestions then let the committee know.

On May 7th GayWest will have a stall at the Leyhill Prison's pride day. Last year was very enjoyable. We will also have our stall at Weston Pride again this year, but not at Bristol's pride., more details on page 15.

We were hoping that the changes to the website would be up and running by the time of this journal, but due to staffing issues and workload at Newicon this has been delayed, but exciting changes are being made. See page 11.

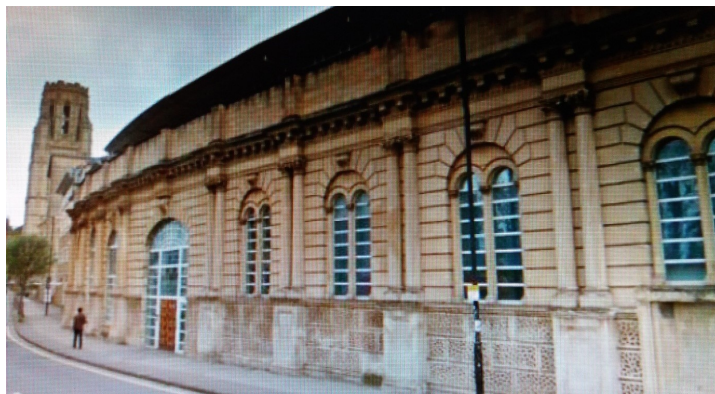
There will be a questionnaire going out to all GayWest members, including those on the committee, sometime in the near future. It will only take five minutes to participate in, so please have a look and return as instructed. The idea being that we can get some indication of how members receive their Journal, your views on the Rainbow Café, and all other aspects of what the group does, so we can make sure the members are getting good value for their membership.

This year it has been decided that the membership fee needs to be increased, the last increase was in October 2000. Further details on page 10.

Recently we have had interesting conversations with various people and groups wishing to get more involved with GayWest, so keep a lookout on the website, Facebook, Twitter and of course at the Rainbow Café for information on these developments.

The Circus of Varieties

This intriguing building was situated in Park Row, corner of Woodland Road Bristol BS1. It was under the direction of Mr Sam Watson who was the proprietor and director. It was opened in 1887 and offered the '*Best Variety in the World*' every evening of the week.



Artistes appearing included:

Arthur Lloyd: Comedian; Vocalist; with comedy vocalist Miss Katty King (Mrs Lloyd in real life). Together they appeared in his celebrated refined Drawing Room Entertainment. Mr Oscar Dubourg Champion Tank Performer of the World, with Little Jim, The Man Fish and The Boy Frog. This was without doubt the foremost Aquatic Artistes Extent. Patrons could watch his marvellous feat of staying under water for three minutes, which in spite of all assertions, to be contrary, was a genuine accomplished fact and had been attempted by any other artiste:

Other artiste were— **Pat Carney** *The true born Irishman all new and original songs* **Miss Vinney** *Serio Comic Vocalist and Dancer* **Tom Woottwell** *The loose legged Comedian in his eccentric dances.* **Alvantee** *in his avalanche ascents and descents on the silver Cord !*

The Circus of Varieties

Doors were open at 7pm and the show commenced at 7.30pm

Admission Stalls — 3/- Boxes—2/- Pit & Promenade—1/-
Gallery —6p season tickets were £1.1s

Over the years the building had many different uses, including: an Aircraft Factory for Parnell's during WW1; a dance hall; an exhibition centre; and a roller skating rink which was converted to the Coliseum Picture Theatre and opened in August 1912 and flourished until 1924.

During the November 1940 blitz the building suffered heavy bomb damage. The façade survived and has been incorporated into the University of Bristol complex building which can still be seen today.

Valentino.



Stuart Milk in Bath

An important event in Bath's LGBT history took place on 21 February 2018, when Stuart Milk talked to a large audience in the Guildhall. Stuart Milk is the nephew of Harvey Milk, the first openly-gay man to attain public office when he was elected to the San Francisco Board of Supervisors in 1977. In November 1978, he was murdered along with the mayor by a disgruntled ex-supervisor, who was tried and convicted of manslaughter. The lenient prison sentence handed down caused gays in San Francisco to riot, one of the key milestones in the gay rights movement.

Stuart Milk is the president of the Harvey Milk Foundation, which campaigns for equal rights for LGBT and other minorities around the world. During the talk, Stuart gave moving testimony of his experiences with young LGBT activists in Hungary and Peru.

Continued on page 7.....

Official Notices

GayWest Social Evenings Second Wednesday of each month May 9th and June 13th

at **The Old Market Tavern** in Old Market Street, Bristol.



Gloucester Gay and Lesbian Community.

They will meet on the **1st Thursday of each month** at the same venue and time, 7.30 – 10pm. Details of all their social activities will continue to be on their Website. www.gglc.co.uk



Weston-S-Mare Rainbow Café

The Café is no longer in operation, but we will let you know if there are any changes in the future.



All GayWest Post to :-

30, Woodpecker Close,

Keynsham, BRISTOL. BS31 2FU

Tel:- 0775 881 0134 or 0785 433 6047

Info@gaywest.org.uk **You can now pay by Credit/Debit Card**

Official Notices

**Gay West Annual Picnic at Brandon Hill, Bristol, BS1
5RR – Sunday 19th August 2018 at 1pm.**



This is open to everyone, and you are encouraged to bring your own picnic.

MEETING POINT – It will be in the front of the Cabot Tower.

This event has been kindly organised by Philip Cawte

More details in next Journal



Stuart Milk in Bath Continued from page 5

He emphasised how important it is to fight against all forms of discrimination and to form alliances with other marginalised groups.

The room was full with people of all ages, including quite a lot of young people, perhaps around 100 in total. There were a number of questions at the end of the talk. Reference was also made to BANES being named top Local Authority in Stonewall's 2017 Education Champions Index for its work promoting diversity in schools. The event was a fitting contribution to LGBT History Month in the city. Robert.

Members Letters

An Update from Grange-Over-Sands, South Cumbria.
To all our friends and members of GayWest.

Michael and I are still happy together and will be celebrating our 4th anniversary on 20th July this year. We are planning to go away for a few days to the "North Lake District" and on the 3rd of June I will be a very young looking 80 year old, having a small party when four of our friends are going to attend, Colin and Jim will stay with us and Eric and Antony plan to stay in the Windermere area.

I am having a cake made and iced in my favourite colours Emerald Green and Yellow, but decisions still have to be made on the presentation of the 80 candles, singly, I might need a willing helper to blow them all out, or as a single shape of 80 which might prove easier.

Michael and I have joined the Grange District of the U3A (University of the Third Age) in March last, at only £12.00 and for this you can join several different groups at no extra costs.

Michael belongs to the Digital Camera Group which meets once a month in a local hall, along with the Music Appreciation Group where I am the new coordinator after the previous holder stood down for health reasons, again held monthly in one of the members homes.

The Group has a theme—last year it was the Alphabet which throws up some unusual music featuring some not so well known composers, last month it was "The Weather" and this month it is "The Countryside".

Members Letters

I am also second in charge of The Book-Worms Group where we choose a book, this month it is "Far from the Madding Crowd" by Thomas Hardy, we read it then the next month we discuss it's merits etc.

Sorry to say but the "Gay Scene" is non-existent in Cumbria, there was a club in Kendal but that closed due to lack of support.

The Gay pub in Barrow-in-Furness has closed following an incident that you might have seen in the press, when a 19 year old went in with a machete "to kill a gay" as he was anti-gay, he is awaiting sentence but during questioning he maintained that he was bisexual, but the court did not believe him.

The nearest mecca's for the LGBT community is in Blackpool about an hour away, Leeds, Manchester or Newcastle-on-Tyne, but these are quite a journey for us.

There is a sauna in Carlisle, this has changed hands 3 times in the last year, it is not very clean and does give concern about catching something, it is surprising that the Environment Health Officers have not ordered it to be cleaned up , or closed it down.

I believe this happened to a sauna which used to be behind Bristol Temple Meads Station which was closed and I believe is now a Brothel?

We miss the ambiance of GayWest and going to the Old Market Tavern, although we try to get down to the Christmas Dinner, last year we could not attend as Michael had a severe cold. We were very disappointed.

With Kind Regards

From Pixie at Pixie Dell

Membership Costs

After a discussion amongst some members regarding the current fee structure, they suggested that all the fees should rise, thus the committee have done this comparison and because the fee has not risen for (18) Eighteen years, it was decided that all fees will initially rise by £3.00 per person from 1st October 2018, and kept under review.

Membership Rates from past records:-

	1988	1991	1996	1998	2000	2018
Cons	£4	£5	£6	£7	£10	£13
Single	£7	£8	£10	£12	£15	£18
Joint	£10	£12	£15	£18	£20	£26

The reason for the rise in annual membership fee is to bring the group's bank balances up to a level that so we are not working on the breadline. Our last Annual General Meeting financial statement showed only a £130.00 over, this is not a lot to cover any unexpected expenditure.

The membership fee also contributes to cover some of the running costs of The Rainbow Café, helping us to maintain lower costs.

Therefore:- **Please note that all fees will rise by £3.00 per person on the 1st October 2018 and can you arrange with your bank to make the changes if you pay by Standing Order.**

Membership Costs

Yearly costs for each member

Magazines	6 per year	Over	£6
Postage		Over	£3
Insurance			£1.40
Website Etc.		Over	£3
Stationery		Over	£2
		Total	£15.40

We would like to encourage members to pay their fees by bank standing orders as this reduces work in chasing cash payments and sending out reminders that all cost time and money. Alternatively you can pay on-line via our website.



The GayWest Website....

Unfortunately changes being made are taking longer than we had hoped, but be assured the wait will be worth it. Changes are having to be done due to the closing down of a website that was linked to our own for the membership and events sections. The new changes being built into our site will include a much easier way to log on as a member that will not include having to input your e-mail address and its password. You will use your GayWest membership number. Also news and events will be displayed on the home page and will be interactive in use and also more convenient for those of us who have to manage the site to maintain it.

Top fifty Gay films

Movies teach us how to be. We learn morals, ethical lessons, how to interact with others, how to fall in and out of love. And we learn from movies how to view others—and how to view ourselves.

This has been truly evident in how film has depicted queer characters from its earliest days as visual medium. We have seen people like us reduced to stereotypes—sometimes based in truth, sometimes played by queer performers eager to find work and express their own identities in front of a camera, for better or for worse. Film has also depicted queer people as villains, victims, heroes, and outcasts. More often than not, films about the LGBT community are made not for those of us within it, but rather viewers who consider themselves a part of the straight world. Film teaches us about empathy, about understanding difference. Many films featuring queer characters have succeeded at that mission, while many others have failed. As with any other marginalized group, it's tricky to make a movie about the queer community—even if the filmmakers responsible are members of the tribe. There's a damned-if-you-do, damned-if-you-don't nature to the audience's response. Are these characters trying to assimilate into the straight world? Are they *too* queer? Do they represent our vastly intricate inner lives?

The top three films are.....

No. 3 *Moonlight* directed by Barry Jenkins — The only film on the list to earn an Oscar for best picture.

No 2 *Philadelphia* 1993 directed by Jonathan Demmie —Tom Hanks won his first Oscar for his performance as Andrew Beckett

No 1 *The boys in the band* 1970 Directed by William Friedkin — based on a play by Mark Crawley

More information on www.esquire.com

Top fifty Gay films

Top three Gay Films on Netflix

The Way he looks— A new classmate transforms the daily life of a blind teenager who longs for independence and disrupts his relationship with his best friend.

4th man out—A young mechanic comes out to his extremely straight friends. Once they get used to the idea ,they're determined to help him find the right guy

Those People—A young Manhattan painter's goals are put to the test when he falls for an older man while still having feelings for his long standing crush



Theatre The Inheritance

At seven hours split over two evenings, The inheritance may be a rather long time to sit through. But with its soap-opera plot and some phenomenally good acting, the show whizzes along. It's a sprawling saga about a 'coven' of implausibly good -looking gay men in Manhattan and their receding group memory of the Aids epidemic of the eighties. The main characters are Eric and Toby who look like they are heading for marriage, when temptation arrives in the form of a young actor, Adam. More than six hours pass before we meet the first female character who is played by Vanessa Redgrave who is out of her league along side the young actors. The play has a problem though with extended explicit sexual content and the plot were Toby falls for a Rent boy. If you have time to spare its on at the Young Vic, Waterloo, London. Until May 19th

Tickets 020 7922 2922

A Gay Life In.....

India

A very old law dating back to 1861 (article 377 of the Indian penal code) criminalises gay sex with up to ten years in prison. This was invalidated by the Delhi high court in 2009, but in 2013 the supreme court reintroduced article 377.

In January 2016 the supreme court announced it would review this decision but until this is done, being gay in India remains a crime.

Article 377 is being used by the authorities as validation for all sorts of bullying and harassment of the L.G.B.T. community, in particular the police who use it as a way to get bribes.

Before 2013 there was a lively gay scene in India's Capital Delhi but since the re-introduction of article 377 most of the gay club scene has gone underground.

Maldives

The Maldives is a Muslim country and unfortunately carries the usual sharia law. It is illegal for Maldivian citizens to be non-Muslim. Alcohol is illegal and gayness of any sort here runs the risk of the death penalty.

Fortunately for gay tourists the Maldivian economy relies heavily on tourism as its main source of income. So gay tourists are made welcome by the ordinary locals. But there is no such thing as a gay community or a gay scene in any shape or form. But being discrete would be the order of the day.



Entertainment

Bristol Pride will this year be on Saturday 14th July and this time will not clash with London Pride as it has in past years. GayWest will not be having a stall there this year.



Weston—S—Mare Pride will be a two day event over the weekend of 28th/29th July. We have had support to enable this to go ahead so we have a stall again this year so please do come along and give us your support. For more information go to www.pinkuk.com.



The Palace Bar. The Bristol Gin Palace closed on 17th March, the Palace's closure follows that of Swindon's Mail Coach earlier this year and that of another Old Market venue, The Retreat in 2016. Not much of a gay village to talk about now.

However the good news is located in nearby Alfred street, an "**Eagle**" bar has opened within the "Dare to" complexes, based on the popular franchise found in Cardiff and Manchester.

Leatherwest now use the Eagle venue for some of their events. More information can be found on Leatherwest.com/union



10 Fun Facts

1. You can't see your ears without a mirror.
2. You can't count your own hairs.
3. You can't breath through your mouth, without your tongue out.
4. You just tried number 3.
6. When you did number 3 you realised that it is possible, only you look like a dog.
7. You are smiling right now, because you were fooled.
8. You skipped number 5.
9. You just checked to see if there is a number 5.
10. Share this with your friends, so they can have some fun too.

