



GayWest Magazine
For
September & October 2018

Features

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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

Well what a summer, many of you will remember the summer of 1976, but then they didn't blame global warming, run out of beer, or have to put up with waring politicians, although maybe we did as 1976 was the year after the last referendum on the EU or Common Market as it was known then. What can you remember!

Then there was the Football World Cup. I am not a great sports fanatic but was so delighted to see how well the England team performed. None of the "expert's" predicted they would reach the semi's and you actually heard about their playing skills rather than their barroom antics. The cricket was at times good along with the tennis. But I think that for most of us in GayWest walking football would be as far as we would go.

As for the GayWest team there was the local summer prides, more about these and the GayWest outings later. Many of you have probably paid a visit to Brighton, Bournemouth or Cardiff prides and there are still some in September.

You will all have received a questionnaire with the last Journal. I do hope you can find the time to complete and send back to us by the time of the A.G.M. on September 22nd. It is important to us to get you views on how Gaywest is doing and how it is for you.

Although we have a fairly trouble free life being out gay people here in the UK, in many countries this is still not the case and even can be a problem in our own country in certain cases. So we have continued our "Gay Life" articles in this issue.

As always we need more hands on deck on the good ship committee so come along and give your support at our A.G.M in September see details on page 4. **Colin**



Important Notices

Please Note:- The Rainbow Café - Rent Charge Rise - From 1st October 2018 the charges for our use of the room at St. Michael's Centre will go up from £30.00 to £40.00 per week, So if you wish the Café to continue, we will need your support in the form of purchases of drinks and cakes or donations to keep it viable.

Annual General Meeting

To be held on **Saturday 22nd of September at 11.30am**

It is important to come and get up-to-date with all that is going on in your organisation.

Nominations for the following posts of Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary along with other important posts on the Committee, Please get your completed nomination form to the Treasurer seven days before the meeting.

Deciphering your Membership number -

Understanding the new presentation.

M = Membership,

the next two letters indicate the Month you are due to renew your subscription, -

The three digit number is personal to you,

and the last two letters are your main initials. E.G. **MFE160AP**

Official Notices

GayWest Social Evenings Second Wednesday of each month –September 12th and October 10th

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



Gloucestershire Pride Event

Is being held on Saturday 8th

of September at Gloucester Park

Don't miss this fun event. For more information go to www.pinkuk.com.



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
Cheques should still be payable to Bath GCO (GayWest).

GayWest 2018 Events Reports

We started the new year with a visit to Bath to attend **Stuart Milk** talk in Bath. After his talk we were privileged to meet him and he was very interested in GayWest and it's long History. (A report can be seen in the May/June Mag).

On the last Sunday of February, Robert Howes took a group of interested people on his very popular Gay History Walk around Bath.

In April it was our first social outing a circular walk around Keynsham (see article in July/Aug Mag). Followed by an invite for the group to have a stall at The Bath Spa University Pride on the 21st. This was a first for the university and a first for us, a great way to connect to our younger generation.

On May the 7th we were at Leyhill Prison's Pride and this was our second year at this event. There was a collection made for GayWest and we will be attending a social evening on September 15th where we will receive a cheque for the amount collected. Also in May we had a Sunday afternoon visit to Beckford's Tower in Bath, A very interesting folly to visit. With lunch in The Hare and Hounds, where we enjoyed our lovely meal outside on the terrace, overlooking the lovely country views. Like most of our outings this year we had good weather.

June saw us make a trip over into Cardiff with a visit to St Fagan's the Welsh National History Museum, a real joy to wander around and as you do so travel through the ages. One of the buildings here was a post war prefab, this took me back to the time when my sister lived in one on the Bebrook estate in Bristol. Some of you will remember this area, all redeveloped now.



More Reports and Events

July we visited the Bristol Aerospace Museum in Filton, again the weather was tropical. This is a must for any of you who are interested in anything involving air flight, engineering or just having pride in what many Bristolians have been making for the past 70 odd years. Of course the highlight of the visit is the Concorde itself.

Also this month saw us at the Bath Carnival and Pride on Saturday 21st. We had a stall at the Recreation ground and then took part in the parade around the streets of Bath. Although we were completely shattered after the march, it was great fun and a massive turn out by the people and tourists in Bath on the day. I would also give credit to the organiser that we dealt with who was thrown into the deep end just a few weeks before the event.

July 28th saw us again at Weston-S-Mare Pride which was a well attended event by many of our members who I believe had a great day.

GayWest was invited for the first time to have a stall at the Amnesty International Bristol garden party on 5th August at Goldney Hall Gardens, Clifton. This was an interesting event as we were surrounded by religious groups and we alone were the only LGBT organisation at the event, but it went well and we spread the word !

What can we say but that this was also the month for GayWest's Picnic outing, and was the weather kind to us again! Well only just. We had a great turn out and a fun afternoon.



Wedding Belles

The Little Theatre, next to the Rainbow Café, sometimes hosts weddings, with a red carpet and white roses. The other day, as we came out of the café, we saw a wedding party getting ready to go in. The bride was wearing a traditional wedding dress and was surrounded by bridesmaids while the groom wore tight-fitting jeans and calf boots. When the groom turned round, we saw that she was a woman, with her hair in a tight bun and a waistcoat. A gay wedding on Gay West's doorstep!

But most same-sex couples seem to wear identical suits for their wedding ceremony. Here we had a couple making the traditional distinction between bride and groom in their clothes. What could it mean? Is butch and fem role-playing making a come-back among lesbians? Or are some people so sold on the traditional wedding that they have to imitate it in every respect? Maybe it was a statement of equality. But then perhaps it was an ironic post-modernist comment on the whole wedding business.

It didn't seem the right moment to ask, so we shall never know. But, whatever the reason, the couple look radiant and enjoying their big day with their families and friends. We wish them a long married life together and every happiness in the future.

Robert



Swedes are going NAKED in....

No it is not what you thought, Asda are now selling a swede without plastic shrink wrap, so saving on the use of PLASTIC, and so it should be.

Gay life in

Gay sex is no longer as widely criminalised as it used to be, but a total of 74 nations still have laws against it. The total no of nations with laws against same sex intimacy fell to 74 on April 12th 2018 when Trinidad's High Court overturned that country's sodomy law (pending on appeal). LGBT rights activists hope upcoming court rulings in India and Kenya will drop the count to 73 or 72. Overall a strong trend is moving the world from homophobic repression – although it is happening slowly.

Gay Life in Japan - LGBT rights in Japan are relatively progressive although LGBT people lack full legal equality. Same-sex sexual activity was legalized in 1880 after the installation of the Napoleonic Code and the age of consent is equal. Same-sex couples and households headed by same-sex couples are ineligible for the legal protections available to opposite-sex couples, though some cities have recently begun issuing "partnership certificates" to same-sex couples as a means to recognise their relationships.

Japanese culture and major religions originated in and imported to Japan do not have a history of hostility towards homosexuality. A majority of Japanese citizens are reportedly in favour of accepting homosexuality, with a 2013 poll indicating that 54 percent agreed that homosexuality should be accepted by society, while 36 percent disagreed, with a large age gap. Although many political parties have not openly supported or opposed LGBT rights, there are several openly LGBT politicians in office. A law allowing transgender individuals to change their legal gender post-[sex reassignment surgery](#) was passed in 2002. Discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity is banned in certain cities. Colin

Book Review

Sucking Sherbet Lemons by Michael Carson,

published by Victor Gollancz Ltd. 1988

'Wobbles' Benson is fat, fourteen, fervently catholic, guilt-ridden, and a secret dancer in front of the bedroom mirror. He's also a founder member of the Rude Club, meeting in the garage with two friends to indulge in mortal sins of the flesh. Fascinated by the exotic older Bruno, Benson starts his hilarious journey to perdition and sexual awakening.

Feeling the call to join the Brothers at St. Finbar's seminary, if only to avoid double-maths homework, Benson (now Brother Joachim) sits his O-Levels, loses his wobbles and becomes good at cross-country running. Soon he attracts the attentions of sinful Brother Michael who tempts novices from their chores with disastrous results.

Expelled from the seminary and sent back to his dreaded school to be teased and mocked, Benson clings to his fading catholic ideals. His sexual adventures continue via the local library until he meets Clitherow, star pupil of the Sixth Form. Together, they attend their first gay orgy. It cost them 25-shillings each.

This entertaining first novel by Michael Carson, an English catholic writer, tells of a young man's journey in the early 1960's from teenage angst to self-acceptance. The strong theme of catholic guilt, church hypocrisy, kindness and compassion, enriches this delightful book and is highly recommended. You can find it as part of our book library collection.

Michael Reid



GayWest Library

Our Librarian Ernie has spent a lot of time sorting out our books, we have approximately 300 titles including some gay classics.

Books can be borrowed, without set periods, this is recorded, at no cost, but you may like to make a donation to GayWest funds.

Contact Ernie or one of the Committee members.

If after finding your favourite, you might like to write a short review, we could publish this in a future magazine.

“**Gay’s The Word**” bookshop as seen in the film “PRIDE” is still in London, it was opened in 1979, so making it a little younger than GayWest.

Located at :- 66, Marchmont Street, London. WC1N 1AB

Tel:- 020 7278 7654 Website :- gaystheword.co.uk



The Rainbow Café

The Rainbow Café meets every Saturday Morning

From 10.30am-12.30pm

At St. Michael’s Day Centre,

St Michael’s Place, Bath. BA1 1SG

(Next to the Little Theatre Cinema)

The Rainbow is open to all.

THE HIPPODROME

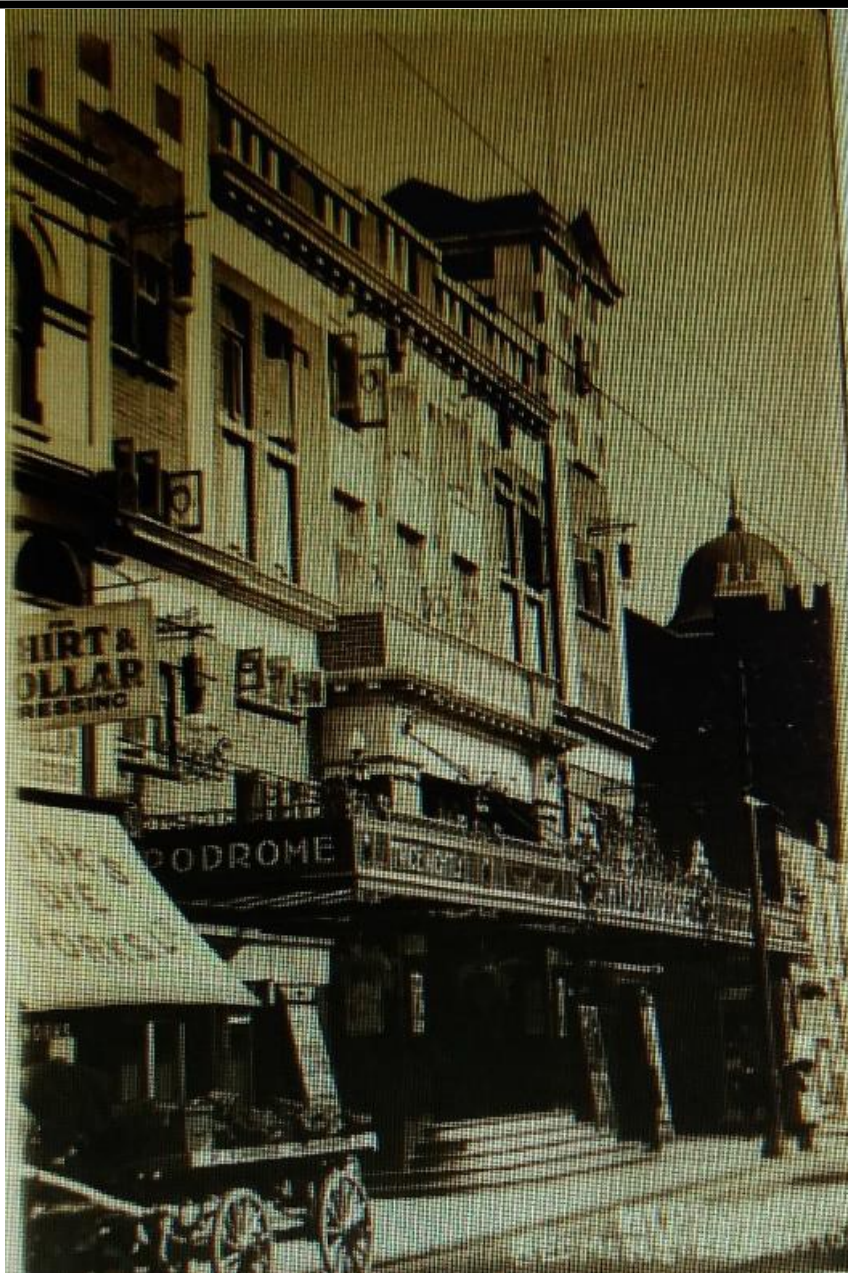
The theatre was designed by leading theatre architect Bertie Crewe. It opened in 1911 as one of a chain of variety theatres run by impresario Walter de Freece. It stood in East Street, Bedminster between Essex Street and Lombard Street.

It was a much-liked and a most attractive brick-built building with white stone decoration. In the auditorium were stalls, dress circle and balcony with a seating capacity of 1,887. The proscenium stage was 38 feet wide and the stage was 20 feet deep. In 1915 the theatre was converted to show films by impresario Oswald Stoll and was renamed The Stoll Picture Theatre. Stars such as Tessie O'Shea and Randolph Sutton appeared there during the 1930's.

In January 1941 the building took a direct hit during a raid and the roof was virtually destroyed. A decade or so later, the building was demolished. Today the site is occupied by shops such as Superdrug and a Barclays Bank. In the background of the picture is a dome which, following renovation after the war, still stands today: it is adjacent to the ASDA supermarket.

Valentino 24/07/18

THEATRE BEDMINSTER



In The News

'No right' to turn down

LGBT work Poland's Supreme Court has ruled against a print shop employee who refused to print banners for an LGBT business group because he did not want to "promote" the gay rights movement. A lower court had argued that the principle of equality meant the printer did not have the right to withhold services from LGBT Business Forum. The case was brought to the Supreme Court by the hard-right Polish government, who attacked the ruling as being "against freedom"

Gay men taking HIV pills can have unprotected sex

Gay men who take daily anti-HIV pills can have unprotected sex without transmitting the Aids virus to their partner, major research has confirmed. An eight year study found men whose "viral load" was reduced to undetectable levels by antiretroviral therapy were "sexually non-infectious". Experts said the findings highlighted the importance of early detection of HIV.

Baker who refused to make gay wedding cake wins case.

The US Supreme Court has ruled in favour of a Colorado baker who refused to make a wedding cake for a gay couple on religious grounds. by a 7-2 decision the higher court found that the Colorado Civil Rights Commission had shown hostility towards the baker and his conservative Christian beliefs.

The baker said that making the cake would amount to endorsing "something that directly goes against" the Bible. The gay couple claimed they were wrongly discriminated against because of their sexual orientation. Same sex marriage was not recognised by the state of Colorado at the time in 2012.. Appeals in similar cases are pending including one from a florist who declined to provide flowers for a same sex wedding.

Talking Tables - Cooking

Local Bristol charity LinkAge Network is delighted to be working with Windmill Hill City Farm, to run **free cooking sessions for people aged 50+ who identify as LGBT+.**

The Talking Tables project which is funded by Bristol Ageing Better, is made up of several 6-8 week free cooking sessions at three of Bristol's city farms.

Research undertaken by Diversity Trust says that **LGBT+ people have told us that LGBT+ safe-spaces are vitally important for people to be able to explore a wide range of themes, and so we hope Talking Tables will do exactly this.*

Caroline McDonnell, Project Coordinator says, "The sessions provide a safe and supportive environment for older LGBT+ people to build confidence and engage in an activity that enables them to meet and socialise with other local people."

By running the cooking sessions at the city farms participants will gain skills and knowledge to cook nutritious and tasty food, as well the opportunity to enjoy the open air and harvest produce.

Want to get involved?

Sessions at Windmill Hill City Farm will take place every Tuesday 9th October – 13th November 2018, from 10am – 1pm.

Talking Tables endeavours to be accessible to people with all access and dietary requirements, so if you have a requirement, please contact us and we can discuss how we can meet your needs.

Get in touch

To find out more about the sessions and to book your place, please contact Caroline McDonnell on **0117 353 3042** or email carolinemcdonnell@linkagenetwork.org.uk.

** Berkeley Wilde, Director at Diversity Trust*





Summer Events
2018

