
G A Y W E S T



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**January &
February 2019**

Contents

Page 1	Front Cover
Page 2	List of Contents
Page 3	Welcome from the Chairman
Page 4	A Gay Fairy Tale
Page 5	Jason - Coming Out
Page 6	“Legal or Logical”
Page 7	Lesbian Page
Page 8	Annual Dinner Photo’s
Page 10	Book Review
Page 11	GayWest News
Page 16	The Last Czar of Russia

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

Welcome

Well here we are at the start of another New Year, so let me first wish you all a Happy New Year.

Already this year events are being added to the GayWest calendar, more details of which you can find in the magazine. We now have a slightly bigger committee and I hope this will benefit us all.

But I am looking even beyond 2019 to April 2020, for in that month GayWest as an organisation will celebrate its 50th year, so we are already planning ahead for this very important event in our history.

One of the ideas is to publish a booklet with stories and comments from our members over the years, These can be sent to us and be anonymous, also a brief story line about the group. We would also like to produce a revealing GayWest Calendar that we could sell and donate the revenue to a chosen LGBT local charity. There will also be a reception of some sort to celebrate GayWest's 50th year.

As requested by GayWest members we have reverted back to Magazine for the title of this publication and we also hope you like the new layout. Let us have your views.

The Website is working well, we have had over 15 new members recently via the site. Many other organisations have also got in touch with us this way. These have resulted in GayWest becoming involved with more LGBT groups, universities, and charities, all working to help and support the LGBT community.

On a final note, I thank all of you who came along and enjoyed our Christmas Dinner, I hope you all had a good evening. You can read more about it on page 8 and you will be able to obtain photos of the dinner on request.

Colin (GayWest Chair)

A Gay Fairy Tale

Some time ago in a land far away, an old King said to his handsome young son, the Prince, “My boy, you’re now 21 and it’s time you got married.”

So the Prince saddled his trusty horse and rode to the cities of neighbouring countries seeking a suitable partner.

A few months later he returned home, unsaddled his horse and took his prospective partner to meet his father.

The King was horrified. “You can’t marry another Prince!” he cried. “You can only marry a Princess.”

“But we love each other!” exclaimed the Prince. “Why can’t we marry?”

“Because it’s wrong,” said the King. “If you marry, you’ll have sex and the Bible says that men having sex with other men is a no-no.”

“But the Bible also says that slavery is okay,” retorted the Prince. “And yet we don’t allow slavery in our Kingdom.”

“That’s because it’s harmful to the slaves,” said the King.

“Judging something by whether it causes harm is a good idea,” replied the Prince. “Let’s also use it to judge sex between men. Such sex could be harmful, but if it’s done right with caring love and no harm to either man, then it seems okay to me.”

He continued “And my lover and I

will make sure we don’t harm each other in any way.”

After thinking about it overnight, the King conceded that the Prince was right. “You have my blessing,” he said. “The marriage will be next month.”

“Thanks, dad,” smiled the Prince.

Continuing on the Fairy
Tale theme...

The Bristol Hippodrome

“Kinky Boots”

25th February 2019 -

9th March

Matthew Bourne’s

“Swan Lake”

Tuesday 12th - 14th March

As bold and beautiful as ever.

Jason - coming out

The fear of being thrown out of his home was one of many that Jason Osmanski struggled with before he decided to come out to his parents two years ago.

As a child, his family attended a Southern Baptist church where Jason was taught that being gay is a sin. He remembers hearing his father say that having a gay kid would mean he had failed as a parent.

"I prayed every single day, asking God to take it away from me because I didn't want to feel like this and I didn't want to go to hell," said Jason, now a sophomore at Snow Canyon High in St. George.

The summer after eighth grade, Jason lit several candles in his bedroom and wrote a suicide note. He lay down on his bed and held a knife to his wrist. But he stopped.

He pictured his mother's face when she found him.

"I thought, 'I can't do this to her,' " Jason said.

Instead, he called his best friend and confided for the first time what he was going through.

Jason knew he also had to tell his mom, but he didn't know how. He was 14 years old and had spent half his life sensing he was different. Now, he had the words for it. Wanting to break the news somewhere public, someplace

safe, Jason tagged along with his mom on a shopping trip to Walmart.

But he still couldn't say it. He took a pad of paper from the pharmacy counter and wrote, "Will you love me no matter what?" Carolyn Osmanski gave him a quizzical look but answered, "Of course." Jason scribbled another note, crumpled it, handed it to his mom and bolted to a nearby aisle.

She looked down at the wrinkled paper: "I'm gay."

After Jason passed his mother that crumpled note in Walmart, she found him shaking on the floor in the cosmetics aisle, beneath rows of mascara and eye shadow. Carolyn Osmanski lifted her son to his feet and gave him a hug.

She told him, "I love you no matter what."

Membership

Since our last Issue we welcome all our new members, we would appear to be the only long standing LGBT Group that is continuing to attract new members, we have welcomed Nicola, Ian and Terry, Jackie, Viira, Robert, Keith and Simon giving us a Total of 93 members.

Legal or Logical?

A young Law student, having failed his Law exam, goes up to his crusty old professor, who is renowned for his razor-sharp legal mind.

Student: "Sir, do you really understand everything about this subject?"

Professor: "Actually, I probably do. Otherwise I wouldn't be a professor, would I?"

Student: "OK. So I'd like to ask you a question. If you can give me the correct answer, I will accept my mark as it is. If you can't give me the correct answer, however, you'll have to give me an "A".

Professor: "Hmmm, alright. So what's the question?"

Student: "What is legal but not logical, logical but not legal, and neither logical nor legal?"

The professor wracks his famous brain, but just can't crack the answer. Finally he gives up and changes the student's failing mark into an "A" as agreed, and the student goes away, very pleased.

The professor continues to wrack his brain over the question all afternoon, but still can't get the answer. So finally he calls in a group of his brightest students and tells them he has a really, really tough question to answer: "What is legal but not logical, logical but not legal, and neither logical nor legal?"

To the professor's surprise (and embarrassment), all the students immediately raise their hands.

"All right" says the professor and asks his favourite student to answer

"It's quite easy, sir" says the student "You see, you are 75 years old and married to a 30 year old woman, which is legal, but not logical.

Your wife has a 22 year old lover, which is logical, but not legal. And your wife's lover failed his exam but you've just given him an "A", which is neither legal, nor logical.

Lesbian Page

For Lesbian and ladies welfare contact Pink Herrings, see our Website Links page or contacts list in the Rainbow for details.

The following list of TV and Film may interest our lady members:-

Colette, Gentleman Jack, Lizzie, Vita & Virginia, The Favourite and Killing Eve.

The Bristol Hippodrome

Upcoming events February and March 2019

Two productions not to miss, **Kinky Boots** and **Matthew Bourne's Swan Lake** information on both is available from the box office.

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**

Annual Dinner Photo's



So much fun from a cracker



GayWest Annual Dinner 2018

We held our annual dinner on Friday 14th December, a total of 50 members and guests attended. The food was of the usual high standard, I have not heard of any complaints. The Special Member award went to Ernie Everest for all his work in reorganising our Library.

We welcomed our two guests Paul and Daniel from France who very kindly sponsored a 3 day B&B stay in their Hotel, in aid of GayWest. This was won by David Price and Hein Soe, so we wish them a lovely holiday in 2019.

The evening continued with a very generously donated raffle, with over 20 prizes.

Annual Dinner Photo's



I wonder what the Joke was?



Cheek to Cheek....



Paul and Butlers



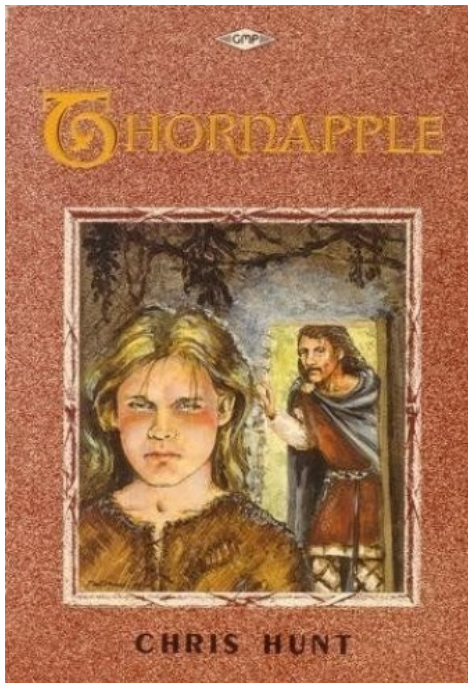
? Old Friends

Gay Romance, Murder, Sin, debauchery and a hint of Witchcraft!!

Book Review - Thornapple

This is one of my favourite historical novels written by Chris Hunt and published by Gay Men's Press from our own library collection.

Set in the days of bad King John in 1204, it tells of a handsome pedlar as he carouses his way from the fleshpots of London to a castle in East Anglia. There he finds a secret herb garden hidden in the woods, tended by a 'witch' and a beautiful Saxon lad – innocent, more or less.



This is a tale of gay romance, murder, sin, debauchery, and just a hint of witchcraft. The characters present a rich tapestry of mediaeval England, with a wicked lady of the manor scheming to get rid of her tiresome lord, especially as he has eyes for the Saxon lad, Marel.

We meet Roger, a renegade monk, cast out of the monastery in disgrace for carnal pleasures. He is also destined to meet the pedlar, Marel and the wicked lady. A rich stew begins to brew that soon leads to murder and mayhem, with lashings of passionate sex along the way.

Chris Hunt was a successful author of gay-themed historical novels that were well researched and highly readable. Published in the 1980's at a time when gay fiction was a small niche market,

these books are now much sought after. I was delighted when I found a copy of one of his other novels at this year's Gloucester Pride.

Thornapple by Chris Hunt published by Gay Men's Press c.1989.

Michael Reid

GayWest News

Writing your memoirs or just feel like putting some of your gay experiences down on paper!

Anonymously, of course.

We would like to hear from both our Male and Female Members short articles on the following subjects:-

Memories of how your gay world used to be, The Funny, The Hardships Life Stories of Coming Out, Life Experiences, these are to enlighten the younger LGBT community of the past, that some of us went through for the cause.

Suggestions Each year at our annual dinner the Chairman gives a small prize to a member who has given outstanding assistance to the group over the last year, It has been suggested that you could nominate a Café Server of the year, so get nominating for next year.

For your information, To allow your **website** to work it requires a Domain provider, this used to be 1+1, but this has been changed to Newicon keeping all our requirements under one organisation. and is due to be renewed 22/4/19

For the members who used the “**Chatroom**” with our old website and who have not found an alternative, you can use the GayWest Facebook or GayWest Twitter to keep up with the latest chat.

GayWest News

Robert Howes is to give a LGBT/Gaywest **History talk in Taunton 2nd February** and is also preparing a small booklet to celebrate the 50 years of GayWest in 2020. so any information you could give would be appreciated.

Suggested Events For 2019

Tour of the Old Vic Theatre

Snowdrop Visit (Easy to access location)

February History Month

Book barn in March

Auction with a difference to raise funds for GayWest in—April

GayWest Social Evenings Second Wednesday of each month
9th January and 13th February 2019
at **The Old Market Tavern** in Old Market Street, Bristol.

**All GayWest Post to :- 30, Woodpecker Close,
Keynsham, BRISTOL. BS31 2FU**

Tel:- 0775 881 0134 or 07898 790 855

E Mails to Info@gaywest.org.uk

**You can now join and pay on-line by Credit/Debit Card,
Cheques should still be payable to Bath GCO (GayWest).**

GayWest News

**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.**



Something New ! So come along and try them.

Bacon Rolls to start on 19th January at the Café £2.00 each or £3.00 for 2 when purchased together. Gluten Free Rolls will be available, other Dietary needs upon request.

GayWest News

Following our 2018 AGM discussions, it was agreed that membership payments can be paid by setting up a Standing Order at your bank.

Your membership will then automatically renew itself each year without the membership secretary having to remind you. This will cut down on admin work, e.g. sending out reminders.

For those who have difficulty paying all the fee at one time, GayWest can also offer an easy monthly payment plan of a minimum of £2.00p as a Standing Order for a minimum of a year, this will cover your Subscription along with a donation on a regular basis.

Colin (GayWest Chair)

LGBT Contact List

A Comprehensive list is to be found at The Rainbow Café and on our links page of the Website. This is an extract from the above list... Contacts, Helplines, Health and Groups,

Housing

Lesbian Groups

LGBT Groups

Sport and Leisure

Transgender

Youth Groups

These have more than one contact under each heading, so hope you find what you are looking for, but do contact us if there are any others you feel will be of use to our members.

GayWest News

New GayWest A.G.M. Elected Committee:-

Chairman - Mr Colin O'Brien

Secretary - Mr. Michael Reid

Treasurer - Mr. Jim Phimister

The following roles are also undertaken by the above committee, Rainbow Café Co-Ordinator and Host, Assistant Magazine Editor, and Website Manager, Events Co-coordinator, Minutes Secretary and Deputy Chairman. Membership Secretary and Magazine Editor.

Outreach Officer - Mr. John Martin including (Facebook and Twitter) accounts.

Other Committee Members -

Mr. Chris Martin, and Mr. Duncan Ross who has decided, because of work commitments, to stand down from the committee for the time being.

2020 Revealing Calendar proceeds to a local LGBT Charity, you can volunteer your participation or further location suggestions for activities to the Chairman or member of the committee.

New Groups It has come to the attention of the committee that there are quite a few small groups setting up across the area. Our Chairman, will try to make contact with them along with the local Universities to keep them informed of us and our activities.

The Last Czar of Russia

Some theatre performances have understandably moved me to tears, but I have never before been emotive about an exhibition: all that changed when I visited the Science Museum in London in October 2018. I had booked to see the exhibition detailing the lives of Czar Nikolai II and his wife the Czarina Alexandra and their family.

A most comprehensive display of photographs, albums, documents, letters, diaries, jewellery, clothes and artefacts – all gleaned from world-wide sources – had been assembled for the public to see.

Nikolai had a rich royal background with ancestors in Denmark, Greece and the United Kingdom. Alexandra was likewise of royal blood and a grand-daughter of Queen Victoria. They were married in 1894 following the early death at the age of 49, of Nikolai's father (Alexander III). Nikolai became the Emperor of Russia at the age of just twenty-six and had his coronation in 1896: he chose to uphold the conservative policies favoured by his father. A delegation of land workers approached the Czar with ideas for constitutional monarchy to improve the political and economic lives of the peasants. The Czar rejected these suggestions outright and, it is thought, instigated a dislike of the Emperor.

The Czarina was also very much disliked by her subjects as they found her cold and curt. Of the royal marriage four daughters Olga, Tatiana, Maria and Anastasia were born, but their parents were anxious for a son – as heir apparent. Their fifth sibling was a boy and was named Alexei, but alas, he was

a sick child and suffered from haemophilia – an incurable bleeding disease, which was hereditary amongst royal families. To conceal the truth from the Russian people, the family withdrew from royal duties, and retreated to the rural Alexander Palace twenty miles away. They lost touch with the country they ruled and after the First World War, the Bolsheviks came into power: the Romanov's fate was sealed. The family was incarcerated at Ipatiev House in Ekaterinburg, and on 17th July 1918 the entire family, their loyal servants were all massacred: in spite of rumours there were NO survivors. The bodies were dismembered and buried in two pits. Not until eighty years later were the remains discovered, and through modern DNA technology their identities were proven beyond doubt. An official investigation took, a whole century before the Soviet leadership finally admitted the family's execution.

Valentino October 2018

