
GAY WEST



ALAN TURING has been voted the
Greatest icon of the 20th Century.
He was the father of modern computer science.

**March and
April 2019**

M
A
G
A
Z
I
N
E

Contents

Page 1	Front Cover
Page 2	List of Contents
Page 3	Welcome from the Chairman
Page 4	The Voodoo Penis
Page 6	Alan Turing
Page 7	Shakespeare's Hidden Lesbians
Page 8	Woodspring Priory
Page 9	Geranium Trust
Page 10	GayWest News
Page 15	The Gay Man's Karma Sutra
Page 16	Special Holiday Offer

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

Welcome

If you are like me you will be looking forward to longer and warmer days, not quite hot but with pleasant warmer spring air as April rolls in. This year as in the past there is a lot to look forward to in the GayWest calendar.

We will be welcoming visitors to the Rainbow Café as we often do and on March 9th Steven, CEO of Newicon, will pop in to have a chat with you and answer any questions you may have regarding our website, which was designed and is hosted by Newicon for GayWest. On page 12 you will find information on some of the outings that have been organised so far this year for March, April and May. This information can also be found on the website and some of it is on our Face book page.

As always the Monthly social evenings will continue in Bristol and at present still be at “The Old Market Tavern”.

GayWest have also decided to attend the Gloucester Pride again this year on September 14th, we have also had an invite to attend Leyhill Prison’s Pride on August Bank Holiday, what better thing could you want to do on a bank holiday? We will also be visiting Weymouth and Dorset’s first pride on July 27th.

Now moving on beyond this year to 2020, and to be exact April of that year this will mark 50 years since the formation of a group who set out to fight for Homosexual equality in Bath and was the start of what eventually became GayWest.

We have set up a sub committee to put together events and other items to celebrate this amazing achievement. I would therefore like to bring your attention to the article on page 11.

Finally, I would like to point out that unlike a lot of modern LGBT organisations GayWest is primarily a social and support group for its members and does not promote any political, religious or particular issues, but will give support to any LGBT+ individual who asks for our help in any way. I feel that too many groups are still getting obsessed today with putting themselves into labelled boxes, so I repeat what I said in my blog four years ago this month.

With more and more gay weddings taking place, is it not time that some in the gay community stop wanting to be separate and different, but also to be treated as equal.

I only came out to my family and friends late in life and know this was due to the freedoms that many others in my age group fought hard for. However those same people now need to embrace the openness of the younger generation, who on the whole, accept people for who they are as other human-beings. It's time to be open and honest, respectful and courteous to achieve the aims we wish for and get away from wanting to be treated as special individuals with special needs.

Its time to leave labels behind, its time to just be human and help each other enjoy our brief existence on this amazing planet we call Earth.

Colin—Chairman

**Sex is like Snow !
You never know how
many inches you're
going to get or how
long it's going to last.**

A business man was getting ready to go on a long business trip.

He knew his wife was a flirtatious sort with an extremely healthy sex drive. So he thought he'd buy her a little something to keep her occupied while he was gone.

He went to a store that sold sex toys and started looking around. He was browsing through the dildos, looking for something special to please his wife, And started talking to the old man behind the counter. He explained his situation.

The old man said, "Well, We have vibrating dildos, special attachments, and so on, but I don't know of anything that will keep her occupied except---" and he stopped. "Except what?" the man asked. ? "Nothing, nothing." "C'mon, tell me! I need something!" "Well, sir, I don't usually mention this, but there is The Voodoo Penis."

"So what's up with this Voodoo Penis?" he asked. The old man reached under the counter, and pulled out a very old Wooden box, carved with strange symbols and erotic images. He opened it, and there lay an ordinary-looking dildo.

Voodoo Penis

The businessman laughed, and said "Big damn deal. It looks like every other dildo in this shop!" The old man replied, "But you haven't seen what it'll do yet." He pointed to a door and said, "Voodoo Penis, the door."

The Voodoo Penis miraculously rose out of its box, darted over to the door, and started pounding the keyhole. The whole door shook wildly with the vibrations, so much so that a crack began to form down the middle. Before the door split, the old man said "Voodoo Penis, return to box!"

The Voodoo Penis stopped, levitated back to the box and lay there quiet once more. "I'll take it!" said the businessman.

The guy took it home to his wife, told her it was a special dildo And that to use it, all she had to do was say "Voodoo Penis, my vagina After he'd been gone a few days, the wife was unbearably horny and remembered the Voodoo Penis.... She undressed, opened the box and said, "Voodoo Penis, my vagina!"

The Voodoo Penis shot to her crotch and started pumping. It was absolutely incredible,

Like nothing she'd ever experienced before.

After three mind-shattering orgasms, she became very exhausted and decided she'd had enough. She tried to pull it out, but it was stuck In her, still thrusting. She tried and tried to get it out, but nothing worked.

Her husband had forgotten to tell her how to shut it off. Worried, she decided to go to the hospital to see if they could help.

She put her clothes on, got in the car and started to drive, Quivering with every thrust of the dildo. On the way, another incredibly intense orgasm made her swerve all over the road.

A police officer saw this and immediately pulled her over. He asked for her license, and then asked how much she'd had to drink. Gasping and twitching, she explained, "I haven't had anything to drink, officer.

You see, I've got this Voodoo Penis thing stuck in my vagina and it won't stop screwing me!" The officer looked at her for a second, shook his head and in an arrogant voice replied,

"Yeah, right... Voodoo Penis, my ass." The rest is History.

Alan Turing—a well deserved Award

I was delighted that Alan Turing has been chosen as the Greatest Icon of the Twentieth Century. So much so that I pen the following....

Alan's father, Julius Turing was a Civil Servant in Madras, India and married to Ethel Stoney, an Anglo Indian.

They decided that their sons, Alan and John would be better educated in Britain, so they were sent back there and fostered in a large family. At school, Alan was not very promising—untidy, also poor at mathematics. However, in spite of this, he did go on to study successfully for a Mathematics Masters Degree at Cambridge and to Princeton, USA.

Meanwhile, in Warsaw, three Polish mathematicians, working on cryptology, created a machine they called Enigma to decrypt secret codes. MI6 on hearing this, persuaded them to allow Alan to develop it in order to break Nazi secret codes. Alan was informed that if he disclosed any of this to others, he would be guilty of treason and face execution.

He embarked on this at Bletchley under a cloak of secrecy. He was autistic, possibly with Asperger's Syndrome and he was also gay. He had a close relationship with a man, but who sadly died.

He perfected Enigma, which came to be known as Colossus, this was very successful at decoding the German's secret codes, and probably shortened the war by a year. In 1952 he was prosecuted for "Gross Indecency" with another man. The sentence for which was prison or "Chemical castration", he chose the latter. He found the effects of this on his body were appalling and intolerable, driving him to commit suicide by eating an apple poisoned with cyanide.

With hindsight, we now see that what the law did was so shocking and grossly unjust. It deprived Britain of this genius at this crucial time by a law now defunct. But it took until July 2017 to posthumously pardon him.

It is most gratifying to see Alan Turing, at last, receiving this accolade, in the face of strong competition. He was a mathematician, Logician, Cryptanalyst and Computer Scientist, Also a long distance runner.

Ernie Everest

Shakespeare's hidden Lesbians

Did the Bard view Cleopatra as a Sapphic heroine? A new study suggests many of his female characters were secretly gay.

For 400 years, Lesbians have been thought to be invisible in the works of William Shakespeare. But now a distinguished American academic has identified a bevy of Sapphic heroines in plays.

Hermione, Porfia and Beatrice were apparently gay. And Cleopatra's household was a hotbed of same sex affection. Not only the Egyptian Queen but the Queen of the fairies, Titania had lesbian tendencies too.

In the winter's tale, Hermione disappears for 16 years having been accused by her husband of having an affair. Her courtier Paulina attended to 'all of Hermione's needs'. The removed house in which it is hinted that Hermione was hidden, represented a secure, private place where women could engage in erotic interludes with another woman without arousing suspicion.

In the play, Paulina says of Hermione: good queen, my lord, good queen, I say good queen, and would by combat make her good. Like the knight in Courtney love romances Paulina is willing to protect the honour of her lady by combat. That the adversary is the husband stresses the "adulterous" quality of Paulina's and her Hermione's love.

The invisible years of Hermione's sojourn with Paulina were a time, when she was served and serviced—in both ordinary and erotic ways by a woman whom she, then, similarly served and serviced....

Taken from the Guardian - Shakespeare's Hidden Lesbians

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 women members:-

Colette, Gentleman Jack, Lizzie, Vita & Virginia, The Favourite and Killing Eve. We would welcome a review of any of the above.

Woodspring Priory

Originally Worsprynge^[1] or Worspring) is a former Augustinian priory. It is near the scenic limestone promontory of Sand Point and Middle Hope, owned by the National Trust, beside the Severn Estuary about 3 miles (5 km) north-east of Weston-super-Mare, within the English unitary authority of North Somerset. Many of the buildings are Grade I listed,^[2] and the whole site is scheduled as an ancient monument.^[3] The priory was founded, by William de Courtney, in the early 13th century, and dedicated to Thomas Becket. The small community built a church and monastic lodgings during the next hundred years. They were Victorine Canons who were influenced by the Cistercians who emphasised manual labour and self-sufficiency so that the clerks who had taken holy orders worked on the farm, as well as providing clergy for surrounding churches. Despite endowments of land the priory was not wealthy until the 15th century when further building work, including the current priory church, infirmary and barn was undertaken. It was dissolved in 1536 and then owned by local noblemen and leased to local farmers. In 1968 the priory and adjoining land of Middle Hope was purchased by the National Trust for Places of Historic Interest or Natural Beauty as part of Project Neptune. The following year the priory was taken over by the Landmark Trust who spent 20 years on restoration work, and now rent out the farmhouse as holiday accommodation.

The surviving buildings include the priory church, which was a 15th-century replacement for the earlier 13th-century structure, infirmary, barn and 16th-century prior's lodging which was converted into a farmhouse. The whole site was arranged around a central cloister from which only the east wall and west wall of the chapter house remain, the sacristy, refectory, chapter house, lady chapel and parlour having been demolished. The former district council and parliamentary constituency both took their name from the priory.



Some of GayWest Members enjoying a very detailed description of the Priory when they visited in January 2019.

Geranium Trust

The Geranium Trust was founded in memory of Geoff Kemp (1950 - 2017)

Why the name Geranium Trust? Well Geoff was a botanist and his favourite plant was the wild British Geranium the Cranesbill or Herb Robert. So the charity was named after this humble little hedgerow plant that Geoff loved so much.



Registered charity no.1176738. The Geranium Trust was founded to offer friendship and support to anyone regardless of age, faith, ethnicity, status or sexual orientation who is suffering from bereavement, loneliness and isolation. We also offer our support to the family, friends and carers of those suffering from chronic or mental illness. We care!

We also run an LGBT+ social support & friendship group for those feeling alone and isolated. Every month we organise a full three course Sunday roast dinner with tea and cake later in the afternoon. We do ask for a small donation to cover the cost of the food.

Contact us for full details.

Email: geraniumtrust@gmail.com

GayWest News

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 Phil, Simon and Jon and giving us a Total of **95** members.

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.

GayWest Social Evenings Second Wednesday of each
Month, 13th March and 10th April 2019

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).**

Doctor, doctor, I can't stop singing "Green Green Grass of Home".

Ah, you seem to be suffering from Tom Jones Syndrome.
"really. Is it common?" It's not unusual.

GayWest at 50 !

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

Anonymously, of course.

We have formed a sub-committee to put together ideas to celebrate GayWest 50th birthday in 2020

Below are some of the suggestions that YOU can get involved with....

We are hoping to put together a small booklet celebrating the 50 years since the formation of the group.

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, and what some of us went through for the cause.

We would also like to see some of your old photo's of GayWest events - Not too saucy, for a display at The Rainbow Café.

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.

Pride Fixtures

A list of the prides across the country are available upon request.

GayWest Events

Join us on **Sunday March 3rd on a visit to Ston Easton Park.**

Come along and enjoy the display of Snowdrops, Cyclamen and Hellebore.
Amongst glorious parkland. Meet at 11.30am.

Wednesday March 20th As a member of GayWest you are invited to join us for our first coffee evening of the year meeting from 7pm.

Come and enjoy a friendly evening of chat and news with other members from GayWest. Please contact Colin on 07758810134.

or e-mail barny231@googlemail.com

Palm Sunday Walk April 14th Keynsham to Chequers and Willsbridge Meet at Keynsham Church at 11am This is a five mile circular walk. Discover the local history of this area in a gentle walk finishing with refreshments at the **Lockkeeper Inn**.

Contact Colin on 07758810134 for more information

Thursday 18th April Come all you book lovers and join us at 12pm at **The Book Barn**. Address 1 Hallatrow Business Park on the A39 BS39 6EX near Paulton.

Saturday 11th May Back after a years break the GayWest Rainbow Café Auction. Starts at 11.30am.

Bring your **good quality** unwanted items early on the day.

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,
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.

The Gay Man's Karma Sutra—Review

I found my copy of this delightful book in London's Camden Town before I moved to Bath. Illustrated with line drawings, photos and classical art works, it re-interprets the Kama Sutra for gay men.

This is more than just a book for voyeurs. It is a guide book on how to live in the modern world as a gay man. The original Kama Sutra, written nearly 2,500 years ago, was aimed at educating young people in the ways of love and good living. Our general public got to know it in the 1960's.

In the first chapter 'On Being Gay', Terry Sanderson writes on the art of male love among other valued accomplishments. He argues that 'love cannot be separated from other aspects of life, and a life devoted to the best and most worthy pursuits will eventually translate into noble and fulfilling sex'. So, this book is about more than just having athletic sex and risking that hernia repair.

There are chapters on preparing for love: touch, body language, kissing and love talk. On making love: masturbation, intercourse, group sex, relationships and sexual problems. On the knowledge that gay men need for the 21st-century, from sexually transmitted diseases to making yourself look gorgeous.

As the book says, men come in all shapes and sizes. I love this section and it describes the physical types that you might bump into on your erotic journey through gay life:

The Bear – large, heavy and hairy, and they don't all gather in Bristol.

The Antelope – wayward lads built for speed, but long-term relationships not their strongest point.

The Snake – tall, elegant and slim, with eyes that hypnotise - erotic and fabulous in bed.

The Cheetah – the seemingly innocent youth who turns out to be a thoroughly accomplished lover.

The Lion – the intimidating brute, with huge, rock-hard muscles ... and absolutely exhausting.

These five physical types describe the basic models, but of course they come in many variations and age groups. Whether you're in a long-term partnership, an open

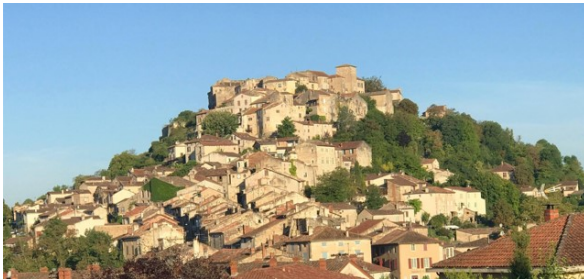
Karma Sutra Contd.

relationship, or free as a bird, this book offers invaluable advice for a happy, healthy and satisfying gay sex life.

I'm not sure if we have this book in our library collection, but you certainly can't have my copy. There are some books just too good to share.

Michael Reid

The Gay Man's KAMA SUTRA by Terry Sanderson c.2007 Pub: Carlton Books
ISBN: 978-1-84442-230-2



**Special Holiday
Offer**

Our friends Paul and Daniel from Chevalier Noir (France) Would like to offer any member of GayWest one FREE night for every three nights booked.



Paul Woodward

Innkeeper

Tel: +33 5 63 60 78 19

Mobile: +33 7 72 77 60 75

E-mail: paul@lechevaliernoir.com

Website: www.lechevaliernoir.com

Address: 1 Rue du Fourmiguier - 81170 Cordes sur Ciel France