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**May and
June 2019**

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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 Tony, Steve and Marcus, Sadly we have lost two members which leaves us with a total of **96** members.

Welcome

I am sat here in the beauty of a summers evening, with a welcome drink in my hand looking over my estate - well we can all dream! The fact is our modern world seems to be so busy there is no time to reflect on life and the here and now.

But this is exactly what I want all you dear members to do, maybe with that drink and the sunshine. Next year we will be celebrating 50 years since the concept of a LGBT group was thought of and set up in Bath in April 1970. To commemorate this, we want to put together a booklet for all our members to keep that will include members thoughts and stories and photo's over the 50 years. So get writing and send your musings to us here at HQ. They can be anonymous if you wish.

WE are also hoping to produce a GayWest Calendar for 2020 with some of the proceeds going to a local Charity (yet to be decided) for our members to purchase. The photos for the calendar will be of members of the group and some may be of a risqué nature, we do need volunteers to join me for this so don't be shy, get in touch with myself or other committee members.

We also hope to put on an event that everyone can come along to and enjoy. So keep a lookout for more publicity on this in the coming months.

While I am on the subject of membership participation, we still need more committee members so if you think this is something you would like to do please get in touch.

I hope you will enjoy the articles in this edition of your magazine. We do try to include as many different items of interest as we can, but we need your help as always, so write, e-mail, text, phone, or talk to us about anything and everything that you would like to see in your magazine.

Have a nice May & June

Colin

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

Bits and Pieces

The Importance of a Space

A Secretary got an expensive brand -named pen as a gift from her boss as a Christmas present.

She sent him a 'Thankyou note' by e-mail.

The boss's wife read the e-mail and filed for divorce.

The e-mail said:

"Your penis wonderful and I enjoyed using it last night. It has an extraordinary smooth flow and a firm stroke.

I loved it's perfect size and grip. felt like I was in heaven when using it. Thanks a lot"

Morel: A "space" is an essential part of English grammar.

Question?

Who was the first person to use the catchphrase "It will be alright on the night"?

This was a theatrical phrase from the late 19th century, expressing that everything will be all right for the first performance of a show.

The first known literary reference comes from Rudyard Kipling's *Stalky And Co*:

'Aladdin came to his own at last,
Abanazar lay poisoned on the floor,
the Widow Twankey danced her
dance, and the company decided it
would "come all right on the night"

The phrase was subverted for Dennis

Nordens ITV show *It'll be alright on the night* (1997-2006) which consisted of out takes and bloopers from film and TV.

Pen Pals Wanted :-

Contact gaywest at
info@gaywest.org.uk

To write to Prisoners via **Bent Bars in Leyhill or Erlestoke**

Bits and Pieces

A Painful Reminder

I know my local practices are trying to be kinder,

But why do they keep sending me each time a fresh reminder?

No doubt I'm getting on in years but these just make me fiery.

I haven't missed appointments yet— I keep them in my diary!

This all came to a head today: a phone call from reception, a dental check awaiting you tomorrow, no deception.

With gritted teeth and painted smile I told the girl: ' I know,

At ten to two tomorrow will be the time I'll show.'

It really gets my goat!

They come as emails, also to make me tear my hair, my partner says I should laugh it off which just makes me despair!

And now some new ones rear their head to fill me with dismay:

'We'd like to know your thoughts on us, ' How did we do today?'

At last I got my own back on one High Street retailer who'd really badly let me down, in fact, a major frailer!

We'd like to know—how did we do?

'Just give each point a thought,'

In answer to their questions I gave each one a nought!

Help Required

.... In our drive to get right up to date,

Please can you look in your **past GayWest Magazines** and see if you have any past copies you no longer want.

We are looking to complete our records with the following missing editions:-

On A4 size for October 1998

On A5 size

2006 December/January 2007

2007 July,

December/January 2008

2008 February, March, May,

December/January 2009

2009 March, June, July

December/January 2010

2011 April, October, November, December/January 2012

2012 August, September,

December/January 2013

If you should find any that we can have, please send to our postal address. Many thanks in anticipation,
Jim Phimister - Treasurer

Book Review - Chris Hunt books

Over the last couple of months I have become engrossed in three novels from our GayWest library, all written by the author Chris Hunt.

The first novel of these was entitled **Thornapple**, which has been reviewed before by Michael Reid and was set in the early 13th century. The main character being a pedlar who travels between village and city selling his wares and seducing boys, the author takes you into this period in history in a compelling way that makes you want to know more about this time.

The second book **Duval's Gold** was the story of a young lad who wanted to find hidden gold that was rumoured to have been buried on the north road from London by the highwayman Duval, and who also wished to become a famous highwayman. Growing up at a coaching Inn on the great North Road in the early 1700s, then seeking his fortune in London, he becomes entangled in the machinations of under city Marshal Charles Hitchin and the infamous Jonathan Wild. He becomes loved by a Jacobite lord, dressed up by Lucinda and Aunt Mary, and been married at Mother Claps Molly House. The third novel **Mignon** is again about a young man this time from France who comes to England and joins a traveling theatre group and again lands up in London during the 16th century and falls in love with Nicholas the main writer of the plays in the group.

Because of the fantastic settings for these novels it got me thinking about what being gay was like in these centuries. So I did some research and found how Chris Hunt has woven his characters into the real life's of people from these pages. So from the late 1690s to the early 1710s, the Societies for the Reformation of Manners (also mentioned in the novels) actively pursued homosexual men, using spies and provocateurs to close down molly houses and prosecute individuals.

In the 1720s and 30s thief takers like **Christopher Hitchin** and **Jonathan Wild** , who are also introduced as main characters in **Duval's Gold** Novel, added new impetus to the Societies' activities. This wave of prosecutions reached its zenith in the late 1720s with a raid on the most famous molly house **Mother Clap**.

Later in the eighteenth century, waves of prosecutions can be identified in the 1750s and 1770s. The nineteenth century continued this tradition, with the raid on the White Swan public house in Vere Street in 1810.

Book Review Contd.



In 18th and early-19th-century Britain, a “molly” was a commonly used term for men who today might identify as gay, bisexual or queer. Sometimes, this was a slur; sometimes, a more generally used noun, likely coming from *mollis*, the Latin for soft or effeminate. A whole molly underworld found its home in London, with molly houses, the clubs and bars where these men congregated, scattered across the city like stars in the night sky.

Their locale gives some clue to the kind of raucousness and debauchery that went on within them—one was in the shadow of Newgate prison; another in the private rooms of a tavern called the Red Lion. They might be in a brandy shop, or among the theatres of Drury Lane.

But wherever they were, in these places, dozens of men would congregate to meet one another for sex or for love, and even stage performances incorporating drag, “marriage” ceremonies, and other kinds of pageantry.

I recommend you should borrow these books from our library you will not be disappointed.

Colin.

The Chocolate Quarter

Early this year GayWest were invited along with others, by two of the residents, to help put together the first LGBT event at one of St Monica's Trust establishments. The venue was their recently opened Chocolate Quarter situated in what was the Fry's Chocolate factory in Keynsham.

The title for this event was "In this age, at this age" and the idea was to get old and young LGBT people together.

So on Saturday February 23rd at 1pm myself, husband Jim and Michael left "The Rainbow Café" in the capable hands of Chris, and Brian, and travelled to Keynsham to arrive at the Chocolate Quarter at 1pm. Between 30 & 40 people came along to listen to the five speakers at the event and enjoy an amazing performance by Tom Marsham "I went to a marvellous party", which was very funny and well done, I won't tell you more, as it might be something that you will see in the future.

Originally Robert Howes was going to give a short talk about GayWest over the years but due to ill health had to pull out at the last minute so it was left to myself to take his place, for someone who I have seen give an excellent talk on GayWest it was a challenging task that thankfully went OK. One of the duties required of Jim and myself was serving the teas, coffee and with our own homemade cakes of which we have had some experience. We thoroughly enjoyed the event which went very well and hopefully will happen again.

Kinky Boots

The notion of men dressing up as a women is by no means a modern concept. From the theatre of ancient Greece to the classical drama of China and Japan there was no tradition of women characters actually being represented by women on stage. We continue through history of our own Elizabethan and Jacobean periods.

Shakespearean times through to today with female impersonation on film and stage, Charley's Aunt, Dan Leno and more recently, Danny La Rue, Dame Edna Everage along with many many more.

We went to see Kinky Boots at the Hippodrome Theatre, Bristol set in a Northampton shoe making factory.

We started our day at 10am with a tour of the theatre, which was, for a theatrical novice, a very informative insight into the workings of a theatre backstage, this took in some of the history and notable people and events who have contributed to the theatre as it is today.

We concluded our tour about mid-day and took ourselves off to lunch at our favourite restaurant, before returning to the theatre for the matinee performance.

This was really enjoyable, knowing a little more that we did about all that was going on backstage, the show was delightful with the bright costumes and of course the boots all with very high heels, which most us could not cope with.

CRITIQUE OF THE WHITE CROW

I went to see the recently released film entitled THE WHITE CROW which charts the earlier part of the life of the Russian ballet dancer RUDOLF NUREYEV (RN), acclaimed internationally as certainly one of, if not the, greatest of his art, as argued by many. Directed by Ralph Fiennes it covers three distinct time periods of RN's life, as a young child, his early days as a dancer with Leningrad's KIROV BALLET COMPANY and, having earned for himself a worldwide reputation and renown, his decision on 17th June 1961 to defect to the Western world whilst in Paris on tour with the Kirov Ballet Company.

Even though the subject might suggest it is only of interest and value to those aficionados and lovers of ballet, in fact the film is so well constructed and produced I think it should, and hopefully will, appeal to a wider audience too. Fiennes choice of OLEG IVENKO to play the part of RN is inspired. In his own right an excellent ballet performer, he uncannily resembles facially and bodily the handsome, beautiful Nureyev, but also manages to portray his difficult and challenging temperament and character remarkably sympathetically.

Ralph Fiennes himself plays RN's teacher ALEXANDER IVANOVICH PUSHKIN, and the bond, trust, and deep-rooted friendship Pushkin and Nureyev develop between each other is admirably captured by the two players. There are further excellent performances from the other actors as well, RN's parents, siblings, and great friend Clara Saint, a Chilean aristocrat he meets in Paris.

In order to form something of a view on the historical accuracy of the film I have read (rather rapidly and skimmingly) an autobiography by RN published in 1962, about a year after his defection. Based upon this, as well as viewing a couple of interviews (available on-line) with Fiennes, Ivenko and film script writer David Hare, I can say with confidence that every reasonable effort has been taken to keep the film truthful and sensitive to the actual story. It convincingly captures, for example, his birth on a train 17th March 1938, the sheer poverty and deprivation RN suffered during his childhood, and battles he fought during his upbringing to final acclaim and success.

It has to be conceded that any film must keep 'box-office' aspects in mind. It has to entertain its audiences who are paying money to see it, and obviously it must aim to turn a profit. (Fiennes interview points out the difficulties experienced to fund his project,

THE WHITE CROW Contd.

Which came mainly from private equity investment (including his own), some from the BBC, and some from Hanways Films). So the climax of the film, concerning the defection itself, understandably squeezes as much tension and drama out of it. RN's internal battle with his almost obsessive desire and commitment to become the greatest ever male ballet dancer (which he knows he can only achieve through the freedom allowed within the western world) with the painful realisation that the defection will bring huge sacrifice in cutting himself off from his family, friends, his homeland, in all probability for ever, makes for gripping viewing. RN's autobiography actually makes very scant reference to this surely inevitable dilemma, discarding everything he has known in his life for the possible, but actually unknown and unproven, prospect of greater prizes and rewards in a world he has only briefly glimpsed.

RN also makes virtually no direct reference to his orientation. The film, similarly, does not dwell upon this aspect to any significant degree, though there are scenes which clearly, but subtly, hint at it (viewers may indeed be left considering the promise (?warning?!) of 'sexual content and nudity' on the certificate screen scarcely worthy of the mention!). For any concerned about such matters there is one very brief full frontal, though not of RN himself, and a comely bottom exposed by a displaced bed sheet.

My friend with whom I saw it felt that perhaps some actual footage of RN's dancing, or real interview, in homage to the great man, might have enhanced the film, which is a valid point. It also may possibly have been seen as a distraction, though. I think it wise of Fiennes to end the film as he does at the point of defection (mirroring in this respect the autobiography I refer to). Although following this event Nureyev enjoyed some five, maybe six, years of glory, not to mention financial wealth of many millions, thereafter it all went into decline and, as many will know, eventually death from the scourge of its age, Aids.

A desperately sad end indeed to an otherwise amazing man, truly a legend in his own lifetime. I hope if you take the trouble to see the film you will find it as enjoyable and worthwhile as I did.

Derek Horsington.

GayWest Events

GayWest Social Evenings Second Wednesday of each
Month, 8th May and 12th June 2019
at **The Old Market Tavern** in Old Market Street, Bristol.

Saturday 11th May Back after a year's break the GayWest
Rainbow Café Auction starts at 11.30am.

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

Leisure Walk Thursday June 6th

Why not join us for a leisurely walk taking in the delights of the Bristol harbour area.

We will start by meeting at 11 am for a coffee and chat at the **Siam Angle Café** in St George's Road Bristol BS15 UU. The owners of the Café are a Gay couple and are friends of GayWest.

LGBT News

LGBT persons in Brunei face legal challenges not experienced by non LGBT residents. Homosexuality is illegal in Brunei.

Sexual relations between men can be punished with death by stoning while those between women are punished by canning and imprisonment.

Outright Action international has described Brunei as the country that has the most worrisome state of rights for LGBT people.

GayWest News

Following our involvement with Leyhill Prison

On 26th February Gaywest was invited to attend Erlestoke Prison



near
Devises in
Wiltshire,
for their
first GBT
event.

John our
Outreach
officer,
Chris
Martin and
Colin

attended their inaugural gay event, they had gone to a lot of trouble to get information on the notice boards, it was very encouraging.

We have also been asked if we could facilitate visiting for The Geranium Trust in Yeovil, to Guy's Marsh Prison but this has yet to happen.

Saturday Breakfast Rolls -

These have been prepared by Chris Martin who holds all the relevant qualifications to handle food. Since the start, on January 19th he has given freely his time and for no profit for himself, and up until 17th April he has collected £190 towards our funds from the proceeds of the service.

GayWest Picnic

Sunday 18th August This year at Blaise Castle Estate from 1pm

Blaise Castle is a folly built in 1766 near Henbury in Bristol,. The castle sits within the Blaise Castle Estate, which also includes Blaise House, a Grade 2 listed 18th century mansion house. There are two car parks the main car park off Kings Weston Road at BS10 7QS.



Facilities and features.
Blaise Castle House
Museum.

Blaise Hamlet (NT
property) Blaise Castle.

Blaise Plant Nursery.

Dairy and Gardens. Café. Toilets. A Poster will be available soon

RUPERT EVERETT , who was one of the first Hollywood actors to be frank about his sexuality, is furious that openly gay actors are still not cast as straight leading men. To add insult to injury, he says, straight actors are lauded for their ‘braveness ‘ if they play homosexual roles, as Sean Penn did in the 2008 film Milk.

“It is still very biased” Everett, 59, says of Tinseltown. ‘Sean Penn is called courageous and wins tons of awards for imagining he’s a passive homosexual, but it just doesn’t work out the other way. That is the thing that is the most frustrating on the whole for gay actors.’ He adds: ‘This notion that gay actors couldn’t possible imagine making love to a woman is really the nub of the problem. It’s patronising, reductive and insulting.

Popular Pride Dates 2019

London	6th July
Bristol	13th July
Weymouth/Portland	26-28th July
Weston—S—Mare	27th 28th July
Brighton /Hove	2nd - 4th August
Swindon / Wiltshire	10th August
Gloucester	14th September

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

Facebook, and Twitter [@gaywestsocial](https://twitter.com/gaywestsocial)

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

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.

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.



Le Chevalier Noir
CHAMBRE D'HOTE - GITE

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