

GAY WEST



July and
August 2019

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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

GayWest has a written constitution (which can be seen at the Rainbow Cafe on request) this outlines how the group is run and what its aims are. The running of GayWest has to be achieved by a working Committee elected by the group's members each year at its AGM. These elected members give their time voluntarily and are obliged to attend at least 75 per cent of committee meetings.

The constitution states that the group should have 12 committee members. GayWest has a membership that is growing and is at present around 100, and will be celebrating its 50th year in 2020. Its Rainbow Cafe is now in its 37th year and still going strong. The group has a social evening held in Bristol on the second Wednesday of each month, organises social outings throughout the year, and on its support side is working with the Prison sector and with Bristol Borderlands regarding asylum seekers and refugee LGBT people.

This year after a break last year GayWest will have a stall in the Community tent at Bristol Pride and also at Gloucester Pride. Information about the Bristol Pride is available at the Cafe. GayWest is a self funding group and relies entirely on membership fees and donations from friends. At present we have 5 committee members, we could do with more.

The committee's job is to look after the groups running cost, run the group's website and e-mail address, its Facebook page and Twitter account. Organise and publish the by-monthly members magazine. Discuss and arrange social outings, put on the annual Christmas Dinner.

Every week set up and make sure our members have the wonderful "Rainbow Café" to attend on Saturday mornings, and most of all be nice to everyone. Of course, you all know about this anyway, so if you think you would like to help on the committee then get in touch .

I and the other committee members enjoy the work we do, a lot of our time on behalf of all GayWest members and give a lot of their time to make sure everything at GayWest runs smoothly.

Chair's Blog Contd.

GayWest also has a working sub-committee, which is involved with organising events and ideas for the groups 50th anniversary year in 2020.

This comprises myself and two members of GayWest (not on the regular committee.) You may already have read in past magazines what we are planning, but here is a reminder. We will be holding an all day event at the Cafe in April 2020 which is the month of the year that the first group was set up, with invited guests and entertainment.

All members will receive a booklet covering the past 50 years since the group was set up.

But before that and something much more exciting will be the **GayWest 2020 Calendar.**

Work on this project is already under way and is being supported by enthusiastic members of the group. I had some doubts at first if this would come about, but I have been really pleased that there will be a 2020 calendar celebrating 50 years of GayWest. The content will include members of the group in poses you have never seen them in before, all to support men's health and especially **Prostrate Cancer**. So I hope you will all support this worthy cause. We hope the calendars will be ready by the time of this year's AGM In September.

So, a lot to look forward to, and as always the group will not survive without your continued support.

One last comment, if it was not for GayWest I would not be a very happy married Gay man.

Enjoy the summer months and please get in touch about anything about the group, as a member you are all part of the team.

Colin

Cojones de Toro

A Canadian stopped at a local restaurant following a day roaming around in Mexico. While sipping his tequila, he noticed a sizzling, scrumptious looking platter being served at the next table. Not only did it look good, the smell was wonderful. He asked the waiter, "What is that you just served?"

The waiter replied,

"Ah señor, you have excellent taste! Those are called Cojones de Toro, meaning testicles from the bull fight this morning.

A delicacy!"

The man said, "What the heck, bring me an order."

The waiter replied, "I am so sorry señor. There is only one serving per day because there is only one bull fight each morning.

If you come early and place your order, we will be sure to save you this delicacy."

The next morning, the Canadian returned, placed his order, and that evening was served the one and only special delicacy of the day.

After a few bites, inspecting his platter, he called to the waiter and said, "These are absolutely delicious, but they are much, much smaller than the ones I saw you serve yesterday.

The waiter shrugged his shoulders and replied, "Señor, sometimes the bull wins."

A Personal experience

is it me?

some say children don't remember

but trust me they do

sitting in my highchair aged 2

being force-fed food I don't like

(those jars of baby food - who likes eating sick?) my mummy getting irate and smacking me (even though I'm quite happy with mash and gravy, banana custard and milk)

why am I left screaming and crying in my cot when all I want is a cuddle or a clean nappy? - where is my daddy?

is it me?

going to school getting bullied, kicked, punched and spat upon being called the worst names imaginable speaking out - no-one cares

Is it me?

never allowed to go out and play long summer evenings school holidays locked in my room staring out of the window watching other children play being beaten with a slipper just to give her something to do

Is it me?

she meets a man moves away to marry takes me away from what little family I have new area new school it all starts again

It's ok that he wants to be my dad show me the love I never had but he abuses me mentally physically and sexually

help me I said no-one listened attention seeking I am

Is it me?

now as an adult I have come out gay shock horror ooh, the stigma how rotten what a way to be

Is it me?

work my way through relationships one after the other all of them controlling abusive it's the way it's meant to be

Is it me?

life takes its toll I can't take it anymore it's all finally got to me I make him suffer I use a knife now I end up doing life

Is it me?

It must be me, surely? Well, isn't it?

It has to be me

Leisure Walk

Meeting at The **Siam Angel café** at 11am members of GayWest gathered around an ever expanding area so as to accommodate all who arrived on Thursday 6th June.

After a lot of chat and coffees and food and excellent service from the café owners we all left the café and gathered outside on the pavement to discuss what to do next. (See photo).

Some left after having a good chat , a few went to the Bristol Library and the rest of us went for a lovely walk around the perimeter of the Harbour side. Calling into the “Nova Scotia” for refreshments on our way and dodging the sometimes heavy showers that seem to be the feature of this year’s summer. Our last port of call before heading for the bus home was the M- Shed.

We are fortunate that Bristol has made a good job of this harbour area, and thanks to resident Bristolians, plans were stopped that would have concreted over the harbour as was going to happen back in the early seventies, we can now enjoy this beneficial part of the City. Colin.



DORIS DAY

I was away for the weekend when news broke that Doris Day had died (b 03/04/22 - d 13/05/19). I (figuratively) grew up with Doris Day and became a great admirer of hers. Of her 31 films, I've seen all but a few of them and although she was type-cast as the eternal virgin-next-door, she did make some really good films.

In Calamity Jane (1954) she was an Indian-chasing tomboy who falls for Bill Hickock, a local dude played by the gorgeous Howard Keel. Two songs from this film were hits: Secret Love and Whip Crack Away.



She made The Man Who Knew Too Much for Alfred Hitchcock in 1956 and the featured song Que Sera, Sera won an Oscar.

In 1960 she played a married woman tormented to insanity in Midnight Lace – opposite Rex Harrison.

Other notable films included Love Me Or Leave (1955) opposite James Cagney; she also played opposite a number of top Hollywood leading actors including Gordon MacRae, Gary Cooper, James Gardner and James Stewart; she made a number of films with Rock Hudson and remained a loyal and true friend up

to his untimely death from AIDS in 1985.

The most delightful of her films is The Pyjama Game (1954) with John Riatt, and this is Day at her full blown-top-g geared dynamic self and she puts every ounce of energy into the role of union militant Babe Williams: there are fifteen songs, and various dance routines for her. Do try and see it on DVD – it is Day at her very very best.

In her later years she established an animal welfare centre at her home in Carmel, USA where she lived in semi-seclusion.

Although she married four times, she never found lasting happiness. She will be sadly missed by her hundreds of fans and admirers – including myself.

Valentino June 2019

GayWest Annual Picnic

At Blaise Castle, BS10 7QS. On Sunday 18th August 2019 at 1pm



This is open to everyone. This includes all members of Gay West and GMG – this is a joint event. You are encouraged to bring your own picnic.

STARTING MEETING POINT – Pip will be around the back of the Blaise Castle House (Museum) at 1300 hours, for picnic gathering.

WHAT'S ON – It is a 650 - acre parkland, which includes a museum, castle, dairy, garden, a children's play area, café plus benches and picnic area (BBQs are permitted). The estate provides good access for wheelchair users since it is a flat and includes a lot of paths. Dogs are allowed, under control.

CASTLE – The castle itself is open on third Sunday of each month, it happens to be on this day, from 1400 to 1630 hours. Pip is planning to visit the castle, and anyone is welcome to join me.

GETTING THERE - The main entrance is on Kings Weston Road, which is also on a bus route, served by First Bus 3 or 4. A bus ride takes approximately 45 minutes from the city centre or a ride by car will take you about 20 minutes, with free parking at the estate. There are other bus routes nearby in Station Road, five minutes' walk, served by First Bus 1 or 76.

WET WEATHER - In event of wet weather, please meet me at The Henbury Arms Stonehouse, 189 Henbury Road, Bristol, BS10 7AD.

MORE INFO - www.bristol.gov.uk/museums-parks-sports-culture/blaise-castle-estate

Health and Happiness

Prostate Cancer

With the ever rising figures in the death of men from Prostate Cancer, and the unreliable results from a PSA test.

Advancements are coming but are very slow, biopsies have always been both painful and have been a source of infection.

Two avenues of assessment could be coming to an area near you.

1. A safer way of taking a Prostate Biopsy via the skin rather than of taking them via the rectum, which is not only very painful but infections have resulted from them.
2. A ten minute MRI scan to spot Prostate cancer, this could be done as easily as (some may remember) mobile x-ray or scanners in your local supermarket car parks in the past.
3. If you do have the need to ask advice from your doctor, do ask them about these new advances and whether they are available yet at a nearby unit.

We hope that this will help the 47,000 men a year who are being diagnosed with Prostate Cancer, 1 in 8 will get it and this amounts to 11,000 men dying of the disease from it every year.

Better Diagnosis will lead to better treatments!

The Sub-Committee for the 50th anniversary celebrations have been working hard on ideas for a day in 2020 of Celebrations, with entertainment as well as a male calendar, the proceeds of which will be going to a Prostate Cancer research charity, so when it is available please give your support and buy a copy.

Various Bits

Suggestion....

For members who live in or near to Bath.

One evening each month where members could meet, in Weatherspoon's (King of Wessex) to have a sociable drink and chat.

Choose one weekday e.g. Tuesday

Choose a meeting time—8pm?

Contact Nick Sommer via Info@gaywest.org.uk

Prides 2019

Town/City	Date	Venue
London	6th July	
Bristol	13th July	Downs
Weymouth/Portland	26-28th July	
Weston-S-Mare	27-28th July	Grove Park
Brighton/Hove	2-4th August	
Swindon/Wiltshire	10th August	Town Gardens
Gloucester	14th September	Gloucester Park

Stonewall

What has Stonewall done for us?

I think I should start at the beginning. This occurred on June 28th 1969 at the Stonewall Inn in Greenwich Village, New York, where gay people met.

It was frequently raided by the police and on a raid that day, several people defied the police and fought back, to the astonishment of the police.

After this, the Gay Community celebrated its defiance and the name “Stonewall Riot” stuck. Meanwhile in Britain, things were on the move. The Campaign for Homosexual Equality - CHE, was formed and rapidly embraced, it included a social aspect—very necessary—in its local groups. I joined one, Group Eight, and benefitted greatly. GayWest eventually sprang from CHE. The short-lived, but highly ambitious Gay Liberation Front—GLF burst upon the scene, the first Gay Pride Day and March were held in London, over 20000 participating, to the astonishment and interest of the watching public.

It was in May 1989 that the notorious “Section 28” was enacted by the government of the time. This legislation stated that “Teaching in any State-Maintained school must not promote the acceptability of homosexuality as a pretended family”. This was crushing and regressive and it effectively stopped teachers and others from talking about LGBT issues.

Very soon, several well-known people, including Ian McKellen and Michael Cashman decided to found an organisation in order to counter the effect of Section 28, they called it Stonewall, commemorating the New York “Stonewall Riot of 20 years previously.

They persuaded many in various professional and invaluable areas who shared Stonewalls anger to join and help promote and fundraise on its behalf.

Stonewall Contd.

Stonewall achieved many successes, I could list so many, but to highlight just a few: Ian McKellen meeting Prime Minister John Major. Openly LGBT persons became able to join the armed forces. The age of Consent for gay men and women was equalised with heterosexuals. The detested section 28 bit the dust in 2003.

Stonewall started to work with LGB campaigners worldwide. Legal Civil Partnerships for gay men and for gay women, leading to same-sex marriage.

However, much still needs to be tackled. In Education, two in five students are never taught about LGBT issues, while nearly half are bullied because of what they are.

All of this leaves them at risk of self-harm, depression, and underachievement in education and employment. The recent aggressive response to the teaching in schools of LGBT relationships shows that we cannot afford to be complacent.

But on the bright side, we are now increasingly represented in news, the press, drama, television and radio, including *The Archers*, once excluded because it was for the family.

It is commonplace to hear men mentioning their husbands and women their wives.

I am pleased to say “We are advancing—thanks to Stonewall”

Ernie

Official Notices

Bristol Pride will this year be on **Saturday 13th July** and this time will not clash with London Pride as it has in past years. It will be held on the Downs, Buses will run from the centre and entrance will be £4.00 per person. More information is available at the Rainbow Café. **GayWest will be having a stall there this year.**

Weston—Super—Mare Pride will be a two day event over the weekend of **28th/29th July**. Unfortunately, we will be unable to attend due to prior fixtures.

For more information on all prides go to www.pinkuk.com.

Attitude, The Biggest selling gay magazine in the world!

As GayWest we were not enjoying the other publication “Gay Times” as much as we did, so The Committee decided on a change, so from August 2019 we will have it at The Rainbow Café every month for you to browse.

It has a wide selection of features including Travel, Money, Food, Film and Book reviews along with some serious content to bring you back to earth. Editor.

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).**

Bath History Walk

Sunday July 14th at 2.30pm

Meet at the War Memorial, Queen's Parade, by entrance to Victoria Park.



Robert Howes will lead a walk around the centre of Bath pointing out the buildings and monuments which have LGBT associations, either as places where people socialised or as meeting places for the LGBT movement over the last forty years.

The walk should last about an hour and a half and finish back at the War Memorial, with an option of refreshments in a local café afterwards.

This is a FREE event, but a donation to OutStories Bristol/ GayWest would be welcome.

GayWest Social Evenings Second Wednesday of each month -10th July and 14th August

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

Talking Tables Feast

On June 20th at “The Windmill Hill City Farm” there was a glorious fun event organized by the Linkage Network, this includes Age UK and B.A.B. We became involved after we attended the Talking Tables six week cookery course at the City Farm last year, when we did a course specifically for LGBT over 50’s. That was a success and this year they are running them again but this time they are all inclusive no matter what your orientation or gender.

The idea behind Talking Tables is to get people, mainly those on their own, to get out and meet others in the community, hence the name.

This particular evening was a combination of all those who took part in the courses last year to try out their new cooking and social skills with the general public.

It was a great evening , we arrived early to set up the café area and make it an attractive dining place the theme chosen was a Mexican feast and I do believe that every one there had a great time. Jim and myself took up the roll of front of house and table waiting, see photo, through The Linkage network, GayWest has become more well-known for its support of L.G.B.T in the community, and this will lead onto more events.

