

G A Y W E S T



September
& October
2019

M A G A Z I N E

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Welcome

The September and October issue of the GayWest Magazine is basically the first magazine of a new GayWest year. Yes I know it sounds confusing but let me explain. Our financial year runs from 1st August until the 31st July the following year. This allows the treasurer to get all accounts up to date by the time of our A.G.M which is always in September, the month that the name GayWest was decided on after changes adopted by the then Bath CHE.

So let me say welcome to GayWest's 50th year.

With this in mind, I have been looking back on the group's history and found that the ideas set out under the heading of Gay Community Organisation are still prevalent to day. Such as giving support to members who live on their own, providing a safe and welcoming place to meet regularly, such as "The Rainbow Café". Helping those who have just come out, helping and visiting gay prisoners, keeping members up-to-date with LGBT issues that are prevalent of the time and of course a lively social side. So 50 years later the group is still carrying out the wishes of what its founders wanted.

At this year's AGM, we will be launching the best calendar of 2020, the GayWest 50th Anniversary Calendar. A lot of hard work has been put into this piece of artwork! We will be taking orders from the date of our AGM. The majority of the money made from the sale of the calendars, after our costs, will be donated to "Prospect" a local prostrate cancer support group based in Bristol.

So I would like to thank all those members who have given their time for this project and Chris and Paul for supplying the venues for the photo shoots, The cover photo being one of them.

Welcome

The other things we are working on for our 50th year is an all day event at “The Rainbow Café” on Saturday April 25th 2020. This will be in the form of an extended Saturday morning Café with plenty of food and drinks, displays, stalls and hopefully a special guest. We will be inviting our past committee members who are able and who have made a contribution to the continuing functioning of GayWest, to come along and others who have had an opportunity to have shared some time with GayWest over the years.

Also the March and April magazine for 2020 will be a special bumper edition with lots of extras in. So you can put the date 25th April 2020 into your GayWest calendar as soon as you have yours.

Back to this year, October will see GayWest taking part in Age UK Bristol’s “Celebrating Age Festival”. This takes part throughout the month, starting with an opening event on the morning of October 1st where we will have a stall and our October social evening will be also one of the festivals events for the month.

Being Positive I hear the News on the Radio or see it on TV, sometimes even on line, so is it just me or have we all gone from a Positive charge to a Negative charge about life.

Gloom, gloom, gloom everywhere gloom, and I am not talking just about the “B “word. We seem to have lost looking at the best in us all and only see the negatives. We are only on this marvellous planet for a split moment in time so lets put the spark back into things and stop the negativity that’s swallowing everything up.

Colin

Annual General Meeting

**To be held on Saturday 21st of
September
at 11.15am in the Rainbow Café.**

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

Nominations forms have been included with this publication and are on the Website. This is mainly 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.

As the current committee (5) in total are all working to their limits, we do need more of you to come forward, to lighten the voluntary workload.

We need a new Magazine Editor with the ability to write and prepare layout for the printer. A computer Wiz for Facebook and Twitter, along with any number of other skills, so come and join our happy band.

Colin (Chairman)

A Cautionary Tale

A Cautionary warning to all members - regarding the use of E-mails.

When sending an Email message it is important that your message remains safe and only reaches the person you intend it to go to.

To this end -

1. Use a single direct Email, by selecting “Compose and entering the persons Email Address.”

DO NOT USE THE REPLY BUTTON from an earlier email.

These will list all the correspondence undertaken, from you and others.

2. **If you are sending an Email to more than one person then use the BCC (Blind Copy) Button.**

Otherwise it will list all the other people and their email addresses, we often have received Emails with other peoples details which have nothing to do with us, but which does nothing for security of your message.

Reports

Prisons' Report

Our Out-reach team of John and Chris now visit four prisons, Leyhill, Horfield, Erlestoke and Ashfield. August is **Leyhill's** Pride month and we have visited on various dates throughout the month, this included one for a talent show by inmates and staff, an 80 question quiz set by GW, along with their Pride day on 26th August, read more on page 13.

Ashfield was the first prison we visited, this had lapsed and we have been asked to restart our visits, which is very encouraging. We have recently started to attend **Horfield's** monthly get together which we hope all concerned enjoy as much as we do. We attended **Erlestoke** earlier in the year and hope to continue to keep in touch and visit again.

Bristol Pride

Chris and John attended the Bristol pride on a lovely Saturday in July. The event this year was held up on the downs in Bristol. I think that it was well located especially with it being on grass, however, it was very crowded, so I feel that it should be extended next year, but still at the same location. It was a great day, very colourful, flamboyant, everybody was in high spirits. It was a fantastic atmosphere with a great mix of people, and it was amazing to see so many families too. We had an amazing stall in the Community tent and had great interest in our Outreach work, particularly with regard to our work with the Prisons, this sparked interest from a new group within Horfield Prison. On the whole it was an enjoyable and successful day, we collected £ 27.00 in donations from visits to the stall.

Prospect Bristol

Prospect was founded about 17 years ago. It has just over 100 members and covers Bristol and surrounding areas.

The aims of the group can be summarised in three points:

1. To provide support to prostate cancer patients and their partners and families.
2. To keep patients informed of developments in prostate cancer treatment at a local and national level.
3. To raise awareness of prostate cancer in our local community.

We hold six formal meetings in the year where we have a range of speakers who talk to us about a variety of prostate cancer related issues. These meetings end with a buffet and time is allowed for members to get together for a chat. The first Thursday of each month we host a drop-in coffee morning at the Macmillan Well Being Centre at Southmead Hospital which is attended by members and newly diagnosed patients. Our meetings provide an open and comfortable environment for men to raise and talk about all sorts of prostate cancer related problems—continence, erectile dysfunction, treatment choices etc. We also have a few social events - a summer lunch at the wonderful Penny Brohn Cancer Centre in Pill, bowls evenings, seasonal walks with a pub lunch thrown in and of course a Christmas lunch.

We raise awareness of prostate cancer through running awareness stands at various sites - golf clubs, Rotary/Probus meetings, prisons, Macmillan sponsored events. Prospect also has a very informative web site (www.prostatecancerbristol.org.uk) which is always worth checking for up to date news about prostate cancer in general and our group's activities in particular.

Malcolm Gamlin

Chairman Prospect

Gene Kelly (Eugene Curran Kelly)

During the film heyday of the 1940's through to the 1960's, Hollywood churned out what I can only describe as the best in musical films. Featured in vast production numbers were dozens of dancers, singers, scene and set designers, choreographers, song writers, musical directors and actors.

The one actor who out-shone all others, was born in 1912 and named Eugene Curran Kelly: he made his debut opposite Judy Garland in "For Me and My Gal" (1942) a lightweight black & white backstage story



with many songs, dance numbers and fabulous sets. Although playing second fiddle to an established star (Judy), Gene's dancing and singing skills were obvious and the film was an immediate box office success. He was soon

starring in films and made several others with Judy as well as with a host of the most glamorous Hollywood ladies of the era: these included Rita Hayworth; Ann Miller; Leslie Caron; Cyd Charisse, Vera-Ellen and Debbie Reynolds: Debbie co-starred opposite him in the definitive silent-to-sound picture "Singing' in the Rain" which, 67 years after its initial release, is regarded as the epitome of ALL Hollywood musical films.

It also co-starred Donald O'Connor a (slightly younger) brilliant tap dancer and actor in his own right.

Gene Kelly Contd.

Gene went on to appear in thirty beautiful and lovely films, and directed the 1969 screen version of “Hello Dolly”, which was nominated for best picture.

Gene was a heart-warming singer of ballads; an accomplished tap-dancer and choreographer. “Brigadoon”; “It’s Always Fair Weather”; “An American in Paris”; and “Cover Girl” were just some of his most notable films. He won several awards in recognition of his work, and made his last screen appearance in “Xanadu” in 1980. He left behind a wonderful legacy of films (readily available on DVD) and his biography “He’s Got Rhythm” was published 1985.

At the age of 84 he died in 1996 from a series of strokes. And even today, he is regarded as the BEST musical star Hollywood has ever produced.

Valentino

August 2019

The Attitude Report

The August and September editions are packed with interesting articles, with reviews on Holidays, Travel, Books and Films, along with many other aspects of gay life, get your hands on a copy, you wont be disappointed.

Copies are at The Rainbow Café where you could have a browse whilst having a breakfast roll and chatting with your friends.

There is the Attitude Pride Awards with an insight into the 2019 winners. An article by Peter Tatchell on New York World Pride in commemoration of the Stonewall Riots.

The Attitude Books and Films

Books

The First choice would be “Fabulosa!” a story of Polari - The Gay Language which some of you will remember from the 50s and 60s, this is by Paul Baker

Others include “An Honest Man” by Ben Fergusson

“The Travellers” Regina Porter

and “The Stranger from The Sea” by Paul Binding

Films

“Tell it to the Bees” a gentle old fashioned but appealing lesbian romance set in the 1950s Scotland.

“Are you Proud?” a documentary of the LGBTQ rights movement in the US

“Tales of a different City”

“Once upon a time in Hollywood”

with Leonardo Di Daprio, Brad Pitt and Margo Robbie

“Animals” which is another female relationship comedy taken from the popular novel by Emma Jane Unsworth, featuring Holiday Grainger and Alia Shawkat

GayWest Annual Picnic



GW Annual Picnic report

This year was held at Blaise Castle, a lovely setting, 20 members and friends attended to a mixed afternoon of sunshine, gusts of wind and a few spots of rain.

Everybody contributed to a great spread of food and conversations, catching up with all the latest goings-on. It was a lovely way of meeting old and new friends, lets hope' this event continues in the future.



GayWest Picnic contd.

Afterwards, about half of those who attended went off for a walk and visited the Castle, a few went to the Museum and others stayed behind and had a good natter.

Leyhills Got Talent

Four of us went to the Leyhill Prison fund raising night to see Leyhill's Got Talent show on the 16th.

It was a really great evening with a wide variety of musical talent on show, they had prepared cakes and coffee for us and the monies collected from the sales is to be divided between Macmillan Nurses and GayWest.

We attended again on the 20th August to run a quiz which was good fun and the 26th for their Pride Day, where there were a wide range of things going on including a Queen tribute band which consisted of the inmates.

Future Events -

Gloucestershire Pride - Saturday September 14th Gloucester Park

Weymouth Gay Group Annual Visit on Thursday 19th September

Come and enjoy a good day out.

GW Annual General Meeting - Saturday 21st September

11.15am at the Rainbow Café

We hope that there will be more events in the pipeline.

GayWest

GayWest Social Evenings Second Wednesday of each
Month, 11th September and 9th October 2019
at **The Old Market Tavern** in Old Market Street, Bristol.

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.

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 Iain, Jeremy and Ken, Sadly we have lost two members which leaves us with a total of **100** members.

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.

GayWest

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. We have had a couple of Meet-ups, we are sure more of you would like to come along, so do get in touch.

Choose one weekday e.g. Tuesday

Choose a meeting time—8pm?

Contact Nick Sommer via Info@gaywest.org.uk

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 to date he has collected over £300 towards our funds from the proceeds of the service.

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](#)

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

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.



Available at the Café, Breakfast Rolls with a variety of fillings, At competitive prices. Gluten Free Rolls will be available, other Dietary needs can be catered for upon request. Or if you prefer maybe a slice of cake . A variety of Coffee's and Tea's.

But remember all this can only be achieved with your continued support.

So why not put your name down to help with the serving one Saturday. Its fun, its easy, and you will be helping keep this wonderful regular GayWest event open for many years to come.

The Café is now in its 37th year.