

# GAY WEST



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**Your Calendar Boyz for 2020**

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November and December 2019

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# Welcome

**H**ere we are, our last Magazine of this year, how time passes by. This is also the time to thank all of you for voting in at the A.G.M. the same committee again for another year 2019/2020 and putting your trust in this committee. This will be my seventh year as GayWest Chairman and as always I will do my best for the organisation.

Our last year was as busy as ever and you can read my report from the AGM on page Five.

Our new year will be a challenge as indeed most are, and this is what keeps your Chairman and the committee all looking so young and handsome.

As you all know in 2020 we will be celebrating the group's 50th year, and celebrations have already started with the first publication of the GayWest "Calendar Boyz" which on sale now for £8.00p each.

Proceeds from the sales will be going to "Prospect" Prostate cancer. Read more on page eight.

Also in the new year and a date to put on your GayWest Calendar is Saturday April 25th when we will be opening "The Rainbow Café" from **11am to 4pm** as a special day to celebrate the five decades of GayWest. With special guests, more information will follow soon.

Finally, we better mention the Christmas season. As many of you will know, due to the fact that we are all getting older, we will not be able to take up the hospitality offered to us for many years to hold a Christmas dinner at "The Pavilion Café" in Bath this year. We have been very busy looking for other venues but were unable to find anywhere for a reasonable cost, at such short notice.

But Santa has come to our rescue, we will be having a Christmas event on Friday evening 20th December from 7pm. The details of which are on Page 4. and 16.

**Colin.**

# Events

## Walk in November.

On Thursday 7th November why not join us on a History walk from Keynsham to Saltford, a circular walk starting at Pixash Lane, Keynsham. Taking in some of the area's past history. A mainly level walk. We will meet at 11am at the foot of the bridge over the railway, just past the recycling depot.

*Please contact me on 07758810134 for more details.*



### **The GayWest Christmas Party....**

See advert on back page of this magazine.

Entry is by numbered ticket only, a welcome drink on arrival, any other alcoholic drinks will be on a BYO basis.

Teas and Coffee will be available.

You will get a wide selection Buffet, a quiz and raffle.

There will be a "Door Entry Ticket" prize draw.

**Tickets will be £10.00 each** to cover the event costs. Get your tickets early to avoid disappointment.

# Annual General Meeting

## **Chairs Report.**

Well, it's been another busy year with the team of five, but needs to be more. The year of 2018 ended with a really good Christmas dinner, well attended and great fun. This was followed by outings to Woodspring Priory in January this year, Ston Easton Park in March. Another Walk around our local area in April and also in April a visit to The Book Barn for all those bookworms among you. May saw the Auction here again at the Café and in June we met for lunch at "The Siam Angel café" in Bristol. There were two GayWest Picnics, one at Blaise Castle which was kindly arranged by Pip and the other, ! well you will need to buy the GayWest calendar for 2020 to see more of that one.

GayWest has had a stall at Bristol and Gloucester prides this year and took part during the month of August with Leyhill Prison's pride events.

## **On our support side**

Our Outreach team, John and Chris, have had regular visits to Leyhill, and Horfield prisons and later this year will be visiting Ashfield again. Back in February we took part in the LGBT History month at Erlestoke prison near Devises.

On the Ageing front, we have been involved with Bristol's "Age UK "with their anti-Ageing campaign, and with Bristol Ageing Better with their "Make your Neighbourhood Age-Friendly scheme. On October 1st we had stall at Age UK's Celebrating Age Festival. We also work with Bath's Dementia Awareness Group and supported their quiz night in October. Here I would also like to say how supportive the Bath branch of Age UK are to GayWest.

## **The Group's Website.**

We are always doing our best to keep this up to date and with all the information you need, this is not always easy with everything else to deal with but the home page was up-dated. It does generate a lot of interest and also we have had many new members via this, also again I would like to express my thanks to Newicon who host and manage the site for us, for a very modest cost to the group. Our Facebook and Twitter pages are also showing interest and you can access them from the website. This year has also seen a very good attendance at this Café, which is now been running since 1982.

Colin.

# 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.

**Please note:-** When you receive an Email from any of us, It will be signed “**The GayWest Team**” and it will always be from **info@gaywest.org.uk**

**anything else is a scam.**

# Reports

## **Gloucester Pride**

Saturday September 14th saw a small team from GayWest travel to Gloucester Park for their annual Pride. This years event was later in the year than usual and benefited by it being a glorious late summer's day. The team had a good day and gladly promoted the virtues of being a member of GayWest. We also met many of our friends there from other groups enjoying a lovely day out.



Colin.

## **Trip to Weymouth**

This years trip to the "Weymouth Gay Group "was also in September on the 19th and again we were lucky with the weather. There was plenty of chat on our train journey through the lovely countryside and we arrived on time in Weymouth. The first stop was at a Café overlooking Weymouth Bay for some refreshments and then the day was spent enjoying the sea air until we met in "The Swan" with the Weymouth Group, this being our fourth year visiting them. We are hoping for a longer visit maybe in 2020.



Colin.

# Prospect Bristol

**P**rospect 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](http://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



# Tom of Finland

**W**hen Touko Laaksonen, the boy who would become Tom of Finland, was 10 years old he drew his first sex comic. It wasn't about Felix the Cat or Mickey Mouse, but about two tough, blue collar men. In a lecture at the California Institute for the arts in 1985 he said, "I had erotic fantasies very early.



In the 1957 addition of *Physique Pictorial* published by Athletic Model Guild Tom had his first work published. And AMG was his main publisher for over a decade. During the 60's and 70's drawings appeared in several other American magazines, distributed through the mail, the drawings had to be more suggestive than explicit. Protection against arbitrary censorship did not exist. The laws of Finland were far more restrictive, and consequently, much of the

work that Tom had been creating since 1946 remained unpublished for decades.

When censorship was abolished in Denmark, the situation changed dramatically. Danish publisher, DFT, asked Tom in 1968 to submit material for a separate publication. The 20 ink drawings he sent became the first Kake story. The drawings had no captions and needed no translation and by 1980 18 more Kake books had been published under numerous other titles. The books had such titles as *Jack in the Jungle*, *The beach boys*, and *The Happy Harlot*

Tom's second major publisher, Revolt Press, was established in Sweden by a former DFT employee a friend of Tom's who made off with and printed number 8 in the Kake series and then 9 and 10 as well.

# Tom of Finland Contd.

**A**fterwards, when the series returned to DFT, Tom supplied Revolt with more material and much of it printed in colour. With titles of *Rope, Loggers, Camping, Sex in the Shed, Dick, and Circus.*

Tom's European titles could not be imported into the United States, but some copies found their way in, and numerous pirated editions were printed, as many as four different editions of some stories, without any royalties going to Tom. The quality of the printing was inferior to the originals. An exception was the authorized edition of *Ringo & the Renegades* in 1973. Several major American magazines began to feature drawings regularly but by 1981 Tom was still without an American publisher for his stories.

In 1982 Durk Dehner urged Tom to create his own publishing firm, and together they founded The Tom of Finland Foundation. Since then, the company has printed many new titles and reissued most old ones. It has also published anthologies entitled *Cops in Toms Drawings, Navy in Toms Drawings.*



Even though much of Tom's work has been published and much still in print, the majority of his pencil drawings have never been published.

The Editor.

*More information on Tom of Finland go to [www.tomoffinlandfoundation.org](http://www.tomoffinlandfoundation.org)*

# Cruising.

**I**n recent years I have noticed that Gay men seem to have taken to cruising, I am of course talking of cruise holidays and our latest being a cruise along the Baltic sea.

We boarded the Ship Magellan at Bristol's Portbury docks for a 16 night cruise organized by CMV cruises. Not one of the floating hotels we see these days but a more traditional ship consisting of 12 decks and total passenger numbers of 1200. Our previous ventures have been on the companies Marco Polo, maximum passengers of 800. This was not a sun seeking trip, and it was certainly not, but a most interesting and enjoyable experience, the highlight of the trip being our two days in St Petersburg, Russia.

We became friendly with some gays strutting their stuff and with two lovely married couples from Newcastle and a couple from Pershore In Worcestershire. As is always the case on the four cruises we have been on everyone is so friendly no matter who you are.

Our first port of call was Rotterdam in the Netherlands, from where we visited the world heritage site Kinderdijk for its Windmills. Next was Copenhagen in Denmark, a beautiful city where we enjoyed a sunny afternoon enjoying the sites.



*The Windmills of Kinderdijk*

Onto Warnemunde on the Baltic coast of Germany, another interesting place, and a town that was popular as a holiday destination when this part of Germany was under Soviet Russian control. It still shows signs of those times today. Our next stop was the capital city of Estonia, Tallin. Here we went on a panoramic tour of the city. Estonia became independent from the Soviet block in 1991.

Our main destination was next, St Petersburg. Our first trip out was a full panoramic tour of this city of palaces and statues and canals that remind you of Venice. The influence of Russia's past is all to be seen, and to me it was no surprise that there was a revolution in 1917. On the outskirts of the city you have blocks and blocks of apartments for the less affluent. Very noticeable even today.

# Cruising Contd.

**O**ur next day in St Petersburg was a visit to the Faberge's museum . Located in the restored Shuvalov Palace a place of pure affluence and grandeur on a massive scale. We unfortunately could not even afford one of the replica eggs in the gift shop. But we did get a fridge magnet! At least we were given a free glass of wine.

By now the temperature was 7c and rain and sleet but it did not spoil our time in this amazing city of palaces and churches.

On now we travelled to Finland and Helsinki, the coldest time of the trip regarding the weather only 4 c and light snow. Again we did a tour of the area which included Sibelius Memorial Park named after the famous composer and where there is a monument of pipes (as in organ) to him. Of course you all will know that Finland was the home of another famous man, Tom of Finland.



*Jim looking for Tom.*

Next we were visiting a very old walled city on the island of Gotland, Sweden. A remarkable town that still has its ancient walls surrounding the old town. Being it was a Saturday all shops and cafes did not open until 10am. The beauty of the ship we were on is that you can sail the ship right into the harbour and then just walk off and into the town.

After Sweden, we had three days at sea before arriving in Cobh, Ireland just south of Cork. Again just walk of the ship and enjoy your new surroundings, after this it was back to Bristol. An amazing trip with lots to see amazing history with beautifully clean cities. Good entertainment on board the Magellan and excellent food. You did need your sea legs at times but well worth it.

# 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 has been running since 1982*

# GayWest

**GayWest Social Evenings** Second Wednesday of each Month, 13th November and 11th December 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 Gary and Paul but sadly we have lost two members who moved away which leaves us remaining at 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](mailto: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](mailto: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).**



**It's Party Time!**

GayWest is holding it's Christmas Party on Friday

20th December at 7pm at The Rainbow Café.

There will be a Celebrity Hostess, buffet, raffle, quiz  
along with a door entry ticket draw prize.

Get your tickets now!

See page 4 for more details