

Celebrating 50 Years

**Magazine for
January & February
2020**

**Social and Support Group for all
The LGBT Community**

Contents

Page 1.	Cover
Page 2.	Contents
Page 3.	Welcome
Page 4.	Review of the year
Page 6.	Transgender Pride
Page 7.	Classical Spectacular
Page 8.	A Wartime Memory
Page 10.	The Rainbow Flag
Page 11.	Edward Carpenter
Page 13.	“Prospect Bristol”
Page 14.	GayWest Items

Welcome

Captain's log, Star Date January 2020, its been 5 decades since our launch and there has been some challenges on the way but the crew are looking forward to the hard work ahead in this our 50th year.

Our mission is to boldly go where we have never been before and seek out new friendships and work for the good of everyone. There may be troubles ahead, but lets play the music and dance, and celebrate a real milestone for our wonderful LGBT group that was founded all those years ago.

So here we are, another new year and just a tiny wee bit older, but maybe a little wiser, who knows. Last year was quite a busy year for your committee and I would expect this new one to be much the same. Every year has its different challenges that the group will have to address, but all being well it will still be here in 2021 and beyond.

GayWest has continued to increase its membership over the past year and I hope this will continue, as I believe that such an organisation is very important and more so in this modern age. Towards the end of 2019 we started on a programme to improve and update the group's website, one of the aims is to make it easy for members to make donations and renew their membership or pay for any purchases (such as our 2020 Calendar). linked to this, we hope to be able to introduce card payments across the group's activities. This all takes time and we always have to be aware of any additional costs, but it is not viable to stand still and let the clock tick away into the future while we all sleep.

Going back to this year's 50th celebration, our all day party day will be on April 25th from 11am - 4pm at "The Rainbow Café" more information at a later date. The March & April magazine will be a special edition celebrating the past 50 years. So to all of you, the GayWest team wish you all a very happy new year.

Colin

Review of the year

Well another year has passed, so here is a short review of what happened over this time.

GayWest social members started off the year with a visit on **January** 7th to Woodspring Priory near Weston-S-Mare. The event was an afternoon tea and tour of the Priory organised by James Whatmore and was a great start to the year. (Article on page 8 in March & April Magazine.) At the Café in January the introduction of Bacon rolls started on the 19th.

February saw the group attend an LGBT History talk at “The Chocolate Quarter” in Keynsham a first for this type of accommodation. (Article on page 8 May & June Magazine)

March saw us visit “Ston Easton” Park for a Snowdrops spotting day, they were over early this year. Also there was a well attended Coffee evening at our home, would be lovely for more members to host one this year.

April A walk on Palm Sunday saw members take part in our third history walk in Keynsham and on the 18th a visit to the “Book Barn” at Hallatrow near Paulton.

May and back at the Café we had a fund raising Auction.

June we were off for a stroll around Bristol Harbour and a visit to “The Siam Angel Café”. We first met the owners on our 2018 Christmas Holiday. Later on the evening of June 20th we supported the “ Talking Tables Feast” at The Windmill Hill City Farm” part of Bristol's food festival. (Article page 16 July & August Magazine)

July GayWest was again at Bristol Pride and this was also the month that a small, but brave souls, took part in the making of your GayWest 2020 Calendar. On the 14th “Robert Howes” led his Bath LGBT history walk.

Review of the year

August as always was one of our main events of the year ,the GayWest Picnic and again this year was organized by “Pip” and took place at Blaise Castle Park.(Article on page 12 September & October Magazine) The 2020 picnic will be at Bath’s Victoria Park in August.

September the train journey of the year down to Weymouth to meet the Weymouth Gay Group. This being our fourth trip. A grand day out for all, buckets and spades were optional, also we attended the Pride at Gloucester. This year it will be on (September 12th 2020).

October on a cold but dry Sunday towards the end of the month we visited The Westonbirt Auditorium in all its Autumn glory.

November and we were back with the last History walk in the Keynsham area.

December Due to being unable to organise a sit-down meal at The Pavilion this year, we had our first Buffet meal for many years at The Rainbow Café.

GayWest Support

A lot going on this year we have been working with four different prison groups, Leyhill, Ashfield, Bristol Horfield and Erlestoke. We attended four events at Leyhill for their pride month in August and also Ashfield’s Pride event in November. Our Outreach team visit a group at Horfield every Monday. These visits mean a lot to the inmates of these establishments.

The group have also been very much involved with Bristol Ageing Better, part of Bristol Age Uk, and have helped set up an LGBT meeting group at the Buzz Café in Lockleaze where they meet on Tuesday mornings. We also were involved in their “Make your Neighbourhood Age Friendly” book, and this year’s (2020) launch of Age Proud Bristol on January 24th. Also with Bristol Age UK we have joined with them on setting up a LGBT over 50s Advisory group, that will meet monthly.

Colin.

Trans Pride South West

Trans Pride South West 2019 took place in Bristol on Saturday 23 November 2019 with the aim of “celebrating the diversity of transgender, non-binary, intersex and gender variant individuals, and actively encouraging awareness, openness and interaction.”

It began with speeches on College Green in front of the City Hall, followed by a parade through the Centre, Baldwin Street, Bridge Street and Union Street to The Station (the former fire station) in Broadmead, where there were stalls staffed by various community groups and a programme of workshops.



The event took place on a damp, grey November day but, fortunately, the rain held off for most of the critical time. The parade, consisting of trans people and

supporters, was smaller than the summer Bristol Pride but was sufficiently large to make an impact. Most of the bystanders appeared rather bemused, a couple voiced their support and I saw no overt signs of hostility. Overall, the event helped mark the presence of trans people in the city and show support for their ongoing struggle.

Robert

Classical Spectacular

In 1989 impresario Raymond Gubbay inaugurated a series of concerts, and these, since their inception have been performed twice a year at the Royal Albert Hall in London. The Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, along with The Royal Choral Society, The London Chorus, the British Imperial Military Band, soloists and dancers combine to present a musical extravaganza that is always a complete sell out for the hall's 5,000 seating capacity.

Included in the programme that we attended, was music by such stalwarts as Sir Edward Elgar, Puccini, Gounod, Verdi, Ravel, Handel and Wagner. My particular favourite was the "Sunrise from Also sprach Zarathustra" by Richard Strauss which featured so beautifully and dramatically in Stanley Kubrick's 1968 film "2001: a Space Odyssey".

Laser lights throughout the concert added a very modern touch and for Tchaikovsky's 1812 Overture, cannons and muskets were fired which made a truly impressive (if somewhat noisy) grand finale. There was a most lively encore, when the twelve or so dancers performed the Can-Can to the music of Offenbach.

Inside (and outside) one can only gaze in awe at this truly amazing and spectacular hall, built in 1871 at the command of Queen Victoria in memory of her beloved Prince Albert.

Valentino

A Wartime Memory

1939 and all that.

It begins on a warm sunny day, 3rd of September 1939. On the wireless, at 11.0am., Neville Chamberlain, Prime Minister announces “ I have to tell you that we are now at war with Germany”.

My Mother was alarmed, like many, she thought we would be bombed immediately, but nothing happened. Except that within 3 days, began the evacuation of 1.5 million children from cities to the safety of the countryside. Whole schools were transported, including their teachers in commandeered trains. This had been anticipated, but inadequately planned in May 1938.

All assembled at London stations. Parents were not allowed onto the trains, and the children cheerfully believed they were off on holiday, photos show them happily leaning out of train windows. But parents were not so cheerful. Although many children were lucky, staying with kind and considerate families, some were not, but were exploited and badly treated. Children were randomly picked by families, it was compulsory, and there was a small payment for their keep.

I was not evacuated, as my parents and I lived in Ruislip, a suburb of London, thought safer. This however was not so, as we were about a mile from Northolt Airfield, an easy target. Close to us a block of houses was bombed. One day I was walking to school when I spotted a low-flying plane, to my amazement it had swastikas on it! It must have just bombed the airfield.

My father who was blind had just had a stroke, which had left him partially paralysed and unable to speak. My mother therefore had to run the household on her own. I had a brother, 10 years older than me, but he volunteered for the army immediately, before conscription. He was soon posted to North Africa in the Eighth Army to a tank regiment. He was at El Alamein, then Sicily and Italy until the end of the war. On his ‘demob’ he married his girlfriend since before the war, which she had spent in the A.T.S. They divorced quite soon as they were ill-matched, I found out just why many years later.

A Wartime Memory

The war was deceptively quiet until August 1940 when the Blitzkrieg (Lightning raid) commenced. It lasted until May 1941. Bombing during the blitz was nightly, and more concentrated on the docks. Air raid sirens would sound until the “All Clear” siren, which meant temporary relief. We spent nights in our Anderson Shelter, which was of corrugated steel, provided for families, free if you were poor, £1 if you were not. Unfortunately ours soon flooded as it had to be sunk a foot into the ground. We then sheltered indoors, my parents downstairs and me under the stairs, better than nothing.

There was the Morrison Shelter if you had no garden, it was an indoor steel cage, in case the house collapsed. In London the Underground was utilised, on the platform, then on the lines when the power was cut off.

Hitler then realised he could not beat us yet, thanks to the R.A.F. which was outnumbered 4 to 1 by the Luftwaffe. Their losses were 1733 aircraft and 3893 men, ours were 828 aircraft and 1007 men. This was the famous “**Battle of Britain**”.

Due to food shortages, rationing was imposed, so gardens, parks and playing fields were dug up—’Dig for Victory’. We grew whatever we could, we kept chickens too. The wealthy could dine at restaurants for a while, the rest could eat at ‘British Restaurants’ providing frugal but adequate meals for 9d (5p.) these lasted until 1947. We registered at a shop with our “Rations Books”. We kept slim but better nourished than before and after the war. Clothes and sweets were rationed too. All rationing ended in July 1954.

Being so young, at 13 at the war’s end and having little privation, I was little affected by it, compared to countries occupied by the Nazis or where there was terrible conflict.

It must have been a worry to my mother. I count myself extremely fortunate.

Ernie

The Rainbow Flag

Originally there were 8 different colours in the design by Gilbert Baker, (1952 - 2017) who was a political activist, designer and flag maker.

Pink is for Sex Red for Life

Orange for Healing Yellow for Sunlight

Green for Nature Light Blue for Magic

Dark Blue for Serenity Purple for Spirit

Gilbert was born in Chanute, Kansas in 1952, he was drawn into art and fashion design, but this alienated him from his peers, he was drafted into the US Army and thought that this would be his escape, but he encountered severe homophobia during his basic training.

When he opted to become a medic, he was posted to San Francisco. There he found a home as an openly gay man, thriving in the culture. Upon completion of his National Service, Gilbert used his artistic talents creating banners for anti-war and pro-gay marches and protests.

At the suggestion of his friends, (one being Harvey Milk,) he began work on the creation of a new symbol of the gay and Lesbian movement, he sought to get rid of the Nazi relic of the pink triangle which had identified homosexuals in Nazi concentration camps. He created the flag in 1978 and over the decades it has come to embrace the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) movement.

The Editor

Ref:- Gilbert Baker

Edward Carpenter LGBT rights pioneer

Born in Hove in Sussex, Carpenter was educated at nearby Brighton College, where his father was a governor. His academic ability became evident relatively late in his youth, but was sufficient to earn him a place at Trinity Hall Cambridge. Whilst there he began to explore his feelings for men. One of the most notable examples of this is his close friendship with Edward Anthony Beck (later Master of Trinity Hall), which, according to Carpenter, had "a touch of romance". Beck eventually ended their friendship, causing Carpenter great emotional heartache. Carpenter graduated as 10th Wrangler in 1868. After university, he joined the Church of England as a Curate "as a convention rather than out of deep Conviction"

In 1871 Carpenter was invited to become tutor to the royal Princes but declined the position. His lifelong friend and fellow Cambridge student John Neale Dalton took the position. Carpenter continued to visit Dalton while he was tutor. They were given photographs of the pair, taken by the princes. In the following years he experienced an increasing sense of dissatisfaction with his life in the church and university, and became weary of what he saw as the hypocrisy of Victorian society. He found great solace in reading poetry.

He left the Church in 1874 and became a lecturer in Astronomy. He then moved to Sheffield where he finely came into contact with manual workers and he began writing poetry. His sexual preferences were for working class men "The grimy and oil-besmeared figure of a stoker" or the thick thighed hot coarse-fleshed young bricklayer.



In 1881 he met George Merrill a working class man from Sheffield 22 years younger. They lived together for the rest of their lives. Many of Carpenters poems and publications were in support of homosexual relationships. The relationship between Carpenter and Merrill were the inspiration for the gay lovers in the book and film about the love affair between Maurice and Scudder in Forster's novel and later film. **Colin**

GayWest

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 £500 towards our funds from the proceeds of the service.

Also at The Rainbow Café... Mathew has been selling his Homemade Christmas Cards, which have been very popular.

Congratulations are in order, as, since 2017 he has collected monies to the sum of £5000 for the Alzheimer's Society.

An Outing for next year

Snowdrops at Shepton Mallet –February 16th 2020

Put it on your GayWest “ Boyz” Calendar. Get your £8.00 copy quick, as they are selling fast!



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

GayWest

GayWest Social Evenings Second Wednesday of each
Month, 15th January and 12th February 2020
at **The Old Market Tavern** in Old Market Street, Bristol.

Membership

Since our last issue we have welcomed 6 new members, Alex, Colin and Clifford, Jason, Colin and Jonathan, but sadly we have lost Jim McCarrick who died suddenly, and a couple who did not renew their subscriptions, which leaves us remaining at 108 members.

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).**

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.

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.



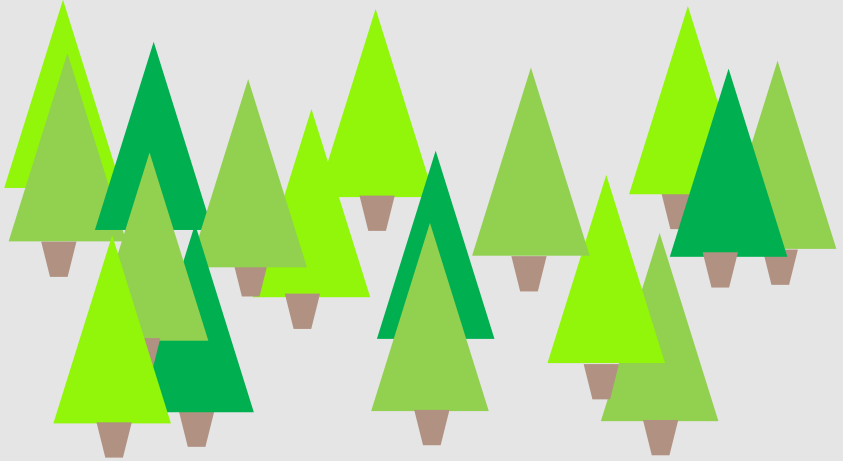
Available at the Café, Breakfast Rolls with a variety of fillings, At competitive prices. Gluten Free Rolls will be available, other Dietary needs can be catered for upon request. Or if you prefer maybe a slice of cake . A variety of Coffee's and Tea's.

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

A Merry Christmas



And a Prosperous new year

From Gaywest