

GayWest

A way of keeping in touch!

Top stories in this Newsletter

Vol. 4 June 2020



Hi All, Well, here we are half way through June, I hope that you are all well and looking forward to when we can all get back to normal and meet again at the Rainbow Café.

However the “GayWest Team” have not been idle, and some of you will have taken part in our Virtual Rainbow Café through Zoom, and some have joined us for chats on the GayWest WhatsApp Group, we have also been discussing new ideas for the months and year ahead.



It is looking likely that our 50th all-day celebration at the Rainbow Café, will not take place this year, but it has not been cancelled indefinitely. 2021 looks like the timetable for this special event. We have all the items for this event in place to look forward to.

This year, by the end of July, the Diversity Trust along with Health watch “Banes” (Bath and North East Somerset) will be launching “Out in Banes” a digital resource where you can find out about all LGBT organisations in the Banes area. GayWest have been invited to take part and have accepted. When the resource is launched we will let you know.

The team have been looking into adopting a new logo, similar to the one on our Facebook page, if you have any suggestions, maybe you would send them to me for discussion at a future meeting.

Until the Lockdown, our attendances at our social evenings have been falling away, so maybe it is time for a change, so we have put forward the suggestion of a fortnight/monthly Sunday afternoon meetup at a Café convenient to the majority, this could be more suitable for the people who are not Night Owls or Pub Goers.

For those amongst us who are more able, the team are keen to set - up the GayWest Walking Group, nothing too strenuous of course.

The Rainbow Café. I been assured that as soon as it becomes possible Age UK Bath will notify us when we can reopen the Café in St. Michael’s Centre. You may remember that the Café prices were going to have to be raised in May, A very small increase, however we may have to look at this again, in respect of the present circumstances, remember that GayWest is a self funding group and not out to make a profit, but we do need to cover our costs, although I assure you that we will endeavour to keep them as low as possible, Age UK is a Charity and will have been financially affected by the same circumstances.

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The team are also looking into the idea of Card Payments at the Café, this is a service we would have to pay for, as we already do for our on-line payments.

So please get in touch with all your brilliant ideas, to forward the unique organisation that so many members of the past have worked so hard to maintain.

Contact us on :- info@gaywest.org.uk , or call or text to 07758810134



I am very busy transferring all the historical documents that we have onto the computer and storing it all on a Memory Stick, this not only ensures its longevity but can cut down on the mountain of paper we have amounted over the last 50 years. If you have any old GayWest documents that we could use, please do get in touch. This is a mammoth task but when it has been completed it would be available for members to see. Jim

Don't Forget ! When trying to gain access to our website, to follow the instructions carefully, i.e. only use the Membership Number and Password from GayWest. Other combinations will not work.

This is done for your security

GayWest Members - Now have a WhatsApp Group and a Zoom Virtual Rainbow Café Group.

To join the WhatsApp group, Download the App and then search for GW WhatsApp Group then follow instructions.

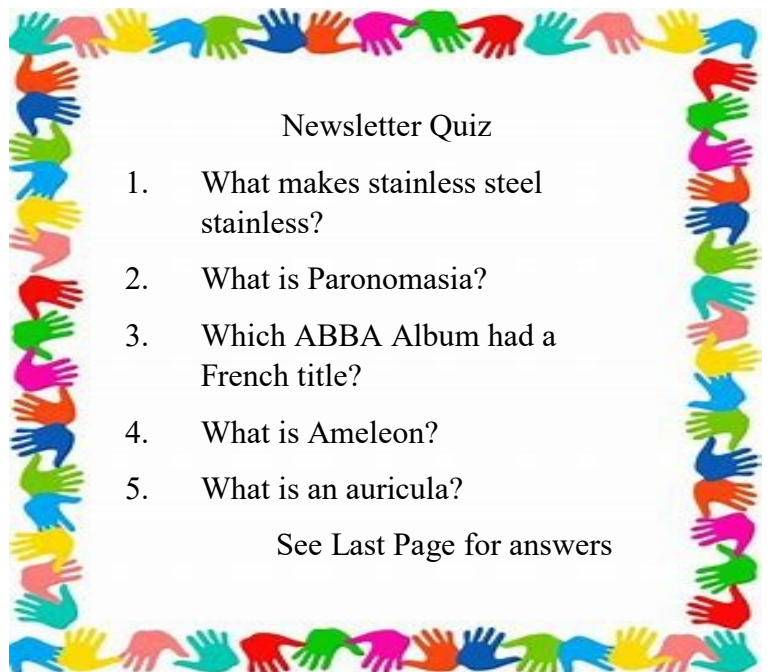
The Zoom Virtual Café , contact us at info@gaywest.org.uk to inform us that you wish to be included, by the Wednesday prior to the meet-up.

Membership If you received a reminder with this newsletter, you can pay on-line Standing Order or by cheque, as your support is very much appreciated.

Newsletter Quiz

1. What makes stainless steel stainless?
2. What is Paronomasia?
3. Which ABBA Album had a French title?
4. What is Ameleon?
5. What is an auricula?

See Last Page for answers



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Some more Wartime Memories from 1939

Food rationing was soon brought in as food soon became short because refrigerated cargo ships ran the risk of being sunk. We registered at the Town Hall for Ration Books and also Identity Cards for everyone.

Then we registered at particular shops such as butchers and grocers, etc. and received Ration Books. Dried versions of potatoes, milk and eggs, were available, but were not popular, as when reconstituted, were not the same as fresh.

Cod Liver Oil and Concentrated Orange Juice were there for young children and pregnant mothers. People kept chickens in their gardens for eggs, but not for the pot.

Vegetables were plentiful as they were grown in gardens, allotments and the parks. The National Loaf was baked for all, it contained all types of grains, so was very nutritious, although it was not liked as it had a strong flavour and was unfamiliar.

Clothing was rationed, it was plain, simple and known as 'Utility Wear' because so many uniforms were needed for the Forces.

The 'Blackout' was introduced in order to confuse enemy bombers. Street Lamps were turned off, and black paper or black curtains were necessary on all windows at night. Volunteer Air Raid Wardens patrolled the streets shouting 'Put that bloody light out' at offenders. Car headlamps were dimmed and dim torches were necessary to avoid colliding into lampposts. The stars shone brilliantly in darkened skies which fascinated me and fostered in me a lifelong interest with astronomy.

I recall there were 'Emergency Water Tanks' in some streets marked EWS, I saw one which contained newts.

The 'Blitz' or Blitzkrieg, mass bombing of cities, including London, Coventry, Plymouth and Bristol was relentless, it commenced in September 1940 and lasted about 8 months.

The many families who were 'bombed out' were allocated emergency accommodation by the Town Hall. Eventually the blitz did end and we had not surrendered, thanks to the RAF and the Battle of Britain as Mr Churchill called it.

Then Hitler turned his attention on Russia and invaded it, with terrible loss of life for them and the Nazis also. The war continued and Germany fought a largely defensive war in the last two years until their eventual surrender on May 8th 1945 or 'VE Day.' I remember the joyful street parties to celebrate this, bunting fluttered and tables and chairs brought out, laden with sandwiches and cakes made by mothers with their precious rations. In the evening big bonfires were lit in the street leaving the road badly scarred.

In the Pacific the war continued for some months until Emperor Hirohito declared that Japan was forced to accept defeat and surrender after it suffered the atomic bomb on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. We marked the end of World War Two by 'VJ Day.'

Gradually our armed forces were 'demobbed' and my brother, much changed, returned.

Ernie

Quiz Answers

- No. 5. A Species of Primrose
- No. 4. A type of Cider
- No. 3. Voulez-vous
- No. 2. A Play on words
- No. 1. Chromium

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Vol. 4 June 2020

Snippets from the past....

Fanny and Johnny's Tips on Cookery Terms.

Aspic.... Considered by the experts as the only jelly substance to enhance your "vittles", very useful when things go limp. After you ASPIC, wash thoroughly, especially under the finger nails.



Flaking.... This is a term of reference for separating "fish". Appropriately expressed by dykes after a "love-in" and in need of the utensils back for cooking!

Tossing.... A strong hand needed for this technique, a firm but gentle grip required and entails a flick of the wrist to achieve a good clean toss.



Trussing.... A very effective method to keep your "Chicken" still while cooking. Cotton string is best, making sure not to obstruct the orifices, skilful use of skewers is often employed, but tricky! Very useful for all M&S chickens (Marks & Sparks?) and once bound is ready for stuffing!

More to follow next time....

We are getting ready for the chance to have our picnic!



..... Now for a real recipe,

Spiced Nuts !

2 Tablespoons of Butter or Margarine
1-2 Table spoons of Curry Powder
1 Tablespoon of Worcester Sauce
2 cups of Blanched almonds

Method....

Melt the butter in the microwave
Stir in the curry powder and Worcester sauce
Add the almonds and coat thoroughly
Cook on high in a microwave for 2-3 minutes
Stirring twice.