

# GayWest

A way of keeping in touch!

Vol. 8 October 2020

Top Stories in this Newsletter

**October** brought some good news at last, we were back at the “ Rainbow Café “ but not as we know it!

After many weeks of emails back and forth, risk assessments to write and get approval we were back. What a great feeling it was and a big thankyou for everyone's support on the day. Didn't we have fun, all social distanced of course. The café at present is a table booking only event, the November one is already nearly booked up as our limit is 20 see page 2 for details on this. The Café will be only monthly for the foreseeable future.

However, while we were at the Café our GayWest Zoomers joined us virtually and were able to join in with some of the chat. We all went home feeling good.

A message to all our Zoomers, do be patient when logging in to our Zoom meeting it can take a little time admitting everyone who are logging in all at the same time. The host has a lot of clicking to do at this time. Apologies for the delay on our Zoom meeting from the Café on the 17th the internet signal there is a bit slow, it was like waiting for the TV tube to warm up, anyone remember them?

## Music

Well you all must love being in silence, not one of you have given us any insight into what music you enjoy! Come on there must be lots of fabulous stories to tell, which you all can share. That first song you heard that meant so much to you even today, a love song that reminds you of someone dear to you. The magical theme music from a favourite film or musical.

What about those of you old rockers who can remember going to the local dance when you were in your teens. As I said last month my first introduction into my enjoyment of music was when The Beatles had there first hits, I would listen to *Brian Mathews Saturday morning club* on the Radio in our what we called back room, since promoted to “ The dinning room”. The radio was a big wooded radiogram with polished wood doors and was part of the furniture to look at rather than a source of all the fantastic new musical sounds. Long gone is “Paddy McGinty's Goat” by Val Doonican, my mums favourite. A few years after this I was the king of the drums and the kit was set up in my bedroom along with Marshal amps and guitars. Its only now that I appreciate what my mum put up with. For Christmas last year my Sister gave me an all time hits CD of Val Doonican, Yep with a track of Paddy's goat.

Take care everyone

Colin

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From  
the Chairman

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GayWest  
News

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Music

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Rainbow  
Cafe

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Balls

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Queer  
Britain

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Paul  
Robeson

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## Great news,

*The Rainbow Café will be open monthly until further notice from 10.30 - 12.30*

*To begin with, places will be limited so you will need to book in advance.*

*The Café will run on a Table Service system*

*On Entry, you will have to register your Name and Telephone Number and Post Code, or use the NHS CR Code, via the mobile app. Apply a hand sanitiser and wear a mask or face covering.*

*You will have to maintain a Minimum of one metre of social distancing as we all have to protect each other, through this difficult time.*

*Contact :- Colin on 07758810134 or [info@gaywest.org.uk](mailto:info@gaywest.org.uk)*

*30, Woodpecker Close, Keynsham, Bristol. BS31 2FU*

*The next Saturday Café opening is November 21st and again on December 19th*

## The Faces behind Balls™

Hey There,

What's up? We wanted to extend a warm welcome hello and thank you for trusting BALLS™ with your balls.

After an awkward conversation with a family member about the use of kitchen scissors on his manhood, we learned most people just use conventional razors ( which can get ugly ) or any alternate sharp blade to hand to tackle hair growth downstairs.

Thus we set upon our quest to design and develop a trimmer made for grooming the most sensitive of areas. After experimenting for over a year with 100's of different blades and designs, we finally designed our now patent-pending SackSafe™ Technology which features anti-nick blades with micro trimming teeth, to prevent nicks and snags.

It's not just your balls we are saving, we plant a tree for every trimmer sold. So when you trim your bush, we save another. That's what BALLS™ is all about! Thanks again for being here and choosing us for your danglies.

Now visit [BALLS.co](http://BALLS.co)



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## Open Letters to Queer Britain

Throughout history, the experiences of LGBTQ+ people have often been erased, overlooked or marginalised, leaving a gap in our national story. Queer Britain wants to change this so that future generations can see themselves represented in history. With the support of Levi's® and Post Office, Queer Britain is inviting members of the LGBTQ+ community and its allies to share an open letter with the museum. The letters will live in Queer Britain's ever-growing archive and will help to record and preserve valuable accounts of what it means to be LGBTQ+ in Britain today.

The letters will be studied by historians at both Goldsmiths, University of London and Kent State University, as part of the 'Queer Pandemic: Resilience in Times of Crisis' research project. The study looks at how queer identities and communities have been shaped and strengthened by both the COVID-19 pandemic and previous crises, including the AIDS epidemic, violence, criminalisation and restricted access to healthcare.

### About Queer Britain

Queer Britain is a charity working to establish the UK's first national LGBTQ+ museum. Co-founded in 2018 by Joseph Galliano, Queer Britain is set to be arguably one of the most important museums to launch in the UK. It will shine a light on its communities' rich and complex history becoming an essential place for all, regardless of sexuality or gender identity, to discover the diverse history and culture of LGBTQ+ people throughout the UK and beyond.

### About the Levi's involvement

Pride 2019 marked the start of a three-year partnership between Levi's® and Queer Britain, a charity working to establish the UK's first national LGBTQ+ museum, a place as exciting as the people, stories and ideas it explores and celebrates. Levi's® continues to work with Queer Britain over three years as the museum moves from its initial planning and fundraising phase to eventually fulfilling the final goal of launching a bricks-and-mortar museum - the UK's first national museum dedicated to the LGBTQ+ community.

### About The Post Office

The Post Office network is the biggest retail network in the UK, with more branches than all the banks and building societies combined. 97% of Post Office branches are run with retail partners on an agency or franchise basis. The Post Office provides services central to peoples' everyday lives; 99 per cent of the population lives within 3 miles of a Post Office. We offer the UK's largest fee free cash withdrawal network through our branch network and over 2,000 cash machines and 99 per cent of UK bank customers can access their accounts at the Post Office. We sell 170 different products and services spanning financial services including savings, insurance, loans, mortgages and credit cards; Government services; telephony; foreign currency; travel insurance and mail services. Post Office's branches remain highly valued and trusted and are the focal point of many communities. Post Office is proud to support their internal, grassroots LGBT+ network, Prism. The group is maintained and grown by Post Office staff of all seniority levels and pushes for greater workplace equality through a range of initiatives.

### About Queer Pandemic

Queer Pandemic is an international collaboration between Queer Britain; Goldsmiths, University of London; and Kent State University. The primary research and instructional team of Justin Bengry, Ph.D. (Goldsmiths) and Lauren Vachon, MFA (Kent State) is led by Molly Merryman, Ph.D. (Kent State and Queer Britain). Research project design is already underway. Undergraduate and postgraduate students from Goldsmiths and Kent State will participate in collecting interviews. This initial pilot project will continue through December 2020. Please contact M Merryman [queerpandemic@queerbritain.org.uk](mailto:queerpandemic@queerbritain.org.uk) for any more information on this project.

**Go on... Send in some of your stories and experiences, It's free.**

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**WRITE** Post your own letter for free to: FREEPOST OPEN LETTERS TO QUEER BRITAIN No need for a stamp, postage is free

**SHARE** Use your organisation's network to raise awareness of Queer Britain and their mission to collect Open Letters from the LGBTQ+ community. You can use these social assets here to support you.

**SUGGESTED COPY** "Queer Britain is a charity working to establish the UK's first national LGBTQ+ museum. In partnership with Levi's® and Post Office, Queer Britain is calling on the queer community and its allies to share an open letter with the future museum to record, study and preserve stories of the LGBTQ+ experience"

"Use your voice and tell us about your experience. Share a memory or how you're feeling, a poem or even a piece of advice. Every story is important. We want to read yours"

**ASK** For any questions please contact

**LEVI'S** ®- Bethan Wotton bwotton@levi.com QUEER BRITAIN – Joseph Galliano joseph.galliano@queerbritain.org.uk

**POST OFFICE** – Darren Jones darren.jones1@postoffice.co.uk

**QUEER PANDEMIC** - If you have more stories, share your oral history with the Queer Pandemic team.

Reach them by emailing queerpandemic@queerbritain.org.uk

## Paul Robeson

He became well known for his beautiful, expressive, bass-baritone voice. In addition to being a singer, he was an actor, both stage and screen. He was also a fine athlete and a professional footballer.

He was born in 1898 in America, the son of a slave, where he lived until his death in 1976. His father must have inspired him to serve the down-trodden and disadvantaged, not only in the USA, but abroad, including Soviet Russia, which he visited and addressed large gatherings.

Not surprisingly, this attracted the attention of the notorious Senator McCarthy, who labelled him a Communist, resulting in the loss of his passport for some years.

This did limit his opportunities abroad; however, by this time, his fame as a singer of so many popular songs in many different styles was well established, worldwide.

I treasure my recordings of his singing, some of which can move me to tears.

Ernie.

