

# GayWest

A way of keeping in touch!

Vol. 1 January 2021

## From the Chair.

Welcome to our first Newsletter for 2021 and let me wish you all a happy New Year, we certainly can do with one. 2020 is not going to be a year many of us will wish to remember. A difficult year for us all and for some of you a sad year. So I am not going to dwell on the past but look forward to the year ahead and beyond.

As the Chairman for GayWest it is my job to take on board all the aspects of the group and what it does for its members and indeed the wider community. To make sure the group keeps within its goals as stated in its constitution.

Over the past year I have been looking at what this will mean for GayWest in the coming years, how we work in the future, how do we see ourselves in relation to a wider community beyond our own L.B.G.T + areas.

Whilst reflecting on this during our periods of in and out of lockdowns one tier up and then a tier down then up again. I knew it was important to keep communication going. This was achieved by producing the monthly newsletter, the help of other members of the group with the setting up of the Zoom meetings and the WhatsApp group, for which I am very thankful. Some of you asked for other members addresses so you could communicate by that old fashion method of writing a letter. Also I would like to thank Age UK Bath for working with us to get the Café open during this time which was achieved after a lot of emails to and fro and paper work. It was achieved and was important to the members who came along giving them something to look forward to in those bleak times. Now we are back in a lockdown the **Café can under the regulations remain open**, although we do have to work within restrictions that allow us to do so. Contact us to book your place.

In this new year we will be looking to expand our committee for without this, the group can not operate to its full potential and give all members of GayWest the support and social life that being a member is all about.

In Last months newsletter I stated the committee roles that we are looking for and one of these is the important job of newsletter/magazine editor.

This role has now become vacant so we are seeking someone to take up the challenge.

**From the Chair**

**A Fable from  
The Press**

**The  
Black Mozart**

**Memories**

**Book Reviews**

**Holidays 4  
Men**

# GayWest

## A way of keeping in touch!

**T**he Newsletter/Magazine job has been carried out by Jim since early 2014 and last year he expressed that he would like to drop this part of his portfolio which also includes being the Treasurer and Membership Secretary.

So I know there are many would be editors in our group, its your newsletter so why not give it a go.

I would also like to thank you all for your support in keeping our organisation going during the last difficult year. If it was not for GayWest I would never have met my husband or had the support that I received from members of GayWest when I first came out as a gay man when I joined back in 2009.

So getting back to the future I think there will be many changes to deal with as the group goes forward, in the past there was the need to support and work to help change legislation and up the profile of LGBT+ people to help change the laws, ( Jim and Myself were only able to get married because of laws being changed ). We have more equality than before and I believe that this will make it harder for an organisation such as ours to survive with out a good strong dedicated group of members working to achieve this. The 1st quarter century of GayWest was different to its second quarter the days before the proliferation of the internet and smart phones these have added challenges but also brought the group to be known by a much wider world. So the challenges do not disappear but need dedication and foresight ,so the group will be able to maybe in the future celebrate its 100th year. This brings me to our 50th event which I hope we can take part in this year. We will call it our 50+ year celebration.

And finally. As a member of GayWest you are apart of a forward thinking group of people and benefits of being such a member are:-

Being part of a well established LGBT+ support and social group. And only as a member you have access to an active website, with members only sections. Can belong to the groups WhatsApp's club, Facebook account, Twitter and Instagram. Also take part in the group's Zoom meetings. As a member you have access to a LGBT book library of more than 300 titles, receive a café loyalty card, receive a regular members newsletter. But one of the greatest achievements of your past committees was the setting up of “ The Rainbow Café “ which is the link pin to everything the group does and where many of us have met and made long lasting friendships, which I think is the groups greatest asset.

So lets all look forward to being part of a great organisation for LGBT+ people with many happy years to come and to enjoy, but we all need to work together for this as a team to make it happen.

**Colin**

### **A Fable from the press....**

**In these difficult days, most of us have wondered how our leaders and policymakers reach their “wise” decisions.**

**A few days ago, I came across this little gem which may help.**

**It's late Fall, and the Native Americans on a remote reservation in South Dakota ask their new chief if the coming winter is going to be cold or mild. Sadly, the new leader has not been taught the old secrets and when he looks at the sky, he can find no answer.**

**But he thinks it wise to be prepared just in case, so he tells his tribe it will indeed be a cold winter and that they should start collecting firewood immediately.**

**A few days later, he decides to check with the National Weather Service and it tells him: Yup, it looks like it's gonna be a pretty cold winter'.**

**So he goes back to his people and tells them to collect even more firewood.**

**A week later, he makes another call. This time he's told it's going to be a very cold winter.**

**So the chief goes back to his people yet again and orders them to collect every scrap of firewood that they can find.**

**By now, winter is almost upon South Dakota, so the chief makes one last call. “Are you absolutely sure that the winter is going to be very cold? ‘Absolutely’, the man replies. ‘It's looking more and more like it's going to be one of the coldest winters we have ever seen.’**

**‘How can you be so sure?’ the chief asks.**

**The weatherman replies: ‘The Indians are collecting a load of firewood.’**

# Gay West

A way of keeping in touch!

## The Black Mozart

**J**oseph Boulogne Chevalier de Sainte George and Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart were contemporaries. the former came to be known as The Black Mozart. His father was a wealthy French planter in Guadeloupe, a French island in the Caribbean, who dallied with a 16 years old slave girl of his wife. The result was a brown-skinned mulatto boy.

When the boy was 10 years old, his father took him to France because he exhibited a musical talent. Here he was given private tuition in music and also lessons in fencing, he soon became proficient in both, resulting in being noticed by Louis XV no less, who described him as 'the most accomplished man in France in riding, shooting, fencing and music' and named him after his father.



He was invited to join the 'Concert des Amateurs' as principal violinist and later became its Concertmaster. In 1775 he composed 2 symphonie concertantes for 2 soloists and orchestra. He went on to compose, believe it or not, 2 symphonies, 7 violin concertos, chamber music, songs, and also operas, which were not received so well.

In my humble opinion, his music is as fine as that by Mozart, which is a considerable achievement, yet it is so rarely heard, which is a shame, although he has been 'Composer of the week'.

In 1778 Mozart went to Paris and stayed for 2 months under the same roof as as the Black Mozart, whom he must have met, one can imagine his feelings of envy. Joseph also visited London, and Brighton, to see the Royal Pavilion.

In 1792 Louis XV established a light army of coloured men which Joseph joined. He then sailed to the Caribbean once more, changed his mind, and returned to France and tried to re-join the army, but was refused, so he became involved in revolutionary activities, was briefly imprisoned and narrowly avoided the guillotine. By this time his health was

deteriorating badly and finally he died of a kidney disease in 1799.

If you wish to hear his music, you can find it on YouTube, particularly played by Buskaid, in Soweto, South Africa, and London, in Trafalgar Square, when they honoured the birthday of Nelson Mandela.

**Ernie.**

An advertisement for National HIV Testing Week 2021. It features a man in a dark suit pointing upwards with his right index finger. The text 'NATIONAL HIV TESTING WEEK' is in a blue box on the left. A red banner at the top right says '1-7 February 2021'. Below that, the slogan 'GIVE HIV THE FINGER' is written in large, bold letters, with 'HIV' in red and 'THE FINGER' in blue.

To find out more go to  
[www.tht.org.uk](http://www.tht.org.uk)

# GayWest

A way of keeping in touch!

## Memories

December 2020 saw the passing of one of GayWest's oldest members just before his 99<sup>th</sup> Birthday, Ken Little.

I first met Ken when I joined the group in November 2009, he was one of the first to make me welcome and be relaxed among many strangers in those early days that I visited "The Rainbow Café".

Over the coming years we became friends and spent some happy times together. Ken worked for much of his life in retail and was very keen on the art of Window Dressing. One time in the run up to Christmas we went window shopping and Ken would be enthralled with the Christmas window displays.

He was also very artistic and we would compare our efforts at painting and drawing together. Many of you would also know that Ken was very keen on the theatre and loved dance in all its styles, being a member of a dance group himself in his younger days.

He was well looked after in the Home he resided during his later years and many of his friends from GayWest regularly visited him. He was also one of the group's honorary members.

Rest in peace Ken.

Colin.



## Book Reviews....

### **EPHEBOS/ Kostya Tsolakis/ignitionpress.**

*Epebos is a Greek word for a male adolescent and this beautifully calibrated, richly visual range of poems map a delicate coming of age. Exploring shame, fear, courage and the desire of blossoming sexuality.*

### **PROVISIONAL NOTES FOR A DISAPPEARED CITY**

*Reynaldo Rivera/ Mit press*

*Mexican bourn photographer Reynaldo, presents a simple but captivating collection of 200 black & white images: Through out the 80's & 90's of a now vanished Los Angeles: A world of house parties, subversive fashion, underground bands and a handful of long closed Latino gay and transvestite bars, gritty and transportive. The images are of a lost culture.*

## Gay Safe Holiday Destinations

We recently had an E-Mail from a new holiday company that has recently set up. More details can be found at [www.Holidays4men.co.uk](http://www.Holidays4men.co.uk) Take a look at and book your dream holiday!