


# GayWest

A way of keeping in touch!

Vol. 2 February 2021



**W**elcome to your February Newsletter. This Month we thought we would have a romantic theme to maybe add some spice to our lives at the moment, As we continue it seems, for ever in lockdown mode.

We celebrated my dear husbands birthday at the end of January and also him receiving his 1st Covid 19 Vaccine.

I have had calls and messages from many of our older members telling me that they have received their first jab also, so it must be nearing half of our members by now which is some good news.

Recently I have also received emails from HMP Bristol and Erlestoke regarding getting something together to celebrate LGBT History month during this month. We will be having a Zoom meeting, as you do now, possible with Bristol and we are sending some online information about GayWest's History to Erlestoke and hope to meet up with them in person later in the year.

From Leyhill prison we have received a letter from one of the inmates in their Gay group who would like to correspond with a member of GayWest.

Also Bath & North east Somerset council are hosting an LGBT History event via a "Webinar" on Zoom, the evening of 25th February in which GayWest will be taking part.

For more info on this then please get in touch.

On a final note please remember the group needs your help for its future success as mentioned in the January newsletter.

**Colin.**

**From the Chair**

**Portrait of  
Glazunov**

**Who was  
Valentine?**

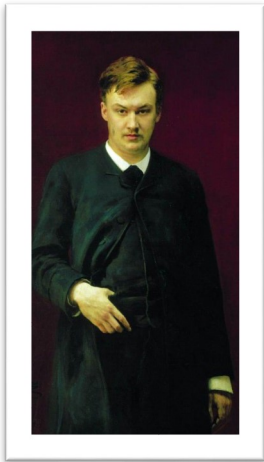
**Gay Love Poems**

**LGBT  
History**

**Book Reviews**

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GLAZOUNOV Alexander Konstantinovich Glazounov was born in 1855 in St Petersburg. He was the son of a wealthy publisher and began studying piano at nine years of age and two years later started composing. Rimsky Korsakov (a contemporary of Glazounov) became aware of Glazounov's early compositions and was so impressed, included them in an 1882 concert of classical music which later developed into the Russian Symphony Concerts. Glazounov was a prolific composer, writing no less than eight symphonies (a ninth was unfinished), a violin concerto, the score for a ballet Raymonda, a piano concerto and numerous other classical pieces.

He was also a music teacher and made his debut as a conductor in 1898. The following year he became a professor at the St Petersburg Conservatory and soon after became its Director.

He tried to improve both standards and conditions at the Conservatory for the students, but his methods were frowned upon. After the October (Bolshevik) Revolution in 1917, he gladly accepted an offer to conduct in Vienna, leaving his own country in 1928. He subsequently toured

Europe and the United States, finally settling in Paris. He formally resigned from the St Petersburg Conservatory in 1930. In the early '30's he composed his Saxophone Concerto, which was received with much acclaim. He also wrote a second ballet 'The Seasons' and two Concert Waltzes, for which he is best remembered. In 1929 he married Olga Nikolayevna Gavrilova who already had a daughter from her first marriage: the daughter (Gelenal was a professional classical pianist. Glazounov died in 1936 at the age of 70 in Neuilly-sur-Seine near Paris: his remains were reinterred in Leningrad.

Of necessity, this is only a brief resume into the life of {in my opinion} an under-estimated superb composer, a Maestro! and it is well worth delving into media to read more about him and to listen to some of his exquisite music. **Valentino**

## Ken Little

Eight members of GayWest joined with two relatives recently to attend the funeral of Ken Little. At Haycombe Crematorium in Bath.

It was a nice little service remembering Ken. I think I knew Ken the longest about 60 years in all.

I first met him when I joined the Bristol Musical Comedy Club in the 1950's. We did seven American Musicals together, at the Hippodrome. It was good fun and I have some good memories of Ken. Rest in peace Ken.

Roy Appleby.

## The Rainbow Café

**Under government regulations during these restricted times we are allowed to open. But we can only have a maximum of 20 persons.**

**So booking your place is essential, our next Café dates are**

**February 20th and March 20th**

**so contact us by email or telephone.**

**info@gaywest.org.uk Tel. 07758810134**

## Who was St Valentine ?

The popular belief about St Valentine is that he was a priest from Rome in the third century AD.

Emperor Claudius II had banned marriage because he thought that married men made bad soldiers, Valentine felt this was unfair, so he broke the rules and arranged marriages in secret. When Claudius found out Valentine was thrown in jail and sentenced to death. There he fell in love with the jailer's daughter and when he was taken to be killed on the 14th February he sent her a letter signed "From your Valentine".



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Meeting you  
was fate,  
becoming  
your friend  
was a  
choice,  
but  
falling  
in love  
with you  
was our  
destiny.



*I may not get to see you as often as I like.*

*I may not get to hold you in my arms all through the  
night.*

*But deep in my heart I truly know, you're the one that  
I love, and can't let you go*



*Oh god it's wonderful to  
get out of bed and drink  
too much coffee and  
smoke too many cigarettes  
and love you so much*

*When I saw you, I was afraid to meet you.*

*When I met you, I was afraid to kiss you.*

*When I kissed you, I was afraid to love you.*

*Now that I love you, I'm afraid to lose you.*

## The Perfect Man

*The perfect man is gentle, Never cruel or mean; He  
has a beautiful smile, And a keeps his face clean.*

*The perfect man likes children and will raise them by  
your side. He will be a darn good father and a  
husband to his bride.*

*The perfect man loves cooking, cleaning and  
vacuuming, too. He'll do anything in his power to  
show his love to you.*

*The perfect man is sweet, writing poetry in your  
name. He's a best friend to your mother and kisses  
away your pain.*

*He never makes you cry or hurt in any way.*

*Oh, F\*\*k this stupid poem the perfect man is gay!*



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**February is LGBT history month so here is some past history.**



**As the LGBT and its history has so often been oppressed in the past, it is not always possible to have a firm view of what has accurately happened, but as they say, history is something that is written by someone else, at a later stage in time, and actual knowledge of the event is somewhat removed. So all we have is the written past..**

**Greece is the word c 600bc**

The city of Sparta in Greece established all-male sports events with naked athletes. Relationships between upper-class men and boys aged 12 to 17 may have developed from this culture. Rock inscriptions on the island of Thera, a Spartan colony, are the earliest known written evidence of gay sex. One piece of graffiti, first described in 1898, has been translated as, "By Delpinos, Krimon F\*\*\*\*d a boy, Bathykle's brother."

**When Alexander met Hephaestion c343 bc**

Alexander the Great may have met Macedonian nobleman Hephaestion in this year. Modern historians, relying on several Roman sources say this was the start of a lifetime romance that ended only with Hephaestions death. The worlds first gay couple.

**His Royal Queerness? 1327**

England's most well-known gay King is Edward II who died in this year. We know he took at least two male lovers and it is said that he was assassinated with a red hot poker up his backside. But there is no hard evidence for any of this but the story has been passed down the ages, so who knows?

**Lets Go Outside 1893**

Eccentric writer George Ives responded to the British Act of 1885 that made all "indecent" between two men punishable by imprisonment by forming the order of Chaeronea, a secret society with somewhat airy-fairy notions about the purity of gay male love.

Seedy encounters in back alleys were not OK; romantic idylls in pastoral settings were. Gradually, more writers, then law makers, came around to this way of thinking. To this day, blind eyes are turned to cruising grounds, where its been suggested, gay men pursue the myth of healthy, happy "Iranian Love" in the great outdoors.

**So, make sure that you can contribute to our history, by getting involved with the only LGBT organisation which is offering you so much. Get your friends to join us too.**

## This months reviews.

The play "Everybody's Talking About Jamie" has now been made into a film for realise later this year. Playing Jamie in the lead roll for the film adaptation of the West End hit is Max Harwood his first paid acting role.

"It's a sin" Channel 4s newest hit about a group of gay friends in London during the Eighties. A story of passion love and friendship with the ever growing problem of the Aids virus.

Another classic by the pen of Russel T Davies.

"The Prophets" By Robert Jones Jr This character-led lyrical debut focuses on the forbidden romance between two young black men on a Mississippi slave plantation. Teenagers Samuel and Isaiah live among the animals in the barn, their place of refuge, where at night they find love and relief in one another's arms. But Amos a fellow slave is suspicious and soon a reckoning will be upon them... Dark, moving and powerful. Out Now.

