

GayWest

A way of keeping in touch!

Vol. 4 April 2021

Welcome to your April Newsletter

Here we are with the 4th newsletter of 2021 and I must apologise for it being later than normal. Here at Keynsham Towers we have been having technical problems with our WiFi signals. It has taken quite a while to get things sorted for as you know in this modern world it is incredibly difficult to talk to a person who may be able to help you on these things. But in the end we did get the help we needed from a very nice man who went through some techy things with my husband remotely from, god knows where, but it has been an improvement but not completely solved. Perhaps the government might be able to put me InTouch with an expert or two!

So in spite of these difficulties we have managed to work as we have done this last year via the marvels of science remotely from home keeping the GayWest wheels turning and we have had a lot of interest in our group from various quarters. Also this month we welcome three new members joining us and I hope we will be able to meet them in person in the near future.

GayWest also received a donation to the group which was greatly appreciated (see page 3)

I am also delighted that from May the 1st our Café will be back weekly, there will be a demand for places so do book early if you are coming along. Hopefully after May 17th we can get back to how we used to run the café.

One of the things that has now become part of the group is the regular Zoom meetings which with the help of our members continues and hopefully will continue, although maybe at a different time and day once the café is fully back.

As your committee has not met in person for over 12months now I am hoping this can resume from May and we can get back to organising outings and events for this summer and autumn and beyond.

Some ideas and more can be found on page (2)

So I wish you all the best for the coming summer and some freedom at last and as always you can get InTouch via our website or at info@gaywest.org.uk or mobile 07758810134 .



When Can We ?

**A Donation to
GayWest.**



GayWest

A way of keeping in touch!



www.salisburyprideuk.org

Here's a test for you, can you name this person. He has been a long time member of GayWest and still with us today.



Send your answer to info@gaywest.org.uk or call 07758810134 your prize will be the excitement in knowing you got it right!

When can we?

So here are some things that I hope we all can look forward to later this year.

Our monthly social evenings at "The Old Market Tavern" will be back this summer and also lets get out our picnic boxes for the GayWest picnic in August or September. Other events we hope to set up are Monthly Pub lunches and visits to some outdoor markets (The Wells market was in the programme for 2020)

For those of you who are more restless I am hoping to put on some organised walks, actually these could go ahead at the

present time. During the last year I have discovered some wonderful county lanes and byways in my local area. The longest walks are about 7/8 miles many around 3/4 miles. I am at present putting together several walking routes we can enjoy. All start and finish from our home which is easy to get to by car or public transport. Refreshments available, if I am nice to hubby.

So this is some of the things that we can all get involved with, but I am sure you have some ideas of your own that you would like to share with our members.

During the past year our website has not been updated so much as I

would have liked so if you have any news or great photos you would love to share with other members then send us them at our usual contact

info@gaywest.org.uk

So lets get out, lets party!



Also save the date for Gloucester Pride this year on 11th September. GayWest will be there again as booking has been rolled over from 2020



GayWest

A way of keeping in touch!

HMP BRISTOL

Early last month we received an email from the head of diversity & Equality at HMP Bristol informing GayWest that they had done a fundraising event and would like to donate the proceedings to our group. This was a complete surprise to us. A few weeks ago we received a cheque for £ 91 31p and a corresponding letter which we have copied below.

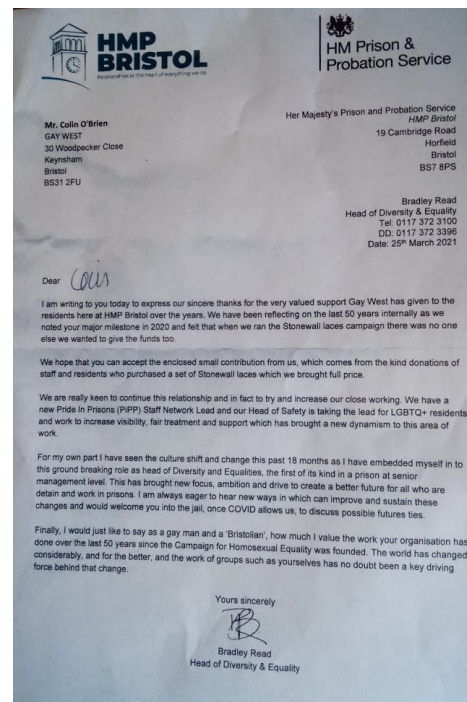
An extract from the letter

I am writing to you today to express our sincere thanks for the valued support GayWest has given to the residents here at HMP Bristol over the years. We have been reflecting on the last 50years internally as we noted your major milestone in 2020 and felt that when we ran the Stonewall laces campaign there was no one else we wanted to give the funds too.

We hope you can accept the enclosed small contribution from us, which comes from kind donations of staff and residents who purchased a set of stonewall laces which we bought full price.'

Finally, I would just like to say as a gay man and a "Bristolian" how much I value the work your organisation has done over the last 50 years since the Campaign for Homosexual Equality was founded.. The world has changed considerably, and for the better, and the work of groups such as yourselves has no doubt been a key driving force behind that change

The letter can be read in full at the " Rainbow Café " were we have a copy.



The Rainbow Café

Under government regulations during these restricted times we are allowed to open.

But we can only have a maximum of 22 persons.

So booking your place is essential,

Weekly from 1st May

so contact us by email info@gaywest.org.uk or telephone 07758810134

Gay West

A way of keeping in touch!

This Month's Reviews

Good Times and glory holes.

An affectionate celebration of gay bars past and present—from London to LA.

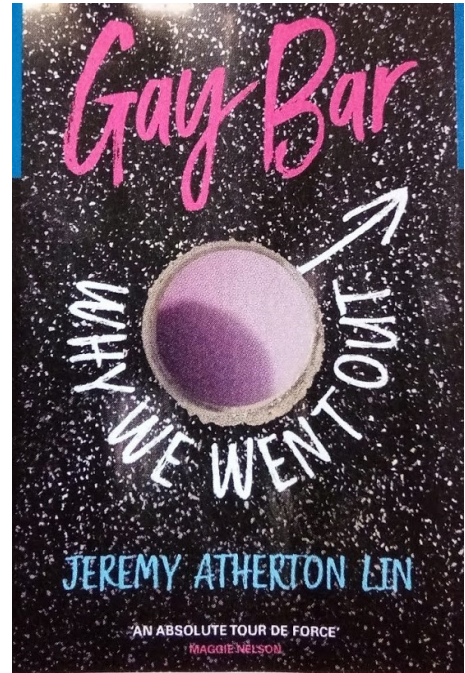
Gay Bar: Why we went out.

Yes, that is indeed a glory hole gracing the cover of this expansive exuberant and horny celebration of the institution of the gay bar.

Focusing on the post Aids crisis years of the 90's to the present day: From leather parties in the Castro to the Black Cat riots of LA, from glory holes and Crisco slicked dungeons to Gay Liberation Front touch ins, from disco at Studio One to Britpop at Popstarz. Lithe, sexy and probing this is a gloriously fresh and astute exploration of gay spaces.

Its a book about Sex, socialising, music, masculinity, finding love and what community means.

A good read. Out now and can be ordered from gaysttheword.co.uk



Stronger — Gareth Thomas.

When Gareth Thomas tested positive for HIV he grappled with stigma, panic attacks and suicidal thoughts. Fearing what others would think, he kept his diagnosis secret, even from his family so when someone attempted to blackmail him and the tabloid press caught wind of the story he went into free fall. But then the former rugby star took control. In 2019 on the same day he competed in the gruelling Welsh Ironman triathlon he went public and the world applauded his strength both physical and personnel.

This uncompromisingly honest book is all about resilience self compassion and empowerment.

Out now.

Films

AMMONITE

Kate Winslet, Saoirse Ronan, Alex Secareanu, Gemma Jones. Fiona Shaw.

From the director of "Gods Own Country", Francis Lee, his follow up is the historical drama and of a possible story of a same sex relationship of British pioneering palaeontologist Mary Anning. It makes a story set in the 19th century Lyme Regis feel bracingly contemporary alive with salt and spray. Winslet, meanwhile, gives one of her most vital, moving performances as Anning. A chilling lone wolf stirred into feeling when Charlotte (Roman) the timid wife of a client is placed in her care. The gradual but visceral build of desire between them is traced with aching feeling by both stars. Lee maps the movements of the heart against the wild whims of the coastal landscape. A beauty.

Relive the joy, pain, angst and excitement of growing up with **Boys on Film 21** the latest series of international LGBTQ+ short films from Peccadillo Pictures. *My Dad works the night shift*, where Canadian teenager Felix invites his crush over while his conservative dad is out of the house and *L'homme jete*, about an aimless Docker from a small coastal town who is swept up in a passionate love affair when young sailors wash ashore.

Available now on DVD . Blue-ray and on demand.