

GayWest

A way of keeping in touch!

Vol. 8 August 2021

Welcome to your August Newsletter.

Like many of you I found it very hot in the heat wave that we had back in July, a little trying but we did enjoy many hours sat in a shady spot in our garden.

A garden that is beautifully cared for by my husband and for me to enjoy, isn't that wonderful!

But what saddened me was the news of the many drownings during this weather and the fact that many were young men in their teens or early 20's. Do they not teach anything about real life, it's wonders and it's dangers at Schools, Colleges and Universities today.

I remember well, that even at my infant & Junior school being told about the dangers of the sea, rivers and lakes, even on a hot summers day, also about the Countryside Code, and about the ups and downs of life. Maybe nowadays its all about ticking the right box so as to get top marks for the school. Real life and how to live it is obviously not as important anymore. What a sad waste of a life.

What a breath of fresh air the Olympics have been. In spite of all the gloom and those who wish to lock us all up for ever. A triumph for our individual Olympians who say a lot for ordinary hard working, positive thinking people who have achieved their best in spite of all the negativity that is around today. We salute you all.

This Month sees the re-start of some more GayWest events, you should have all been able to check these out from the e-mail sent out. You can find out more on page 3. See you soon.

Colin

You can send us your articles and comments / letters by email to info@gaywest.org.uk or post at 30, Woodpecker Close, Keynsham, BS31 2FU

We await them in anticipation !



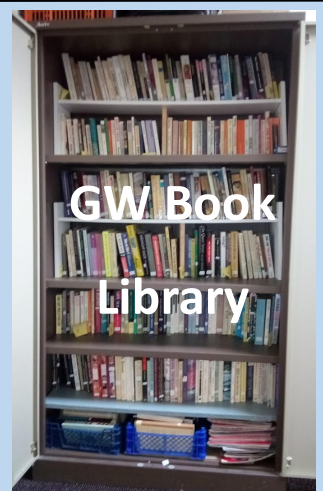
In the news



GayWest events



GW Book Library



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Battle to reclaim Tog Hill

The plaque on the monument at Tog Hill picnic site near Wick recalls the Battle of Dyrham, which took place nearby between the Saxons and the Britons in 577 AD. Fourteen centuries later, a battle of a different sort is being waged by the local community to reclaim the site.

Also known as “the gay cruising sites as Junction 18” a place to go for outdoor sex.

The issue was raised at a public meeting of the local council recently. It was stated that the council had taken down the CCTV camera, because there were no reported evidence of “anti-social behaviour in the Tog Hill sense”. It was then said that word spread on Twitter that CCTV was no longer in place “and they were almost queuing up at by the gate to carry on”.

The acts they are performing are not illegal, its where they are performing it that’s illegal.

The Battle continues!

Cruising at Marks & Spencer's

Five were charged with public sex acts after M & S toilets turns into a gay cruising spot. M & S is famed for its LGBT+ community for its Yumnuts and LGBT sandwiches. But one M & S store has become especially well-loved by cruisers.

The store in Mary Street Dublin has become known in local gay community as a go to spot for public sex acts, so well known that they were put under police surveillance.

One of the defendants said in court, “although he did not head to M & S on 14th June specifically to engage in sex acts he did somehow find himself in the toilets trying to communicate with another man and was caught by the officer”.

One other man pleaded guilty after he was discovered by a plain clothes Gardaí officer when the officer entered the toilets the man grabbed his bum and exposed himself, in court his defence said that he had read the signals wrong.

The five men await to be sentenced in September.

Theatre News

Cole Porters sassy and gloriously wicked 1934 musical, “**Anything Goes**” starring Sutton Foster, Robert Lindsay and Felicity Kendal, is raising the roof at the Barbican in London until October 31st.. With such songs as I get a kick out of you, and the tap dancing triumph of Anything Goes. And not to mention all those lovely Sailors!!



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Events this Month

Return of the GayWest social night at

“ **The Old Market Tavern** ” on Thursday 12th August then every second Thursday of each Month starting at 8PM



Sunday Lunch Club

On Sunday August 29th

We start our first regular Sunday Lunch outing at The Europa Restaurant in Keynsham. Table will be booked for 1pm.

Europa Restaurant 3-4 Market Walk Keynsham BS31 1FS.

We have looked at other venues along the A4 corridor between Bristol and Bath and these could be chosen as future venues, its up to you!

Please let us know by no later than Saturday 21st August if you wish to come along

so we know numbers for booking.



Next Month

Annual Picnic at Royal Victoria Park, Bath, BA1 2NQ Sunday 12th September 2021 at 1300 hours (1pm).

This is open to everyone. This includes all members of Gay West and GMG – this is a joint event. You are encouraged to bring your own picnic.

STARTING MEETING POINT – It will be in the front of the Royal Victoria Café at 1300 hours prompt.

BRIEF HISTORY – Royal Victoria Park was opened in 1830 by Queen Victoria herself, when she was aged 11. This is situated just north/west of the city centre on Upper Bristol Road (A4). There are so many attractions for you to do in this beautiful 57-acre (23 hectare) park which is popular for local and visitors alike.

GETTING THERE – If you are coming via Bath Spa Railway Station or Bath Bus Station, you can catch 3a, 4 or 39 to Monmouth Street, then walk towards the park, or alternatively it is about 15 minutes' walk (one mile). All Bath Park and Rides run on Sundays (nearest one is Lansdown (drop off/on in Milsom Street. There is limited car parking within the park, free on Sundays. Charlotte Street car park is nearby, chargeable.

WET WEATHER - In event of wet weather, please meet me inside, Royal Victoria Park Pavilion, Victoria Park, Bath BA1 2NR.



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The Rainbow Café

As you all know the Café is back to its pre-Pandemic status, which means you can just turn up on the day, no booking required. We are still providing the safest environment as possible and it will be your own personal choice if you wish to wear a face mask. Our first Saturday fully back to some kind of normality was a lively morning of around 20 and the buzz was wonderful to hear again. We had our first Raffle for a very long time and we all had an enjoyable time.

I would also like to say once again to all you lovely members who have given donations to the group to help with the Café running cost during the past 16 months without which we would have struggled to cover the cost of the rent. This will surely now cover our rent and other cost's for the next 6 months, so a big huge thankyou again.

The GayWest book library

All members of GayWest are able to borrow books from the groups library of 300 plus books. Stored in a large cabinet in the back room of the St Michael's centre where we hold our Café meetings. There is no cost to borrowing any books , but you will need to sign it out when you borrow a book and in when returning.

Here are some of the books in our library.

A Single man ,(Christopher Isherwood) A good film. **Another Country** (Julian Mitchell) **Duvall's Gold, Street Lavender, Thornapple** Recommended historical based fiction of gay life. (Chriss Hunt) **Orton the complete plays** (John Lahr) **Alan Turing** (Jack Copeland) His life story and very interesting.

Michael Carson's trilogy **Stripping Penguins Bare, Sucking sherbet lemons, Yanking up the Yoyo**. A good laugh.

The Naked Civil Servant (Quentin Crisp) **The secret Life of Oscar Wilde** (McKenna Neil) **The Swimming pool Library** (Alan Hollinghurst) **The Trial of Rock Hudson** (John Arked) and other titles such as **Desert Studs & Barely Legal** Also a very important book **GayWest** (Robert Howes) A history of the group from 1970 to 2010.

There are many more excellent books so something to keep you all occupied now in the summer sun shine or in front of a cosy fire in the winter months what more do you need to expand your knowledge.!

Important... If you have any Gay Content books that you would like to donate to the Library for others to read, that would be appreciated.

Bath's LGBTQ History Walk, September 12th

Robert Howes, will guide you on this very interesting walk taking in the places and buildings with some fascinating LGBTQ history.. Meet at the War memorial at the entrance to Royal Victoria Park for start time of 2.30pm. Walk takes approx. 2 hours. Tickets from Eventbrite



www.bathscapewalkingfestival.co.uk/walk/baths-lgbtq-history-walk