

GayWest

A way of keeping in touch!

Vol. 3 March 2022

Welcome to your March Newsletter.

A new Month the third of this year already, where does the time go? Well here at command centre we have been looking ahead into this new year, mainly focusing our thoughts to GayWest items, yes I know that the worlds problems are many fold but lets just keep it to where we can influence things to a degree.

Firstly I will bring your attention to page 4 where you will find details of some events coming down the line .

Added to these we are working on some events to happen at the “ Rainbow Café” these include a spring time Auction in May, a chance to bring in those saleable items you do not want anymore. An Easter Raffle on Easter Saturday the 16th April and later, on June 4th a Queens Day!!! at the Café,

In recent weeks we have welcomed more new members to GayWest which is really great news and is bucking the trend amongst other LGBT organisations. like ours, I believe we have 81 members at the moment.

There are benefits for being a member one of which is our comprehensive book library which is steadily growing.

Books can be borrowed by members free of charge and are available at “ The Rainbow Café “ There are many well known authors amongst our collection. Covering some serious subjects related to LGBT, wonderful autobiographies by famous gays, and fantastic novels. Also some very erotic subjects!

At the moment we are in the process of updating the Library and welcome you all to enjoy this benefit of being a member of GayWest.

I would also like to remind you all that we are looking for some helping hands to join us on the GW committee, some new blood to pump around is now needed. So come and have a chat with myself or any other member of your committee.

Colin.

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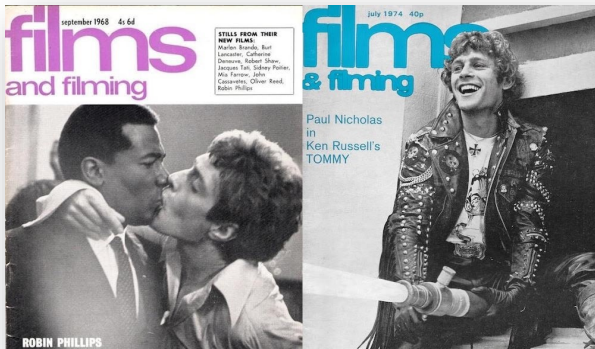
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A very 1950's magazine.



One of Britain's first-ever gay magazines, full of topless hunky men, hid in plain sight on the shelves of newsagents in the 1950s, almost two decades before the decriminalisation of homosexuality.

Films and Filming was, as the name suggests, a film magazine, which was internationally respected. But for those who knew what they were looking for, it was so much more.

Launched in 1953, it made its debut at a time when gay men were severely persecuted in the UK; that same year saw the journalist and later LGBT+ rights campaigner Peter Wildeblood, along with Lord Montagu of Beaulieu were tried and convicted of gross indecency. A year previously, Alan Turing had been convicted and was chemically castrated in order to avoid being jailed. By the end of 1954, in England and Wales, there were 1,069 gay men in prison for homosexuality.

To say that launching a gay magazine in this climate would have been enormously risky would be an understatement, so publisher Philip Dosse, described by one of his former employees as “proud, eccentric, gay, secretive [and] volatile”, had to be cautious.

According to a paper by Dr Justin Bengry, director of the Goldsmiths Centre for Queer History, from its very first issue the magazine “subtly included articles and images, erotically charged commercial advertisements and same-sex contact ads that established its queer leanings”.

Films and Filming included profiles of actors who were at the time rumoured to be gay, like Rock Hudson and Dirk Bogarde, as well as photos of them in various states of undress.

Advertisements were chosen for their highly sexual images of men, and the magazine also became renowned for its classified section featuring contact adds for men looking for same sex partners. Of course, the request weren't explicit, and mostly featured adds from “bachelors” who were looking for “friends “with interest like, “



Here are some of the latest must have products on the market now. Great for that special present !



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Visit Bath, Lgbt + Historic sites in Bath.

February was LGBT+ History Month, a chance to shine a spotlight on the achievements and experiences of the community as well as promote diversity and equality. It's the perfect time to reflect on the stories and contributions of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people here in Bath.

This guest article by local historian and Gay West member Robert Howes is a great introduction to the people and places connected to the city's [LGBTQ+](#) past – from the eighteenth century to the present day.

go to [https:// visitbath.co.uk/blog/read/2022/02/lgbtq-historic-sites-in-bath-b156](https://visitbath.co.uk/blog/read/2022/02/lgbtq-historic-sites-in-bath-b156)

Huddersfield Pride 1981

GayWest received this mail from

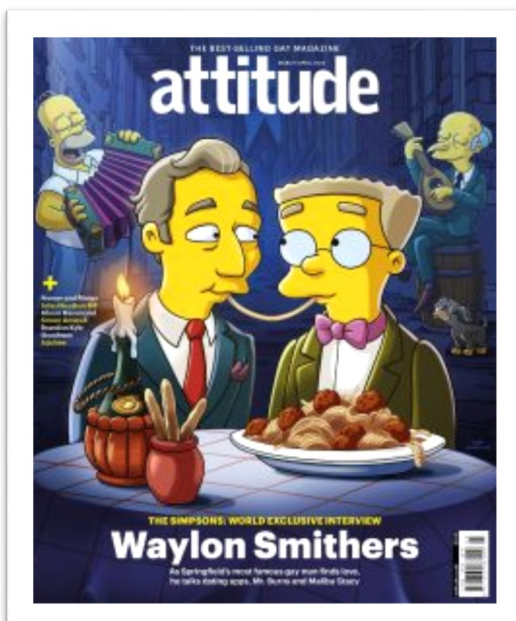
West Yorkshire Archive Service, Kirklees.

The Uks first ever national Pride took place in Huddersfield on the 4th July 1981. Both CHE Bristol and CHE Bath marched in it. To celebrate the 40th anniversary of this historic event, we are creating a permanent Pride 81 archive collection that will help to preserve the legacy of this remarkable story for current and future generations to discover and enjoy. We're looking for any photographs, posters, banners and flyers relating to the Pride 81 march. WE know that the people who marched will now be spread across the UK so we are trying to reach as wide an audience as possible. Would it be possible to pass this information on to your members in case any of them were there, or know someone who was?



The Archive project is part of a larger art event called “The day the World came to Huddersfield”, which will be taking place until autumn 2022.

If you have any information contact Jade at jade.graham@wyjs.org.uk



GayWest subscribes to Attitude magazine and is available to all members to read at the “Rainbow Café” also to borrow. The picture opposite shows the front cover of the latest addition which has now been changed to a bimonthly publication, so this is the March and April issue. The magazine has 180 pages and a lot of excellent articles and is printed on quality paper.

There will be no increased cost to us for these changes, something to be pleased about today. Below is a quote from the mags editor.

It had been a few years since our last redesign and its important to switch things up now and then. After all, complacency is the foundation stone of apathy (this also applies to boyfriends, friendships, families, and sex).

The first issue was published in 1994

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Bristol Pride



Saturday July 9th sees the return of Bristol Pride on the Downs. Events start on Saturday June 25th until Sunday 10th July.

The pride march returns and will celebrate 50 years since the 1st pride march took place in the UK

GayWest events

March 20th

Woodpecker Walks return

A new exciting medium distance walk has been planned to get the bounce back in your step. Starting and finishing at 30 Woodpecker Close. Partly country lanes and across farmland and up and down. So good footwear is a must. Meet for a 11am start 30 Woodpecker Close, Keynsham, BS31 2 FU.

Refreshments will be available on your return.



at

March Wednesday 9th join us for our social evening at our new venue **The Iodekka, from 8pm** Tramway Rd,



Brislington, Bristol BS4 3DS The 39 Bus stops nearby, plenty of parking. The pub is part of "The Hungry Horse" chain.

May 18th The City of Wells Wednesday Market



Join us on a day trip to Well's Market. An enjoyable place to visit, lots of stalls .

Pubs and cafes all nearby and you could also fit in a visit to the Bishops palace.

More details in future newsletter.

Explosive house warming party.

Article in local paper regarding an insurance claim. One of the most unusual, interesting and amusing claims It had involved a newly married couple who decided to have a house warming party. The lady made sure the house was pristine and, at the last moment, went round the sink and toilet bowl with a freshener spray.

Two friends arrived early and the man asked to use the toilet urgently. He was about to make full use of the facilities when he realised he still had his cigarette in his hand. So to extinguish and dispose of it he dropped it between his legs into the bowl.

The freshener spray must have contained an inflammable gas because it ignited, destroying the toilet and injuring the man. The ambulance was called and they put the young man on to a stretcher. They were carrying him downstairs feet first when one of the stretcher bearers asked how the injury had occurred. He laughed so much that he dropped his end of the stretcher. The young man slid off and down the stairs sideways. His leg was broken when it went through the banisters, which were also damaged. To cap it all, on the way to hospital, the ambulance was involved in a road accident.