

GayWest

A way of keeping in touch!

Vol. 4 April 2022

Welcome to your April Newsletter.

April is one of my favourite Months of the year along with May & June. The days are longer, everything is waking up from it's winter sleep a great time to go walking, visit places and of course that annual ritual of spring cleaning. So we have some exciting events for you to take part in this month. (Page 4)

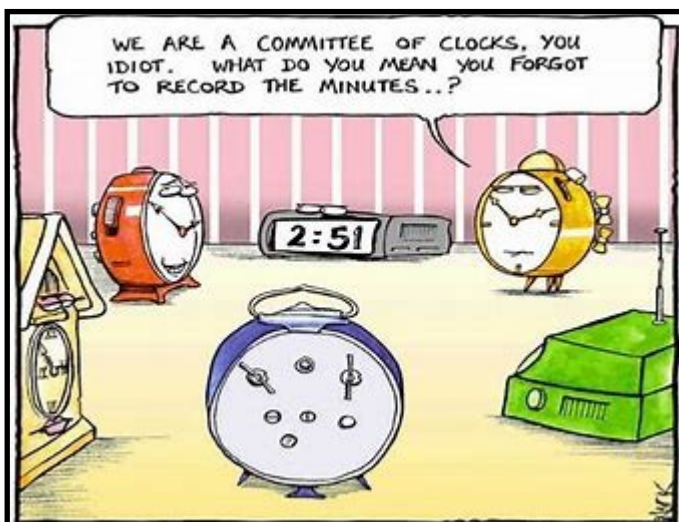
We have an entertainment theme also this Month, (page 2 & 3) so have a good read and enjoy and please remember the Newsletter is for members, produced by members, so please if you got anything to say tell us about it. This now brings me to another subject,

how is GayWest managed? Well the group has a written constitution which outlines how this is done. The group has to have an Annual General Meeting A.G.M. which elects the three main posts of the committee, to run the group for the next year, this takes place in September each year. Other members can be took on-board at any time.

At the present time we do not have enough committee members.

So I will say this only once ! Come and join us on the committee and put your talents to good use and help GayWest survive well into the future so it can carry on with its social and support activities to all in the LGBT+ community

Colin



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LIONEL BART

Born in August 1930 he was the son of a London Jewish tailor and although was without any formal musical education, at age 16 he gained a scholarship to St. Martin's School of Art. He developed a skill for writing songs and his first musical efforts were songs for Tommy Steele and Cliff Richard; then his first theatre musical successes were "Fings Aint What They Used To Be" and "Lock Up Your Daughters" in 1959.

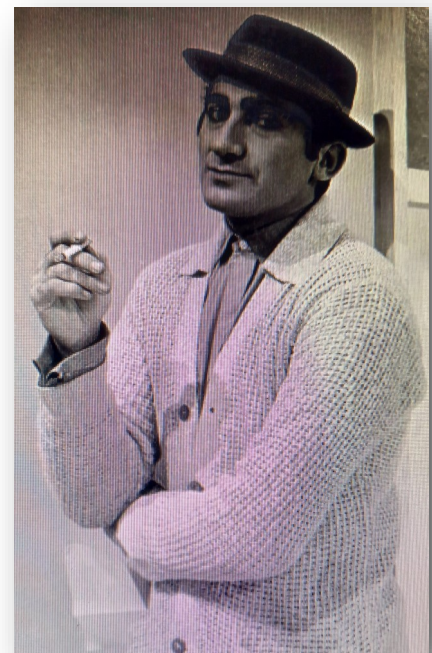
The following year his musical version of "Oliver" (Twist) was in London's West End and it proved to be a triumph getting sixteen curtain calls, and taking £30,000 of bookings in its first week. It was made in to a highly successful Oscar-winning film and starred Ron Moody, Shani Wallis and Oliver Reed.

Other fairly successful shows included "Blitz" and "Maggie May"; these were followed by "Twang" (story of Robin Hood) which he had to finance himself. It was a dreadful flop and Bart lost an estimated one million pounds.

To survive, he sold the rights to "Oliver" and was declared bankrupt in 1972 with huge debts. In the late 1970's he was drinking heavily, taking the drug LSD, and suffered deep depression for twenty years. He also was also diagnosed as diabetic.

His name was romantically linked with Judy Garland and Alma Cogan, but he was, in fact, gay: he did not come out until a few years before his death in April 1999 from liver cancer.

His final musical show was LA STRADA which closed after one performance. His show and film version of "Oliver" remain to this day as a lasting legacy of his Brilliant and celebrated talents.



Valentino

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A history of the Palladium Electric



The history of this building is linked with the Welton Old Brewery Company. In 1892, William Beauchamp purchased these buildings from the brewery and, within six months, had converted them into a spacious hall for public gatherings. Marston House (now demolished) which was the owners house attached to the brewery, was latter converted to the savoy rooms. On the other side were the brewery vats and a connecting flat which housed the servants.

Originally the vat store, Beauchamp spent £ 1000 on the conversion and turned it into the finest hall for miles around. On 7th January 1893, the Bristol Mercury published “ The length of the hall is 120 feet and the width 45 feet and it is very lofty, there being 30 feet from floor to roof. The stage acts were very popular, but it was not until 1913 that The Palladium Electric was converted into a cinema– variety house with a stage, dressing rooms and raked auditorium, it was opened by the then owner, Sidney Milles, as The Empire. In 1915, it was renamed The Palladium Electric.

In 1934 the Palladium was part of a large group of cinemas owned by Mr Trueman Dicken. He was born on 18th January 1919, at Uttoxeter, where his father was a cinema proprietor. The family eventually settled in the West Country, where it ran a group of cinemas in Burnham– on—sea. Shepton Mallet, Midsomer Norton and Radstock. On 14th July 1934, Trueman Dickens architect, John F Rogers, submitted plans to the Norton-Radstock Urban District Council for reconstruction and modernisation of The Palladium. The plans were approved on August 13th 1934 by surveyor Harry Finister and the auditorium was enlarged and improved, using all the available space. The stage end was reversed and the introduction of the “ balconette” together with art Deco niches concealed lighting and modern decorations throughout.

The Palladium cinema closed on 30 th January 1993. The final film shown was Cinema Paradiso, originally released in 1988 an Italian film directed by Gluseppe Tornatore about a small towns love affair with a cinema.

J D Wetherspoon purchased the building in 2015, yet it was not opened until 2018, owing to roosting bats. There are four species of bat still in residence in the Palladium Electric . Lesser horseshoe, brown long-eared, serotine and the common pipistrelle.

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Woodpecker Walks return.

On Sunday 20th March a small group of GW members enjoyed our first walk of the year in wonderful spring sunshine. A gentle walk following a zig zag route through the local countryside around Keynsham. Along country lanes footpaths across the farmland and through a local orchard that supplies the cider makers in Somerset. Our next walk will be in early May and we will follow the path in the photo opposite to Lords woods and the enchanting waters and ruins of mills, full of mystic and mystery.



GayWest Events - Dates for your Diary

Wednesday April 13th 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.



Future Events at the "Rainbow Café"

Saturday 16th April an Easter Egg or Bunny Raffle !

Saturday 14th May sees the return of the GayWest Auction. So look out those unwanted saleable items.

Saturday 4th June A Queens day. Dress up in all your Finery to celebrate the queens Platinum Jubilee

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. We will meet at **The Market Café** at 11am .

The café is situated looking over the actual market stalls in Market Place BA5 2RF



This years local prides

Weston-Super-Mare

Saturday 2nd July

Bristol Pride

Saturday 9th July

Gloucester Pride

Saturday 10th September