

Welcome:-

Coming out Gay

Footballer Jack Daniels who plays for Blackpool has come out as gay at the age of 17, Why? Wasn't the campaigning and a lot of work done during the last part of the 20th century about LGBT people being treated as equals? Does another 17 year old lad at the same club announce that he is straight!

My understanding of having equality is that we are all human and get the same respect, and can wish to have a loving relationship with who we choose. My husband and I would not have expected to have to announce to everyone when we joined the Bristol social club we belong to, that we were a gay couple, we are just a couple the same as all the others who attend and are members. Yes if someone asked about us we openly tell them and its up to them what they think. I think it is time the media and other established institutions moved on, there are more concerning issues to be worried about, not someone's sexuality.

Since becoming a member of GayWest back in November 2009 I have gained a lot of knowledge about the LGBT+ communities a world of amazing people and a lot of issues thrown at you. I have made a lot of new friends, learnt about the difficulties that gay people have to override. Have enjoyed the laughter, the bizarre, the sadness. Found out about the LGBT history of our locality and the amazing history of GayWest itself. Got myself married and set up a new home. All in a space of 13 years. My life since joining the group has changed amazingly and for that I would like to thank all the wonderful members of GayWest. During the very stressful and difficult past couple of years the group survived when others have not. The membership of GayWest stayed faithful to each other and supported each other and many gave donations to the group when other funding was difficult to obtain. Now we are as busy as ever at the "Rainbow Café" and the group is financially in a sound position which will mean that because of you, the members, we can all get through the latest hurdles, cost of living and inflation with the knowledge that GayWest will still be here in the years ahead. Thankyou for your support.. (And the prices at the café will remain inflation proofed)

Colin.

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Help required

New members David and Nick, having retired to central Bath are seeking: **(i)** a really reliable cleaner (male or female) for a few hours each week and **(ii)** somewhere to park and wonder if there may be anyone living in zones 1, 2, 3, 4 or 6 who might have an unused garage, drive or a parking permit eligibility. If you know of anyone or have any suggestions please contact David on david.hearse@kcl.ac.uk or 075444 06776



One of our members donated this Mountain Bike in our recent auction. However we received no bids for it. So if you are interested in getting yourself a new bike or want to get back to cycling after a long break. Get yourself fit again, help the environment? Here's your chance to purchase a superb bike in good condition. Blue/turquoise, front frame suspension, 21 gears, 19.5" frame and comfort saddle.

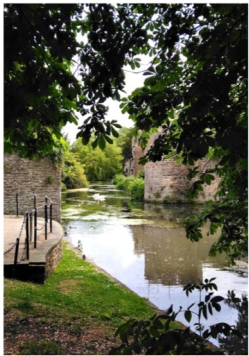
Please contact info@gaywest.org.uk or call/text 07758810134



In November 1993 an unpublished letter from Oscar Wilde (1854–1900) to one of his young friends, the wealthy twenty-year-old Phillip Griffiths, together with a signed photograph were auctioned by Christies in London for £18,700. In the letter, written in 1894, Wilde asked Griffiths to send him a photograph "which I will keep as a memory of a charming meeting, and golden hours passed together. You have a beautiful nature made to love all beautiful things, and I hope we shall see each other soon. Your friend Oscar Wilde." Wilde enclosed a photograph of himself inscribed to Griffiths with the message "The secret of life is Art." The secret of Wilde's sex-life is also art: Wilde idealized his affairs with upper-class youths in terms of pastoral mythology, and romanticized his affairs with lower-class rough trade as "feasting with panthers." But it was in fact his aristocratic lover Lord Alfred Douglas (1870–1945) who was the real panther.

Richard Wagner's great opera cycles might not exist were it not for the support of his patron Ludwig II, King of Bavaria (1845–86). His enormous fairy-tale castles, Teutonic, neo-gothic and oriental versions of Versailles which virtually bankrupted the country, were the grand opera sets made flesh. He endeavoured to be an absolute monarch at the dawn of the modern republican world, when such goals were impossible. But having failed in the political and domestic realm, he made his dream reality in art and music. No expense was spared for the staging of Wagner's operas, which were often performed with Ludwig the sole member of the audience, and in return Wagner gave him his genius and his love. Wagner acknowledged that "Without him I am as nothing! Even in loving him he was my first teacher. O my King! You are divine!" They exchanged some 600 letters, and it is hard to say who was more enthusiastic, at least in the beginning. Wagner: "What bliss enfolds me! A wonderful dream has become a reality! . . . I am in the Gralsburg, in Parsifal's sublime and loving care. . . . I am in your angelic arms! We are near to one another." Or Ludwig: "My only beloved Friend! My saviour! My god! . . . Ah, now I am happy, for I know that my Only One draws near. Stay, oh stay! adored one for whom alone I live, with whom I die." Their relationship was almost certainly physical.

Wells Wednesday Market



The 18th of May saw a party of 8 members meeting at The Market Café in market street Wells on an enjoyable trip to this weekly market. Many stalls of great variety and interest. A walk around the Bishops palace was also included. The town was very busy. After visiting the stalls we all met up in "The Crown" which was opposite the café for food and drink. A very good day out with good company.



The GayWest Book Library

Jim has recently put all our books onto the Database, all 350+ of them, but has found a few missing, please can you look and see if you have any of them, and return them, so others might enjoy them.

We are always grateful for newer books to add to our collection, if you have any.

Thanks

We welcome our newest members to the group.

Fraser, David and Paul

We hope you all will enjoy being members of GayWest.

GayWest Events — Dates for your Diary

Rainbow Café :- News and Events

Saturday June 4th

A chance to look your best to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee and the best dressed Queen will win a prize for their effort.



GayWest Events — Dates for your Diary

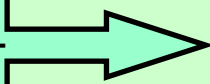


Our May walk took us on a ramble down hills and up again. Through fields and woodland (see photo) There was a debate regarding the distance of the walk (as always), which did turn out to be longer than planned.

However it was enjoyed by all on a lovely spring day.

Very welcomed refreshments of home made scones with fruit and cream along with a cup of Tea/Coffee awaited the tired troop at the end of the walk.

Woodpecker Walks :-



The next walk will be on Sunday June 12th

A more gentle shorter walk is planned, starting at the same time, from the same place. A slower paced ramble as the weather could be hotter, or am I an optimist.



Social Evening :-

This is held on the **SECOND** Wednesday of each month from 8pm. at The Lodekka,

Tramway Rd, Brislington, Bristol BS4 3DS



Important date for your diaries.

The GayWest Picnic 2022

This years picnic will be a month earlier on

Sunday July 24th at

Parade Gardens in Bath.

Further details will be available soon

in the next Newsletter at the Café and on the website.