

Welcome:-

Well here we are now more than half way through 2022, the joys of summer, broolly ready of course.

Into the height of festival time and this year for everyone it will be special, due to the last couple of years problems. So get your festival hats on, whether it's a music fest, a farming event, the local town or village affair, Pride, what ever it is enjoy.

This year however GayWest will not be taking part in any of the local prides. There are a few reasons for this.

The main one being a lack of members volunteering to help out on a stall or other areas. Since my time as a volunteer for the group I have been involved on each occasion when we have been at a pride event and have enjoyed the experience greatly. As the chair for the group I think this to be part of the job. Unfortunately this year I will not be available for the Bristol pride anyway.

Each pride event that GayWest has been involved with are long days and need at least 4 members to help out to make the experience enjoyable and not a chore, however we have found it difficult to get help needed for these events this year.

The other side to this is that as a group GayWest has found the pride events becoming more of political propaganda events and low standard music festivals and extremely commercial.

The ethos of the early prides that were based on celebrating LGBT life styles seems to have been lost and maybe there is no longer a need for a pride events, what do you think?

However GayWest wish that the Bristol, Gloucester and Weston-S-Mare prides are successful this year. **Colin.**

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## Film Review

### Everything Went Fine

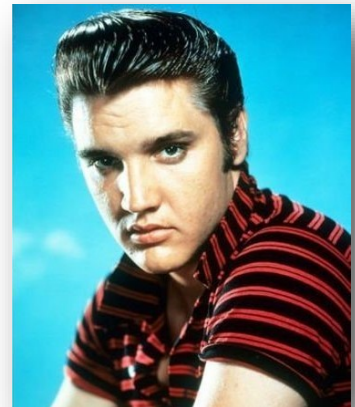
Andre, 85, is terminally ill and tired of living. With unsentimental frankness, he asks his daughter Emmanuelle to help him end his life at an assisted suicide clinic. What's fresh about French auteur Francois Ozon's approach to it is his relative lack of interest in the ethical debate about euthanasia. Instead, the film focuses more on the tangle of wounded family relations including a complicated history with Andres own gay lover.

Its restrained, intelligent and beautifully acted.

### Elvis

This latest big, brash biopic of Elvis Presley is loud and broad and ultra-kitsch in the way fans thrill to. The film covers the standard rags to riches– to ruin biopic beats. But it comes alive in the performance sequences in the style that conjures the hysteria that greeted the King 'n' Roll when he first shook everyone up, and charismatic rising star Austin Butler summons up some of legends unquantifiable, snake-hipped sensuality.

At cinema's now.



### 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 have had some new additions to the  
Book Library this month

1. **“Pages passed from Hand to Hand”** is a compilation of texts “The hidden Tradition of Homosexual Literature in England between 1748—1914 and refers to both men and women.

It is edited by Mark Mitchell and David Leavitt

*We welcome our  
newest members to the  
group.*

**Davina**

*We hope you all will  
enjoy being members  
of GayWest.*



### Smoky Keynsham

It appears that Keynsham's smoky label pre-dated the industry that was supposed to be its cause. It all seems to have started when an entry appeared in a dictionary, published in 1676, which described the term "cainsham Smoke" as a mans weeping when beat by his wife.

In 1683 a publication called *The present state of England* confirmed that it applied to Keynsham and explained its origin. In less than ten years it became Smoky Cainsham.

The entry reads:

*In a town called Cainsham, in the road-way between Bath and Bristol, and in the highway thereabout, there are stones frequently to be seen wreathing in a spiral form like snails. This town is commonly nick-named Smoky Cainsham upon this occasion. Some years since one of the townsmen standing at his door with tears in his eyes, and being asked by one of his neighbours that observed him as he passed by, what the cause of his grief was, answered that there was so great a smoke in his house that he was able to endure to stay indoors, when in truth he had been newly beaten by his wife. Whereupon travellers now and then to make themselves sport, will ask weather that town be called Smoky Cainsham. But the wiser sort of those that ask this question, prepare at the same instant to put on to a more than ordinary speed for fear of some hostility from the good women of the place.*

The impact of this story on its readership would have been considerable in an age when the act of a wife beating her husband was considered more serious than adultery. It appears that an earlier dictionary from 1659 has the same story but a different entry. The smoke of charren: A proverb relating to a wife who had beat her husband, and he going out weeping, said it was for the smoke that his eyes were watered.

Was cainsham smoke a term in common use in the local area because of a specific incident, or was this story purposely associated with Keynsham because of a personal grudge or because of the reputation of the women who resided there ?

Source, *Keynsham and Saltford Local History Society*.

*GayWest Events — Dates for your Diary*

**Social Evening :-**

This is held on the **SECOND** Wednesday of each month from 8pm. at The Lodekka, Tramway Rd, Brislington, Bristol BS4 3DS  
This month on July 13th



**Annual Picnic at Parade Gardens, Bath, BA2 4DF Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> July 2022 at 1300 hours (1pm).**



**Junes Walk**

The last Woodpecker walk until the Autumn took place on Sunday 12th. This walk was a short gentle stroll along the valley between Keynsham and Stockwood. A valley divided by running brooks and also still active farm land with various crops being grown. The walk took us over small bridges and along narrow paths. At one point there was a discussion on the age and girth of a beautiful old Oak which we decided must be more than 500 years old. After the walk we were all treated to homemade scones and drinks.



Next walk will be later this year.

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** - via a single entrance with stairs and ramp. Please meet me at the bottom of the accessible ramp of the gardens at 1300 hours prompt.

Please note there is entry fees using this park. If you have got a B&NES discovery card, it is free. Otherwise, it is £2 for adults (£1 senior citizens and students).

**BRIEF HISTORY** - Parade Gardens is a grade two listed park. Originally it was St James's Park, designed to provide assembly rooms for spa visitors. These beautiful gardens overlooking River Avon giving good views of Pulteney Bridge and the Weir. There is a bandstand, various statues and sculptures.

**GETTING THERE** - If you are coming via Bath Spa Railway Station or Bath Bus Station, walk via Manvers Street (going towards city centre) it is about 1/3 mile (5-10 mins walk). If you are coming by car, it is advisable to use Park and Ride which are running on Sunday, but nearest car park, chargeable, is Manvers Street (next door to old Police Station).

**WET WEATHER** - In event of wet weather, please meet me inside the pub of The Huntsman, 1 Terrace Walk, North Parade, Bath, BA1 1LJ.

**MORE INFO** - <https://beta.bathnes.gov.uk/visit-parade-gardens>