

Welcome

To your October Newsletter.

September, is an important time in the GayWest calendar, with our A.G.M.

This year however its been a time of change for all of us by the sad passing of Queen Elizabeth II Whether you are a royalist or not, the Queen was a part of all our lives, a constant, amongst the challenges we have all faced in our lives.

The many changes, during her reign, Our first Television, Telephone, Car, we remember when it was illegal to be gay, to the modern world of the Internet, Smart Phones, and Civil Partnerships and finally in 2014 same sex Marriage.

Throughout this time there was this one person who we all knew, we all have memories of that special time on Christmas day 3pm good or bad, but something that was always there. It will take a while to get used to the new age we are moving into.

Colin.



GayWest is now moving into its 52nd year a fantastic achievement. The group is still attracting members and the “ Rainbow Café “ is always busy. Some of this is down to the volunteers who manage the group but also the support, generosity, and enthusiasm from the members. Recognising that they have a place to socialise, make new friends and maybe find lifetime partners.

This month I will be starting my 10th year as GayWest’s Chairman which is a great honour. As I have said before I am passionate about the organisation as becoming a member back in 2009 changed my life forever and for the better.

Colin.

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Joe Orton Still causing controversy



A campaign to raise money for a statue in memory of the 1960's playwright Joe Orton has hit its target of £115,000. The Leicester born writer, who penned, *Entertaining Mr Sloane* and *Loot*. He was murdered by his lover aged 34, in 1967. The statue that has the support of Sir Ian McKellen, Dame Sheila Hancock, Stephen Fry, Choreographer Mathew Bourne and Niell Tenant of the Pet shop boys. Was planned for Orton Square at the Leicester's Curve Theatre.

But this has hit a snag!

When even a cultural giant who is venerated by the left is cancelled what hope for common sense now?

As the statue of Joe Orton's scrapped amid a row over his sex life, is anything safe? The cancel culture police force have now cancelled a planned statue of the gay 1960's playwright a long time hero to liberals, all because of his preference for teenage boys in Morocco and elsewhere.

A cancelled statue, this time before it has even been erected. A statue of an admired LGBT playwright and an icon of the gay community, cancelled by his own admirers. So to coin a phrase made popular during the great terror in revolutionary France, "The revolution devours its own children".

The statue was to be the first in Britain to commemorate an openly gay working class man. But because, in his diaries Joe Orton mentions his preference for young teenage boys in Morocco and elsewhere and that he would sometimes pay for sex with teenage boys that some are saying that he must have been a paedophile.

Yes in Britain at this time, homosexuality was illegal, but in Morocco a more relaxed approach and for decades Tangier and other Moroccan cities were magnets for Gay tourists. The differential in wealth between foreigners and Moroccans created a thriving market in prostitution.

IN his diary, Joe Orton recorded a conversation at the Café de Paris in 1976. Orton was sitting at a table with friends beside a "rather stuffy American and his disapproving Wife". To further stoke their disapproval, the playwright began to talk about a sexual encounter. When one of those at the table reminded Orton that the tourist could hear every word, he replied "they have no right to be occupying chairs reserved for decent sex perverts".

Times have moved on, The age of consent in many countries is now between 16 and 18 you have to move on and not wallow in past events as if they are as of today.

Colin

Taken from news extracts

We would like to offer a warm welcome to our New Members,
Michael and Sam, and hope that you will enjoy your membership of this very unique group.

GayWest Events — Dates for your Diary



Social

Evening

Our social evening at “ The Lodekka”

Tramway Rd, Brislington.

Bristol, BS4 3DS

Every 2nd Wednesday of each Month

this month will be on 12th.

GayWest Christmas Dinner

2022 at

The Crown in Saltford

On Friday 16th December

for 7pm

Please make a note of your choices from the menu along with payment, by post or to GayWest in person at The Rainbow Café,

by 19th November 2022

Please note :- Members have been given a discount due to the generous donations to the group over the past 12 months.

Drinks to be purchased from the bar must be paid for by the individual.

See Menu on page 5.

The Return of Woodpecker short walks

Sunday 16th October

Starting and finishing at 30 Woodpecker close, Keynsham refreshments at end of the walk.

Meet at 11am.

A gentle walk along country lanes and short wooded paths.

Good walking shoes are recommended.



GayWest Events — Dates for your Diary

Queen

*Phillip came to me today, and said it was time to go. I looked at him and smiled, as I whispered that "I know"
I then turned and looked behind me and saw I was asleep. All my family were around me, and I could hear them weep.*

I gently touched each shoulder, with Philip by my side. Then I turned away and walked, with my Angel guide.

Phillip held my hand, as he led the way to a world where King's and queens, are Monarch's every day.

I was given a crown to wear or a Halo Known by some. The difference is up here, they are worn by everyone.

I felt a sense of peace, my reign had seen its end. 70 years I had served my Country, as the peoples friend.

Thank you for the years, for all your time and love. Now I am one of two again, in our Palace up above.

J Boyle

Leyhill Prison's Pride Concert

On Friday 24th August Jim and myself attended Leyhill's open prison Pride Concert, this was the final part of a Month of events celebrating pride month, although held in August it was an excellent afternoon of really top class music. Two bands, and a couple of solo performers (all inmates) gave us a wonderful musical event. From rock music to pop and folk the standard was very good.

Since 2015 GayWest have been invited to these pride events organised by the prisons gay focus group which was set up in that same year

There was the usual short speeches including one from myself, that was sprung on me without any formal knowledge, where I was able to give those who attended some information about GayWest and its 50 plus years.

Colin.

GayWest A G M .

The AGM took place On Saturday 17th September at the "Rainbow Café" 27 members attended and the meeting was carried out in a reasonable time.

There was a discussion regarding a change to constitution, which was adopted by a vote of the members.

A copy of the Minutes and an updated copy of the Constitution are enclosed.

The newly elected committee is as follows:-

Colin O'Brien - Chairman & IT management,

Brian Milligan - Treasurer, Antonio de Lezameta, Minutes Organiser & Café host.

Cliff Pasmore Events Organiser. and Membership Organiser Eric Baldwin.

The Crown in Saltford Christmas Menu

3 courses £29.95 per person (£30) (with Members Discount it costs £20) per person.

Starters

- Tomato & roasted red pepper soup, topped with parmesan croutons, served with warm crusty bread (V,GF*)*
- Deep fried panko brie, served with port & cranberry sauce* (V)*
- Smoked salmon With beetroot & chicory salad, dressed with a dill vinaigrette (GF)*
- Mushroom bruschetta with a brandy & tarragon sauce topped with creme fraiche* (V)*
- Duck and orange pate, served with onion marmalade & toasted crostini*

Mains

- All served with seasonal vegetables ,braised red cabbage with apple & honey roasted parsnips*
- Roast crown of turkey, pigs' blankets & homemade sage and sausage stuffing (GF*)*
 - Slow cooked roast corner cut of beef served with a Yorkshire pudding (GF*)*
 - Homemade Festive nut roast served with a Yorkshire pudding (V,GF*)*
 - Salmon fillet with a cranberry, parsley and nut crust served with sautéed new potatoes and asparagus*
 - Roast rolled leg of lamb served with colcannon mash and finished with a red current and rosemary gravy*

Desserts

- Selection of British cheeses, served with savoury biscuits, grapes and onion chutney (£3 Supplement)*
- St Clements (orange & lemon) cheesecake served with a zesty orange and lemon syrup*
- Warm traditional Christmas pudding, topped with rich brandy sauce**
- Rich forrero rocher chocolate torte served with Chantilly cream*
- Festive berry eton mess*