

## Inside this months Newsletter

Chairs welcome	Page 1
An important notice.	Page 2
What did the Romans do for us?	Page 2
Victim	Page 3
GayWest events	Page 4
Tulips	page 5



Hello, and welcome to your April Newsletter.

GayWest is one of the few LGBT + organisations that has over half a century of history to look back on. Indeed we all owe this to those members of the early years of GayWest, who had the vision to do something to better the lives of LGBT people in this country. The group has had many changes and ups and downs just like all of our own lives and has come through as strong as ever.

There have been many changes and problems during those years, campaigning for equal rights, getting through the period of Aids, and the terrible times caused by what we all know as 'Section 28' the continuing problems by some religions towards gay people and recently those wonderful government controlled lock downs, during the pandemic.

But we are still here, the "Rainbow Café" is thriving and most weeks its standing room only. New members are joining us every month and the group is in good shape financially.

But! You knew this was coming, it can only continue with the work and time given by members who volunteer to be on the group's committee . Without the committee there would be no more GayWest, simple as that, so come on-volunteer to help out.

Myself I have been a committee member since early in 2010, looking after the Café, and the group's Chairman since September 2013. I have enjoyed working with all of those other members who have and are still giving up their time to keep GayWest going.

This September I believe it is time to hand over the reins to some new blood to take the group into its next chapter, so your committee at present is looking for this new blood to come on-board and get ready for the next chapter in the organisations future. So could this be you! **Colin**

Attention all members?

Why don't you take me to bed? I'm the good looking one on the top shelf of the GW library.  
I've many good pals all under the covers for members to cuddle up with.



## What did the Romans do for us?

The other day I was going through some of my rather large collection of CD's with photos on, (now mainly stored on the pc or in the cloud ) specifically looking for past GW photos that we have.

Well I came across some photos from a trip to Pompey back in 2005 and oh what a shock to see this one. The size of it!, the painting I mean, is incredible and is from what must have been a large hall where all the gentry would have met. Those of you who may have been to the ruins of Pompey must have been as impressed as I was by this vast room and the rather explicit paintings on the walls that have been preserved for all to see.



We welcome our new member to GayWest

Sajal

We now have 95 members from all parts of the Country, with about a third, attending our gatherings every Saturday at The Rainbow Café in Bath.

## VICTIM

The film VICTIM is a 1961 British film starring Dirk Bogarde and Sylvia Syms. It premiered in the UK on 31 August 1961 and proved highly controversial to the British Board of Film Censors. Despite this, the film received acclaim and is now regarded as a British classic, as well as having been credited for liberalising attitudes towards homosexuality in GB.

The plot concerns a successful barrister, Melville Farr, who has a thriving London practice. He is on course to become a Queen's Counsel and be appointed a judge. He is apparently happily married to his wife, Laura.

Farr is approached by close friend Jack Barrett who has stolen money from his employers to pay blackmailers: he is picked up by the police and out of fear and mental agony, hangs himself in a police cell.

Another victim (an actor) of the blackmailers refuses to help Farr, and soon Laura finds out about Barrett's suicide and confronts her husband. After a heated argument Laura decides that Farr has betrayed a promise in having a relationship with Barrett, and decides to leave him.

The blackmailers vandalise Farr's property, painting "FARR IS QUEER" on his garage door. Farr resolves to help the police catch them despite the knowledge that this act/deed will destroy his career.

The blackmailers are identified and arrested. Farr tells Laura to leave before the ugliness of the trial, but that he will welcome her return afterwards. She tells him that she believes she has found the strength to return to him.

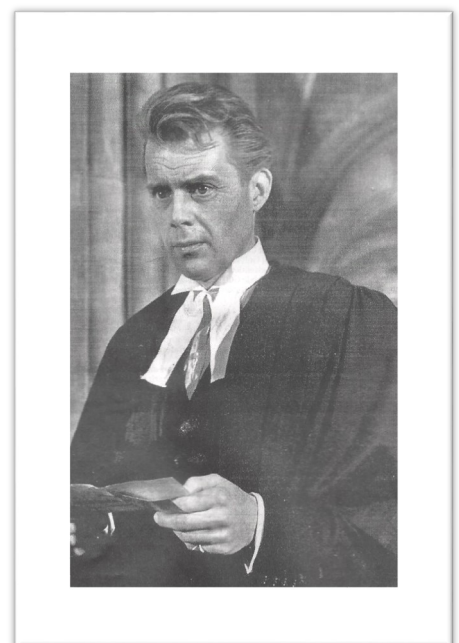
Homosexual acts between males were illegal in England and Wales until the 1967 Sexual Offences Act, which implemented the recommendations of the Wolfenden report published a decade earlier.

By 1960, however, the police demonstrated little enthusiasm for prosecuting homosexual relations. There was an inclination to "turn a blind eye" to homosexuality, because there was a feeling that the legal code violated basic liberties. However public opinion continued to require homosexuals to keep their identity secret and made them vulnerable to blackmail. The film treats homosexuality in a non-sensationalized manner.

When the team of producer Michael Relph and director Basil Dearden first approached Bogarde, several actors had already turned down the role, including Jack Hawkins, James Mason, and Stewart Granger. In 1960 Bogarde was 39 and just about the most popular actor in British films.

Bogarde was suspected to be homosexual, lived in the same house as his business manager Anthony Forwood, and was compelled to be seen occasionally in public with attractive young women.

Of his first independent film project (his 34<sup>th</sup> film), Bogarde said in 1965, "For the first time I was playing my own age. Victim ended all the previous nonsense. I did Victim playing the barrister with the loving wife, a loyal housekeeper, a devoted secretary and the Secret Passion. It was the wisest decision I ever made". Dirk Bogarde died May 1999 (aged 78) and Sylvia Syms died January 2023 (aged 86).



The film is readily viewable on-line or on DVD. **Valentino.**

*Abridged from an online source March 2023 .*

## GayWest Events 2023



### Wells city Wednesday market

We are having a return trip to Wells market on 5th April.

Meet at 11 am at the Market place Café.

3 Market Place, Wells, BA52RF.

### A visit to the Gardens of Algars Manor,

Sunday April 23rd. Part of the National Garden Scheme. Open from 1pm to 5pm admission £7.00p .

We will meet at entrance at 1pm. Station Rd, Iron Acton, BS37 9TB

**Please Note** :- No access from via lane from Frampton cotterell

**Ignore Satnav.**



### GayWest Social evening Wednesday 12th April

Join us for our social evening at

“ **The lodekka**” Tramway Rd, Brislington, Bristol, BS4 3DS

Meet from 8pm for a chat, a laugh and to put the world to rights.

The venue is part of the Hungry Horse chain and the food is good and reasonably priced.



### Looking ahead to summer days.

Your chance to have a tour around the Gardens and grounds of Lydiard Park near Swindon. On Wednesday July 12th.

Meet at 11am.

Parking £4.00p House entry £ 5.30p which includes house and grounds. You will be given the tour by one of our members. There is a café in the grounds for those welcome refreshments.

Lydiard Park, Tregoze, Swindon, SN5 3PA

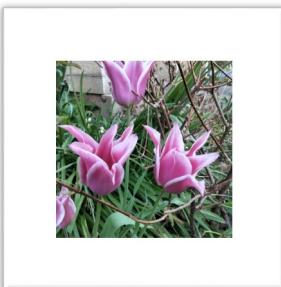
Access from junction 16 M4.



## Tulips.

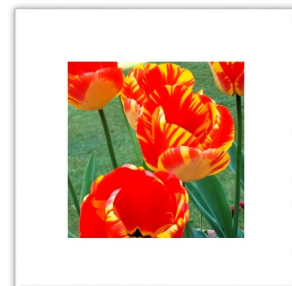
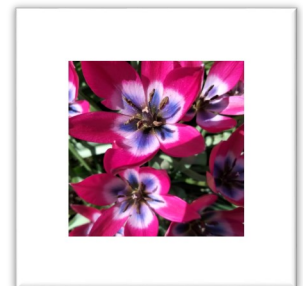
Tulips, growing in the wild are originally from Central Asia. They consist of around 100 species within the genera. With hybridization there are a further fourteen divisions of Tulips describing what they are and when they flower. The name Tulip came from the word for turban in Turkish.

Tulips were first cultivated by the Turks in 1000AD. Then in the 16<sup>th</sup> century a sultan of the Ottoman empire demanded that these blooms were cultivated and hybridized for his pleasure. At the turn of the 17<sup>th</sup> century Tulips made their way to Europe and were extensively hybridized in Holland. Some of these new hybrids sold for more than the price of a house, it was a time known in horticultural circles as Tulipomania.



They all grow from bulbs and can grow in most well drained soils, in full sun. The flowers are goblet shaped and consists of 6 petals. The flowers are usually single but some modern hybrids are multiheaded. They are carried on erect stems. They can grow from just a few inches to more than 20 inches depending on type. Flowers are produced from as early as February right through to May depending on type. Most produce one or two leaves at the base and two to three smaller leaves up the stem. The leaves can be glaucous, green, with markings or even variegated.

Tulips are generally pest and disease free, however, a virus referred to as 'fire' causes color breaking within the flower. These breaks are often cultivated and are available today to purchase.



Plant Tulips in the autumn twice the depth of the bulb in November. Plant in either clumps or singly six inches apart if you have a large garden to make a dramatic display.

Tulips make excellent cut flower.

From your GayWest Gardening Coach.... [www.gardening-coach.co.uk](http://www.gardening-coach.co.uk) or email to [garden-coach2022@gmail.com](mailto:garden-coach2022@gmail.com)