



Welcome to your July Newsletter

Apart from some nice sunny weather, not always guaranteed, summer time here in the UK is full of music festivals, summer fetes, and lots of sport such as Cricket. But LGBT+ people also get involved in celebrating pride events, expressing who they are. Well that's what the original idea was.

The first pride march in the UK was on the 1st July 1972 in London. The date being chosen on the closest Saturday to the Anniversary of Stonewall riots of June 28th 1969.

About 2000 people attended including Peter Tatchell who was one of the organisers. Pride was not owned or trademarked by a single organisation, which meant that they were not held consistently during the 70's and 80's although more were held in London during this time. 2022 was the 50th anniversary of the first pride.

As an LGBT organisation GayWest over the years have supported and taken part in many prides. Back during the 80's and 90's the group organised coaches to the London pride marches. Not always to everyone's liking and occasional disputes with other organisations took place. In later years the group started to have its own stall at the local prides. These included, Bristol, Swindon, Gloucester and Weston-S-Mare. Many were excellent events, some with some good entertainment and lovely vibes. The group made many contacts with other LGBT organisations during these events.

Since 2015 GayWest has taken part in some of the pride events that take place in our local prisons.

The first was at Ashfield in Pucklechurch then later at Leyhill, near Wotton Under Edge, and Erlestoke, near Devises. This year we will be joining Leyhill and Erlestoke at their pride events.

The last main pride event the group took part in was in 2018 at the Bristol pride.

In 2019 we were unable to find enough volunteers to run the stall and by this time the view of many was that the prides were changing in their appeal. As a mainly elderly LGBT group some felt that we were not all that welcomed.

In discussions with some of the pride organisers during this time it was obvious to me that the prides were becoming too political, not something many of us in GayWest wished to be involved with and something which the group has been proud not to have taken a stance on. So after the pandemic and with the prides back on we have not been asked to take part in the commercial pride events. Looking at the program for this years Bristol pride there is not one actual LGBT social community organisation like GayWest, representing the Community at the event at all.

Today the original pride flag has been changed beyond its original concept, having been hijacked for others political aims. The latest being this year where an infinity symbol has been added. So is there a need for prides now?

More reading, article by Andrew Doyle and in the GayWest Scrap books at the Café.

Colin

Pictures from Prides of the GayWest Region



21st June 1989 - Gay Pride March



Bristol Age UK LGBT+ Fab Café

Why not pop in for a chat and coffee or tea at this regular Thursday morning Fab Café.

From 10am –12pm

Situated in the St. Werburghs Community Centre.

Horley Road, St. Werburghs, Bristol BS2 9TJ

Many members from GayWest attend

GayWest Events July 2023



GW event not to miss this July

Your chance to have a tour around the **Gardens and house of Lydiard Park** near Swindon.

On **Wednesday July 12th.**

Meeting at 11am. **Important information. Meet at side entrance to the Museum, not the conference centre or Coach House.**

Car parks are Hook Street or Church Car Park, the church car park is nearest to the Museum.

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.

Those interested , and for further information please contact Colin in person or by email
info@gaywest.org.uk , mobile 07758810134

GayWest Events 2023

**The GayWest annual summer picnic
at Bradford on Avon BA15 1DE
Wednesday July 26th**



STARTING MEETING POINT – Please meet Philip Cawte at 1300 hours prompt in Westbury Gardens, between Centaph and BOA Tourist Information Centre.

Depending on the numbers and availability of seating, originally at the meeting place.

We could move to near Tithe Barn where there are plenty of picnic tables.

GETTING THERE—*Train* - Catch a train from Bristol Temple Meads leaving at 1203, which goes to Weymouth calling at Keynsham (1211), Oldfield Park (1218), Bath Spa (1222) arriving at Bradford on Avon at 1234.

Bus - Catch D1 bus from Bath Bus Station at 1155, arriving at Bradford on AVON Town Bridge at 1240

Parking - nearest parking is at St Margaret's Car Park (BA15 1DE) with 34 spaces, maximum of 3 hours at £2.60). There is additional parking at the Railway Station.

WET WEATHER - In the event of wet weather, please meet me inside the

'BOA Teapot Cafe', Silver Street, BA15 1JX near Bridge Yard.

Those interested , and for further information please contact Colin in person or by email info@gaywest.org.uk ,mobile

GayWest Social evening Wednesday July. 12th

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.



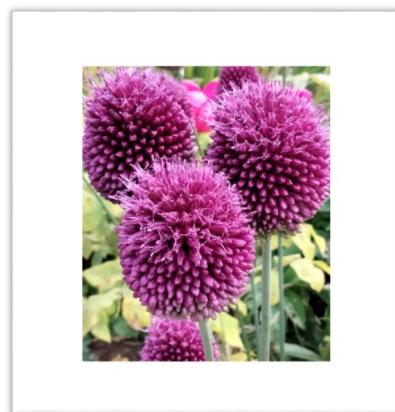
High Summer,

July can be an odd time of year in the garden. I have often heard it said that July is an in-between month. This means that not a lot is in flower or I have heard it said nothing flowers for 3 weeks after June. With exception to planting bedding plants in our gardens there is actually a lot of plants for our borders with a little plant knowledge and planning, July like a lot of months can and is an explosion of colour, scent and variety.

Like all things in the garden, we need to think in layers, this means to use plants to create interest in our borders. For instance, the use of bulbs, perennials, shrubs and half-hardy annuals.

Bulbs for the July Garden

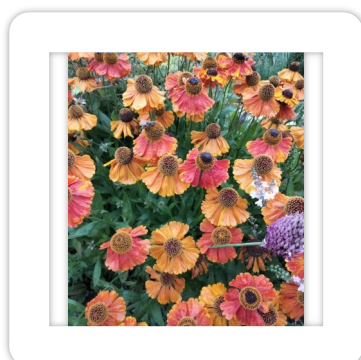
Alliums are great for the summer borders. They bring interest like Allium red Mohican, as it brings its flowering head up it looks like a Shepherd crook before they are finally erect and the flower head is on top. Maybe the use of Allium sphaerocephalon, grows to 60cms and has large purple flowers. All Alliums are loved by pollinating insects.



If you want intoxicating scent in the garden then the use of oriental lilies is a must. These large trumpets of many colours give out a heady perfume.

Half-hardy annuals for the July garden

For a little effort of sowing seeds in the spring, plants like Larkspur, Nigella, Godetia, Clarkia etc., are a must for any garden and are great of filling in those small spaces where other plants have finished flowering.



Perennials for July

The list is actually endless for this group of plants. Many of the plants that flower this month are still flowering much later in the year but this is the month that they start.

For a dramatic architectural plant, you can't go wrong with *Cynara cardunculus* – globe thistle. It has stately silver cut foliage and the biggest blue thistle flowers. But a large border or garden needed.

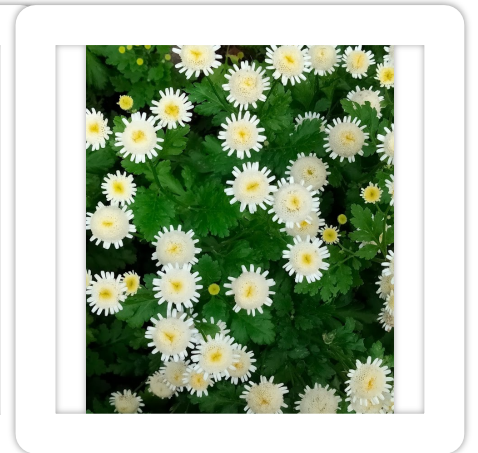
For long flowering the *Helenium*'s are a must. *Helenium sahin* early is an amazing plant reaching 60 +cms will flower with dead heading way into November.

Other notable plants for this month include, *Alstroemeria*, *Dahlia*, *Campanula*, *Kniphofia*, *Tanacetum*, *Leucanthemum*, *Lychinus*, *Phlox*, and many others

All the plants of the above can also be used for cutting to create beautiful flower arrangements in our homes.

Shrubs for July

Roses are always a must. Hybrid T and floribundas being better as most repeat flower and give us a oh so pleasant scent, along with *Philadelphus*. *Hypericum* Hidcote and *Lavendula* are a few more to add into the mix.



From your GayWest Gardening Coach.... www.gardening-coach.co.uk or email to gardencoach2022@gmail.com

Chairs comment,

Why not enjoy your break time in your West Library. Obtainable to members



garden with a good book from the Gay-free to borrow from the " Rainbow Café"