

GayWest Magazine

May 2015



Rainbow Beach Jomtien, Pattaya, Thailand

From the Chair

I welcome this month with great relief and look forward to enjoying warm sunny days. The reason being is that we all spend our lives in a sort of routine, peppered with events to look forward to, such as holidays, theatre shows etc. Then, as we all have experienced at some time the unexpected happens, an unplanned event happens, that throws everything into disarray. This can be very challenging and you spend your time in a kind of time-warp. This happened to Jim and me during February and March this year. When Jim spent five weeks in Hospital to have life changing surgery. This stretches your relationship to the limit but can also make it stronger, as it has for us.

I have to apologize for being rather personnel this month, but would like to thank our members and friends at GayWest, for their kindness during this time. It was through being a member of GayWest that I met Jim and it has been members of GayWest who have given us support at this time. Fortunately the event has a happy ending and Jim will soon be back on his feet to annoy you all again buy chasing you up for your membership fees. (cheques ready please). I would also like to say in this General election month that we should all be proud of our wonderful N.H.S. who gave Jim 100% care while in hospital.

This month sees the start of pride events up and down the country and this year, as before, GayWest will be at Gloucester pride next month, Bristol in July, also hopefully at Weston-s-Mare in August. These are important events for the group to show what we do and how we can help other gay people.

Colin.

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Bath International Music Festival 2015

A Date for your Diary

Friday 15th to Tuesday 26th May

The Rainbow Cafe will be open again this year from 7pm until 9pm to welcome you all to Bath at the start of this fun programme of events – so don't miss it.

There will be 12 glorious days of wonderful music, this will be the 67th year with a mixture of fine Classical, the best of Contemporary Jazz, World and Folk.

Friday 15th of May starts off with “Down the Rabbit Hole” Schools procession and commission. 5.30pm – 7.15pm in Southgate.

Party in the City 5.30pm – 12 midnight – with free events across the city.

GayWest New Website

Was launched towards the end of April and some of you may have already seen it. As before the web address is the same and will take you to the new site www.gaywest.org.uk

To be able to use the site as members, you will need to click on the login box in the tool bar on the home page, then follow the online instructions. These will ask you for your E-Mail address and your usual password. We will then be sent a E-mail to confirm your membership. GayWest does not and will not have any access to your password. When logged in to the site, members will be able to communicate with each other on the member's page (like a private chat room page), View photos in the gallery section, access the magazine from the magazine pages. Hope you will enjoy.

For more information contact the committee in the usual way

Many thanks to NEWICON for there hard work and helping us with this project

Entertainment

Theatre

Matthew Bourne's

“The Car Man”

Is coming to the Bristol Hippodrome from May 19th – May 23rd

It is a Homoerotic contemporary dance drama about the arrival of a handsome stranger in 1960's small town America.

Using the music from Bizet's “Carmen” it is very loosely based on “The Postman always rings Twice”. You are advised to book early to avoid disappointment.

Classical Extravaganza:

The Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra

Bristol Colston Hall – Saturday 25th July (One Evening Only)

To Include – 1812 Overture, Bolero, Firebird, West Side Story and many more popular classics, with pyrotechnics and light show.

English National Ballet

Romeo and Juliet

at The Bristol Hippodrome on October 14th - 17th

Films

The Guardian Newspaper review at the end of March reported on a new blockbuster called “**Get Hard**”

Hollywood being shown the portrayal of gay characters in only 17 out of 102 films during 2013.

The critic felt that the film of this was a big step backward with pervasive derogatory stereotypes of both sexuality and race.

On a brighter note :-

Films from the past ...and maybe to see again if you get the chance.

The Boys in the Band –

Critically acclaimed 1970 film , set at a party in New York and was one of the first pieces of Cinema to revolve around Gay characters.

Parting Glances – Shot in 1984 examines urban gay life during the Reagan era , the plot revolves around a gay couple and was one of the first films to address the HIV /AIDS pandemic.

Philadelphia – This 1993 film is seen as a turning point for Hollywood's portrayal of AIDS and

the gay community. Starring Denzil Washington and Tom Hanks as a HIV positive Lawyer.

Brokeback Mountain – Ang Lee's moving drama about a two-decade love affair between cowboys, won three Oscars in 2006 and was widely praised for it's unique portrayal of a gay relationship.

Milk – Sean Penn won the Oscar in 2008 for portraying Harvey Milk. In this biopic of the first openly gay Politician elected to office in California and was assassinated in 1978.

The British council and British Film Institute (BFI)

Have announced that Five Gay Themed Films are to be made available free of charge to a Worldwide Audience.

All the films have been chosen from (BFI) Flare, the UK's leading Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender film festival which opened in March.

There will be a “fivefilms4freedom” campaign day when people will be encouraged via social media to come together to watch a film.

**“ If you want to get laid, go to college. If you want an education, go to the Library.
Frank Zappa**

Press Cuttings

World Travel

With 77 countries where same-sex relations are illegal, five of these countries impose the death penalty for being gay.

The UK recognises gay marriages in the 19 countries that allow them. While same-sex partnerships in 54 other countries and territories are recognised as civil partnerships in Britain.

The government has written to more than 70 countries in an attempt to clarify the rights of gay people who

are working or travelling abroad.

These include:- Australia, Chile, Israel and all 50 US states, to confirm whether they recognise British civil partnerships and marriages between same-sex couples, and what rights gay people can expect when they travel.

Hopefully – later in the year we will be able to relate an answer, to a very important and difficult question for gays travelling and working abroad.

Daily Pill Offers Protection against Aids

Clinical Trials have been conducted in 12 N.H.S. Trusts across the UK

Truvada is used to treat people with HIV, cutting infections among men who have sex with men by 86%.

The results delighted experts who are now trying to get it accepted as a treatment on the N.H.S. As a pre-

exposure prophylactic costs at present £360 per person per month. It is estimated that 10,000 – 15,000 are in the high risk category and could benefit from the treatment.

The cost of treating just 20 people with Aids could cost up to £7 million over their lifetime. So you can see that new drug can be cost effective.

Could London Patient be key to AIDS Cure?

A man in London is helping with research, being HIV Positive he is one of a small group with a more active immune system than most, which is protecting him from getting AIDS. This may in the long term lead to a vaccine for AIDS.

Pope blocks gay French Diplomat

The Pope has refused to accept France's new ambassador to the Vatican, apparently because the

diplomat is gay. In 2007 the same thing happened. So we will have to wait and see what transpires.

For those who like Art Sculpture.

For those of you like sculptural art, The Weston - S- Mare sand sculptures are back again for the 10th year and are worth a visit. There is a cost, when Colin and I went last year we did get a Concessionary discount and it was well worth the effort.

Weston 2014



News Flash !!

It was announced last weekend that Barry Manilow (71) has come out and has secretly married his partner and manager of 30 years. Although this happened last year, his sexual orientation has been an open secret since the seventies.

Gender Dysphoria

We live in an age of Labels and Neurosis it has been estimated that one child in 125.000 has gender dysphoria (The conviction of being born in the wrong body, which causes great unhappiness for all concerned).

The Avocado Tree is “Transgender”

According to experts the Avocado has overnight sex changes, It stated that for one day the female parts of the trees, the flowers, are ready to be pollinated by bees. The flowers then close at night, and when they reopen the next morning they use their male anthers to spread pollen. The tree produces hundreds of flowers and each has a two-day cycle.

Enigma Hero Turing's £1m notebook

A handwritten notebook in which Enigma machine genius Alan Turing admits that he is baffled by an equation. The 56 page book bought in Cambridge and is being offered for sale in New York.

Events for May

G.O.C.Walk John & Martin

Sun 03 May 2015 "We're Here, We're Brockweir"

A moderate walk of about 7.5 miles, with one steep ascent, will start at the village of Brockweir on the English / Welsh border, near Tintern on the River Wye.

Please bring packed lunch and drinks.

From the Chair 2

Extra Ordinary General meeting

The meeting Last month was on the 21 March, and although it was not that well attended there was a lively and informative discussion among those that were there. The main reason for calling the meeting was to inform members about changes to the GayWest constitution that have been put forward by the committee. These changes are mainly to modernise and bring the constitution up to date. After listening to member's comments and concerns, no decision has been made regarding the document at present, and the Committee will decide on the next step of this process.

There was also discussion on other areas of what the committee have been up to, including the changes made at the Rainbow Café and funding of the organization.

Have your say page

We would like to hear from you, your comments on things, whether its gay related comments or about GayWest. You may want to comment on world events, local issues, or any thing else you may have on your mind that you wish to share.

You can get in touch by E-Mail info@gaywest.org.uk by text on **0758 469 6671** or even the old way by post. Any items must be received by us before the 18th of the month. All items for publication will be at the editors discretion.

**“ Its not true that I had nothing on. I had the radio on.”
Marilyn Monro**

GayWest Events

May 20 th	Music Quiz – Colin's
June 25 th	Laycock Abbey (National Trust)
August 27 th	Oakham at Portbury

Prides 2015

May 16 th	Exeter – Phoenix Centre
June 13 th	Gloucester – Gloucester Park
June 27 th	London Central
June 27 th	Swansea – Singleton Park
July 11 th	Bristol – Castle Park
July 25 th	Amsterdam
August 1 st	Brighton
August 8 th	Swindon
August 8 th	Weston – Super – Mare
August 15 th	Cardiff
August 29 th	Manchester

The GayWest Committee 2015

Chairman /Assistant Magazine Editor	Colin O'Brien
Rainbow Cafe Chief Host	Antony Russell
Treasurer	Brian Milligan
Secretary	Brian Milligan
Events Manager	Michael Reid
Internet / Facebook Administrator	John Martin
Magazine Editor	Jim Phimister
Membership Secretary	Jim Phimister
Website Sub-Committee	John Martin
	Colin O'Brien
	Jim Phimister

From – Jim, The Magazine Editor

I would like to thank the many friends in GayWest who sent cards and best wishes after my Heart Surgery. I am back home and slowly getting stronger. Colin and I have been working hard on your magazines, and with others on the Committee we have been finalising the new website.

The Next Committee Meeting is to be held on 12th May at 2pm

Is it not time to think that if you could stop time, you could get off now and step back on later, so to speak? Now that would be fun. Or, if you messed-up so much, you could go back and try again, what it was that you messed up; that is, if you could remember what it was or indeed what time it was, that you may have messed it up!! Barney

Bristol Pride Launch Crowdfunder Initiative

Organisation calls on people to support the event:

Bristol Pride have launched a Crowdfunder to support this event and are calling on those who are passionate about keeping a Pride event in the city to pledge their support. Running until the 14 May, the team hope to raise well over the minimum £5000 to support the infrastructure costs needed to put on the festival, which costs over £100,000 to stage.

Pride, which last year was voted No2 Best Pride in the UK (Coop Respect Awards), runs for over a week across the city, and culminates in a massive free outdoor community music and performance festival. Pride uses the arts to champion equality and tackle issues affecting the community, whilst developing a platform to support LGBT and local talent. The festival brought in over 31,000 people to its events last year, and boosted the local economy by £953,000 in 2013, but were

unsuccessful at being awarded Key Arts Provider funding for the city, which would have helped secure the event for the next 3 years. With grant sources dwindling and costs increasing, the team are asking the public to pledge their support for Pride which has become one of the highlights in the city events calendar for many.

Rewards include Pride Festival supporter wristbands, including a gold pass to all the events across the week, festival tickets donated by Love Saves The Day, Green Gathering and Sunrise Festival, tickets to Bristol Zoo and special prints of the rainbow fireworks over Clifton Suspension Bridge for the 150th anniversary. The crowdfunder also offer festival sponsorship and opportunities for small businesses keen to support Pride and equality in the city, whilst benefiting from the wealth of marketing on offer.

Note from The Editor – Funding seems to a problem for all Prides and their organisers. All the help you can give them whether Financial or practical would be very welcome.

<http://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/bristol-pride-2015>

And Finally

Election Special

Post Tortoise

While stitching a cut on the hand of a 75year old farmer who had caught it in a squeeze gate while working cattle, the doctor struck up a conversation with the old man.

Eventually the topic got around to politicians and their role as our leaders.

The old farmer said, “well as I see it, most politicians are “Post Tortoises”. Not being familiar with the term, the doctor asked him what a “Post Tortoise” was.

The old farmer said, “When you are driving down a country road and you come across a fence post with a tortoise balanced on top, that's a “Post Tortoise”.

The old farmer saw the puzzled look on the doctor's face so he continued to explain.

“You know he didn't get up there by himself, he doesn't belong up there, he doesn't know what to do while he's up there, he's elevated beyond his ability to function, and you just wonder what kind of dumb arse put him up there to begin with”.

Best explanation of a politician I've ever heard.

Cafe Talk

The Rainbow Cafe has seen another busy month, and I would like to say thank you to those who have volunteered there help during the last month. From this weekly event GayWest receives the most financial support which keeps the organisation going. Recently after many years the weekly rent we pay for the venue has been increased by 20% therefore it is important that we can rely on your continual support.

Colin