

GAYWEST MAGAZINE

JUNE 2015



Lacock Abbey

Fox Talbot Museum and Village Near Chippenham, Wiltshire.

GayWest

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From The Chair

Welcome to June, the time of the year that our events calendar gets busy. This month some of you who have access to the internet will already be familiar with the NEW GAYWEST WEBSITE, and this is one area where you will be able to seek out coming events during the summer months.

GayWest will be at Gloucester pride on the Saturday 13th June , Bristol pride on 11th July and at Weston-s-Mare in August. GayWest is already actively supporting the Weston pride along with the committee involved in its organisation, and the one thing we are aware of with these prides this year is that most, certainly Bristol and Weston, get no funding from the Councils. So if you want these events to continue, then get out there and support their Fund-Raising.

As always we like to hear from you, your likes and dislikes regarding GayWest, as this is the only way we can put together events, activities and address any concerns you may have as members. Remember we are a support group, willing to help where we can if an individual needs this, and later this year on Sunday September 27th at the M-Shed we will have a stand at the **“Celebrating Age Festival”** organised by Age UK. I am proud that we are taking part in this event so we can reach out to all people who still may be in the closet and whom we could help.

Now I did mention back in our Dec/Jan Magazine about a photo competition for a maybe future Calendar, however seeing that every one is doing this now we have decided not to take this forward. But if over the glorious summer months you take some amazing photo's, that you would like to share with your friends at GayWest then send them to our E-Mail address info@gaywest.org.uk and the best ones we will upload to the Gallery page of the website for the members to be in awe of and later in the year you will be able to find photos' of the coming prides in the Gallery.

Have a cracking month and see you here again in July. Colin

Lacock Abbey

This is a National Trust Property and is well worth a visit, GayWest is planning a trip **on Sunday 21st June** and (Not as stated in the last magazine).

The Abbey bears testament to a legacy of more than 800 years of past owners with sophisticated tastes, who sensitively turned it from a nunnery into a quirky family home.

The museum celebrates William Fox Talbot, who created the first photographic negative and established this as a birthplace of photography.

The abbey is located in a delightful village setting with lots of places to eat and drink, lovely grounds suitable for walking and picnics along with tea rooms, suitable for all ages. The Car Park Access is available via Hither Way, if you are using a Sat Nav. It is well sign posted from A350-3 miles south of Chippenham.

Parking and entrance is FREE to N.T. Members

There is a charge to see the Cloisters and Abbey rooms.

Meet at 12.30-1.00 and bring a picnic

GayWest Website

An announcement from Google—about Site Listings...

Google have announced that to get your site at the top of any computer listings you will have to have a website that is compatible with Smart Phones, Tablets and computers.

Our New website is mobile phone friendly and was said to be AWESOME by Google, a great result. A credit to all at Newicon for their design skills and your committee for their input and ideas.

If you have not registered and logged-in, you do not know what you are missing!

The Gay Hanky Code

Last year at Swindon Pride, in a moment of madness, I bought a souvenir bandana or hanky. It was black with multi-coloured squares and most attractive. When I got home I thought what the hell did I buy that for and stuffed it away in a drawer. Since then, I have discovered that there is a gay hanky code, most prevalent among gay and bisexual men in the 1970's, but still remembered today.

The code grew out of the leather bar sub culture, which first sported keys and later bandanas or coloured handkerchiefs. Depending on the colour code used and on which side of the body you choose to wear your hanky, this gives an indication as to your sexual preference. If you wear your hanky on the left then you are an active 'top', if you wear your hanky on the right you are a submissive 'bottom'.

You can display your kerchief in the front pocket, the back pocket, around your neck as a bandana, or even around your ankle - though that might be a little too obvious even for Bath and Bristol.

The colour coding is fairly universal and signals obvious preferences, but with some variations depending on whether you live in Britain and Europe, or the United States and Canada.

For example: Black means you're into S&M. Dark Blue- anal sex, Light Blue – oral.

My favourite colour is Green, which can cause problems, as it means you're a hustler for rent, or looking for a daddy. Oops! Fuchsia – into spanking; Yellow-water sports (bring a towel); Grey-bondage/ you own a suit.

For those of you with more specialist tastes, there are some amusing colour codes:

Light blue with white stripes – into sailors; Lavender – into drag queens.

Mustard – you prefer eight inches and rising; Apricot – a chubby chaser.

Fuchsia – into spanking; Union Jack – not just patriotic but into skinheads.

White with multi-coloured dots – hosting an orgy or hoping to find one.

I love Orange, but this means anything goes, anytime, anywhere.

I've only got the one chequered hanky at the moment. If I do sport it, it could suggest that I'm up for everything - or just plain desperate. I'm hoping to find a piece of Mosquito netting, which tells you I like it al fresco ... in the woods.

Michael Reid

Polari Gay Speak

Remember the BBC radio series ‘Round the Horne’ that was on in the late 1960’s?

Kenneth Horne would play the straight anchor man to screaming queens, Julian and Sandy, played with extravagant aplomb by Hugh Paddick and Kenneth Williams. Their camp dialogue filled with *gay double entendres* and sexual innuendoes, but in such an amusing way that it became acceptable to a wide audience. “How bona to vada your dolly old eek,” Sandy would say to Mr Horne. “Likewise,” would come the cautious reply.

Julian and Sandy were talking Polari, which up to then had been not so much a language as a secret gay slang born out of necessity when homosexuality was illegal, until the law was changed in 1967. Broadcast on a Sunday afternoon, ‘Round the Horne’ introduced an innocent public to gay expressions like “butch omis” (men) and “omi-palones” (camp men); Julian would “troll” everywhere, even though his “lallies” weren’t up to it, while Sandy considered the world either “naff”, “bona” or just plain “fantabulosa”.

It was said that a straight audience on first hearing these

expressions didn’t understand a word that was being said. The roots of Polari are thought to stretch back into the thieves’ cant of Elizabethan England, sprinkled with Italian, Romany, Yiddish and interwoven with Cockney rhyming slang. Adopted by the theatre world and the circus, it was also a rich *lingua franca* between sailors and traders around the Mediterranean.

By the 1960’s, Polari had developed into a posh West End dialect in the gay clubs of London based on camp theatre-speak, with a rougher East End dialect, based around the boat yards and canals. Today, many Polari words have crept into the English language: *karsey*, a toilet; *mankey*, poor taste; *ponce*, a pimp; *scarper*, meaning to run away. We recognise gay words like *trade*, sex; *chicken*, a young man; *dizzy*, a bit scatty; *fruit*, old queen; *hooper*, dancer; *mince*, a camp walk; *naff*, awful (and not available for you-know-what).

Next pub night, remember us omi-palones are invited to zhoosh our riah, powder our eeks, climb into our bona drag and troll off to Old Market Street. You can imagine Sandy poking Julian in the ribs and saying, “Ooow, hark at her. Ere, Mr Horne, where’d she pick that up?”

Michael Reid

Local History

MIDSOMER NORTON

The town of Midsomer Norton – population 10,997 - lies between Bath and Wells: it was mentioned in 1334 in Eilert Ekwall's writings. Approaching Midsomer Norton from the A37 one of the first buildings you pass is the Anglican Church of St John the Baptist which has a tower dating from the 15th Century. It is in good order and events are held in the spacious church hall alongside. It is noted also for the rare tomb effigy of an unknown knight. The town and nearby Radstock were administered by one Council until 2011, but now operate separately and Midsomer Norton is emerging as an interesting town with numerous social groups. The “streaming” of theatre productions, and live music recitals are now held on a regular basis in the Town Hall (built 1860) on the upper floor, and plans are afoot for a complete refurbishment.

The High Street follows a curve and alongside it flows the river Somer. After storms and overflowing in 1977, a tunnel was constructed beneath the town to take any overflow of water and thus avoiding further flooding, but keeping the river as a feature of the High Street.

Halfway along the high street, laying a little way back, is the now derelict PALLADIUM cinema (built 1913 as The Empire and closed in 1993): the building is now awaiting transformation into a modern restaurant. To the south of the town is the closed Upper Midsomer Norton railway station... now renamed Somerset & Dorset Railway Heritage Centre: it is isolated thanks to Dr Beeching's axing and closed in 1966, but the station stands proud and intact and volunteers have amassed rolling stock, a locomotive and there is track along which the engine travels on Gala Days. It was formerly in the Somerset and Dorset network. Open days are on Sundays. Although mining was an important industry, the last mine closed in 1966 and former sites have been used to develop light industry.

So all in all, a gem, in spite of the town sited in the shadow of a huge slag heap (called locally “the spoil heap”, or “the batch” which is a landmark and visible from miles away. The administration for the Mendip Male Voice Choir is also undertaken in Midsomer Norton, but rehearsals are actually held in nearby Timsbury. To prevent misunderstandings, there is no connection between the town and the television series of a similar name.

Antony & Eric

Press Cuttings

Kinky Boots - - a musical film based on real life, how a drag queen (Lola) helped a Northampton Shoe factory survive by designing thigh-high stiletto boots for men who prefer their footwear to be flamboyant. It has a great story line and is planned to come to The Adelphi Theatre in London August—September.

Man Shoots his Computer- When his computer screen kept freezing and Ctrl+Alt+Del didn't fix it, He did what many of us have felt like doing, he took the offending machine outside and shot it. He now faces charges for illegally discharging a weapon.

Does this sound familiar!

Europe's First Gay Friendly Zebra Crossing -

In Totnes in Devon the council have decided to have a rainbow-coloured zebra crossing in the town to celebrate Gay Pride week.

The Rainbow Café

The Rainbow Café meets every Saturday Morning

From 1030am -12.30

At St. Michael's Day Centre,

St. Michael's Place, Bath.

(Next to the Little Theatre Cinema)

The Rainbow is open to all.

First-time visitors are made very

Welcome and are entitled to their **first drink FREE.**

And Finally



Spanish Teacher was explaining to her class that in Spanish, unlike English, nouns are designated as either masculine or feminine.

“House” for instance, is feminine: ‘la casa.’

“Pencil”, however, is masculine: ‘el lapiz.’

A student asked, What gender is a ‘computer’?

Instead of giving the answer, the teacher split the class into two groups, male and female, and asked them to decide for themselves whether a computer should be a masculine or a feminine noun. Each group was asked to give four reasons for it’s recommendation.

The Men’s group decided that ‘Computer’ should definitely be of the feminine gender (“el ordenador”), because:

1. No one but their creator understands their logic;
2. The native language they use to communicate with other computers is incomprehensible to everyone else;
3. Even the smallest mistakes are stored in long-term memory for possible later retrieval; and
4. As soon as you make a commitment to one, you find yourself spending half your paycheck on accessories for it.

(This gets better)

Contd.....

And Finally - Continued

The women's group, however, concluded that computers should be masculine (el computador'), because:

1. In order to do anything with them, you have to turn them on;
2. They have a lot of data but still can't think for themselves;
3. They are supposed to help solve problems, but half the time they are the problems; and
4. As soon as you commit to one, you realise that if you had waited a little longer, you could have gotten a better model.

The Women Won.

Send this to all the smart women you know ...
and to all the men you know who have a sense of humour....

Contact us

To contact us by phone, call us on the new
GayWest Mobile phone number **0758 469 6771**. The line is open
5pm – 10pm during evenings, If there is no answer, please leave a
message on the voice mail and one of the committee will get back to
you.

We can also be contacted: in person
at the Rainbow Cafe any Saturday Morning.

by email:- info@gaywest.org.uk.

or on our Website:- www.gaywest.org.uk

Election Results

After the recent election, we have the Gayest Parliament in the world, with 32 openly lesbian, gay and bisexual MPs, just under 5% of the total number in the commons, this dwarfs the 12 and 10 in the parliaments of Sweden and Netherlands respectively, both countries that pride themselves on their liberal attitude to gay rights.

Analysis = 13 Labour, 12 Conservatives and 6 represent the SNP.

Miscellaneous

It is reported that Cate Blanchett will play a lesbian, the film called “Carol” Cate although married to Andrew Upton for 17 years has admitted to having relationships with women many times.

The film is based on a 1952 novel “The “price of Salt” it charts the life of a shop worker who falls for an older, married woman in New York City.

GAY OUTDOOR CLUB (GOC)

A wide range of walks and other outdoor activities locally and nationally. For further details see the GOC web site <http://www.goc.org.uk> .

Local telephone contacts are: Nigel 01793 770099 Ken 07790 759162 or Bill 07503 650354. LOCAL EVENTS THIS MONTH

Sunday 7 June Macmillan Way and Slaughterford,, a walk of about 8 miles partly following the crystal clear Bybrook river
Sunday 28 June Brean Down and the Axe River Estuary, a scenic coastal walk with some interesting bird life and military history to be seen.

GayWest Events and Prides

June	Wednesday 10th	Bristol Pub Evening 8pm
	Saturday 13th	Gloucester Pride-Gloucester Park
	Sunday 21st	Visit to Lacock Abbey (National Trust)
	Wednesday 24th	Bath Pub Evening 8.30pm
	Saturday 27 th	London Central
	Saturday 27 th	Swansea-Singleton Park
	July	Wednesday 8th
Saturday 11th		Bristol Pride-Castle Park
Sunday 12th		After Pride Lunch at the Phoenix
Wednesday 22nd		Bath Pub Evening 8.30pm
Saturday 25 th		Amsterdam-Holland
August	Saturday 1 st	Brighton
	Saturday 8th	Swindon Pride
	Wednesday 12th	Bristol Pub Evening 8pm
	Saturday 15 th	Cardiff
	Wednesday 26th	Bath Pub Evening 8.30pm
	Thursday 27 th	Oakham Treasurers at Portbury, Bristol. BS20 7SP
	Saturday 29 th	Manchester

Other Groups & Contacts

Avon & Bristol Law Centre Website = www.ablc.org.uk
Email = mail@ablc.org.uk Tel. 01179 248 662

Gloucester Gay and Lesbian Community
Website = www.gglc.co.uk Tel. 07050 627 273

GMG Southwest (formally 3M's and CCC)
www.gmgswsouthwest.com

Eddystone Trust Sexual Health Helpline
Website = www.edystone.org.uk
Email = info@edystone.org.uk
Tel. 01752 254 406—0800 3283508

Samaritans
Website = www.samaritans.org.uk Tel. 0845 790 9090

Victim Support
Website = www.victimsupport.org.uk Tel. 0845 456 6099

Pink Herrings (Lesbian) under LGBT (well aware)
Website = www.lgbtbristol.org.uk/pink-herrings
Email – pinkherrings@yahoo.co.uk Tel. 01179 861 529

Bristol Crossroads (Transgender)
Website = www.bristolcrossroads.org.uk
Email = Laurencd@blueyonder.co.uk

More links available,
on-line or at The Rainbow Café on a Saturday.