



July 2015 £1.00



Chairs Blog

From the Chair.

Hi, we are now in the time of the year that becomes busy for the GayWest team on our trips to the various prides, our first being the Gloucester Pride, soon to be followed by Bristol and then Weston -S-Mare in August. A rare opportunity for us this year in September will be us to have a stand at the **Celebrating Age Festival** at the M-Shed being organised by Age UK who invited us to take part. This will be an amazing opportunity for us to reach those elderly residents who could possibly need our support and who could benefit socially knowing about our group.

Also next year in February, we are hoping to be able to be part of the Annual LGBT History Month celebrations which will be coming to Bristol.

These events link together in providing an awareness to the wider LGBT community and beyond, that Gay people grow old as does everyone else but if you look closely you will not find many nursing homes, housing associations or the media that highlight the needs and problems that associate with the older age group. There was a recent survey done, and well discussed on the radio, about how gay people feel about walking in public holding hands or a kiss in public now that we have Gay Marriage. Interesting results were that 75% were relaxed with this until you then are told that the survey only covered those up to the age of 35. No one has yet thought to ask those a few years older their opinion. I do think this has to change and we all at GayWest should shout loudly about it to those who should know better.

One last thing which I think is a way forward is “It’s now more frowned upon to hide the truth about your sexuality than champion equal rights” Or it is among the young.

Gloucester Pride

This year's Gloucester Pride was held on Saturday 13th of June and although we were unlucky with the weather. The event was well attended and mostly the crowds stayed in spite of the rain at times. This year there was the usual good entertainment, one of the things this Pride event is well known for. There was also a Cabaret marquee with its own café and this certainly kept the crowds dry with good fun filled entertainment.



GayWest was allocated the same place as last year opposite the Bar and main stage which meant we could be involved much as before, and have a good view of the action on the stage. Altogether a good day in spite of the weather. **Front page pictures taken at the pride.**

GayWest

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Entertainment Reviews

THE TALES OF HOFFMANN

A unique and rare opportunity was presented by the Watershed in Bristol, during May of this year: for a single screening only, they showed the operatic **THE TALES OF HOFFMANN** in a newly digitalised version of the Michael Powell and Eric Pressburger film made at Shepperton Studios in 1951: this was a sumptuous colour production with superb sets and costumes designed by Hein Heckroth for which he received two Academy Award nominations. The music of Offenbach was played by the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by Sir Thomas Beecham.

With the exception of Ann Ayers and Robert Rounseville all the actor's singing was dubbed, and there was no dialogue. Being fully aware of this beforehand, I did not think this distracted from the film which ran for 128 minutes.

Moira Shearer's singing voice was sung by Dorothy Bond. Robert Helpman's singing voice was sung by Bruce Dargavel, Ludmilla Tcherina singing voice was sung by Margherita Grandi. Other stars appearing included Leonide Massine, Frederick Ashton and Pamela Brown.

There were three Tales in the film, and each told a different story of unrequited love involving Hoffmann a poet. He first falls in love with a beautiful ballet dancer Olympia, only to discover that she is in fact an automaton: secondly his heart is captured by Giulietta, a courtesan, but she is a thief. And in the third he loves Antonia but she is dying.

Overall I found this film visually gorgeous and beautifully produced and although I am not an opera fan, I would highly recommend it.

Happily, the film is available to buy on DVD.

Antony May 2015

Local History Continued

OUT OF STEAM. MIDSOMER NORTON part II

On a particularly warm sunny day in late May we visited the old railway station in Midsomer Norton which until 1966 was part of the Somerset & Dorset network. Through sheer hard work determination and dedication, a group of volunteers are bringing the site back to life, and there is much to see: two museums: one housed in a WW2 pill box (one of many built to protect the line from enemy attack), lots of carriages, freight wagons, a crane, small wagons which were used in the local coal mines, a replica signal box and an excellent buffet car housed in one of the carriages. There is also a shop selling memorabilia and a large selection of books on railways.

A metal bridge used to span Silver Street and although long since removed, vintage photos show how it was, and there is brickwork and stonework still surviving. It is possible to walk along the old track bed eastwards in the direction of Frome and there is a most

interesting multi-arch (originally five) viaduct which crosses the old GWR track bed. The three surviving arches of the viaduct were renovated fairly recently by the Midsomer Norton Town Council.

West towards Chilcompton tunnels, there is approximately one mile of track, used on gala open days to run locomotives and carriages for visitors. It is hoped to extend the track beyond the tunnels, but unidentified industrial waste infill in the cutting beyond is a potential hazard. Another problem is the noise generating from locomotives would disturb nearby residents.

On the day we were there a load of track and points had been delivered from the now-defunct Radstock railway station and these had been acquired by the Midsomer Norton Trust free of charge. So all-in-all a very interesting visit, and the museum guide was a most helpful and well-informed man.

I would certainly recommend a visit. Antony

Entertainment reviews

Explosive, Erotic, Sex, Lust, Murder and Revenge and a bit of male nudity.

Well, I can only be reporting on the event - called **The Car Man**, It was a triumph for Matthew Bourne and his company, using the familiar music of Bizet's Carmen. Re-imagined from the 19th century Spanish cigarette factory into a gaudy garage and diner in 1960's America.

Where the men are grease monkeys and the women are sirens.

Premiered in 2000 and winning The Evening Standard Award for Musical event of the year and the Los Angeles Drama Critics award for best choreography.

This year's revival marks the first time the production has been staged in eight years, part of the reason is that it's incendiary mix of murder, bloody fist fights and allusions to homosexual rape, not exactly suitable for family viewing, (as shown by the oos from the elderly ladies around us suggested) one even asked her friend why was there no singing, she went quiet when told that it is a ballet.

What it was though, was a gripping tour de force. Fantastic Choreography, sets and along with the familiar music.

Matthew Bourne productions are always exciting, so keep an eye out for other productions which include Sleeping Beauty, Nutcracker and Cinderella, we were lucky to see his Swan Lake last year. Jim

Life Upon The Wicked Stage

(From Showboat)

I have been asked if I could write a monthly article for the magazine. Having never done journalism or critic's reviews, I may seem a bit ropey, but I am giving it a go. I have always been mad about the Cinema and Theatre, I consider myself quite good with my knowledge of both.

I spent thirty-eight (38) years in amateur theatre and about thirty (30) years theatre going in both Bristol and London. In the late 50's into the 60's I was a regular theatre buff in London and saw almost everything that was going.

I spent 2 years in National Service abroad in Libya and Egypt (maybe more of that later in future write-ups,) so when I got back to Civilian life I decided to "Live it up".

I was also a keen Autograph collector, and my golden moment was meeting Ginger Rogers who was playing in "Mame" at the Theatre Royal in Drury Lane.

The first west-end show I remember was at Drury Lane, Valerie Hobson and Herbert Lom in "The King and I", I also saw Angela Lansbury in "Gypsy", along with very good productions of "The Good Companions" with Judi Dench and John Mills and "A Little Night Music" with Jean Simmons and Hermione Gingold, I could write more of these shows, but I do not want to bore you so maybe more next time.

As for Cinema, I went to lots of film premieres such as "Oklahoma" and others. I go to the theatre if it is worth it, but The Hippodrome I'm afraid is getting too expensive. Did you know that the Hippodrome is run by The Ambassador Group and the bosses are a well known singer of the 60's Rosemary Squires and her husband.

I still buy lots of DVDs and try to get films as soon as they are released. Well, that's all for now.
Best Wishes Roy

GayWest Events and Prides

July	Wednesday 8th	Bristol Pub Evening 8pm
	Saturday 11th	Bristol Pride-Castle Park
	Sunday 12th	After Pride Lunch at the Phoenix
	Sunday 19th	Bristol Harbour Festival Meet up at 1 Harbour side For tea/cakes and a stroll
	Wednesday 22nd	Bath Pub Evening 8.30pm
August	Wednesday 12th	Bristol Pub Evening 8pm
	Saturday 15 th	Book and DVD Sale at The Rainbow Cafe
	Wednesday 26th	Bath Pub Evening 8.30pm
	Thursday 27 th	Oakham Treasurers at Portbury, Bristol. BS20 7SP
	Saturday 29th	Weston-S-Mare Pride Grove Park 12 noon—5pm
September	Wednesday 9th	Bristol Pub Evening 8pm
	Saturday 19th	Annual General Meeting 11.30am at The Rainbow
	Wednesday 23rd	Bath Pub Evening 8.30pm
	Sunday 27th	Celebrating Age at The M. Shed GW Stall

Miscellaneous

The journalist asked the Politician,

“Your assistant said publically that you have a small penis. Would you like to comment? “Yes I would”, said the Politician. “The truth is my assistant has a big mouth”.

**Musical Quiz—To be held at 7.30pm on Friday
10th of July at Stuart’s in Harbour side**

Date of the next Committee Meeting :- 14th July 2015

Closing date for comments/articles for inclusion in the next magazine, is the 18th of the month.

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.**

Leisure

Bristol Pride

www.pridebristol.co.uk

Events throughout the whole week starting on:-

Sunday 5th July 2015	Pride Dog Show
Wednesday 8th	Pride Theatre Night
Thursday 9th	Pride Comedy Night
Friday 10th	Rocky Horror in the Park
	Midsummer Night's Dream

Saturday 11th in Castle Park

Along with a full week of gay related films at The Watershed

Don't miss out, support your local event and GayWest who all work so hard on your behalf to organise these events.

GayWest is located in the Community Tent. Along with many other groups.

After pride Lunch

at The Phoenix 1, Wellington Buildings, BS1 9DB

Next to Cabot Circus. Tel. 01173 290 076

Sunday 12th 12.30—1pm

Home cooked Malaysian food along with 100% beef burger range, all at reasonable prices.

Leisure

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

Sun 5 July A moderate 7 mile circular walk based around Kings Stanley, a small village near Stroud, Gloucestershire.

Thurs 16 July An evening walk of about 1½ hours (around 3½ miles) through the Trooper's Hill nature reserve, with lovely views over Bristol and the valley of the River Avon.

Sun 19 July A 7 mile walk in the north Wiltshire countryside from Lacock towards Chippenham, including a section of the Wilts & Berks canal currently being restored.

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

Gloucester Pride Special

