

# **GAYWEST** **magazine**



**August 2015   £1.00**

## *Chairs Blog*

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**H**i everyone, welcome to your August magazine. This month as last, we will be attending many different events, one in Yate with Merlin Housing where I will be representing GayWest as part of their programme of reaching out to LGBT people who may need social housing support.

Also we have our stall at the Weston-S-Mare pride (further details in magazine) for the first time. There are other outings and events that you may be interested in you may wish to look at the events page in the magazine or on the Website.

Since the launch of the new website there has been a very good response with regular requests to join our group and already we have gained several new members this way.

There is a lot still to be done to make it easier to join us and soon we will be launching a one click and you can join us all on line.

On what was Father's Day back in June, eleven of GayWest members spent a pleasant afternoon visit to Lacock where we all enjoyed a picnic and spent time exploring the gardens, village and the Abbey, and of course for all you photographers out there it is the home of the Fox Talbot museum.

July the 11<sup>th</sup> saw what was one of the most crowded Bristol prides we have seen, probably due to the good weather on the day, it was a good time and lots of you came and said hello to us manning the GayWest stall. The parade seemed to go on for ever, a very good day.

I hope you enjoy this month's magazine and please do send us any news you may like to have published— it is your magazine so let's hear from you! Please see address box below.

Colin.

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**GayWest**

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# *GayWest Committee*

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## **GayWest Committee Members**

Chairman / Assistant Magazine Editor	Colin O'Brien
Rainbow Café 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

**We are always looking for members who feel that they have a talent for Committee work, so whatever you are good at, why not give a little of your time and talent to Gaywest with all the things we do.**

**It would really be appreciated. Many thanks**

**Date of the next Committee Meeting :-**

**18th August 2015 at 2pm**

**Closing date for comments/articles** for inclusion in the next magazine, **is the 15th of the month.** This allows time to prepare it for issue, They may not appear in the next issue but will be included as soon as possible, at the discretion of the Editor.

## *Entertainment Reviews*

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### **MUMBLES, MIZZLE and MUSIC**

**O**n a Friday in mid June in the sunniest and warmest of weather, we motored westwards over the second Severn Crossing, and headed towards Swansea. Our destination was The Towers Hotel at Jersey Marine, Swansea Bay which we found with comparative ease using Sat-Nav. The hotel proved to be comfortable, quiet and welcoming with highly efficient staff, a good restaurant and bar: our accommodation was in the annex which also housed a spa, a pool and a gym.

To one side of the hotel grounds stood a very impressive former Camera Obscure, octagonal in shape and built of brick in 1886 by Captain Evan Evans who was the hotel's first owner. During WWII the tower was used as a US Military look-out tower: During intervening years, it has been beautifully restored, and now houses three individual guest suites, each having panoramic views over Swansea Bay and the surrounding countryside.

By next morning a MIZZLE had descended over the entire area, this is in fact, a local word for drizzle/damp and hazy conditions and so a Planned trip to the Mumbles was curtailed and a nearby shopping mall was explored instead. Saturday evening was the musical event of the weekend when three choirs combined in a nearby church to give a lively and most enjoyable and varied concert: our hosts were THE MORRISTON RFC Male Choir, and they were joined by PARTI LLWCHWR and THE MENDIP MALE VOICE CHOIR as guest singers.

After the concert there was an informal get together, an AFTERGLOW where an extensive buffet had been provided; There was also spontaneous singing and a great feeling of camaraderie. It was a very well-organised evening and one to remember for all the right reasons. On Sunday our return journey back to Bristol included a stop-over at the National Trust old tin works at BERDULAIS.

Antony.....June 2015

## *Life Upon The Wicked Stage*

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### **Have you realised how expensive theatre visits are now!**

In the past year The Hippodrome prices have risen heavily, in fact almost to the same level as The West End.

Recently in “The Stage” paper there has been a schedule of what you expect to pay in the West End,

Examples—The most expensive is The Book of Mormon at the Prince of Wales Theatre with the highest price being £ 202.25 and the cheapest at £40.00. Other examples—Billy Elliot £ 102 and £ 22.00

Miss Saigon £ 125 and £ 22.00 and there are many more.

I really think that the companies are pricing themselves out of business.

After all a family of four at £202.00 = over £800.00 which is prohibitive.

I have also a gripe about the Theatre Royal in Bristol, about 5 years ago I attended a meeting to preserve this lovely theatre, but nobody seems to know what is happening there. If you have any information I would be delighted to know. Occasionally, we do hear of a production there, but no real advertising, as existed in the old days, most of the productions seem to be from small touring groups, but none of them can compare with The Bristol Old Vic.

I was a regular patron and have seen many of the great stars in plays there Peter O’Toole, Daniel Day Lewis, Dorothy Tutin and Timothy West just to mention a few.

But it all appears to have fallen by the wayside. The Bristol Old Vic was renowned for it’s productions, yet another example of Bristol not bothering, to look after things; well that is all my moans for now, I look forward to any comments you may have. Roy Appleby.

## *Travel York a Beautiful City*

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I recently spent a few days in York and the six hour couch journey was worth it. Within it's well-preserved medieval walls there is much of beauty and interest. I started with Yorvik, a representation of the Viking 10th century settlement, it is incredibly realistic, with speaking characters pursuing their everyday life in great detail.



By contrast the National Railway Museum brings together so many historic locomotives, from Stephenson's Rocket to the Japanese Bullet Train. It is fascinating to be close up to these magnificent mechanical monsters, albeit now pristine and silent. You can even glimpse the interior of Queen Victoria's private train, viewed through the windows.

York's many superb museums I loved, especially the Castle Museum, with detailed reconstructions of York streets, houses and interiors over two centuries. One was also shown prisons, brought realistically to

## *York Visit Continued*

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**M**edieval streets and houses are everywhere very evident, in spite of the modern intrusions.

The 14th Century Minster soars majestically over the city, dominating it, I climbed the 276 steps of the tower to view all from above. It almost collapsed a few years ago and needed urgent and drastic strengthening of it's foundations, all of which is shown in the Undercroft exhibition.

I cannot omit having seen the Treasurer's house cellar, where in 1953, a terrified young man witnessed and heard the procession of a Roman Legion which emerged from the wall, proceeded by the sound of a trumpet. It then exited through the opposite wall, he fled in terror.

He later accurately described their authentic appearance. All was described by a National Trust guide. I also spotted Dan Snow on location, surrounded by his camera crew.



Finally, I walked the well preserved medieval walls, giving delightful views of it all from above. My stay at the Alquin Guest House was very enjoyable, hosted by the knowledgeable and attractive Darren.

Four days was not nearly enough. Ernie

## *GayWest Events and Prides*

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### **August**

Wednesday	12th	<b>Bristol Pub Evening 8pm</b>
Saturday	15 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Book and DVD Sale at The Rainbow Cafe</b>
Wednesday	26th	<b>Bath Pub Evening 8.30pm</b>
Thursday	27th	<b>Oakham Treasures at Portbury, Bristol. BS20 7SP</b>
Saturday	29th	Weston-S-Mare Pride Clarence Park 12 noon—5pm

### **September**

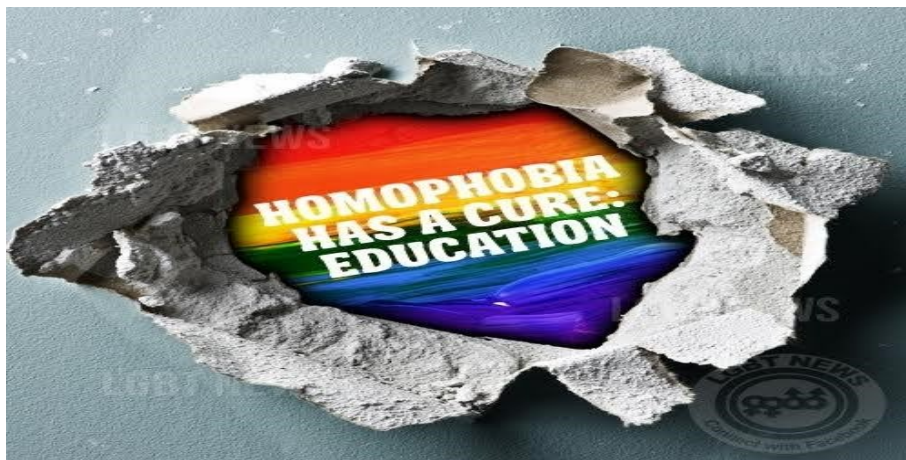
Wednesday	9th	<b>Bristol Pub Evening 8pm</b>
Saturday	19th	<b>Annual General Meeting 11.30am at The Rainbow</b>
Wednesday	23rd	<b>Bath Pub Evening 8.30pm</b>
Sunday	27th	<b>Celebrating Age at The M. Shed GW Stall</b>

### **October**

Wednesday	14th	<b>Bristol Pub Evening 8pm</b>
Wednesday	28th	<b>Bath Pub Night 8.30pm</b>



## *Miscellaneous*



A message of hope, many LGBT people experience great problems with discrimination of various types, There are many points of help, look at our links page for some useful information on other help and advice groups, but the message above is clear and hopefully it will improve the situation over the years.

### **Annual General Meeting :-**

Saturday September 19th at 11am for 11.30am.

Where you can elect your officers for another year and discuss topics of importance to the group. A brief agenda will be produced and circulated with the next magazine.

## *Press Cuttings*

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### **The Island that has backed Gay Marriage. But no one is rushing to take up the offer.**

Pitcairn has passed a law to allow same-sex marriage, but so far no gay couples have expressed an interest. There are 48 islanders on this tiny speck of land in the middle of the Pacific Ocean, part of the British Overseas Territory. So where would you like to get married! That is if , you could afford the fare.

### **Transgender Dress Code**

A First for St. Catherine's College in Cambridge which was founded in 1473 is the first to have decided, after being challenged by a classics student Charlie Northrop who is transitioning from male to female. The men can now wear skirts and high heels and the women are to be allowed to wear trousers and ties to formal dinners. Miss Northrop is said to be over the moon by the decision.

**The German Chancellor** Angela Merkel was interviewed recently and revealed that she personally was opposed to Gay Marriage, she believes that all discrimination must be eliminated, but draws the line at same sex marriage, but was happy to support Civil Partnerships and happily endorsed equal benefits and tax breaks for same-sex couples.

**President Obama** recently stated that the Supreme Court had pronounced that Gay Marriage should be allowed across all the 52 states of America, but recently in small print, there have been judges who have resigned as a protest, so it may take some time before it is acceptable.

## *Leisure*

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### **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**

Fri 14 - Mon 17 Aug - Annual Outdoor Gathering of the national GOC at University of Bath. Walks, cycle rides, caving and a variety of other activities are planned.

(Advance booking is essential for all events)

Sun 23 Aug - A 7.5 mile walk around Charterhouse and Compton Martin. Should be good views over Chew Valley.

### **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](mailto:info@gaywest.org.uk).

or on our Website:- [www.gaywest.org.uk](http://www.gaywest.org.uk)

## *Recent Events and Reports*

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The Bristol pride this year was the best ever with large crowds and a bigger than ever march, our thanks must go out to all the organisers, assistants and helpers who put a lot of effort into such a successful event.

Our after pride lunch was another enjoyable outing with seven of us all enjoying their Malaysian choices from a very good menu.



The Trip to Lacock on the 21st June turned out to be a lovely sunny day for an enjoyable picnic in lovely country surroundings, some went into the Museum and we went into the 800 year old village for a little shopping trip, and a good look round .

