

# GayWest Magazine

September 2015

£ 1.00



**GayWest**

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# Chairs Blog

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## Welcome to September,

**W**ell, how the year goes by, here we are in to the last month of the summer season, some of you may not have noticed that we have been living through our Summer. One reason is you may be waiting for a hot wall to wall sunny day, which is not going to happen, while others may be in a world of their own making. Recently I have found some time to catch up on news and read some good articles about Gay life in the UK, but it is amazing that even today with all our different ways of communicating there are still people out there that do live in a world of their own.

Sometimes I feel like that may be a good thing to do. We are bombarded with all sorts of pressures to buy goods that we do not need, holidays we can not afford but are deemed to be the in thing, friends, and relatives we have to visit, when we may not feel like we want to. When we do go and visit or go off on our holidays we are inundated with signage to tell us what we should be doing or going; there does not seem to be a moments rest from all this information being thrown at you continuously. So maybe just maybe shutting of to all this barrage is a good thing to do occasionally.

Now that I have finished my rant ,here is some of the information that you do need this month and an important one will be the GayWest A.G.M on the Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> of this month at the Rainbow Café so please make a note in your Diary electronic or otherwise. **Also let me remind you that to attend the A.G.M you will need to have your membership paid up-to-date.** The following Sunday GayWest will be at Age UK 's "Festival of Age" at the M Shed (27th) so do pop along if you can and give your support.

Colin.

*Did you hear about the old Italian chef that died? He pasta way.*

# Ben Howlett MP

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**S**aturday 8th August saw the first visit to The Rainbow Café of Ben Howlett MP, Ben is the MP for Bath. He had the chance to meet some of the people present and it turned out to be a fantastic morning.



At the end of his visit he was presented with Honorary Membership and a copy of GAYWEST the book by Robert Howes on the history of the group, along with some information leaflets and application forms for his use at his surgeries.

# Local History

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## W<sup>h</sup>OUT OF STEAM. MIDSOMER NORTON part II

**O**n 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

## Local History Contd.

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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 2015

### **Ben Smith's Huge effort to tackle bullies**

**B**ristol runner Ben Smith a member of the Southville Running Club is embarking on a challenge to run **401 marathons in 401 days** starting on 1st September from Millennium Square, and then travel around the UK in his mobile home where he will visit about 250 running clubs getting help and support. His aim is to raise £250,000 for Stonewall and Kidscape to raise awareness about bullying as well as Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual rights.

Ben from Cotham has experienced episodes of physical abuse, taunting and this caused him to attempt to take his life on two occasions, but finally he has come to terms with his sexuality and is in a loving relationship with his partner. He has quit his job as an Accounts Manager and will have the help of his father and friends to achieve this great feat.

GayWest have started a collection for his cause, you can donate by sending money to The Treasurer or by giving money at The Rainbow on a Saturday morning. GayWest will match the donations collected and hope to invite Ben to The Rainbow when he has completed his challenge so please give generously to this very good cause.

You can visit his Website [www.the401challenge.co.uk](http://www.the401challenge.co.uk)

*My friend recently got crushed by a pile of books. He's only got his shelf to blame.*

# GayWest Book Library

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## Book Review

### **The Wings of The Phoenix by Florine de veer**

**I** was looking for a good read amongst the 250 books of all types in The GayWest Library, and must admit that when selecting which book to pick up, the cover is what gets my attention, rather than the author, the cover of this book and the subsequent brief notes appealed to me so I gave it a try.

I am one of those readers who prefers to have the author getting straight into the story with the minimum amount of intricate details of the surroundings or individualistic details. I then use my own descriptive imagination rather than having to remember what the reader is being told.

This is what I found with this novel about a love between three young men, an interesting triangle set in the mid-eighties, in Canada, but with an interesting back story. The plot is easy to follow but has a few surprises along the way, there are interesting sexual scenes without too much detail (again this is left to your imagination).

If you are interested in meditation, gay clubbing and some of the seedier side of gay life then this is your book. I found it enjoyable and easy to read and it kept me up into the early hours wanting to see what happens in the next chapter rather than turning off the lamp and getting some sleep.

Enjoyable literature from a book, that does not require any batteries or recharging.– Recommended.

*The books are available to members on loan from The Rainbow Café, where a list is available for you to choose from at no cost but you can make a donation if you wish. Please see a member of the Committee.*

# Lacock Abbey Picnic

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## LAID BACK IN LACOCK

**T**he Sunday chosen by Gay West committee to visit Lacock coincided with the Summer Solstice, and Father's Day. There were eleven members in our group and the weather at the outset was dull, over-cast and decidedly chilly.

In the designated National Trust field, along with numerous families and eye-catching silver-haired grand-dads(!) we had our picnic with delights such as smoked salmon; strawberries and clotted cream; fresh salads; sandwiches; cheeses; hard boiled eggs, and fresh fruits all being hungrily consumed. Bottles of drink helped quench thirsts.

Afterwards we divided into groups, some viewing the village and others exploring the gardens; the Abbey and the Fox Talbot photographic exhibition. We also saw the chambers where scenes for a Harry Potter film were made. There were many well-informed and helpful guides who answered questions and were generally very pleasant.

The clouds cleared away and a very sunny and warm day was enjoyed by everyone: later we all met up again, and enjoyed a tea with scones, jam, and yet more clotted cream. It was a day to remember for all the right reasons.  
THREE CHEERS.

Antony. June 2015

## The October Magazine

We are planning to have a special edition, so if you have any Lesbian, Gay or other LGBT themed articles and pictures you think may be useful, please send them to [info@gaywest.org.uk](mailto:info@gaywest.org.uk) for consideration by our usual closing date the 15th of the month, to allow us time to present them to their best and get the final magazine to the printers.

# 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** No events have been arranged for September, but there will be a notice for October in the next edition.

### 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.**

Dear Member, **Please find enclosed with this magazine your copy of the final draft of our Constitution and a Nomination form for the Annual General Meeting on Saturday 19th September at 11.30am.**



# GayWest Events and prides

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<b>August</b>	Wednesday 26th	<b>Bath Pub Evening 8.30pm</b>
	Thursday 27 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Oakham Treasurers at Portbury, Bristol. BS20 7SP</b>
	Saturday 29th	Weston-S-Mare Pride Clarence Park 12 noon—5pm
<b>September</b>	Wednesday 9th	<b>Bristol Pub Evening 8pm</b>
	Saturday 12th	<b>Bath River Cruising 2.30pm</b>
	Saturday 19th	<b>Annual General Meeting 11.30am at The Rainbow</b>
	Wednesday 23rd	<b>Bath Pub Evening 8.30pm</b>
	Sunday 27th	Celebrating Age at The M. Shed GW Stall
<b>October</b>	Wednesday 14th	<b>Bristol Pub Evening 8pm</b>
	Saturday 17th	<b>GayWest Auction 11am</b>
	Wednesday 28th	<b>Bath Pub Evening 8.30pm</b>
<b>November</b>	Friday 6th-8th	Bristol Leather West Pride Old Market

# Business

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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

<b>Website Sub-Committee</b>	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

*The next committee meeting will be held on  
Thursday 17th September 2015.*

# Press Cuttings

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## “Call Me Caitlyn”

**Caitlyn Jenner**— three decades earlier as Bruce Jenner

He undertook a medical transition and now at 65 proves you are never too old to look good on your chosen path through life — appearing on the front cover of Vanity Fair Magazine, many women would do anything to look half as good.

It was only by single mindedness that helped to raise the profile of Transgender People.

## Mary Lambert

Is an American Lesbian Guitar Playing singer/songwriter

“More than our scars” a rap song celebrating her sexual orientation.

Welcome to the age of my self-worth, “same Love”. Her video is available on U-tube for viewing.

**Fire Service Please**— was the request, A man called the fire brigade when he got his genitals wedged in a shower seat, this is among a string of bizarre 999 calls revealed by a fire service.

His frantic SOS led to Devon and Somerset fire and rescue service sending a crew to rescue him.

The fire service revealed that it had spent £50,000 in the last year releasing people trapped by everyday household items.

## Obituary

It was with sadness that we have to report the tragic death of the principal dancer with the Matthew Bourne troupe, Jonathan Ollivier. For those who saw him in Swan Lake and the Car Man, will have appreciated his talent and he will be greatly missed.

## Press Cuttings

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**S**ussex Police Supported the 25th Brighton Pride with this appropriately decorated car, but although criticised in some quarters, I am sure that it went down well with the huge numbers who attended and had a good time proclaiming how proud we are to be LGBT.



### **Gay Couples who cannot divorce**

Iceland has become a popular wedding destination for same-sex couples from countries where such weddings are illegal. But now a problem has emerged because while the law was amended to allow non-residents to marry, officials forgot to make it legal for foreign same-sex couples to divorce. The only solution is for one or both partners to move to Iceland, live there for two years after which a divorce can be allowed.

*Why do squirrels swim on their backs? To keep their nuts dry.*