



**“Love All” Kindly donated by
Oliver Frey (Zack) Artist of Rogue**

GayWest Magazine

Special

October 2015

£1.00

Chairs Blog

Welcome to October,

Well, here we are in October and autumn upon us once again. The summer of 2015 has been typically English, nothing to be over excited about. But I hope we can excite you with this month's magazine articles which have a theme running through them. You may also notice that this magazine has more pages, this will be a feature on occasions.

We were extremely pleased when we approached the artist who supplied this month's cover picture, explaining that we were doing a special featured edition and wanted to have a distinctive cover for this purpose. To those of you who are familiar with the Rogue illustrated erotic magazines, you will forgive us for taking many hours to make a choice for the cover image, but at least this was enjoyable to do. We finally decided on the "Love all" image as this fitted nicely with the theme of this edition.

Today we are fortunate to live in a more equal environment in the United Kingdom than is possible in many other countries around the world. Even so, there are still many issues and problems that still can be encountered during our lives as L.G.B.T. people, some of their stories are featured in this magazine.

In-spite of the ups and downs of this summer's weather the pride events that GayWest attended were successful, and we have had good feedback regarding our new website, including new members joining us. See more on the Weston-S-Mare pride on the back page, as for new members there is now an online application form on the website and also existing members can renew using this method (see example details on page 14).

As this magazine will be published before the A.G.M a report of the meeting will be in the November edition.

Hope you enjoy your magazine. Colin

A Man doesn't know what happiness is until he's married.

By then it's too late.

The Rainbow Flag

(Gay Liberation Flag)

This was designed by Gilbert Baker a New York gay activist in the equality movement back in 1978.

He bought to life the most iconic political symbol of the rallying tolls in history.

(A friend of Harvey Milk) remember the film? He had loved sewing from an early age and had made flags for years for street protests, which ultimately led him to make the rainbow flag.

Before the flag, the only symbol had been the pink triangle, but the Rainbow Flag transcends language and nations etc. but it was not without dark ever reminiscent undertones from the past.

The flag is 37 years old and along with the Lesbian Liberation Flag designed in 1979. Although we do not need to march and protest as much anymore, Gilbert has done a lot for our symbol of unity for all of us, but we must still remember that many countries are not so tolerant as ours and we must support all our LGBT brothers and sisters across the world.

WHAT'S the easiest way to keep the dream alive?

Push the snooze button.

GayWest

PO Box 586, Bath. BA1 2YQ

Email :- info@gaywest.org.uk

Website :- www.gaywest.org.uk

Coming Out By Jake

Plunge into Pride

It all started in secondary school, I knew that I was gay but didn't want to accept it or reveal it to anyone in fear that I may be looked upon differently to everyone else.

I suppose I noticed that I was gay when I was about 13/14. Initially I tried convincing myself that it was a phase or that I was bisexual. This obviously wasn't the truth and I knew that I had to speak to my close friends at the time about what I was feeling almost for reassurance and closure really and they were very supportive, well some of them.

Once I started to tell people I could see that many people began treating me differently to how they did before they knew. For example, in the way they spoke to me and looked at me.

This was not an issue until about year 9 in school and had a decent school life up until this point. Then it became an issue with people I was initially friends with. Looking back now I see that they probably were insecure about themselves and if I could tell them now I would always say "be who you are and fuck what people think of you!" Oh, how I wish I'd it done at the time.

After they had started distancing themselves from me and isolated me to just a few friends, they began the typical name calling "faggot, queer" etc. You get the gist of it. Anyway, this became a daily occurrence, I had been brought down so much that I had begun drinking heavily and experimenting with drugs at the age of around 16.

After trying to seek support with what I was going through within school and outside school, I was unsatisfied that they weren't taking me seriously and looking upon me as if I was "just a kid" and in one instance I was actually told by the head teacher that "you can't be gay you're only 16 and this like an episode of Eastenders!"

Coming Out Contd.

After constantly battling with this group and others I eventually gave up going to school towards the end of my school life, I experienced all this for three years with these people and had no support from school. My family were very supportive but weren't aware of the difficulties I was having accepting myself and using alcohol as almost an escape.

I was assaulted during this time for being gay and to me that just seemed like a justified reason to harm someone because people are scared or ignorant to homosexuality. This was reported to the police and again I wasn't taken seriously and just told to change my number.

To conclude I am now 18 and fully acceptant of myself and have learnt to be proud of myself and not care what people think.

My message to anyone that reads this is that you need to be strong and get help if you can't accept it yourself. It is not an easy journey but you will get there in the end. Don't turn to alcohol and drugs as you're just making the issue greater.

I have since learnt that the majority of the people who gave me a hard time have in fact come out themselves, so I guess I was right that they were insecure about themselves.

I am now supporting the North Somerset LGBT Forum and want to help people to accept that being gay is OK, I undertook a sponsored sky-dive on July 25th 2015 to raise money for Weston-Super--mare Pride to encourage people to come and have a good time with other people who have been on the same journey.

If you're given a choice between money and sex appeal, take the money. As you get older, the money will become your sex appeal.

Coming Out by Ellen Page

During her emotional coming-out speech at a human rights conference last year, actor Ellen Page criticized the entertainment industry for its unattainable standards of gender, beauty, and success.

Despite the pressure to conform to Hollywood expectations, the 28-year-old *Inception* star credits her latest film for giving her the courage to come out as a lesbian. In a recent interview with *Out* magazine, Page said her role portraying real-life gay rights advocate Stacie Andree inspired her to be more transparent about her own sexual identity.

"I remember thinking, Ellen, how in God's name could you make this film and not be out?" she told the magazine of the biopic *Freeheld*. "What's interesting to me is how long it took to make the movie—for it to finally come together—and how my internal progression toward coming out was naturally in line with it."

Freeheld is based on the true story of the New Jersey couple that overturned a state-wide policy limiting the rights of same-sex domestic partners. A campaign led by Laurel Hester, a New Jersey police lieutenant who passed away in 2006, led to a reversal that allowed police and fire department employees to transfer pension benefits to their partners, and not just legal spouses.

The victory came nearly a decade before the Supreme Court legalized same-sex marriage nationwide in July, a landmark civil rights ruling that Page championed on social media.

"Stacie and Laurel's story is incredibly inspiring and it did take a lot of courage, particularly in a time of such imaginable difficulty," Page told *Out*. "It really did make me go, 'Dude, just tell people you're gay. Just get over yourself, honestly, and support those who are not as privileged.'"

The Canadian actor, who's been attached to *Freeheld* since shortly after her breakout role as a pregnant teenager in 2007's *Juno*, plays Hester's partner, portrayed by Julianne Moore. The film, which is loosely inspired by the Academy Award-winning documentary of the same name, will premiere next week at the Toronto International Film Festival.

Coming Out Contd.

It joins several other movies scheduled for release this year that depict LGBT stories based on real people and historical events. Others include *The Danish Girl*, about one of the first people to undergo gender reassignment surgery, and *Stonewall*, about the 1969 gay rights riots in New York City.

I Talk to the Trees.

Every morning when I awake from my slumber I take a walk before breakfast, this task has become a little longer to arrange as I now need to put an anti- rheumatic cream on to my knees, dispense with the hearing aids if its windy, and wrap up warm with a scarf etc. if its cold. But it is a great way to start your day and can put you in the right frame of mind for the day ahead. Now I usually start off with the decision which direction should I go, for you always need to walk in a circle, so as not to make the exercise become tedious. While out walking I tend to start talking to myself which then becomes louder as the walk continues. To many people who may come across me at this time, my reply if I notice them is “ oh I am talking to the trees” this normally keeps them happy. On the next day’s walk, the issues I have been blabbing about to the trees the previous day are miraculously answered. I can be seen often rushing back home having been told the answers to my ramblings and needing to write them down. One of these questions recently is, when I am married will my new husband and I be able to embrace or hug or kiss when ever we wish whilst out and about in public? I am still awaiting the answer from the trees.

Colin

An archaeologist is the best husband a woman can have: the older she gets the more interested he is in her.

A Retrospective

Cottaging a Guide

A tongue in cheek view of the past! Cottaging is an unusual sport. The rules are varied, although often ignored, it requires stamina and physical fitness to be done. However all Cottaging begins with the:-

PREPARATIONS

These vary with the seasons. At this time of year our intrepid cottager starts his preparations with proper clothing. Underwear must be brief, but negotiable. Torso coverings must be warm but not cumbersome.

DEFINITELY NO winter woollies or long johns.

Crepe soled shoes are required for in-cottage silence and have good road holding properties (especially in the dark). Rainwear is (optional) but should not be of the plastic variety. For evening and night-time manoeuvres a uniform of the sober tone is compulsory.



Suggested optional extras include :-

Colour coded, cross indexed handkerchiefs and teddy bears for day wear;

A Retrospective Part Two

Roller skates for a quick getaway ; KY for a well oiled machine—now he’s ready as he will ever be for:

ACTION

Now our intrepid cottager is ready for anything and everything. Once ensconced in his cottage he must be fully alert to the dangers and excitements ahead. Those he has a close affinity to will be indicated by:

1. Their queenly gait; 2. Their obviously over-macho image; 3. those so close to the urinal, they must be pissing down their trouser leg; 4. the winkers, toothless smilers and lip lickers.

THE KILL

When he has chosen his victim the cottager has two choices: 1. Flaunt his wares with gay abandon in hope of rapid in-cottage satisfaction; desert the clinical confines for a more secular approach and “coffee” at his place.

Resplendent in his post-coital bliss the cottager can contemplate the risks taken:

1. “Soliciting for an immoral purpose” and “acts of gross indecency are both criminal offences; fines prison sentences and ruined careers are frequent by-products of Cottaging.
2. NSU, VD, Gonorrhoea, Herpes, Hepatitis, Syphilis, along with a host of other common diseases can easily be contracted should your partner be a sufferer.
3. Blackmailers, muggers and “queer bashers” thrive on the closeted cottager.

A comment for today, have things really changed? HIV is now treatable but some of the other STD’s are not so easily treated, also “Chemical sex” is used a lot more these days than ever before but the precautions you need to take have not changed. Editor

Miscellaneous

In 1982 Hungary was thought to be the most liberal of the “Eastern Bloc” countries, and it’s internal liberalism seemed to extend to it’s LGBT community.

A sticker in a toilet was translated to read (Homosexual Budapest) a group for mutual support and social activities along with a contact telephone number, another GayWest like organisation!

The club and disco scene existed and in 1958 while drawing up a new constitution and a basic legal framework, the Hungarian Parliament decided that there should be a lower age of consent for the gay community (14 and for the heterosexual community (18).

The rationale for this was that gays don’t cause problems with unwanted babies, however, it took the authorities another 12 years to recognise the existence of gays. The main “moral” concern of the Hungarian authorities was prostitution and provided that gays avoided it, they would probably be tolerated.

Maybe some of you have a more up to date version of the current views and acceptance of all gays in Hungary.

Let’s hear from You!

Groping Women-make barmen ditch their kilts!

Barmen in a Scottish pub have stopped wearing kilts because they’re fed up with being sexually harassed by rowdy women.

It is obviously not a gay pub, maybe they might enjoy it more if it had been men doing the groping!

The men are now wearing trousers after too many attempts being made to see what they wore underneath their kilts.

There is always someone who spoils things for everyone else.

Miscellaneous

Woman's Soccer stars sends message to fellow Christians. “ Love Conquers All “



In the style of Romeo and Juliet, a gay Canadian footballer and her American opponent have tied the knot – right after the World Cup. Canada’s star goalkeeper Erin McLeod, and American player Ella Masar, got married this week. The two play together on the Houston Dash.

Masar wrote on Instagram an amazing response to how she can support Canada when she is from the US.

She said: “People have been asking me how I can root for Canada when I am American, however, for me it’s an easy answer. She is my family and my family are all my reasons. For that alone I will forever be proud, support, and cheer.

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 04 Oct 2015 Incredible Hulks, Sharpness, Gloucestershire This moderate, mostly flat walk of around 7.5 miles, takes in the countryside around the still active Sharpness docks in Gloucestershire. Fine views from the marina up to the Severn Bridge.

Sun 18 Oct 2015 South Cotswold Round. A walk of seven miles from Hawkesbury Upton, taking in a variety of Cotswold scenery. Generally easy paths and short stretches on country lanes, with one steep ascent. Please bring a packed lunch. There is a pub at the end of the walk for drinks or meals.

It is sad to report the death of Oliver Sacks

Dubbed The “Poet Laureate of Medicine” his work being depicted in the film “Awakenings” with Robin Williams as Sacks and Robert De Niro as his patient, although it did not have a happy ending was the true story of his work as a Neurologist.

Born in London, attended Oxford in the fifties where at 21 he realised was gay, he told his father, this did not go down too well, after which he went to Canada. He moved around, which included San Francisco and Los Angeles when he worked at UCLA hospital. He indulged himself in the sexual promiscuity of the 60’s gay scene, but realised this was no good for him and became celibate, and it was not for 40 years, in 2008 he met and fell in love with Billy Hayes, a writer. He died at 82 years of Cancer.

GayWest Events and prides

September	Sunday 27th	Celebrating Age at The M. Shed GW have a stall
October	Wednesday 14th	Bristol Pub Evening 8pm Old Market Tavern
	Saturday 17th	GayWest Auction 11am
	Wednesday 28th	Bath Pub Evening 8.30pm Mandalyns
November	Friday 6th-8th	Bristol Leather West Pride Old Market
	Wednesday 11th	Bristol Pub Evening 8pm Old Market Tavern
	Friday 20th	Transgender Remembrance Day
	Wednesday 25th	Bath Pub Evening 8.30pm Mandalyns

Business

GayWest Membership
Application or Renewal Form

Complete this form and return it with your payment details to:- Treasurer
The Minimum Annual Fee for **Single Membership** is **£15.00**
Renewal Fees for existing member categories,
Joint Members is £20, for Concessionary Members £10

Please indicate your preferred payment method **Bank Transfer,**
Annual Direct Debit, Standing Order or Cheque.
Bank Sort Code = 30 90 54 Account No.= 01628599

Please use your Surname as the reference. Cheques are to be made payable to
"Bath GCO" P.O. Box 586 Bath. BA1 2YQ Email Address = info@gaywest.org.uk
Please be assured that all your personal details will be kept strictly confidential.

Full Name:-

Address:-

Post Code:- Tel. No:-

Mobile No:- Date:-

Email Address:-

Signature:-

JP July 2015 Send / Submit

Instructions:- For New and Existing members

Please circle the amount you are paying and tick the box for the method you wish to use. Complete your personal details and send by post or go to www.gaywest.org.uk, click on "Become a Member" where you can then complete the form On-line.

Business

The GayWest Auction Saturday 17th October at 11am

Please bring your saleable items and bring plenty of money so that you can get a real bargain, all proceeds go to GW Funds.

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

Books to look out for:-

“ OUT OF THE FIRING LINE, INTO THE FOYER”

A Memoir By Bruce Copp (History Press £17.99)

The foodie who “camped” things up for the stars

A book of life experiences, as far back as his parents hotel in Weston-Super-Mare, his War time experiences, some serious and some very camp, also his post war experiences in catering in and around the Theatres of the West End, with many references to the people and places he has come across, and now as a very spry 95 year old, can still relate many of the very funny things that have happened to him throughout his life and the Theatre.

Kid Gloves: A Voyage Round My Father

A Memoir By Adam Mars-Jones (Particular Books £16.99)

One of the authors in The GayWest Library, story of his “coming out “as gay to his family and the attitudes and events that occurred, from the amusing to the sad, death of his 26 year old lover, his mother and later his father. His books in our Library need further looking into, maybe a review is over due.

Weston-Super-Mare Pride

Seeing that it has not been the best of summers this year the day of the pride was a gorgeous sunny day which put every one in a cheerful mood. The theme of the day was celebrating 150 years of Alice in Wonderland. Those of us from GayWest had a good day but we were disappointed that the event lacked support from the community it was put on to represent. A lot of hard work goes into a successful pride but it will fail and vanish with the apathy that was evident.



Colin and Jim

