



**Get together this winter with a new companion, meet
every Saturday at The Rainbow Café in Bath.**

GayWest Magazine

November 2015

£1.00

Chairs Blog

Welcome to November, it is difficult to believe how quickly this year has gone by. I am writing this after our A.G.M. which was very well attended this year, you can read more later on this edition's "business section."

Since my last blog, my personal life has changed from being a single man to be a very happily married man with a wonderful new husband.

So I would like to thank all those LGBT people out there who through their hard work and determination brought about the equality laws that have allowed this to happen, and I am not talking about any particular political party, it's about those individuals who believed in and fought for justice for LGBT men and women.

My new husband and I are looking forward to many years together made possible by these changes. There is still a need to fight for the rights of Gay People in all countries around the world. I have been lucky to have a family that has accepted me for who I am, and my sexuality, after coming out in middle age. But not everyone can be so lucky, so we as an organisation must still give our support and help where we can to those individuals who may still be in the closet for fear of what society, family or the Church may think of them.

In February next year I have been invited, along with long standing members of GayWest to attend the National LGBT History month celebrations being held at the M Shed in Bristol. We will be talking about Gay West's own history, (over forty 40 years) yes it really is that long), Thanks must go to the many Committee members over the years for all their hard work in keeping the group going.

Today the group still has the same values along with it's more social side and in my short time as a member I have seen many find happiness and support from other members with their caring attitudes. Christmas is not far away, so later on in this edition you will find details for this year's Dinner, to be held on Friday 11th December at The Pavilion in Victoria Park, Bath. **A GayWest Event not to be missed! Colin**

Celebrating Age Festival

On a Sunday morning at what seemed to be the crack of dawn we awoke to the distant sound of a mobile phone alarm. The date was the 27th September 2015 and we had to get moving to be at the M-Shed in Bristol at 8.30am, On a Sunday!

When we arrived we were welcomed by very friendly stewards who showed us where we had to set up our stall for the event. This was in the main events room on the second floor stand 12. From the moment we arrived the whole atmosphere was buzzing with talk and laughter.

The event was played out on all floors with music supplied by solo singers, to choirs. All types of organisations were present ranging from Age UK, befriending, housing, charities and many other groups giving help and advice and how to get involved with all sorts of different activities.

Our GayWest stand was very busy and we almost ran out of publicity leaflets and spent a great time chatting to many different visitors, from a chap in his eighties who loves to do sky diving for charity to those of more genteel pursuits such as the stain glass art, and bowls. Thanks to those of you who came along and said hello and to the many charities and groups that we met.

I did however get dragged away to be interviewed on one of the many local radios present. GayWest is becoming known as a group that is worth being a member of and where many single or lonely gay people can get involved with and make new friends.

It was a very good day and an event that we will certainly like to be involved with in 2016.

Colin & Jim

Contact us on

GayWest PO Box 586, Bath. BA1 2YQ

www.gaywest.org.uk Email : - info@gaywest.org.uk

Facebook is back—gaywest.org.uk

Also on Twitter —gaywest Social

GAYWEST

Cruising down the river on a Sunday afternoon !

Well, not quite, 10 discerning members took a trip on Saturday 12th September down the river from Bath to Bathampton. The event was organised by Michael and we were blessed when the sun came out just at the right time, which helped to make it a very enjoyable afternoon.

We called into the George in Bathampton for a drink or two and then some went back on a return boat trip while the remainder walked the canal path back to Bath. A good trip out, thanks Michael.

Computer Viruses! Alert. We have encountered a couple of serious viruses, so when sending us items, please make sure your sources are secure, we will do our best at this end. Jim (Editor)

Coming Out—is never easy!



“Honestly darling. When I said I felt an overwhelming urge to “come out” - I meant of the EU!”

Annual Dinner

GayWest Annual Dinner

Friday 11th December 7.15pm

Starters

- | | | |
|-------------------------|----|--------------------------|
| Liver Pate | or | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Smoked Salmon | or | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Broccoli & Stilton Soup | | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Main Courses

- | | | |
|--------------------|----|--------------------------|
| Roast Turkey | or | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Roast Lamb | or | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Poached Salmon | or | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Moroccan Nut Roast | | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Desserts

- | | | |
|-----------------------|----|--------------------------|
| Christmas Pudding | or | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Fruit Pavlova | or | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Chocolate Mousse Cake | | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Members £20.00

Non-Members £25.00

Book early to avoid disappointment

Complete and return by 4th December

Theatre Review

Kinky Boots. Back in June we reported on the 2006 film production of Kinky Boots, this has captured the imagination of many, but it was a drama without music. It is now to be seen as a musical on the West End stage and this week it has been nominated for an award.

If you can imagine a somewhat run down factory in Northampton churning out old-fashioned shoes that nobody wants to buy, this then, is the setting for Kinky Boots which is based on a true story. Charlie the son of the proprietor, Mr. Price, wants nothing to do with the chaos, and with his girlfriend leaves to live in London. On arrival he is greeted with the news that his father has passed away, and that he must return immediately to take over the running of the business.

This he does with much reluctance and begins to look at ways of turning the company around and to make it viable. The answer appears in the unlikely form of a black Drag Queen, Lola, a cabaret artiste with her troupe of six outrageous but athletic drag queenettes.

Lola wants red calf-length boots with stiletto heels that will take the weight of herself- a grown man- Charlie and Lola together design the boots that she requires following many mishaps in the factory. She also wants similar boots quickly for her queenettes. The new footwear needs to be shown for potential world-wide markets, and attendance at a Milan shoe exhibition is crucial for long term success. There are no less than 15 songs in the show many of them performed by the glamorous queenettes: they are simply superb with their fantastic make-up, colourful costumes/ frocks, athletic high-kick dancing and comedy routines. There is of course sexual innuendos but no smut or decadence. With music and lyrics by Cyndi Lauper, book by Harvey Fierstein, and MATT HENRY as Lola this show is a sure-fire hit. For a good night out at the theatre, I would not hesitate to recommend this seductive show. Antony

Another Retrospective

New York was once littered with public bathhouses. The last of them closed in the 1970s. But one can still find many of the buildings they used to occupy in plain sight. The old bathhouse on E. 11th Street near Avenue B and what is now called the Brooklyn Lyceum on Fourth Avenue in Brooklyn are two prominent examples.

This off-white, not so terribly grand looking structure was the Everard Baths. It was not a public bath, but a commercial bath. It operated from 1888 to 1985. It was founded by James Everard, a wealthy financier brewer. The building actually had a previous purpose, as a church. So I guess the building itself is actually older than 1888. At the time, 28th Street was a swell location. The theatre district was in nearby Herald Square and there were many swanky hotels in the area. Everard had private "steam cabinets" and several different styles of bathhouses. The place had a rocky history. (All bath houses did. Get a bunch of naked strangers in one building and something untoward is bound to happen eventually.) A soldier was found dead here in 1898. A manager and nine patrons were arrested in 1919 for lewd behaviour. Another raid came the next year.

In 1921, the baths were sold to one Abraham Harawitz, who promised \$100,000 in improvements.

By the 1920s, it became a gathering place for the gay community. Some of its celebrated patrons included Emlyn Williams, Alfred Lunt, Gore Vidal, Rudolf Nureyev, Truman Capote, Larry Kramer, Ned Rorem and Lorenz Hart. As such, it is perhaps the most written-about gay bathhouse in New York history.

Tragedy struck on May 25, 1977, when a fire broke out. Nine people died. Amazing the two destroyed floors were rebuilt and the baths reopened, but Mayor Ed Koch closed Everard for good in April 1986. In recent years, the space has been many things. I went to a play here in the late '90s.

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

Sunday 1st November 2015 —Ebbor Gorge and Wells An interesting and varied walk of approximately 7 miles taking in Ebbor gorge: Wookey Hole Village: with a steep climb to Arthur's Point, then onto Wells with a stop for a picnic lunch and a grand view of Wells Cathedral.

Sunday 15th November 2015 -Less Famous Bath Walk A 6 mile tour of some of Bath's Lesser known, but still interesting places. Bring a packed lunch. After the Walk, the 2016 local GOC group will have their event planning meeting this will take place at a local pub.

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.**

GayWest Events and Prides

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
December	Tuesday 1st	WORLD AIDS DAY
	Wednesday 9th	Bristol Pub Evening 8pm Old Market Tavern
	Friday 11th	GayWest Annual Christmas Dinner at The Pavilion, Bath. Reception 7.15pm for 8pm.
	Wednesday 23rd	Bath Pub Evening 8.30pm Mandalyns
January 2016	5th,6th &7th	Russian State Ballet of Siberia (Nutcracker, The Snow Maiden, and Swan Lake)
March 2016	1st—5th	Matthew Bourne's Gothic re-write beguiling and true Sleeping Beauty

Business

**The Annual General Meeting
was held on Saturday September 19th 2015
It was the best attended A.G.M.
with 25 members being present.**

The Chair welcomed everyone and thanked the Committee for their work over the year and gave a short report on GayWest business, and thanked Paul Hunter for taking the minutes.
Brian gave the financial report for the year.

The Nominations for the Committee

All the Committee was willing to stand for another year and were nominated in bulk to continue for another year, this being proposed, seconded and passed by the members present.

The GayWest Constitution

The 2015 update of The GayWest Constitution was proposed and seconded, with a few minor changes, and passed by the members present, and is in the process of being typed up and will be proof read before being circulated to all members.

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

Business

GayWest Committee Members

Chairman / Assistant Magazine Editor	Colin O'Brien
Rainbow Café Chief Host	Antony Russell
Secretary / Treasurer	Brian Milligan
Events	Michael Reid
Magazine Editor	Jim Phimister
Membership Secretary	Jim Phimister
Out reach Officer	John Martin

Website Sub-Committee

Facebook / Twitter Administrator	John Martin
Facebook / Twitter Editor	Colin O'Brien
Website Manager	Michael Reid

*The next committee meeting will be held on
Tuesday 17th November
No meeting has been arranged for December
And a provisional date of 19th January 2016*

GayWest Wedding of the Year

