

Gay West



LGBT History Month



Member's Magazine February 2016

In Print - On-line - Mobile

LGBT History Month

The National LGBT History Month for 2016

A Talk about GayWest:

We may not spill the beans,
we might not dish the dirt, and
we probably won't spread the gossip,
but GayWest will tell you
what we've been up to in the last 40-years.

A talk by **Colin O'Brien** and **James Whatmore**
highlighting GayWest's history, activities and
its successful Rainbow Café for the LGBT
Community.

Sunday 21 February 2016

Studio 2 at 13:40hrs

M-Shed, Bristol

Chair's Blog

Welcome to February, already here we are in the second month of a new year and I am sure that as we get older, the days and years seem to go faster. However this month will whiz by as there are many things happening in the world of GayWest.

Most of you will be aware that February is the month for History in the LGBT Calendar and this year GayWest is involved with the 2nd Annual National History event at the M-Shed, also we will be having a display of our own History at the Rainbow Cafe throughout the month. There will also be a History walk presented by one of our members, of Bath's past Gay History Heritage, **not to be missed! See page 4.**

GayWest over the years has given support to organisations and individuals and continues to do so. Our Outreach Officer has been involved with GBT groups that have been set up in Ashfield, Leyhill and Dartmoor Prisons giving advice and support to these groups. We are also helping with Housing Associations as they work to change the attitudes to all in the Gay Community who need housing and care in the community.

Already this year we have our pitches booked for Gloucester Pride and Bristol Pride and will also be at Weston-S-Mare Pride, between each event there is only about three weeks duration so it's a busy time for your committee; so if any of you would like to help with these events then please get in touch via the usual ways.

We are still in the process of getting information on how to get the best from your GayWest website member's areas so when all is ready and we are happy with it we will be rolling out the details to those who wish to find out more.

Happy reading, Colin.

Contact us on:- GayWest PO Box 586, Bath. BA1 2YQ

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

Facebook :- gaywest.org.uk Twitter :- [gaywest social](#)

LGBT History

LGBT History Bath Walk, Sunday,

28 February 2016, 2pm - 3.30pm

M eet at the War Memorial at the entrance to Royal Victoria Park, Queen's Parade, Bath BA1 2NJ

A walk around the Centre of Bath, pointing out the buildings and monuments which have LGBT associations, either as places where people socialised or as meeting places for the LGBT movement over the last sixty years. The walk should last about an hour and a half and finish back by the War Memorial, with the option of warming up in a local tea-shop. Led by Robert Howes of Gay West. Contact: 0775 881 0134/info@gaywest.org.uk

This is a free event but a donation to Outstories Bristol/Gay West would be welcome.

During the month of February GayWest will be running an exhibition at The Rainbow Café of past photos and information of GayWest and LGBT history.

The 2nd National Festival of Lesbian, Gay and Transgender History 2016

The Presentations range from :-

Coming Out, to Drag, to Gay Liberation, Sexual Revolution right through to Religion and how they have all affected today's gay population.

Don't forget to attend the talk about GayWest, where we will not spill the beans or gossip! It should be very interesting.

Gay and lonely Life

In one of my blogs last year I mentioned problems associated with being on your own and feeling lonely. I have come back to this subject as there are many reports out that show there seems to be an increase in loneliness in the UK. One survey shows that there are over 7.6million single occupied homes alone.

The problem is made worse if you are Gay and more so if that person is elderly and maybe still in the closet. Difficult for young men who have just come out and having problems with acceptance by other family members and friends.

There are huge problems with those who are Gay and are / or have been members of a Church, very few religions accept someone who is homosexual although nowhere in the ancient scripts of any religion is homosexuality mentioned as such a word did not exist.

So both these problems are man made and can only be solved by everyone being more tolerant of each other and respecting that everyone is entitled to a life.

When I came out to my family and friends and leaving my family home it was the first time in my life that I was living on my own and there were times when you think that no-one cares about you or who you are.

This can throw up another problem. I began going out drinking on a large scale, nice for a while having social contact and a drink or two but it does not solve the problems of being alone. I was lucky within four months of coming out I joined GayWest and this decision changed my life for the better. With the social media and the internet many of the social clubs and similar organisations have gone and although you can maybe find a companion or future friend or lover on-line, meeting people face to face is still the best way for us all.

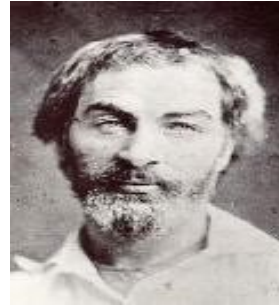
So if you know someone who you think may be feeling a little lonely why not drop by and say hello it could mean a lot to them.

Colin

Gay Icons

Walt Whitman (1819-1892) *American poet*

Leaves of Grass (1855).major influence on modern American poetry, celebrates the love of comrades, esp. homoerotic passages in the Calamus section. Male nurse during the Civil War. The poet of democ-



Rosa (Marie Rosalie) Bonheur (1822-1899) *French animal painter*. Became famous after exhibiting her large painting *Horse Fair*, leading to a prosperous career. Granted permission by the police to dress in men's clothes. Awarded Le-

Cecil Rhodes (1853-1902) *British-South African imperialist, philanthropist*. Owner of De Beer diamond company, Prime Minister of the Cape Colony (1890-1896), extended British control over South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe (originally named "Rhodesia" after him). Never married, had series of lover-like relationships with young men appointed as his secretaries. Used his immense fortune to establish the Rhodes Oxford Scholarships.



Tamara de Lempicka (1898?-1980) *Polish painter* Cubist/Art Deco portraits of the upper classes, e.g. herself behind the wheel of a streamlined Bugatti, seductive and transgressive, bisexual. Popular revival since 1980s, many reproductions sold in art/poster shops.

Notes from History

L eading Russian composer of the 19th century, considered the master of classical ballet, Tchaikovsky's work remains some of the most beloved music ever written. His ballet "The Nutcracker" is a perennial favourite, performed all over at Christmas time. His "Sleeping Beauty" was adopted by Disney's animated feature of the same name, Swan Lake, Romeo and Juliet the 1812 overture-all these are among the best known staples of classical music.

American boy marine bands belt out the 1812 as one of their favourite pieces, do you think they know it was written by a Gay man, should we mention it to them.

Love and sex between men and men has always been part of the human experience, but the way homosexuality has been understood by any given culture and by the people of power involved, has varied widely with time and place.

Golden Greeks

In the west the best documentary evidence for homosexuality during ancient times comes from the Greco-Roman period. For more than a 1000 years, classical Greek civilization and its heir, Imperial Rome, reigned supreme throughout Europe, the near east, and North Africa. In its myths and legends, homosexuality appears side by side with heterosexuality.

Although many writers have characterized this period as a golden age of homosexuality, the Greeks themselves had no concept of a gay lifestyle, and no word in their language to describe such a choice.

Into the darkness

Christianity is often blamed for the persecution of homosexuals that occurred in the west in the centuries following the collapse of the Roman Empire, but there is nothing in the original doctrine expounded by Jesus of Nazareth that rules against homosexuality.

There are too many other notable gay men and women to include here, but I will try and do another article in a later edition.

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 07 Feb 2016 Goblin Combe between Bristol and Weston-s-Mare
A walk of 5.25 miles through Goblin Combe and Corporation Woods. This is a woodland walk with some views from the crags. Wildlife, including deer, has been seen here. Under the yew trees of Goblin Combe grows the rare moonwort fern, which alchemists believed would help them turn mercury into silver. None spotted on the pre-walk, so all eyes open on the main walk ! There is one steep climb up earth steps near the start of the walk. It is likely that parts of the walk will be muddy. Please bring a packed lunch. There is a possible visit to the Lord Nelson pub after the walk.

The Rainbow Café

The Rainbow Café meets every Saturday Morning

From 10.30am -12.30pm

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

January 2016

Wednesday 27th **Bath Pub Evening 8.30pm**
Mandalyn's

February

Wednesday 10th **Bristol Pub Evening**
Old Market Tavern 8.00pm

Friday 19th - Sunday 21st

National Festival of LGBT History at M.Shed

There are events all over the country which promise to educate, celebrate and entertain. Open to the whole family, with a range of events covering theatre, film, talks and presentations.

DON'T MISS the GayWest presentation
in Studio 2 at 1.40pm on Sunday 21st February.

Wednesday 24th **Bath Pub Evening 8.30pm**
Mandalyn's

March 1st - 5th Matthew Bourne's

Gothic re-write beguiling and true Sleeping Beauty

Bristol Hippodrome

Wednesday 9th **Bristol Pub Evening**
Old Market Tavern 8.00pm

Wednesday 23rd **Bath Pub Evening 8.30pm**
Mandalyn's

Press Cuttings

The latest from the Political front....

Did you ever feel the need to change your gender !

Well, now you can....

A report from a committee of MPs is expected to recommend that the over 18s should be able to change their gender simply by filling out an application form, making it a lot easier than at present. Other countries already allow people to declare their gender in this way, they include Ireland, Malta, Argentina and Denmark.

The Transgender Bestseller...

That everyone is talking about. "The Art of being Normal"

By Lisa Williamson

"a life-changing and life-saving book"

It Is an engrossing, moving exploration of gender, identity attraction and just what it means to be "normal".

Available from Waterstones

NEWS FLASH!

Why not invite all your friends to a Toss Off (pancake) Party.
For Pancake day 9th February in aid of a good cause.

The Terrance Higgins Trust

Sign up to Toss Off at tht.org.uk/tossoff

What's round, aggressive and very bad tempered?

A vicious circle.

TREEFEST at ST MARY REDCLIFFE

It was in December 2014 that I first found out about the TREEFEST at St Mary's Redcliffe, Bristol and so I visited 'the most beautiful church in Bristol' to see the Christmas trees on display.

Made and created by individuals, schools, charities and business I was impressed with the variety and sheer ingenuity of some of the 80 or so exhibits. design and December 2015.

I bought a garden obelisk, entire frame I bias tape. Then hung 84 golden (each 35mm lower circular one-twelfth



ure of a male a grand piano aplomb: along-were lots of quets of roses. - to conceal the stabilising weight - I fixed a dark green apron which had gold stars printed on it. To finish I displayed a CD of my late partner George (professional name MANTLE CHILDE) who had been a professional classical pianist of the highest order.

The whole event was a celebration of Christmas and a time to remember loved ones. Antony

Brigstowe project

**Are you HIV positive and struggling
with your diagnosis?**

Could talking to someone also be a positive help?

Brigstowe Project run a peer support service where you regularly meet with a mentor. This person is HIV positive, can offer a listening ear, share experiences and give advice to support you.

If you think talking to someone who has been through what you are experiencing would help, or you would just like to hear a little more about this service, please get in touch.

This service is available in Bath, Bristol, South Gloucestershire and North Somerset.

Contact us: 0117 9555038 info@brigstowe.org

www.brigstowe.org

