

**MINUTES OF GAYWEST COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON THURSDAY 17th MARCH 2016**

In Attendance:

Colin O'Brien (Chair)
Michael Reid (Events Co-ordinator)
Brian Milligan (Secretary/Treasurer)

John Martin (Outreach Officer)
Jim Phimister (Membership Secretary)
Antony Russell (Cafe Host)

1. **Apologies for Absence**

1.1 There were no apologies for absence.

2. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

2.1 These were agreed and approved as accurate.

3. **Matters Arising**

3.1 Michael has had a positive response from "Lads Locker Room", who are expected to confirm the following discounts for GW members provided a GW membership card is shown when paying the entrance fee. The Wednesday fee will reduce from £6 to £5, a saving of £1; on other days, a discount of £2 will be applied for GW members.

3.2 The Mayor of Bath, Will Sandry will visit the cafe this coming Saturday at 11am.

4. **Chair's Report**

4.1 The security paperwork for continuing Leyhill Prison visits has been completed and was passed to Antony for onward transmission to Eric Baldwin for his counter-signature.

4.2 On 18th June we will attend an Awareness event organised by the Mayor of Midsomer Norton, after which the film "Pride" will be shown.

4.3 A letter of thanks has been received for Colin and James Whatmore's contribution to the 2nd National LGBT History Festival at the M Shed. Colin reported that it had gone very well and that about fifty people attended their presentation and the discussion which arose from it.

4.4 Our membership of the Bristol LGBT Consortium has been registered. They have agreed to promote GayWest's activities and events.

4.5 On-line banking and debit card payments should be investigated.

4.6 The GayWest domain name has been renewed at a cost of £6-99 per annum.

4.7 BBC2 have commissioned a film to mark the 50th anniversary of the 1967 Sexual Offences Act. It will be a mixture of drama and personal testimonies of the gay experience pre-1967. They have asked anyone willing to speak to them and assist for research purposes to contact Harry Pick on 07429 555616 or harry.pick@bbc.co.uk

4.8 We have been invited to participate in Age UK's Celebrating Age Festival on 25th September. The theme is "100 Ways to Happiness" and each stand holder is encouraged to provide a postcard which can be given out to visitors with a creative or novel idea on how they can be happier. Colin has already submitted our application together with two postcards.

5. **Secretary's Report**

5.1 The only communication which merits mention is an email from Bristol Ageing Better detailing an initiative to engage older people who are facing loneliness and isolation. Community Kick-Start Funding will allow 24 new initiatives to be set up in Bristol. They are particularly keen to encourage bids to support people from black and minority ethnic backgrounds, lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans people and people with dementia.

6. **Treasurer's Report**

6.1 The latest bank statement dated 4th March shows a balance of £5,283-39. Once outstanding bills and credits are taken into account, the balance is £5,149.10

6.2 Our Building Society funds are unchanged at £2,140.88.

6.3 It was agreed that when the treasurer is away and unable to bank the cafe takings, these should be placed in the blue cash box with that week's logsheet for the treasurer to collect at later date.

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7. Outreach Officer's Report

- 7.1 We are still waiting for the Equalities Manager at Dartmoor Prison to get back to us.
- 7.2 Ashfield have not yet suggested a new date for our visit.
- 7.3 As outlined at para 4.1 above, the security paperwork enabling our continued visits to Leyhill is close to completion. Any work we undertake with LGBT prisoners may attract a small payment. Leyhill were very pleased to accept a copy of Robert's book about GayWest.
- 7.4 "Recoop", the support group promoting the care, resettlement and rehabilitation of older offenders, have given us very positive feedback.
- 7.5 The Brigstowe Project are happy to work with us and have been re-tweeting our tweets about the Rainbow Cafe.
- 7.6 We now have over 1,000 followers on Twitter.

8. Events Co-ordinator's Report

- 8.1 Michael had an enthusiastic response to the visit questionnaire he circulated at the Rainbow Cafe on 27th February. 21 people responded and the most popular was a visit to the National Art & Natural History Museum in Cardiff. Almost equally as popular were a visit to St Fagan's National History Museum at Cardiff, Tyntesfield, the Bristol Packet Boat and a picnic in Hanham Woods. After some discussion it was agreed that Michael would make further enquiries about the Bristol Packet Boat trips and a visit to Tyntesfield in December. He will also contact the council about a picnic/ barbecue in Hanham Woods on Sunday 14th August.
- 8.2 It was agreed that a lunchtime Queer Ale event would be held on Thursday 16th June, starting with lunch at Wetherspoons at the Bristol Harbour side.
- 8.2 The after-Pride lunch is on Sunday 10th July at "Catch22", situated at the bottom of Park St.
- 8.3 Michael will have further discussions with Chris Watkins about a Bowling event with GMG.
- 8.4 It was agreed that anyone wishing to participate in any of these events should make their own travel arrangements and book individually where appropriate.

9. Membership Secretary's Report.

- 9.1 Our total membership is now 89, with 8 renewal reminders due to be sent out.

10. Magazine Editor's Report

- 10.1 The April magazine is almost ready for proof reading.

11. Cafe Report

- 11.1 Substantial stocks of filter coffee and coffee sticks have been purchased.
- 11.2 Jim will attempt to procure a free display stand for the specialist teas.

12. Website Sub-Committee Report

- 12.1 As stated at para 4.6 above, our domain name has been purchased, annual cost is £6-99.
- 12.2 Colin will demonstrate the website in an attempt to encourage more members to use it.
- 12.3 We will need to monitor the numbers using the website because of the 50/£30 threshold.

13. AOB

- 13.1 Digiprint can produce an all-colour bi-fold leaflet at a cost of £170 for 500 copies. It was agreed that this is good value for money and Colin invited suggestions for its content.

14. Date of the Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held at 2 pm on Thursday 14th April. A provisional date of 19th May was set for the meeting after that.