

GayWest



Members Magazine

for April 2016

In Print On-Line Mobile

Theatre reviews

Guys and Dolls

During the Autumn of 2014 I travelled to Chichester to see the Festival Theatre's revival of the musical show GUYS and DOLLS: with music by Frank Loesser, it was first produced on Broadway in 1950 to huge acclaim. This new version was a production of sheer delight and entertainment of the highest order. With no less than 15 songs, the story involves a New York syndicate anxious to play a game of crap which, at the time the play is set (1930), was highly illegal. The first "hero" Sky Masterston falls for a Salvation Army Officer Sarah Brown which causes all sorts of problems and misunderstandings.

The second hero is Nathan Detroit who has been engaged to Adelaide for fourteen years and he keeps deferring the wedding. Adelaide is a showgirl – so we are treated to several musical numbers performed with much aplomb by Sophie Thomson – who in her role – has an unfortunate ongoing cold.

The syndicate is involved in all sorts of adventures with the law, and their eventual crucial crap game is played out in the sewers under the city! This is a very energetic number called "Luck Be A Lady Tonight" and the irony is, that the feuding crap baron (Jule) plays with his own dice that have NO dots on them he "having remembered where they were!" There is a happy ending with not one, but two weddings taking place.

In November 2015 the show transferred to London's West End so I could not resist another visit. The second viewing was, in my opinion, even better and certainly provided another wonderful and uplifting evening's entertainment.

Further joy: the show is going on tour and during July 2016 it will be at the Bristol Hippodrome. Booking is now open, see the events page.

Antony

The Glen Miller Story - with Tommy Steele at The Bristol Hippodrome. Good Dancers a live band but Mr Steele was not what you have in your mind's eye, so not as enjoyable as expected. Roy

Chair's Blog

Hi everyone and welcome to April, a time when our weather is warming up (I hope) ;- the nights are longer and summer holidays are just around the corner. Well, as usual, GayWest have lots of events for you to get involved with during these lazy days of spring and summer, and the first to mention are the Pride events we are having a stall at this year. These are Gloucester on June 11th, Bristol on July 9th this year at the Millennium Square, and Harbour side area amphitheatre. Then there is the Weston-S-Mare pride on July 30th ; as these create a lot of work any help would be most appreciated. So just get in touch with anyone from the committee. We have also been invited back for this year's "Celebrating Age Festival" also at the M-Shed on 25th September their theme this year is "Happiness is..." something we want to adopt as well.

There are events being arranged for visits to National Trust venues and other places of interest, also after the success of last year's Bath boat trip we hope to have a similar one in Bristol.

For those of you who enjoy a pint of Real Ale there will be a short walk around Bristol taking in pubs serving the best in ales and also the same in Bath ; these will be under the name of "Queer ale walks" so look out for information on these and all the other events on the GayWest Website and in the Magazine.

You will have also noticed that your magazine has 16 pages this month. This is something we will be doing on a quarterly basis so August will be the next 16 page issue.

Please do let us have any stories you wish to tell. Please send these to Jim your magazine editor by post, e-mail, hand or any other method appropriate, details of address and mail are in this magazine

Have a good month Colin.

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

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



:- www.gaywest.org.uk



:- [www.gaywest social](http://www.gaywest.org.uk)

Members Noticeboard

Theatre Snippets - The Musical of "Mrs. Henderson Presents" is doing well in London's West End. Some of you will have seen it in Bath, the cost of tickets is still a difficulty for some and I think that the theatres may soon be pricing themselves out of business.

Some of you saw The Balletboyz when they were performing locally, They are performing at The Sadler's Wells Theatre on April 20th and are planning a US tour in 2017, so check their dates at [balletboyz .com](http://balletboyz.com)

Aromas - Poppers with various trade names will be illegal to buy from 6th April 2016.

Please note :- It will not be illegal to possess them and they can be stored for years in a cool place as long as the seal remains unbroken.

GayWest Fund Raising

Don't forget to give us your support by bringing something saleable to The Spring Auction on Saturday 23rd April 11am at The Rainbow Café, along with some cash to buy that special item.

Bristol Pride - After Pride Lunch - Sunday 10th at Catch 22 on

College Green, The Menu is mainly fish but has a variety of other food, all freshly cooked for you and all at reasonable prices.

Quotation

“ People imagine I'm camp and outrageous and I wear full make-up and glittery outfits when I'm at home doing the hoovering. In fact, I wear just a touch of raspberry lip balm and a drip-dry kimono, like anyone else”

Julian Clary

Members Noticeboard

DVD's Peccadillo Pictures at www.peccapics.com

The are titles to suit both boys and girls, and some of the titles include :-

Departure, available in Cinemas from April 15th

The Girl King in Cinemas from May 6th

Others to look out for are :- Closet Monster, Embrace of The Serpent, Girls Lost and Theo and Hugo.

Chemsex - Documentary

This is a enlightening film of the dangers of drug use and GayWest has a copy that members can look at. Available from The Rainbow Café.

Saturday 19th March saw the visit of The Worshipful Mayor of Bath Councillor Will Sandry to The Rainbow Café. He did manage to fit in a short talk and praised GayWest for it's longevity and all the important work we have done in the past and continue to do. He stressed the importance of having such an active social group for the LGBT community.

He managed to get round to talk with all present and we all thoroughly enjoyed the morning, and by all accounts so did Will himself. (See Front Page Picture).

Committee Meetings :- 14th April and 19th May at 2pm any member who wishes to attend, please contact Colin on 07758810134

Quentin Crisp

Denis Charles Pratt was born 25th December 1908 in Sutton, Surrey and from an early age realised he was gay and did nothing to conceal it: in fact he wore women's make up and nail polish and wore his hair long and dyed it crimson: his clothes too, were unconventional and his appearance brought a mixture of admiration, curiosity and hostility.

When he left the family home during the 1930's for London, he changed his name to QUENTIN CRISP: he lived in a succession of bed-sitting rooms and frequented the Black Cat Café in Old Compton Street



where he made some acquaintances, but never formed a close relationship with anyone. He worked for some time as a rent boy, charging 7/6d for his services. He failed a journalistic course at King's College and then went on to take art classes at the Regent Street Polytechnic. Although he attempted to join the British Army at the outbreak of WWII, he was rejected on the grounds that he was suffering from sexual perversion.

Quentin Crisp

During the 1941 Blitz, he stocked up on cosmetics and henna and paraded through the black-out picking up kind-hearted American G.I.s.

He moved in to a bed-sitting room in Beaufort Street where he lived for four decades (until he emigrated to the U.S. in 1981). In 1942 he became a model for life classes and continued this form of earning an income for the next thirty years.

He began to write and had published three short books before he came to write the first part of his autobiography *The Naked Civil Servant* in 1968. He was approached by documentary film maker Denis Mitchell which led to the infamous 1973 television version of his memoirs in which John Hurt played the title role – and Quentin too, gained world recognition.

Quentin devised a one-man show based on his memoirs in which he toured the U.K. At the Duke of York's theatre in 1978 in London's West End, his show was sold out, and soon afterwards he took the production to New York. Whilst there he decided to move permanently and in 1981 he arrived with a few possessions and found a small apartment on East 3rd Street in Manhattan.

During the next twenty years or so, he continued to write books, film reviews and newspaper columns. He appeared on television and in numerous films as an actor, notably playing opposite names like Helen Mirren and Sting. In 1992 Sally Potter persuaded him to play Queen Elizabeth I in her film "Orlando" which won him acclaim 'for a dignified and touching performance.'

Sometime after the completion of this film, he returned to the U.K. and whilst visiting Manchester he died of a heart attack. At his bequest, his ashes were flown back to New York to be scattered by a friend Phillip Ward. Quentin Crisp leaves a legacy of documented comments – some witty, some caustic but always down to earth and honest. There are recordings of interviews available on line, and CD's of his voice; his numerous novels and two volumes of his autobiography remain in print.

Valentino 02/2016

Story of Joe.... Part 2

Last month you read about Joe Stonewall. A fictional character born the day of the Stonewall riots, we now continue his story...

Joe goes to school

Joe Stonewall goes to infant school and junior-high in the 1970's. He hits puberty in the early 1980's and turns sweet 16 in the middle of the decade. In many countries he can legally drive a car, leave school to work, marry a girl, and father a child, but in all but a few countries that have never criminalized homosexual acts, he will probably be breaking or "stretching" the law if he has sex with another man. This could be because all same sex acts are illegal, as they still are in many developing countries, even in 20 states of the "land of the free" the U.S.A (pre. 2000)

It could be because he has not reached the "Age of Consent" to have homosexual sex, or because certain acts, which are considered completely legal among heterosexuals, are still deemed illegal between two men. These legal absurdities notwithstanding, Joe, like many of his sexually mature teenage peers, is likely to taste "Forbidden pleasures" with his friends, teachers, or acquaintances he has met in public spaces long before he reaches his country's legal age of consent.

The 1980's were not an easy decade for a gay adolescent. There were of course visible gay communities in all the major cities of the industrialised world, but at this time the so called "gay plague" HIV-AIDS was at its most deadly phase in the west. At this time there were few positive role models with which a young gay man could identify. The disaster that was HIV-AIDS did nevertheless increase the level of awareness of gay people in the wider community. In Europe, at least, health education campaigns reached into every home and school with straight-talking leaflets and television campaigns that left little to the imagination. Fucking, oral sex, frottage, and condoms were all graphically described and explained.

If young Joe Stonewall did not know about millions of other gay men in the world he certainly did by the late 1980's. And he also knew exactly what they did in bed.

Story of Joe.... Continued

Cracking open the closet door: Joe's "Coming out"

As a gay teenager, Joe was among the first generation to be able to count on the support of gay youth groups that offer practical help and companionship through the process of "Coming Out". Groups exist world wide and there have been and still are many here in the UK. Within these groups Joe could find support, obtain counselling and information. Even if he did not have access to a youth group, Joe could have sought support from many gay telephone counselling services-the gay switchboards worldwide - as well as read self -help books about coming out. In the developed world Joe could also count on family support, because his parents would be much less likely than earlier generations to reject their gay son.

9 to 5: Joe goes to work ----to be continued

Lords of Derision

The passage of a law equalizing the age of consent for gay and straight people to 16 in the UK was delayed by the unelected House of Lords in 1999. However, the delay was short-lived, as the British government had to accept a ruling from the European Court of Human Rights that the different ages of consent contravened the European Convention on human rights.

Outreach - Prison NewsLast Month I visited Leyhill Prison with John our Outreach Officer and I was surprised with the open and very rural setting of the Prison. We were made very welcome and the visit was very constructive. We are now in the process of establishing a support group for their gay inmates.

This prison is the final stop before an inmate is released back into the community. It can be very challenging for them getting adjusted to this so this, is where GayWest will come in.

Colin

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 3rd Apr 2016 Cirencester Park

A circular walk of 10.5 miles in undulating countryside which takes in the Broad Ride of Cirencester Park and part of the Thames and Severn Canal on the return leg to Cirencester. Plenty of historical interest. Bring a packed lunch as we only pass one pub en-route probably too late for lunch. Plenty of opportunities for tea afterwards in Cirencester of course!

Fri 22 to Sun 24 Apr 2016 Women only GOC national walking weekend in the Forest of Dean and Wye Valley, based in Chepstow.

Sun 24th Apr 2016 Painswick, the Rococo Gardens & Cotswold Lion

Painswick is known as the "Queen of the Cotswolds", & has the oldest building in England to house a Post Office. The church of St. Mary is renowned for its 99 yew trees. It is said that if one more is planted, the devil destroys it (I counted 103, so he's not exactly busy). This ever changing walk of about 8 miles with a nice pub at the end, offers rolling hills, spectacular valleys, plenty of woodland, rivers & millponds, Spring wild flowers & some fine Cotswold buildings along the way. Great views from Haresfield Beacon. Bring your own food and drink We will finish in time for those who would like to visit the Rococo Gardens nearby.

Members Page

THIS IS YOUR PAGE WHERE YOU CAN VOICE YOUR OPINIONS ON JUST ABOUT ANY SUBJECT AND YOUR MAGAZINE AND IT'S CONTENTS.

We do insert articles which have very different views, so we are not contradicting ourselves, but showing that we do print differing views of our members on a wide range of subjects.

Matthew Hendricks-Birtles is the Official Fund Raiser for *Alzheimer's Society*. Those who have attended the Rainbow will have seen and maybe purchased some of his excellent homemade cards; he would like to thank you as he collected £94.00 last year. (See the Notice and Certificate at The Rainbow).

Matthew would like to thank you all for your support and if you would like to help in some more fund raising, he will be making some more handmade cards at £2.00 each. Special requests will cost more.

Telephone :-01249 658 044

FREE VHS Gay Films to any member who is willing to collect.

Contact Graeme on 07957 454 567

NEWS FLASH.....

The Manager at "The Lads Locker Room" has agreed to offer GayWest Members a **discount** on production of your membership card.

Important Travel News

There will be **NO** trains between Bath and Bristol, and Buses will replace trains from Saturday 2nd to the 10th April 2016.

More information can be found on GWR.com/bristolbath2016

London Pride on Salisbury Plain

Imber is a small village in the middle of Salisbury Plain which was evacuated during the Second World War so that the area could be used as an exercise ground for the Army and has remained in military use ever since.

Occasionally, it is opened to the public and once a year, a group of transport professionals stages an event called Imberbus. A fleet of preserved buses descends on Warminster and then moves to Imber, which becomes the centre of operations for an intensive service to all points of the compass across the Plain, complete with temporary bus-stops and a timetable. Most of the buses are London Route masters and in a recent years Transport for London has sent one of its new buses, variously known as the New Route master or Boris master, after the current

Mayor of London and future Minister the case Boris who had in of an pledge. you can



London Prime (or not, as may be), Johnson, them built fulfilment election For a day, enjoy the

incongruous spectacle of bright red London buses trundling across the empty wastes of Salisbury Plain. For last year's Imberbus (on 22 August 2015), the bus chosen was LT239 which had been given a special rainbow livery to commemorate the 10th anniversary of Outbound, TfL's LGBT staff network group.

As the chair of Outbound said, "Hop on board and Ride with Pride." Curiously, the bus is sponsored by Stagecoach, whose founder and chairman, Brian Souther, organised a campaign against the repeal of Section 28 in Scotland in 2000. Good, then, to read the words of the Managing Director of Stagecoach London: 'We're delighted to be able to support this important TfL project by wrapping one of our world famous buses for the year. This will be a travelling advertisement, spreading the message of diversity to the hearts of our communities and to visitors from across the world. We look forward to the bus raising a smile and awareness wherever it goes.' Let's hope they mean it. Robert

LGBT History M-Shed Report

The LGBT History month held in February, was a very busy few weeks for us. There were several events on, that GayWest had some involvement in. We had our own small display of our History on display on a few Saturday mornings at the Rainbow café, which was very successful. This display consisted of copies of archive material that is stored at the Bristol Records Office and I spent a few interesting weeks putting the material together. While in the process I learnt a considerable amount about the group's history and this was most useful for when we talked about our history at the M-Shed event on February 21st.



Many thanks to those of you who came along to give support, talking at a public meeting was a bit nerve-racking for me so thanks again. I would also like to thank James Whatmore for his fantastic contribution to the M-Shed event.

There was also the Bath History walk put on by Robert Howes which unfortunately I was unable to attend this year, so for those of you, who did I am sure it was a fantastic in-sight into the gay history of Bath.
Colin

GayWest and other Events

April

**Second Wednesdays of each month GayWest's
Bristol Social Evening ; Old Market Tavern 8.00pm**

**Fourth Wednesdays of each month GayWest's
Bath Social Evening ; 8.30pm Mandalyn's**

Saturday 9th SingOut Bristol Concert ;
"Lets Go To The Movies" 7.30pm at
St. George's Church.

Saturday 23rd **Spring Auction 11.00am At the Rainbow Café**

May

A **GayWest Boat Trip** is being organised
details will follow.

Monday 30th - June 11th Priscilla Queen of the Desert

Also a full programme throughout the year
of other titles

Hippodrome Box Office 0844 871 3005

GayWest and other Events

June

Saturday 11th Gloucester Pride, Gloucester
Park, Gloucester.

Thursday 16th **1pm Lunch at Harbourside Wetherspoons
followed by the first “Queer Ale” pub visits around the area.**

Saturday 18th Midsomer Norton Event being organised
More details later.

July

Saturday 2nd Exmouth Pride

Saturday 9th Bristol Pride, Millennium Square, Bristol.

Sunday 10th **1pm After Pride Lunch at
“Catch 22” Restaurant on College Green, varied menu
at reasonable prices.**

Sunday 31st *Puppetry of The Penis ONE NIGHT ONLY*
Bristol Hippodrome

August Sunday 14th **GayWest PICNIC Hanham Woods**
Details to follow

September Sunday 25th at M.Shed Age UK - Celebrating Age

Christmas Time **Tyntesfield visit to be arranged**
(A fabulous Victorian outing)

Girl's Page



Hi Ladies - We try very hard to include a piece for our lady members, but find it very difficult, so please send your articles and pictures for publication to the Editor at info@gaywest.com or by post to GayWest.