

**GayWest Magazine
Special Pride Edition
August 2016
£2.00**



Chair's Blog

Dear readers, welcome to your August magazine. You may just read this before the end of July as the magazine is published a week prior to the end of each month, so you may be able to get to the last event in the July calendar, Weston-S-Mare Pride.

This is an important event for us and as I am writing this in the middle of July so you will have to wait for the September magazine for a report on it. The reason I have mentioned it is that this year has been and still is a very busy time for GayWest and also very exciting.

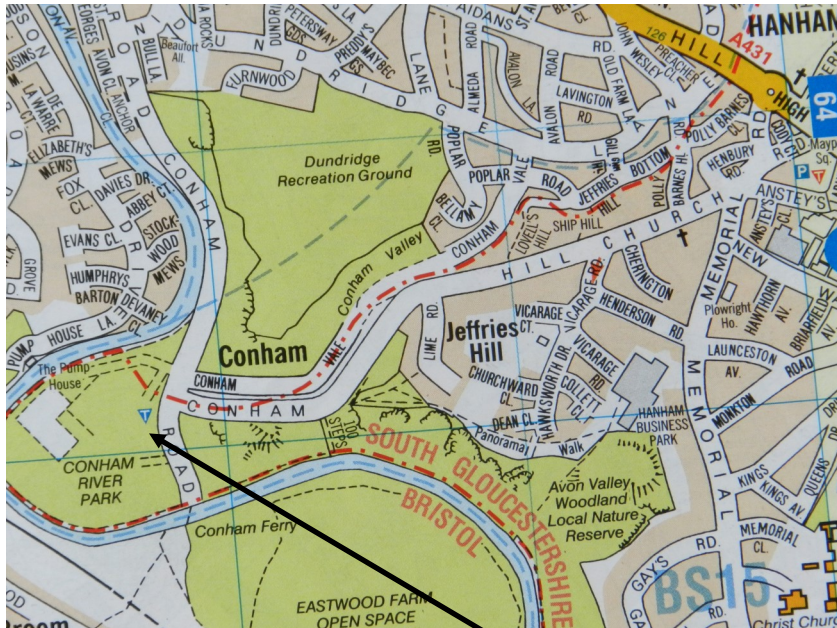
One of the advantages of the group is that we are completely self-funding and all the income we receive is from yourselves and donations. By being self-funding we are in control of our finances, good or bad and are not reliant on council or state grants that can be stopped at any time. We have heard of many LGBT organisations having to disband due to losing their grants this year. Over the last couple of years we have been able to increase our membership and it now stands at almost 90 members. 60% of you receive this magazine online which keeps the printing cost down considerably, however being the generous lot that we are we have splashed out this month on a full colour addition as we celebrate our summer events. There will be a limited number of magazines for sale at the Rainbow Café for £2.00p each, and of course you can download and print as many of them as you wish yourselves.

As I mentioned last month, this September will see the launch of Weston-S-Mares Monthly "Rainbow Cafe", and we were asked if it was okay to use the name.GayWest. We have been working with FFLAG and NS LGBT forum on this project with help from Community Connect who work on getting the whole community involved on projects. See more on this in the magazine.

There is a lot of news from our connections with Ashfield and Leyhill prison GBT groups who we are working with for support and social awareness, and this month John and myself will be attending Leyhill's GBT Forum on the 6th August.

Now back to funding, your Committee have been under enormous pressure to come up with ideas for raising funds, as relying on raffles and book sales does not generate enough to cover all our cost throughout the year. I have some exiting news to tell you of an event next year to celebrate all that's good about our LGBT communities, but that's for next month. so there is lots going on,. I hope you all have a good August with sunny days when you can have a picnic, with GayWest of course. Details in the Magazine. See you soon Colin

GayWest Annual Picnic



Meet at 2pm on Sunday 14th August at Conham River Park (Car Park)

For those using public transport from Bath, unfortunately, since this event was organised there is no longer a 37 bus service on a Sunday or Bank Holiday.

From Bristol Centre or Broadmead take a 45 or 44. Traveling on the 45 get off at Hanham High Street, opposite The Maypole and walk back to Roundabout and left into Memorial Road then first right, Church Road (see map) and follow this down Conham Hill to Conham River Park. The 44 bus turns right at the Roundabout and you will need to get off at the first stop in Memorial Road, Church Road will be on your right. Please note that the buses only run hourly on a Sunday.

Member's Page

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



Above sign spotted by an observant GayWest member

The 401 Marathon Challenge by Ben Smith

You may have seen the collection box in The Rainbow Café. He is undertaking the huge feat in aid of Kidscape and Stonewall.

He will be in Bath on the 7th September and Bristol on the 6th and 20th .

The final three Marathons will be in Bristol on the 3rd, 4th and 5th October 2016 so give all the support that you can. More details to follow.

History of Gay West

There are still a few copies left of Robert Howes's History of Gay West (Gay West: Civil Society, Community and LGBT History in Bristol and Bath 1970 to 2010. ISBN 978-1-906236-75-5). This tells the story of the group's development from its origins as the Bath Gay Awareness Group. More details can be found on the GayWest website.

Entertainment

Firstly it was a book, then a play and now it has been made into a film. **“Holding the Man”** is reported to be the film of the year. Now on Digital HD DVD from Peccapics.com

There is a full programme of entertainment at the Bristol Hippodrome from Guys and Dolls in July 2016

right through to Matthew Bourne - The Red Shoes

Tuesday 4th - Saturday 8th April 2017

An intoxicating drama where life imitates art with fateful consequences; The Red Shoes will dazzle your senses and break your heart. So another one to put in your diary.

Their contact point is :- atgtickets.com/bristol

For their Summer/Autumn Programme

Prices are from £15.00 but will vary, so please check.



Another picture from our summer Boat Trip

Entertainment Reviews

DANNY LA RUE



Born as Daniel Patrick Carroll in Cork City, Ireland in 1927, he attended a local school and was remembered for his liking for art classes and drawing women's fashions. The family moved to Soho in London at the outbreak of war when he was six years old. The family of seven moved then to Kennford in Devon. It was

here that Daniel developed an interest in "am-drams" and it is recorded that as there was a shortage of young females, he was quite convincing as Juliet!

He served in the Royal Navy and matured as a female impersonator, and went on to become a professional drag queen, adopting the name of Danny La Rue. On stage he impersonated Elizabeth Taylor, Zsa Zsa Gabor, Judy Garland, Marlene Dietrich and Margaret Thatcher. In 1964 he opened his own nightclub in London, where he entertained celebrities for the next eight years. He went on to appear in numerous stage revues, pantomimes and films.

In the 1970's Danny spent more than £1 million on the restoration of a country house hotel in Warwickshire. After its sale some twelve years later, he discovered he had been tricked and had lost most of his money.

Unknown to his fans, Danny had for some years, been suffering from prostate cancer: in 2006 whilst holidaying in Spain, he suffered a mild stroke, and thereafter suffered more severe strokes which left him somewhat incapacitated. On 31st May 2009 he died at the age of 81.

Danny is best remembered for elevating drag to an art form. He was buried with his partner of forty years, Jack Hanson in St. Mary's cemetery, Kensal Green in London. Valentino July 2016

A Step back in time

A holiday which takes you back to earlier times...
Stuart and Roy went on a weeks holiday to The Isle of Man, and after booking the tour not really knowing what to expect.

Falling in love with the peace and beauty was a lovely unexpected surprise, no crime, no parking charges, no motorways.

Small country roads leading to exquisite locations, including small beaches, mountain ranges, moorland and small fishing villages.

To be thoroughly recommended.

As with all holiday resorts, they need support to be able to keep going, we stayed in Douglas with it's 2 mile promenade where horse drawn carriages transport you along.

So if you are thinking of somewhere different, Think The Isle of Man.

Smart ass
Two young businessmen in Florida were sitting down for a break in their soon-to-be new store in the shopping mall. As yet, the store's merchandise wasn't in -- only a few shelves and display racks set up.

One said to the other, "I'll bet that any minute now some senior is going to walk by, put his face to the window, and ask what we're selling."

Sure enough, just a moment later, a curious senior gentleman walked up to the window, looked around intensely and rapped on the glass, then in a loud voice asked, "What are you selling here?"

One of the men replied sarcastically, "We're selling ass-holes."

Without skipping a beat, the old timer said, "You must be doing well. Only two left."

Seniors -- don't mess with them. They didn't get old by being stupid!

Bristol



Pride



The Pride Season Reports.....

Weston - S - Mare 30th July This popular Pride returns to Grove Park. The Cost for Adults is £5.00 and the parade leaves The Knightstone Island at 11am.

GayWest is having a stall, please give them your support.

There are over 50 Pride Events throughout the UK also many across the World.

Links include fynetimes.co.uk gaytimes.co.uk

Notice - Join us on Facebook you may find it easier by going to the link at the bottom of our Website home page.

Committee Meetings :-

The Next Meeting is on Wednesday

17th August at 2pm and 14th September

any member who wishes to attend, please contact

Colin on 07758 810 134

Official Notice

When attending GayWest Events, would everyone please make their own way to the venues and book independently where appropriate.

The Pride Season Reports.....

I will remember July 9th 2016 for many years as it was a long hot but interesting day in the life of a GayWest Chairman and those who helped on The GayWest stall. This year the event was held at Millennium square and live music stages at the Lloyd's Amphitheatre and the event was packed solid with wonderful colourful people all day. From dancers and jugglers, drag acts to folk singers and all in-between. The whole atmosphere was one of fun and laughter and companionship.

Here I would like to thank all those from GayWest who came along and helped on our stall, without your help we could not have a stall at these important events in the LGBT Calendar.

We spent much of our time talking to many people from all backgrounds, all age groups and nationalities. One of the prominent views I have though is of the many conversations we had with the younger generations who seemed to have a keen interest in the history of GayWest when they found out how long the organisation had been going for, and our poor Membership secretary has now 36 e-mail contact addresses to send information to, from those who signed our more information clip board. Our new publicity leaflets and post cards were also disappearing fast and also seem to appeal to those a little less senior to many of our members.

My first pride event with GayWest was back in 2011 and since then I have noticed the changes that have come about such as being more family orientated and less LGBT social groups having stalls, but more stalls of a general nature. This is not a bad thing but I do worry that there seems to be a slow demise of LGBT self-funding groups like GayWest ,which is why it is so important for us all to support such groups as ours, so that our younger generation will have the kind of support and friendship that we all have, when they are older.

Overall a great Bristol Pride and well done to the Bristol Pride team who by the way are already planning the 2017 event.

See photos in magazine 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 GOC EVENTS THIS MONTH

Fri 05 to Sun 07 Aug 2016

This year, the GOC Annual Outdoor Gathering is being held at Penryn, near Falmouth in Cornwall. There will be a large choice of walks and outdoor events, all bookable via the GOC web site.

Sun 21 Aug 2016

Vale of Pewsey & the Kennet & Avon Canal

This walk of approx. 9.5 miles follows the Kennet & Avon canal passing many longboats & plenty of canal bird life. Climbing up to the Pewsey Downs, there are many fine views Bring a picnic lunch. Pub at end of walk for a drink and a good lunch menu.

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.gaywestsocial.org.uk)

The Heat's got to us!

A guy goes into the post office to apply for a job.....
The interviewer asks him, "Are you allergic to anything?"
He replies, "Yes, caffeine. I can't drink coffee."

"Ok, have you ever been in the military service?"
"Yes," he says, "I was in Afghanistan for one tour."

The interviewer says, "That will give you 5 extra points toward employment." Then he asks, "Are you disabled in any way?"

The guy says, "Yes. A bomb exploded near me and I lost both my testicles."

The interviewer grimaces and then says, "Disabled in your country's service! Well that qualifies for extra bonus points. Okay.

Looking at the regulations you have got enough points for me to hire you right now.

Our normal hours are from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm.

You can start tomorrow at 10:00 am, and plan on starting at 10:00 am every day."

The guy is puzzled and asks, "If the work hours are from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. why don't you want me here until 10:00 am?"

"This is a government job", the interviewer says. "For the first two hours, we just stand around drinking coffee and scratching our balls. No point in you coming in for that."

Your Electronic Magazine

With the workload of the committee ever increasing, and a website that is generating a lot of interest. I would like to suggest that our members who have their magazine sent by E-Mail and have registered as a member on the website, pick up the magazine from the website directly. This is easy to do and you will be able to read, download or print, not only the latest issue but all back issues since the launch of the website in April 2015.

Also other published items such as committee meeting minutes etc. This would considerably reduce the time and effort in sending the magazine out by E-Mail each month to over 60% of our members.

We always try to aim at having the magazine published on the site by the 1st of each month. There will also be a reminder of this fact in the events boxes on the website's home page

If you wish to receive your publications this way and have registered on the site as mentioned above please let us know by informing us of your E-Mail address and confirming that this is also the address that you have used to register on the website.

Please contact us by E-Mail on info@gaywest.org.uk

We are also looking for those of you who have a good knowledge of I.T. and would like to share this with us, please get in touch as we need your support to move GayWest forward as a strong active social and support group for the LGBT community.

Book and DVD Sale– Saturday August 20th

At the Rainbow Café 11am

Don't miss this GayWest event, bring your money and bags for all your purchases.

GayWest and other Events

Bristol Social Evenings ; Old Market Tavern 8pm

Alternating with The Phoenix in Cabot Circus

and so this month,

August the 10th , our Bristol social evening will be

At The Phoenix

July

Saturday 30th 12pm - 6pm

Weston-Super-Mare Pride

Grove Park BS23 2QJ

August

Sunday 14th 2pm **GayWest PICNIC**

Hanham Woods Bring your luxurious picnic hampers to Conham River Park Picnic Area, off Conham Road, Hanham.

September

Saturday 17th **Annual General Meeting**

Sunday 18th (Date Change) at M.Shed

Age UK - Celebrating Age.

Christmas Time

Tyntesfield visit to be arranged

(A fabulous Victorian outing).

December

Friday 16th **The GayWest Annual Dinner -**

Another event not to be missed.

