



*Gay West Member's Magazine
for September 2016 £1.50p*

Chair's Blog

September is one of my favourite months when the sun's low angle makes breath-taking shadows that excite the artist in me and the last fruits of the summer are ripening. Students back at the schools and universities. What has this to do with GayWest, well, actually nothing at all but it should remind you all that it's time for our Annual General Meeting (AGM) which will be on the 17th of September at 11am at the Rainbow Cafe.

This is your opportunity to have your say and discuss the future of GayWest. You will find nomination forms with this magazine, so that you can nominate members to your next committee.

The Pride events this year were successful for the group and a lot of interesting developments have come about from these. One event in particular was at the Weston-S-Mare Pride this being the launch of the Weston "Rainbow Cafe" on September 10th at the new Gay bar in Weston-S-Mare "Bar Cameo". My husband and I will be at the launch at 2pm so if you can you would be welcome to come along and give your support.

An event for the New Year that we are getting excited about will be a new adventure for us and this will be a fundraising event for GayWest and other LGBT organisations we have joined up with to raise revenue to help keep all our groups going so that we can continue to provide support for the LGBT community.

The event will be named "**Dress to impress with GayWest**" and will also celebrate more than 45 years since GayWest's original formation back in 1971. The event will hopefully take place at the "iconic **Tropicana**" "now famous for the Banksy exhibition" on Saturday 22nd or 29th April 2017. It will be something not to miss and also an important part of raising funds to keep these voluntary organisations going. I can assure you it will be an amazing event.

Colin

Weston-S-Mare Pride Report

Grove Park in Weston-S-Mare, a lovely well laid out park in the old part of the town.

Set out around the park's bandstand and amongst the garden area of the park was the Children's area, along with an acoustic stage.

The main stage being the bandstand where there were some good acts throughout the afternoon and evening appreciated by the large crowd who sat enjoying the music and the sunshine.

Our stall was set up in the community area that looked over the whole proceedings and we had a good view over towards the bandstand.

The atmosphere was good but did feel more like a local town's summer fair rather than a Pride event. There is nothing wrong with this and to have families and children having a good time was a good thing to see. Many of the stalls were of a commercial nature selling rainbow coloured merchandise, and general interest such as housing associations and political parties.

I did feel that the majority were not that much related to LGBT organisations and felt that GayWest was in the minority as LGBT social groups go.

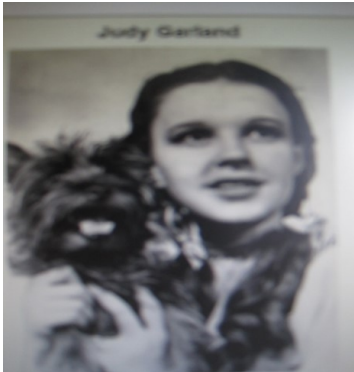
We all want Gay people to be regarded as equal within society and so maybe a slow change is now taking place at these events; this has been noticeable this year at the Pride events that we have taken part in. Does this mean that we are now seeing the slow decline in LGBT social groups similar to our own? There are more local authority/government funded project groups at these events now than ever before.

I feel the need for social groups (whether LGBT or not) are as important today as in the past for a balanced social life for everyone to feel connected and have support when needed, rather than the lonely life that many people are experiencing in this modern isolated techy world.

Maybe this is me getting old and grumpy - let me know what you think.

Colin

FRANCES ETHEL GUMM



Frances Ethel Gumm was born on 10th June 1922 in Pocatella, Idaho in the U.S. Her parents were vaudeville artistes, and in due course Frances and her two sisters formed a singing group. Due to a misunderstanding, the trio were at some time billed as THE GLUM SISTERS!

Frances was wide-eyed and could really sing: a talent scout from a film studio spotted her potential and offered her a screen test. This she passed with flying colours and she made her first film (with Deanna Durbin) in 1934

“Everybody Sing”. But the studio did not like her name, and so it was changed to JUDY GARLAND.

Judy went on to have a fabulous career spanning forty years – interspersed with highs and lows. She appeared in the 1938 film “The Wizard of Oz” in which she sang the immortal song “Over The Rainbow”. Subsequently she appeared in some forty films which brought her numerous awards and justifiable world-wide fame.

When married to Vincente Minelli, she gave birth in 1946 to a daughter whom they christened Liza.

I personally met Judy in the foyer of the Drury Lane theatre in London and I spoke of my admiration for her and the sheer delight all her films continued to bring me. She was warm-hearted, attentive and extremely attractive. Later in her career she became addicted to drugs and alcohol and she died in 1969 in London. She had planned to move to the UK and settle permanently.

She had had a hugely successful four-week sold out season at the London Palladium in 1951, and now in October 2016, a 50th anniversary concert has been arranged at the theatre in her honour and memory with music from her films, and singing stars that knew her. There will also be an exhibition of some of her costumes and personal artefacts.

I am looking forward with much anticipation to attending this joyous event, as I have been extremely fortunate in getting tickets.

Valentino July 2016

Entertainment

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.

The Colston Hall has a varied selection of entertainment for it's autumn season and can be contacted on 0844 887 1500 or www.colstonhall.org

September Films

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

Other Titles include :-

"The Girl King"

Boys on Film .. **"Time and Tied"** **"Girls Lost"** and **"Closet Monster"**.

The above information is from

lgbtfilms.co.uk and peccapics.com

Announcements

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 for your October issue you try and access, read, download or print your copy, not only the latest issue but all back issues since the launch of the website in April 2015, by going on-line.

Also other published items such as Our Constitution, 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 do have any problem, maybe you could let me know .

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.

**Weston-Super-Mare Launch of their Rainbow Café.
At the “Bar Cameo, Walliscote Road,**

September 10th 2pm till 4.30pm for drinks, cakes and chats.
This will be repeated on the second Saturday of each month and we look forward to meeting you there.

Announcements

GayWest Annual General Meeting (AGM)

Saturday September 17th at 11am at The Rainbow Café, Bath.

Nominations for your next Committee

Please find enclosed a Nomination Form with your magazine, or On-Line in our publications section.

Your completed nominations must reach The Secretary

SEVEN days prior to the (AGM)

A Vote of Thanks

The Committee would like to offer a vote of thanks to Brian Milligan for all the hard work over many years that he has been our Treasurer, Brian has decided to stand down from the committee this year.

So we are looking for a worthy replacement.

Committee Meetings :-

The Next Meetings are on Wednesday

14th September and 12th October

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.

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

Wales Abergavenny walking weekend **9th-11th** September 2016

Based in Abergavenny, South Wales, in the shadow of the Brecon Beacons,

Saturday 10th September - Llanthony to Cwmyoy Circular
10 miles

Sunday 11th September - The Sugar Loaf 'Y Fâl' 6 miles

Sun 18 Sep 2016 - Burrington Ham and Blagdon

This is a 6 mile walk in the Mendip Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty through varied landscapes.

Sun 25 Sep 2016 - Charterhouse and Compton Martin

7.5 miles including stiles, inclines, remains of lead mining and great views over Chew Valley and Blagdon Lakes.

BEFORE you criticise a man, walk a mile in his shoes.

That way, when you do criticise him,
you'll be a mile away and have his shoes.

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.**

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.

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.

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.

GayWest Picnic Report



GayWest members preparing to tuck-in to a sumptuous picnic which was held at Conham River Park in Hanham, before having a tour of the “local places of interest”.

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

GayWest and other Events

September **Wednesday 14th** at 8pm

(Second Wednesday of the month)

Bristol Social Evening at

Old Market Tavern.

Saturday 17th Annual General Meeting

At 11am at The Rainbow Cafe

Sunday 18th (Date Change) at M.Shed

Age UK - Celebrating Age Festival

10am-4pm.

October **Wednesday 12th** at 8pm

Bristol Social Evening at

Old Market Tavern.

Saturday 22nd 11am

GayWest Auction at The Rainbow Cafe

Christmas Time **Tyntesfield visit to be arranged**

(A fabulous Victorian outing).

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

Another event not to be missed.

