



**GayWest Member's Magazine
for November 2016
£1.50 for non-members**

Chair's Blog

Welcome to November. This will now be my fourth year as your Chairman and I would like to express my thanks to you all for putting your trust in me for another year.

I must say though that it is with regret that we only now have four members on the committee, this includes myself. This will create an extra burden on those on the committee and so to that effect there will be a few changes that may need to be made so as to lessen the amount of work that your committee members need to do, remember they are all doing it voluntarily on your behalf.

We would love to hear from you if you can help in anyway, please get in touch. **GAYWEST NEEDS YOU!!**

Also in this month's magazine I have presented for you a general out line of the group's Finance so you can see what's happening in that area and also comment on them yourselves.

GayWest's Christmas dinner is going to be a great night out and this year we have special guest's who will greet you and serve you with a complementary drink and the usual festive fun so book early to avoid disappointment. You can find the menu on the magazine section of the website, where you can print out or send an e-mail of your choices to our e-mail address, and at the Rainbow Cafe where you will be able to pick one up. We are already taking bookings.

This is also the start of a new year for GayWest (September to September) the theme for the year will be having **FUN, HAPPINESS** and **SOCIALISING**. Now I know that there are a lot of issues in our lives but here at the hub of GayWest we want to make you all deliriously happy.

This year will be the group's **46th year** since it was founded in 1971 so a good reason to reflect on the organisation's amazing history. So if you have any stories you would like to tell us then send them to us via the usual methods.

Colin

A Rough Guide to Running cost of Gaywest

As you know GayWest is a completely self-funding organization and all income comes from its Members/Supporters, Auctions/raffles, and donations. Applications for a grant has been successful in the past.

The aim in this area is to be able to fund all what we do during the year and remain solvent at the end of that year. Not having to make a profit, but not wanting to be running at a loss. This is not the easiest job to do even at this time of fairly steady cost rises, so what is involved?

Yearly Running cost

• The Rainbow Cafe	Rent /Insurance	£1664.00p
• Publicity	varies yearly, recently acquired	
• website	Hosting/domain, e-mail address	
•		£225.39p
• Prides and other events	Payments for stalls	£150.00p
• Magazine	Printed additions	£490.40p
• Basic total		£2529.79

Income

Raffles/Auctions/other	Varies each year
Membership fees	Just under £1000.00p
The Rainbow Café	Varies each year

The year ending 31st July 2016 from which our accounts are calculated each year show that last year GayWest ran at a loss of just over £300.00p for the year. So it is vital that we find ways to reduce our cost or increase our revenue. There are a few ways in which to achieve this. You can all buy more coffee and cakes at the Cafe, buy more raffle tickets etc. We are hoping this year we can raise funds by putting on the fun day event in 2017 as mentioned last month.

The figures for the cafe do not include the cost for the beverages you purchase, these are bought from any takings above what it cost to run the Cafe and donations. Your committee will do all it can to keep the cost for membership and beverages at the cafe at its present level but can not guarantee this. We have been lucky that we have had a couple of generous donations, but we need to make up the rest of **£1500.00** to keep our heads above water.

Colin

The Bench in the Park.

O vernight rain on the trees and plants in the park glistened in the low early morning sun's rays, the park was waking up and the plod of the new joggers were to be heard while the birds were busy packing their cases for there long journey soon to be starting.

From the position of the bench under the shelter of the park's mature trees Walter could see all the comings and goings that went on. It was his favourite spot and he liked to sit there while on his morning walks and today was no different from other days, that was until---

He sat looking at the scene before him, a smile on his face at the beauty of the season's lighting, although today he had to put on his warmer coat.

His thoughts would as usual go back to the spring and summer of his own life, for he was in his own autumn season.

Leaving the small seaside town he grew up as a young man for the city life were he found love that had lasted for over 26 years. Of course it was not what society then would look upon as your every day type of relationship, in those far off days it was "The love that dare not speak its name"

He felt sad and happy at the same time as his love of all those years was now gone from this world. So he was resigning himself to a single life once more, that was until---

He was now back to where he started out in life, although the town had grown since he had been away, so not quite the small place he once knew, still it was once his home and maybe it would be again. The small flat he now had was OK, maybe it could be better and---

Do you mind? "What! Do you mind if I sit here"? A man was gesturing with his hand towards the seat, "No not at all please do" With that the gentleman sat next to Walter looking out onto the park. "All the other seats are still a bit wet and I need to take a break" the man spoke with a local accent, but Walter had never seen him before.

The Bench Continued

There was a long silence then the other man broke the silence. “What a Beautiful day “Yes” remarked Walter. Silence again, the only sounds were from the birds and small children in the distance playing. “Well must be off, nice to have met you” the man spoke in a low voice that was common for the area and got up and left. Walter watched him as he walked into the distance. He was alone again.

Today was quiet in the park, the birds had gone, the trees were in there winter sleep, it was cold, Walter hoped things would turn out okay soon. Many weeks had past since their meeting and he had dressed smartly each day in case they would meet again, but he knew he was living in hope.

He should have been more friendly, more chatty, but that was not his style. He realised that for him now, there was only a long lonely wait until he met his maker. The chill air was penetrating through Walter's coat. Five more minutes then he would go home. “Well hello again” Walter recognized the voice immediately, he looked up and their eyes met. “You look like you could do with warming up “the man said” “ How about a coffee”?

Their palms met. The winter sun cast there shadow across the park's path as they chatted away, through the park gates and on to the cafe.

No more loneliness now Walter thought to himself.

She was getting cross as the Spring sunlight was shining directly onto her mobile and she had difficulty seeing what she was texting. The tennis ball hit the bench with a bang and then bounced back towards the path but did not make it as it was snapped up into the dogs mouth, who suddenly came to a sudden halt against the bench. “I'm so sorry “the lady said “ are you okay” What's its name? the lady on the bench asked. “Walter “

The bench smiled.

Barney.

Entertainment

There is a full **Hippodrome** programme of different types 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 Autumn/Winter 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

The Bath Film Festival

November 3rd—13th 2016

Abbey Chambers, Kingston Parade, Bath BA1 1LY

Tel: 01225 463 458 Bath Box Office: 01225 463 362

For the FIRST time the Bath Film Festival is showing
6 LGBT films locally.

They include:- Who's Gonna Love Me Now, The Pass
and Closet Monster for the guys.

The Handmaiden, Girls Lost and Summertime for the gals.

More Info at www.bathfilmfestival.org.uk/strand/queer-film/

Important News

Gloucester Gay and Lesbian Community. From September 4th 2016 meeting dates changed.

They will meet on the **1st Thursday of each month** at the same venue and time, 7.30 - 10pm. Details of all their social activities will continue to be on their Website. www.gglc.co.uk

Weston-S-Mare Rainbow Café at Cameo Bar

Saturday 12th Rainbow Café

From 2 - 4.30pm

Committee Meetings :-

The Next Meeting is on Tuesday

15th November at 2pm

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

Sun 06 Nov 2016 'Coronation Treat' – Gloucester

The circular walk of around 9 miles will include a tour of the cathedral, a chance to see the tomb of Edward II (the one with the poker ouch) the famous stained glass and a tea stop. In addition we'll take in a visit to the Victorian Gothic church at Highnam to see the murals, sing a verse of Jerusalem, and visit ANOTHER Llanthony Abbey and the old Gloucester Docks.

Sun 20 Nov 2016 River Avon & South Bath.

A 6.5 mile walk along the old Midland Railway line to Beechen cliff via the Devonshire tunnel, returning via the Avon towpath with an archeologically exposed area of mid 18 century foundations. Note, one long shallow climb and one short steep climb, the rest? Pretty much downhill. The walk will be followed by a meeting to discuss plans for next year, all interested are invited.

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

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

Ben has completed this great feat in aid of Stonewall and Kidscape, in their fight against bullying. GayWest has collected just over £45.00 at The Rainbow from members donations. GayWest put some more to it and sent off £100.00 to this great cause. Thank You

HOTSPOT for LGB Community. It has been reported that the Bristol region has the third highest number nationally of people who identify themselves as LGB, only London and Manchester have more gay residents, and for the first time, the number of people aged between 16 and 24 who consider themselves as bisexual outnumber those who identify as Gay or Lesbian. This is 1.9% of the population.

(Source = ONS.)

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

Theatre Report

“Fiddler on The Roof”

Bristol Light Opera Club At The Bristol Hippodrome

I have seen several versions of “Fiddler” over the years, professionally in London and amateur in Bristol, but this is the finest production I have seen.

Having been in amateur theatre myself for 38years, I have become very critical. But this time was a real exception.

The cast including all the chorus and 20 children were all very very professional.

The leading man playing Teure was quite outstanding. The sets and lighting were especially good and very efficient.

Music wise it was perfect ,beautifully sung by everyone.

I have never regarded “Fiddler” as a favourite show, but now I've changed my mind. I was really transported to a Jewish village in Russia .

We pay very high prices for shows at the hippodrome to various companies. Many are not worth the money, but the amateur groups here are so much more dedicated and better.

I advise anyone to see there show next year, about October you will not be disappointed. Roy

Do you recognise the location of the front page picture? Do let us know.

GayWest and other Events

November **Wednesday 9th** at 8pm

Bristol Social Evening at
Old Market Tavern.

Tuesday 29th at Tyntesfield

Meet in the Café at 12 noon

December **Wednesday 14th** at 8pm

Bristol Social Evening at
Old Market Tavern.

Friday 16th The GayWest Annual Dinner

Drinks Reception at 7.15pm with Special Guests
Dinner at 8pm Menu available,
book early to avoid disappointment

Saturday 24th at the Rainbow Café

Xmas Quiz, Mince Pies and Prizes

Saturday 31st at the Rainbow Café

New Year's Celebration

A Victorian Christmas at Tyntesfield House

This is a National Trust
Property with Character

