

GayWest Member's Magazine for December 2016



£1.50 for Non-Members

Chair's Blog

Here we are then, December again, where has the year gone. What a year! Unpredicted political changes that have divided this country and America and the outcome of this is yet to be seen. We will have to wait and see and hope that things get better for us all. Remember, we are lucky to live here in the UK where our rights as LGBT folk are better than many countries, around the world, including many states in the USA and even Australia has not yet allowed same sex marriage.

But the good news is that at GayWest it has been another good year, we have increased our membership, had successful pride events and the Rainbow Cafe has been as vibrant as ever. This is mainly down to yourselves and your hard working committee. Although as I have said many times before we do need more of you to help on the committee to be able to maintain the success of the group. One area in particular is our website where we could do with someone with IT experience.

This brings me to our plans for the New Year. I would like to call it a year to be happy and have fun. This we have already started on by hoping to have a fund raising event for the group in which the emphasis will be on dressing up and winning a prize for the best dressed. Not everything runs smoothly and we have had a slight set back due to a Council Decision. We are not put off by this and are still planning for this event. Other ideas are more fun social events at the Rainbow Cafe and out and about.

Other changes for the new year will be in funding, GayWest magazine and website use. Regarding funding, the group will have to work hard to increase funding so as to balance the books at the end of the year (September 2017). Your committee wish to keep membership fees as low as possible, but can only achieve this by finding savings first, and having an increase in funds from other sources.

We have looked at this and have decided to not renew the GayWest PO Box address (to be renewed in march 2017) this will save around £250.00p for the year.

Chair's Blog Contd.

The group receive very little mail these days as most correspondence is done via e-mails. Anyone in future who may wish to correspond via mail will be able to do so by asking the committee for the address required. (the address will not be displayed on any new publicity)

Also due to a very small committee and the amount of work that has to be shared amongst them it has been decided to reduce the Magazine to six issues a year instead of twelve. There will be a larger 16 page edition (Currently, the monthly Magazine has 12 pages). The advantages of this is that there will be less pressure on the magazine editors each month, and will save £238.00p a year in printing cost.

The Website is a very interactive site and GayWest was able to get such an advanced site due to a very good grant in 2014, and at the time that a social club website was being tested and GayWest was the first to trial it. We wish to use this to the our advantage which is why we have asked all those who receive the magazine on line to access the site in its members section for the magazine and also we hope soon to start putting more publications and information there.

Remember our Twitter account and Facebook pages can be accessed via the website, and of course we have to pay for the site annually so start using it.

Now then, before we end this year there is still time to book your Christmas dinner if you haven't done so already, We have managed to keep the Prices as last year, £20.00 for members and £25.00 for guests. This year we have very different guests to help us, for you to enjoy, so I hope you can join us in the Christmas fun.

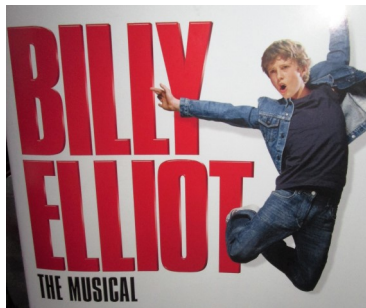
As this is my last Blog for 2016 **I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a happy New Year form myself and your GayWest committee.**

Colin

Theatre Review

On Thursday 17th November we set off to the Bristol Hippodrome for the Matinee performance of this very popular musical. We were not disappointed, the show was amazing. There are four cast members playing the young Billy Elliot and in this performance it was Haydn May. Haydn trained at Dorothy Coleborn School of Dancing, Junior Associate of the Royal Ballet: Associate Member of Tap Attack, Swindon, Bristol Hawks Gymnastics Club.

This young lad most of the time of over hours, and boy All of the cast For those of the story the Elliot's family and the comedy was fantastically. It have a live orchestra playing the score.



was on stage for shows running two and a half could he dance! were brilliant. you who know portrayal of Billy was excellent emotion and put over was also great to

My favourite part of the show was when the young Billy dances along side his older self to Tchaikovsky's Swan lake finale, an absolute joy to see. The only thing that did occur that was not in the plan was a breakdown of some of the prop's electronics which created a safety issue towards the end of the first act, the young actor was escorted off stage by the stage hands and the curtain came down. It was almost an hour before the start of Act Two. But it was worth the wait and the afternoon audience were of a jolly nature (but then they would be as we were there). Although a later finish then we expected a really enjoyable afternoon

Colin & Jim

See page 6 for the contact details of The Bristol Hippodrome, as there is something for everyone over the next few months.

Film Review

The Bath Film Festival

November 3rd—13th 2016

Closet Monster Director: Stephen Dunn

Rondo Theatre Bath.

As part of the Bath Film Festival this year that included six LGBT films, Jim and myself went along to see this film. Being set in Newfoundland Canada. This breakout debut from the 27year old director was one of the great surprises at last year's Toronto international Film Festival. It stars Connor Jessup as 16year old Oscar. The coming of age narrative which emerged in the 1980's was prevalent in the film, and the acting was good. But the story which included flash backs and the portrayal of the main character struggling with his sexual preference were a bit confusing and never really got to a satisfactory conclusion. The sound reproduction was also poor which did not help the overall enjoyment of the film.

Maybe the other LGBT films in this years Festival were of a better quality I do hope so as I think this was a good start to represent this section of the community in the annual festival LGBT

If any other members saw any of the other films and want to put in a review, it would be appreciated.

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

Entertainment

The Bristol Hippodrome programme

Winter 2016 /Spring 2017 Programme is out now

There is a wide variety of entertainment to choose from

Their contact point is :- from the Box Office or atgtickets.com/bristol

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

Weston-S-Mare Rainbow Café at Cameo Bar

Saturday 10th of December Rainbow Café

From 2 - 4.30pm

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

Christmas Crackers

What do you call a sleeping Bull?
A bulldozer.

What do you call a bee with a quiet
hum?

What do you get if you cross a centipede
with a parrot?
A Walkie-talkie

What do you get if you cross a skunk with a boomer-
ang? A bad smell you can't get rid of.

GayWest Committee roles

Colin O'Brien Chairman

Joint Magazine editor

Cafe Host and co-ordinator

Website Administrator

Jim Phimister Membership Secretary

Joint Magazine editor

Finance officer

Website Administrator

Michael Reid Events co-ordinator

Minutes Secretary

Website Administrator

John Martin Outreach officer

Facebook and Twitter Administrator

Committee Meetings :-

The Next Meeting has provisionally been booked for

Tuesday 17th January at 2pm

Any member who wishes to attend, please contact

Colin on 07758 810 134

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.

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.

There are no planned walks for December.

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.org.uk social

Folding Sheets

“He was so sweet. We folded the sheet lengthwise, met as we joined the two ends, and he kissed me.

“Right there in the middle of the Laundromat. Of course, it was early in the morning. Only a few people there but still. He kissed me. I still remember his soft lips as”

“Ricky, when was the first time he hit you?”

“Uh, well, we had been dating, lets see, about a month, and it really was my fault, I spilled a coke on his leather seat. You see he was very finicky about his car, and he, well, he wasn’t thinking when he got real mad, and just automatically backhanded me. When he saw the blood, he apologised, and explained about his love of his car.”

“How soon after that did Eddie do it again?”

“Lets see. I guess about two months had passed.”

“What set him off that time?” “Well you have to remember he didn’t like... and he was very jealous of my friends, especially male friends...I was talking to Marty an old friend, on the phone.

Eddy came home, he was tired from working all day, and I hadn’t finished dinner yet. I said good-bye to Marty and hurried to the kitchen.

He was gulping down a beer, and asked where dinner was. I told him that it would be ready in 10 minutes. Then he started in on me about my friends being more important than him. He tossed back another beer, said that I was sleeping with Marty while he slaved away at work.

Folding Sheets

I tried to explain that Marty was just an old friend. He threw the beer bottle at me. Started calling me a whore and allsorts of names. “He just started beating on me. I guess one of the neighbours called the police. Next thing I know there is someone pounding on the door.”

“Did they arrest Eddy?” “yea, I tried to tell them that is was my fault.”

“Then what happened?”

“ The next morning I went to the jail and bailed him out. He was so upset when he saw what he did to me. He explained he was jealous of Marty and was afraid that he would lose me, he was tired from work, and was hungry...

So he had lost it and overreacted. He held me and cried, and promised he would never hurt me again. The next day he brought me roses. He really could be sweet.”

“I see your arm is in a cast. The medical records say you have three broken ribs, a broken nose, and I also see both eyes are black.”

“It was all a misunderstanding. Now the judge wont let him out. He says that he will be in jail for at least a year. I don’t know what to do, Doctor.”

“I suggest you learn to fold your own sheets.”

By Steven Keiths

Christmas Crackers



**A recent survey indicates that the Smartphone
is now the number one hand held device.**

The Penis has slipped to second spot.

Editorial Comment....

maybe too much lubricant!!

GayWest—A year in Pictures



GayWest goes to Leyhill

On Sunday, yes Sunday 20th November Myself, James, and John visited Leyhill to join their GBT forum group meeting and give a short talk on the History of GayWest. We were warmly welcomed and sat in on their meeting while they discussed issues that affected them directly, then it was our turn to present them with a brief History of GayWest. James was our main speaker and spoke of how the group was formed and how it has developed and changed over the years. My contribution consisted of passing round some of the groups passed magazines and archive photos and the more modern History such as the development of our website. The meeting was relaxed and informal and we were asked questions from the forums members.

GayWest are actively involved with the forum by supporting them with Gay Issues in the wider community.

Colin

House Move

Shortly after you receive this magazine Jim and Myself will be moving to our new home in Keynsham. This being a new build we are both excited about getting there and setting up our new home. This will be an upsize for me and a downsize for Jim or we like to call it middle sizing.

We are looking forward to spending our first Christmas of many, in our new home.

Official Notice

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

GayWest and other Events

November **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,

an event not to miss, 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

Dates for your 2017 Diary

Gloucester Pride, Bristol Pride

And Weston-S-Mare Pride all in July

Best Wishes from all at Gay West

