

GayWest Journal
For November and December 2017
£1.50 for non-members



**Just one of the many sculptures
at Petworth House in West Sussex.**

Features

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

Chair's Blog

Welcome to your last Journal for 2017, there is some important information within the Journal so please read and enjoy.

I will start off with a thank you to you all for electing me to be the Chair for GayWest for another year, my 5th as Chair and 9th as a committee member. During this time I have learnt a lot about GayWest, its history, members and the general LGBT community. Until I became a member of GayWest in November 2009 I was a gay man in the closet, since then the closet door has been smashed open and I am now a proud married gay man, all thanks to the day I signed up as a member.

The past four years as Chair of the group, there have been changes within the organisation and in the LGBT community.

With the support of the other committee members during this time GayWest has maintained a steady membership and introduced a modern website and other social media formats. The committee has had the support from GayWest members in regarding its work supporting other gay social groups, help services such as gays who need help with addictions and those who have come out as Gay whilst in Prison (Leyhill and Ashfield).

The members' Journal, formally Magazine has seen changes going from a four page to eight and now sixteen page bi-monthly journal. The Rainbow Café has seen some subtle changes in the beverages and the more informal way that the serving is done.

The Website has put us in touch with people around the world and our Facebook and Twitter accounts keeps us in touch with the younger generation. Over the last year there have been outings and social events organised for our members and friends to take part in and enjoy.

To continue and maintain these events entails a lot of work by those on the Committee. The different roles of those on the Committee are Chair, Treasurer, Membership Secretary, Events Co-ordinator, Outreach Officer, Rainbow Café Host, Secretary and Journal Editor along with I.T. Controller. All of the above at present are carried out by just three members, I do not think that this is sustainable.

Chair's Blog Contd.

The Committee wants its members to get the most out of this unique organisation that will now be into its forty-seventh year, but it needs you as members to get involved, in any way that you can, so Gaywest can continue into the next decade.

Footnote: - Since the Annual General Meeting (A.G.M.) Robert Howes has very kindly offered to run the Rainbow Café on an Occasional basis, and John Martin has agreed to be a co-opted member to run the Facebook, Twitter and be Prison Outreach Officer.

Please give some thought to helping us and GayWest over the next year.

Colin.



The Rainbow Café

**The Rainbow Café meets every Saturday Morning
from 10.30am -12.30pm**

At St. Michael's Day Centre,
St. Michael's Place, Bath. BA1 1SG
(Next to the Little Theatre Cinema)

The Rainbow is open to all.

First-time visitors are made very
welcome and are entitled to their **first drink FREE.**

General Information

Official Notice

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



Gloucester Gay and Lesbian Community.

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

On the Second Saturday of every month from 2 - 4.30pm



All GayWest Post to :-

30, Woodpecker Close,

Keynsham, BRISTOL. BS31 2FU

Tel:- 0775 881 0134 or 0785 433 6047

Info@gaywest.org.uk

You can now pay by Credit/Debit Card via the Website
Cheques should still be payable to Bath GCO (GayWest).

Entertainment Reviews

BBC Gay Britannia

“Against the Law” about Peter Wildeblood and his fight against the laws at the time.

“Man in an Orange Shirt”

A British Drama in two parts, this is available on DVD

Both turned out to be very good viewing. There were more available but often shown well past my bed time.

“Holding the Man”

Published by Penguin books, A Stage Play, Film and DVD

From A Memoir of Timothy Conigrave

It is an immensely bitter sweet love story, very moving and powerful revelations about the lives of Tim and his partner John Caleo over many years.

“Gods own Country”

This is a grim but gripping romance, in a rural farm setting. Between the son of a farmer and a temporary seasonal worker. The Farmer has had a stroke and cannot keep up with all the farm work, the son, as a result is finding it very difficult and they decide that they should take on a worker for the lambing season, the young man is taken on and the romance starts. It has both anger and tenderness, a good entertaining film. This was directed by Francis Lee, his first, so keep an eye out for his next work.

GAY EROTICA

Tom of Finland

The film was released on August 11th by peccadillo pictures, there is a selection of Books, and DVD from the following sources:-

“Prowler” and tomoffinlandfoundation.org

And now from a shocked reviewer.....

We recently went down to West Sussex for a few days, managing to fit in a visit to **Petworth House** a National Trust property, if you are interested in art (Paintings that is), you are in luck, with lots of Turner, Gainsborough and Van Dyck, and many others collected over many years.

There is a long history in the building 1602-1837 with the pictures, sculptures along with carvings by Grinling Gibbons, and a mural by Louis Laguerre.

Shock and horror! There are about 100 fabulous marble sculptures, largely male, all from the “Grand Tour” between 1710 – 1763, some in erotic poses !, pert bottoms that have been well polished over the years from being stroked, all in all a very good day out and highly recommended.



GayWest Events for 2017

December

GayWest Annual Christmas Dinner

On Friday 15th at 7.15pm for 8pm at
The Pavilion Restaurant in Victoria Park, Bath.
With our Guests **"Butlers in The Buff"**

For further information on all listed events, contact us on
info@gaywest.org.uk or Colin on 07758810134

Saturday 23rd at the Rainbow Café

"Fairies in the Fluff" will serve you with Christmas specialities.

" Quotes" I disagree with what you say but will defend to the death your right to say it..... S.G.Tallentrye

" I may not agree with you, but I will defend to the death your right to make an ass of yourself "Oscar Wilde



GayWest Social Evenings Second Wednesday of each month
- 8th November & 13th December etc.at **The Old Market Tavern**
in Old Market Street, Bristol.



LGBT Poetry

I'm your brother and sister

I'm your brother and sister
I'm both Mrs and Mister
I am Gay, Bi, Trans, Non-Binary,
I am Myself.

I'm your father and mother,
Uncle, auntie, friend and lover.
I am different and the same
I am your family.

I'm black, white, pink...every hue.
Christian, Muslim, Buddhist...Jew
Skinhead, Goth, Punk, New Romantic
I am me. I am you.

I'm your nurse, your teacher,
The boy and girl next door
Someone in the street
I am your neighbour.

I'm no better or worse.
No richer, poorer, blessed or cursed.
Just part of the same Gravitational Wave.
As you.
By Trudy Howson.... LGBT Poet Laureate



A.G.M. Report

The Annual General Meeting Report

The meeting was held on September 30th at The Rainbow Café, there being 18 members present.

The Old Committee stood down, after the nominations for the new committee which was unanimously voted in.

There has become a desperate need for more members to come onto the committee, as without proper debate you may not get all you wish for, so come on, and join us.

A Full report is available in The Rainbow Cafe folder.



The Annual Christmas Dinner

The Annual Dinner is being held on December 15th at The Pavilion Restaurant in Victoria Park. Bath. BA1 2NR.

We will have the pleasure of inviting our guests

“The Butlers in the Buff”

So if you missed them last year, do book early to avoid disappointment.. The Menu is opposite. Please send your choices and monies ASAP to our usual address. (Page 3)

The Evening will start at 7.15pm with a Drinks Reception followed by the Dinner at 8pm. During the evening there will be a Raffle, with very good prizes. (all money made goes to the GW funds)

GayWest Annual Dinner

Friday 15th December 7.15pm

Starters

Spicy Tomato & Carrot Soup or

Smoked Salmon Salad or

Ardennes Pate

Main Courses

Roast Turkey or

Roast Shoulder of Lamb

& Red Currant Jelly or

Roast Vegetable Moussaka

Desserts

Christmas Pudding or

Fresh Fruit Pavlova or

Orange and Cointreau Mousse

Members £20.00

Non-Members £25.00

Book early to avoid disappointment

Complete and return by Saturday 10th December

Name...

The Last Kiss

Back on July 9th, a group of Pekin, Illinois bikers were riding west on I-74 when they saw a girl about to jump off the Murray Baker bridge.

So they stopped. George, their leader, a big burly man of 53, gets off his Harley, walks through a group of gawkers, past the state trooper who was trying to talk her down off the railing, and says, "hey Baby....watcha doin' up there on that railin'?"

She says tearfully, "I'm going to commit suicide!!"

While he did not want to appear "sensitive," George also didn't want to miss this "be a legend" opportunity either so he asked ... "well, before you jump honey.... Why don't you give ole George here your best last kiss?"

So, with no hesitation at all, she leaned back over the railing and did just that..... and it was a long, deep, lingering kiss followed immediately by another even better one.

After they breathlessly finished, George gets a big thumbs up approval from his biker buddies, the onlookers, and even the state trooper, and then says, "Wow! That was the best kiss I have ever had, honey! That's a real talent you're wasting, sugar. You could be famous if you rode with me. Why the hell are you committing suicide? "

"My parents don't like me dressing up like a girl".

It's still unclear whether she jumped or was pushed.



Priceless!

A little boy got on the bus, sat next to a man reading a book, and noticed that he had his collar on backwards, the little boy asked why he wore his collar backwards.

The man, who was a priest, said, "I am a father". The little boy replied, "my daddy doesn't wear his collar like that".

The priest looked up from his book and answered, " I am the father of many". The boy said, "my dad has 4 boys, 4 girls and 2 grandchildren and he doesn't wear his collar like that !"

The priest, getting impatient, said, I am the father of hundreds and went back to reading his book.

The little boy sat quietly thinking for a while, then leaned over and said, "Maybe you should wear a condom and your pants on backwards instead of your collar".



The GayWest Website....

Upon return from our holiday recently, I discovered that we had no website access, On investigation it was discovered that 1+1 our Internet Domain supplier had decided to stop our website without telling us. This stopped us using the Info@gaywest.org.uk. This has now been rectified with a new Domain Supplier from our hosting company Newicon, we do not envisage any further disruption.

We apologise to those of you who have been having problems with this, If any of you are still having problems accessing the website, please do get in touch.

Colin

Over 50 Years of Cruising!

Alexandr Pushkin and Marco Polo, one a Russian Poet, the other an Italian explorer so what is the link between them, well it's a Cruise Ship. On October the 2nd this year Jim and I left Avonmouth Cruise terminal for the open seas on board the Marco Polo heading for France, Spain and Portugal. This was a ten night cruise with a two day stop in Lisbon. I am not going to bore you with the details of our voyage, although excellent as it was. The ship itself has an amazing story of its own.

Launched on 26th April 1964 and allocated to the Baltic Steamship company of Leningrad. She was destined to become the much loved Marco Polo in 1991. She was the second to be built of five. In 1962 the soviet Merchant Marine Ministry passenger ship division, Morskoi Passazhirskogo Flot placed an order for the construction of the first of three of a new class of liners that were built in the then Russian controlled East Germany. The new ships were intended for both cruising and to fulfil a stated Soviet aim to establish a regular liner service between Leningrad (St Petersburg) and New York. Although not the best time to launch such a service it was seen as prestigious for a ship of this type visiting western ports. These ships were all named after famous soviet poets and so became known as the poet class.

The first of these ships was launched the 15th June 1963 was named Ivan Franco a famous Russian author and poet followed by the Alexandr Pushkin in 1964. They soon were followed by Taras Shevchenko, Shota Rustaveli and Mikhail Lermontov. All of these Ships were of a new streamline design and travelled the world bringing success and prestige to the Russian shipping company C.T.C Lines.

However after the fall of the Soviet Union in 1989 one by one the ships were sold to different lines and by 2004 three had been scrapped and broken up. The Mikhail Lermontov fate was a different story. On the 7th February 1986 she departed from Sydney on a two week cruise to the bay of islands. On the 16th February whilst going through a narrow passage she hit some rocks that damaged her port side and she began to list by 12 degrees. She limped south westward towards port Gore where she ran gently aground. All passengers and crew were evacuated safely, but due to electrical failure they could not start the engine or anchor of the ship and she was lost to the sea on the rising tide.

(Not the memoirs of an old Queen)

Meanwhile, by 1989 the Alexandr Pushkin was in need of modernization but on the 6th February 1990 she was laid up in Singapore and brokers worldwide were notified that she was available, luckily in 1991 it was bought and refitted to do oriental cruising around Australia and renamed the Marco Polo.



The Advent of Cruise and Maritime Voyages (CMV) In June 1976 three new employees had started with (CTC) lines. By 1995 they had risen through the ranks to become Managing Director, Sales Director and Fleet Product Manager. Due to the disintegration of the Soviet Union in 1991 CTC folded

and all three had departed from the company by the end of the year. During 1996 the three managed to get together again and formed CMV, they started by chartering other ships to start the cruise business and by operating the classic older ships in the face of opposition and adopted the concept of "No Fly Cruises," this was a great success, one of these was the Marco Polo.

CMV were keen to start a Programme of cruises from UK ports which had not operated since 2005 due to the lack of a suitable ship, by 2010 they were able to purchase the Marco Polo, to this day the ship still has a high proportion of Ukrainian and Russian staff, as they did when it was run by CTC.

We thoroughly enjoyed our short trip and have already booked our next cruise on this very stately lady to visit the Treasures of The British Isles, this will be the 53rd year of its cruising life.



Wishing you all a very happy Christmas
from your GayWest Committee