

GayWest Newsletter - July Edition 2024

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Contents:

- Page 1: Chair's Blog
- Page 2: The Battle of Lansdowne
- Page 3: A Walk around Keynsham
- Page 4: Word Power
- Page 5: Hollyhocks
- Page 6: Events & Social

Chair's Blog

This is not a question I ask the members very often, but given the chance would you have been a Roundhead or a Cavalier?

For many years, I was a member of the Nonsuch History & Dance Company, and I was definitely a Cavalier. You knew that already, didn't you. Loads of lace and a hat brimming with plumage. Imagine walking down Old Market Street to be confronted by rough young Roundheads. What's a gentleman to do but whip out his rapier and show them how to lunge and parry. What a way to spend an afternoon. (More about Roundheads and Cavaliers on page 2).

On Friday 28 June, Colin and I will be visiting Leyhill Open Prison for their Pride Event. Their theme this year is "Who Makes You Proud" and on your behalf we will be nibbling cake and handing out GayWest wristbands

My advice is not to stay up late to follow the forthcoming election - you know you'll feel like death the next day. We Cavaliers, we go to bed early, otherwise our plumage wilts.

Michael Reid.

The Battle of Lansdowne

We don't often think about the English Civil War between the Roundheads and the Cavaliers, but on 5 July 1643 was the Battle of Lansdowne. Just beyond today's Bath Race Course, in open countryside, in the shadow of Freezing Hill Lane.

Lord Hopton led the Royalists and his childhood friend Sir William Waller commanded the Parliamentarians.



The Battle was a series of bloody skirmishes, cavalry charges, advances and retreats. A dance of steel on steel, where both sides were badly weakened and the outcome indecisive. This was one battle among many in a civil war where brother turned on brother, father against son, until King Charles I was captured and later beheaded.

After the Civil War, Lord Hopton and Sir William Waller resumed their friendship as if nothing had happened. The irony of all this was that after the rule of Cromwell and his dreary Roundheads who so disapproved of merriment and sin, England then recalled Charles' son back as King Charles II in what we call the Restoration. Such merry days.



A Walk around Keynsham

On Sunday a small group walked around the perimeter of Keynsham. This was one of the Woodpecker Walks led by Colin.

We followed the path along the new estates and gardens at the back of Bilbie Green until we came to the woods owned by the Woodland Trust. Here we could see much damage caused by ash dieback which is becoming of increasing concern.



We found our way into Keynsham Park and followed the stream, and in mysterious ways came alongside Keynsham Station and into the meadows at the back of the Chocolate Factory. Here we were in the open countryside beside the river.

Then up a narrow green lane back into Keynsham, over the bypass and a shortcut into Charlton Road, to head back to Colin's garden and a cream tea and scones prepared by Jim which was much appreciated.



IMPROVE YOUR WORD POWER:

**Prestidigitator
Vexillologist
Kakorrhaphiophobia
Quincunx
Megalohydrothalassophobia**

These words really do exist in the English language!
Here are their definitions:

- 1.Prestidigitator: Another word for a magician
- 2.Vexillologist: A person who studies flags
- 3.Kakorrhaphiophobia: A fear of failure
- 4.Quincunx: The placing of five objects
within a four-sided figure
5. Megalohydrothalassophobia:
Fear of living things underwater

So now we know! **Valentino**

***The Keynsham Music Festival runs from 1-7 July
with a very interesting programme
for all tastes - various groups - with all day events
on 6 & 7 July at the Bandstand in the Park
keynshammusicfestival.co.uk***

Hollyhocks



The July borders in our gardens are bursting at the seams with glorious flamboyant plants, one of which are the hollyhocks, a plant with majestic spires and a wide array of colours.

They are grown from seed and will flower within eighteen months. The seed can be bought, but there are so many that flower in people's gardens that seed is readily available.

Only collect the seed capsules once the capsule has turned brown. Inside you will find a whole load of flat seeds.

Please note that collecting your own seed does not guarantee the colour - bought seed usually does. Store these seeds in a dry frost-free place.



Once spring arrives (March) sow the seed in pots and within weeks these will germinate. Prick them out and further down the line pot up into larger containers. This plant can be planted out early summer to grow on for a display of flowers the following year.

Plant Hollyhocks in a sunny position in good well drained soil, but often these can be seen growing in rough areas perfectly well.

Stephen www.gardening-coach.co.uk or email to: gardencoach2022@gmail.com



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Damn, we missed it !



Still, there's always next year

**Bristol Gay Pride - Sat. 13 July
On Durdham Downs BS9 1JA**



**The date you've all been waiting for:
GayWest Summer Picnic
Thursday 15 August 2024
in Henrietta Park just behind
Pulteney Street, Bath**



**Pub Social at the Lodeka
Wednesday 10 July from 7.30pm
in Brislington**

Meet from 1.30pm