

A young lamb with a rainbow-colored body, standing in a field. The lamb's body is a gradient of colors: purple at the top, blue, green, yellow, and red at the bottom. It has a white face and legs. The background is a blurred green field.

GGLCommunity News

Spring 2013

AGM - you are notified!

News, Views and Opinion

DIARY OF EVENTS

CHAIRMAN'S LETTER



Dear Friends,

Welcome to 2013

We saw the New Year in at a Casino in Canada.

A four course dinner, music, midnight countdown and a quick flutter on the slots. Needless to say January did not see us any richer!

2012 was a year of national celebrations

and we hope this year will bring many other happy events.

Whilst events in our own lives may not bring us national attention, the way we live our lives and stand up as human beings count for far more.

Despite the advancement of LGBT people in our own country, many in other parts of the world have seen their quality of life regress. The outpourings of hate from some countries and individuals is beyond belief. Some will hunt, kill and maim men, women and children just for being different, whilst living a double life of rape, slavery and murder.

Remember February is Gay History Month – we are still making history, and please think how we can help those not so lucky to be farther along the path of equality.

2103 could turn out to be a great year yet.

I hope it heralds 365 days of health, happiness prosperity and all that good things can bring you.

With warmest wishes

Michael Chair

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**Notice is hereby given of the
Annual General Meeting
of the
Gloucestershire Gay and Lesbian Community
on
Thursday 25th April 2013 at 8pm prompt (doors
open 7.30pm)
at the Fountain Inn, Westgate Street,
Gloucester**

**NOMINATION FORM
AGM—25th April 2013**

I (print name)..... hereby
nominate(print name)
for the following positions):

Chairman	[]
Treasurer	[]
Secretary	[]
Committee Member	[]
Newsletter Editor	[]

Signed (proposer)
Signed (nominee)

NB Both the proposer and nominee must be members of the GGLC and the nominee must have been a member for the requisite period of time as set out in the Constitution.

TRIPETTE

I know, said I wouldn't bother again, but at Committee I raised the idea again of a Group Day away and we decided to put it to the Group to see what you felt.

The original idea was a trip a "Memories Museum" near Gordano, tea at Cheddar with a rave up (well a meal out) at Weston. Quite a genteel day out really by series of cars or preferable a small coach. The date suggested was May 18th but just found out today the museum is closed that day. Neither did a Saturday seem to go over very well.

So, I would suggest Sunday June 2nd – seems as nice a day as any – you need to let us know where you want to go. Rough and ready, genteel of something in between, historic house or bustling town??

All ideas to us by February 14th and we will discuss on **February 28th**

Coffee and Chat

Michael

Note : we used to have some great weekends away. Any ideas of a new one for our current members?

Young People's Social Group

Last July, Gay-Glos started a new group for young people in the 14 to 18 age range. It is for those who are gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered or who are in the process of exploring their sexual identity, and offers a safe place to meet and chat.

They meet during the daytime on Saturdays (possibly every other week) in Gloucester, and may be able to help with transport costs if needed.

The group was recently featured on Radio Gloucestershire, and is a wonderful resource for our youngsters. The meetings are organised and run in partnership with Young Gloucestershire. To contact them, you can visit the Gay-Glos website at www.gay-glos.org, send an email to youth@gay-glos.org or leave a message on 01452 306800 and they will call you back.

Wrapped Auction

As the evening started off very quiet and I was worried that we would all have to buy 20 wrapped gifts each!! But by 8 pm, there were 14 of us. It was a really good evening with lots of hilarity, surprises, groans and fun. Seeing people unwrap their purchases really is the best bit. Even with bidding well, some left a donation as well. I am delighted to say the final result was £138.

Thank you so much and hope you had a great time.

Many thanks

Alan

Treasurer

HOMELESS

There were two articles on “homeless” in the last Newsletter. One was a collection by the Westgate who were collecting for Homeless of Gloucester. A cold winter is forecast and the men and women on the street could do with extra help. An “en masse” collection from the Group did not happen, but I know few of us did take some sweaters, scarves and gloves etc down.

Many thanks who those who did so and particularly to John Huggins, Manager of the Westgate for all the work he and his team did.

The second article was about us, yes us. The person who caused the fire damage at the Friends Meeting House was apprehended and the Friends are looking at restorative justice. Builders are likely to be at work for some time, at least another several months.

Joy, of The Fountain has extended a welcome to us. If downstairs is not free then we can use upstairs. We can live with the fact this will occasionally be at short notice and hope it does not affect the less mobile members of the group too much. We are very appreciative of the warm welcome that Joy and her team have given us. We are also very aware that as a group, we are not big drinkers and the Committee have decided to ask Joy to accept a small donation from us. I am in touch with the Trustees of the Quakers and will keep you up to date via Group Meetings and the internet.

Michael

A Few Words from the GGLC Person of the Year 2012

First of all, thank you everyone for the most unexpected award of “person of the year” you were kind enough to bestow on me at the recent GGLC annual dinner. 2012 has been a busy, but enjoyable year for us here at Community and Equalities. The work we have undertaken with the County’s LGBT community this year has been wide and varied. First off, to celebrate LGBT history month in February, a weeklong extravaganza was held at the Westgate Inn which included a display from every County organisation we could contact, photographs supplied from our own records and the showing of a County Council sponsored DVD detailing the lives and memories of Gloucestershire’s older Gay community. Any one now wishing to see this production for themselves can do so by asking at Gloucestershire Archives in Alvin Street where it is now held. Authoress Charly Flower was kind enough to attend on the 12th in order to take part in the book signing, reading and poetry evening arranged for that date and finally, on the 15th the Westgate played host to the annual networking supper. Later in the year, you may remember the somewhat damp but still hugely entertaining Pride parade that took place through Gloucester and ended semi-submerged in the park.

Lastly and most recently we held a moving, candlelit evening of remembrance at the Westgate in respect of the Transgendered people round the world who have lost their lives as a result of transphobic attacks.

A busy year then but an enjoyable one as I said. We would also like to thank John and the staff at the Westgate, without who’s unstinting help and support we could not have done half of what we did. We look forward to working with him and all of you again in 2013.

Gill O.

GREEDY and Bi Visible Bristol

Great name eh. A new night club for bi people opened in Bristol. For details for to <http://bevisiblebristol.wordpress.com> or Jess on 07905597440

Events Write-up

Well, it's been a varied and interesting program this past couple of months! We started with an evening where we were going to make little Guy Fawkes, but the weather kept so many people away we ended up having a nice cosy chat, great fun! The next event was better attended, an evening where we all brought along our own choice of music to share—think mine made a few eyebrows raise!

Slight error with the film name, hope everyone enjoyed it nevertheless, sadly I was unable to attend. It was followed by a night of mince, tasting mince pies and answering questions about mince in general. A great fun evening, especially with some new people who are not from our shores and who found the event a little bemusing! Having said that, their team won, so they went home with boxes of pies.

John J. came and told us about the early days of the Group, a most fascinating evening where I certainly learned more about our history, and the history of the gay rights movement.

Mike and Rob's Festive Quiz was an epic journey into the depths of our knowledge about this season, and was a fun time.

The Christmas Soiree was a nice, gentle evening, with some very nice nibbles provided by the venue.

I missed the New Year's Do, through contracting the lurgy, and it seems this was a common ailment, will traditionally low attendance. However, all was recovered for the Wrapped Auction, as usual a tremendously fun evening, with lots of laughter and fierce bidding!

Sadly, the Stonewall (not THT, my fault!) talk had to be postponed, look to this seasons Diary. Instead we had a Beetle Drive, much enjoyed by everyone.

Graham, Newsletter Editor

Never the Bride—Rock and Roll Band!

When Sunday 3rd February 7:45pm

Where The Tithe Barn, Cheltenham Road, Bishops Cleeve GL52 8LU

Tickets £17.50. Under 14s must be accompanied by an adult over 18.

Website: www.neverthebride.com

Pride Around the Place

Over the past few years, the Group has been an active participant in the local Gloucestershire Pride events, always a fun time, despite the usual weather! We have more recently been part of or attended other local Prides, including Bristol and Swindon. This year we hope to be active in those ones, and possibly in others. Sometimes, it is difficult to find the dates and where these events are being held, so here is a little information to help you along!

Oxford Pride		June 8th
Gloucestershire Pride	Gloucester Park	June 15th
Swansea Pride	Lacrosse Field, Singleton Park SA2 8QJ	Sat. 29 June
Bristol Pride	Castle Park, Bristol	Sat. 13 July
Herefordshire Pride		3rd August
Cardiff-Wales Lesbian & Gay Mardi Gras		Sat. 7 September

The Prides are mostly run by volunteers and committees, who are organising on the fly, which means places, times and even dates may have to suddenly change as local conditions dictate, so if anyone has information about any of these events, let us know by email or through the Group so we can keep people up to date.

The Editor

Jim P

Jim has been a member of the group for many years. Unfortunately, 2012 saw his health took a sudden decline and this effected his mobility. As a result we have not seem Jim at the Group for several months and he has been missed. To make life easier, Jim gave up his home but has found some great accommodation that suits his needs. With it's own private sitting room, he can still entertain and always delighted to receive visitors.

Please contact any Committee Member or Tony at the Group (or telephone, letter, email!) for his new details.

First Friday Women's Group

A dearth of interest coinciding with the arson attack at the Friends Meeting House has resulted in the group closing. We had three good years, but having had so few enquiries over the last 12 months and given that the limited numbers who attended regularly already met socially elsewhere we decided to call it a day. Time to move on, and several of us have moved on to the GGLC where we have been made very welcome and are pleased to be making new friends.

In case we receive further enquiries the website will be updated with the news, and for the time being we will continue to maintain the online network at <http://fridaywomen.mixxt.com/>

Although there's been little activity on there since the beginning of December (perhaps lesbians hibernate like grizzly bears? Do NOT discuss!) maybe when spring comes people will feel inclined to go for walks and pub lunches again and the site's a good place to organise them.

We're also keeping open the email address we have been using for enquiries as a point of contact for women, probably new to the area or just coming out, who may like to meet informally for a coffee and chat rather than dive into a pub or club on their own. The contact address is fridaywomen@rocketmail.com

Meg and Dee H.

January 2013

Gay-Glos: Supporting LGBT people, their families and friends

Write PO Box 171, Gloucester GL1 4YE.

Web-site and email service: www.gay-glos.org.

Gay Outdoor Club

The national website has changed to <http://www.goc.org.uk> so all you out-doors types log on and see what you could be getting involved in!

THANK YOU

As Chair and Treasurer, we would like to thank our colleagues on the Committee for sharing our responsibilities between them over the last month while we were in Canada for Christmas and New Year.

Thanks

Michael and Alan

Can we say a *special thanks* to Graham, Newsletter Editor. He produced yet another great Christmas Edition with quizzes, games and something of interest to everyone. Shame the feedback was not better, but Graham was very appreciative of those who took part and even supplied some prizes.

Thanks Graham

National AIDS Helplines

“You can ask what you want to ask”
0800567123

Pink Paper

The Pink Paper has very much vanished from physical sight, though the Committee has tried to get copies for the Group. It is available on-line at <http://www.pinkpaper.com/>, and this may be the best way to access it now.

Gay & Lesbian Humanist Association (GALHA) 01926 858450	Lesbian & Gay Christian Movement Alan 0117 982 1512	Jewish Lesbian & Gay Help Line Mon & Thurs 020 7706 3123
Gay Bereavement Project 020 8544 8894	Transsexual Help Line Christine 0117 957 0210	Transvestite Help Line Rita 0117 951 4481
Gay Legal Advice (GLAD) Mon—Fri 7—10pm 020 7831 3535	Gay Men’s Project West of England 0117 955 1000 Wiltshire and Swindon 01793 695 300	Living Springs Metropolitan Community Church, Bath Rev. Kieren Bourne 01225 851676

The  **estgate**

Gloucester's only LGBT venue

Opening Times

Sunday	noon - 2am
Monday	11am - 2am
Tuesday	11am - 2am
Wednesday	11am - 3am
Thursday	11am - 3am
Friday	11am - 3am
Saturday	11am - 5am!

Always **FREE** entry

Food served until 4pm Sunday - Thursday
and until 6pm Friday and Saturday

**Get 10% discount off all food with
your GGLC membership card**

WITH A LITTLE HELP

Hi my name is Bill, Colin my partner for nearly 25 years and I took a holiday to India in 2010.

I could never have imagined that a first time holiday to India would lead me on a three year endless trail to offer someone in need of help the opportunity of a new life.

It started with a check to find out the do's and don'ts of gay foreigners visiting India, not wanting to offend the native people or to get locked up for being homosexual.

Well a few checks on the World Wide Web soon put me straight about how the Indian law and people felt and deal with Indian men that were found to be homosexual.

At best they could be beaten, maimed, ostracized by friends and family, lose their jobs and never work again and would have to be careful of not meeting up with someone that knew they were homosexual for fear of being beaten and at worst in some cases, killed, we've all read similar stories.

Having once worked as a volunteer on the Leicester Gay help line and Leicester having a large Indian community, I tried to find any local, national or international groups or organizations that offered help to Indian gay men here in the UK. There was nothing. The more I looked into their plight the more upset I was becoming.

From the organizations that I did manage to contact, from Stonewall to local, national and international gay groups not one of them that were contactable knew of any contact for Indian gay men anywhere.

Many knew that of those that were refused entry to the UK and told to return home and keep quiet about their sexuality also knew there were Indian gay men here in the UK and still coming in, but knew that to reveal why they were here would only open them up to being discovered so they keep quiet and blend in and don't have to reveal their sexuality, better than being at home. Living secretly and some in cases living in squalor, hardly better off but they are not being threatened.

My concern is for the older gay men aged 25-40 possibly uneducated, younger have more opportunities and the older would have had to learn to put up with their plight but the 25-40 age group I feel, with courage and help, still have an opportunity to help themselves.

To date I have found no help here in the UK for Indian gay men seeking refuge

and all I have been able to do is give my story to any group, publication or organization in the hope that one day it may reach someone that really needs it or by someone that can pass it on to someone they know that does.

My partner and I own a cattery but I single-handedly run the cattery which is the largest in this area while he works as a wildlife conservationist. We have looked at having help here at the cattery for some time and have taken the decision that we can offer a genuine person fleeing persecution, because of his sexuality a home with security, happiness and compassion in the knowledge of not being under the threat of people harming, victimizing or shaming him.

If you can help please contact GGLC and they will pass on any information.

Thank you.

Membership update

I am pleased to report an increase in membership to 58. This is an increase of 3 against the last newsletter of winter 2012. The number of women becoming members has increased a lot in recent times. We now have a total of 10 women members. I think this must be very pleasing for everyone.

The value of the revamped website is now becoming apparent for the membership. We now have 3 members who made application online.

We welcome as new members to the Group Ali I, Carol L, Bill N, and Lee P. Also a special mention for John J who is a founder member of this Group. Welcome back John !

Rob P, Membership Secretary

Stop Press! Fire at the Westgate!

On Tuesday 22nd of Jan, there was a fire at the Westgate Pub. It seems to have been started by hot bitumen that was being used to repair the roof, and several fire engines were in attendance. Chris M. bravely tried to extinguish it himself before the Fire Brigade arrived, while other staff evacuated the customers. Not sure about injuries, though everyone is reported as safe. About 30% of the roof is gone, with considerable damage upstairs. Latest report is that the pub front is open again.

Right people, this is our chance to do something good—if you think you may have some way of helping, don't hesitate to offer, and if you don't think you can help, might be nice to drop in, buy a drink and show some support. These sort of things are always a trial, and knowing people are thinking of them helps.

Graham.

Raffle

The Raffle takes place the last Thursday of the month. Don't forget to bring your money and all donations for prizes gratefully accepted.

This is one of the few fund raising events for our group

SPECTRUM is a group in Hereford. They meet once a month in the Mezzanine, Courtyard Centre for the Arts, Edgar Street, Hereford on the third Thursday.

GGLC Mugs!

These specially commissioned mugs are now available to members for a special discounted price of £3.50. Non-members can still buy them, but for £4.50! Talk to a committee member today!

FORTHCOMING BIRTHDAYS

February

6th Graham
22nd Ken A

March

6th Raymond S
26th Robert K
29th Andrew D
29th Trevor D
30th Michael C H

April

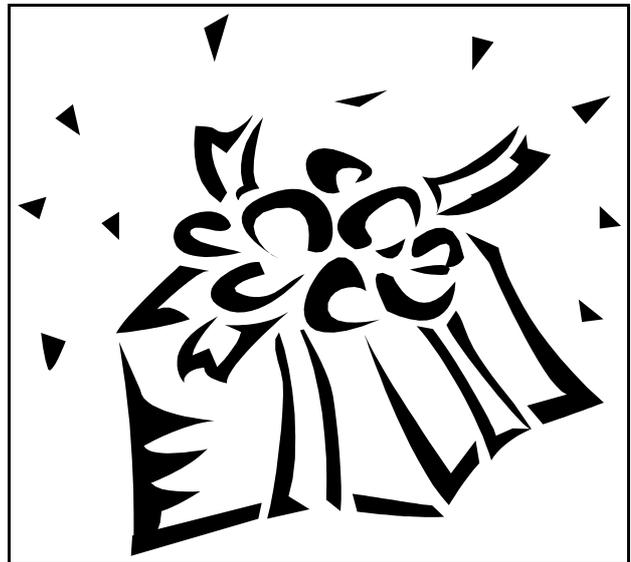
2nd Paul L J
6th Michele C
8th Alan R

9th Jim G

16th Michael W
18th Peter C
20th William D
21st James W
28th Janice M

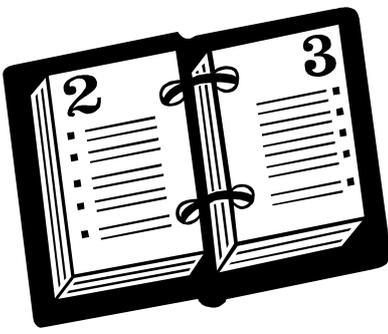
May

2nd Malvin K
5th Davina H
10th Alan L
21st John M
22nd Ronnie A
25th Jay S



Blimey! We have more birthdays each issue, is someone having more than one a year? Anyhow, have fun all of you!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU ALL



GGLC's SOCIAL CALENDAR DIARY OF EVENTS

February

- 7th Film Night—Language of Cranes
- 8th Pub Night at the Westgate Pub
- 14th Valentine Games—Graham and Michael
- 21st Pub Quiz—Alan
- 28th Coffee, Chat and Raffle

March

- 7th Ian George Funerals—A Talk
- 8th Pub Night at the Westgate Pub
- 14th Bingo—Mike and Rob
- 21st Stonewall—Talk, Growing Old Gay
- 28th Maundy Thursday, Skittles!

April

- 4th The Carpenters, a Musical Evening—Alan
- 11th Alan's Party Night
- 12th Pub Night at the Westgate Pub
- 18th Coffee, Chat and AGM preamble
- 25th AGM

May

- 2nd Tinkle Your Ivories—Bring your own music evening
- 9th Call My Bluff—Peter
- 10th Pub Night at the Westgate Pub
- 16th Treasure Hunt—Graham
- 23rd A Talk by Steve B.
- 30th Coffee, Chat and Raffle

Advanced warning!

Gloucestershire Pride is on June 15th, and the Highnam Court Concert is probably on the 22nd. We hope to have the Annual Picnic in July, with the Rounders on 1st September. Other future events are listed in this issue.

The diary is subject to change due to changes in circumstances, whim, Editor's insanity and attacks by weasels..

CONTACTING THE GGLC

Gloucestershire Gay & Lesbian Community meets most Thursdays, from 8pm, in Gloucester city centre. A warm welcome is assured for everyone. For further details or directions please phone 07050 627273 or write to :-

P0 BOX 23, Gloucester GL1 1YW.

On Thursday nights from 8pm, you can phone us on 07879572396, but please remember this is during the meeting! We also have our own website www.gglc.co.uk and the email address is info@gglc.co.uk - several new members have contacted the Group this way!

GAY-GLOS Helpline 01452 306800

LOCAL 'HAUNT'

The Westgate, Gloucester www.TheWestgateOnline.co.uk

Haunts is now Haunt... any ideas anyone?



Some of the information on the bars and discos may be wrong—
new places may be opening—anyone with the latest news,
please let us know.