



GGLCommunity News



Summer/Autumn 2012

Annual Dinner - Here it comes!

The GGLC at Gloucester and Bristol Pride!

DIARY OF EVENTS



CHAIRMAN'S LETTER



Hi Everyone,

Now I am well and truly 60 I suppose I should try to be more sedate. If the recent Skittles match is anything to go by I don't think I am ready for that yet!! At least I can still throw my balls down the alley!

Although the group gets older we continue to move with the times. The new website is a great success and over 2000 hits since the beginning of June. We are so pleased. Now the site is up and running we have plans to publicise the group and hopefully increase membership. We have already seen some new faces at the Group We might be old but are still running with the Pack. We have exposure at some Pride events (Bristol and Gloucester) this year for. If you plan on going to Weston or Swindon Prides do give us feedback.

Our local Pride was such a success – especially when you see World Pride in London ran into difficulties. Gay Life in Gloucestershire may not be a social whirlwind but hopefully the GGLC will be a stable part our lives.

The group can give so much – with your help.

Take care,

With warmest wishes

Michael

Chair

COFFEE ROTA

On the rota? – then many thanks for helping. If you are down to do the coffee, tea etc can you make sure you have the code to get in! If you know we are really low on any supplies then please do tell one of the Committee who can arrange replacements before the following Thursday.

Thanks

GLOUCESTERSHIRE PRIDE 2013

The AGM for Pride will be held on Monday July 30th 2012, 7.30 pm at The Fountain Pub, Westgate Street, Gloucester.

Would you consider being on the Committee? Perhaps you would like to help out but don't want all the administration stuff. Let me know – there is something for everyone .

Michael, Chair Glos Pride 2012

PRIDE PARADE

Graham and I had the honour to carry the banner for GGLC at the Pride Parade. Who cares about the wind and drizzle when the atmosphere was so tremendous!! We were amongst 600 “marchers” all shouting and whistling. We had waves and clapping from local shoppers and many people taking photo's with their mobile phones. The Busker outside BHS got into the spirit of things and changed his schedule to “It's raining Men”. Over all the Parade was the best so far and we all enjoyed it. Well done to the Pride Committee 2012.

Alan R

TRIPS OUT

An exhibition of work by Alan Turing is being held at the British Science Museum, London from now until June 21 2013. Anyone like to make up a party to go?

Theatre trips. When we asked if anyone wanted to make up a Theatre Group the response was, well, nil. Now a number of us are going, just as a group of friends, several others have expressed an interest. Fancy a night out down the local ‘flea pit‘or refurbished Everyman Theatre? Let me know

MCH

National AIDS Helplines

“You can ask what you want to ask”

0800567123

Wet but Proud

Gloucestershire Pride was an unlikely success given the worst efforts of the weather on the day. A record attendance of 600 were not daunted by the storms although at least the Parade took place without being rained on. Carrying a banner, however, became a test of strength against the gusting winds. It has to be admitted that only the day before, serious consideration was being given to moving the park event indoors but, as it happened, an inspired late decision to site the stalls under the trees at the side of the park meant that gazebos stayed anchored down and browsing was encouraged as stalls were largely grouped together near the main path through. It certainly encouraged a camaraderie among stall holders - you need several people to put up and take down a gazebo in the wind!

None of this happens without months of planning and effort behind the scenes. Myself and Rob N served as Observers for GGLC on the Pride Committee meetings over the months as the route was planned, Police and Council consulted, stage acts and advertisers sought. Even the Cathedral became involved as a wedding was taking place at the time of the Parade. There were regularly moments when it seemed as though something would jeopardise the event - somehow it all came right on the day, in no small part due to the efforts of Michael C-H as Chairman of Pride. Indeed, just before we left on the day, Michael was still busy clearing up litter as the park had to be left ready for another event the next day.

My main impression of the day itself was from the relative dryness of my gazebo with the Gay Outdoor Club stall, but it was obvious that the acts on the main stage were a sufficient draw to pack out the bandstand bar almost until kicking out time. It's a shame though that folk weren't able to relax on the grass with a beer and burger! Maybe the weather gods will be kinder next year and the event can be enjoyed by more people while getting across the message that a minority we might be, but a larger one than they might think.

Mark M.

Events Write-up

Well, what a varied program we have had! The News quiz by Peter was as fun as ever, though I do have the advantage of reading the local newspaper most days—it certainly gave me an advantage! Can't remember who won, wasn't important! I missed the talk by Dr Smith, one day I will have to get to one, as it is undoubtedly educational, though am a bit worried I might find out there is something wrong with me, errrr... more than usual that is!

Rob and Mike entertained us with a couple of films, commercial and personal, about Thailand. It looks a wonderful place, just a bit too far for my travelling, I'm afraid, but looked splendid.

The street party was fantastic, what a spread, and fun was had by all. One thing that should be mentioned was the jellys—no one had seen anything like them since back in the 70's, and didn't they go down a storm!

Barbara came again to talk about clairvoyance, and demonstrated two types of card reading. It was as interesting as ever, even if I remain unconvinced.

On the 14th the hall was a hive of activity, with the instant raffle prizes and tickets being prepared for the Gloucestershire Pride. As always, Mike and Rob had us all organised and it all went smoothly under their expert guidance.

The Pride has been covered elsewhere, and I sadly didn't manage to get to Alan's quiz, though I have heard it was enjoyed. We had a film talk by Mike and Alan following them on their travels in Canada, which was very interesting. Quite how they managed to get so many good shots of bears without getting eaten is beyond me!

The Annual Picnic was, of course, rained off, and the Treasure Hunt fell the same way, another tradition we are getting into! Still, we had a backup quiz, with the result that I really need to find another source of questions!

Graham, Newsletter Editor

Delightful Grandchildren!

Three little boys are visiting their Grandparents. The oldest asks his Grandfather "Can you make a sound like a frog Grandad?" Grandad, not being in the mood for silly questions, said "not now son".

So, the second boy comes along and asks his Grandfather "Can you make a sound like a frog Grandad?" Grandad replies "not now, maybe later".

Then the third boy comes along and asks "Grandad, will you please, please, please, make a noise like a frog?"

Grandad loses his patience asks "What is up with you three, why do you keep asking me the same question?"

The little boy replies, with a hopeful face, "Well, Mum said that when you croak we all get to go to DisneyWorld"!

INSTANT RAFFLE

I am sure there will be a write up on this too, but as Chair of the GGLC can I say a big thank you to all those who donated, organised, helped and especially those who stood out all day in the gazebo amongst all that cold and wet. It rained so hard you could get lost going tent to tent.

Thank you

A personal thank you from me

Michael CH

Membership update

We have a Membership of 54 which is three up on the last Newsletter report Spring 2012. We welcome William D and Ken A as new Members of the Group.

Rob P, Membership Secretary

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

01452 306800 Mon-Fri 7.30-10pm.

Write PO Box 171, Gloucester GL1 4YE.

Web-site and email service: www.gay-glos.org. New volunteers always required.

First Friday Women's Group

(Held, logically, on the first Friday of each month)

A drop-in evening providing a place for lesbians to meet and chat, a jumping off point for the weekend, a place to relax and meet new people.

Friends Meeting House, Greyfriars, Southgate Street, Gloucester, GL1 1TS

From 7.30 – 10.00pm

Email contact: fridaywomen@rocketmail.com

We charge a minimum of £1 per person. This goes towards the cost of the room and tea/coffee.

There's a no alcohol policy on the premises.

Additional donations welcome – it's still a cheap evening!

SHORT FILM

You will remember we contributed to a group of Students who wanted to make a short film “Getting Out Coming Home”. Conner, Liz and Tea have completed their project and sent us a copy of their film. Well done to them – the DVD is available to lend out if anyone missed it. The plot is about a young lad at his first Music Festival. He loses his money and accepts a series of lifts to get home where he plans to tell his family he is gay. This is his story as he talks through his feelings on his journey.

RAINED OFF

What a soggy summer we are having! Sadly, the picnic had to be cancelled for the second year running. We hope ‘weather permitting’ to combine it with the Rounders on the 19th August at Michinhampton Common, Stroud. While writing this, we have the gas fire on in July! Roll on winter when the weather is warmer.

Alan R

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.

SKITTLES

I am sure there will be a write up, but can I say thanks to Bill and Ray for taking this on and giving so much enjoyment. Ray does such a marvellous job with getting everyone organised and the trophies.

Thanks so much guys – always a great night out.

MCH

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!

Newsletter and Diary email addresses!

You can now submit articles or ideas for the Diary via email, at the following addresses:

newsletter@gglc-glos.co.uk and diary@gglc-glos.co.uk

Now all I have to do is remember to check.....

The Editor

BRISTOL PRIDE

It was raining hard on the way there, it rained even harder getting the gazebo up. Then the sun came out for a couple of minutes and it stayed dry until it was time to pack up and go home. Then it rained and rained and rained!

Did it dampen our spirits. Never – we are Gloucestershire boys!! With me were Alan, Rob, Peter and Graham. We set up a really good display and our rainbow cowboy hats were not only admired but many requests to buy one ! Graham and Mark manfully took our banner on the Parade – they were rather wet and were hidden by mist at the top of the hill (it could have been low cloud at that point!!). They did a brilliant job in difficult conditions – well done guys. Mark and Rob N were with the Gay Outdoors/Cycling Group who were very popular with their display.

We were next to a stand promoting “accident claims” manned by, well , scantily dressed young men. In T-shirts and very, very short shorts there was a lot of jiggling going on – both in the shorts and out of them. It passed the time although one member of the team (I won't mention your name Peter) nearly had to be revived twice.

The team were magnificent in promoting the group – getting out there and meeting the people. The dayglo stickers were popular and the pencils helped to get people interested. We even met people from Cheltenham who didn't know we existed – after 38 years in the county.

I must say a big thank you to the 5 who went to Bristol – it was a long damp day. The Pride itself was brilliant with great entertainment and quite a few stalls. Congratulations to the Bristol Pride Committee who must have put a lot into making it a success.

Michael

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

DID YOU KNOW?

Gay bullying at school

A Stonewall report last week confirmed how many LGBT pupils are bullied because of their sexuality and what proportion of the boys and girls feel suicidal as a result. Shocking this is still the case in this day and age. A positive section of the report was schools who did tackle this problem were very successful. Go to the Stonewall site for more information.

MCH

Fifth July 2012 – the 30th Anniversary of the death of Terry Higgins.
One life lost – so many saved

Lack of knowledge on screening

More than two fifths of Lesbian and Bisexual *women* have been wrongly told that they do not need to be screened for cervical cancer, according to the The Lesbian and Gay Foundation. Be safe- get screened.

Gloucestershire Pride 2012

Ours was the first Pride to receive opening remarks from a representative of Her Majesty the Queen. Vice Lieutenant Robert Bernays spoke on behalf of Dame Janet Trotter, Lord Lieutenant of Gloucestershire, who acts in place of the Queen. He spoke very eloquently both on behalf of himself and also Dame Janet. Did you know what the Citizen did with this piece of news – a first for Gloucestershire. Nothing. Shame on you Ian Mears

Olympics

Let's hope the rain eases off by the end of July. How many of the athletes are LGBT, but cannot live their lives, because they would be turned into mincemeat in their home country?

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.

HEALTH and WELFARE SERVICE

Having recently taken on the role as the Group's Health Promotion Rep, I'd like to use this opportunity to promote the aim of this service, which is to provide group members with current information on all aspects of men's health and wellbeing (physical, sexual and emotional). To this end, I've put together a factfile of booklets, pamphlets and leaflets, covering a wide range of topics, from AIDS to baldness, from diet to the Prostate. My intention is to make this information available during the monthly Coffee, Chat and Raffle evenings. In addition, I shall also be looking to invite speakers from organisations along to future meetings, for example, the Terrence Higgins Trust, to talk about AIDS-related issues. Watch this space for further details...

Robert N.

UNTOLD STORIES

The DVD, which we saw in the last season, should hopefully soon be available—so you will be able to keep forever the film debuts (we think!) of all those who participated. It was a very interesting collection, so many different experiences and viewpoints, and should keep future sociologists in work for years to come!

Keep an eye out, as I'm sure you will want your copy.

The Editor

The Annual Picnic and Rounders

Remember that this is now a combined event, the picnic having been rained off (as is now traditional..). It is on Rodborough Common, somewhere near the landmark of Old Tom's Post, if memory serves me, and will be starting at around 1pm on Sunday 19th of August. Bring loads of food, chairs, drink and laughter, and those of us who feel fit enough after a scrumptious picnic will exercise the pounds off in a good old game of rounders! Don't worry if you can't run, we have had runners for people before, it's just a great time to have fun in the outdoors.

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**

HIGHNAM WOODS

If you have visited this RSPB venue or passed by you will see a lot of site clearing has taken place. This follows complaints from the public on sexual activity seen from the footpaths.

I sit on a board set up to look at the various problems at this site, representing the GGLC. As usual the problems are caused by visitors from outside the area, very little of which you can do anything about. Clearing of the undergrowth by the car park is complete and there are patrols late at night now.

If you want to see minutes of the meetings, do let me know.
Michael CH

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

| | | |
|--|---|--|
| 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 |

G.G.L.C.

Annual Dinner 2012

will be held on

Saturday October 27th

7.30 for 8.00 p.m.

The Cranham Suite

The Royal William Hotel, GL6 6TT

Members £16.50 – Non members £20

See flyer for menu choices!

***Please complete your menu choice from list and return
with payment NO LATER THAN 10th OCTOBER***

A Request for Assistance

We received an email asking for help in a University study, so are printing it here for you all to have a look at! We do get these from time to time, and feedback has always been that our contributions are gratefully received, so give this one a bit of thought! Thanks, Editor.

Hello,

I am a PhD student at the University of Bristol, working under Marianne Hester. For my research, I would like to speak with gay and bisexual men about seeking support for relationship issues, with the overall goal of promoting more connections between those who provide support and those who might need support. I think it is very important to hear from gay and bisexual men directly what they think and what their experiences have been like, to understand what they may need to help with relationship issues and to make sure there are services to support those needs. I have two links for the study, which I have pasted below. Would it be possible to include either link in the newsletter, along with a brief description of the research?

Thank you very much for your time and help!

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Study-on-Gay-Men-and-Bisexual-Mens-Relationships-and-Communities/112876785504849>

<http://edu.surveygizmo.com/s3/904931/Men-s-Relationships-And-Communities>

Kind Regards,

Cassandra Jones, Ph.D. Candidate, School for Policy Studies, University of Bristol, 8 Priors Road, Bristol

BUS STOP

We have introduced this game to help with group funds. For 50p a go you have a chance of winning £5. Let me know what you think . If anyone has any other ideas for future fund raising, please mention it to me at one of our meetings – we are willing to give any ideas a go
Alan R

Editors Note : It's been a great success Alan. Well done!

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

August

19th Ian V.
21st Norina S.
26th Brian B.

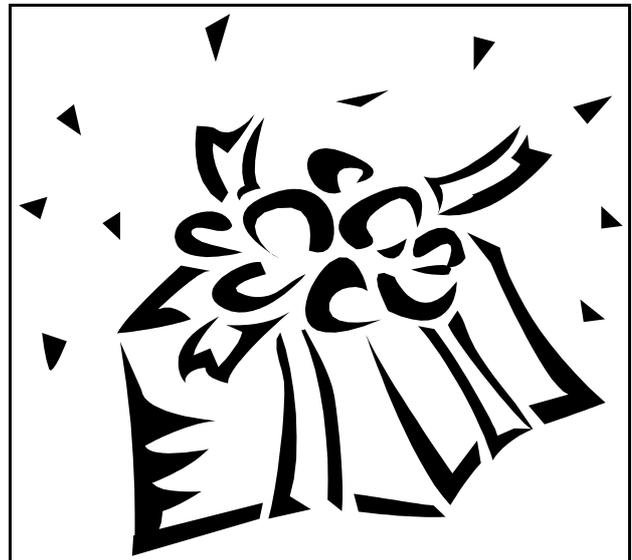
October
1st Peter S
27th John H

September

4th Neil W
8th Mike B
9th Andy H
15th Peter T

November

2nd Meg H
2nd Robin H
7th Robert F
13th William R



Goodness! What a huge number of birthdays this issue (obviously other things 'issued' all those years back!). Well done all, and many to come!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU ALL



GGLC's SOCIAL CALENDAR DIARY OF EVENTS

August

- 2nd Multiple Choice Quiz—Mike B
- 9th Film Night—Robert N
- 10th Pub Night at the Westgate Pub
- 16th Summer Flowers—A talk by the WI
- 19th Rounders & Picnic - Rodborough Common
- 23rd Night with Gay Girls of Gloucestershire
- 30th Coffee, Chat and Raffle

September

- 6th A guest Speaker, Mike Smith - non political
- 13th Bingo with Mike B and Rob P
- 14th Pub Night at the Westgate Pub
- 20th Barcelona - an insight by Graham
- 27th Coffee, Chat and Raffle

October

- 4th News Quiz—Peter C
- 11th Nellie Night—Northern Comedy
- 12th Pub Night at the Westgate Pub
- 18th Memories, an Night with Barbara Strisland
- 25th Coffee, Chat and Dinner Preparation!
- 27th Annual Dinner

November

- 1st Make your Little Guy—fun craft!
- 8th Tinkle Your Ivories—bring your own music evening

Advanced warning!

The Annual Picnic is now in with the Rounders, so don't forget to bring you lunch, tea, dinner, snacks, in-between nibbles and such like!
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.