
GGLCommunity News

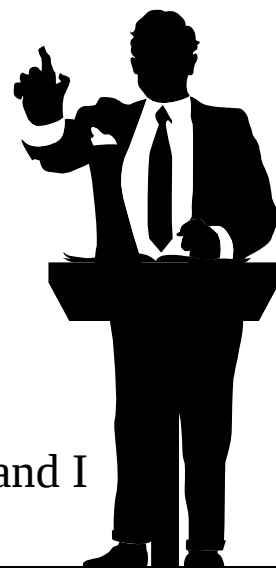


GGLC+

AGM Notification

Spring 2025

CHAIRMAN'S LETTER



I was surprised! Graham sent me the usual reminder to get my letter in for the Newsletter and then told me it would be my last one!! This really brought it home that my term as Chair is coming to an end.

I so appreciate those who have asked if I would stay on, and I am tempted! After 30 years + I believe it is best for me, my health and the Group to find a new Chair.

I think someone with fresh ideas, energy and a younger body(!) will help bring a new evolution to the Group. If anyone is interested, I am happy to discuss the responsibility, time involved etc. If wanted, I can offer support and guidance during the initial hand over period. Do give it some thought.

As I write this, I'm flooded with memories of how our Group has evolved. We used to meet every week, and attendance varied from as few as 3 to a regular 45! It was quite a feat to come up with something new each week, but we did it. Thanks to an active committee, we had loads of fun activities - from crafts and speakers to slide shows and holiday photos.

One of my favourites was Pancake Day, when Ken and my husband Alan would cook 40-50 pancakes, and everyone would queue up for more. We also had some amazing trips, like visiting Frankie Howerd's home (his wig on a teapot was a highlight!) and fun weekends in Bournemouth when it was more affordable.

I've met fantastic people and made lifelong friends. The Group has been a huge part of my life, and I'll miss being involved. Thank you all for

Raffle

The raffle at our face to face meetings is a good way to off-set the room costs, so please remember to bring something interesting to add to the draw!

Graham, Editor

your support and dedication. I have no regrets and am grateful for the friendships and the chance to support the LGBT community.

Wishing you all happiness, safety, and friendship.

Warmest wishes,

Michael, Chair, GGLC

Email from the Quakers

Dear Michael

Happy Christmas.

I have been asked to write to you to thank you and the members of GGLC for the beautiful Christmas tree - better than ever this year. We wish you could have heard the howls of delight when people came out of our Meeting and saw the fairy (Ken) on the top!

Thank you again!
in Friendship

Andrew

The Diversity Trust - Voice and Influence project

London based group looking to develop and strengthen LGBTQ+ networks and organisations, particularly local ones. This probably covers both us, GGLC and the LGBT+ Partnership

Gay Outdoor Club

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

National AIDS Helplines

“You can ask what you want to ask”
0800567123

Card Payments

Following on from the increasing demand to be able to accept card payments, we now have a **SumUp** card reader. We now accept the following cards including Apple Pay and Google Pay.

1. The minimum payment that can be made is £1.00. Sometimes your bank will only process payment by inserting your card into the reader and entering your PIN. Please ensure that you know your PIN.
2. Your card and bank details are never revealed to GGLC and never will be. This is a Banking Industry requirement. Please make sure that we know what you are paying for, such as Tea/Coffee, Raffle, Bus Stop, Membership, Donation, Annual Dinner etc.
3. Receipts are not yet able to be issued directly at this time. We will still acknowledge any payment made but this will be by email so we will need your email address to do this.
4. Any payments made will be shown on your bank statement as “G G L Community”.

BACS Transfer

You can transfer money into the GGLC Bank Account directly from your own bank account. If you do this, please tell us what the payment is for, using the “reference” area on your payment screen, particularly for new members or membership renewals! The Account Name is **G G L**

Community

Account Sort Code: **30-93-48**

Account Number: **00902186**

Reference: “**IanHRenew**” or “**IanHDinner**” or “**IanHNew**” or whatever, helps us to identify your payment on our bank statement.

Please use your name! These references are only examples that you can use. The maximum number of characters that a bank will accept is **18** and no spaces.

We continue to accept **Cash** or **Cheque** if you prefer but we would appreciate BACS payments or Card Payments wherever possible.

Ian H, GGLC Treasurer.

Cheltenham VCS Forum

We recently attended a meeting of the Cheltenham VCS Forum. There was representation from many organisations across Cheltenham. We were made to feel very welcome and there was time at the end of the meeting to network. It was a friendly and informative meeting.

Organisations are encouraged to give a full presentation on the work they are doing, and projects they are undertaking, and on this occasion we had a presentation on “No Child Left Behind”.

No Child Left Behind is a project in Cheltenham that aims to help all young people to thrive. In 2018, it was highlighted that there were around 4400 children and young people in Cheltenham living in poverty. When compared to their more affluent peers, they faced significant challenges such as poorer educational attainment, higher rates of school exclusion, poorer mental and physical health, were more likely to be under social care and were more likely to be victims of crime. Issues still exist today.

Organisations present gave feedback on their work including GGLC.

It would be good to have a member in Cheltenham to represent GGLC at these meetings. If you feel able to help, please contact info@gglc.co.uk or speak to Graham.

Graham and Howard

Payments—A success but a question...

As you have all become aware, the Group has been testing out how viable it is to use card payments for meetings, membership and events.

Well, it has been very successful, a convenience for members and a good way of accepting payments from the general public at Pride for the Bottle Stall.

However (there is always a however!), there is a small cost to the Group for each transaction, so, it's been proposed that if you are paying by card, you may be asked to add 10p to the amount to offset this.

The Editor and bringer of ill tidings

The Future of the GGLC

Our AGM is rapidly approaching, and there will be some momentous changes for the Group.

One of these is well known by now, our long-standing Chairman, Michael C-H, will be sitting down from that position, and we will have a new Chair to take us forward (as long as one of you lot steps forward!). It's not a role I would take on, I am not suited to it and it would be a disaster for the Group, so don't suggest it please.

It may be that we will be without a Chair for a while, and the rest of the Committee would take turns to Chair meetings, and would have to take on some of the background tasks Michael has been doing. This does mean we need people on the Committee, people who can be relied on to do what they volunteer to do. None of the posts are difficult or take up a lot of time, it's just that someone has to do them or the Group can not survive.

The AGM is at the end of April, you need to have been a member for a year to be elected onto the Committee (historical reasons, to protect the Group from carpet baggers), though if you are interested in being on the Committee and are coming up to a year, there is the possibility of being co-opted on and voted in at a later date. As a US President from the distant past said 'Think not what your Group can do for you, but what you can do for your Group'. OK, changed a bit, but the idea is the same.

Another change is that we may be changing our logo just a little bit, and this can be seen in the front cover of this Newsletter! The proposal is to add a + to our name, to try and show us as more inclusive without losing our core identity.

This will, of course, have to be ratified by you, the membership, at the AGM. Have a look at the cover, see what you think, and we can make the final decision then.

Graham, Editor and Chief Stirrer

2025 Pride Dates

Here are the dates and locations for 2025:

- **Pride in Cheltenham:** Saturday 17th May, Imperial Gardens, Cheltenham
- **Pride in Cirencester:** Saturday 14th June, Abbey Grounds, Cirencester
- **Wotton Pride:** Saturday 14th June, Wotton under Edge
- **Stroud Pride:** Saturday 28th June, Bank Gardens, Stroud (independent)
- **Pride in the Forest of Dean:** Sunday 20th July, Market Street, Cinderford
- **Dursley Pride:** Bank Holiday Monday 25th August
- **Pride in Gloucestershire:** Saturday 13th September, Gloucester Park, Gloucester
- **Pride in Tewkesbury:** Saturday 4th October, Watson Hall, Tewkesbury

Outreach Events

These events are usually run by the LGBT+ Partnership and the NHS, on their bus! We have representation on the stall, and volunteers are always welcome to man it for a while. It's great fun, and sometimes you can make a real positive difference to people's lives.

Pride on Tour: These events are usually about a month before the full Pride, and are centred around the NHS Display bus

Gloucester Big Health Day: tbc June/July

Hartpury College Wellfest: 18th September

Rainbow Cuppa

Under the auspices of the LGBT+ Partnership, there are regular meet ups. Check out their website, <https://www.lgbtchelt.co.uk>

On the 4th Saturday of the month in Cheltenham at The Wilson Kitchen Arts Café, between 1pm and 3pm.

There is a Rainbow Cuppa event on the 2nd Saturday of every month at St Mary de Crypt in Southgate Street from 1pm to 3pm.

There is also one at Wooton Under Edge, probably at The Keepers.

Graham, Editor

Gay Iman shot dead

Muhsin Hendricks, the first openly gay Iman was shot dead in South Africa. Aged 57, he came out in 1996. His car was ambushed in a targeted murder in February this year.

He founded The Inner Circle in 1996 to support queer Muslims, and then established the inclusive Masjidul Ghurbaah mosque, which is now run by his Al-Ghurbaah Foundation. During a 2022 documentary, he stated "The need to be authentic was greater than the fear to die."

In 2006, when South Africa legalised same sex marriage (the first African country to do so), he married his partner, a Hindu man. This is relevant because not only was he homosexual, he also married outside his faith for love, both facts which some feel are not acceptable.

The police are still investigating by whom and why he was murdered, that he was returning home after officiating at the marriage of two couples, both heterosexual and interfaith may well have been a factor.

Muhsin Hendricks was a brave man, who lived his life according to his own terms, and who brought hope to many, throughout Africa, the LGBT+ communities and the faith communities. His life should be celebrated and his death mourned as a true loss to the world.

Graham, Editor

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**Notice is hereby given of the
Annual General Meeting
of the
Gloucestershire Gay and Lesbian Community
on
Thursday 24th April 2025 at 7.30pm prompt
(doors open 7.00pm)
at the Friends Meeting House,
Gloucester**

NOMINATION FORM AGM—24th April 2025

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

Chair	[]
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.

Letter from America—Editorial

Among some of the many interesting and confusing events in America in the past weeks, the LGBTQ+ communities have been variously targeted. Orders have gone out at Federal and some State levels to remove books from public (state) schools and public libraries. Teaching of LGBTQ+ issues, including history and relationships has been stopped by fiat, and references to LGBTQ+, in particular T+, have been removed from Government websites (those that haven't been removed completely), covered over in historical displays, and actively removed from Government owned monuments, such as the Stonewall National Monument.

This is not unexpected, as it seems to be the playbook for the more autocratic regimes, and Project 2025 was quite clear on what was going to happen in the USA. We have seen reflections of what is happening there in certain European countries, and it's something we need to stay vigilant about here too. The divide and conquer tactic we have seen here, and it's something we can't ignore, because we all know where that will lead.

There are currently 456 State level bills that will adversely affect LGBTQ+ communities (American Civil Liberties Union). Most will be restricting the rights of trans people, but already new ones affecting the rest of our community are being added. The old poem 'First they came for..' is proving true yet again. But this is all in the USA, I hear, what has it to do with us? This is the same refrain that was heard during the Spanish Civil War, the rise of Mussolini, and the downfall of the Weimar Republic (when Berlin was a safe haven for our communities).

There are those in our politics who would like to take us down the road the USA has taken, and there are some in our communities who follow them, thinking that they are safe, as of course it's not 'us' who will be next. It's always 'them', you know, the ones who are different, don't conform to 'our' views of how we should be, who should not be 'so loud', or should not push for 'more', those are the people whom the extremists are after, not 'us'.

That, of course, is not true, as history has shown us. The original Russian Revolution had a large number of LGBTQ+ leaders in it, and

without them there may not have been a Revolution. Most of them were quickly purged by subsequent revolutions, and after Stalin came to power, our communities were strongly repressed again. Ernst Rohm, that early supporter of Hitler and co-founder of the paramilitary SA that helped push him to power thought he was safe, despite his homosexuality, until The Night of the Long Knives.

Already we see supporters of the current USA administration finding out that they too are the targets. The farmers, the blue collar workers, the Federal employees, the Veterans, non-US citizens, people dependent on Social Security or Medicare, all are finding out now how their vote affects themselves.

Could this happen on this side of the Pond? Well, yes, if we let it. Thankfully, we have just seen the lack of class some political figures actually have in the most graphic way possible. It's been almost impossible to define what being British is, but the display we were given during one Press Conference has shown us clearly what it is not. Hopefully we will come together, like we have done before in such incidences as the Battle of Cable Street, or the Campaign for Homosexual Equality (which was successful as it wasn't just our communities but compassionate and wonderful people from the whole of society).

So we have the warning from the other side of the world. Take note of it, and make the choice to stand and be counted or not, but never forget what went before that gave us the freedom to make that choice.

Graham, Editor

Please note this is a personal view, and does not purport to be the view of the GGLC or it's members, who are free to have their own views.

SKITTLES AND 10 PIN

With spring approaching there will be chance to book a slot . Usually Skittles is on a Sunday afternoon and 10 Pin on a Tuesday evening when it is cheaper.

If interested can you give our name to Michael or text him on 074469 840458.

Inclusive Church Newsletter (National)

The Inclusive Church has long been providing a religious setting for the LGBT+ community, and have asked us to let you know they are still there.

They include several churches in Gloucester, Cheltenham and Tewksbury, and they have a look-up service on their website to find one near you.

inclusive-church.org

It should be noted that St. Mary de Crypt is now providing inclusive services (see below), they are not affiliated with the Inclusive Church but are a change in the Church of England.

St Mary de Crypt—Inclusive Church Services

St Marys, a long term supporter of our Group, including being where we were offered the first permanent location for our meetings, is now running inclusive services.

They are on Sundays at 4pm each month, and there will be refreshments after and a chance to chat.

The next few services are on 16 March, 20 April and 18 May .

For those who would like a supportive religious environment, this may be the place for you.

Graham

Jokes and Riddles

This was going to be a selection of nice LGBT+ jokes and riddles, then I read some of those on the internet and decided I wasn't going to print that sort of thing. So... the section below is left blank, and your task is to find a joke or riddle that is funny, thought provoking and could also be printed. Write it below, and let us know at the next meeting!

NEW COMMITTEE

The Group AGM is fast approaching and we are always looking for Members to take an active role managing the Group.

The current Committee is a mixture and quite new and experienced committee members. If you could be interested in joining do see anyone on the Committee. They all started new, just like you, so can offer advice and guidance and tell you all about it and what is required.

Everyone has some skill, knowledge or ability - you don't need anything special to be part of the team. We will be really pleased to help. Some positions are selected on by the Committee , once you are elected. The major posts like Chair, Secretary, Treasurer are elected individually.

Forms for voting are in this edition of the Newsletter – do fill one in and get it signed and countersigned at the next meeting

Mx

AGE CONCERN

How to get involved:

If you are aged 50 years or over, you can join our Voice of Older People panel and become a powerful advocate for older people in your community.

What will this involve?

As a panel member you will be asked for your thoughts and views on a range of topics so we can better shape the future for older people in Gloucestershire. This may be by participating in focus groups or responding to questionnaires for Age UK Gloucestershire or on behalf of other Gloucestershire based organisations interested in seeking your thoughts and views.

If interested, see the Age Concern website or contact the Chair of GGLC

All Out

Founded in 2010, All Out is a global movement working to support and protect LGBT+ people facing persecution because of who they are and who they love.

In more than 60 countries, it is a crime to be gay and in 10 you can be executed.

All Out mobilises thousands of people across the world and works with brave LGBT+ individuals and organisations in countries where people are suffering persecution.

From signing a petition, to joining a protest, from sharing on social media, to making a donation, everyone can help. 93% of donations go directly to campaigns and 7% goes to essential expenses to keep All Out running.

A number of campaigns can be in operation at any one time.

One of the latest attacks against LGBT+ people has come from Cameroon. It is illegal to be gay there and the attack comes from the music industry stirring up hatred and violence against LGBT+ people. It is a song performed by Snoopy and has been put out on Apple Music, You Tube, Spotify and Tik Tok. “Stab the f**s!” it goes. <https://allout.org/en>

Howard H

Quecon Gloucester CIC

A new not for profit organisation started by Richard Stevens of Pride in Gloucestershire. The aim is to open a new LGBT+ venue in Gloucester, with events, available rooms, and anything else they can think of. We know Richard has been very successful in developing Pride in the county, so this could be an exciting addition to the LGBT+ resources for us all.

GGLC Membership Payments

GGLC members have 3 choices when paying their membership,

- 1 BACS
- 2 CASH
- 3 Cheque

Our preferred method of payment is via BACS for those who use internet banking, this way we get our money promptly and the members don't have to wait for their cheques to clear the bank.

Cash and cheques can be paid in person at any meeting, however due to us only meeting once a month now, cheques may not be paid into our bank very quickly and could possibly take a few weeks before they clear the member's bank.

Pay-Pal is being phased out as it is rarely used and by using this method GGLC lose a percentage of the money through administration costs. So please pay by BACS if you can or cash at our meetings.

Many Thanks, Treasurer.

Birthdays Published in the Newsletter

As you are aware, it is a tradition to publish birthdays of our members in our Newsletters.

It was brought to my attention that it might be that some members are not aware that our Newsletter is published in our website and also distributed to a number of LGBTQIA2S+ organisations.

As you are aware **we do not publish full names** in our birthday lists, but it might be that some members prefer not to have their birthdays published on it.

If your preference is **NOT** to have your birthday published in our newsletters, please let me know and I will make sure it won't be included in future publications.

Sergio, Membership Secretary

Young People's Social Group

GAY-GLOS Aims to provide a safe meeting place for LGBT young people (and those exploring their sexual orientation) aged between 14 to 18 years old in the county of Gloucestershire.

We meet 12:00 midday to 3:00pm every second Saturday in Gloucester. The group is free to join and we are able to help those who need it with transport costs.

Contact via our Website www.gay-glos.org or email to youth@gay-glos.org or leave a message on 07903 472899 and we will call you back.

Change in NHS Treatment of our Trans Community

We received an email from a local trans man letting us know about a change in how some NHS GP Practices are treating them. Specifically, the removal of HRT, not just not prescribing to new patients, but stopping long term prescriptions. It's an extension of the ban on puberty blockers, and will have immediate effects for those people who have relied on this medication, sometimes for many years.

It mostly affects trans men, as testosterone is only available as a prescription drug, whereas oestrogen (used by trans women) may be obtained legally by other routes. Some of the services that all trans people use are affected, as some Practices have withdrawn the hormone level testing which is used to maintain correct doses.

As trans men are only a small percentage of our community, it may be difficult to understand the effect this will have on them, because we are not in their position. Many of us (particularly us older ones!) will be taking statins, Omeprazole, or heart medication. We know if we don't take that medication, our lives would be uncomfortable, miserable, and we might die or want to. This is the reality for our trans brothers and sisters today.

What can we do about this situation? Well, this is part of Government policy put in place by the previous Government, so we can always ask questions of our MPs—the more people who raise this with their MPs the more likely something positive will be done. We also need to be aware of what is being done to some parts of our community, and keep an eye on how things progress. If petitions are written or demonstrations organised, we can keep you as members informed.

If there are any members directly affected, let us know, and we may be able to put you in touch with others in the same position—together we are always stronger. We may also be able to suggest which Practices are still sympathetic in their treatment.

There has been an update email about this situation, so I am adding some details.

The person who sent in the information has been working with others to start a dialog with the Gloucestershire Integrated Care Board, who are

responsible for planning and buying services to meet the health needs of local people. They state they are trying to put together a specific set of criteria for supplying the needs of our trans community, as there isn't one currently and the national guidelines are unclear which has allowed some practices to stop provision.

The Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) is working with those affected, and if you are, it is worth contacting them with your concerns.

It's possible to get directly involved in all aspects of health by joining the patient feedback groups for PALS and the ICB, and that is how to make our voices heard over the long term in all aspects of our health, so do look them up and tell them what you think!

For those affected, there is a WhatsApp group that you can join by emailing glosprescriptioncrisis@gmail.com and asking.

Graham, Editor

ARCHIVE

I am gathering old GGHLC material for safe keeping the Gloucestershire Archives, kept by Gloucestershire County Council. They already have a stock of GGLC material, and very keen to obtain more. If you have an LGBT material that should be saved for future generations, then please let me know. I can catalogue and parcel up with my contributions.

Please contact Michael

M

A reminder from our Secretary about Group postal and email addresses

Please bear in mind that all letters and emails to the Group (i.e. sent to 50 Knowles Rd GL14TP and info@gglc.co.uk) are delivered initially to me as Secretary. I will always endeavour to reply and confirm receipt on the same day and inform other committee members as required. Cheques received are usually banked within 2 days of receipt

Many thanks for your understanding and co-operation

Peter C

Membership Update

I would like to report that we are now 96 active members. It is a decrease of 1 person since our last newsletter.

Since the last report we have lost 7 members, we also had 25 renewals and 6 new members, they are:

Jesse, Humphrey, Ziad, Florence, Muhammad and Abdul.

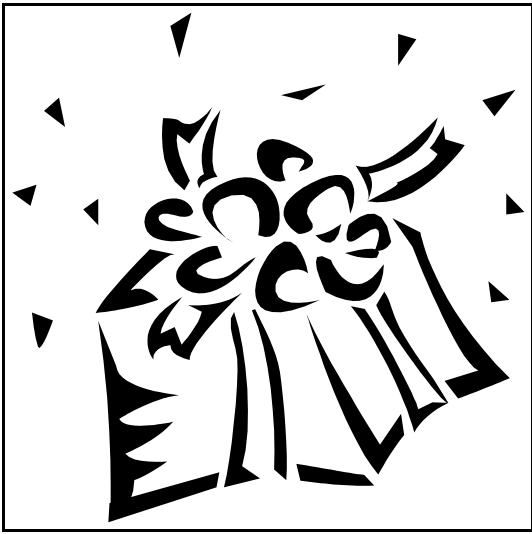
Welcoming to all our new members and thank you very much for those members that decided to renew their membership.

Sergio

Membership Secretary

PRISM

PRISM is a group for LGBT+ people who work for the City and County councils. Gloucester City Council has unanimously passed a motion of all party support. GGLC has supported the setting up of PRISM.

					<u>UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS</u>	
						
March		Michael W	16			
Isak	3	Martin	17			
Junitha	10	Peter C	18			
Philip	14	Peter W	25			
Sandra	15	Alan	30			
Carolyn	18	May				
Sergio	25	Roy	2			
Andrew D	29	Malvin	2			
Trevor	29	Davina	5			
Michael C-H	30	Emerson	5			
April		Salman A	5			
Salman M	1	Adalberto (Bob)	13			
Paul L-J	2	Ceri T	14			
Alan	8	John M	21			
Maryanne Z	16	Ben	28			
					<i>HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU ALL</i>	



GGLC's SOCIAL CALENDAR DIARY OF EVENTS

March

6th GGLC Meeting and a talk by the Dean of the Cathedral

20th GGLC Virtual Meeting

April

3rd GGLC Meeting and talk by Carmen from the Gloucester Wildlife Trust

17th GGLC Virtual Meeting

24th GGLC Annual General Meeting

May

1st GGLC Meeting

15th GGLC Virtual Meeting

Advanced Warnings and Notes!

Remember the AGM is at the end of April, so pencil it in your diary, we will need as many members as possible to reach quorum.

Keep an eye on the website and your email for other events!

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



GGLC



GGLC



GGLC

**GLOUCESTERSHIRE
GAY & LESBIAN
COMMUNITY**

c/o 50 Knowles Road,
Gloucester GL1 4TP

07942 383275

www.gglc.co.uk
info@gglc.co.uk

GGLC

CONTACTING THE GGLC

Gloucestershire Gay & Lesbian Community meets 1st Thursday monthly, from 7.30pm, in Gloucester city centre. A warm welcome is assured for everyone. Write to :-

The Secretary, GGLC, c/o 50 Knowles Road,
Gloucester GL1 4TP. (postal only)

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, and a new telephone number 07942383275

Your Committee (till AGM)

Chairman: Michael C-H.

Vice-Chair: Howard H.

Secretary: Peter C.

Treasurer: Ian H, (Co-Opted)

Member: Navishka K.

Member: Sergio (Membership Secretary)

Newsletter Editor: Graham V.

The committee roles not voted on are decided at the first Committee Meeting.

If anyone knows of any new venues opening, please let us know.

HELPING HAND

Don't forget the Group is here to help one another. If you are unwell, still needing to self isolate or stuck, need groceries or medication, contact our Secretary or Membership Secretary. That will find someone who can help you.

Group Telephone is 07942383275.