
GGLCommunity News



Summer
Autumn 2020

Virtual and Lockdown Edition

The latest News, Views and Opinion

DIARY OF EVENTS

CHAIRMAN'S LETTER



Hi,

So many are finding the current situation so difficult. For some it is the isolation, some days not talking to anyone, perhaps the lack of physical contact, for others they revel in having time to themselves, enjoying sorting out their own life. We all cope in different ways.

The Committee are following the changes in lockdown and when we can arrange Group meetings and socials again. As soon as that time comes we inform you by email or telephone. Do make sure our Membership Secretary has one or both of those contact details.

Between Graham, Craig and Rob they have arranged our fortnightly Virtual meetings. They have been great. Lovely to see the faces of good friends and loved ones again. The organiser has usually arranged a quiz or something. The evenings have been fun and, like group evenings, you get to meet some 'usuals' and new faces each time. If you haven't joined in yet, you should. It really is good to see everyone again. We have had someone who is new to the Group and they liked it and will join in again.

I have been really busy, but paid more attention to the news. I get so annoyed at the media – and I mean all of the media, TV, radio and newspapers. These reporters and Hosts seem to think we voted them into Government. They give their opinion, keep interrupting, get so hostile. I'm surprised some of them don't get black-listed, one woman in particular. The BBC seem to be the worst and make the whole situation so depressing. I don't why or how. It gets me really worked up and can understand why people shout at the TV! But that's just me – you might think different?

It is six months now since Alan and I were flooded. We are well settled in our rented house and pleased we are still in the same village. It makes it easier to see to the garden and keep an eye on the house. It looks like the builders can start late September and we hope to move back home in February 2021. It can't be too soon for us. It's certainly been a hard year. But, it has been lovely to enjoy the sunshine, eating al fresco and some "social distancing" picnics with friends. I hope you have enjoyed the summer, despite the difficulties around us.

Keep positive, keep safe – remember you have the Group around you and there is always someone to speak to. Use the bonds formed to help you through the difficult times.

With all best wishes

Michael

GGLC Mascot Proposal

During the Google Meetings, one of our members brought up the idea of having a Group mascot to help promote the Group and create a visual link for people. It's an interesting idea, one that the Committee is throwing out to the membership to comment on and discuss.

Would having a mascot (we are talking stuffed toy here, not a living creature!) help give focus, and if so, what would it be?

It would need to be something relevant to the Group as a whole, and please, something that could be displayed to the general public!

Probably not thinking of something that could be merchandised at this point, but that is also something to consider for the future.

Have a think, come along to the Google Meets, and let's see if we can go anywhere with this. It is a new idea, and something that does require consideration.

Graham, Editor

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 loses a percentage of the money through administration costs. So please pay by BACS if you can or cash at our meetings.

Many Thanks, Craig, Treasurer.

Membership Update

The Membership numbers are at the lowest that I can ever remember and now stand 49. This is an overall loss of 5 since the last membership report in Spring 2020. I put this fall down to the coronavirus pandemic and our inability to hold monthly meetings where a considerable number of membership renewals and new memberships are taken out. However, we do welcome 2 new members these being Mehrdad R and David C. A very warm welcome to you both !.

I would like to encourage any person who would like to become a member or any existing/former members who would like to renew membership, to go to the gglc.co.uk website and either apply online or download the form and send in the post. If you have trouble with the form you can get one sent to you by writing to:- The Membership Secretary, GGLC, c/o 50 Knowles Road, Gloucester, GL1 4TP

Rob P.
Membership Secretary.

Google Meet

We have been holding regular Google Meet meetings for some time now. You can join on any computer, tablet or phone (you may need to download an app). On the evening of the meeting a link is sent via the email you have listed with our Membership Secretary (if you have not been getting the link, let him know what your current email is, or check your junk mail folder!).

The links are sent between 19:30 and 19:45, and you will be able to join the meeting between 19:45 and 20:00, with the meeting officially starting at 20:00. The meetings are held fortnightly, mainly because those of us that host them can just about keep track of two weeks.

When you join, your microphone will be muted as default, point or tap at the bottom of the screen which should show a white band with the mic crossed out, click that and you will be heard!

We have around 10 to 16 people attending, and they are nice relaxed gatherings. If there are two or more in a household, it's worth using just one connection, as we have sound feedback when two nearby connections are used.

We have had discussions, quizzes, notices, the normal things we have at our usual meetings, so come along and join in!

Graham, Editor

Hope House Sexual Assault Referral Centre

We had an email from Ava, who is a Crisis Worker at the Sexual Assault Referral Centre in Gloucestershire.

They are looking to raise awareness of the service so that others know where to come to, if they have been raped or sexually assaulted.

They offer practical and emotional support, as well as medical care, to anyone who has experienced sexual violence; regardless of gender, disability or sexual orientation- and you don't have to have reported to the Police in order to receive their care. The team are made up of male and female crisis workers who work around the clock to offer tailored support to victims who access the service. The advice line is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week (0300 4218400).

If you would like to find out more about the service:

Phone: 0300 4218400

E-mail: hopehousesarc@glos-care.nhs.uk

Website: www.hopehousesarc.nhs.uk

Facebook: @GloucesterSARC

Twitter: @HopeHouseSARC

Instagram: HopeHouseSARC

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.

Raffle

The raffle has not taken place since our in-person meetings have been put on hold. Thankfully, our outgoings have also gone down, so although this is one of the few ways we raise money for the Group, we are still solvent! Do put a few things aside for when we can get back to normal, or as normal as we ever are, then we can have a great raffle, something to look forward to,
Graham, Editor

Some Thoughts on Division

Quite recently, on my Twitter feed and other social media, there has been a huge amount of fighting between groups who should be listening to each other and giving support. Sadly, differences of opinion have been inflated, discussion devolved into name calling, anomalies being pointed out as general characteristics, and deep divisions have developed not only between the groups that have been fighting, but also inside those groups.

Watching friends repost tweets that start reasonable then have an ending line that turns the whole into an extremist ideology is frightening. If someone comments on the last bit, the reposter becomes defensive, and everything falls apart, with long term friendships breaking.

The question is, who gains advantage from this?

Graham, Editor

Virtual Annual Dinner

Well, it looks like we will not be having our usual Annual Dinner this year, as we have well over the maximum number of people in a gathering! So, following on from our online meetings, how about a virtual Annual Dinner?

Suggestions have been to have a Google Meet on the night, with people dressing up and doing a special dinner for themselves (this may result in tablets and phones being dunked in soup!), to having drinks in Google Meet while uploading a photo of the food we will be eating later.

We could also try one of the virtual worlds, though that may take a bit of setting up and restrict attendance due to available technology.

There are all sorts of possibilities here, including playing background music or showing photos and videos, but the question is, what do you as members want?

Let us know during the online meetings, by email, skype or carrier pigeon.

Graham, Editor

Adverts and Information in the Newsletter

You will notice there are still adverts and notifications about other organisations throughout the Newsletter, as usual. Realistically, those involving meeting up are not going to be going ahead, but they are being kept in with the hopes we will be back to usual sometime in the future, and they will be back in business.

Graham, Editor

COMMITTEE CHANGES

You will see in another part of this Newsletter, an article about the AGM and why we do not intend to hold one this year.

In the meantime, the Committee continue to hold virtual meetings. You may be aware that Chris, our Vice Chairwoman, has been through some serious health issues. She is recovering well and our heartfelt best wishes go to her. She has decided to relinquish the Vice Chairmanship which is understandable. Howard has stepped up to take her role. Thank you Howard.

As we are not holding an election, the Committee looked at the options available to us to replace the vacancy. Under the Constitution, we can co-opt. Our Membership Secretary checked with the Secretary and the votes at our last AGM. After the two vacancies were filled, the next candidate with the highest votes was David H. We therefore asked if he would like to accept the position of Committee Member until the next election in 2021. He was delighted to accept. David has many qualities and makes an excellent addition to the team. Well done David.

Michael
Chair

National Hate Crime Awareness Week

10th to 17th October 2020.

The LGBT Partnership is organising its own contribution to Hate Crime Awareness Week. I have been filmed on the docks about my own experiences.

Hate crimes occur in many forms. They can be assault, harassment or abuse and can happen on line or in person.

Chris D, Julie S and myself became hate crime champions for the GGLC.

Gloucester City Council and Gloucestershire County Council have both passed resolutions and are working actively with other agencies.

Gloucestershire Constabulary has a dedicated hate crime co-ordinator and Victim Support can help victims of hate crime.

Please contact me if you require any further information.

Howard H
Vice-Chair

Hate Crime Awareness

definition of hate crime:

“Any criminal offence which is perceived by the victim or any other person, to be motivated by hostility or prejudice based on a person’s race or perceived race; religion or perceived religion; sexual orientation or perceived sexual orientation; disability or perceived disability and any crime motivated by hostility or prejudice against a person who is transgender or perceived to be transgender.”

A pack is available for all members to see at group meetings. The pack includes forms for members to use to report a Hate Crime. Three of the committee have been trained in third party reporting Chris, Howard and Julie.

Hate Crimes Figures for Gloucestershire will be discussed at meeting as we receive the latest information from the Hate Crime Awareness meetings.

Chris D

VIRTUAL MEETINGS

As mentioned in the Chairman’s Letter, the virtual meetings are going really well. They take place every other Thursday (not on our usual meeting night as before). As I write this, the next one due on August 27th, then Thursday 10th September, Thursday 24th September. If you do not already get a link inviting you to attend, then let Peter, Rob or Craig know. It is very simple to join – you just click on the link you are given at the appropriate time. Simpells!

PRISM

PRISM has recently relaunched. It 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.

NORTH SOMERSET LGBT FORUM

This group is a voluntary forum whose aims are to provide a voice for the LGBT Community of North Somerset and to be the “go” organisation for the LGBT for their community. They are looking at social activities and celebration of LGBT life and ideas of what the community would like to see happening, particularly in and around Weston Super Mare. If you can help or are interested please get in touch with Nigel at nigel.nslgbtforum@gmail.com

National AIDS Helplines

“You can ask what you want to ask”

0800567123

The LGBT + Partnership

Some years ago, I met with an officer from Cheltenham Borough Council who considered LGBT people were under represented in council services. We discussed what could be done to ensure LGBT issues were made more prominent and addressed in Cheltenham.

Other organisations then started to get involved such as Gay Glos, Cheltenham Borough Homes and the Wilson art gallery and museum. As more groups, organisations and agencies became involved, it was decided to set up the Cheltenham LGBT Partnership. It then became even larger and it was decided we needed to expand geographically. The publicity for the Partnership states “Supporting Cheltenham, Gloucestershire & beyond”.

The purpose of the Partnership is to:

Connect relevant organisations and individuals

Promote and advance LGBT+ equality, diversity and inclusion

Educate, inform and include key groups, allies, services and businesses

Focus activities and events on Cheltenham, Gloucestershire and connected areas

There are a number of objectives which include marking key events in the year e.g. LGBT History Month and Hate Crime Awareness Week. Other objectives are supporting the activities and events of individual groups within the Partnership, engaging through social media, communicating the Partnership’s purpose and presence and to understand each other as organisations, agencies, groups and individuals.

I am privileged and proud to represent the GGLC at meetings of the Partnership.

The GGLC has supported the Partnership at events which has also given publicity for the group. The group has donated financially and has benefited by being a member of the Partnership.

Howard H

Vice Chair

LGBT Humanists UK www.lgbthumanists.org.uk/	OneBodyOneFaith Alan 0117 982 1512 www.onebodyonefaith.org.uk	Jewish Lesbian & Gay Help Line Mon & Thurs 020 7706 3123
Gay Bereavement Project Helpline: 020 7403 5969 Tuesday 7.30pm to 9.30pm	Beaumont Society (Transgender Issues) www.beaumontsociety.org.uk/	Transvestite Help Line Rita 0117 951 4481
Gay Girls of Gloucestershire 07561 067888 www.gaygirlsofglos.co.uk	Gay Men's Project West of England 0117 955 1000 Wiltshire and Swindon 01793 695 300	National LGBT Helpline 0300 330 0630 10am—10pm every day

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!

FORTHCOMING BIRTHDAYS

August

19th Ian V
21st Norina S
30th Craig F

September

4th Neil W
8th Mike B
11th Brian H
15th Peter T
19th Paulo L-T

October

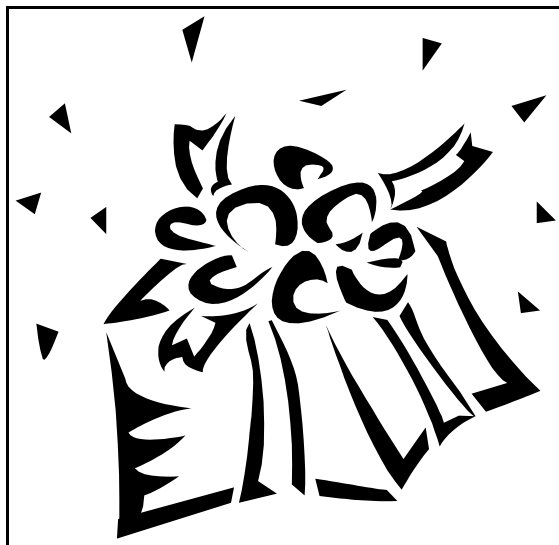
1st Peter S

November

No Birthdays

December

9th Howard H
9th Robert N
13th John W



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU ALL



GGLC's SOCIAL CALENDAR DIARY OF EVENTS

Well, bit of a puzzler this one, as we have no in-person meetings just now. However, we do have our fortnightly Google Meet virtual gatherings!

August

27th Google Meet

September

10th Google Meet

24th Google Meet

October

8th Google Meet

22nd Google Meet

31st Virtual Annual Dinner

November

5th Google Meet

19th Google Meet

December

3rd Google Meet

17th Google Meet

31st Google Meet—New Year's Eve!

Advanced Warnings and Notes!

This can all change at short notice—please keep an eye on the web site and your email!

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

07050 627273

www.gglc-glos.co.uk
info@gglc-glos.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. For further details or directions please phone 07050 627273 or 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!

Your Committee

Chairman: Michael C-H.

Vice-Chair: Howard H.

Secretary: Peter C.

Treasurer: Craig F.

Membership Secretary: Rob P.

Member: Julie S.

Member: David H. (co-op)

Newsletter Editor: Graham V.

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.