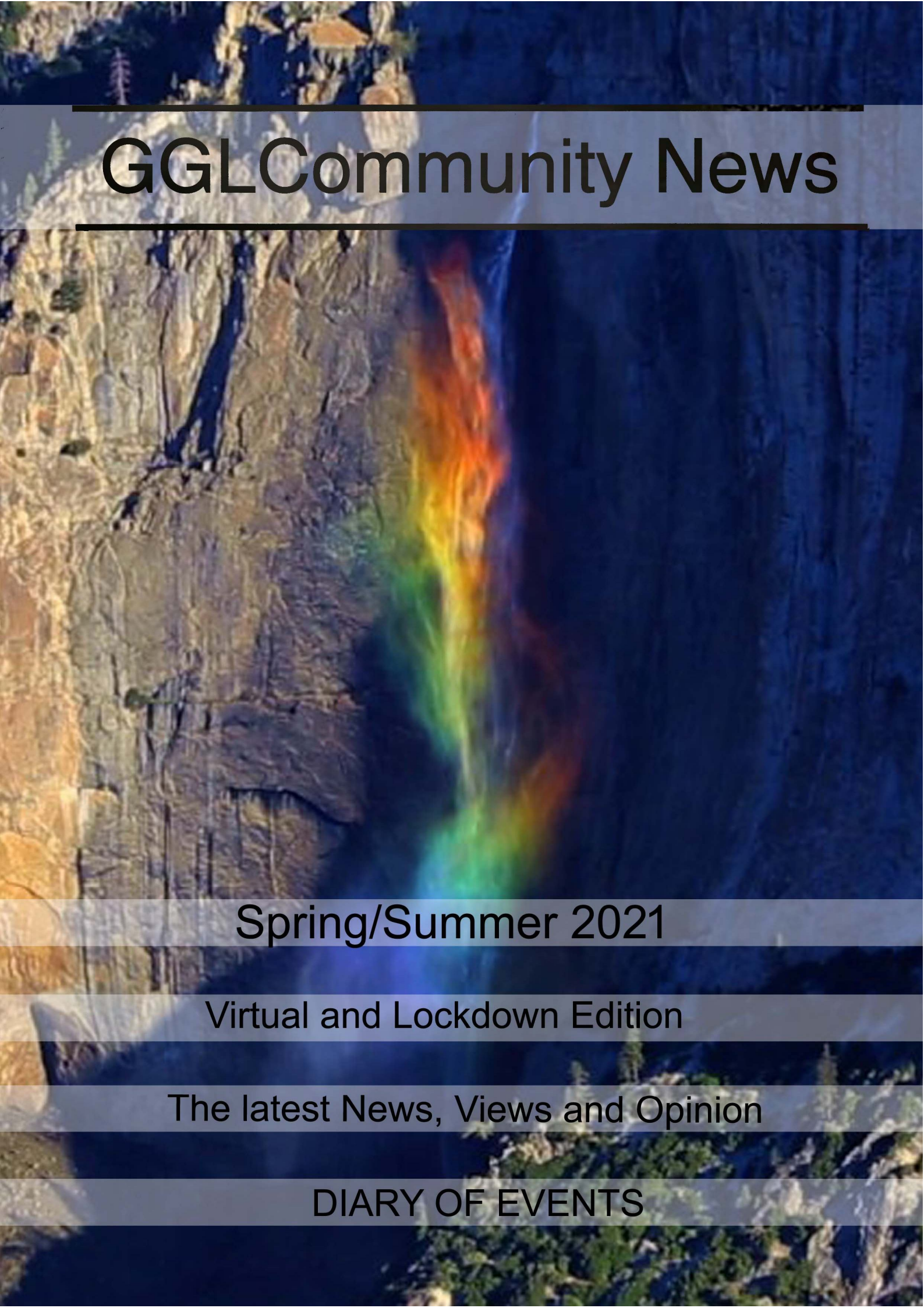




GGLCommunity News

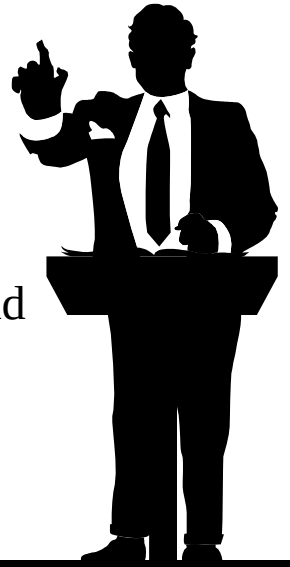
Spring/Summer 2021

Virtual and Lockdown Edition

The latest News, Views and Opinion

DIARY OF EVENTS

CHAIRMAN'S LETTER



Hello Friends,

Our friendly Newsletter Editor reminded me tonight that this letter for submission is overdue (again, I hasten to add but not mentioned by Graham!).

It is so busy right now as Alan and I are in the middle of moving home to our cottage – it will be 15 months since we were flooded out. We should have been back some 3 months ago but if you have ever had to deal with builders, you will know what I mean. Yesterday was a good example – the builder measured and ordered the double-glazed front door with patterned side panel. The unit is too big for the hole – unfortunately, the old unit had already been taken away. We will be moving in with a hand made wooden panel and door with a bolt on. We will need another bolt to lock ourselves in! Do not get me started on the fitted bedroom. We have waited 7 months since the first fitting date was cancelled at the last minute, as were the next two appointments. However, after another screaming fit, the fitter arrived on Wednesday, two days before the planned move. On about last minute as it was going to take 3-4 days to fit. Nice bloke the fitter, called Dave. After an hour he told me there was a problem as not all the pieces had arrived. That was eventually sorted after a lot of phone calls. An hour later again, another problem – when the bedroom was measured (and that happened 3 times!) it appears there was a mistake. The units are nearly one metre shorter than they should be. I won't bore you with the rest, but it involved the contract being cancelled or the units corrected, NOW. I won!!! So the move is delayed, but only until after the weekend.

For the Group, please see my report to the AGM last night (29th April), We should be incredibly pleased with the support we have given our members and the community.

It was disappointing there was not more support for the Committee at our AGM. We just made the quorum. One less person and we could not have conducted Group business – that would have been the first time in

our history. Most people are still sat at home – it would only take an hour of your time to support your Group. I hope it was just the apathy of not being used to business going on as usual.

Life seems to be gradually opening to more social interaction. We look forward to being able to meet again and will monitor the situation, keeping you informed .

Do keep safe and hope to see you at our next virtual meeting.

Bye for now

Michael

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, Craig, Treasurer.

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

Membership Update

The GGLC membership stands at 52 which is + 2 on the last Newsletter report Winter 2020-21. We have 5 new members Elizabeth E, Bob B, Julia A, Lewis H and Teddy A. A warm welcome to you all !

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

Dear Members of GGLC,

Many thanks to you all for the lovely messages you sent when my wife Chris Davies passed away in January this year and for the flowers you have sent to me. Also, thanks for the donation you made in her name to GUTSY, the support group that we were members of, for people suffering with Upper GI and stomach cancers. All together £526.51 was raised, which will be used to continue helping people deal with their illness.

Hopefully it won't be too long before we can all meet together,

Julie S.

Raffle

** The raffle has not taken place since out 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

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.

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

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

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

AGM FOR GLOUCESTERSHIRE GAY AND LESBIAN COMMUNITY GROUP

29TH APRIL 2021

Our year started as we began our meeting; with thoughts of loved ones we have lost through the Pandemic. Our hearts go out to those left behind.

For the Committee, it has been a year of “treading water” rather than making progress. However, our “virtual Annual Dinner”, donation to all of Gloucestershire’s Food Banks and other donations, were a positive move.

I think the most important part of life during the Pandemic is social contact. The Committee have worked hard keeping members in touch with each other and fortnightly virtual meetings. Together with the Newsletters from Graham and regular emails from Rob, they were an excellent team. Thanks must go specifically to Craig and Rob who organized and hosted the virtual meetings which were enjoyed by so many. Peter is excellent and keeping new members informed of our get togethers and helping them in the process. Thanks to Howard for stepping in as Vice Chair, especially when it was a year of elections with the City Council. Julie keeps us all in order and her input and viewpoint is valuable.

I decided to stand for Chair again – the two year term will take me to just over 70 years old and I think about 30 years as Chair. I hope to guide the Group through the present and the future, to the best of my ability. We continue to survive where so many have fallen by the wayside. We must congratulate ourselves on that.

Thank You

Michael

Chair G

All Out— <https://allout.org/en>

Howard, our Vice Chair and as we all know, a life long activist, is an ambassador for this global charity supporting the LGBTQ+ communities around the world. Recently, he received an email about some of the work they have been doing, specifically around COVID. We all hear about the bad things that have been happening, but this shows how in this difficult time, our communities have responded positively. The email is set out below:

This month marks one year since the World Health Organization declared a pandemic. It's been a year of loss, grief, and uncertainty.

For many of our LGBTQ+ siblings around the world, that uncertainty went deeper. Jobs were lost. Rent went unpaid. People went hungry. Communities were broken. Violent attacks increased.

But something else happened, too.

Throughout the past 12 months, time and time again, you broke through the trauma and pain with love and solidarity:

In March 2020, over 200 LGBTQ+ refugees in Kenya's Kakuma refugee camp were provided with food, PPE, and medical care for three months, thanks to the donations of All Out members.

In April 2020, when a shelter for LGBTQ+ refugees in Italy was running out of emergency housing, All Out members raised enough to open an additional shelter.

In May 2020, All Out launched the COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund. To date, more than 70 LGBTQ+ organisations in 34 countries have been granted over US\$235,000 in emergency support.

In August 2020, an explosion destroyed parts of Beirut and many LGBTQ+ people were left out of emergency aid. All Out members helped pay for shelter, food, and psychological support.

In October 2020, All Out members raised enough to provide 20 gay, bi, and trans Ugandans with safe housing after the group was beaten and jailed on false accusations of breaking lockdown rules.

In November 2020, an emergency shelter in Mexico for LGBTQ+ youth was running out of resources, but with donations from All Out members, food, soap, and rent for the next 12 months were secured.

That's just the tip of the iceberg. The All Out movement is a force to be reckoned with. You are a powerful collective of passionate, resilient, and caring people.

But our work is far from over. While many wealthy countries are well on their way with vaccinations, huge parts of the world are being left behind.

Like in Brazil, where ICUs across the entire country are at capacity and the number of daily cases is at its highest yet. It will take months or even years for vaccinations to reach everyone who needs them. And the LGBT+ community will continue to fall on the sharp end of the pandemic.

From across the world, requests for support from LGBT+ grassroots groups have never stopped coming into my inbox. It is heartbreaking and devastating to see our communities continue to suffer. That's why we've relaunched the COVID-19 Emergency Fund. And in order for this work to be sustained, we need to have your support.

Of course, the email is to raise funds so their work can continue, but the point is that these things are being done, and our communities are supporting these positive actions, something to be proud of.

Graham, Editor

Social Adjusting after COVID

As time goes by, at least in our country, it looks as if life will be going back towards what it was in the past. This, I am sure, will be a great relief to people who have felt isolated and cut off from all that they were used to.

I am one of the minority who have actually enjoyed the new social rules and does not look forward to the loud, crowded and busy pace of life, and are hoping at least some of the ways of life we have had thrust upon us over the past two years will continue.

Shops not packed with people pushing by on their oh so urgent business, no drunken gangs roaming the streets after closing, leaving our neighbourhoods in peace, people stepping aside to let you past on the footpaths, these, among other things have improved our lives. Wouldn't it be nice if these considerations continued?

Oddly, standing in queues outside shops, responsibly spaced out, I have probably had more social interaction than previously, catching the person next in line eye and having a small joke about the weather, the state of the country, or just to say hello.

I don't hold out much hope, but maybe, just maybe, we will remember some of the positive social changes we have experienced.

Graham, Editor

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

May

5th Dee H
5th Ken B
13th Bob G
17th Geoffrey C

July

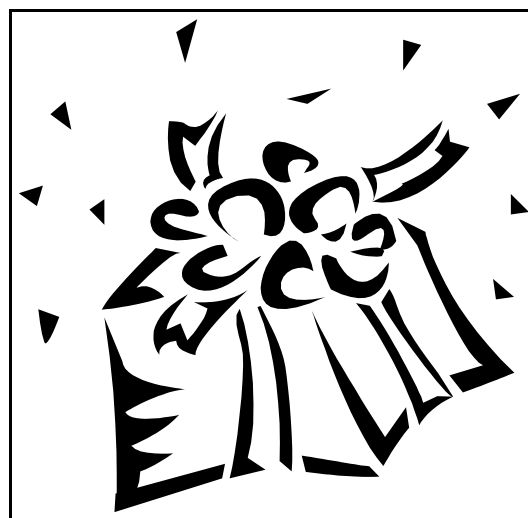
11th Stuart H
18th Emma M
22nd George S
29th Paul D

June

7th Deric P
14th David H
28th Rob P

August

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



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!

May

13th Google Meet

27th Google Meet

June

10th Google Meet

24th Google Meet

July

8th Google Meet

22nd Google Meet

August

5th Google Meet

19th Google Meet

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.

Member: Rob P.

Member: Peter S.

Member: Vacant

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.

Front Cover

The cover this issue is a picture of Rainbow Falls in Yosemite National Park.