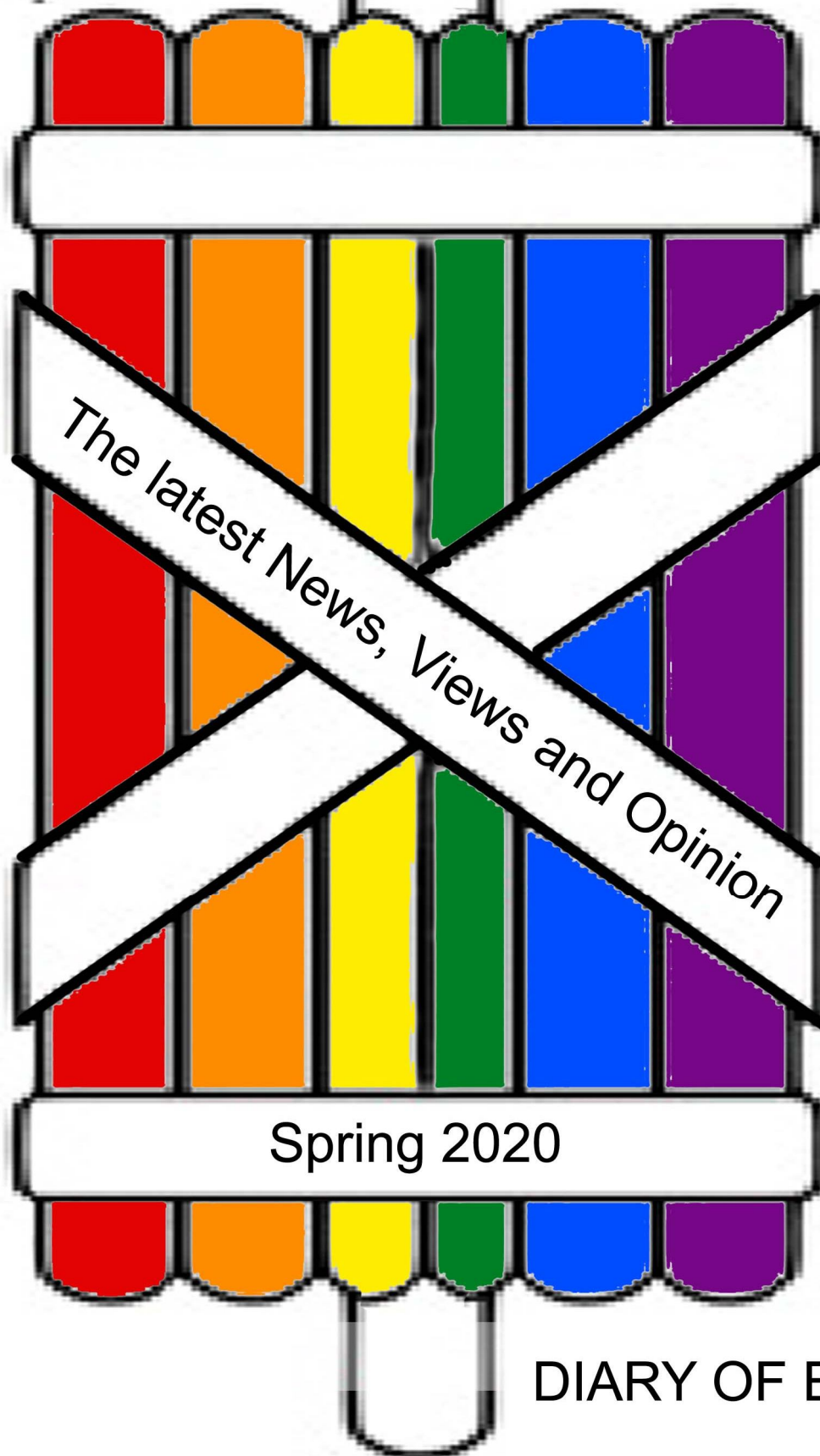


GGLCommunity News



DIARY OF EVENTS

~~CHAIRMAN'S~~ LETTER

Editors



Greetings All!

Another Newsletter with me as stand in for the letter, due to Michael's current problems with flooding. I hope you will all join me in giving good wishes for a speedy return to normality for Michael, if only to stop me from writing another of these!

I thought I would be talking about our political situation, and how it might affect us, but world events have overtaken our local ones. The emergence and spread of coronavirus is now a real risk, with increasing numbers of cases in Britain and around the world.

We are learning it is the older members and people with health vulnerabilities who are most at risk, and to be honest, our Group and communities fit that profile. Therefore, it is incumbent on us to know how to take the best precautions possible to protect each other and ourselves.

So far, advice is to wash your hands with soap for at least 20 seconds, or use an alcohol based sanitizer. If you cough or sneeze, catch it in a paper tissue and dispose of the tissue. It's estimated the virus can survive for several hours on hard surfaces, quite a long time for a virus. Avoiding touching your face with your hands is also recommended.

Our meetings will still go ahead unless the advice changes, but be aware it is safer to keep physical contact to a minimum.

Over the coming weeks and possibly months, we need to keep in touch with each other, making sure everyone is alright. If someone has to go into quarantine, they may need a helping hand getting supplies.

Hopefully, this will settle down, already the number of cases in China is slowing, so there is light at the end of the tunnel.

Stay safe, and look after each other,

Graham

Raffle

The Raffle takes place during our Thursday Coffee and Chat evenings, . 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

AGM—Annual General Meeting

The group's AGM is coming up at the end of April, as usual. This is your chance to raise issues, listen to the reports of the Committee, and determine the direction of the group for the coming year.

It is also your chance to join the Committee and help in the day to day running of the group. None of the posts are that arduous, and all bring a sense of satisfaction in giving something back to the group that means so much to us all.

Think carefully about standing for one of the posts coming vacant, talk to the existing Committee members, and take a leap of faith!

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 loose 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

A small decrease in membership numbers from the last report Winter 2019. The membership is down by 1 from last time at 54.

We have 2 new members these being Ismeal B and Emma M. We also have 1 returning member Rosemary G.

A warm welcome to you all as members of the group..

Rob P.

Membership Secretary.

Gay West Celebration

Gay West are celebrating 50 years of existence, and we have been invited to join them.

It is at the Rainbow Café in Bath on 25th April, between 11am and 4pm.

There is a full programme, with free tea and coffee, a cold buffet between 12 and 2, and at 2pm they have a special guest, Michael Cashman CBE.

There will be a raffle, stalls and displays, and a commemorative booklet and pen.

The address is as follows:

The Rainbow Café
St. Michael's Centre
St. Michael's Place
Bath
BA1 1SG

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.

The Past Quarter

Well, hasn't it been an interesting few months!

Before Christmas, the weather was so mild it almost seemed like early autumn had been expanded over winter. Although I was not at the Christmas Party, I did drop the Christmas special games edition of the newsletter in, and everyone was busy and organised setting everything up. It looked like it was going to be a good event and I hope everyone had a good time.

The meeting in the New Year was well attended with people catching up after the holidays. The Wrapped Auction was not quite as well attended, though there were enough of us there to make it a success. Bidding was as erratic as ever, with some really nice items being won for a song, while fun things raised a good sum. Several of us took over the auctioneer's chair, including myself. I don't know how the others found it, but it was as much if not more fun auctioning off the parcels, doing my best to prise another bid from the audience! There was the usual mixture of delight and good natured groans when people unwrapped their prize. For some reason, I think we may see some of the items again in the future. Personally, I was very happy to have acquired two rather nice scarves, which have proved their worth as the weather worsened.

The February meeting went well, with good company and some lovely refreshments. Then came the rain..... First of all the Committee meeting was cancelled, as half the Committee were stranded in the depths of the Forest, then the quiz had to be hopefully only postponed. This weather has hit the Group quite badly, as we have not been able to do much organisation for the coming months. Will luck, enough people will be at the March meeting to cobble together a few events, though they will have to be advertised via the website rather than in this edition of the Newsletter.

Graham, Editor

Strength in Unity

This issue's cover is a variation on the old Roman symbol for strength and unity. It is often used by right wing groups, but looking back at it's origins and meaning, it fits our community quite well. Over the past decade or so, it seems as if our community is breaking into smaller and smaller sub sections, as each of us identifies as a more specific gender and/or sexuality. We can do this because, certainly in this country, our lives have become safer and we can be more open as to whom we are.

But the world is constantly changing, and the possibility our situation may get worse again is very real. The Roman symbol shows a number of twigs bound together, with the concept that individual twigs are easily broken, but gathered together and bound, they are strong enough to resist anything. It is called fasces, but in English, it is called a faggot!

This is a lesson we need to learn from our own past. When we were alone, we were vulnerable, it was when we came together, gay, lesbian, bisexual and trans, that things began to improve.

It didn't matter that the specific issues each of those groups may have had might have been different, they were all fighting to be able to be who they were and they gave support to their comrades who were different to themselves.

I have put the colours of our flag on the symbol, but of course, the colours do not represent the different parts of our community, but ideas.

In the original eight-colour version, pink stood for sexuality, red for life, orange for healing, yellow for the sun, green for nature, turquoise for art, indigo for harmony, and violet for spirit. The pink was dropped due to a lack of fabric (interesting sexuality was dropped), and turquoise and indigo merged to dark blue.

So our strength is in acknowledging our differences, but standing together and celebrating each other's right to be themselves.

Graham, Editor

Comments and discussion of this article are welcome.

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

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

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**Notice is hereby given of the
Annual General Meeting
of the
Gloucestershire Gay and Lesbian Community
on
Thursday 30th April 2029 at 7.30pm prompt
(doors open 7.00pm)
at the Friends Meeting House,
Gloucester**

NOMINATION FORM AGM—30th April 2020

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

Vice 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.

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

April

2nd Paul L J
8th Alan R
9th Richard B
16th Michael W
18th Peter C
25th Peter W

May

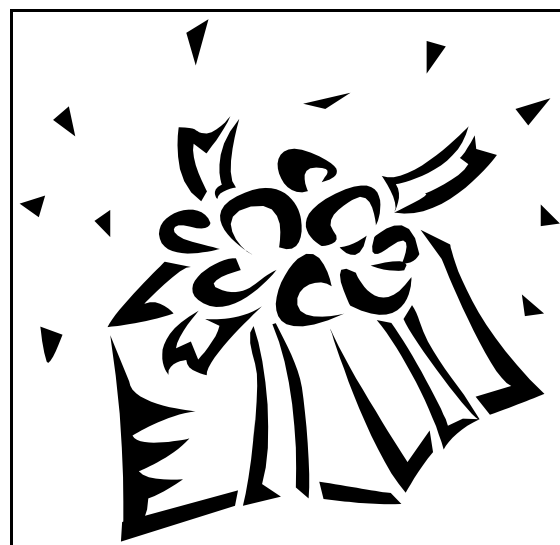
2nd Malvin K
2nd Royston G
5th Davina H
5th Ken B
13th Adalberto G
17th Geoffrey C

June

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

July

11th Stuart H
15th Mark M
18th Emma M
22nd George S
29th Anthony B
29th Paul D



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU ALL



GGLC's SOCIAL CALENDAR DIARY OF EVENTS

April

2nd Coffee, Chat and Raffle
30th Annual General Meeting

May

7th Coffee, Chat and Raffle
17th Cheltenham Picnic in the Park

June

4th Coffee, Chat and Raffle

July

2nd Coffee, Chat and Raffle

Advanced Warnings and Notes!

This issue is a bit short on events, due to difficulties in getting together to set dates. Keep an eye out on our website for updates!

If anyone has an idea for a relevant day out, or just a day out people may enjoy, speak up, we need your ideas!

The diary is subject to change due to changes in circumstances, whimsy, Editor's insanity and attacks by Malabar Giant Squirrels



GGLC



GGLC



GGLC

GLOUCESTERSHIRE
GAY & LESBIAN
COMMUNITY

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: Chris D.

Secretary: Peter C.

Treasurer: Craig F.

Membership Secretary: Rob P.

Member: Howard H.

Member: Julie S.

Newsletter Editor: Graham V.

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

STOP PRESS

Please note—pre-booked or pre-paid events are that way so that venues can be given numbers and people arranging events are not left out of pocket. Unlike our regular monthly meetings, dropping in at the event is not permitted.