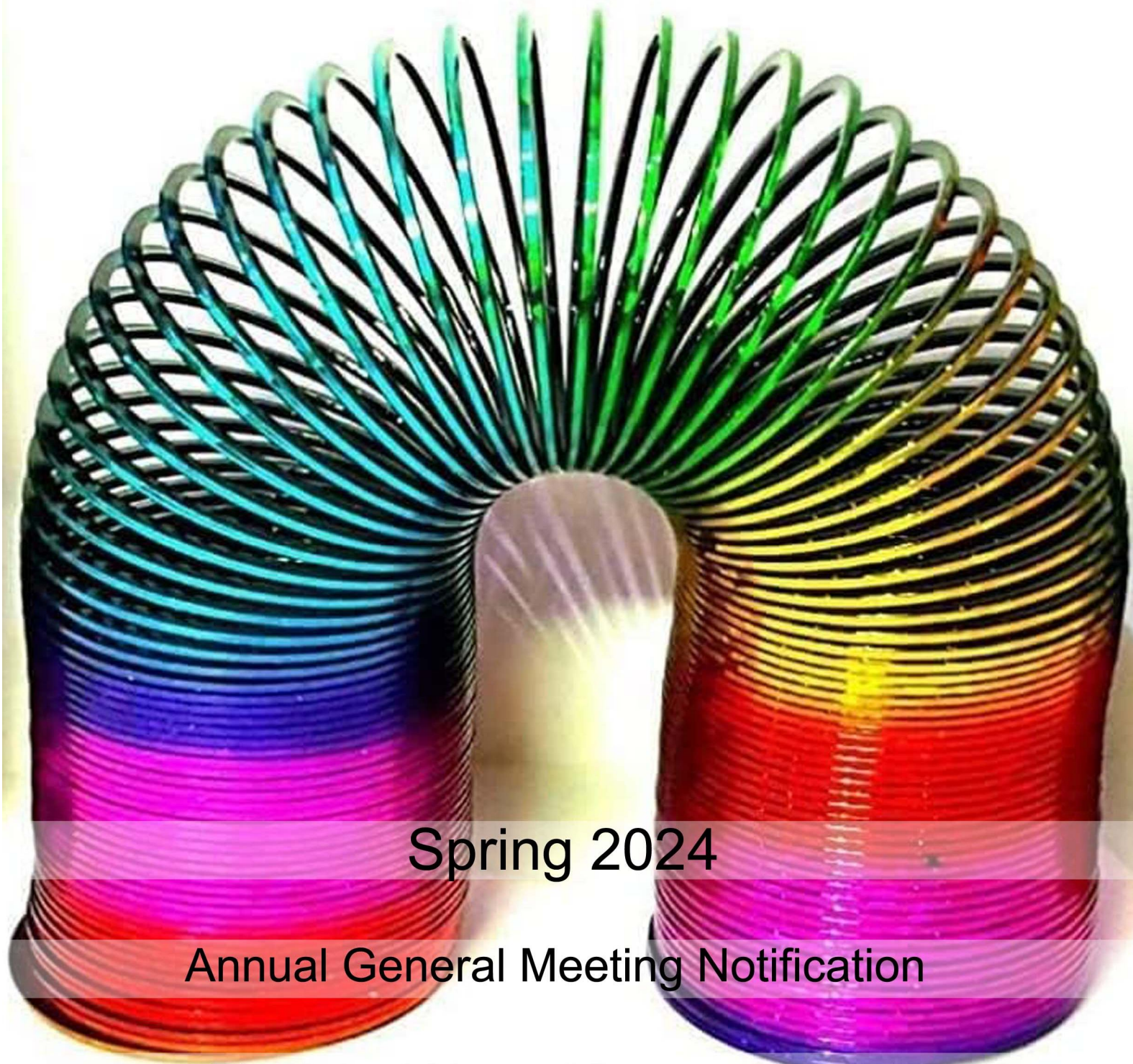

GGLCommunity News



Spring 2024

Annual General Meeting Notification

The latest News, Views and Opinion

DIARY OF EVENTS

CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

Hello Friends,

As I write this, it is LGBT+ Month and it is amazing how many events are going on both in the County and the Country. I remember back when 'History' months started as an annual month-long observance of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender history, celebrating gay rights and related civil rights movements in the USA. In 1994, LGBT History Month was founded by a Missouri high school history teacher. It now takes place in many countries around the world, all choosing a different month.



Gloucestershire Archives started a trial online profile in September on LGBT+ History. The Gloucestershire County Council have their own LGBT+ Group, PRISM, who do an excellent job. You might remember last summer I joined them planting 'rainbows' on waste ground around the County. Our own Vice Chair, Howard does a fantastic job on the Partnership liaising with gay and gay friendly businesses, groups and individuals around the county.

During the past month Derek I of Cheltenham has died- he lived to a good age and during his career he was quite a 'gay' personality in the County. He owned and ran the "Phoenix"- a famous gay pub and people would flock to it from all over the South-West. Many of us will remember him. We would go there over the weekend and it was one of the few places you could meet up with friends. For several years, groups of us would meet in the pub and then back to my flat in Cheltenham (above the Pet Shop) for drinks and coffee. They were good times and fondly remembered.

We ought to have a 'Memories' night when we can record all our old memories of the 'good old days'

As we approach our AGM in April, we look to the future of the GGLC and it is worrying. It is getting harder and harder to get people involved, be it on the Committee, joining in events, socials, the coffee rota. If YOU won't take part in these things then how can you expect the

Group to survive for another 50 years?!

There is no denying that our 'first Thursday of the month' is a good evening and well attended. With Members and guests from all parts of the world, it makes it a cosmopolitan meeting – but I find it disappointing that individuals don't mix more. But saying that, we all realise strange customs in a different country can be difficult for both the newcomer and the 'home grown' local to overcome their natural hesitance. This is the same in any social gathering but let the GGLC be the place where we can all gather in friendship, harmony and support for each other.

Take care and during LGBT+ History Month look out for those who are perhaps lonely or shy and persuade them to come along and join us.

In friendship

Michael

National AIDS Helplines

“You can ask what you want to ask”
0800567123

Recent GGLC Events

Thank you so much to Peter, Mike, Rob, Graham, Ian (and me too!) for coming along to the Wrapped Auction. It turned out to be such fun, although expensive!. Those of you who did not turn up missed a good evening and the only time we raised funds for OUR OWN group. What was your Excuse?

The Beetle Drive surprised a lot of people. Quite a few turned up with remarks, “I heard my gran talk about this, they play this in the Church Hall and this game is years old”. But what a laugh with winners and losers moving around in turn, bizarre beetles winning a prize and so much fun. Doesn't matter what your first Language is – everyone can understand and quite a few people went home smiling. Thank you to all those who came along for making it a fun evening.

MJCH

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.

Some Thoughts on Inclusion at our Group

When I joined, over 20 years ago, we were already called the Gloucestershire Gay and Lesbian Community, though the change in name from the Gloucestershire Gay Community was probably quite recent, as it was still mentioned in discussion quite regularly. Since then, there have been regular questions as to why we have not expanded the name to include BTQIA+ (abbreviation for bisexual, transgender, queer or questioning, intersex, asexual, and more). The main reason was quite simply that we had a huge amount of expensively printed stationary and we were not going to pay out more members money to reprint everything!

This is no longer the case, and after our 50th, maybe how we identify the Group should be discussed again, as it is clear that names do matter when people feel how they identify is not included, despite the Group always having been open to any of the LGBTQIA+ community (at least as long as I have been a member).

My personal feeling has always been that there should be a single term that we could all look to as covering us all, in all our variety. The way our community has been sub-dividing and splitting on smaller and smaller differences, even though it helps people find their true identity, also leaves us vulnerable to attacks from majorities, for whom finding common cause is often at our expense. This is clear in the campaigns that are being waged against our Trans compatriots, and which we can already see will be extended to then next group. Some are already looking to the Gay people as the next target, though we will be more difficult as there are more of us well established in the workplace.

So how can we show our Group does cover everyone? It's to the advantage of our Group's long term survival as well, as we do need new people to bring energy and dynamism, to replace those of us who are running the Group and who, in the most part, are aging! Possibly we could reach out to those for whom there is little or no provision, linking with the specific youth groups that go to early twenties and invite their graduating members to come along, and see who we are.

Graham, Editor

Thoughts on the Group

As you read through the Newsletter you will come across information on our Annual General Meeting in April. For those of you who joined in the past 12 months this will be your first change to be able to vote. The AGM is about the future of the Group and who you would like to be involved on your behalf. Even if you don't want to be helping with running the Group, you can elect your representatives and have a say in how the Group is run.

I am about to enter into the 2nd year of my two year term. This will be my last year as Chair after holding the position for 30 years now! Yes – I would have got a lot less for murder!. I have done my best and appreciate your trust in me. But by next year I will be 75, ready to finish and it is time you found someone younger and with new ideas. It will good for all of us to have a change

Howard has been our Vice Chair for a number of years. The Chair and Vice Chair are elected in alternate years so there is always someone there with knowledge and background of what is happening. Howard is willing to stand if need be but he would prefer to stand down and concentrate on his other work. If you are interested then speak to anyone on the Committee for information and we can help. It can be interesting and does not take up a lot of time. If you could represent the Group and make decisions on our behalf then this is for you. You also stand in for the Chair at Meetings etc when necessary.

Ian, our new Treasurer, has agreed to stand again and has brought some new ideas which have worked well. The card reader in particular is great. Our famous 'Graham' is our Newsletter Editor – the Newsletter just would not be the same without him.

When Rob stood down as Membership Secretary he stayed on the Committee to offer help and support and to make up the numbers. Rob feels the time has come now to stand back and take more time for himself. Rob has been a loyal supporter of the Group for so many years and we have been so lucky to have him on our team.

Peter is our Secretary and our mainstay. I don't what we would do without him. He has agreed to stay on again as Secretary and I would

suggest you take him at his word while you can. He is too good to loose!

I keep thinking Sergio as our new Membership Committee but of course he has been doing this for a little while and a good job too. He also has agreed to stand again.

That still leaves one other Committee place to be filled as well as the Vice Chair position. Do give these posts some serious thought – you will learn a lot and be well looked after. Anyone on the Committee can help you. You must have been a Member for a year and so has the person who nominates you.

Michael

New Adventures with the LGBT+ Partnership

Well, on a Friday in February, I went down to the Gloucester Bus Station to travel over to Cheltenham, representing (along with Howard) the GGLC at the LGBT+ Partnership meeting for the first time.

There were people from seven or eight different organisations, all working in one way or another with LGBT+ people in Gloucestershire. As in any meeting, there were the usual administrative things to be covered, no different than our own Committee meetings, but once those were over, it became more interesting.

Each of the representatives spoke about what was happening with their organisation, which was interesting. It was how some of them were working together, inviting different partners to join them in presentations or events that would benefit from input the first one may not have as much experience in.

It's this ability to tap into a wider pool of skills and resources that makes the Partnership so valuable to our communities. If one has a situation or problem they are not equipped to handle, there is always someone who can help.

I look forward to the next meeting.

Graham, Editor

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

Rainbow Cuppa

Under the auspices of the LGBT+ Partnership, there are occasional meet ups at the Sober Parrot in Cheltenham. Check out their website, <https://www.lgbtchelt.co.uk>

There is now 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.

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.

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.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**Notice is hereby given of the
Annual General Meeting
of the
Gloucestershire Gay and Lesbian Community
on
Thursday 25th April 2024 at 7.30pm prompt
(doors open 7.00pm)
at the Friends Meeting House,
Gloucester**

NOMINATION FORM AGM—25th April 2024

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

Vice-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.

Gay Prides

May

- 18th Swansea Pride—10am to 10pm, The Guldhall
Cheltenham Pride (Picnic) - 11am to 10pm, Imperial Gardens
25th Birmingham Pride—6pm to Midnight on the 26th, Gay Village

June

- 8th Oxford Pride—12noon to 10:30pm, City Centre
29th Bristol Pride—29th to July 14th, Parade 13th July, Castle Park
Pride in London—Noon at Hyde Park Corner

July

- 6th Hay Pride—10am to 10pm at Hay Castle and The Globe
Tetbury Pride—12noon to 10pm at Tetbury Good Shed
27th London Trans Pride—1pm to 9pm at Wellington Arch
Malvern Pride (not on main lists)
28th Cinderford Pride—12noon to 5pm, Triangle, Market Street

August

- 3rd Trans Pride Manchester—12noon to 3pm, Windmill Street
10th Swindon and Wiltshire Pride—11am to 6pm at Queens Park
UK Pride (in Doncaster) - 11am to 10pm, Town Field, Doncaster
17th Tewkesbury Pride—1pm to 5pm, The Canterbury, Ashchurch Road
23rd Manchester Pride—23rd to 26th, Parade 24th, Gay Village
25th UK Black Pride—12noon to 8pm, Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park

September

- 14th Gloucestershire Pride—11am to 8pm, Gloucester Park

This list is a small part of the list held by the PinkUK website, and can be found here: <https://pinkuk.com/events/gay-pride-2024/europe/uk>
We have included those nearest to us and some of the bigger ones in London, Birmingham and Manchester. Dursley has a Pride, and have been doing events to raise money, check their Facebook for updates.

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!

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

Wrapped Auction, Beetle Drive and AGM

We have had two events outside of our normal meetings already this year, and both were enjoyed by those attending.

The Wrapped Auction was great fun, though there were not many people there we still raised a considerable amount for the Group. We almost didn't carry on, but decided to auction one item just to raise our spirits and say we did at least have the auction... Many rounds of bidding and hilarity later and we realised we had gone through the lot! It was a shame more people weren't there, as they missed a great evening.

The Beetle Drive was better attended, though still down from our usual meetings, which was a bit strange for a highly enjoyable meeting with no costs. We got to chat and play with everyone there, as losers and winners of each game rotated round to different tables, very sociable! Once you have had a round drawing an 'unusual' beetle, you will never be the same!

There are more events coming up, I hope to run one of the ever popular walking Treasure Hunts once the lighter evenings and better weather arrive, but it helps if more people attend—nothing is more discouraging than putting time and effort into organising an event only to see a handful of people coming along.

We have the AGM coming up at the end of April, and again, this is an event where we need members to attend. If we do not have enough members to make the meeting quorate, we can not hold the meeting, it will have to be rescheduled as an EGM, I think within the next 30 days. If that is also not quorate, a second EGM will be called, and if not enough members are there, the GGLC will be closed.

Our membership is increasing at the moment, after many years of decline. The downside of this is that we do need more members to attend such things as the AGM to make the meeting valid. Your presence not only enriches all of our enjoyment of the Group, but keeps us going as an organisation, so we can be there to support and help the next new members. This year, we will be celebrating 50 years as a social group, it would be nice to think we will still be here in another 50 years.

Graham, Editor

Changes in the Newsletter—Other Organisations

We are reorganising our ‘Other Organisations’ contacts list, after many years, not sure how it is going to look going forwards. Of the nine featured organisations the following can be found:

LGBT Humanists UK at www.lgbthumanists.org.uk/

OneBodyOneFaith at www.onebodyonefaith.org.uk

Beaumont Society (Transgender issues) at www.beaumontsociety.org.uk (not on Firefox)

The LGBT Helpline is now Switchboard, 10am to 10pm every day on 0800 0119 100 and at <https://switchboard.lgbt>

Gay Girls of Gloucestershire now seems to be on Facebook only, not sure how active they are.

The Jewish Lesbian & Gay Help Line and the Gay Bereavement Project, both charities, have not been active for some years, according to the Charity Commission.

The Gay Men’s Project may now be the Gay Men’s Health Project, but connection between the two is not certain.

The Transvestite Help Line can not be found on internet searches, so may be defunct.

We actually list quite a few other organisations in different sections of the Newsletter, and in future issues we may consolidate these into a single list, which will be easier to keep up to date.

This is a work in progress, and who knows what it will look like next issue!

Graham, Editor

*
* **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! *
*

Membership Update

I am very glad to report that we are now 77 active members. It is an increase of 2 people since our last newsletter.

Since the last report we have lost 2 members, we also had 4 renewals and 4 new members, they are:

Mrs Venoumba

Mr Victor

Mr Anthony

Mr Rashid

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

Sergio

Membership Secretary

FORTHCOMING BIRTHDAYS

March

3 Tim A
4 L Pedra
10 Junitha
11 Elizabeth
12 Harry
15 David C
15 Sandra
18 Carolyn
25 Sergio
29 Andrew D
29 Trevor
30 Michael C-H

April

1 Salman

2 Paul L
8 Alan R
16 Zaitoni
16 Michael W
18 Peter C
25 Peter W
30 Alan P

May

2 Malvin
2 Roy
5 Davina
5 Emerson
5 Salman

6 Liz

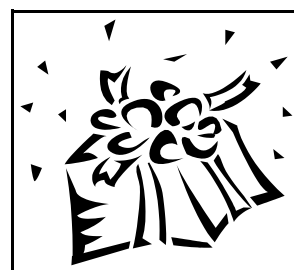
13 Bob F
14 T. Ceri
21 John M

June

1 Michael I
7 Deric P
13 Warlen
14 David H
16 James
25 Venoumba
28 Robert P

July

4 Elhagi J
11 Stuart H
15 Mark M
18 Emma M
22 Gina S
29 Paul D
29 Anthony B



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU ALL



GGLC's SOCIAL CALENDAR DIARY OF EVENTS



GGLC

March

7th GGLC Meeting
21st GGLC Virtual Meeting

April

4th GGLC Meeting
18th GGLC Virtual Meeting
25th AGM—get in voting practice for this year!



GGLC

May

2nd GGLC Meeting and a talk
16th GGLC Virtual Meeting
18th Cheltenham Pride

June

6th GGLC Meeting
20th GGLC Virtual Meeting



GGLC

July

4th GGLC Meeting
14th Picnic at Canop Ponds
18th GGLC Virtual Meeting

Advanced Warnings and Notes!

On August 11th we have a picnic at Minchenhampton,
and on September 14th it is Gloucestershire Pride!
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.*

**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: Rob P.

Member: Peter S.

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.