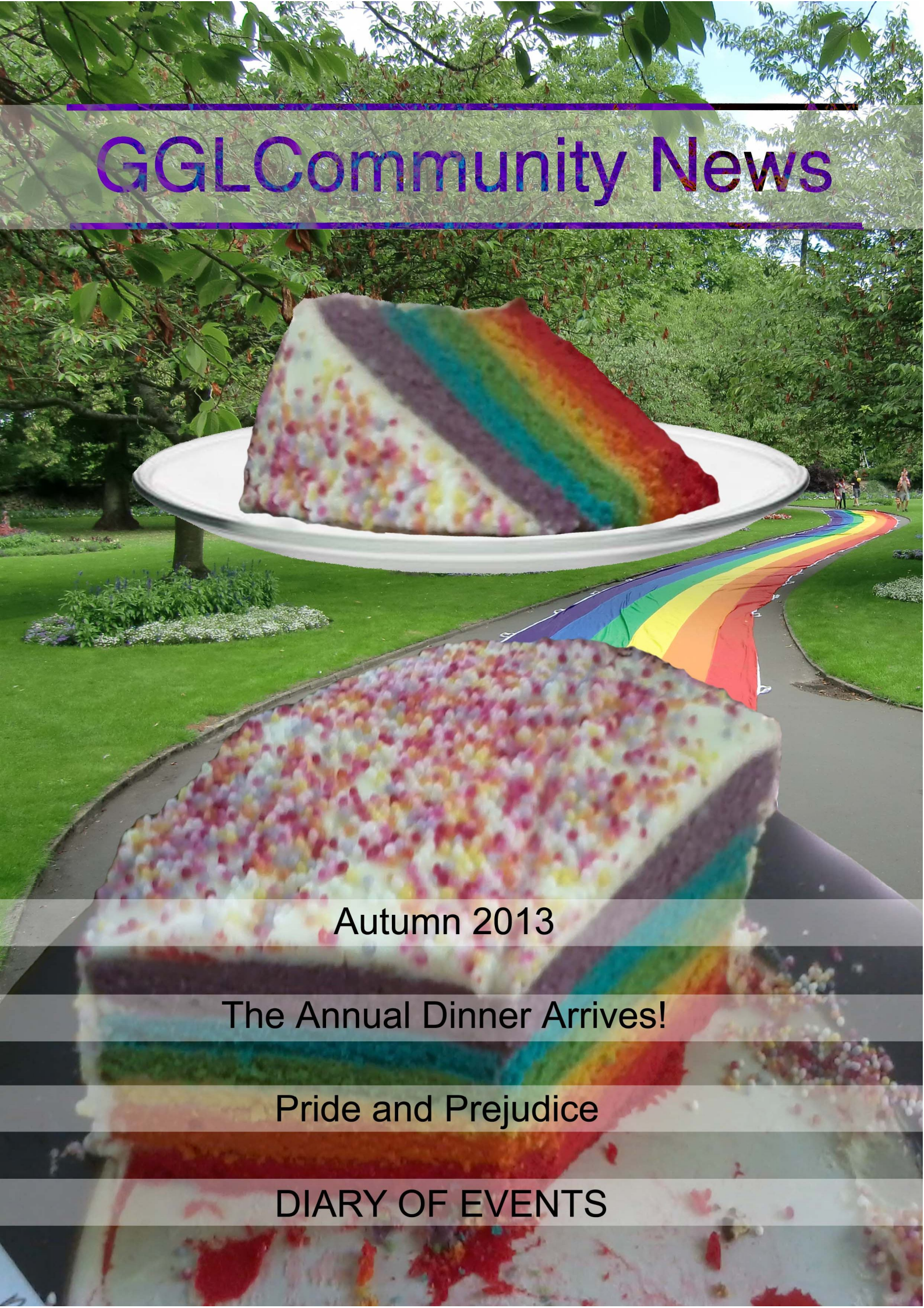


GGLCommunity News

The background image is a composite. At the top, a slice of rainbow cake with white frosting and multi-colored sprinkles sits on a white plate. Below this, a winding path in a lush green park is decorated with a long, vibrant rainbow flag. In the foreground, a large, detailed slice of the same rainbow cake is shown, with its layers of purple, blue, green, yellow, orange, and red clearly visible. The text is overlaid on the lower half of the image.

Autumn 2013

The Annual Dinner Arrives!

Pride and Prejudice

DIARY OF EVENTS

CHAIRMAN'S LETTER



Hi Everyone,

Hasn't it been lovely to see the sun for such an extended period. Everything and everyone seems so much brighter. Even the Gay Pride Festivals around the South West basked in sunshine and dry weather for the first time in several years. Not to mention all those shorts!

The sun is shining in Russia but you won't see much of it if you are Gay and have been beaten, are now sporting black eyes or languishing in a dark cell. I hate to be political, but how can the Russian Government be so pathetic and weak to let one man dictate and promote such hate. To encourage his own people to attack and maim people, just because they are gay is despicable. They are deliberately setting traps, encouraging young men to seek help, only to be ambushed, beaten and even tortured.

Me thinks Putin protests too much – I've always thought this posing with no shirt on was a tad odd.

It makes you realise how lucky we are and the progress made so far . To be able to Parade through Gloucester City Centre and all gather together afterwards and not fear for your safety – others look at us in awe and wish they were in our shoes.

Do what you can to help – there is a petition on line and if not, pick up pen and paper. Protest – at least it's a start.

Bye for now

Michael

Front Cover

Our front cover this issue is made up of images from the Swindon Pride. Mark and Rob saw the cake on the WI stall, there was no great fanfare, they just started serving from this wonderful rainbow cake! What support from this wonderful group of ladies! The Rainbow Flag was laid out ready for the parade, and looked stunning in the park.

The Editor

G.G.L.C.

Annual Dinner 2013

will be held on

Saturday October 26th

7.30 for 8.00 p.m.

The Cranham Suite

The Royal William Hotel, GL6 6TT

Members £17 – Non members £20

See flyer for menu choices!

**Please complete your menu choice from list and return
with payment NO LATER THAN 10th OCTOBER**

Starters

Homemade Tomato and Basil Soup or

Classic Prawn Cocktail

Main

Roast Sirloin of Beef and Yorkshire Pudding or

Chicken Breast with Sage and Onion Stuffing or

Goat's Cheese and Spinach Parcel (Vegetarian)

Dessert

Homemade Sticky Toffee Pudding and Fresh Cream or

Cheese & Biscuits (Cheddar, Brie & Stilton)

Followed by

Coffee and Mints

Please give menu choices when booking tickets, it must be pre-ordered!

Gloucester Pride Report

This was my first real Gloucestershire Pride. I had visited previously when I lived in Hereford. I had moved in a few months previously, marking my presence with a rainbow flag in my bay window. On Pride day this joined the ones at The Westgate and Shire Hall! Living in Westgate Street I was soon at The Westgate for a pre-pride drink. I met two people from Hereford who joined us behind our GGLC banner for the parade from Shire Hall. It was a pleasant day weather wise and everyone seemed happy. The mayor was at the front helping to carry the long rainbow flag. It was good to see so many different organisations participating. There was a good variety of stalls in the park. Ours was opposite the stage. Unfortunately a couple of the acts came under criticism for their unfortunate content, (Goodness, what did I miss? Editor) but this did not spoil everything else which went well. Our tombola was a success! The theme of Pride this year was to remember our brothers and sisters in Russia under the jackboot of President Putin.

Howard

Swindon Pride Report

The day started early on, with myself picking up Peter and Howard, along with assorted chairs and picnics before heading off to the far distant metropolis of Swindon! Our journey was not without peril, our mechanical guide taking us deep into a newly built housing estate, but once we were back on the road, we reached our destination and my passengers were able to jump out right by the park. I then drove nearly back to Gloucester to reach the car park! We met up with Michael who had arrived with all the gazebos and kit.

The park itself was a lovely setting, with loads of shade, cool breezes and hidden gems, such as the portable toilets being set out in a magnificent rose garden. We were neatly placed facing the Community Stage (Bandstand!) under a spreading chestnut tree. As we set out our stall, a rather good lady singer serenaded us, followed by more acts (some better than others, but all good fun!). Peter was doing good business handing out stickers and leaflets, and we all had a look round, winning lions of all shapes and sizes from the Lion's stall. Everyone was very friendly and relaxed, a great atmosphere, though I did doze off for much of the afternoon—too much fresh air! We didn't see the parade, but heard the bands and music as it wound round the park area, it sounded fun.

It was a lovely day, and well worth going to, so start booking your places for next year! The cover of this issue was made of pictures taken on the day, so you can get a flavour of the place.

Graham

Young People's Social Group

Last July, Gay-Glos started a new group for young people in the 14 to 18 age range. It is for those who are gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered or who are in the process of exploring their sexual identity, and offers a safe place to meet and chat.

They meet during the daytime on Saturdays (possibly every other week) in Gloucester, and may be able to help with transport costs if needed.

The group was recently featured on Radio Gloucestershire, and is a wonderful resource for our youngsters. The meetings are organised and run in partnership with Young Gloucestershire.

To contact them, you can visit the Gay-Glos website at www.gay-glos.org, send an email to youth@gay-glos.org or leave a message on 01452 306800 and they will call you back.

GLOUCESTER SAMARITANS

It was my pleasure recently to represent the group at the Gloucester Samaritans AGM. A packed hall welcomed the Chairman of the Charity Stephen Hodell as guest speaker. He outlined the organisation's mission statement for the next 5 years stressing that he wanted the branches to embrace the technology available and increase the number of emails-1500 during the year (and eventually texts) that are handled at each office in addition to the telephone calls (over 15, 000) and face to face interviews. I was amazed at the number of fund raising events the Gloucester group had arranged during the past year. Neil my partner was included in the list for his sponsored slim which realised over £300. Every penny raised is vital as each office is self financing. The outreach volunteers donated over 800 hours of their time to attend outdoor functions. I was made very welcome and the evening ended with an excellent buffet and a glass of wine. I extended an invitation from GGLC for them to come along for another Q and A evening. The Samaritans celebrate 60 years in 2013 and I am sure everyone at GGLC wishes them continued success with their help for the vulnerable in the future.

Peter C

SEX IN MARRIAGE

I really don't know why some straight people are trying to ban same sex marriage. I mean, if you think about it, all marriages are same sex marriage. Once you are married it's the same sex every night, night after night after night!
AR

GAY ARCHERS

No, not the sort with bow and arrow, but the daily tale of everyday farming folk. On Gloucestershire Pride Day ‘Sunny Ormonde aka Lilian’ from the play was appearing at the Guildhall in Gloucester. Chris D is also a fan so off we went to feed our habit.

The first half was pleasant enough and the second half was a questions and answer session. There were a lot of posh die hard fans so was reluctant to get involved. But my hand suddenly went up on its own accord and I was picked to ask a question. I said that Gloucestershire Pride was hosted that day by Gloucester City. (at this point half the audience went very quiet and from the other half a distinct drawing in of breath!!). Sunny on the other hand was very excited and said wished she had known as she would have gone. I said I was sure she was aware of the strong gay fan base – which she was and very pleased too! So, I asked when was Gay Pride going to arrive in Gloucestershire (Archer country). Well, she is all for it and is going to mention it to the Producers and the idea has her full support.

At the end of the show there was a prize for the best question. Another member of the audience suggested mine and I won! Up to the stage I went and handed “Lilians” personal script from a recent edition of the play, with her notes scribbled on it. After the show we were invited to meet her and the script was personalised to me with a note to listen out for Gay Pride on the Archers!

So, this could be history in the making. You may see the script but can’t touch!

MCH

Person of the Year

This, for those of you who don’t know, is the annual award we, the GGLC give to someone who has made a significant contribution to the LGBT community during the past year. The final decision is made by the Committee, but they need suggestions, backed by an explanation for the nomination, please. All nominations have to be in by the end of September to give time for considerations and to make arrangements to get the recipient to the Annual Dinner, if possible. So put your thinking caps on, and get those ideas in!

The Editor.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE PRIDE

There will be a report on the day elsewhere in this Newsletter. For now, I'll just say hope you enjoyed it. Can I say an effusive thank you on behalf of the GGLC members and myself, to those who helped and made our stand so great. We raised a record breaking amount but even better was the companionship and camaraderie – and of course the rainbow cowboy hats!!

Thanks everyone

Michael

Gay West Picnic

The gardens of "Camers" the listed Elizabethan Farm House in Old Sodbury was once again the setting for the annual Gay West Picnic on Sunday August 11th. It was a warm sunny afternoon with just a little cloud but thankfully no rain as 50+ guests enjoyed a convivial picnic. Gerry the host welcomed the guests and introduced Stevie P a very talented professional vocalist. This boy could sing ! and he gave us a terrific variety of tunes ranging from Elvis to Queen from Motown to Jerry Lee Lewis and Michael Buble including a variety of west end show tunes during his several sets.

The gardens carefully tended by Gerry were as usual quite stunning with a number of new statues placed this year. A very pleasant way to spend a sunny afternoon!

Peter

CAMP IT UP

I received a lovely text from John at the Westgate. They are putting on a Pantomime on December 21st with members of their own staff, I should warn you it might be a bit camp!! Not only is this a date for your diary but any profits are going to the GGLC. Many thanks Guys and Gals and we look forward to it.

I just can't bring myself to say Merry Christmas yet but Ho Ho Ho will be OK for now.

M

Household Emergency Planning Sheet

Chris, after giving us a fascinating talk on emergency planning, has given us a planning sheet. I have printed it as an insert to this issue, and encourage everyone to think on making use of it.

The Editor

Picnic at Cannop Pond

This year Summer has been stunning but a couple of days before the group picnic, the heavens opened and it poured and poured. The ground was wet before we even started and it was still raining on the day. So, reluctantly the picnic had to be cancelled for the 3rd year running. But picnickers, don't despair, the picnic is being combined with the Rounders on 1st September. So, pack up your sandwiches and ginger beer and we will see you there.

Alan R

The Rounders and Picnic!

The rounders and combined picnic will take place on Rodborough Common Stroud, close to the reservoir, on Sunday 1st September starting at 1pm.

Some directions: Go to the crossroads called Tom Longs Post on the common. From here take the road for Amberley. About 500 yards along this road on the right hand side you will see our pitch, close to the road, on the right hand side just past the earth mound which is the reservoir.

GGLC Hamper

As one of the raffle prizes at the Annual Dinner, the Committee decided to put together a special hamper. So now we need you lot out there to contribute decent stuff to fill it up! Please bring in non-perishables any time, any perishables will have to be the meeting before the Dinner. Remember we are looking at October, so check those use by dates!

Graham, Editor

Swindon Gay Alliance

Is looking for new members to join them in creating an alternative social scene in Swindon and the surrounding areas. Interested in taking part?

Check out Swindon Gay Alliance Facebook page, or contact them through lgbtinlibraries.blogspot.co.uk

Sign of the Times

Seen on a repair shop door: We can repair anything (Please knock hard on the door—the bell doesn't work!)

Events Write-up

Well, I made a right mess of the Diary in the last Newsletter, hopefully the addendum insert helped avoid too many problems! Still, we had a varied and interesting programme, with hopefully something for everyone.

We started with a talk by the Terence Higgins Trust. I found it interesting, challenging at times, and a little bit confusing. Possibly, being an older and generally well informed group, we confused the speaker too!

This was followed by the ever popular Beetle Drive. This is such a simple game, but generates so much fun and enjoyment for everyone—sometimes it's nice just to relax and be daft!

The next week we were doing the preparations for Gloucestershire Gay Pride, so bottles were being organised and numbered ready for the big event. There is a report by Howard in this issue. This was followed by our regular coffee and chat evening, another popular event.

July 4th saw us celebrating American Independence with a variety of games and quizzes, made more fun by rotating teams and a native of the former colonies! One thing we did discover, as armed revolutionaries we are a bit rusty!

The first film night was “East Block Love”, which followed the exploits of the brave organisers of the Gay Prides in the old Soviet Block countries. A moving and stirring film.

Next in July was a very informative and interesting talk by Chris, one of our members, about the planning and implementation of disaster management.

Naturally, in our county, flooding is a major issue, but it was fun to find the range of disasters that are planned for! There is an insert in this issue to help each of us prepare. The month ended with a relaxing coffee and chat.

August started with a touching personal view of myeloma and how you have to change your lifestyle to cope with the illness. I think we all learned something valuable from this insight, not least the strength and positive attitudes of some of our members. A lesson for us all.

The following week we were back to the less serious, with a selection of table top and floor games, though for some the marbles game was in full combat mode!

On the 15th we saw two films from a set of three, chosen by Dee. They followed the lives of different lesbian couples from different times all living in the same house. The two we saw followed an older couple in the 1960s and the tragic events when one of them died, and a couple from the 1980s when they were trying for a baby. Both were beautifully filmed, sensitively scripted, and rang cords for many present, thank you Dee.

Graham, Newsletter Editor

Quaker Meeting House

We are now back in the Meeting House. The renovations look good, and the place feels like home again! Don't forget, we are not at the Fountain any more, though I am sure they will welcome anyone for a bite or a few drinks!

Gay Outdoor Club

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

GGLC Mugs!

These specially commissioned mugs are now available to members for a only £2.50! Talk to a committee member today!

National AIDS Helplines

“You can ask what you want to ask”
0800567123

Pink Paper

The Pink Paper has very much vanished from physical sight, though the Committee has tried to get copies for the Group. It is available on-line at <http://www.pinkpaper.com/>, and this may be the best way to access it now.

Gay & Lesbian Humanist Association (GALHA) http://www.galha.org/	Lesbian & Gay Christian Movement Alan 0117 982 1512 http://www.lgcm.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) http://www.beaumontsociety.org.uk/	Transvestite Help Line Rita 0117 951 4481
Gay Girls of Gloucestershire 07561 067888 http://www.gaygirlsofgloucestershire.co.uk	Gay Men's Project West of England 0117 955 1000 Wiltshire and Swindon 01793 695 300	Living Springs Metropolitan Community Church, Bath Rev. Kieren Bourne 01380 870226

The **estgate**

Gloucester's only LGBT venue

Opening Times

Sunday	noon - 2am
Monday	11am - 2am
Tuesday	11am - 2am
Wednesday	11am - 3am
Thursday	11am - 3am
Friday	11am - 3am
Saturday	11am - 5am!

Always **FREE** entry

Food served until 4pm Sunday - Thursday
and until 6pm Friday and Saturday

**Get 10% discount off all food with
your GGLC membership card**

Public Health Event

On 9 July, I attended, in my role as the Group's Health and Welfare Rep, a Public Health Event, hosted by Terrence Higgins Trust Gloucestershire, to find out what people want and need from sexual health services in Gloucestershire. It also provided an opportunity to express areas of improvements, as representatives from Public Health facilitated the evening.

This was an evening designed to tell the people who plan and provide local sexual health services, about whether services were meeting current needs and how they might be improved. The answers will become part of the current review of sexual health services. As reviews usually only happen every 5 years, this was a unique opportunity to 'have a say'.

The event took the form of responding to a series of questions, ranging from how people find out about services, to whether or not people felt they could approach their GPs, from Internet usage to sex education in schools. A good cross-section of people were represented, too, from Afro-Caribbeans to the Gipsy Community, from gay to transgender.

The evening went very well - all those attending contributed and a useful session was had by all. The one over-arching conclusion that emerged was that Hope House, the Sexual Services HQ in Gloucester, was providing a first-class necessary service to the community, and should be maintained as such. This will, of course, depend on the future funding of such services, as Sexual Health forms only one strand of the many facilities provided by the NHS.

The evening's event was one of a series of 12 to be held from now until the Autumn, from which a report of recommendations will be produced detailing the direction any such future sexual health services will take. Watch this space for the findings - I shall keep you all updated on this vital service to our community!!!

Robert (Health & Social Rep, GGLC)

DONATION

Amanda Westlake of Gay Girls Gloucestershire is being hurled out of an airplane – be it with someone who is attached to a parachute!. Scary stuff. Amanda is raising money for Maggie's Centre <http://www.maggiescentre.org> which is a cause particularly close to her. The Committee have decided we will donate £50 in sponsorship on behalf of the GGLC.

MCH

From Russia, Without Love.....

Recently, with the winter Olympics set to take place in Russia, we have seen more reports on the effects of the new law there which prohibits the promotion of, well, anything to do with being gay to people under the age of 18. This is rather like Section 28 on steroids, in that it can be applied to virtually anything. Our own Andy H. wrote in the Citizen newspaper regarding the issue, and most of us will be aware of Steven Fry's call for a change of venue.

Article 6.21 actually says: Propaganda is the act of distributing information among minors that 1) is aimed at the creating nontraditional sexual attitudes, 2) makes nontraditional sexual relations attractive, 3) equates the social value of traditional and nontraditional sexual relations, or 4) creates an interest in nontraditional sexual relations.

According to Mr Putin, visitors and athletes at the games will be perfectly safe from prosecution, unless, of course, they show any display of gay support on the winners podium or elsewhere. This means if a gay British athlete decides to wear a rainbow pin, and stands on the podium to receive a medal, then they are open to prosecution.

Oddly, between 1917 and 1933 homosexuality was accepted in Russia, with openly homosexual people serving in Government. It is thought that it was re-criminalized by Stalin to appease the Russian Orthodox Church, which does seem strange in a communist era that marginalized religion.

How should we as a community respond to this threat to our brothers and sisters in Russia? I don't know. But listening, responding with calm logic, and clear arguments never hurts. We should remember that Russia is not a Western European country, its history and culture are different, and it is probably true that their leaders can not see why this law upsets people outside their country. Historically, when directly challenged, they have hardened their stance, seeing changing direction as a sign of weakness.

The Russian Duma, their elected parliament, passed the law, which means they can claim this is the will of the people. However, most people, Russian or otherwise, don't care what their Governments are doing as long as it does not affect them. We are lucky in this country in that our governments, whatever you think about them, have often pushed forward progress in the face of opposition from vocal bigots.

The rationale behind the law is that "nontraditional" relationships undermine the security and stability of the State. This is the same argument used against gay marriage in our country, and is as morally and logically bankrupt. Anything that improves the stability of relationships, and allows them equality can only by definition improve the stability and security of a nation. Unless, of course, your nation is built on dogma and irrational premises.....

Graham, Editor *(Please note all thoughts and ideas here are mine and do not purport to represent anyone else's views!)*

Membership update

Our membership has fallen to 58. This is seven down on the last newsletter report summer 2013. We welcome Ismail as our latest new member.

Although the membership is down it is still at a good level, but are you one of our losses? Have you fallen by the wayside, the warm summer weather soothing you into somnambulance? Now the cooler autumn air is upon us, check and see, and renew your membership! This season's events are worth it by themselves, so show your support!

Rob P., Membership Secretary and Graham, Editor

Raffle

The Raffle takes place the last Thursday of the month. 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

FORTHCOMING BIRTHDAYS

September

4th Neil W.

8th Michael B.

9th Andy H.

15th Peter T.

18th Bill N.

October

1st Peter S

5th Ismail

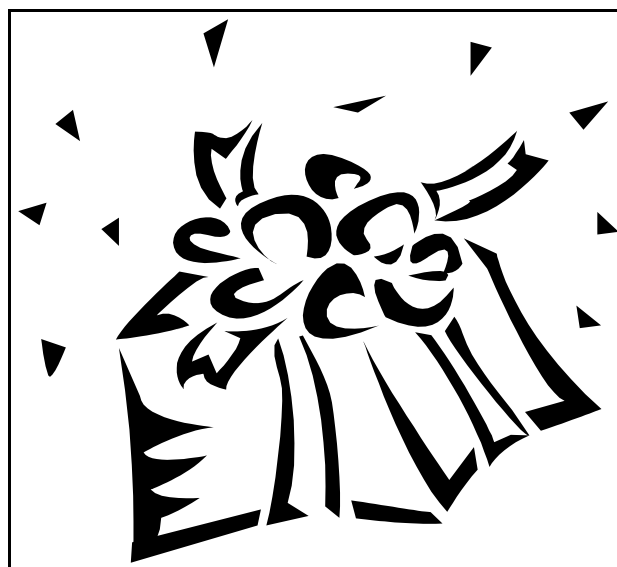
27th John H.

November

2nd Meg H.

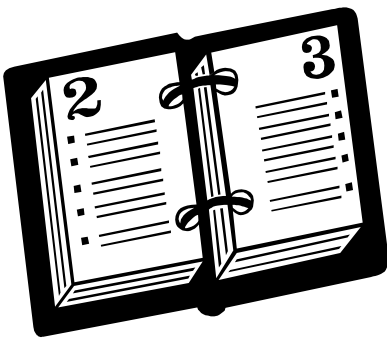
7th Robert F.

13th William R.



Blimey! We have more birthdays each issue, is someone having more than one a year? Anyhow, have fun all of you!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU ALL



GGLC's SOCIAL CALENDAR DIARY OF EVENTS

September

- 1st Rounders and Picnic at Rodborough Common
- 5th His Grace The Bishop of Gloucester joins us for the evening
- 12th Quiz Night at The Westgate—8pm start!
- 13th Pub Night at the Westgate Pub
- 19th "Tinkle your Ivories" Bring your own music! Julie & Chris
- 26th Coffee, Chat, Raffle and Tour of The Westgate

October

- 3rd Barbara Clayton—an Evening of Spiritualism
- 10th Stained Glass Art—a talk, Sarah G.
- 11th Pub Night at the Westgate Pub
- 17th Film Night—Up the Chastity Belt!
- 24th Taboo—A fun game for all!
- 26th 39th Annual Dinner
- 31st Coffee, Chat and Raffle

November

- 7th Bingo Night
- 14th A talk by the Gay Police Association
- 15th Pub Night at the Westgate Pub
- 21st Visit by Cheltenham Speakers Club
- 28th Coffee, Chat and Raffle

Advanced Warnings and Notes!

Please note on film nights arrive early, as an 8pm start is usually needed! We are luck to get the range of speakers and visitors that we do, please remember they are our guests!

A bit of explanation may be required for this season's diary! On September 12th, with most of the Committee vanishing to the four quarters of the world, we will be wandering down from the usual meeting place to the Westgate, where we hope to enter a team into their quiz! The Hall will be manned till 8pm at least. Good luck all!

On November 21st, we will be visited by the Cheltenham Speakers Club. They have some novice speakers, so hopefully we will be treated to some interesting short talks.

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

CONTACTING THE GGLC

Gloucestershire Gay & Lesbian Community meets most Thursdays, from 8pm, in Gloucester city centre. A warm welcome is assured for everyone. For further details or directions please phone 07050 627273 or write to :-

P0 BOX 23, Gloucester GL1 1YW.

On Thursday nights from 8pm, you can phone us on 07879572396, but please remember this is during the meeting! 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!

GAY-GLOS Helpline 01452 306800

LOCAL 'HAUNT'

The Westgate, Gloucester www.TheWestgateOnline.co.uk

Haunts is now Haunt... any ideas anyone?



Some of the information on the bars and discos may be wrong—
new places may be opening—anyone with the latest news,
please let us know.