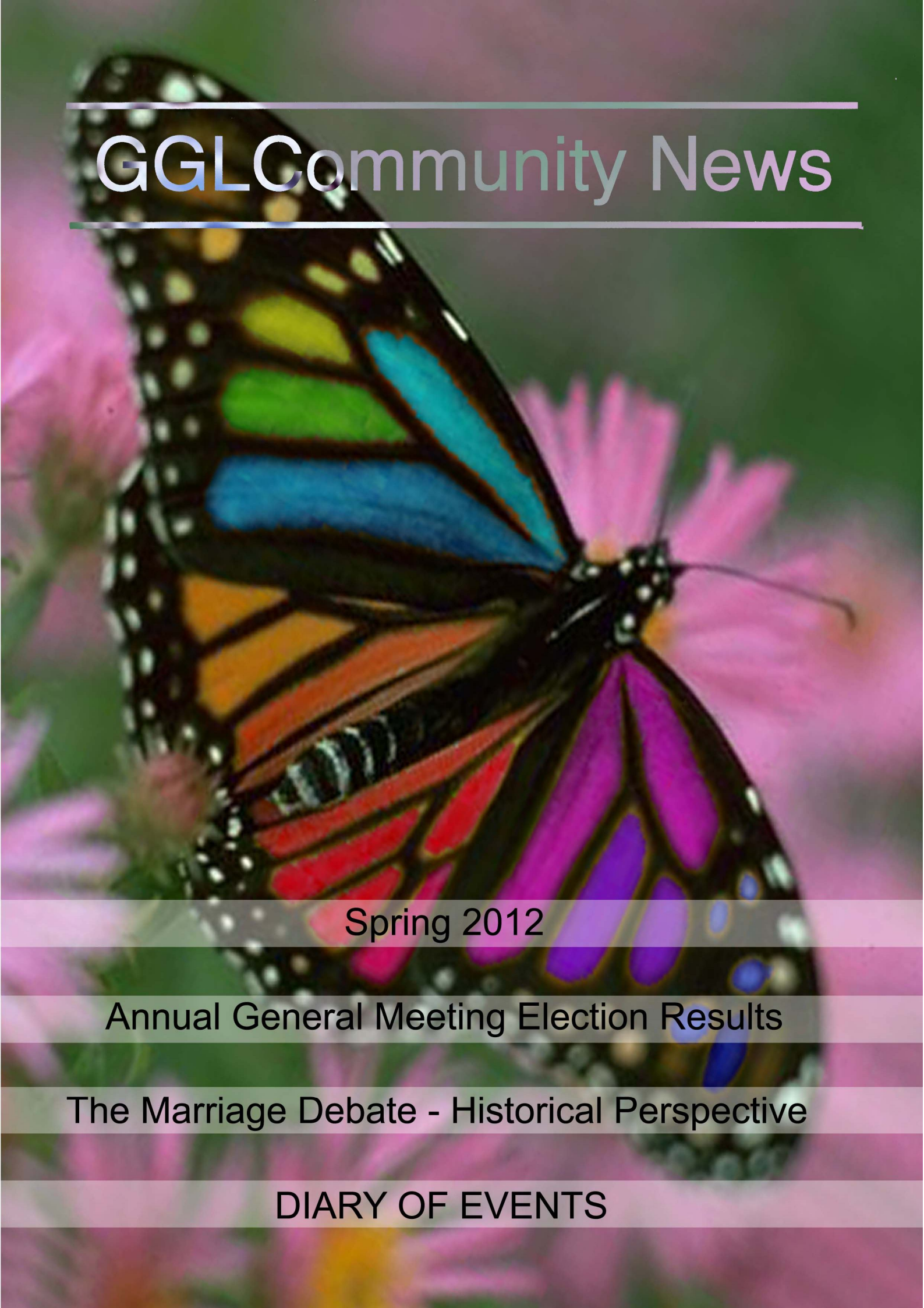




GGLCommunity News

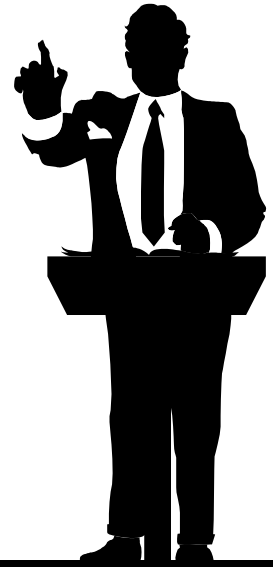
Spring 2012

Annual General Meeting Election Results

The Marriage Debate - Historical Perspective

DIARY OF EVENTS

CHAIRMAN'S LETTER



Dear Members,

Yes, I'm back and you didn't even have to vote!! The Chairman's term of office is two years, alternating with the Vice Chair. The Chair will be elected next.

It was encouraging to see more members attending the AGM this year – thank you. You will see the results further on in the Newsletter. A most sincere personal thank you to the outgoing Committee for all their perseverance, hard work and dedication to the group and their support to me personally. It is very much appreciated. For the first time in 3 years we will have a full complement of Committee – so a warm welcome to the new boys!

Time goes so quickly and there are still items on the “to do” list from 4 years ago! This year I hope to sort out a proper stand and display to promote the group, get a decent website going and a new greeting pack for those coming to the group for the first time.

We have several events planned both on Thursday nights and at weekends – come along if you can, encourage others to join you and enjoy yourself!

With warmest wishes

Michael
Chair

BRISTOL PRIDE

On Saturday 14th July 2012 at College Green. Parade from 11 am and other events from 12 noon. ***The GGLC are having an information stall at the Green.*** In the evening there is a Street Fiesta and an After Party in the 02 Arena. See <http://www.wearefest.com>.

SKITTLES NIGHT

The Maundy Thursday tradition was followed again this year with no weekly meeting, but a skittles match instead.

We went to Bishops Cleeve Golf Club where we were warmly welcomed again. We invited Gay Girls Gloucester and 13 of the girls turned up to join in.

Altogether there was 28 of us, the highest number we have had at a match. The teams were mixed up at random and everyone got into the spirit of it with lots of chanting and cheering! One of the ladies won the highest individual score.

Grahams' side won the highest team score. Graham was the star that night as he also won the "killer" round and went away with a handsome amount of cash.

There were some brilliant raffle prizes in the draw which raised £30.

A special thank you, Bill and Ray, for organising the night, dealing with the money and also the raffle draw. MCH for the 'chalking up'

It was a brilliant night out for everyone – here's to the next one!

Alan.

Note: Many thanks to Alan for organising the raffle prizes. Editor

Q: What is an Australian Kiss?

A: The same as a French Kiss but down under!

We need your help!

Once again GGLC will be providing the Instant Raffle/Information stall at this year's Gloucestershire Pride in Gloucester Park on Saturday June 16th

We all know times are hard, but we hope that you will have a good rummage through your closets (!) and cupboards and let us have those unwanted gifts that are in good condition, but you will never use.

Mike B has agreed to collate all the prizes. With the exception of books, (almost) everything else is welcome. Storage space is limited so try and keep them relatively small.

Bring them along to Mike at the Group on any Thursday between now and June 14th 2012

This is one of the few occasions when we can make a large amount for Group funds, so please do all you can.

Thanking you in advance

Peter

Secretary, on behalf of the Committee

GLOUCESTERSHIRE PRIDE 2012

June 16th

It's coming – as the station master said to the engine driver!

The Pride Committee are hoping for a really good turn out this year. The Parade meets at Shire Hall for 12 noon. Entertainment while you wait. Speeches 12.20 and we depart at 12.30 for Gloucester Park. For the first time there will be vehicles in the Parade and the route will be slightly different from last year. We need people to take the Group Banner on the Parade and also volunteers to act as Marshalls. We must have one person for each wheel of a vehicle. For those who do not feel they can walk the route, I am entering my car so can take 3 others with me for the ride. You must be prepared to wave to your subjects and acknowledge the cheering of the crowds!!

If you can help in any way, do let us know. Mark M and Rob volunteered to represent the GGLC and sure they will help or update you with any information you need

The GGLC will have a stand as last year with a recruiting table and the Tombola. Proceeds of the Tombola will be split 50/50 between Pride and GGLC. There is a separate article on “wants” for the GGLC stall.

It will be a great afternoon – please put the word out there and encourage as many as possible to attend.

Many thanks
Michael

Membership update

Membership numbers stand at 50, which is two down on the last Newsletter report, Winter/Spring 2012. We welcome Chris D as a new member of the Group
Rob P, Membership Secretary

COFFEE ROTA

On the rota? – then many thanks for helping. If you are down to do the coffee, tea etc can you make sure you have the code to get in! If you know we are really low on any supplies then please do tell one of the Committee who can arrange replacements before the following Thursday.
Thanks

National AIDS Helplines

“You can ask what you want to ask”
0800567123

Events Write-up

Hmmm... well, I missed quite a few events this time, so the write-up could be a bit on the thin side..

So to begin, back in February the Untold Stories DVD premiered at the GGLC, to a very appreciative audience. It was fascinating to hear and see the different recollections of our members, and hopefully it will make an impression on others who watch it—we are now part of recorded history!

Unfortunately I missed Paul James's talk, though rumour had that it was an interesting evening. Pancake evening I couldn't make either, but everyone said how much they enjoyed it, and I know the pancakes are always good!

We visited the Gloucestershire Archives in March, and had a wonderful tour round, as well as presenting the Archive with various items from the Group. Of particular interest were the records and documents laid out for us after the tour. Maps of the areas we lived, wonderfully illustrated documents, and a collection of Victorian prisoner photographs!

This was followed up by an evening of bingo with Mike and Rob, always a popular event, then one of my quizzes...

Mike and Rob then organised a film night, and we finished up the month with a special coffee and chat, celebrating our Chairman's age related achievement!

April began with a bang, literally, as skittle balls connected with skittles! It was a joint event with one of the ladies groups, and was great fun as usual.

Not sure how the Scattergories went, as I missed it yet again, sorry Michael!

We had a good turn out for the pre-AGM coffee and chat, and talked over the roles of the committee members and some of the topics to be raised at the meeting.

The AGM was well organised, and we got through business nice and quickly, though covered all the questions that were raised.

Hopefully I will be able to get to more meetings this season, and be able to give a more comprehensive report.... Unless there is some willing volunteer out there?

Graham, Newsletter Editor

Time and Space in Editing..

Some may notice that a few of the events in the Diary have already taken place, this is due to temporal effects beyond the influence of your Editor (he can't type quickly enough...).

We were also notified about some events in Stroud, which were announced at the Group, organised by Christy O'D. Sadly, all but the last will be over before this issue. Please take a look on page 10.

As there was not enough space in this issue for two important articles, I have included a special insert for your perusal.

UNTOLD STORIES

After two years in the planning, a lot of work and organisation, our “Untold Stories” DVD was completed.

There was an unofficial premier first, just for the GGLC. Gill, from the County Council, attended to share the standpoint of the Council and how proud they were to be associated with this piece of work. Unfortunately, Neil, the cameraman and producer was unable attend due to prior commitments. The film starred members of the GGLC, some in person on film, some represented by an actor and some presentations were verbal only.

The official premier was unveiled at the LGBT Equalities evening. It was very warmly received and created a great deal of interest. Now the project is completed, others can see the worth of it and are very keen to be involved in the future. Perhaps if we can get sponsorship sometime in the future it is something we can look at again. I am sure we will get a much wider spectrum of the gay community if we did. When Neil has time, he is going to finish some minor editing just to tidy it up. We are then going to make copies available to those to “did a star turn”. Other copies will be available at £1 to cover costs.

Michael

Gay-Glos: Supporting LGBT people, their families and friends

01452 306800 Mon-Fri 7.30-10pm.

Write PO Box 171, Gloucester GL1 4YE.

Web-site and email service: www.gay-glos.org. New volunteers always required.

First Friday Women's Group

(Held, logically, on the first Friday of each month)

A drop-in evening providing a place for lesbians to meet and chat, a jumping off point for the weekend, a place to relax and meet new people.

Friends Meeting House, Greyfriars, Southgate Street, Gloucester, GL1 1TS

From 7.30 – 10.00pm

Email contact: fridaywomen@rocketmail.com

We charge a minimum of £1 per person. This goes towards the cost of the room and tea/coffee.

There's a no alcohol policy on the premises.

Additional donations welcome – it's still a cheap evening!

John S.REECE

We are sorry to report the death of a previous Chairman and member of the GGLC, John Reece. John will be fondly remembered by many for all the work and support he gave to the group. He was one of the early founder members. John died 28th January 2012 aged 76 years. A celebration of his life was held at the Forest of Dean Crematorium on the 8th February. Some members of the group attend, both on their own behalf and to represent the group. John was a keen supporter of the Red Cross and a donation was left in his memory from the GGLC.

John leaves a partner, Richard, to whom we extend our most sincere condolences.

Weep if you must;
Parting is hell
But life goes on
So ...sing as well
Joyce Grenfell

HIGHNAM COURT

An evening of Music and Fireworks at Highnam Court on Saturday 23rd June 2012 in aid of the NSPCC.

We book a group ticket for this event every other year, so we are not organising it for 2012. If you would like to buy a ticket for yourself this year the details are: Tickets £18.50 with a sae to NSPCC Concert, c/o 17 Grange Field Road, Brendon, Glos GL20 7AZ

M

SPECTRUM is a group in Hereford. They meet once a month in the Mezzanine, Courtyard Centre for the Arts, Edgar Street, Hereford on the third Thursday.

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!

Newsletter and Diary email addresses!

You can now submit articles or ideas for the Diary via email, at the following addresses:

newsletter@gglc-glos.co.uk
diary@gglc-glos.co.uk

Now all I have to do is remember to check.....

The Editor

The Marriage Debate – Further Information

Gay marriage goes way back.

Civil Unions between male couples existed around 600 years ago in medieval Europe, a historian now says.

Historical evidence, including legal documents and gravesites, can be interpreted as supporting the prevalence of homosexual relationships hundreds of years ago, said Allan Tulchin of Shippensburg University in Pennsylvania.

If accurate, the results indicate socially sanctioned same-sex unions are nothing new, nor were they taboo in the past.

“Western family structures have been much more varied than many people today seem to realise,” Tulchin writes in the September issue of the *Journal of Modern History*. “and Western legal systems in the past made provisions for a variety of household structures.”

For example, he found legal contracts from late medieval France that referred to the term “affrèrement”, roughly translated as brotherment. Similar contracts existed elsewhere in Mediterranean Europe, Tulchin said.

In the contract, the “brothers” pledged to live together sharing “un pain, un vin, et une bourse,” (that’s French for one bread, one wine and one purse). The “one purse” referred to the idea that all of the couple’s goods became joint property. Like marriage contracts, the “brotherments” had to be sworn before a notary and witnesses, Tulchin explained.

The same type of legal contract of the time could provide the foundation for a variety of non-nuclear households, including arrangements in which two or more biological brothers inherited the family home from their parents and would live together, Tulchin said.

But non-relatives also used the contracts. In cases that involved single, unrelated men, Tulchin argues, these contracts provide “considerable evidence that the affreres were using affrètements to formalise same-sex loving relationships”. The ins-and-outs of the medieval relationships are tricky at best to figure out. “I suspect that some of these relationships were sexual, while others may not have been,” Tulchin said. “It is impossible to prove either way and probably also somewhat irrelevant to understanding their way of thinking. They loved each other.”

Editor’s Note: This was sent to us by a member, showing the possibility of a historical background for legal Civil Unions. It is difficult to directly link past customs to present life, as the times were different, but it would be nice to think that people have always found a way to be together, with love.

DID YOU KNOW?

Gay Soldier Video

A marriage equality video was released early April. The video clip shows a British soldier proposing to his boyfriend upon returning from a tour of duty. It is beautiful, touching and well worth seeing. The feedback on the video is amazing with wonderful responses from all sections of the general public. Even straight men saying how good it is and they would support the campaign. You can support equality for gay marriage by signing the C4EM online petition

WHY?

What can you believe in? In the past month the Archbishop of Wales reported the church should support and acknowledge gay civil marriage. He said “marriage is not owned by the church” and “all should be shown love and support – that is why the church is here”.

Another denomination is actively promoting discrimination by urging it’s pupils, from 11 years old upwards, to sign an ‘anti gay marriage petition’.

When discovered, this particular church denied such a thing was happening. That was until it’s own pupils, so disgusted with the hate campaign, produced a copy of the petition they were “urged” to sign.

Alan Turing on a roll

A petition to put an image of gay man, computer engineer, and Second World War code breaker, Alan Turing, on the next £10 note has been launched. It has already secured over a thousand signatures

Want a coffee?

An American Christian group is calling on religious followers to dump Starbucks, because the coffee chain supports gay marriages. OK, we all have the right to a voice so I say, buy Starbucks because they support Gay Marriage

LEEDS? GAY?

Liberal Democrat councillor Stewart Golton is introducing a motion to recognise the Lower Briggate area of Leeds as an official Gay Quarter. Where would ours be?

Gay Cure

A north London state funded Jewish School encourage students to study the central message of “JONAH” and so called ‘gay cure’ group. It caused an outcry and resignations ensued. What came out of though, was a Jew who enrolled himself on a Jewish scheme to try and turn himself straight. His story is sad yet fascinating and enlightening. Go to “Pink News” online to see the full article.

GGLC SPONSORS FILM

We were contacted by some 3rd year Digital Films Production students at GLOSCAT who are making a film ***“Getting out, Coming Home”***.

The story is about a young man’s experience of coming out as gay.

At a festival he is mugged. With no money he is hitchhiking home and ‘comes out’ to the drivers of his lifts, with mixed reactions. The story leads up to his telling his parents - or does he?

We invited the students to come along to groups “coffee and chat” evening to tell us about it. We were impressed with their professionalism and story line. After they left, the group members decided they would like to sponsor them and agreed an amount of £50. The Students were so thrilled and thanked us profusely. We will be noted as sponsors and will get to see the film when it is produced.

Good luck to them.

BRISTOL PRIDE

On Saturday 14th July 2012 at College Green. Parade from 11 am and other events from 12 noon. ***The GGLC are having an information stall at the Green.*** In the evening there is a Street Fiesta and an After Party in the 02 Arena. See <http://www.wearefest.com>.

GGLC Committee and Newsletter Election Results

So, which poor people did you all vote into directing the GGLC for the next year? Here, hot off the presses, are the results!

Chair: **Michael C-H** (no vote - 2nd year of 2 year term)

Vice Chair: **Rob P.** (elected for a 2 year term)

Secretary: **Peter C**

Treasurer: **Alan R**

Committee members:

Mike B, Mark M, Robert N

All officers and committee members were unanimously elected.

Newsletter Editor: **Graham V.** Unanimously elected

GAY CLUB NIGHT STROUD: ‘Butch Queen, First Time in Drag’ Club Night

12th May 10-3am @ SVA, John St, Stroud, Glos £5/4 entry

This is a call out to all lovers of gay culture/music, this is Stroud’s only gay club night! Come down and wear your most outrageous outfits, dance your butt off, and lip sync for your life. With a selection of fierce DJs, playing the best in dance, pop, disco, and classic gems. A celebration of all things gay.

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**

LGBT HISTORY MONTH

A display was organised by Gill, Equalities Officer at Gloucestershire County Council. The display was available to visit at The Westgate during February (LGBT History Month). The GGLC put together a rather hurried but good display. It would have been a lot better if we had some display boards. Our Chair helped Gill on the Sunday in putting the exhibition together, with contributions from us, Gay Glos, Gay Girls Gloucester, Gloucestershire County Council, Friday Gay Girls and others.

Our “Untold Stories” was on display (on a continuous rerun tape) during the month and received fantastic feedback. On the evening, people were able to meet Gill as well as Neil who was cameraman and producer of the film. Also, the professional actor who appeared on behalf of some members joined us for the evening.

The climax of the month was the LGBT Network evening sponsored by the County Council. Our chair spoke on behalf of our group.

It was a really good evening, with a “buzz” about it that we have not seen for a while.

Many thanks to Gill, Neil, John and team at The Westgate and Michael for their work, inspiration and sponsorship

New in!

We have just heard of a new website promoting gay nights out. Unfortunately not in our neck of the woods, but if you are in London or down Brighton way, check this out:

<http://www.gaynightsuk.co.uk>

Graham

Gay & Lesbian Humanist Association (GALHA) 01926 858450	Lesbian & Gay Christian Movement Alan 0117 982 1512	Jewish Lesbian & Gay Help Line Mon & Thurs 020 7706 3123
Gay Bereavement Project 020 8544 8894	Transsexual Help Line Christine 0117 957 0210	Transvestite Help Line Rita 0117 951 4481
Gay Legal Advice (GLAD) Mon—Fri 7—10pm 020 7831 3535	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 01225 851676

MISSED? TWICE?

At Christmas, I sponsored a competition to name the best title for a Wine, produced from gay vines. No one entered, so I repeated it in the Spring edition. No one entered again so the competition is closed. By the time you read this I will have enjoyed a lovely evening sat by the fire with the prize, a bottle of “Mincing Rose” drunk out of a GGLC mug!!

Cheers!!

M

GGLC Mugs!

These specially commissioned mugs are now available to members for a special discounted price of £3.50. Non-members can still buy them, but for £4.50! Talk to a committee member today!

ARCHIVES

Our private tour of the Gloucestershire Archives was a brilliant evening. Apart from general interest of the subject, the Archivists also prepared an exhibition relating to buildings that have “gay connections” in the County. One example was the original plans and history of the building we know as “The Westgate”. We started a Gloucestershire Gay Archive by depositing records of the GGLC and copies of our Newsletter. We intend to keep this going for the future. They were delighted to accept the deposit and also the small donation we made. The evening went so well we hope to do something similar in the future

M

GREEDY and Bi Visible Bristol

Great name eh. A new night club for bi people opened in Bristol. For details for to <http://bevisiblebristol.wordpress.com> or Jess on 07905597440

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.

Skittles!

Due to the overwhelming popularity of skittles, we are seeing if we can play more often! The next date is Saturday 7th July, at 7.30 for 8pm start.

As usual, it is at Cleeve Hill Golf Course, Cheltenham, GL52 3PW, and as part of the arrangement, we are expected to have dinner there, and a very good dinner it is too! Order your meal when you arrive, and we eat half way through the evening.

Please let Ray and Bill know if you are coming, or send word via any committee member, as numbers are limited! Book early to avoid disappointment.

Graham, Newsletter 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

May

2nd Malvin K

5th Davina H

10th Alan L

21st John M

June

3rd Stuart F

7th Deric P

17th Sean O'N

28th Andrew W

28th Rob P

July

4th Doug McC

11th Stuart H

14th Rosie G

15th Mark M

29th Anthony B

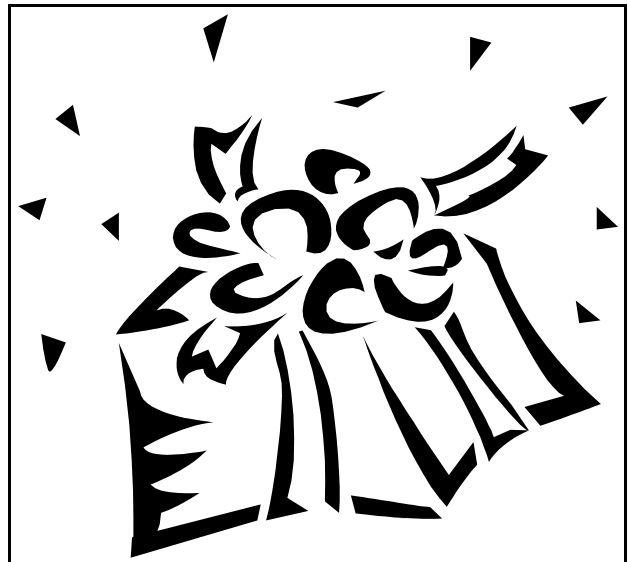
29th Paul D

August

19th Ian V

21st Norina S

26th Brian B



Goodness! What a huge number of birthdays this issue (obviously other things 'issued' all those years back!). Well done all, and many to come!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU ALL



GGLC's SOCIAL CALENDAR DIARY OF EVENTS

May

- 3rd News Quiz
- 10th Dr Smith—A Talk on Health Issues
- 17th Call My Bluff (Peter, Neil and Andy W)
- 24th Talk on Thailand—by Rob and Mike
- 31st Diamond Jubilee “Street Party”

June

- 7th An Evening of Clairvoyance—Barbara Clayton
- 14th Gloucestershire Pride Instant Raffle Preparations
- 16th Gloucestershire Pride 2012—in Gloucester Park
- 21st Pub Quiz by Alan R.
- 28th Coffee, Chat and Raffle

July

- 5th Talk on North America—Michael, Alan and Mike
- 8th Annual Picnic—Cannop Ponds from 1pm
- 12th Treasure Trail around Gloucester—Graham
- 19th Beetle Drive
- 26th Coffee, Chat and Raffle

August

- 19th Rounders at Minchinhampton Common

Advanced warning!

Rounders has been moved forward so we can avoid freezing to 19th August! Other events in August are to be arranged.. Any ideas?

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-glos.co.uk** and the email address is **info@gglc-glos.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.