
GGLCommunity News



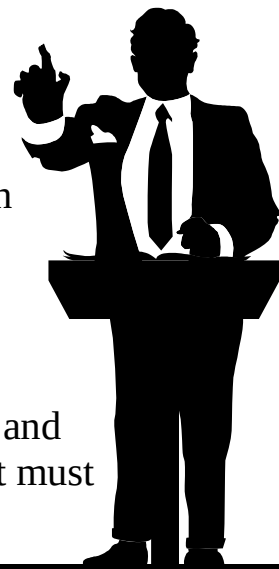
Spring 2015

The AGM Approaches!

All the news and views!

DIARY OF EVENTS

CHAIRMAN'S LETTER



Hi,

A belated 'New Year' greeting to you all. I hope 2015 will bring each one of you what you want for yourself.

Winter can be such a depressing time and I know many suffer in this grey season. Luckily, over the past few days it has been bitterly cold but the sun is shining and the sky is blue. It makes such a difference.

It is shocking news to hear the Westgate is again in financial trouble and our thoughts go out to them. For them to publicise their difficulties it must be bad and the amount is large. Some members have asked if we can use our group savings to help out. As much as I would like to, my job is to protect the group first. We have enough

left to keep the group going for about 5 years – we are not covering our monthly costs and already dipping into that reserve. The Westgate are looking for donations, there is no business plan published and they are not asking for loans. If they cannot raise the £25000 within the next few months they are saying they could close. Our money would then be lost.

We can best continue supporting the LGBT Community by surviving ourselves and being here for the foreseeable future. We have seen many gay themed pubs and clubs come and go and by our diligence have survived them all. We will look at ways of fundraising that could help. As individuals you can make personal donations. There will also be a special collection at the Group at the end of February which group funds will match up to a £100.

The Islamic State Terrorist Group is in the news daily issuing their hate and threats. What does not get published is their treatment of homosexuals in the East. If they accuse anyone of, what they call "homosexual activity" the person is bound, taken to a high building and pushed off. If that does not kill them they are stoned to death. What terrible barbarity. Why is nothing being done to stop this? Where are all the Governments from around the world? What about United Nations? It is history repeating itself – it is the Jews and Gays now. Soon it will be any person, thought, or thing they don't like that will be next. Action needs to be taken now.

Many countries around the world are civilised and offer equality for all and in our case, not only equality and protection, but legal rights such as Civil Partnerships and Marriage, protection against hate crime and in the workplace.

Yet in some countries men and women live in daily fear of being found out, suppressing every thought or action that might give them away. All because they want to be with someone of the same sex. It's heartbreaking.

What are you going to do to try and put a stop to this? It starts with one person – could that be you.

Leaving you in thought

Michael

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 2015 at 8pm prompt (doors
open 7.30pm)
at the Friends Meeting House,
Gloucester**

NOMINATION FORM AGM—30th April 2015

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

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.

COMMITTEE

As you are aware the AGM is rapidly approaching. At the moment there will be some current Committee Members who have indicated they will stand again and some who would prefer not to. You must have been a member of the GGLC for at least a year before you can be nominated. We are looking for people who are “doers” rather than “talkers”. Work seems to be left to the same people each time. The commitment is not big – the Committee meet about every 6 weeks and hopefully everyone will have a task so we share the burden between us all. It can be interesting, fun and sometimes not so interesting and fun – but it is always good working together and supporting the gay community. The committee are an exceptionally nice bunch of people! If you want more information, see any Committee member for more information. You need to get a nomination form completed, signed by yourself, proposer and nominator. Everyone needs to do this, current as well as potential new committee members.

Look forward to hearing from you.

Michael

National AIDS Helplines

“You can ask what you want to ask”

0800567123

Membership update

Membership numbers are now 59. This is 2 less than reported in the previous newsletter winter 2014. The number continues to hover around the 60 mark. We have 3 new members Jackie J, Alan G. and Paul C. A warm welcome to you all !

Rob P. Membership Secretary

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

STOP PRESS – DON’T FORGET

From March, Tea and Coffee will now be £1.00

Conversion of Civil Partnership to Marriage

Following a very interesting talk to the group by Ruth of the registrar's office my partner and I decided to go ahead with converting our CP to Marriage. The process was very easy and straight forward, firstly contacting the registrar's office to make an appointment and then simply turning up at the office of our choice with identification and proof of our address.

So on 22nd January this year at 10am we arrived at Tewkesbury Borough Council Offices and were greeted by the same person who had conducted our CP which was nice. He then confirmed that all our details were the same as in July 2010, the date of our CP, and amended those that needed changing. We then had to wait while he typed all the information into the system and printed out our marriage certificate. He then called us back into his office to sign a document and presented us with our certificates and very kindly then took some photos for us.

The whole process only took about 30 minutes and was done in a very nice informal atmosphere. It did seem a little strange that as soon as the formalities were over we had suddenly been married for four and a half years, so in July of this we will celebrate our 5th Wedding Anniversary.

We celebrated in a relatively understated fashion with a toasted teacake and cup of coffee at Theoc House in Tewkesbury. The rest of our day was taken up with having our hair cut and attending GGLC in the evening (you can't say we don't know how to live the high life). We were treated to a very nice lunch the following day, again at Theoc House (they have an extensive and tasty menu if you're ever in Tewkesbury) by our dear friends Annie & Matt from the Forest.

Julie.

The Westgate

Gloucester's only LGBT venue

Open Sunday noon-2am, Monday/Tuesday 11am-2am

Wednesday-Friday 11am-3am, Saturday 11am-5am!

Food served until 4pm Sun-Thurs, 6pm Fri-Sat

.GLOUCESTERSHIRE ARCHIVES

The archives are still looking to expand their LGBTQ collection, particularly lesbian and transgender. If you have any material, thoughts, stories contact Michael at the Group or e-mail sam.bairstow@gloucestershire.gov.uk

Gloucestershire Pride—Volunteers Needed!

Gloucestershire Pride is on Saturday 13th June this year, at Gloucester Park. They need help with setting up, stewarding, working backstage, staffing the site office, litter picking, collecting money!

If you can spare a few hours, or even better the whole day, contact any of the committee.

The website is at glospride.org.uk and there is a contact form there.

How else can we help? Well, there are fundraising events you can attend, including a weekly Pride Pub Quiz every Thursday from 8.30pm to 10.30pm at the Westgate in Gloucester. There is a £2 entry per person and half the proceeds go to the winning pot, the rest into the GlosPride funding, so go along and have a fun evening in a good cause!

On Monday 20th April at the New County Hotel in Southgate Street there is the GlosPride 2015 Comedy Night. Starting time is at 8pm and tickets are £15. The evening features Zoe Lyons and Julie Jepson along with some of their friends. Check out the website for further details.

Keep an eye on the website for further news and other events that may come up.

Remember, the Prides only succeed when we get involved and support them!

Why does everyone think my Dads are gay!

They say 1 in every 4 men is gay, so one of my group of friends must be – I hope it's John as he is super cute!

A young man came up to me and accused me of be gay – I was so shocked I hit him with my handbag

Why did the gay man cross the road? Because the green man was flashing!

Swindon Pride

Swindon Pride is on Sunday June 14th this year. They have a website at <http://www.swindonwiltshirepride.co.uk/>, though at the moment it is still under construction. It is a good event and if they are in the same location as they have been over the past few years it is a lovely place.

LGB Film Screening

We have been invited to be a part of this event, organised by the University. It will be part of their Festival Fortnight in June and has a provisional date of 1st June.

The details are not yet decided, hopefully we will be able to give more information on our website as we get it.

Graham, Editor

Rainbow Crossing

Of all places, Totnes in South Devon is set to be the first place in Europe to have a permanent rainbow crossing, joining Vancouver and West Hollywood.

Rainbow crossings have been increasingly popular in Europe, usually associated with a Pride event, but now we are beginning to see them become full time features.

So, where Devon leads, will Gloucestershire follow? Will our county be the first to have a permanent rainbow crossing on a Roman Road? Or a rainbow bridge over the Seven? The opportunities are endless!

The Westgate

The Westgate pub in Gloucester, the last LGBT venue in the county, is in financial trouble. This institution has served our community for about five years, during which they have supported the Prides, assisted with charity events, and been a visible, open symbol of our community.

After a fire two years ago, even though they were insured, the resulting loss of trade and other complications that always arise in these situation have played havoc with cash flow. The situation is now critical and they are asking the community to show their support in concrete form. There is a fundraising site at www.gofundme.com/labtog for the Westgate, if you want to see this venue continue, please go to the site and show your support.

Graham, Editor

The Pink News

The Pinkpaper website seems to have vanished, however, why not try the Pink News instead at this location: <http://www.pinknews.co.uk>

Read a very interesting article about them recently, where they were saying they had been criticised for using “Pink”. Some were saying it is not an “inclusive” colour, is outdated, and associated with a certain type of stereotypical gay man. I loved their response. It seems the name was chosen to remind us all of the days when homosexuals in the Nazi era had to wear a pink triangle. This is something we should always remember, as without constant vigilance, this could raise it’s head again, as is evidenced by situations in Eastern Europe and the Middle East. We as a community are often our own harshest critics, always quick to point out the apparent “faults” of other parts of our community, often without thinking it through and finding out the full story. Try to remember, there are many out there who love to see us fighting and name calling, it just confirms their bigoted and biased opinion of us—why give them ammunition?

Graham, Editor

GayStarNews

I did the article above after reading about the flack The Pink News was getting, but we should not forget to check out GayStarNews on a regular basis. This longstanding news site, run for many years by Andrew H. has been a great source of news and views for the community. If you don’t already have it bookmarked on your browser, check it out at www.gaystarnews.com.

CHRISTMAS PARTY

It seems ages ago now, but thanks to everyone who contributed to the Christmas Party. It was good fun with lots of goodies and a really good turn out. Particular thanks to Julie for the music and Michael and Alan for arranging the cloths, plates, crackers etc.

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!

Notes Page

What can I bring to the Group?

Things to raise at the AGM

Committee Posts I want to stand for:

Questions for Dr Smith

What am I going to do for Pride?

Other notes

SAD NEWS

A previous member of the group, Vince Wood, died suddenly of a heart attack a couple of months ago. His funeral was on December 11th at Cheltenham. Vince had been a member of the Group for many years previously and for quite some time was our Newsletter Editor. He made a lot of friends over the years but preferred his own company a lot of the time. There was a wonderful turn out for the funeral. I represented both myself and the GGLC and there were also some other group members there. A donation was made on our behalf to the Heart Foundation. He will be missed.

M

Chairman's Plate

Being at the 40th Anniversary Dinner was like being in a time warp - so many friends from years ago, some not seen for the best part of 20 years! What a nice way to spend time catching up on what the past years have brought for us and to share the commonality of our membership or connections with the GGLC. Never one for awards and accolades - others get those not me - I never feel worthy of such things... I was suddenly jolted into attention when I heard my name mentioned for the award of The Chairman's Plate! Did he mention me? ... Yes... What a great surprise and honour. I am grateful for the award and must thank The Chairman for his kind words and consideration. I am passionate about what I do within the LGBT Community and it is nice to be recognised, so thank you, it will take pride of place in my glass fronted cabinet - where I don't have to dust it too often!

Ian Vesty
Chair GAY-GLOS

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 01452 306800 and we will call you back.

MEETING HOUSE

I have heard from the Quakers Meeting Room to confirm their boiler is to be replaced and they plan to re-open from the 16th February. We all know that with any works, the date is never confirmed until the builders actually turn up!. I have suggested we stay at the Westgate until the end of the month. We will start meeting back at The Friends Meeting House from Thursday 5th March.

Our first job will be to take down the Christmas Tree!!

We have been made very welcome by John, Sid, Chris and their team at the Westgate. The move had to be made very quickly and they couldn't have been more accommodating and helpful. Many thanks guys.

M

I've had 40 winks on the train – I knew I shouldn't have worn this pink T-Shirt

WRAPPED AUCTION

The turn out this year was very disappointing – the Wrapped Auction is, after all, our main fund raiser of the year. At one point we thought there would be 5 of us and 23 wrapped items! However, a few more did arrive later and the result at the end of the evening was fantastic. A total of £161 was raised that evening - a record amount. Well done to those who did attend and many thanks for your support.

Alan

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 01172 2301170

Events for November 2014 to February 2015

Our first event in November was a Bonfire night theme and an invitation to “make your own guy”. I couldn’t attend but understand all went well. Barbara Clayton paid us another visit and as usual came up with some personal observations on what she thought the cards said about us as individuals. Michael and Alan gave us some stunning photos in their account of their holiday with Mike and Rob in the Canadian Rockies.

We held another of the very popular Skittle evenings. I actually persuaded Neil to come along and he was very thrilled to receive a trophy for the lowest score!!. Ruth Pingriff from the Registration Service came to update us on the legislation surrounding the conversion of a Civil Partnership to a marriage. This was followed by our annual Christmas party. After a 2 week break for the Christmas holidays we were back at the Westgate for our post Christmas catch up. The wrapped auction which is one of the few occasions when we raise funds for GGLC was an outstanding success and we realised a grand total in excess of £130. Many thanks to everyone who contributed.

Our Vice-Chair Howard initiated a discussion on how the members saw the future of the group which resulted in some interesting ideas to put to our membership. We met with Jim from GOPA who very kindly arranged a “Tea and Tell” discussion on concerns affecting the over 50’s. February started with a fascinating glimpse of India, (particularly their unique passenger rail system which has to be seen to be believed) presented by Robin and Rowena who visited there 2 years ago. Some of our members will be ten pin bowling again and Michael is presenting “Love Your Neighbour to celebrate Valentine’s Day

Once again a varied selection of events. Many thanks to everyone who contributes their time and energies to ensure we have interesting Thursday nights

Peter C

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

GGLC – Going Forward Discussion Night – The Results

Unfortunately I was not able to attend this meeting that covered some very important issues. Thankfully a reasonable number of members did attend what was reportedly a lively discussion.

The first issue raised was that of location. The FMH does have issues, and the point of supporting local gay venues was made, however, in the end, the meeting decided a return to the FMH was the best option for longevity.

The question of retaining new people was discussed, those who turn up once or twice, then we never see again. It's an old question, and when we had large numbers turning up every week, we probably didn't notice this. That the world has changes, and younger people don't need as much support is good. Those that arrive expecting it to be a place to pick people up are going to be disappointed. It was decided that our role as a safe place for anyone to drop in was positive.

The long term viability of the group was raised, especially considering the work required from the committee. Bringing in new committee members is vital, as the current ones may not be able to continue indefinitely. The need to ask for more volunteers from the membership to serve on the committee was raised.

The possibility of a more varied set of social events was suggested, that would appeal to different sections of the community or with a wider appeal. The difficulty of knowing what would fit the bill was raised. The need to know what the membership wants relies on the membership telling the committee!

The question of membership fees was put, considering they had not been raised in many years (possibly over 30), where our costs have gone up. Other ideas such as a weekly subscription and recommended weekly donations were discussed. Several options will be worked on and proposed during the AGM. One point was made regarded commenting on others donations, noting that this was unhelpful and should not be done.

Our involvement with GAVCA was discussed as a positive action to raise our profile across all the other communities. The possibility of joining similar organisations was mooted, and the promotion of relevant online petitions to members with email contacts proposed.

The suggestion of the group becoming more active in the political field was discussed but thought not to be the direction to go.

The question of what is appropriate behaviour at the Group was raised, with the advice to "Carry on Cuddling" but to avoid more intimate contact as it could be upsetting to other members.

Sounds to have been an interesting meeting, and much of this will be brought up during the AGM, so come along and have your say, or be stuck what others decide on the issues for you!

Graham, Editor

WILLIAM WORTHLESS

Mar 9, 2014

gay cat

there was a little tomcat he had a change of way
not like all the other cats this little cat was gay
he wore a bright pink suit and varnished up his claws
wearing colored lipstick all around his jaws
the other cats ignored him whenever he came near
he looked rather odd they thought it rather queer
he went to a gay bar looking for a date
hoping may be there. he would find a mate

he went on the dance floor and made a move or too
spotted by an another cat dressed up all in blue
now he had a partner no longer on his own
there were other gay cats he was not alone

Submitted by Howard, seems to be from a site called hellopoetry.com.
William Worthless is a prolific poet there, with some lovely poems.

FORTHCOMING BIRTHDAYS

March

6th Raymond S.
26th Robert K.
29th Andrew D
29th Trevor D
30th Michael C H.

18th Peter C.

21st James W
24th Paul C
28th Janice M

May

2nd Malvin K
2nd Royston G
5th Davina H
10th Alan L
13th Robert A
17th Geoffrey C
25th Jay S.

April

2nd Paul L J
8th Alan R.
9th Jim G.
9th Richard B.
15th Saqib R.
16th Michael W.

June

3rd Stuart F
4th Michele C
7th Deric P.
13th Steve B
28th Andrew W
28th Rob P.



**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY
TO YOU ALL**



GGLC's SOCIAL CALENDAR DIARY OF EVENTS

March

- 5th Visit by Dr. Smith—Questions and Answers
- 12th A Visit to North Korea—by Andrew H.
- 19th Eddystone Trust visit and talk
- 26th Coffee, Chat and Raffle

April

- 2nd Maundy Thursday—no meeting, Skittles night!
- 9th Crime Prevention Talk—Sado J.
- 16th Cotswold Way from 1700s—Steve B.
- 23rd Coffee, Chat and Raffle
- 30th A.G.M.—Very Important!

May

- 7th Roy's Game Night
- 14th Global Arts—Anna B.
- 21st Domestic Abuse—Sally M.
- 28th Coffee, Chat and Raffle with Jim (Tea and Tell)

June

- 4th Beetle Drive—Fun Game!
- 11th Pride Preparation Night
- 13th Gloucestershire Pride at Gloucester Park
- 18th Line Dancing—Practical
- 25th Coffee, Chat and Raffle

Advanced Warnings and Notes!

Several advanced warnings this issue. On the 5th July we have the Group Picnic, and on August the 23rd rounders is being committed! The University is planning on an LGBT film showing, tentatively on the 1st June, and on October 24th we should have the next Annual Dinner.

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



GGLC



GGLC



GGLC

GLOUCESTERSHIRE
GAY & LESBIAN
COMMUNITY

c/o 50 Knowles Road,
Gloucester GL1 4TP

07050 627273

www.gglic=glos.co.uk
info@gglic-glos.co.uk

GGLC

CONTACTING THE GGLC

Gloucestershire Gay & Lesbian Community meets most Thursdays, 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!

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.