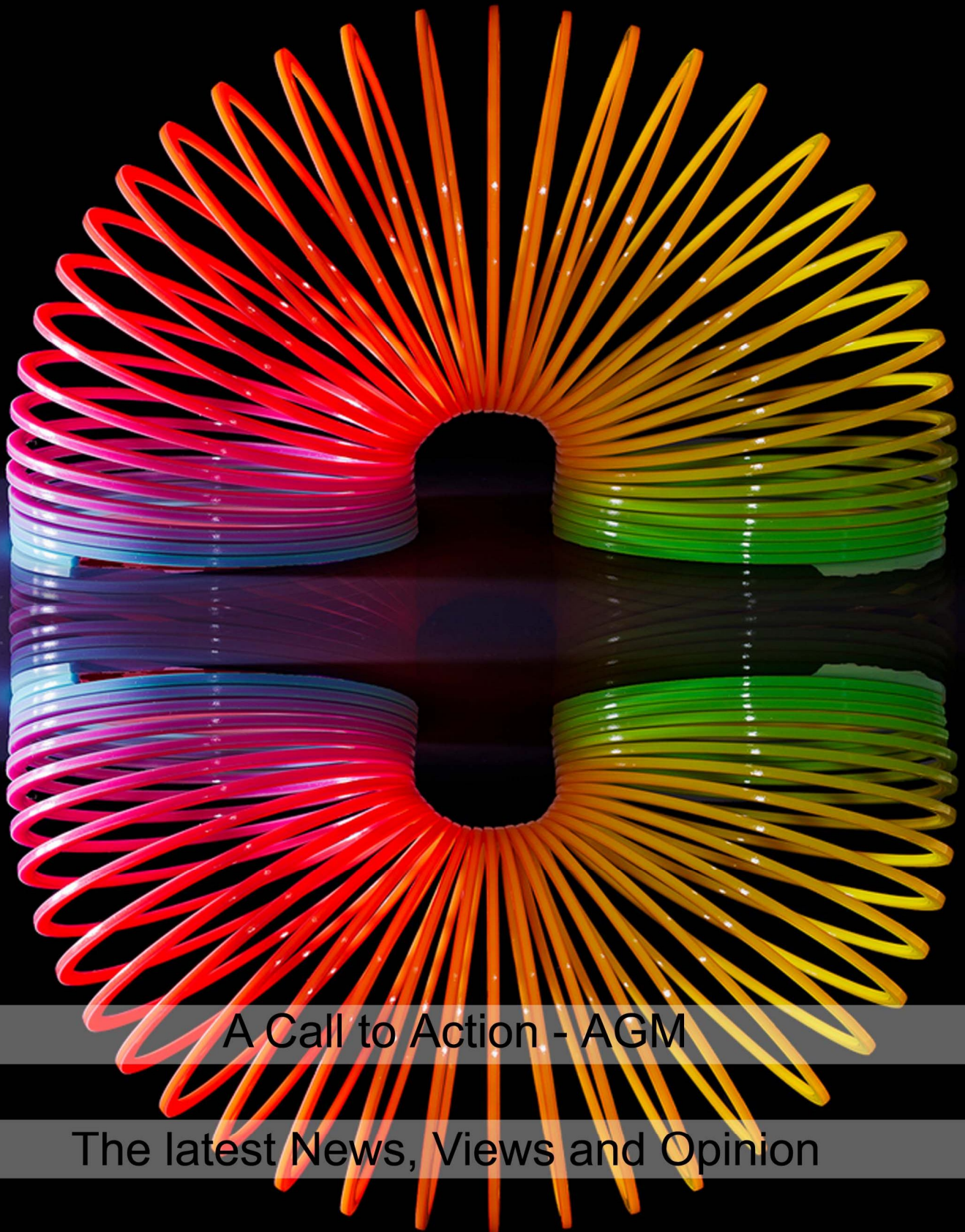

GGLCommunity News



A Call to Action - AGM

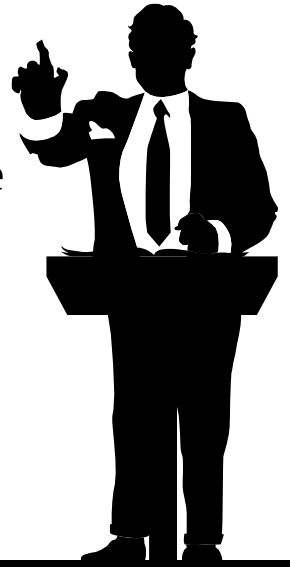
The latest News, Views and Opinion

DIARY OF EVENTS

CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

Hi,

As I write this the broadband is playing up again. It is the bane of my life. A certain well know telephone company have attend the house and tell us we have 7 mb (?) . This apparently is very good, although it turns out that was a mere blink and our usual is 2. This lower rating is the minimum our contract should allow.



I may not understand all about megabytes and bits but, it is rather strange that it is playing up, just before “super duper” broadband comes to our area. Of course “super-duper” broadband costs a lot more. As I said, must be a coincidence.

We are all encouraged to be computer literate, but at this rate we won't be able to afford to be. Rather like the public were encouraged to purchase diesel cars – now those of us environmentally conscious who did so, are going to be financially penalised.

That should be my rant over, but this brings me to the worst potential set back to the lives of LGBT people of all. The American people vote a new leader who promises to put their own people first. Admirable – about time. But, as I was watching the Inauguration live on TV, the new administration were taking down their LGBT pages on the White House website.

We were asked to provide a speaker at a “Trump Out” rally that same night. I felt it not appropriate for us to speak, until we actually knew what Trump was going to do, once President. He'd worn out that little pinky of his signing Executive Orders, but still had enough strength and vilifications left “to deny protection of service to LGBTQ people, in the workplace”. All because of who they are or whom they love. Luckily for the LGBT Community in the USA, who have a reputation for fighting back, have allies in one of President Trumps own sons. Donald J Trump and his Wife Vanessa. They are very supportive of LGBT rights and met formally with the President to discuss this issue. At the moment everything seems to be on hold. Lets hope there is a positive outcome – if not then we must speak out and encourage others to join in

as one voice.

Our own group has played its part in bringing same sex equality to this County and supporting the cause around the world. To continue to do that we must remain strong.

Our AGM is in April and as you know, there will be more than the usual changes. The day approaches when I stand down and I must say, in many ways, I dread it. Although it is the right decision, both for the Group and myself. I am going to miss dreadfully being involved. It has been part of my life for the last 25 years. But you can have too much of a good thing?!

For the members who have told me they think I am “deserting the group”, or” giving it up”, I don’t know where you got that from. I am “retiring”, not continuing with the running and management of the group. I am not resigning as a member and will be around to help, support, provide background knowledge, if I am asked. I strongly believe in the ethos of the GGLC. We may not be needed in the same way as we were, but we are still needed. We have too much to offer not to do so.

That said, you – the member – need to think about who you would support as the next Chair, Vice Chair or Committee Member. We need individuals who believe in the ethos of the Group, who can listen, support and be aware of the needs of newer visitors or members, who can liaise with other bodies; as in, heads of other groups, organizations and Council Officials. It’s not for the light hearted but can be worthwhile, satisfying and fulfilling.

Is it something you would consider? – I am always happy to go into more details and hope and support anyone who would consider joining the Committee, in whatever capacity.

Our monthly meetings are picking up. I think many miss the weekly meetings so are now making more of an effort to attend the ‘one a month’ we have. Now we have stopped looking for speakers, demonstrations etc., it is surprising how many other organizations and individuals are now saying, “ I meant to get in touch”, “I was supposed to set a date with you for a talk!. I thinks it’s called sods law!!

I think this will be my last Chairman's Missive – the last in nearly 3 decades and the end of an era. I must thank all my Committee Members over the years and particularly the current Committee who have worked hard and done such an excellent work over the past few years. I think I have worked the longest with Rob P, Membership Secretary who has been on the Committee for a considerable time. His dedication to the group and his diligence to the members has always been commendable. As has Peter, our Secretary, who has been a rock. Peter and I have sat in many conversations, putting both the world and the Group to rights! Peter can always be relied upon for his wisdom. Graham as Newsletter Editor must have lost track of how many editions he has produced. Thank you. Howard and Vice Chair has found his own niche and made the role his own. His work on taking the name and work of the group to others is commendable. Julie is approaching her third year as Treasurer and has the finances down pat now. Chris is taking on more and her skills are an asset. Richard is our newest Member but quickly established his role and bringing us all back to the subject in hand and opening up other viewpoints. So a big Thank You to you all.

My biggest thanks must go to you, the members. For your support, trust and above all, your friendship.

As usual, With love

Michael

2017 Wrapped Auction

On 19th January, 18 of our members gathered for our annual Wrapped Auction. The lots were as always very varied, as was the bidding, some lots going for a few pence and others for a few pounds, the highest bid for one item being £15.00. All together £202.10 was raised which was an increase of £5.15 over the 2015 auction.

Many Thanks to all the members who attended and parted with their money which is a fantastic contribution to our funds.

Julie (Treasurer)

Membership Update

At this time we have fifty five members which is one down on the previous Newsletter report December 2016.

We have two new members Marie T and Jules K. A very warm welcome to you both !

Rob P.

Membership Secretary

Thoughts for the Year

First they came for the Socialists, and I did not speak out—

Because I was not a Socialist.

Then they came for the Trade Unionists, and I did not speak out—

Because I was not a Trade Unionist.

Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out—

Because I was not a Jew.

Then they came for me—and there was no one left to speak for me.

Pastor Martin Niemöller

The poem does not mention the LGBT communities, nor the Mexicans or refugees or people with a skin colour any different than my own. The sentiment is inclusive though and maybe it behoves us as members of a group whom have often been or are persecuted for who we are to speak up whenever we see members of other groups being treated badly, even when they may not speak up for us or speak against us.

As more of us enjoy marriage, the opponents of our equality see that their old prejudices that gay relationships can be as lasting (or not!) and supportive as heterosexual ones. We slowly see the old clubs and hidden meeting places fall by the wayside as they are no longer the only way we can meet and socialise. The seedy one night stands that were all that was available to us are being replaced by life-long commitment in open society. We are confounding the die hard critics, and by our very lives and actions are showing the rest of the world where oppression reigns that their arguments and justifications are just plain wrong.

Life now is... interesting, and we need to stand together to ensure our united voice is still heard.

Graham, Editor (*These thoughts are mine, I speak for myself not the Group*)

Visit from The High Sheriff Of Gloucestershire on February 2nd

We were so pleased that (after a previous postponement due to Lord Bathurst's serious illness) we were able at last to welcome Lady Sara Bathurst to the Group. An excellent turn out of members included two guests from the Quakers and several members that we do not see too often

After speaking to everyone individually to say hello, she then gave us a very detailed and entertaining insight into her role as High Sheriff. She explained that the position of High Sheriff is the oldest secular office under the crown. In England and Wales the office previously known as Sheriff was retitled High Sheriff in 1974. Roger de Pitres was the first to hold office in 1071.

From a very busy year she highlighted her involvement with the police, fire service and the work she has been able to do involving the local prisons. She explained that she will continue with the work she has started at Eastwood Park Women's Prison when her term of office has ended.

She completed her talk by explaining the process by which the next High Sheriff is chosen and then posed for photographs with the group for inclusion on her facebook page.

A very enjoyable evening and GGLC would like to thank Lady Bathurst for a delightful and informative evening and send good wishes for a continuing recovery to her husband

Peter C

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

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**Notice is hereby given of the
Annual General Meeting
of the
Gloucestershire Gay and Lesbian Community
on
Thursday 27th April 2017 at 7.30pm prompt
(doors open 7.00pm)
at the Friends Meeting House,
Gloucester**

NOMINATION FORM AGM—27th April 2017

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.

LGBT HISTORY MONTH

As part of the Cheltenham LGBT Partnership, Howard and I agreed we would hold a Seminar at the weekend event. We duly met early on the Saturday, 11th February. Peter and Neil were going to take part but unfortunately, Peter was taken poorly and they were unable to attend. I am pleased to say Peter has recovered well.

I had changed our Noticeboard to leave just the history and Howard and I updated it. I must say it was quite impressive when we had finished. Due to late changes at the Wilson Gallery in Cheltenham, the display was only able to stay up for the day.

Howard and I were taking the first session of the weekend. Our remit was 'Gay History'. Where do you start? Howard had printed off a record of gay history since the 1st Century. There were so many sheets they just couldn't do justice in the presentation. For our session, Howard started with an excellent introduction, then he read Neil's piece about the early start of CHE in Cheltenham and how it transformed into the GGLC. My piece was on how the Gay community communicated to each other – with excerpts from "polari" with 'Julian and Sandy', a quiz and gay publications. Howard finished with Peter's subject on present day which ended the seminar well. The audience was not large, with nearly a dozen people. But it was the first of its kind, was well received and was hopefully the start of something bigger for the future. Congratulations to Matt and the team from the University who organised the weekend. I was worth doing and pleased the group were able to take an active part in celebrating LGBT History month.

As I start to sort out the massive amount of paperwork collected over nearly 30 years, we will be able to make another deposit with the Archives.

Michael

National AIDS Helplines

"You can ask what you want to ask"
0800567123

Check out this link to Cheltenham Borough Council's new LGBT page!
http://www.cheltenham.gov.uk/info/200041/equality_and_diversity/295/communities_of_interest/6

Raffle

The Raffle takes place during our Thursday Coffee and Chat evenings, .
Don't forget to bring your money and all donations for prizes gratefully
accepted.

This is one of the few fund raising events for our group

Committee—New Chairman Required

Well, the AGM this year is even more important to **your** group than ever this year. Not only is this the first AGM since the format of the group has changed, Michael C-H is standing down as Chairman after many years sterling service.

Thankfully we have a committee with lots of experience along with some new blood who joined the committee last year so (assuming they stand and are elected!) we can expect a smooth transition as long as someone decides to take on the responsibility.

And there is the rub, it takes commitment, hard work, diplomacy, organisation and commitment. Yes, I said that twice, because it's important. Talking to previous Chairmen they have all told me the same thing, it's not a job to take on lightly. However, it also brings rewards in seeing the Group continue, be appreciated by the members (sometimes!) and hopefully, grow in new directions.

Would I take on the post? No. I know I would not be able to do the post justice, I do not have the skills or temperament. Some of you do.

Some of the existing committee would make a good Chair, they are also good in the posts they hold. So, if you are not feeling up to standing as Chair, how about taking on one of the other posts and freeing up an experienced committee member to stand as Chair?

This is your Group, you need to look around, see who you want as Chair, talk to them, support them, show you are willing to back them up and give of yourself to make sure your Group survives into the future.

Graham, Editor

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 230170

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!

FORTHCOMING BIRTHDAYS

March

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

April

2nd Paul L J
8th Alan R
9th Richard B
9th Jim G

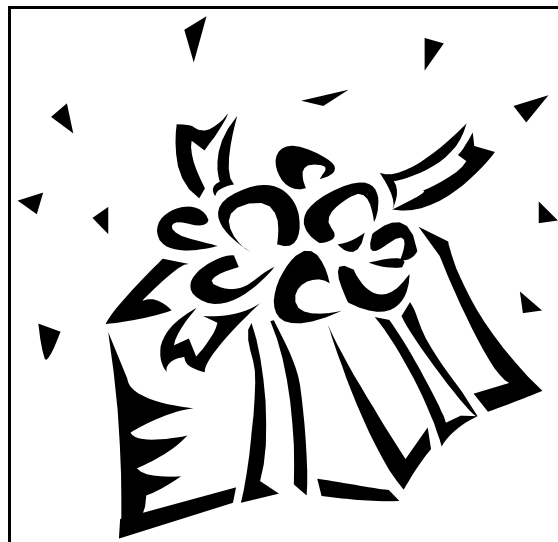
16th Michael W
18th Peter C
25th Peter W

May

2nd Malvin K
2nd Royston G
5th Davina H
17th Geoffrey C

June

7th Deric P
13th Steve B



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU ALL



GGLC's SOCIAL CALENDAR DIARY OF EVENTS

March

2nd Coffee, Chat and Raffle

29th 3pm Afternoon Tea at Fairview Gardener GC at Birchwood

April

6th Coffee, Chat and Raffle

27th AGM

May

4th Coffee, Chat, Raffle and Julie's Quiz!

18th May Drink at the Red Lion, Wainlodes

June

1st Coffee, Chat and Raffle

Advanced Warnings and Notes!

16th July 1pm Picnic at Mallards Pike Picnic Area near to Speech House

20th August 1pm Rounders on Minchinhampton Common

28th October Annual Dinner at Gupshill Manor

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

GGLC

GGLC

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GLOUCESTERSHIRE
GAY & LESBIAN
COMMUNITY

c/o 50 Knowles Road,
Gloucester GL1 4TP

07050 627273

www.gglc-glos.co.uk
info@gglc-glos.co.uk

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!

Your Committee

Chairman: Michael C-H.

Vice-Chair: Howard H.

Secretary: Peter C.

Treasurer: Julie S.

Membership Secretary: Rob
P.

Member: Chris D.

Member: Richard

Newsletter Editor: Graham V.

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

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.