
GGLCommunity News



Rainbow Pride!

All the news and views!

DIARY OF EVENTS

CHAIRMAN'S LETTER



Hi Everyone,

Thank you to those members who supported the Group at our AGM and particularly those who stood for Committee. It really is appreciated. We still have one post vacant.

Where would we be without the stalwart few keeping the group going. But where were the rest of you – could not be bothered to support the group at least one night a year, ensure the survival of your support group for the future, busy washing your hair?

No group or community of people can survive without regeneration. I know we all lead busy lives, so even if you don't feel you can be part of the Management Committee, do offer to help one night, organise an event, go on the coffee rota. You get a lot out of it.

That's my moan finished.

We have a lot to look forward to – Gay Pride is only days away as I write this. We have the Picnic, visit to a garden centre, other Pride's, rounders and several other events.

This Chairman's Letter is very different from the last edition. I spoke about my feelings on issues abroad in a forthright way. I have not received, much to my surprise and disappointment, any reaction – I expected at least one letter of support or disagreement. Come on – terrible things are happening to LGBT people in other countries. Look around at how lucky we are and then see how you could help.

Michael x

Chair

The cover this issue is from some fan art of "The Lion King", adapted to our community (I coloured the lions!). I would have put in an attribution to the artist, however no name was listed. Graham, Editor

Gloucestershire Association for Voluntary and Community Action (GAVCA)

I continue to represent us both at the Gloucester specific meetings and those for Gloucestershire in general.

Currently we are planning a meeting with the new Managing Director of Gloucester City Council to improve relations between the Council and the voluntary sector. I have raised the issue of dealing with calls which are LGBT specific and effective signposting of LGBT enquirers. This also includes having appropriate information and publicity available which should also be on hand at the Tourist and Information Office.

Chris, Julie and myself will be attending a training event in regard to hate crime awareness. The GGLC is now involved in the Forest and Gloucester Hate Crime & Incident Action Group.

Howard

Vice Chair

Membership update

We have 57 paid up group members. This is 3 down on the previous newsletter report Spring 2015. We have two new members, Kaylee S. and Jeremy F. We offer you a warm welcome to the Group.

The majority of Group members have now agreed to receive their Newsletters via email. This will be a great help to the group in keeping the cost of postage down. We will add that those who have requested a hard copy in the post will continue to get one.

The membership fee has increased for the first time in approximately 30 years. The annual membership will now be £15 waged and £8 unwaged or retired. To take immediate effect.

Rob P.

Membership secretary.

New independent Cinema for Gloucester

Following some excellent publicity for the opening in the local paper, Neil and I went to this new venue to see “The Theory of Everything” – the life story of Professor Stephen Hawking. Featuring an Oscar winning performance by Eddie Redmayne- this is definitely not one to miss.

It was a delightful visit. The cinema seats 140 (in a converted Christadelphian Hall) in Sherborne Street, off the London Road. Art Deco in style, it is an intimate, comfortable auditorium. There are family films in the afternoon and 2 separate evening performances at 5.30 and 8.30 p.m. for films more appealing to adult audiences. There are no adverts to sit through and the picture quality and sound are first class.

Prices are a very reasonable £4.50 for all seats at 5.30 p.m. and £5.50 (with concessions at £4.50) at the 8.30 show. Kiosk prices don't break the bank, with tea and coffee at £1.00; snacks are reasonably priced and you do not have to purchase a bucket of popcorn!

I think it is admirable that someone has the courage to set up a new business and wish the proprietor every success. Give the cinema a try – I am sure you will not be disappointed.

Peter C

National AIDS Helplines

“You can ask what you want to ask”
0800567123

.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

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

FILM NIGHT

The “Celebrating Diversity Screening LGBT Stories” organized by Dr Eva KRAINITZKI, of Gloucestershire University, took place on Monday 1 st June. If you didn’t attend you missed a good evening. The first DVD was our own “Untold Stories” (an edited edition) which went down very well followed by a short DVD from Young Gloscat on a similar theme. After a short break there was an interesting short interpretative film by a straight man. His theme was a gay man coming out (in this case it was the Producers best friend coming out to him and the honour he felt on being the first person his gay friend told). The University Media team produced a short film on Drag queens which had won some awards. The highlight was the mainstream film “Pride”. If you haven’t seen it yet, then we plan to show it at the Group one Thursday later in the year. The movie is funny, true, moving, sad, happy and thoroughly enjoyable.

M

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

Oh Dear.....

There were these two friends, one who was gay, who died in a horrible car accident. They both went to heaven and were standing at the pearly gates when St. Peter met them. St. Peter asked the first man for a picture of his wife. After looking at the picture, St. Peter asked him if he had ever cheated on her. The man replied, "I was unfaithful to my wife one time." St. Peter decided to give the man a station-wagon for him to drive around heaven. Now it was the second man's turn. St. Peter asked him for a picture of his wife and then asked if he had ever cheated on her. The man replied, "Actually I'm gay, but here's a picture of my lover, and I never cheated on him." St. Peter was very impressed and decided to give the man a Ferrari to drive around heaven. After a few months in heaven, the two friends met up with each other. The second man was bragging about his Ferrari when the other turned to him and said, "I wouldn't be bragging if I were you. I just saw your lover on a skateboard."

Pits and Perverts

On Monday 1st June five of us (Howard H, Michael C-H, Peter C, Rob N and Mark M) attended the University of Gloucestershire's Festival Fortnight event "Celebrating Diversity: Screening LGBT Stories" organised jointly by the Centre for the Study of Film and Screen Cultures and the Centre for Women, Ageing and Media held at UoG's attractive Francis Close Hall campus in Cheltenham.

Opening the event was our own 'Untold Stories' film from 2011, in which for those of you who are not familiar, some of us from GGLC are telling our stories of gay life before the '90s. Now held by Gloucestershire Archives, our film was funded by the Equalities Team at the County Council. Afterwards there was a short discussion which included Michael and myself (who took part in the original film) answering questions.

Following this, Gay-Glos provided their film 'Coming Out in Gloucestershire' which gave a perspective from the under 30s, mainly teenagers. Watching this and discussing afterwards, it is evident that some young people are still having difficult experiences around their sexuality despite greater social acceptance, protection and support than was available when most of us were their age.

After a short break for coffee, a short film 'Splintered' was screened. This was directed in 2013 by former UoG student Rob Ormsby who was present and who afterwards explained the meaning of his 'conceptual' film. Superficially showing a table being made and subsequently destroyed (and laced with 'suggestive' imagery), the film was his response to a friend's 'coming out' experience. Unusual if not unique in being a heterosexual man's take on this subject.

The final film before the main break was 'Life's a Drag' This is a documentary produced and directed by UoG student Rachel Duncan. Billed as 'An observational documentary exploring the lives of drag queens, on and off the stage' some of this film was made at The Westgate and being made last year was already a reminder of how 'our' pub used to be. The following discussion facilitated by Dr Robin Griffiths of Centre for the Study of Film and Screen Cultures covered

how representative this was of 'gay culture' (that got a reaction!) and that some feminists among others find male drag 'difficult'.

A slight overrun in the programme meant that there was little time for a meal (although Rob and I did manage to sprint to McDonalds) before we were back in the lecture theatre for the screening of 'Pride'. Matthew Warchus' 2014 film does not disappoint on a second viewing although this DVD version seemed to be more tightly edited than what we had previously seen in the cinema. This docu-drama about an unlikely alliance between 'Pits and Perverts' a striking Welsh pit village and a London lesbian and gay group in 1984 has only one totally fictional main character, Joe 'Bromley' Cooper, a young man dealing with 'coming out'. Hence an appropriate choice of film for this event. Next time though I'll be nerdy and focus on looking for the film-maker's errors!

This made for a long session, particularly for Michael, Peter and Howard who set up our display boards in the foyer beforehand, as the official programme ran from 4pm to 10pm with only the half-hour break. Gay-Glos and Gloucestershire Pride had displays at the event as well but the students were conspicuous by their absence - exam time maybe? An enjoyable event that deserved to be better attended - hopefully next year it will be...but don't forget the popcorn!.

Mark M.

GAY PRISONERS

No, not in some foreign country but just down the road from us.

We have received a copy of letter from a Michael, Leader of a group called Real Voices based HMP Ashfield. They asked us to help out at their Pride event but it clashes with Gloucestershire Pride.

We went them a small donation and offered to visit them later in the year. They have suggested a date fairly soon. We have to arrange clearance to attend so if you would like to join us in visiting them at one of their meetings, let the Chair know.

M

Gloucestershire Pride 2015-06-17

You know the saying “Don’t rain on my parade”? Well this year it did, but not a lot, and certainly not enough to dampen everyone’s spirits. Our stall, as last year, was next door to the Quakers, with Rob and Mark holding the fort for the Gay Outdoor Club on the other side. Having set up there was a period of limbo when those of us remaining in the park kept a hopeful eye on the sky and wondered if and when people would start to materialise. The marchers started to arrive in the park at about 12.40, heralded by the drum band which had led them round. We were regaled with a tale of woe by Rob whose whistle blowing activities (no, not that kind!) had distressed a person in his vicinity on the march. The person appeared not to have grasped the notion that whistle blowing of this particular kind is *de rigeur*, nay essential, on gay pride marches, and had repeatedly requested that Rob desist. Rob being aware of the necessity of this activity persisted and arrived at the park with a good head of steam still available with which to vent his spleen.

This was a brief interlude in the day, and in spite of the dampness of the day the atmosphere across the field was remarkably sunny. Most of us ventured round the park at some point during the day to see what was going on, or in some cases, coming off. Some of us were terminally tempted by Bry’s cup cakes, a varied and elegant selection all guaranteed made and decorated by Bry himself. We even managed, having bought some, to save them until we got them home. Some of us had “never kissed a Tory” badges from the Labour party stall opposite us, and we noted that the only political parties present were Labour and the Green Party, and the only church represented was the Quakers.

There was considerable interest in our Roll a 10p game, and most people were too engrossed in playing to wish to claim prize money to which they were entitled. Picnic lunches were consumed to the gentle patter of light rain on the gazebos, but visitors were not deterred from looking round, and unlike dress code at other seasonal festivals platforms and stilettos rather than wellies were the order of the day, particularly for the men. (Note: my spell checker wants to say willies, not wellies!)

The large white marquee situated behind us was the venue this year for

a cabaret stage for the drag queens (The Baroness Tea Party) and a café serving excellent coffee at normal town prices. The volume from the cabaret was not excessive, and in fact provided a good backing for us to sing-along; we missed a trick there, we could have passed round the hat. The light rain eased at about 5pm, providing a respite for packing everything up and taking down gazebos. Congratulations and thanks to everyone who helped to make this a successful outing for the group. And to anyone who missed it this year make a note in your diary to be available next year; it's a good opportunity to spend social time together while raising the profile of the group.

Maggi

Reaching Out in Cheltenham

A little while ago I met with Lillie Rowe the new Community Engagement Officer for Inclusion at Cheltenham Borough Council.

We both agreed that the LGBT profile in the borough needed raising.

Since then Cheltenham Borough Council has ensured the GGLC contact details are readily available to enquirers and our leaflets have been included alongside an exhibition in the foyer of the municipal offices.

I represented us at a planning meeting with interested stakeholders in regard to a hate crime awareness week later in the year. The next planning meeting is due shortly.

We are having a stall at the very popular Midsummer Fiesta on July 4th.

I had a meeting recently at the municipal offices to work on the application for a building community grant. We have applied for £400 and called the project "The Cheltenham Outreach Project". The aim is to outreach to LGBT people in Cheltenham, especially younger people, through publicity and meetings and we have included a provision for transport costs.

Whilst at the above meeting we further explored the idea of a winter pride event. This would be on a smaller scale to the annual Gloucestershire Pride. We wish to involve community groups in Cheltenham as well as LGBT groups in Gloucestershire.

Howard

Vice Chair

What We Do To Each Other

"I refuse to believe there is such a thing as a bisexual!"

That was a comment by Sir Ian McKellen on the last episode of *Vicious* I watched. It was a phrase that struck me deeply, not because I am bisexual but for its use in a comedy program during a period of time I have become more aware of the divisions in our communities.

I have friends who identify as non-binary, neither male or female, friends who started as one gender and changed to the other, friends who are bisexual, friends who are gay, friends who are lesbian and friends who are part of the furry community, so I do tend to get quite a variety of feedback from different perspectives.

What I am hearing though, from all parts of the various communities is how badly they are treated by people from the others, or even their community if they also belong to another minority group.

Surveys are showing that BME (Black and Ethnic Minority) people are finding the gay scene riddled with racism and stereotyping, though some of the respondents did admit to the same faults themselves, which I found very honest and brave of them.

Some things we are going to have to accept are going to take time to change, introducing a same sex partner as our husband or wife is at the moment going to result in some raised eyebrows until people get used to the idea, say about 30 years from now! More radical changes such as using "they" in the singular for a non-binary person is going to take longer, because our society is not geared to that yet (I know, it was used in the past as a singular, but reality is that this is not true today, and will not be true tomorrow).

Recently, there was a big news story about the UKIP LGBT group being accepted on the London Pride march. Immediately there was an outcry about why we should not let members of this party be part of the Pride, and how people would feel "unsafe" if they were there. After some dispute, the organisers were forced to change their minds and reject the group, a group of LGBT people, people like us. Personally I would have put them at the front of the march, with huge UKIP banners flying, if only because it would really annoy the homophobic parts of UKIP.

At the same time, I was reading about the reaction of some homosexual and lesbian people to the idea of bisexual people coming to Prides and other events, putting forward the idea that they should not come with their opposite sex partner, as it would "upset" the "true" gay people at the event. I was at our local Pride Parade (not a march for us) last year, and it was wonderful to see such a variety of people there, including families, all aspects of gay and straight, and even some young people who had joined in because it was fun! It was very much an inclusive event, though the political groups did put out negative messages about their rivals, which was unfortunate, if only they could concentrate about their own positives!

I belong to several minority groups, and quite a few majority or seen as powerful groups. Not one of them fully defines me and I would be worried if I did only relate to one as that way leads to fanaticism. But other people will see one of the groups and then make assumptions from that narrow field that will affect how they view me. I object to this, especially if the person making the assumptions is angry at me for the erroneous image they have created of me! I am male, so must be sexist, I am Caucasian, so must be racist, I am gay, so must be promiscuous, I am disabled, so must be a scrounger, I started a trade union, so am a communist, I own a business, so am a capitalist pig, these are just a few of the assumptions I have had applied to me. The absurdity of this is obvious, not least because some of them are contradictory.

One of the dangers in belonging to any minority group is that it is tempting to drop into one of the stereotypical roles of that community. Examples are the Bitch Queen, the Muscle Mary and the Butch Lesbian among others. The problem is they are 'safe' roles for us to play in our communities, and give defined points of similarity with others using that role, but if you play a role too long, you can lose the wider identity you have, and feel threatened when you need to play other parts of yourself.

So what is the point of this article? Well, I have been increasingly dismayed at the damage we are doing each other by our pointless schisms and infighting. I am hoping that by pointing out what we are doing to each other by rejecting parts of not only our own communities but the wider communities we are living in, we can change our viewpoint and decide to look at how we are similar, or if there are no immediate points of contact, to accept that sometimes other people are different from ourselves, and that this may be valid for them.

Does this mean I am going to accept viewpoints that are obnoxious to me? Of course not, I will challenge such behaviours where it will have an effect (my Grandmother was a racist, homophobic and a religious bigot, challenging her at an advanced age would have been pointless - loving her despite those faults was not). I am also not stupid or brave enough to go up to a right wing group of young people and argue the case for tolerance of being gay. Neither of these are battles that I could win, so I would not search them out. Sometimes, you do have to stand up in hopeless situations, but to deliberately search them out is just looking for personal martyrdom.

This has been a long rambling rant, a long time in developing, but I do feel we must take a long, hard look at what we are doing to ourselves, and maybe address some of the more unpalatable parts of our own attitudes.

The final question is, what do you, the reader think?

Graham, Editor

Please note, these are my thoughts and ideas, the thoughts and ideas of the GGLC as a whole and as individuals most certainly differ!

Weekly events – March to June 2015

We are now back at The Friends' Meeting House for our Thursday meetings. Our varied programme began with our regular GP Simon Smith hosting another interesting Question and Answer session on Men's Health issues.

We were treated to an insight (albeit limited) on life inside North Korea by Andrew who was one of only a handful of foreign tourists to holiday in the country. Jonathan Bloxham from The Eddystone Trust (HIV and Sexual Health Services) gave a detailed account of the services available for people living with HIV, their Carers, Partners and Families.

Another Skittles evening arranged for early April was thoroughly enjoyed by all members. A talk on Hate Crime was followed by Dr. Stephen Blake's fascinating account of the history of the Cotswold Way from the 1700's.

Our AGM was on April 30th. Michael C-H was elected Chair for 2 years, Howard H continued for his 2nd year as Vice Chair, Peter C was elected Secretary; Julie S took over as Treasurer; Chris D and Robert P are committee members and Graham V was re-elected as Newsletter Editor. Amongst a host of items discussed, members were asked to vote on 2 proposals;

(a) That annual subscriptions should be increased for the first time in many years. Waged Members would pay £15 and unwaged £8 per year. The proposal was carried by a majority.

(b) That visitors should be asked to contribute a weekly sum of £2.00 on arrival. This amount to cover tea/coffee/cakes. The proposal was defeated by a majority vote

Roy presented a very challenging quiz and Sally Morrissey gave us a lot to think about following her presentation on Domestic Abuse. Jim from GOPA led a discussion (and provided the cakes!) on another Tea

and Tell session

Several of our members attended an afternoon with Paul and his partner John (and Ruby the dog). The Piano Players quiz proved quite challenging, with Rob and Mark receiving the winners' prize. Many thanks to Paul and John for their excellent hospitality

The ever popular Beetle (or Snowman) Drive started the month of June. We prepared for Pride the following week, road testing our fund raising game

Once again, a varied programme. If you have any suggestions for future Thursdays or better still if you can organise an event, the committee will be happy to hear from you

Peter

Secretary

DON'T FORGET

We want a good summer this year. The Annual Picnic at Cannop Ponds is on 19th July and the Rounders on Minchinhampton Common is on 23st August. If the weather is inclement for the Picnic then we will combine it with the Rounders

MCH

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.

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

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

July

11th Stuart H

14th Rosie G

17th Mark M

29th Anthony B

29th Paul D

August

19th Ian V

21st Norina S

September

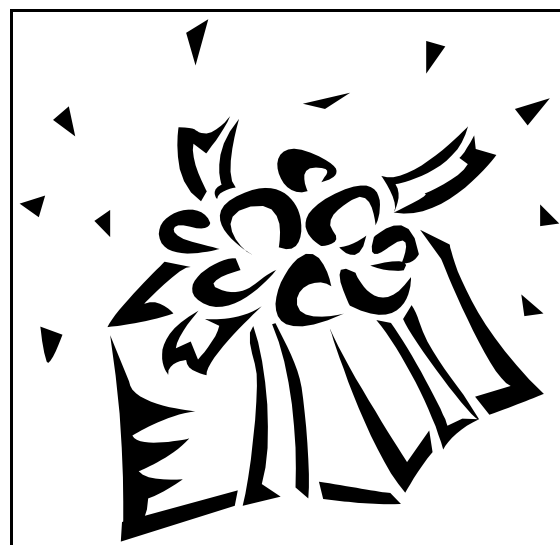
4th Neil W

8th Mike B

8th Jackie J

10th Graham T

15th Peter T



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU ALL



GGLC's SOCIAL CALENDAR DIARY OF EVENTS



July

- 2nd St Kilda - Talk by a member
- 4th Midsummer Fiesta in Cheltenham
- 9th Scattergories—A game night
- 16th Seekers Night—Information and Music
- 19th Group Picnic—Cannop Ponds (Sunday)
- 23rd Call My Bluff—Peter C
- 26th Visit to Fairview Garden Centre (Sunday)
- 30th Coffee, Chat and Raffle

August

- 6th Bingo—Mike and Rob
- 13th Quiz Night—Julie
- 20th Lillie, Community Engagement from Cheltenham Council visits
- 23rd Rounders and Picnic—Minchenhampton Common
- 27th Coffee, Chat and Raffle

September

- 3rd Music Night—Julie
- 10th Quiz—by Roy
- 17th Coffee, Chat and Raffle
- 24th No Meeting at FMH, Social at Westgate Pub

Advanced Warnings and Notes!

Well, what a packed Summer! Lots of activities outside the usual Thursday meetings, so go along and have fun! Keep an eye out for details about the Annual Dinner, and keep October 24th free!

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

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Gloucester GL1 4TP

07050 627273

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

Westgate Bar and Lounge, Gloucester
<http://westgatebarandlounge.co.uk/>

The Westgate closes, and the Westgate Bar and Lounge opens,
so a drawn game on venue numbers



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.