
GGLCommunity News



Summer/Autumn 2014

40th Annual Dinner

All the news and views!

DIARY OF EVENTS

CHAIRMAN'S LETTER



Howdy Folks,

Yep, writing here from old chuck Wagon as we make our way across the prairie on our vacation. The Indians are on the warpath so have to keep your wits about you. About to stop soon , get a fire going for our beans and grit vittles' and the coffee abrewing. Perhaps shoot an Elk for supper. Then the old blanket will be out on the ground so we can sleep under the stars. Someone will have to stay up looking for out those pesky Indians and any grizzlies about. In the morning a quick dip in the glacial lake and then set off again about dawn.

This is interpreted in 'gay language' as flying to Vancouver, hiring a 30 foot RV (recreational vehicle) with every mod con. Two king size fitted beds, full size fridge and cooker, a settee, dining area, shower etc. Air con and central heating. There are a few Mounties around – so cute with that pretty hat – and such nice people. So butch. We may have a BBQ. We will sleep in our King size beds at night. We will shoot the grizzlies with our cameras. We will admire the deep blue azure lakes from a distance. We won't be up at dawn but will surface at a reasonable hour for breakfast.

As we make our way across the Canadian Rockies we will be heading back to Vancouver to get the boat to the Island. Hopefully to go whale watching. Will send a postcard if time, but a month does go so quickly!

Yes, I am on vacation in Canada, firstly visiting friends near Vancouver. As I am married to our Treasurer he is here with me! Some other friends from the group join us later as we set out on the journey. Exciting and will see what gay life is like in the Rockies.

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.

Until the old wagon train returns to the UK

See ya cowboys and cowgirls

Michael x

Chair

Up and Away!

The GGLC is 40—we are now the longest running group of it's kind in the country.

To celebrate we are holding a fantastic 40th Annual Dinner on Saturday 25th October 2014 in The Ballroom, New County Hotel, Gloucester.

Gathering between 7pm to 7-30pm

We would be delighted if YOU could join us. All members, non-members, friends and supporters are invited.

Current members attend for free and non-members just £10 for this wonderful evening with a 4 course dinner and entertainment.

Just complete the menu selection form, return with a cheque (if appropriate) and we will send you your ticket.

We look forward to seeing you there.

RSVP by 15th September 2014. Applications cannot be accepted after this date.

Dinner Secretary, c/o 50 Knowles Road, Gloucester GL1 4TP

Name:.....

Address:

Menu

Served with Fondant Potatoes and a Vierge Sauce

Starter

Soup of the Day ☐

Or

Icelandic Prawn Cocktail ☐

Or

Mushroom Tagliatelle ☐

Entrée

Chicken Breast ☐

Served with New Potatoes, Seasonal Vegetables and a Mushroom and Sherry sauce

Or

Sea Bass ☐

Dessert

Sticky Toffee Pudding ☐

Or

New York Cheesecake ☐

Cheeseboard

Tea or Coffee
With mints

40th Dinner

The invitation have gone out, replies are starting to arrive back. Although I thought it was quite clear, I have put a piece on the website that says you must be a current member as at April AGM (24th) to qualify for a free ticket. Perhaps people read into it what they want to see.

The arrangements are going well. The Lord Lieutenant of Gloucestershire, Dame Janet Trotter is attending. We have also heard from several people who were members over the past 20 years who hope to come back for the Celebration. It should be a really fun night. See Peter for your ticket. MCH

The Truth of Life.....

Son to Father	Dad, what does gay mean?
Father to Son	Son, it means to be happy.
Son to Father	Dad, are you gay?
Father to Son	No Son, I have a wife

From the Annuls of Alan!

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

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

.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

Older LGBT Network

A steering group has been set up to oversee the establishment of a national older LGBT organisation.

The proposed organisation will represent the voices of older LGBT people with Government, LGBT Advocacy and Aging Advocacy organisations and service providers. It will also serve as a hub for other LGBT projects, both local and national, thus creating a national network of older LGBT communities in the UK.

For further information, contact Howard through our Group.

A GAY DAY

In the last Newsletter, I wrote a piece on a possible day out at Hereford to a Cider Mill for a tour and then a short visit to Hereford on Wednesday 24th September. Other than 2 Committee Members I have not received any response. Does anyone want to go? I need to know asap, at least a week within you receiving this Newsletter. It will cost about £8 plus your lunch or there are picnic facilities.

Let me know. Thanks

Michael

Swindon Gay Alliance

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

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

DON'T FORGET

We want a good summer this year. The Annual Picnic at Cannop Ponds is on Sunday 3rd August and the Rounders on Minchinhampton Common is on 31st August. If the weather is inclement for the Picnic then we will combine it with the Rounders

MCH

The Nature of Me

The luxury of a flexible opinion toward
The likes of me, I cannot afford.
Each time you use those derogatory terms
Voice ill-conceived concerns,
You're talking about me
And a whole community.
If you really knew,
To which social group your son feels he does belong
Would you sill continue to do this to me?

They may only be 'words',
The solidified curds
Of your opinions?
Surely not,
For you fill my heart with courage
When, in arguments, you defend the rights of men
And seem to actively discourage,
Discriminating forces that arise between them.

On another day, though,
When feelings are running low
(though it hurts me to say it)
Discrimination does flow from this man
(this man who I now know so well)
These 'words', now 'charged'
Like a vast herd,
Gallop toward
And trampling me downward
To the ground.

My situation does not lend
Itself easily to open discussion,
(I fear a tide of repercussion).
I would surely lose your respect
Would you openly dissect my life?
Could you suspend me
From the rest of my genetic family?

But if only you knew the truth, plain and simple
It would most definitely is not.
It worries me that the only life I've got
Is as complex as any riddle,
With no easy solution to be found.
To complicate things still further,
A God fearing man - I am.
And in his house I feel I have no right to be.
My destiny is wrapped up in your hostility
(in-directed) toward me?

One day you will know.
The damage done,
All that will remain
Is for you to refrain
From using adjectives of hate,
And for us to try and rebuild from broken bricks and mortar
A new state of stability, one that doesn't slaughter.
But I could uneasily live my life through
Without ever revealing to you (or any other)
The nature of me.
When that time comes though,
Whatever you may say or do
I will never fail to love you.

From a Group Member, or other reader of the Newsletter

Editor: This is the lost poem from several issues back. It was not until I was typing it in for publication that I realised how good it is. Read well, and thank you.

Report on Gloucestershire Pride

Well, what a day it was! We had arranged to meet up in the morning to set the stall up, only to find on arrival the enthusiasm was so great that the early arrivals had done it and all I had to do was set out my chair and relax, wonderful!

The sun was out most of the time, with a cool breeze, just enough to be pleasant, and for once it didn't pour down on us. Those of us going on the Parade headed over to Shire Hall, where we were organised most efficiently by the Town Cryer and his Deputy (didn't even know we had a Deputy Town Cryer, but he had a most impressive looking staff that kept us all in order!). There were sections for all the decades with laminated placards for people to hold, most of whom were younger people, great to see. It was also nice as I was near the back to see all the decades I had thought were behind me were now in front!

Then it was off through the City, colourful flags flying, banners held high. The Parade was probably the most colourful I have seen, though maybe a bit quieter than previous years. Everyone was very relaxed and chatty, joking along the way, waving as pictures were taken. Then, to our surprise, instead of stopping at the Docks, we continued the Parade into the Park, traffic being stopped by our official escort! Wonderful again!

At the Park there were speeches, but with the three music tents we couldn't hear any of them. This may have been good or bad, as we have no idea what was said, but we didn't miss them as by then we were tucking into our picnics and downing our choice of beverages.

Walking around the stalls was great, everyone was so friendly and welcoming, even when it was a stall not relevant to me! I had great fun poking round the Wedding Tent, though it was a bit warm inside. Some of the displays were fantastic, especially one of the cake ones—not least because I was given some free samples! It was also quite funny to see the difference between some of the more staid stalls and their flamboyant competition! Fraid in some cases it was clear which would get the custom!

Around 5pm we were packing up, a very enjoyable day even with the three music tents sometimes competing a little too enthusiastically. Not even sure I fell asleep this year, though I have the evidence that some did in the warm afternoon sun!

Graham, Editor

EQUAL MARRIAGE 29th March 2014

The Group invited the Gloucestershire Registration Service (Births Deaths and Marriages) to bring us up to date on the law and implications of the Equal Marriage Act. We had a very good turn out with both members and guests present.

Ruth Pingriff, Superintendent Registrar, came along and gave a talk on a whole range of legal changes coming in now and later in the year. There was a really interesting and useful “Q+A” session at the end. We are grateful to Ruth and the Registration Service for their time.

Alan R

Annual Dinner Raffle!

Spectacular Prizes!

Tickets at the Event Only!

£1 per ticket or 6, yes 6! for a fiver!

Some Different Group Events!

This season we have a couple of different events, which may need a little explanation. 78 Revolutions is not, as might be imagined, a historic talk on any uprising, but an evening of music played on an old fashioned wind up record player, with a selection of 78 speed records. If you happen to have any stored away, please do bring them along and we will try to play them!

Another bring your own event is the Film Shorts. The old Public Information films are now mostly available on YouTube, so search around, find your favourite and bring it along on a USB stick! Some of them were horribly gruesome, such as the infamous farm safety ones, others were funny or from our now jaded perspective dreadfully naive or sickly sweet. Bring along your memories of childhood film shorts and raise laughs or gasps of horror!

Graham, Editor

Group Finances

As I said at the AGM in April, the group finances are in very good shape, even though our attendance suffered during the winter due to floods etc.

The Committee are pleased to give something back to the members so we are using some of our savings to give all current members a free 40th Anniversary Dinner. The Committee are working hard on this and more information to follow.

It costs over £2000 a year to run the Group, which is self-funding, so we need your continuing support.

So, book your ticket for the 25th October and you can bring a guest for only £10.

Alan, Treasurer

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!

Weston Pride—A Day By The Sea!

Weston Pride is on Saturday 16th August. If you wish to be part of a group going from Gloucester, please contact Howard either at a group meeting or on mobile number 07780118284.

It is intended to go by train from Gloucester station.

What did one gay flea say to the others? Shall we walk or take the gayhound!

National AIDS Helplines

“You can ask what you want to ask”

0800567123

State of the World

There is a lot going on in the World just now, such momentous events that some of the concerns of earlier in the year are being masked. Homophobia in the old Soviet Bloc is still there, with laws being enforced that cause great hardship. In Africa, more of our fellows face long terms of imprisonment or death for being who they are. As the eyes of the World turn to Gaza and the Ukraine, those who would suppress our rights to be are free to do as they like.

We need to keep our ears to the ground and our eyes peeled, to catch those in acts of hatred, and let them know they are still being watched and their acts will be brought to light.

Graham, Editor

Young People's Social Group

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

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

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

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

Pink Paper

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

Gay & Lesbian Humanist Association (GALHA) http://www.galha.org/	Lesbian & Gay Christian Movement Alan 0117 982 1512 http://www.lgcm.org.uk/	Jewish Lesbian & Gay Help Line Mon & Thurs 020 7706 3123
Gay Bereavement Project Helpline: 020 7403 5969 Tuesday 7.30pm to 9.30pm	Beaumont Society (Transgender Issues) http://www.beaumontsociety.org.uk/	Transvestite Help Line Rita 0117 951 4481
Gay Girls of Gloucestershire 07561 067888 http://www.gaygirlsofgloucestershire.co.uk	Gay Men's Project West of England 0117 955 1000 Wiltshire and Swindon 01793 695 300	Living Springs Metropolitan Community Church, Bath Rev. Kieren Bourne 01380 870226

Events Write-up

It's been a varied and different set of meetings this last quarter. During quite a few weeks much of the senior leadership were gallivanting in Canada, leaving us to the tender mercies of our Secretary and Vice Chair. They were more than adequate to the task, and we were well shepherded!

Back in April we had a very interesting talk on Equal Marriage by the lady from the Registry Office. It's a strange situation we are in just now, with it being legal for us to be married, not being able to convert a Civil Partnership to a marriage, and not able to marry if you have a Civil Partnership! This will change hopefully later in the year, but just now it is very confusing!

I missed the film night with a bad back, and skittles is now becoming difficult for me, but I did drag myself in to the AGM. I have put in a separate report covering that, so ever onwards!

May started with a talk by the Unitarians, arranged by Roy. Sadly, I was not able to attend this either—if anyone who manages to get to more meetings would like to do the write up, please do step forward! The next week we were hoping to get a visit from our local MP, unfortunately he was unable to make it, but maybe we will manage to get him some time in the future, always interesting discussions!

The Call My Bluff evening was a baffling and entertaining as always, with Michael being a solid stand in definer. I think we all learned some new vocabulary, if only I could remember it!

I missed the Bingo and the Film Night at the start of June, but was able to get to the Anchor Trust talk, which was very interesting. Hearing how LGBT issues were being addressed in the main by the users of Anchor Trust themselves was quite inspiring!

Can't remember the Beetle Drive, though always have fun at them so assume it was as usual! At the beginning of July I ran a games evening, bringing back some of the board games we all remember from our childhoods and some newer versions. I know some people enjoyed themselves, and I did enjoy being beaten at Backgammon by Roy, so it went well.

The following week was Midsummer Music hosted by Julie, and it was a wonderful evening, showcasing the huge variety of musical tastes in the Group. A most relaxing and entertaining evening, even with the comments about me finding 'unusual' music. Thank you Julie.

The last week before this Newsletter was a talk and slide show by Mark and Rob showing their recent holidays to Gran Canaria. They have an eye for architectural photography and found some very good examples of what looked like Art Deco, though may well have been later. Always some real gems!

Graham, Editor

Annual General Meeting Report

The meeting was held on Thursday 24th April 2014, and immediately after opening the meeting a minutes silence was held as a mark of respect for our recently deceased members, Jim P and Peter H.

The surprise of the meeting was the announcement that at this year's Annual Dinner, it being our 40th, all members of good standing as of the AGM would be entitled to a fully subsidised ticket and non-members would only pay a nominal £10. This was enthusiastically greeted by the membership.

It was reported that the membership numbers were a little down on the previous year, but we are gaining more members and renewals via the website, so the Group is slowly entering the modern era.

The elections for new Committee Members was held next, the post of Chair not being up this year as it is a two year post. Howard H. was elected to the two year post of Vice Chair, Peter C. was elected Secretary and Alan R. returned as Treasurer, with all of these being unopposed. This year we had enough people standing to have a ballot for the Committee Members, with Chris D, Robert P and Robert N being successful.

Not on the Committee, but an elected post, Graham V was returned as Newsletter Editor (so you will have to put up with me for another year, you were warned!).

Julie kindly agreed to perform the task of self-auditor for our accounts, to the acclaim of the meeting.

It was decided to scale back our stall at the Gloucester Pride this year, as many people would be away at that time, and volunteers were sought to erect and man the marquee.

It was proposed to create a new committee post to encourage younger people to join the Group. This would require an amendment to the Constitution, and the idea is being explored.

A vote was taken to allow funds to be released for the Annual Dinner, which was unanimously passed.

The meeting agreed the next AGM would be on Thursday April 23rd 2015, and the meeting was closed.

Graham, Newsletter Editor

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, ^pm Fri-Sat

Membership update

We have 58 members which is 1 up on the previous report in the Newsletter Spring 2014. The numbers are holding up nicely although we are always more happy to see the number rising. We welcome 3 new members Janet H, Saqib R and Richard B. We have had several visits from Richard at the meetings on a Thursday. We do hope we will get to meet Janet and Saqib in the not too distant future..

Rob P.
Membership Secretary

GGLC Mugs!

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

Change of Address

Please note we no longer have the PO Box, as it was getting more expensive to run every year. The new address for post only is on the back of the Newsletter. We also no longer have the mobile phone that was on at the Group meetings. Thanks, Graham, Editor

FORTHCOMING BIRTHDAYS

August

3rd Yanna Z

19th Ian V.

21st Alexandra J

21st Norina S

October

1st Peter S

5th Ismail I

September

4th Neil W

8th Michael B

15th Peter T

18th Jinren L

November

2nd Meg H

13th William R

19th Shayan K

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU ALL



GGLC's SOCIAL CALENDAR DIARY OF EVENTS

August

- 3rd Picnic at Canop Ponds
- 7th Peter's Quiz
- 14th Treasure Hunt—Graham
- 21st BeeGees Night—music by Alan
- 28th Coffee, Chat and Raffle
- 31st Rounders at Minchinhampton Common

September

- 4th 78 Revolutions with Graham
- 11th Beetle Drive
- 18th A Talk—Ian Plays with Wood
- 24th Cider Trip
- 25th Coffee, Chat and Raffle

October

- 2nd I Can't Think Straight—A Film with Julie and Chris
- 9th Ghost Trip Evening
- 16th Film Shorts—Public Information Films from YouTube
- 23rd Dinner Preparation Evening
- 25th Annual Dinner
- 30th Coffee, Chat and Raffle

November

- 6th Make Your Own Guy or Gal!
- 13th Visit by Barbara C. Evening on Spiritualism

Advanced Warnings and Notes!

The Annual Dinner, it's coming up, get your menu choice in before time! You may miss out otherwise!

Some of this issues events are expanded on in other parts of the Newsletter, so do read carefully for further information.

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 1YW

07050 627273

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

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 :-

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.