



GGL Community News

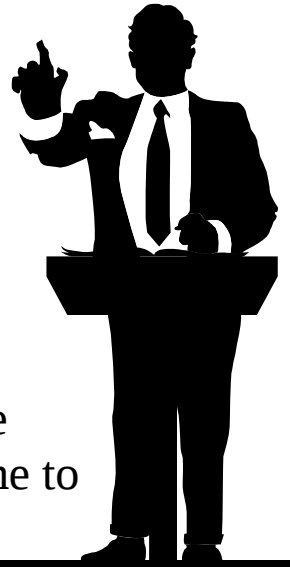
Winter 2013

The Annual Dinner Report

Christmas is Coming!

DIARY OF EVENTS

CHAIRMAN'S LETTER



Hi Everyone,

I went into a Gloucester Store at the end of October and they were playing “Jingle Bells”! Fond as I am of the Christmas Holiday Season it was just too much.

But isn't life all turning that way? Businesses and people seem to be in a big rush to move to the next thing. No time to savour the present. When we are in need of care, the very people we should rely on are being brought to court for neglect and abuse of patients, both in our hospitals and care facilities. The press exaggerate every event until you don't know what to believe any more. Phone hacking just to be “first with the news” has destroyed lives on both sides. Every week any significant event that can be turned into a money making, publicity seeking, business promotion event is pushed onto us. Rather a down depressing view of life maybe, but sometimes you have to see the ugly side to appreciate what you have.

I was talking to the Quaker Meeting House about our Christmas tree. They celebrate everyday as a special day so don't tend to mark the “religious occasions” in the same way others do. But in respect of each other, they are quite happy for us to put up our tree and in turn we are not going to “commercialise” the tree with tinsel. A speaker has cancelled for the 21st November so we are taking the opportunity to use it is a decoration making evening. Give us chance to take some time out for us maybe?

When this Newsletter is published it will probably still be November, but will be my last chance to speak to some of you. I hope the Christmas Season brings all that you want for yourself. Take some time out to help someone else achieve that for themselves.

Merry Christmas.

With warmest wishes

Michael

ANNUAL DINNER

Our 39th Annual Dinner was held on the 26th October, again in the Cranham Suite at the Prince William. Wendy, who has looked after us for the last 3 years greeted us and we felt we were in good hands. Mike and Rob sold raffle tickets and £95 was raised.

Michael, our Chair, made a speech saying how lucky we were compared to other countries. This however, didn't stop his jokes and we had two this year!!

The Person of the Year Cup was presented to the Quaker Meeting House for their help and support to the Gay Community over the years. Michael and Alan sponsored the cup in memory of their mothers. Julie proposed the Loyal Toast. Thank you to all who worked and helped to make this dinner a success and to the contributors of the raffle prizes. Our thoughts are now to next years 40th and the Committee are already working on it.

Alan R

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.

To the author of the poem submitted to the Newsletter

I apologise for not including it this issue, it was not forgotten, but due to my circumstances I am unable to include it this time. It will be in the next issue.
Graham, Editor

A DAY OUT?

I am going to try again and see if there is interest in a group day out in 2014. I was thinking of trying to organise 2 – 1 midweek and 1 weekend – to try and cater for everyone:

Suggestions are always welcome. Some ideas to start you off could be:

Venue 	Time on coach each way
Tredegar House – Newport	1 1/2 hours
Shugborough	2 hours
Althrop House, Northants	3 hours
Black Country Museum	2 hours
Hampton Court Palace	3 hours
Chelsea Pensioner's Hospital	3 hours
Windsor	3 hours
Bletchley Park	2 1/2 hours
Weston Cider, Hereford	1 1/2 hours

And of course there is always Weston Super Mare!!

Let me know if you are interested or have any other suggestions.
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

THANK YOU

In my last Chairman's Newsletter to sign the online petition against the 'Hate Gays' programme in Russia. Every protest brings this terrible situation to the eyes of the world. The petition to Coco Cola worked – they have now plastered their trucks in the USA with gay positive slogans. Keep up the good work.

M

Technology and the Group

Over the recent years, along with the revamped and now much used web site, we also have a Facebook page (don't use it myself, so no idea how to get to it!) and will soon be on Twitter as well. Quite what our tag will be, who knows, the Golden Gate Lotus Club beat us to GGLC! Keep an eye out for further updates.

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.

Editor: This is quite an important idea, we can see in other countries that progress can be reversed, so national groupings are important. As older people we also have skills and resources our younger comrades do not, as well as possibly the time to push projects forward.

Alan's Jokes!

What does a gay man bring on a second date?

A different guy

Did you hear about the 2 Judges?

They tried each other

Did you hear about the hungry clock?

It went back four seconds

Why did the picture go to Jail?

Because it was framed

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!

Events Write-up

Firstly, my apologies for the shortness of this issue, and that there will be no Christmas Games edition for members this year. I suffered a family loss just before this issue was due, and my heart is not in it. Normal service will be resumed if normality ever returns. Thank you.

In early September we had a visit from the Bishop, who was a little discommoded by the presence of the Press. It was a very interesting evening though, with a lot of ground covered.

The next few evenings were dogged by a little confusion, not helped by most of the Committee taking their holidays at the same time! Still, we managed, and people had fun.

October started well with a visit from our friends the Spiritualists. Barbara was on form and gave us some interesting readings of our ribbon choices—wonder what would have been the result if I had chosen that other one?

Sarah G. continued the next week with a fascinating demonstration of the art of stained glass creation, with Roy as her able and very skilled volunteer assistant, well done to him!

The film night was enjoyed by me, though not everyone was enthralled. That's how it is with films, as it is with most things.

Taboo was a game not many of us had played before, and it was a riot of fun, misunderstanding and hilarity. Next time I suggest coloured arm bands to indicate teams, they could also double as gags maybe? Highly enjoyable.

The Annual Dinner has been covered elsewhere, but was probably one of the most enjoyable and relaxed for several years. Now what are we going to do for next year, the 40th?

I missed the next two meetings, the first to pick up my partner on his return from the Philippines, just missing the typhoon, and the second due to personal tragedy. Hopefully they went well, and you have found them entertaining and informative. Take care of each other, and please, have a good Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Graham, Newsletter Editor

Raffle

The Raffle takes place the last Thursday of the month. Don't forget to bring your money and all donations for prizes gratefully accepted.

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

ANNUAL DINNER

Can I say thank you to those who helped with Annual Dinner. Particularly Rob, Peter, Alan and Mike. It was a lovely evening, well organised, the flowers looked lovely and the raffle was very successful.
Mx

GGLC Mugs!

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

CAMP IT UP

The Westgate are putting on a Pantomime on December 21st with members of their own staff. I should warn you it might be a bit camp!! Not only is this a date for your diary but the proceeds are going to the GGLC. Many thanks guys and gals and we look forward to it. I don't know the time yet, but will let you know and it will be on the website.
M

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

The **estgate**

Gloucester's only LGBT venue

Opening Times

Sunday	noon - 2am
Monday	11am - 2am
Tuesday	11am - 2am
Wednesday	11am - 3am
Thursday	11am - 3am
Friday	11am - 3am
Saturday	11am - 5am!

Always **FREE** entry

Food served until 4pm Sunday - Thursday
and until 6pm Friday and Saturday

**Get 10% discount off all food with
your GGLC membership card**

Unitarians and the GGLC

From February 2013 I have found myself in a new home in terms of my faith and that is home is with the Unitarians. This came about by one of our other younger members who introduced me to the Unitarians. They accepted me into their congregation and I felt at peace. From that point on I knew that I had found a home where I was accepted and loved for who I was. After some research into the Unitarians and their stance on the LGBT community I decided I would like to stay with the community as they were accepting and welcoming to LGBT people.

During our evening group which is called our “Monday Musings” as it is held on a Monday we debated on the point of “why I am a Unitarian”. My point on this topic was “a place where I feel accepted and valued as a gay man for who I am” also during this debate others put forward points and ideas on the issue and I got to thinking about so many of our community who are not happy with how they are/were treated by other faiths. I proposed the idea of linking up with the GGLC as a way to reach out to our community and give those who are unhappy with religion a place they too can call home in the Unitarian congregation and other congregations around Gloucestershire. I approached Michael the chair of the GGLC with the news and he welcomed it well.

Roy.

For more information on the Cheltenham Unitarian Congregation:
<http://www.ukunitarians.org.uk/cheltenham/>

Note: We always welcome information on religious bodies that are LGBT inclusive. The Committee discussed a link to our site and decided that our current position of not linking to any religious body was more appropriate for the group. We are very positive that Roy has asked us to look at this and have asked him to produce this piece for our Newsletter and to arrange a talk from the Unitarian Church in the near future. MCH

National AIDS Helplines

“You can ask what you want to ask”
0800567123

Membership update

Membership Update

We have 59 members to date which is 1 up on the last newsletter Autumn 2013. We also have another 2 membership applications which are being processed. One of these was an online application and the other was received in the post. The new web site is proving valuable and well used and the number of online membership applications is rising. We have 3 new members Shayan K, Jinren L and Tammy C. Welcome to the group !!

Revamped Group Stationary

We have recently held a sub committee meeting to bring the Group leaflets and cards more up to date and appealing. A new welcome letter and Group information leaflet will be available soon.

Rob P, Membership secretary

FORTHCOMING BIRTHDAYS

December

9th Howard H
9th Robert N
13th John W
27th Carol L
28th Ali I

January

7th David L
8th Romeo V
23rd Jim P
25th Chris D
26th Rebecca S
27th Julie S

29th John J

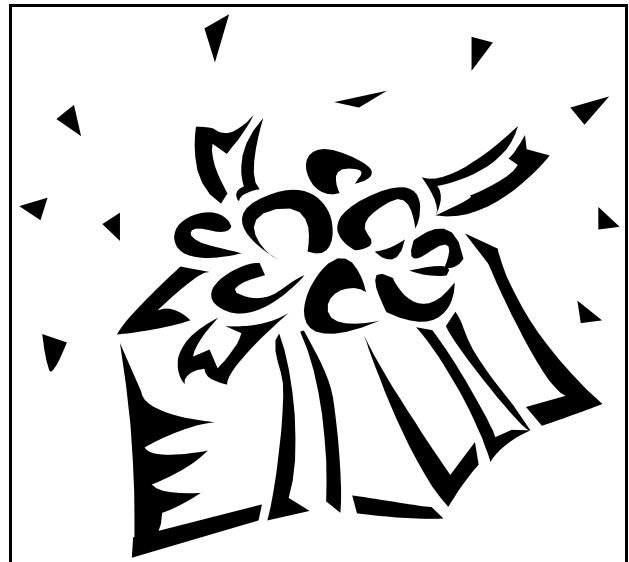
31st Tony R

February

6th Graham V
22nd Ken L

March

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



Blimey! We have more birthdays each issue, is someone having more than one a year? Anyhow, have fun all of you!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU ALL



GGLC's SOCIAL CALENDAR DIARY OF EVENTS

December

- 5th Beetle in Drag! Game Night
- 12th Christmas Music—hosted by Julie, Bring Your Own
- 13th Pub Night at the Westgate Pub
- 19th Christmas Party!
- 26th Boxing Day, No meeting, have sherry and mince pies at home!

January

- 2nd Happy New Year Celebration
- 9th Wrapped Auction
- 16th Film Night—Lesbian Theme (last was Very good!)
- 23rd The Doctor Visits—Dr Smith
- 30th Coffee, Chat and Raffle

February

- 6th A Night with Abba—Alan
- 13th Valentines Night hosted bt Michael
- 14th Pub Night at the Westgate Pub
- 20th Kos—Slides and talk by Graham
- 27th Coffee, Chat and Raffle

March

- 6th Pancake Night with Alan
- 13th General Knowledge Quiz—Peter C.
- 14th Pub Night at the Westgate Pub
- 20th Another Nellie Night (TV Showing) by Rob
- 27th Coffee and Chat and Raffle

Advanced Warnings and Notes!

Christmas, it's just around the corner, don't forget it. Also, remember that the Wrapped Auction is the place to bring those unwanted or duplicate presents. The Auction raises a decent amount for the Group every year and is a great evening!

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

GGLC

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GLOUCESTERSHIRE
GAY & LESBIAN
COMMUNITY

PO BOX 23
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 :-

P0 BOX 23, Gloucester GL1 1YW.

On Thursday nights from 8pm, you can phone us on 07879572396, but please remember this is during the meeting! We also have our own website www.gglc.co.uk and the email address is info@gglc.co.uk - several new members have contacted the Group this way!

GAY-GLOS Helpline 01452 306800

LOCAL 'HAUNT'

The Westgate, Gloucester www.TheWestgateOnline.co.uk

Haunts is now Haunt... any ideas anyone?



Some of the information on the bars and discos may be wrong—
new places may be opening—anyone with the latest news,
please let us know.