
GGLCommunity News

A European robin with a bright orange-red breast and greyish-brown back is perched on a green holly branch. The branch is covered in a layer of white snow and adorned with several colorful, round berries in shades of red, orange, yellow, green, blue, and purple. The background is a soft, out-of-focus white, suggesting a snowy winter scene. A small, white, stylized snowflake graphic is visible in the upper right corner.

Winter 2017

Visiting the Army!

The latest News, Views and Opinion

DIARY OF EVENTS

CHAIRMAN'S LETTER



Just over a year has gone by since we changed to our “monthly” meetings. For me, it did take some getting used to and several times, on a Thursday, I started to panic that I wasn’t on my way to Gloucester! I think we have all become accustomed to the routine now, but I am disappointed the change has not increased the attendance. Only meeting once a month, I thought people would try to make more effort. There are members we have not seen for some time now, which is a shame. We do miss you.

It is nice holding more social events during the year and we have enjoyed some fun times. I have just returned from the last Committee Meeting of the year. We have finalised the Christmas Party and a draft of social events for 2018.

As the song goes, “It’s beginning to look a lot like Christmas”. Is it because we are getting older or are the years getting shorter? The festive season certainly seems to come around more quickly every year.

For most of us the Christmas Season is a time to look forward to. For some, including people within our own LGBT Community, it is a time of isolation, loneliness and sadness. Even if your own situation means you cannot have someone for a meal over the festivities, think of someone who might not hear from anyone at all . A simple card or even a gift voucher for a fast food takeaway could make a bleak day a little brighter. If you are a person who has frequent take away coffees, collect the vouchers for a free coffee and give the voucher to someone homeless on the streets.

I hope your Christmas is a good one and brings you the two things none of us can do without – food and friendship.

Merry Christmas

In friendship

Michael

Trans Day of Remembrance (TDOR)

On November 20th Graham and I attended the trans day of remembrance with Gloscats which is an organisation for trans people in Gloucestershire.

TDOR was originally started in 1999 by Gwendolyn Ann Smith in honour of Rita Hester, a trans woman who was murdered in her own home in the USA in 1998. It has since been marked annually and is now commemorated worldwide.

Gloscats hold meetings in Gloucester and Bristol. As well as being a support and social group, they have campaigned for changes in the NHS.

Trans people are still some of the most misunderstood and vilified people in our society.

gloscats@gmail.com

Howard

Vice Chair

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

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

Membership update

We have 53 group members which is 2 up on the previous newsletter report September 2017.

We have 2 new members these being Alan L and Bet/r A.

A warm welcome to you both.

Rob P

Membership secretary

ACTIVE FOR LIFE

We are part of this Project run and organised by the NHS. It has been very informative and we have played an active role. Although commitment is now down to twice a year, it is getting more difficult to find someone willing to attend on our behalf. Committee members already give a lot of their time. We do not have a Health Promotion Officer currently so the Chair is taking on these duties where necessary.

To keep you up to date, the Project have produced a video to watch at the link below:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n8s-8KtfgFM&feature=youtu.be>

If anyone is interested in attending the twice yearly meetings or would like to see the last minutes etc., get in touch.

Michael

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.

GGLC Membership Payments

GGLC members have 4 choices when paying their membership,

- 1 BACS
- 2 CASH
- 3 Cheque
- 4 Pay-Pal

Our preferred method of payment is via BACS for those who use internet banking, this way we get our money promptly and the members don't have to wait for their cheques to clear the bank.

Cash and cheques can be paid in person at any meeting, however due to us only meeting once a month now, cheques may not be paid into our bank very quickly and could possibly take a few weeks before they clear the member's bank.

The other option is to pay by Pay-Pal but by using this method GGLC lose a percentage of the money through administration costs. So please pay by BACS if you can or cash at our meetings.

Many Thanks, Julie, Treasurer.

The following email was received by our Secretary. As a non- religious/ political group we did not invite the Pastor to speak but by printing the details you can contact direct if interested. M

Dear Sir / Madam

My name is Benz; I am a pastor of a 7 month old christian church in Gloucester. I would like to invite or speak to gay and lesbians community in our church. We believe that God loves every human being regardless of sexual differences. My passion is to reach out gays and lesbians in our church. We are all made in Gods image and God loves us impartially. I would like to speak to you if possible. My number is 07789 772731 or you can email me your number and I will call you back.

I don't mind coming to have a chat at your place if invited.

Thanks and remain blessed

Pastor Benz

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**Notice is hereby given of the
Annual General Meeting
of the
Gloucestershire Gay and Lesbian Community
on
Thursday 26th April 2018 at 7.30pm prompt
(doors open 7.00pm)
at the Friends Meeting House,
Gloucester**

NOMINATION FORM AGM—26th April 2017

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

Vice 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.

Visits and Thoughts

Over the past months I have had the honour to represent the Group at two very different events. The first of these was by the British Army Engagement Team and the second was the Trans Day of Remembrance.

What struck me in the first was how far our armed forces have come in a very short time—not to say they haven't still got work to do, but it is really encouraging how our communities have been integrated and accepted. The odd thing is that now members of our communities who are supported in the forces may have more problems when they leave and rejoin our wider society, which still can be very hostile.

This came home to me during the second event. My sub-group, of gay men, have seen our world change from all recognition over the past 40 years, and even in the past few years life has become much easier and society more accepting (in general, there are always dinosaurs out there!). But for some of the other groups, especially those who are easy to identify, such as people who are Trans, life can be very harsh.

I read articles suggesting Trans people are more unstable and mentally ill, and there does seem to be a higher incidence of mental illness, self harm and suicide in that group. I see Bisexuals being told they 'can not make up their minds'. But I think back to other articles, where gay men were said to be incapable of committed, long term relationships, were promiscuous and 'flighty', so should not be allowed to get married. Yet we know now that was wrong, it was because we could not be seen to be together as we would then be arrested, or more recently, hated and persecuted (though some managed even in those dark days, brave and courageous souls that they are).

Give people the support and encouragement we would hope for ourselves, and possibly we would see them blossom and be the people they feel they are—much as we have seen happen in the Army!

Now, in this time when bigots and misinformation are being encouraged and given empowerment, is when we should stand shoulder to shoulder and yell to the world we are together in our differences.

Graham, Editor

British Army Engagement Team

We were delighted to receive an invitation to attend a presentation from the Army Engagement Team held at the Gloucester Academy.

Graham and I were greeted by members of the local military and spent some time with two officers from the Team's Equality section. It was extremely interesting to hear from them about their careers in the British Army – one, a senior officer with 30 years experience and the younger who had just qualified for his helicopter pilot's wings.

We were then escorted to the auditorium where, in a 25 minute presentation, some of the 25 strong team (all serving members) told us of the activities, courses and exciting opportunities available to suitable young men and women wanting to make a career in today's Army. There was a very upbeat message from the General Chief of Staff. We were actually allowed as an audience to vote on which activities were covered by the team. A question and answer session followed and then we were invited to have supper and chat with army personnel and other members of the public attending

A very interesting and informative evening and I was very impressed to learn about the diverse opportunities and activities available to anyone wishing to become a member of today's very modern Army.

Peter C

DIARY 2018

A list of social activities is now on the website, listed by month. The only events not on there is Skittles – we are looking at dates with the venue. We hope the booking system for events will be working soon so keep your eyes peeled for announcements.

Thanks

Michael

PROJECT ADORNO

We received an email from this production company who are putting on a live show about Derek Jarman. They were looking for local LGBT groups to sponsor a local production.

The show was performed live at the Fringe Festival a couple of years and a tour is anticipated February 2018. Although it would be lovely to enjoy a live LGBT Production in Gloucestershire it is also a big risk of Members money. The Committee agreed we were not in a position to do this. We replied accordingly and wished them luck for the future.

M

PRISM

PRISM has recently relaunched. It is a group for LGBT+ people who work for the City and County councils. Gloucester City Council has unanimously passed a motion of all party support. GGLC has supported the setting up of PRISM.

Inclusive Church

The Inclusive Church has asked us to list some of their services. They are a registered charity now including multiple church denominations, and further information regarding them can be found on the web.

Sept 24th St Peter and St Paul, Northleach (7pm).

Oct 15th St Bartholomew's Church, Cam Pitch, Lower Cam, Gloucestershire, GL11 5JX

Nov 19th and Dec 10th St Bartholomew's Church, Cam Pitch, Lower Cam, Gloucestershire, GL11 5JX

This information is provided for our members who may be interested, and does not constitute any endorsement of any particular faith or belief.

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

National AIDS Helplines

“You can ask what you want to ask”

0800567123

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 301170

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

January 2018

7th David L
25th Chris D
27th Julie S
29th John J
31st Tony R

February

6th Graham V
13th Ian H

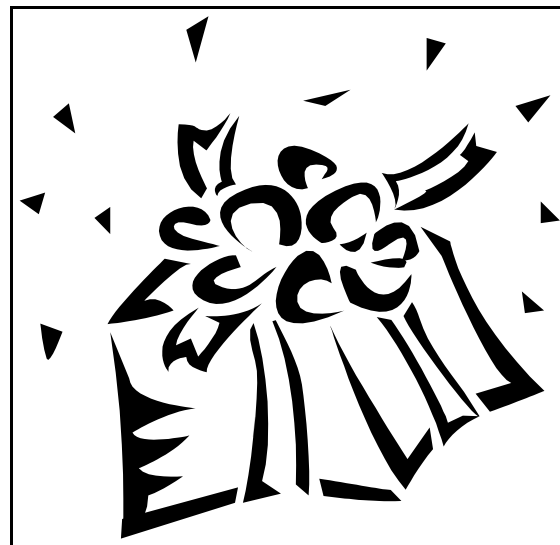
March

7th Paul C
19th Marie T

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

April

2nd Paul L J
8th Alan R
9th Jim G
9th Richard B
16th Michael W
18th Peter C
25th Peter W



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU ALL



GGLC's SOCIAL CALENDAR DIARY OF EVENTS

January

4th Coffee, Chat and Raffle for the New Year!

10th Wrapped Auction—Bring along those unwanted gifts and bid for other peoples!

February

1st Coffee, Chat and Raffle

13th 10 Pin Bowling—pre book with Michael or Peter

March

1st Coffee, Chat, Raffle and Pancakes

April

5th Coffee, Chat, Raffle and Simeon with a short talk on Wills, Funeral Plans etc

26th AGM—Very Important!

Advanced Warnings and Notes!

Ticket only events are so we can actually organise things and make sure we have enough of everything! Some will have a cost, others may not.

There may be additional events organised at short notice, keep an eye on the website!

On 10th January there is the Wrapped Auction, so be prepared and scout out some goodies during the sales. Remember, this is one of the few events we run that brings in funds to the Group. Worth marking if something is specifically for Male/Female!

The diary is subject to change due to changes in circumstances, whimsy, Editor's insanity and attacks by pigmy elephants...

GGLC



GGLC



GGLC

GLOUCESTERSHIRE
GAY & LESBIAN
COMMUNITY

c/o 50 Knowles Road,
Gloucester GL1 4TP

07050 627273

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

GGLC

CONTACTING THE GGLC

Gloucestershire Gay & Lesbian Community meets 1st Thursday monthly, 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.

GGLCtweets

Our twitter site is now eight months old and we have already gathered more followers and, in turn, we follow eighty-nine individuals and organisations. This enables us to bring before our followers the latest news and comment from the best local, national and international LGBT twitter sites. Here you will be able to find, in one place, articles and links to other LGBT groups, health and legal advice, queer culture, politics and, if you follow us, you can keep abreast of LGBT issues from around the world. Follow GGLCtweets and when you find something of interest retweet those stories.