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Pack

Craft Sticks

GGLCommunity News

Winter 2019

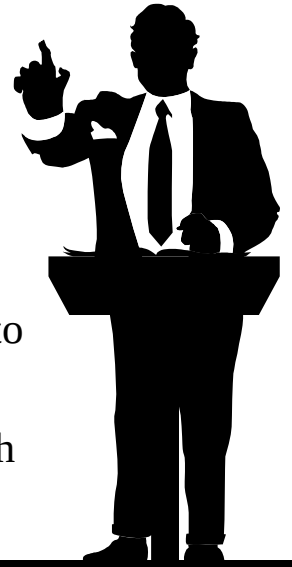
Our Stories

The latest News, Views and Opinion

DIARY OF EVENTS

~~CHAIRMAN'S~~ LETTER

Editors



Hello Everyone!

Unfortunately our Chairman has temporarily been exiled to deepest Norfolk, so deep in the Fens that all communication is defunct! As the deadline for this issue has been reached, it falls to me to fill in this issue!

What to say? Well, these past few months have been packed with things going on, but they are covered elsewhere. One notable thing is the success of our bottle stall at Pride, always a good draw, but this year sold out within a few hours!

Well done everyone, and below is photographic proof of the takings.



On a more serious note, we are in a period of instability in our country, with bigots and extremists being emboldened by our political leaders. The number of attacks on our communities has been going up, not as much as those against religious and racial minorities, but they are on the rise. Be aware of your surroundings, and take care out there.

Stay safe,

Graham

Editor

PS Michael just managed a call from the middle of nowhere, and wishes everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Transgender Day of Remembrance

The Transgender Day of Remembrance (TDoR), also known as the International Transgender Day of Remembrance, has been observed annually (from its inception) on November 20 as a day to memorialise those who have been murdered as a result of transphobia. It is a day to draw attention to the continued violence endured by transgender people.

This year in Gloucester the GGLC was proud to book the Friends Meeting House and provide refreshments for this event.

The event was well attended and a candle was lit to remember those who have suffered because they are trans and to look forward to the day when trans people are just recognised as fellow human beings.

The GGLC was represented by Chris, Julie, Peter, Neal and myself. I said a few words mentioning that their struggle was our struggle and recognising what they still need to achieve.

Emma, who co-ordinated the event, is moving to Gloucester and looks forward to attending our meetings. I'm sure we will all give her a warm welcome.

Howard H

GGLC Membership Payments

GGLC members have 4 choices when paying their membership,

- 1 BACS
- 2 CASH
- 3 Cheque

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.

Pay-Pal is being phased out as it is rarely used and 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, Craig, Treasurer.

Membership Update

We have 55 GGLC members at this time. This figure is 3 down on the last newsletter report Summer 2019.

We have no new members to report.

Rob P.

Membership secretary.

Annual Dinner Experience

Since Bob and I started attending the GGLC meetings in the summer of 2018, we heard Chris talking about the Annual Dinner. We were very curious about it, but last year we decided not to attend because we were not formal GGLC members yet. That was not a requirement at all, but we did not feel that it was appropriate.

Time then passed and we decided to become members in April this year and, of course, also attended the 2019 Annual Dinner. The entire Annual Dinner feeling was an experience, beginning with what clothes to wear, to understand what exactly a Toast for the Queen means – it might sound funny, but for a non-UK nationals, this kind of expression does not carry a lot of meaning, to think about the restaurant and all other details that someone might think of. The first experience on anything brings many questions and thanks to Caroline and Sarah, we got all tips we needed.

26th October arrived, The Big Day, our first Annual Dinner! It was so exciting. The experience was amazing, we had a lovely bunch of welcoming people around, food was very good, and the atmosphere was perfect. We had the opportunity to socialise with everyone; we got to know a little bit better some of the members and also for them to know us a little bit more. We had quite a lot of fun and some loud laughs. Before the Toast for the Queen, I had the opportunity to share how happy Bob and I were to be members of the GGLC and, to let everybody know how important they are to us. Also to make sure I shared with everybody how we looked forward to the 1st Thursdays of the month to be with them.

In general, we had a brilliant night together and as all first experiences, it will be remembered for a very long time. We are looking forward for the Annual Dinner 2020.

Sergio F.

Hope House Sexual Assault Referral Centre

We had an email from Ava, who is a Crisis Worker at the Sexual Assault Referral Centre in Gloucestershire.

They are looking to raise awareness of the service so that others know where to come to, if they have been raped or sexually assaulted.

They offer practical and emotional support, as well as medical care, to anyone who has experienced sexual violence; regardless of gender, disability or sexual orientation- and you don't have to have reported to the Police in order to receive their care. The team are made up of male and female crisis workers who work around the clock to offer tailored support to victims who access the service. The advice line is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week (0300 4218400).

If you would like to find out more about the service:

Phone: 0300 4218400

E-mail: hopehousesarc@glos-care.nhs.uk

Website: www.hopehousesarc.nhs.uk

Facebook: @GloucesterSARC

Twitter: @HopeHouseSARC

Instagram: HopeHouseSARC

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.

Rounders & Picnic 1st September 2019

It was not the best weather for having a picnic or even playing rounders, but it was nice to see some hardy members turn up. On an occasion like this we all do the best we can. After tucking in to sandwiches and jelly etc: it was time to play rounders. Several of us were keen to play but not that keen to run even if we hit the ball, and yes we did have some fun. The sun did come out on occasions to take away the chill and I believe a few members even ventured to the ice cream van to indulge in a tasty treat, very nice !

Many thanks to those who turned up to make the afternoon a pleasant one, but I would add that the event may be taken off the yearly calendar unless more members are prepared to attend.

Best wishes
Mike B

Pride In the Park 2019

Arriving at the Park on a beautiful sunny day at 9.15am it was lovely to see so many members ready to help erect the gazebo and set up the stall. Craig and Geoff must have been up for hours as they were there very early (thanks guys). After a little bit of confusion erecting our new gazebo we then set about putting up the tables etc;. With all the donated bottles displayed we were finally ready to do business. The sun was still shining and getting hotter and with the showground filling up with people after the arrival of the march in which Graham and Howard, with assistance from Robert, paraded the group banner . We began to get very busy selling our Tombola tickets. Many thanks to Peter and Rob for their marvellous efforts and patience. My task was made easy by looking for the winning prize to give to lucky winners. Many thanks to Tony and Roy who also did a fantastic job with helping out on the stall. After having the occasional tea break and the help of Sergio and Bob (many thanks) and the time moving on towards 2pm it was obvious that we were going to sell out early and by 2.30pm everything had been won. It was a tremendous effort by all members at the group on the Thursday prior to Pride day when all the members who labelled and all the members who helped out on the day. May I say very many thanks for your donations and your help which made this event very successful. Also a big thank you to all the local shops and supermarkets who gave donations. With the fine weather and wonderful atmosphere we felt that the 2019 Pride was the best ever.

Mike B & Rob P.

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

Hate Crime Awareness

definition of hate crime:

“Any criminal offence which is perceived by the victim or any other person, to be motivated by hostility or prejudice based on a person's race or perceived race; religion or perceived religion; sexual orientation or perceived sexual orientation; disability or perceived disability and any crime motivated by hostility or prejudice against a person who is transgender or perceived to be transgender.”

A pack is available for all members to see at group meetings. The pack includes forms for members to use to report a Hate Crime. Three of the committee have been trained in third party reporting Chris, Howard and Julie.

Hate Crimes Figures for Gloucestershire will be discussed at meeting as we receive the latest information from the Hate Crime Awareness meetings.

Chris D

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.

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

National AIDS Helplines

“You can ask what you want to ask”

0800567123

Katrina's Story

This story is not really salacious, but about me.

Where do you start from?

I was born into a good family and mothered over much being the youngest (I was a mistake) so rather spoilt. Was never an easy child as I always had an edge to me and that has stayed with me till just recently. I never felt happy in some ways, I did not understand so I was drinking in the local pub from the age of fifteen (I spent all my wages in there).

When I was sixteen or seventeen (I can't remember now) a builder got talking to me over a couple of weeks and one evening asked if I would like to go back to his flat (total naivety), oh his flat was only about 150 yards from the pub that's why I felt safe and in a good area. When we got there, things began to go the way you can imagine, I ran out of his flat so fast and all the way home which was not far away. he kept coming to my house after that but my mum got rid of him (she must have known what was going on) then we moved to the countryside. I continued to drink even more and always drove home in the early hours of the morning.

Going to skip a bit, changed job and was always phoning in sick and the doctor said he could arrange counselling but I turned it down as I did not know or understand what was eating into me. Then the usual story bought a home met a girl and married (I inherited my family) and I stopped drinking and became practically teetotal. I had said when I was at school, I would never have children and I never have. I was her third husband and I knew all the other husbands. We were together for 30 years, 25 years married till the divorce came and it was over money not relationships. I was 38 then I married. God did we have a life together, we could have written a fantastic soap.

This is where my story starts after the divorce, I gave her the house and I got a flat and started to buy lingerie and I don't know what triggered this off really and after two years the dresses started and I was so happy, but on line I was always searching for men, so I told myself I must be gay. Then one day I bought this camisole (it was lovely) and about a month after the seller got in touch with me (it was a bonafied business) and asked was I happy with it, of course I was. I don't know how it started but we would email each other and I bought more stuff. Then the photos started all innocent but soon progressed and god I was so turned on.

After a time, my brain decided that I wanted our relationship to become physical and I tried to get him to agree with me (he lived on the other side of the country) and I think I wore him down and he agreed. It was arranged to meet half way

and I booked a room in a very plush and expensive hotel (it had to be done in nice surroundings). The Saturday arrived (this was last August and I was by now 68). god, I tried to follow the sat nav and it played up but I did get there in the end. The room was fabulous the bed was so big and the bathroom was fantastic, never seen such a big shower.

I hung up all my dresses and bits in the wardrobe and ran a bath with all the smellies in it, wonderful. Next, I put all my lingerie on and covered it with a loose track suit bottom and a big jumper and went down to the car park to meet him. I wanted to stand there when he arrived in only my lingerie (the drive was over a mile long and he had texted to say he was turning into the hotel drive) but life can be a bummer and some hotel guests decided they wanted to use the tennis courts. Anyway he arrived and that was really the first time I had seen him but I pulled down my bottoms and pulled up my top so he could see what he was going to get (I was proud of what I looked like). Anyway to the bedroom and my first ever snog with a man and can you believe it, that it felt so natural and after a bit of groping we decided to go and have a drink and break the ice (no I did not put the ice in the tea).

Well, after that we will draw a veil over our night, suffice to say it was positive for both of us.

I slept well and in the morning we went down for breakfast, then back to the room as he had to leave,

Since then I have been with a fair number of men but realised something was wrong (oh they enjoyed it, no complaints) but every time I dressed and that was every day and even wearing my lingerie to work under my male clothes, (I live on my own) it felt so right.

Since then, we have emailed every day and he has been my rock, his advice and guidance had brought me to this point in my life rather late I must admit when my feminine feelings are far greater than my masculine ones. This week the last week of February I dressed in my lingerie and went to an LGBT social venue and when I got there I went to the toilet and dressed, put my wig on and did my make-up (forgot half my stuff, brushes and things so had to use my finger tip to apply all the make-up) and then walked out as Katrina and do you know that was my greatest moment in the whole of my life and I will be 69 this year and I have just found myself and realised what I had suppressed my whole life in other words I really was in denial of my feelings but now I feel liberated.

Now I can move on and see what the future holds.

Katrina xxx

LGBT Humanists UK www.lgbthumanists.org.uk/	OneBodyOneFaith Alan 0117 982 1512 www.onebodyonefaith.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) www.beaumontsociety.org.uk/	Transvestite Help Line Rita 0117 951 4481
Gay Girls of Gloucestershire 07561 067888 www.gaygirlsofglos.co.uk	Gay Men's Project West of England 0117 955 1000 Wiltshire and Swindon 01793 695 300	National LGBT Helpline 0300 330 0630 10am—10pm every day

Gay Outdoor Club

The national website is <http://www.goc.org.uk> so all you out-doors types log on and see what you could be getting involved in!

FORTHCOMING BIRTHDAYS

December

9th Howard H
9th Robert N
13th John W

7th Sarah W

13th Ian H
13th John B
25th Mohammad G

January

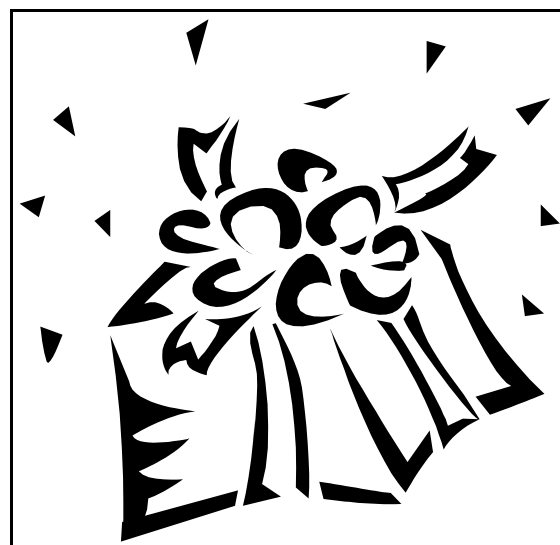
7th David L
25th Chris D
25th John J
27th Julie S

March

7th Paul C
13th Yonatan E
18th Carolyn F
25th Sergio F
29th Andrew D
29th Trevor D
30th Michael C H

February

6th Graham V



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU ALL



GGLC's SOCIAL CALENDAR DIARY OF EVENTS

December

5th Coffee, Chat and Raffle
19th Christmas Party—see notes

January

2nd Coffee, Chat and Raffle
7th Ten Pin Bowling 7pm—see notes
16th Wrapped Auction—see notes

February

6th Coffee, Chat and Raffle
20th Quiz 7:30pm

March

5th Coffee, Chat and Raffle

Advanced Warnings and Notes!

The season is upon us, and the Christmas Party is just around the corner. If you want to go, do get your name on Chris's list! Speaking of lists, give your name to Michael for the Ten Pin Bowling—this has to be booked well in advance, and you get two games. The Wrapped Auction—well, this raises money for the Group from your wrapped up unwanted gifts. Always good fun!

If anyone has an idea for a relevant day out, or just a day out people may enjoy, speak up, we need your ideas!

The diary is subject to change due to changes in circumstances, whimsy, Editor's insanity and attacks by Malabar Giant Squirrels

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: Chris D.

Secretary: Peter C.

Treasurer: Craig F.

Membership Secretary: Rob P.

Member: Howard H.

Member: Julie S.

Newsletter Editor: Graham V.

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

STOP PRESS

Please note—pre-booked or pre-paid events are that way so that venues can be given numbers and people arranging events are not left out of pocket. Unlike our regular monthly meetings, dropping in at the event is not permitted.