

GGLCommunity News



Winter/Spring 2012

Annual General Meeting

The Marriage Debate - A Response

DIARY OF EVENTS

CHAIRMAN'S LETTER



Hi,

By the time you read this one twelfth of the year has already gone, but I wish you a belated Happy New Year all the same.

As I write this, the sun is shining and the frost is thick on the ground. A beautiful day. I was thinking back over last year which certainly had it's highs and lows and how life is like the weather. How much easier it is to be happy or positive when the sun is shining, but when life is difficult it seems to be an everlasting thunderstorm.

There are several members of the group who find it harder to get around in the colder weather. Why not give them a call – that personal touch can make a dull day so much brighter, for you and for them.

Our latest event was the Wrapped Auction – a longstanding tradition and firm favourite in the diary. It was heart warming to see those who attended put so much into it – both in donations and purchases. We certainly had a few laughs and some bargains. A big thank you to the hard core of supporters who attended. It was a shame so many others decided to stay away at the only time we fundraise for our own group.

Those of you who attended on Thursdays in December will have received our Christmas Edition Newsletter. Well done Graham – it was fun. The winners were to be announced at the Wrapped Auction but Graham decided to delay to see if more entries would come in.

The Committee have already met this year and we have dates for the diary. We have changed the dates of the picnic and rounders to try and get more response.

The group is yours – you decide how well it goes by when you attend and by what you put into it. Lets hope 2012 will be a productive year for the GGLC with best wishes

Michael
Chair

This months front cover image is a photograph of a public work of art put together by “The A Team”, a combination of different youth groups in Gloucester, including Young Gloucestershire. It decorates a hording surrounding part of the Blackfriars site where building work is being carried out. It is well worth seeing, and well done all those involved in brightening up our City and our lives.

Graham, Editor

Double Booking!

Well, it was all arranged, got everything sorted, and then I ask two people to write up the same event! My mistake and apologies to Jim and Alan for double-booking them. I liked both articles though, so I have put them both in! Enjoy :-)

Graham, The Idiot Editor

Christmas Party Report—22nd December

What a surprise to see the room decorated so well, even a nice tree but no fairy on top as no volunteers!

All asked to bring snacks so much food as usual and lots of drinks, soft and hard. Entertainment was put on by Dave, which was very good but a bit loud for us oldies.

We played Pass the Parcel which was very good fun and had a sing song which most people joined in.

It was also very nice to have a good turnout with old faces turning up to enjoy themselves.

Jim

Christmas Party 2011

Although the weather outside was more like Spring than Christmas, as soon as you walked into the meeting room it felt like Christmas. The tree and decorations looked wonderful – well done to the decorators!

The one six foot table had to be doubled when it was realised how much party food was brought in. The tables literally groaned with food, but during the evening most of it was eaten as very little was left over!!

Entertainment was provided by Dave on the electronic piano as well as his “trumpet”. It was all very seasonal, especially with the members having a sing along. Dave is a professional musician and we are grateful he gave us such a generous discount on his usual fee. Thanks Dave.

‘Pass the Parcel’ was a popular game again and we also had a raffle that raised £30.

All too soon it was time to pack up. It was a lovely evening and some members did say it was the best ever. Roll on next time and a big thank you to all who organised it.

Alan R

Committee Roles

So, what are the Committee posts, and what do they mean?

Vice Chairman : The Vice Chairman post is for two years. It overlaps the Chairman's post, to give us continuity in case of disaster. The holder stands in for the Chairman when not available, and learns the "ropes" so to speak. We have been lucky in having had experienced people in this role for some years, but it is also a good learning post for new people.

Treasurer: Looks after our finances, banking monies and keeping track of how solvent we are!

Secretary: This is an important post, and the holder takes committee meeting minutes, answers group correspondence, and generally keeps us aware of what is happening and what we decided!

Committee Member: We can have several Committee Members, and it is a good role to start helping out on the committee. The general members are usually given an area of responsibility, such as Membership, Health or Diary. These are important roles, and Diary can take a lot of organising and time. Currently the Diary is run by the whole committee, which works, but it would be nice to have enough members standing for the Committee to be able to fill this role.

Newsletter Editor: OK, this is an easy job, all you have to do is put together this little thing four times a year, the rest of the time is your own! This is a non-committee role, though the holder is usually invited to sit in on committee meetings.

Graham, Newsletter Editor

Gloucestershire Pride 2012

Mark the date in your diaries – Saturday June 16th 2012 Gloucestershire Pride 2012. Main event held in Gloucester Park

Membership update

The Group Membership number is 52. This is 3 down on the last Newsletter report Winter 2011/12.

Rob P, Membership Secretary

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 2012 at 8pm prompt (doors open
7.30pm)
at the Friends Meeting House in
Greyfriars (off Southgate Street), Gloucester**

NOMINATION FORM AGM—26th April 2012

.....
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.

MEMBERSHIP

At our last Committee Meeting the falling attendance on Thursdays evenings and general membership was discussed. This general trend applies to all volunteer groups across the country, but we are always aware that not every LGBT person in the county is aware we exist.

The Committee decided we would advertise the Group and our activities in local papers i.e. the diary and contact details, not where we meet (which is usual GGLC practice).

Before we do this do you have any ideas, suggestions on how to encourage new blood into the Group?

Please speak to any Committee member.

Chair

Gay-Glos: Supporting LGBT people, their families and friends

01452 306800 Mon-Fri 7.30-10pm.

Write PO Box 171, Gloucester GL1 4YE.

Web-site and email service: www.gay-glos.org. New volunteers always required.

First Friday Women's Group

(Held, logically, on the first Friday of each month)

A drop-in evening providing a place for lesbians to meet and chat, a jumping off point for the weekend, a place to relax and meet new people.

**Friend Meeting House, Greyfriars, Southgate Street,
Gloucester, GL1 1TS**

Open from 8 to 10pm

Email contact: fridaywomen@rocketmail.com

There is a no alcohol policy on the premises, but it's OK to smoke in the garden.

We charge a minimum of £1 per person towards cost of the room, but this includes a cup of tea or coffee. Additional drinks are 20p a cup. It's still a cheap evening!

EXS

I'm afraid it is true. EXS in Cheltenham have closed. After recently undergoing a re-fit and new Management, EXS was picking up. Unfortunately, the owners of the building are going through some changes and have recalled the lease.

At the time of going to press, there is no longer a gay venue in Cheltenham. In Gloucester we have 'The Westgate' and there is 'FairyLiquid' in the city. I will try to get more details before the Newsletter goes to press.

Here is a copy of the front page of their website:

"Started in 2010, FAIRYLIQUID has hosted event parties for Gloucestershire's GLBT community and their friends.

The events are held at Diva Nightclub in Gloucester (the club next door to Liquid), a safe environment where members of GLBT community can be their self's

FAIRYLIQUID is held 8 times year, for all the big events such as Valentine's Day , Easter, Halloween, Christmas and more."

SPECTRUM is a new group in Hereford. They meet once a month in the Mezzanine, Courtyard Centre for the Arts, Edgar Street, Hereford on the third Thursday.

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!

Newsletter and Diary email addresses!

You can now submit articles or ideas for the Diary via email, at the following addresses:

newsletter@gglc-glos.co.uk

diary@gglc-glos.co.uk

Now all I have to do is remember to check.....

The Editor

The Marriage Debate – A Personal Response

Dear Graham,

I read with great interest your article on marriage and Civil Partnership. I work in that field and was impressed with your insight to the subject – have you been listening to some talks given on a Thursday evening??

The debate on partners being granted legal rights really annoys me as the promoters of this viewpoint cannot clarify what they want or why. Let's face it, on a practical issue, when is a partner a "partner with legal rights". From the first date, when you start living together (if that happens), when you have been 'together' for 6 months, a year, 5 years?? When? I agree it is very sad when two people have been in a relationship for years, yet when one dies the other cannot register the death as next of kin. But, be the relationship straight or gay, something can be done to acknowledge that link – Marriage or Civil Partnership. If a couple chose not to do that (usual response is "it is just a piece of paper") then the need to accept the consequences of not having that piece of paper. The alternative is you could go out on date, die, and your "date" could claim part of your estate as "partner".

I think a public acknowledgement that a relationship exists is paramount to our legal system and safety of the individual. But marriage as we have it now – is it the right or only answer? I think not.

We need to challenge this issue head on and 'divorce' state from the church. All legal unions should be of a civil nature – opposite or same sex. They could all be called civil marriage. Every couple then has the option to proceed for a religious blessing or should they want one. It has worked very well in Europe for many years.

While we are at it, let's get rid of the rules of where and when you can hold a civil ceremony. Isn't it time we legalised the celebrant and not the place? Why do we have to get married in a building licensed for the occasion – if a couple want to get married on the village green, why not?

Marriage or C?. Simple answer. Different couple, Same love

So endeth today's lesson – non religious of course!!

Michael

AGM

This is advanced notice of an item that will be raised at the AGM, as required by the Constitution.

“It is proposed that the Committee be given authority to transfer up to £1000 from the Development Fund into the Current account should the committee deem this to be necessary”

You will be aware that £1000 was transferred from Deposit (Development Fund) to Current Account 2 years ago. This was to ensure the continued funding of the Group. Although we have funds to meet current commitments (rent, post office box, website etc) this will leave us very short of available monies. As weekly meeting income does not even cover the rent some weeks, we need to ensure we can meet future commitments when they are due. The proposal sets an upper limit of £1000 and only if the Committee feel it is required. If we can manage without then there will be no need to bring the proposal into effect. We are doing this now as the Constitution states that any withdraw from the Development Fund is by consent of the membership at an AGM or EGM. As such meetings require due notice to be given, it can be several months before consent can be obtained . This can make management of the group difficult. The committee support this proposal

MCH

A man was in a pub drinking double whiskies. The barman said you look down mate, what's up?

The man replied, 'I've just found out my brother is gay and is marrying my best friend'

The next day the man returns, drinking more whisky and looking even more miserable. The barman asks what's up this time?

The man replied 'Now my son is gay'

On the third day the man comes in again and gets drunk on whisky. The barman says to him 'Does anyone in your family like women?'. The man looks up and replies 'apparently my wife does'

Need to help?

We received a leaflet from the St Vincent's and St. George's Association. They offer Home Care and Support Services. If you would like further information contact them at Well Close House, Lansdown Parade, Cheltenham, GL50 2LH or 01242 515035 or via enquiries@stvsandstgs.co.uk

Events Write-up

The event that ended last season and began this one was the Annual Dinner, and I think everyone who attended was impressed by the change of pace. The service was good (though maybe a bit delayed for the hungry among us), the food excellent, and the company wonderful! Rosie was the winner of the Person of the Year award, a most deserving recipient. Speeches were kept to a minimum, to the great delight of everyone, though the Chairman's new joke was even worse than the mouse and elephant tradition!

I missed the scatergeries and Westgate evening, though everyone told me the scatergeries game was good fun.

Music night was enjoyable, at least I enjoyed it, though my selection of old comic songs may not have been to everyone's taste.

Rob delighted us with some exquisite Christmas Cake decoration, and what steady hands he has!

A highlight of the season had to be Rosie's talk and slide show about sex changes and the whole rigmarole around the process of transitioning. There was a large turnout of members, and it was a very interesting and intriguing experience. I think we all learned something, including how much difficulty people have who take this option in their lives in just getting to the point of the operation. Well done Rosie!

One night we decorated the room with a tree and paper chains, under Michael's direction. I didn't tell him, but the following Wednesday I had the lunch the Quakers put on for Oxfam, and everyone was saying how wonderful the decorations looked, unaware of who did them or who I was! I showed some of the group how to make pomades from lemons and cloves, a fiddly but satisfying task.

The party was fun, and has been covered well elsewhere, so quickly on to the post Christmas events!

Not sure how the last coffee and chat of the year went, I was still flat out from over-indulgence...

Mike's New Year quiz apparently went well, the cold weather defeated me that evening, One comment was that it was possible to answer the questions, not sure who that was aimed at, but I will be doing a quiz later in the year.

The Wrapped Auction was not well attended, kudos to those who made it, but a good time was had by all, with some great buys and a decent amount raised.

The film on homophobia had a different twist, and raised a few comments from group members. Maybe it is something that should make us question ourselves? An interesting and thoughtful evening.

Graham, Editor

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**

DID YOU KNOW:

Stamp of Approval

The Queen has personally approved the new stamp honouring Alan Turing, which shows his Bombe code-breaking machine from World War Two. It will be issued on February 23rd in Britain

This has renewed the campaign to seek a posthumous pardon for his conviction for homosexuality in 1952

Gay Retirement Village

A group of elderly Spanish gay men are rebelling against the homophobia of their generation by setting up what will be the country's first gay and lesbian retirement home. They hope to have 120 apartments with 230 residents, with some set aside for people who are HIV positive

Canadian Weddings

The Ontario government announced that 5000 Canadian weddings involving people of the same sex who were not resident in Canada may be illegal. (Oops - who do we know who was married there!!) Further information reveals the union is legal if your union would also be legal in your usual country of domicile. Whew!!

New in!

We have just heard of a new website promoting gay nights out. Unfortunately not in our neck of the woods, but if you are in London or down Brighton way, check this out:

<http://www.gaynightsuk.co.uk>

Graham

Gay & Lesbian Humanist Association (GALHA) 01926 858450	Lesbian & Gay Christian Movement Alan 0117 982 1512	Jewish Lesbian & Gay Help Line Mon & Thurs 020 7706 3123
Gay Bereavement Project 020 8544 8894	Transsexual Help Line Christine 0117 957 0210	Transvestite Help Line Rita 0117 951 4481
Gay Legal Advice (GLAD) Mon—Fri 7—10pm 020 7831 3535	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 01225 851676

Missed??

At the last Committee meeting I bemoaned the fact that for the first time, I didn't even get one entry for my competition. The Newsletter must have been just too absorbing as no one noticed!! So, below is a reprint but the winner will be announced at the AGM.

"Mug?"

Seen the new GGLC mugs – do you secretly desire to get your lips round one? This is your chance to win one, yes, you heard it right, to **WIN** one. The question – well, there isn't one – no – nothing you can look up easily on the internet or remember from school days. No crossword to fill in (well, there was going to be, but I couldn't the grid reproduced on the computer!). ***What I want is the best name for a wine – produced by gay vines.*** These gay vines grow in the UK – picked by hand (moisturised of course – the hands that is not the grapes). So thinking caps on. The winner will be announced at our Christmas Soiree.

Good luck you wino's
MCH" Good luck.

COFFEE ROTA

On the rota? – then many thanks for helping. If you are down to do the coffee, tea etc can you make sure you have the code to get in! If you know we are really low on any supplies then please do tell one of the Committee who can arrange replacements before the following Thursday. Thanks

GGLC Mugs!

These specially commissioned mugs are now available to members for a special discounted price of £3.50. Non-members can still buy them, but for £4.50! Talk to a committee member today!

GREEDY and Bi Visible Bristol

Great name eh. A new night club for bi people opened in Bristol. For details for to <http://bevisiblebristol.wordpress.com> or Jess on 07905597440

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.

National AIDS Helplines

“You can ask what you want to ask”

0800567123

Going to Bristol??

The Bristol Queer Café started earlier this year and meets the last Thursday of every month. We do not have an up to date schedule, but you can reach them on bristolqueercaf@googlemail.com

MCH

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

FORTHCOMING BIRTHDAYS

February

6th Graham V

26th Paul R

March

6th Raymond S

21st Chris M

26th Robert K

29th Andrew D

29th Trevor D

30th Michael C H

April

2nd Paul L J

8th Alan R

9th Jim G

16th Michael W

18th Peter C

21st James W

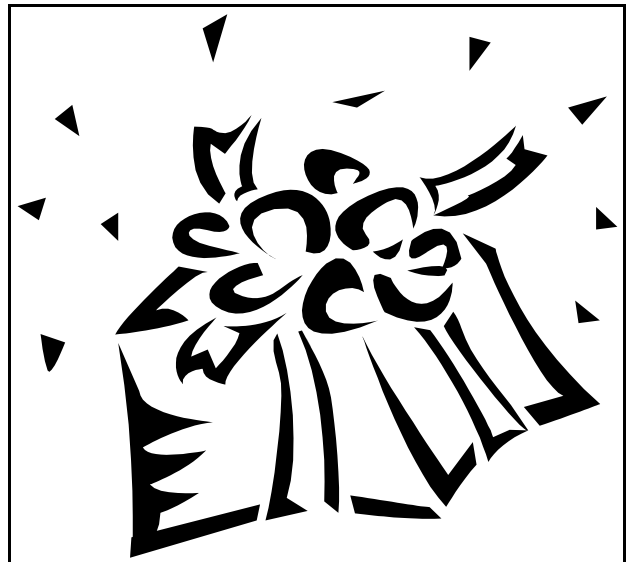
May

2nd Malvin K

5th Davina H

10th Alan L

21st John M



Well, looks like February is a bit quiet, but boy, do things hot up after that! Must be the Spring air making things rise!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU ALL



GGLC's SOCIAL CALENDAR **DIARY OF EVENTS**

February

- 2nd Premier of Untold Stories—Prompt Start Please!
- 9th Paul James—A Talk
- 16th Pancake Night
- 23rd Coffee, Chat and the Raffle

March

- 1st Visit to the Gloucestershire Archives 7pm
at Alvin Street, parking available.
- 8th Bingo by Mike and Rob
- 15th Quiz by Graham
- 22nd Film Night with Mike and Rob
- 29th Coffee, Chat and Raffle—Chairman's Night

April

- 5th Skittles at Cleeve Hill
- 12th Scattergories—a Game
- 19th Coffee, Chat, Raffle and Nominations!
- 26th AGM

May

- 3rd Post AGM relax, possibly something else!
- 10th Dr Smith—A Talk on Health

Advanced warning!

On May 31st we will be having an Indoor Street Party to celebrate a certain event, the Annual Picnic is hopefully on July 8th, and the Rounders have been moved forward so we can avoid freezing to 19th August!

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

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-glos.co.uk** and the email address is **info@gglc-glos.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.