



GGLCommunity News

Winter 2012

Annual Dinner - The Report

.....

DIARY OF EVENTS

CHAIRMAN'S LETTER



Hi Everyone,

Wow – the Olympics and Para Olympics 2012 were fantastic. Even if you don't normally watch sport, there was such excitement and of the whole country joining in and supporting each other.

The Gay Games 2014 are taking place in Cleveland-Akron, Ohio, USA from August 9th to 16th . An anticipated 65 Nations taking part. The ambition of the competitors will be the same, as will the support of those attending and watching. The shame is the whole world will not be taking part.

There has been such terrible injustice inflicted on LGBT people you could fill a whole magazine of stories just from this month. How can the world let a country as big as Russia announce that homosexuality has no part in it's future? Already Russian employers, frightened of the government, are stating any LGBT person need not apply to them for a job. Fear spreads quicker than peace – how long before LGBT people have to wear a pink star.

When terrorists see the hate that comes from some governments it can only stir them on to spreading that hate to everyone who does not believe in what they do.

At times like this I understand how people, like Peter Tatchell, dedicate their lives to the injustice of others. I wish I had the courage to do the same .

Heartfelt as these thoughts are, it is rather heavy and would like to finish on a light note. Glorious Autumn is with us and winter approaches. With it, the season of goodwill to all men and peace on earth. I wish each and everyone of you a peaceful Christmas. Stuck for a present to give this year? – perhaps a donation to a charity that fighting injustice could be the way to solve that problem and help give everyone a chance of a brighter New Year.

Take care,

With warmest wishes

Michael Chair

Jim P

Jim is a long standing member of the gay community and of the GGLC. A recent illness means Jim has not been able to attend the group and he has been missed. He is temporarily residing at Great Western Court where he has to make decisions on his future. Jim, we wish you all the best and are in our thoughts. If we can help in any way, please tell us.

Jim is able to receive visitors but visiting hours are restricted. Do check the hours first before you visit.

I have also been asked to extend our support and fondest wishes to Tony, his partner. The same goes for you Tony – do let us know if we can be of any support.

M

PRIDE

The Pride AGM was fairly well attended and thank you to those from the group who took the time and trouble to attend. It was a good turn out from us.

After two years in the role, I decided not to stand for Chair of Pride again. There was a distinct lack of enthusiasm for anyone else to take on the role, but it was filled by the end of the evening. Best wishes to Chris Marsh. It is not a full committee, which is a shame, but hope they will obtain more support as the year goes by.

Alan and I went to Swindon Pride. We did not see the Parade but do go to the event at Old Town Park. Despite the weather, it was very well attended with lots going on. We saw some friends from the group manning the Cycling Club stall and they were doing a stalwart job. Gaywest were there.

Now we have a bigger gazebo, I can see the GGLC attending next year. As far as I know, Weston Pride was called off unless anyone knows better?

MCH

Gay West Picnic- Sunday August 05 at "Camers" in Old Sodbury

Despite the atrocious weather this year the turn out was extremely high—around 40 brave souls. The rain never really let up so we had our picnic under the gazebos. Gerry as usual was our host and welcomed everyone and then introduced 3 members of "Exit Stage Left" a talented young theatre group who sang a variety of tunes including one of my favourites - Adele's "Make you feel my Love". Gerry stepped in to sing solo and a very funny version of Victoria Wood's " Let's Do It". We were able to make a (very brief) trip around the garden which as usual looked quite beautiful. Mischa then gave us a rendition of 3 of her poems. A wet, but very enjoyable afternoon

Peter C

Skittles—7th July 2012

Once more the skittles played at the Cleeve Hill Golf Course on the 7th July was attended by six ladies and thirteen gentlemen. The three games played prior to the meal were won by the ladies, namely Julie, whose total points were the highest.

Next at 8.30pm came the meal, served promptly, which was also enjoyed.

The second half of the evening was the Killer round, the three lives allowed were slowly whittled away, leaving Bill and Jan to play. The ladies won again, and a prize of £19 plus a Cup was given.

Our thanks goes to the sticker-up of the skittles, who was recompensed with £19, and to the Chairman who kept the scores. Also Ray, who organised the event.

Skittles will now be put aside until the spring, as trying to get up to Cleeve Hill in winter is always an interesting experience!

Please return the Cups for the next meeting.

Bill

Wait for one bus, then two come along at once!!

Our treasurer send many thanks for the success of the “Bus Stop”. Many thanks to Ray who has managed to get £50 profit out of you- so far.

Alan

HOMELESS – not just those on the street, but us! It was such a shock to hear of the attack on the Friends Meeting House and the resulting fire damage. Just as it had been redecorated and was ready to move back in to. Feel so sorry for them. We have sent a message of support from the Group.

Joy at The Fountain, came to our rescue again and we have a home there on Thursdays, certainly up until Christmas. They will try to let us know in advance of any nights where we need to take the upstairs room, so those with mobility difficulties can be prepared where possible.

We will keep you updated on any changes and these will be on the website.

Many thanks Joy

M

Christmas Party Thursday 20th December

In our usual meeting room, we could all bring our own contributions to the Christmas Buffet. We obviously cannot do that this year. So, the Committee have asked the Landlady of The Fountain to provide a buffet for the Christmas do. The cost will be met by group funds. Come along for a sing song, pass the parcel and a jolly good old ‘Knees up’

Alan

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

Membership update

I am pleased to report that the group membership number is holding steady at 55. It's also very pleasing that we are attracting more lady members. We welcome Jay S, Julie S, Janice M, Michele C and Ronnie A as new members. A very warm welcome to you all !

If any member with an email address would be happy to receive their newsletter by email please inform me by sending your request to membership@gglc.co.uk As the cost of postage has risen a lot we will try and save money where possible. If you still wish to continue to receive it by post you need do nothing.

Rob P, Membership Secretary

TRIPETTE

In the last edition of our Newsletter I mentioned a couple of ideas for day trips away – perhaps we could resurrect the groups weekend away?

The response was nil, zip, blank, zero and nought so there will be nothing official organised. Some of go to the theatre, days out etc so if you are interested, let me know

MCH

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.

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

From 7.30 – 10.00pm

Email contact: fridaywomen@rocketmail.com

We charge a minimum of £1 per person. This goes towards the cost of the room and tea/coffee.

There's a no alcohol policy on the premises.

Additional donations welcome – it's still a cheap evening!

Events Write-up

Now, what can I remember of the last couple of months? Well, to tell the truth, probably a lot less than I would like! One day I am going to remember to write down my notes the day after a meeting... possibly!

Anyhow, here goes. The Summer programme started with a multiple choice quiz by Mike B., which was fun, and just goes to show that even with the answers in front of us, it still isn't easy!

Following on was our film night, these are extremely well received, as Rob N. has a wonderful selection of theme related films ranging from the funny to the thought provoking.

I missed the Summer Flowers talk, so have no idea quite what went on—as we were still allowed to meet the next week, it must have gone well!

The next evening suffered from a confusion of errors, so sadly we didn't have the ladies there, but there is always next time. The next week was our coffee and chat, which was as popular as always, it's good to have time to catch up with friends.

Mike S. came along to give us an eye opening talk about the influence of the EU on our daily lives. This is a question that is coming back into the arena, so it is important to keep abreast of various angles.

Mike and Rob's bingo was reportedly as much fun as ever, though I did miss this meeting. Thank you lads, people told me the next week how much they enjoyed the evening!

The came the event of the season, my talk on Barcelona! It may be my opinion is slightly influenced in this, but at least one person in the audience didn't fall asleep, so that is a success!

The next few meetings were affected by most of the Committee and several regular attendees heading off on holiday, at the same time. Still, we had a good time at Peter's News Quiz, run by me in Peter's absence, and it was a very relaxed and laidback event.

On Nellie Night we saw several episodes of old style Northern comedy. It was interesting to see how there were obviously gay characters as part of the casts, and how the old humour still works well today. It will be interesting to see how many of today's comedy programs can still be watched in thirty years time.

Alan's Night with Barbra Streisand (he was hosting, it wasn't.. Oh well, never mind..) was a huge success, and I was very sad to have missed it. However, it seems the members want a reprise, so I will have a chance later on.

So that is it for this issue, I hope you have all had as much fun as I have during our meetings, and I hope the next session will be as enjoyable.

Graham, Newsletter Editor

Composite Guy

Tall, lean and lithe, the essence of allure, an intoxicating brew,
Beautiful face, enviable frame, beguiling honest and true.
Astute, hirsute with the attributes of Alpha.
Only Beta, defined and never far from my mind.
All his muscle groups look good on his Birthday [& in a] suit.
More than pleasing on the eye my body yearns for this composite guy
Searching columns and lists—does he even exist?
Impossibly handsome with a highly developed mind,
Sun drenched, sun kissed, top of my wish list.
Spare me a second glance? [not a chance]
Cherry picking overtly masculine traits,
Not displayed by my circle of mates [loves unkind]
Google til you die but he's not of this world [he inhabits the sky]
Sent from heaven above—stranger to the love of another [self]
Faced with perfection, imaginary you, what's a quasiman to do?

Accept my (com)passionate kisses & I'll be by your missus,
Put something hot on the table, shore up your life, make it stable
See growing contentment in your eyes
Spell out your words when you're unable,
Become your Arthur, Martha, Mable?
Live to please seek nothing in return,
Just your presence, your company, I'll learn
To put my dreams aside & conceal the disappointment in my eyes,
Find security, understanding, something deep & meaningful—Love
This man, partner of choice, my imperfect compromise guy.

A poem sent in for publication, source and author unknown.

Snow at Christmas?

The forecast says there is a possibility of snow this Christmas. We won't be here to share it with you but there is a fair chance we will get some anyway. We have decided to go to Canada this Christmas – where the forecast is well into 'minus' degrees.

We shall miss the group Christmas knees up this year but are preparing "pass the parcel" to leave with you! Can we wish each and every one of you a joyful Christmas season and New Year that brings you what you wish for yourself.

With fondest wishes
Michael and Alan

DID YOU KNOW?

Most of the Thursday night events are run by the members of the committee and group?

We are one of the few inclusive gay groups for men and women

We produce 70 Newsletters each edition but these are read by over 500 people a month (including the website)

Our new website has over 10,000 hits in just 5 months

Rounders and Picnic on Rodborough Common Stroud

It's Sunday afternoon on 19th August 2012. Time for our annual get together on Rodborough Common at Stroud. It's a nice day this year, much better than the previous two years which were cold and windy. Total numbers eventually arrived and we pitched camp taking care to avoid the cow pats. It was good to see that we had several ladies in our party that day. At this point we were thinking more about our empty tumms than about hitting a ball so we all tucked in to a picnic lunch for some considerable time.

We eventually started to play rounders on a very full tum but not sticking rigidly to all the rules. The outstanding players, on this occasion were Miss R with a very strong right arm and a keen eye and also Ray S, who from memory, scored the largest number of rounds. Coming in also as a very memorable players were Michael C H. and Mike B. Both coming up behind with cracking hits and hysterical uncontrollable fits of laughter. It must be said that Brian B made a very good bowler getting his ball over at just the right height.

We eventually got rather tired and so had more tea and cake. A few crept away to get ice creams from the van along the road. It was a very nice day and we look forward to seeing you all, and hopefully more, next year.

Rob P & Mike B.

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.

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!

HEALTH and WELFARE SERVICE

In my role as the Group's Health and Welfare rep, I have succeeded in securing a visit from a member of STONEWALL HQ, who will be coming to us on Thursday, 17 January 2013 to give us a talk on growing older as a gay person in the UK today. This is a topic which I believe is currently of great interest. I have been in touch with Louise Kelly of STONEWALL who has confirmed that she will be coming to meet us on 17 January - I'll forward more details as and when I receive them...

Rgds

Robert N.

National AIDS Helplines

“You can ask what you want to ask”
0800567123

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) 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

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**

GGLC Annual Dinner

On Saturday 27th of October, the Annual Dinner was held high on the hills above Gloucester City! The night was cold and clear, but inside was warm and welcoming, as the twenty six of us gathered for this celebration of the Group. As has been the custom for the past couple of years, it was a less formal do than previously, with mine being the only dinner jacket in sight, but hey, how often do I get to dress up in such a smart fashion, and how could I resist the temptation to show off my rainbow bow tie, cummerbund and matching handkerchief!

Anyhow, back to the dinner....

We were seated at 8pm, around a long table with beautiful multi-coloured tea roses decorating it's length, drinks were flowing, and the conversation sparkled with our usual wit and wisdom (hmmm.... maybe some day we should try to raise the tone?). The first course arrived promptly, either a flavoursome soup, or an artfully arranged prawn cocktail, both delicious and much enjoyed. This was followed by a main course of roast beef or chicken, with all the trimmings. There was a delay with the chicken, just shows how fresh it was since they were still trying to catch it, but goodness, didn't it look good when it arrived!

We had a much earned rest before desert, giving us a chance to catch up on the chat, made much easier with the table layout. The music was wonderful, not so loud as to drown conversation, but nicely chosen to evoke memories, and I am afraid to say, some of us, at least down my end of the table, did sing along a little.

Thankfully, the desert arrived in time to put an end to my musical attempts, and we enjoyed sticky toffee pudding, which was declared 'lush', or a selection of cheese and biscuits, the cheese being of such a standard that there was almost a riot when a spare plate of it was found, and people clamoured for more!

Now that we were all suitably tranquillised by good eating and drinking, our Chairman, Michael CH called on our newest member, Ronnie, to give the Loyal Toast, which she managed with aplomb. Michael then gave his speech, which was recorded in detail by your Newsletter Editor. Unfortunately, due to post dinner complications (and a very nice wine), the notes made are largely indecipherable, so I will have to do my best and make the rest up. He thanked the contributors of raffle prizes, Mike and Rob for running the raffle, and Alan for the floral decorations and music. A new joke was told, and it was as good as all previous Chairman's Jokes have been.... Finally, he spoke about how nice it was, despite all the problems with location of group meetings, that we now have a significant cadre of lady members, to which there was wholehearted agreement.

Coffee and mints were served, followed by the presentation of the Person of the Year cup. Rosie, last year's winner, was unable to attend, so Mike read from a

speech she had kindly sent. The cup was awarded to Jill O. from the Council, who has worked tirelessly for gay equality despite staffing and funding reductions (think there is only her left!). She was not able to attend either, so Peter C. accepted the cup on her behalf.

In an unprecedented move, this year the Committee had decided to award a special silver salver to Ray S., for his outstanding contributions to the Group, which proved a very popular decision with the members.

A collection had been made during coffee, and was presented to Wendy from the venue as a thank you to the staff.

The raffle was held, with much oohing and aahing, Jim and Tony being one of the winners, which was greeted enthusiastically by the company—even not being able to attend, they still join in! Quite what Michael and Stuart will do with the special edition snow board is unknown, but brought out some ribald suggestions. The raffle raised £95, which goes towards Group funds, a welcome addition and thank you all for purchasing tickets.

Gradually the evening wore down, and people began to drift homewards, hopefully as content and happy as I was. It had been a wonderful, relaxing and enjoyable occasion.

With luck, we will be able to get copies of the various speeches, including a few words from Jill O., for inclusion with the Christmas Special. If not, they may well make an appearance later in the year when I need to fill space....

Graham V., Newsletter Editor

Any inaccuracies in timing, what was said, or what actually happened are entirely due to the quality of wine, and not anything else...

Plagued by junk texts? Type 7726 to fight back

A short number can help you fight back against the avalanche of junk text messages sent to your mobile. Forward unwanted junk text messages to **7726** – these numbers spell SPAM on a traditional phone keypad. This can help your network track down the marketing cheats. (If you are with **Vodafone**, you should send junk texts to **87726**)

Also, you can put a stop to nuisance telephone calls. Register both land and mobile numbers with the Telephone Preference Service. This bars unsolicited marketing calls on both a home and mobile number. Call 0845 070 0707 or visit tpsonline.org.uk

I have personally used the text number and it does work. From sometime 3 “PPI” texts a day I haven’t had one for 3 weeks now.

Michael

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

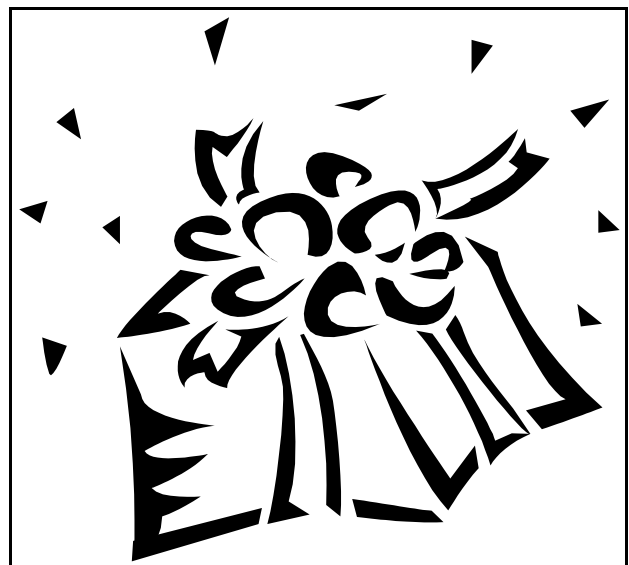
SPECTRUM is a group in Hereford. They meet once a month in the Mezzanine, Courtyard Centre for the Arts, Edgar Street, Hereford on the third Thursday.

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!

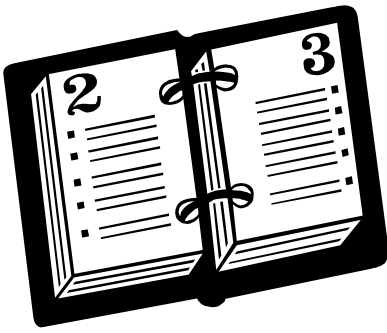
FORTHCOMING BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|----------------|--------------|
| November | January |
| 2nd Meg H | 7th David L |
| 2nd Robin H | 8th Romeo V |
| 7th Robert F | 12th Peter H |
| 13th William R | 21st Iain C |
| | 23rd Jim P |
| December | 27th Julie S |
| 9th Robert N. | 31st Tony R |
| 13th John W | |



Goodness! What a huge number of birthdays this issue (obviously other things 'issued' all those years back!). Well done all, and many to come!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU ALL



GGLC's SOCIAL CALENDAR DIARY OF EVENTS

November

- 1st Make your Little Guy—fun craft!
8th Tinkle Your Ivories—bring your own music evening
9th Pub Night at the Westgate Pub
15th Film night - Who Killed Baby Jane?
22nd An evening of Mince - turn to see what fun you could be
missing!
29th Coffee, Chat and Raffle

December

- 6th GGLC - The Beginning. Reminiscence and History from a
founder member
13th A Festive Quiz with Rob and Mike
14th Pub Night at the Westgate Pub
20th Christmas Soiree. We all sit together for a traditional
Christmas Tea with Pass the Parcel and a balloon gripped
between those firm thighs!!
27th Coffee, Chat and Raffle

January

- 3rd New Year Quiz Do with traditional "Pin the Penis"
10th Wrapped Auction
12th Pub Night at the Westgate Pub
17th Terence Higgins Trust
24th New Years Quiz with Peter
31st Coffee, Chat and Raffle

Advanced warning!

*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.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.