



GGLCommunity News

Autumn 2023

Annual Dinner Details

The latest News, Views and Opinion

DIARY OF EVENTS

CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

Dear Friends,

We are so lucky meeting in the centre of Gloucester City. For those of you at our August meeting, you will know we were locked out of the Friends Meeting House!. I managed to get us past the gate but the main door was bolted shut. The Builders were in and forgot we were meeting!! At least we won't be charged for room hire!

The Robert Raikes pub were so good – at a moment's notice they agreed we could use their main public room and by the time I got back to tell you all, the staff had a “Private Meeting” sign on the door. We were made most welcome and enjoyed a really good evening. The Landlord collects for the pub Charity – Dementia UK – and we were pleased to donate something to his collecting pot.

Within minutes of arriving at the Pub I was asked by one of our Members, if we could meet there regularly , which opens a very old much discussed subject. The answer, for many reasons is – sorry but no. We tried it several times, but it never lasted more than a few months. The reason we meet where we are is because it is a safe meeting place, we are not subject to Landlords' whims or customers' demands. One of the several reasons we meet in the City Centre is so we CAN go to a pub after the meeting if we want. It used to be a regular thing when we met weekly.

I few editions ago, I put in the Newsletter a private point of view regarding 'Trans' people. I was putting across a point of view, not necessarily mine, to get a response and it did get a limited reaction. What I could not foretell is how the subject matter seems to have taken over our lives. It Is hard to read any newspaper without any subject including the words “Trans” or “woke” or a whole page article on some subject related to it. I was horrified to read a child, under 16, who cannot read or write, has 14 different mental conditions, is being allowed to begin transition. Everyone, no matter their ability or disability, has the right to choose but I do hope they are closely supervised and advised and given a long length of time at each stage to ensure it is right for them and what they really want. It all seems to happen so quickly. How difficult it must be, what a decision to reach – we can all remember conflict when we first realised we were 'different' but didn't always know in what way? For some it was at an early age – for some much later in life when they were able to come to terms with their sexuality. To be born a gender but feel it isn't right is another ball game altogether.



I have tried to get around to some of the rural Prides – Cirencester and Cinderford were the only two I managed to get to. Did anyone get to Tewkesbury or Swindon? If so, do let us know how they went. I was talking to a group of trans people, who had their own stall. I introduced myself and was telling them about the Group. One person just stood up and said – what you telling us for “I’m not gay – I’m trans”

I explained we are a ‘Community Group’ and for anyone who will treat everyone equally, no matter their personal situation, gender, sexuality, ethnicity, colour, creed etc. If it not something they want then would that person and their friends like to set up their own Group – is that something we could help with? It was all very interesting and being younger, I gave them contact details for Gayglos.

Probably will upset someone again, but this is a personal opinion. I find it difficult to reconcile how a person can stand in the street, at a Pride, and proudly state to anyone who would listen, they are ‘Trans’ and declare what they want, yet will not explore other groups and people outside of their immediate group. Or as was said to me “we don’t get on with old people”. B*****y cheek. Who do you think fought for the rights they enjoy today. It didn’t just happen. Perhaps for future pride we ought to put up a “History Board” for those who think ‘gay rights’ came in the same day the dinosaurs died out.

Anyway, that is my bit said!

It won’t be long until Gloucestershire Pride so look forward to seeing you at the GGLC Tombola on September 9th.

Take care

Michael

Membership Update

We are now 66 active members. It is a decrease of 3 people since our Spring membership report in our Newsletter.

We do not have any new members to report.

I would like to thanks all members that decided to renew their membership in the last 3 months.

Sergio

Membership Secretary

Bisexual Visibility/Awareness Week

PRISM let us know about Bisexual Visibility/Awareness Week which runs from the 16th of September this year, and the following information has been put together by their Bisexual Champion (Dani D).

Bisexuality is part of a person's identity, just like being straight (heterosexual) is. Everyone's sexuality affects their lives in lots of different ways. It impacts our relationships, how we see the world and how we relate to others.

You don't have to have been in a relationship or had 'experience' with different genders to be considered bisexual. It's about how you **feel** towards other genders.

Why Do We Need Bi Visibility Week?

Many bisexual people have had negative reactions to their sexuality. Surprisingly, these negative reactions are often happening in LGBT+ spaces too. I personally have been to LGBT friendly spaces and been told that I don't look queer enough or that my voice doesn't count because I'm currently in a relationship with a man. If bisexual people are having a tough time within the very spaces that are built to include them, you can imagine how hard it is outside of those circles too.

Ways To Show Allyship

1. Wear a bisexuality badge or pin during bi viability week
2. Make sure that all LGBT+ communications/events explicitly state that it includes bisexual people
3. Learn more about bisexuality (look at the resources below)
4. Use language that doesn't erase bisexual people e.g. using the term gay as a catch all phrase or assuming two women are lesbians
5. Challenge biphobia or bi erasure when you hear it

Resources

<https://bimedia.org/TheBisexualityReport.pdf>

<https://www.stonewall.org.uk/bi-hub>

<https://www.thetrevorproject.org/resources/article/understanding-bisexuality/>

<https://www.mind.org.uk/media-a/4688/stand-bi-me.pdf>

Bi : the hidden culture, history, and science of bisexuality

A reminder from our Secretary about Group postal and email addresses

Please bear in mind that all letters and emails to the Group (i.e. sent to 50 Knowles Rd GL14TP and info@gglc.co.uk) are delivered initially to me as Secretary. I will always endeavour to reply and confirm receipt on the same day and inform other committee members as required. Cheques received are usually banked within 2 days of receipt

Many thanks for your understanding and co-operation

Peter C

All Out

All Out is a global movement fighting for a world where no one has to sacrifice their family, freedom, safety or dignity because of who they are or who they love.

All Out works with LGBT+ organisations across the globe where they risk their freedom and even their lives to help those persecuted to escape to safety.

Most campaigns start as online petitions directed at decision makers.

All Out raises the voices of LGBT+ activists and gets thousands to back them up.

All Out now has one million members in 190 countries. In more than 70 countries it is a crime to be gay. In 10 it can cost you your life.

For a few pounds a month you can be part of this movement. You can become an equality champion and help LGBT+ people in other countries who are not as fortunate as ourselves. You can even use All Out to campaign against conversion therapy in this country.

Further information about All Out and its current campaigns can be found on their website: allout.org/en

If you cannot make a monthly donation at this time, you can always make a one off donation.

Howard H

Vice-Chair and an equality champion for All Out

PRISM

PRISM 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.

Birthdays Published in the Newsletter

As you are aware, it is a tradition to publish birthdays of our members in our Newsletters.

It was brought to my attention that it might be that some members are not aware that our Newsletter is published in our website and also distributed to a number of LGBTQIA2S+ organisations.

As you are aware **we do not publish full names** in our birthday lists, but it might be that some members prefer not to have their birthdays published on it.

If your preference is **NOT** to have your birthday published in our newsletters, please let me know and I will make sure it won't be included in future publications.

Sergio, Membership Secretary

TREASURER – STOP PRESS

At the “Rounders Picnic” on Minchinhampton Common last Sunday, we were greeted with a Member joining us. All smiles, he said “Guess what” – “You have a Treasurer”. Several mouths dropped open in amazement and it went very quiet. Ian H has offered to be the Group Treasurer and we are delighted to accept.

Ian has been a Member for some time and already holds the position of Treasurer with a work related position. I am meeting with Ian as soon as we are both free to conduct the ‘hand over’.

This is a huge relief – it is an important position for any organisation. I have been ‘unofficially’ looked after the bookwork (bank statements and entries) side of things and Peter has so kindly agreed he will continue to bank monies, collections etc for us. That is the part that is so difficult to do as Treasurer – we all know how difficult it is to deposit at the bank – particularly when it is mainly coins. Thanks to Peter and Ian and I am sure Ian will update you at the next Newsletter. Mx

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

GLOUCESTERSHIRE PRIDE

ON 9TH September, the Parade departs at 11.15 am from Gloucester Cathedral and makes it way to the Park. There is a website with all the details and how to apply to take part in the Parade.

The route should end at the Park around 12 noon when the entertainment will start. Our Tombola Stall will be set up and ready to go. At our September meeting we will decide where the monies raised will go.

Can you help set up on the Saturday morning? Putting up two “pop up gazebos, tables, and of course lots of bottles and the tombola drum. Many hands make light work. It also means that during the afternoon, we can all take turns to watch the stall while other have the chance to wander around and see what is happening.

Let Peter or Mike B know in advance please, either by email or on Group night.

All bottle donations welcome but if possible please avoid bringing them on Pride day. They all have to be labelled first.

Many thanks

M

Supporting Older LGBT+ Communities

The charity Reengage has reached out to us through their LGBT Engagement Officer, Sam Higgins.

This year they launched their national, UK wide befriending service for LGBT+ people aged 75 and over, called Rainbow Call Companions.

They are looking for like minded organisations who may be able to help work with them in order to reach and support older LGBT+ people who may need it. The community is extremely difficult to reach due to a culture of effectively being 'in hiding'.

This is something we as a Group have talked about in the past, and offered various organisations our assistance. Hopefully we will be able to get someone down to give us a bit of a talk about their work at some stage, but until then, have a look at their web site, www.reengage.org.uk

Graham, Editor

Group Telephone

The Group has a new telephone number, 07942383275. It is a single payment for a year, covering all texts and calls, and a phone has been donated by Craig.

Graham, Editor

ROYALTY

In the last Newsletter, I mentioned I was invited to Buckingham Palace for a garden party. It was a wonderful afternoon. Weather quite sunny, found a seat on the lawn and met some lovely people (including a Vicar who had just burnt down her own church!!). Bands were playing, everyone dressed up, met an African Prince although no actual British royalty. We were very close though and was able to get some good photo's. Lemonade on arrival, music, arrival of the Royal family which comprised of William and Kate, Edward and Sophie, Anne and the Gloucester's. It is obviously pre-arranged who they will speak to and who is brought out to meet them.

Alan was not well enough to join me , so my long standing friend Pauline (one of my godsons Mum) joined me. We enjoyed a terrific afternoon. It seems unreal waiting to go into the Palace and the "common herd" are standing outside taking pictures of you! Now I know what a real Queen has to go through!!

As if that was not enough, we then received an Invitation to watch the Royal procession of the Royal Order of the Garter and St. Georges Chapel, Windsor Castle.

The Procession is part of the service, which the public are not allowed to attend, inside the Chapel. We had seats outside right in the front and with an Order of Service, could join in.

The procession arrive on foot and leave in carriages. We were able to get some great shots of the King and Queen and all the 'Garters' as they passed just feet from us.

I hope to get a book made up of our experiences. Yet again a most wonderful experience and thoroughly enjoyable. Mich



MINCHINHAMPTON COMMON

Our annual event at the Common took place on Sunday 20th August. For the first time in weeks it was a lovely hot sunny afternoon – except in Minchinhampton. Luckily, Michael CH took a pop up gazebo – just in case- otherwise we would have been drenched. By the time we erected the unit, which only takes a few minutes, our tables were awash, drinks were knocked over by the rain and lightweight plates were staring to wash away!.

We all managed to crowd underneath for the rest of the afternoon. Nice and cosy. Up to that point there were some ‘stunt kite’ flyers practising for an exhibitions. By the time we were ready to leave it had brightened up and we were able to take the gazebo away with us. Then it was the best part of the day - some stayed on to enjoy the moment as we drove home in the sunshine!

It was the first time Alan has been well enough to go out for months and it was so good he could join in, for a while at least.

Thanks to the few that joined in – it was a nice afternoon and thanks to Mike and Rob for setting it up.

M

JULIAN CLARY

Julian is appearing in his one man show on Sunday 5th May 2024 at the Everyman Theatre in Cheltenham – “A Fistful of Clary”. A warning before you read further, the show itself will be to the point, rude, outrageous, etc. If you are offended then don’t but a ticket! For the rest of us who would enjoy a really good night out then we have tickets available. Really good seats in Row L in the Stalls – tickets price is £33 per ticket. The Group is subsidising this Theatre trip by £5 per ticket so that makes it £28.

I bought 9 tickets as they were seated together and as at the beginning of September only have 4 left. I will agree to hold tickets but they must be paid for by the end of this year.

If you want a ticket/s, contact me at wobagemjch@hotmail.co.uk or at the Group .

Michael, Chair

National AIDS Helplines

“You can ask what you want to ask”

0800567123

Why do LGBTQ+ join extremist organisations?

This month I was tempted to respond to our Chairman's Letter, but I will leave that to you, our Membership, for the next edition—if you would like to respond but would like editorial or proof-reading, please ask!

Recently, I have been increasingly aware of high profile LGBTQ+ people who are part of extreme organisations, most notably the Alt-Right groups.

If you look to European politics, there are a number of far right wing politicians who are also gay, and the same is true in the US and to some extent the UK. There are also podcasters, influencers and others, all pushing what seem to be fairly extreme policies while being in a minority that their organisations have traditionally persecuted.

This has always confused me, as when you look at history, there is always an eventual push-back. The most well known is of course, Ernst Rhom, who was an ardent supporter of Hitler, whom eventually had Rhom shot during the Night of the Long Knives.

On the other end of the spectrum was the Russian Revolution(s) (there were many...). Of the original revolutionaries there was a high percentage of gay people, and homosexuality was initially decriminalised. In subsequent revolutions, most of these were purged, and when Stalin came to power he re-criminalized homosexuality.

Others today join religions with intolerant views, often declaring their 'gayness' has been 'prayed away'. We all know how well that works...

So why, when the evidence is there that it is not safe and the organisation will turn on you for being LGBTQ+, do people still join and be vocal? Possibly it's because they espouse some of the same views on other topics, but as we are seeing in the US, once traction is gained by an organisation in one area, it is rapidly expanded—in many States where Trans or Abortion rights have been curtailed, they are now after the wider gay community.

How is it possible to belong to an organisation with members openly espousing hatred and often violence towards other minorities and not realise that you will be next?

I do not understand it, and probably never will. All I can do is ask the question, in the hopes that those who make that choice will think about it.

Regards

Graham, Editor

Note this is an Editorial, and is not necessarily reflecting the views of the GGLC

GGLC Membership Payments

GGLC members have 3 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 loose a percentage of the money through administration costs. So please pay by BACS if you can or cash at our meetings.

Many Thanks, Treasurer.

Rainbow Cuppa

Under the auspices of the LGBT+ Partnership, there are occasional meet ups at the Sober Parrot in Cheltenham. There was one on April 1st, 1pm to 3:30pm. Not sure when the next is, but keep an eye out for any emails we forward, or check out their website.

Graham, Editor

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.

Raffle

So, the raffle is back on, when we have face to face meetings.. Due to the current changing situation, we have to play this by ear, just bring along all the goodies you have been saving up for when we do meet up!

Graham, Editor

G.G.L.C. Annual Dinner 2023

will be held at

Hatherley Manor Hotel Gloucester GL2 9QA

Saturday October 28th 2023

7.00 for 7.30 p.m.

£20 (Members) and £25.00 (Non Members)

Please use the booking form below to reserve your place(s)
and return with payment and your choice of one item for each course from
the menu attached to:

Secretary GGLC c/o 50 Knowles Road, Gloucester , GL1 4TP

(Please use [info @gglc.co.uk](mailto:info@gglc.co.uk) if returning by email not membership@gglc)

NO LATER THAN MONDAY OCTOBER 9th 2023

Please reserveplaces at £20(Member) andat £25.00 (non-member)

I enclose Cheque/P.O for £made payable to GGLC or will pay by BACS ()
(30-93-48 00902186)

Name..... Address.....

.....

.....

Email or telephone number to acknowledge receipt of your booking and menu choice

..... (to save money, tickets will not be issued)

*****Please let us know of any special dietary requirements*****

(Please note: Discount price is only available to MEMBERS of GGLC at time of booking)

Menu choice for GGLC Annual Dinner 2023

To be held at:

Hatherley Manor Hotel, Down Hatherley Lane, Gloucester GL2 9QA
Saturday October 28th - 7.00 p.m. for 7.30 p.m.

Please choose one item from each course (Cheeseboard will be included)
*and return with payment and booking form to: **Secretary GGLC, 50 Knowles Road Gloucester GL14TP or (info@gglc.co.uk)***

First Course:

Classic Tomato Soup

Ham Hock Terrine, Red Onion Marmalade and Toasted Brioche

Smoked Mackerel, Green Bean and Fennel Salad Mushroom

Main Course:

Herb Stuffed Chicken Wrapped in Pancetta, Fondant Potato, Wilted Greens,
Tarragon Sauce

Roulade of Belly Pork and Black Pudding with Tewkesbury Mustard Mash, Bean
Bundle, Stock Sauce

Pan Roasted Salmon, New Potatoes, Evesham Asparagus with Dill Cream

Dessert:

Apple Bread & Butter Pudding, Cinnamon Cream Berry

Lemon Cheesecake, Citrus Curd

Strawberry and Raspberry Meringue, Chantilly Cream Tea

Cheeseboard Selection for Sharing

Tea and coffee included and guests are responsible for their own drinks

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

Sept

2nd Tracey-Ann

4th Neil W

8th Michael B

11th Brian H

15th Peter T

19th Paulo

30th Navi

Oct

1st Peter S

28th Bessem

Nov

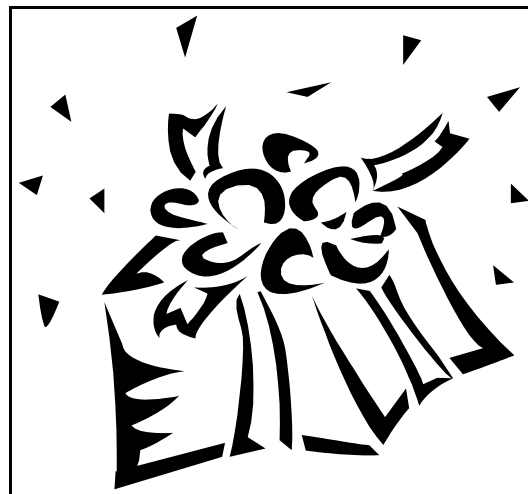
17th Roger T

Dec

9th Howard

9th Robert N

13th John T



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU ALL



GGLC's SOCIAL CALENDAR DIARY OF EVENTS



September

7th GGLC Meeting

9th Pride in Gloucestershire (including Bottle Stall!)

21st GGLC Virtual Meeting

October

5th GGLC Meeting

19th GGLC Virtual Meeting

28th Annual Dinner

November

2nd GGLC Meeting

16th GGLC Virtual Meeting

December

7th GGLC Meeting

21st GGLC Virtual Meeting

Advanced Warnings and Notes!

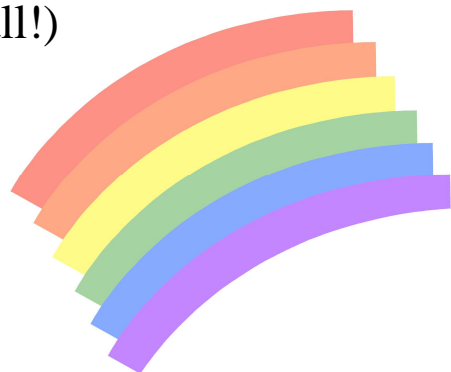
Well, in January we will be having our Wrapped Auction, with hopefully a few more people this year.

As mentioned elsewhere, we are organising other events. They are not fixed enough to add into the diary, so look out for notifications!

This can all change at short notice—please keep an eye on the web site and your email!

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

GGLC



GGLC



GGLC

**GLOUCESTERSHIRE
GAY & LESBIAN
COMMUNITY**

**c/o 50 Knowles Road,
Gloucester GL1 4TP**

07942 383275

**www.gglc.co.uk
info@gglc.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. 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, and a new telephone number 07942383275

Your Committee (till AGM)

Chairman: Michael C-H.

Vice-Chair: Howard H.

Secretary: Peter C.

Treasurer: Ian H, (Co-Opted)

Member: Rob P.

Member: Peter S.

Member: Sergio (Membership Secretary)

Newsletter Editor: Graham V.

The committee roles not voted on are decided at the first Committee Meeting.

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

HELPING HAND

Don't forget the Group is here to help one another. If you are unwell, still needing to self isolate or stuck, need groceries or medication, contact our Secretary or Membership Secretary. That will find someone who can help you.

Cover: Floating rainbow over the Derbyshire countryside, taken by your Editor!