



# GGLCommunity News

Winter 2023

Annual Dinner Review and AGM Notice

The latest News, Views and Opinion

DIARY OF EVENTS

# CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

Hi

It was so strange at the Annual Dinner for the Loyal Toast to be 'The King' after the sad loss of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Second. Personally, I still get very emotional when I watch the TV and realise she has gone.

But the new King Charles has started his reign and made a good start. As many of you know, I met Queen Camilla several times over the years, and since she joined the Royal Family she has never put a foot wrong.

She is the support he needs and I wish them all the best for the future of their reign. I don't envy them taking on that job in their 70's, just when the rest of us are hoping to relax!

We had an 'Elizabethan age 1 and 2' but what would we call the reign of Charles? 'Charlston' doesn't sound right.

Group 'face -to-face' meetings over the past few months have kept getting better and better. We had 25 in attendance two months in ago and last month. In December, we had a talk about Hospice near Minchinhampton, Stroud. It was so interesting – it is not a hospice in the usual sense but more of a Well being Centre to help folk after their diagnosis. We have been invited to pay them a visit in the New Year. They are looking for volunteers to help with their 'Hospice at Home' work. If you knew of a friend or relative with a terminal diagnosis you will know just how important time is – time to build memories, for all to be prepared as best they can and to show their love and care. If you might be interested, let me know and I can share their booklet with you.

Christmas is coming upon us fast now and somehow I seem to less prepared than I was last year. Luckily, we bought several Christmas gifts in Canada.

Our Christmas party will be different this year as the group are providing the food and soft drink. You just need to bring any wine – please remember we are on church premises so alcohol cannot be sold.

Myself and my husband, Alan, wish you all a very Merry Christmas and





a Happy New Year.

With friendship

Michael

### **Skittles!**

The ever popular skittles event will be on Sunday 12th February at 4pm. Venue is the Farmers Club on Sandhurst Lane, Gloucester, and a buffet will be supplied. The cost will be announced in the New Year, so keep an eye on your email or listen in at the meetings!

Graham, Editor

### **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 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.

### **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

## **WORLD AIDS DAY**

I remember so well when December 1st World Aids Day was more prominent. There would be announcements on the media, Church Services, street collections and Red Ribbons were everywhere. There was not one at the Group on Thursday, which actually was Worlds Aids Day.

I had ordered a supply a few months ago and they were in the tea box ready. By the night I went to get them out (enough for everyone to have one) and they were gone. I don't know what happened but we didn't have them so could not wear them. Disappointing. Let us not forget – life is so different now with anti infection drugs, no viral load – it is marvellous what advances have been achieved.

We need to be thankful for that and remember those who died such an awful death.

Michael

### **Membership Update**

I am very pleased to share with you all that we are now 66 active members. It is an increase of 3 people since our Fall membership report in our Newsletter. Fortunately, the numbers continue to increase. Face to face meetings, some speakers that are attending the our sessions and also the online meetings are definitely contributing to the increase in the membership numbers.

Since last Newsletter we have 4 new members, they are: Warlen, Emerson, Salman and Junitha.

We also have 2 returning members, they are: Alan P and Mark.

I would like to wish a very warm welcome to all our new members.

Sergio

Membership Secretary

## **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.

## **Journey lgbt+ Asylum Seekers Group**

It was good to visit and spend time with your group and to know of your concern for and openness to LGBT+ asylum seekers.

I am from the Journey lgbt+ asylum seekers group based in Birmingham and have been involved as a volunteer since about 2015.

All asylum seekers have to cope with increasing delays in Home Office procedures and a bad press which emphasises the drain on resources rather than the gifts people can bring to the UK. There seems to be an element of scapegoating to divert attention away from failures to tackle other demanding problems. All have to cope with language problems and getting used to a different culture with patchy community support. Not surprising mental health can suffer even though individuals can also show huge resilience.

I think LGBT+ asylum seekers face particular additional problems. Firstly, if you are in a hotel or a shared house where the other asylum seekers have hostile attitudes this can lead to increasing feelings of isolation. If you have the finances to engage with gay pubs and venues you may encounter racism or a suspicion of your motives because you are an asylum seeker or you can be liable to exploitation. Secondly, if you have spent years hiding your feelings because of the fear of beatings or worse in your home country there may be quite a journey of self-acceptance to undertake in the face of internalised homophobia. Some of the trauma of past experiences may need to surface at some stage, Thirdly, there is the whole question of providing evidence both for your sexual orientation and also why you fear persecution if you return home. This is by no means easy to talk about when all the officials you have encountered before have been overtly hostile - as you describe your earlier experiences at home and your life in the UK. Sometimes there is not the language to explain your feelings and there are stereotypes of typical LGBT + people to contend with.

People need safe, welcoming and supportive places where trust can be built up gradually and practical signposting offered to local resources and information.

Phil H—Our speaker in October

## **Request for Help!**

During the Annual Dinner, an unknown person used a spare plastic bag to put their raffle prizes in. Unfortunately, the bag also held all the receipts for things bought for the Dinner, which we really need for the accounts! If it happened to be you that used the bag, please have a look for the receipts—they should be in an envelope marked, for some reason 'Receipts' ...

Thank you

Graham, Editor

## **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](http://www.reengage.org.uk)

Graham, Editor

## **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](mailto:nigel.nslgbtforum@gmail.com)

## **National AIDS Helplines**

"You can ask what you want to ask"

0800567123

## **Annual Dinner Review**

For the first time in many years, we chose Hatherley Manor as the venue. It worked out very well with fine food, and pleasant service. We had to wait a long time to get a drink but no one died of thirst - before the meal anyway!

Hopefully there will be a full article on the evening from someone else.

We were delighted Howard, our Vice-Chair, was able to attend in his role as Mayor of Gloucester. He brought his Consort, Rebecca, with him and she was delighted with the roses we presented to her. We wanted to mark the occasion for Howard, so on behalf of the Group I purchased an engraved hip flask . A lovely keepsake for him in the future.

The other major event was to mark our Membership Secretary Emeritus, Rob P, who retired from his role after 30 years, or so.

He was presented with a Scottish Quaich Cup – a vessel for sharing a drink and good wishes to dear friends. It sits on an engraved stand. He was very pleased with it and I hope he can look at it with pride for many years to come and remember his friends at the GGLC.

M

### **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](http://www.gay-glos.org) or email to [youth@gay-glos.org](mailto:youth@gay-glos.org) or leave a message on 07903 472899 and we will call you back.

## COMMITTEE MEETING

Thank you to the Committee Members who attended last Monday. There was a lot of business to attend to.

Sergio has settled into the role of Membership Secretary really well and we are already very confident in his abilities.

A time schedule for events has been set – I do hope Members will have ideas of social events you want to do during the year. Ideas always welcome but rarely received.

A worrying aspect is our regular income. Although not hard up, our bank balance is slowly decreasing on a regular basis and in the New Year we will have to look seriously at the situation.

The Committee do a sterling job and don't forget to thank them – it is all volunteer.

M

## GAMES NIGHT

It was certainly a mixed night! Those of us who turned up possessed a mixture of games. I brought a Nepalese card game, Ebenezer an African (?) game (but unfortunately, he accidentally was locked out of the hall so we never had chance how to learn how to play it!) Graham brought more traditional English games and we all chanced our hand at most things.

Great shame not more took part, but it was enjoyable. If you didn't come along, then try next time even if it isn't your thing. You learn something new and have fun.

M

## 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



# **NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**Notice is hereby given of the  
Annual General Meeting  
of the  
Gloucestershire Gay and Lesbian Community  
on  
Thursday 27th April 2023 at 7.30pm prompt  
(doors open 7.00pm)  
at the Friends Meeting House,  
Gloucester**

## **NOMINATION FORM AGM—27th April 2023**

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

Chair	[ ]
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.

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

### January

6th Ishael B  
7th David L  
8th Romeo V  
10th Andrew L  
27th Julie S

### February

6th Graham V  
7th Sarah W  
13th Tai Jay P  
13th Yousif Ali A  
13th John B  
13th Ian H  
16th Mark (Bob) B

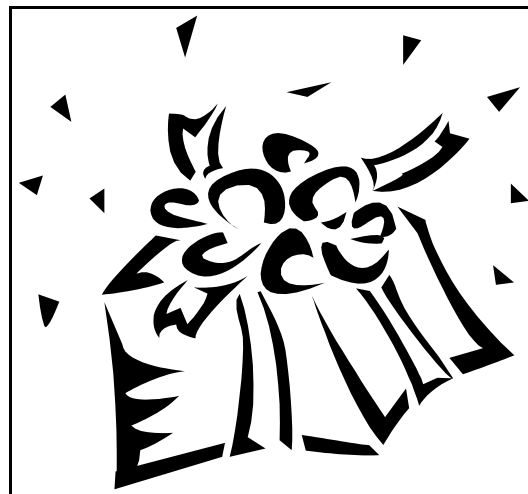
### March

10th Junitha K  
11th Elizabeth E  
15th David C  
18th Carolyn F  
25th Sergio F  
29th Andrew D  
29th Trevor D  
30th Michael C-H

### April

1st Salman M  
2nd Paul L-J  
8th Alan R  
16th Michael W  
18th Peter C

25th Peter W  
29th Kevin S  
30th Alan P



## ***HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU ALL***



# GGLC's SOCIAL CALENDAR DIARY OF EVENTS



## **January**

5th GGLC Meeting  
19th GGLC Virtual Meeting  
25th Wrapped Auction

## **February**

2nd GGLC Meeting  
12th Skittles 4pm Farmers Club in Gloucester  
16th GGLC Virtual Meeting

## **March**

2nd GGLC Meeting  
16th GGLC Virtual Meeting

## **April**

6th GGLC Meeting  
20th GGLC Virtual Meeting  
27th AGM

## **Advanced Warnings and Notes!**

Plans so far are for a Picnic in the Forest on Sunday 2nd July, and Rounders (or Picnic on the Common) on Sunday 20th August.

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](http://www.gglc.co.uk) and the email address is [info@gglc.co.uk](mailto: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: Craig F.

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.