



GGLCommunity News

Winter/Spring 2024

Annual Dinner Report

The latest News, Views and Opinion

DIARY OF EVENTS

CHAIRMAN'S LETTER



Dear Friends,

Welcome to our first edition for 2024 – on behalf of myself and all the Committee, we wish you a Happy New Year and for life to bring you all you wish for yourselves.

For many of us 2023 was not our best year – for myself there were certainly big highs and lows.

As a Group we survived – in Society as a whole, so many social and volunteer groups, are struggling or have folded completed. Thanks to the hard work of the Chair and Committee we have more than just survived. The GGLC is a thriving group - but whether it continues to survive is down to YOU – the MEMBERS.

The Committee can only do so much, as Members we all need to be a team, show support, take part and understand the need to “put in” as well as “take out”. We need to start the New Year with more involvement from everyone – in 2023, the AGM only took place because one person turned up just in time. The rest of the members could not be bothered to come along and vote. Each year there are a shortage of volunteers for the Committee, filling the coffee rota (same people each time) – the same with the raffle, bringing in prizes, helping with the Pride stall.

No matter where you live now, your background, how you live, if single or in an relationship - we all have one common link that ties us to each other. We are members of the GGLC and for it to survive we need to pull together, support each other.

That is what the group is about – that is our success . Be part of it!

2024 is the year we celebrate our 50th Anniversary – a fantastic achievement and the continuously longest running group of its sort in the Country.

I look forward to celebrating with you

With best wishes

Michael, Chair

GLOUCESTERSHIRE PRIDE

Pride was on September 9th, and started off with a march from Shire Hall to the park, the route going up to the Cross then down Southgate Street, turning left at Llanthony Road and into the park by the bandstand. It was a colourful and very energetic parade this year, with Graham and Michael CH bringing up the rear. What was encouraging was seeing how many of the spectators were enjoying watching, with people waving flags they had bought and joining in by waving, singing along to the music and even dancing! It was probably the most positive reaction we have had from the public throughout the years.

The Bottle Tombola was back on our staff by popular demand, and there was a brisk trade, including one lady at the end virtually buying all the remaining tickets and winning the whiskey! The tombola raised £229.50, a respectable total, and thanks are given to Rob and Mike for all their hard work organising it, and to the other members who assisted during the day.

There were a few comments that with the table between the two halves of our stall, people did not realise we were the same organisation (tombola and GGLC information section). This is something we must remember if we are going to capitalise on the attraction of the tombola!

Graham, Editor

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

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.

Card Payments

Following on from the increasing demand to be able to accept card payments, we now have a **SumUp** card reader. We now accept the following cards including Apple Pay and Google Pay.

1. The minimum payment that can be made is £1.00. Sometimes your bank will only process payment by inserting your card into the reader and entering your PIN. Please ensure that you know your PIN.
2. Your card and bank details are never revealed to GGLC and never will be. This is a Banking Industry requirement. Please make sure that we know what you are paying for, such as Tea/Coffee, Raffle, Bus Stop, Membership, Donation, Annual Dinner etc.
3. Receipts are not yet able to be issued directly at this time. We will still acknowledge any payment made but this will be by email so we will need your email address to do this.
4. Any payments made will be shown on your bank statement as “G G L Community”.

BACS Transfer

You can transfer money into the GGLC Bank Account directly from your own bank account. If you do this, please tell us what the payment is for, using the “reference” area on your payment screen, particularly for new members or membership renewals! The Account Name is **G G L Community**

Account Sort Code: **30-93-48**

Account Number: **00902186**

Reference: “**IanHRenew**” or “**IanHDinner**” or “**IanHNew**” or whatever, helps us to identify your payment on our bank statement. Please use your name! These references are only examples that you can use. The maximum number of characters that a bank will accept is **18** and no spaces.

We continue to accept **Cash** or **Cheque** if you prefer but we would appreciate BACS payments or Card Payments wherever possible.

Ian H, GGLC Treasurer.

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.

All Out Latest News

Thanks to the power of the All Out community, the lives of seven transgender women in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) have been changed.

In 2022, because of their gender identity, they were publicly beaten and undressed. Some were called witches and told that they would be burned at the stake.

Thanks to the generous donations of the All Out movement, our partners at Rainbow Sunrise Mapambazuko, a local LGBT+ rights organisation, were able to get these women to safety. Those donations enabled them to provide emergency food, shelter, and safety to the women for six months!

None of this would have been possible without the All Out movement.

In the face of so much terrifying news, it's truly incredible to know that when horrible emergencies like this happen, people like you will step up and do something.

But the truth is, we're seeing a rolling back of rights and protections of LGBT+ people throughout Africa escalating in recent months. From Ghana to Uganda, the bodies and lives of LGBT+ people are being criminalised and punished, simply for existing.

We need to keep growing if we're going to stand a chance against the bigots who keep raising more and more money for hate campaigns. Campaigns that fuel the types of horrendous narratives that put the lives of these seven women in great danger and are getting anti-LGBT+ laws passed.

Peter, the BEST way you can help us stand up to these wealthy anti-LGBT+ forces is to commit to a small, monthly gift today.

By becoming an Equality Champion – a monthly donor – you'll be powering the All Out team to respond swiftly and jump into action whenever the next big crisis or emergency happens.

Sarah Mitchell, Director of Growth & Empowerment

<https://allout.org/en>

Raffle

The raffle at our face to face meetings is a good way to off-set the room costs, so please remember to bring something interesting to add to the draw!

Graham, Editor

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

Longfield Community Hospice - Update on groups in our Wellbeing Centre

I hope that you are all well.

I just wanted to update you on our groups within the Wellbeing Centre at Longfield, so that if you know of anyone living in Gloucestershire, with a life limiting condition or their carer, who could do with some support, or if any of your members knew anyone, they would know how to get in touch to find out a little more about our free services.

I have attached our latest timetable of groups we are running in our Wellbeing Centre and details of our criteria, along with 2 posters.

Please feel free to forward this email to anyone whom you feel would benefit from the information.

Thank you for so much for your continued support and best wishes,

Louise

<https://longfield.org.uk/>

GGLC Christmas Party

The Group "Pot Luck" was great fun - Christmas themed table decorations, variety of food, yummy trifle, Christmas music and good company. Many thanks to Michael, Mike and Rob for getting everything ready. It as good to see so many members gathered together. Lots of laughs, good food and company - thanks to all those who brought food and helped during the evening, including all the clearing up!

Michael

Group Telephone is 07942383275.

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 in October. Not sure when the next is, but keep an eye out for any emails we forward, or check out their website, <https://www.lgbtchelt.co.uk>

There is now a Rainbow Cuppa event on the 2nd Saturday of every month at St Mary de Crypt in Southgate Street from 1pm to 3pm.

Graham, Editor

GGLC Annual Dinner

The dinner was held at the Hatherly Manor Hotel, as the previous year, though this time we were in a slightly less expansive room, giving a more intimate feel. It was good to see so many members whom we only see occasionally, and there was much catching up and joy on meeting old friends.

The service and food was much as it had been the previous year, which is as much as I am going to say!

What made it was the company, including our Chairman's Speech.

After the raffle, with a huge range of interesting prizes, we said our goodbyes for another year—it must be noted next year's dinner will be a big one!

Graham, Editor

Gloucestershire Counselling Collective

The Group recently received an email that may be of interest to members, so we have included it in this issue, as below:

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am a counsellor, working as part of the Gloucestershire Counselling Collective. We have set up a new 'LGBTQ+ Emotional Health and Well-being Group' for adults age 18+ that may be of interest of you to recommend to your clients. They are happening on a weekly basis in Stroud, Gloucestershire and we wanted to contact you to see if you feel our group appropriate to advertise on your website, or if you would like some of our leaflets to recommend us. The details are as follows:

Group: LGBTQ+ Emotional Health and Well-being Group

When: Wednesdays (starting 08/11/23), 7.30pm-9.00pm

Where: The Exchange, Brick Row, Stroud, GL5 1DF

Cost: £10 per session

We can offer up to 15 places per session. The idea behind the group is to provide a safe, non-judgemental space for members of the LGBTQ+ community to discuss any issues that are affecting them and their mental health. There will be two counsellors present who will act as facilitators to ensure that everyone who wants to speak is able to and that the conversation is always moving in a respectful and helpful way. It is our hope that this group will be therapeutic in nature, offering support to those that might find it difficult to discuss how they are feeling or issues they are facing with others in their lives.

I look forward to hearing back from you!

Warm Regards,

Claire Parker

Gloucestershire Counselling Collective

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

Trans Remembrance Day

In November was Trans Remembrance Day, with walks and services throughout the country, including Gloucester, with a walk from Shire Hall to St Mary de Crypt, where a service and vigil were held.

We had a talk by Steve about dementia, and he has been in touch with this email:

I wanted to get in touch again to see if you, or someone from GGLC would like to become part of our Integrated Care System Cultural and Diversity Dementia Network – we are a group of people made up of health and social care workers, volunteers and member of the public, wanting to make things better for people with dementia from different cultural and diverse backgrounds.... To date, we have been quite focused on our work across BME communities, and still focused on that, but we are keen to widen this out for other diverse groups to ensure that we have the voice of all our communities across Gloucestershire to help shape and improve our work across dementia services (stat and non-stat). I would be happy to meet with whoever may be interested to discuss further if that would be helpful? If you don't have anyone who may be interested, no bother at all, but wanted to ask. I look forward to hearing from you.

I hope you don't mind, but I always wanted to link you with my colleague Kim. Kim leads of some dementia training and education work particularly focused around inclusive communities. Kim will be in touch, now that I have introduced her, about this piece of work she is leading on.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Kindest regards,

Steve

Steve Shelley-King
Consultant Dementia Nurse
ICB Dementia Clinical Lead

Membership Update

I am very glad to report that we are now 72 active members. It is an increase of 6 people since our Fall membership report in our Newsletter.

I would like to take the opportunity to welcome the new members, Desmond, Liz, Sandra, Nils, Tim, Pedra, Harry and Sito-Obong.

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

Unfortunately, we also have 2 people that decided not to renew their membership.

Sergio, Membership Secretary

National AIDS Helplines

“You can ask what you want to ask”

0800567123

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

6 Ishmael
7 Dave L
8 Romeo
27 Julie

February

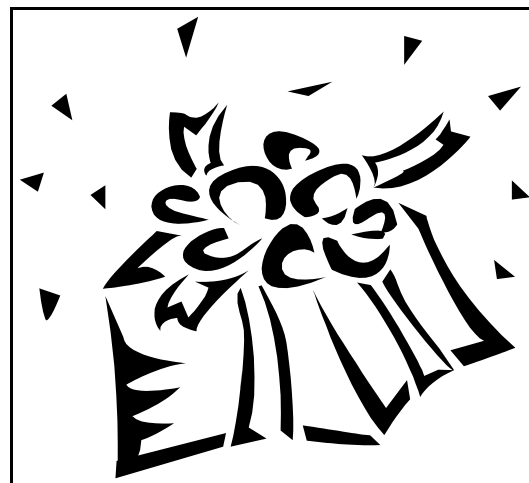
6 Graham
7 Sarah
13 Ian H
13 John B
16 Mark (Bob)

March

3 Tim A
4 L Pedra
10 Junitha
11 Elizabeth
12 Harry
15 David C
15 Sandra
18 Carolyn
25 Sergio
29 Andrew D
29 Trevor
30 Michael C-H

April

1 Salman
2 Paul L



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU ALL



GGLC's SOCIAL CALENDAR DIARY OF EVENTS



January

4th GGLC Meeting

11th Wrapped Auction—bring your unwanted gifts
and loads of cash!

18th GGLC Virtual Meeting

GGLC

February

1st GGLC Meeting

15th Beetle Drive—come and build a beetle!



GGLC

March

7th GGLC Meeting

21st GGLC Virtual Meeting



GGLC

April

4th GGLC Meeting

18th 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.

**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!