

GGLCommunity News

Spring 2022

AGM

The latest News, Views and Opinion

DIARY OF EVENTS

CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

As I write this I know our Editor will be looking at his watch wondering what the excuse is this time for my tardiness! I don't blame him but I really do have a reason this time as I caught COVID. Not something I want to go through again and I was so thankful for the inoculations so many of us received. I don't know what would have happened without them. A life saver indeed.

What was worse I must have passed it on to Alan. You could see he could hardly breathe and the ambulance was here nearly 3 hours trying to stabilise him. Frightening.

It could not have come at a worse time with being so busy, my 70th Birthday and also winning a long weekend in New York!. I had enough negative tests to enable me to go although I feel exhausted. It is too good a chance to turn down even if I have to crawl!! As I write this I am due to go to the airport tomorrow afternoon and fly out Saturday. Due back the day of our Group meeting so you will know then if I got away or not.

I knew March 30th was my birthday but not that March 31st is now Trans Day of Visibility. A time for trans and non-binary people to raise awareness of the discrimination faced by the community worldwide.

I read a very good piece written by "PRISM", the County Council LGBT+ Network.

Nothing is new although many think "trans, gender change, identification of more than two genders" is a modern age perception. In Parts of Eastern Asia, people who identify in this way have been part of their culture for centuries. Some are still not treated well but as outcasts – brought in to 'mainstream' society when it suits.

For our own Group, Easter approaches and for those amongst with strong beliefs, it is an important time of the year. Not just eggs and finding 'bunnies' in the woods?! Our AGM is another important time and one in which our own community must start taking heed and support – we are on a slippery slope, and only a few years ago a lot of you laughed when I said the Committee were getting older and soon you would be without a team to do the work. You are lucky in that many of the team are stalwart, butch (well, use the term loosely then!) hard working bunch and will keep going



Membership Update

We have 56 members which is a considerable improvement on the previous report of 51 Winter into Spring 2021/2.

We have 6 new members and these are the following :-James J, Tai P, Michael I, Yousif A, Royston G and Anthony B. A warm welcome to you all !

It is good to see that the membership number is once again on the rise.

Rob P

Membership Secretary

Editor's Disclaimer

A lot has been going on in the world over the past year or so that has rather irritated me, and I think in some of the articles I have written in this issue, that has shown through. Please note that these are my takes on issues, not necessarily the Group's views, and if you see things differently, please feel free to submit articles via any Committee member.

Graham, Editor and simmering revolutionary

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.

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.

Hate Crime Report

I attended the Gloucestershire Hate Crime and Incident Strategic Group meeting on 23rd March representing GGLC.

Statutory agencies and community groups/organisations are represented on this body.

We received the latest police update on hate crimes reported to them. It appears disability hate crime is under reported and needs more work on.

It is important for victims to report hate crime. If victims cannot approach the police directly, they can either contact Victim Support or, if they belong to an organisation with a hate crime champion, through them. I have received training as a hate crime champion and can help confidentially.

Remembering Srebrenica week is 4-11 July. The Srebrenica massacre (also known as the Srebrenica genocide) was the July 1995 genocidal killing of more than 8,000 Bosniak Muslim men and boys in and around the town of Srebrenica during the Bosnian War.

Plans are in place for the National Hate Crime Awareness Week in October.

Howard, Vice-Chair

An Evening with Barbara Clayton

Barbara Clayton is a long time friend to the Group, and has done many evenings for us in the past, always enjoyable and interesting. She is a spiritualist and will be coming to give us another demonstration on 23rd of May (probably, this date may change!). If you would like to come along, it is 7 for 7:30 sharp start, so please be prompt.

Graham, Editor

Conversion therapy

As you might be aware, our beloved Government decided against banning these pernicious ‘therapies’, which they had promised to do when they needed our votes. Then, after a massive backlash from our communities, they did another u-turn and agreed to ban them for gay and lesbian people, but not bi or trans people (not quite sure about that, for some reason the Government communiqués were not very... precise). This is the usual half assed commitment we have come to expect, and they do not seem to realise that this divide and conquer stupidity is not going to work any more. We know that once they start this sort of thing, that further down the line it is going to empower the haters to find loop holes to apply conversion to the rest of us. Also, if as they have stated, these ‘therapies’ are abhorrent and equivalent to torture, how can they be acceptable for use on anyone?

Graham V., Editor

Hope House Sexual Assault Referral Centre

We had an email from Ava, who is a Crisis Worker at the Sexual Assault Referral Centre in Gloucestershire.

They are looking to raise awareness of the service so that others know where to come to, if they have been raped or sexually assaulted.

They offer practical and emotional support, as well as medical care, to anyone who has experienced sexual violence; regardless of gender, disability or sexual orientation- and you don’t have to have reported to the Police in order to receive their care. The team are made up of male and female crisis workers who work around the clock to offer tailored support to victims who access the service. The advice line is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week (0300 4218400).

If you would like to find out more about the service:

Phone: 0300 4218400

E-mail: hopehousesarc@glos-care.nhs.uk

Website: www.hopehousesarc.nhs.uk

Facebook: @GloucesterSARC

Twitter: @HopeHouseSARC

Instagram: HopeHouseSARC

AGM—28th April

The AGM is coming up, your chance to hear what has been going on and to choose who will be on the Committee to take the Group forward.

This is an important meeting, we need enough members coming along so we are quorate, and to give input into the meeting so the Committee know how the members feel on issues and how they see the Group developing.

As is noted in Michael's letter at the beginning of this issue, our Committee is getting older, not past it yet, just a bit slower than previously! We do need more members to put themselves forward to take on roles within the Committee or within a few years we may not have many people with any experience in how the Group runs and what needs to be done during the year to keep it active.

None of the Committee roles are that arduous, some will suit different skill sets and personalities, yes, but there is always help and support offered by other Committee members. There are around four or five meetings held where the next few months are discussed and planned, and there may be a few tasks that need doing.

Please think about what you might be able to contribute to the Group.

Graham, Editor

PS The Newsletter Editor is not a voting Committee member, more a thorn in their sides. It is also up for anyone who wants to have a go, and if anyone is interested but not ready to take the role yet, I am always happy to show people what is done and accept articles etc.

Gloucestershire Pride—September 10th

Pride is on again this year, and the Group will have a presence there. What this is and how it is organised is up to you, the members. The Bottle Stall is very popular but requires a lot of work, so if you want that, volunteers are needed now. If there are other ideas, let the Committee know and give a commitment to be there to help out!

Graham, Editor

Ten Pin Bowling—April 26th at Barnwood

Due to popular demand, we are having bowling at the Barnwood Centre again. This was decided after the previous Newsletter was published and since April is not covered in this issue, I thought I'd better announce it here!

This is one of the events that has to be booked in advance, no dropping in on the night, but if you contact Michael CH at least a week in advance, you should be able to go. It is not a free evening either, so be prepared to pay!

There is food and drink at the Centre, not sure what or how much or what the quality is—this is a Bowling Centre, not a five-star restaurant.

The feedback has always been that it is a great evening, so contact Michael, go along and have a fun evening.

Oh, it starts at 7pm, if you arrive late, you are likely to miss the booked slot.

Graham, Editor

Adverts and Information in the Newsletter

You will notice there are still adverts and notifications about other organisations throughout the Newsletter, as usual. Realistically, those involving meeting up are not going to be going ahead, but they are being kept in with the hopes we will be back to usual sometime in the future, and they will be back in business.

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

National AIDS Helplines

“You can ask what you want to ask”

0800567123

Ukraine and Gay Rights

You may have noticed our cover this issue does support the ongoing struggle of Ukraine against Russian aggression.

I thought it a good idea to look at the status of LGBTQ+ people in the Ukraine, so that we know what we are looking at.

Over recent years, the situation for our compatriots in the Ukraine has been getting better, definably better than when the previous, pro-Russian government was in power. There are legal protections against discrimination, and you can be openly LGBTQ+ in the Ukraine.

This does not mean everything is rosy, as the Orthodox Church is very powerful in Ukrainian society and is very strongly anti-LGBTQ+. The sympathy our people might get after being harassed or attacked is still not going to be much, even with legal protections, but as we can see for many predominantly Catholic countries, a progressive Government can help move a society forward despite the religious impediment. The current Government in the Ukraine is progressive, for the area, and is the best chance of improving the safety and acceptance of LGBTQ+ people.

In this crisis we have also seen LGBTQ+ Ukrainians step forward to help their country, including volunteering to fight. They have been welcomed for their contribution, and this will also help to change attitudes in the long term.

I remember reading of one incident where a group of LGBTQ+ activists found a Russian soldier hiding in their building. He was captured and handed over to the appropriate authorities, but one must always wonder if he was himself LGBTQ+, and had seen the rainbows and other indications as a safe place to turn himself in.

One thing we must be aware of is that the attention span of people today is somewhat limited. We need to keep this issue fresh in our minds, no matter what other distractions occur (Oscar slap-downs being one), if we are to help the Ukraine and it's people in their fight for freedom and in their journey to a more progressive and LGBTQ+ friendly society.

Graham V, Editor

Group Telephone

The Group telephone number has been removed from the Newsletter as the company who supplied it has vanished. A suitable replacement is being investigated, and we hope to have a new number soon.

Graham, Editor

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

May

2nd Malvin K
2nd Royston G

5th Davina H
5th Ken B
13th Bob G
17th Geoffrey C

June

1st Michael I
7th Deric P
14th David H

16th James J
28th Rob P

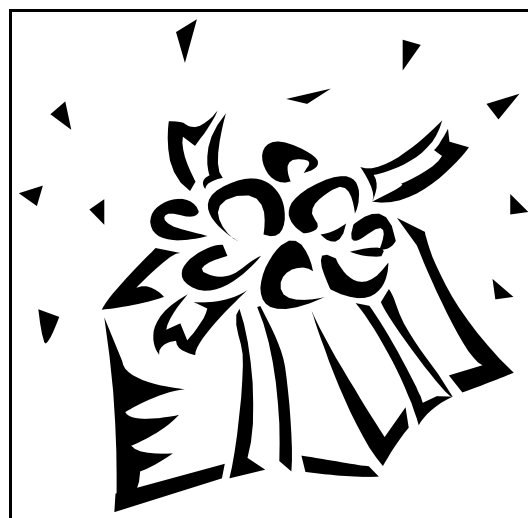
July

11th Stuart H
18th Emma M
22nd George S
29th Anthony B
29th Paul D

August

21st Norina S

20th Craig F



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU ALL



GGLC's SOCIAL CALENDAR DIARY OF EVENTS



GGLC

May

- 5th GGLC Meeting
- 19th GGLC Virtual Meeting
- 23rd Evening with Barbara Clayton, 7 for 7:30 sharp!

June

- 2nd GGLC Meeting and the Queen's Anniversary
- 12th Group Picnic at Canop Ponds
- 16th GGLC Virtual Meeting



GGLC

July

- 7th GGLC Meeting
- 21st GGLC Virtual Meeting

August

- 4th GGLC Meeting
- 18th GGLC Virtual Meeting
- 21st Rounders at Mitchenhampton Common



GGLC

Advanced Warnings and Notes!

Gloucestershire Pride is on 10th September.

We are just getting back into having events again, so we may be out of practice! If things change, we will try to let the membership know, but mistakes may occur.

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

07050 627273

www.gglc-glos.co.uk
info@gglc-glos.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!

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: Vacant

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.

Front Cover: The image is of the Ukrainian flag and their National flower, the sunflower, in support of their struggle for freedom Graham, Editor