



# GGLCommunity News

Winter into Spring 2021/2

Revolution Edition!

The latest News, Views and Opinion

DIARY OF EVENTS

## **CHAIRMAN'S LETTER**

In my last letter I referred to an article in the Daily Mail, regarding all the different categories of “sexuality” that could be explored. There were some 130 for sexuality and 30+ just for gender. I questioned how were we to understand such a wide variety of names and what did it achieve? ‘Coming out’ is difficult enough without having to explain what “aporgender” is. It was a genuine question that would hopefully bring forth a response at least.

It did that - some good some bad.

The first thing I would say is there was no response to me direct, but I understand the Newsletter Editor has a reply, from a member disassociating themselves from my comments . Secondly, the next response was from a person who saw the Newsletter online and felt it was ‘dismissive’. I have to disagree as I have re-read my article several times and can only see a genuine question and exploring the reason behind all these ‘gender’ categories. There was no offence attended. I am sorry if I unintentionally did so.

With a reply online, the positive side was it reminded me we contact our Members and others in many different ways now and must bear in mind the formats available.

As far as social media is concerned, I still don’t like it. It was quite easy for anyone to reach me and talk about my article, but no one did. It was easy to complain online for everyone to read.

The Newsletter from the Chair has always been a personal expression and viewpoint and not that of the group as a whole.

I will ensure a disclaimer will go in for the future.

So, whatever your sexuality, gender or who you are, you are loved and respected. I wish you and those you love the merriest of Christmases and a 2022 a year that brings all you want for yourself.

With seasons greeting and love

In Friendship

*Michael*



The Chairman’s Letter is from the Chair and is not the general viewpoint of the Group or necessarily that of the Chair. Sometime the role needs to play ‘devils advocate’ to accentuate the point or obtain a response.

Graham V., 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 loose 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.

**Newsflash**

At the point of writing, (early December), Howard is in hospital after experience heart problems. A visitors timetable is being prepared and please contact Peter for an update or information on visiting.

We wish Howard all the best and are thinking of you.

M

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**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

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## **Membership Update**

We have 51 members which is +1 on the previous membership report Autumn Winter 2021.

John B and Malvin K are 2 returning members. Welcome back !

The winter report of 2019 shows that we had a membership number of 55. The autumn winter 2021 newsletter shows the number had dropped to 50. For this report the membership is 51, a small improvement.

Rob P

Membership Secretary

## **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

## **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](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.

**YES -IT'S HERE AGAIN!!**

**WEDNESDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2022 WRAPPED AUCTION**

Don't know what the wrapped Auction is? Firstly, it is the only event of the year that raises Funds for the Group.

We all have unwanted gifts at some time or purchases that we have not used – well, we can solve that problem. Wrap them up – or keep the paper on them?- and bring them along on the 19<sup>th</sup> January 2022, a Wednesday.

I start the Auction off and you bid on any item that takes your fancy. However wins that bid has to open the parcel in front of everyone. That is when you find out what you bought!!

It is a fun evening, lots of laughs and some highs and lows.

Don't forget and Christmas gifts never need be a disappointment again!  
M.

The news of Howard brings me onto our December meeting. The question was raised on how do we help Members who are taken ill? If you live on your own, it is usually a while until we know a Member is ill or needs help. How can we make this easier and encourage Members to contact us. There are plenty of people who are willing to help. I did try setting up something a few years ago but it fizzled out.

I suggested we think about it and discuss in our January Meeting.

See you then

All the best

Michael

**LGBT+ Partnership: Rainbow Cuppa Socials January 2022**

The plan for the general LGBT+ support socials are:

18th January, 11:00 to 1:00, Sober Parrot in Cheltenham.

19th January, 12:30 to 2:00, Lucy's Tearoom, Stow On The Wold.

26th January, 11:00 to 1:00, Decrypt in Gloucester.

Kind regards,

Emma



## **Conversion therapy—Petition and Consultation**

There has been a lot of discussion in the community in the past few years about ‘conversion therapy’, which is intended to turn non-heterosexuals into heterosexuals. Over the past months there has been a petition aiming to ban such ‘cures’ which many of us signed, and consultation has been going on (ended 10th Dec) which again, many of us contributed to, both as individuals and as a group.

This is now being considered by the Women and Equalities Committee, so keep an eye out for their conclusions this next year.

There is strong opposition to a ban by well organised and very vocal minority groups, to whom our very existence is apparently against their religious or moral views.

We need to maintain pressure on banning these dangerous and frankly worthless practices if we are to maintain our hard fought for freedoms.

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](mailto:hopehousesarc@glos-care.nhs.uk)

Website: [www.hopehousesarc.nhs.uk](http://www.hopehousesarc.nhs.uk)

Facebook: @GloucesterSARC

Twitter: @HopeHouseSARC

Instagram: HopeHouseSARC

## Editor's Musings

Who are we? I remember growing up knowing I was different to my peers, but had no framework or language in which to place that difference. I now know I was both gay and autistic, and that knowledge has helped me find my place in the world.

But back then, the only thing that was valid was to 'be a man', I was not even aware that any other choices were available. I was, as I grew and saw more of the world, able to bring in new language and definitions—gay, lesbian, bisexual and trans, though trans seemed a much more complicated term that I did not fully understand and probably still don't.

And so it was for a long time, throughout the long and ongoing fight for our right to be who we were, the right just to exist. How we identified ourselves, LGBT, became a fundamental part of our identity, a fixed point that gave us a kin hood with everyone else who had that identity.

In my case, I was gay (queer was an insult others shouted at me), and if I met others who were also gay, even though we were very different, we had a point of commonality. I assume it was the same for the LBTs as well, and we all had a similarity in that we were all persecuted for being who we were. The sad thing I saw back then was that some people could not see that similarity and could only really connect with someone with the same identity as themselves.

The difficulty now is that the language of identity has exploded very rapidly, and many of us older people are left behind and bewildered by the new definitions. Worse still, if we can not keep up, the impression we get is that we are at fault, which only creates a wider divide.

Personally, I am amazed at how confident many of the younger people are in their complicated (to me) identities and that is brilliant! If I had grown up in this new world, I have no idea who I would be and how I would identify. I unreservedly support and applaud their choices, I may not, however, understand what those choices mean.

The GGLC has, as a club, always accepted anyone who supports our aims as a club (individuals are... individuals, and may have their own views). The more we mix and talk with each other the better, but as

anyone who has been in any organisation, the reality is that people will naturally interact more with people they have more in common with.

By narrowing our self identifications without having an all inclusive term for us all, I feel we are limiting our connections to each other, which can only harm our community. I do not remember the discussions where the GGC became the GGLC, they were before my time, but I do remember the push to add 'B' and later 'Q' to our name.

My argument at the time was that 'Gay' was an all inclusive term that could be used to describe all of us—there was disagreement on this, from male members who felt 'Gay' was their word, and from female members who felt it excluded them. In the end, the cost implications prevented any change, having just spent a large amount on new stationary! The one thing everyone could agree on was that scrapping all that was a waste and could not be condoned.

One of the things I am concerned about is the fragmentation of our community, leaving us vulnerable to the fanatics who love to set us against each other and then pick us off one by one. They have already achieved much in their campaign against transexuals, so we have evidence of how they work.

What would help would be to find some umbrella term under which we can all gather—as I stated before, I am not comfortable with ' Queer', as my only association with that is negative. So rather than divide into our tiny sub-groups, why not work together, make common cause, and stand supportive, shoulder to shoulder?

Graham, Editor

*Please note these are my thoughts, not the Groups.*

## **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)



## **Response to Chairman's Letter in Autumn/Winter edition**

At the first face to face meeting for some time held in September, Michael referred to his page in the newsletter requesting comments on the parts that could be considered controversial.

He brushed off a comment from a member over the use of the word Chairman as in Chairman's letter. It is only relatively recently that women have begun to achieve more equality with men and the use of the word chairman is now considered in many circles to be outdated and a throw back to the days of male domination. Although if a person identifies as male or female it can be correct to refer to them individually in those genders, when it comes to a title that can be held by those identifying as male, female or non-binary, to quote three examples, then I believe we should use the term Chair as it is the position held from which the person is writing.

Although Michael suggests there are some similarities between some of the definitions quoted, I think we should be careful to understand that how people identify is a matter for them. Too often in the past, and even today, people have identified myself and others in the way that suits them and some of the comments they have come out with have been insensitive or hateful.

Using terminology like being confused about their body or sexuality in the same paragraph can give those outside our group the wrong impression. To infer that if someone identifies in a certain way can be a fad reminds me of the struggle I have had as a gay man when that term was used against me.

As a group, we need to consider the best way to move forward and how to draw more people in. They will come from all backgrounds and identities. We must be mindful of that.

Howard H

## **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

6th Ishmeal B  
7th David L  
8th Romeo V  
26th Tewodros M  
27th Julie S

### February

6th Graham V  
9th Abdul A  
13th John B  
13th Ian H  
16th Mark B  
17th Sarah W  
22nd Julia A

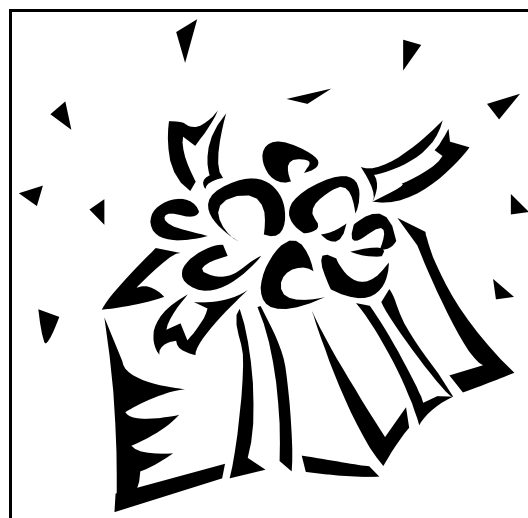
### March

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

### April

2nd Paul L-J  
3rd Lewis H  
8th Alan R  
16th Michael W  
18th Peter C

25th Peter W



## *HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU ALL*



# GGLC's SOCIAL CALENDAR DIARY OF EVENTS

## January

6th GGLC Meeting  
19th Wrapped Auction  
20th GGLC Virtual Meeting

## February

3rd GGLC Meeting  
17th GGLC Virtual Meeting

## March

3rd GGLC Meeting  
17th GGLC Virtual Meeting

## April

7th GGLC Meeting  
21st GGLC Virtual Meeting

## Advanced Warnings and Notes!

The Christmas Party, due to be on 23rd December has been cancelled due to the situation with Omnicron. We will be having a virtual event then, and hope you can all attend with a glass of your favourite tippie in hand! 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

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07050 627273

[www.gglc=glos.co.uk](http://www.gglc=glos.co.uk)  
[info@gglc-glos.co.uk](mailto: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. For further details or directions please phone 07050 627273 or 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!

### **Your Committee**

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: This is an image of a rainbow jumper I designed and made to be used in the virtual world of Sansar. Graham, Editor