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# GGLCommunity News

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Spring Summer 2023

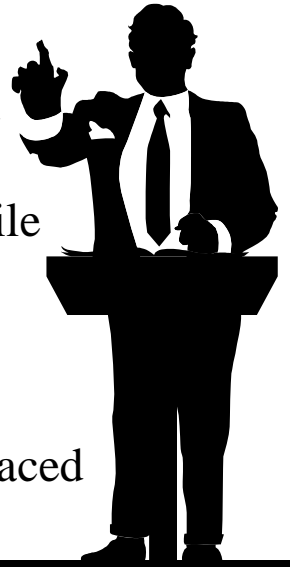
AGM Review

The latest News, Views and Opinion

DIARY OF EVENTS

## **CHAIRMAN'S LETTER**

Our AGM has taken place, and thank goodness, we made our quorum with one to spare (quorum is the number of members present needed to hold a legal AGM). For a while I thought it would have to be abandoned and was disappointed not more of you turned out to support your LGBT Community Group.



Part of my address to the AGM included the difficulties faced by those organizing a group. One, is that all groups are struggling to maintain members since lockdown and the second is members remaining loyal to the organization. This year at the AGM we did not have anyone stand for Treasurer – a big disappointment. This is a role that has to be voted in by the Membership – in the meantime a Committee Member has to take on the role until a permanent person can be found. (At the moment I have taken it on).

For our social meetings it is great to see so many fill the room – the buzz of chatter, even the heckling is good to see and hear! The more we can encourage people to attend the more successful it will be. If you have any ideas for changes or improvements, please let me know. A huge benefit to the group is the versatility and commitment of the Committee who will always listen to what members have to say.

If you read the Chairman's Address at the AGM, you will see I have some personal good news. For my commitment to volunteer and charity work I am nominated as a 'Coronation Champion'. I received a Certificate signed by the King and Queen, medal pin, and invite to a Garden Party on the 9th May. Exciting and feel very honoured.

I hope you enjoy the Coronation Weekend what ever you are doing. It is a piece of history that most of us are unlikely to see repeated.

With all good wishes

Michael

Chair

## **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.

### **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

### **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

## **Response to the Chairman's AGM Speech**

Our Chairman's Speech was, as usual generally well received by the members. However, as he himself said, there was a specific section that I personally find contentious. This is, as most will realise from previous posts of mine, the views on the Trans community.

The idea that we can not find commonality with them, especially those who do not see themselves as gay, bi or lesbian. In my view, that commonality is in the reaction of the wider public to them. It is the same reaction we are more than familiar with, though it is not as strong as 20 or 30 years ago.

The language used against the Trans community is the same, often word for word, as has been used against the rest of us. This is more than enough reason to stand with them.

On the idea of standing with the Trans community, I would like to remind the membership that there were there in force at the very beginning of the Stonewall Riots and the beginning of all our liberation.

I will note the change we are seeing in the USA. Two years ago, they were assuring the LGB communities that the action against the Trans was limited and not intended to attack us. Now, emboldened, we see their remits expanding, in some cases calling for our eradication. What happens in the US, we will see here in a year or two, though there is evidence this resurgence of wanting our elimination is here already.

An indicator of how much this has already started is the statistic showing hate crime reporting has increased 124% for this past year. Some of this may be due to better reporting systems, but we must all be aware of the increase of extremist voices on traditional media, social media and in our streets.

Various vocal groups (including some stating they support 'parts' of our community) are attempting to split us apart, with the obvious long term intention of removing us in small bites. I see this on social media, in the press and in the attitudes of various political groups. A certain football pundit recently linked the language someone was using with that used by the parties of 1930s Germany. That type of political tactics are also clearly being used against our communities, and we should be aware and open when we see this being done.

My view has always been 'United we stand, divided we fall', and I see no reason to change that view.

Graham, Editor

## **Membership Update**

I am very pleased to share with you all that we are now 69 active members. It is an increase of 3 people since our Winter 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 7 new members, they are: Tim, Jeffrey, Joan, Tabitha, Ceri, Tracey-Ann and Zaitoni.

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

Sergio

Membership Secretary

## **Prides in the UK and Elsewhere!**

I was going to publish a list of Prides here, but when I researched them there were just too many! So instead, I am listing a couple of websites which seem quite extensive (though our Gloucestershire one is not listed)

<https://pride-events.co.uk>

<https://jlloyd.co.uk/pages/lgbt-gay-pride-calendar-2023>

<https://pinkuk.com/events/future-prides.aspx>

Our Pride in Gloucestershire website is as follows:

<https://www.prideinglos.org.uk/>

Cheltenham Pride Festival is 13th May at Imperial Gardens

Cirencester Mini-Pride is 18th June at Abby Grounds

Cinderford Mini-Pride is 16th July, The Triangle, Market Street

Tewkesbury Mini-Pride is 6th August, where to be announced

Pride Day Gloucestershire is 9th September in Gloucester Park

Lots to join in with this year, so have fun and hope for good weather!

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

## **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



## **Ex-member in Hospital**

Some of us will remember Andrew H., who was a member years ago before moving further away and not being able attend. We have recently heard he has been unwell and is in Hereford Hospital following surgery.

Those of us who do remember Andrew send him our best wishes and hope he recovers soon.

Graham, Editor

## **WilderPride**

WilderPride is a collaboration between Gloucestershire Wildlife trust and the LGBTQ+ Partnership. They are planting wild flower gardens that should result in a rainbow flag design (the original six colours).

Our very own chairman, Michael C-H, joined in the planting of one garden near Quayside House down in the Gloucester Docks. Next time you are down that way, have a look and see how it's going, and if you have some free time, how about volunteering to keep an eye on the garden and possibly help keep it looking nice?

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](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.

## **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

## **A G M**

# **GLOUCESTERSHIRE GAY AND LESBIAN COMMUNITY GROUP**

## **CHAIRMAN'S SPEECH**

Dear Colleagues on the Management Committee, fellow members and friends of the Group

It is with greatest pleasure that I address you again as your Chairman, this time for our 49th Annual General Meeting

Many other groups around the country are struggling or have folded – for example, other Gay Groups, Railway enthusiast clubs and even Cubs and Scouts. It is marvellous that we not only survived but have thrived. Thanks is due to the Committee, particularly, Rob, Craig and Graham who organized our electronic meetings. 'On-line' is an integral part of how the Group runs and they fit in perfectly with those who cannot attend physically on our regular nights.

The Group continues to expand and always facing new changes in LGBT + Lives. 'Trans' is a current issue and bringing debate to all sections of Society. I have been brought to task for comments made in our Newsletter, but sometimes you have to act an "agent provocateur" just to get people thinking and to educate. I personally do not agree that 'Trans' was added to the already lengthy "LGBTQ" etc and our flag. One label but no consultation. I do not feel any commonality with the "trans" community. That does not mean many in the community are not my friends or that I am not here to support their cause. If "Trans" do not identify as LG or B either, is the campaign going down the right road? Interesting point to discuss.

The complaint of all those organizing a group is that everyone wants everything done for them. It is not easy – we hope we have overcome some of these difficulties with a new contact list, started by a newer member, Navi. It seems to be since COVID that people will not commit to helping. What if the Chair/Committee decided not to bother turning up, unlocking the doors – the Group would not last long.

A big change to our organisation is Immigration and Asylum and so many young people arriving in the country, needing help from the persecution they have lived under. Those who managed to arrive here safely now have to live within restrictions and cannot work. So many young people have no funds in which to take part in social life and attend our regular meetings. A lot of help and advice is offered by Gay Glos and we wanted to make our own contribution. We could not offer 'free' membership and facilities – there are other men and women who cannot afford to join us so we wanted to handle this as delicately as possible. The Committee decided to offer Gayglos a grant i.e. a sum of which is not repayable.



They are the link to the Asylum community and in the best place to help in the most positive way. The only stipulation is the money is to be used for Immigration and asylum men and women. This only started recently and seems to be working well.

We hope to organize more group events during 2023, trip to Worcester to Sugar Daddies and Sunday Lunch at Fairview will be arranged – how about a visit to the new Abba Concert?

The past 12 months have yet again been quite eventful for the group and gay life in the County. Our Vice Chair is currently The Mayor of Gloucester – Congratulations Howard. Members are supporting Prides around the County.

The loss of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Second impacted around the world. For most of us she is the only Monarch we have known. We wish our new King and Queen a happy reign. The new Queen organized “Coronation Champions” – an award especially for outstanding achievement in volunteer work within the community. I am delighted to tell you I was one of the 5000+ whose name was proposed and one of the 500 winners! Today a lovely certificate arrived signed personally by the King and the Queen, a limited edition medal pin and invitation to a private garden party on the 9th May. I am thrilled and very excited to be honoured in this way. I am sure my dedication to the GGLC played a part in that.

We move into our 50th year in 2024 and an achievement we must celebrate.

Thank you to the current Management committee – Peter, our long standing and very excellent Secretary, Howard our esteemed Vice Chair, Craig our Treasurer who is stepping down this year, Sergio our Membership Secretary who replaced Rob last year. Rob was recognised at our last Annual Dinner with the title “emeritus” and remains as a Committee Member, Peter S, Committee Member and of course Graham our most prestigious Newsletter Editor. They keep the Group running on our behalf and please show your thanks.

As a gay community we have excelled ourselves, still here after nearly 50 years, offering a safe meeting place for LGBT people from around the world,

I wish each and every one of you the best during the Reign of our new King and Queen and hope that we will continue to survive and grow.

In fellowship

Michael C-H

Chair 2023

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 Emerson B  
5th Davina H  
13th Bob G  
14th Ceri B  
17th Geoffrey C

### June

1st Michael I  
7th Deric P  
13th Warlen F  
14th David H  
16th James J

28th Robert P

### July

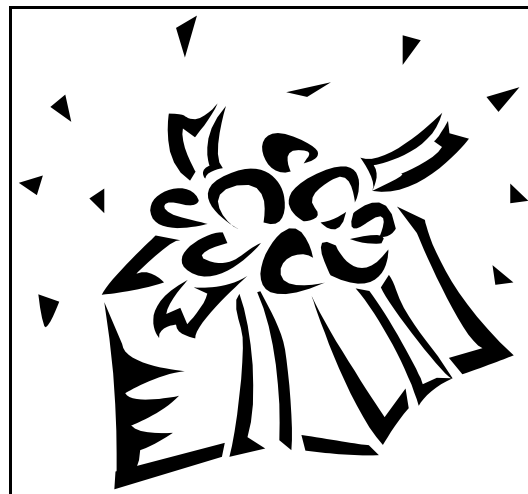
4th Elhagi J  
11th Stuart H  
15th Mark M  
18th Emma M  
22nd Gina S  
29th Paul D  
29th Anthony B

### August

1st Joan A  
9th Ebenezer O  
19th Ian V

21st Norina S

24th Tiveze M  
30th Craig F



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



# GGLC's SOCIAL CALENDAR DIARY OF EVENTS



## **May**

4th GGLC Meeting  
18th GGLC Virtual Meeting

## **June**

1st GGLC Meeting  
15th GGLC Virtual Meeting  
25th Picnic in the Forest

## **July**

6th GGLC Meeting and Dementia Awareness session  
20th GGLC Virtual Meeting

## **August**

3rd GGLC Meeting  
17th GGLC Virtual Meeting  
20th Picnic on the Common (Rounders)

## **Advanced Warnings and Notes!**

Plans so far are Pride 9th September and the Annual Dinner on October 28th.

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](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: Vacant

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.