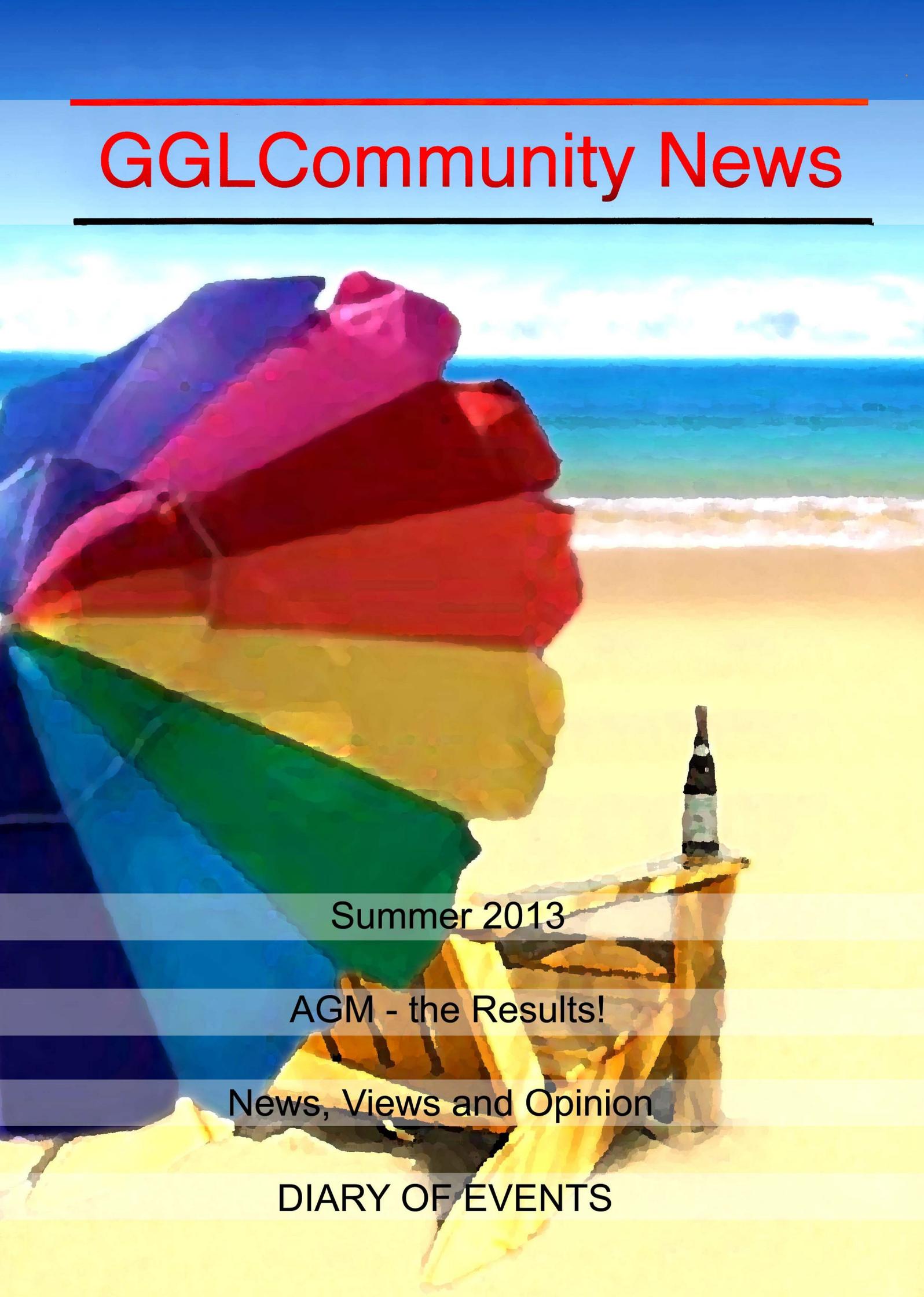

GGLCommunity News



Summer 2013

AGM - the Results!

News, Views and Opinion

DIARY OF EVENTS

CHAIRMAN'S LETTER



Hi Everyone,

Many thanks to those of you who supported the Club at the AGM - some of you even breaking off from your 'knees up' at the wedding reception downstairs! Congratulations to Carol and June on their Civil Partnership. It is the first time one of the partners has left her own reception to come and vote. It really cheered up the proceedings. Sat at the front, I could see you all swaying or tapping your feet to the music! The AGM went very well and all done and dusted in under an hour. Thanks go to all those on last years Committee. You will see that Mike B decided he would not stand again this year to encourage newer blood. However, Mike has only left the Committee on paper and is still beavering away organizing the stall for Pride, the rounders match and other events as usual. Thanks Mike.

We are thrilled that we have a woman on the Committee after many years. Welcome Chris - hope you enjoy the initiation ceremony, which we have adapted for you!! Just wear waterproofs and you'll be all right!

There are several reports in this Edition of the Newsletter so I will keep this short. I do hope you all have a wonderful summer and join in some of the many activities we have planned.

Gloucestershire Pride is now on and set for June 22nd - shame they changed the date as it now clashes with several other events. But be there, blow your whistle and have fun

Bye for now

Cheers

Michael

LUCKY LESBIAN OR BINGO BRIBERY?

Thursday last at about 10pm a woman was apprehended outside The Fountain in Gloucester. She was found to be in possession of a number of Kit Kats of various flavoured coatings and fillings, several Curly Wurlys, and a quantity of bags of Iced Gems. Questioned on the spot she admitted to having won these items at an evening of Bingo in the aforementioned pub. This seemed to be unlikely, but further enquiries appeared to support the woman's claim. The two women with whom she had left the pub agreed that an evening of Bingo had recently been held in a back room at the pub, and that the lucky prizewinner had purchased two Bingo tickets at £1 each. She had subsequently won prizes for a top line and a full house on the first card, a triangle and full house on the second card, and several further games. A few other participants had won similar prizes but not in such huge quantities. There have subsequently been rumours that a bribe changed hands for favourable tickets and 'fiddled' number calling. These rumours have been vociferously denied by those concerned who also suggested that the nature of the prizes would not warrant taking ridiculous risks to their good character.

During the course of the evening an ugly scene over the Iced Gems was apparently averted when a bout of uncontrollable giggling broke out at the back of the room causing a distraction to the gentleman concerned. Throughout the evening there were cheeky comments and mutterings from several of the tables, although some of the players took the proceedings very seriously. It was the screams of joy from winners that cast doubt on the content of the prizes, in particular the bags of Iced Gems, but testing proved that they were entirely innocent. (Both the screams of joy and the Iced Gems.)

It would appear that accusations against the woman stemmed from a fit of jealousy and she was released without charge or further questioning. When we asked for an interview she declined, saying "no comment".

Ed. Note: Bingo evenings are held regularly by the group concerned, and no such previous difficulties have been experienced, nor are any anticipated in the future. This one off incident should not deter anyone from attending in the future.

Author's note: As a Bingo Beginner I was unsure what to expect, but I can't remember the last time I laughed so much. A highly recommended evening.

M.H.

16/03/13

Rambling Editor

This issue we have a letter from Sarah, our visitor from the Antipodes, and a very interesting article from Howard, one of our members, who is very active in his Housing Association. At a time when many of us are reaching the stage of life where we may be moving in to sheltered accommodation or care, it is nice to see people making positive steps for all of us.

Very often, as our situation here in the UK improves, it is sometimes difficult to realise how different it is around the world, even in places most people would see as safe, civilised democracies. Sarah noted how in New Zealand, groups such as ours are just not around, which came as a surprise, as on 17th April they became the 13th country in the world and the first in their region to legalise gay marriage. This last week also, the news came that the Boy Scouts of America have finally decided to allow gay youngsters to be members, even though they still bar gay leaders. It all goes back to the 1911 oath, which included the words “morally straight”, and which had been misinterpreted as meaning “not gay”! It does mean that a young person can become an Eagle Scout, the most difficult award in US scouting requiring determination and dedication, and then being turned down as a leader due to their sexuality. Interesting message they are sending out.

In other parts of the world you can still be imprisoned or murdered for being gay, either by the State or by your neighbours or even your family. No matter how we feel about our own society, no matter the repetition of old, even insane rantings we have to put up with over equality legislation (such as the new Marriage Act), we should always be thankful that we live somewhere that is at least trying to do the right thing in allowing everyone to have their say openly.

Gloucestershire Pride is coming up, the last few years I have been able to attend, and have had the honour of carrying our banner. This year, I will not be able to be there, due to work. It's our opportunity to stand up and say we are here, and we are not going to vanish in fear and shame, no matter what anyone else thinks. I urge you, if you have not been to Pride, to go, stand up, volunteer to take my place carrying the banner, for the more of us there are who will stand up, the less likely those who would bring back the old days will be to succeed.

Is this a rant by myself? Well, yes, I guess it is. There have been things in the world recently that have uplifted me, but also a lot that has angered me, both home and abroad. Our predecessors and older generation friends fought for the rights we have, it looks like we will have to continue the fight to maintain those and to try and extend those rights, including the right to live, to our fellows all across the globe.

Graham, Editor

Young People's Social Group

Last July, Gay-Glos started a new group for young people in the 14 to 18 age range. It is for those who are gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered or who are in the process of exploring their sexual identity, and offers a safe place to meet and chat.

They meet during the daytime on Saturdays (possibly every other week) in Gloucester, and may be able to help with transport costs if needed.

The group was recently featured on Radio Gloucestershire, and is a wonderful resource for our youngsters. The meetings are organised and run in partnership with Young Gloucestershire.

To contact them, you can visit the Gay-Glos website at www.gay-glos.org, send an email to youth@gay-glos.org or leave a message on 01452 306800 and they will call you back.

Visitor from New Zealand

Although Gloucester born and bred, what a relief it was to get back to NZ for the weather!! After temperatures around freezing during my holiday back to the UK I arrived in Auckland which is still basking in an Indian summer with the thermometer up around 24c.

Joking apart, I would just like to thank the GGLC group for welcoming me to its meeting in March. It was great to catch up with familiar faces and meet new ones and hear about all the social activities you have planned. Pukekohe, where I live, is about 35 kms south of central Auckland and the town itself is large and booming. We don't however have any kind of social/support group which is a great shame. (I know I should do something about it).

I found the speaker from Stonewall interesting along with the results of their survey. I myself work as a support worker so can see many of the issues involved from both sides; a very good friend is also the Nursing Manager of a large retirement village so I have passed on the Stonewall booklet to her to have a look at. I'll let you know her reaction to it all.

So, it was great to be back in Gloucester and despite the weather it wouldn't take much to get me back permanently! Keep up the good work and remember – if any of you are heading this way let me and Coral know as I'm sure we can find you a bed for the night.

Sarah

The Anchor LGBT Advisory Group

The Anchor LGBT Advisory Group was formed in 2007 to tackle the “invisibility” of older lesbian, gay and bisexual people and the way trans people were perceived in sheltered schemes. For too long there had rarely been any recognition that sheltered scheme tenants might include LGBT people. There was discomfort and a lack of openness among both staff and tenants about LGBT issues.

It was time to end the isolation of LGBT staff and tenants and to deal effectively with any harassment towards them.

The group now covers all of Anchor. It is reaching into care homes and is inclusive of leaseholders. LGBT staff and service users working together not only helps the staff to work in a better environment and service users to overcome isolation but it has also helped to make Anchor a leader in social housing. By challenging myths and prejudices Anchor has also helped service users and staff in general to understand that diversity not only exists but can benefit us all.

The group meets around the country as the membership is spread across England. Meetings tend to be held in an LGBT, Age UK or LGBT friendly community organisation location. However, we have also met at the Customer centre in Bradford and our next meeting will be in a care home. Posters are sent out to locations in a geographical area of a meeting so that tenants, residents and leaseholders know when a meeting is being held in their area. The contact details for the group are on this poster so they can find out the location and meeting information.

The group has met in Oxford, London, Manchester, Bradford, Leicester, Bristol, Durham, Brighton, Birmingham, Scarborough, Chester, Sheffield, Liverpool and Peterborough. The next meeting is in Coventry. Some of these locations have been visited more than once.

There was an Anchor stall at Birmingham Pride last year and this year there will be a stall at Liverpool Pride.

The Group is represented on the Customer Services Committee and, under its terms of reference, may make recommendations both to the main Board and Executive Management Board. Both boards can also request the group to consider particular issues in accordance with its remit.

The group meetings start with formal business and we have special topics based around a work plan. There is a closed session where managers who support the

group leave so only the staff and customer members are present. This gives an opportunity for people to be completely open and express any concerns or problems they may have. It also gives the group an opportunity to consider issues which need resolving and taking up within Anchor.

Within Anchor the group is getting involved with training of staff and is involved in getting information into the tenancy sign up pack. A new poster for notice boards throughout Anchor is being produced with photos of members of the group and contact information. There are four group contacts: The Chair and Secretary who are both customers, a member of staff who works in a care home and the Customer Engagement Manager. We intend to have a new leasehold contact in due course. The group is also involved in Anchor's new Equalities and Diversity Policy and a LGBT forum planned for the improved website. The group has had to be persistent as not all that has been achieved so far has been done without setbacks. Posters have either not been put up or have been taken down from notice boards. Information was not put into tenancy sign up packs. There were a number of issues so the group met up with senior managers at the Bradford offices which turned out to be very positive.

Members of the group have attended meetings with other organisations and also attended conferences jointly with management. The group chair meets regularly with Stonewall Housing and the secretary is the link with the Tenant Participation Advisory Service.

The group has had guests from numerous outside organisations and individuals involved in LGBT issues. Our special topics have included Trans Issues, Living in Residential Care as an Older LGBT Person, HIV/Aids, Religious Beliefs & LGBT People, Accessibility to Meetings for Staff & Any Other Barriers, Alcohol & Drugs in the LGBT Community, Bisexuality, and guests from Opening Doors London. The next meeting is in a care home with the special topic: Living in a Care Home.

The group has been featured on the radio, in Inside Housing, in the Guardian and has received an award from the Tenant Participation Advisory Service.

Two incidents are worth mentioning. When the poster was first distributed a person rang to tell the Customer Engagement Manager he had taken it off the notice board as it was against his religion. She told him Anchor has a policy of being inclusive and if he couldn't cope with that perhaps he should consider if it was the right housing association for him. A group member was physically threatened by another tenant because of the way he dressed because he identified as trans. The perpetrator then went to the communal lounge and ranted about the person he had just threatened upsetting the bingo evening. The group member phoned me and I advised him to report it to the police as a hate crime. (We are

now seeing about getting a hate crime officer from this police force as a speaker at a future meeting). The matter went to court with Anchor providing a barrister. The judge granted an injunction. The District Manager visited the person and showed him a notice he would be receiving of intention to evict if there was any further trouble. The person has moved to other accommodation.

This is a snapshot of our work but there is a considerable way to go. We need to do a lot more at a local level on a more regular basis perhaps with the help of Anchor's regional forums. A topic for a meeting later this year is dedicated support provision from the group. We have been invited by the Care Specialist Team Manager to form a working group with her. This is very important as we really need to do more in regard to care homes.

Howard Hyman
Secretary
Anchor LGBT Advisory Group

A NOTE FROM THE TREASURER

What a year of weather. The wettest Summer for 40 years, the coldest Winter since 1962 and the coldest Spring ever recorded. Yet still our members turned up on a Thursday and supported the Group.

The wrapped Auction did very well again and £130+ was raised. Considering it was the coldest night of the winter a great effort!!

The 'Bus Stop' also contributed £120 to funds.

The investment last year to redesign our website has helped to achieve the highest membership in many years.

During the last year we also invested in new exhibition boards, mainly to display group aims and events at Prides and anywhere else we are asked to promote the GGLC.

The Group has a buzz about it. We have a nice group of ladies attending our weekly meetings. The finances are in good shape and soon we are moving back to our 'home'. So, lots to look forward to in the coming year.

regards

Alan R

GREEDY and Bi Visible Bristol

Great name eh. A new night club for bi people opened in Bristol. For details for to <http://bevisiblebristol.wordpress.com> or Jess on 07905597440

Events Write-up

Well, quite a lot of stuff to write up this time! At the end of January we had a New Year's Quiz, which mostly reminded us how short our memories were! It was fun, so thanks to Peter. The following week was a coffee and chat, which was, well, like our C&Cs!

February started with a film, which everyone said was very good, sadly I missed it, perhaps some day... The next week was Valentine's Day, which Michael and I split between us. It was well attended, with a mixture of games (!) and quizzes, a sort of disorganised chaos! I certainly had fun! Alan hosted the Pub Quiz the following week, a much more sedentary and sensible evening, enjoyed by all.

In March, we had a talk by Iain George about green/natural/woodland funerals. Although this would seem a rather depressing subject, it was very entertaining and informative—never before did I imagine you could have a woollen coffin, though probably not crotched! This was followed the week after by the ever popular bingo with Rob and Mike, possibly a case of our number being up? The month continued with an interesting talk from Stonewall, with many concerns about growing older gay coming to the fore. March closed with the traditional Maundy Thursday skittles.

At the start of April we watched a film about "The Carpenters", one of Alan's favourite groups. Excellent music and I certainly learned a lot, especially about how dedicated to the music they were. We celebrated Alan's 70th the next week—how come so many of our members are reaching milestone ages while still looking younger than I feel, not fair! This was followed by an early coffee and chat evening to leave the following week free for the AGM. This is covered more fully elsewhere, but it was probably the best attended AGM for many years, and despite there being serious business to get through, it was still a light hearted and fun night.

May came on in its usual blaze of sunshine (!), and I hosted an evening of our member's music. There is such a wide range of tastes in the Group that it is always interesting, and there is always some good music that I have not heard before. The next week we had Call My Bluff, hosted by Peter with an international panel! Great fun, and how do they find those words? For the first time in many years, the Treasure Hunt actually didn't get rained off, and the teams were sent off into the wilderness of Gloucester, to glean answers to a multitude of questions! It seems some must have sprinted round, as they returned much quicker than expected, despite some people having difficulty in finding a decent whisky! The evening was finished by a Gloucestershire wide quiz. May was rounded off by an illustrated talk by Steve B., who showed us how Gloucestershire has influenced the Antipodeans! Who knew Cheltenham would be so popular for a place name?

We still have one evening of May left, but if I reported on that, this Newsletter would never get produced! So hope you have all enjoyed our programme of the last few months, and if you have any ideas for future events, let us know, otherwise you will have to put up with whatever is chosen for you! Have fun!

Graham, Newsletter Editor

Quaker Meeting House

It is hoped that we will soon be moving back to the Meeting House, though dates are not clear yet! Keep up to date at the meetings, on the web site, or call if not sure where we are.

Gay Outdoor Club

The national website has changed to <http://www.goc.org.uk> so all you out-doors types log on and see what you could be getting involved in!

GGLC Mugs!

These specially commissioned mugs are now available to members for a only £2.50! Talk to a committee member today!

National AIDS Helplines

“You can ask what you want to ask”
0800567123

Pink Paper

The Pink Paper has very much vanished from physical sight, though the Committee has tried to get copies for the Group. It is available on-line at <http://www.pinkpaper.com/>, and this may be the best way to access it now.

Gay & Lesbian Humanist Association (GALHA) http://www.galha.org/	Lesbian & Gay Christian Movement Alan 0117 982 1512 http://www.lgcm.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) http://www.beaumontsociety.org.uk/	Transvestite Help Line Rita 0117 951 4481
Gay Girls of Gloucestershire 07561 067888 http://www.gaygirlsofgloucestershire.co.uk	Gay Men’s Project West of England 0117 955 1000 Wiltshire and Swindon 01793 695 300	Living Springs Metropolitan Community Church, Bath Rev. Kieren Bourne 01380 870226

The  **estgate**

Gloucester's only LGBT venue

Opening Times

Sunday	noon - 2am
Monday	11am - 2am
Tuesday	11am - 2am
Wednesday	11am - 3am
Thursday	11am - 3am
Friday	11am - 3am
Saturday	11am - 5am!

Always **FREE** entry

Food served until 4pm Sunday - Thursday
and until 6pm Friday and Saturday

**Get 10% discount off all food with
your GGLC membership card**

CHAIRMANS REPORT – AGM 2013

Like some of it's members, the group grows ever older ! as we approach our 40th year. It is an outstanding achievement that we have made it this far.

What is more impressive it that we have maintained the core of why we are here – to meet with like minded people, socialise and support each other. The LGBT Community is like any other part of society – has it's ups and down, fads and fashions, in and out of favour. It is wonderful, especially for younger people, that regardless of their sexuality they can go into any public venue and feel safe. Equality is a wonderful thing which like everything , has it down side too. A lot of gay people, especially the not quite so young generation **do** want to go to a gay only venue – it is there where then can talk and act freely. This is where the group comes into it's own and perhaps explains why our membership is growing.

The Committee do a tremendous job – as well as giving up their time, the extra cost and expertise and they do this willingly. We would be lost without Peter who does so much although I keep on at him not to overburden himself. Alan, our somewhat reluctant Treasurer who does such a good job. Rob, our Vice Chair, currently in bed in Thailand who is also Membership Secretary. It is so cute to see him so pleased when the membership goes up! Mike who was our “ help our anywhere man” particularly with any raffle or tombola. Mark ,who has started on promoting the group and of course Rob N as Health Promotion Officer. What a difference he has made already with regular HP stands here at the group and representing us at health authority meetings. This thank you would of course not be complete without mention of Graham, Newsletter Editor, whose missives are eagerly awaited by the journalistic of those amongst us.

Can we please show our thanks in the usual way.

The group would not function, without you, the members and guests. It is for you, by you and of you. Please continue to support us and enjoy your club

Thank you for listening

Michael

M J Charlton-Hubble

Chair, GGLC

AGM Report

Well, another AGM has been held, and what an event it was, mostly for the number of members who attended, and for the unusual situation where several members celebrating their Civil Partnership ascended from the function room below to take part in the voting! Great fun, and wonderful to see!

The main officers gave their reports, with the Chairman's being set out in this issue. The Treasurer's one let us know we are still in a good financial situation, even though we have invested in some decent equipment for the Group, and the Membership Secretary was happy to report an increase in membership, and the inclusion of more ladies than ever before.

Once the Committee had been dissolved, the members proceeded to elect their officials for the next year. Michael C-H was re-elected as Chairman, for a period of two years, with Peter C. and Alan R. remaining as Secretary and Treasurer respectively. Mark M. and Robert N. were joined as Committee Members by Chris D., and will be your reps for the year. Graham V. (me!) was elected Newsletter Editor, despite me warning you about it yet again! Well, you've done it, can't be helped....

Julie and a Committee Member to be decided were selected by the Group to be the self-auditors for the year, a post which means just before the AGM they will look at the figures for us, and ask any questions and clarifications where needed.

The Chair pointed out that next year will be our 40th Anniversary, and if we wanted to do anything special for the Annual Dinner we would have to start thinking about it NOW! This is quite right, so make sure you talk with your reps and let them know what you are expecting. After a quick report on the status of the Friends Meeting House—it looks like we may be moving back in the near future—and very little AOB, the date of the next AGM was set as April 24th 2014, and the meeting was closed.

Annual Dinner Coming Up!

The 39th Annual Dinner will be held at the Cranham Suite of the Royal William Hotel, GL6 6TT on 26th October, 7.30 for 8.00pm.

Prices will be kept as low as possible, with members dinners being subsidised by the Group, and flyers with further details will be available soon, so keep the date free, and your eyes open!

Membership update

I am pleased to report an increase in membership to 65. This is an increase of 7 against the previous newsletter report Spring 2013. This is the highest figure for many years. The number of women joining the Group continues to increase which is very encouraging.

Rob P., Membership Secretary.

Raffle

The Raffle takes place the last Thursday of the month. Don't forget to bring your money and all donations for prizes gratefully accepted.

This is one of the few fund raising events for our group

SPECTRUM is a group in Hereford. They meet once a month in the Mezzanine, Courtyard Centre for the Arts, Edgar Street, Hereford on the third Thursday.

FORTHCOMING BIRTHDAYS

June

3rd Stuart F
7th Deric P
13th Steve B
28th Andrew W
28th Rob P.

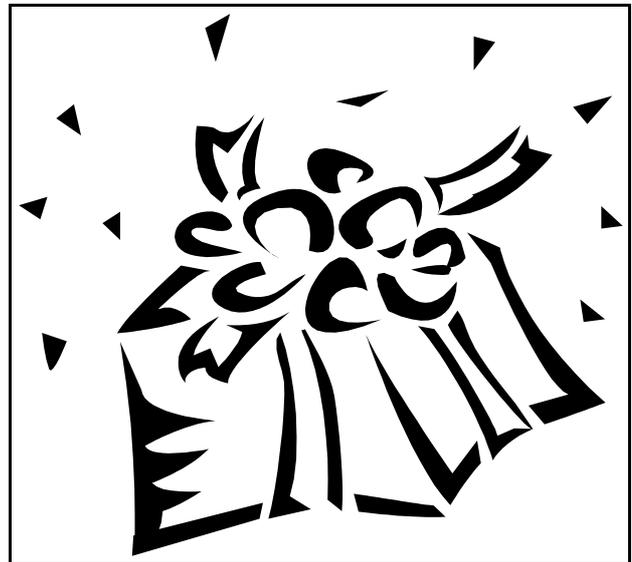
14th Rosie G
15th Mark M
29th Anthony B
29th Paul D

August

4th Lee P
19th Ian V
21st Norina S
25th Stephen B

July

4th Doug M
11th Stuart H



Blimey! We have more birthdays each issue, is someone having more than one a year? Anyhow, have fun all of you!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU ALL



GGLC's SOCIAL CALENDAR DIARY OF EVENTS

June

- 6th The Terence Higgins Trust Talk by Jonathan B.
- 13th Beetle Drive—A fun game!
- 14th Pub Night at the Westgate Pub
- 20th Preparation for Pride—Bottle Stall
- 22nd Gloucestershire Pride at Gloucester Park
- 27th Coffee, Chat and Raffle

July

- 4th Boston Tea Party! Games and Quizzes!
- 11th Film Night, “East Bloc Love”
- 12th Pub Night at the Westgate Pub
- 13th Bristol Pride—we have a stall!
- 18th Disaster Management, a talk by Chris
- 25th Coffee, Chat and Raffle
- 28th Group Picnic at Canop Ponds, 1pm weather permitting!

August

- 1st “Surprised by Myeloma” a talk by one of our members
- 8th Graham’s Games—Try Your Hand!
- 9th Pub Night at the Westgate Pub
- 15th Film Night, “If Only These Walls Could Talk Too” - Meg
- 22nd News Quiz by Peter C.
- 29th Coffee, Chat and Raffle

Advanced Warnings and Notes!

September 1st Rounders and Picnic at Rodborough Common.

Please note on film nights arrive early, as an 8pm start is usually needed! We are lucky to get the range of speakers and visitors that we do, please remember they are our guests!

October 26th will be the Annual Dinner, more details later, but keep the date free.

The diary is subject to change due to changes in circumstances, whim, Editor’s insanity and attacks by weasels..

CONTACTING THE GGLC

Gloucestershire Gay & Lesbian Community meets most Thursdays, from 8pm, in Gloucester city centre. A warm welcome is assured for everyone. For further details or directions please phone 07050 627273 or write to :-

P0 BOX 23, Gloucester GL1 1YW.

On Thursday nights from 8pm, you can phone us on 07879572396, but please remember this is during the meeting! 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!

GAY-GLOS Helpline 01452 306800

LOCAL 'HAUNT'

The Westgate, Gloucester www.TheWestgateOnline.co.uk

Haunts is now Haunt... any ideas anyone?



Some of the information on the bars and discos may be wrong—
new places may be opening—anyone with the latest news,
please let us know.