



Gay Outdoor Club

TIMELINE 1974 to 2024

EVENTS KEY:

- GOC
- LGBT+
- British/World

1974

- Small beginnings: the group was advertised as a CHE (Campaign for Homosexual Equality) / Special Interest Group. It used the then CHE London Information Centre (CHELIC) as a postal address.
- New Year's Day is celebrated as a public holiday for the first time.
- London Lesbian and Gay Switchboard, a London-based information and support helpline, is established.
- February: A General Election results in the first hung parliament since 1929. Labour Party's Harold Wilson becomes UK Prime Minister for the second time.
- Club formed, under the initial title of "CHE Outdoor Group: Nationwide" and then the "Gay Outdoor Group".
- ABBA win with *Waterloo* in the Eurovision Song Contest.
- July: Snowdonia becomes the venue for the first ever weekend camping event. 7 attended.
- Jon Pertwee leaves and Tom Baker takes over as the lead in *Doctor Who*.
- The First National TV/TS (Transvestite/Transsexual Conference) is held in Leeds.
- October: A second General Election is held with Labour winning a majority.

1975

- First programme of events.
- The United Kingdom chooses to remain a member state of the European Communities in a non-binding referendum.
- The Liberal Party (who later became the Liberal Democrats) becomes the first UK political party to support LGBT rights, passing a motion at conference to support 'full equality for homosexuals', including equalising the age of consent.
- William Hartnell, the original *Doctor Who*, dies.
- In USA, Colorado, clerk Clela Rorex begins issues several marriage licenses to same-sex couples. The Attorney General later issues an opinion that the licenses are invalid and orders that no additional licenses be issued.
- The world's first teletext information service, Ceefax, was launched by the BBC.
- November: Events programme dwindled and nominal membership was less than 30. The end?
- *Jaws* is released and within two weeks becomes the highest-grossing film at the time.

1976

- The club goes through a 'rebirth' and becomes "Gay Outdoor Club".
- The first commercial Concorde flight takes off, from Heathrow Airport.
- The first GOC newsletter is produced, developing from the original two-sided news sheet to four A4 pages.
- Heatwave causing droughts throughout the islands of Great Britain and Ireland.
- Two official posts introduced to the club: Treasurer and Secretary.
- The Gay Christian Movement is founded (later named the Lesbian and Gay Christian Movement and then One Body One Faith).
- The start of local/regional group with the creation of the first: Yorkshire group. In November this would be renamed as Transpennine. This was soon followed by formation of the Bristol and Scotland groups.
- Following Harold Wilson's resignation, James Callaghan becomes Prime Minister.
- First GOC advert in *Gay News*.

1977

- The first National Get-Together (later known as the Annual Outdoor Gathering/AOG), with six groups meeting up in Edale, Peak District.
- A Bill to reduce the age of consent to 18 is defeated in the UK House of Lords.
- The first 'official' club logo makes an appearance.
- May: *Star Wars* is released and quickly becomes the highest-grossing film of all-time.
- GOC is affiliated with the Ramblers Association and the British Mountaineering Council.
- Silver Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II.
- In San Francisco, gay activist Harvey Milk is elected as city supervisor and appointed by Mayor, George Moscone.
- New groups: Birmingham; Kent; Manchester; Sheffield.

1978

- May: National Get-Together in Edale, Peak District.
- Early May Bank Holiday observed for the first time.
- October: AGM held in Birmingham.
- The International Lesbian and Gay Association (ILGA) was founded as the International Gay Association (IGA) during the conference of the Campaign for Homosexual Equality in Coventry at a meeting attended by 30 men representing 17 organisations from 14 countries.
- Concrete Cows first erected in Milton Keynes.
- New groups: Cambridge; Leicester.
- Harvey Milk and George Moscone are murdered by former supervisor, Dan White.

1979

- March: AGM in Birmingham.
- May: The Conservatives win the General Election and Margaret Thatcher becomes the first female Prime Minister of the United Kingdom.
- New group: Northern Region (amalgamating more localised groups in North-West)
- The White Night riots occur in San Francisco after Dan White is convicted of two counts of voluntary manslaughter instead of murder in the assassinations of Harvey Milk and George Moscone.
- The first J D Wetherspoon pub is established by Tim Martin in the London Borough of Haringey.
- September: National Get-Together in Edale, Peak District.
- November: Last episode of the first series of the sitcom *To The Manor Born* on BBC One receives 23.95 million viewers, the all-time highest figure for a recorded programme in the UK.

1980

- May: The first official national gathering, at Edale, with largest turn-out to date of around 80 members.
- Sex between two men over the age of 21 'in private' is decriminalised in Scotland.
- Adoption of proposed constitution and elected committee.
- The SAS storm the Iranian Embassy building in London.
- Founder, Reg Connolly announces that he is to take a less active part in the club.
- Alexandra Palace in London is gutted by fire.
- Trip to Everest, Nepal.
- December: Murder of John Lennon.
- The first Black Gay and Lesbian Group is formed in the UK.
- Queen Elizabeth II makes history by becoming the first British monarch to make a state visit to the Vatican.
- Julia Grant becomes the first transgender person to have her transition chronicled on mainstream television with the BBC documentary, *A Change of Sex*. The BBC also gives an inside view of the Gender Identity Clinic at Charing Cross Hospital in London.
- November: The first *Children In Need* is shown.

1981

- May: National Weekend at Hawksend, Lake District.
- The first UK case of AIDS was recorded.
- After 7 years, Tom Baker finishes in the role of the Doctor with Peter Davison taking over in *Doctor Who*.
- The first bisexual group in the United Kingdom, London Bisexual Group, was founded.
- Marriage of Prince Charles and Lady Diana Spencer.
- New groups: Glasgow, Hampshire, Oxfordshire; West Sussex.
- After a gap of 7 years, United Kingdom come first with Buck Fizz, *Making Your Mind Up*.
- Transpennine group expands: more walks have been in Lancashire and Cheshire rather than keeping to Derbyshire or Yorkshire so there will be two contacts.
- October: The Post Office is split into two separate businesses: the Post Office and British Telecommunications (BT). The latter responsible for the public telephone network.

1982

- April: Falkland's War, conflict between Argentina and United Kingdom, lasting for ten weeks.
- May: National Weekend in Brockweir, Forest of Dean.
- Northern Ireland decriminalizes consensual homosexual acts between adults, the last jurisdiction within the United Kingdom to do so.
- New groups: New Forest; Milton Keynes; North Hampshire; East Midlands Ramblers; Bristol group changes name to South Cotswolds.
- Channel 4 is launched. The first programme to teatime game show, *Countdown*.
- The first Gay Games is held, in San Francisco.

1983

- May: National Weekend in Moffat, Dumfries and Galloway.
- Guernsey decriminalises sex between two men.
- 20th Anniversary of *Doctor Who*, celebrated with a multi-Doctor special.
- Men who have sex with men are asked not to donate to UK blood banks amid the AIDS crisis.
- Lazy London Walks ceased and replaced by Capital Strolls.
- The UK's first national lesbian and gay (one-off) TV show, *One in Five*, is shown on Channel 4.
- The British £1 coin is introduced.
- New groups: South Devon

- 10th Anniversary.
- Pet Shop Boys debut single, "West End Girls", was first released in 1984 but failed to chart in most regions. It would be re-released in 1985 and become a hit.
- May: National Weekend at Capel Curig, Snowdonia. Controversary when parish council withdraw the hiring of the village hall to the group. Made local and national news.
- Chris Smith becomes the first openly gay member of the House of Commons.
- Bob Geldof and Band Aid release the chairty single "Do They Know It's Christmas?", which becomes the fastest-selling single of all time in the UK.
- New Chairman, Mike Giddings.
- Edinburgh Bisexual Group, the first bi group in Scotland, is founded. In addition to group meetings, the group also sets up the first bi-specific helpline in the UK.
- Peter Davison leaves, and Colin Baker takes over as the lead in *Doctor Who*.
- New groups: Essex; Solent; restart of North Hampshire group.
- Start of the Miners' Strike.
- 'Lesbians and Gays Support the Miners' campaign is launched in of support of workers in the miners' strikes.

1984

1985

- May: National Weekend in Isle of Purbeck, Dorset.
- Roger Moore makes his seventh and final appearance as James Bond in *A View To A Kill*.
- The first memorial to the LGBT victims of the Nazis, a pink granite stone monument at the former Neuengamme concentration camp inscribed "Dedicated to the Homosexual victims of National Socialism, 1985", is unveiled.
- New group: Berks and Mid-Thames.
- Soap opera, *EastEnders* debuts.
- Solent group closes.

1986

- May: National Weekend in Settle, Yorkshire Dales.
- Chernobyl disaster.
- Mark Rees, a trans-man, brings a case to the European Court of Human Rights, stating that UK law prevented him from gaining legal status recognising him as male. The case was lost but the court noted the seriousness of the issues facing trans people.
- Zambia trip.
- GCSE examination courses replace both GCE 'O' Level and CSE courses for 14-year-olds.
- USA, New York City passes the Gay Rights Bill, its first anti-discrimination bill.
- The first UNESCO World Heritage Sites in the U.K. are designated.

1987

- May: National Weekend in Cheltenham, Gloucestershire.
- Timothy Dalton makes his debut as James Bond in *The Living Daylights*.
- The Homomonument, a memorial to LGBT victims of the Nazis, is dedicated at Amsterdam, Netherlands.
- New group: South Wales.
- David Wilshire, MP, introduces Section 28 as an amendment to the Local Government Bill.
- In *Doctor Who*, Sylvester McCoy takes over as the lead role.
- Rock climbing section (GOCRock) formed.

1988

- May: National Weekend in Pitlochry, Perthshire.
- UK Government passed Section 28 of the Local Government Act 1988. It states that a local authority "shall not intentionally promote homosexuality or publish material with the intention of promoting homosexuality" or "promote the teaching in any maintained school of the acceptability of homosexuality as a pretended family relationship".
- The Social Democratic Party (SDP) and Liberal Party amalgamates to form the Social and Liberal Democrats Party (becoming the Liberal Democrats Party in 1988).
- New Chairman, Chris Bourne.
- Actor Ian McKellen comes out on the UK's BBC Radio in response to Section 28.
- After 24 years, the much maligned soap opera, *Crossroads* finishes its original run.
- GOC purchases a computer/word processor.

1989

- April/May: National Weekend in Edale, Peak District.
- Timothy Dalton makes his second and final appearance as James Bond in *Licence To Kill*.
- Stonewall UK is formed in response to Section 28 and other barriers to equality.
- *Doctor Who*, after 26 years, finishes.
- Trip to Australia.
- The start of the demolition of the Berlin Wall.
- Channel 4 launches the first weekly gay magazine programme, *Out of Tuesday*.
- The Hillsborough Disaster, a the fatal crowd crush at Hillsborough Stadium with 97 dying on injuries and 766 non-fatal injuries.

1990

- May: National Weekend in Wantage, Oxfordshire.
- OutRage!, an activist group is founded in response to a number of murders of gay men and called for police protection not persecution.
- Launch of the Hubble Space Telescope.
- Stephen Twigg becomes the youngest and first openly gay president of National Union of Students.
- The BBC begins broadcasting Radio 5, its first new radio station for 23 years.
- First Pride events held in Manchester and Northern Ireland.
- November: Margaret Thatcher resigns as Prime Minister and replaced by John Major.
- Jersey decriminalises sex between two men.

1991

- May: National Weekend in Wooler, Northumberland.
- The National Curriculum assessment ("standard attainment tests" or SATs) is first carried out at Key Stage 1 in primary schools in England.
- Sir Ian McKellen meets John Major - the first time any sitting Prime Minister has met with LGBT activists.
- One Canada Square at Canary Wharf in London becomes the tallest building in the UK.
- The PM announces that, owing to 'changing social attitudes', the ban on gay men and lesbians working for the British Diplomatic Service will be lifted.
- Scout Groups may admit girls to all their sections.
- Dissolution of the Soviet Union (USSR).

1992

- May: National Weekend in the Brecon Beacons, Powys.
- World Health Organisation declassifies same-sex attraction as a mental illness.
- The first SMS text message ("Merry Christmas") was sent.
- New groups: Devon; Norfolk.
- The Church of England votes to allow women to become priests.

1993

- April/May: National Weekend in Wareham, Dorset.
- The Queen announces that Buckingham Palace will open to the public for the first time.
- East Midlands Ramblers renames to East Midlands group.
- Sodomy laws in the Republic of Ireland are repealed.
- Humberside group finishes.
- New groups: South Wales.
- David Ensor resigns as Chairman; Chris Bourne becomes Acting Chairman.

1994

- 20th Anniversary.
- The age of consent for same-sex relations between men is lowered from 21 to 18 (after a proposal to 16 was defeated). An age of consent for same-sex relations between women is not set.
- April/May: National Weekend in Stirling, Central Scotland.
- Channel Tunnel is opened, connecting England to France.
- Isle of Man fully decriminalises homosexuality.
- New groups: Rye Dale/North Yorkshire/Humberside; Cornwall; Surrey.

1995

- 21st Anniversary.
- Inauguration of the Memorial to gay and lesbian victims of National Socialism in Cologne, Germany
- The first James Bond film in 6 years, with Pierce Brosnan making his debut in *GoldenEye*. Judi Dench also makes her first appearance as 'M'.
- April/May: National Weekend in Pen Y Pad, Snowdonia.
- Rank Outsiders and Stonewall launch a major campaign to end the ban on LGB people openly serving in the British military.
- New group: North Wales.
- On-line marketplace, *eBay*, is founded (named as *AuctionWeb* until 1997).
- September: First newsletter to include a Welsh language version in Wales groups diary entries.

1996

- May: National Weekend in Castleton, Peak District.
- The European Parliament calls for an end to anti-gay discrimination.
- New Chairman, John Asquith.
- Dolly the sheep becomes the first successful cloned mammal.
- Radio 4's *The Archers* introduces its first openly gay character, Sean Myerson.
- *Doctor Who* makes a brief return as a TV Movie, with Paul McGann taking over the role.
- New group: Dumfries and Galloway.

1997

- May: National Weekend in Bath, Somerset.
- After 18 years of a Conservative government, Labour Party win a general election. Tony Blair becomes the new Prime Minister.
- Launch of GOC Sport Climbing Team for Gay Game 1998.
- United Kingdom win in the Eurovision Song Contest with Katrina and the Waves, *Love Shine A Light*.
- Stephen Twigg becomes first openly gay MP at the time of his first election. Ben Bradshaw, also openly gay, is also elected just 21 minutes later. Angela Eagle becomes Britain's first MP to voluntarily come out as a lesbian.
- Diana, Princess of Wales is killed in a car crash.
- New groups: Isle of Wight; Fermanagh (Northern Ireland); South Lincolnshire, Greater Peterborough and Rutland.
- Wilts, Avon and Glos group now named Wilts, Glos and Somerset.
- *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone*, the first in the series of Harry Potter books by J.K Rowling is published.

1998

- April: GOC website launched.
- April: The historic counties of Herefordshire and Worcestershire are reestablished, 24 years after they merged to form Hereford and Worcester; Berkshire County Council is abolished and replaced by unitary authorities.
- May: National Weekend in Sheringham, Norfolk.
- Waheed Alli becomes the first openly gay member of the House of Lords and one of a few openly gay Muslims.
- The DVD format is released onto the UK market for the first time.
- Welsh borders group renamed to Shropshire and Mid-Wales.
- First general-circulation issue of a two pound coin, with a bi-metallic design (dated 1997).

1999

- 25 years of the GOC.
- The Euro is introduced to the financial markets.
- July: National Weekend in Ambleside, Cumbria. The first to be held at a university campus.
- The Admiral Duncan, a gay pub in Soho, is bombed by former British National Party member, David Copeland. The attack kills three people and wounds at least 70.
- First elections to the Scottish Parliament and Welsh Assembly take place which will now be responsible for aspects of Scotland and Wales's governance.
- Michael Cashman, co-founder of Stonewall UK, becomes the first openly gay UK member elected to the European Parliament.
- October: World population reaches 6 billion.
- Bi Visibility Day, also known as Celebrate Bisexuality Day, is founded on 23 September to celebrate bisexuality and combat bi erasure.
- The Good Friday Agreement comes into effect, two agreements intended to bring about the end of the Troubles in Northern Ireland.

2000

- The ban on lesbians and gay men serving in the United Kingdom armed forces is lifted.
- July: National Weekend in Shrewsbury, Shropshire.
- Reality television game show *Big Brother* first airs in the UK.
- The parliament of Scotland repeals Section 28. It is the first part of the United Kingdom to do so.
- Wembley Stadium closes after 77 years, in preparation for its demolition and replacement. The final game at the old stadium, the England football team loses 1–0 to Germany in their opening qualifying game for the 2002 World Cup.
- The age of consent across the United Kingdom is equalised at 16.

2001

- Foot and Mouth Outbreak, starting in February, in the United Kingdom and causing a national crisis.
- Foot and Mouth outbreak affects GOC walks.
- BBC Radio 4's soap, *The Archers* celebrates its 50th anniversary and is the longest running soap opera.
- The first couples sign the Greater London Authority's partnership register. The partnership register is a way of recognising the partnership status of couples, both same-sex and opposite-sex.
- August: National Weekend in Exeter, Devon.
- September: Hijacks of American airlines and crashed into the Twin Towers of the World Trade Centre, New York; the Pentagon; and grassland in Shanksville, Pennsylvania. Approximately 2,977 victims are killed or fatally injured. The Twin Towers collapse as a result of the crashes.
- New group: South Midlands.
- The film adaptation of Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone, the first in what become a series.

2002

- January: The foot and mouth crisis is declared over after eleven months.
- July: National Weekend in Oban, Argyll.
- Equal rights are granted to same-sex couples applying for adoption.
- Queen Elizabeth II celebrates her Golden Jubilee.
- New group: Milton Keynes & Buckinghamshire.
- *SMTV Live*, a Saturday morning children's television programme, features the first openly gay children's TV presenter in the UK, Brian Dowling.
- Competition to rename "National Weekend".
- Pierce Brosnan makes his fourth and final appearance as James Bond in *Die Another Day*. 40th anniversary of the film series.

2003

- First year to use the term, "Annual Outdoor Gathering" (AOG) for the national get-togethers.
- March: U.S. forces invade Iraq vowing to destroy Iraqi weapons of mass destruction (WMD) and end the dictatorial rule of Saddam Hussein. American, British, Australian, Polish, and Danish military operations begin; ground troops move into Iraq.
- August: AOG in Durham, County Durham.
- Section 28 is repealed in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, lifting the ban on local authorities from 'the teaching in any maintained school of the acceptability of homosexuality'.
- New chairman, Graeme Brown.
- Employment Equality (Sexual Orientation) Regulations becomes law in the UK, making it illegal to discriminate against lesbians, gay and bi people in the workplace.
- The final Concorde flight touches down in Filton, Bristol.
- Stonewall Cymru is founded.

2004

- 30th Anniversary.
- The Civil Partnership Act 2004 is passed, granting civil partnership in the United Kingdom. The Act gives same-sex couples the same rights and responsibilities as married straight couples in England, Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales.
- Facebook is launched.
- July: AOG in Leicester, Leicestershire.
- Wales Millennium Centre in Cardiff is opened.

2005

- New group: Hertfordshire.
- *Pink News*, UK-based online newspaper, is launched.
- July: 4 co-ordinated terrorist bombings strike London's public transport system during the morning rush hour. 52 civilians are killed and over 700 injured in the first Islamist terrorist attack in the UK.
- July: AOG in Canterbury, Kent. A record number of 200 members attending.
- YouTube is launched.
- Christopher Cramp and Matthew Roche become the first couple to complete a Civil Partnership in the UK. Mr Roche died of terminal cancer the following day.
- *Doctor Who* returns as a new series with Christopher Eccleston as the Doctor. Following the end of the first series, David Tennant takes over in the role.

2006

- July: AOG in Galashiels, Scottish Borders.
- Daniel Craig makes his debut as James Bond in *Casino Royale*.
- *The Archers* is the first soap opera to feature a gay civil ceremony.
- New Chairman, David White.
- Twitter is launched.
- In the Isle of Man, the age of consent is equalised and Section 28 is repealed.

2007

- Rutland group discontinued.
- June: Gordon Brown becomes new Prime Minister.
- July: AOG in Lancaster, Lancashire.
- The Equality Act (Sexual Orientation) Regulations 2007 outlawed the discrimination in the provision of goods, facilities, services, education and public functions on the grounds of sexual orientation.

2008

- August: AOG in Worcester, Worcestershire.
- The Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 2008 recognises same-sex couples as legal parents of children conceived through the use of donated sperm, eggs or embryos.
- Heathrow Airport's Terminal 5 opens, containing the largest free-standing structure in the UK.
- Shropshire and Mid Wales group listed as "vacant", effectively end of group.
- In Falkland Islands, LGBT discrimination becomes illegal.
- Lewis Hamilton becomes the youngest ever Formula One World Champion in motor racing.
- GOC Southern Climbers discontinued.
- The House of Lords vote against a measure in the Counter-Terrorism Bill that would have enabled the government to detain suspects for up to 42 days without charge.

2009

- Shropshire group amalgamated into West Midlands group. Now listed as West Midlands and Shropshire.
- Woolworths, the British version of the high-street retail chain, close their physical stores after almost 100 years of trading.
- July: AOG in Bangor, Gwynedd.
- Leader of the Conservative party, David Cameron apologises on behalf of the Conservatives for the introduction of Section 28.

- West Midlands and Shropshire group is renamed Western Midlands.
- The Equality Act 2010 officially adds gender reassignment as a protected characteristic.
- New group: West Wales.
- David Tennant leaves, and Matt Smith makes his debut as the Doctor in *Doctor Who*.
- May: AOG in Nethy Bridge, Scottish Highlands.
- Cadbury is taken over by American rival Kraft Foods in an £11.5 billion deal.
- A new offence of 'incitement to homophobic hatred' comes into force in the UK.
- May: A general election takes place, resulting in a hung parliament. A coalition government is formed of Conservative and Liberal Democratic parties, with David Cameron (Con) as the Prime Minister and Nick Clegg (Lib Dem) as Deputy Prime Minister.
- 18-39 group relaunched as Adventure Out.
- *Coronation Street* celebrates its 50th Anniversary, and is recognised by Guinness World Records as television's longest soap.

2010

2011

- August: AOG in Guildford, Surrey.
- A gay couple win a discrimination case against Christian hoteliers who refused to let them stay in a double room.
- August: England Riots (aka London Riots) broke out in several cities which thousands of people rioted across England, which saw looting and arson, as well as mass deployment of police and the deaths of five people.
- The Department of Health lifts the lifetime ban on gay and bi men donating blood, although a 12-month celibacy clause is still in place in order for men who have sex with men to be eligible to donate.

- GOC Adventure Out and Adventure Out (AO) group consolidated into one larger group.
- Protection of Freedoms Act is passed in the UK allowing for historic convictions for consensual sex between men to be removed from criminal records.
- July/August: The 2012 Summer Olympics are held in the United Kingdom.
- August: AOG in Colchester, Essex.
- The final BBC news bulletins are transmitted from Television Centre, Wood Lane after 43 years of occupying the building, as the corporation moves its entire news operation to Broadcasting House in central London.
- Leeds Climbing is discontinued.

2012

2013

- The Marriage (Same Sex Couples) Bill, which would legalize same-sex marriage for couples in England and Wales, passes 400–175 in the Second Reading in the House of Commons.
- March: a blizzard which brings the heaviest March snow for 50 plus years hits the north of England.
- July: AOG in Buxton, Derbyshire.
- Heat health warnings being issued for Southern England and the Midlands in the UK's first prolonged heatwave since 2006. In July, three soldiers die due to a training exercise in high temperatures on the Brecon Beacons.
- GOC registered as a charity.
- *Doctor Who* celebrates its 50th Anniversary. Matt Smith would later depart the role, and replaced by Peter Capaldi.
- New group: Lake District.
- The Library of Birmingham, the largest public library in the UK, is opened
- World War II computer pioneer and codebreaker Alan Turing, who had been chemically castrated in 1952 following his conviction for homosexuality, is given a posthumous royal pardon.
- Black Lives Matter movement is formed.

2014

- 40 years of GOC.
- The Marriage (Same Sex Couples) Act 2013 officially comes into force, with the first same-sex marriages in England and Wales taking place on 29 March 2014.
- May: AOG in Comrie, Perthshire.
- September: A referendum on Scottish independence from the United Kingdom. 55.3% voting against independence and 44.7% voting in favour.

2015

- August: AOG in Bath, Somerset.
- The Royal Vauxhall Tavern becomes the first ever building in the UK to be given a special listing status based on its LGBT history.
- September: Queen Elizabeth II becomes the longest-reigning monarch in British history.
- Ireland votes by a huge majority to legalise same-sex marriage, becoming the first country in the world to do so by a referendum.

2017

- July: AOG in Lancaster, Lancashire.
- The Government issues a posthumous pardon to all gay and bi men who were convicted under pernicious sexual offences laws in the last century which enabled police to criminalise people for being gay or bi.
- Peter Capaldi finishes and Jodie Whittaker over as the lead in *Doctor Who*.
- AGM took votes for Club name change (not passed).
- The UK Supreme Court rules that the discrimination against same-sex couples on pensions rights needs to end immediately.
- Cressida Dick is appointed Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, becoming the first woman to hold the position in the force's 188-year history.
- The Department of Health reduces the deferral period for gay and bi men wishing to donate blood from 12 months to three months.
- A new £10 polymer banknote enters circulation.

2016

- New Chairman, Richard Dorling.
- President Obama declares the Stonewall Inn America's first national monument to LGBT rights.
- The first women-only weekend (held in Chepstow).
- June: The United Kingdom votes to leave the European Union in a vote of 51.9% to 48.1%. England and Wales vote for leave, while London, Scotland, Northern Ireland and Gibraltar back remain.
- The Isle of Man legalises same-sex marriage.
- Women are now permitted to serve in close combat roles in the British armed services.
- Prince William appears on the front cover of gay magazine, *Attitude*, stating that no one should be bullied because of their sexuality.
- July: Theresa May takes over as Prime Minister for the United Kingdom.
- August: AOG in Falmouth, Cornwall.
- A new £5 polymer banknote enters circulation. This is the first UK denomination to replace the cotton paper, making the notes more secure, cleaner and more durable.

- July: AOG in Telford, Shropshire.
- The Scottish Government passes a law issuing a pardon to all gay and bi men who were convicted of having consensual sex with other men before it was decriminalised in 1981. This legislation goes further than the 2017 legislation in England and Wales, which offers only posthumous pardons.
- New Chairman, Peter Blackburn.
- The Royal Air Force (RAF) marks its 100th anniversary with a flyby of 100 aircraft over London and South East England.
- Same-sex marriage is legalised in Jersey.

2018

2019

- July: AOG in Swansea, South Wales.
- July: Theresa May formally tenders her resignation as Prime Minister and is succeeded by Boris Johnson.
- The 50th anniversary of the Stonewall uprising is celebrated.
- The first opposite-sex couples are granted civil partnerships in England and Wales by amended legislation under the Civil Partnerships, Marriages and Deaths (Registration etc.) Act of 26 March.
- The first LGBT+ correspondent for BBC News, Ben Hunte, is hired.
- Travel company Thomas Cook collapses after 178 years in business, triggering the largest ever peacetime repatriation as 150,000 holidaymakers are left stranded.

- COVID-19 lockdowns.
- AOG cancelled due to COVID-19 restrictions.
- Same-sex marriage legislation goes fully into effect in Northern Ireland.
- Due to no walks, for the first time since its debut, there is no new edition of the newsletter.
- George Floyd's murder during a police arrest in the U.S.A. led to worldwide protests against police brutality, police racism, and lack of police accountability.
- The United Kingdom lifts the deferral period in blood donation for men who have sex with men, allowing them to donate under the same conditions as the rest of the population.
- A new £20 polymer banknote enters circulation.

2020

2021

- *The Archers* celebrates its 70th Anniversary, being the world's longest soap opera.
- July: AOG in Moreton-in-Marsh, Cotswolds. COVID-19 restrictions are still followed.
- The EU parliament decides that the whole territory of all EU member states is a freedom zone for LGBT+ people.
- Daniel Craig makes his fifth and final appearance as James Bond in *No Time To Die*.
- The UK census includes questions on gender identity and sexual orientation for the first time, meaning that data can be gathered on the numbers of LGBT people across the country.
- A new £50 polymer banknote enters circulation. Featuring the face of computer pioneer and codebreaker Alan Turing.

2023

- February: Queen Elizabeth II celebrates her "Platinum Jubilee", marking 70 years as Queen of the United Kingdom.
- In Ireland, the deferral period on blood donations for men who have sex with men as well as their female partners is reduced from one year to four months.
- Russian invasion of Ukraine.
- July/August: AOG in Stirling, Central Scotland.
- 50th Anniversary of Pride UK. The Royal Mint issues a commemorative 50 pence coin to mark the occasion.
- The removal of nearly all COVID-19 restrictions and the reopening of international borders in most countries, while the global rollout of COVID-19 vaccines continued.
- United States President Joe Biden signed the Respect for Marriage Act, officially codifying into federal law the right to marriage for same-sex couples.
- September: Liz Truss becomes Prime Minister.
- September: Queen Elizabeth II dies, aged 96.
- Review and first ever publication of club's jobs descriptions.
- October: Liz Truss resigns, making her the shortest tenure of any UK Prime Minister. She is succeeded by Rishi Sunak.
- The Scottish Parliament passed with 86 votes in favour and 39 against the Gender Recognition Reform (Scotland) Bill, which allows all transgender people 16 or older to legally change their gender by simply signing a declaration, without the need for prior psychological counseling with a therapist.
- Jodie Whittaker leaves *Doctor Who* with David Tennant reprising his role.

2022

- New Chairman, Jim Cornwell.
- May: The coronation of Charles III and his wife, Camilla, as king and queen of the United Kingdom.
- New groups: History and Culture; Garden.
- The Government of the United Kingdom used section 35 of the Scotland Act 1998 to block the Gender Recognition Reform (Scotland) Bill from receiving royal assent, effectively vetoing it.
- May: The World Health Organisation ends its declaration of COVID-19 being a global health emergency, but continues to refer to it as a pandemic.
- The Church of England blessed same-sex couples for the first time, while maintaining its opposition to performing same-sex weddings in church.
- July: AOG in Canterbury, Kent.
- The famous 'Sycamore Gap Tree', located at Hadrian's Wall, is felled in an act of vandalism.
- The Catholic Church approves non-liturgical blessings for same-sex couples, but clarified that it still opposes same-sex civil unions and marriage and still deems same-sex activity to be sinful.
- *Doctor Who* celebrates its 60th anniversary with David Tennant in three specials before handing over to new Doctor, Ncuti Gatwa.

- 50th Anniversary of the creation of GOC.
- The first seedlings taken from the felled 'Sycamore Gap Tree' had begun to sprout. It was presented to King Charles III who announced that it would be planted in the Windsor Great Park once it had matured into a sapling.
- Same sex marriages become legal in Estonia, Greece, Thailand.
- David Stockwell undertakes a walk challenge from John O'Groats to Land's End ("JOGLE") as part of the club's celebrations. 1,331 miles in 100 stages.
- The new names of London's six Overground lines are revealed, with significant changes to the look of the famous Tube map set to take place.
- The United Methodist Church (UMC) allows same-sex marriages in their churches and struck down its 40-year ban on gay clergy
- July: A General Election is held. The first in which photographic identification is required when voting in person. The Labour Party wins with Keir Starmer becoming Prime Minister.
- July: AOG in Northampton, Northamptonshire.

2024