

CHIMERA
OR
Nottingham C.H.E. Newsletter

May 1973

Your volunteer editor (that's me) with a brief from the Committee to keep the news snappy, humorous, entertaining and informative. That may describe how I see myself at the peak of a really good party but it's a very different story to express this adequately in print.

So, here it is, our first attempt to produce an interesting, informative and regular magazine for the members of our group. We hope you will all like it and that it will get better each time it appears. We make no apologies for any of its shortcomings nor do we intend to compete with 'Lunch' and 'Gay News'. We are just very glad that due to gradually changing attitudes it and CHE is now possible. It is your magazine and as we want to include something for everyone, particularly of a local nature, we hope you will join in with suggestions and ideas. Its possibilities, including those of the group, are as endless as they are exciting. Let's make the most of it.

By its aid we hope to increase the interests and activities of the group and so attract more members. Particularly, perhaps, those that are alone. This latter point is one of the foremost functions of local CHE groups. Only they are able to tackle it effectively. It is also important to write about in this, the first issue of our mag. First, it reminds us, all of us, of one of the important aims of our group. Secondly, those in need of help will know that they and their needs are not forgotten. It is not an easy job and indeed can sometimes appear a very thankless one.

Where are all these people? How do we find them? How can we let them all know that our organisation exists? Having found them, how can we best help? Make them feel useful and wanted? Keep them in the group? These and many more questions need to be answered. With your help, some of them will.

What your committee want from all of us in the coming year is more action. We don't mean banner-waving outside cottages, or bra-burning in public squares, but action to socialise and be truly friendly to all our fellow members. We all know, too well, the so called socials where we sit in tight little groups watching the odd few making a real effort to talk to everybody. If shyness is your excuse, PLEASE remember that we all may feel the same - yes, even me!

That little extra effort from each one of us could give us a really great, well integrated group. After all, we're pretty good to start with!

FORTHCOMING ATTRACTIONS

Wednesday, May 23rd, 8 p.m. St. Michael's Church House, Derby. "Who is Bruce?" Come and find out!

Saturday, June 2nd, 8.30 p.m. To-the-death Bottle Party at 3 Wheathills House, Brun Lane, Kirk Langley. Theme: "Midsummer Madness".

Tickets from the Committee, 30p each for buffet.

Monday, June 11th. Pub crawl beginning at the Dog & Partridge, 8.30 p.m.

Thursday, June 14th, 8 p.m. Y.W.C.A., Shakespeare Street, Nottingham. Jackie Forster and Babs Todd hot-foot from London to tell us about Women in C.H.E. or something!

Monday, June 25th, 8 p.m. Social evening at The Pavilion Club, Shardlow.

Friday, July 6th. Grand Car Rally organised by that successful man at the wheel David Hughes. Entries 25p each. More details later.

INFORMATION OF INTEREST

Southport, May 27th. E. Lancs. C.H.E. invite us to their Supper Dance. Tickets 80p.

Ring Hilary if you are interested, by May 18th, please.

London. Remember, if you are at a loose end in Town and don't know where to go -

C.H.E. London Information Centre, 22 Gt. Windmill Street. Tel. 01-437 7363.

Open: Noon - 10 p.m., Monday to Friday.

Noon - 6 p.m., Saturday.

GENERAL NEWSA.G.M.

Our first anniversary fell rather flat - unnoticed apart from the 25 per cent turn-out to elect the new committee.

For the uninformed, your new management is as follows:

Secretary: Hilary Stafford

Treasurer: Ian Corfield

Fighting not to be chairman - we're doing the co-operative bit:

Derek Johnson

Heather Cook

Bruce Wainwright

Co-opted Member: Roger Hollier

Secretary's address: 3 Wheathills House, Brun Lane, Kirk Langley, Derbys.

Telephone: Kirk Langley 502

INTER-GROUP SOCIAL

Friday, 13th April, proved a good day for us. Between 50 - 60 C.H.E. members from Sheffield, Birmingham, Leicester, Northampton and, of course, Nottingham, met at Mario's to enjoy themselves. There may have been those who didn't, but I think the majority had a really good time. The 90 per cent turn-out of our female members was quite impressive - although they all sat around one large table!

MORECAMBE - as seen by the Ed.

Very cold, but the usual amount of hot air and some very sound ideas to be implemented. You've no doubt read about it in "Gay News", etc., and a report will, of course, be in the National Bulletin - if you've paid your subs!

Very pleasant to see ten of our group actively participating. The friendly socialising principle was being well established on the National Level.

MORECAMBE - as seen by Brian.

It was interesting, it was worthwhile and it was fun. It was all of these things and something more. I went, as is my wont, with a very critical attitude towards the whole venture. I came away with very different ideas, sorry that it could not have lasted a bit longer. Apart from the awful weather the first annual conference of C.H.E. was a great success. It had worked. Worked in such a way that I think most of us were taken slightly by surprise. Including a lot of people at Morecambe.

Underlying all the fun and holiday atmosphere there was a determination. A determination that we had come to Morecambe to do a job and do it we were going to do. I believe we did. To prepare, organise and run the conference must have required a lot of time, effort and money. It was worth all of it. There will be other annual conferences now. Much bigger and better than the first. There will be other problems to solve too, but if the same spirit exists at those in the future, C.H.E. will have no cause to doubt. It was great to be part of it. Next time I hope more of the Notts. and Derby group will be there with us. To all of you unable to go this year, what a pity. What about it, next year?

IDEAS AND COMMENTSTHE HIGHSPEED GASTROGnome

This month the Highspeed Gastrognome was to have provided us with a recipe for his Campfire Supper (Chicken Soup as a starter, Cottage Pie made with minced beef in puff pastry, followed by fairy cakes or Queen of Puddings) but since he has had a mishap with a cucumber, Dame Chlorina Sackfille-Vest (the sailor's friend) has plugged the dyke with a thought-provoking article on more ways of using our natural resources.

She writes:

In these time of ever rising prices it is pleasing to note that someone may have arrived at a solution. The Inverness County Council (reports Highland correspondent Flora McTartypiece - the lady with the deadly nightshirt) has decided to import the Yak, which inhabits the most rarified Himalayan landscapes and provides for all the needs of the local peoples.

With this hardy source of cheap raw materials, the future prospects are limitless:-

Why not experiment right away with Cream of Yak Soup, Yakburgers or Yak-in-the-Hole? Using the animal's milk, one could savour Yakky Blue Cheese or even Yakhourt.

Those with an artistic bent could find grand scope for their ambitions, perhaps by constructing a life-size model of Chartres Cathedral from Yaktrotters.

The Orient has for centuries prized the aromatic allure of powdered Yak blood and now this is famed in the West as the subtle fragrance of Yaks Faktors 'Old Grimsby' after-shave.

The fashion conscious could also take delight in picturing themselves in knee-length coat, ear muffs and fluffy slippers - all cut from the fur of the Yak - and, strung around their waist, a Yak-horn bugle to summon help should they get lost in the Nottingham one-way system.

CANAL-BOAT OUTING

Would any of you like a week-end canal-boat outing in July? Please let us know as I'm getting details of costs, etc. It could be fun and it would be a lovely pub-crawl.

INFORMATION AND IDEAS EXCHANGE

An exchange of mags, information and ideas with other groups is planned. A collection of press cuttings of interest to the group could be made and reproduced. We could invite other organisations and writers outside C.H.E. to contribute articles. Readers' letters. Let us hear your ideas. We will try them. Regular meetings are being arranged to plan, print and post the magazine. If you would like to help, please let us know.

MOTTO

Some bright lad suggested that we needed a motto! Send your versions to us - we undertake to print them. A small prize to the one considered the most apt and original.

Have you any crazy ideas for the group to undertake for him - apart from THAT one!

SECRETARY'S PLEA

Please notify us of any change of address as soon as possible. We can't afford double postage and you don't want your mail to go astray.

TREASURER'S PLEA

If you haven't paid your annual local subs yet, please see Ian before he sees you!

TITLE WANTED

We racked our brains to think of a suitable title for this bulletin and found ourselves completely at odds. Would members care to submit their ideas to the Editor before the next issue comes steaming from the press.

Any and all letters and articles or comments for the Newsletter should be sent to: Hilary Stafford (Secretary), 3 Wheathills House, Brun Lane, Kirk Langley, Derbyshire.