

C H I M A E R A

Newsletter of the Nottingham and Derby Groups of CHE

JANUARY 1978

NEWSLETTER FOR THE DERBY & NOTTINGHAM CHE GROUPS.

C O N T A C T S

NOTTINGHAM.

- Richard (Convenor) Nottingham 74870
- David (Treasurer) Nottingham 216447
- Tony (Social Organiser) Nottingham 49137
- Howard (Political Activities) Nottingham 625266
- Bob (Gay Switchboard Co-ordinator)

The publishable address of Nottingham CHE Group is:-

NOTTINGHAM CHE, 31a MANSFIELD ROAD, NOTTINGHAM.

The above address is that of the NOTTINGHAM COUNCIL FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE (CVS) and the Gay Switchboard operates from there every MONDAY & THURSDAY from 7 - 10pm. The phone no. is

NOTTINGHAM 46881

DERBY

- Chris (Convenor) 14 Farningham Close, Spondon, Derby (64234)
- Philip 29 Severn Street, Alvaston, Derby. (Derby 752260)

EDITORIAL

Readers will note a marked depreciation in the professional standards and typographical expertise in this issue of "Chimaera". This is because the Editor is away on Sabbatical leave and no one else was silly enough to offer to do it. So in actual fact this editorial is really a typistrial.

Whilst it is unfortunate that so few contributions have been received for this issue it is perhaps for me a heaven sent blessing but I do hope that more group members will find some snippet or work of literary genius to contribute to the March issue (Deadline: February 23).

Did you know that this year's biggest selling Christmas toy was something horrible called Green Slime. I wonder how they got Messrs Wright, Gallagher, O'Brian, Hall and Ms Whitehouse into the little boxes?

Enough ..... I beg forgiveness from those brave contributors and wish you all a very happy 1978.

DERBY	PROGRAMME	DERBY
WEDNESDAY JAN 11th	Trip to the Dover Castle - gay pub in Leicester. Meet at Chris & Jeff's. 8pm Lifts available.	
SATURDAY JAN 14th	Trip to the Nightingale Club, Birmingham. Phone Chris for details. (Derby 64234)	
FRIDAY JAN 20th	Coffee evening at Phil's from 8pm.	
SATURDAY 21st JAN	Trip to The Hearty Good Fellow, Nottingham and then on to Shades. Meet at Chris & Jeff's. 8pm.	
FRIDAY JAN 27th	Musical evening organised by Maurice at Phil's.	
WEDNESDAY FEB 1st	Western evening at Chris & Jeff's. Baked beans provided (bring your own mount) Entrance 25p.	
SATURDAY FEB 4th	Trip to the 141 Club, Stoke on Trent. Phone Chris for details.	
FRIDAY FEB 10th	Quiz at Nottingham (See Nottingham Programme)	
SATURDAY 11th FEB	St Valentine's bottle party at Phil's from 9.30pm. Buffet provided for entrance fee of 25p.	
TUESDAY FEB 14th	Consequences evening at Chris & Jeff's starting at 8pm PROMPT.	
FRIDAY FEB 17th	Coffee evening at Phil's from 8pm.	
FRIDAY FEB 24th	Monopoly evening at Phil's from 8pm.	
SUNDAY FEB 26th	Business Meeting at Chris & Jeff's. 8pm prompt.	
FRIDAY MARCH 3rd	Coffee evening at Phil's from 8pm.	
WEDNESDAY MAR 8th	Coffee evening at Chris & Jeff's from 8pm.	

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Whilst I was investigating the possibility of the Nottingham Group meeting in a city centre pub I met a particularly hostile reception from the landlady of the 'News House' in St. James's Street. However, whilst reasoning with her was failing (and I was being banned from her "respectable house") she sent for a very large, very butch person to deal with me.

MORAL: If you prefer anti-gay, het pubs but still want to find someone . . . . .

John.

NOTTINGHAM

PROGRAMME

NOTTINGHAM

EVERY MONDAY & THURSDAY GAY SWITCHBOARD OPERATES FROM 7 - 10 PM

This is at CVS (Nottingham Council for Voluntary Service, 31a Mansfield Road, Nottingham.) Those of you who haven't been along are reminded that anyone can turn up any time between 7 and 10 and have a chat and a coffee with those who are there. If there is also a meeting taking place that night you can go along to the 'discussion room' and join in or stay in the 'phone room' if you wish.

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THURSDAY JAN 5th	DISCUSSION at CVS from 8pm
TUESDAY JAN 10th	BUSINESS & SOCIAL MEETING at the NEWMARKET HOTEL, Parliament Street, Nottm. from 8pm. (opposite the 'Palais')
THURSDAY JAN 12th	DISCUSSION at CVS from 8pm
FRIDAY JAN 13th	"FUN & GAMES" at Michael's, 19 Thomas Close, St. Anns followed by visit to SHADES CLUB.
THURSDAY JAN 19th	DISCUSSION at CVS from 8pm
FRIDAY JAN 20th	KENNETH CLARKE, MP will be meeting the group at CVS from 8pm
WEDNESDAY JAN 25th	PLAY READING EVENING at Richard's, 13 Balmoral Road (Make up not required!)
THURSDAY JAN 26th	DISCUSSION at CVS from 8pm
THURSDAY FEB 2nd	DISCUSSION at CVS from 8pm
TUESDAY FEB 7th	Members of the group will be talking to the WEST BRIDGFORD HOUSEWIFE'S REGISTER at Mary Ridell's, 41 Malvern Road, West Bridgford. 8pm
THURSDAY FEB 9th	DISCUSSION at CVS from 8pm
FRIDAY FEB 10th	GENERAL KNOWLEDGE QUIZ: Us versus Derby Group at Tony's, Flat 4, 19a Pelham Cres., The Park.
TUESDAY FEB 14th	BUSINESS & SOCIAL EVENING at the ARBORETUM HOTEL. 8pm (Next Programme to be decided) +++
THURSDAY FEB 16th	DISCUSSION at CVS from 8pm
THURSDAY FEB 23rd	DISCUSSION at CVS from 8pm
THURSDAY MARCH 2nd	DISCUSSION at CVS from 8pm
TUESDAY MARCH 14th	BUSINESS and SOCIAL MEETING at the ARBORETUM HOTEL from 8pm +++

+++ NB. These meetings will be transferred to the Newmarket if arrangements there prove satisfactory. Check details with the switchboard. /continued . . .

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 PROGRAMME
 

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In relation to the above mentioned Thursday discussions we are endeavouring to persuade various people to come along to join in amongst whom are a friendly solicitor, a local radio station manager and a consultant psychiatrist. Details will be announced when known.

In March HINGE and BRACKET will be appearing at the Theatre Royal. Can we organise a party to attend? Please let us know as soon as possible if you would like to go on Friday, March 3rd 1978.

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DEADLINE for the NEXT ISSUE OF CHIMAERA is THURSDAY FEB. 23rd.

Please hand in your contributions at the meeting on this date.

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 LETTERS TO THE EDITOR
 

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Dear Editor,

As a lifelong lefty of impeccable antecedents I am quite happy to agree with your proposition that all Tory voters, gay or het, must be a little queer. But not only do I accept that some gays are a little queer, I embrace them gladly because I know that unless CHE is politically all-embracing we shall not achieve equality for ourselves and for gay brothers and sisters who feel more oppressed than us. Though you may want to garrott me for it I shall go even further and give a single hearty cheer to the politically hated figure of Enoch Powell as the one Ulster Unionist M.P. who has come out firmly in favour of the extension of the 1967 Act to Northern Ireland.

Human Rights issues cut accross party lines. We should not forget that an earlier attempt to get the 1967 Act through the House of Commons was made by a bachelor Tory M.P. who lost his seat following a nicely orchestrated campaign of innuendo about the use he put it to, a campaign which at the time his Labour opponent appeared not averse. . And if you are still convinced you know who is raving mad, contemplate the pretty picture of the present leader of the Labour Group on the County Council going hand in hand with Councillor Peter Wright, leader of the Tories, to 'invite' CVS to disaffiliate CHE. Not fantasy - it happened.

Gay Rights need friends wherever they are to be found. Deviant they may seem to you and me but thank goodness there are committed CHE members who are committed Tories. Let no one think they are not welcome in our midst.

Richard.



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 THE SAD TALE OF VALERIUS FLACCUS (CONCLUDED)
 

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And so, good friends, be cautious when  
 You lure young wives into your den,  
 In case their husbands follow then  
 Intending hard to whack us.  
 The lesson's very plain to see:  
 If you don't act most carefuller  
 You'll all be hung up sexuallee -  
 Just like Valerius Flaccus.

Mike.

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 NOTTINGHAM GROUP NOTES
 

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The day after the news broke of a 'secret' meeting between the leaders of the Tory & Labour groups on the County Council and representatives of CVS at which the councillors tried to sit on CHE, Richard - courtesy of Chris - was talking to the Fabian Society as a result of which Michael Gallagher, Labour Group Leader, learned subsequently that not a few Labour Party stalwarts strongly disapproved of his Roman Catholic marriage of convenience to Tory leader Peter Wright.

And we learned that although Tory Brenda Borrett, Chairman (sic) of the Social Services Committee, hasn't replied to our invitation to meet the group, she fully intends to accept it. We look forward to her visit.

Another spin-off of the great cufuffle - front page news of January's "Nottingham Voice" is the increased hope of getting a Gay Rights motion through one of the local constituency Labour Parties.

But the highlight of all this excitement must surely be an event which took place behind closed doors between two consenting adults: Bob's meeting with the R.C. Bishop of Nottingham. Only Bob could have baked a cake as an offering to the Bishop whilst telling him about the way some of his flock had been ganging up on us. Bob reports that the Bishop did not unbend but at least promised to consult his advisors over the unpleasantness of the Evening Post. We doubt if anyone but Bob could have achieved so much.

So the Evening Post has stopped the Switchboard ad and Michael Hall has been having yet another go at Gays on his obnoxious Sunday evening hell fire programme on Radio Trent. By now the C of E Bishop of Sherwood should have had a chance to listen to David's tape of that.

The loss of the Evening Post ad has been a serious blow to the switchboards' work in helping isolated gays. No doubt Mamaging Director Pole-Carew sleeps more soundly for knowing it. He doesn't seem inclined to meet us though and tell us face to face. Our next moves are being taken on the advice of Michael English (one of our two M.P. visitors in the last 2 months). Quote of the evening from

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 NOTTINGHAM GROUP NOTES (Continued)
 

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Michael, who sits for Nottingham West and believes that the sex laws are a load of nonsense: "Nobody should be allowed to do anything below the age of 35" Michael apologised for not turning up when he should have done but when he did appear he was good.

Jack Dunnett was the other M.P. who came to meet us. He turned up again at the Fabians so he should be well briefed on gay grievances and lack of rights. We hope members won't groan at the prospect of another M.P. visitor in January but this time it's a Tory - Kenneth Clarke who sits for Rushcliffe.

November and December may have been a bit thin on the social side, something we hope we've rectified in the January and February programme, but now when the knives are out is the time when we should be making - and mobilising - friends.

We were pleased that John Horner, Minister at the Albert Hall, found time to pop in one Monday evening and we are delighted at the continued support given us by Ron Collier and CVS. WE NEED YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT AS WELL: so we can go on battering the nasties as they crawl out from beneath their stones; so we can devise interesting social programmes for you too. We are looking again for a pub with private room and, who knows, 1978 may yet see us getting a regular disco going.

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 A D V E R T I S E M E N T
 

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NOTTINGHAM CHE GROUP REQUIRES A  
CONVENOR OR CHAIRPERSON

**Duties:** To receive bumph from Manchester and bring it to the notice of those who want to know; to co-ordinate whatever needs co-ordinating; to try to see some meetings start on time.

**Salary:** Nil or nothing as negotiated at the AGM.

**Reason for Appointment:** Richard has done it for 2 years and we are sick to death of him (He says)

**Qualifications:** Age, gender and looks immaterial.



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ANOTHER ADVERTISEMENT

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LEICESTER GAY LIBERATION FRONT

OUT OF THE CLOSETS

INTO THE STREETS

WHY? To show the Leicester Mercury that Gays exist

WHEN? Saturday January 7th at 10.30am

WHERE? Victoria Park Gates, marching to the Mercury Building via the city centre.

WHO? You, your friends, enemies, relatives, pets, children, parents and creditors.

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ALSO a post-demo disco at the Hind Hotel, at 9pm

AND meeting of the Gay News Defence Committee, 11am Sunday 8th at Blackthorn Bookshop, 74 Highcross Street.

INFO or CRASHPADS: GAYLINE LEICESTER 826299 7.30-10.30 nightly

FOR COACH FROM NOTTINGHAM CONTACT HOWARD HYMAN, NOTTINGHAM 625266

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HERE IS A LATE FLASH

(Thank goodness something flashed late otherwise this would have been an empty half page - Ed.)

The REVEREND MICHAEL HALL of RADIO TRENT FAME (?) HAS AGREED TO MEET THE NOTTINGHAM GROUP AT CVS ON FRIDAY 17th MARCH . REMEMBER FRIDAY 17th MARCH. COULD BE INTERESTING - BRING A FRIEND.

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A N A P P E A L

Following many trials and tribulations Nottingham Group have been offered the FREE use of a room at the NEWMARKET HOTEL on TUESDAY 10th JANUARY. Further use of this room depends on the success of this evening's meeting (The Landlord wants to see that we're all respectable and make a bit of extra profit over the bar) so PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE will you all try to come and we'll all have a GOOD TIME and hopefully A REGULAR MEETING PLACE . The Newmarket is in Lower Parliament Street just opposite the Palais. Go through the lounge, into the Smoke Room and turn Right through the concertina door into the private room.

## A SEASONAL PLAY

The scene is a noisy, crowded gay bar on Christmas Eve. A very Plain Person is sitting at the bar. A very Beautiful Person is watching him and moves towards him.

- V.P.P. That very Beautiful Person is moving over here. Crikey he's smiling at me.
- V.B.P. Hi. How are you? Would you like a refill?
- V.P.P. Er, well, oh, yes please, um . . .
- V.B.P. You seemed miles away just then. What were you thinking?
- V.P.P. Oh, nothing much.
- V.B.P. Come on.
- V.P.P. Well, just that it's Christmas Eve and here I am on my own; likely to remain on my own; go home alone; spend Christmas alone. You know - it's a bit depressing, especially seeing everyone here enjoying themselves with their boyfriends and girlfriends.
- V.B.P. Cheer up! What will you have? Lager is it? Barman . . .
- V.P.P. (Thinking) I'm dreaming. He's absolutely beautiful. Why me of all people? I don't understand.
- V.B.P. Here we are then. Cheers.

They drink. A pause.

- V.B.P. I'm alone too. We seem to be the only ones not in company. Actually I'm dreading Christmas alone but I'd love to spend it with you. Besides, I really fancy going to bed with you.
- V.P.P. With me?
- V.B.P. Yes.
- V.P.P. Are you sure?
- V.B.P. Positive.

A little while later - back at the Very Plain Person's flat.

- V.P.P. (Thinking) I'm not sure that this is real, that it's happening. It's so impossible. He's so beautiful, so young, so perfect.

- The Very Beautiful Person has undressed and got into bed
- V.B.P. Come on, what are you waiting for?
- The Very Plain Person joins him in bed
- V.B.P. Hold me tight and kiss me.

They kiss

- V.P.P. (Yells and jumps out of bed) Aah! Get away you horrid little frog. Shoo!

Curtain

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 CHE NATIONAL COUNCIL
 

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The first National Council since the Nottingham Conference was held in Chester from December 2nd - 4th 1977. One would hardly have realised that the arrangements had been disrupted by fire.

On the Friday evening there was a welcoming disco before getting down to business on Saturday. The Hampstead group were officially recognised whilst the Mansfield group were de-recognised keeping the number of local groups at 112. The delegates then heard new Chairman, David Jenkerson, give his report. He stressed the need for all groups to act against the increasingly anti-gay climate that was developing and criticised the lack of response to the National Gay News Defence Committee: only 16 groups had affiliated (Nottingham included) and some groups had even dissociated themselves from it on the grounds of the effect it may have on public opinion. He also spoke of the efforts being made both to encourage and work with womens' groups.

Treasurer, Robert Palmer, gave happier news of CHE's finances which would show a surplus, but emphasised the importance of continued recruiting. A speaker from Gay Lobby asked groups to make more effort in contacting their M.P's and ascertaining their views on various aspects of gay law reform. Any information should be passed on to Gay Lobby so that they can keep their records of M.P's views up to date.

The first part of the afternoon session was devoted to separate workshops: Local Groups and Campaigning, Trades Unions, Teachers and proposed Federal structure of CHE. There followed a more general session in which varied matters were raised. Local Groups Organiser, Philip Hickson, was asked to remind CHE Convenors that they must be CHE members (a surprisingly large number were not at that time!) What was virtually a motion of condemnation of the Leicester group for not acting against the fulminations of the Leicester Mercury was rejected convincingly, but all groups were asked to ~~xxxx~~ support a demonstration in Leicester on January 7th. (See Page 8). York CHE had undertaken to organise a telephone tree and handed out details to Convenors. Finally, Council gave its support to an emergency resolution condemning the murder of Steve Biko and calling for renewed efforts to combat state oppression and to maintain individual liberties.

On Saturday evening another disco was followed by Gay Sweatshop's performance of "As Time Goes By" which was much appreciated by the audience but which I personally did not think as good as the one I saw in Nottingham. Sadly the Sunday morning performance had to be cancelled when only a handful of people turned up.

The Sunday planned sightseeing tour of Chester was called off due to the intensely cold weather. However, Chester CHE threw open their newly acquired (rented) premises to visitors and since I called in the afternoon such sandwiches and goodies as remained from the Executive Committee's lunch were also available. Finally visitors were invited to the regular Chester Group Disco held each Sunday at Melanie's Club, but, by that time I was on my way back to Nottingham.

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 CHE NATIONAL COUNCIL
 

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The weekend seemed to be well organised (I know that such events can often be chaotic behind the scenes) and the Chester Group certainly deserved the thanks that the delegates voted them.

Future meetings of the National Council will take place in Croydon in March, York in June and Leeds in December, with the National Conference being held in Coventry on the Late Bank Holiday Weekend.

Mike.

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 OUTSIDE - IN
 

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Mike Valerius Flaccus was telling me the other day how members of the group used to play a game at meetings - trying to guess precisely what it was that Ian and I were earnestly discussing. Does every group have to have an Inside and an Outside, of which the Outsiders are acutely aware and the Insiders are not aware at all? If there really is an Inside we want everyone Inside it. But when you look at it you find there just isn't one Inside but lots of them. For instance I know there's the Shostakovitch Fanciers because I'm an Honorary Outside Member. There's the Party-Goers of which I'm definitely an Outsider because I'm shy. But I expect they think I'm standoffish - which makes me shier. There's the Ten-Pin Bowlers and the Car-Rallyers (but I think they're Derby), the Theatre Goers and lots of other little cabals and consortia from which I feel myself irrevocably and permanently cut off. It isn't true of course but that's sometimes how it feels. Really even in a little Group like ours there's an Inside waiting for everybody if only you'd care to join.

Ah yes, you'll say, but we'll never get Inside the Convenor's Set however hard we try. No you won't is the short answer, because it simply isn't there. Here I sit writing in bumblingly inefficient isolation, just like Harold Wilson did. The difference between me and Harold is that I just want to be a member of a happy family out of which everybody gets something because everybody contributes something. I can't make it that way (!! \*\* ?? Ed.) but we can - together (!!!!.....Ed) And now's the time when we can do it. With just one gay club left and with just one pub we can even give Nottingham an alternative gay scene. When Ian and I (and others) natter, it's often about the things we might do but by ourselves cannot. I foresee our private room in a pub (because I'm on the Inside of the Boozers) and after that our monthly discos: Why not? Five of us at the first one (disaster!), ten at the next and after that everyone clamouring to get in and join us. It could happen as it did in Chester - but it's up to you.

Richard.