

July 78

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nottingham  
and  
derby  
the  
newsletter



NEWSLETTER FOR THE NOTTINGHAM AND DERBY GROUPS OF CHE.

CONTACTS

NOTTINGHAM

Convenor	John Clarkson	c/o Nottingham 74870
Treasurer	David Edgley	Nottingham 216447
Women's liaison Officer	Pat McLernon	
Campaigning Officer	Andrew Hibbert	
Switchboard Coordinator	Bob Tunnicliffe	

The publishable address of Nottingham CHE is:-

Nottingham CHE, Nottingham Council for Voluntary Service (NCVS) 31a, Mansfield Road, Nottingham.

Nottingham Gay Switchboard operates from the above address every MONDAY and THURSDAY from 7-10 pm and the phone number to ring is

NOTTINGHAM 4688-1

DERBY

Convenor	Jeffrey Blood	14, Farningham Close, Spondon, Derby. Tel. Derby 64234.
Treasurer	Maurice Holmes	130, Brighton Road, Alvaston, Derby.

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Why don't I keep my mouth shut! I asked for a bit more variety in the way of contributions to Chimaera and looking at the pile of screeds before me I seem to have the makings of a weighty tome. What is more, I am in rather a hurry, so it's going to be a disorganised newsletter, with little bits of padding (like this) to fill in those awkward inches at the bottom of the page. Did you hear about the singer who ordered a copy of 'Could I but express in Song' and was somewhat annoyed when the shop said that no such song was known. The explanation was revealed when he saw that the shop assistant had written down his request as "Kodaly: Buttocks Pressing Song." And the DEADLINE for the next newsletter is

SATURDAY AUGUST 26th



## PROGRAMME

NOTTINGHAM GROUP

- THURS. JULY 6TH BUSINESS MEETING at the CVS. 8 pm. (See page 1 for address of CVS)
- SAT. JULY 8th GAY PRIDE WEEK MARCH
- TUES. JULY 11th PLAY READING 'Arsenic and Old Lace' at Richard's 8 pm. 13, Balmoral Road, Nottingham.
- THURS. JULY 13th Subject to availability, CHE Vice President and International Concert Pianist PETER KATIN will talk to the group. 8 pm at the CVS.
- FRI. JULY 14th PETER KATIN CONCERT at the ALBERT HALL.
- TUES. JULY 18th Meet at 8 pm in the DOG and PARTRIDGE (Back bar)
- THURS. JULY 20th DISCUSSION at CVS at 8 pm: on Gay Involvement with the Anti-Nazi League Carnival.
- SAT. JULY 22th ANTI NAZI LEAGUE CARNIVAL - meet Old Market Square 11 am. March with steel bands to the Forest under a 'Gays against the Nazis' banner. Live bands, beer, refreshments all afternoon on the Forest. Come out! Help leaflet! Sell badges!
- WED. JULY 26th DISCO at the HEARTY GOODFELLOW (Upstairs) 8 pm.
- THURS. JULY 27th DISCUSSION at the CVS at 8 pm. on Nottingham Gay Switchboard - all people interested or involved with the Switchboard should try to attend (jointly with Friend).
- FRI. JULY 28th BRING A BOTTLE EVENING at John's. 8 pm at 17 Balmoral Road, Nottingham.
- WED. AUG. 2nd MEET FOR A DRINK at YATE'S WINE LODGE. 8pm.
- THURS. AUG. 3rd BUSINESS MEETING at the CVS at 8pm.
- SUN. AUG. 6th TREASURE HUNT ON FOOT starting from the Council House steps at 5pm fun and laughs en route ending up at a pub for the evening. Prize for the winner.
- THURS. AUG. 10th DISCUSSION: FUND RAISING at CVS at 8 pm.
- THURS. AUG. 17th DISCUSSION: GAY PUBS AND CLUBS at CVS at 8pm.
- FRI. AUG. 18th GAY PUB CRAWL- meet at Hearty Good Fellow at 8.30pm.
- WED. AUG. 23rd DISCO at HEARTY GOOD FELLOW (Upstairs) 8 pm.
- THURS. AUG. 24th PROGRAMME DISCUSSION MEETING at CVS at 8pm.
- AUG. 25th-28th. CHE ANNUAL CONFERENCE - at COVENTRY
- THURS. AUG. 31st DISCUSSION 'ENCOUNTER GROUPS' at CVS at 8 pm.
- FRI. SEPT. 1st MUSIC QUIZ at Mikes, 19, Thomas Close, at 8 pm.
- THURS. SEPT. 7th BUSINESS MEETING at CVS at 8 pm - then to SHADES.
- SAT. SEPT. 9th TRIP TO CAMBRIDGE. Sightseeing during the day, then visits to the ADC Bar and SCARAMOUCHE CLUB. Names to and details from Mike Raymond.
- WED. SEPT. 13th DINNER at VERNON ARMS - names to John by the 7th.
- THURS. SEPT. 14th DISCUSSION 'GAYS AND THE CHURCH' at CVS at 8pm.



## PROGRAMME

DERBY GROUP

SAT. JULY 1st PLAYHOUSE BAR 12.30-2pm. Lunchtime Drink and chat.

WED. JULY 5th PUB EVENING at the MOON, Spaldon, (Lounge) from 8.30.

SAT. JULY 8th PLAYHOUSE BAR 12.30-2 pm. Possible trip to Wolverhampton Silver Web Club in evening. Phone early for details at least 5 days before if you want a lift.

FRI. JULY 14th Phils' for Discussion on the Group. New members night.

SAT. JULY 15th PLAY HOUSE BAR. 12.30 - 2 pm.

WED. JULY 19th COFFEE at John's, 20 Allestree St, Alvaston, Derby. from 8 pm onwards. 20p towards funds.

FRI. JULY 21st PHIL'S ?? (See Convenor's notes) Phone Jeff before going.

SAT. JULY 22nd PLAYHOUSE BAR 12.30-2pm.

WED. JULY 26th DISCO at the HEARTY GOODFELLOW (Nottingham) 8 pm.

SAT. JULY 29th PLAYHOUSE BAR 12.30-2pm. EVENING PARTY at PHIL'S BRING A BOTTLE + 25p for CHE MEMBERS and 75p others.

WED. AUG. 2nd COFFEE EVENING at MICHAEL'S, 35 Oliver St. Derby. from 8 pm. 20p to funds please.

SAT. AUG. 5th PLAYHOUSE BAR 12.30-2pm

WED. AUG. 9th COFFEE EVENING at Ken's, 5a, Bramble St. Derby from 8 pm + 20p to funds.

SAT. AUG. 12th PLAYHOUSE BAR 12.30-2pm

SUN. AUG. 13th GAY WALK. Meet at 2 pm at Jeff and Chris'. Please come along.

FRI. AUG. 18th COFFEE EVENING at Maurice's, 130 Brighton Road, Alvaston, Derby. 8 pm.

SAT. AUG. 19th PLAYHOUSE BAR 12.30-2pm. Evening trip to a Gay Club phone early for lifts.

WED. AUG. 23rd. PUB EVENING at the GARRICK, ASHBOURNE ROAD from 9 pm.

FRI. AUG. 25th BUSINESS MEETING at Chris and Jeff's 8 pm prompt.

SAT. AUG. 26th PLAYHOUSE BAR 12.30-2pm.

SUN. AUG. 27th RAMBLE and another cream tea (or tea - at least) Phone in advance for lifts.

SAT. SEPT. 2nd PLAYHOUSE BAR 12.30-2pm.

WED. SEPT. 6th DISCUSSION at Jeff and Chris', 14, Farningham Close at 7.30 pm onwards.

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More padding. The Art Mistress at my school relieved her boredom while participating in a course by swapping the names of pupils whose parents hadn't thought too much over their children's christening. It appears that in local schools there is a Rosie Bottom, the twins - George and Victoria Cross and a certain Annette Curtin.



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 DERBY CHE CONVENOR'S LETTER
 

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In our last newsletter I said that I was a little more optimistic as to the future of our group. I still am, but are the others? Our funds are better, but the support is practically nil.

The May/June New Members Competition gave us one new member but the total was -4. Yes! We lost five more members though many groups up and down the country gained as many as 30 new members from the National CHE special offer of £2 for new members during May.

During the next two months I intend to place one ad in the local Telegraph to try and attract new members and if possible Friday 14th of July will be a new members night. Maurice, our treasurer, and myself attended the NC Meeting at York on June 17th. As this was the first such meeting we have attended, we were a little in the dark about the set up, but I found it quite interesting and it certainly strengthened my feeling for the necessity of CHE. Whilst it would be wrong to agree about everything that is done and the way it's carried out, it is the only organisation to fight for gay rights at all and we certainly do try to do this.

But as far as our small group is concerned, it is nearly impossible to do campaigning, lobbying of MPs etc., etc., with so few members attending and even those who do attend are not into active campaigning. In the future, I think that it is necessary to have more discussions about the Group and CHE, some new members introduction evenings as well as the frills and entertainment,

Love,

Jeff.

P.S. Friday evenings are to be less frequent. Up until now we have met at Philip's every week, but due to Philip having a change of job which takes him away from Derby for weeks at a time, it is yet to be planned out which weeks his house is available.

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 SCIENTIST'S CORNER
 

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Britannia Schrodinger rules the Waves - OK!

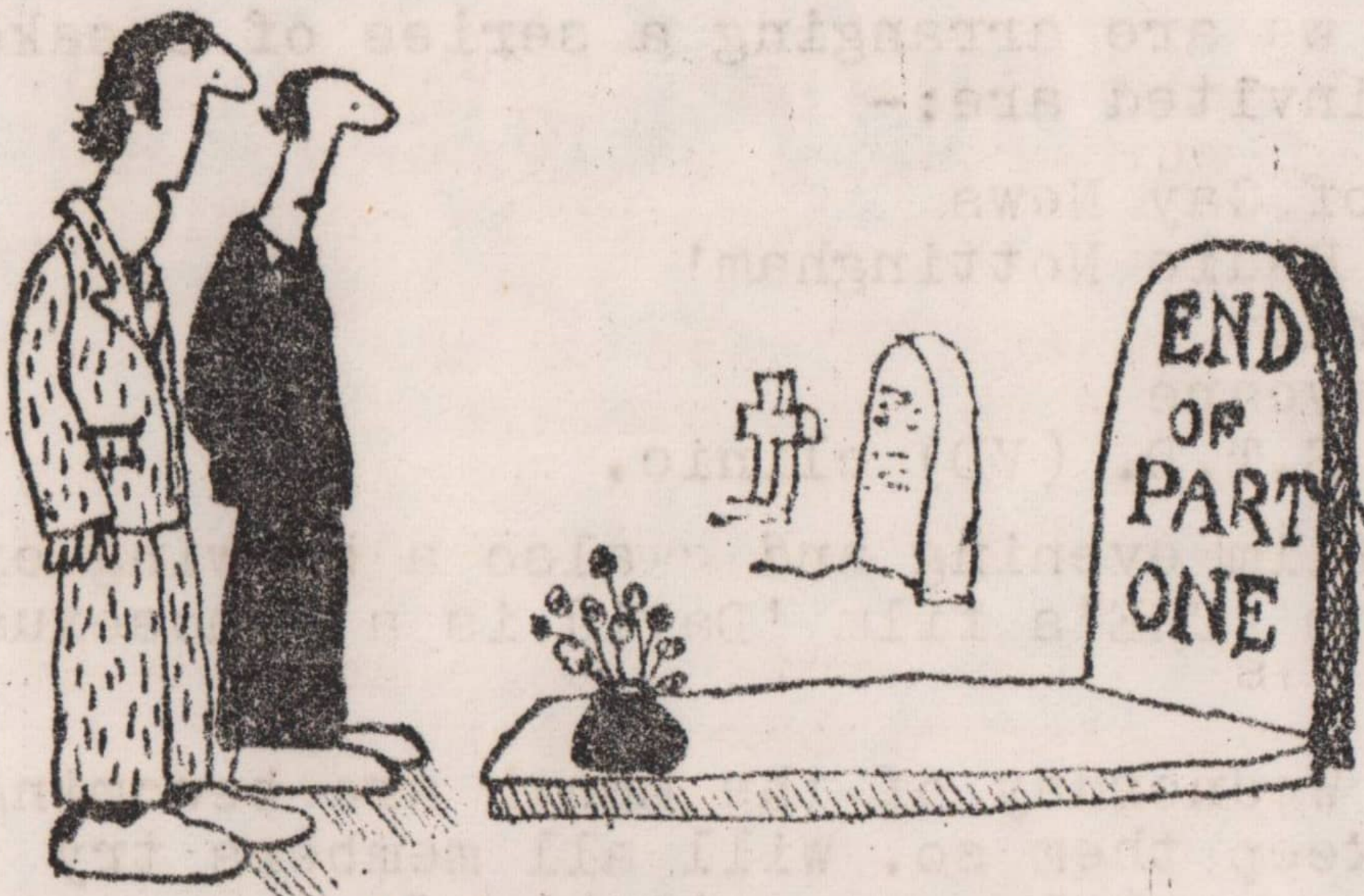
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The Millihelen is a new unit of beauty. It describes the attractiveness of someone whose face could launch a single ship.

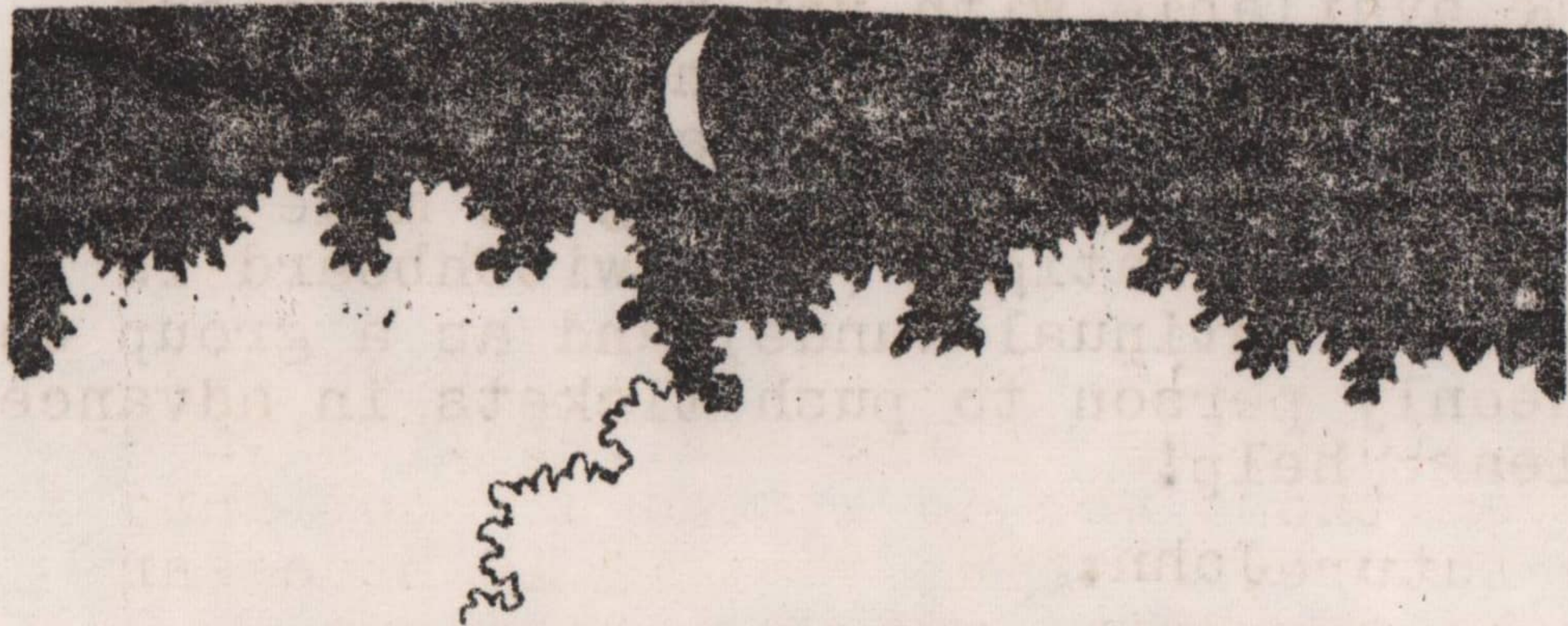
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In one of my remedial science groups, the same girl has set fire to her hair twice. Ian says that Chemistry for the Lower Ability Child should be renamed 'Singe Something Simple.'





"He believed in re-incarnation."



It's no bloody use now - the beans have gone cold.





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 NOTTINGHAM NOTES
 

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FORTHCOMING ATTRACTIONS!

For the Winter months we are arranging a series of speakers to meet us. Amongst those invited are:-

Denis Lemon - editor of Gay News  
 Dennis McCarthy - 'Mr Radio Nottingham'  
 A consultant psychiatrist  
 A representative of Gaycare  
 A consultant from the S.T.D. (VD) clinic.

We hope to arrange a film evening and also a showing of and discussion about Lewisham's CHE's film 'David is a homosexual'.

DISCOS

Our Discos on the 4th Wednesday of the month are becoming increasingly popular. Help keep them so. Will all members try to book their tickets in advance (always available from Ian at the CVS) but, even more, sell some to their friends. Always make sure that you have got some available with you when you go out. People in Shades are actually coming up to us and asking for tickets! Remember - the discos are one of the main sources of finance for the Switchboard - we must sell tickets to make a profit and ensure our important operations (the Switchboard is busier than ever now and needs continual funds) and as a group we cannot expect Ian to be the only person to push tickets in advance at the GHF and Shades. Please help!

John.

ODDS AND ENDS

During May we didn't equal the attainments of some groups in attracting new members, but we didn't do too badly either, so welcome to Jan, Ruth, Peter, Richard, Alan, Chris, Malcolm, Phil and Andrew - also to those such as Richard, Geoff, Mark, Peter and David who have renewed their subs. recently.

We have had several meetings with other groups over the last couple of months. Quite a large number of CHE members went to a  $\frac{1}{2}$  day conference on counselling at County Hall and we were also represented at the annual meeting of voluntary groups at the Friend's Meeting House. We were involved in the Anti-Nazi protest (see later in the newsletter); Ian and David went to speak to some trainee psychiatrists at Mapperley hospital and, with Heather and Carole, they also spoke to the Derby Outlook group.

Over the past couple of weeks John has been collecting signatures for 3 petitions: one in opposition to the blasphemy laws; one excoriating the neanderthal crassness of Justice Melford Stevenson and one in opposition to the National Front. If you haven't signed yet, find John before the petitions are posted.

David.

More padding. Did anyone hear the programme about the early days of BBC radio? Some of the programme presenters had to use gramophone records of speeches rather than the taped snippets in use today. One woman found that her record of the Archbishop of Canterbury stuck at "Oh God.....Oh God.....Oh God....." and a quick bounce of the needle only proceeded to restick on "Christ.....Christ.....Christ....."



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 REPORTS OF BUSINESS MEETINGS
 

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THURSDAY MAY 11TH

1. It was reported that we were no further ahead in having a social organiser.
2. It was agreed that the group would continue to affiliate to:-  
 Nottingham CVS  
 Local Anti-Fascist Committee  
 Anti-Nazi League

Affiliation to NCCL was deferred and, after lengthy discussion, it was agreed not to sponsor GAA until we had clear mandates on National CHE Policy i.e. after the 1978 Conference.

THURSDAY JUNE 8TH

1. a) It was decided to represent the group at the CVS Workshop for Self-Help Groups on June 15th. 3 members would attend.  
 b) It was decided to represent the group at the CVS Conference on Counselling on June 24th - at least 8 members would attend.
2. It was decided to support the Anti Nazi League Picket of a proposed NF Bookshop at the Victoria Centre on 17th June.
3. It was agreed that Switchboard volunteers would undertake some basic training in conjunction with the Friend Group.
4. It was agreed that the group should try to be represented on the Community Health Council.
5. It was noted that there was still no one willing to be Social Organiser.
6. It was decided that we would invite the Chairman of the Education Committee to meet the group.

John.

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 THE ANTI NAZI LEAGUE
 

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On Monday 19th June, had you been outside Marks and Spencers at around 7 pm, you may have wondered what was happening in this fair city of ours. For there were gathered over 1000 people - people who had actually stirred themselves out of their apathy to say something. And the message came across very clearly - 'No Nazis in Nottingham'.

This collection of people, of all political and social persuasions, marched to the National Front's 'office' on High Pavement and vocally showed what they thought of the National Front, for about an hour and then they marched through the city centre to the Market Square letting everybody in the city know.

I found the whole thing uplifting, so many people showing that they do care what happens in our city - I was particularly pleased to see about 20 gays there (about 7 or 8 from CHE) and I hope to see many more at the Anti Nazi Carnival on July 22nd in Nottingham. Keep that date clear if you want to show the NF exactly what you think of them.



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 THE ANTI NAZI LEAGUE
 

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This was a peaceful, good-natured demonstration which should give us all hope for our future in this city. Only one complaint - the Evening Post, desperately searching for something derogatory to say, muttered about counting the cost of democracy. There is only one reply: - What price democracy if the NF won an election?

Andrew Hibbert.

PS. Anybody interested in helping with arrangements for the Carnival please get in touch with John or myself.

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The Anti Nazi League is organising a Carnival against the Nazis for July 22nd, beginning at 12 noon in the Square. Lots of local Rock groups, steel bands, etc will be taking part; Indian, Italian, Greek food as well as vegetarian English; Woodcraft, Folk Dancing and singing; Street Theatre, poetry, Indian Dancing. You name it and it's going to happen.

CHE has taken part in the organising committee and we are fully accepted by all the other participants, many of whom probably don't realise that we, as gays, are second (after black people) in the NF's priorities for hatred and persecution.

There will be a 'Gays Against the Nazis' banner at the Carnival, so 'Come out' and enjoy yourselves and help spread the message that we're glad to be gay and more than ready to take on the NF or any variety of fascism that raises its ugly head.

If you'd like to join in the work of the Anti Nazi League contact Chris via the Switchboard.

Chris.

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 QUOTES
 

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"Camp Show - equipment on display - all erected inside" Shop on Carrington Street.

"Nottingham Coroner Mr. A. Rothera remarked that Mrs Nutty had a history of mental disorders" Nottingham Evening Post.

"A fat man should not play the concertina" Mao Tse-Tung.

"The coffee is filed under 'Unmarried Mothers' " Bob at the Switchboard.

"The Sun- the paper that gives you more intellectual stimulation than a rabbit's armpit" BBC Week Ending.

"A bit like Parsifal - but without the jokes" Noel Coward commenting on a new musical.

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 THE SWITCHBOARD WOMEN'S GROUP
 

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At the meeting with Brenda Borrett it was noticed by the women present that in the introduction explaining what the Switchboard was and what it did there was no mention of the women's group. The women's group, though containing CHE members, is not entirely CHE orientated or FRIEND orientated because neither organisation offers anything positive for women, or makes any serious effort to investigate or understand the particular problems experienced by gay women. We felt that there was a need for an alternative to both organisations that would be responsive to women who came up to the Switchboard for help, friends or information.

To clear up any misunderstanding about the aims and objectives of the women's group we thought that it would be a good idea for everyone in it to write something about what we had been doing in the past year. Pat and I had to wind up the group we started in Mansfield because I had been accepted for college and no longer had the necessary time; whatever we did in the future then had to be without all the paper work and trappings of running a hierarchically organised group with lots of officers and committees or business meetings. Whatever organising was to be done then would be on an informal basis between whoever was in the group at a given time. In no way did we want to become leaders who made decisions - we wanted the groups members to share in all that as much as possible. Starting with a small group of people, and the group staying fairly small, has made this much easier and made sure that the group has stayed responsive to its members. We tried one or two different types of evening (listening to tapes from Sappho, for instance) which weren't the most stunning success so we dropped them. We also tried discussion evenings but found that beer or lager in the pub made discussion much easier - therefore formal discussion evenings only take place if someone is really burning to talk about something!

The basic aim then was to keep the group as informal and flexible as possible so that new people, especially, did not feel excluded. Its base is very much a social one through which the other main function of the group is carried out - that is of course the befriending aspect. However we did not want to make the befriending role something specialised that only one or two people were qualified to do; as much as possible we wanted the group to be the 'befrienders' and be a caring group in itself. After all everyone has difficulties no matter how long they have been on the gay scene and everyone needs people to talk to without feeling that they are a person with problems & that no one else has any. Occasionally we realised that people would want to talk in confidence and we have, therefore, always made it clear that anyone could if they wanted to; not only when they were new to the group but also if they had been in the group for a while. We also explain our links with the counselling group at the CVS from time to time so that people know they can go for help there if they want to. We know only too well that there are difficulties that cannot be sorted out within the group and are very grateful to John Elder for being there when we need him!

Information giving is another basic aim of the group which again is done on an informal basis. We have the subscription library of books relevant to gay women and with the little money



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 THE SWITCHBOARD WOMEN'S GROUP
 

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we make add to it when a new book comes out. It has become something of a constant sideline now because most of us have borrowed the books that we are interested in; we have loaned them to students studying homosexuality as part of their courses and other than that they are there mainly for new members. The other kind of information giving we do is in taking people out with us to the pubs and the club so that they can have a look around amongst friends, rather than go on their own. We think this is very important because gay pubs and clubs aren't the friendliest of places to go to at the best of times, let alone on your own when you are 'new' to the scene.

We have days and evenings out then as a group and in twos, fours, sixes and every other variation in numbers! The Monday night is the regular night for everyone to get together and usually from that we plan other activities such as going to the theatre, ice skating (though no one managed to get me on the ice) going down the club, going out for an afternoon - like Wollaton Park, going to London to the Sappho disco and then again to the Gay News Defence Demo, going to local fairs and then drinking afterwards (of course) and so on ..... In other words we do quite a lot! It is primarily a women's group so it is up to the women if and when guys are included - as they sometimes are. One or two guys have come on to the gay scene through our group and the group is there just as much for them as the women who have done the same.

The group then is a changing one and what we do depends on who is around and what their interests are: the one thing we all seem to enjoy is drinking, so after the gathering at the Switchboard on a Monday we all go to a nearby pub. At the Switchboard we can introduce new members and answer the phone calls from women so it stays as a permanent base. Meeting at the Switchboard also means that if anyone gets out of touch, they know definitely where and when to find us - very necessary if people aren't on the phone themselves.

It is very hard to sum up because everything we do is so interrelated with everything else! Befriending, talking, listening, sharing, 'informing', laughing, understanding and simply getting on with the business of living. We hope that in a small way it works out for people and that they get something out of it. We would especially like to thank those who have stayed around in the group in order to keep it going for the new people who come along. Here's hoping that we're around in another year!

Hilary.

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More padding. Did you know that:-

Shipstones is an anagram of 'honest piss'?

Nessiteras Rhombopteryx (Sir Peter Scott's term for the Loch Ness Monster) is an anagram of 'a monster hoax by Sir Peter S.'

(This rubbish was prompted by listening to Richard Stilgoe, who is an anagram of Giscard O'Hitler)





Hon President  
Allan Horsfall  
Hon Chairperson  
David Jenkinson  
Hon Treasurer  
Robert Palmer

# Campaign for Homosexual Equality

CHE P.O. BOX 427, 33 KING STREET, MANCHESTER, M60 2EL

RELEASE:  
IMMEDIATE

## NEWS RELEASE

TUESDAY,  
JUNE 20  
1978

WORLD-WIDE RESPONSE TO CHE'S CONFERENCE '78  
Coventry, August 25th., to 28th., 1978

THIS YEAR'S annual conference of CHE, explains, **Malcolm Crowe**, chairman of the conference steering committee, will be a policy-making conference, and all members with an interest in the scope and direction of CHE's work should try to attend.

In addition, there will be ample opportunity for making it a pleasant social weekend. The business of the conference will have as its centre-piece a major workshop on campaigning at which CHE's long-term goals and strategies will be spelt-out. Policy workshops will also deal with gay people in rural areas, care, counselling, relations with women's movements, gay liberation movement, and religious groups, and Gay Lobby. It is proposed that this year workshops would have the opportunity to form working parties to operate throughout the year-developing and monitoring their policies and taking action as appropriate, explains Malcolm who is currently the chairperson of CHE's sister organisation north of the border, Scottish Minorities Group.

\*\*\*\*\*The conference will also have quite an international flavour as the International Liaison Commission will be meeting at Coventry at the same time: this body consists of delegates from homophile organisations in European Economic Commission countries and seeks to harmonise law reform proposals. There has already been registrations from the United States of America and further ones are expected from Canada and Kingston, Jamaica, which is "twinned" with Coventry. Most countries within Europe will be represented - among them Sweden where the age of consent has recently been lowered to 15 years and **Michael Holm**, of the Swedish magazine "Revolt", will be a speaker. To accommodate the overseas visitors who want to share their experiences of campaigning there will be informal tête-à-tête sessions late at night to keep alive the CHE conference tradition of serious talking in the still of the night. **Maureen Colquhoun** will open the conference on the Saturday morning and no doubt touch on her experiences of "coming out" as a Lesbian Member of Parliament. Keeping the political balance will be CHE vice-president **Ian Harvey**, the former Conservative M.P., who will chair the opening session in the De Vere Hotel which is situated right in the centre of Coventry.

Fringe meetings will start on the Friday evening with a special one for women at the conference. Again there will be a free Welcome Disco on the Friday night (ending at 1 a.m.), while a Drinkalong is also scheduled after the successful ~~one~~ **one in 1977** at Nottingham. The traditional mix of a play, film and video ~~presentation~~ are being lined-up, as well as other cultural entertainments which can be accommodated into what is already becoming an exceedingly full programme. Those who registered early have been able to take advantage of the very low-priced accommodation. CHE has secured some excellent value-for-money accommodation. For those travelling from London there is a special £7.50 return fare with reductions for holders of student and senior citizen rail cards.

REGISTRATION for the conference costs £6 and accommodation booked after July 31st. will be subject to a £2 late booking fee.

\*\*\*Further details from CHE Conference Organiser, **Griffith Vaughan Williams**\*\*\*

Non-Executive Vice Presidents:

Sir Alfred Ayer FBA Lord Beaumont of Whitley Humphry Berkeley Anthony Blond Bridgid Brophy Dr R W Burnham FRCOG Robert Chartham PhD Margaret Drabble Martin Ennals Rey Gosling Peter Hain T Colin Harvey MA BASW Cert of Ed Ian Harvey Dr James Hemming David Heckroy H Montgomery Hyde Vary Rev'd A Jowett CBE MA (Dean of Manchester) Peter Katin Josephine Klein PhD Dr Arnold Linken MB BCH Peter Maxwell Davies George Melly Dr Jonathan Miller Rev'd Dr Norman Pittenger Harold Pollard Rt Rev'd John A T Robinson DD Michael Schofield Tony Smythe Rt Rev'd Lord Soper Michael Stead Rt Rev'd E R Wickham BD (Bishop of Middletown) Angus Wilson



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 BANK HOLIDAY SPECIAL FOR THE LADIES OF THE SWITCHBOARD
 

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The meeting took place promptly at 1.15 pm at the Olde Trip to Jerusalem, except for Pat, that is, who tripped (or trypped) over the hem of her skirt and was somewhat delayed. After several drinks all round to recover from the sight of 'Pat in skirt' we sallied forth to Wollaton Park where we spent an hour and a half queuing for the loo having overdone the celebrations at the 'Trip'! Somehow we all managed to meet in time to discuss the plans for the evening.

A night out at Shades was discarded in favour of refreshments at Pat and Hilary's followed by a visit to the fair at Annesley Woodhouse. Suitably refreshed with lager and a sample of 'meat loaf', we descended on the fair.

For those with a stomach that liked lager shaken but not stirred it was a takeover on the 'Speedway' and 'Twister'. Pat, Julie and Sally then took over the rifle range. Pat and Julie managed to win two fluffy monsters by shooting down five targets but Sally nearly shot down the stallkeeper.

We decided that discretion was the better part of valour and retreated to the pub. Having imbibed quite a quantity of Dutch Courage, we returned to the fair. What had been a sedate ride on the dodgems for the kiddies turned into a nightmare of multiple pile-ups. All one can say is that it's a good thing the breathalyser is not operated for dodgem car drivers.

Meanwhile..... Back at the Pub ..... Those that didn't eventually keel over by the wayside, then went on to Pat's local where there was an extension until 11.30pm. If any of us can remember sufficiently well, a good time was had by all.

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 THE FIRST TIME
 

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When I finally got round to doing what I'd intended doing for months, it was with some apprehension that I eventually 'phoned the Gay Switchboard in Nottingham. When the person on the other end of the 'phone actually suggested that I might like to come along to their meeting I was petrified!

As I arrived at number 31a I had fleeting thoughts about turning back, but I steeled myself and went in. And I'm glad I did! All my worries went as I realised that I wasn't going to be questioned, just accepted.

My first feelings are that here are friends, people who are willing to accept me as I am, without the pretence I sometimes feel I have to carry with me; who are willing and able to give me help, encouragement, comradeship and love. Thank you very much! I only hope that I can extend such feelings to others in the future who feel as nervous as I did.

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## SHERWOOD (STREET) TALES

In response to requests from fans of my earlier series of articles I am about to launch yet another - well one at least. This year has been somewhat busy as Trent Poly, in their infinite wisdom saw fit to give me a place on one of their courses. When I'd recovered from the shock and found myself drowning under a sea of text books and paper, there was hardly a second left to sit and write frivolous articles for the newsletter - frivolous essays for tutors and lecturers yes, frivolous articles no. After 3 years of living - I mean existing - on the dole, the new way of life meant that for several weeks I didn't know whether I was coming or going; in fact I was doing a hell of a lot of both. Home just wasn't what it had been for the past God knows how long; it hasn't been that clean and tidy since - more how Pat likes it with heaps of papers mags, and so on everywhere. Getting used to it all was necessary simply because neither of us had the energy to clean it all up. Housework became a blitz activity for Saturday mornings. Needless to say the decorating got suspended for the Winter season and suspended ever since.

Pat finally got about as pissed of as any human being can be with a job and packed in librarianship temporarily about Xmas time, expecting to spend some time on the dole and do what I'm doing at the moment - writing. As chance would have it she got offered a job and accepted it. About the same time we became mobile - we actually got 4 wheels beneath us and the freedom of the open road. Trent buses could go without us for a change. The joy was short lived, however, when some doom-merchant of a garage in Kirkby had a look at it - the car that is. They fiddled about in the engine put in some new plugs and told her that it really ought not to be on the road; everything, including the bottom was about to drop out - they said. That night we were going out to town, which made matters much worse; we were both feeling angry and wishing the poor old motor in hell. I got in very gingerly as we prepared to go - got down the road and asked Pat to take me back! The prospects of it passing its forthcoming MOT didn't look slight - they looked impossible. From then on we motored very carefully - not that we could do much else. The garage had seen to that by bugging up the timing or some other vital part of the engine that meant that the car would labour up a 1 in 11 gradient - not the most staggering performance I've experienced on the road (Motoring - for the dirty minded amongst us.)

We put thoughts of MOTs to the back of our minds and continued to kid Pat's Mum and Dad that ours was the greatest thing on the road. They seemed impressed with the presence of the vehicle when we visited them - we simply omitted to jack it up for them to have a closer inspection. Something I know from experience that Pat's folks are extremely good at. Like my folks they would just love to rub salt in the wounds if 'kid' has boobed. As the date of expiry for the MOT got nearer we got gloomier, so Pat eventually rang up the previous owners mechanic to see if he could salvage anything from the supposed heap that we called our car. Expecting the worst I didn't dare open my mouth while he carried out the inspection. Pat was quaking in similar fashion. He jovially listed the things that needed fixing and promised to put it through its MOT for us at a very reasonable price. No hassle. Not only did it pass its MOT with flying colours, it flew up that 1 in 11 gradient like a dream; and I've yet to be left sitting in the road.



## SHERWOOD (STREET) TALES

The subject of cars seems to be a good one so I'll continue. This tale surrounds an event that neither of us looks forward to. A visit from Pat's Mum. This time + elderly aunt with whom I yak gardening til the cows come home. Pat's Mum isn't the hottest thing on wheels; in fact Pat doesn't think she should be allowed on the road at all. God knows how those meals-on-wheels ever arrived if she drove those WRVS vans the way she drives her mini. She is the sort of driver that gets behind the wheel and drives without any thought of what is making it go under the bonnet. You know, things like water, oil and the occasional topping up of the battery. Anyway, the fateful day arrived. I got out the best(only) china in an effort to impress and cleaned the joint up. Pat in the meantime fussed over the food and brought us both near to the verge of a nervous breakdown. I always figured that it would be more fun to do that sort of thing with someone else. Mother and aunty arrived much to our surprise at the same time. We plied them with tea and did the grand tour of inspection around home and garden. Everything was going great. For once I think we scored something like 8 out of 10 for pleasing mother. Aunty was delighted about the garden and has since told everyone she knows about it regardless of whether they know who we are or not. Leaving time was getting close and after the usual farewells from the front door we prepared to have the rest of the evening to ourselves. It was also the time for fateful remarks; for example:-

"Don't cheer yet. It'll take them at least an hour to get started." It didn't take an hour - it took an hour and a quarter to be precise. The battery was as dead as door nails and, while I'm on to similes, as dry as the Sahara in the rainy season. A camel would have been most useful but as luck would have it a guy stopped and offered to help. First though, my aunty was unloaded and reinstalled in one of the armchairs in the living room. I looked out the door and car, mother, Pat and man had disappeared completely - as it turned out pushing the car down the hill. Then Gary arrived in his mini to pay one of his visits to number 25. I introduced him to aunty and took a sprint around the local streets looking for the rest of the McLernon family. Gary and aunty were getting on famously when the McLernon family arrived back. The car was about a mile away being watched over by some other kind folk in the area and plans were already afoot to drive Mum and aunty back to Keyworth.

Then Gary and Pat steamed off in Gary's mini to find a friend with jump leads to charge up the battery. Success! In the meantime Mum was also reinstalled in an armchair and I was making even more tea, but not this time in the china tea service. In emergencies it seems that the McLernon family are prepared to forego the finer things in life and sup their tea from the saucer if need be, like everyone else. Joy of joys, the mini roared up the road and Pat flew in to hustle her family out and into it without stopping the engine. Gary had rushed off back to his mates with the borrowed jump leads. Farewells this time round were hasty and when Gary arrived back we finally got the rest of the evening to ourselves.

Cars are definitely not the 'in' subject.

Hilary.



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 THE ADVENTURES OF TASTY McPHERSON
 

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The young man washed his hands under the kitchen tap. He was mumbling, muttering to himself: a regulated chant, his legs moving to the rhythm of the words:

"I'd better clean up, clean up, made a terrible mess, terrible mess, wash my hands, wash my hands, made a terrible mess, blood....." he cried, whimpered.

Standing by the sink, arms drawn across his body, sheilding his body, afraid.

"Got in the way, the way, knew too much, found out."

His hands were clean now, turning pale under the force of cold water as he reached again for the soap.

"Aah!" He noticed that the sleeve of his denim jacket was stained. He whimpered again, touching the stain, inspecting his clothes. There were splashes of blood over his jacket, his shirt, his cord jeans.

"Oh dear, what a mees. I'd better change, Robin will have some clothes," smiling, more confident at having found an answer, "Won't need them now," he chuckled, as he danced across the kitchen, moving gracefully, lightly, springing on his feet across the dirty hallway towards the main bed-sitting room.

The sight of the body caused him to stop and with excessive care he walked around the place where it lay. He undressed without shifting his stare from the floor, turning away briefly to pick out some clothes. Grey trousers - too tight, but they'll do, and a black pullover.

Having dressed, he withdrew from the room, keeping the body in sight, brushing away the beads of sweat which trickled down his face. His soiled clothes were in a bundle underneath his arm. He returned to the kitchen to find something to put them in. There was a large plastic bag hanging from the back of the single wooden chair. He pushed the clothes inside, grinned, and left by the rear fire escape." .....

Tasty McPherson stretched her fingers, her arms, her legs, her mind. Pushing away the typewriter, she reached for the beer bottle sitting on one of the many dried stains on the top of the desk. She tipped it over her glass (pinched from the pub) but nothing happened.

"Bugger"

She sat for a moment in relaxed and utter helplessness before pottering over to the kitchen end of the room.

"Bugger."

The crate was empty and used beer bottles littered the sink.

"Bugger, bugger, bugger. Now I'll have to go out. What time is it?" She looked over to the plastic clock on the wall of the bedroom across the street (Tasty never bought anything she could beg borrow or steal). The curtains were drawn.

"Fine bloody time to be fucking when I'm stuck without ale and por old George is stuck with a bundle of bloody clothes," she swore at the window. She stood in thought for a few moments;



## THE ADVENTURES OF TASTY McPHERSON

Looked from the grimy window to see of the pub was open.

"Oh, well, I'll have to call in on Liz and Jo." Having made a decision, she started putting the empty bottles into the crate. When they were all collected she swung the crate up to ride in front of her ample bosom and negotiated a path through the room, out of the door, along the passage, down the stairs and into the street. Meanwhile.....

In a secluded corner of Waltham Forest Reference Library, 3 women (or it might have been men - the young assistant couldn't be sure) sat huddled together, whispering.

"Well, I say that this should be a collective decision," with a decided emphasis on the penultimate word, said one.

"We can't all decide to do it - one is enough".

"Safety in numbers," growled the first speaker.

"So how do we decide which one of us?" continued the second.

"What exactly will she have to do?" enquired the third.

"Bare-breasted in Oxford Street," they both screamed at their sister.

"Oh," blushed the third.

This meeting of DUM (Dykes Underground Movement) was brought abruptly to a close as the Reference Librarian formally booted them out.

..... and .....

"All right, you bitch...." Jo paused to catch her breath as she sat on her lover... "I'll carry you up."

"O.K." Liz responded languidly, "You can rape me."

"Well, put up some fight then," urged Jo, as she attempted to remove viciously (but careful not to tear) Liz's clothes with one hand, and her own clothes with the other.

After the first few struggles they fell off the ancient bed, landing in a heap of tangled clothes and limbs. The spell was broken; they smiled and laughed; collapsed into each others welcoming arms.

"I'm sorry, Jo - you're not the typical rapist."

"Maybe I should be the raped?" Jo asked uncertainly.

"You mean that I am a potential rapist?" Liz shrieked.

"We could never rape each other anyway. Lesbian sex isn't like that."

"True."

"What time is T.P. coming?"

Liz consulted her watch. "About ten minutes."

"I'll get dinner then."

..... also .....

Snotte Green Police Station, usually a quiet haven for almost retired beat coppers, was alive with activity. Constables ran, sergeants moved from one foot to the other and detectives stood upright.



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 THE ADVENTURES OF TASTY McPHERSON
 

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D.C. Smith, a young and handsome man, wasting his looks in this job, hurried through to the D.I.'s office, with a copy of Gay News waving blatantly in his fist. The duty sergeant muttered that he'd always known there was something funny about that young fellow and returned to his customary activity of staring through the window while imagining the biggest woman he could. (He never got much further than imagining the woman, who must by now have felt very cold and frustrated after taking shape periodically over the last 15 years).

D.C. Smith burst into Inspector North's office.

"Sir, Sir, look!" he gesticulated vaguely in the direction of page ten. Sir looked.

"What's this, lad?"

"Gay News, Sir?"

"I can see that laddie. Why should I look at this - Oh, no, not another blasted poem."

"No, Sir. A serial, Sir. A story, that is, about a murderer."

"You'd better let me read it, lad."

All was quiet in the office as North read the piece. It bore a remarkable resemblance to the M.O. of a series of murders in that area.

(To be continued)

Pat.

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 CHE NATIONAL COUNCIL: YORK
 

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### Business sessions

About 40 CHE groups were represented at the NC and rather more than double that number were present throughout the morning and afternoon sessions. The morning session was mainly about reports and resolutions.

The Chairman, David Jenkerson, reported that 750 membership applications had been received during May - the cut price month. This was greater than the total for the previous six months. Roy Burns had been co-opted to the Executive to encourage greater campaigning by local groups. A new CHE London office had been acquired near Marylebone Station; the Information Officer's responsibilities were now to be shared by National Office staff; Che had submitted evidence to the Williams Committee on obscenity and film censorship; NIGRA was looking for financial support for its appeal to the European Court.

Questions to the Chairman were mostly about the non-appointment of Paul Fairweather as Information Officer. The Treasurer presented a report which seemed to show an improved financial situation, largely due to the increase in new members and the higher proportion of existing members renewing.



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 CHE NATIONAL COUNCIL: YORK
 

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Future fund raising events include a Benefit Concert at the Roundhouse in the Autumn, a Peter Katin concert and lotteries. Prizes of Champagne were presented to Eastbourne, Colchester, Chester and Wolverhampton groups for their successes in membership recruitment.

Questions to the Treasurer were concerned with; the continued use of Barclay's Bank; the viability of £2 membership; the need for low initial membership fee; the abuse of CHE cards as club and shop discount cards.

Three new CHE groups were recognised. Motions from Bristol and Nottingham groups were withdrawn after discussion as it was felt that the points raised had been adequately answered by the Chairman and Treasurer. The Nottingham motion concerned the allocation of additional paid help to those 2 officers in a period of 'financial stringency'. An emergency motion from Shrewsbury group was considered and approved. This concerned recent remarks by Justice Melford Stevenson at a recent trial and drew the attention of the Lord Chancellor to the 'continuing abuse of his position' as a High Court Judge (this has been reported to the group and individuals urged to write to the Lord Chancellor - full details of the resolution etc. from John).

Motions from Colchester and London convenors concerned CHE evidence to the Williams Committee. There was general agreement that the Executive's evidence was unsatisfactory and Colchester's motion was passed by 29 votes to 11.

Roy Burns reported verbally on campaigning and urged groups to give priority between now and December to:-

- The Melford Stevenson case (see above)
- Getting Gay News stocked by Public Libraries.
- meeting the Liaison Officers of local Police Forces.
- providing CHE information leaflets through doctors' surgeries etc.
- using local newsletter for campaigning.

The afternoon session was the shorter of the two, but in some ways the more interesting. Tim Bolton-Maggs presented the Tyneside CHE educational slide show aimed at schools. This was much appreciated and a collection raised £37 towards their target of £900 for a cine-film. A representative from the Northern Ireland Gay Rights Association reported on their members case against the British Government, which had been accepted by the European Court for consideration. £400 was now needed to cover the cost of presenting the NIGRA case.

Griffith Vaughan Williams reported on preparations for the Conference in Coventry and his intention to appeal to the Ombudsman if the Council did not provide a civic reception. Civic leaders for Coventry's twinned cities of Cantreadit and Kingston Jamaica were ready to force the issue by arriving for a civic welcome during the conference!

The Council closed, on time, at 5.30 pm.

Chris.



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THE LESS-BORING SIDE OF THE YORK NATIONAL COUNCIL

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NCs are serious affairs, witness the solemn faces that can always be seen during the sessions, when the delegates are visibly hanging on to every (audible) word and making more or less intelligent guesses at those which aren't. It takes skill, not only to lose the voting card but also to raise it at the right time, having carefully sifted through the bemusing mass of amendments, counter proposals and sub-resolutions, and be sure of just what you are voting for - or against. Yes, those attending NCs need iron constitutions and I'm sure, if honesty prevailed, that it is the prospect of facing them that is behind the ever changing Executive.

But not only should one husband(or wife?) one's stamina for the serious stuff. The whole weekend is liable to be fraught with anxieties and questions that seem to be without answers, but happily it can also have pleasureable compensations, both of which aspects were borne out by the recent York NC.

Take the Friday night situation: imagine driving up Mansfield Road to pick up John, Howard, who were standing in the pouring rain refugee-like with plastic carriers and bags containing their possessions, outside the gates of the cemetery. What an omen! Alas, Hammer Films were not there to record the scene. Nothing too bad there you may think. But bear in mind that the intention was to camp under canvas, that it had rained steadily all day and gave no sign of letting up and we could be forgiven for being rather damp in spirit as well as in body.

Nor was that all. Added to the prospect of getting soaked through trying to pitch canvas was the prospect of that accommodation itself. Now this accommodation was remarkable. Originally we were to have two tents; this then shrank to one two-man tent and Chris later admitted that it was really a one-man tent, but that two could get into it. We were proposing to put four in it - subsequently reduced to three when Chris quite casually dropped out the information that he had recalled a friend in York who might be able to put him up. Yes, the weekend had interesting prospects indeed as we drove north.

Despite all the downpour, the weather forecasts said that the north of England would enjoy fine weather and sure enough as we progressed northwards the rain stopped, the sky lightened and when we reached York there was even the remains of a sunset and no trace of foul weather. One worry was out of the way and the other was due to go, for when we reached the house of Chris' friend it transpired that we could all be accommodated if we didn't mind sleeping on the floor. If we didn't mind! The prospect was quite Elysian. It says much for the stoicism of Chris' friends that they could take in their stride being descended upon by 4 gays, provide them with refreshment and TV viewing.

We departed for the city, found our way to the Grey Rooms, where all events were being held, and then to the York Arms, a very crowded gay pub which would give one an idea of what the Black Hole of Calcutta must have been like, but was none the less pleasant. The disco was so like any other that I shall pass over it, commenting only on the delicious liver-sausage sandwiches that were available and the fact that in the raffle Howard won a box



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 THE LESS-BORING SIDE OF THE YORK NATIONAL COUNCIL
 

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of chocolates that did not survive the night. At a stall where there were various exotic badges on sale, one of which bore the legend "F\*\*\*ing Queer". We felt that there ought to be one for the fessaggressive brothers saying "F\*\*\*ed Queer", but this apparently was not the case.

Somewhat wearily, we returned to our floor and retired for a night broken only by our convenor's heavy snoring and (so I'm assured) the heavy breathing sounds produced by my lilo whenever I moved. Not too early the next morning three of us met for breakfast, Howard having departed early for an exclusive interview with the Executive Committee. We were formally introduced to the daughter of the house, who had already ventured into our room to size us up in the early hours of the morning. It was in fact a lucky escape, as we later learned that this four year old had a habit of greating guests by pretending to be a tiger and flinging herself on to their beds. Such are the unseen perils of National Councils.

I believe someone else is providing the boring details of the Plenary Session, so I needn't bother doing that. In the next instalment you can read about John Clarkson and the Green Pea; about Howard's battle with Uncle Plunkett; about the Teapot Dispute and the tea-shoppe fracas; and other things too. It will be an article you cannot afford to miss.

Mike.

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As I'm getting tired, I'm tempted to grind to a halt - in fact I have already consigned three poems to the waste-paper bin, including one of my own about molecular motion and Elizabeth Barrett-Browning; however, as Tony threatened to don his 'Lenton Rapist' mask and horse whip me if I didn't print this book review, I had better comply.

MNA LAUGHING MAN by P.Y.Rex  
 LAUGHING MAN by R.U.Gay

A very warm welcome to these illustrated manuals for gay men. After the Joy of Gay Cooking and the Joy of Lesbian Housework, it's a pleasure to read something which attempts to make gay sex fun.

Man Laughing Man is a consciousness-raising guide to what makes a gay man laugh: briefly, relax and enjoy it, as the jokes fall thick and fast ('Did you hear the one about the Irishman....?') And if your partner gives you the clap after reading this book, it won't be painful. LAUGHING MAN is more fully illustrated than the first book: photographs instead of line drawings, showing us gay men in various laughter-raising situations. And these situations are described in detail: e.g. situation 56: both men lie on their backs with their legs high in the air. One partner then tells a joke, at which the other doubles up with laughter. Yes, folks, highly recommended, as the bishop said to the tall organist!

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The last word - is 'COMING'. We have just heard that Peter Katin is NOT coming.