

NEWSLETTER FOR THE NOTTINGHAM AND DERBY GROUPS OF C.H.E.

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 (CVS) 31a, Mansfield Road, Nottingham.

NOTTINGHAM GAY SWITCHBOARD operates from the above address every MONDAY and THURSDAY from 7-10pm and the phone number to ring is

NOTTINGHAM 46881

DERBY

Convenor/Membership Secretary	Jeff, 14 Farningham Close, Spondon, Tel.64234
Treasurer	Maurice, 130, Brighton Road, Alvaston.
Gay Info	Philip - Phone 752260 Friday evenings.

New members introduction evenings are Mondays at the Convenor's address..

There is a lot wrong with CHE both locally and nationally. Blunders are made and there are always things to complain about but I am sure that many of our problems stem from trying to do a great number of worthwhile things with limited resources and limited finances; despite all that, we do continue to achieve quite a lot. How much more could we achieve if those people who are on the fringe of CHE and who take advantage from time to time of what CHE offers actually decided to join? If you read this and you are not a CHE member, NOW is the time to ask for a subscription form as CHE is running a reduced-rate membership scheme during NOVEMBER only. The rate is £2. The £2 will provide you with the monthly National CHE Broadsheet, our own bi-monthly Chimaera, reduced entry rate at our local discos and, most important, will provide support for the campaigning/befriending/educational activities undertaken by National and Local CHE. £2 per year is about 1/2p a day, or 4.76 pints of beer, or 2.67 visits to Shades, or 9.52 tins of Sainsbury's custard powder.

David.

 PROGRAMME

NOTTINGHAM

- WED. NOV. 8TH 10 PIN BOWLING - meet in the WHITE HART (Glasshouse St.) behind the Victoria Centre at 7.30pm.
- THUR. NOV. 9TH BUSINESS MEETING at the CVS (31a, Mansfield Road) 8pm
- FRI. NOV. 17TH GAMES EVENING at MIKE'S 19 Thomas Close, St. Ann's at 8 pm.
- WED. NOV. 22ND DISCO at the HEARTY GOODFELLOW from 8.30pm in the Upstairs Lounge.
- SAT. NOV. 25TH NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF GAY SWITCHBOARDS CONFERENCE in Birmingham.
- WED. NOV. 29TH COFFEE EVENING at JOHN'S 17 Balmoral Road, off Forest Road, from 8pm.
- SAT. DEC. 2ND CHE NATIONAL COUNCIL at LEEDS.
- WED. DEC. 6TH PUB EVENING at THE THEATRE ROYAL (Stalls Bar) 8pm.
- THUR. DEC. 14TH BUSINESS MEETING at CVS (31a, Mansfield Rd.) 8pm.
- FRI. DEC. 15th CHRISTMAS DINNER at the VERNON ARMS (Junction of Waverley St. and Forest Rd) approx £4-50 + wine. Names of those who are interested + £2 deposit to John by December 1st.
- WED. DEC. 20TH CHRISTMAS DISCO at the HEARTY GOODFELLOW from 8.30 (Upstairs Lounge)
- THUR. DEC. 21ST MEETING TO DISCUSS THE NEXT PROGRAMME at CVS 8pm.
- THUR. DEC. 28TH FOR THOSE WHO WANT TO MEET UP DURING THE CHRISTMAS WEEK join us at the CVS - and swap any unwanted Christmas presents (we mean it!)
- FRI. JAN. 5TH TRIP TO NEWARK to the Old Kings Arms, Kirk Gate at 8.30. Lifts will be available so don't be frightened to ask.
- FRI. JAN. 12TH COFFEE EVENING at Ian and Davids. (64, Fabis Drive Clifton Grove) If people are interested, they can see 2 15minute videotapes - one on Birmingham Gay Switchboard, the other a discussion on gay myths and stereotypes. Both are recent programmes and the latter has not been seen in the Midlands.
- WED. JAN. 24TH DISCO at THE HEARTY GOODFELLOW (Upstairs Lounge) from 8.30 pm.

On the weekend of October 27th-29th Nottingham CHE hosted 18 members of Colchester CHE. After a preliminary get-together members of both groups met up again on Saturday at the Theatre Royal and at Shades. On Sunday we regrouped in the Trip to Jerusalem and then went on a tour around the caves. To be honest, some of us approached the weekend with trepidation and that made it's success even more delightful. If you weren't involved this time, there is no reason why you shouldn't be in the future, since the Nottingham Group now has an invitation to visit Colchester. The proposed dates are either the 1st or the 3rd weekend in March, but you will receive more news in the next newsletters.

PROGRAMME

N.B. The Nottingham Magistrates have granted an extension until 12 pm for the CHRISTMAS DISCO on Wed. December 20th.

DERBY

- WED. NOV. 8th PUB EVENING. at the GARRICK (Ashbourne Rd) from 9pm
- FRI. NOV. 10th PHONE IN at Phil's, 29 Severn St. Alvaston.
- SAT. NOV. 11th GAY CLUB VISIT: Phone for lifts. Meet at 10pm at Jeff's. 14, Farningham Close, Spondon.
- MON. NOV. 13th AND EVERY MONDAY - NEW MEMBERS EVENING at Jeff's (New members only)
- WED. NOV. 15th COFFEE EVENING at John's (20 Allestree ST. Alvaston) 8pm
- FRI. NOV. 17th PHONE IN at Chris and Jeff's 8 pm (Address above)
- SAT. NOV. 18th PLAYHOUSE BAR at 1 pm for a drink and a chat.
- WED. NOV. 22nd PUB EVENING at GARRICK (Ashbourne Rd) from 9 pm.
- FRI. NOV. 24th PHONE IN at Phil's, 29 Severn St. Alvaston.
- SAT. NOV. 25th CHEESE & WINE EVENING at Chris and Jeff's (14, Farningham Close, Spondon) 50p admission or 25p if you bring a bottle.
- FRI. DEC. 1st COFFEE EVENING at Maurice's, 130 Brighton Rd, Alvaston.
- SAT. DEC. 2nd PLAYHOUSE BAR at 1pm for lunchtime drink.
- WED. DEC. 6th COFFEE at Reg's - 7 Madison Ave. Chaddesden - at 8pm.
- FRI. DEC. 8th PHONE IN at Phil's, 29 Severn St. Alvaston 8 pm.
- SAT. DEC. 9th SHADES CLUB: meet at Chris and Jeff's at 10pm, phone 64234 for lifts.
- TUE. DEC. 12th TALK TO YOUNG CONSERVATIVES at Burton on Trent 8.15pm
- FRI. DEC. 15th PHONE IN + DISCUSSION NIGHT at Phil's 8pm (Address above)
- SAT. DEC. 16th PLAYHOUSE BAR at 1pm for lunchtime drink.
- WED. DEC. 20th COFFEE at Ken's - 5a, Bramble St. from 8pm.
- FRI. DEC. 22nd SHERRY EVENING/PRE CHRISTMAS DRINKS from 8 pm at 29, Severn St. Alvaston.
- SAT. DEC. 23rd TRIP TO GAY CLUB (Perhaps 141 in Stoke) Meet at Jeff's at 9pm.
- TUES. DEC. 26th BOXING DAY meet at Phil's (address above) at 9.30 A.M. PROMPT. Then on to Kedleston Hall for the Meynal Hunt. Finish at Puss in Boots (Windley) for lunchtime drink. Phone 752260/64234 early for lifts. 7pm CHRISTMAS SOIREE - in other words, eats, drinks and games at 14 Farningham Close. Do come along - last year the birds ate 30 sandwiches and the dogs 2 trifles and a jelly.
- FRI. DEC. 29th PHONE IN at Phil's 29 Severn St. Alvaston.
- SAT. DEC. 30th PLAYHOUSE BAR at 1pm for lunchtime drink
- WED. JAN. 3rd BUSINESS MEETING at CHRIS & JEFF'S (address above) 7.30pm
- FRI. JAN. 5th PHONE IN at Phil's, 29 Severn St. Alvaston.
- TUES. JAN. 9th PUB EVENING at the MOON (Spondon) from 9 pm.

 DERBY CHE NEWS

Dear Members,

Christmas will soon be here again and having planned our next programme which takes us through the Christmas period, one can't help thinking back to last years events, some of which have been quite successful. I think on the whole we have not had too bad a year - we have at least ended up with more members than we started with and also we have done some campaigning. Last month Phil and I gave a talk to the Mickleover National Housewives Register. This was very successful and we both managed to put our points over quite well and I'm sure enlightened them on the question of gay people and the work of CHE. We were faced with an influx of questions at the end.. On the 12th Dec. we are going to give a talk to Burton Young Conservatives. I hope that this goes as well as the previous talk.

November sees the start of a £2 membership drive by National CHE. If anyone knows of any friends etc. who can be persuaded to join us, then have a try and let me know; our New Members introduction nights are being continued as per programme as this seems quite a good way of introducing people to the group and being able to talk over any problems without too many people around and helping to make newcomers more confident.

One point I would like to raise while on this subject is the increasing number of our meetings which have more newcomers than original members - let's have a few more of our original members along please. I find it hard to explain that we have around 35 members in the Derby Group when only 3 of them turn up to meetings and the rest are new members.

Also it is important that every effort is made to attend business meetings, especially when we plan our programmes for the future months; the more that come, the more chance of new ideas and of having events in the programme that appeal to you. Finally, with the increase in our members, the work load has obviously increased and anyone who can help out should contact me. We have decided to have the Playhouse Bar meetings once a fortnight now. Please consult your programme for Friday evenings as some are not at Phil's address.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you all,

Love,

Jeff (Convenor)

GAY BEAKS How many gay magistrates do you know? How often do you read in the press of derogatory remarks made by magistrates about gay people? Vile-filthy-disgusting-unnatural-not to be tolerated... are often heard. Any citizen can be nominated as a JP and in accordance with National CHE policy, Nottingham Group intend doing just that. If you feel you could do a better job on the bench than many of the old-fashioned bigots currently sitting tell John as soon as possible - one member has already volunteered-will you? This is a practical campaign (Oh, how I feel you squirm when you hear that word! But it is in the title of our organisation)

John.

 NOTTINGHAM CHE BUSINESS MEETINGS

4th SEPT. 1978

1. Noted that the Turf Tavern, Parliament St. was welcoming gays.
2. Noted that a Nottm. group of Gays against the Nazis was being formed.
3. John reported on the NAGS Conference - agreed to discuss our possible involvement at the next meeting.
4. A letter from William Whitlock MP was read. Agreed that Chris and Andrew should prepare a submission to the North Nottingham Constituency Labour Party.
5. An appeal from Lesbian Line was discussed. Decided not to send a donation (3 to 1 with 3 abstentions)
6. Conference decisions immediately affecting local groups:-
 - a) Agreed the full proceeds of the October Disco would be donated to the NIGRA Strasbourg appeal.
 - b) Agreed to ask members via the newsletter if they were willing to be nominated as magistrates.
 - c) Agreed to approach Student Unions at the Poly and University to seek affiliation to CHE, setting up Gaysocs and use of Union premises by CHE (John and Andrew).
 - d) Agreed to provide a stall at the Poly freshers meeting (Andrew).
 - e) Agreed to contact the Nottingham Women's Group to encourage co-operation and liaison (John/Chris/Pat).
 - f) Definition of group catchment area and support of isolated gays was discussed at length and deferred to the next meeting.
 - g) Greek law revision - agreed to encourage individual members to submit protests to the Greek Ambassador, support the Embassy picket and send an official group protest (John).

5th OCT. 1978

1. Matters deferred from previous meetings:-
 - a) Agreed to write to Education Committee Chairman for 3rd time, but to now suggest a private meeting.
 - b) A reply from the N. Nottm Constituency Labour Party was awaited.
 - c) Noted with pleasure that Notts CC had agreed to stock Gay News at Notts Central, Mansfield and Worksop libraries for a trial period. When details of the period are known, members to be encouraged to ask for it. Manchester and GN had been informed.
 - d) Agreed to pursue the co-operation established with Nottingham University SU. Andrew to be asked to make early contact with Trent Poly SU.
 - e) Noted no contact made with Women's Group as Chris is away and Pat had not responded. Agreed John & Chris to proceed (upon Chris' return) independently of Pat.
 - f) Agreed that we join NAGS on the terms set by them.
 - g) Agreed that for political purposes we should cover the whole county and socially we would try (as resources permit) to cover the main areas of population (ie. City, Mansfield area, Sutton area, Newark area, Eastwood area) bearing in mind that the northern part of the county was more accessible to CHE Groups in Doncaster, Sheffield and Rotherham.
2. It was noted that a non CHE member had been masquerading as an officer of the group in Shades and the HGF and handing out CHE leaflets. It was agreed that the Membership Secretary should write to him, sending group details, thanking him for his interest and inviting him to join.

 NOTTINGHAM CHE BUSINESS MEETINGS

3. A spate of County Council leaflets bearing racist slogans had been appearing in city shops. Agreed that members should be notified and asked to look out for them and destroy them if found.
4. Concern was expressed at the apparent lack of response from the Switchboard ads. in the Guardian and Kirk papers. The ads. should be extended to the Erewash Valley area if funds permitted. Agreed that David should prepare a full report covering costs locations and frequencies of current advertising to be discussed at the next meeting.
5. Agreed that in the present interests of the group the meeting with Freddie Gaunt of Radio Nottingham should be postponed.
6. Agreed that an announcement on behalf of Carvetta Simms Associates be made in the next newsletter in return for a donation.
7. Agreed that the group would join the National CHE 400 club.
8. Agreed to instruct the Treasurer to apply for a Karnival Grant of at least £200.
9. Agreed to purchase, initially, 5 CHE diaries for resale.
10. Details of the new EC, Chairman's forthcoming appeal and the November 1/2 price recruiting campaign were noted.
11. Details of the CVS AGM to be held on 31.10. were noted. Agreed that members should be encouraged to attend and vote for our nominee, Richard, to the EC of the CVS.

CARVETTA SIMMS ASSOCIATES of Equitable House, South Parade, Old Market Square, Nottingham are investment and insurance consultants who are happy to give help and advice on mortgage and financial matters (not personal loans) to gay people who might prefer to deal with a firm that is sympathetic to gays. There is no consultation charge to the client. Full details are available to anyone interested at group meetings.

(This is a bona fide company and offer and in return for this notice they have given Nottm.CHE a donation).

NF INFILTRATE CITY SHOPS A spate of Notts CC leaflets entitled "County Services 1978-79" are being found scattered around city centre shops. Inside them are handwritten fascist and racist messages - presumably the work of an eager, writer's cramp suffering NF freak. Please look out for them and destroy them. So far they have been discovered in Boots, Jessops Sisson and Parkers and the Co-op.

IF ONLY THEY HAD BEEN BORN ENGLISH

Dicky Wood Pigeon - Richard Tauber

Betty Blackhead - Elizabeth Schwarzkopf

And a prize of one of Bob's extra strong mints for the 1st person to guess the real name of Ludwig Of the Beetroot Garden.

 NOTTINGHAM CHE GROUP ACCOUNTS

On April 5th 1978 the group had £241-19. Here are details of what's happened since then:-

INCOME

Disco profits = £60-71
 Collections for
 coffee etc. = £42-47
 Subscriptions = £31-75
 Collection for NIGRA = £26-40
 Donations = £28-50
 Gay News profits = £14-11
 Sale of Diaries = £ 1-00

 TOTAL = £204-94

EXPENDITURE

Advertising = £131-40
 Donations:
 Nottm.Friend = £ 10-00
 NIGRA = £ 26-40
 Anti Nazi League = £ 5-00
 1000 Info cards = £ 11-50
 Membership of CHE
 400 club = £ 12-00
 Convenor's expenses = £ 10-50
 CVS Rooms = £ 11-00
 Stamps = £ 10-85
 NCVS subscription = £ 3-00
 Speaker's expenses = £ 8-50
 Headed notepaper = £ 2-30
 Coffee = £ 7-86
 Carnival Expenses = £ 4-50
 5 CHE Diaries = £ 2-25

 TOTAL = £257-06

This leaves us with a balance of £189-07

 THE LESS BORING SIDE OF THE YORK NATIONAL COUNCIL (PART II)

Never trust a restaurant with a french name and waitresses in Brentford nylon smocks. That much, if no more, was learned from the weekend in York. Having refreshed and tarted ourselves up for the Disco on Saturday evening, four of us (Chris and Howard having gone to see "Men!", and Ian and Iain from Colchester having replaced them) went out in search of food. Not many places seemed to be open anyway and the choice eventually resolved itself between "Uncle Plunkett's" and "Le Girondin". The latter won, not because of its exotic, if somewhat alarming name, but because "Uncle Plunkett's" was cluttered up with other customers and, by the time we left, broken French loaves.

(Historical note: The Girondins were the moderate members of the French Revolutionaries, eventually ousted by Jacobins (Robespierre and co.) and suffering the typical fate of those Frenchmen of the day who did not think the government was marvellous and who had no pull with Sir Percy Blakeney).

"Le Girondin" had a cat which hobnobbed with us briefly and made a well-timed departure. It could have suffered a fate worse than rape, being of goodly proportions, in sharp contrast to those of the meals which were eventually served up to us. Nor, alas, had quantity given way to quality. In short the place was awarded as many stars as are allowed in Bad Food Guides. John's disappointment was aggravated by the odious sight of a pea resting in

 THE LESS BORING SIDE OF THE YORK NATIONAL COUNCIL (PART II)

solitary splendour upon the near virgin hues of a neighbouring tablecloth. So wrath did he wax that with the fullness of time, behold, he arose and did smite the pea, and did cause the pea to strike against the buttocks of a woman that did refresh herself, whence did it fall to the ground and was trodden under foot. And great was the relief of him that did smite the pea, and great was the amazement of the customer that did observe the smiting of the pea, but behold, though he marvelled, yet said he nought.

Well, having smitten vegetables and paid our bills we adjourned to the York Arms which proved to be rather more accommodating than on the previous night. Those of us of a maligh disposition were delighted at the gradual discomfiture of an elderly tourist couple who sat among us and visibly registered their growing awareness of the kind of place they had unwittingly entered. They seemed to take it in good part though, and bade us a polite "Goodnight" when it all became too much for them.

Back to the Grey Rooms for the Disco, which we made the mistake of arriving at too early and consequently sat almost alone for the best part of half an hour. When things at last did get going it was most enjoyable, although nothing out of the ordinary, save that Ian, rash, daring thing that he sometimes is, danced with Iain with naked feet. At the end "Glad to be Gay" was played, and the room was filled with a large circle of linked people joining in the chorus and to-ing and fro-ing in a most uncoordinated fashion. I am glad to record that it was the Nottingham/Colchester contingent who started the circle, and the way in which it snow-balled to take in almost all the dancers was perhaps the most memorable part of the weekend.

After fond farewells to the Ia(i)ns, it was back "home", a process enlivened by getting caught up in the city's one-way system and trying to find a chippie that was open. We didn't find one and so were reduced to dining, in the manner of a furtive midnight dormitory feast, off an apple pie produced by the resourceful Chris. And so to bed.

Sunday being a free day, a leisurely start was made and after packing breakfasting and bidding farewell to our hostess and her tiger, we parked near the walls and set off to act the tourist. We walked along what is probably the most attractive section of the walls (to the north of the Minster), declined the chance of dining off loaves and fishes offered by St. William's College, and 'did' the Minster, learning the surprising fact that SMG died on Oct. 21st 1804 - it's true, there was a memorial tablet and I have a photograph to prove it. In the Undercroft an exhibition dealing with the repairs effected during the last decade brought home to me for the first time just how great the possibility had been that the building might collapse.

Some liquid refreshment was taken in the York Arms and then we retired to eat at Uncle Plunkett's. Now, here was a proper restaurant with good food at very reasonable prices. I have never before been asked if I want a beefburger well-done or rare, and the bowls of relish that were also served up were almost enough for a meal in themselves. Howard had a vegetarian salad and received a plate piled high with lettuce, onion, raisins, nuts and the like.... and therein lay his undoing, I fear.

 THE LESS BORING SIDE OF THE YORK NATIONAL COUNCIL (PART II)

Never before have I witnessed such a struggle between the eater and the eaten. Howard won through in the end, but at a cost. Nothing daunted, however, he next lashed into cheesecake and coffee, which he disposed of with equal difficulty. Although beaten, Uncle Plunkett had established pockets of resistance which broke forth and harassed Howard relentlessly as we progressed about the town. He was eventually abandoned on a bench to recoup his losses as John, Chris and myself continued our wanderings. We decided to go to the Railway Museum, picking up a mildly recovered Howard en route.

The National Railway Museum in York is housed in a modern building some little distance from the centre of town. All aspects of railway history are on display there apart from locomotives: rolling stock, signals, track, railway hotels, platform machines, posters etc.. The loos in the various royal carriages on display exercised great fascination for Howard, John and myself, and Chris managed to take an unusual photograph of our Convenor and a drinking fountain. This is now available for study and could be a lucrative source of revenue for the group if the publishing rights are properly handled.

Well, all this walking called for some liquid refreshment, and in a place like York where better to go than a Tea Shoppe. One was duly found and we then fell to disputing, in the nicest way, over the economics of whether to have a pot for the four of us, a pot each, or just a cup apiece. Perhaps Mr. Healey is the right man for the job after all. Eventually a pot for the four of us was decided upon and we retired to a table in the corner. As chance would have it we arrived very shortly before closing time, and as the place emptied of other customers we were privileged to witness a sight denied to most of the citizens of York.

Chaperoned by a couple of grandmotherly figures about half-a-dozen children of assorted ages came in and sat down at a couple of tables. One can only assume that they all held some kind of special position of favour with the owners of the cafe, for they and the staff embarked on the demolition of what cakes, buns and other goodies remained after the day's trade, washed down with numerous cups of tea (no problems of economics for these lucky ones). As we sat, a more or less silent audience to the proceedings we learned a thing or two: that Cyril (or was it Cecil?) liked coffee, not tea; that there weren't enough cups, that one of the ladies-in-chief was perturbed by the lack of hot water, and that they weren't going to have this again - although we never established what "this" was and the running commentary on the proceedings contained insufficient clues to be certain, one must assume that the state of affairs was rather too ramshackle for the lass's liking.

That more or less ended the weekend. It just remained to make our way back to the car, declining a suggestion from someone we all know well to pose for a photograph outside a local convenience, and then to drive back to Nottingham, where upon our arrival a much restored Howard provided us with coffee before Chris deposited John and I at our various homes. And thus ended what was for me at least one of the most pleasurable weekends of the year.

Mike.