

CHIMAERA

NEWSLETTER FOR THE NOTTINGHAM GROUP OF CHE  
NOVEMBER 1979

PROGRAMME

NOVEMBER

- THUR NOV. 1st BUSINESS MEETING at CVS at 8pm.
- WED NOV. 7th ICE SKATING TRIP - details as in previous newsletter
- THUR NOV. 8 th PETER PRICE speaking to group at CVS at 8 pm.
- THUR NOV. 15th A MEETING TO DISCUSS THE CONTENTS AND WORDING of the group's submission to the Policy Advisory Commission on the Age of Consent. CVS at 8pm.
- FRI NOV. 16th PRIVATES ON PARADE at Derby Playhouse. Tony Barker invites any interested Group members to join him in a trip to see this show. Tickets range from £1-35 to £2-40. Ring Tony on 49137 if you are interested.
- WED NOV. 21st COFFEE EVENING at Tony's, Flat 4, 19a Pelham Crescent, The Park. Chris will be showing his film of the Gay Pride Week march in London on June 30th this year.
- THUR NOV. 22nd BUSINESS MEETING at CVS at 8pm.
- WED NOV. 28th SWITCHBOARD DISCO at Hearty Good Fellow 8.30-11pm Upstairs Lounge 35p (Non-members 50p).

DECEMBER

- WED DEC 5th PUB EVENING at the Spread Eagle on Goldsmith St. (opposite Trent Polytechnic and next to the old Nottingham Playhouse building - now a furniture showroom) at 8 pm.
- THUR DEC. 6th BUSINESS MEETING at CVS at 8pm.
- WED DEC. 12th GAY SWITCHBOARD DINNER at the Vernon Arms, Forest Rd. (Jointly with Friend and the Women's Group). Those who have been before can testify as to the excellent value for money of these dinners. Cost of meal without wine is about £5. Give your name to John Clarkson by the end of November if you are interested.
- THUR DEC. 13th PROGRAMME MEETING at CVS at 8pm.
- SAT DEC. 15th CHE NATIONAL COUNCIL in Manchester - can be carried over into Sunday if those attending feel inclined.
- WED DEC. 19th SWITCHBOARD CHRISTMAS DISCO at the Hearty Good Fellow 8.30 to .... well we're hoping to get an extension until midnight. Admission 35p (50p to non-members) It would be nice to make this a rather more festive occasion than usual, so if you have any ideas for games/competitions to enliven the evening, let's be knowing them.

PROGRAMME (Continued)

THUR DEC.20th GAY CAROL SINGING. Meet up at CVS at 8pm before embarking on this mystery evening.

MON DEC.24th CHRISTMAS EVE at CVS. Have some hot mince pies with your coffee and chat, and hopefully fix up some evening activities during the Christmas period which can so often be one of great loneliness for gay people.

MON DEC.31st NEW YEAR'S EVE. Some us us are planning to go to the Bacchus Wine Bar in the Bridgford Hotel from about 10 pm onwards. This bar will be opening in November as a gay bar every Monday and possibly more often if the support for it is good. Food will be available but a disco will not, as it is the intention to offer something for gay people who are not keen on the disco scene.

JANUARY

THUR JAN 3rd BUSINESS MEETING at CVS at 8pm.

FRI JAN 11th COFFEE EVENING at Mike's, 8 pm, with another of his fiendish Quizzes. The address is 19, Thomas Close, St.Anns, Nottingham. (Tel.55196)

TUES JAN 15th GAY SWITCHBOARD QUARTERLY MEETING in CVS Boardroom at 8pm.

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GROUP OFFICERS

Convenor/Treasurer	Mike Raymond
Membership Secretary	Tony Barker
Campaign Officer	Chris Richardson
Gay Lobby Officer	David Hicks
Newsletter Editor	David Edgley

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The Publishable address of the Group is:-

NOTTINGHAM CHE, 31a, Mansfield Road, Nottingham.

The above is the address of Nottingham Council for Voluntary Service (CVS).

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THE DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT NEWSLETTER IS FRIDAY DECEMBER 21ST.

REPORT ON BUSINESS MEETINGS, 20.9.79 AND 4.10.79.

At these two meetings the following decisions were taken:-

1. That £10 should be sent to the Gay Pride Week Committee in response to their request for donations to clear the £3,000 deficit after Gay Pride Week.
2. That David (Edgley) should investigate the possibility of producing some inexpensive compliments slips.
3. That Tony should bring up to date the CHE Information Sheet, ready for issue in January 1980.
4. That £2-50 should be paid to Don by way of his petrol expenses in taking members of the group to speak to Tutbury Housewife's Register.
5. That Tony should order 10 of the CHE pocket diaries for resale to group members.
6. That the group should meet expenses up to the sum of £5.00 incurred by Martin in giving a party during the visit of the Colchester Group.
7. That David (Hicks) should become the new cheque signatory.
8. That in the event that the Library declined to continue to take "Gay News" from us on account of government cut-backs, the Group should offer to supply it to them at its own expense.
9. Other matters discussed were:-

The visit of Peter Price to speak to the Group; a letter from the South Nottingham Community Health Council about their list of useful telephone numbers; the Blair Peach Memorial Fund; the report of the working party looking at voting in Gay Switchboard meetings; the NAC demonstration on 28th October; the state of the Group's membership; the visit by Carol, Don and David (Edgley) to talk to Tutbury Housewives' Register; reported attacks on gay people leaving Shades; the early meetings of the Gaysoc at the University; a possible showing of the Tape/slide kit to a governor and teacher of Claremont School; the state of the "Gay News" deliveries.

Chris also brought us up to date on his campaigning activities - details can be read elsewhere in the newsletter.

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YOU WON'T BELIEVE THIS BUT the licensees of a local pub are called Mr.W.Power and Mrs G.Power, that is to say Will Power and Gay Power.

## CAMPAIGNING REPORT

Since the last newsletter there have been two positive advances to report. The Regional Administrator of the Trent Regional Health Authority has added Nottingham CHE to the list of organisations which will be consulted prior to the review of membership of the North Nottingham, South Nottingham Central Notts and Worksop and Retford Community Health Councils. This will take place in the Spring of next year. Anyone interested in being nominated for a place on one of the CHCs should be considering the matter in the coming months.

The other positive report is the reply from Dr. Jamieson Craig, lecturer in Psychiatry at Mapperley Hospital. We had queried the use of 'Behavioural Modification' at the hospital, and he assures us that he is not aware that such a treatment is being used to alter sexual orientation at Mapperley. His own field is apparently not related to this sort of treatment anyway, and therefore he would not feel qualified to speak to the group as requested.

Little to report on the other issues we agreed to pursue. The Trades Council apologised for not replying earlier and cannot promise us a date to speak to them until their programme of speakers is drawn up for the whole of 1980. However, this will be done very soon and we should be hearing from them again.

No replies have been received from the Telephone Samaritans, the Nottingham NUT or Roy Burns. We had asked to meet the SmaSamaritans and the NUT and to be informed by Roy Burns whether the CHE telephone tree still exists. (It seems that the CHE letter tree certainly doesn't).

The Nottingham CHE banner will be on the anti-Corrie Abortion Bill demo this week; by the time you read this you may have already seen our presence on TV.

Lastly, there are copies of the Working Party Report on the Age of Consent circulating among members and hopefully we can produce a series of observations to the Committee at our meeting on Thursday November 15th,

Good campaigning,

Chris.

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GAY NEWS One of the most regular, if not particularly large sources of income for the group is the sale of Gay News to members on a regular basis. The recent streamlining of GNS distribution has meant that our copies now tend to arrive on the Monday following publication, while commercial outlets have them on time. So we urge you to restrain your impatience to look at the Personal Ads and to wait and buy your GN from the group at the CVS - we need your money.

## LETTERS

Dear Members,

My first thought for using your farewell record token was to buy the Schubert Mass I've been wanting. Then I paused. Was I always to remember Nottingham CHE Group with a mass? It hardly seemed to fit the new spirit of reconciliation in the group. I remembered the second of my 'wants': your token would buy me precisely half of Beatrice and Benedict, and as a souvenir, half of Berlioz' version of Much Ado About Nothing seems to be ideal.

Over the past eighteen months I seem to have come in for some hammer from the direction of CHE. In the eyes of some former colleagues and friends your old convenor seemed to have been transformed into a monstrous rival marching at the head of a marauding gang. It hurt. Was this me, whose loyalty to the aims of CHE will soon be entering its tenth year? I think in general most of us underestimate our capacity for hurting one another. We aren't a bunch of knockabout politicians but ordinary people who happen to have got themselves involved and who often need support. Yet we pretend to be far too macho to be capable of being hurt. We just hurl something back or boil inside. We injure ourselves and our struggle every time we do so.

For me the emergence of Friend has been an important landmark in the gay cause, but not one that supercedes the work of CHE. I felt it was time CHE had new blood and new ideas, so I kept away. I felt I needed to renew my own life and that kept me away as well. Finally I found I had no stomach for internecine arguments and fights and that kept me away completely. Maybe a bit more explanation and a bit less pride on my part would have helped.

I've said before and I still believe that a movement such as ours hasn't the resources to give hand-outs to old hands. Yet personally I'm delighted with my token. Suddenly I'm not a monster any more and I'm not forgotten. I can go away and start all over again - the slow and painful, but also exhilarating process of coming out with that thought in my mind. Thank you all very much indeed. But please remember that monsters are easily created. Hets have been helping gays turn themselves into them for centuries. We don't want to create them, of either gender, in a CHE group.

With my best wishes for the group's solidarity in its future work and play,

Richard Webster.