

NOGSOG NEWS

JUNE 1983

SOCIAL PROGRAMME

JUNE

MON. 6TH Meet at the FORESTERS PUB (Huntingdon Street) from 8pm. onwards. See page 2 for details.

THUR. 9TH Nottingham Gay Social Group's Annual General Meeting at CVS at 8.15pm.

THUR. 16TH Programme meeting at CVS at 8.15pm to decide what we are going to do over the next few weeks.

MON. 20TH Meet at the FORESTERS PUB (Huntingdon Street) from 8pm.

FRI. 24TH A Games evening at Mike's, 19, Thomas Close, St. Ann's at 8pm.

A trip to see the Rocky Horror Show at the Playhouse has been provisionally arranged for Tuesday 14th June. However, money for the tickets must be paid in advance to Patrick by June 9th.

JULY

FRI. 1ST A pub crawl. Meet at the Regent, Mansfield Road at 7.30pm, to go on to the Central Tavern, Lord Roberts, The Dog and Partridge (though it does say 'Porridge' on the notes in front of me) and the Princess.

MON. 4TH Meet at the FORESTERS PUB from 8pm.

FRI. 8TH Video evening at Richard's at 8pm. Fuller details will follow in the next newsletter.

There is a meeting of Nottingham Gay Switchboard on Tuesday June 7th in the back bar of the Salutation pub. If you are interested please come along, even if you are not one of the Switchboard operators. If you are an eccentric millionaire you will be doubly welcome - Switchboard is still in urgent need of new sources of finance.

FORTNIGHTLY FORESTERS

As some of you will know, there has been some confusion over booking of rooms on Monday nights at the CVS. This is due to a reduction in the number of rooms that CVS can hire out and it is most marked on those Mondays when the TV group also use the CVS as they use the room that NGSOG occupies the rest of the time.

Instead of looking round the CVS rooms for vacant but unsuitable nooks, we have decided to try an alternative venue every other Monday. The spot on which we have bestowed our esteemed clientele is the Foresters Pub on Huntingdon Street. (Do NOT confuse it with the Foresters Pub on Glasshouse Street immediately at the back of the Victoria Centre).

We have managed to get a private room (the little Smoke Room) and you get to it by entering the pub from the side door - i.e. NOT the door on Huntingdon Street - and it's the bar on the right. Those who get there fairly early may feel like using the Pool table in the adjacent room.

Remember to look in the programme and note which Mondays you can use the CVS and which Mondays we are using the Foresters. There is, of course, no problem about turning up at the CVS on any Thursday.

BITS AND PIECES

For those new to Nottingham or to NGSOG, the CVS stands for the Council for Voluntary Service and its address is 31a, Mansfield Road Nottingham. The premises are also used by Nottingham Gay Switchboard who can be contacted by phoning 46714 between 7-10pm on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.

Please try to get along to the AGM on Thursday the 9th. There are several things that must be sorted out including:-

Election of group officers

Consideration of how NGSOG can help Gay Switchboard's finances

Use of the new gay magazines (see below) for publicity

In the last week two potentially important gay publications have printed their first issues. One of these is Gay Reporter, which clearly intends to scoop up the Gay News market. It costs 40p and is fortnightly. Five of its staff are ex-Gay News and its publicity takes a hefty swipe at GN, lambasting it for its boring politics and lesbian content - could it be the gay man's Sun? I hope not. The second is a totally new departure; a gay newspaper for the East Midlands. This is GEM (Gay East Midlands) and at the moment it is monthly and costs 20p.

IBA bans gay advice advert

By Penny Chorlton

The Independent Broadcasting Authority has banned a public service announcement which was to have publicised a London homosexual counselling organisation.

Last week the authority banned an announcement about the use of contraceptives, aimed mainly at teenage boys. Unlike that announcement, the gay item had not been filmed but its script was rejected.

The IBA considered that it would offend a large number of viewers and based its judgement on a similar announcement transmitted in the Midlands. It was felt that the counselling service was "likely to be partial," and that advice to teenagers, especially who were confused about their sexuality, should come from "neutral" sources, not counsellors who were candid about being gay.

London Friend, the Islington-based service, said yesterday "It is outrageous of the IBA to suggest that our positive attitude towards homosexuality would lead to partiality in counselling situations. It is particularly abhorrent of them to infer that we would be any less impartial when dealing with young people."

The service, which was formed in 1968, receives around 90 telephone calls a week.

The IBA said yesterday: "We have not shut the door on a public service announcement on contraception, but this one is unacceptable and we do require a different approach. It feared the item would offend viewers."

Sir, — What problem? The whole tenor of official Christendom's attitude to homosexuality as exemplified in your report on the recent Kirk study group seems to be that it is a problem. Have they got St Paul on the brain?

Were he writing today, his mental state might give cause for concern — perhaps it did then. When it comes to diet, each may choose without stigma (Romans 14: 13-16) but when gay people express their natural sexuality, it becomes vile, indecent and degrading.

Church 'cannot condone' gay sex

By Martyn Halsall, Churches Correspondent
THE Church cannot condone "homosexual marriage" or any form of sexual intercourse between homosexuals, the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland will be told next month.

Homosexual acts appear to be condemned in all relevant passages of the Bible, which suggest the general disapproval of homosexuality, according to a Kirk study group report published today.

The report says: "The homosexual acts described are accompanied by perversion, cruelty, exploitation and violent disregard of another person and property, and it is these activities which are condemned."

"Nowhere is homosexuality singled out as especially bad, but rather is always presented within the context of other activities which the Bible regards as equally reprehensible. It should be remembered that there are many other aspects of human nature, like unfaithfulness, pride, injustice and hypocrisy, which are condemned far more frequently."

The study group referred to other church reports on the "intractable problem" of homosexuality and material published by the Nationwide Festival of Light and the Gay Christian Movement. It warns against a double standard "which allows for the expression of our sexuality and our loving affection in various other ways of unmarried heterosexuals and not by homosexuals."

"Homosexuals, like heterosexuals, have to decide on what are the limits of responsible behaviour for them within their relationships."

The Christian Church had a positive message for those of homosexual orientation. "It is the message of grace, forgiveness and redemption which is the glory of their faith for Christians everywhere."

The report says that pastors must advise against homosexual societies with the main aim of introducing people "with at least the implied . . . purpose of encouraging homosexual activities." Even Christian groups formed to encourage homosexuals to cope with their difficulties might unwittingly "deepen an already existing problem."

"The Christian task is to understand the homosexuals and restore respect for them as persons. They may well feel the Church is demanding impossible standards. This challenge may lead to an abandonment of faith, but it also offers an added opportunity and resource."

PAGE
THREE

Gays in the front line

Sir, — Unfortunately the improper use of police powers to carry out a body search (Guardian, April 27) is not confined to blacks or to Brixton. Numerous cases have come to our attention of gay suspects being subjected to unnecessary strip searches in police stations.

Typically a gay man is arrested for allegedly "importuning" a plain clothes police officer who happens to be lingering in the vicinity of a gay pub. The suspect is taken to the police station and during the course of being processed and charged he is ordered to drop his trousers for no apparent reason and sometimes without even the pretext of an actual body search. One can only assume that this action is intended solely to embarrass and humiliate the suspect.

He then goes on to imply that this was inflicted on a population which had given itself up to worship of images of men, birds and beasts. A rather mean, spiteful act for the all powerful, omniscient God of creation.

It is not gays who have the problem about homosexuality, it's others who have the problems about it. I neither expect nor seek forgiveness from the small minded clerical busybodies who regard my sexuality as a problem. I am happy, I'm sorry they're not. And if they object to this letter, I refer them to Matthew 7:1.

Dennis J. Gardiner.
Sunderland.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Yes, the time has come for all good NGSG members to dip into their pockets and renew their memberships. I will remind you that NGSG has a set date at which memberships begin and that date is June. At the moment, membership subscriptions are as follows:-

Non-earners	£1 per year
The rest	£3 per year

After the AGM we will be clearer as to who our Membership Secretary and Treasurer are, but you can give your sub. to any group officer in the meantime. The sub. is not very much, but we do need a sub. for the following reasons:-

To pay for stationery and postage in sending newsletters to members who cannot call in at CVS and sending information to potential new members.

To pay our sub. to the CVS

To help support Gay Switchboard.

To make up the money when our coffee money collection does not cover the cost of rooms.

To pay for any special events.

This newsletter has been produced at great speed while I am trying to do 15 other things at the same time, so apologies for its minimal content. Can I ask people to look out for things that could go into the newsletter: newspaper cuttings; cartoons; local news; original articles; quizzes; crosswords etc. If you find, or can produce any of these things, then leave them (in a marked envelope) at the CVS - if I am not around, then hand things in to the Gay Switchboard room,

David Edgley

OVERHEARD: Russell "Just like that fire extinguisher over there."
Stuart "Yes, but things always look bigger closer up."