

NOGSOG NEWSHEET

APRIL 1985

SOCIAL PROGRAMME

- SUN. 14TH A mystery walk - to see the Spring chickens?  
Meet at Gatsby's at 1.30pm onwards. Leave at  
about 2.15pm.
- THUR 18TH Programme meeting at the CVS from about 8.15pm.  
This is to decide what you want to do during the  
next month. Interesting ideas will be gratefully  
received.
- TUES 23RD Coffee evening at David Lowe's, 11, Plantagenet  
Court, St. Ann's. From about 8.15pm.

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ADVANCE INFORMATION

- THUR. JUNE 6TH The Annual General Meeting at the CVS.
- SAT. JUNE 29TH We hope to organise a trip to Rockshots in  
Leeds. So that we can book the right size of  
minibus and make the necessary calculations  
regarding cost, names please to any committee  
member before 31st May. It is hoped to keep  
the cost to £5. It is anticipated that an  
early start will be made from Nottingham so  
that we can visit the local pubs before going  
on to the club. Payment will not be required  
until 27th of June and when the cost has been  
worked out we shall require a nominal deposit  
of £1 to secure a place.

We also hope to arrange the following:-

- A meal towards the end of May - possibly at the Royal Hotel.
- A visit to the Tramway Museum at Crich.
- A visit to the Great Central Railway at Loughborough.

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In addition to the above, remember that Thursday night is  
the night when you can call in at the CVS for coffee and a  
chat before, perhaps, going on to a pub afterwards. The  
address of the CVS is 31a, Mansfield Road.

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Nottingham Gay Switchboard celebrates its tenth anniversary  
this year. On the reverse there are a couple of things  
relating to the Switchboard. They also work from the CVS and  
if you need to contact them, they can be reached by phoning  
411454 between 7 and 10pm any Monday, Wednesday and Thursday  
and from Mid April they will also be operating on Tuesdays.



# AIDS IS NOT JUST A 'GAY' DISEASE

**Q** WE are concerned about publicity being given to AIDS. We think it is foolhardy to regard AIDS as a "gay disease."

Such an attitude may lead the public into a false sense of security because they believe it affects only homosexuals (who should not become the scapegoats).

The disease is, as you say, passed on through contaminated blood and through close, probably sexual contact. The first people to catch the disease in this country were homosexuals so it has naturally passed among their sexual partners.

In Africa, the situation is reversed — and evidence suggests that AIDS there was not spread among homosexuals. Nearly half the victims are women and most of the victims heterosexual. We object to AIDS being called the Gay Plague. — *Nottingham Gay Switchboard.*

## **BARBARA'S ANSWER:**

This letter comes from the Gay Switchboard, an organisation which offers help, information and advice for gay men and women, and I print it because evidence from abroad corroborates the remarks made.

HOW MUCH DO YOU CHARGE FOR CHIROPODY?

Gay Switchboard has had quite a few odd calls in its ten years. Here are a few of them:-

"Hello, are you the Acme Timber Company? You've been recommended to me by a friend."

"Hello, I'm having trouble with my orthopaedic shoes - it's me bunions, you know - can you help me?"

"Hello, this is PC Jones. I'm enquiring on behalf of a Mr. McQueen who has had his bike stolen from your address."

"Hello, Can you give me any information about the hang glider which I'm told you have for sale?"

"Hello. I've just been raped by a Vietnamese boatperson and I just don't know what to do - but I've invited him back tomorrow."

"You are all DAMNED and the CURSE of the LORD will descend on you in 21 days and you will be cast into the FIERY PIT." This was a letter in green ink on purple notepaper.

"Hello, I'm Avon of Blake's Seven and I'm coming to destroy you and all of Nottingham."

"I've seen your advertisements in the newspapers and I'm willing to offer my services in order to help you raise money by having myself publicly crucified, including having a nail hammered through my tongue."

(And if any of YOU are willing to raise money for Gay Switchboard, I am sure that they would be delighted to know.)