



Newsletter

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Something to Celebrate

As the century comes to an end the OUT HOUSE announces two ground breaking projects to celebrate the Millennium.



The projects will consist of a history project and a local money project. The history project will record oral and visual history to create a lasting archive of the lesbian, gay and bisexual communities in our region. The local money project will involve setting up a credit union, a local exchange and trading scheme and a welfare rights service.

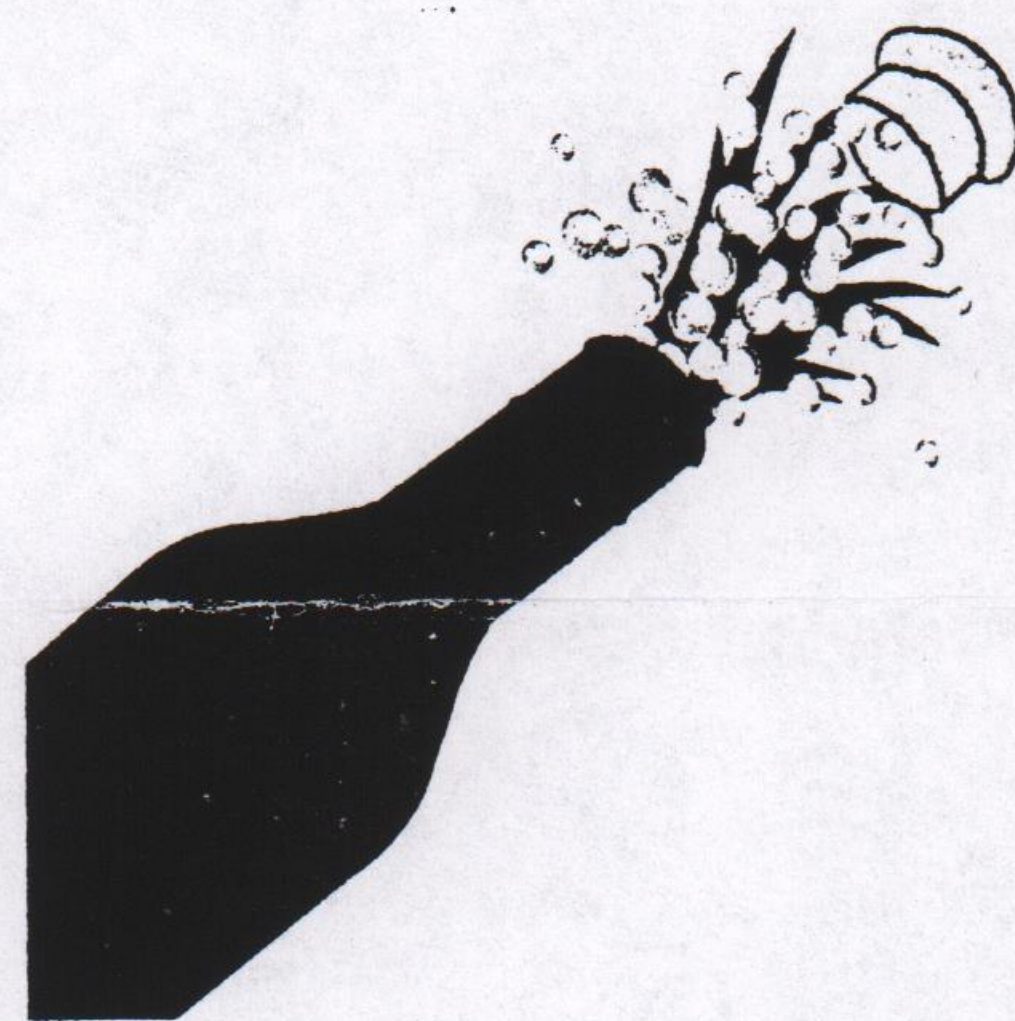
Thanks to a successful Lottery bid the OUT HOUSE has just been awarded £20,000+ to develop the projects to celebrate the Millennium. Thanks are also due to the many OUT HOUSE members and others who helped develop the proposals and offered suggestions.

At the heart of the history project will be a series of personal reminiscences and life stories of local people living as lesbians, gays and bisexuals in their communities, growing up, at school, at work, at war, on holiday, in play, within their families, meeting friends and lovers, coming out, growing old Lifetime experiences of ordinary people living ordinary – and sometimes extraordinary – lives. A celebration of lives past and present.

The Lottery award will make it possible to afford our own equipment such as video, aural and playback facilities, and some professional guidance in adapting the wealth of material into plays, poetry, story telling, music, photography, and exhibitions. For ordinary members of our communities the opportunities are exciting and endless and offer opportunities for everyone to be involved, by sharing their lives or as film makers, poets, musicians,

photographers – no previous experience required!

The local money project will aim to set up a flourishing credit union, offering cheap loans and safe savings without exploitation; a local exchange and trading scheme (LETS) through which members can exchange their skills for the skills of other members without the need for money; and a welfare rights and benefits advice service.



A Millennium Festival Launch will be held at the Angel Row library on Thursday 18th of March at 7pm. Light refreshments will be provided.

If you can't join us on the evening but want to be involved, ring the OUT HOUSE office on 0115 911 0545 and speak to Jackie or leave a message.

Jackie's News

Since the last newsletter I've been in post now for 4 months. In some ways it feels like a lifetime and in others as if I've only just arrived. I suppose you'd like to know what I've been up to, job wise, that is! Well I've been settling into my temporary office in the Lace Market. We've got this



amazing computer, the whole works. All I have to do now is learn how to use the thing! It's so smart I think the committee wish it had applied for the job. Apart from my embarrassing lack of I.T. skills everything else goes well. I've been getting out and about and meeting lots of people, networking, I've been to several other LGB centres to see how they do it! Honest I went to work. I'm also getting involved in things like the LGB forum, and I've promised Tim at the Health shop that I'll write something for QB.

By the way, thanks to everybody at the GAI Project for all their help and support for me as a worker and the Out House generally.

Obviously the big question I keep getting asked is "is the lease signed yet." Well the short answer to that is no. We have agreed all the terms of the lease and the owners have seen the plans and approved them. It's

just a question of them getting together to sign their bit. Unfortunately for us this seems to be taking rather a long time. Meanwhile the tender for the refurbishment has gone out and we have builders waiting to go ahead with alterations. They think the work will take about 10 to 12 weeks, so it should be possible to be in the building sometime in the summer, fingers crossed etc. I hate tempting fate.

Lots of you have asked me about being involved as a volunteer and I've been saying I'd organise some sort of meeting in the New Year! It hasn't happened because of the hold up with the lease, but it will still happen, promise, there'll be all sorts of opportunities to be involved in different ways especially with this Millennium project.

I feel a bit inaccessible to members at the minute stuck in the Lace Market but you can ring me or if there are groups or organisations who'd like me to come and talk to them about Out House that can always be arranged.

I think I'm running out of space so I'd better stop now, I'd just like to say thank you to my management committee, first for giving me the opportunity to do this job. I can't think of anything I'd rather be doing. But more importantly for the way they've helped me settle in. Bye for now and I hope to see you soon when we celebrate the signing of the lease.

Jackie Frith
Development Worker
Office: 0115 911 0545

Theresa's News

Although the Project appears to be going through a quiet phase, your committee has been busy behind the scenes. We continue to meet fortnightly and over the past few months have discussed and made decisions on a range of issues involving the lease, plans for refurbishment, and the cafe tender.

In addition to the regular committee meetings a number of subgroups have been hard at work putting bids in for funding, developing budgets, researching and compiling policies and procedures to help develop good practice and help us make the transition to being employers and community centre managers. We have also been trying to keep you informed through newsletters and by running stalls at Pink Lace and the World Aids Day Fete where we enjoyed meeting some of you.



As you might imagine this keeps eight people extremely busy. If you would like to join the committee at this exciting time just drop me a line at Box 11, 118 Mansfield Road, Nottingham NG1 3HL.

Theresa Naish, Secretary

This special Millennium Festival Newsletter is funded by the National Lottery Charities Board

