

Pre-Xmas Party

As the Out House Community Centre has not held any kind of social event for a very long time why not have a party! After all we have a lot to celebrate ... Just a few of our recent achievements include: * adopting a legal constitution * being granted tax exempt charitable status * getting a Lottery grant * buying our own building * renting a city centre office * setting up a thriving history project * getting planning consent for the community centre * keeping the project going for fifteen years! So if we needed reasons to party we've got plenty

Thursday 7th December

8pm till closing time

**The Green Room at
The Lord Roberts, Broad Street, Nottingham**

A buffet will be provided

Free admission * Free Prize Draw

Members, partners, friends welcome

Badminton

Whether you are a regular badminton player or you would like to try it. The first session of the Out House badminton Group is planned for Tuesday 9th January 2001. For more details contact Anthony via the phonenumber 0115 911 9466.

Re-Member?

This Newsletter is being sent to all our members and distributed through venues in and around the city.

If you think you are a member but did not receive this through the post, then you are probably not a current member! Membership began afresh in 1999 when our new legal structure took effect. To join - or rejoin - phone 0115 911 0545 and leave a message.

Video Club

A video club is being started from the first Monday in January 2001 and the first of each Monday throughout the year. Titles will be chosen by those who join and it will initially be held at members' homes. There will be no membership charge, just a small contribution towards hire costs and shared food. To join phone Patrick on the phonenumber 0115 911 9466.

VIEWING

**Your chance to see the
new community centre
after the completion of
Phase One work.
Saturday 9th December
2 - 3pm.
Members and friends
welcome.**

A Gay Investment Club

A small group of Out House members are about to set up an investment club. Could you be interested? An investment club is a small group of people who meet regularly and pool together some of their surplus cash to invest in the stock market. They share a mutual desire to increase their understanding of the stock market and improve their investing ability. An investment club usually comprises a maximum of twenty people. Decisions are made democratically at meetings, which are usually held monthly. Investment club meetings are lively events with a good social atmosphere, with a celebration or commiseration over the club's investments. If you want to dabble on the stock market, but are not quite confident enough to do it by yourself, why not get in touch. Novices and experts welcome! Contact the Out House office number 0115 911 0545 and leave your details for Richard.

www.outhouse.org.uk

**Out House have secured our own domain and now all
we have to do is design a web site.**

**If you have any ideas or would like to be involved
please contact Patrick on 0115 911 9466.**

the OUT HOUSE project

Newsletter

November 2000
Volume 1, Issue 4

Twelve months of hidden progress

Progress over the last year has predominantly been behind the scenes, securing the long term future of the Out House Project. As many of you will know, we had been plagued by many, many

Board had originally offered a grant for £228,000 to rent and refurbish a building. However, we were now proposing to use much of the original sum to purchase rather than rent, leaving very little cash for refurbishment.

We employed Groundworks Architects who suggested that the conversion work be planned in three stages. Phase One included nearly all of the main structural changes to the purchased building; involving levelling the floors throughout the

opportunity to view - see page 4).

Our next task is to approach the NLCB for further funding of around £200,000 to complete phases two and three. This involves the finishing touches and equipping the full community centre.

Meanwhile, in November 1999 we moved our temporary administration office to rented space at 40 George Street and this has provided improved accommodation. Committee members have given the room a springclean and repaint, and most recently installed additional furniture acquired from our neighbours. For the time being this is the powerhouse of the Out House Project.



Side view of the building before work began

months of misfortune, and circumstances out of our control in our endeavours to find suitable rented premises for a community centre.

In October 1999 we finally succeeded in purchasing a building at the corner of Cranbrook Street and Lennox Street for the sum of £95,000. This offered the Society long term security together with a considerable appreciating asset. The National Lottery Charities

ground floor, demolishing internal walls and constructing a variety of new purpose built rooms, installation of a lift shaft, installation of a second flight of stairs, building a fire protected corridor on the ground floor. This phase was completed in September 2000 at an approximate cost of £45,000 (your



Allan and architect discuss ground floor cafe plan

AGM News

The Out House Annual General Meeting which was held on the 28th September in the gallery room at Broadway Media Centre was an entertaining performance which attracted some new faces as well as some others who have lent their support over the years.

Proceedings commenced with the usual reports being presented and approved, followed by questions from the floor. It soon became apparent that not everyone present had attended to congratulate the committee and there was a definite theme to the questions.

The thrust of the criticisms offered from the floor - and as it turned out shared by members of the committee - was that the Out House seemed to have lost touch with its membership: 'There wasn't enough communication', 'Nothing seemed to be happening', 'We

no longer receive newsletters' and 'What is happening with the building?'

The retiring Committee agreed with these constructive criticisms and explained that they were only too aware of the shortcomings, especially in communication with the membership. This was partly due to the amount of energy taken up by the building formalities, and because they were usually having to undertake most tasks themselves without much assistance from volunteering members.

The newly elected committee agreed to take on board the suggestions and to organise a newsletter and appeal to the membership for more involvement, as their first priority.

Patrick

Financial Report

Just a short report on the financial situation of the Project as at the end of March 2000, our last financial year, for those of you who were not at the AGM. Again it was a year where we had to use up some of our own resources. Income for the year amounted to £4,800 and expenditure amounted to £32,800 giving a deficit of £28,000, the amount which had to come from our own resources, the net result giving an opening balance for the new year of £24,800.

We are still receiving grants from the Lotteries Board, for which we are very

grateful, and in this new year have already received £35,000 for the first phase of our building work.

We continue to receive donations from a few loyal members, by means of Standing Orders, these over the last year brought in £1,000, a very valuable source of income. I would ask that more of you support the project in this way, please ring the office and I will send you the relevant forms.

Mark.

New Committee

Patrick: appointed by the Committee as Chair for the first time this year, Patrick is self-employed in the removals and antiques business. Patrick is also a member of the Building Sub-Committee and the History project.

John: appointed by the Committee as Society Secretary, John has taken an intermittently active role in a variety of Out House activities over the years. He moved to Nottingham from East Kent in 1974, worked at the Nottingham Land Registry until his retirement three years ago.

Anthony: now serving as minute secretary, Anthony joined the Committee for the first time in 1999. He works for a national charity and is a comparative newcomer to the Nottingham area.

Mark: entering his third year as Treasurer but with fifteen years of Out House membership behind him, Mark is also an active member of another local group, the Lesbian and Gay Christian Movement.

Richard: another long serving member, is currently acting as interim staff supervisor. Richard also serves on the Finance Sub-Committee and keeps the budgets and business plans up to date.

Allan: has had twenty years experience in the building trade, and is currently taking a leading role in overseeing the ongoing conversion of the new Cranbrook Street building.

Chris: a welcome new face on the Committee, Chris has taken on the job of Membership Secretary this year and will play a crucial role in taking the Out House back into the community.

Phil: another new member elected at this year's AGM.

This is the first time for many years that there have been no women standing for election to the committee.

Millennium Festival History Project

Roll ... Action!!

The Video Group: the group has completed an enjoyable and successful training course. The intensive course in October covered a wide range of filming techniques, working as a film crew and spending a day on editing. After learning the basics, the course trainer Grew got people going straight into action with a brief to make a short film based on interviews about the new Human Rights Act which gives equal rights to lgb people.

We set up our equipment in the Lord Roberts pub and set about filming interviews. The following week we edited the film at Intermedia. It was great fun to see how the filming we did could be turned into two different versions. Since then some of us have already met to practice our skills and we are now going to develop further and start making films related to the history of the lgb community in Nottingham.

We anticipate having a further film training day on filming drama as some of us are keen to represent history in drama form as well as in a documentary style. For more information or if you want to share your experiences on film, contact the phoneline 0115 911 9466.

Kathleen



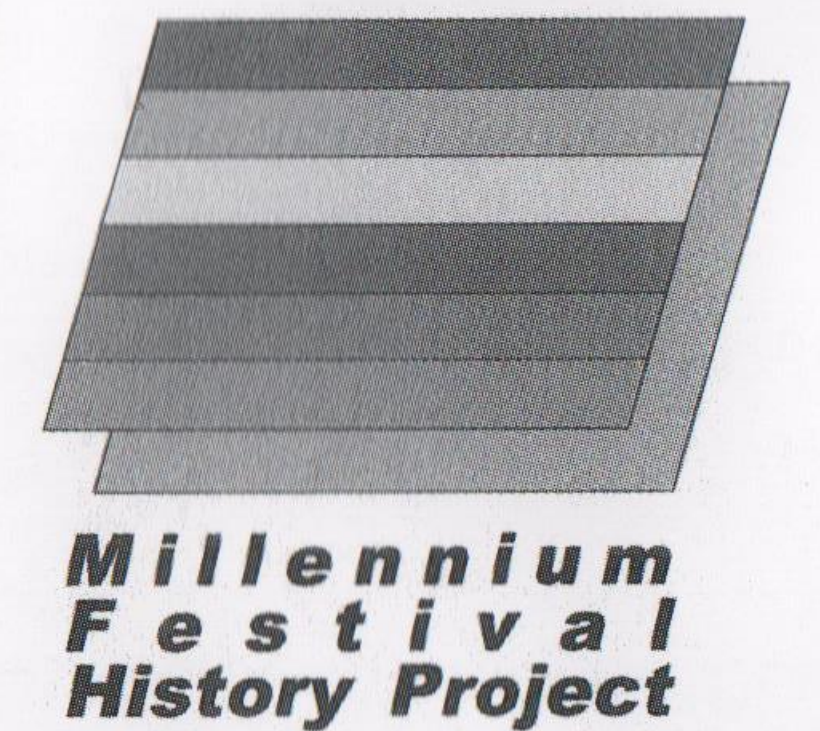
A Notts CHE banner from the 1970's

The Archiving Group

The group is collecting paper archives, banners, badges, photos and ephemera of our community and already has a growing collection of journals - such as a complete set of Gay News from 1972 onwards - and local publications. There are gaps in the collection of Pink Papers, Outright!, Gay Times and Out House Minutes, and anyone who can offer any of these is asked to phone the History phoneline 0115 911 9466 and leave a message. The group is also collecting records of local groups such as Nottingham CHE, which are being placed in the Michael Raymond Collection, named after the local CHE Convenor who died earlier this year.

Sorting out paper records and memorabilia is not everyone's idea of heaven, but those of you who have a desire to preserve our history for posterity is asked to join us. We shall soon be having a collating party! Join us!

Chris



The Audio Group

The audio group has bought recording equipment and is planning a programme of interviews. The group welcomes newcomers who want to have a go at tape recording and is looking for people to be interviewed about their life experiences of being lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered. If you want to be involved in any way, please let us know via the phoneline 0115 911 9466.

Maureen

Pride 2000

A very successful triple stall displayed various historic artefacts at this year's Nottingham Pride at Victoria Embankment. Using our own gazebos and display materials the event attracted a lot of interest and brought several new people into the project.



Part of the History stall display at Nottingham Pride 2000