Can you help?

In this final phase before the opening of the centre, there are loads of things to be done. We're looking for people to help with a whole variety of tasks. Please call us at the office if you think you can help with any of the following. We'd love to hear from all sections of the community.

1. Accounts. Anyone with book-keeping or accounting experience would make a valuable addition to our small but vital group of financial planners.

2. Building work. No, we don't want you to build the place for us! We need someone with a practical background who understands quotes and can join a small team overseeing various jobs of work on the building.

3. Art work. This is a one-off task for someone with a talent for drawing. We want an artist's impression of what the centre will look like when finished.

4. Membership. It's time we recruited more members and sorted out a better way of serving them. Anyone who can help with this will be providing the Out House with a much needed service.

5. Minute-taking. Not a big job but a very useful one. Once a month we need someone who can take accurate minutes of committee meetings.

6. Interior Design. If you have a talent for interior design or decorating, come and tell us what could be done with the office and perhaps discuss any ideas for the interior of the new centre.

7. Newsletter. Finally, we hope you like this Newsletter. If you think you may be able to help produce it, we would like to set up a small team to jointly work on, and maybe even improve it.

To find out more, or to feed in any other offers or suggestions, call us on (0115) 911 0545. You may need to leave a message but we'll get back to you.

Have your say!

This is your chance to be heard. We welcome feedback from anyone who supports the aims of the Out House. Tell us what you think of what's been done so far and what else needs doing. What's your experience of the Out House up till now? Is anything missing or are there things we should change? What do you want from the centre or from the project? We need to know.

If you'd like a personal response, leave your phone number or email address and we will get back to you.

Your name and address:.... Detach this coupon and return to: The Out House, Suite A, 40 George St

Published by The Out House Community Centre Ltd, a charitable Industrial and Provident Society (reg. No. 28666OR) whose registered office is at 129a Middleton Boulevard, Nottingham NG8 1SW.

The Society is financially supported by the Community Fund (National Lottery Charities Board.)

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Well, that grabbed your attention! Last time we told you that we were looking for two new paid workers: a Development Worker (3 days a week) and an office Administrator (2 days a week). Since then a lot of committee time has been spent on advertising the post, sending out information packs, getting the person specifications written up, short listing the candidates, interviewing (and lots more besides which the committee are too modest to mention).



The news is that the bid has gone in on time and that a decision will be made by what is now known as the "Community Fund" at the end of July. The bid comprises:

• Completing the refurbishment of the building and equipping the centre. • Employing a number of staff to ensure the effective running and future of the centre, and to reach out into our communities. Ideally we want to have a Project Manager, Building Manager, Volunteer Co-ordinator, Caretaker/cleaner and Receptionist/typist to get the centre off to a really good start. • Funds to pay the running costs and upkeep of the centre.

Appointments Shock !!

We're delighted to tell you that Chris Bristow and Mark Simons have been appointed to these posts. After a very rigorous short listing and seduction process (sorry, only joking), guided throughout by 'Voluntary Organisations Support for Effective 'Management' (VOSE), Chris and Mark were offered the posts and we're pleased to report—accepted them instantly. Both will be based at the 'tower of power', otherwise known as the Out House office on lovely-and-now-upwardly-mobile George Street. Welcome aboard.

New Lottery Bid

We've asked for quite a lot of money so that the centre gets off to a good start and is fully refurbished to a decent standard, well staffed to meet the flood of demands from all you lovely Lesbian, Bi-sexual and Gay people out there and is launched with a bit of a bang (if you know what we mean !!). We hope to have a decision by the end of July, so that the builders can be onsite by late summer. If all goes to plan the centre will open (fanfare !) in the summer of next year (2002). If all does not go to plan we'll have to look for money elsewhere – as you all know we are nothing if not persistent. We've had to be it's taken so long!! Watch this space for news of whether the bid is completely, partially or not-atall successful.

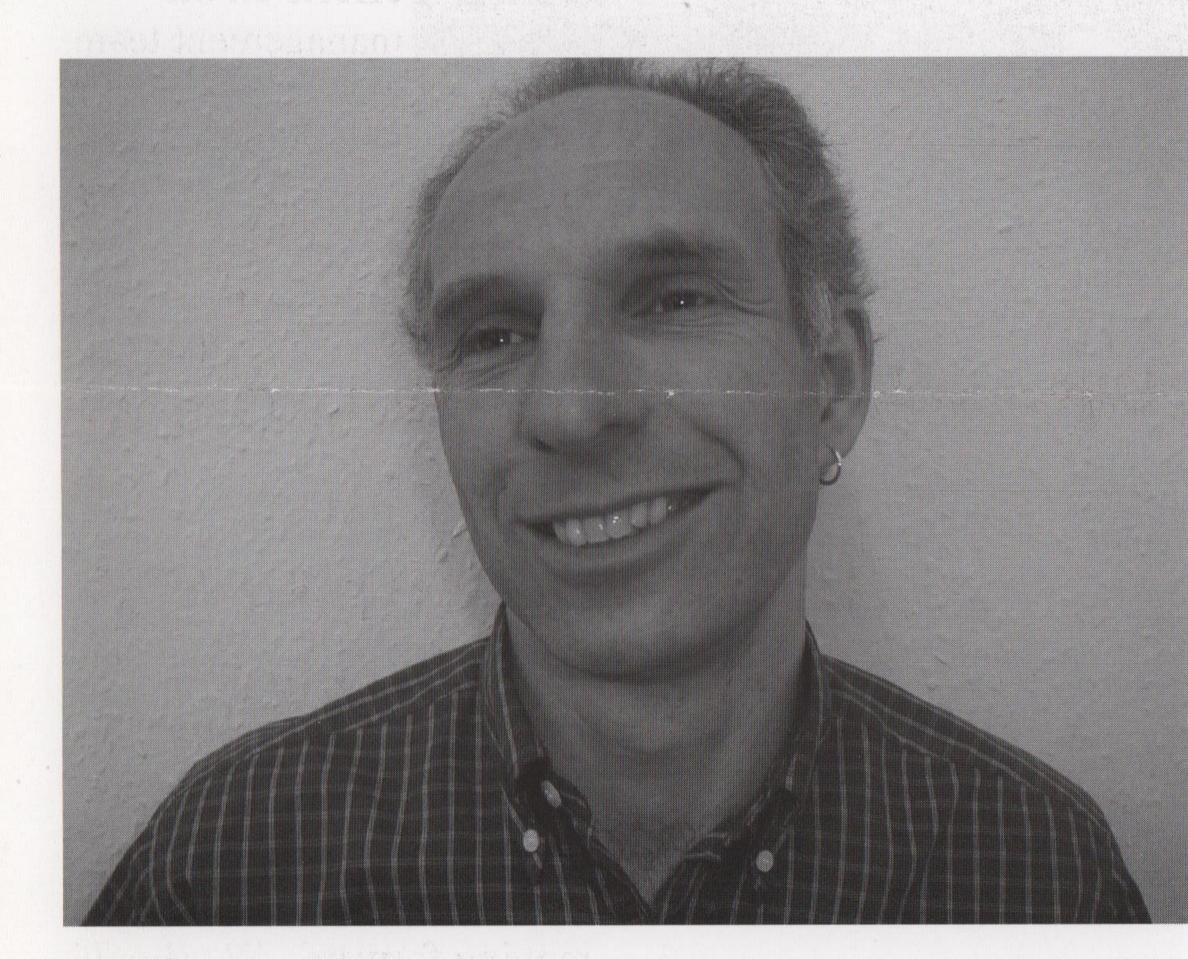


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Hi! I'm Chris

I'm Chris Bristow your new Development Worker and I've been asked to write a few words for those of you who don't know me yet (and probably to surprise some of you who think you do!) I can't possibly condense my life story into a few paragraphs but briefly I'm a forty four year old bisexual man who lives with his son in Derbyshire.

I'm really excited to be working for the Out House project. I believe a community centre is vital for our communities. It will enable us to come together in a safe and welcoming place and be ourselves without fear.



The Centre will have a range of groups and services located there and you'll be able to find out about anything else going on through the information service. Most of all it will provide a focus for our communities to enable us to demand what is rightly ours—better and more appropriate services, a stronger 'voice' and a higher profile. We've been invisible for too long

I joined the Out House project back in the early days of the mid-80's, though for one reason or another I wasn't able to be a very active member. I've spent most of my life working with people, first in various forms of education, then for the last twenty years

in and with the voluntary sector in Nottingham. For the last decade, I was Community Development Worker with the City Council, working closely with voluntary management committees who run community centres and with other local and City wide projects, in such areas as domestic violence, men's health, childcare etc (including opening and developing a new building).

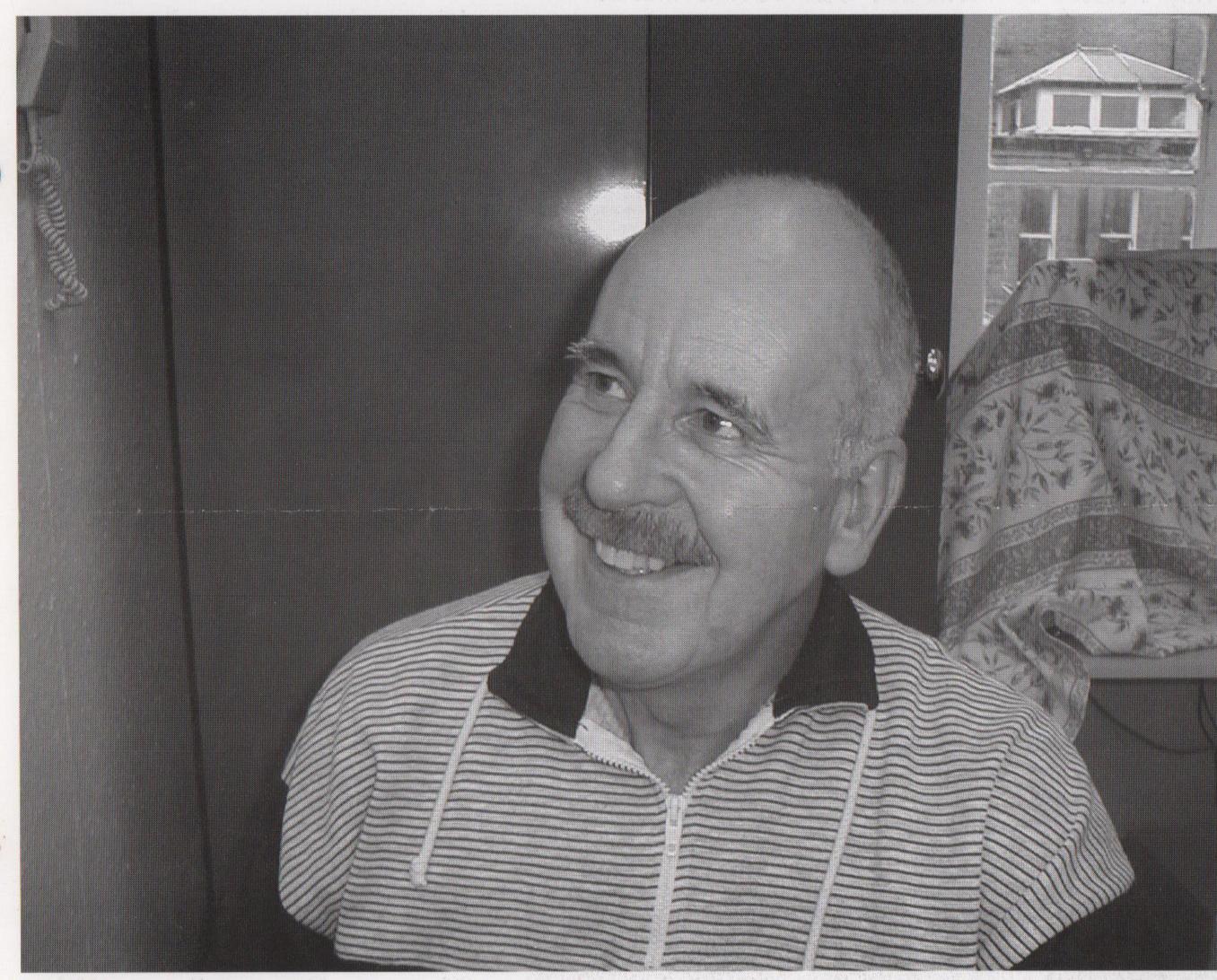
I've worked in an advisory capacity to the Out House committee for as long as I can remember (probably about four years!) so I've lived through all the ups and downs we had from the first Lottery award to losing buildings at the eleventh hour. I've just finished working with Mark and others to complete the 'new and improved' (i.e. longer!) Lottery bid (see separate story).

I'll be working three days a week based at the Out House offices on George Street. I'd like to talk to as many of you as possible to get a really clear idea of what you want to see in the Centre (and elsewhere), or about anything else you'd like to discuss. You can get me on 0115 911 0545.

Chris Bristow Development Worker

Hi! I'm Mark

Having been a member of the Out House project since its inception and always believing in its vision to provide a centre for our community I sat back and waited for the committee do all the work and provide the centre. When discussions were taking place with the 'Duncan' about going into partnership (in the carpet shop) I took the decision like many others to get more involved in the project.



So for the last few years I have served on the management committee, taking on the role as Treasurer. During these years I have seen the tremendous efforts that have gone into trying to find a suitable building. The subsequent gazumping left both members and committee truly shattered.

With appointment of the Worker, things started to move again. Jackie found a new building which we were able to purchase; we were on our way again. When Jackie left the project I offered to help keep things moving by taking on the role of temporary Office Administrator; to work a maximum of three months was my directive to the

committee. I have to say that the work was both interesting and worthwhile. I felt stimulated and found that I was working to see the aims and dreams of the centre being realised. My thoughts at that time were that I would let the appointments run their course and then get back to serving the project by my efforts on the management team. Not to be, I thought I ought to apply for the post of Office Administrator and was very pleased to be offered the position, which I gladly accepted. am now looking forward to working with Chris in what I know will be an exciting time. The Out House is moving forward. We should know whether the Lottery bid has been successful by the end of July but in the meantime you can rest assured that Chris and I will be working as a team to see the centre opened.

Mark Simons Office Administrator