

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).

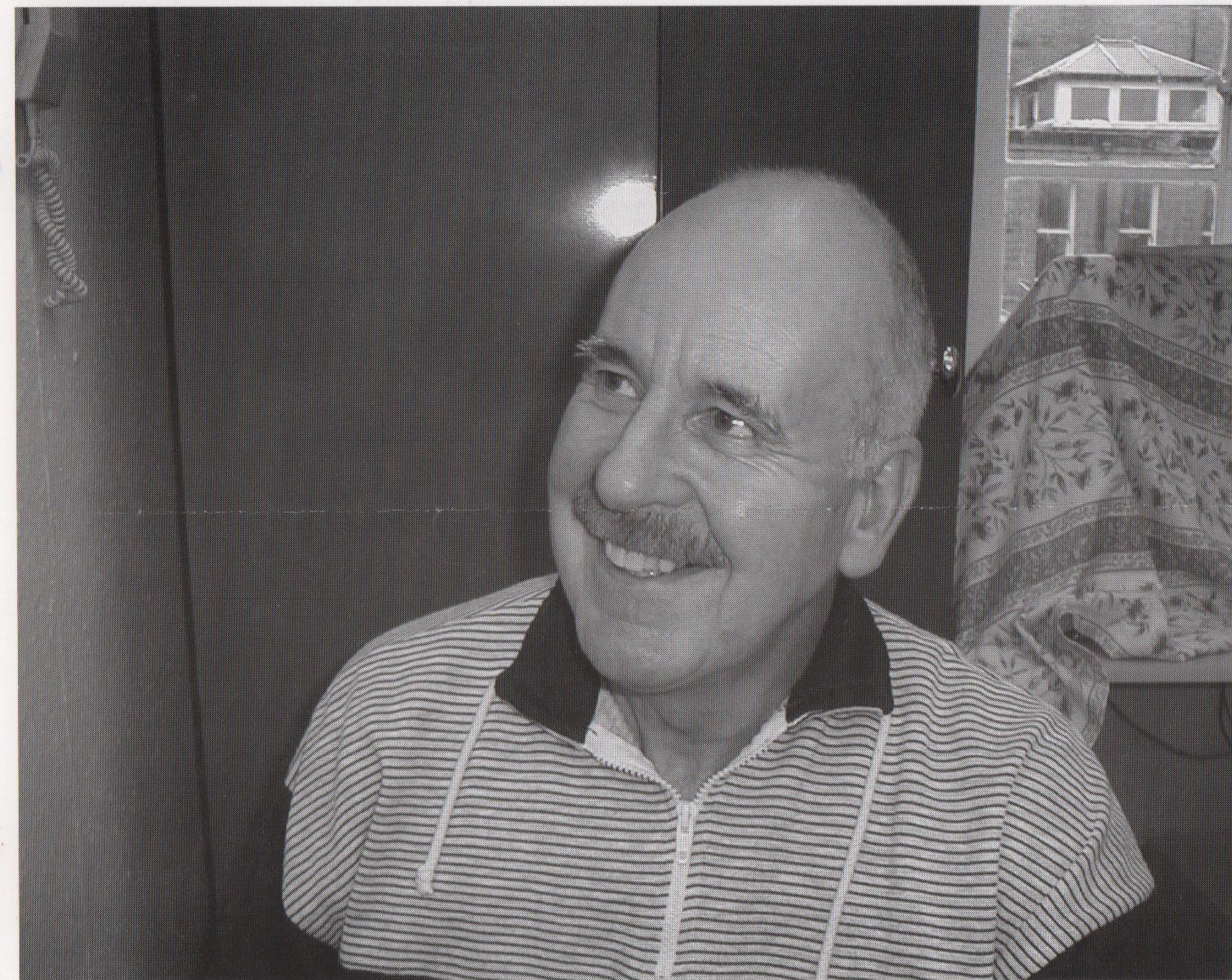
I've worked in an advisory capacity to the Out House committee for as long as I can remember (probably about four years!) so I've lived through all the ups and downs we had from the first Lottery award to losing buildings at the eleventh hour. I've just finished working with Mark and others to complete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

I 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