

## Notts has no Pride...

The cancellation of Pink Lace has left Nottingham with no Gay festival for 2001. Originally two separate festivals were planned before Pride was cancelled a month or two ago to avoid a clash. Representatives of Pride who attended the Out House management committee meeting on July 11<sup>th</sup> explained that the lateness of the Pink Lace cancellation left insufficient time to be able to organise a resurrected Pride. They were, however, keen to run a Pride festival in 2002 (Pink Lace organisers please note !). It is unclear why Pink Lace was cancelled though rumour has it that the organisers are unwell.

Pride made a profit of around £3 000 which will be distributed to the appropriate charities/groups in our community. We know of some of the hard work and hassles the Pride team went through- congrat-ulations ! Does anyone out there want to get involved ??

Out House will put you in touch with the organisers.

## Bi-Women's Group

The Nottingham group is not currently meeting regularly, but now has an Emailing list for setting up social and/or activist events.

To join the list, simply Email nbwg-subscribe@yahoo.com (a blank Email will work). You will get a reply welcoming you and telling you a bit more about the list. From then on you receive whatever EMails anyone sends to the list and can send your own.

The group is for all women who identify as bi, or who recognise attractions to more than one gender or who are questioning their sexuality.

## Want to Know More ????!

So you're not an Out House member, but have enjoyed this newsletter and would like to keep in touch with the progress we make towards opening Nottingham's LGB community centre ? Then..... it's time you got yourself on our newsletter mailing list !! Usually, this is only available to members, but for a limited period only (that's what they all say !) we are opening it up to anyone else who is interested. And it's FREE ! Phone the Out House office NOW on 0115 911 0545 !!

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## Vital Statistics 2001 Survey

Ever felt the urge to write about your sex life ??? Well, if you are a Gay Man (Gay, Bisexual or a Man who has sex with men) then here's your chance. The Sigma Project from London is again co-ordinating the Annual Survey of Gay Men's Sex Lives, which is anonymous and totally confidential. The (Nottingham) GAI project get summary feedback to help them plan and evaluate local services and nationally the data is used to help plan HIV prevention services – so you can see that it is pretty important. The surveys, which don't take long to fill in, are available from the Out House office or from the Health Shop on Broad Street. Come on ! Do your bit for literary posterity !!

## Older... Greyer... Gayer

As older gay men we have seen many changes in our lives...paving the way for generations of younger gay men. We enjoy many of the same things we did when we were young, but now have the advantage of insight and experience.

Nottingham's older gay men's group meets monthly and is a drop-in for older men to meet and socialise in a safe, supportive environment. Whether on-scene or off-scene, there is gay life after 50 ! More details from John at the GAI project on 0115 947 6868.

## LL Needs Voles...

Lesbian Line, provide a confidential phonenumber service for women offering information, support and advice are urgently looking for more Lesbian volunteers. No previous experience is needed (of what we are not sure !) as full training and support are provided, as well as a friendly environment – speak to them on Mondays and Wednesdays 7-9 pm on 941 0652 or leave a message at any time.

# the OUT HOUSE project Newsletter

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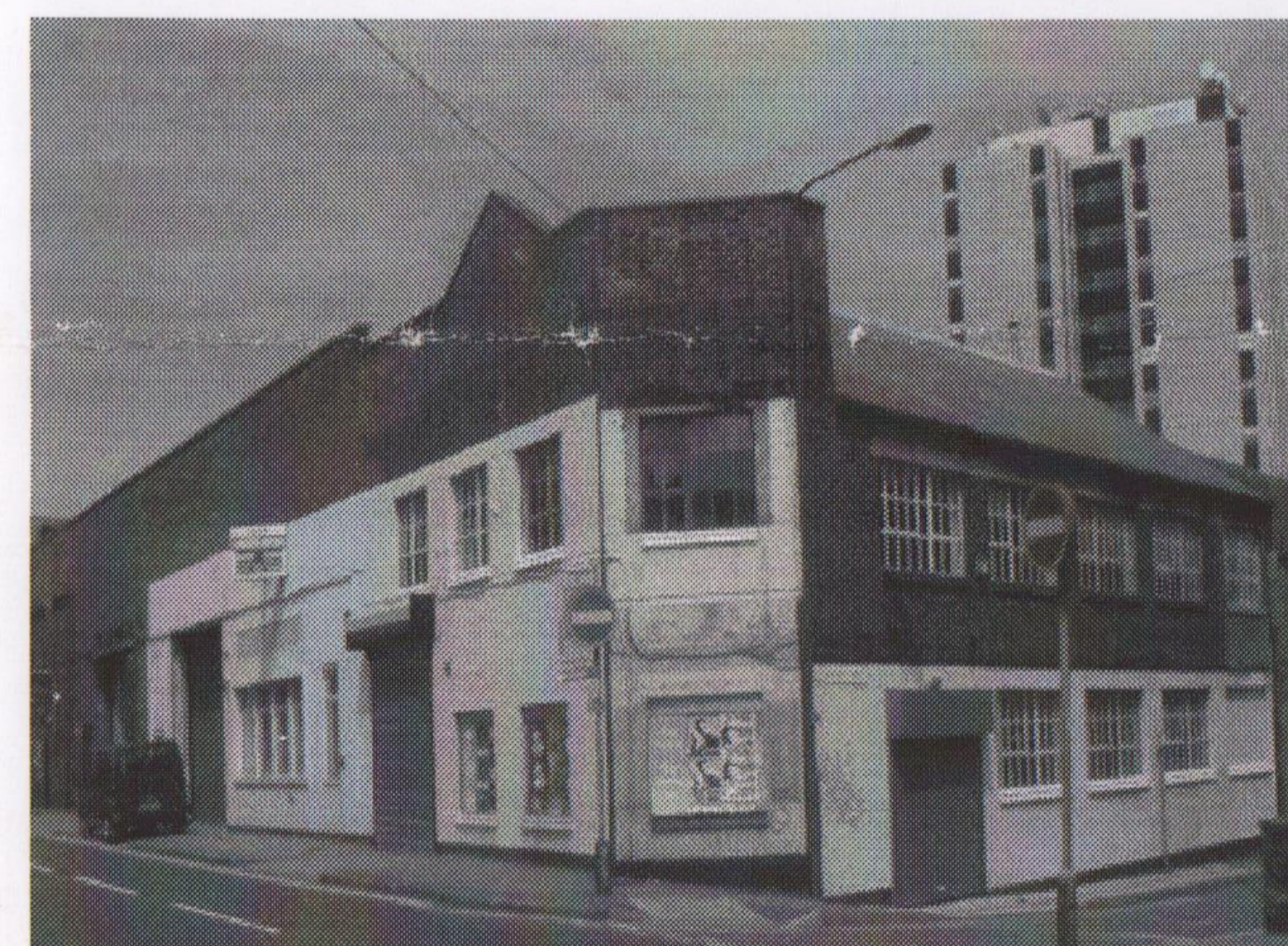
*Working to meet the needs of the Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Communities of Nottingham and District by providing a community centre....*

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Web (coming soon)

## Lottery blow leaves project looking for funds



Unfortunately, our bid to the Community Fund (formerly called the National Lottery Charities Board) was not successful. You can't believe the tension we felt last week when we opened that letter, not knowing whether we were going to read that the Out House was nearly £600,000 or £1000,000 richer !!

In the event we didn't get the cash. All agree that the bid was extremely well put together and stood a good chance (thank you Chris and Mark), and the assessment visit by a grants officer seemed to go very well, but it was not to be.... We will be getting detailed feedback next week, but initially it appears that they felt that we didn't show precisely enough how the various paid workers would be used to provide specific services and activities and how these in turn would meet specific needs in our communities.

"It's a real blow hearing that we didn't get the funding" said Patrick, chair of the Out House management committee, "but we haven't got as far as we have without being very persistent. We still believe that a community centre is vital for our communities, so we will keep working to ensure it opens as soon as possible."

Our first thoughts are to submit another bid to the community fund, but on a slightly smaller scale and more targeted.

## Angela Mason to speak at Out House A.G.M. "Equal Citizens Challenging in the Community"

*Thursday September 20<sup>th</sup> will be a special night when Angela Mason, Executive Director of Stonewall speaks at the Out House Annual General Meeting.*

Stonewall is the leading LGB campaigning organisation that has brought us such victories as the equal age of consent (for males), as well as Criminal Injury Compensation and changes in Immigration regulations to recognise same sex partnerships.

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# Lottery Blow Angela Mason Speaks

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Obviously the result is a big disappointment, but we are already picking ourselves up and starting the search for the funds we need to move the Out House vision forward again. On the positive side we did a tremendous amount of work to compile the bid and this can be used when we redo the bid or in approaching other funders, so the whole process won't be quite so exhausting.

"This will inevitably mean that it will take longer to complete the whole project, but we will find the money from somewhere" stated Chris the Out House's Development Worker.

Whilst waiting for positive news on this front your committee assures you that the project has enough money to maintain the centre building. The salaries are also funded until 2003, so the stability and energy of the project will not be affected !!

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So, as well as catching up on the progress made by the Out House over the last year and taking in the amazing view, you can hear Angela talk about current issues for our (LGB) communities and how Stonewall is tackling them.

The meeting is taking place at The Post House Hotel (The Albany for those with a long memory !), top of St James' Street at 7.30pm, and is completely FREE including refreshments ! Someone from Out House will be standing just inside the Hotel front door to direct you to the Goddard Suite on the 10<sup>th</sup> floor - what more could you ask for on a balmy September evening ?!

You can join the Out House on the night if you wish (cost £1), but to vote at the meeting our constitution stipulates that we must receive your membership application by September 10<sup>th</sup>. We are currently looking for new committee members to strengthen the team, so please think about getting involved. Women and Black People are very under represented at the moment - we need to hear your voices to ensure the Out House remains open and welcoming to all. The venue is fully accessible for wheelchair users.

If you have any other needs or would like more information give our office a ring on (0115) 911 0545.

# Police Team Offer Support !

Don't get excited, we are not referring to the Police Rugby Team's jockstraps but, as the leaflet sent out with this newsletter explains (contact the Out House office for more copies and posters), a small team set up to co-ordinate police action throughout the County on Homophobic Crime. This initiative came out of the "Notts Police LGB consultative group" which is attended by all your favourite LGB organisations (including Out House of course !)

The police definition of homophobic crime is wide, including harassment, bullying etc and the team stress their commitment to confidentiality when returning victim's calls.

Out House sees this as a welcome development for two reasons. Firstly it should enable the police to form a much more accurate picture of the scale of homophobic crime. Previously no statistics were available since reported crimes

were not registered as homophobic in motivation, but simply within general categories eg assault.

The number of homophobic incidents reported so far this year is 39, which seems a relatively low number for a

county as large as Notts, but will surely increase as the LGB community becomes more aware and confident in the initiative. This has been the case in areas who have been recording for several years eg Northants. It is clearly important to get an accurate picture of the real size of the problem as this will influence the resources available. Incidents reported to such agencies as Out House, Switchboard and the GAI project will be included in the statistics, though it will be up to the individuals concerned whether they would like further action taken.

Secondly, the scheme offers support to victims of homophobic crime, including the possible provision of personal attack alarms, Dictaphones,

fire-safe letter boxes etc.

The Free phone number for the Homophobic Incident Line is 0800 0 85 85 22, but remember to report urgent incidents first by dialling 999.



## More on the Out House History Project...

You'll probably remember that the Out House won an award from the Millennium Commission part of the National Lottery to do a project on LGB history in Nottingham. Well, a lot of work has gone into pushing the four strands forward and, despite local rumours that the project has collapsed, is continuing to do so until they are complete ! What has happened is that the Millennium funding has come to an end and the project will be completed within the resources we already have. Not all the money was spent and we will be returning some to the Millennium Commission shortly. So to the details....

The Video Group members have undertaken comprehensive training on how to use our new Mac computer, shoot good video footage and edit it, and are now in the process of collecting video material. Next will come editing and archiving.

Similarly the Audio Group have completed training and are soon going to start conducting interviews to gather material.

The Anti-Poverty Project was originally aiming to set up a Credit Union and a LETS scheme. However these never really got off the ground, and the Lottery agreed a variation to establish instead a web site with welfare rights information. 4 members did a comprehensive course on "Dreamweaver" and we are now in the process of developing our own web-site - see [www.outhouse.org.uk](http://www.outhouse.org.uk) which will be fully working in a month or so.

The Archiving Group has amassed quite an impressive collection of banners, badges, photos, journals and paper archive material. They have also collected records of local groups such as CHE, and are now preparing it all for safe storage so that it will always be available as a record of our communities history.

## The Nottingham LGB Forum Rides Again !

Fifteen people representing a range of local LGB organisations met at a secret outdoor venue towards the end of July for the first gathering of the new (and Improved ?) LGB forum. The meeting had been called by Switchboard, The Out House and The GAI Project to see if groups felt that a forum would be useful again, following it's demise a couple of years ago.

After introductions, information sharing, and the inevitable comments of "are you still in Nottingham?", Zahid Dar from the consortium of LGB community and voluntary organisations (details of free membership available from the Office) talked about the experience of other forums, notably Birmingham and Bristol. Both had done excellent work to assess the needs of the LGB communities and had developed useful links with their local authorities which had enabled them to push for better services and funding. Each was now seen as the main body to consult with over the needs of, and services required by, the local LGB community.

Zahid also publicised a free conference for LGB groups in the E Midlands which is being

held in Nottingham on Saturday October 27<sup>th</sup>.

To the cry of "anyone got any candles it's starting to get dark !" we discussed other needs such as housing, education, jobs and homophobic abuse. Those present agreed to come back to the next meeting with more ideas for current issues the forum could work on. It was also agreed that the forum would only be open to LGB people ("Queer Space"), to create a discussion Email list (join by Emailing [outhousechris@AOL.com](mailto:outhousechris@AOL.com)) to produce and circulate minutes and for each of us to invite other people/groups to the next meeting. This is only a summary of the events at this gathering; if you'd like to know more phone Chris at the Out House Office on 0115 911 0545.

Many people felt that information was a problem as no one person knew everything that was going on. We heard stories of phoning Peterborough to find out about Pink Lace, and the classic statement "we know the group still exists 'cos someone collects the mail !!" Many organisations were feeling isolated, unsupported and that everything fell on 3 or 4 people. A forum would definitely help with all these aspects and also in regenerating a feeling of community.

It was agreed that we wanted to have a forum and to meet again on Thursday September 6<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm at Nottingham CVS to look at support needs, share more information and to draft terms of reference for the forum.