

Equal as Citizens

Angela Mason, Director of Stonewall, was the guest speaker before the AGM. She spoke passionately about their priorities for the next five years (recently published in "Equal as citizens") which form a new civil rights agenda for LGB people. Basically it's about us being equal at school, in love, at work, as partners and as parents. These have formed the core of Stonewall's work over the last four years and there have been many successes. She then went on to talk about three issues we should all fight for and try to move forward.

- The **basic right not to be discriminated against** would enable us to take our part in society as equal citizens. A European Union Bill outlawing discrimination in the work place on (among other things) the

grounds of sexual orientation will make our government have legislation in place by the end of 2003. There are wider concerns about how we are treated by health services and a recent survey in Manchester found that half were not out to their GP. This is an area which will need a lot of work.

- Secondly, signs from the government suggest that the **repeal of Section 28** may come next year or in 2003.
- **Partnership rights** are the big issue at the moment. Rather than go down the road of "gay marriage", which would give opponents a platform to organise against us on, the approach is to allow partnerships to be registered and to have laws that give this rights – inheritance, pensions, next of kin etc. A 10 Minute Rule Bill was

successful in the Commons a couple of weeks ago; this gives the right to present a full Bill to Parliament. However, as this would be unlikely to succeed due to lack of Parliamentary time, the approach will be to put pressure on the government to introduce a Bill in the next couple of years (write to your MP in support of this issue).

I found this session really uplifting as it showed how far we have come in quite a short time. Stonewall have done so much for us all. On hearing about our Centre and current funding needs, Angela refused her speaker's fee saying "you need it more than we do!" Thank you Angela !!

As part of the Nottingham LGB Forum Out House is looking at how some of these issues can be moved forward at a local level.

Chris Bristow

Pink Ink

Pink Ink is an LGB creative writing group that meets monthly in the Hockley area. Members range from complete beginners to those with published work, but everyone's work is respected and welcomed. Our writing can be controversial, so complete confidentiality is the rule. At meetings we read and comment on each others work and look at approaches to writing, style, technique and how to get published etc. We also holds writing workshops and other events. For more information call Tony on 0115 910 6926 or on 07931 351 462 or write to us c/o the Out House office.

Pink Chalk

Pink Ink is the forum for LGB teachers and education workers in the East Midlands. It meets regularly and provides an opportunity for discussion of issues confidential support and social contact. For details contact Anthony on: 0115 958 5814 or <http://beehive.thisisleicestershire.co.uk/pinkchalk>

the OUT HOUSE project Newsletter

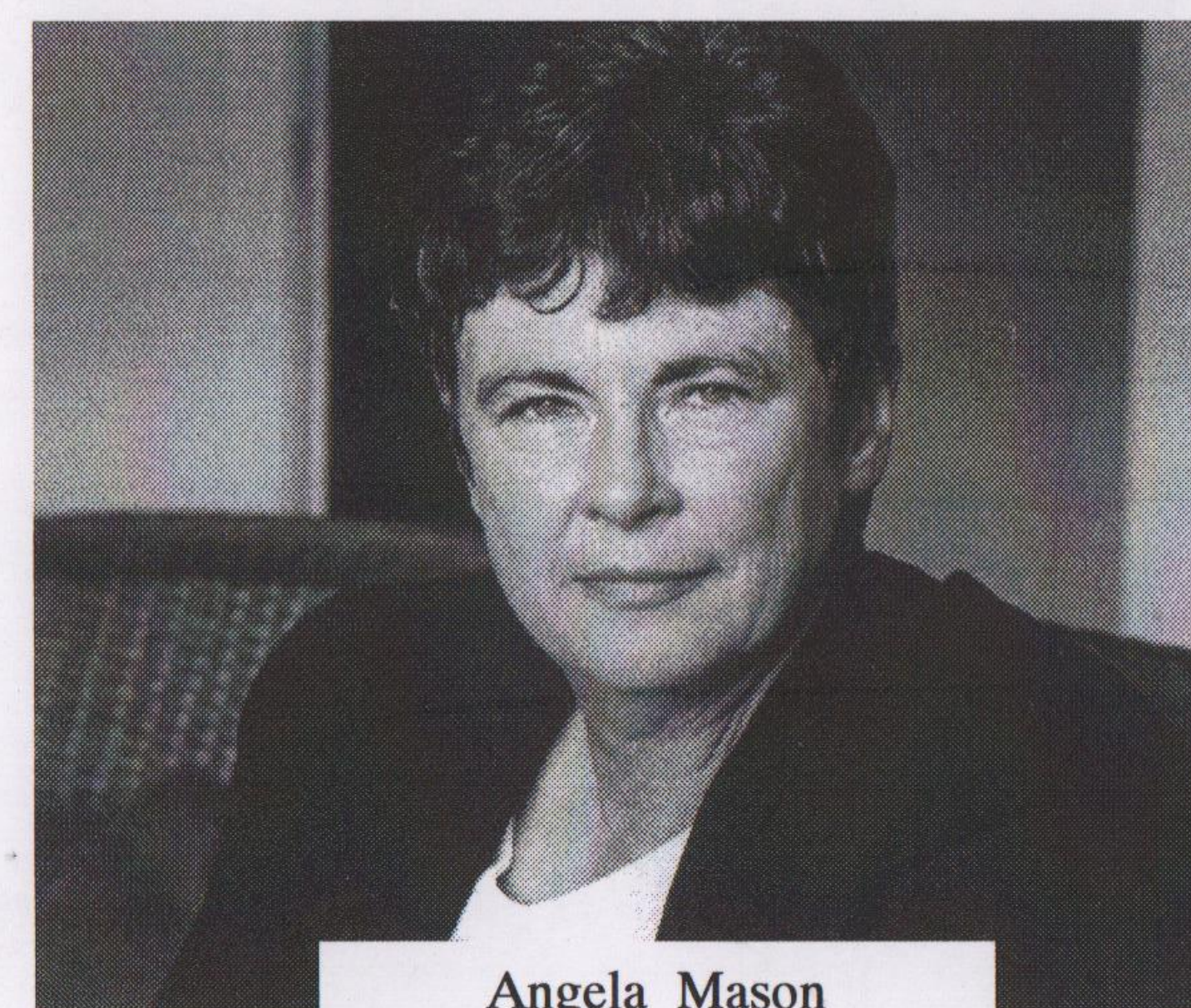
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Working to meet the needs of the Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Communities of Nottingham and District by providing a community centre....

Office Address: 40, George Street, Nottingham NG1 3BG. Tel (0115) 911 0545
Email: OutHouseMark@AOL.com www.outhouse.org.uk (coming very soon!)

Successful Out House AGM

Around thirty people came to the project's AGM, held in the luxurious surroundings of the Post House Hotel. The business part of the meeting was completed swiftly and



Angela Mason

efficiently by chairperson Patrick. Elections to the committee produced a new woman member Teri along with re-election for Anthony, Allan, Patrick and Richard. Also elected was Denis who had been co-opted during the year. The committee is still keen to see more women involved; contact Chris at the office (911 0545) if you would like to have a chat about what this would involve.

After the AGM Development Worker Chris Bristow gave a short presentation about the work of the project since April 2001. In the lively discussion session afterwards members had much to say. (continued on page 2)

Domestic Violence Shock in LGBT Census

The fact that almost 20% of gays, lesbians and bisexuals have encountered same-sex domestic violence was one of the most disturbing results from the first-ever LGBT census. This raises concerns about the lack of support services available, and Out House will be looking into this issue with the LGB forum. The census, recently conducted by ID Research, was the largest ever completed with over 10,500 forms returned. Apparently we are happy being gay – 80% of us are generally happy with our lives, despite half of us having experienced homophobic incidents in the last five years.

The survey found that a staggering 27% of (gay) men and 18% of women have been physically assaulted in the last five years. Sadly, 85% of respondents did not report homophobic incidents to the police – mainly due to fears of Police homophobia. Out House is part of the Notts Police Liaison Forum who this year launched the Homophobic Incident Reporting Line 0800 0 85 85 22 which is staffed by specially trained officers. You don't have to give your name, but it is really important that incidents are reported as we are trying to built up an accurate picture of the situation, with the aim of getting the police to give more resources to the problem. (Continued on page 3)

World AIDS Day Events

We have not One, not Two, not Three, but Four (!) events happening on World AIDS day (1st December). First off is the annual collection for the Notts Hardship Fund (who provide support to AIDS sufferers) on Friday 30th November. Ever fancied rattling a tin under people's noses? Well here's your chance.... You are needed for an hour or so anytime between 9am and 5pm. Your Out House correspondent did it last year and had a ball!! Contact Armored on 0115 845 7135 or turn up at the stall inside St Peter's Church on the day.

Next on Saturday (9.30-4.30) is a Gay Men's Health Day put on by our friends The GAI project. This drop-in-when-you-like FREE event is being held at Nottingham

CVS, 7 Mansfield Road and includes everything from having small needles slowly inserted into your body to practical hints on S&M!! OK then, the first one was Acupuncture! There are also sessions on Aromatherapy, relaxation, getting the most from a relationship and more. Details from the GAI project on 0115 947 6868 or the Out House office.

Finally, there is "Beyond the darkness" a free conference (1.15-5.00) that looks at the holistic approach to the worldwide challenge of HIV/AIDS. It will be held at St Peter's Church; call 0115 947 4891 for details. At 5.15pm there will be "an act of prayer and reflection for world AIDS day", also at St Peter's.

New GAI Guide Hits the Streets

It's out and it's proud; the Gai project's updated guide to local groups, pubs and clubs, services and organisations for lesbian, gay and bisexual people in Nottinghamshire. If you wanna know what's going on then you've gotta have one of these! Copies are free, pick one up from the GAI project on Broad Street (tel 0115 947 6868), on the scene or phone the Out House office (0115 911 0545) and we'll post you one.

Successful Out House AGM

Continued from front page

Members said they would like:

- ✓ The project to raise it's profile – both within our own communities and more widely.
- ✓ Regular newsletters and other information about the project's progress
- ✓ The centre to open as soon as possible even if this just means the ground floor (café bar, office, kitchen, information area, toilets).

People had the most to say about funding and offered the following:-

- Approach business (especially gay/gay friendly).
- Seek advice from larger projects or employ a fundraiser.
- Attempt to secure Health money e.g. suicide in young men is an issue, believed

50% may be due to (not) coming to terms with their sexuality. Make specially targeted bids.

- Need to be clear about the outputs of the centre – what are the specific services that will be based in or provided by the Out House?
- Get letters of support from LGB organisations who would use the centre.
- Consider the Gaps – what services and resources are not there e.g. Age Concern, Alzheimer's etc.

The committee and the staff (Chris and Mark) have taken these suggestions and comments on board and will report back in each newsletter on actions taken and progress made. We'd also like to thank those present who donated £75 to Out House funds.

Equal thoughts and a benefit by Uncle Tom!

**For twenty one years now
I've fought for the right,
For people to love just
whoever they like,
But the right on and right-
eous are out for my blood,
Now I live with my kid and
a woman I love.**

**Well if gay liberation means
freedom for all,
A label is no liberation at
all,
I'm here and I'm queer and**

**I do what I do,
And I'm not gonna wear, a
straight-jacket for you....**

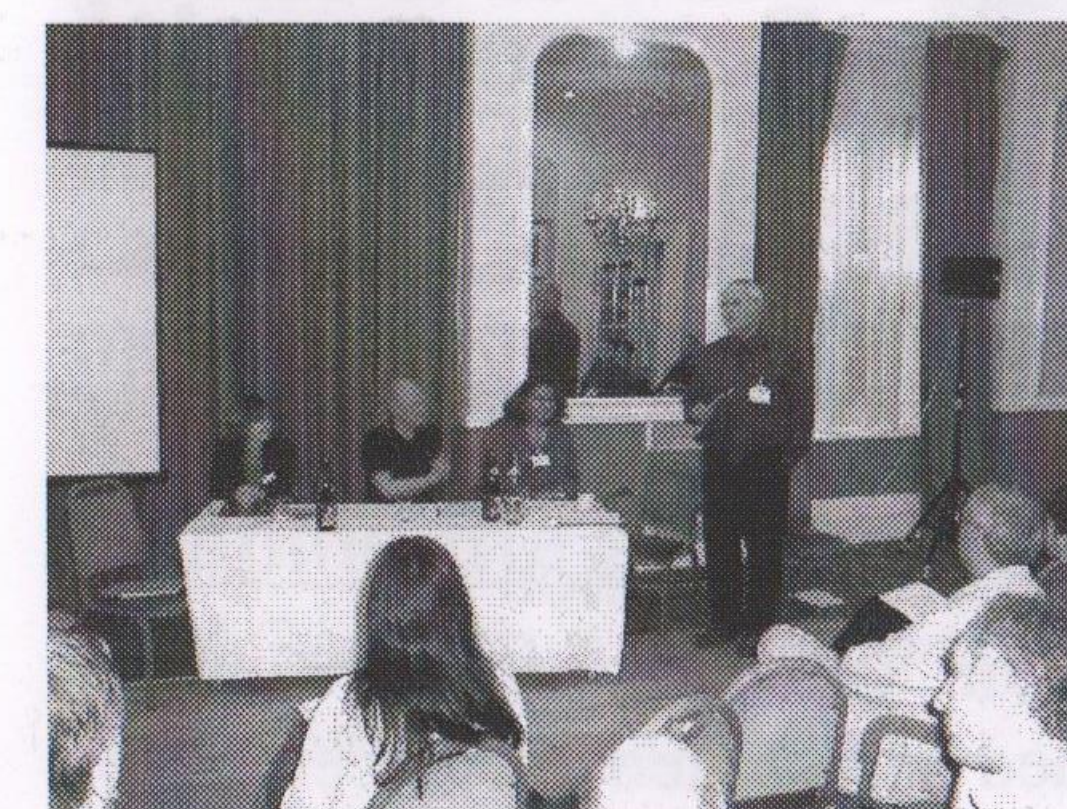
To the tune of "Sing if you're
glad to be Gay"
Untitled track on Tom Robin-
son's album "Having it both
ways"

Out House News' roving re-
porter caught up with Tom re-
cently in London and persuaded

him to do a **benefit gig for the
Out House**. This may not be
for some time as Tom is very
busy doing radio work for the
BBC over the next few months,
but we will let you know....
For an interesting discussion of
sexuality, especially bi, see
www.tomrobinson.co.uk. He is
on tour early next year– anyone
fancy going as a group to Derby
on Feb 5th??

The Out & Out Conference.

**Out & Out sounds good -
but what was it?**



Well it was a day conference
for representatives of LGBT
groups in the East Midlands,
arranged by the "Consortium"
as part of a programme of free
conferences and events for
LGBT groups in England and
Wales.

Held in the comfortable sur-
roundings of the Comfort Ho-
tel (pun), for those of you who
are familiar to Nottingham,
previously the George Hotel. Funny how the circle turns, (if
you don't know what I'm on
about, years ago the "George"
was one of Nottingham's fa-

mous Gay meeting places,
and I mean years ago! Ah!)
Back to the conference, three
members of the Out House
management committee at-
tended in their own right, Chris
Bristow was helping to facili-
tate the day and I went along
representing both the Out
House and the Nottingham
LGCM group. Plenary ses-
sions introduced both the
morning and afternoon work-
shops; led by eloquent and
knowledgeable speakers on
subjects as diverse as "Key
developments in the broader
voluntary and community sec-
tor" to "Where next in the East
Midlands". Workshops cov-

*years ago the "George" was
one of Nottingham's famous
Gay meeting places, and I
mean years ago!*

ered various aspects ranging
from "Funding" to "Using the
Internet" (a.m.) and "Diversity
Inclusion and Regeneration"
to looking into the setting up of
a "LGB Workers Forum" (p.

m.). The day went extremely
well, speakers and workshop
leaders were both interesting



and informative (*and these are
not just my comments*). The
two workshops I attended
were very worthwhile and I
gained a lot of valuable infor-
mation from the Funding work-
shop and hopefully you will be
hearing from me early in the
New Year (to ask you for
money!), *watch this space!* All
the representatives gave up a
Saturday to attend the confer-
ence and during the lunch
break those of us from the Out
House participated in the Con-
sortium's AGM. I have to say
that we were well fed and wa-
tered, in all senses of the
word, on what turned out to be
a very enjoyable day.

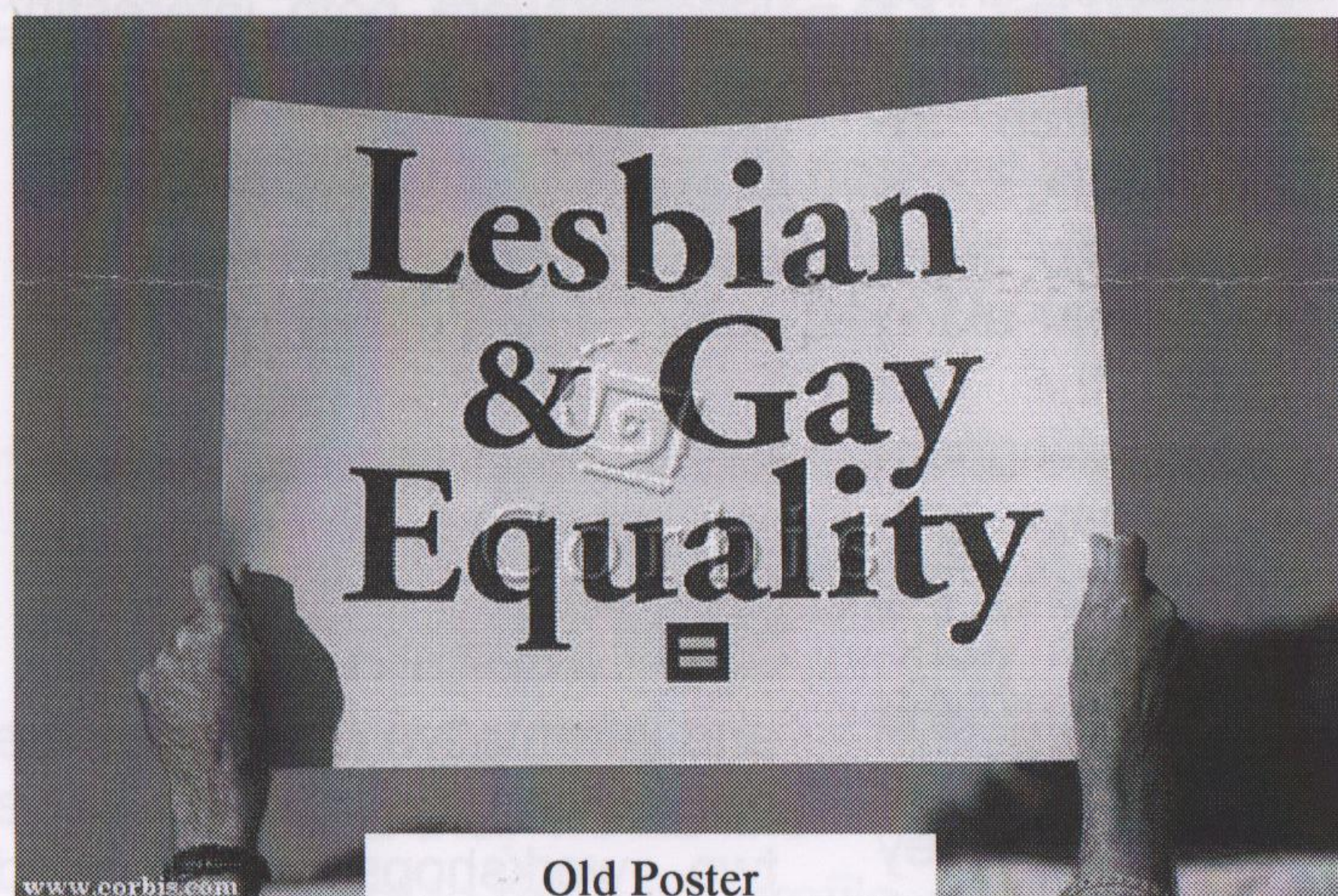
Mark Simons

Young Outburst

A new group for LGB young people under the age of 21 has burst onto the Nottingham scene. Called Outburst, the group meets every Friday from 6-8 pm at the Health Shop on Broad Street it offers the chance to meet other young people in a safe environment, get involved in a range of activities such as mask making, bowling and drumming and have a cool time. Outburst has come out of an inter agency group including the Out House and is run by Cheryl and Simon. Just turn up on the night or call the GAI project on 947 6868 for more info.

Not Out and Proud !!

News reached us (at the Police Liaison Forum of all places !) that the group who organised the successful Pride Festivals in 1999 and 2000 are not going to do one in 2002. This is despite possible City Council backing (for an unspecified amount). Our Mole was told that several of the group members had moved to different parts of the country. The 2000 experience had also been very exhausting with very short time deadlines and then having to spend a lot of time in legal battles with a (non LGB) stall holder to get him to pay up.



Old Poster

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 gave yourself the pleasure of getting our newsletter on a regular basis by joining the Out House !! Phone the Out House office NOW on 0115 911 0545 and we'll send you a membership form by return. It only costs £1 and membership will last until the centre is opened (and that must be a bargain !).

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Caring for Someone with Dementia ??

Many gay people caring for a partner or other loved one who has dementia find it difficult to find support and information that understands their "carer's contacts" with specially trained and skilled volunteers able to offer a listening ear and understanding to LGB carers. They are available to take calls on a one-off or ongoing basis from people who need to talk about any difficulties they may be experiencing. Call: Sally on 020 8675 0660, Stephen on 01253 297513, Arthur on 01273 628047, Bruce on 01865 847471 or Roger on 01843 220932. More information on dementia is at www.alzheimers.org.uk Chris, Out House development worker, would like to talk to any LGB carer about their experiences. Call him on 0115 911 0545.

What's been going on...?

.....Since the last newsletter in August.

As usual at the Out House, lots has been happening over the last 3 months. Here is a quick summary of the major things we have been working on; give us a ring at the office if you want to know more.

Funding

A lot of work has gone into looking for other possible sources of money for the centre/project. We have obtained costings for opening the ground floor only. Charitable trusts, European funds, Central Government, Rich Philanthropists and other sources are all currently being considered as well as making the Centre a building training project. So far we have received a promise of £5 k from a local trust, and have put in a bid for £50 k of Landfill Tax Credit money. Work over the next two months will focus on funding.

Keeping the project going

- AGM with a national speaker (see separate report).

- Sorting out the existing lottery funding – harder than it sounds !
- More work on the building design around accessibility.
- Work to expand the management committee and make it more representative. Now have a woman committee member, more work to do.

Raising the Out House's Profile

- Lots of work done to build links with other groups
- Supported the development of the Nottingham LGB Forum. This has included working on a letter to the City Council about LGB services and several meetings to move this forward.
- The website will be up-and-running soon (honest !!).
- Helping the Consortium to organise the Out & Out conference.
- Working as part of the Police Liaison Committee.
- Writing articles for other newsletters.



Domestic violence Shock In LGBT Census

Continued from front page

Interestingly the survey also found that men first became aware of their sexuality around the age of 14 on average, whereas women experienced same-sex attraction at 16. This may explain why 40% of males, but 18% of females had experienced intimidation due to their sexuality at school. (This article based on a report in the Pink Paper 16/11/01)

We Need Your Help !!

Out House is at a very important point in it's development, with the building partly refurbished and the final push for funds underway. We are currently still looking for one or two more committee members who can spare 3 hours a month for meetings and other time to take on particular tasks. Can't manage that? For those who would like a smaller time commitment, we also need people with particular expertise (or the willingness to learn) to be on one of the sub committees that provide vital guidance to the management committee on finance, personnel and building matters. We'd also like to re-start our social sub committee to organise events, outings etc. If you would like to know more, phone the Out House office on 0115 911 0545.