

HELP NEEDED!

The Out House always needs more help! Since its beginning, it has relied on willing members of the community to help out with every aspect of the project. We are now at an exciting stage. The opening of the building is within sight. We have new funding to support and boost volunteering. Once again, we are looking for more help with all sorts of jobs. If you think you have something to offer, please get in touch. We especially welcome contact from sections of our communities which are under-represented. At present, these include: women, ethnic minorities and people with disabilities.

These are our priority areas at the moment:

- BUILDING** Anyone with practical skills, or with a flair for DIY or design, will be very welcome. At the moment, Allan heads up our building group but he really needs more support. Even a small amount of regular time would be appreciated.
- FUND-RAISING** Anyone at all can help with this. If you are willing to lend a hand, Derek, our fund-raising supremo, will be pleased to hear from you. The possibilities are endless. We would like to run all kinds of events, but we need more "hands."
- BOOK FAIR** Our monthly Book Fair has got off to a promising start. If you can spare an hour or two on the last Saturday of the month, we would love to hear from you.
- WEB SITE** Anyone with an interest in web site building or maintenance would be a great asset. Our new site will need regular up-dating and maintenance.
- ADMIN** Our hard-pressed office staff could do with some support. If you have regular office skills, these could be put to good use at our George Street premises.
- MINUTE-TAKING** Our regular Management Committee Meetings (and sub committee meetings) need good record keeping. We have a secretary but he is out of the country for a while!
- STALLS** Sometimes we have the opportunity to have an Out House stall – for example - at the Green Festival. If only we had more people who could give a couple of hours to help.
- COMMITTEE** Yes, we know it sounds boring! However, people with good committee skills are very special and enormously appreciated!

If you are at all interested in lending a hand with any of the above, *please* give us a call or an email. We are a friendly bunch and we always welcome new people. Getting involved can be great fun for all ages and types. Contact Chris or Mark at the office for more details.

Support for our Parents and Friends !!

A new group has been launched in the North of Notts for parents and friends of Gay people. Called Gay Connection their publicity says "it is sometimes difficult for parents and siblings to accept that a son is gay, a daughter is lesbian or a partner is bisexual.

Some mothers and fathers have feelings of shock and betrayal, guilt and fear of the unknown.

Our aim within this group is to bring help and understanding and hopefully to open a window into a new and different world.

Together we have a chance to turn around negative reactions and explore a whole new attitude to an age old situation. 'Talking with others in a similar circumstances can often alter ones own perceptions'

Website www.gayconnection.fsnet.co.uk

And.....In Birmingham, a Parents Support Group has been launched with an informative website for parents and friends of lesbians and gays. A teenager whose parents are group members came up with the idea for the site that includes sections about learning to accept gay children, homophobia and legal information. Click onto. www.birminghamparentsupport-group.co.uk

the OUT HOUSE project Newsletter

Volume 2 No 10
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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!)

Volunteer Project Funding Success

The Out House has succeeded in attracting new funding of over £100 000 for a 3 year Volunteer Project to strengthen the Out House and meet some of the needs of our LGB communities. Recruitment is now under way and we expect to have someone in post by the end of August. The first task of the new post-holder will be to get in touch with all the various existing groups around Nottingham, which are currently using volunteers to support and serve our communities. Then, she/he will be able to discern any gaps in the prevailing provision and draw up a strategy for recruiting and supporting volunteers to serve any unmet needs, including within the Out House organisation itself.

The new funding represents a major step forward for LGB communities around Nottingham. It means that new areas of work can be opened up. It also shows that the Government (in the form of the Home Office Active Communities Unit) is taking the Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual

Volunteer Co-ordinator

Full time (37 hours per week) until 31 March 2005.

SO1 (Pts 29-31)

Starting salary in the region of £20,400 per annum + pension.

The post involves mapping the needs of the LGB communities and devising a strategy, using volunteers, to fulfil unmet needs. A sustainable network of community volunteers (particularly younger and older age groups) will then be set up and supported.

Highly developed organising, interpersonal and networking skills are required, and at least two years experience of working with volunteers.

**Closing date: 9th July.
Interviews: 20th July.**

Further details/application forms are available from:
The Recruitment Officer (Ref. NL),
Out House Project, 40 George Street, Nottingham NG1 3BG

communities seriously and putting its money where its mouth is. A feature of the scheme is that it will look particularly at the needs of the younger (16-25) and older (40-70) age ranges, as they often "miss out" in our communities.

Initially, the new post will be based at the Out House Office in George Street. Hopefully, it will not be too long before she/he can relocate to our fabulous new office on the ground floor of the Out House Community Centre on the corner of Cranbrook Street and Lennox Street

A word of appreciation should go to Chris Bristow, the Out House Development Worker, who spotted the opportunity of attracting Home Office funding and followed it up. He and Carol, our grant-seeking duo, are busy exploring every avenue of support for the Community Centre and for our communities as a whole.

What's happening at the Out House

REVIEW SETS NEW AGENDA FOR BUILDING

Representative from the Out House recently met with senior Community Fund staff to review the progress of the building. Top of the agenda was "How can we hasten progress and get the building open?"

In an open and frank exchange of views, the Community Fund representatives expressed concern at the slow progress in getting the building on Cranbrook Street up and running. Needless to say, your Committee was as concerned as anyone to get the building open. The problem (as always) is money! However, a new grant application strategy has been put in place and it has been agreed to monitor progress together.

For anyone who needs updating on the present situation, the position is like this. After years of struggle, the Out House finally got the money from the Community Fund (formerly the National Lotteries Board) to buy and refurbish a building right in the heart of Nottingham's so-called "gay village" i.e. between @D2 and the Mill. All the structural work has been completed but we still need to refurbish the interior (office, café/bar, meeting

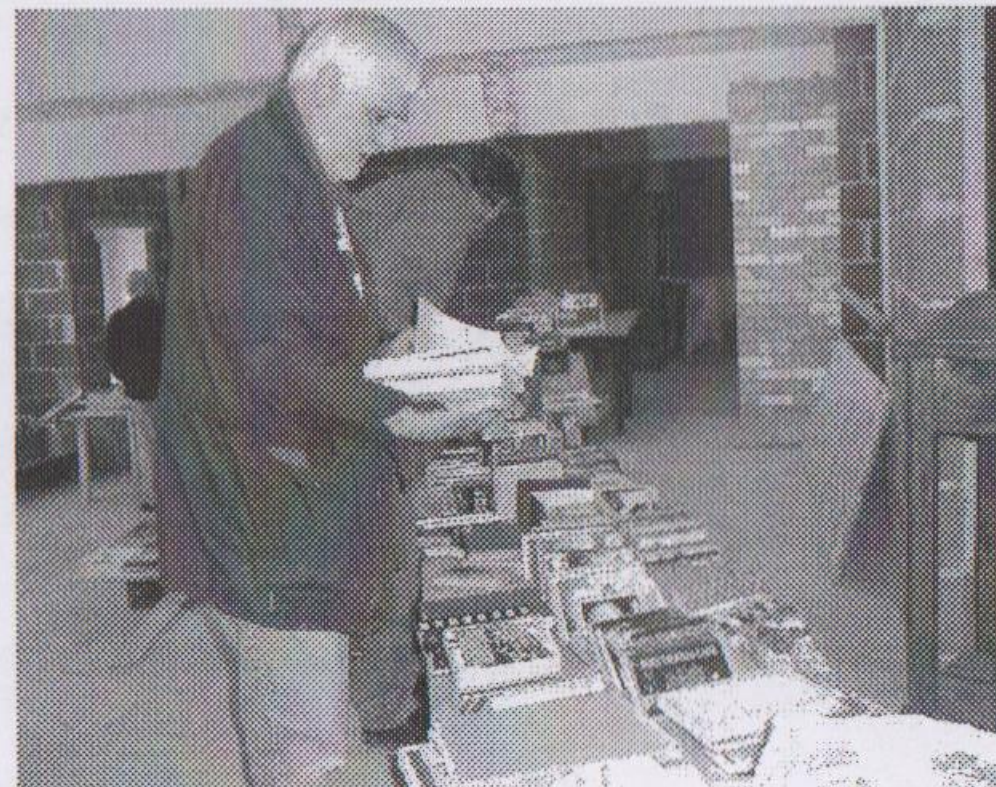
rooms, etc.) and put in heating and other systems. This means we are applying for funding from various trusts, government bodies, Europe etc.

At the recent "summit" meeting, the Community Fund representatives (who have invested heavily in the Out House) re-iterated their strong desire to see the project completed. The Management Committee (represented by Teri, Anthony and Carol, together with Chris, our Development Worker), explained our proposals for getting the final funds needed to open the building. The present plan is for a phased opening. This means that the ground floor, particularly the café/bar and the office, will be opened

first. Once this is up and running, we will concentrate on opening up the larger spaces on the first floor, maybe by mobilising more volunteer support from within our communities.

So, if you are one of our members or friends who is still thinking, "Will it ever open?" the answer is YES! And if you would like to help us in this great enterprise, see page 4 and get in touch.

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Book Buyers at the Out House Book Fair

Out House Attracts Peter Tatchell

The high profile Gay Rights Campaigner Peter Tatchell will be appearing as a

Guest Speaker

At an open meeting on the evening of

Wednesday 4th September 2002

More Details Later

Out House Web site launch imminent

After long debate and planning, the Out House web site is, at last, due for launch. Chairman of the Management Committee, Patrick McCrory said, "We have secured the domain name www.outhouse.org.uk and we are pressing ahead with the final stages of getting the site up 'live'. We see it as an important development. Members and others should be able to access up-to-date information before the end of July."

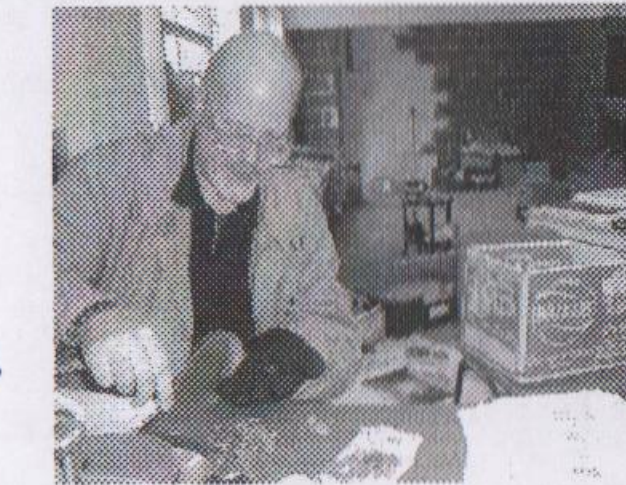
The new site is being built by "Change Works," which is Nottingham-based and specialises in working with local voluntary groups. An important feature of the site is that it will be composed and updated by volunteers from within the LGB community.

As well as general information about the Out House, its history, membership and all kinds of activities, there is material on the building, photos, and also wider news about our communities. Before long, we will introduce a range of Welfare Rights information of specific interest to the LGB community.

So, folks, if you are on-line at home, bookmark this address and keep in touch with all the latest news and developments. If you are not online at home, get down to your local library, cyber-café or job centre and check us out.

FUNDRAISING NEWS JUNE 2002

In my last fundraising news I mentioned some of the plans that we had agreed and would be implementing soon. Well for a start books that had been promised were duly lost because of a leaking roof of a warehouse. But Patrick our chairman turned this into an opportunity to get some advertising. This he did and we had some great publicity in the local newspaper and radio. The result was donation after donation of books.



Derek Counting our first ever takings

Our first book sale was some £130 for our funds. the pouring rain all day been printed with some which is now being re-

so please do make every effort to tell your friends that our doors are open between 10 am and 4pm. We need more books, bric a brac and helpers – particularly those who are strong (Muscle Marys ?!) and would be able to collect books from people's homes.

I am pleased to say that other efforts are also near to fruition. I have contacted the local probation community service group and they are in principal happy to collect books for us and will paint our community centre inside until such time we can have it all refurbished.

My contact with the Nottingham University is proving very positive with the University Volunteers coordinator very keen to send volunteers to us for various roles. I am asking the arts dept to see if there are any students who would like to dress up our building. Murals including book shelves for inside and more elaborate messages for outside. I am also aware we need our own posters and I am hoping the art students could hold perhaps a competition for our own posters incorporating our logo so that when we hold events we can have large posters with great impact to draw the public's eye.

Speaking of events I am pleased to announce the recruitment of a new volunteer Candice who is very keen to be very active in organising events and also to act as our media co coordinator. She has agreed to approach various businesses with the objective of seeking sponsorship for various schemes and items needed in our community centre but also support for various events – advertising etc.

I would like to gain the help of our members in organising the following or to show interest in taking part. Do you have interest in any of the following :

Mixed 5 a'side football – lets throw a challenge out to other groups in Nottingham. Perhaps even a challenge to any of our gay or gay friendly pubs;
Whist nights etc. Need another games partner ? or perhaps you would like to join a group ?

Theatre, cinema or dinner group ?

The list is really endless. If you have any interest not mentioned please contact Derek via the office and we will advertise it in our next newsletter. Don't forget. A Christmas social get together will be on the plans for this year. Whilst we need our own centre, we can start ties now, which will help our fundraising at the same and to me that is part of what the Out House is all about.



Patrick erecting a makeshift banner

As a Laugh I thought I would include a picture of me so ear if you meet me. If anyone offered a big enough shave my beard and moustache off !!! Now Well I think you can see that there are massive bringing to you what we feel you want – events people to you. The management committee has really been very supportive to ideas that the fund raising sub committee(including myself) have come up with, and I would personally like to thank them for this.

Derek

that you will be able to bend my cash donation to Out House I will there is an offer !!! plans in hand for really and company of similar