

CHIMAERA

NOTTINGHAM CHE NEWSLETTER

PROGRAMME JULY/AUGUST 1980

JULY

- THURS 3RD BUSINESS MEETING at CVS at 8pm.
- SUN 6TH AFTERNOON TEA and a QUIZ at Mike's (19, Thomas Close, St. Ann's) Cucumber sandwiches and Earl Grey will be provided, but help with sticky cakes would be appreciated. 3.30pm for 4.00pm.
- SAT 12TH The LINCOLN GROUP have arranged a performance of THE TRIALS OF OSCAR WILDE, by the Monday Group at the Co-op Hall (near Newport Arch) at 7.30pm. Tickets cost 80p to CHE members and are available from Mike. This Saturday also coincides with one of the Lincoln Group's Discos at the Horse and Groom, so you can make quite a night of it if you want to.
- MON 14TH MUSIC GROUP Meeting at CVS at 8pm (see note in Chimaera for details).
- THURS 17TH BUSINESS MEETING at CVS at 8pm.
- SUN 20TH AFTERNOON TEA at John and Jerry's (17, Balmoral Road, near the Arboretum) 4.00pm. This will be followed by a Treasure Hunt on foot in the city centre area. Those interested only in the Treasure Hunt meet on the steps of the Council House at 6.00pm and keep your fingers crossed for good weather.
- WED 23RD GAY SWITCHBOARD BENEFIT DISCO, top floor room Hearty Good Fellow on Maid Marian Way 8.30-11pm
- WED 30TH COFFEE EVENING at Tony's (Flat 4, 19a, Pelham Crescent, The Park) Still no-one has penetrated the dark secrets of his cupboard! Can his luck hold out yet again? Is it all an enormous hoax? Come along and be there for the denouement of this saga (perhaps).
- THURS 31ST BUSINESS MEETING at CVS at 8pm

PROGRAMME

AUGUST

SUN 3RD A Trip around the caves under the Broadmarsh Centre. Cost 30p. Meet in the Back Bar of the Dog and Partridge before 2.00pm. (if you **want** a drink). These tours have to be booked in advance if one is not to run the risk of disappointment, so please let Mike or John have your money as soon as possible. It is emphasised that those going should wear sensible shoes!

This is all the programme that you're going to get at the moment. That for the rest of August/early September will go out to members with the mailing of the next Broadsheet. However, here is advance notice of two events lined up for September:-

SUN 14TH We are hoping to organise a trip to Belton House near Grantham, in conjunction with the CHE groups in Derby, Boston, Leicester and Lincoln. Admission is £1-30, but only £1 if more than twenty people go, plus the cost of petrol getting there.

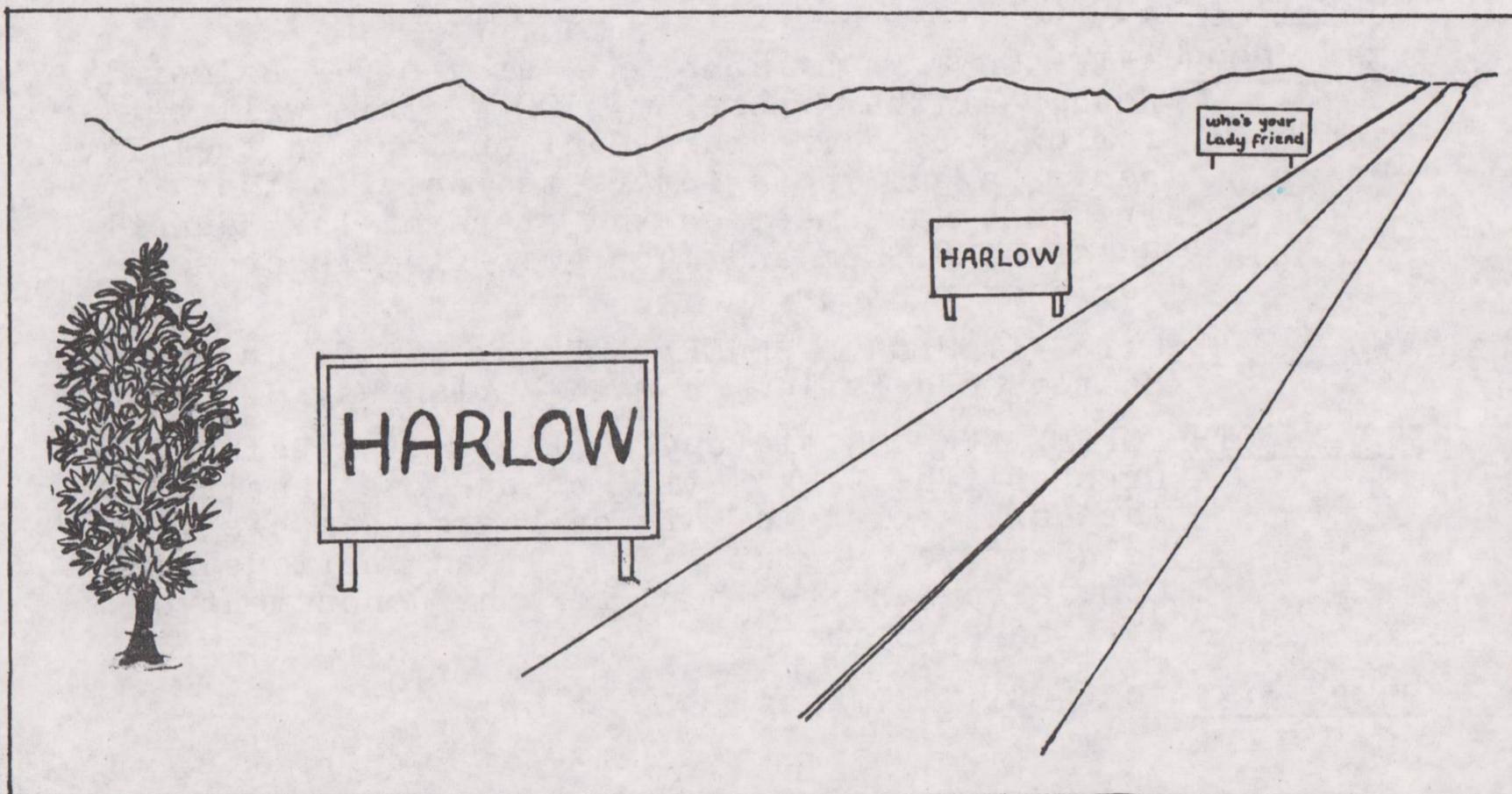
FRI 19TH Barry Prothero, NCCL's new Gay Rights Officer, will be coming to speak to the group and this will be a most interesting and valuable meeting.

Details of both will follow when finalised, but put the dates in your diaries NOW.

STOP PRESS!!! (What do they think I am, the bleeding News of the World?- your humble typist)

Additional forthcoming item for August: we have been invited by the Lincoln Group to join them in a ramble in the region of Grindleford, which lies between Sheffield and Bakewell, on Saturday, August 16th. Details in the August programme.

DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT CHIMAERA WILL BE SATURDAY AUGUST 27TH .
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NOTTINGHAM CHE MUSIC GROUP

The suggestion has been made that, since several members of the group are interested in music, a music group should be formed. Such a group could enable members to go to concerts together (possibly taking advantage of ticket concessions) to attend concerts outside Nottingham by sharing transport costs, to meet in each other's homes to listen to records and any other activities connected with music that you care to name. An initial meeting has been arranged at CVS on Monday 14th July at 8.00pm and anyone interested is warmly invited to attend. If you are unable to make it on that date, contact Stewart or Dennis to indicate your interest and to pass on any ideas you may have.

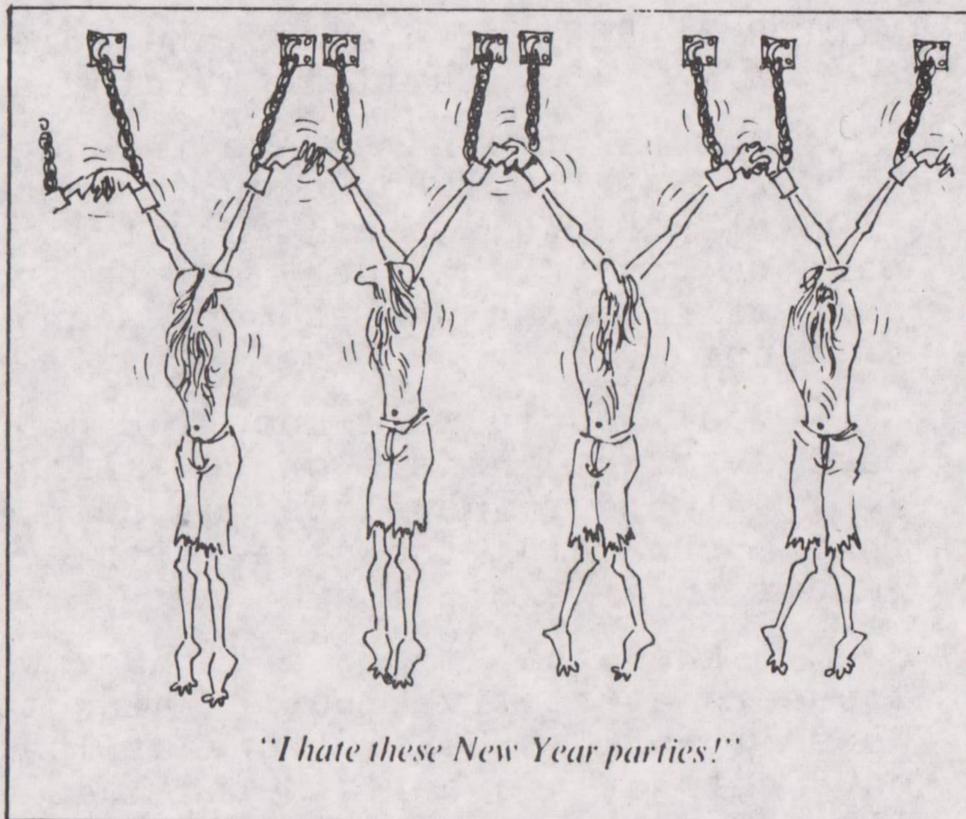
NEWS ITEMS

TOOLS LOST:

A concrete vibrator and tools worth £754 have been stolen from a building site in Arnold Road, Nottingham.

(Evening Post)

Norman St. John Stevas (the thinking woman's Larry Grayson) was described as "adding to the gaiety of nations" in the Observer.



LOCAL INFORMATION

For those new to the group and/or to Nottingham, the letters CVS stand for Council for Voluntary Service. The address of CVS is

31a, Mansfield Road, Nottingham.

This is also CHE's address and the home of Nottingham Gay Switchboard. The Switchboard operates every Monday, Wednesday and Thursday from 7-10pm and its number is Nottingham 46881.

On the subject of the Switchboard, a new training programme for those who would like to be Switchboard operators begins in early July. This is separate from the Friend training programme and is essentially concerned with the operation of the phone without the on-going commitment to befriending that Friend requires. Anyone interested should contact John Clark-son as soon as possible.

FUN WITH A GRAPEFRUIT

MIRRORS, MORON, ROY ROGERS, PHONE CALLS, VERDI REQUIEM,
FUN WITH A GRAPEFRUIT.

Not the start of a surrealist poem, but the names that I and other people give to regulars at Shades who we know by sight, characteristics or reputation, but not by name.

Some of the names, like those above, have connotations too personal to mean much without a lengthy explanation. Some of the names are, or become, fairly obvious:-

MR ACNE 1978 - a name which, poor fellow, says all.

PILLAR - simple enough when he always stands by the same pillar.

VICTORIA PRUNE - an older, and more wrinkled, version of drag artiste "Victoria Plum".

Not all the names are intended derogatively, even FUN WITH A GRAPEFRUIT has a quite innocent explanation. For example - CHARLIE BROWN. So called not for any resemblance to the cartoon boy (or his dog) but because he seems to generate an aura of American wholesomeness and humour - which might even be genuine.

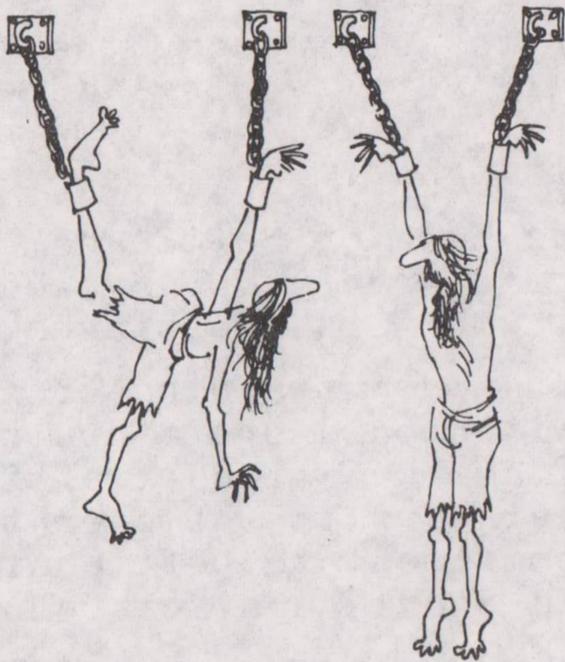
Most people will know THE HINDENBURG. A trouserless pachyderm who insists on revealing acres of vibrating flesh. I often wonder where the gas pump is attached and I am sure that approaching too close with a lighted cigarette would result in an explosion.

I know that there are those who find all men in leather trousers attractive, but I think that on some people it just doesn't work. SLUGS is fond of leather, but on one night the movements of his beleathered legs were described as being like "Two slugs mating" and so

One young and essentially harmless lad is, I am convinced, constructed along the lines of a Cindy doll. Somewhere on his body is implanted a discreetly concealed device that is

programmed to utter only three or four phrases when the body assumes one of a few limited attitudes. The most frequently heard phrase (and hence his name) is OOOELLOHOWAREYA.

BRILLO PADS often wears jeans which are practically threadbare in the region of the crutch. I suppose this is to give the idea that the abrasion was caused either by the external caress of admirers or by the internal pressure of what is therein contained. But I think it was done with



*"Told you complaining about a sprained wrist
wouldn't get you far!"*

FUN WITH A GRAPEFRUIT

Since appearing with a bare chest covered only with a black lace creation which was the mammary equivalent of a G string, a formerly nameless entity has forever crystal-lised himself as MR BRA. I must add that the aforementioned garb seemed to radiate a power of its own. Its wearer was able to move as if bearing a five foot radius force field which opened a corridor of embarrassment through the throng.

Dress does provide an easy label. THE VIETCONG is one of those who frequently carries butchness to military lengths, complete with pretty peaked cap. So carefully is the overall couture calculated that someone should tell him that the desired effect would be achieved only by being a little more martial and a little less Snellgrove.

David.

It's WAFFLETIME! What do you do when you know that there isn't enough material to fill the page? I cannot write again about the Abbots Bromley nudist pogo-stick races. I was expecting an article from a certain person about a certain weekend in Bournemouth, but it hasn't materialised - too exhausted I expect. Anyway, I think that will do yes, I do believe that in a matter of a handful of lines it will be time for you to all enjoy something called a Programmed Quiz. So here it is. At once. Right now. Immediately.

PROGRAMMED QUIZ

In this Quiz, the questions are followed by a choice of answers each of which has a number after it. Choose the answer which you think, or know, is correct and then proceed to answer the question whose number follows the answer you have chosen. It does not matter which question you start with.

If you answer all the questions correctly, you will be referred back to the question with which you started, having in the meanwhile answered each other question. If you are referred back to your original question before answering all the others, or if you are referred back to any other question that you have already answered, then somewhere along the line you have gone wrong and will have to think again about one of your earlier answers.

The questions are all overleaf. The first correct answer to reach the CVS will receive a prize; it's either a marzipan model of a microprocessor or a duck-billed platypus - I can't remember which.

PROGRAMMED QUIZ

QUESTIONS

- 622 In which British town is Temple Meads railway station?
- Manchester (108); Newcastle (932); Bristol (749)
- 400 For what is the town of Sevres famous?
- porcelain (259); tapestries (499); cut glass (517)
- 803 At which of his victories did Admiral Lord Nelson put his telescope to his blind eye to ignore a signal?
- The Nile (567); Copenhagen (108); Trafalgar (932)
- 932 If a cricket umpire raises both arms above his head, what is he signalling?
- a no-ball (622); a 'six' (268); the batsman is out(803)
- 749 What is the name of the process by which plants convert sunlight into sugars and starch?
- photolysis (932); photosynthesis(803); photokinesis(622)
- 866 What is cullet?
- fine coal dust (268); deer droppings (108); bits of broken glass for re-melting (400)
- 753 Who wrote the operetta "Der Zigeunerbaron"?
- Johann Strauss II (331); Richard Strauss (866); Oskar Straus (259)
- 198 G.N.Gordon is better known as whom?
- Lord Byron (622); Lewis Carroll (259); Saki (749)
- 268 Who was in charge of the Nazi Gestapo?
- Martin Bormann (932); Himmler (338); Goebbels (108)
- 108 Which of these parliamentary constituencies is the odd one out?
- Cardiff South East (622); Finchley(499); Gloucester(517); Roxburgh, Selkirk and Peebles (932)
- 499 Where was Handel's Messiah first performed?
- Cardiff (749); Edinburgh (108); Dublin (932)
- 331 Which English King is credited with inventing the handkerchief?
- Charles II (338); James I (622); Richard II (567)
- 517 Where in London is the tomb of the Unknown Warrior?
- Westminster Abbey (499); St.Paul's (749); The Cenotaph(803)
- 338 Which Irish author had the middle names Fingal O'Flahertie Wills?
- Brendan Behan (268); James Joyce (622); Oscar Wilde (866)
- 259 Which French painter spent much of his life on Tahiti?
- Cezanne (400); Gauguin (753); Renoir (866)
- 567 What is the whitish powder that results from treating slaked lime with chlorine?
- bleach (198); baking powder (499); chalk (517)

CAMPAIGN REPORT

At last our complaint against the County Council for banning us from the Teachers' Centre has completed its passage through all of the correct channels and can now proceed to the Ombudsman. County Councillor Dennis Pettitt, the Leader of the opposition Labour group on the County Council has agreed to forward it to the Ombudsman and it should be on its way by the time you read this. According to Rotherham CHE, who put a similar complaint to him two years ago (and won) it will probably be about six weeks before we shall know whether he will accept it for investigation and, if he does, another six months before he has taken evidence from all the people involved and presents a report to the Council. Meanwhile we have issued a Press Statement which should hit the local and national press in the week ending Friday July 4th. Keep your eyes and ears open to see what, if anything, they have to say about us.

Contacts with the political parties is being maintained and extended. Following the visits of several members to the Nuthall Young Conservatives a few weeks ago, we welcomed members of the Young Liberals and the Rushcliffe Liberal Association to the CVS one evening and had a useful discussion. The Beeston Liberals have also asked us to speak to one of their meetings in the Autumn and a date is now being arranged.

Now that we are building up a number of local contacts, we must ensure that we maintain their interest and keep them informed of the things we are doing and the ways in which we feel they can help us. The last business meeting agreed to issue a short one page newsheet three times a year for this purpose and the first one should be out soon.

Still no replies to my letters to the Institute of Personnel Management, the Junior Chamber of Commerce, the National Union of School Students. Perhaps at the end of the year we should issue a 'blacklist' of organisations which don't reply to CHE letters. Meanwhile the Broadmarsh Centre says it cannot accommodate us in 1981 for an exhibition space, and the Victoria Centre has again said that it does not want us. However, the CVS did put in a good word for us and it seems that the opposition at the Vic Centre came not from the Manager, but from the merchants. They don't mind taking our money though.

Petition forms about the John Saunders case and anti-gay discrimination in general are coming back from organisations we sent them to: a first tangible result of the speaking programme we're developing. Meanwhile the Trades Council have said they will circulate to their 175 trade union branches a special CHE leaflet we have in the course of production on the Saunders case and gay rights at work in general.

The newly established Gay Youth Movement have sent us details of their forthcoming Conference for young gays and we shall be writing to a number of local youth organisations to try to interest them in taking part.

CAMPAIGN REPORT

One of our next major campaigns is going to involve challenging the use of the Public Order Act to convict gay men for alleged cottaging offences. It is important that we win on this one, but it is going to be expensive. We shall need all the support we can get.

Chris Richardson.

In addition to the above we have also spoken to Beeston Labour Party and to a Ruddington Housewives group.

EDUCATION NEWS

It's exam howler time again. Unfortunately, I don't get the "In the native huts there was rough mating on the floor" type of mistake - usually its just drivel or bad spelling.

One child who was asked to give an everyday example of an exothermic reaction stated:-

"Burn pope."

Though I could not fault her on the exothermic nature of her answer, she nevertheless lost the mark because the event was not sufficiently 'everyday'.

It's also time for viewing next year's new 1st form. Last year we were blessed with a Carmen Jones - this year it's Sunshine Dobbs.(True)

Last Friday I had seventy minutes of sex with the 2nd form. Actually, it was 'Pregnancy in six easy stages'. Quite fun really; all you have to do is cut out the picture of the embryo, umbilical cord etc, paste them together and sew them into a little plastic bag. The instructions are **rather** racist for a multicultural school - like "Colour the baby in pink". "What shall we do if we haven't got pink?" said one little pest, who received the answer "Use green". One child was frustrated by the fact that her embryo wouldn't fit into her plastic bag and was visibly distressed by my suggestion of cutting its feet off.

