

The Out House Project Newsletter

The Newsletter of the Nottingham Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Community Centre Cooperative

Centre, what Centre?

Earlier this year, a general meeting of members decided to assess the viability of a property - 259 Mansfield Road - with an intention to buy. A cafe co-op was formed, business plans drawn up and much hard work undertaken - our thanks to all involved.

After several months of consideration, it became clear that whilst the building was eminently suitable as a centre, the location was not, both from a community and cafe business perspective. The work carried out has not been in vain, what it has achieved is raising the profile of the group enormously; membership has risen from 200 to 300 people with this giving Out House the skills and talent of new people to move forward with.

An Apology

Our apologies for the lack of Newsletters this year, this has been due in part to the enormous rise in new members and other administration.

The next General Meeting will be on Tuesday 23 January 1996 at 7:30pm at the ICC on Mansfield Road.

Which way NOW?

With a committed intention of 300 people, £60,000 plus and the backing of the City Council in the shape of a community development worker but with no building or immediate prospect, where now?

After much consultation, outreach and strategy planning meetings, it is obvious that we need to refocus and define the steps to fulfill the target of opening our centre. Our secretary, Paul Amann, is therefore, coordinating the production of possible business plans for our centre. Whilst recognising that business planning does not sit comfortably with the community service provision that Out House is aspiring to, business planning is seen as necessary to convince backers to fund us through grants, loans or other means.

These plans will provide focus as to what is feasible for us to take on now and what we will need to do to achieve our aims. They will incorporate the aspirations of the community as received through the market research that has been carried out. They will also draw upon the expertise of the community development worker in checking where we might get any extra funds.

These will be presented for consultation in the General Meeting on Tuesday, 23 January.

Consulting

Over the past six months, there has been much outreach work by Out House. This has seen us taking the time to involve the community in our project, raise membership and take note of opinions. New market research questionnaires (see enclosed) and new membership forms have attracted new people to the project and ensured that people are passing on their views. Local pubs and clubs have hosted our displays, and members have spoken at meetings of various local LGB groups.

If you are interested in getting involved with outreach, or have any ideas about outreach - let us know. Paul Amann is coordinating much of this and would love to have some help and/or ideas. The display stall will be at the Birthday Party at the Admiral Duncan on Friday 15 December - see over!

The results of the market research will be processed for presentation at the January meeting - but they are already showing some interesting responses:

"Don't angle everything for gay men. (Not all of us use the Women's Centre, so you do have a ready market!)"

Will it be alcohol free, "everything else revolves around alcohol, and after all, good coffee and exciting desserts are more important!"

"CAN CAFE PROVIDE BOTH "CHEAP" & "SMART" (FOOD), TO ALLOW CHOICE & INCREASE INCOME GENERATION POTENTIAL!"

"Polite and friendly staff! Very Important"

"A place for all, not just the beautiful people"

Celebrating

A Decade of Achievement

Out House started out ten years ago with a small group of friends. It has grown to become an organisation of 300 members with over £60,000 to its name. To mark the first decade of the project, we are holding a birthday party at The Admiral Duncan, on Friday 15th December. The display stand with information will be available.

The evening will see a cake cutting and a raffle with prizes including:

- Jewellery
- Wines
- Cinema Tickets
- Spirits
- Book Tokens
- Designer Clothes
- A Hair Cut
- Hotel Break at a gay resort
- Computer Software

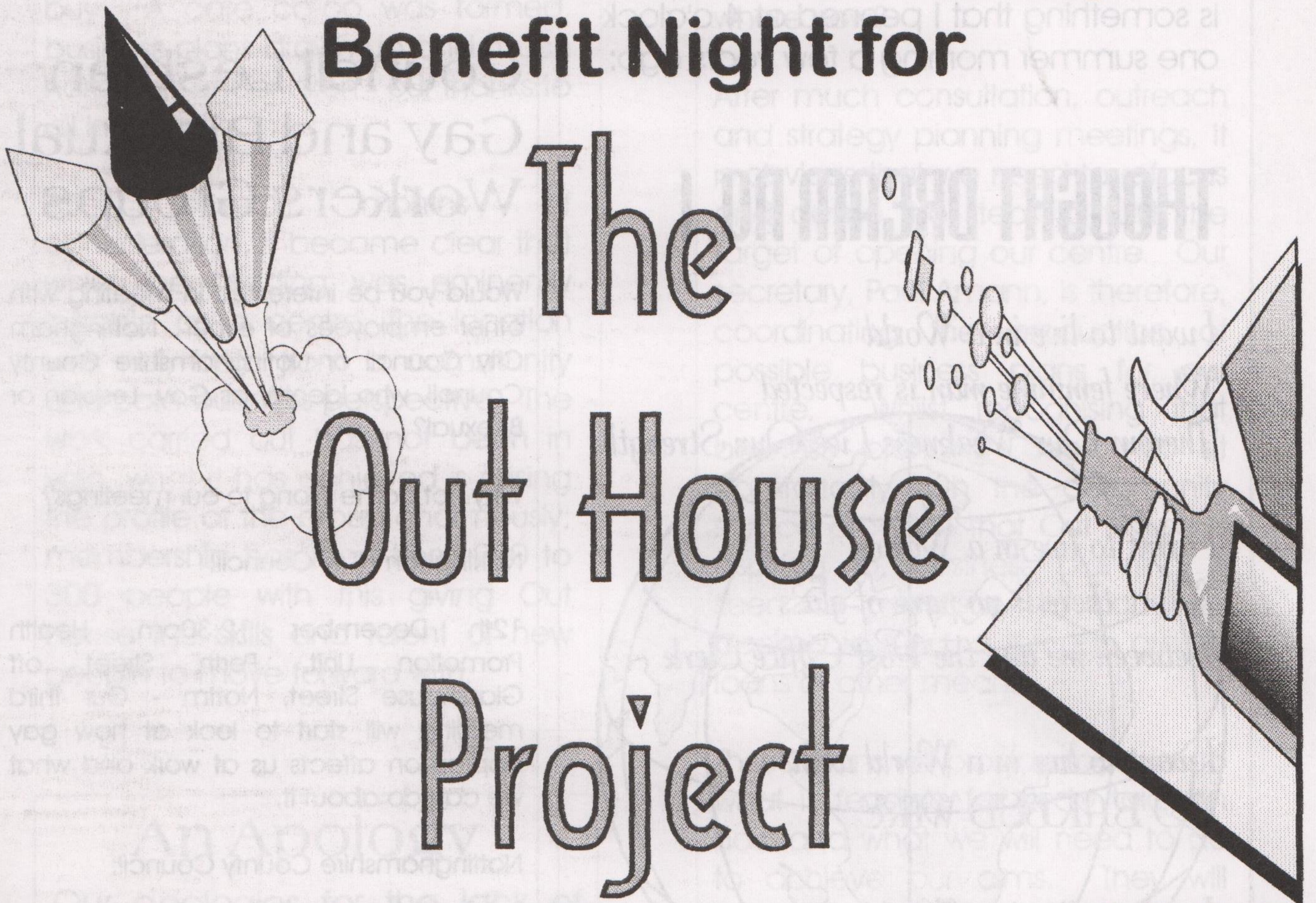
We would like to thank: Graham and Martin at The Duncan, Mike at The New Market, Simon and Nigel at Ice Nine, Mark at Ted Baker, Mushroom Bookshop, Hiziki, Colin's Hotel, Foresters Inn (Huntingdon Street) and all who have contributed to this by supplying prizes and buying tickets!

NEW REFURBISHED

Admiral Duncan

74 Lower Parliament Street, Nottingham

**Presents a 10th Birthday
Benefit Night for**



Friday 15th December 1995

From 8pm 'til 1:30am - last admission 11pm

Further details from:

The Out House Project
Box 11
118 Mansfield Road
Nottingham
NG1 3HL

Nottingham Lesbian & Gay Switchboard
Monday to Friday,
7pm 'til 10pm
(0115) 941 1454

Poetry Corner

I am inviting people to send in poems of their own. It might be something that you wrote in school or at some time when you had aspirations of becoming a great novelist and all you could manage was a few rhyming words or an inspired paragraph. Here is something that I penned at 4 o'clock one summer morning a few years ago:

THOUGHT DREAM NO. 1

*I want to live in a World
Where feminine man is respected
Therein Our Weakness Lies Our Strength*

*I want to live in a World
Where there is no pane of glass
Between me and the Post Office Clerk*

*I want to live in a World with
NO BARBED WIRE*

*I want to live in a World
With Herds of Wild Horses*

*This is the future, this morning
I caught a glimpse of it on
the Horizon.*

(C) BEANO

EQUALITIES

The Equality and Training Sub-Group have drawn up a Equal Opportunities Draft Policy for discussion at the next general meeting. Copies are available on request.

Council Lesbian Gay and Bisexual Workers Groups

Would you be interested in meeting with other employees of either Nottingham City Council or Nottinghamshire County Council, who identify as Gay, Lesbian or Bisexual?

Why not come along to our meetings?

Nottingham City Council:

12th December 12:30pm, Health Promotion Unit, Perth Street off Glasshouse Street, Nottm - Our third meeting will start to look at how gay oppression affects us at work and what we can do about it.

Nottinghamshire County Council:

11th December 8pm Broadway Cafe Bar, Hockley, Nottm - Our Christmas social offers an informal networking opportunity.

Our meetings have been arranged at different times of the day to see which times are best for people. Please remember that the City Council allow workers a half hour of work time to attend the dinner time meetings. Contact Greg on 950 3750 or Rachel on 940 5218 for information.