

OUT and ABOUT

Meet Ben Clarke, International Oarsman and former Nottinghamshire County Rower. At present Ben is heavily involved in the Nottingham Lesbian & Gay Youth Organization which he helped to found about a year ago. "Adolescence was a difficult enough time for me with all the pressures to conform from family, school and friends. Knowing that I was gay and that there were others around like me was a real comfort, but it took sometime to make contact with others. "I hope the knowledge that we now have a group in the city will be a stepping stone". Ben enjoys the open air, plays guitar and writes and is also a member of the City Council's newly formed Lesbian & Gay Sub-Committee. (Further details of NLGYO from Box 11, Community Groups Centre, 118 Mansfield Road, Nottingham, (SAE please).

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S OFFICE
EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES UNIT

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES OFFICER/S (LESBIAN/GAY ISSUES)

Ref: CE/5918 P01 £11,582 £12,645 or pro-rata

This post is a new initiative and is considered particularly suitable for Job Sharing.

The postholder/s will have general responsibility for the promotion, development and implementation of the City Council's Equal Opportunities Policy with a specialist responsibility for Lesbian and Gay Issues and Rights, which are an integral part of the Council's Equal Opportunities Policy. Duties include research, a continuous review of Council policies, advising on Lesbian and Gay issues, contributing to the development of training programmes and representing the City Council as required.

No specialist qualifications are required. However, the successful applicant/s will have direct personal knowledge and experience of discrimination against Lesbians and Gays, and also experience of working directly with the Lesbian and Gay communities.

Knowledge of and a full commitment to the principles of Equal Opportunities will be considered an important pre-requisite for the post.

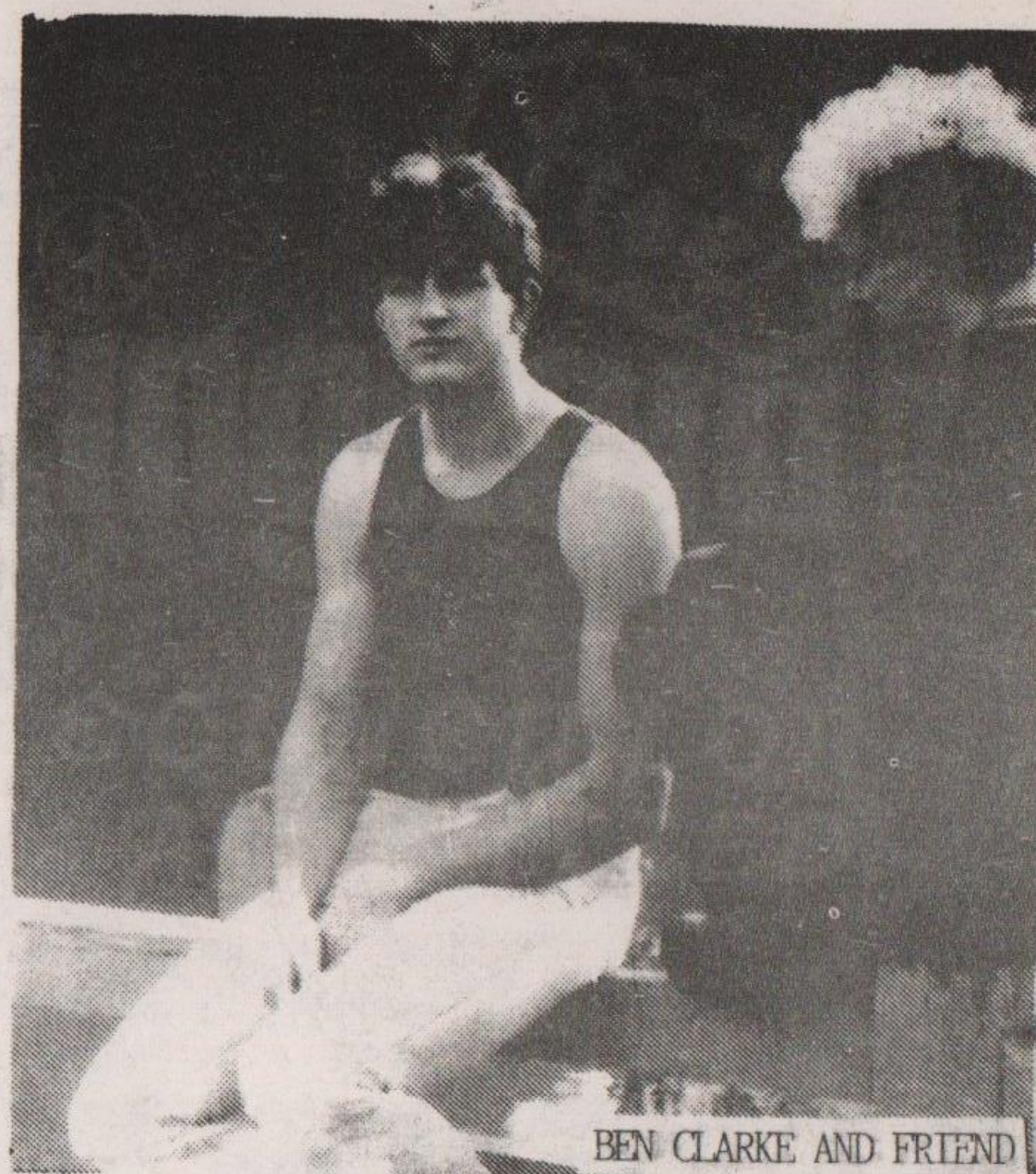
Application forms & further details from the Personnel Manager, City Secretary's Dept, The Guildhall, Nottingham NG1 4BT. Tel: (0602) 418571

ext. 4624. Closing date for applications: 31st May, 1985.



City of Nottingham
An Equal Opportunity Employer

Applications are welcome from candidates regardless of race, culture, ethnic origin, sex, marital status, sexual orientation and physical disability.



BEN CLARKE AND FRIEND

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gay info gay info

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THE FORESTERS, St. Ann St, (back of Victoria
Centre. Attractive, cosy, mixed - noisier darts
match Mondays - lesbian/gay with friendly atmosphere.

GATSBY'S, Huntingdon Street, Tel:
55323, Formerly Central Tavern, Nottingham's main gay pub, busy weekends.

THE MANOR, Albert Rd, West Bridgford, (off
Central Avenue), 816662. Large, comfortable
disco, mainly lesbians, Saturdays, 8-Midnight.
"Golden Oldies" selections. Doors close 10pm.
Manor Club entrance.

BOLTS at Easy Street, Masonic Place,
Goldsmith Street, Tel: 472525.
Wednesday disco, 9pm-2am, laser-lit
club, £2.00 + free membership then
£1.00, (Bolt's members £1.00).

PART II DISCO, Robert House, Canal Street,
Tel: 558866, Well equipped disco, high-energy
Wed-Sat, 9.30pm-2am; Sunday 9.30pm to 1am.
"Blues Club" (leather & denim) meet 1st Friday every month.

PAGES OF FUN, 147 Radford Road, Hyson
Green, Gay Bookshop specialises in
new and back issues of gay publications.

Printed by Nottingham
Community Arts Centre,
Hyson Green,
Nottingham.

GAY! Nottingham!

No. 3 APRIL 1985

PUT TOGETHER BY GAY MEN

MAY 2

DON'T WASTE YOUR VOTE!

In May 1983, Nottingham City Labour Party, promised, if elected, that they would fight on our side and give gay men and lesbians a share of the cake. And they have kept their word, so far, and got on with the job without fuss.

Only this month, a Lesbians and Gay Sub-Committee was set up to act as a watchdog for our interests, and will meet monthly. Lesbians and gay men sit on this committee along with councillors as advisors to tell the City Council what it should be doing. And in May, the Council is to appoint an Equal Opportunities Officer for Lesbian and Gay Rights to help improve the quality of life for all of us (see advert on back page).

However, Nottingham's Conservative councillors have refused to take up their two places on the new committee. Here are some comments from three of them:

CLLR. JOHN CARTER (Conservative Shadow Chair of Equal Opportunities Committee and a member of Nottingham Samaritans) "THEY MAY SEE THEMSELVES AS DEPRIVED BUT THEY ARE NOT ON MY PRIORITY LIST" (Evening Post 28.1.85).

CLLR. ALFRED STONE (CON.) "THESE PEOPLE ARE UNFORTUNATE. WE KNOW THEY EXIST AND NO ONE SHOULD SET OUT TO INJURE THEM". (Evening Post 8.3.85).

CLLR. BILL BRADBURY (Conservative Shadow Leader)
CONSERVATIVES WILL CONTINUE TO SPEAK OUT AGAINST POLICIES FOR A LESBIAN AND GAY SUB-COMMITTEE AND A GAY CENTRE - ALL ON THE RATES! (Conservative Group's Newsletter, December, 1984).

This is what Conservative City Councillors are saying about lesbians and gays continually. They conveniently forget that we pay our rates which go towards providing the services which we have paid for, and which the Conservatives would deny us if we voted them in. There is no reason to believe that if they were returned to power in the County Council elections on May 2nd that they would be any different from their City counterparts.

Two years ago a Labour candidate who stood as an 'out' gay man was elected to the City Council. His election was helped by lesbians and gay men turning out to the polls and using their voting power. YOU have the power to choose who will best serve your interests. But you only get the chance to have your say once every four years. Don't waste it!

Wanted!

City of Nottingham
An Equal Opportunity Employer

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES OFFICER/S
(LESBIAN/GAY ISSUES)

(see page 4)

COUNCILLOR ACQUITTED!



Forest Fields Councillor Richard McCance had his court case delayed recently because of his mother's hearing aid.

Magistrates at Rugby where the gay councillor was facing wilful obstruction charges, had to stop the trial when Mrs. McCance's hearing aid started making a high-pitched squeal. And the prosecution even accused her of trying to tape-record the trial until she explained she was deaf.

The interruption came during the four-hour hearing which ended with the Nottingham Councillor being found not guilty of the charges.

"It was clear from the start that the police were lying when I was cross-examining them and the magistrates realised this. They claimed that I was sitting in the road and though this was backed up by another constable, when pressed they could not produce any evidence of this," said Cllr. McCance.

He was one of eighteen people arrested last November at a rally in Rugby, protesting at the Tory Council's decision to ban gays from council employment.

Copy deadline: 10th May. Send to GAY NOTTINGHAM, Box 11, c/o 118 Mansfield Road, Nottingham.

Nottingham's Alternative Furnishers

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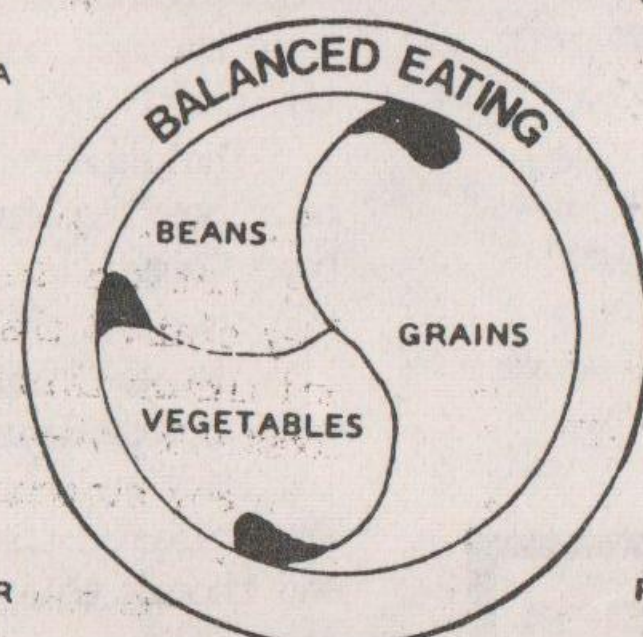
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BLACK AND GAY

On Tuesday the 8th January we had the first Black Lesbian and Gay Men's meeting in Manchester, that I can ever recall at least. A successful meeting by any standard. Given the enormous social difficulties faced by black gay people it is often difficult to bring us together under a specific title ie. Black Gay Group or Black Lesbians and Gay Men's caucus, or any other such label.

Being our first meeting there were some plain ordinary practical considerations to be met. We had first to decide on the location of our next meeting. Although very grateful to the management of the Rembrandt Hotel we decided that the Manchester Gay Centre would be a more suitable spot in the future. We decided to meet on a monthly basis and chose the first Thursday of each month to do so.

Advertising was also an important consideration. We all realised that there could be a little difficulty in reaching a lot of Black Lesbians and Gay men. Although there are quite a few Black Lesbians and Gay men using the conventional Gay scene. It became apparent that, for reasons known only to themselves, a significant number of them rest their priorities on other aspects of their lives. There are also many Black Lesbians and Gay men who are not even aware that any such gay scene exists and are confined to chance sexual encounters within their usual heterosexual environment. So we felt that advertising must have a high place in our activities, at least in our early stage of development as a group, in the usual forms ie. Posters, the Press, leaflets, word of mouth etc.

At the present time the City Council has an Equal Opportunities policy operating, which, naturally, is attracting a lot of attention from the gay community as a whole. At our meeting we came to the conclusion that in the various meetings held, committees formed, there are sections of the gay community which are not included. There have been few young people, few old people and few black people involved in these matters. We felt if these sections of the gay community are to be properly represented, this situation has to be

amended. In so far as Black Lesbians and Gay Men are concerned we feel that our active involvement is a must.

It was the necessity for our involvement in this Equal Opportunities business that initially encouraged the setting up of these meetings. Yet the need for such a group as ours in Manchester has, I feel, been necessary for a long time.

Many black gay people find that to live out their homosexuality, either in secret or in public, have to remove themselves (to some degree) from the black community. An uncomfortable step, since any "cultural peculiarities" find no expression in the predominantly white gay scene. Any "cultural peculiarity" has either to be suppressed or become the object of entertainment, not necessarily of ridicule but nevertheless removed from the natural position these "cultural peculiarities" have in our lives. Ideally being Black Gay people together allows us to express ourselves however we wish to rather than how we are expected to.

The size of this city and consequently the size of the black community within it is not large enough for a commercial black gay scene to develop. The predominantly white gay scene is our only gay scene. I am not suggesting that black gay people are particularly dissatisfied with this setting. What I am trying to point out is that there are Black Lesbians and Gay men who socialise in a majority of black heterosexual world. It can be and is very uncomfortable to enter into a new social

scene (albeit a gay one) where you expect not to see one black face. A Black Gay group can and does provide that stepping stone.

There are many other aspects to being black and gay. There are also many other functions of a Black Gay group. Many of them will surface, naturally, to meet the requirements of the members of the group as the group matures. There is racism and sexual exploitation issues which carry heavier political connotations. These may or may not be issues faced by the group as a whole, but at least the arena is now there to do so.

Peter Nevins

This article first appeared in
MANCUNIAN GAY,

Gay man wanted to share 2-bed roomed, 3rd floor flat in Nottingham's Park, owner rarely there. Own room, large lounge, sunny balcony, garage, non-smoker preferred. From 1st May onwards, Rates negotiable. Box No. 1, GAY NOTTINGHAM c/o 118 Mansfield Road, Nottingham.

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