

# IN THE PINK

## DARK AGES

Anthony Beaumont-Dark, MP for Selly Oak in Birmingham has recently been entering into the great sex education debate. In the "Daily News" on 24th October he is quoted as saying:

"In this day of AIDS, which is the black death of our time, anything that encourages young people to look upon unnatural sex as desirable is a very bad thing.

"Homosexuality is not part of normal family life. Any sex education should encourage that."

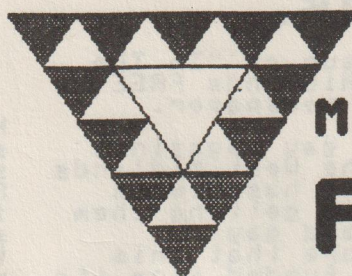
Leaving aside the need for gay teenagers to have information, it would be interesting to know how Mr Dark expects AIDS prevention work to be effective if you don't discuss sex, which is the main way in which the disease is transmitted.

It seems that the return to Victorian values also means that thousands of people are to die as a direct result of failure to prevent the spread of a sexually transmitted disease. In those days it was syphilis, now it's AIDS.

In the debate in the House of Commons the following local MPs joined Mr Dark to vote for parents to be given the right to withdraw children from sex education classes: David Gilroy (Evans (B'ham Yardley)), Dr John Blackburn (Dudley W), William Cash (Stafford), Warren Hawkesley (Wrekin), Ivan Lawrence (Burton), Sir Dudley Smith (Warwick & Leamington) and Peter Temple-Morris (Leominster).

They were unsuccessful in their attempts to amend the Government's Education Bill. However, they will no doubt be trying to impose their so called morality upon us at some future date.

You can always let them know how you feel by writing to them c/o The House of Commons, London SW1A 000.



WEST  
MIDLANDS  
FREE

LESBIAN & GAY  
NEWSPAPER

NOV 1986 No. 1

## YOUTH FESTIVAL

Young lesbians and gay men can often find it difficult coping with the problems of growing up in a heterosexual world. They often need their own space to come out into. The Lesbian and Gay Youth Movement (LGYM) and lesbian and gay youth groups can often supply the right environment.

Birmingham will host this years Lesbian and Gay Youth Festival, which will be held over the weekend of Friday 31st October to Sunday 2nd November at the Birmingham Lesbian and Gay Community Centre. The organisers, LGYM, hope to provide a wide range of activities including workshops, videos, theatre groups and individual entertainers.

The Festival will be open to anyone who is lesbian, gay or bisexual and under the age of twenty six. The cost will be £4 waged, £2 unwaged, student, YTS and free to anyone still at school or under the age of sixteen.

Cheap food will also be provided as well as free crash pad accommodation (Please bring a sleeping bag). If you would like further details of this or other activities of LGYM phone 01-317 9690 or write to LGYM c/o BM GYM, LONDON WC1N 3XX.

## DATA GAY

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address only - no callers please)

## WELCOME...

to the first issue of "In The Pink" the West Midlands FREE Lesbian and gay newspaper.

There have been gay magazines and papers in the West Midlands before, but there has always been a problem in getting them to the lesbian and gay community. We hope that this paper, which is funded from its advertising alone, will be able to get through to more lesbians and gay men than any of our predecessors. We are distributing 2,000 copies of this first edition to groups, pubs and clubs in the area.

Obviously this first issue is just a start. As our advertising revenue increases we will be able to expand to carry more articles, photos, etc.

Our editorial policy is to carry information for lesbians and gay men. Although some of the scene caters for single sex clientele we feel that it is important not to restrict our scope. The paper grew out of the Birmingham Lesbian and Gay Community Centre Newsletter, but we want to reach out to the lesbian and gay community at large.

What happens to the paper depends on you. Tell your friends about it. If you have something to say, write and let us know. We particularly want to hear about events in the area. If you would like to advertise we can do artwork for you. Our rates are very reasonable and we reach the parts of the West Midlands that the national gay press can't reach.

The copy date for the December issue is Wednesday 19th November and all items should be sent to:

"In The Pink"  
c/o 291 Corporation Street,  
BIRMINGHAM B4 7DP

We are particularly looking for articles, news ideas, events, cartoons, etc. If you've got an idea, get in touch.

Hope you enjoy this first issue, see you next month.



### FRIENDS OF THE EARTH BIRMINGHAM

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RECYCLED PAPER  
ENVELOPES, DUPLICATOR PAPER  
ALL AT 54 ALLISON ST, DIGBETH  
BIRMINGHAM 5 021-632 6909

## WOLVERHAMPTON REVISITED

Having moved from Wolverhampton some months ago I was pleased to see some changes on the Gay Scene. Cha Cha's in King Street is one of those shops which sells prints, small gifts and those cards that Mary Whitehouse would not approve of. It is run by Richard and Davyd who also run the connecting Madam Clarke's coffee shop.

Tastefully decorated to give it a airy, clean but not clinical look, Madam Clarke's has an up-market feel, but with very reasonable prices (19p for hot buttered toast, 85p for a baked potato with beef and onion filling). For those with a sweet tooth a range of pastries and cakes, most of which are made on the premises, are available. They serve over eight different varieties of tea as well as filtered coffee. Although neither Cha Cha's or Madam Clarke's are exclusively gay, both have an ambience which makes them popular with Wolverhampton's gays.

My next stop was The Lord Raglan in Great Brickkiln Street, which that evening being a Saturday night was positively "crawling with men". It has been redecorated in grey with touches of pink, together with prints of men in various states of undress and a new music system. The adjoining Scorpio's Club, which has introduced on Saturdays a regular Men Only night, with a programme of cabaret and male strippers, is expected to have a refit in the near future.

From the Raglan, I moved onto the Greyhound in Bond Street, not a gay pub as such but the Lounge Bar is used by a number of lesbians and gay men, particularly at weekends. Quieter than the Raglan it has a more traditional pub atmosphere (and it serves Bass!).

After the Greyhound I travelled on to The Silver Web in Whitmore Street at one time the Midlands largest gay club and certainly one of the oldest. Open Fridays and Saturdays and now has a Women Only night on Thursdays. The Web provides a nearly unique mixture of lesbians and gay men, and a different atmosphere from most clubs. It is well worth a visit.

We will be looking at other towns in the future. Next month I will be looking at the pub scene in Birmingham.

## YOUTH GROUP

Birmingham now has its own Lesbian and Gay Youth Group (under 26) which meets at the Lesbian and Gay Centre every Saturday 2pm - 5pm.

# gay guide

## BIRMINGHAM

LESBIAN & GAY COMMUNITY CENTRE  
291 Corporation St see diary.

CRUSIN' (shop) Theatre Approach  
off Smallbrook Queensway. Books,  
cards, Red Stripe etc for gay men

THE JESTER (pub) Holloway Circus  
Popular, mainly men.

THE QUEEN VICTORIA (pub)  
John Bright St - Mixed.

THE WINDMILL (pub) Hurst Street  
Mixed.

THE ANCHOR (pub WOMEN ONLY)  
Digbeth - in back room.

COACH & HORSES (pub WOMEN ONLY)  
Edward Rd, Balsall Heath  
THURSDAYS ONLY Disco from 9pm.

BOLTS at the DOME (club)  
Horsefair MONDAY NIGHTS ONLY.

THE JUG (club) 8a Albert St  
Mixed. Lesbians welcome.

NIGHTINGALE CLUB, 40 Thorpe St.  
Almost exclusively men.

THE POWERHOUSE (club) Hurst St  
THURSDAY NIGHT ONLY.

SPARTAN SAUNA 127 George Rd  
Erdington Sauna MEN ONLY  
021-382 3345.

THE WAREHOUSE 16 Fleet St  
Sauna MEN ONLY 021-233 3090.

CENTRAL RAINBOW Midlands deaf  
group phone 021-707 8327.

GAY OUTDOOR GROUP details phone  
Gordon 021-420 2694

LESBIAN & GAY YOUTH GROUP  
under 26 every Saturday 2pm -  
5pm at the Lesbian & Gay  
Community Centre.

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH  
phone 021-236 5419.

MIDLAND LINK MSC GROUP details  
Rob or Terry 021-783 2360.

TU/TS GROUP phone "Friend" for  
details.

## COVENTRY

THE SPITTLEMOOR (pub), Lower  
Ford St Mixed gay pub.

COVENTRY AREA GAY COMMUNITY  
write to 28 Corporation St,  
Coventry CV1 1PR.

COVENTRY CAMPAIGN FOR HOMOSEXUAL  
EQUALITY (0203) 714144 or write  
c/o 28 Corporation St.

COVENTRY LESBIAN & GAY YOUTH  
GROUP for those below 21 phone  
0203-25991 4pm-6pm on Sunday.

## LEAMINGTON SPA

K.A. BAR (pub) 44 Clarendon St  
8pm - midnight.

## LYE

GAY SOCIAL GROUP details phone  
Gay Switchboard 021-622 6589.

## SHREWSBURY

DELANY'S RESTAURANT St Almonds Sq  
Vegetarian restaurant -  
Gay men's & women's groups meet  
here phone Shropshire Gay  
Switchboard for details.

## SHIFNAL

BOOS FUN PUB (disco) 11 Market  
Place. Mondays 8pm - 1am. Mixed.

## STOKE ON TRENT

THE MOSTYN ARMS (pub) York St  
Hanley

THE STAGE DOOR (pub)  
Brunswick St, Hanley (behind the  
Theatre Royal) Mixed.

THE STAR (pub) Marsh St Mixed.  
Most popular gay pub in Stoke.

THE EXCALIBUR (club)  
Marsh St North, Hanley.

POTTERIES GAY COMMUNITY  
Meets 1st Mon at The Star.  
Details Peter Kildgrove 5270.

## STRATFORD UPON AVON

THE QUEEN'S HEAD (pub) Ely St.  
Mixed.

## WARLEY

THE BELL HOTEL (pub) St Annes Rd  
Cradley Heath. Mixed.

## WOLVERHAMPTON

WEST MIDLANDS AREA GAY GROUP  
Contact Peter 021-350 8453

THE GREYHOUND (pub) Bond St  
Lounge bar - Mixed.

THE LORD RAGLAN (pub)  
Great Brickkiln St.  
Lesbians & gay men.

SCORPIOS CLUB at the Lord Raglan  
MEN ONLY Saturdays Closed  
Mondays.

SILVER WEB CLUB Whitmore St.  
WOMEN ONLY Thursdays -  
Gay men & women Fri & Sat.

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if you are seeking  
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friendly and sympathetic service. Join Gayline  
and we will help you make the crucial first contact  
from which a rewarding gay friendship can stem.*

For our brochure send SAE to  
GL, PO Box 759, Selly Oak, Birmingham B29 4ND  
Or phone Membership Secretary Chris on 021-477 9811

# diary

LESBIAN & GAY COMMUNITY CENTRE,  
291 Corporation Street,  
BIRMINGHAM B4 7DP  
021-359 9660

## OPENING HOURS and GROUPS

WEDNESDAY 1pm-10pm  
Lesbian & Gay History Course  
7.30pm

THURSDAY 7pm-10pm  
Scrabble Group 7.30pm

FRIDAY  
Women ONLY events phone  
Lesbian Line for details

SATURDAY 1pm-7pm  
Lesbian & Gay Youth Group  
2pm-5pm

SUNDAY 7pm-10pm  
Bridge Group 7.30pm

Next Committee Meeting open to  
all members 7.30pm on Thursday  
6th November.

## OTHER EVENTS

Friday 31st Oct - Sunday 2nd Nov  
Lesbian & Gay Youth Festival at  
the Lesbian & Gay Centre.  
See article inside.

Friday 14th November  
High Dive Cabaret with Simon  
Fanshaw (gay comedian) & Jenny  
Leacock at the Triangle 8.30pm  
£3 (£2).

Saturday 15th November  
Lesbian Line Benefit Disco  
The Matador 8pm till late.

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Winter Fayre at Lesbian & Gay  
Community Centre on Sunday 14th  
December 2pm. If you would like  
to have stall for your group or  
to sell crafts, etc please  
contact the Centre.



## Helplines

### LOCAL PHONE LINES

BIRMINGHAM LESBIAN LINE  
021-359 3192  
Mon, Wed & Fri 7.30pm - 9.30pm

COVENTRY LESBIAN LINE  
0203-77105  
Wed 7pm - 10pm

NORTH STAFFS LESBIAN LINE  
0782-266998  
Fri 7pm - 10pm

AIDS LINE MIDLANDS  
021-622 1511  
Tues & Thurs 7.30pm - 10pm

COVENTRY C.H.E. AIDS HELPLINE  
0203-714144  
Mon 7pm - 10pm

NORTH STAFFS GAY SWITCHBOARD  
0782-266998  
Mon 8pm - 10pm

SHROPSHIRE GAY SWITCHBOARD  
095245-2384  
Tues & Fri 8pm - 10pm

FRIEND COVENTRY  
0203-25991  
Women staff Tues 7pm - 10pm  
Mixed staff Weds & Fri 7pm-10pm

FRIEND WEST MIDLANDS  
021-622 7351  
Mon - Thurs 7.30pm - 9pm

GAY SWITCHBOARD WEST MIDLANDS  
021-622 6589  
Every evening 7pm - 10pm

### NATIONAL PHONE LINES

LONDON LESBIAN & GAY SWITCHBOARD  
01-837 7324  
24 hours every day.

LONDON LESBIAN LINE  
01-251 6911  
Mon & Fri 2pm - 10pm.  
Tues, Weds & Thurs 7pm - 10pm

LESBIAN & GAY YOUTH MOVEMENT  
PHONELINE 01-317 9690  
Mon, Wed & Fri 6pm - 9pm  
Sat & Sun 3pm - 6pm.

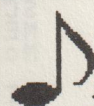
TERRENCE HIGGINS TRUST  
01-833 2971  
For advice about AIDS.

# CALLING ALL LESBIANS

Your very own GIRL's ONLY club  
Now open every Thursday  
9pm - 2am admission 60p  
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## THE SILVER WEB

Whitmore St  
Wolverhampton (0902) 29297



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IN THE ROCK

