

IN THE PINK

ARCHBISHOP SAYS "BAN GAY LESSONS"

The banner headline on the front page of the "Daily Mail" (Friday 21st Nov):

"PRIMATE: BAN THESE GAY LESSONS"

In this "exclusive" article the Archbishop of York seems to be very upset at the prospect of teachers dealing positively with homosexuality in schools. He continued:

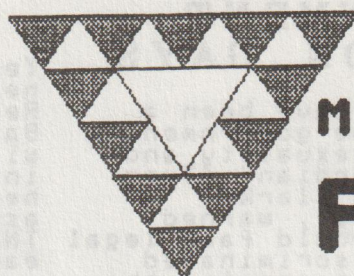
"I regard homosexuality as a misfortune and therefore, although I recognise that those who are homosexual can, and indeed must, work out a lifestyle for themselves which takes this into account, I do not regard it as in all aspects equivalent to simply an indifferent alternative to a heterosexual lifestyle."

"While I think it is desirable that homosexuals as a group should not feel themselves beleaguered, threatened and shunned by society, I do not think it is wise to go to the opposite extreme and actually promote this as an entirely acceptable alternative lifestyle."

Dr Habgood talks about gay clergy and does say that sexual orientation should "not make any difference to whether they should be ordained or not."

However, in his approach to this subject he shows a bias which would not be tolerated by any other minority group in the country. He is, by the comments he makes about homosexuality being a "misfortune", making the situation for gay people much harder. By expressing such an opinion which portrays gay people as second class citizens, he makes sure that we stay in that position.

Homosexuality is a part of being human. Dr Habgood's comments show that we still have a long way to go before homophobia (fear of homosexuality) is finally eradicated. AIDS panic is often a way to dress up such homophobia.



WEST
MIDLANDS
FREE

LESBIAN & GAY
NEWSPAPER

DEC 1986 No. 2

LESBIAN PARENTS PLAN

A report drawn up by Barbara Webster, head of Birmingham City Council's Women's unit, proposes that lesbians should be allowed to act as foster parents. The report is partly comprised of recommendations by the European Parliament, the National Women's Commission and the Association of Women's Committees.

Tory councillor Bernard Zissman has said: "I think this will horrify the public of Birmingham... If lesbians are allowed to foster it is only a short time to the same right being given to men living in a homosexual relationship." He also promised that the Tories would fight the proposal.

NEWS IN BRIEF WASTING TIME ON GAYS

Councillor Frank Carter (Labour, Aston), who said that "my approach to the (Labour) Party members was that we have got to stop wasting time discussing providing units for homosexuals and things like that," has been unanimously re-selected to stand as the Labour candidate for Aston. It's a pity that he is not following party policy on this matter, which at the recent party conference supported gay rights. Lesbian and gay rights supporters in the party are to confront Councillor Carter on this matter.

ANTI-VIRUS BREAKTHROUGH

Scientists from Genentech Biotechnology in San Francisco and at the German Cancer Research Institute at Heidelberg, have isolated a substance called Tumor Necrosis Factor (TNF). TNF acts as a broad spectrum anti-viral agent by increasing resistance to viral infections and selectively killing infected cells.

Drs Grace Wong and David Goeddel of Genentech hope that combined with interferon it "could be a powerful and general host defence system".

Continued page 2

GOVERNMENT CHANGE ON GAYS

There appears to have been a major shift in the government's approach to homosexuality and AIDS. In "The Guardian" (Tues Nov 25th) Kenneth Clarke, Employment Minister, warned firms that they could face legal action if they discriminated against anyone who carried the AIDS virus or might be thought to be at risk.

The Terrence Higgins Trust has received numerous reports of gay men being fired because of unfounded fears. A 28 year old man in South London was sacked when his workmates complained that he was a risk to them. "Management asked him to take the virus antibody test. It came up negative. He was still dismissed," said Nick Partridge, a spokesperson for the trust.

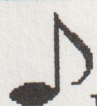
The AIDS virus is spread through sexual intercourse, contaminated blood products and infected needles, and not through casual contact. A person could not transmit the virus by working at the next desk, the next bench, by sharing the lavatory, crockery, or eating in the same canteen. People were not at risk either, if kitchen staff were virus carriers," said Mr Clarke.

The government is now worried that people will become more secretive about their personal lifestyles and not come forward for testing, advice and counselling.

The government has always been reluctant to either change laws or protect gay people in employment. It appears now that in the face of enormous public panic, largely fuelled by the Press, they have been forced to take action.

If you are worried about AIDS or are thinking about having the AIDS virus test, then contact one of the counselling services listed in the helplines section on the back page.

It is important to find out as much as you can about AIDS from reliable sources.



WOMEN'S MUSIC

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ROCK CLASSICAL

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plus T-shirts

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(phone first)

WRPM

62 Woodstock Road
Midwinter BIRMINGHAM B13 9BN
Fayre stall 021-449 7041
at Lesbian & Gay Centre 14th Dec

ANTI-VIRUS BREAKTHROUGH

from page 1

Tests will begin with TNF from next year at the Imperial Cancer Research Fund by Dr Frances Backwell. It is hoped that TNF will be effective in preventing infection from the common cold, herpes and HIV (the virus associated with AIDS). However, TNF is only effective at the earliest stages of infection.

NEW GAY PUB FOR BRUM

The Nightingale is to open a gay pub on the ground floor of the building adjoining their current premises. Construction is expected to be completed by the summer of 1987. The planned new pub is expected to cost in excess of £140,000. An expansion of the Nightingale club is hoped to take place on the floor above the new pub in the near future.

BR and AIDS

A leaflet giving advice on AIDS has been released to all its employees by British Rail. It reassures them that they cannot catch AIDS through casual contact. It states that there is no risk of transmission from mouth to mouth resuscitation, and that the risk from blood spillage is no greater than that of Hepatitis B. Consequently, procedures for dealing with blood spillages will remain the same. All in all, well reasoned, accurate advice.

GAOL GAYS SAYS TORY

Further measures to control AIDS have been proposed by Desmond Swayne, a Tory candidate. He suggests that male homosexual practices be recriminalised and that offenders should be goaled.

COVENTRY GAY ROW

Coventry Liberal councillor, Rob Wheway, has asked Neil Kinnock, to intervene in Labour controlled Coventry, over the Council's refusal to accept an equal opportunities policy for lesbians and gay men. This is a refusal to implement official Labour party policy.

BIBLICAL RESTRAINTS

In a speech to the House of Lords on November 18th, Hugh Montefiore, the Bishop of Birmingham, produced his solution to the problem of preventing the spread of AIDS. "AIDS is a deadly disease at the moment... it is incurable and always ends in death... but if this country returns to the Biblical restraints of sexual behaviour, the mortal danger will vanish over night."

If you see articles in the Press or know of items which would be of interest to our readers, please get in contact with us.

Our address is on the back page.

BRUM PUB SCENE

For a city of Birmingham's size you would expect there to be a lot more gay pubs. By comparison with Manchester, for example, there is a real lack of choice. However, Birmingham does have a growing gay scene and the established gay pubs have been improving their image. One general gripe, however, like so much of Birmingham why is disabled access so bad in all the gay pubs?

The Jester on Horsefair is a modern downstairs bar which has a loyal clientele, mainly gay men, but with a growing number of lesbian customers. The central oval bar, which makes seeing who's in easier, is the main feature. If there is a bias in its custom, then it tends towards the twenties to thirties age group trendier scene goes.

After years of neglect a considerable sum of money was spent giving The Jester a face lift and a more up market appearance. During the day the lighting is set fairly high, as it is during the early evening. However, as the evening progresses so the lights dim and the disco lighting comes on. Besides the bar there is a food server area which at lunchtimes is quite popular.

Birmingham's second and more recent gay pub is the Windmill on Hurst Street. Like the

Jester it is a downstairs pub with one bar.

The variety of people is broader than the Jester, as are the number of lesbians using it. Punks mingle happily with clones and gay women. The proprietors, Larry and Paul, pay particular attention to the food which is always available both hot and cold at reasonable prices. A feature of the Windmill is the Sunday cabarets, usually drag but including male strippers and other acts. Another regular feature is the nightly disco which is particularly popular with its younger customers. Larry and Paul hope in the later part of the new year to completely refurbish the Windmill. Already considerable improvements have been made behind the scenes.

The third gay pub in Birmingham is the Queen Victoria on the corner of John Bright Street. Unlike either the Windmill or the Jester the Queen Victoria is mixed, both gay and straight. Being next to the Alexandra Theatre the Victoria attracts the theatre going public as well as its usual gay customers. Together with a more traditional pub atmosphere (beer on hand pump) the Victoria provides a change to other gay pubs.

The future looks very bright with the improving scene and the prospect of another gay pub opening in the New Year.



MIDWINTER FAYRE

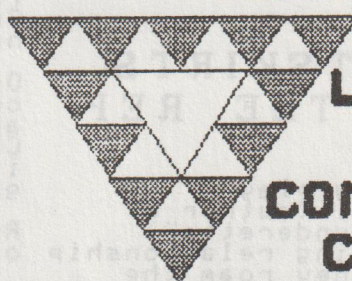


2 pm

SUNDAY

14th DECEMBER

ADMISSION 10p



LESBIAN
& GAY
COMMUNITY
CENTRE

291 CORPORATION ST
BIRMINGHAM 4

MUSIC

CRAFTS

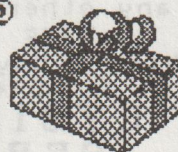
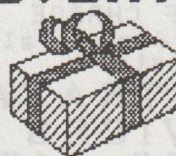
JEWELLRY

BOOKS

WOODWORK

plus

AFTERNOON TEAS
& EVENTS



EDITORIAL

Here we are in the second issue. Some people will no doubt be surprised to see that we have got another issue out and that this time we have expanded to eight pages.

We have been asked why we are a "Lesbian and Gay Newspaper", surely lesbians are gay? Firstly, some lesbians feel that they have little in common with gay men. Secondly, by just calling this paper a gay newspaper, most people would interpret this as a gay men's newspaper. We are committed to gay and lesbian liberation, not just gay liberation.

There has been a lot of positive feedback on the first issue. We hope you will enjoy this edition. Please let us know what you think.

We have had a letter from a woman in Wolverhampton, who sent us this poem:

There must be others
Afraid like me,
Perhaps I'd feel better
If them I could see
The same bewilderment
Panic prevailing
Along tightly closed tear ducts
Self confidence sailing.

Hope you have a nice, but safe, time over the holiday. See you in the new year.



OUTSKIRTS AT THE REP

"Outskirts" a new play by Hanif Kureishi (author of "My Beautiful Launderette") traces the shifting relationship of two boys as they roam the bleak wastegrounds of South London in 1969 and twelve years later when they are reunited. Hanif Kureishi evokes the hopes and delusions of youth.

The play is currently on at Birmingham Repertory Theatre Studio 021-236 4455 until 20th December.

PENSIONS MORTGAGES SAVINGS PROTECTION INVESTMENT

Traditional or Unit Linked
or any other financial advice

FREE OF CHARGE

Lesbian & Gay financial issues
understood

**LYSISTRATA
SERVICES**

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Call back if no reply

HOW TO SURVIVE CHRISTMAS

Well, it's almost Christmas time again and for a lot of gay people there is the problem of how to survive. There are two sorts of problems that seem to crop up:

Firstly, when you have to go home to spend time with your parents. How do you cope with Aunt Mabel asking when you are going to settle down and get married and what to say when you are given a pair of fawn, yellow and puce socks? Often gay people feel very isolated, even among their own family.

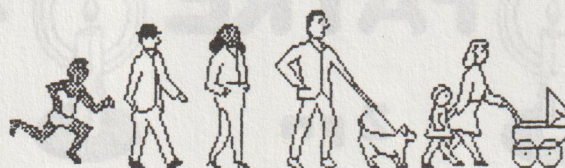
Secondly, there are gay people who are on their own for Christmas. Christmas Day can seem to last forever when you're on your own. Even the telly programmes can make you feel that you are not part of society but merely an observer of it.

Now for some suggestions on how to cope. If you have to go home for Christmas you can find out if there are any gay pubs near by. Ring a local Switchboard or London Lesbian and Gay Switchboard to find out local details.

Gay Switchboards can also be useful if you want a chat, if you end up spending the Festive Season on your own. Don't be frightened of phoning up. Switchboards will be only too happy to have a chat with you.

Often by contacting friends you could find out if any of them are going to be spending Christmas on their own and see if they would be interested in getting together.

Remember, Christmas comes but once a year and is soon over !!!



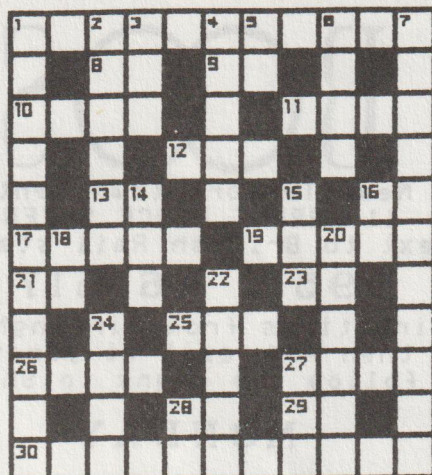
GAY OUTDOOR GROUP

The Birmingham branch of the Gay Outdoor Club (GOC), which organises outdoor events such as rambling, cycling and swimming, will be holding its yearly planning meeting at the Lesbian and Gay Centre on Sunday, 7th December, at 5pm.

This Winter's program for the GOC includes a Christmas meal - Italian style - on 18th December, and an eight mile walk, in January, in Warwickshire.

For more details about the Birmingham GOC, phone Gordon: 021-420 2694.

DECEMBER
CROSSWORD



ACROSS

- 1 Writer of Purple prose (5,6)
 8 Negative (2)
 9 Curie's element (2)
 10 Neat & (4)
 11 Nightingale did this (4)
 12 Cleopatra's death instrument (3)
 13 Morning (2)
 16 Muscle exertion (1,1)
 17 Effeminate (5)
 19 Singer of 30 across listened to this (5)
 21 Poison (2)
 23 Mike, Amp, Speaker (1,1)
 25 Woodhouse command (3)
 26 Preposition (4)
 27 Contraceptive (4)
 28 Not out (2)
 29 Not in (safe sex) (2)
 30 Slogan & song (4,2,2,3)

DOWN

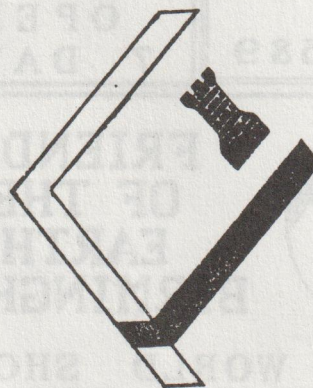
- 1 AC not DC (11)
 2 Ocean (6)
 3 Shy (3)
 4 Limp RAC... (5)
 5 Not RAC (2)
 6 High ranking Central Asian (4)
 7 Ideologically correct drama (5,2,4)
 14 Initial sexist man (3)
 15 Hat (3)
 16 Egyptian formula (2)
 18 .. You Like It (2)
 20 .. agency (6)
 22 Key instrument (5)
 24 War-time radio comedy (4)
 27 Edgar Allen ... (3)
 28 information technology (abr) (3)

GOVERNMENT TO USE
FOUR LETTER WORDS
IN AIDS AD

DON'T!



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'Red Stripe'

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The TERENCE HIGGINS TRUST recommends that if you must have intercourse use a strong condom.

Nationwide, both vending machine and trade enquires tel: 01-727 7973

Please send 2 pks of 6 RED STRIPE and a safe sex guide plus a complimentary tube of SENSITAL lubricant. I enclose a cheque/postal order for £4.25 (p&p inc.) Please make cheques payable to F.T.C.

name.....
address.....
..... code.....

F.T.C.
Dept ITP
2 Ladbroke Grove
London W11 3BG

This coupon or a letter will suffice to order.

GAY



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(WESTMIDLANDS)
Need to talk to
someone?
OPEN 7pm-10pm

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622 6589**

THE JESTER

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FRIENDLY
GAY PUB

**OPEN
7 DAYS**



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WHOLEFOODS, BOOKS, INFORMATION
DIY DRAUGHTPROOFING
ORGANIC VEGETABLES, STATIONARY
RECYCLED PAPER
ENVELOPES, DUPLICATOR PAPER
ALL AT 54 ALLISON ST, DIGBETH
BIRMINGHAM 5 021-632 6909

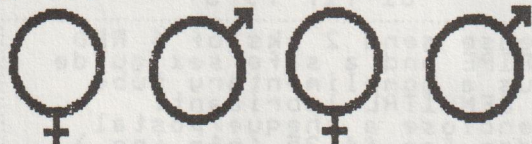
CROSSWORD SOLUTION

ACROSS

1. Alice Walker; 8. No; 9. Ra;
10. tidy; 11. sang; 12. asp; 13.
am; 16. PT; 17. nancy; 19.
radio; 21. As; 23. PA; 25. sit;
26. into; 27. pill; 28. in; 29.
on; 30. Glad to be Gay.

DOWN

1. alternating; 2. Indian; 3.
coy; 4. wrist; 5. AA; 6. khan;
7. right on play; 14. MCP; 15.
gap; 16. Pi; 18. As; 20. dating;
22. piano; 24. ITMA; 27. Poe;
28. IT.



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for men and women

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if you are seeking
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companionship
or a lasting
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GL, PO Box 759, Selly Oak, Birmingham B29 4ND
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Near Telford town centre
11 MARKET PLACE SHIFNAL
Next to British Rail station

0952 461517

Directions from Birmingham:-
M6 then M54, exit at junction 4
& follow the signs to Shifnal

MONDAY GAY NIGHTS

Monday December 2nd.

Star attraction

NORMA LEWIS

and High Energy Sounds

with D.J. NICK

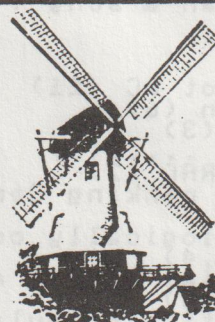
Forthcoming attractions

7th AVENUE

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

BOOZE & CRUISE AT BOOS

LARRY & PAUL
welcome old &
new friends to



THE WINDMILL

Hurst Street Birmingham 5
021-622 4710

Nightly disco and Sunday
Cabarets in a warm & friendly
atmosphere.

30th NOV RICKY DEVEAUX
7th DEC BOSOM BUDDIES
14th DEC DIAMONDS LAMORE
21st DEC BROADWAY BIRDS
28th DEC MR RUSTY "FLUFF"
1st JAN "MISS WINDMILL"
DRAG COMPETITION

SHOW TIMES 1pm & 9pm

**HOT & COLD FOOD
ALWAYS AVAILABLE**

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)
Rea St, Digbeth - in back room.
Not always exclusively women,
Wednesday ONLY.

STATION PUB (pub - WOMEN)
High St, Kings Heath.
"Sheila's Bar" Tuesday ONLY
NOT exclusively lesbian.

QUARTER MOON CLUB (WOMEN ONLY)
Branstons St, Hockley
Saturday nights.
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.

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c/o 28 Corporation St.

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

SHIFNAL

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

SHREWSBURY

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

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
meet 1st Mon at The Star.
Details Peter Kidsgrave 5270.

STOURBRIDGE

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

STRATFORD UPON AVON

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

WARLEY

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

WOLVERHAMPTON

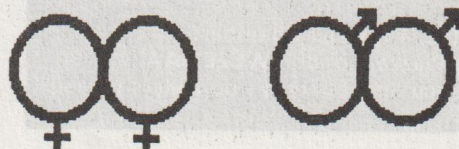
WEST MIDLANDS AREA GAY GROUP
Contact Peter 021-350 8453

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 ONLY Fridays
men & women Saturdays.



diary

LESBIAN & GAY COMMUNITY CENTRE,
291 Corporation Street,
BIRMINGHAM B4 7DP
021-359 5660

OPENING HOURS and GROUPS

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

THURSDAY 7pm-10pm
Games Group 7.30pm

FRIDAY 7pm-10pm
Women ONLY events phone
Lesbian Line for details

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

SUNDAY 7pm-10pm
Bridge Group 7.30pm

Young Lesbian Group 1st Saturday
of the month. (6th Dec) phone
Lesbian Line for details.

Next Committee Meeting open to
all members 7.30pm on Thursday
4th December.

OTHER EVENTS

Mid-Winter Fayre at the Centre
on Sunday 14th December 2pm.

Women's Sing Around on Friday
12th December at 8pm at the
Centre.

We would like to carry
information about other groups.
Please send us details.

DATA GAY

DO YOU VALUE A CHOICE?

We believe you deserve one - and that's
why DATAGAY originated, to offer
imaginative gay men and lesbians the
Alternative Introduction Service...
providing confidential introductions for
people who genuinely want to meet
compatible friends or someone
special... 'phone or write now for
brochure... with no obligation.

01-690 1812 (24 hours)

DG, 1 Russell Chambers,
The Piazza, London WC2E 8AA
(correspondence address only - no callers please)



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.

Would you like a job visiting
and helping house-bound and
isolated people in the
community?
The House-bound Visiting Service
is looking for 5 workers to work
22 hours per week for 1 year.
Wages £63 per week. This is a
Community Programme so only long
term unemployed people can be
considered.
If you are interested phone
Barbie Norden on 021-773 8425
for further info.

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