

IN THE PINK

2,500 DISTRIBUTED MONTHLY
FULL GAY GUIDE

Playing in the Park

Over six-hundred people enjoyed a night to remember at Birmingham's new gay venue on Tuesdays, Pagoda Park. Even the non-arrival of the promised fireworks (which were held up in France) did not stop the opening night from going with a bang!

The music was provided by Funky Dunc, using his mixing talents to the full on what must be one of the most sophisticated sound systems in the Midlands, if not the whole country, in what can only be described as Birmingham's most sumptuous night club. The DJ, Duncan, went up as well as down (a new experience for him, I'm sure) on his mixing desk, so he could see both of the dance floors.

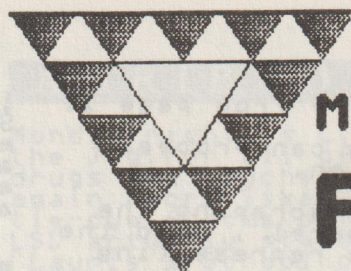
Most people congregated on the lower level, giving the advantage of a less crowded dance floor upstairs, and plenty of seating, much of which overlooked the Queensway!

The venue's overall campness was heightened by change being given on saucers, probably in the vain hope of being left a tip... Drink prices, except for cheap bitter and lager at 90p a pint, are what you expect nowadays - and still a lot cheaper than a comparable night out in London.

The only real dislike expressed for Pagoda Park was from the good old Nightingale, whose regular Tuesday night bunch ventured over the road. Surely Birmingham must be able to support more gay venues than it has had in the past. For so long, a choice of venue has not been possible, and surely some competition will mean an improvement.

Raglan Change

The Lord Raglan in Wolverhampton is under new management and it would appear that the pub will no longer be a gay venue. Further details will be in the next issue.



**WEST
MIDLANDS
FREE**

**LESBIAN & GAY
NEWSPAPER**

APRIL 1987 No. 6

A Policeman's Lot is Not a Gay One!

In October 1986 two policemen, posing as a gay couple, stayed the night at a Birmingham gay guest house. Sitting on the sofa holding hands they watched several hours of recently videoed T.V. programmes, until they eventually badgered the landlord into showing them some gay porn videos.

After eating a "romantic" meal prepared by the landlord they retired to their room, insisting on a double bed. They stayed for one night only. But for three months later they constantly phoned him asking for a copy of their favorite steamy video". Reluctantly he agreed and a copy was collected by a "friend" in December.

The next day twelve police officers arrived to investigate breaches of the Licensing Act, Obscene Publications Act and, of course, the Prevention of Terrorism Act. They alleged that the landlord sold them food and drink without a license and that he failed to keep adequate records in contravention of the Prevention of Terrorism Act. The officers also claimed that he broke the law by showing the videos in a public place. This has been referred to the Director of Public Prosecutions

- continued Page 2

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Birmingham's Biggest!

A POLICEMANS LOT - from page 1.

to check if they can proceed with a prosecution.

"They are really scraping the bottom of the barrel", said the solicitor who is representing the landlord.

Surely with rising crime rates and police complaints of understaffing there must be better ways of using police time and energy than pursuing victimless crimes.

Lesbian line

As from Monday 30th March Lesbian Line will be closed, while looking for new premises. Details of new times and numbers will appear in "In the Pink" when available. Until then London Lesbian Line, London Lesbian & Gay Switchboard and West Midlands Gay Switchboard are open for calls. See "helplines" for details.

Brownhill Demo

The continuing saga of Councillor Brownhill! After the recent demo in Wombourne a picket was held on March the 10th at the council offices in Codsall. Around 30 people turned up most of whom were from Wolves Poly Women's group along with three of the original "Wombourne 12". Our placards were confiscated on entry to the council buildings however we managed to make our presence felt by holding a silent protest at the back of the council chamber. Improvised signs were held up bearing such slogans as "NO MORE AUSCHWITZ" & "BROWNHILL HOW BIG'S YOUR GAS BILL?". We then left bumping into a van load of police, who were there just in case? We hope to keep the pressure up until we get positive results.

Obituary

The Silver Slipper, so named after the Silver slipper dance studio on the corner of Hill St. & Station St. has been filled in. Consequently Birmingham City has lost a fine example of Edwardian

lavatorial architecture. The Slipper has been the scene of many a police entrapment by agent provocateurs in it's long and colourful history. It will be a sorely missed facility.

Aids Officer for Coventry

Coventry City Council has recently appointed an AIDS liaison officer, despite the Area Health Authority's refusal to jointly fund the post.

The officer will liaise between the City Council and the Area Health Authority in the provision of training, counselling, and home-helps. The officer will also assist in providing information to Council staff and the public.

Members of Coventry gay organisations have expressed surprise at the decision of the City, as in the past, the Council has appeared more reluctant than the Health Authority to act responsibly over AIDS; for example, the City Council has yet to endorse statements urging non-discrimination against anti body positive people & people with AIDS, something which even this government has done.

Lurex Durex

Following the recent publicity as to the safety or otherwise of condoms, the Oxford Genito-Urinary Clinic has declared "Red Stripe" condoms safe. They conducted tests on them and found them to be well above the British standard.

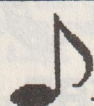
"Jiffi" have announced that they have changed their suppliers, and that they should now be safe.

Meanwhile, "Clone Zone" in Manchester has imported an American condom made especially for gay men, called "Prime", they cost one pound for three.

As for the London Rubber Company's products ("Durex"), "Gossamer" is their strongest condom. However, they are launching a stronger, tearless condom, called "Durex Gold" (ingeniously named as it is coloured Alliance gold), especially for the AIDS conscious market.

Labour leader attacks Gays

The leader of the Coventry District Labour Party has joined the bandwagon within the labour party againted the voicing of gay issues he said "ordinary people are sick and tired of gay issues being ramed down their throats". However activists are determined to keep the pressure on local politicians.



WOMEN'S MUSIC

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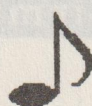
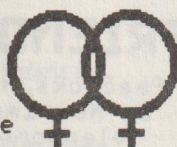
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OUT AND ABOUT IN CHELTENHAM

Cheltenham, just fifty miles from Birmingham, has a number of things coming up in the next few months which may stimulate a visit.

As many people know, as well as being the attractive garden town of England, Cheltenham is the home of National Hunt Racing. Once a month, after the horses have gone back to pasture, the Prestbury Suite at the racecourse is converted to a Gay Disco (check listing for dates), attracting many men and women from Cheltenham and Gloucester, as well as places further afield like Bristol and Birmingham. The race course will host another major event this year. The Gay Outdoor Club will hold its national weekend in the area, with the AGM and social at the National Hunt Room, on Saturday 2nd May. Members will be camped from 1st-4th May at Mill Farm, Greet. The weekend, which is likely to attract two to three hundred people from all over the country will include walks along the Cotswold Way and cycling runs.

The Womens' Centre is to be found at 67 Clarence Street, where are to be found a whole host of events and activities, including on alternate Wednesday evenings meetings of the local Lesbian Group. A trip to the Silver Web in Wolverhampton was recently organised from here. On 24th April, at Parklands Community Centre, Wyman's Street, the women only night includes: cabaret by the Fabulous Dirt Sisters.

While in Cheltenham you may wish to pay a visit to the town's gay bar, The Phoenix in Andover Road, on the South Side.

The bar is deceptively small, when considering the view from the road (the inverted Tardis effected). It struck me as being rather quiet, not in terms of populus (it was actually quite full), but in terms of volume, the inhabitants appeared a little reserved. The barman looked a little distressed when I tried to instill a little life to the place by making my selection on the juke box.

Looking further ahead, there is an interesting programme at the recently re-opened Everyman Theatre. These include, in the main house, The Accidental Death of an Anarchist, in The Studio, in May, "Insignificance", and a play that should be well worth seeing: "Kiss of the Spiderwoman", in June.

If you are interested in any of the activities in the Cheltenham or Gloucester areas then contact the Gloucestershire Gay Community organisation, (the areas main lesbian & gay social group) C/O PO Box 23 Gloucester GL1 1YW.

A TRIP TO THE JUG

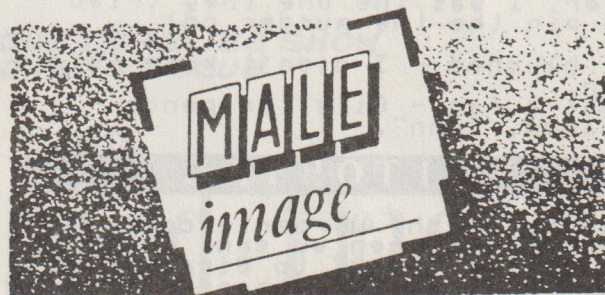
Monday night is L.S.D. night at the Jug. For all of you expecting drugs and psychedelia, think again: more like "get your tie-dye frocks out chaps", as LSD actually stands for "Laurie's School of Drag" (Laurie being the owner). Monday night is amateur night, as opposed to the weekend's "professional" acts.

The Monday night I went in, there was an act on called Pewee. "So what?" you may say. Well, it was a refreshing alternative to the usual misogynistic crap, as he didn't take the piss out of women once. Also he had a very original ending to his act: putting his make-up on in front of the audience then singing "Send in the Clowns." Back to the Jug itself, it has a bona atmosphere even tho' it's a very small club. Being open all week, except Sunday, it makes a change from the rest of the gay ghetto with reasonable entrance and beer prices.

Entrance restricted to members and guests; Cabarets Friday and Saturday £2.00 entrance. LSD night: Monday, 50p; free Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Mixed, lesbians, gay men and some hets.

Gay Stourbridge

Cradley Heath, a small town in the heart of the Black Country, has become the meeting place for the Stourbridge Area Gay Group. Twice monthly (1st and 3rd Tuesdays) they meet in the back bar of The Bell, St. Anns Road, Cradley. The bar is quite small, and, with the increasing number of users, soon fills up, creating a really good atmosphere. The bar is not just a place to go for a drink on Tuesdays, it is more importantly the home of this social group, whose organisers do make an effort to make new visitors feel welcome. Now that the group has become well established, there are ideas to develop and include a programme of other social events and activities.



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POSITIVE IMAGE

Mark Bestel is looking for someone who is HIV-positive to be interviewed by selected and sympathetic journalists about their feelings. Complete confidentiality and anonymity is guaranteed, to protect possible distress.

Mark has been involved in AIDS support groups for over two years; firstly in Liverpool and now in Birmingham. He is currently the press and public relations officer for Aidsline West Midlands.

Mark says: "I am making this particular request as an individual... There are two reasons for looking for a body-positive person is this way; firstly, I genuinely believe that a sincere account of the feelings of someone in this situation appearing in the press would go a long way towards furthering AIDS education and removing some of the prejudice which has surrounded the condition since its appearance some years ago.

"Secondly, as an ex-journalist myself, I am concerned that one or two of the more insensitive members of the profession may attempt to seek out a body positive person, and, if successful, could cause untold distress to the person concerned and family and friends..."

"Mark Bestel can be contacted on (021-) 622 1502, quoting reference AB2.

STRANGER

I met a stranger on the street. "Hello mate," he said "How's things with you?" "I stared at my feet.

He seemed familiar, pictures clicked. "London last year?". "That's right, that was me - Yellow shorts", he quipped.

Doubts now rose. I backed away. "Is your name Paul? Were you on the march?" Then thought "no, he's not gay".

"Yer, I was the one they tried to pin the murder on!

"I blushed - I didn't know this man. Got a fag - Gi's ten pence - Thanks, John".

IAN.

EDITORIAL

Following the uproar a couple of months ago when we sent copies of "In The Pink" to Birmingham City Councillors, there had been problems getting copies sent via the internal pigeon-hole system at the Council House.

However, after a meeting with the Leader of the Council, Dick Knowles, we have reached a satisfactory compromise. We will

be allowed to send copies via the Council House, BUT if any councillor requests us not to send copies we will respect that wish. Our thanks to Councillor Knowles for his help in sorting out this problem.

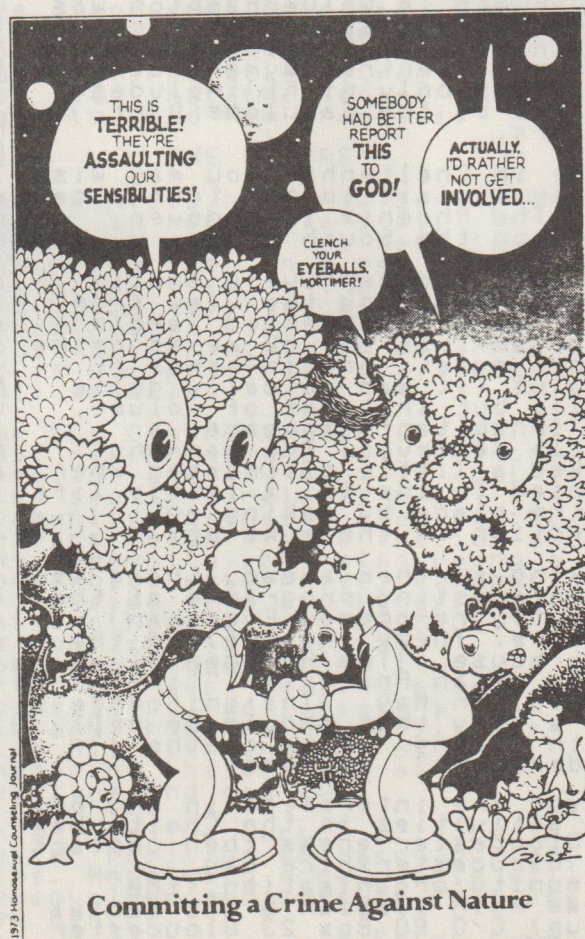
We feel that it is important for our elected representatives to know what is going on in this area. For too long gays have been ignored in local government as we as in many other areas. With the "AIDS panic" we can no longer keep our heads down and hope the world won't notice us.

Obviously, "In The Pink" is written for gay men and lesbians which means that outsiders (heterosexuals) will not always see things the way we do. However, we think that it is very important that we do not cut ourselves off from the wider world.

Lesbians and gay men pay rates and taxes, they also have needs which at the moment are not being considered. It is important that the needs of all of us, teenagers to pensioners, people with disabilities, people with special needs, gay parents, young lesbians and gay men in Council care, we all need... WE ALL DEMAND a better deal.

Peter Kirby

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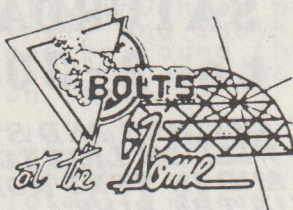
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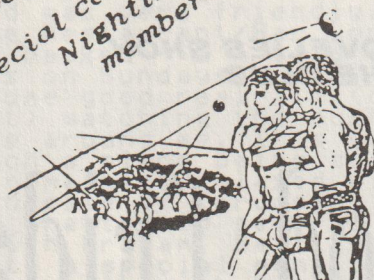
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27th April 87
4th & 25th May 87
(to be arranged)
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27th July 87
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Members £1.50 Guests £2.50
Special concessions for all
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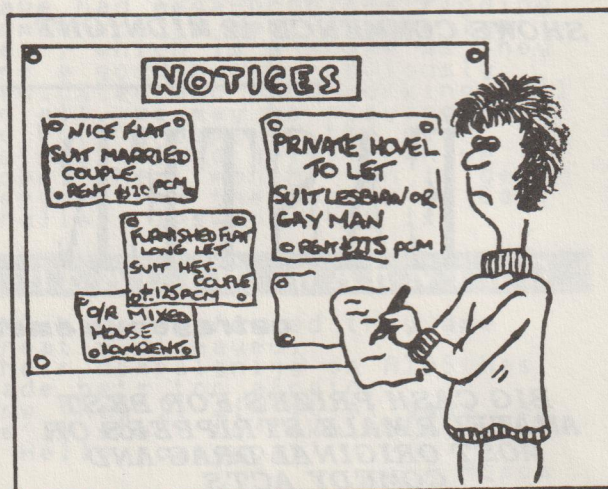


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A Room with a View

Did you know...? That as well as giving general information and a chance to discuss any problems, Gay Switchboard also offers a free accommodation service. Anyone seeking a lodger/flatmate can leave details with their nearest Switchboard and they will then have prospective clients referred to them. Likewise, anyone seeking lodgings in a gay or lesbian household, or sympathetic guest house or hotel, can ring them up to find out what they have to offer. It should be pointed out that as this is a free referral service, Switchboard does NOT vet accommodation, and therefore does not officially recommend any. Likewise, people seeking accommodation are referred in good faith. It will be up to you to decide whether the place or person is suitable. This is, on the other hand, something you would have to do anyway if you advertised in the local press. Also, a newspaper advert may be for only a few days, whereas Switchboard will keep your details for as long as it takes. So, if you want, or are offering, accommodation, just give your nearest Switchboard a ring.



Lighthouse Video

Lighthouse cinema is keen to involve young lesbians and gay men in a series of introductory courses in the use of video.

The Wolverhampton-based lighthouse cinema will be running these courses on Saturday, 4th April, from 10.30am to 1.30pm (mixed), and 2.30pm to 5.30pm (women only). They are open to people up to the age of 25, and free, but offered on a first come, first serve basis. However, if there is sufficient interest, the courses will be repeated.

For further information, phone (0902) 24549/713210

Personal View Pride '87

I am a Catholic, a Conservative, a bridge player, a lover of classical music, a disliker of disco's and a gay. I feel terribly oppressed by being a member of so many minority groups!

I have never waved banners for any of my minority interests, but neither have I ever been ashamed of them. I will always talk about them to anybody anywhere.

But this year is going to see a change - at least for one of these groups: I am going to wave a banner.

Being gay seems to be rather out of fashion. A lot of "anti" feeling is being whipped up and I feel that I have a duty to do something about it. I also feel that you have as well. If we don't do something about it, our whole way of life could be under threat. I doubt there is any danger of major law reform, but we could easily lose our pubs, clubs and Centres, and we cannot afford to.

So surely the first and most important thing for everyone of us is to show that we are not a tiny minority that can be ignored, and the first step is obvious.

Pride '87: Saturday June 27th. BE THERE! I was told last night that a coach would run from Birmingham. If it was a football match there would be four or five special trains!! We must take more than one coach. Surely every club and pub in the area could organise one. Think about what it means for the future. Some of us oldies remember the past.

I don't like ramming experience down younger peoples' throats, but please EVERYONE try this year to be at the Pride march. We need you. We being the gay community, you being part of it. Let's be glad to be gay again. Let's be there - Pride 1987: stand up and be counted. -BILL

* If you are interested in going to the Pride March, drop a line to the Centre (enclosing sae).

West Midlands Gay Group

Due to the uncertainty over whether the Lord Raglan is to remain a gay venue, the West Midlands Gay Group will now be meeting at members' homes. For further details contact West Midlands Gay Switchboard.

W'ton Area Gay Mens Group

A new group for gay men is being set up in the Wolverhampton area.

For further details 'phone: Brian on (0902) 734622.

Bridge Club

With the closure, at any rate temporary, of the Centre, our Very Gay Bridge Club has made arrangements to continue, come what may.

We are meeting regularly on a Friday night for practice and tuition. Those who have reached the intermediate stage are playing on a Sunday evening at a club in Sutton. Details of which, and who to contact, from Switchboard, until something more permanent can be arranged.

We would welcome players of any standard, and if we can find four or five beginners we would willingly start a scratch group.

In the meantime, two of our more experienced players are beginning to make their mark on Warwickshire Bridge, and two more are playing regularly in several major clubs.

Our ambitions are firstly to establish a proper club, and then negotiate affiliation to the English Bridge Union. This will not be easy, but should prove a notable first! Secondly, we hope to represent Peacocks in the Birmingham Business House League next season.

So we want support and lots of new members. Ring West Mids Gay Switchboard (021-622 6589) and ask to be put in contact with Bill.

Youth Group

Just a few lines to let you know that the Youth Group is still going strong. We are still meeting whilst there are no Centre premises - it will be somewhere in central Brum so please contact Switchboard for the exact details. New (and not so new) members are always welcome to this friendly & diverse group. Please note that we will NOT be meeting on Easter Saturday (April 18th) - hope to see you soon !!

HAS ANYBODY SEEN OUR
YOUTH GROUP
???



London 0 Manchester 4

Did you know, there is now conclusive proof that (gay) life exists outside this beautiful metropolis? Yes, North of Erdington, for example, there exist such exotically named places as Manchester and Hull (not actually invented by the Housemartins!) and South of Solihull can be found the much-maligned Croydon and, yes, even London itself!!

I decided to take advantage of British Rail's "Mad-March-Fares" recently, which also meant falling victim to their Mad-March-Timetables (which, I believe are repeated every month) and can now bring you an exclusive report on what happened, where, and with whom.

First base was a brief visit to the Croydon Gay Youth Group. This was arranged at very short notice and all credit to Leigh for making me so welcome. I managed to meet a few members of the group who were equally friendly and was most impressed by the informal, relaxed atmosphere in which they seem to operate. Leigh appears to be the backbone of the group and also finds time to run a young peoples' phonenumber - I don't know where he gets his energy from! Congratulations Croydon - I'd recommend anyone to pay you a visit (providing they're under 26 of course!)

Second base was the London Lesbian & Gay Teenage Group in Islington. As busy and chaotic as ever on this occasion! I can understand that those who work with the group are busy people (isn't everyone in London?) but the atmosphere wasn't particularly welcoming and the impression I got was that they weren't at all interested in what was going on elsewhere in the country... come on London, there are other Youth Groups out there!!

Undaunted, I hopped on to the tube and, as if by a miracle, found myself on the platform at Farringdon (isn't the Underground wonderful?). Third base - The London Lesbian & Gay Centre! Got a nice welcome here, Andrew gave me a whistle-stop tour of the building (it's huge!) and was very friendly. I sat in the Restaurant/Bar Lounge which was packed - I'm told it usually is on Sundays - and enjoyed some good real-ale (only 95p a pint) watching the hustle and bustle around me. It's good to see such a place being so busy yet remaining relaxed with not much hassle or cruising apparent. Chatted to several people, with Graham, Nell, and Danny worth a special mention, also a long talk with David Joad, an old friend who, although on duty, made time for me. Special mentions too for Jenny and Lee - who coped with some hairy customers really

well. Most impressed with this place - Give 'em a LLGG!!

Managed to grab a whole weekend in Sunny Manchester (well, it didn't rain!) recently - it felt more like Manchester grabbed me!! Spent a lot of time at their Gay Centre, and with their Youth Group. The Centre itself is in a basement (shades of Brum?) and rather small - but what a welcome they give visitors! I had several offers of a place to rest for the night - all within the first half-hour (all legit of course!) The Youth Group has been going for seven years now and they've really got their act together. They are lucky to have several excellent volunteers working with the group - all of whom really know their stuff and are well thought of. Thanks to Kevin & Joyce for their time, and to James for showing me the "Nightlife"! If you get the chance - visit "New York, New York" - it's incredible! Super atmosphere and very friendly crowd - on the Sunday lunchtime the whole pub spilled into the street to see the owner off on holiday with his lover, they'd even done up his car in the "Just Married" style! All in all, it's a city you could fall in love with very easily! People even look as if they're enjoying themselves in the Pubs and Clubs.

Also a quick mention for the Hull Youth Group, who were there at the time - apparently they have had mega-problems finding somewhere to meet in the last year, which is a shame as they are a good bunch, obviously dedicated and hard-working. All in all, we may be playing host to both groups in the near future - Good grief, can we cope?? Next month - an in depth report from the bowels of East Anglia - Ipswich that is!

HEALTH WARNING

HMG have confessed they are greatly dismayed, their campaigning on AIDS has made hets too afraid, now they'll aim it at gays, so we'll start to take note, - Hello scapegoat!

Mosca



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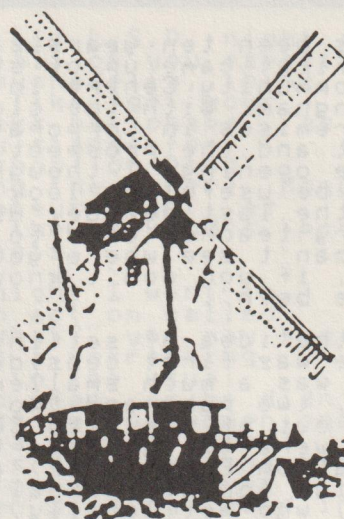
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Cod, Chips & Peas	£1.30
Plaice, Chips & Peas	£1.25
1/4 Pound Burger & Peas	£1.25
1/4 Pound Burger, Egg & Chips	£0.90
Egg, Chips & Peas	£1.10
Sausage, Egg & Chips	£0.85
Sausage, Chips & Peas	£1.10
1/4 Pound Burger in Roll	£0.85
Steak & Kidney Pie, Chips & Peas	£0.55
Ice Cream	£1.20
Sandwiches, from	£0.60
Coffee	£0.50
Bread & Butter (per round)	£0.40
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Ten Years On

It has been ten years since the idea first came up of starting a Gay Community Centre in Birmingham. With the closing of the premises in Corporation Street and the prospect of a new centre opening, I thought it might be useful to look back over the last decade. As my history teacher used to say, "You can't see where you're going, if you don't know where you've been".

When the idea of setting up a Centre was first considered there was a much smaller gay scene, two pubs and two clubs (both out of the City Centre). There were two groups, the Gay Liberation Front (GLF) and the Campaign for Homosexual Equality (CHE), who met locally, organising some social events and doing some campaigning. Both groups were made up mostly of gay men although a few lesbians were involved, some people used to go to both groups. GLF was the more radical (out on the street, leafletting, etc), CHE on the other hand was more staid (letter writing, meetings, etc). There were also two help agencies, Friend and Gay Switchboard. There were some lesbians who were involved in the Women's Liberation Movement who were beginning to organise as a Gay Women's Group.

EARLY DAYS

These campaigning and help agencies came together in order to set up a community centre which would meet the needs of gay people. In Bordesley Street off Digbeth, a building was obtained, which had a three year lease. Both Friend and Gay Switchboard had accommodation in the building and developed into the organisations we can see today. A coffee bar was an important part of the Centre's facilities, as was the weekly disco. The emphasis was mostly on social events and counselling. A Drama Group was set up, courses were run and social events were held.

More women became involved in the Centre and in the help agencies. Over the period of three years in the Bordesley Street premises, the membership changed from being almost exclusively male to being equally balanced between the sexes.

At the end of the lease a decision had to be taken, either to continue in a building which was in many ways unsuitable and needed a great deal of repair or to find better premises. It was decided to find somewhere new.

There then followed a period of about four years in the wilderness, as the Centre could not find suitable premises. In the meantime, discos and social events were held in pubs.

Many buildings were looked at, but either they were rejected because they were either too far out of the City Centre or too expensive.

A BUILDING AT LAST

Eventually the building in Corporation Street was found and almost in sheer desperation the property was bought, with a large mortgage. Problems with the building started almost immediately. The roof needed repair, extensive internal refitting and decoration was needed, central heating needed to be installed. Some financial help was obtained from West Midlands County Council, but the position of the building (far away from the gay scene and with pedestrian access via badly lit underpasses) meant that the Centre was not being used by people who were members, let alone by new people.

Despite the problems of the building, progress has been made. It is difficult to assess what has changed for the many people who use the Centre. Many of us would say we have a much improved image of ourselves as lesbians or gay men. Most of us have found new friends, some have found lovers. We have found mutual support from a world which has often been hostile.

MONEY PROBLEMS

The Centre has had an enormous problem in trying to meet the mortgage repayments as well as the other running costs. With little sign that people are going to come down to the bottom end of Corporation Street, it was seen that the Centre would have to find new premises.

THE FUTURE

New premises have now been found and it is hoped plans will be finalised within the next two months to open in a new building which is close to the gay pubs and clubs, with much safer pedestrian access. With negotiations still in progress it is not possible, yet, to give full details.

For the Centre to survive it must reach out and involve more lesbians and gay men. It must also see it's role as a Community Business, meeting the welfare needs of the lesbian and gay community, but also being a commercial enterprise, capable of raising it's own funds. It is not another gay pub or club, but is complimentary to the commercial gay scene. It could offer courses, meeting rooms, counselling facilities, a library, publishing facilities, etc. All with the aim of improving the welfare of lesbians and gay men.

This time the Centre will be in better position to carry out its aims. Hopefully more people will be involved and benefit from the new Centre.

- Peter Kirby

gay guide

BIRMINGHAM

LESBIAN & GAY COMMUNITY CENTRE IS CLOSED - New premises soon.

CRUISIN' (shop) Theatre Approach off Smallbrook Queensway. Books, cards, condoms, etc for gay men.

THE JESTER (pub) Holloway Circus. Mainly men.

PEACOCKS (pub) Needleless Alley off New St or thru New Imperial Hotel. Lesbian & gay.

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

THE WINDMILL (pub) Hurst Street. Mixed. NEW MANAGEMENT.

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.

BOLTS at the DOME (club) Horsefair. Fourth Monday of the month (April 27th).

THE JUG (club) 8a Albert St. Members & guests only. Not open Sundays.

NIGHTINGALE CLUB, 40 Thorpe St. Members club - guests welcome. Mostly men. 021-622 1718.

PAGODA PARK (club), Hurst St. TUESDAY NIGHTS ONLY. NEW VENUE.

THE POWERHOUSE (club) Hurst St. THURSDAY NIGHT ONLY.

LESBIAN DISCO, Function Room, Royal George, Park Street. Every Saturday 8pm - midnight.

WOMEN ONLY DISCO, Temple Room, New Imperial Hotel. Saturday Monthly, see Adrian in Peacocks for details.

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

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

FRIEND SOCIAL EVENING at The Queen Victoria in upstairs function room - Alternative Friday nights. See Diary.

WOMEN'S SOCIAL EVENING at above venue April 3rd & 17th.

CENTRAL RAINBOW Midlands deaf group phone Ken 021-707 8327. Or write c/o 37 Thorpe St. Birmingham B5. Meetings 4th Saturday monthly at The Jester from 8-30pm.

GAY OUTDOOR GROUP details phone Gordon 021-420 2694.

GAY YOUTH GROUP (under 26) Every Saturday afternoon. Phone Switchboard for details.

LESBIAN & GAY SOC at Aston Uni. Lesbians & gay men. Phone Students Union 021-359 6531.

LESBIAN & GAY SOC at Birmingham Uni. Lesbians & gay men. Phone Students Union 021-472 1841.

LESBIAN SUPPORT GROUP at Brum Uni. Meet every Thursday at 7.30pm in the Women's Room, S.U.

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH phone Ken Rogers 021-565 4378.

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

NALGO Lesbian & Gay Rights Working Party Phone Frank 021-235 4028 during Office Hours.

TV/TS GROUP phone "Friend" for details.

CHELTEMHAM

THE PHOENIX (pub), Andover Rd, Tivoli, Cheltenham.

DISCO at THE PRESTBURY SUITE, Cheltenham Racecourse. Monthly, next date Friday 3rd April.

COVENTRY

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

WHITE SWAN (disco), at the Continental fun bar, White Swan, Swanswell St. Thursdays 8pm - 11pm.

WOMEN'S DISCO, Koko Buildings, Spon End, third Saturday Monthly.

COVENTRY AREA GAY COMMUNITY write to P.O. Box 8 Coventry CV1 1PR.

COVENTRY CAMPAIGN FOR HOMOSEXUAL EQUALITY (0203) 714144 or write P.O. Box 8 Coventry CV1 1PR.

LESBIAN & GAY SOC at Warwick Uni. Lesbians & gay men. Phone Students Union 0203 523523.

GAY CHRISTIAN MOVEMENT Phone Phil 0203 467509.

GAY HUMANIST WARWICKSHIRE/COVENTRY GROUP phone 0926 58450 or write to 34 Spring Lane, Kenilworth, Warwickshire CV8 2HB.

GLOUCESTER

THE INNER COURT (disco & bar). Off Southgate St. THURSDAY NIGHTS ONLY 8pm - 12.30am.

LEAMINGTON SPA

LESBIAN DISCO at Hintons, Augusta Place. Last Saturday of the month.

HINTONS DISCO, Augusta Place. Fridays. Mixed.

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE

THE MOSTYN ARMS (pub) York St. Hanley.

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

THE EXCALIBUR (club) Marsh St North, Hanley.

GAY YOUTH GROUP (Under 26) Meets 2nd & 4th Friday 7-9pm each month at Cactus Bookshop, 3 Howard Place, Shelton.

NORTH STAFFS GAY COMMUNITY GROUP Meets 1st. Saturday 2-5pm & 3rd. Saturday 7-9pm of each month at Cactus Bookshop, 3 Howard Place, Shelton.

LESBIAN & GAY SOC at Keele University. Lesbians & gay men. Phone Students Union 0782 711411.

LESBIAN & GAY SOC at North Staffs Poly. Lesbians & gay men. Phone Students Union 0785 211738.

YOUNG LESBIAN GROUP Phone Lesbian Line for details.

SHROPSHIRE

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

FIGHTING COCKS PUB (disco) Oakengates Telford. Fortnightly Wednesday. Lesbians & gay men.

GAY MEN'S & WOMEN'S GROUPS phone Shropshire Gay Switchboard for details.

STOURBRIDGE

STOURBRIDGE AREA GAY GROUP Meets 1st & 3rd Tuesday monthly at The Bell, St Anne's Rd, Cradley Heath.

STRATFORD UPON AVON

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

WOLVERHAMPTON

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

THE LORD RAGLAN (pub) Great Brickkiln St. UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT USE WITH CAUTION.

SCORPIOS CLUB at the Lord Raglan. Tues, Fri, Sat & Sun evenings. UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT USE WITH CAUTION.

SILVER WEB CLUB Whitmore St. GAY MEN & WOMEN Tue, Fri & Sat.

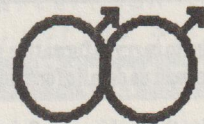
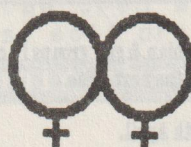
GAY SOC at the Polytechnic. Lesbians & gay men. Phone Students Union 0902 712901.

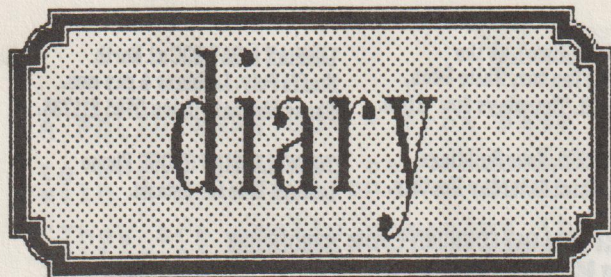
WEST MIDLANDS AREA GAY GROUP Contact Peter 021-350 8453.

WOLVERHAMPTON AREA GAY GROUP FOR MEN Phone Brian W'ton 734622 for details.

WORCESTER

IMPERIAL HOTEL 35 St Nicholas St. Gay run pub. Mixed. Popular.





LESBIAN & GAY COMMUNITY CENTRE,
291 Corporation Street, Birmingham B4 7DP

THE CENTRE IS NOW CLOSED

The following groups are still meeting, details from West Midlands Gay Switchboard 021-622 6589 every evening 7pm-10pm.

SATURDAY
Gay Youth Group 2pm-5pm

SUNDAY
Bridge Group 7.30pm

APRIL EVENTS

WEDNESDAY 1st.
"Midnight Express" at the Triangle at 3pm.

FRIDAY 3rd.
Women's socials in upstairs function room at the Queen Victoria.

"Midnight Express" at Triangle at 11pm.
also matinee & late evening performances Saturday and Sunday.

Gloucestershire Gay Community DISCO at Hatherley Manor Hotel near Gloucester.

TUESDAY 7th.
Stourbridge Area Gay Group meets at the Bell, St Anne's Rd, Cradley Heath 8.30pm.

THURSDAY 9th.
"The Colour Purple" at the Triangle at 7pm.

FRIDAY 10th.
Friend social in upstairs function room at the Queen Victoria 8pm.

SUNDAY 12th.
Gay Outdoor Club walk at Kinver. Meet at Stone Lane, Kinver 11am for 9 mile walk along Kinver Edge. Gordon 021-420 2694 for details.

FRIDAY 17th.
Women's socials in upstairs function room at the Queen Victoria.

TUESDAY 21st.
Stourbridge Area Gay Group meets at the Bell, St Anne's Rd, Cradley Heath 8.30pm.

FRIDAY 24th.
Friend social in upstairs function room at the Queen Victoria 8pm.

SATURDAY 25th.
Central Rainbow (Midlands Deaf Gay Group) 8-30pm at The Jester.

We would like to carry information about lesbian & gay groups in our area. Please send us details for inclusion in the next issue.

Copy date for the next issue is Saturday 18th April.

HELPLINES



LOCAL PHONE LINES

BIRMINGHAM

BIRMINGHAM LESBIAN LINE
will be temporarily
out of service

AIDS LINE MIDLANDS
012-622 1511
Tues, Thurs & Fri 7.30pm - 10pm

FRIEND WEST MIDLANDS
021-622 7351
Mon - Fri 7.30pm - 9.30pm

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

COVENTRY

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

FRIEND COVENTRY
0203-630022
Mon-Fri 7pm - 10pm
NOTE NEW PHONE NUMBER

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE

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

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

SHROPSHIRE

SHROPSHIRE GAY SWITCHBOARD
095245-2384
Tues & Fri 8pm - 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 - 8-30pm
Sat & Sun 3pm - 6pm.

GAY LEGAL ADVICE (GLAD)
01-821 7672
every night 7pm - 10pm

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

TV-TS HELP LINE (IMAGE)
01-359 4868
Sat, Sun & Mon 7.30pm - 10.30pm.

NATIONAL GROUPS

CAMPAIGN FOR HOMOSEXUAL EQUALITY
38 Mount Pleasant, London WC1M 0AP
01-833 3912. Main gay campaigning
group in England & Wales.

LESBIAN & GAY YOUTH MOVEMENT
BM GYM, London WC1N 3XX. Political
& social organisation working for
lesbian, gay & youth liberation.

**NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR CIVIL
LIBERTIES** 21 Tabard St, London
SE1. 01-403 3888.

GAY CHRISTIAN MOVEMENT BM Box
6914, London WC1N 3XX. 01-283
5165. Bringing gay liberation to
the church and Christ to gays.

GAYDAID Befriending & counselling
for disabled gay men. S.A.E. to
Trevor, 36 Pemboke St, Bedford
MK40 3RH. 0234 58879 (sociable
hours).

GAY HUMANIST GROUP
34 Spring Lane, Kenilworth, Warks
CV8 2HB. 0926 58450. Promotes a
rational humanist outlook &
campaigns for lesbian & gay
rights.

GEMMA For disabled lesbians BM Box
5700, London WC1N 3XX.

GROUP B Info & social group for
men who have Hepatitis B. Mark
01-603 6516

THE HERPES ASSOCIATION
39-41 North Road, Islington,
London.

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Centre members are posted a copy with their monthly mailing.