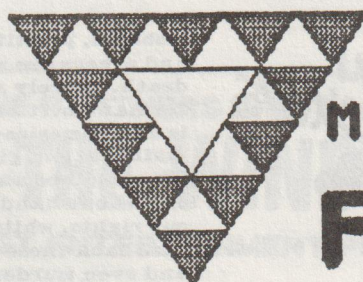




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FULL GAY GUIDE



**WEST
MIDLANDS
FREE**

**LESBIAN & GAY
NEWSPAPER**

SEPT 1987 No. 11

NO CASH FOR GROUPS

The Government Minister for inner cities, David Tripper, during a visit to Birmingham, has pledged that lesbian and gay organisations would be banned from applying for inner city grants. The Minister admitted that some groups had already received money: "We indirectly discovered we had given them money, although we might not have known about it at the time." He did not say which groups they were or how much money was involved or whether they were commercial ventures or community associations, only that: "I SHALL STOP IT!"

The Minister denied prejudice against gays but said that he was merely against positive discrimination in favour of homosexuals.

A representative of the Campaign for Homosexual Equality, Jeff Vernon, accused the Minister of inciting hatred against gay men and lesbians: "I have never heard of commercial ventures like clubs getting grants from the government, and he knows that. He wants to make Birmingham people turn against us. It is a cheap and dirty trick."

This attack by a Government Minister has to be seen in the

light of the government considering the introduction of new legislation. The proposed law would make it illegal for local authorities to fund "organisations which promote homosexuality". This is a worrying prospect as it could be used to persecute on a grand scale, for example, a local council employing an open lesbian or gay man could be accused of "promoting homosexuality".

Isn't it about time that the real needs of the lesbian and gay community were recognised by those elected by us.

DOME?

After a year of Bolts at the Dome in Birmingham, the new manager of the Dome Mr David Cahill, has decided to end the successful discos. Although the discos were just once a month Mr Cahill said the Dome now had a reputation for attracting homosexuals. He also claimed that having a gay night had upset Birmingham people and affected the Dome's other trade. Fear of AIDS seems to be at the root of this homophobic stance.

Mark Bestell, from AIDSLINE, West Midlands, said: "There is no way any one can be infected with AIDS by just being in the same room or drinking out of the same glass as somebody who has the disease."

"It is tragic that the Dome had to make this decision because of pressure put on by people who don't have a full knowledge of the problem."

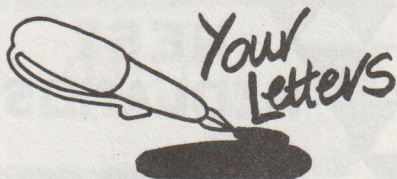
The future of "Bolts at the Dome" is not clear. Nicky Price, the promoter of Bolts is looking for a new venue in Birmingham. More details from Gay Switchboard and us next month.

BEING GAY ISN'T ALWAYS EASY

**BEING LONELY NEVER IS
THE TELE GAY LINE
ON LINE 24 HOURS EVERY DAY
007 777 5578**

**New messages updated daily of other gay people
wanting to meet someone special like you.**

**Your own free message on the line?
Ring 021 236 8788 up to 9pm 7 days a week.**



JESTER

Dear Ed,

I am a young, gay man and have lived in Birmingham all my life. As you may know there are very few gay pubs/clubs in Brum.

Getting straight to the point, it was my 21st birthday on the ninth, so I decided to go out for a drink with friends. We went to the Jester, which is my favourite gay pub. To my horror, I was refused entry because I had a leather jacket on. Yes a "leather jacket", that's what I thought. The doorman, who was only doing his job I suppose, said "No leather tonight"; then a group of men walked passed us with leathers on. They didn't get turned away.

Then the doorman said "No plaits or hats". My hair is in dreadlocks and my hat is tidy and plain. Then he said "No rent boys, punks or weird looking people today." I ask you, just because I have not very long dreadlocks. Do you have to have short hair and look typically gay to be allowed into a gay pub without any prejudice against you?

Yours, very upset,
A.M.

R.C.P.

Dear "In The Pink",

Last Saturday I was in Chamberlain Square, in Birmingham, when members of the Revolutionary Communist Party tried to sell me a copy of their paper "The Next Step". When I declined they became very aggressive and pushy demanding to know "Why?".

I am politically on the left but I find the RCP's policies hard to swallow, particularly on the Middle East. How can they support the Iranian regime when it has one of the worst human rights records in the world? The Khomeini gov't has exterminated thousands of people. The RCP claims to hold lesbian & gay liberation close to its hearts. Yet gay men are executed, traditionally by being shoved off cliffs, but due to the shortage of cliffs in Teheran they have been dropped out of helicopters or shot.

According to Iranian law women have no sexuality independent of their husbands. But women who transgress the laws, like

lesbians, prostitutes, Ba'hais and others are shot or stoned to death. Surely supporting the Iranian Gov't merely because it is anti-American is no justification, given these facts. We should be wary of groups who on the one hand claim to support our rights, whilst at the same time back those who would oppress and even murder us!

Yours in anger,
Francis Jones.

AIDS VACCINE

The American biotechnology company, Microgenesys, is to start testing an AIDS vaccine on a test group of 75 gay male volunteers, none of whom are HIV positive. The trial will take between 6 months and a year and bypasses the normal regulations, which states that tests should first be carried out on animals. If the vaccine does raise an immune response and kills the virus without any dangerous side effects then the trial will be extended to a larger group of people (phase 2). During this phase, which is expected to take

one to two years, the best dosage of the vaccine will be gauged. If all goes well then the vaccine will be offered to hundreds or thousands of people to see if it really protects against infection, this will take one of two years more. Only when these trials are proved successful, will it go into full scale production and be available to all.

EQUAL OPS

Birmingham City Council has recently adopted an equal opportunities policy, which states that the council does not discriminate against job applicants on the grounds of "sexuality". In other words you won't be discriminated against if you are Lesbian or Gay if you apply for a job with the City Council or work for them. The leadership of the council has to be congratulated on this step, given the level of homophobia in local government today. The next step for the council should now be to extend its policy of non-discrimination to the provision of all council services.

CALL FOR AIDS TEST BY EURO-RIGHT

The European Right Group of The European Parliament has submitted a motion on AIDS. The group is composed of assorted neo-fascists, mainly the French National Front. Among its proposals it calls for :-

- * AIDS anti-body testing, on entry to the European Community, for every one, including European Community residents, who have been to area of the world "most affected by the virus", such as The Americas or Equatorial Africa; a second test to be taken six months later.
- * Automatic anti-body testing of all people entering hospital and all blood donors.
- * A ban on advertising "all pornographic material, so that young people may be shielded from the temptation to indulge in new sexual experiments that could expose them to contagion from AIDS".

The resolution also states that :-

- * Condoms are "not all that effective" in preventing the transmission of the AIDS virus.
- * "...anal intercourse is one of the main means of spreading the virus and that it is consequently incorrect to say that AIDS is a sexually transmissible disease.

The assumptions behind this resolution raise some disturbing points:

- _any attempt to restrict the right of entry of anti-body positive people into the European Community is pointless, as AIDS is present in every member state.
- _the restrictions on entry are but a small step from quarantine for all anti-body positive people.
- _what the European right considers pornography includes any educational material which gives a positive view of gays. The ban on advertising material considered pornographic could easily become a ban on the material its self.
- _condoms DO reduce the risk of passing on the virus.
- _to deny that anal intercourse is sex is laughable.

The attitude of the European Right Group is in stark contrast to that of the Rainbow Group (greens and alternative parties) and the Socialists both of which have been positive on the issues of AIDS and lesbian & gay rights. For example The Rainbow Group in March this year hosted a meeting on discrimination against lesbians & gays at the European Parliament building in Brussels.

OLGA

For those who wondered whatever happened to the Campaign for Legislation for Lesbian and Gay Rights, well the answer is OLGA (National) was born. This lighthearted name does have its serious side, standing for the Organisation for Lesbian and Gay Action. The Organisation has been set up to campaign towards a fairer deal for Lesbians and Gay Men in all aspects of life, for example, custody issues and employment rights. You may be interested to know that this group hopes to have a regional flavour, and it is intended to have "mini-OLGAs" throughout the country. This of course means that The West Midlands will have to show that it is interested in forming a group, so that in the future we don't lose a Community Centre or find our pubs and clubs being hassled. Info is available from Switchboard (Helpline page).

G.O.C.

The Gay Outdoor Club will be holding a walk on the Malvern Hills, commencing at 11pm on Sunday 13th September. For further details phone Gordon on 021 420 2694.

For cyclists, regular runs of thirty miles or so are being organised on a regular basis from Warwick, fourtnightly on Sundays. More details from Ken on 0926 39939.

WOLVES GROUP

The Wolverhampton Men's Group goes from strength to strength. Now a few months old, the group still meets at a couple's house, giving an exceedingly friendly atmosphere. The group is keeping to its original purpose, to provide an alternative to the scene, both for people who want - or perhaps, more importantly - need an alternative. Being from the North, I was pleasantly surprised at the welcome given to the complete mixture of people by the hosts and the regular members. Groups in Wolverhampton always attract people from a very wide area, including the second city and this one is no exception. Links have already been forged with the Stourbridge group with whom there is a cross-over of members, and hopefully future events. After a very successful trip to the local bowling alley, there are now plans to go ice-skating and Christmas is just round the corner...

If you're interested in coming along, just phone Brian or Bob, info in Guide.

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THE BEST ENTERTAINMENT PUB IN BIRMINGHAM

SUNDAY NIGHT SHOWS

6th PHIL DAY

13th SOLITAIRE

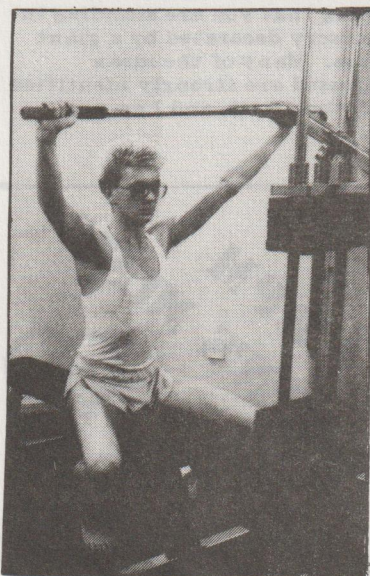
20th TO BE ANNOUNCED
"Friends" will be advised.

27th 3 STYLE

BONA BUS TO BLACKPOOL
SAT 19th 2pm
TICKETS £6.50

WAREHOUSE

Located at 16 Fleet Street in Birmingham, The Warehouse is a compact and friendly health club for gay men. I've been a member for about 3 months and have found the facilities excellent, and the staff very friendly and helpful.



There is a well equipped gymnasium, which I make use of 3 times a week, and a large Scandinavian Sauna Cabin, which is quite popular. In addition to these, a full massage service is offered, which is quite relaxing and I'm told helps improve the circulation. Another popular facility is the high intensity UVA solarium, which helps

maintain your tan throughout the year.

When not working out (or sweating out) there is a closed television lounge for smokers and an area where light refreshments are available. Cost is £4.50 per visit (non members) or £3 for members who pay £50 for a year. Excellent value is the Executive Membership which costs £175 for a year, but every visit is then free. Massage and Solarium cost extra. The Warehouse is open from noon to 11pm Monday to Saturday. For more details call 021-233-3090 and get that body into shape ready for next summer.

Pete Baggett

NIGHTLIFE

A few changes to the pub and clubs on the scene...

In Wolverhampton, THE SILVER WEB is about to undergo some re-development with a new raised area by the disco, work is expected to commence in a few weeks time.

In Birmingham, THE NIGHTINGALE'S disco area has been shorn of its "Munchkin Tudor" look to be replaced by a more "hi-tech" style. A huge expanse of mirror glass together with the blue of the walls gives the impression of a much enlarged disco area. Feedback from regulars has been more than positive.

Mid September will see a total revamping of THE WINDMILL, which will emerge from this transformation with a new name, PARTNERS. More about this next issue.

EXHIBITIONS

Four new exhibitions opened recently in Brum, all quite different, and well worth catching.

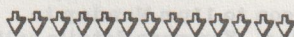
Bill Ming's sculptures at the City Art Gallery are either deceptively simple or deceptively complex. Mr. Ming wants to put up a notice saying "Please Touch": he wants you, literally, to feel your way into them.

Recurring in these works is the idea of life as a journey - Ming's journey from Bermuda to the UK, his journey towards being a artist, people who are hurt on life's journey etc.. In **TIDES THAT BIND**, a protector and two small figures float inside the safety of a life-belt, while outside is a solitary figure. The protector's arm is outstretched - is he gathering the figure in or pushing him away?

Similar tensions exist in **AGAINST THE TIDE**, a piece beautifully carved from a single piece of cedar.

In **RAFT IN LIFE** a body lies on a raft, though it is part of the raft itself. The body, a receptacle for water, feeds the water back to the ocean too. The person's arm, like a sail, the raft's source of energy, reaches up to its protection. "We've all got a raft," Mr. Ming explained, "The thing is, you've got to get onto it and go with it."

Showing until 4th October



Helen Chadwick, also in the City Art Gallery, presents a single, half painted, half projected reworking of an Eighteenth Century painting, **ALLEGORY OF MISRULE**. Speaking of a nightmare, she says "I awake in the middle of the night, shocked to be present at the moment of complete termination." She has achieved the enormous task of translating an apparently irrelevant painting into a message about nuclear destruction.

Her work is dominated by a post explosion mushroom cloud. Comparisons with the original show startling changes - Venus is replaced by Helen's self, Cupid and his small flying friends are replaced by the corpses of animals flung into the air. On close inspection, you find yourself swept into the statement itself. Your silhouette puts you inside the picture, meaning you cannot stand uninvolved, the artist seems to say "Like me, you must make a decision." She sees

the piece as optimistic rather than pessimistic, let's hope this is well-founded.
Showing until 6th September



Downstairs at the IKON, the theme is the inner city. The real interest is the contrast between the works of Paul Hawden and Graham Chorlton.

Hawden is concerned with accurate portraits of buildings. Painting with an almost mathematical precision, even the light appears controlled. This results in a barren, soul-less outlook, bereft of life.

On the other hand, Chorlton, a Birmingham artist, paints from our point of view. Although not painting city life, the vibrancy of city living is present in the way he brings buildings to life, through an exciting use of colour and a careful choice of perspectives. His two **FACADES** dominate the exhibition, although my favourite is **HALL OF MEMORY**, which is crystal clear when you're not looking at it, and disappears when you are.

Upstairs at the IKON, Sarah Greengrass expresses her conscious and unconscious thoughts in a series of works that refuse to be restricted by frames or regular shapes. This freedom gives an immediate impact, as does the curious feeling that you are standing in a nursery decorated by a giant frieze. Many of the ideas expressed are strongly identified with the artist, and I am not

certain that they come across. I was, however, very struck by **TWINS**, in which male identical twins sit back-to-back, dressed in blues and mauves, each having a single flower. Ms. Greengrass was aware of my puzzlement about the appearance of this painting among the many strong images of women and mother and child. "I wanted to paint men showing their vulnerability, not the usual macho side. I found it difficult to achieve." Thank you for making the effort.

Showing until 19th September

Rod Dungate

CHORUS LINE

On tour for the first time in the United Kingdom is the Broadway musical "A Chorus Line". One of the major influences on the dance boom in the seventies and Broadway's longest running show, over 5,000 performances, it finally gets to Birmingham from 21st September to 10th October at the Alexandra Theatre.

The show is about an audition for chorus dancers and each member of the line has to tell the director of the show something about themselves. Three of the male characters are gay, a fact which caused quite a stir when the show originally opened in 1975. The show is based on the lives of the original cast and "is dedicated to anyone who has ever danced in a chorus or marched in step... anywhere!"

This production is based on the original choreography and direction of Michael Bennett, who recently died of AIDS. If you like "Fame" see this show, it's ten times better.

Not So SQUARE TIMES!!

Square Peg, the magazine for contemporary perverts, is a glossy mag available quarterly at £1. Issue sixteen covers a wide range of topics from Black politics in the Gay movement to lesbians in entertainment. There's a photo feature on Chain Reactions the first S&M Dyke club and "The Rabid Right" a look at the Moral Minority. Even better, to leave on the coffee table, than the Penguin Book of Homosexual Verse. Available: £5 for one years subscription, BM Square Peg, London WC1 3XX.



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gay guide

BIRMINGHAM

LESBIAN & GAY COMMUNITY CENTRE IS CLOSED.

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

THE JESTER (pub) Holloway Circus Mainly men.

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

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

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

THE WINDMILL (pub) Hurst Street Mixed. Lesbian & Gay.

BIRMINGHAM BOLTS
Phone Switchboard for latest details.

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.

THE POWERHOUSE (club) Hurst St THURSDAY NIGHT ONLY.

WOMEN ONLY DISCO, New Imperial Hotel. Monthly, see William 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.

BIRMINGHAM BODY POSITIVE GROUP for people who are HIV antibody positive. Contact via AIDSLINE.

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.

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

GAY OUTDOOR GROUP details phone Gordon 021-420 2694

LABOUR CAMPAIGN FOR LESBIAN & GAY RIGHTS meets first Tuesday monthly at the Council House Birmingham 7.30pm.

LAMBDA BIKE CLUB. Motor cycle club for lesbians & gay men, details c/o Peter Baggett, 291 Corporation St, Birmingham B4 7DP.

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

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

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF BIRMINGHAM. Christian church which welcomes all, especially gay men & lesbians. Sunday worship at 7.00pm. Tuesdays - discussions at 7.30pm. Church address 174 Edmond Street, Birmingham B3 2HB. Lay pastor: Ken Rogers tel. (0902) 34150.

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.

CHELTENHAM

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

DISCO at THE INSURANCE SUITE, Prestbury Racecourse. Monthly see diary for details.

COVENTRY

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

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

WOMEN'S DISCO, at the White Swan, Swanswell St. Sundays 8pm.

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

LESBIAN & GAY SOC at Warwick Uni. c/o Pigeon Hole 40, Students Union Warwick University, Coventry CV4 7AL tel 0203 523523. Meet Wednesdays term time in Harvie's Bar Students Union. Lesbians at 7-30pm Joined by gay men at 8pm, also regular discos.

NEMESIS (Lesbian & Gay Youth Group) for those under 26. P.O. Box 8, Coventry CV1 1PR.

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

LESBIAN & GAY CHRISTIAN MOVEMENT Phone Phil 0203 467509.

GLOUCESTER

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

GLOUCESTER GAY COMMUNITY P.O. Box 23, Gloucester GL1 1YW

LEAMINGTON SPA

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 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

FIGHTING COCKS PUB (disco) Oakengates Telford. Mondays, 8pm 'till late. Lesbians & gay men.

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

STOURBRIDGE

STOURBRIDGE AREA GAY GROUP Meets Tuesday fortnightly 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.

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 For details phone Friend 021 622 7351.

WOLVERHAMPTON AREA GAY GROUP FOR MEN Meets fortnightly Sunday Phone W'ton 734622 for details.

WORCESTER

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

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.

LESBIAN & 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 MOVEMENT 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.

=====

diary

LESBIAN & GAY COMMUNITY CENTRE,
291 Corporation Street,
Birmingham B4 7DP.
Postal address ONLY.

THE CENTRE IS NOW CLOSED

The Lesbian & Gay Youth Group is now meeting at the Star Club in High Street, 136 Digbeth High St., Saturday afternoons 2pm - 5pm.

Members and users of the Centre are temporarily meeting at Peacocks on Wednesday evenings.

SEPTEMBER EVENTS

TUESDAY 1st.
Labour Campaign for Lesbian & Gay Rights meeting, 7.30pm,
Birmingham Council House.

WEDNESDAY 2nd.
West Midlands Gay Group meeting from 8pm at The Grayhound, Wolverhampton.

SATURDAY 5th.
Gloucester Gay Community DISCO at The Insurance Suite, Prestbury Race Course.

North Staffs Gay Social Group social at Cactus Bookshop, 3 Howard place, Shelton. 2pm to 5pm.

SUNDAY 6th.
Wolverhampton Gay Mens Group social, Phone Brian on 0902 734 622 for details.

TUESDAY 8th.
Stourbridge Area Gay Group meets at the Bell, St Anne's Rd, Cradley Heath, 8.30pm.

FRIDAY 11th.
Friend social in upstairs bar, Queen Victoria Birmingham, 8pm to 11pm, entrance 50p, ALL WELCOME.

North Staffs Lesbian & Gay Youth Group meeting at Cactus Bookshop, 3 Howard place, Shelton. 7pm to 9pm.

SATURDAY 12th.
Copy date for November issue of "In The Pink".

SUNDAY 13th.
Gay Outdoor Club walk in the Malvern Hills, details from Gordon on 021 420 2694.

WEDNESDAY 16th.
West Midlands Gay Group meeting from 8pm at The Grayhound, Wolverhampton.

SATURDAY 19th.
North Staffs Gay Social Group social at Cactus Bookshop, 3 Howard place, Shelton. 7pm to 9pm.

SUNDAY 20th.
Wolverhampton Gay Mens Group social, Phone Brian on 0902 734 622 for details.

TUESDAY 22nd.
Stourbridge Area Gay Group meets at the Bell, St Anne's Rd, Cradley Heath 8.30pm.

FRIDAY 25th.
Friend social in upstairs bar, Queen Victoria Birmingham, 8pm to 11pm, entrance 50p, ALL WELCOME.

North Staffs Lesbian & Gay Youth Group meeting at Cactus Bookshop, 3 Howard place, Shelton. 7pm to 9pm.

SATURDAY 26th.
Central Rainbow (Midlands Deaf Gay Group) 8-30pm at The Jester, Birmingham.

HELPLINES



LOCAL PHONE LINES

BIRMINGHAM

BIRMINGHAM LESBIAN LINE
021-772 4457
Tuesday ONLY
7.30pm - 9.30pm

AIDS LINE WEST MIDLANDS
021-622 1511
Mon - 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

CHELTEMHAM

AIDS HELPLINE
0242-580882

COVENTRY

FRIEND COVENTRY
0203-630022
Mon-Fri 8pm - 10pm

HEREFORD & WORCESTER

HEREFORD & WORCESTER GAY SWITCHBOARD
0905 723097
Tues - Thurs 7.30pm - 10.30pm

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
0743-232393
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

BISEXUAL PHONELINE
031 557 3620
Tuesday 7.30pm to 9.30pm

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

TERRENCE HIGGINS TRUST
01-242-1010
For advice about AIDS
Mon-Fri 7pm - 10pm
Sat & Sun 3pm - 10pm

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

SCREWED UP

*When you unpack,
do you get depressed
That however neatly you've
folded and pressed
Your clothes still end rumpled
and scrunpled and messed;
All that effort's been in vain
You've to fold and press them again?
Just a thought
- but doesn't it strike you
That that's what Life's Like Too?*

*I know it's been said
Life's Like a Piece of String,
But that's frankly
just a ridiculous thing:
Life's, actually,
Like a Travel Bag or Suitcase
From which we hope to emerge
with a fresh laundered face.
And here's a thought
worth a moment's philosophising
- What of people who buy things
that never need ironing?*

-Mosca

IN THE PINK

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