

The Green festival

Biddy, Chris and Patrick staffed our stall at the festival raising over £130 from the sale of books etc. They had fine weather and by all accounts had a good time. Making new contacts and 10 new members into the bargain.



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stock market follower, and he was able to provide all the details of how we could form a club.

It was a while before the club was actually formed, as various procedures had to be put in place before any shares could be bought.

As mentioned earlier it proved fortuitous, as perhaps some who read this will know to their own personal financial cost. Hopefully as things pick up the club will be making more choices (Stop press!!! another purchase made last week), and what's more is, that the first choice is already showing a modest profit.

About the club, it meets on the last Thursday of the month in The Green Room of the Lord Roberts' pub. Should you wish further details please contact the Club Secretary Ted Marshall via email @: esp369@ntlworld.com. and he will be pleased to give you more information .

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the OUT HOUSE project Newsletter

December 02

Working to meet the needs of the Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Communities of Nottingham and District by providing a community centre....

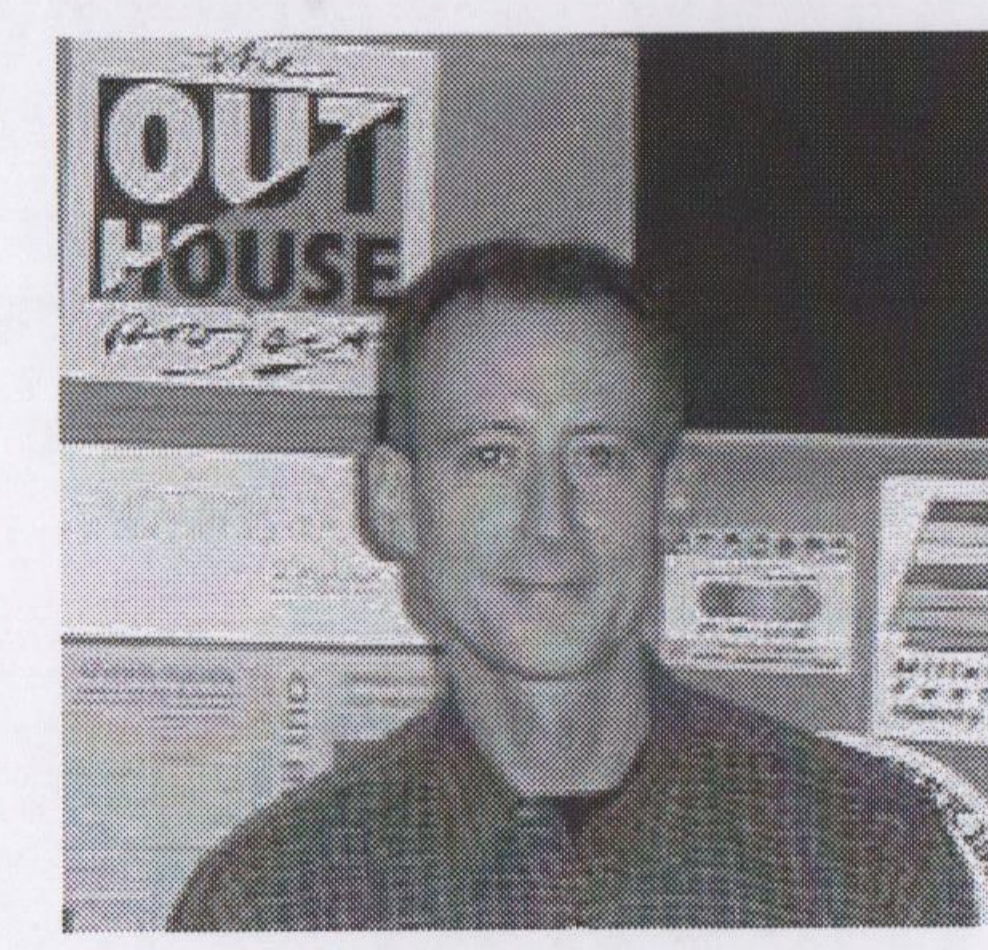
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"A Bunch of Perverts and Criminals"

A well attended meeting with getting on for 50 people finding room to sit and listen to Peter Tatchell talking about the tasks facing the LGB community in the 21st. Century. Peter's talk was followed by a very short AGM. Previous minutes and accounts for 2001-2002 were presented and approved and finally new elections to the committee were made, all going very smoothly.

March' had (he recalls) a very heavy police presence, and the gal to discriminate in housing, lei- gay community was seen as "a bunch of perverts and criminals". The reaction of straight people watching the march was one of disgust, confusion and bewilderment. For most it was the first time they had seen an openly gay person. Look at now - how different, 10-12 prides events all over the country -250,000 people present, we've made many strides in visibility and acceptance - both of ourselves and the

Peter Stated by paying tributes to LGB people who had worked hard for over 30 years and to the Out House for giving him the opportunity to talk again to the people of Nottingham. He referred to local organisations and people making a difference. There was no point in having national laws if there aren't the grass root organisations doing things locally—our work really does make a difference. Making reference to what had happened in the last 30 years, (30 years of the modern LGB movement). He said that the 1st pride in 72 wasn't the start, but was quite a watershed. That 1st pride, with over 700 people present, was to demand our rights as LG people. In the preceding year the 'Youth Rights



Peter Tatchell

wider community. We've moved on but there's still no reason for complacency, section 28, partnership rights and recognitions, failure of the law to protect us against discrimination. The European law of 2003 only applies to

Where do we go from here? Compared to early LG pioneers, our movement has lowered its sights. During the last 3 decades, we have seen a dumbing down of LG aspirations. On that 1st pride march in 72, calls for equality were not part of the LGB agenda - we didn't want equality with straight people. Most wanted to change society and create liberation for ALL- not fit in with it as it was. It was a radical and idealistic vision. How do we free ourselves; a new kind of sexual freedom with no misogyny and no homophobia, challenging erotic guilt and sexual shame?

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Update on the Happenings at Out House

Why not visit our web-site?

Our web-site is now up and running click on www.outhouse.org and see what we have been doing. It will updated regularly. At the moment it contains links to welfare rights and anti-poverty issues, archived newsletters and up-to-date information about the Out House. You might even like it and want to help improve and keep it up-to-date. We are always open to offers of help. If you are interested either e-mail, phone or contact us by snail mail.

Resignations and new faces

Both Denis and Candice have left the Management Committee to pursue other interests. Our thanks go to them for their work over the past year and we wish them both all the best for the future. We are also pleased to welcome Ted and Michael to the committee, newly elected at the AGM. We also welcome Rachel and Juliette (previously observers) who were co-opted onto the committee this month. We hope you all enjoy working with us.

THANKS THANKS THANKS THANKS THANKS THANKS THANKS

To NG1 for the use of their upstairs room and for providing free refreshments for our AGM

To the GMB union for their sponsorship of this newsletter

To the Lord Robert's for the use of the 'Green Room' for the LGB Forum and Pride meetings.

Anyone requiring a copy of the fully audited 2001-2002 accounts, presented at the AGM please contact the office and we will send them to you.

£Can you spare a fiver?£

Our office computer is old and on it's last legs. It is only because Mark is a bit of a miracle worker, that this newsletter ever gets completed on a slow, contrary and obsolete machine.

About £800 would buy us a luxury replacement..... or if even half of our Out House members contributed five pounds each, we be able to afford to upgrade the P.C. we have.

To make a donation contact the office. We promise to publish the result of this appeal in our next newsletter.

Volunteers Page

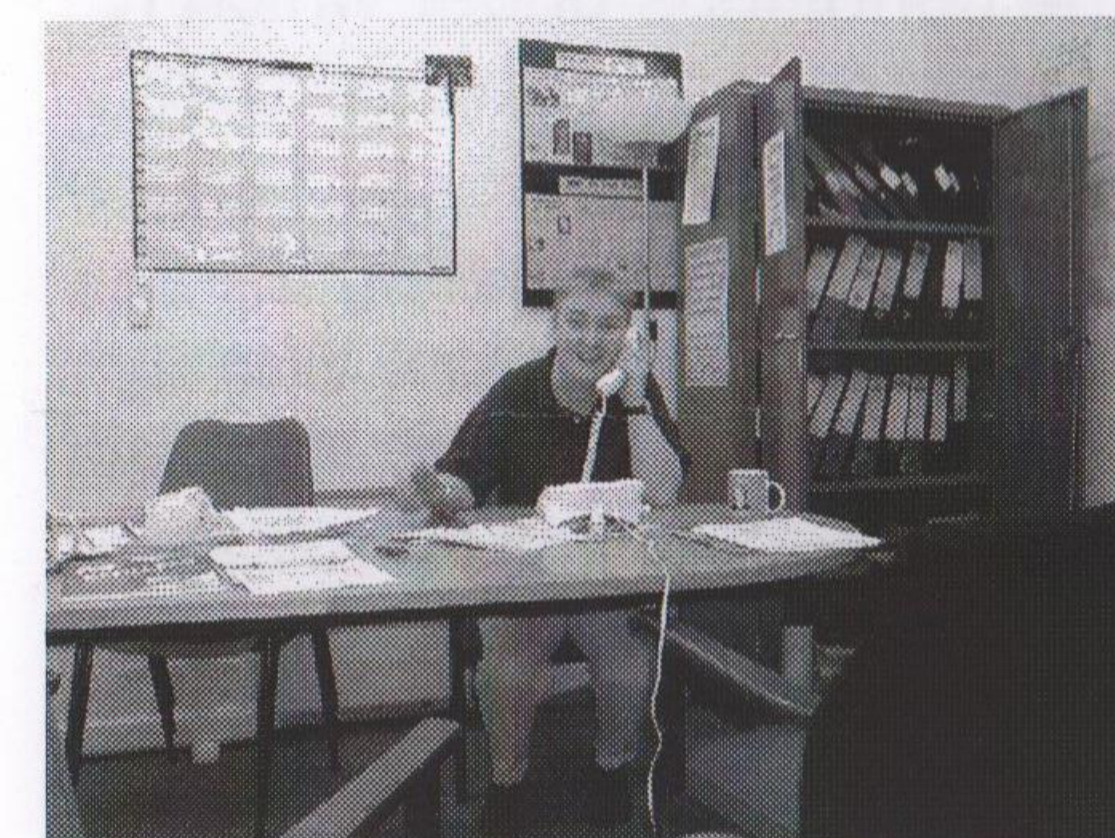
Volunteering with the OutHouse

By the time you receive this newsletter, I will have been working at the Out House for 3 Months. Time flies etc. etc. So what have I been doing? Well so far I have been meeting with the LGB voluntary groups in the city and discussing what services we need for the community that could be provided by volunteers— some very clear gaps have been identified already and I still have several group to meet.

One of the criteria of my post is that I produce a report which maps current services, explore the gaps in current services and make recommendations about how to fill these gaps using volunteers. This will obviously take some time, however whilst doing this research I will be compiling a volunteer handbook for the Out House— so that when we are ready to recruit volunteers all the right support structures and polices will, be in place, and we can start recruiting when the report recommendations have been agreed.

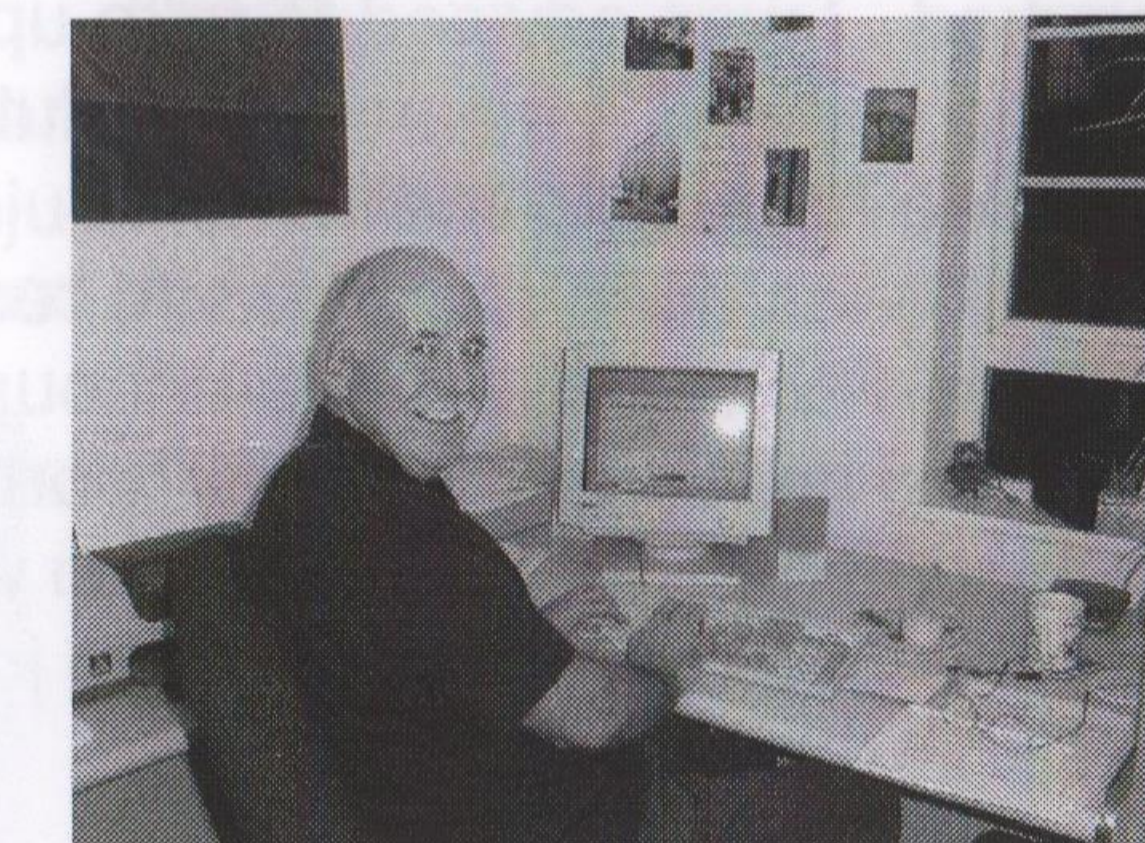
However ,in the meantime—there are 2 notices below where volunteers would be welcome right now. I'm really looking forward to seeing these projects develop—so please get involved. It should be great fun.

Biddy



Mark
&
Biddy

earning their corn.



Pride

Fancy having a Nottingham Pride event next Year???

Well there's no reason why not!!!

The only thing is we need a committed group of people to help organise it. If you can spare an hour or two a week, can work co-operatively with others and enjoy having a laugh— this could be for **you**.

We have already had an informal information evening and the next meeting will be held on the 3rd Dec @ 7.30 pm. at the Central. Want to know more ring or email me at the office.

Newsletter Group

Lots of people read the Out House newsletter, and at the moment its quite a small publication. We would love to see it develop into something bigger and even better.

So if you've got a secret yearning to be Lois Lane, Clark Kent or even Jimmy ?, give us a call at the office and we will form a Community Newsletter Group. Photo's, articles, reviews, small ads etc. come and join us.

Contact me on 0115 911 0545 or email: biddy@outhouse.org.uk



Contact us today at our Nottingham Office on
0115 978 4167

Ask for Sian or Sue, the Recruitment Team
Email:- sian.mcclarenc@gmb.org.uk

THIS OUT HOUSE
NEWSLETTER IS
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No one expects to have problems at work but unfortunately they do happen. That's when you need the representation and support of the GMB—the union for life. We represent almost 1 million people across the UK. We provide a voice for you and your colleagues, expert legal advice and high quality information on all aspects of work related topics, as well as a comprehensive set of financial benefits and discounts.

JOIN BRITAIN'S GENERAL UNION!

Excerpt from Wendy Lawrence's (GMB member) Letter

Wendy writes "In 1989 I lost my job because of contracting Repetitive Strain Injury. I became a member of the GMB, as an individual, as there was not a union established at the place where I worked. I was advised to take up a claim for personal injury as the conditions under which I worked showed a failure in the duty of care towards me, by my employers. And management was also harassing me"

Wendy goes on to say that she received nothing but empathy and support since joining the GMB and as a result of the encouragement and extensive training given by the Union, Wendy helped to set up an I.R.S. Support Group.

She found her whole association with the GMB very empowering and Wendy went on to say that she would urge everyone to join a trade union to safeguard their interests and not to wait until some crisis occurs.

Flying Colours Investment Club

Club succeeds in buying some shares at last!!

After meeting for over a year, albeit during the big downfall in share prices, the club has just bought some 500 shares in a well known retail company. Throughout the last year the money that each member had contributed to the club, some £4000, has been kept in a building society and has made more profit there than if it had been invested on the Stock Exchange. This is definitely not for the faint hearted but is supposed to be just good fun!

The club started just eighteen months ago, as a result of an avid Gay investor placing a small advert in the Out House Newsletter. The result was, that 12 people responded, and as it happened they were all men. So an initial meeting was called early in 2001, which resulted in the club now being exclusively for gay men.

At this first meeting it was discovered that one of the potential members was already an avid

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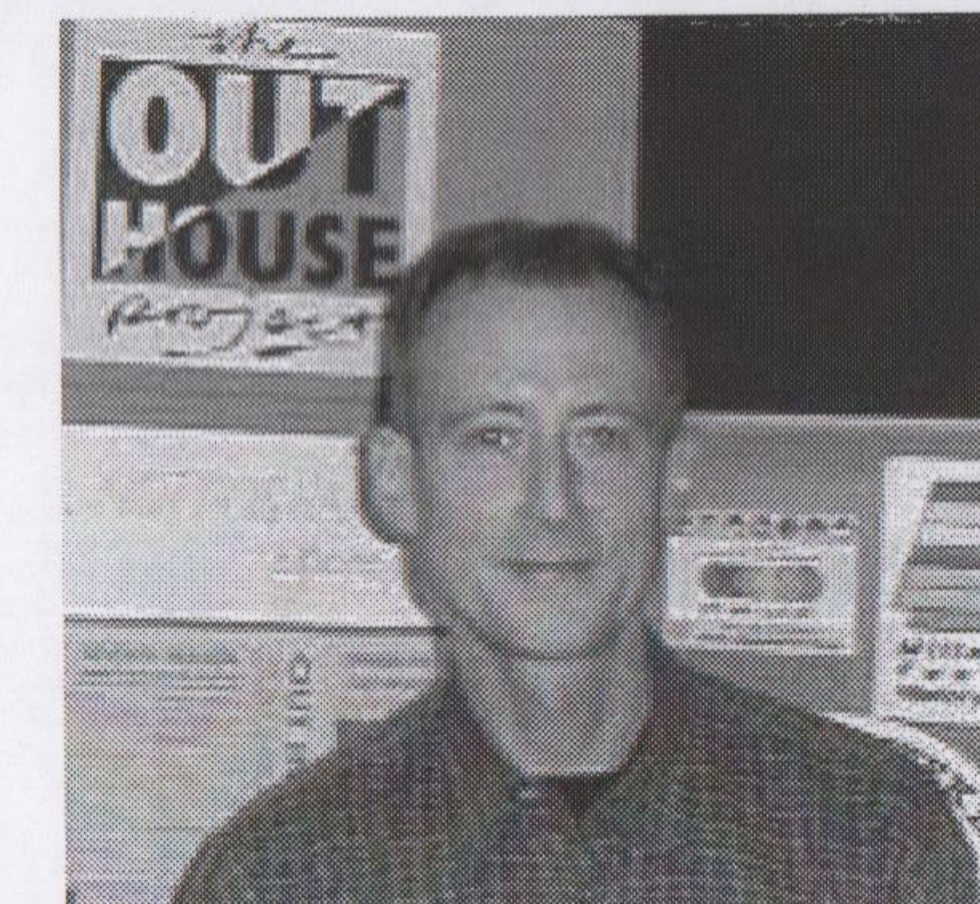
Blurring of gender roles and alternatives to the nuclear family. Gay communes were a new queer ethic about relating and living with people. This would liberate all – us and straight people – people could be what they wanted to be. The dream seems to have faded, we have lost the vision. Quite a retreat from those ideas and values. Most people accept society as it is and want equality in it. Peter feels that this is not good enough and we should hang onto a vision for the future, but many LGB people now seem to accept society's present values, laws and institutions.

The Gay Liberation Front (GLF) manifesto of Oct.71 is still inspiring, though some language is a little dated. It is however critical of the paternal family. Now 3 decades on (London) Pride theme was 'we are the family', and partnerships. We need to maintain some degree of scepticism towards the family, recognise the good and the bad. We should want a new kind of family, tolerant, embracing and caring. We need new alternatives.

Peter's question for the future is: Is this focus on 'safe cuddly issues'- partnership and parenting rights, a good thing? Some people will benefit from it and really want it. But is this part of our retreat and our reluctance to rock the boat, so we can become "responsible members of society"? Why is it a retreat? Because we don't focus on other issues. Peter is not fond of S&M, but feels it outrageous that consenting adults in private can be jailed for it. We must not focus on safe issues at the expense of causes where there is injustice. Peter reckons a couple of hundred men at the moment are falsely imprisoned for

child sexual abuse. The Gay movement and Gay press won't take up their cause. Ask yourselves why do we want a whole some image for ourselves? Again, being provocative – is the Gay movement infected by wider political issues e.g. Blairism?! Caution, conservatism, timidity, reluctance to challenge bigotry, e.g. Refugees, the government doesn't have the guts... It's the same on gay issues –13 times since 1997, the government has vetoed stuff on gay rights, e.g. Section 28, employment issues, pension rights, homophobic attacks. The Crime and Disorder act 1998, only covers race attacks. The Human Rights act only covers some kinds of discrimination.

The Government is more interested in appeasing the prejudices of middle class England



than fighting homophobia. Same process in the LGB movement, we express caution, etc. Many prominent people in the national LGB organisations were not part of the original 70s movement, and they have moved us on to a more cautious, conservative agenda. We can't afford it – we need to envisage a sexual liberation agenda that goes beyond just equality. We need this to make things better for ourselves otherwise you could get a division between good gays and bad

For example, the average age of first sexual experience is 13 or 14. It seems wrong to make 15 year old (gay) boys face the possibility of life imprisonment for consenting anal sex. It would be better to make the age of consent 14 and back it up by a much better and earlier sex education. As you know Peter has been accused of giving the gay community a bad name. He believes in saying what is right, even if unpopular. The Sun, now accepts him almost grudgingly. In the end this creates a movement that unites all people. We need to fight all battles for Gay and Straight alike. For example, rights for unmarried people of all sorts, racism,/homophobia/sexism/democracy in the armed forces.

Questions:

A question was asked about Young people and their involvement in LGB issues. Some don't feel able to be open about their sexuality. Many people get over coming out and what they have been through once they discover the bar and club scene, but for others it is very traumatic and difficult. These people often find that the scene doesn't meet their needs, and a different range of support is needed—from organisations like the Out House.

Many thanks to Peter for giving his time to the Out House AGM. The collection taken on the night of £61 and the Out House donation of £50 was forwarded to 'The Peter Tatchell Human Rights Fund'.

Many thanks to Chris for taking the notes and transcribing them for me. Mark.