

# CHE

# Subjects first man to Chair

ism, organised by the local CHE group, attended by guest speakers Liz Stanley and Sue Wise, was held at the Friend's Meeting House on January 31. A successful evening was held in the evening.

inted Glenys Parry to chair for the coming year. Barrie

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CHE'S WANDSWORTH and Richmond  
group, meeting recently, heard the views of  
a consultant psychiatrist and a gay cam-  
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Dr Stephen Frank, of Queen Mary's  
Hospital, Roehampton, reviewed the history  
of medical attitudes towards homosexuality

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# the law, says merican Embassy

LONDON: After consultations with the State Department in Washington, the United States London Embassy has confirmed its earlier ruling that known homosexuals will be refused entry visas.

CRAWLEY: The local CHE group, almost hounded out of existence this spring by a concerted National Front campaign, is to reopen.  
The new convener, Brian Hart, is to get in touch with as many

John R Diggins Jr, Consul-General in London, told a three-member delegation from the Campaign for Homosexual Equality that homosexuals were specifically excluded by Act of Congress.  
Glenys Parry (pictured), Chairwoman of the delegation, had asked t

# Campaign for Homosexual Equality

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# Annual Report 1976

noon this Saturday, February 28, out-  
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## PRESIDENT'S FOREWORD

I make no apology for the fact that my work in CHE has been mainly concerned with law reform for I do not believe that a minority can achieve any meaningful social equality while it is still discriminated against in law.

The recent action of the Home Secretary in referring the whole of the law relating to sexual offences to the Criminal Law Revision Committee means that we are now faced with what used to be known as the politics of the long haul.

I forget the name of the cynic who referred to those Government Committees as bodies which "take minutes and waste years" but Jenkins' action effectively rules out any hasty legislation. However, if we end up with a report that fully supports our own law reform proposals we shall be in a much more powerful position to make progress.

Those who have expressed doubts about our ability to persuade the C.L.R.C. will be glad to see that the Annual Report of the Campaign for Homosexual Equality will reflect that unless we can convince a body of government who are examining our case in length and in depth and who are not dependent upon votes, then we have no chance.

## THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CAMPAIGN FOR HOMOSEXUAL EQUALITY

All thanks then to the Council and its staff for preparing our evidence for submission. The rest of us must do our bit by maintaining Parliamentary interest in every possible way. The Executive will do all they can at national level, but it is essential that groups should continue to have the opportunity to contact M.P.s at local level.

MAY 1975 — MARCH 1976

We must, in the words of the bill reforming poem, "earn to labour and to wear". The labouring is the important bit. There is much to do, strengthening the group, building contacts with other organisations, pushing forward the education campaign, demolishing the hideous homosexual stereotype projected by the entertainment industry and, above all, supporting and caring for the casualties of the long years of oppression and moral hypocrisy from which we are suffering still.

Allen Stewart

A statement of financial accounts and a discussion of the relevant administrative work will be provided separately.

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Those who have expressed doubts about our ability to persuade the C.L.R.C. — with its rather conservative reputation — of the need for our Bill should reflect that unless we can convince a body of people who are able to examine our case at length and in depth, and who are not dependent upon votes, then we have no chance at all of convincing Parliament.

All thanks then to Ike Cowen and his team for preparing our evidence for submission. The rest of us must do our bit by maintaining Parliamentary interest in every possible way. The Executive will do all they can at national level, but it is essential that groups and individuals should seize every opportunity to contact M.P.s at local level.

We must, in the words of the old reforming poem "learn to labour and to wait". The labouring is the important bit. There is plenty to do, strengthening the groups, building contacts with other organisations, pushing forward the education campaign, demolishing the hideous homosexual stereotype projected by the entertainments industry and, above all, supporting and caring for the casualties of the long years of oppression and social hypocrisy from which we are suffering still.

Allan Horsfall

## CHAIRWOMAN'S INTRODUCTION

As I write this with the Southampton Conference approaching, I realise that it has been a very short "year" since the Sheffield Conference. It was a very challenging Conference for everyone present, but many who found themselves distressed at the heated debate went on to renew their efforts on C.H.E.'s behalf.

C.H.E. continues to move forward and gain credibility as the national gay rights campaigning organisation. The media are giving more consistent coverage to our activities, and are beginning to canvass our opinions on relevant issues.

After the Southern Television documentary on "Coming Out", Tony Whitehead, a C.H.E. member, was forced to resign his job at British Home Stores solely on the grounds of his appearing in the programme. Demonstrations were held at B.H.S. branches and many hundreds of people have sent in their protests. C.H.E. members are becoming shareholders in the company in order to make their views heard at the shareholders' meeting.

Our contact with Members of Parliament continues at a grass roots and national level. A group of M.P.s who support our aims has been formed under the chairmanship of Clement Freud, M.P. Discussion with this group has enabled us to plan more effectively and realistically for law reform. The importance of gay people in the constituencies contacting their M.P.s cannot be stressed too often.

Major changes are taking place in the administration of C.H.E.'s affairs. A 25% increase in membership produced an increased rate of inquiries and more paperwork. A third member of staff was employed half way through the year, but it nevertheless became patently clear that there was an intolerable gap between the demands on the office and the work done. The Executive Committee spent many hours trying to find a solution to this problem, and eventually decided, with reluctance, that it did not have confidence in Alan Clarke or Christopher Bowden-Smith and it could not be answerable to the membership for the shortcomings of the office unless they left our employment.

On a more constructive note, plans are well in hand for moving out of our present cramped, damp premises into new office accommodation close by in Manchester. This move is scheduled for May 1st and, together with the appointment of new staff, the restructuring of the office work load and greater use of voluntary labour, will contribute greatly to the efficient administration which C.H.E. so badly needs.

The national network of C.H.E. groups continues to grow and flourish. The quarterly National Council continues to take its important role as a forum for discussion between local groups. In particular representatives of local groups have viewed the National Council as an opportunity for questioning the

Executive Committee on a variety of issues. This has proved an extremely useful two-way channel of communication. There has been a growing awareness this year of C.H.E.'s role as a caring organisation. FRIEND continues its invaluable work in support of distressed cases, but local groups have a complementary role to play. The needs of the elderly, the disabled, the prisoner, and the teenager have all been the focus of discussion by the Executive Committee, the National Council and by local groups. Much work needs to be done before the needs of these people are met, but the growth in awareness of these problems is encouraging.

C.H.E. still fails to attract women members and this intractable problem still is a cause for concern. A motion asserting the rights of gay parents to retain custody of their children has been made by C.H.E. at the annual conference of the National Council for Civil Liberties. This is seen as the first step in widening our campaign activities into areas more relevant to women.

The trend towards independent specialist gay groups goes on. These are related to professional or political parties and C.H.E. is in close contact with them. The success of these groups is encouraging. We are often able to work with them to further our aims.

I am aware that it has not been an easy year. Despite our many difficulties our work has continued. I am struck by the enormous amount of goodwill in C.H.E. which is all too often wasted. To be really effective both in campaigning and catering for the needs of its members we must find a way of using these energies to their limit. If the Southampton conference can be constructive in giving members a sense of direction and purpose, the year ahead will be a much improved one.

Glenys Parry

## PARLIAMENTARY/POLITICAL LIAISON

This portfolio covers the parliamentary and political aspects of law reform — mainly lobbying M.P.s and political parties — as opposed to the legal drafting side. We have at last managed to make some really substantial progress in building a lobby inside Parliament following a meeting in November between CHE/SMG/USFI and several interested M.P.s. Meanwhile the process of bringing grass-roots pressure to bear on M.P.s at constituency level — to bring our Bill to their attention and explain to them the arguments for it — has been intensified with the aid of Gay Lobby, a new sub-committee of the EC set up specifically for the purpose, working through CHE local groups and individual members. Mass pressure on M.P.s by constituents is the only means by which many of them will take much notice of us — especially following the referral by the Home Secretary of sexual offences in England and Wales to the Criminal Law Revision Committee, which too many M.P.s have seized upon as an excuse for inaction.

Work within political parties has also moved into a new phase. In collaboration with the Gay Labour Group we lobbied intensively at the Labour Party Conference as well as holding the usual fringe meeting. A CHE/GLG delegation subsequently met with representatives of the Party's Human Rights Sub-committee. We commend the initiative of GLG also in starting to build support for our Bill in the wider labour movement.

CHE was also very much in evidence at the Liberal Party Assembly, where the Young Liberals in particular succeeded in attracting much publicity for their gay rights campaign. Regrettably, we have yet to make any significant impact on the collective consciousness of the Conservative Party. As for the minor parties, Plaid Cymru and the various far left groups remain unknown quantities while the Communists seem to be very much on our side if the extensive and sympathetic treatment of CHE news by the "Morning Star" is any guide. The National Front continues to be the only England/Wales political party to take an unequivocally anti-gay stance.

Law Reform, along with other aspects of the gay cause, received considerable attention at the CHE November rally in London's Trafalgar Square. It has also been the subject of various press and broadcasting items.

### CLRC Submission

Ike Cowen, with the help of a group of volunteers, has prepared our submission to the Criminal Law Revision Committee. This lengthy document is a detailed argument of the case for law reform, in particular the arguments for reducing the age of consent.

## Long-Term Wider Law Reform

The present law reform effort is of course only part I of the Malvern (1974) CHE Conference mandate. Parts II and III cover longer-term work extending beyond the present highly pragmatic and limited Bill – areas of the law requiring further study and, even further into the future, the possibility of re-examining all laws on sexual behaviour in a fundamental way. No work has been done on either of these non-priority areas in the year under review but we hope to make a start in 1976.

Paul Temperton

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## **PUBLICITY**

“Media” has been much the magic word this year.

We have started taking ourselves seriously in this area and the media have, in turn, started to treat us with a little more respect. Sending out Press Releases before all important occasions has increased the amount of press interest and has also affected the number of unsolicited press contacts.

Radio, T.V. and newspapers have all begun to take our stories and to quote us in articles on gay related topics. All the indications are hopeful and it looks as though we are breaking through at least some of the barriers of fear and silence.

Alan Clarke

## LOCAL GROUPS

The scope of the work of the Field Officer System has been broadened with the establishment of the Local Groups Services Unit which attempts to provide a more effective chain of communication within the organisation and assist in the "birth pangs" of new groups. The Local Groups Organiser endeavours to keep in close touch with all groups and to this end the weekly output of mail and telephone calls has necessarily increased. Most convenors conscientiously submit their monthly return forms and supply current newsletters. In this way the organisation has become more closely knit but we are still aware of some weak links which we are constantly trying to eliminate.

Twenty-three groups in their early months of existence or in the process of formation have been started since last August and there is indication of others about to be launched. An interesting feature is the current effort being made by a number of groups to obtain their own premises – some have already been successful – Shrewsbury being a prime example.

At long last we have begun to make a breakthrough in the rural areas with membership recruitment and group establishment. It is the untiring endeavours of the field officers in the areas and the devoted work of enthusiastic local members that has made this possible. Reference should be made in particular to the new group in Gwynedd and the encouraging results in Essex particularly in the Colchester area. The next year should witness a consolidation of this work and further expansion elsewhere to reach many more lonely and isolated gays.

Some groups like Durham, Lancaster, Loughborough, Cambridge, Exeter, Leicester and Northampton have forged closer links with local Gaysocs but there remains a great deal of work in other parts of the country to extend this vital link within the gay rights movement.

The past months have witnessed a much greater interchange of visits between groups and contacts through exchange of newsletters. These links have been further extended by a number of valuable regional meetings where the interchange of ideas within areas should produce more effective groups in the months ahead.

The proposed training weekend for convenors, prospective convenors and committee members has been postponed until after the Annual Conference in order to make it more effective by not asking the same workers to attend too many conferences at short intervals. A local Group Manual has been produced and is now available.

A number of convenors who have served in that capacity for some years have resigned this year. To them we offer our sincere thanks.



A distinctive feature of local group activity since the Sheffield Conference has been the encouraging response on the Campaigning front. The high degree of enthusiasm and worthwhile results in the lobbying of M.P.s in connection with the law reform bill has been a feature of priority in most groups. At the same time there have been encouraging results in social service and educational contacts while the dialogue with church leaders of all denominations has been much more marked and promising than in any year since CHE began.

Local media coverage has expanded as never before. Groups have sought opportunities to use radio and television facilities at a local and national level to good effect. Phone-Ins, documentaries and general interviews have been numerous. Included amongst the list is the Southern Television "Coming Out" programme in January in which a number of Brighton members participated. Likewise local papers have carried more articles (often with accompanying photographs) of group members and the number of local papers accepting ads. has increased.

Fund raising events have been successful. The proceeds from the Annual Winter Fair in London in November allow us to keep open our Great Windmill Street offices. However, the London Management Committee is making urgent enquiries to obtain more spacious accommodation as our present office costs too much and cannot be fully utilised. Newsletters and magazines continue to become more professional, although some groups do not indicate meeting places and in that way miss a valuable opportunity for the newsletters to be a vehicle of good P.R.

The London Agency, originally established to aid the central London groups, has been extended to include all groups in the Greater London area. Visits, made to many groups over this period, have given clear indications of how the organisation is operating. Whilst it would be foolish to indicate that we have achieved our aims in their entirety, nevertheless, the warmth and friendly attitude of most groups is very evident.

It is on this happy and more solid foundation we should seek to build following the Southampton Conference. We are grateful to the unselfish efforts of committee members and others. We need more help of course. It is our aim that eventually no part of the country will be without a friendly group within easy travelling distance. Within this framework we can extend our efforts to understand each other and thus become more prepared to fight the prejudices of our society, whilst at the same time providing social facilities where gays can find the warmth of real friendship.

## NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGN

The aim of this campaign is to provide CHE with clear cut, well produced, and ongoing publicity. This is done via advertising and leaflets together with other public relations vehicles. Hence, we can put over to the public in general and gay people in particular what homosexual oppression is, and what CHE is doing to alleviate it. Work has started on a comprehensive range of new posters, a new CHE leaflet and written advice to local groups on obtaining local publicity. We are also researching into national forms of publicity, in the Press, periodicals and professional publications.

Veronica Pickles

## WOMEN IN CHE

The Women's Campaign Collective has spent a great deal of its time this year befriending individual women. Wanda Goldwag, Alison Hennegan and Sue Wise in particular have dealt with numerous letters from gay women all over the country who either don't attend local groups or feel isolated in them. In line with this, the Campaign has been taken to local groups where the role of women in CHE, sexism and the recruitment of women, amongst other topics, have been discussed. The distribution of leaflets and posters of interest to women has continued, as has the general Campaign to involve more women in the activities of CHE. Help and advice have been given to groups organising separate women's meetings. Stronger links between CHE and the Women's Movement, and lesbian organisations like Sappho are also being made.

The general Campaign adopted this year has been to aid gay parents forced into custody problems with their children. Contact has been made with Action for Lesbian Parents, and a motion has been submitted to the NCCL Conference, asserting the right of gay parents to retain the custody of their children if they so desire.

More leaflets and posters are being produced, both by the WCC and in conjunction with other groups within CHE. In this spirit of co-operation a tape has been made by members of the WCC, FRIEND and the Aged Gays Campaign in an attempt to encourage local groups to care more about these minorities. Advice and help has also been given to the recruitment and young gays campaigns.

Wanda Goldwag

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## MEDICAL CAMPAIGN

Contact with medically orientated groups has been made and kept, with the aim of working with these bodies. There are also requests from medical and para-medical groups for speakers at their branch meetings; a new step, and a big one. Liaison has been maintained with gay psychologists working within the British Psychological Society, and with the London Gay Medics and Dentals Group. Much important work needs to be done in this area but it will unfortunately, be slow, due to the prejudice and ignorance found in the professions.

Veronica Pickles

## TEENAGE MOVEMENT

A CHE campaign specifically for teenagers was originally visualised by several young members of CHE at a meeting held in London during September, 1975. At this meeting a provisional structure for the 'CHE Teenage Movement' (CHETM) was suggested, and this was accepted by the first meeting of the 1975-76 CHE Executive Committee.

CHETM constitutes an 'internal campaign', meaning that it is primarily directed at young people within the organisation. The movement has worked in close liaison with its comparable 'external campaign', the Youth Services Information Project, on a number of joint ventures.

CHETM's main objective is to improve the situation within CHE for homosexual and bisexual women and men under the age of 21. It is felt that local groups, as well as the national organisation, could be doing a lot more to provide facilities suitable for young people as well as older members. In an effort to help local groups understand the specific problems and needs of young people, members of the CHETM Collective have been visiting local groups, giving ideas on how to increase the number of teenagers, provide facilities and deal with the particular problems that young people face — parental situation, school, etc.

Work carried out in conjunction with the Youth Services Information Project covers the production of a bimonthly newsletter entitled 'Youth News'. This is designed as a communication vehicle between young people themselves, and people in the youth services. Also, in February, 1976 a group of teenagers presented a bundle of 1,000 petition letters asking for the age of consent for male homosexuals to be reduced from 21 to 16, to the Home Secretary. All the letters were signed by people aged between 16 and 21.

Tel Airs

## FRIEND

The past nine months have been marked by an increased willingness of outside bodies and organisations to call on FRIEND for help and advice. The readiness has been apparent in the media, daily newspapers and professional medical and consultant bodies. Mention of FRIEND in the 'agony columns' of The Sun, Woman's Own and the Daily Mirror brought in a whole spate of letters. Many of these were from married homo- and bisexual people.

So many of the local FRIEND groups are receiving so many requests for help from married people that the greater part of FRIEND's May National Conference was devoted to their needs and difficulties. National Friend is liaising with David Dunhill in his attempts to increase his successful groups for married homosexuals.

Several FRIEND groups now hold substantial grants from local authorities or government sources: in January, Cara-Friend Belfast was awarded a £750 grant with surprisingly little difficulty.

Groups are extending their telephone services and securing the use of rooms and offices in which to interview befriendeds.

The new Management Committee is working on a final draft of the Befriending Kit which, amongst other subjects, tackles the knotty problems of befriender-selection and group-recognition. The Committee's members have also been speakers to CHE groups wanting to increase their knowledge of Friend's methods, aims and needs.

The CHE Teenage Movement and Friend have had joint workshops, since many of the workers in CHETM find the letters they are answering and the contacts they are making require befriending skills.

The National Newsletter is now in use as a means of exchanging information and experience between the various groups, and as a way of up-dating information about the various external agencies FRIEND uses and works with.

One most encouraging trend has been the steady diminution of some of the old hostilities between other gay self-help groups and FRIEND: in many areas GLF-orientated men and women are working amicably and fruitfully with CHE people in a joint effort to make life easier for their local gay communities.

'Establishment' bodies and journals, such as the Maudsley Hospital, (erstwhile name of dread!), Colleges of Adult Education and medical periodicals are seeking information from us. We are also being approached by Colleges wishing to mount seminars and courses on human relations, and have been asked by one of the television networks to assist in the preparation of a programme on sex-education.

Alison Hennegan

## EMPLOYMENT CAMPAIGN

One of the greatest single problems facing those who wish to come out is the fear of discrimination in Employment. The national campaign sub-committee has contacted England's and Wales' 100 largest employers, asking their views on the employment of gays who are open about their orientation in the same way that heterosexuals are able to discuss openly their relationships. Local CHE Groups have been invited to write to other employers in their own area. Members of Trades Unions have been supplied with model resolutions for their Union branches, calling for the support of gay rights by their Union or Professional Association. The 100 largest unions have been surveyed and support requested for the formation of Trade Union Gay Groups (TUGGs), the registration scheme for which is run jointly by CHE and the Gay Labour Group. We are willing to assist in discrimination cases relating to employment but because of the lack of people coming forward to give information we have few actual instances to discuss with Unions, Employers and Legislators.

David Dancer

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## RELIGIOUS STUDIES CAMPAIGN

Religious gays often feel oppressed: many other gays see religion as the root of oppression of gay people. Despite the fundamentalist decrees of some Church leaders, the Church is starting to take a much more positive attitude towards gays. The time is ripe for gay church people to discuss gay rights with their Pastor and special Church groups are blossoming to support gay Christians. We should be aware of the problems of the Christians who need to reconcile their faith with their gayness, and the supportive function of CHE groups is important here. Information about the problems of gays from other cultures and religions is of great importance to CHE groups. This CHE campaign is working with a number of gay religious groups that have been set up, and is in contact with Church Leaders in various Churches who are re-examining the theological interpretations that have traditionally made gay and religious seem mutually exclusive.

David Dancer

## NATIONAL COUNCILS

These quarterly meetings are now becoming a much more vital part of our organisation. The debating forum has provided increased interest since the Sheffield Conference. The whole question of the part National Councils should play is under consideration and certain proposals will be discussed at Conference.

Only two meetings have been possible between conferences due to the lateness of the 1975 meeting and the relative short period until the Southampton Conference.

In December in London an effort was made to link the N.C. with a pre-Christmas jamboree. The attendance was fair — 40 or so groups were represented but this was well down on the June N.C. in Northampton. However, the London meeting reflected some of the "spirit" engendered at the Sheffield Conference. Many more delegates wished to be involved — thus indicating a far more important role for National Councils in the future.

In March, the Bath group kindly hosted the other Conference in that lovely historic city. Both National Councils contained reports from the Chairwoman and Treasurer provoking useful debate. The emphasis in London was on Law Reform. Steve Atack of the Young Liberals and John Gallagher of the Gay Labour Group both spoke followed by lively discussion and an indication that gay Conservatives were going to become more active as a Ginger group.

Workshop sessions in London included a choice of the Teenage Movement, Gays and Religion and the work of the Law Reform group. Some interesting points arose in the report back stage. At Bath — workshops were held on The Social Services Campaign, MAWP and Finance, and the National Membership Campaign. A further plenary session at Bath dealt with possible changes in our national constitution.

In December six groups gained full recognition and a similar number in March. It was agreed to resume the former practice of circulating convenors in advance with reports from groups seeking recognition. This practice was resumed as from the Bath Council.

Wallace Grevatt

## **SOCIAL SERVICES**

### **General Work**

The overall objective of this Campaign is to promote understanding and awareness in the Social Services concerning homosexuality and those gay people who have particular problems. There are two major perspectives: the External work (which involves CHE approaching bodies outside itself) and Internal work (which involves work with people who are already members and CHE groups). Within the ambit of the campaign the major areas of concern are: disabled gays, elderly gays and the Youth Services Information Project. We are also interested in Gays in Prison and problems of rehabilitating them when they are released. Apart from these specific areas we are also concerned with providing information and advice about homosexuality generally and to some extent in trying to develop CHE's function as a caring organisation.

### **Outside Liaison**

Since the Sheffield Annual Conference CHE has become affiliated to the National Council for Social Service. This puts us under the same umbrella as a wide range of voluntary welfare organisations and charities, many of whom are concerned with such areas as the disabled, the elderly and youth. Our general objects are to provide these organisations with information specifically orientated to their interests and to develop their concern for homosexuals. We work through the NCSS where possible but we also make direct approaches to relevant organisations.

### **Internal Work**

Our strategy has been to help individual CHE groups to work in the social services campaign within their locality. Not all groups are able to do this work and rather than send out blanket requests for co-operation we have tried to select those groups where we think we are likely to solicit productive work. We have talked to the Field Officers about social services and asked them to find out which local groups might be interested in this campaign.

### **Youth Service**

The Youth Services Information Project has mainly concentrated on its share of the production of Youth News which is widely circulated within the Youth Service. We produced a video tape of a simulated counselling session with a young homosexual and used this in our workshop at the annual conference of NAYPCAS. Liaison has also continued with most major youth organisations. We subscribe to a number of important youth publications and see that CHE information is regularly included in them. Trevor Locke and Angela Needham have visited the National Youth Bureau for a day (this is the major source of information for youth).



## Disabled and Elderly

Where our external work is concerned we have made a fair impact on AGE CONCERN but have also approached other major organisations concerned with the needs of the Elderly. We decided that the best way forward with the Disabled Gays would be to work with The Committee on the Sexual Needs of the Disabled (SPOD) who are pioneering this field and are appreciative of our needs. Our work with gay people serving prison sentences has developed and we have tackled the Home Office on the issue of letting them receive gay publications. These are areas which are new to CHE and the need for more information and research is felt.

Trevor Locke

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## **STUDENT CAMPAIGN**

Plans to create a network of student reps, to promote gay rights in Institutes of Further and Higher Education are only slowly getting started. A decision to extend participation in this scheme to non-students will be taken before Conference. This campaign works very closely with the National Union of Students' campaign for gay rights. In many Colleges and Universities, gay rights has still received little or no attention and attempts to gather information on speakers willing to visit Colleges from CHE groups, has had minimal success.

At any one time, there are about one million students. This may be our last chance to reach many of them with information about gay rights. Sex Education Seminars and Relationships study courses are now including consideration of homosexuality as a direct result of CHE group consultation with College lecturers and CHE support for gay students in those institutions. Upon these students re-evaluation of the prejudices they have been conditioned to accept by society, rest many of our hopes for acceptance in the future.

David Dancer

## PLANNING THE 1976 CONFERENCE

The foundations of organising this event had been laid by last year's conference organiser, Barry Jackson. The town had been selected, the council wanting CHE to hold its annual deliberations in one of its fine halls. The organisation of the Southampton conference has been approached with caution in that whenever there has been a possible controversial issue, it has been referred to the Executive for full discussion. Thus there has been plenty of opportunity for Executive members to challenge any issue, idea or proposal.

The selection of the Spring Bank Holiday as the date for the conference had created problems in finding accommodation. The popularity of the area meant that hoteliers could dictate their prices and there was little opportunity to reduce the rate being asked for beds. In a bid to keep the costs of the weekend to a minimum, this year special railway facilities have been arranged. Of course, those attending the conference are not just paying to attend a series of plenary sessions, but a weekend of activity with socialising and recreation very much to the fore. This has to be paid for and arranged, and the important role of the local group must not be underestimated.

This year's event sees the introduction of the daily order papers in the form of a morning newspaper which will be printed overnight and ready for reading at breakfast time. There will also be an important fund-raising event: the May Fair. This will provide an opportunity for socialising and allow members a chance to show off their various skills.

It is hoped that those members who are unable to attend the 1976 conference will come to the 1977 event which will be held from Maundy Thursday to Easter Monday afternoon, April 7th to 11th.

Griffith Vaughan Williams

## AGED GAYS CAMPAIGN

The Aged Gays Campaign has been working in conjunction with the Social Services Campaign this year with a special emphasis on external aspects, that is, establishing relations with outside organisations and developing a greater awareness of the subject in the minds of a public which to date had been little interested in the topic. Much work has been done in the past few months speaking to CHE groups in order to create a greater interest in the whole issue of Ageism; a word which only relatively recently found its way into our vocabulary. Now it is up to the local groups to take up the challenge and contribute something to the Campaign. It is not enough just to ask for a speaker to come along to talk about the subject. Deeds must replace words.

The Womens Campaign Committee and FRIEND have collaborated in taping a programme lasting approximately thirty minutes in which we discuss our fields as they involve minority groups within CHE and it is hoped this will provide a basis for discussion and action within groups.

During the National Council at Bath in March a workshop dealing with Social Services including Aged Gays was the start of meeting the requirements of the motion passed at Sheffield on the elderly. Work on organising a public seminar is in hand and it is hoped to attract some important names. The views which were expressed at the Bath National Council will be used to provide a base for the form the public seminar will take. In the meanwhile a sub-committee of the London West End Group is working on the details of the seminar which will cover the elderly homophile man and woman, transvestite and transsexual. Details of the event will be announced shortly.

There is a great need for the elderly homosexual man and in particular the elderly lesbian to contact us as much more information is needed. It is difficult to state how old "elderly" implies. The birth certificate means nothing. One is as old as one feels, so do not presume that the portfolio deals only with people of pensionable age.

Griffith Vaughan Williams

## **APPENDIX: ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

CHE is largely dependent on the great amount of voluntary help both in campaigning and administration, contributed by many members. The largest group of volunteers is our group convenors who work tirelessly to keep the wheels of CHE turning. The Executive would like to thank them sincerely and to express its warm appreciation of all who have contributed to the work of CHE this year. The following list of voluntary workers is not exhaustive but was accurate as of 29 February, 1976.

The following are members of Sub-Committees whose members are formally appointed:

### **MEMBERSHIP ADMINISTRATION WORKING PARTY ('MAWP')**

E. Peter Naughton  
Richard Head  
John Kernaghan  
Dave Green  
Stephen Austen  
Paul Jellings

### **FINANCE**

Derek Johnson  
Jonathan Moore  
Joe Cummins  
E. Peter Naughton

### **ENTERPRISES AND FUND RAISING**

Clive Pritchard  
Chris Weedon  
Dave Green  
Chris Donovan  
Leslie Parker-Davies

### **LOCAL GROUPS SERVICES**

Secretary:	Keith Price
Field Officers:	John Bennett
	David Brown
	Ted Clapham
	Geoff Collins
	John Commons
	Mike Harris

Brian Hart  
Gregory Jotham  
Karl Leverton  
Oliver Marrington  
Don Oswald  
John Pearce  
Derek Purse  
Robert Graham-Thompson  
Neil Wallace  
Ross Burgess  
Alastair Cleland

**LONDON MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

Wallace Grevatt  
Barrie Keynon  
Simon Ives  
Peter Mitchell  
Peter Ashman  
Oliver Merrington  
Edward Whitehorn  
Derek Purse  
Keith Price

## CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

Griffith Vaughan Williams  
Gerald Mettem  
John Hughes  
Brian Hill  
Steve Cutler  
Martin Fearn  
Chris Donovan  
Richard Head  
Peter Ashman  
Simon Ives

Brian Barker  
Marian Pond  
Alan Swann  
Steve Austen  
Graham Wilkinson  
Robert Graham-Thompson  
David Brown  
Stephen Cohen  
Michael Thomas

## FRIEND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

John Sketchley  
Alan Swerdlow  
Jamie Grey  
Ted Clapham  
Alison Hennegan

## LOCAL GROUPS SERVICES

Secretary: Keith Price  
Field Officers: John Bennett  
David Brown  
Ted Clapham  
Graft Collins  
John Conway  
Mike Harris

## **GAY LOBBY**

Paul Temperton

Ian Buist

Dermod Quirke

Nick Winterton

Richard Fowler

Reg Connolly

Brian Holser

Brian Barker

Edward Whitehorn

Tony Bennett

## **WOMEN'S CAMPAIGN COLLECTIVE**

Heather Cook

Carol Taylor

Stephanie Green

Alison Hennegan

Sue Wise

Lionel Starling

Penny Matthews

Paul Patrick

Bernice Humphreys

## MEMBERS OF THE CHE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Showing Principal Portfolios as at 29 February, 1976.

TEL AIRS	Teenage Movement
IKE COWEN	Legal Advisor
DAVID DANCER	Student liaison; religious studies, employment campaign
WANDA GOLDWAG	Women's Campaign
WALLACE GREVATT	Local Groups Officer
ALISON HENNEGAN	FRIEND
BARRY JACKSON	Treasurer; membership services and fund raising
BARRIE KENYON	Vice-Chairman
TREVOR LOCKE	Social Services Campaign (including Youth Services Information Project)
ANGELA NEEDHAM	Education Campaign
GLENYS PARRY	Chairwoman
VERONICA PICKLES	Recruitment Campaign; medical campaign
PAUL TEMPERTON	Parliamentary/Political Liaison
GRIFFITH VAUGHAN WILLIAMS	Conference Organiser; Aged Gays Campaign

### SALARIED STAFF

ALAN CLARKE	General Secretary
CHRISTOPHER BOWDEN—SMITH	Assistant General Secretary
MICHAEL GIBBERD	Personal Assistant to the General Secretary



# Special Valentine

HOME SECRETARY, Roy Jenkins, received a very special Valentine this year from 1000 gay teenagers.

Trevor Locke, CHE Executive member, on behalf of the gay teenagers, is seen in our photograph handing in the Valentine on the steps of the Home Office in Whitehall's The Valentine itself, in the form of 16 for from gay teenagers urging gay law reform was presented at 12 noon on Saturday, February 14 - Valentine's Day.

The letters from gays between 13 and 14 February 14 - Valentine's Day. stated: "I as a young person need to explore my sexuality. I as a young person need to explore the right to enter into consenting relationships with other people should be legalised."



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# Green Fa

NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE: Tyneside CHE mounted a campaign to change the city on Valentine's Day.

Our photographs show the campaign to change the city on Valentine's Day. The campaign was led by David Irwin.

TUNING: Being seen on January 1st on the last night of the year.

# Gays win battle over film season

Dave Brown  
FIELD: The local CHE group has been the centre of a storm over its annual film season.

# Gays r

CROYDON: Members of the Campaign for Homosexual Equality have appealed to Croydon Council for a programme to combat discrimination against homosexual teachers.

The controversy has sparked off in a report on gay teachers in 148 education authorities.

TYNESIDE: The local Homosexuals in Society group has been the last week as part of a sexuality run by the West London and organ Kenyon.

LUTON: At a meeting to which the invited

LONDON: Welcome guests at Campaign for Homosexual Equality's annual Winter Fayre on November 22 were the Mayor and Mayoress of Camden, Cllr and Ms B Tabor. The Mayor and Mayoress were escorted by a band of 100 members of the Vaughan Vaux Club.

# energies

IN A RECENT letter to Gay News, CHE's legal adviser Ike Cowen warns of the dangers of "misdirecting our attack" against the Director of Public Prosecutions, who is considering charges against the gay contact magazine *Gay Circle*. It is reported that two charges brought are "conspiracy to commit an act of buggery" and "conspiracy to defame the Director of Public Prosecutions".

# Campaign Homosexual Equality

YOUNG CHE met on the September 6th to discuss their exact position and the much debate. At the end of their title, as they felt they were being misrepresented against the homosexuals.

have been extracted from *Who's Who*. If there is no response from BHS soon, then the groups plan to picket directors' homes and clubs, and write letters to their neighbours and to fellow club-members. The pickets are to continue, and the