

No. 4 December 1971 10p

National Council Mtg. Winter Fair Photos Christmas Competition

BIGGEST (24 pages) & BRIGHTEST
(we use that Gay washing powder)



Merry
Christmas!
I see you've got a
Cockatoo.



LUNCH

MONTHLY No. 4 DECEMBER 1971

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Contributions

Welcome from anyone CHE member or not; Write or type clearly; State clearly if you want it returned and if so send SAE; Include full name and address and telephone number. All items must reach us not later than 4th January for inclusion in the January issue - out 21st.

Correspondence

Lunch has only one address at: 25 Upper Montagu Street, London W1H 1RQ. No callers except by prior arrangement.

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WHOLE PAGE 9"x7" £10/£3.50

1/2 PAGE VERT 9"x3 1/4" £6/£2.50

1/2 PAGE HORZ 4 1/2"x7" £5/£2.25

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PERSONAL DISPLAY Typed ad in box. CHE members and groups 1p per word; COMMERCIAL 3p, PRIVATE 2p per word. Min 20 words for all groups.

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Usual conditions apply as to conforming to standards etc. PAYMENT in advance only please to Lunch Magazine.

Lunch Dates

JANUARY out 21st; latest date for material etc. 4th January.
FEBRUARY Due to re-scheduling for the magazine to come out at the beginning of each month from March - the first Friday always - there will be no issue.
MARCH out 3rd; latest date for material etc. 14th February.

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Editor David Hyde
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A HIGHLY EMOTIONABLE SUBJECT

Doing your own thing is something which many CHE people take for granted; either the doing or the not doing something is what they alone will decide.

This is a good situation for CHE to find itself in, as shown at the National Council meeting, reported elsewhere in Lunch.

Each group has the autonomy to go about The Campaign for Homosexual Equality as it sees fit, which gives strength to the whole organisation, and will ensure that we maintain a principle of being a widely-based one.

Just one of the drawbacks of catering to everyone's demands is that the more ambitious amongst us are bound to feel frustrated that their own policies for the success of CHE are not made obligatory for everyone else.

This can cause spectacular defections such as that of Nick Stanley - late of the Birmingham group - and will no doubt be the reason in due course when the radical element assemble their strength and alarm the 'old guard'.

To an organisation such as ours dealing with such a highly emotionable subject, and, it must not be forgotten, other popular feelings of security and well-being, not to have to deal with controversy and disputes is impossible.

The essential point has to be made that tolerance for others doing their

own thing (whether they are extreme right or left) and a willingness to cooperate on every possible occasion, will ensure the continuation of CHE's wide appeal.

To everyone, everywhere, Lunch sends its greetings! Thank you all for making this magazine possible by the support you have shown us.

Carry on! Please.

Chiz Chiz...

David Hyde on the recent CHE National Council Meeting

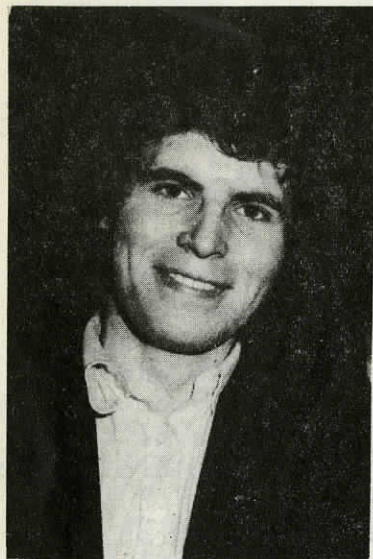
I'm sure some Editors of more august and important magazines than Lunch are happy to leave the reporting of Society bun-fights and AGM's to their underlings, but from time to time it falls to my lot to do the s.d.-work. Not that I would claim it to be beneath my position. On the contrary, perhaps reporting on the CHE National Council Meeting is relative to being Chief Parliamentary Correspondent of the Times or Daily Telegraph.

There are two primary errors of reporting that I am now going to make. The first is to be apologetic, and the second to write a rather lengthy preamble.

As so few people have any great knowledge of the function and workings of the National Council, I feel some explanation will be helpful.

It is, as perhaps you have heard, CHE's own parliament; it gathers quarterly and is obliged to meet at a place different from the previous time.

Each CHE group recognised by the Council is entitled to send two rep-



...after the Meeting was over!



representatives to the meeting. Groups formed between meetings and that wish to become recognised must send along a representative who applies to the Council for recognition. The basic qualification seems to be that the new group has at least ten members and its representative seems to be innocuous enough at the time.

The purpose of the Council is to act as a convenient way in which the grass roots membership can inform the Executive Council of its feelings on any particular matter. This it does by adopting resolutions which are put forward in recommendations to the Executive Council.

That is the official version; it does not appear quite the same when one walks into the meeting and listens to the actual proceedings. Whoever made the point that CHE is a 'middle-aged, middle-class organisation' (no prizes for guessing correctly) was talking through the top of his head.

One quick look round the assembled National Council and the first impression is that it is, in many ways, a rather unlikely-looking crowd. In fact the variety of people representing CHE is so diverse that one wonders that any concerted action can be taken at all. And the variety is not only to be judged against an age/social status background, but also in terms of political and social ethics, and about what people do or do not expect from CHE.

One is forcibly struck by the fact that CHE accommodates almost every

Opposite page- Seen at the Haverstock Arms at the party after the meetings, Top left, Michael Thomas and Gavin Clare Top right, Paul Temperton and Glenys Parry Centre left, Lunch Editor David Hyde Centre right, Graham MacIntosh, Geoff Sargent, Wallace Grevatt Michael Steed and Bernard Greaves Bottom left, Michael Yelland, William Blackledge and friend Bottom right, Tony Ryde and Michael Launder.

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range of opinion without any one of them having their hands exclusively on the steering wheel. Surprising, too, was the cordiality and number of points on which these varying shades of opinion managed to agree.

The first session of the meeting was regarding the constitution. Cambridge proposed that CHE should have an Annual General Meeting for which the Executive Committee be responsible.

There were many reservations on this point and over the constitution generally. Ike Cowan from Nottingham offered to set up a Working Party to examine the Constitution for the Council. (Other members on the Party are to be Brian Sewell and Peter Robins- London, and Mike Thompson- Bristol.)

Next, a great storm over the matter of Martins Stafford's dismissal from office as Treasurer, and the request of the Executive Committee for his resignation as a member. This arose from what the Executive Committee alleged to be his high handed attitude of arranging a meeting of Vice Presidents without the knowledge of the Committee. Also to discuss policy with regard to new Vice Presidents, particularly the proposal to invite, amongst 100 others, Kenneth Tynan, Mick Jagger and Richard Neville.

Various Bishops and others had expressed concern on the choice of these three gentlemen, who, apparently, do not have the proper 'moral tone' about them, and would have to withdraw themselves from association with CHE. Martin Stafford quoted one of the influential Vice Presidents as stating that he had known Kenneth Tynan as an undergraduate, and had considered him (then) to be a rather 'nasty piece of work', which seemed to be a rather immoral thing to say behind someone's back- especially someone preaching about morality.

continued on page 14 column 2

Later that evening a party was given at the Haverstock Arms, Hampstead, which was a great success and allowed the very many members of CHE to meet and talk and make friends. (Match-making was also observed!)

Taken as a whole, the mass gathering of the National Council and Executive Committee representatives made CHE really worth while and full of promise for a rosier future for us all.

Mark Connard

1. Ignores ONE OBSERVER advertisement as being aimed at the middle-aged, middle-classed and middle-sexed.
2. Realises acceptability of any organization advertising in SPARTACUS. Joins.
3. Is induced in Bloomsbury.
4. Leaves first Group because Chairman has a personality.
5. Knits biggest bed-sock for Spring Fair. Wins 3rd Prize: A week in Brentford with the Legal Studies Group.
6. Seen rejoicing in THE LAMB. Has been offered Chairmanship of Group 69.
7. Eats Old School Tie and joins Radio Luxembourg Fan Club.
8. Is anonymously satirized in LUNCH for doing so.

9. Heads Working Party to consider whether Stafford and Baker should be canonized in the same year.
10. Is cautioned by the Head Boy behind the Castelnau boat-house.
11. Attends Inter-Regional Convention, as a delegate on expenses and ventures a new opinion.
12. Is castigated by the hierarchy as a faction-forming, in-fighting, acrimonious, backbiting, divisive bitch of the third class.
13. Seen drinking with Mike Winters at Wapping.
14. Seen drinking

Letters please -
coming late this January.

To All Members of CHE

A MOST HAPPY CHRISTMAS

A MOST SUCCESSFUL NEW YEAR

Roger Baker
with love

1971/1972

Win 2 Tickets!
in Lunch's competition page 10

come to CHE's
Grand Masked Ball

LICENSED BAR PRIZES

LIVE MUSIC CABARET

FULHAM TOWN HALL
Friday January 28. 8.30pm ~ 12 pm
tickets £1·00 before £1·25 at door
get your tickets from
box 29 25 Upper Montagu St
London W1H 1RQ
enclose s a e

8 Oh to be a Radicalesbian! Cheesecake

I'd love to be a 'radicalesbian', like Martha Shelley in November's "Come Together", to be able to say to straights- and believe it- "We will never go straight until you go Gay" Some Gaiety with menaces.

Its easy for us all to knock each other. I'm afraid I'm not 'into' GLF. Although I find some of their ideas refreshing, their jargon seems to me repetitive and mindless.

I can't understand it when they have a lot of 'bright' people. (Now I'd better choose my words carefully.) I wouldn't dare say 'intelligent' in case I'm attacked for being a non-representative middle-class token sister, (which I undoubtedly am) who's 'learned to play male chauvinist political-power games' (another quote from "Come Together").

I guess GLF's trouble is its become fanatical. As George Jackson said in "Soledad Brother", "I have completely arrested the susceptibility to think in theoretical terms, or give credence to religious... or other shallow or unnecessary things of this nature that lock the mind and hinder thinking."

I wish GLF would follow his example. I don't mean it smugly. In fact what gets me is their smugness, and convenient labels like 'sexist', 'male chauvinist' etc., reminiscent of childish games of 'sticks and stones may break my bones!' only make me long to retaliate. Each group is highly critical of the others- a bit like CHE?

A Gay man asked me the other day if

I was in Women's Lib. Something in his tone of voice prevented me from answering outright. He went on, "Because if you are, you can fucking well light your own fag!"

As a matter of fact I'm not, but I'm not sure it isn't the only organisation that really achieves something. Look at CHE now. There's a rumour that some people want to exclude women- and I thought CHE stood for homosexual EQUALITY.

If so, why is everyone so suspicious and frightened of each other? Some women are frightened of men, antagonistic and defensive, seeing them all as voyeurs, ready to attack.

But women can help, and are anxious about the law concerning you- age limit etc. - and you could help them with their problems too- extreme difficulty of their getting house loans, the humiliating necessity for men to sign hire purchase agreements, and other inequalities.

They have no wish to muscle in on your orgies, or attract undue attention, but I thought CHE was much more than a mere "MEN ONLY" organisation.

So although I realise there are fewer social organisations for men than women, can we not finally lay the ghetto mentality?

All the women who join CHE are wholeheartedly FOR 50/50 groups, and for you minority who hate women let me reassure you that at the present growth rate, I doubt if women will outnumber you men before the year 3000!

Can I add that I feel an allegiance to my group, although I sometimes bitch about it. I attend meetings whenever humanly possible, but am growing disillusioned as at least two members (and rumours of a third) have left to Chair new groups.

With apologies for seeming harsh, it does make our group feel like a sink-

ing ship- with them cast as the rats. I don't think they have returned to say goodbye, lend support, they've just sidled out of our lives.

I'm sad they left because they livened us up, and I wish they had channelled some of their energies back into it instead of abandoning the group.

How can CHE expect to survive on Youth Beauty and Power alone? There were possibilities; there was hope- they might even have helped the CHE solidarity more in the long run.

I fully understand the attraction of new blood and greener pastures, but do feel that more group loyalty should be shown in future; more honesty and constructive criticism voiced; less apathy; more commitment at group level.

Has anyone else any strong views either way on this?

Next issue out 21 January!

9 Mystery of the Missing Wreath

David Hyde

The Gay Liberation Front found themselves alone in laying a wreath at the Cenotaph on Remembrance Sunday, despite CHE's offer to make the occasion a joint effort. What proved to be unfounded fears of riotous behaviour appeared to have reduced the support of our London membership to almost nil.

However, CHE or no CHE, GayLib did their own thing, as they always do, and laid their wreath. Not of course without a token effort at obstruction from the Metropolitan Police who had a wonderful armoury of excuses for not cooperating. "Non-Political causes only!" they said, and were

Legitimate

GAY INTRODUCTION BUREAU (GIB)

offers help to men over 21 & women over 18

please write to 99a Park Lane London W1

10 promptly told the deputation was non-political.

People laying wreaths at the Cenotaph for officially disproved of causes seems to be a new one on the police, and for once they were not able to invoke one of those peculiar statutes enacted in 1474 that dealt so effectively with most things your average Chief Constable could dream of objecting to.

No doubt something obscure will be brought into common law next year to deal with that.

So GLF had their way but not for long. The wreath of a triangle of link carnations on a white background mysteriously disappeared. Explanations of this disappearance have been rife, the most popular one being that the Department of the Environment, under whose responsibility the care of the Cenotaph falls, had taken offence and removed the wreath.

But according to a spokesman of the Department this was not so. "The Department would not have taken any action with regard to the inscription on the wreath, nor have any knowledge of such a wreath being removed from the Cenotaph." The only explanation to the disappearance of the wreath, according to the DoE is that it could have been taken by pilferers.

*Personal Displays
ads - in boxes - at
only 1p per word!
Plain Personal ads
free to C&F groups
and members.*

Lunch's Christmas Competition

Win 2 tickets for the Grand Masked Ball

AS ADVERTISED ON PAGE

All you have to do is send us the most witty and original phrase to fill the speech balloon in the photo montage on the opposite page. Then send it to us enclosing the voucher below and a 3p stamp, to arrive not later than Saturday 1st January.

The winner will receive the 2 tickets by post, and the winning phrase will be announced in the next issue of Lunch, out on the 21st January.

The judges will consist of members of the Lunch Working Party whose decision will be final. Entries will not be valid from those in any way connected with either Lunch or the Ball.

CHRISTMAS
COMPETITION



ATTACH 3p
STAMP HERE



12 report of a churchGarden Party and saying: "But the hit of the afternoon was the vicar with his balls in a bucket". Alas, there were no such delights for us, but the hit of the afternoon was probably Tom who hid behind a curtain and told fortunes non-stop for hours.

Big thanks to Tom for this exhausting stint- especially since his journey up from Woking had been, to say the least of it, fraught, and involved a stop at St. Thomas' Hospital, where the unstoppable Bridie (his constant companion and friend to all) was finally stopped for instant repairs.

In one corner there was another Michael selling straws with numbers inside. I found this a counter-productive experience since everyone else but me was winning amazing things. All I got for my pains were a couple of bars of chocolate. And even less successful for me was the tombola on which I spent pounds.

There were vast bottles of wine, a very sexy record from Denmark and yet another copy of Roger's book to be won. They all went eventually.

Norman had a dazzling display of glassware, and Chris stood slightly defensively behind a stall laden with skin bracer- which no one admitted they needed.

Danny did an amazing job on the buffet, and the Croyden crowd added lustre to the cluster.

Tony won the Hockney (engraving) but instantly auctioned it again, making another £27; and Michael bought back a painting that Tony had finally decided to get rid of.

There was a photographer, and a lucky dip, and David selling some pottery and mint copies of Ian's book. The student group added glamour to the scene and also made a lot of money on paperbacks and records.

A GLF contingent arrived complete with furry coats and a baby; they

sold lots of copies of "Come Together", handed out leaflets and spent a lot of money, largely, it seemed, on cakes.

Among the famous people who came along I noticed Princess Lee Radziwill, Elizabeth Taylor, Noël Coward, Leonard Bernstein, the Vicomtesse de Ribes, Prince Richard of Gloucester, Truman Capote, André Previn, John Lennon, Michael Parkinson, Marlon Brando, Mary Whitehouse, Joan Sutherland, The Who, Shelley Winters, Lady Dartmouth, Helena Rubenstein and Ken Dodd.

The London Committee of CHE (also known as the Rokeby House Knitting Circle) wishes to make it known that they unanimously agreed that a formal and sincere vote of thanks should be made to those who organised this mind-bending event- notably the members of CHE group 9 and their helpers. Brian insisted that the thanks should be in verse, but then he would.

That Alternative London Crossman

'Augustus' may have been in the soup last month, but the "Alternative London" saga continues with the nasty stuff beginning to stick.

First of all our apologies to Roger Baker that tireless factory of CHE propoganda and criticism, who so efficiently dealt with Nicholas Saunders' request for information for "Alternative London" by sending him an article within 24 hours.

Oh well, Mr. Saunders can choose to use whatever information he cares to (he didn't of course use Roger's), and one can only hope that what he has in fact used in the homosexual section doesn't reflect the authority of the

THE WINTER FAIR 1971



Tom Clarkson giving Gini Steven a glimpse into her future.



Shall I- shan't I? A visitor makes up his mind.

Roger Baker

The Winter Fair at the Conway Hall was certainly the biggest single project that London CHE has yet attempted. And, considering everything, it was a great success- in financial terms, which is important, but in social terms too. It was just great to see so many members and friends all at once, wandering around the stalls creating a really great, relaxed atmosphere.

Gross takings were £360- but after certain expenses have been met, including hire of the Hall and birdseed, we still expect to clear £300 according to William Blackledge. Which is very encouraging and must mark a turning-point in our progress (do you turn when you progress? Maybe not, but I just read in the 'Sunday Times' about a police probe that 'surged forward' which is equally peculiar).

Well, lets say it marks a surging forward in our progress since money is so vital to our plans. So black

marks to all those members who didn't turn up; and big kisses for all those who did.

The earliest arrivals found Tony looking casual but chic in a brown pully at the door and Peter looking fantastically smart at the hardback bookstall where there were some real bargains going including a mint copy of Roger's book which got snapped up a darned sight quicker than Roger.

John was discovered behind a stall full of long, hard, coloured candles and looked suitably flattered by such a setting. And Richard grinned shyly- as he always does- at a bagatelle thing.

Bernard was putting furious pressure on customers to buy lots of pretty pieces of material which, as someone else pointed out, had been seen before, usually worn by Michael.

I vividly remember the district correspondent of a provincial newspaper I once worked for writing a

However dark the reflection on Mr. S., the real villains behind the whole business are, naturally enough, the authors. To be aggrieved at what GLF had written is a natural reaction, but we know by now that that is exactly what to expect from them.

In this case, though, we can be grateful that the GLF activities are causing concern in their own camp; it seems that GLF has taken to censoring the literary attempts of their members.

As most people are aware "Alternative London" advertised for contributions for publication. Our friends the GLF swooped on their golden opportunity for very valuable publicity (as did CHE) and found themselves with the job of producing an article. Being a 'democratic' organisation the job was given to a number of their members to write on various aspects of the homophile scene.

As, however, the finished collection of contributions was too long for inclusion within AL, the whole piece was distilled by one of the GLF "Media Wokshop" people, and what, we are told, had been a perfectly reasonable account of CHE and other organisations was reduced to what has been published.

It would be very wrong to shout at GLF for what, collectively, is not the result of their action, and no doubt an explanation will be given to them in due course by the last person seen with the contribution in its original state- in this case Stuart Feather recognised as being their number one soft-sell 'salesman'.

To the Editor,
Dear Sir,

Perhaps I'm not the only CHE member disturbed to receive with his last

Bulletin a form seeking his support to petition Pan Books "voluntarily to withdraw" Dr. Reubin's book with that over-long title.

Persuasive arguments were put forward by Glenys Parry, and of course, what Reubins has written about homosexuality is utter rubbish, but surely Glenys is too sensible to want to be known as CHE's very own Mary Whitehouse?

Do those who sanctioned this petition see that there is no difference between seeking voluntary withdrawal of a book in this way and its unashamed censorship by authority?

If there is a difference at all, it is, to use another topical example, exactly parallel to the one between those Tory MP's who seek censorship of news media reporting in Ulster and those who prefer to pressurise the media in subtler ways.

Both, whichever name they go by, amount to the attempted stifling of opinion, however wrong-headed that opinion might be.

We should be ashamed to sign this petition, whatever Reubin may have written. Suppression of opinion (whether accomplished or merely attempted) is a two edged sword- if we try to use it ourselves, we may be sure it will be used against us.

Yours fraternally,
Michael Yelland,
Surbiton, Surrey.

continued from page 5

Somehow, the debate moved itself to discussing what Vice Presidents CHE ought to have, which was not actually on the agenda. Peter Robbins hoped that the choice of new Vice Presidents would not mean that we would lose more of our more influential and morally responsible Vice Presidents, and someone also protested that to him, and many others

many had unfortunate moral connections. The Council recommended that Mick Jagger should not be approached with an invitation; Kenneth Tynan and Richard Neville were given the OK.

The Council then turned its attention to the new groups applying for recognition of which there were, all told, 17. Some had been formed only shortly after the previous Council meeting, and have consequently been waiting for some time. These were:

Trans-Pennine	South Essex
Sheffield	Cambridge
Wolverhampton	Reading stdts.
Belfast (app. by post)	Oxford students
South Hampshire	Oxford
London Groups 10 & 11	Nottingham
Kent	London Women's
Bristol Groups 1 & 2	Group.

Reasons were asked for the non-appearance of representatives from Birmingham, and what the circumstances of the club was there.

An account by Dennis Platt of Wolverhampton who told the Council that Nick Stanley, the Treasurer and Secretary of the group had each given three weeks notice of their resignation from the group, and as no volunteers had come forward to take their place, the group was temporarily in abeyance.

Nick Stanley had also resigned from the Executive Council and when asked for an explanation Paul Temperton could not explain in a straightforward manner, and it was noticed at the time that he might be suffering from a bruised ankle a little later on in the day. (Out of session the general consensus of opinion was that Stanley had found CHE not to be suitably militant, and had gone over to Gay Action, the Birmingham GLF.)

It also appeared that Stanley and his colleagues had put CHE Birmingham into such a state as to precipitate its collapse by their actions.

Bernard Greaves gave an account of

Police activities in Cambridge and repeated evidence elsewhere. (Lunch is to feature a full account of his statement in future issues.) The Council decided that it should recommend the Executive Committee to work closely with the National Council for Civil Liberties (NCCCL) to tackle this problem and deal with other police harassment.

It was said that Des Wilson and Paul Foot of Private Eye would be interested in hearing of police harassment. Also CHE is to produce a leaflet on the subject of the rights of the homosexual, with particular regard to police activities.

Concern was expressed on the wisdom of approaching those prosecuted by the police and offering the facilities of CHE. This, it seems, is not proving too successful as victims are reluctant to associate themselves with homosexuals.

Another cause for concern was the legal position of the under-18's, who are in danger of having a 'Care and Protection' order made on them for associating with CHE or any other homophile group. It has been decided that the Executive Committee should not pass their names on to local groups to avoid any possibility of this happening. Grave concern was shown, as many felt that the under-18's are among those most in need of CHE groups.

One point that appears to have clarified a little with regard to the position of males under 21 at CHE meetings was that providing they were over the age of 18 they were at liberty to go where they pleased, and if they put themselves into a position to break the law, then that is their own concern. No legal sanctions can be brought until the law is broken.

That at least is the judgement of a quarter session judge who has recently granted a license to the 'Moulin Rouge', a Gay club in Bristol.

16 The meeting closed before discussing all the business on the agenda, as an Executive Committee meeting was scheduled to commence at 4pm. The next meeting of the Council will be held in Liverpool, following the Liverpool group's invitation, which was accepted by a majority.

The date fixed is the 4th of March.

Later that evening a party was given at the Haverstock Arms, Hampstead (see photos page 3), a great success providing as it did an opportunity for everyone to get to know each other better. (Matchmaking even observed in one or three odd corners!)

Taken as a whole, this mass gathering of the clans really made CHE seem totally worth while. Promise of rosier days to come, did someone say? Well, perhaps.

20 into 12 will go - hopefully!

William Blackledge

Your monthly Social Events Group has been burning the midnight oil, and has compiled a list of events for 1962.

An ambitious programme? Yes it is! The winter Fair has shown us that if we work together and support our own ventures, then success both financial and social is ours.

An ad hoc committee will be required for each event, and your Monthly Social Events Group asks every member to study this list now and let us know if you have special expertise to offer for any particular event. Some of the activities are long term projects and require thought and planning now.

This is an opportunity to put some deeper meaning into your membership of CHE, so if you are willing to help your 'phone call to Michael at 01-399 3414 will be very welcome.

CHE LONDON- EVENTS FOR 1972

JANUARY	Masked Ball at Fulham Town Hall
FEBRUARY	A Victorian Evening- Beer, Piano, Cockles & Whelks etc in a hall. A chance for some of our talented members to 'do their thing'. Easter Exhibition & Sale. of members' art, sculpture etc. with photographic exhibition.
MARCH	
APRIL	Wine & Cheese Party to launch the CHE Film Soc'ty.
MAY	Garden Party- Sports Day followed by Barbeque.
JUNE	Riverboat Trip; Cricket Match.
JULY	Summer Ball and Fashion Show.
AUGUST	Canal boat Trip and Car weekend to Amsterdam.
SEPTEMBER	Coach trip to Stately Home. Start of CHE soccer team's season.
OCTOBER	Halloween Ball. Ideal Home Exhibition & Cookery Demo.
NOVEMBER	CHE's first play. Inauguration of 'Classical Disco'.
DECEMBER	Winter Fair for 1972 Christmas Party.

*An Annual
Subscription to
'Lunch' for only
£1.55 post paid
for 12 months.*

'MAURICE'

Peter Conradi on

EM Forster's book published
in 1971, 57 years after
it was written.

In an afterword to the "City and Pillar", published in 1948, Gore Vidal tells us of the reactions of two great homophile writers of an earlier generation to the publication of his book. André Gide presented him with a copy of a comparable work of his own, "Corydon". And E.M. Forster invited him to Cambridge, where, Vidal recounts "Forster shyly confessed that he had written a similar book which he had never published, not wanting to embarrass friends. 'Quite bold, actually,' he said. 'In what way?' I asked. Apparently there was a scene with two boys in bed. 'And what,' I asked, intrigued, 'do they do?' Mr. Forster smiled. 'They... talk,' he said, with some satisfaction."

This tiny and delightful story has about it typical wit and cheerful malice on Vidal's part. If it isn't quite convincing even of the donnish- or spinsterish- Forster, it does at least tell one something about the relevant positions of these two writers in the long history of sexual, and homosexual emancipation. It is, of course, both literary and personal history. The story of gradually attenuated taboos as reflected in fiction; and the record of so many individual attempts at self-effectuation and fulfillment.

Forster's "somewhat similar book" was published this year by Edward Arnold; 57 years after it was written

in 1913-14, and the year following 17 Forster's death in 1970. It is a major event in itself. Forster is perhaps the best-known and best-loved spokesman in our century for the values and virtues of a liberal humanism. His plea was for an anti-sentimental tolerance, for variety, for what makes for civilisation and moral realism, a particular marriage of instinct and restraint; the informed and developed heart. And he produced considerable art- twice, arguably, great art- out of the radical strain to which any humanist in our time must be subject.

It is also a major event for anyone concerned with human as much as homophile liberation. It is not

simply that Forster "declares himself" so evidently in the book and its terminal note; heterosexuals authors have after all dealt with the same general themes. And in any case the pleasure in recruiting new names to the Fraternity is not in itself a fruitful one. It is more perhaps that one here has the pleasure of watching the mind of some creative stature grappling with- however unsatisfactorily- the problems of an oppressed group, and seeking some sort of solution that is neither facile, nor smacks of too much Special Pleading. He did not entirely succeed, perhaps. But the attempt is fascinating.

Maurice, the hero of the book, is a typical product of the Edwardian suburbia. Middle-class, slow, athletic, born to be a Stock-Broker. Unremarkable. Indeed his ordinariness his representativeness is the point. He passes through Prep and Public School without incident. But at Cambridge he is initiated into a platonic love-affair with another student, Durham.

At first he rejects the other boy with an altogether conventional and high-minded disgust, which contravenes his own deepest feelings. Homosexuality

18 is still "the unspeakable vice of the Greeks". Finally he faces up to the implications of his own nature and is redeemed as a person by his honesty.

"Hitherto he had not been worth anyone's affection, conventional, petty, treacherous to others because to himself. And now he had the highest gift to offer."

His self-discovery marks the beginning of his long and chaste love-affair with Durham. It is Durham who finally reneges on Maurice when he writes to him from Greece, (the choice of Greece Forster- and irony) "I have become normal. I cannot help it."

The dark night of the soul through which Maurice now passes is done with tact and without sentimentality. After nearly sexually assaulting an attractive nineteen-year-old he approaches Dr. Barry, a friend of the family, for help. After various misunderstandings Maurice tells him the truth.

"At last judgement came. He could scarcely believe his ear. It was 'Rubbish, rubbish! Now listen to me, Maurice, never let that evil hallucination, that temptation from the devil, occur to you again.'"

And Dr. Barry closes the conversation. Maurice then approaches a hypnotherapist. But the course of treatment is interrupted by a momentous event. Maurice has his first sexual experience with a man. He has met Alec, a gardener, while staying at Durham's. Durham is now the conventionally happily married man. The connection between Maurice and Alec-like Lady Chatterly and Mellor's- which it prefigures (Lawrence's book was published some 15 years later) is morganatic, cutting across the then very much more daunting and ritualised lines of English class-distinction. And the book ends- with the implicit marriage of the couple, Maurice and Alec, and their exile from conformity, from previous and from future society,

indeed from that whole urban, demotic, and socialised England that was so rapidly to follow the grand and terrible apocalypse of the Great War.

Forster writes in the terminal note that "A happy ending was imperative. I shouldn't have bothered to write otherwise. I was determined that in fiction, anyway, two men should fall in love and remain in it for the ever and ever that fiction allows. And in this sense Maurice and Alec still roam the Greenwood."

It is a serious criticism of the book that it is difficult or impossible to visualise or to place or to people the relationship that the couple might have after the war. The ending is in this respect pastoral and regressive; a retreat into the agrarian Eden, the lost innocence and simplicity whose passing Forster mourned elsewhere. And yet the ending is more than that.

Pastoral as it is, it has a certain strange courage which is even, and paradoxically, modern. Forster says "If it ended unhappily with a lad dangling from a noose or with a suicide pact, all would be well, for there is no pornography or seduction of minors. But the lovers get away unpunished and consequently recommend crime."

For after all the attitude of so many novelists to the homosexual situation- or predicament- has been undeniably doom-ridden, guilty, and angst-laden. Even the redoubtable Gore Vidal in at least the first version of his not-so-radical book "The City and the Pillar" (if not the second and current version) does not get so very far from the same position. So that a writer who can manage not merely to assert that homosexuality is only one of many alternative ways that there are for being human, and a potentially valuable contribution to the immensely rich variety of life itself; a writer who can not merely assert the familiar piety but attempt to embody it with whatever naïve

optimism in his prose, is worthy of serious respect. And for all its dated 'period' quality- for all its half-sovereign tips, pianola records, Norfolk jackets, Police Court News, Hague Conferences, Libs and Rads and Terriers, uniformed doctors and undergraduates walking arm-in arm; for all this "Maurice" is oddly and paradoxically contemporary. And the joke is on Mr. Vidal.

Coming Out

Gerald King

It would seem that the social atmosphere in which we, both male and female homosexuals, find ourselves is now easier than it was. The tolerance thresholds of society have altered in varying ways. This is due to changing economic needs and uses, also to the rising ecological pressures, the economic role of women, the pill and the appearance of immigrants.

However, we have little or no control over these factors; over another we can do something.

Publicity about us in the press, on TV and in the films and books etc, has increased in volume, but the strident attitudes of condemnation and ridicule- very common until recently- have receded in proportion to more realistic and truer comments.

The more balanced and sane the publicity, the more we have benefited! Now we have been able to be associated with our own rightful place in society; as people along side other people, both good and bad.

Old associations with prison, urinals, paederasty, blackmail, prostitution etc., or as camp, pink, lispy, pseudo-women (or butch short-haired pseudo men), would not allow people to see us as we actually are. Also, of course, it obscured our own view of ourselves.

19 Already, many individuals have openly identified themselves as homosexuals; and many more are doing so. This is allowing the public to see still more clearly what is being made obvious- there is nothing they are not already familiar with, and consequently nothing to fear.

Those who have 'come out' have discarded the shame they are supposed to feel; they see themselves in a new light. (Note that FEELING is involved, it is not merely an intellectual change.

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SEAG

SOCIAL EVENTS ACTION GROUP
from Michael Yelland

Following last month's tentative note I'm glad to report that the Action Group is now moving into higher gear. The first of our big monthly social events for 1972 is already under way - the GRAND MASKED BALL at Fulham Town Hall (see advertisement page).

We plan to hold other large scale events attractive to all CHE members in and around London monthly throughout the year. While we have our eyes firmly fixed on the fund-raising possibilities, we also want to make these events enjoyable ways of achieving CHE's main objects - to provide social meeting places with congenial atmospheres.

We are going ahead with our month-by-month programme and want to have maximum support from CHE members. So we shall be sending you a simple questionnaire, via your group, which will ask you in simple terms which kinds of events you would come to, and which you could help to run or take part in. This will help us to plan most effectively.

With several hundred members in London CHE there must be lots of experience and talent we can draw on if only we know who amongst us has it. We particularly need to know of people who can help to run sporting events, trips and outings, or musical events of any type from pop to the classics.

In the Action Group we are long on ideas but short on people to carry them out. As the Lunch editorial said last month, more members need to take more of an active part in CHE's rapidly growing activities. Sometimes it is hard to work - but it's mostly fun too! So if you think you can help in any way, please phone me at 01-399 3414.

Nationwide Group News & Events

SUPPLIED VOLUNTARILY TO LUNCH FOR INCLUSION - INFORMATION FOR INCLUSION IN THE JANUARY ISSUE MUST REACH US NOT LATER THAN 4th JANUARY & BE VALID FROM THE 21st JANUARY ONWARDS WHEN THE JANUARY ISSUE COMES OUT.

BRISTOL CHE

CONVENOR Derrick G Stevens/ MEETINGS Group One alternate Sats; Group Two more flexible at the moment/ Members of other CHE groups when visiting Bristol will be welcome to attend our meetings. Accommodation can be arranged if ample notice is given. Enquiries should be sent (addressed to Convenor, CHE Bristol) via Paul Temperton. Visits can be arranged to the Moulin Rouge Club. See in the Newsdesk about the Club.

CARDIFF GLF

Chairman varies from week to week by general proposal/ MEETINGS weekly Mondays at 7.30pm The Blue Anchor St. Mary Street Cardiff/ Additional meetings to be fixed of the Street Theatre Group, Awareness Groups & Pantomime Group (see below)/ Probably mid-Feb. a pantomime about "The Queer Things That Happened to Cinderella" - not for kids/ INFORMATION available 7 days a week from Office Collective c/o Rights & Information Bureau 58 Charles St Cardiff tel. Cardiff 44441/ Recent successful events include Disco, Street Theatre v. Reubens Book/ Participation in March v. Unemployment/ Group spreading fairly continuously - with good all-round participation from our members. No admin problems. Attempting to get our own office. Solvent.

LEEDS CHE

CHAIRMAN Henry Giles/ MEETINGS as announced in newsletter - next AGM 4th Jan 8pm at Yorkshire Council

for Social Services Charlton Hse Hunslet Rd Leeds 10. Full Comm'tee. Election of Officers for 1972. Future policy/ SOCIAL NEWS 18th Dec pre-Christmas party/ OTHER DATES fixed 29th Dec; 12th Jan Playhse Bar - in course of arrangement. INFORMATION FROM Chairman Leeds 628607 & Secretary Morely 7686

LIVERPOOL CHE

CONVENOR Peter Norman/ CHAIRMAN rotates each meeting/ MEETINGS 1st Wed in month - next 8pm 5th Jan Upper room Gazebo Coffee Lounge 21 Duke St Liverpool 1 "The Work of the Samaritans"/ INFORMAL MEETINGS coffee evgs, play readings, music evgs. organised regularly in members homes/ SOCIAL EVENTS Regular date now 3rd Wed. in month at Gazebo Coffee Lounge (see above) for CHE members over 21/ INFORMATION from Peter Norman 6b Cathedral Mansions Huskisson St Liverpool L8 7LP Tel 051-709 7504

LONDON CHE - 11 Groups

CHE LONDON GROUP 1

CHAIRMAN David Smith/ MEETINGS first Friday in the month/ INFORMATION from 01-837 4161

CHE LONDON GROUP 2

MEETINGS - formal usually 3rd Frid. in month - next Michael Brown on "Awareness Groups" 21st January. Informal 7th January Coffee Evg, and in Feb. Drink & Drag show at a London pub. More details later/ INFORMATION from Secretary George Glenister 01-789 3814 or send SAE

9 Banning House, Windlesham Grove,
London SW19 6AF

CHE LONDON GROUP 3

CHAIRMAN Brian Sewell/MEETINGS
next 21st Dec. then weekly every
Tuesday from 4th January onwards/
INFORMATION from Secretry Stephen
Walker 01-402 4489.

CHE LONDON GROUP 5 students

CHAIRMAN David Porter who writes-
We have now been in existence for
almost a year, and in recent months
there has been a rapid increase in
membership. Correspondingly there
have been changes in the frequency,
times and venues of meetings. The
group provides friendly get-togeth-
ers for homosexual men and women
under 25, though it is not strictly
necessary for them to be students.
In addition to informal meetings,
parties and discussion groups our
programme now includes visits to
clubs and discos. Meetings with
guest speakers as well, as excursions
to places of interest are being ar-
ranged, and we hope soon to establish
a rendezvous for members wishing
to meet on Sundays. INFORMATION
from Chairman at 3 Somerfield Rd,
Finsbury Park, LONDON N4 2JN enc-
losing SAE.

CHE LONDON GROUP 6

MEETINGS 3rd Tuesday in the
month- next 21st Dec. Group dis-
cussion on proposal that "Mon-
ogamy is to be preferred to
Promiscuity" other date 18th
Jan to be arr/SOCIAL New Years
Eve Party for all groups. See
personal columns for details.

CHE LONDON GROUP 7 Croydon

CHAIRMAN Wallace Grevatt/MEETINGS
1st Tuesday in month- next 4th
Jan. discussion led by John Allen
"Promiscuity- A Stable Relationship
or Something In Between?"/INFORMAL
MEETINGS 3rd Tuesday in month- in

Jan. Record Requests at John's 8pm.
INFORMATION from Chairman at Mill
View, Wray Lane, Reigate, Surrey tel
Reigate (74) 43555.

CHE LONDON GROUP 10

CHAIRMAN John Saxby/MEETINGS 2nd
and 4th Mondays in month- next
10th and 24th January at the two
Brewers, Monmouth St, London WC2.

LONDON GLF

GLF LODNON

MEETINGS every Wednesday 7.30pm
All Saints Hall, Powis Gardens,
London W11/INFORMATION from GLF
5 Caledonian Road, LONDON N1 01-
837 7174

NOTTINGHAM CHE

CHE NOTTINGHAM

CONVENOR HE Cowan who writes- The
group is still very much in its for-
mation at present/INFORMATION from
the Convenor at 53 Selby Lane,
Keyworth, Nottingham NG12 5AQ.

SHEFFIELD CHE/GLF

CHE/GLF SHEFFIELD

CONVENOR Ian Everton/CHAIRMAN
Michael Kaye/MEETINGS Wednesdays at
7.30 weekly; Coffee evgs weekly on
Tuesdays at 7.30/New policies are
being drafted, a new committee be-
ing set up, and a bigger place
sought for weekly meetings.

S. ESSEX CHE

CHE SOUTH ESSEX

CONVENOR John Shaw/MEETINGS 3rd Wed
in month at 8pm/INFORMATION from
Convenor at 10 Fleet Road, Benfleet
Essex SS75 JE enclosing SAE.

S.W. HAMSHIRE CHE

CONVENOR Julian Howard/MEETINGS
irregular- next 31st December, Sup-
per Party in Bournemouth to see in
the New Year. INFORMATION through

CHE HQ/NEWS/NEWS A newly formed
group (October) with 43 members of
whom there seems to be considerable
enthusiasm and determination to
make a go of the group. They travel
long distances to attend meetings-
some by train, others by car offer-
ing lifts and so on. Members are
as far apart as Salisbury, Dorch-
ester and Portsmouth. The 2nd meet-
ing, in November, was attended by
17 members. For the moment the 1st
priority is to get to know each
other as a basis for more construc-
tive activity very soon.

S.HERTS CHE

CHAIRMAN John Lear/MEETINGS approx
every 3 weeks- various days, mainly
Tues or Weds, occ. Sunday evgs. Next
meeting Tues 21st Dec 8pm at Radlett
INFORMATION from Radlett 6450/NEWS
Very thriving newly-formed group at
present concentrating on the social
side with restricted formal dis-
cussion time on aims, and programme
of events.

TRANS-PENNINE CHE

MEETINGS 1st Wednesday in the month
in Blackburn/ Activities in the
Blackburn-Accrington-Burnley areas,
and Halifax-Huddersfield areas.
INFORMATION write sending SAE c/o
CHE HQ, Manchester.

COURT CASES Information supplied
by the London GLF.

14-19 January at Marylebone Court
Marylebone Road 10am. GLF members
charged with obstructing the high-
way after being refused drinks at
the Chepstow public House Notting
Hill Gate.

17 January at Marlborough Street
Court behind Palladium & opposite
Libertys GLF members charged dur-
ing the Festival of Light (pres-
umably at Trafalgar Square in the
Autumn.)

If you getting more info. from GLF
themselves (tel no above) they call
these affairs 'Festival of Light
BUST' and 'Chepstow BUST'.

DETAILS OF ALL ADVERTISING AND SUB-
SCRIPTION RATES CAN BE FOUND ON THE
INSIDE FRONT COVER

AWARENESS (Consciousness-raising
groups are to be formed in CHE.
An explanatory article will appear
in subsequent issue of Lunch. Mean-
while contact John Levinson at
01-435 6177

S. O. S.

CHE Members with Film Club
experience urgently wanted.

Contact Michael Yelland at
01-399 3414

HAVE YOU READ the homosexual hand-
book yet? 281 pages only 72p Free
lists of other Gay books on request
FREE TO CHE MEMBERS AND ALL HOMO-
PHILE GROUPS advertise your events
and meetings free of charge either
in the Group News and Events pages
or right here in the Personal Col.

London CHE Group 6 are
organising a

NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY

9pm - 1am 31st December.
at the Father Redcap
Camberwell Green

Tickets £1 inc. Buffet Supper
proceeds to the Premises Fund.
BAR DANCING DISC JOCKEY
SPOT PRIZES LIMITED NUMBER OF
TICKETS all CHE members and
friends welcome!

write to Charles Murdoch
Secretary London CHE Grp.6,
80 Abbey House
Abbey Road London NW8

W.D. wishes to thank J.H. for the
happiest year of his life. The
second and subsequent years will be
just as wonderful. All my love.

CHE and Lunch

The Campaign for Homosexual Equality started life in 1964 as the North Western Committee for Homosexual Law Reform, changing its name after 1967.

Organising CHE on a nationwide scale began only in mid-1970. Now almost 2,000 members across the country meet regularly in more than 25 groups for serious talk, discussion and a variety of social events.

Each group within CHE is autonomous and sends two chosen representatives to a National Council. National policy-making is undertaken by an Executive Committee whose members are elected democratically by CHE members.

Membership of CHE is open to everyone, homosexual or not, and costs £1.50 per year, including a national Bulletin.

For full information, please write: The Secretary, CHE, 28 Kennedy St., Manchester 2. Enc. SAE.

Lunch magazine commenced publication in September 1971 following a proposal from the London Committee which represents London CHE area groups.

Founded primarily to serve the group interests of CHE at a more personal level, its wider aims are now to provide a platform for all shades of opinion within the homophile community of Great Britain.

Opinions expressed in Lunch are therefore not necessarily those of CHE itself; contribution are accepted from any source. This way it is hoped to build up Lunch into a truly representative magazine.

This issue is the largest to date, and for the first time we are able to print photographs. This costs more.

Lunch receives no subsidies or guarantees from any source whatsoever. It remains an independent publication, with no axe to grind.

Subscription costs only £1.55 for 12 months POST PAID.