

Friday
July 5th
1985
No. 199

CAPITAL GAY

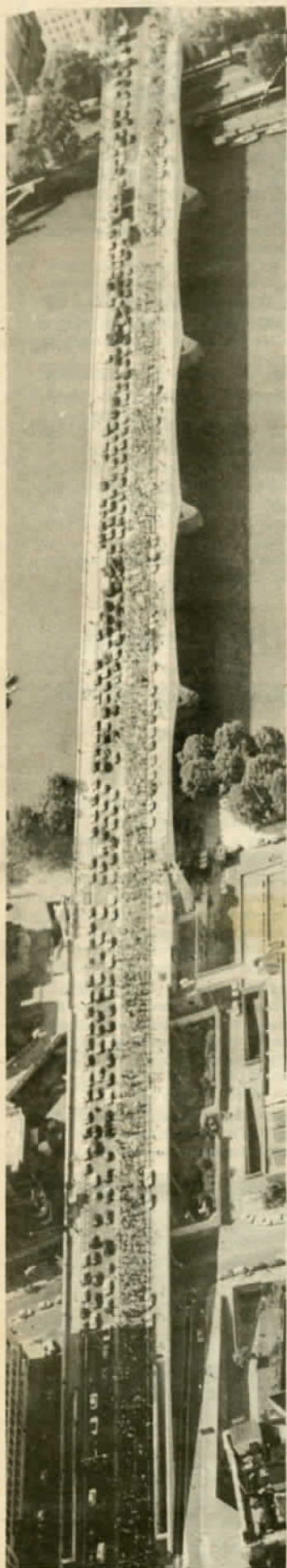
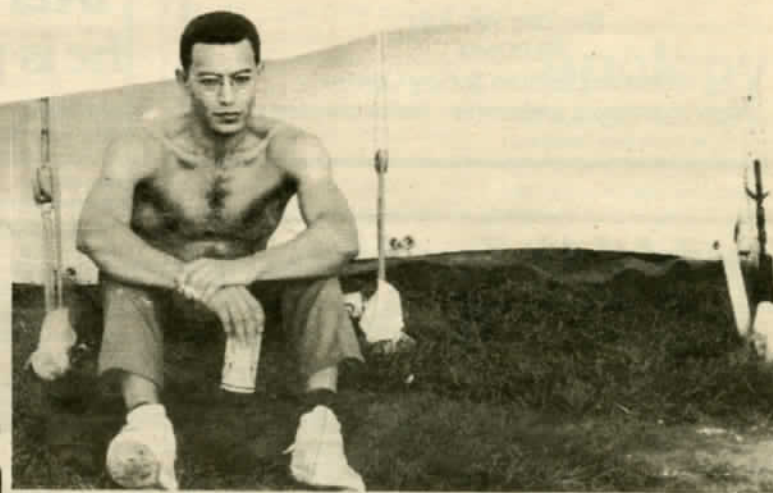
A WEEKLY NEWSPAPER PUBLISHED BY GAY MEN

THE
FREE
ONE

10,000 celebrate gay pride on the banks of the Thames

LESBIAN AND GAY
Pride 85

**THE BIGGEST
EVER!**



PICTURE EXCLUSIVE: Capital Gay took to the air this weekend to bring you striking new photos of the magnificent Pride '85 Carnival. Our photographer Peter Brady captured the parade passing over Waterloo Bridge as he flew at 2000 feet over London. The parade was a mile and a quarter long by the time it reached the South Bank.

And see centre pages

Keep up to date with Capital Gay every week!

Kinnock and Steel send messages of support

PRIDE RALLY BREAKS RECORDS

The 1985 Lesbian and Gay Pride Carnival Parade on Saturday attracted the biggest gathering of homosexuals Britain has ever seen.

There were more than 8,000 people on the march from Hyde Park to Jubilee Gardens and the numbers swelled to about 10,000 for the celebrations on the banks of the river between the GLC and the Royal Festival Hall.

It was the most extraordinary mixture of gays and lesbians with almost every subsection of our sexuality represented. Lesbian feminists grinned from ear to ear next to drag queens and leathermen. Socialists frolicked with capitalists and anarchists; teenagers and pensioners and children and parents. For one day our differences and arguments were forgotten as 10,000 people came together to celebrate pride in our sexuality.

And for the first time we were joined by an out gay MP: Chris Smith (Labour, Islington South and Finsbury) and rumour says another MP joined the march incognito.

And this year, for the first time, the organisers welcomed heterosexuals. There were 78 men and women from the Welsh mining village of Dulais keeping the promise made during the miners' strike to 'repay the support shown by many lesbians and gays. There were also the Big Red Marching Band, a jazz band, and a bus full of Lambeth councillors.

Divine sailed down the river on a boat to entertain his troops, while the Beverley Sisters, Norma Lewis, Jimi Somerville and many more sang from the land-based stage.

Mingling

Women who went fearful of being swamped were delighted to find so many other dykes on the march. The male gay scene also turned out in large numbers with banners for the likes of Traffic pub, the Royal Oak in Hackney, and Heaven, mingling with the Nalco trade union banner and SM Dykes.

The parade was led by a float from Gay's The Word with a cage imprisoning books while two 'judges' on the back burnt other titles. There were other floats from Lesbian Strength, Gay Times and The Market Tavern.

The march, decked out in hundreds of pink balloons, and people in fabulous costumes

stretched for more than a mile and a quarter through the streets of central London. At Trafalgar Square it filed past a Salvation Army band which provoked loud boos and insults for its anti-gay teachings.

The high spirits of the marchers reached a delightful peak when the parade crossed Waterloo Bridge and then did three right turns so it doubled back down the river bank and under the bridge. Marchers on and under the bridge applauded each other with obvious pleasure, and several tears.

The turnout this year compares with just 2,000 last year. There were twice as many as on the Gay News blasphemy demo in 1978, and it also topped the 1979 Pride March which attracted between 6,000 and 8,000 people. This year's success was due to the enormous work of the organising committee and the new mood of enthusiasm by gay businesses.

Fruits

FOUR MEMBERS of GALOP (the Gay London Police Monitoring Group) acted as observers on the parade, keeping in touch with one another by walkie-talkie radio. With the four call signs Apple, Lemon, Orange and Banana, general messages opened: "Calling all fruits..."

Witchcraft

SATURDAY'S sunshine was no accident, according to carnival organisers. On the previous Thursday at midnight a witch had gone out on the cliff tops in Hastings to chant incantations and ensure that the rain held off.

THERE WAS widespread approval of the policing of this year's parade. The ratio of police to gays was noticeably down, and there was a good deal of friendly talk between officers and people on the parade. Some police were also seen actively helping: giving a gay photographer a hand up a traffic light to get a better shot, helping a lesbian over railings to join the march.

Opposition leader Neil Kinnock and Liberal leader David Steel were amongst those who sent messages of support to Saturday's pride parade.

"I send you my good wishes for a successful carnival," said the Labour leader, "and I reaffirm



Decidedly not amused

my party's support for the principles of respect for equal treatment of all individuals irrespective of their sexual orientation.

"We must all work to rid society of the fear and guilt that has victimised gays and lesbians and to create conditions in which people can conduct their personal relationships without persecution.

"This year we commemorate the 40th anniversary of the victory over fascism and as we do so we remember that gays and lesbians were amongst the millions murdered by the Nazis. Prejudice permitted that horror and it produces others. That is why we strive to defeat it."

David Steel wished "all success to the day's events. The Liberal Party will always defend the rights of gays and other minority groups and we are proud to do so."

Miners

There were messages too from actors Simon Callow and Miriam Margolyes, Labour MPs Tony Benn, Jeremy Corbyn, Jo Richardson and Chris Smith: the General Secretaries of the

trades unions NALGO and ACTT; Islington's Mayor Marjorie Ogilvy-Webb and Deputy Mayor Bob Crossman.

GLC leader Ken Livingstone welcomed marchers to Jubilee Gardens, and 78 Welsh miners and their families joined the parade, acknowledging the support that they received last year from lesbians and gays during the miners' strike. One of them, Sian James, told the crowd it was the best march she had been on. Meeting gay people had had a profound effect on the mining community of Dulais.

"When we first heard you were coming down, older people in the village wanted to know what they should do. 'Just act natural', we said. Now they ask 'When are those lovely people from London coming down again?'. And she promised that Dulais miners would be there to support gays just as gays had been there when Dulais needed support.

Amongst other supporters were the Labour councillors of Lambeth. All 32 of them joined the parade from Hyde Park to the South Bank.



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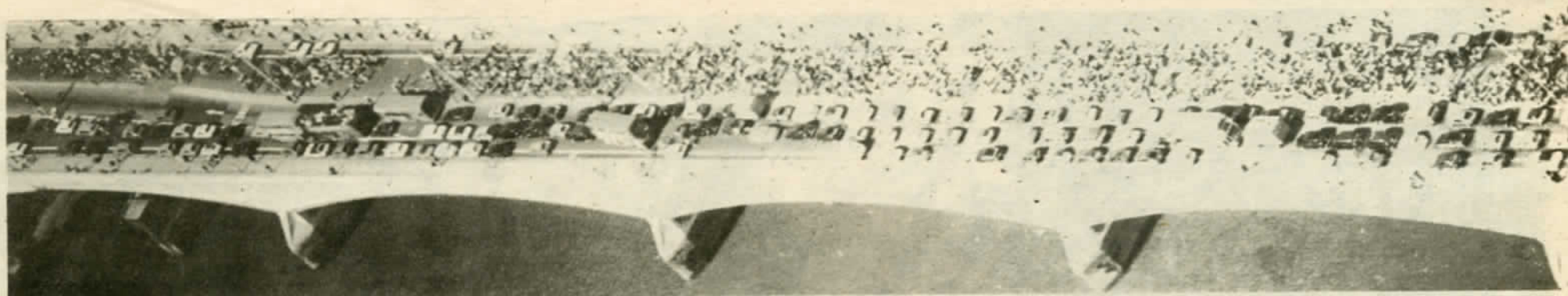
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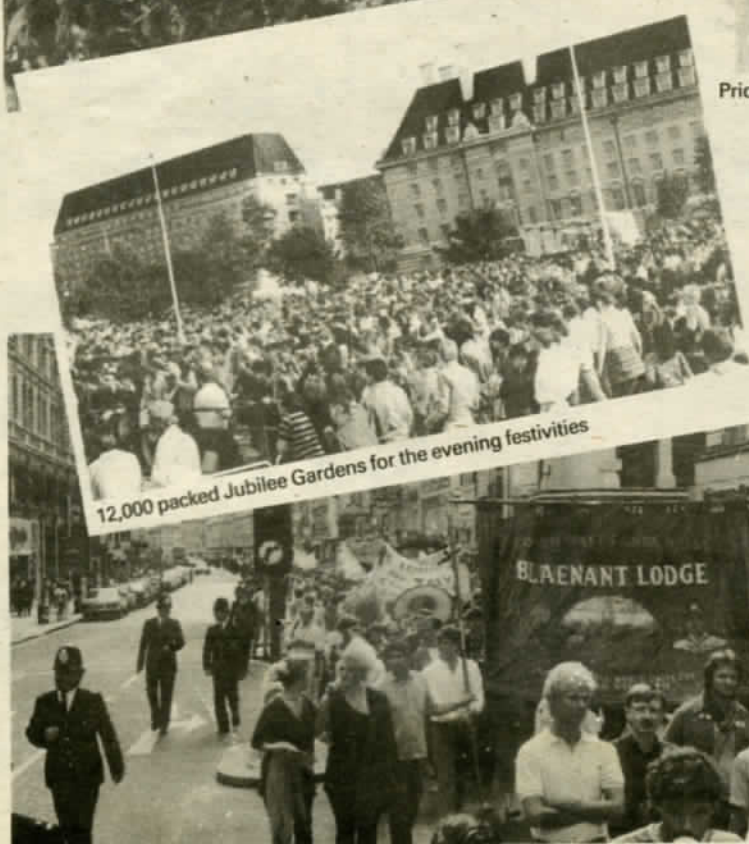
Photos: Peter Brady, Stephen Burn, Graham McKerrrow, Michael Mason.



Pride ... goes before a fall



Gaily coloured

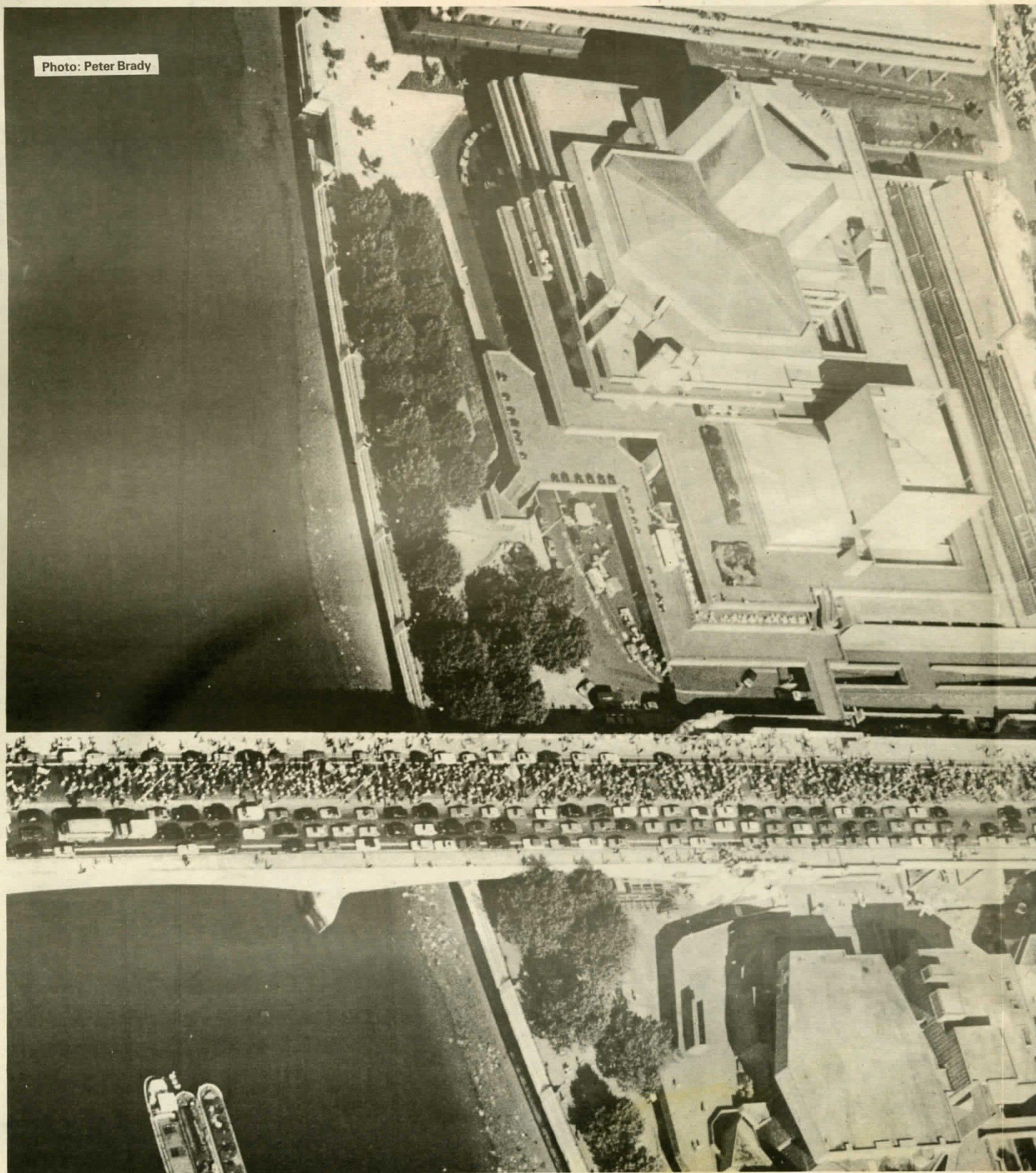


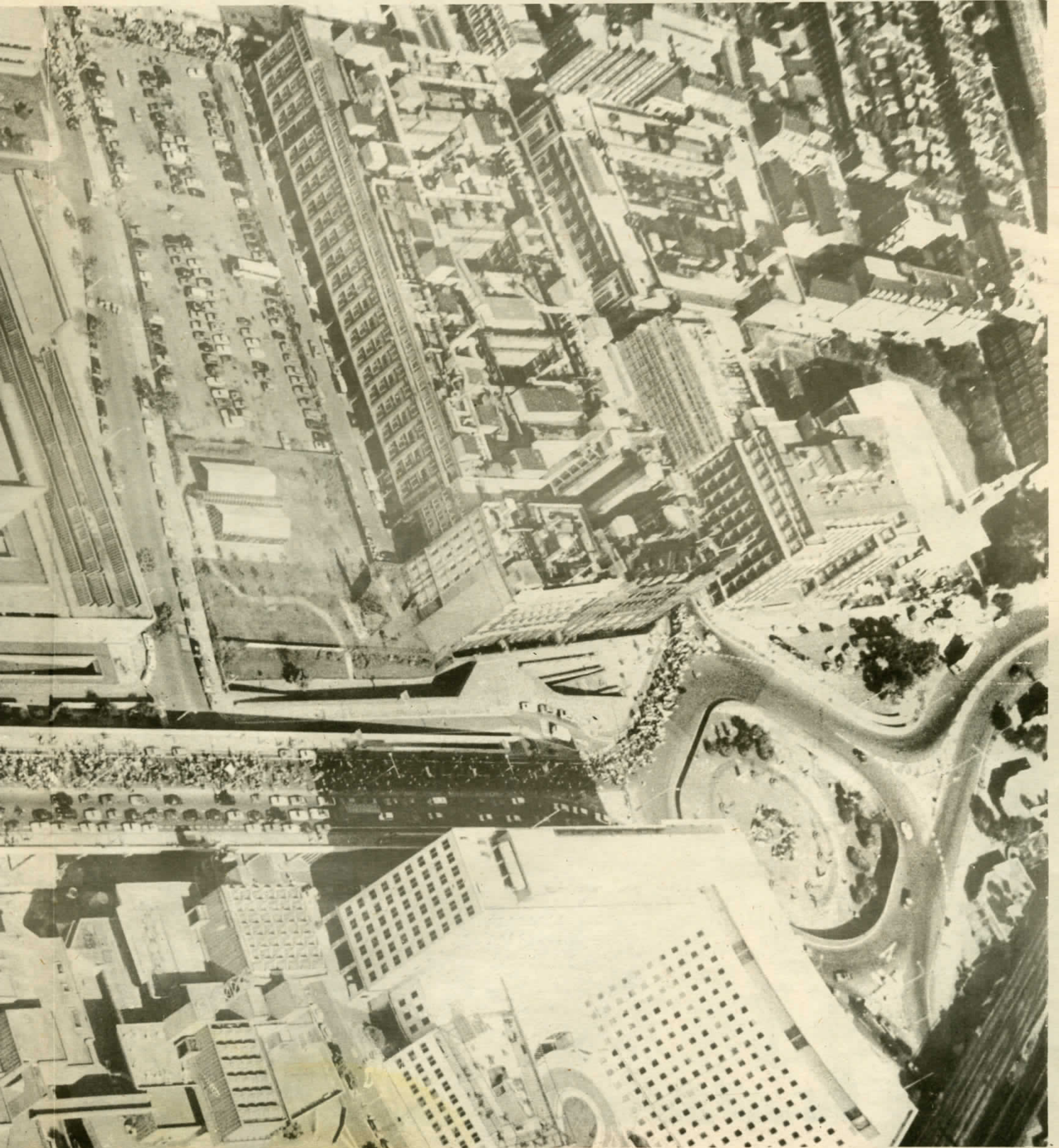
12,000 packed Jubilee Gardens for the evening festivities



Divine's barge for the day was Heaven's paddle-steamer Elizabethan

Photo: Peter Brady







Beverley Sisters



'If my friends could see me now ...'



Islington's Deputy Mayor Bob Crossman (right) with his 'consort' Martin McLoughry



MP Chris Smith



Tom Robinson - corner-stone of yet another gay celebration



Gaily coloured pink and white stalls crowded the Embankment



Wanda and Femi - pink bow-ties and the Ascot touch



Red Flag in hand...



100 perform for the Garden Party

More than 10,000 people, which included the leg-weary 8,000 marchers, savoured the carnival atmosphere in Jubilee Gardens near County Hall on Saturday after the Pride parade.

A packed programme of entertainment from over 100 performers was laid on as well as 70 stalls selling everything from food to records and there was also a beer tent.

The beer tent, which was run by Market Tavern landlord John Gleeson and his staff, made a profit of just over £2,500 which was donated directly to the Pride committee, to help cover costs.

The weather remained on good form and a warm summer evening enabled everything to go ahead according to plan.

Divine, right on time and to the amazement of pleasure cruisers and a police patrol on the river, came sailing down the Thames on a paddle steamer, screeched out a couple of numbers, then sailed away again. The whole thing was outrageously tacky but managed to distract even those down by the riverside who had wandered off seeking to make their own amusement.

On stage, The Beverley Sisters, Norma Lewis and Tom Robinson were amongst those to delight the crowd in a five-hour package of non-stop entertainment.

Cabaret

As well as the stage there was also a cabaret marquee which Consenting Adults in Public had organised and where Fay Presto, Elaine Loudon, The Insinuos and The Pink Singers were just some of the people who helped to entice up to 400 people into the tent at any one time.

The stalls in the Gardens proved very popular and represented a broad cross-section of the gay community. The Terrence Higgins Trust, Brilliance Books, Record Cellar, CHE, The Fallen Angel and many other groups, shops and pubs lined the embankment with their red and white striped stalls and all seemed to do a roaring trade.

Messages of support were read out on stage by Tom Robinson and his co-compere Kim and included goodwill greetings from Neil Kinnock, David Steel and Tony Benn.

Applause

One message in particular received warm applause from the audience when it was read

out. It was from an 82-year-old woman who lives near Brighton and it said: "I read about what you're doing in a leaflet I was given. I think it is wonderful what you are doing. When I was young (I'm 82 now) we would never have dreamed of such a thing and thought we would be in Heaven before being so free (if even there!). I'd love to be with you but I am now housebound. All my love and keep up the good work, Josephine Crook."

The only three speechmakers in Jubilee Gardens received a mixed welcome but in their different ways expressed a commitment to the gay community.

Ken Livingstone, the leader of the GLC, likened himself and his efforts to those of former San Franciscan Councillor Harvey Milk and pledged to continue to fight for the cause of lesbian and gay rights.

Happy

Peter Stringfellow, owner of the Hippodrome club, said that he was proud that the Hippodrome was gay on Mondays and that he himself was happy to be able to speak to us all on this warm Saturday evening.

A warm reception was given to the third speaker, Sian James, a miner's wife from the Dulais Valley in South Wales. She said that this had been the best and friendliest demonstration she had been on.

By 10.30pm Jubilee Gardens was beginning to be clear of the thousands of lesbians and gay men who had come together to have fun, to meet friends old and new, to work hard for the benefit of others, but most of all and most importantly, to celebrate their Pride.

GAYS AND lesbians shared in the carrying of the Pride '85 Banner. Men carried the banner from Hyde Park to Piccadilly Circus where it was ceremoniously handed over to women to carry to Jubilee Gardens.



Fay Presto (left), Biddie (second from right) and Elaine Loudon alias Mitzi Wildebeest (right) preparing to go on stage in the cabaret tent

Leicester gays in bunting rescue

Lesbians and gays in Leicester planned their own Pride '85 celebrations this year. On Thursday last week they sneaked out in the small hours of the morning to decorate the centre of the town with balloons and pink bunting.

But at 4.30am police spotted the decorations and removed them.

Undaunted, the gay decorators first phoned the Council: "What have you done with our decorations? The police gave us permission..." Then they phoned the police: "What have you done with our decorations? The Council gave us permission..."

And they got their decorations back!

One of the Leicester organisers told *Capital Gay* that a plan to dye the Town Hall pools pink came to grief when the dye just sank to the bottom. "In the end the water turned orange!"

So clean

ON THE morning after the night before, as it were, a GLC worker in Jubilee Gardens was heard to say that he couldn't believe how clean the site was after such a big rally. It was just as well that that was the case as several of the council's cleaning staff refused to clean up after gays and were particularly reluctant to clean the Portaloos.

Beer money

THE Market Tavern's big beer tent at Jubilee Gardens made a massive £2,600 profit - all of which landlord John Gleeson is donating to Lesbian and Gay Pride. This year's organisers hope that there will be around £1,000 overall profit from Pride '85 to go towards next year's event. The busy beer tent ran out of beer twice in the course of the afternoon.



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