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**SUNIL
GUPTA**

on the
position of
Asian Gays in Britain

Brookside's **SUE JOHNSTON**

talks about
her life
and
life as
Sheila
Grant



■ **THOM GUNN** - a 60th Birthday interview
and 3 new poems

■ **BUTTERFLY McQUEEN** interviewed
on the 50th anniversary of *Gone With The Wind*

■ **PRIDE '89**
Photo feature

■ **CHRISTOPHER OSBORN** discusses
his controversial new novel

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All credit for Pride

FOR the first time in its history the London Lesbian and Gay Pride committee is in credit after staging the annual parade and carnival which this year marked the twentieth anniversary of the Stonewall riots in New York in 1969. With as much as £14,000 in the bank, the Pride committee is already on the look out for a large London venue for later in the year to stage a new concept — Winter Pride.

The success of the Pride day on June 24th was guaranteed when glorious sunshine brought an estimated 20,000 people from all over the coun-

try to join the parade from Hyde Park to Kennington Park led by actor Ian McKellen and MP Chris Smith.

Police have officially congratulated the Pride committee on the standard of stewarding of the parade. But relations with the force had been soured by police imposition of the low profile parade route through Victoria, avoiding the Saturday shoppers and tourists of Piccadilly Circus and Trafalgar Square. A spokesman for Pride confirmed that there had been lots of complaints from individual lesbians and gay men. "The problem was," he

said, "that people had nowhere to flaunt. Who is there to flaunt at in Victoria?"

The parade proceeded however without any serious incident, but with the low profile route, the banishment of floats to the rear and a notable lack of energetic singing and chanting, the atmosphere was more than usually low key.

Relations with the police were unfortunately worsened when the parade was funnelled into Kennington Park through one small gate. Tempers were sorely tested and, with the Hillsbor-



Photographs by BILL SHORT



ough football stadium disaster fresh in the memory, there were fears that people could get hurt in the slow moving crush.

Responding to anger about this situation, the Pride committee has lodged an official complaint with police through the offices of the Gay London Policing Group (GALOP). Spokesmen for GALOP and Pride told *Gay Times* the officers on duty were "confused", "inflexible", "not prepared to use their own initiative" and likely to "endanger the safety of people on the march".

Once the access problem had been solved, the sun, the entertainment and the festival atmosphere in the park spelt success for the rest of the day. Pride organisers have expressed surprise and contentment that they can

attract almost record numbers of people without necessarily having a long list of superstars appearing on the main stage.

And young lesbians and gays gave the day their wholehearted seal of approval. "I didn't have a clue there were so many gay people in London," said one young Dubliner attending Pride for the first time. "It's such a thrill," said his lesbian friend.

"Isn't it great to be able to kiss your boyfriend out in public like this," said a young gay man from the Midlands. And a young Londoner summing up the whole day said: "I just think it's wonderful just to be together with all these benders. You can do what the hell you want and not feel threatened. It's brilliant."

Festival report, Hotspots page 48



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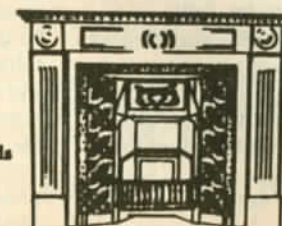
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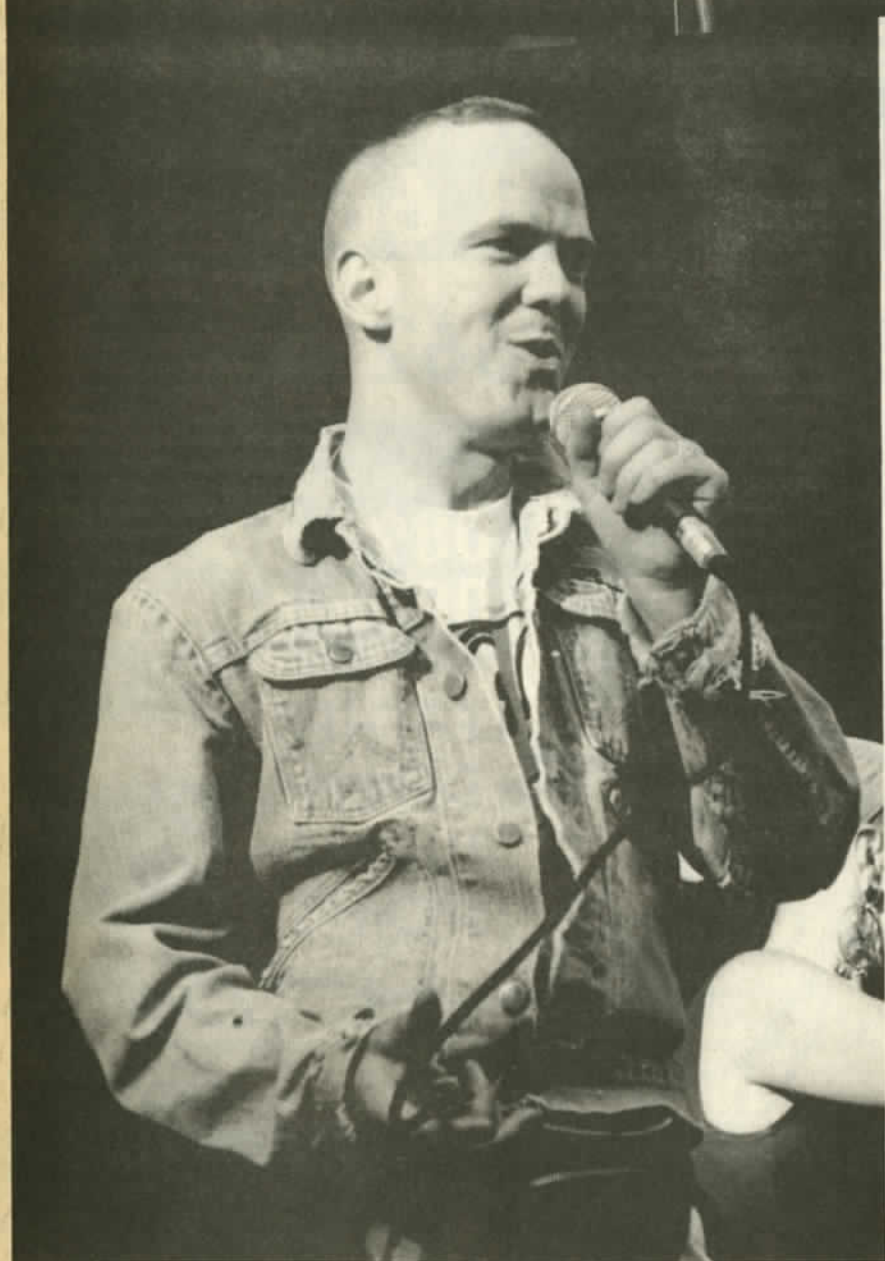
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ANDY & MARK. LOVE IN THE PARK...

London: Pride and Joy in the Park

AFTER an exuberant march through London, for many people the 1989 Pride Festival in Kennington Park was the best ever in the day's twenty year history. As if our countless millions of ancestors had fixed up with the heavens that there should be perfect weather the sun just shone and shone providing the perfect atmosphere in a perfect setting.

In the main body of the park the now traditional pop concert went ahead practically without a hitch until the plug had to be pulled at 9pm. Newly-formed

double act **Smith and McKellen** opened up the show and were swiftly followed by an impressive number of other top name acts. Some, such as **Helen Terry** and **Gwen Guthrie** were appearing for the first time, and some, such as the evergreen **Sandie Shaw** and ever-bubbly **Jimmy Somerville** can now be honoured as veteran Pride performers. There is no truth to the rumour that **Tom Robinson**, a veteran of over ten years will next year be singing **Glad To Be Grey!**

HELEN TERRY





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London: Pride and Joy in the Park

Perhaps most noteworthy was that this year was the first (certainly in our memory) where a drag queen was allowed to perform on the main stage. The times they are a-changing it seems. Of course we knew that **Lily Savage** could get away with it but **Dave Lynn**, fresh from his success on **Opportunity Knocks**, managed to belt through three numbers and adjust his bra padding without a hint of booing from the crowd!

Meanwhile over in the field next door the gay community village fete was in full swing. Over 100 stalls were busy advertising their services and selling their wares; You could buy a hammock made for two (or three, or four . . .) or you could arrange to have your house interior designed ("But darling, we just **couldn't** have it ragged in that shade of blue . . ."). The cabaret tent was packed all afternoon and going into the disco tent was like going to a safe-sex orgy!