



## **The Campaign for Homosexual Equality**

**Annual Report  
2011–2012**



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*Cover photo (left to right): Lord Collins (former General Secretary of the Labour Party), John Gallagher (CHE member and Mayor of Ealing) and Ross Burgess (CHE Executive member) at our Quarterly Meeting, Ealing Town Hall, 8<sup>th</sup> October 2011.*

# Who's who

## Honorary Officers

**Life President:** Allan Horsfall

**Vice-presidents:**

- Martin Bowley QC
- Rev Tony Cross
- Margaret Drabble
- Ray Gosling
- Peter Katin
- Dr Jonathan Miller
- Lord Smith of Finsbury
- Michael Steed

## Executive Committee, 2011–12

- Bernard Crowe (re-elected 2010)
- Nettie Pollard (re-elected 2010)
- Ross Burgess (re-elected 2011)
- Seán McGouran (Secretary: elected 2011)
- George Tregaskis (co-opted 2011)

## Trustees

- Nick Billingham
- Michael Steed

## Appeals Committee, 2011

- Richard Kirker
- John Marshall

## Auditors

- Chris Zielinski FCCA AIFPM

# Report of the Executive Committee, 2011–2012

*The Executive Committee present their report for the year 2011–12 and the audited financial statements for the year to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2011.*

## Status

The Campaign for Homosexual Equality is a membership organisation governed by the Executive Committee in accordance with the Constitution, which can be viewed online at [www.c-h-e.org.uk/constitution.htm](http://www.c-h-e.org.uk/constitution.htm).

## Aims

- To promote the principle that lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people are entitled to lead their lives openly without fear.
- To fight for social and legal equality and respect for the human rights of all people irrespective of their sexuality.
- To eradicate prejudice and hostility directed at LGBT people.
- To campaign for improved sex education in schools to eliminate negative attitudes to LGBT people.

## Decision Making

The Annual Conference decides the policy of the Campaign. The Executive Committee is responsible for day-to-day administration, and implementation of Conference policies.

## Elections

Under the Constitution there may be up to nine Executive Committee Members, three being elected by the membership each year to serve for two years, plus three co-opted. Elections take place in the summer, following the Annual Conference.

## Funding

The Campaign relies almost entirely on membership subscriptions and donations, apart from occasional windfall receipts in the form of legacies, and any investment income arising from any unspent balance of these.

## Financial position

The statement of financial activities for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2011 shows total revenue expenditure of £10,706 (2010: £19,579) and an excess of outgoing over incoming resources for the year of £8,245 (2010: £16,921). The Executive Committee continue to strive to reduce the non-campaigning elements of the outgoings, and for instance the office rent has been still further reduced by the move to London Friend.

## Reserves policy

The balances at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2011 amounted to £99,645 (2010: £107,890). The Executive Committee regard £20,000 of this sum as reserved for expenditure in connection with Peter

Scott-Presland's book about CHE, and the remainder as unrestricted funds, available to provide a day-to-day working balance to smooth fluctuations in receipts and payments, to produce investment income, and as a reserve for future campaigning activities. The Campaign has no employees, and does not own any property which might entail long-term financial commitments for which additional reserves might be considered prudent.

## Activities and future strategy

The Executive Committee has undertaken a number of specific campaigning issues during the year, and CHE supports the campaigning work of the Cutting Edge Consortium.

Additionally, CHE has organised the Derek Oyston Film Award, supported LGBT History Month, held quarterly meetings for all members and other interested people, and issued newsletters.

We would like to expand our campaigning activities, and there's an opportunity for more people to get involved as volunteers and EC members.

Details of all CHE activities can be found in articles in this Annual Report, or on our website at [www.c-h-e.org.uk](http://www.c-h-e.org.uk).

## Plans for future periods

The Campaign plans to continue the activities as outlined above in the coming years subject to satisfactory funding arrangements.

## Responsibilities of the Executive

The Executive Committee are responsible for the preparation of financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the Campaign's incoming resources and application of resources for the year then ended. In preparing those financial statements they are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- State whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis.

The Committee are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Campaign. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by the Executive Committee on 19<sup>th</sup> June 2012 and signed on their behalf by:

 



## New home for CHE

In May 2009 the Executive agreed to rent space at the Consortium office in the Tower Bridge Business Centre, Bermondsey (the former Peek Frean biscuit factory). We held several Executive meetings there, and a Quarterly Meeting in October 2009.

Like other charities, the Consortium has felt the effect of reduced funding. In August 2011 they moved to a much smaller unit in the same complex. At this point we gave up our dedicated desk and computer (which we'd not been using much anyway since the death of long-term activist and EC member Alan Louis) but continued with the Consortium as our postal address.

In December 2011 the Consortium gave up the Bermondsey office. Just before the office closed, the Consortium helped us with a mass mailing of CHE literature to all the people and organisations on CHE's mailing list.

Since then CHE's postal address has been at the London Friend office (pictured) at 86 Caledonian Road, King's Cross. We expect this to be a permanent arrangement, especially as Friend now own the premises. This in a sense brings us back full circle, since Friend began as a CHE taskforce in 1971.



There's no space for meetings in Caledonian Road, but Friend also use part of the GMFA office in Islington, and we held a Quarterly Meeting there in January 2012.

## CHE is a member of:

- The Consortium of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgendered Voluntary and Community Organisations
- The Cutting Edge Consortium
- SLAGO (the Surrey and London Association of Gay Organisations)
- ILGA (the International Lesbian, Gay, Trans and Intersex Association).

## CHE supports:

- Gay Monitor – seeking justice for the gay community
- LGBT History Month
- the LGBT campaigns e-list.

## Affiliated organisations:

- Berkshire Older Lesbian and Gay Forum (BOLGaF)
- CAGS (Croydon Area Gay Society)
- LGBT Youth North West
- LMG (London Monday Group – closed Jan 2012)
- Marylebone and Paddington CHE Group.

*We welcome affiliation by LGBT groups, or by other organisations that support the aims of CHE.*

## New Affiliates

We're delighted to announce that we have two new affiliated organisations, as a result of a mailing we sent out to Consortium members in December 2011.

- Berkshire Older Lesbian and Gay Forum (BOLGaF)
- LGBT Youth North West.

But we were sad to hear that another affiliated group, LMG (previously London Monday Group for Homosexual Equality, formed in 1971 as CHE London Group 10) has closed down. We're grateful however that we received a generous share of their funds on closing.

John Gallagher (recently Mayor of Ealing; pictured on our front page) was a member of LMG as well as CHE, and represented LMG on a number of bodies in and around Ealing. It's been agreed that he will be representing CHE on those bodies in future.

All CHE members are welcome at events organised by **SLAGO**, including regular pub evenings, the annual trip to Brighton in May, and the Purley garden party in August. See [www.slago.org.uk](http://www.slago.org.uk).



## Derek Oyston, 1930–2005

Derek Oyston was a member of Tyneside CHE, who left CHE a very generous legacy. He's commemorated in the awards we've instituted in his memory (see next page) but until recently we didn't know much about his life. We can now fill in some of the details, thanks to his nephew John Oyston who noticed Derek's name on our website.

Derek Oyston was born on the 9<sup>th</sup> of February 1930, in Low Fell, Gateshead, the son of a teacher. He worked for many years at Hookergate Grammar School in Rowland's Gill, County Durham.

He was well liked by the pupils, and was involved in many activities, including the annual sports day where he was the official time-keeper. He always helped out with school plays, but he oversaw the stage make-up, rather than, say, lighting which one might have expected of the science teacher.

One of his pupils relates: "Far from thinking Derek was gay, we really thought that Derek and the school secretary, Joan Porter, were an item. They certainly got on very well together and we often saw them talking and laughing together. In retrospect, they both had some involvement in out-of-school amateur

dramatics, so that probably accounted for their friendship."

At some time during his teaching career, Derek was the subject of homophobic abuse from some of the pupils, which probably led to his leaving Hookergate in 1971; he'd already had an extended absence of almost two terms in 1966. In his later years he was dogged by mental illness.

Derek died in a Gateshead care home on Monday the 7<sup>th</sup> of February 2005, two days before his 75<sup>th</sup> birthday. In his will he bequeathed to CHE the bulk of his estate, mainly the proceeds from the sale of 21 Cromer Avenue, Low Gill, where he had lived most of his life.



## The Derek Oyston Film Prize 2012

In 2012, CHE presented the Derek Oyston Film Prize for the fourth year running. The award is for the film screened in the London Lesbian and Gay Film Festival which most reflects the aims and objectives of CHE.

### **First prize: *365 Without 377*, directed by Adele Tulli**

In 1860, under British colonial rule, Section 377 of the Indian Penal Code criminalised homosexuality. The winning film celebrates 12 months since July 2009 when Section 377 was ruled unconstitutional by the Delhi High Court.

Peter Scott-Presland presented the award at the Festival's closing gala. He said "This movie is hugely vibrant, alive with energy and affection. It shows us something we have lost in the UK, which is delight in each other. Lesbians delighting in gay men, gay men delighting in lesbians, both delighting in the hijras. It's also beautifully shot, paced and edited, and boasts a terrific sound track."

Adele Tulli, who graduated in South Asian Studies and has worked on several activist projects in India and Europe, follows three defiant Indian activists as they

head to the first anniversary celebrations of the scrapping of 377, share their personal stories and experiences of fighting the clause, and consider what a year of legalised homosexuality has brought.



***365 without 377***

Peter Scott-Presland concluded "Looking at the winning film, I was struck by the very many resonances between what the characters were saying in present-day India and what CHE members were writing in the local newsletters in the 1970s. In many ways all the journeys we make as gay people are similar. In order to change the world, we first have to change our-

selves. We have to find out who we are and who we want to be.”

### **Second prize: *This is What Love in Action Looks Like*, directed by Morgan Jon Fox**

For the first time, CHE this year also awarded a second prize. *This is What Love in Action Looks Like*, directed by Morgan Jon Fox, is a documentary about an American teenager who was sent to a summer camp intended to "cure" him of being gay, and the protests that resulted.

In 2005, Zach Stark's parents packed him off to a camp run by Love In Action, an "ex-gay ministry". Zach described the ordeal on his Myspace blog, word of his situation spread rapidly throughout the community, and a small group of protesters began to grow outside the organisation. Soon the mainstream media showed an interest and began to question the damaging nature of fundamentalist ex-gay programmes.

Peter Scott-Presland commented "CHE is still fighting the battle against homophobia in some sections of the major world religions. We've awarded the second

prize to *This is What Love in Action Looks Like*, for its study of religious indoctrination and a powerful story of overcoming it.



*This is what Love in Action looks like*

### **The judges**

Judges for this year's film prize were:

- Jason Barker (British Film Institute)
- Barry Cutler (former CHE Executive member)
- Seán McGouran (Secretary of CHE)
- Nettie Pollard (CHE Executive Committee member).

## CHE History book

Peter Scott-Presland has completed a first tranche of chapters for the official history of CHE, working title *Amiable Warriors*. He read an extract to an appreciative audience at the Quarterly Meeting in January 2012. Given the very large amount of material available, the planned publication date for the book has been put back to 2014, the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the formation of CHE's predecessor, the North Western Homosexual Law Reform Committee.

If you have memories, photos, or documents relating to the history of CHE or its local groups, Peter would still be glad to hear from you. You can contact him at [homopromos@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:homopromos@yahoo.co.uk), or 07404 617185.

All CHE members receive a **Newsletter** three or four times a year, plus other mailings and invitations to meetings, and the chance to influence and take part in our campaigns. Membership costs a minimum of £12 a year (non-earners £6). You can write to us at the address on the back page, download the membership form at [www.c-h-e.org.uk/membership.htm](http://www.c-h-e.org.uk/membership.htm), or e-mail [membership@c-h-e.org.uk](mailto:membership@c-h-e.org.uk).

## Marriage equality

As foreshadowed in the Conservative Party's pre-election "Equalities Manifesto" (but not in the election manifesto itself) the Coalition Government has promised to introduce same-sex marriage. Predictably, perhaps, some of the churches have condemned the idea, with the Church of England in particular stating an opposition which one suspects many clergy and parishioners would not support.

Not everyone, and indeed not all members of CHE, will have the same opinion as to the relevance of marriage in general. The debate at our last AGM (see next article) bore that out. Heterosexuals are less committed to marriage than ever, and the idea of rejecting marriage in favour of other forms of relationship has been a strand of gay and lesbian culture for many years. However marriage is certainly one area in which homosexual equality has not yet been achieved.

The Government held a consultation, concluding on 14<sup>th</sup> June 2012, and CHE, together with Croydon Area Gay Society, issued a note to our members, with suggestions as to what to consider when replying. See [www.c-h-e.org.uk/pdfs/marriage.pdf](http://www.c-h-e.org.uk/pdfs/marriage.pdf).



## Gay marriage: “Tie the knot or break the chains”

Our 2011 AGM included a debate about “gay marriage” between Peter Tatchell (long-term gay and human rights campaigner) and Andrew Lumsden, one of the founders of the Gay Liberation Front and of *Gay News*.



*Peter Tatchell at the AGM, with Nettie Pollard,  
CHE Executive member*

**Peter Tatchell** began by paying tribute to CHE for all the work we have done and can be proud of over many years. He wished us many more decades of campaigning.

Peter said that the ban on gay marriage was an example of discrimination, driven by homophobia, that ought to be ended. It sends a message that gay people are second class citizens. The previous week he had been in New York with about 3,000 people at the Stonewall Inn, celebrating New York State’s passing of a bill to introduce gay marriage. Civil partnerships are essentially civil marriage by another name, and have redressed virtually all the injustices (with an exception in the case of pensions). But they are still separate, and separate is never equal. The Equal Love Campaign has adopted the policy of not seeking to change either marriage or civil partnership, but making both available to straight and gay couples alike. As part of this campaign, eight couples have filed an application on human rights grounds, to which the Government has to respond by next February: the European Court is likely to rule in our favour. In 2009, 61% of people thought that civil partnership doesn’t go far enough, and marriage equality has wide political support, except from David Cameron and George Osborne [*and even they support it now! –Ed*]. Peter urged everyone to sign the online petition at [equallove.org.uk](http://equallove.org.uk).

However Peter admitted that gay marriage is not the most pressing of issues, and was never on the GLF agenda. Many people are in any case suspicious of the whole institution of marriage, which was originally all about protection of property and the sexual control of women. He personally wouldn't want to get married. It's interesting that among heterosexual couples, the number getting married is at its lowest since the 1890s. Peter proposed that there should be a new model of relationships, with a "civil commitment pact" allowing anyone to designate a partner, friend, or any significant other, or perhaps more than one, as next of kin, and choose from a menu of rights and responsibilities. This would give rights to single people, not just couples, and make people think more about the commitments they were entering into.

**Andrew Lumsden** also paid tribute to CHE; when he and others had formed the idea of producing a paper with high standards that people would be willing to pay for, the help of CHE's Glenys Parry had been crucial. Allowing *Gay News* to be distributed to the CHE membership had enabled it to be produced as an influential paper for ten years.

Andrew agreed with much of what Peter had said. Like Peter, Andrew was not anxious to get married. The status of marriage is in any case declining, as happens when women have freedom. But in the current



**Andrew Lumsden**

climate, with on-going situations like California's Proposition 8 (to stop gay marriage) we can't be seen to oppose gay marriage although we may have reservations about it. Nothing is more endearing than to see young people in love.

Some people, like a young lesbian couple Andrew had met on a coach trip, would definitely benefit from the status and protection that gay marriage would bring. Andrew would like to see a time when we could be gracious to straight people – when we would be able to choose marriage and give it back to them, as an



honorific to those who raise children. Maybe it shows a lack of confidence that we want to have everything that others have got. In some cases gay people are better off than straight people: there have been cases where straight couples have been pressurised into getting married, by employers, or to get health benefits in the USA. In the past there was “gay privilege”: if you were an aristocrat you could get away with living as openly gay when it was illegal. Now everyone wants the privileges. Marriage is often just an excuse for a big party.

When the debate was opened up to the floor, **Ian Buist** commented that civil partnership differs from marriage in three ways only: the pensions point, the absence of any presumption of sex between the parties (hence no need



*Ian Buist*

for “consummation” and no “adultery” as grounds for divorce), and that registration can’t take place in religious premises or contain any religious content. Lord Alli’s amendment does away with the ban on religious buildings, which will largely obliterate the great inequality. It’s clear that if we had been campaigning for gay marriage when civil partnerships were introduced we would never have got it through Parliament. So we now have the substance of full marriage, with the added advantage of no sex presumption. The parity of status between marriage and civil partnership mustn’t be endangered.

**Peter Scott-Presland** (who took the photographs) commented that although marriage and civil partnership are almost identical in law, for immigrants to this country the difference can seem immense. People from other countries just don’t think civil partnerships are as good. Also UK civil partnerships are not recognised in any other country. Countries such as Canada which have their own gay marriages, don’t recognise civil partnerships, but would recognise UK gay marriages if we had them.

# CHE meetings, 2011–2012

## July 2011 (AGM)

Our AGM and Conference was held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of July at the Soho Health Centre, Frith Street. It featured a debate on gay marriage led by Peter Tatchell and Andrew Lumsden. See pages 11–13 for a full report on the debate, with pictures of the participants.



## October 2011

By special permission from CHE member John Gallagher, current Mayor of Ealing, our meeting on the 8<sup>th</sup> of October was held in the Council Chamber at Ealing Town Hall. The guest speaker was Ray Collins (Lord Collins of Highbury—former General Secretary of the Labour Party) and there were contributions



from other local politicians. The meeting was followed by drinks in the Mayor's Parlour. See the front page for another photo.

## January 2012

Our meeting on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of January was held at the GMFA office in Islington, and featured Lindsay River from Age of Diversity (see Page 15), Richard Farnos



from Queers Against the Cuts, and readings by Peter Scott-Presland from his book on the history of CHE.

## April 2012

At our meeting at the Calthorpe Arms, Grays Inn Road, on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of April, Brian Robinson of BFI (pictured) spoke about the ground-breaking film



*Victim* (1961) starring Dirk Bogarde. This iconic tale of a bisexual barrister being blackmailed helped to change attitudes towards the law on homosexuality, and still retains the power

to shock in places. BFI holds Bogarde's own copy of the script: his annotations show the keen interest he took in the project.

Peter Scott-Presland gave us an interesting talk about Peter Wildeblood. His prosecution in 1954 for gay sex, and subsequent writing and campaigning, helped prepare the way for decriminalisation.

## Age of Diversity

**Age of Diversity** aims to be a UK-wide campaigning organisation, for and by older LGBT people, whose views and interests are often overlooked. It intends to represent older LGBT people at national level, and promote writing by members on older LGBT issues. It was founded by Lindsay River (pictured) former Director of Polari.



Age of Diversity's first achievement was the publication in November 2011 of *Appropriate Treatment*, a report on older LGBT people's experience of general practice. For more information see the website at [www.ageofdiversity.org.uk](http://www.ageofdiversity.org.uk).

# LGBT UK History Project

The LGBT UK History Project was launched on 21<sup>st</sup> November 2012 at the Pre-launch for LGBT History Month 2012. It was created by Jonathan Harbourne, co-chair of London 2018, which hopes to bring the Gay Games to London. CHE Executive Member Ross Burgess has been actively assisting the project.

The aim is to build an online encyclopaedia of the history of Lesbian, Gay, Bi and Trans people in the UK, recording people, places, organisations, events, legislation, oppression, and liberation.

The encyclopaedia now has over 750 articles, from King Maelgwn of Gwynedd to Jessie J, from the Buggery Act 1533 to Europride 2012, from Roberta Cowell to Alan Turing. To see what's been done so far, go to [www.lgbthistoryuk.org](http://www.lgbthistoryuk.org), and click on the Time Capsule image to enter the site. You can start with the "Timeline of UK LGBT History", or use the search box, or just click "Random page" and see what comes up. If you've used Wikipedia you'll be familiar with the way the site works.

But this is only the beginning, and many of the existing articles need further work. So far there's not even a full coverage of past and present gay men's

groups in London, let alone lesbians in Cornwall or trans people in Aberdeen.

So a start has been made on recording LGBT life down the ages, but much more work is needed. If you think you can help, or If you know of a club, a group or an event that's part of the story of LGBT life in the UK, the project would be glad to hear from you: Just e-mail [history@c-h-e.org.uk](mailto:history@c-h-e.org.uk), describing your particular interests: the team will get you signed up and you can start to improve the existing articles or add your own.

If you don't feel confident enough to create your own articles, but know the "who, what, why, where, and when" of something that's not mentioned, or not adequately covered, you can still help; e-mail in with what you know, and it will be made use of.



# LGBT History Month

## *A personal view*

Originally the purpose of LGBT History Month was to highlight our past and educate all, especially younger people. By studying our past struggles and social histories we can connect to the persecution, triumphs and failures of previous generations, and see their contributions to society. History helps us acknowledge our older generation and the tribulations which drove many into the closet. Many of us still need to have the burden of self-oppression from years of slanderous propaganda lifted. Studying our history will help us stand up and be truly proud. Understanding previous homophobic, fascist societies should make us more wary of the same happening again.

The trend of History Month's recent themes has been to move into the present. This is not what History Month should be doing. The older generation are being sidelined, our experiences ignored. Studying our links with our past should make us more able to see our heroes as positive role models.

It's wrong to neglect our history in favour of education about recent events. Modern subjects should have their own place, not usurp what is after all called

"History" Month. I'm not against celebrating sports, music etc, but they should be included under their own modern categories, not as history subjects which they currently seem to overcrowd.

***Michael Brown***

CHE supported the LGBT History Month 2012 pre-launch event at the Oval Cricket ground in November 2011. We'll be supporting the 2013 pre-launch at Bletchley Park, 15 November 2012.



***EC member Ross Burgess with the CHE stall***



## News in Brief

The **Pride Power List 2011**, published in *Pride London Magazine 2011*, had a surprise entry: “*Mayor Michael Brown — gay rights-campaigner. Member of the Campaign for Homosexual Equality, Brown is now Mayor of Ealing*”. We assume they’d somehow confused Michael with John Gallagher; they’re both in our front page photo (Michael has his back to the camera)!

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The 2012 **London Vigil against Hate Crime** is to be held in Trafalgar Square on the 20<sup>th</sup> of October as part of the International Day of Hope and Remembrance for all victims and survivors of hate crime. It’s organised by 17-24-30, which was set up following the Brixton, Brick Lane, and Admiral Duncan bombings in April 1999.



In the afternoon of **Pride 2011** CHE again funded the refreshments for the older people’s chill-out space at St Anne’s Soho, organised by Opening Doors London (an Age UK Camden project). We’re doing it for the fourth year running in 2012.

The International **Trans Day of Remembrance** is celebrated on or around the 20<sup>th</sup> of November every year, to memorialise the people who have been killed that year, by murder or by suicide, as a result of their perceived transgendered identity. The photo shows the ceremony in Croydon in 2011.



The **LGBT Consortium** held its annual conference at the Unison building in Euston on 25<sup>th</sup> November 2011. CHE once again had a stall (very similar to our stall at the History Month Pre-launch four days earlier). Ross Burgess, CHE EC member, was there for the last time as a Consortium Trustee, his three-year term having come to an end.



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We're still in the process of sorting out some of the material left by **Griff Vaughan Williams** on his untimely death. The BFI have offered to take the video tapes (some them in a very archaic format) and other items will go to the Hall-Carpenter Archives.

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The **60 years of Queen Elizabeth's reign** have seen many former colonies becoming independent; 40 Commonwealth countries still retain homophobic laws, often inherited from colonial days. India is a "jewel in the crown", as our award to *365 without 377* recognises, but news from Africa is bleak. It's over two years since the Anti-homosexuality Bill was first proposed in Uganda, with severe penalties, possibly including death, for being gay or lesbian. As we went to press there were stories that the bill could be resurrected, and that the local churches, including for the first time the Roman Catholics, are supporting this extremely un-Christian piece of legislation.



23<sup>rd</sup> June 2012 is **Alan Turing's** 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. He was one of the main founders of the science of computing, and his work at Bletchley Park on deciphering German secret codes was crucial to the outcome of the Second World War. It now seems almost unbelievable that such a man could be persecuted by the authorities for his sexuality, and that someone who had had such a key role in Britain's most secret war effort should have been considered a security risk when he was discovered to be gay. An exhibition about his life has opened in Bletchley Park (venue for the History Month pre-launch in November 2012). CHE's Michael Brown helped with the Science Museum's exhibition "Codebreaker – Alan Turing's life and legacy" which runs to the end of July 2013.

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CHE is looking for **volunteers to join the Executive**. We really need a Treasurer, a Conference Organiser (one of Griff Vaughan Williams' jobs) and someone to be a public relations officer and deal with e-mails and phone calls from researchers and the media.



**Working for LGBT rights since 1969**

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