



## The Campaign for Homosexual Equality

**Annual Report  
2015–2016**



*CHE in Cambridge, November 2015*

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# Who's who?

**Founder:** Allan Horsfall

## Honorary Vice-Presidents

- Martin Bowley QC
- Dr Tony Cross
- Margaret Drabble
- Dr Jonathan Miller
- Lord Smith of Finsbury
- Michael Steed
- Professor Donald West

## Executive Committee, 2015–16

- Ross Burgess (Treasurer; re-elected 2015)
- Nettie Pollard (re-elected 2014)
- George Tregaskis (co-opted 2015)
- Mark Delacour (elected 2015)

## Trustees

- Nick Billingham
- Michael Steed

## Appeals Committee, 2015–16

- John Gallagher
- Ray Harvey-Amer
- John Marshall

## Hon. Auditor

- Andrew Moore ACIS FCCA

# Report of the Executive Committee, 2015–2016

*The Executive Committee present their report for the year 2015–16 and the audited financial statements for the year to 31 December 2015.*

## Status

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

## Decision making

The Annual Conference decides the policy of the Campaign. The EC are responsible for day-to-day administration and the implementation of Conference policies. Under the Constitution there may be up to nine EC Members: three elected by the membership each year to serve for two years, plus three co-opted. Elections take place after the Annual Conference.

## Responsibilities of the Executive

The EC are responsible for the preparation of financial statements for each financial year to give a true and fair view of the Campaign's incoming resources and

their application. In preparing the financial statements they are required to make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent, and prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis.

The EC 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 taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Campaign has no employees, does not own any property, and has no obligations (except for the on-going work on *Amiable Warriors*) which might entail long-term financial commitments.

## Funding and financial position

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. There is now additional income from sales of *Amiable Warriors* Volume One.

The EC has rationalised the use of bank accounts by closing the old HSBC account and moving £30,000 to a

new interest-bearing Co-op account. An account has been opened with Unity Trust Bank for receipts from sales of *Amiable Warriors* and associated expenditure on printing, postage and packing.

The audited accounts for the year ended 31 December 2015 are presented on pages 22 and 23 of this Annual Report.

## Activities and future strategy

The first two impressions of *Amiable Warriors* Volume One have sold out, and the third impression is now on sale. Peter Scott-Presland is working on Volume Two.

CHE has held meetings open to members and other interested people, and issued occasional newsletters. Details of all CHE activities can be found in articles in this Annual Report or on our website

The scope for additional activities is limited by the availability of volunteers. We always welcome more people to get involved as volunteers or EC members.

## Budgetary guidelines

The EC, in consultation with the Trustees, have decided that the main priority for spending in future will be the publication of Volumes Two and Three of

*Amiable Warriors*. For budgetary purposes the assumption is that this will require an expenditure of the order of £30,000.

The normal running expenses of the Campaign will as far as possible be funded within the subscription income.

## Grants and donations

In 2015 the Campaign made grants and donations to LGBT History Month, comprising:

- £500 towards the 2016 pre-launch held in November 2015
- £500 for the second Allan Horsfall Memorial Lecture, delivered by Professor Susan Stryker.

The scope for grants and donations is now very limited; however following a decision by the 2015 Annual Conference we plan to continue sponsoring the Allan Horsfall Memorial Lecture for three more years.

*Approved by the Executive Committee on 21 April 2016 and signed on their behalf by:*



## Where next for CHE?

The decisions at our Annual Conference in 2015 have set our agenda for the next year or so.

On the campaigning front the main issue facing LGBT+ people in the UK is the threat to repeal the Human Rights Act: not a live issue at the time of writing, but likely to rear its head again following the European Union referendum. This is something that we should be prepared to work on with other bodies: not something that we can realistically tackle in isolation.

The situation for LGBT+ people in the UK has certainly improved beyond all recognition in the 50+ years since CHE was founded. ILGA's Rainbow Europe website ([www.rainbow-europe.org](http://www.rainbow-europe.org)) lists the UK as the second best country in Europe, after Malta, for LGBT+ people. Apparently the reason we're lagging behind Malta has to do with the lack of progress in one part of the UK, namely Northern Ireland. The Irish Republic's referendum vote in favour of same-sex marriage makes Northern Ireland more than ever the odd part out of these islands. An-

other resolution at our 2015 Conference congratulated the Republic on this achievement, while regretting the delay to catch up in the North.

But the main focus for CHE in the years ahead is



*Reading the news at our 1976 Conference*

likely to be in the area of history and archives. Our links with LGBT History Month were reinforced in 2016 by participation in events around the country, and we will be continuing to sponsor the Allan Horsfall Memorial Lecture in future years. We've expressed our support for the LGBT Archive's online encyclopaedia of LGBT+ life

through the centuries, we're taking a keen interest in the preservation and enhancement of physical archives, and the completion and promotion of *Amiable Warriors* continues to be our top priority.

2017 will see the 50th anniversary of the beginning of legal emancipation for gay people in this country, and we need to start now thinking about how that anniversary can best be commemorated.

## Current campaign priorities

Our campaign priorities for 2015–2016 were decided at our Annual Conference (see pages 20–21 for the full text of the resolutions).

### The Human Rights Act

CHE's 2015 Conference passed a motion committing us to oppose changes to the Human Rights Act. This was following the publication in October 2014 of Conservative proposals to replace it with a 'British Bill of Rights and Responsibilities' and to provide that judgements of the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg affecting the UK would be treated only as advisory and not binding. Furthermore it went on to threaten that if this change was not agreed by other member states of the Council of Europe, 'the UK would be left with no alternative but to withdraw from the European Convention on Human Rights' which the UK played a leading part in drawing up after the Second World War. It is assumed that the present Conservative Government is committed to the same policy, but it has not yet produced



any indication of how it intends to proceed.

In January 2016 Nigel Warner of ILGA and I were observers at an important conference of human rights lawyers at King's College London to examine the issues raised. The speakers included Conservative MP and former Attorney-General Dominic Grieve, Labour MP and former Director of Public Prosecutions Keir Starmer, leading human rights lawyers Lord Lester and David Anderson, and former President of the Strasbourg court Sir Nicholas Bratza. Discussion focused attention on the right of individual petition to the court (the right of a citizen to take a government to court over alleged breaches of human rights) which has existed in the UK since 1966, before we joined the Common Market. It is through this procedure that the various judgements affecting LGBT rights have been won, starting with the Dudgeon judgement which led to decriminalisation in Northern Ireland and followed by others covering age of consent, armed forces and transgender rights. And while judgements are against individual governments

they constitute a body of international law which should be applied in all European countries and which the EU insists new members should comply with.

The conference clearly took the view that any attempt to remove the right of individual petition would be strongly opposed by most human rights lawyers, making it unlikely that the Government would attempt to remove it altogether. However, replacing the Human Rights Act by a British version which set out to restrict 'interference' by international courts in UK law, allowing the UK to pick and choose which judgements to follow, would seriously undermine the principle of the universality of human rights. That principle is one of the few effective arguments that campaigners can employ in countries which still deny LGBT rights. We therefore need to continue to oppose any proposal for weakening the Human Rights Act.

*Nick Billingham*

## Equal marriage in Northern Ireland

CHE has congratulated the people of the Republic of Ireland for having voted in favour of equal marriage, but noted the Northern Ireland Assembly's refusal to follow suit.

## LGBT History and archives

CHE will be continuing to fund the Allan Horsfall Memorial Lecture, and supporting the LGBT History Festival in other ways.

CHE will be working with other organisations to ensure the long-term survival of the UK LGBT Archive (previously called the LGBT History Project) and the recruitment of additional volunteers.

We plan to work to ensure that the Millivres-Prowler photographic archive is preserved and made available for study.

All CHE members receive a **Newsletter** or other mailing 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 email us at [membership@c-h-e.org.uk](mailto:membership@c-h-e.org.uk).

# LGBT History Month 2016

*In line with our Conference resolution, CHE has been supporting LGBT History Month 2016. Many thanks to Sue Sanders and her colleagues for making this such an important annual event.*

## Pre-launch, November

In November 2015 we sponsored the pre-launch at Queen's College Cambridge. Our stall in the magnificent Old Hall (see cover photo) featured two displays,



*Sue Sanders, Ross Burgess and Stuart Milk at the V&A*

one for the LGBT Archive (with special reference to the 2016 theme of Religion, Belief and Philosophy) and the other for CHE and Amiable Warriors. Unfortunately we weren't able to stay for the evening's entertainment.

## London, 5–7 February

The 2016 National Festival of LGBT History kicked off with events at Islington Town Hall, the Victoria and Albert Museum and the Museum of London. I took part in the V&A event, following other speakers such

as Stuart Milk, nephew of the murdered Harvey Milk. My presentation was called '40 years of making and recording LGBT history'.

**Ross Burgess**

## Shrewsbury, 12-14 February

One extremely successful event which took place as part of LGBT history month this year was held in Shrewsbury over the weekend of 12–14 February. Two of the main organisers were Geoff Hardy and his partner Peter Roscoe whom many will remember as active campaigners in London in the 1970s and 80s and who have since played a central part in creating a thriving LGBT community in Shrewsbury.

As well as talks by well-known activists Peter Tatchell and Stuart Milk, the programme of lectures spanned a wide range of topics of ongoing research into LGBT history. Three of the speakers have recently given talks at CHE meetings: Andrew Lumsden on Henry Labouchère, Stuart Feather on GLF and Peter Scott-Presland on the early little known gay campaigner Robert Reid. Academic researchers gave papers on female impersonation as entertainment in the wartime armed forces and the work of a classical



scholar friend of Wilfred Owen. Other presentations covered trans awareness in Manchester, the hidden histories of older lesbians, the story of a lesbian couple in mid-Wales, and the question of the impact of religion on sexuality and gender in the black British community.

In the tradition of past CHE conferences, a cabaret show was staged in the evening featuring local performers and a theatrical tribute by 'All the Nice Girls' to the lives of Gwen Farrah & Norah Blaney, lesbian music hall performers who achieved fame in the early twentieth century. Our own Peter Scott-Presland rounded off his act by leading the audience in a rousing rendition of the chorus to his own celebrated song 'Travelling Gay Cabaret' which brought back memories from forty years ago.

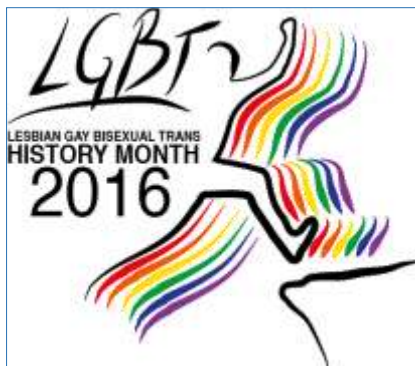
On Sunday two films were shown: *Reel in the Closet* documenting queer lives from the past as recorded in personal home movies and *The Times of Harvey Milk*,

a documentary including original contemporary material telling the story in a more authentic way than Sean Penn's Hollywood version. *Reel in the Closet* is a remarkable and moving reclamation of LGBT home movies of public and private events from the 1930s

onwards, including a lesbian bar of the 1950s and the first picket of the White House in the early 1960s. With the discovery of film of CHE conferences in 1975 and 1976 and the CHE Motoring Group, there is hope that more will come to light in the UK to create our own 'reel'.

The success of this event taking place outside the larger cities shows the way in which the LGBT community is developing now that the older forms of campaigning for law reform are seen by many as

less important. Two of the most memorable contributions came from two students from a local school recounting their experience of setting up an LGBT support group and from a retired magistrate recalling how he had been possibly the first in the country to



*The 'Leap of Faith' logo for LGBT History Month 2016*

approve an application for adoption by a same-sex couple.

Bringing together such widely differing experiences is of great importance in promoting a sense of community; anything CHE can do to support and participate in LGBT History events is very worthwhile.

**Nick Billingham**

## Manchester, 25–27 February

The second Allan Horsfall Memorial Lecture, sponsored by CHE in honour of our founder, was given this year by Professor Susan Stryker, trans activist and associate professor of Gender and Women's Studies at the University of Arizona. The lecture was part of the Friday evening civic launch for the Manchester part of the LGBT History Festival. Other speakers included the Lord Mayor of Manchester (who apologised for appearing without his 'bling' as the mayoral car had had a flat tyre) and Peter Tatchell. The evening concluded with a performance of *Mister Stokes: The man-woman of Manchester*.



**Prof. Susan Stryker**

On the Saturday I read a paper about the LGBT Archive at the academic conference at Manchester University, but couldn't stay to hear Peter Scott-Presland's paper as I was whisked off to the People's History Museum to reprise the talk I'd given in London. Later we saw another theatre performance, and had a tour of the museum. The academic festival continued on the Saturday, with a variety of papers on interesting and thought-provoking subjects.

**Ross Burgess**

## Other venues

Peter Scott-Presland spoke at several other venues during LGBT History Month, including York St John University, Age UK (London), the Cutty Sark (Greenwich), the National Archives (Kew) and Oxford LGBT Society. His round of talks continued into March, with three separate branches of Unison in West Sussex. He has also been interviewed by William Brougham who campaigns for marriage equality in Australia: see the interview at: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=AKwJOR54Fs0](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AKwJOR54Fs0).

## New Vice-President

We are delighted to announce that Professor Donald West (D. J. West) has agreed to become an Honorary Vice-President of CHE. He is Emeritus Professor of



Clinical Criminology at the University of Cambridge, and a former Director of the Cambridge Institute of Criminology. During a distinguished career as psychiatrist and criminologist, he has written books about juvenile de-

linquents and rent boys.

His *Homosexuality*, first published in 1955 and reprinted many times thereafter, was for many years the most-widely read book on the subject. It argued for tolerance of homosexuals, but not surprisingly given that legalisation was over a decade in the future it didn't reveal that its author was gay himself. By contrast his autobiography, *Gay Life Straight Work*, published in 2012, is a very explicit coming out.

## Amiable Warriors

Sales of *Amiable Warriors* Volume One continue at a steady pace, mainly through Amazon (it's by far the best seller among Paradise Press books through this route), and we've had to reprint twice since the initial launch. but we've not yet achieved the major breakthrough that we had hoped. We submitted the book for the Lambda Literary Awards, but it didn't get shortlisted.

We've had a couple of excellent reviews: by Rictor Norton on his 'Reviews and Critiques' web page and by Brett Humphreys in *The Pink Humanist*. There are links to both reviews at [www.amiable-warriors.uk](http://www.amiable-warriors.uk).

Meanwhile Peter Scott-Presland is working away on Volumes Two and Three. He's been conducting interviews with many of the important players in the second phase of CHE's history, but urgently needs help to transcribe the interview recordings – **contact us if you could help!**



## Online archive

At our 2015 Conference we agreed to support the UK LGBT History Project (see page 21). The project is working to produce an online encyclopaedia, in the form of a chronicle of LGBT life in Britain throughout the ages, and a time capsule for future generations.

During the Conference's refreshment break, I got together with Jonathan Harbourne, the project's founder, and Jeff Evans, academic lead for LGBT History Month. We continued our discussions by Skype, and agreed to re-brand the project. Jeff made the point that the project is not doing history, which would mean interpreting the events of the past – it's creating an online archive of information and of the sources of information, for future historians as well as for general readers.

So the project was renamed the **UK LGBT Archive**, with a new web address – [www.lgbtarchive.uk](http://www.lgbtarchive.uk). Since then it has been moved to a new server and the software has had a major upgrade.

The site is similar to Wikipedia in its structure and the way you interact with it, but it includes many

subjects that would not be 'notable' enough for Wikipedia. It now has over 3,800 articles, which have together been viewed over seven million times.

The most popular article (after the home page) is 'Timeline of UK LGBT History', with over 74,000 views, followed by 'Age of Consent' with 56,000. 'Campaign for Homosexual Equality' comes in seventh, with 41,000 views, 'Allan Horsfall' 12th with 32,000, and 'Amiable Warriors' 14th with 23,000. Surprisingly, perhaps, the 'Alan Turing' article is down at number 78, with 6,000 views, and 'Oscar Wilde' is number 168 with under 4,000.

My paper about the project, delivered at the Academic Conference attached to the Manchester Festival of LGBT History, can be read at:

[www.academia.edu/22747960/Creating\\_an\\_online\\_archive\\_for\\_LGBT\\_history](http://www.academia.edu/22747960/Creating_an_online_archive_for_LGBT_history).

**Ross Burgess**



## Physical archives

We've continued to be concerned about the location and accessing of physical archives.

In 1980 CHE founded the Gay Monitoring and Archive Project, which in 1982 became the Hall-Carpenter Archives (HCA), named after the authors Radclyffe Hall and Edward Carpenter. The HCA was run for several years by CHE member Julian Meldrum, and housed for a time at the London Lesbian and Gay Centre. When the Centre closed, the HCA collection was moved to the library of the London School of Economics.

CHE has deposited a considerable amount of material at HCA over the years, including the early records of CHE itself and of its local groups. However HCA has effectively ceased to exist as a separate organisation, and become part of the general LSE library, whose purpose is primarily to serve LSE students rather than the general public. There is also a huge cataloguing, sorting, weeding and re-boxing exercise to be done. The HCA have stopped taking archives

from local LGBT groups, and have said that they won't be able to accept more material from CHE for the time being, for reasons of space.



*The Bishopsgate Institute*

We are now proposing that future deposits of CHE material should go to the Bishopsgate Institute near Liverpool Street Station. They have a substantial LGBT collection which they are keen to expand, and access to the archives should be easier than at LSE.

One problem with researching LGBT life, as Peter Scott-Presland has discovered, is that archives are located in many places around the country – in local, county or university archives – and tracking them down can be difficult. A project to digitise important material would be very welcome if funds could be found. Meanwhile the LGBT Archive has initiated a project to document the location of various archives, as has been done for

the archives of LGBT religious groups worldwide by the LGBT Religious Archives Network:

[www.lgbtran.org/CollectionsCatalog.aspx](http://www.lgbtran.org/CollectionsCatalog.aspx).

## Michael Harth (1926–2016)

Michael Harth was an early member of CHE, joining in 1971 and becoming treasurer of London Group 11 by June 1972. His heart and soul were in the principle of enjoyment: being gay should be fun, sex should be cheerful and guilt-free, and CHE should be getting rid of the obstacles to that hedonistic end. He gave short shrift to most campaigning in a characteristic knockabout style:

‘Of all the perversions, political activism appears to me to be the most vile, based as it almost invariably is on some form of power-seeking, an activity which necessarily implies someone over whom power is sought; compared to this, even the most trivialising kind of sexual encounter is a miracle of warmth and human feeling, for at least the participants are pleasure-oriented.’

His delight in argument and controversy led him to adopt positions which he only half believed in. He was a man of paradoxes, for there was no doubt that he was a campaigner in his insistence on the absolute integrity of his gay identity.

He was also eloquent in his advocacy of the need for CHE to have a ‘respectable’ image – a particular bête noir was Bernard Greaves, with his questioning

of the need for an age of consent and his high-profile campaign against police harassment of cottagers. The irony of this was that Mike was far from ‘respectable’ in his own life, having been a masseur offering more than massage and running an escort agency. He remained an inveterate cottager until extreme old age, whether partnered or not. Twice he was the victim of police entrapment, each time pleading not guilty and getting the case thrown out; in a life crowded with scrapes he also managed inadvertently to get mixed up with a Dutch gangster and found himself barred from Holland for life.

Another paradox about Mike was that despite his exclusive interest in the concerns of gay men, he established firm friendships with women, especially Ginny Stevens, editor of *Lunch*, whom he assisted in the office as well as delivering the paper round London in his red van. He was also great chums with Jackie Forster and her then partner Babs Todd, and later with Elsa Beckett and her partner Kathryn Bell, with whom, along with Peter Robins, he founded the CHE Gay Writers’ Group in 1972, which mutated into the Gay Authors’ Workshop. He was a great ‘founder’ – the East London Bridge Club came into existence as

a result of his efforts and enthusiasm.

In 1973 he set up his own East London group, Stepney CHE, partly as a reaction against the middle-class ethos of most CHE groups. His life philosophy was again apparent: 'Above all we encourage our members to enjoy themselves, since it is in this personal sphere that the worst effects of our social oppression makes itself [*sic*] felt' Mike threw himself into a variety of CHE activities, bringing his myriad enthusiasms to bear. In answer to a general appeal for speakers prepared to go and talk to local groups on a variety of subjects, he offered astrology, wine-making and Liszt.

A self-taught pianist, he claimed to have played through everything Liszt wrote, thanks to the Klavarskribo music notation which changed his life. Up to this point he had been intended for a chemist; now he decided music and the arts were for him. From then on he played and acted, wrote songs, stories and novels with prodigious energy. His interest in music led him into the CHE Music Group, promoting concerts at Leighton House with Bill Dalziel. Later he



formed a piano duet team with Mike Lorenzini, thus making use of the two grand pianos in his house. Together they founded the Billy Mayerl society.

With Peter Robins he made two visits to Edinburgh, with a show called 'Lit Bits'; the second year he mounted his own revue, out of material he had devised for the CHE Drama and Revue Groups. By the late 1970s he was well quit of CHE, and concentrating on the Gay Authors Workshop. For over thirty years he contributed to it, steered it, mentored younger authors, and helped to set up the publishing arm, Paradise Press. An eagle critical eye was tempered by his ready wit and encouragement. He continued to edit the GAW magazine *Gazebo* until close to his death, fighting a rearguard action against a cancer which he made light of. In this he was greatly helped and supported by his partner and carer, Laurence.

In his later years he became a firm Christian - his final contradiction, between a highly rational mind and a need for spiritual purpose in life, finally resolved.

***Peter Scott-Presland***



## Recent meetings

### AGM and Conference, May 2015

Our conference on 30 May debated and approved five motions (see pages 20–21). Taking part in the debates were Tony Fenwick, Chief Executive of Schools Out / LGBT History Month, Jeff Evans, historian and Academic Director of LGBT History Month, and Jonathan Harbourne, founder



*Tony Fenwick and  
Mark Delacour*



*Jonathan Harbourne  
and Jeff Evans*

of the UK LGBT History Project.

An emergency motion proposing that we should campaign against the closure of gay pubs was rejected, on the basis that it was pointless trying

to keep a venue open if gay people didn't support it.

During the break, Jonathan Harbourne, Jeff Evans and Ross Burgess discussed the future of the LGBT History Project: these discussions eventually led to the project being rebranded as the LGBT Archive (see page 12).

After the break, we showed CHE's London Weekend Television programme *Speak for Yourself* (1974).

### Quarterly Meeting, October 2015

The main speaker at our meeting on 10 October 2015 was Andrew Lumsden, who entertained us with extracts from his forthcoming essay on the controversial Victorian politician Henry Labouchère. He helped us to understand the background to Labouchère's notorious amendment to the 1885 Criminal Law Amendment Act, which introduced the crime



*Andrew Lumsden*



of 'Gross Indecency', under which thousands of men, from Oscar Wilde onwards, were sent to prison.

After the break we showed an early film about the Gay Liberation Front, followed by a discussion about relations between GLF and CHE.

## Quarterly Meeting, January 2016

Our meeting on 30 January featured Stuart Feather, reading from his new book, *Blowing the Lid: Gay Liberation and the Making of the Radical Queens*, the first book about GLF by one of its active participants. After the break, Peter Scott-Presland spoke about relations between CHE and GLF.



*Ross Burgess and  
Stuart Feather*

## Feminist Library

In February 2016 CHE joined a read-in outside the Southwark council offices opposing closure of London's world-famous Feminist Library.

The Feminist Library, in Westminster Bridge Road, holds a large collection of Women's Liberation Movement literature. This includes material available nowhere else, for example all the early women's and lesbian groups newsletters. Since 1975 it has supported research, activist and community projects.

In 2016 the council increased the rent from £12,000 to £30,000. Already entirely run by volunteers, this is more than the Library is able to pay.

The picket was well attended by women and men and included, in various parts of the crowd, people reading from feminist books. There were speakers explaining how important the library was to them: women from many strands of society spoke, including Ireland, Tehran and local Bangladeshi women.

Women and men, straight and gay, all stood together in solidarity, to say that our history must be preserved. As a result of the picket and a petition, the council have delayed the eviction. A major fundraising campaign has been launched.

**Nettie Pollard**

## News in Brief



**Ian Buist**, a long-tem CHE member who died in 2012, has left us £5,000 in his will. In March 2016 his memory was celebrated at a dinner the National Liberal Club attended by representatives of some of the other organisations and charities Ian supported, including ILGA and the Lesbian and Gay Christian Movement.

CHE again had a stall promoting CHE and the LGBT Archive at the **London Metropolitan Archives'** LGBT conference on 7 December 2015. The photo shows Ross Burgess with the Jan Pimblett of LMA, who bought a copy of *Amiable Warriors*.



We have booked a stall at a fringe event at 'Without Borders', the LGBTQ Archives, Libraries and Museums Conference at the LMA on 24 June 2016.

In October 2015 Peter Scott-Presland gave a talk at the **Shropshire Rainbow Film Festival** about the ground-breaking 1961 film *Victim*. You can hear it at [www.lgbtarchive.uk/audio/PSP\\_Victim.mp3](http://www.lgbtarchive.uk/audio/PSP_Victim.mp3).



The **General Election** in 2014 returned a majority Conservative Government, and put an end to the parliamentary careers of several LGBT MPs, including **Simon Hughes**. The UK Parliament is now said to have 'the most LGBT MPs ever recorded in the world').

**Mhairi Black**, the new SNP MP for Paisley and Renfrewshire South, was elected while still a student and is the youngest MP to be elected since the 19th century. When asked about her decision to come out, she said 'I've never been in.' Scotland also now has three or possibly four LGBT party leaders.



**Alan Wakeman**, who died in 2015 aged 79, was a leading light in GLF in the 1970s, one of the founders of Gay Sweatshop, and a well-known character in Soho. He also wrote *The Vegan Cookbook*. See Andrew Lumsden's obituary in *The Guardian*.



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We were sorry to hear of the death of the barrister **David Hyde**. He had been an active member of CHE in the 1970s and was the first editor of the London CHE magazine, *Lunch*. He had re-joined CHE during 2015 and expressed an interest in working with the Executive, but unfortunately died of a heart attack before this could happen.

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**Other deaths** since our last Annual Report have included the writer Michael Harth (see pages 14–15), Lord Montagu of Beaulieu, the solicitor Laurence Harbottle, the art critic Brian Sewell, the *Coronation Street* creator Tony Warren, and the composer Peter Maxwell Davies. More about all of these on the LGBT Archive wiki.

We were contacted in 2015 by a book dealer who'd acquired some memorabilia that had belonged to our founder, **Allan Horsfall**. This turned out to include copies of Jeff Dudgeon's edition of Roger Casement's *Black Diaries*, and Antony Grey's memoir *Personal Tapestry*, both of them signed to Allan by their authors, plus a letter and some photographs. The EC agreed to buy the items, and the plan is to donate them to the proposed East Lancs LGBT History Project.



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**Seán McGouran**, who served on our Executive Committee from 2011 to 2015, latterly as Secretary, and contributed a number of interesting items to CHE Newsletters, has moved back to his native Belfast, where he had been a long-term gay campaigner. We

wish him well for the future.

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EC member Nettie Pollard is contacting **Age UK** to get them to include a better balance of lesbians in their LGBT booklet.

# Resolutions passed at the 2015 Conference

## Motion 1: LGBT History Festival

- a. This Conference congratulates LGBT History Month on its highly successful and ground-breaking LGBT History Festival in February this year.
- b. The Conference particularly notes the combination of academic and popular events, and urges the organisers to continue in this vein, since there is a crying need for more education in LGBT history.
- c. The Conference urges the Executive Committee:
  - i. to continue to fund the Allan Horsfall Memorial Lecture for a total of five years;
  - ii. to offer such other support to an annual LGBT History Festival as it can;
  - iii. to adopt as a funding priority the preservation and dissemination of LGBT history in general, and CHE history in particular.

## Motion 2: Millivres-Prowler photographic collection

- a. This Conference notes that the largest and most important LGBT photographic archive in the UK is currently in private hands being owned by Millivres-Prowler Ltd. The Conference understands that this contains the entire photographic collection of Capital Gay, Gay Times and Diva, as well as many other items; and that the collection runs to several thousand items covering over forty years. The Conference also notes that there is a significant collection of CHE photos covering events from 1972 onwards.
- b. The Conference expresses concern that such an important

historical resource remains:

- i. unavailable for public study and use;
  - ii. inadequately and poorly housed and subject to significant deterioration;
  - iii. uncatalogued and incoherent, despite several approaches from interested parties over the last five years, and assurances from Millivres-Prowler of an intention to preserve the archive properly.
- c. The Conference urges the Executive Committee:
    - i. to identify other interested groups and individuals who would like to see the Millivres-Prowler Photo Archive put upon a proper professional footing and made available for public study and use;
    - ii. to organise and participate in a joint approach with other concerned organisations and individuals to Millivres-Prowler Ltd, to urge them to take steps to preserve the collection adequately;
    - iii. To work with Millivres-Prowler Ltd and other concerned individuals to identify any problems associated with a professional preservation project, and to work to eliminate those problems and to raise adequate resources to create a worthy Millivres-Prowler Photo Archive.

## Motion 3: UK LGBT History Project

- a. This Conference congratulates the UK LGBT History Project on its four years of existence, during which time it has become an unequalled resource of information about LGBT life in this country.

- b. The Conference notes that the Project's online encyclopaedia now has over 3,300 articles, covering LGBT people, places, organisations and events, from the earliest times to the present day, with articles about every county and local government district in the United Kingdom, and that the articles have in total been viewed over four million times.
- c. The Conference notes that the Project has received no external funding and the cost of the web space has been entirely borne by its founder, Jonathan Harbourne, and that the work of creating and editing articles has been carried out by a very small number of volunteers.
- d. The Conference urges the Executive Committee to work with other interested organisations to secure the long-term survival and enhancement of the Project, and the recruitment of additional volunteers.

### **Emergency motion 1: Same-sex marriage in Ireland**

This Conference congratulates the people of the Irish Republic for their overwhelming support for same-sex marriage in the recent referendum. The Conference notes however the Northern Ireland Assembly's refusal to enact same-sex marriage and its dilatoriness on other germane matters.

### **Emergency motion 2: Human Rights Act**

This Conference deplores the Government's proposal to repeal the Human Rights Act, and instructs the Executive Committee to take all possible steps to campaign against repeal.

## **Associated organisations**

### **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, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association)

### **CHE supports:**

- LGBT History Month
- The UK LGBT Archive (formerly the LGBT History Project)

### **Affiliated groups:**

- Berkshire Older Lesbian and Gay Forum (BOLGaF)
- CAGS (Croydon Area Gay Society)
- The Proud Trust (formerly LGBT Youth North West)
- Marylebone and Paddington CHE Group

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

# Income and Expenditure Account for 2015

2014		2015
	<b>Income:</b>	
–	Sales of <i>Amiable Warriors</i> Volume One	£3,618.52
£1,855.00	Subscriptions and donations	£2,204.50
£53.49	Bank interest	£171.78
<b>£1,908.49</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>£5,994.80</b>
	<b>Expenditure:</b>	
£7,000.00	<i>Amiable Warriors</i> : writing / research (Peter Scott-Presland)	£3,000.00
–	Travel, etc expenses	£1,400.61
£732.39	Interview transcription	–
–	Indexing	£1,700.00
–	Cover design	£200.00
–	Printing Volume One (review copies plus three full impressions)	£1,988.76
–	Postage and packing	£400.27
<b>£7,732.39</b>	<b>Total for <i>Amiable Warriors</i></b>	<b>£8,689.64</b>
£1,000.00	Donations etc (LGBT History Month)	£1,000.00
£760.00	Office rent and meetings	£820.00
£405.00	Misc printing (annual report, leaflets)	£451.99
£25.00	Affiliation fees (ILGA, SLAGO)	£136.07
£404.08	Postage, stationery, bank charges and miscellaneous	£351.59
<b>£10,326.47</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>£11,449.29</b>
<b>£(8,417.98)</b>	<b>(Deficit) for the year</b>	<b>£(5,454.49)</b>

# Balance Sheet

**2014**

**2015**

## Current assets at 31 December:

£24,308.24	Co-op Bank current account	£11,040.51
£0.00	Co-op Bank deposit account	£30,000.00
£24,043.20	Santander Bank current account	£50.17
£34,276.41	Santander Bank deposit account	£34,448.19
£0.00	Unity Trust Bank current account	£1,183.09
£0.00	PayPal	£46.40
<b>£82,627.85</b>	<b>Total current assets</b>	<b>£76,768.36</b>
£(405.00)	Current liability: accrued expense	£0.00
<b>£82,222.85</b>	<b>Net assets</b>	<b>£76,768.36</b>
	<b>Represented by:</b>	
£90,640.83	Balance at 1 January	£82,222.85
£(8,417.98)	Less deficit on year	£(5,454.49)
<b>£82,222.85</b>	<b>Balance at 31 December</b>	<b>£76,768.36</b>

## Treasurer's Report

I hereby present the CHE accounts for the year ended 31 December 2015. As will be seen, CHE once again made a deficit on the year, attributable to the planned expenditure on *Amiable Warriors*, partly offset by sales of Vol. 1.

*Ross Burgess, Treasurer, 21 April 2016*

## Auditor's Report

I have examined the above Income and Expenditure Account and Balance Sheet and confirm that they have been properly prepared in accordance with the records, information and explanations supplied to me.

*Andrew Moore ACIS FCCA, Hon Auditor, 21 April 2016*



## **Part of LGBT history since 1964**

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