

CHERT



CHE Research Trust

Annual Report 2022

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Note that there are no financial details in this Annual Report, pending the transfer of funds from CHE.

The Objects and purpose of the Trust are:

- 1) To advance education for the public benefit about the history of the struggle for LGBT+ rights, including but not limited to the origins and history of the Campaign for Homosexual Equality and by contributing to the safe preservation of LGBT+ archives.
- 2) To promote equality and diversity by encouraging a deeper understanding of the causes and progress of changes in public acceptance of LGBT+ rights.

Background

The name of our charity reflects our origins: we were set up in 2021 by CHE (the Campaign for Homosexual Equality), which had by then ceased campaigning, its original aims largely achieved, and recognised the need for a change of direction and governance. This was debated at successive CHE Annual Conferences; the most recent Conference in December 2019 specifically called for the setting up of a ‘trust’ or equivalent to inherit CHE’s funds. A generous legacy from Derek Oyston from Gateshead (1930–2005) had enabled CHE to publish Volume One of *Amiable Warriors*, a history of CHE and its times, by Peter Scott-Presland. It was proposed that the new trust should continue to support the continuing *Amiable Warriors* project and be open to a programme of other projects related to LGBT+ history.

In response to this Conference resolution, a Transition Team was formed, comprising CHE’s Trustees and its Executive Committee, chaired by Michael Steed. Following legal advice, the Transition Team agreed to form a new Charitable Incorporated Organisation, to be called CHERT. This was supported unanimously in an online vote of CHE members, and the Transition Team proceeded to nominate the six founding Trustees to the Board of CHERT. Three of the new Trustees are members of the CHE Executive Committee, to provide continuity; the other three were chosen out of a wider field of people with appropriate experience to be a charity trustee and a proven commitment to CHE and to LGBT+ issues generally.

Our first year as a Board

Our first Board meeting took place on Wednesday 26 July 2021 by Zoom, at the beginning of a momentous week for CHE. The application to the Charity Commission for registration of CHERT as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) was submitted on 28 July and on Friday 30 July a plaque was unveiled on Burnley Central Library, commemorating a key event in CHE’s history, exactly 40 years before.

At this first meeting we introduced ourselves to one another, describing our backgrounds and the impact that the work and witness of CHE had had on our lives. We ourselves to building ourselves into a trustworthy team that would be well equipped to carry the responsibilities that had been envisaged for us by CHE, concisely expressed in the statement of our Objects and purpose. We agreed to confirm Peter Burman as Chair of CHERT, and to appoint Ross Burgess as Secretary and Mark Delacour as Treasurer, and we reviewed the text of our submission to the Charity Commission, which was duly submitted following last-minute email discussions on the finer points of the wording.

There followed an agonising period during which we waited for the Charity Commission, struggling from the same Covid-related circumstances as we were all suffering from, to rule on our application. The result of all this hard work was in the end a successful conclusion :registration as a charity.

Getting to work in earnest

Our second Board meeting was on 15 July 2022, almost a year since the first one, but this was the first meeting following our registration as a charity, with all that that means in terms of good governance and opportunities. We began by re-affirming the decisions and appointments we had taken at our first meeting. We then began to tackle the multifarious tasks, great and small, that a newly established charity needs in order to establish itself. We agreed that we should share the Conference planned for 15 October 2022 with CHE so that together we could implement the agreed handover of funds, and explain and answer questions to clarify any matter about which any member of CHE might still feel anxious.

It became clear that as Trustees we would all probably need to take responsibility for particular portfolios. As a first step in that direction, Rainer Schulze agreed to take the lead on the *Amiable Warriors* project, to be the main point of contact with Peter Scott-Presland, and to hold discussions with him so that we could find a way forward which we could all support. Discussions continue. Meanwhile, and with the Annual Conference and our own launch in mind, we agreed to a further printing of what will be the sixth impression of *Amiable Warriors* Volume One. Copies should be available for the Conference.

Further Board meetings have taken place, on 19 August and 7 September. The main headings of our Agendas are good governance, including: the discussion and approval of draft policies; financial matters, the regulating of which is a priority for all charity trustees; communications, both internal and outward-facing; and the relationship between CHE and CHERT, which has been the subject of an article for the annual report of CHE. We intend in due course to have policies for all the most important aspects of running a small charity, which we intend should be a model of good governance.

The first policy to be agreed was that on grants, which will be placed on the website together with a draft Grant Application Form. Implementation of this policy will depend on CHERT having some funds to hand out (following the planned transfer of funds from CHE) and an agreed budget. We also intend selectively to seek funds, most likely for specific projects as time goes on.

We have also approved the 'CHERT' logo (designed by our Secretary as an extension in a similar bespoke font to the long-established CHE logo) and the use alongside it of the Progress Pride Flag (in the Intersex-inclusive version). The CHERT website has been in existence since before our Charity Commission application was submitted, and a Twitter account has been set up.

The next steps

Looking back, we can all see that a great deal of committed hard work was necessary to initiate the change that two CHE Annual Conferences had called for. It is no small matter to negotiate successfully with the Charity Commission. We now look forward to the October 2022 Conference, which should finalise the constitutional arrangements.

We feel a great deal of goodwill behind us as we take on the task of fashioning a renewed vision of CHE into the future, with a new structure, and with all the trust and confidence that being a registered charity can bring. We hope that, from modest new beginnings, a vibrant new presence in the LGBT+ world may shine out, and be a support and encouragement to LGBT+ people.

PETER BURMAN, on behalf of the Board of Trustees of CHERT, 6 September 2022

Constitutional arrangements

When we began the process of investigating charitable status, the thought was that CHE itself might become a charity. But it soon became clear, and was confirmed by legal advice, that we would do better to leave CHE in existence, with a reduced role, and create a new body (now called CHERT) with charitable status. This would for instance cover the possibility that someone might leave money in their will specifically to CHE; such a legacy might be lost if CHE were no longer in existence.

So on balance we decided on the recommended new arrangement: CHERT will sit alongside CHE, but share the same management team, with the CHERT Board of Trustees also acting as the Executive Committee of CHE. We envisage that at a certain point in Board meetings we will metaphorically put on different hats, to discuss CHE matters. There are ample precedents for that.

We propose that CHE will transfer the bulk of its funds to CHERT to fund a research programme including the continuing *Amiable Warriors* project, and other projects which fall within our charitable objects. CHE will continue to receive income, in the shape of continuing standing order payments from some of our long-standing members, and will retain certain limited funds of its own, to undertake any activities that may fall outside of CHERT's charitable objectives, and for which it feels it has the capacity. We invite CHE members to suggest suitable projects.

Our Constitution

CHERT'S Constitution (www.chert.org.uk/chert-constitution.shtml) is a long document, but almost all of it except for the objects (Clause 3) and the list of founding trustees (Clause 9.4) is standard wording required by the Charity Commission. In a few cases the standard wording allows options. We chose two of these:

- Use of electronic communications (Clause 22)
- Informal or associate (non-voting) membership (Clause 17): this enables us to give recognition to CHE's existing members, who will now additionally become associate members of CHERT and thereby entitled to be kept informed of what both CHE and CHERT are doing.

Points from our submission

As well as the Constitution, the Charity Commission required our submission to address certain questions and make certain commitments, for instance to confirm that we would maintain separate identities for CHE and CHERT (hence separate websites and separate 2022 Annual Reports), and how researchers would be paid. We were asked how we would go about fulfilling our objects, and our answers included the following:

- 'The topics for research will include aspects of the history of the struggle for LGBT+ rights, primarily but not exclusively in the United Kingdom. A key element will be the researching, publication and dissemination of the history of the Campaign for Homosexual Equality, within the broader context of changing attitudes to LGBT+ people, to follow on from the work already documented in *Amiable Warriors* Volume One by Peter Scott-Presland (Paradise Press, 2015) which takes the story to 1973.'
- 'The principal activity of the charity in its early years will be the completion of the history of CHE; thereafter we will engage in wider aspects of LGBT history, primarily but not exclusively in the UK.'

Other guidelines

Our actions as a CIO will also be guided by:

- The law relating to Charities and the behaviour of Trustees
- The policies that we are beginning to document
- 'CHE's Memorandum of Wishes for CHERT' (www.chert.org.uk/wishes.shtml), a document originated by Michael Steed, Chair of the CHE Transition Team, which is to be handed over to CHERT at the CHE/CHERT Conference on 15 October 2022.

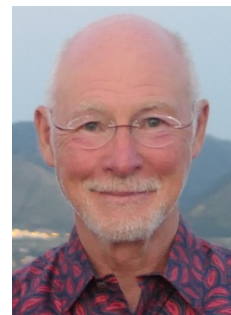
A legacy for CHERT?

If you support CHERT's aims and values, why not mention us in your will? Further details on request.

CHERT – our founding Trustees

Dr Peter Burman, MBE, FSA (Chair)

Arts and Heritage Consultant, living in Falkland, Fife. Cambridge MA (History of Art). Council for the Care of Churches/Cathedrals for 22 years, ending as General Secretary; then Director, Centre for Conservation Studies, University of York; Director of Conservation and Property Services, National Trust for Scotland; Professor of Cultural Heritage Management, Brandenburg Technical University. Founder-chair, Building Limes Forum and York Art Workers Association. Currently Community Councillor, Chair of the Falkland Society and the Scottish Association of Country House Archivists. Trustee of John Ruskin's Guild of St George. (founded 1871). CHE Executive Committee member.



Ross Burgess, MA, FBCS, CEng (Secretary)

Part-time editor and book designer, former IT consultant, living in Falkland, Fife, with his husband, Peter Burman. Degrees from Oxford (PPE) and Open University (Maths). Secretary of the Falkland Society and editor of a book about Falkland. Founded the Tunbridge Wells CHE Group in 1972, and took part in the first CHE Conference in 1973. Many years on the committee of Croydon Area Gay Society (formerly CHE London Group 8). Trustee of the Consortium, 2008–2011. Regular editor on Wikipedia and the UK LGBT Archive. Treasurer of CHE since 2010. Editor and typographer for *Amiable Warriors* Volume One. Maintains the CHE, CHERT and *Amiable Warriors* websites.



Mark Delacour, MSci (Treasurer)

Charity administrator, living in Belgravia. Degree from University College London (Computer Science). Worked at the LGBT Consortium for 15 years, ending as Director of Operations, then Development and Engagement Manager at Broken Rainbow UK. Currently Director of External Affairs at METRO, a leading equality and diversity charity, providing health, community and youth services across London and the South East, with national and international projects. CHE Executive Committee member since 2014. Extensive experience in running charities and projects in the interest of LGBTQ+ communities.



Simon Ives, BA (Hons), MA, FRSA

Retired academic, living in Brighton. Now working part-time for the Higher Education Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) managing and chairing reviews of universities in the UK and internationally. Used to working with and managing teams and making judgements based on national criteria. Long experience of the sound management of departmental and faculty budgets. Joined CHE in 1971 aged 16 and got immersed in its campaigning and social activity in the Youth Group and the Monday Group. Involved for several years in the management of CHELIC and in working on the Sheffield Conference. Briefly an EC member.



Emeritus Professor Glenys Parry, PhD, FBPsS, CPsychol

Health services researcher, chartered clinical psychologist and accredited cognitive analytic psychotherapist. Her career has spanned research, teaching, clinical practice, health services policy making and NHS senior management. Wide experience of qualitative and quantitative research methods in health services, psychology and social science. Skills in management and management consultancy, and finance management in a social enterprise. Gay activist and Chair of CHE in the 1970s. Took part in CHE's historic public meeting in Burnley.



Professor Rainer Schulze, PhD

Emeritus Professor of Modern European History and Human Rights, University of Essex, living in Lambeth. Previously taught at the Ruhr-Universität Bochum, Birkbeck College London, and Roehampton University. Project leader for the re-development of the permanent exhibition at the Gedenkstätte Bergen-Belsen. Programmer, curator and presenter of the LGBTQ+ film programme *Tales from the Margins*. Freelance consultancy work for museums and film projects, chiefly on Holocaust-related topics, most recently on a film project *Pride at 50*. Member of the Academic Advisory Panel (History) for *OUTing The Past – The Festival of LGBT History*.

