

First, cross an arch with a nightclub . . .

AFTER selling the right to publish Burke's Peerage for close to £100,000, Old Harrovian Jeremy Norman is planning to spend £½ million converting the arches of Charing Cross into a new nightclub.

Jeremy, 32, has acquired with Derek Johns what was once the hippy hang-out called Global Village, and they will rename it Ultradisco, and unashamedly appeal to an exotic, gay clientele.

Already a director of the ambisexual Bond Street club, The Embassy, Jeremy points out that the money from the sale of Burke's is not involved. He also owns interests in a wine shipping company and wine bars.

Burke's, last printed in 1970 with 3,259 pages, has become the property of gangling Baron Frederick van Pallandt, 47. It will cost at least £40,000 just to print a new issue before other costs are incurred.

HEAVEN'S BELOW!

■ LONDON still has no dance venue to rival Le Palace in Paris, but at last we're one up on Leeds with its groovy New York style Warehouse.

Tomorrow Heaven opens below the arches at Charing Cross and critics who believe that disco is dead clearly aren't holding shares in this £300,000 investment. Heaven is the pitsy Global Village in new clothes—and how. Where Le Palace is low louche, Heaven is high tech... black brick walls, yellow girders, orange carpets, elegant bars and a floor-shaking 5000-Watt sound system.

The owners says it is the biggest disco of its kind in Europe.

Its kind? "Absolutely gay," says its Old Harrovian owner Jeremy Norman, 32, who raised some cash recently by flogging Burke's Peerage.

"High tech and high class," says spokesperson Billy Kennedy. "We expect a lot of people to step out of the closet and shed their inhibitions."

There weren't many inhibitions in sight last week at a party for a few friends of Norman and partner Derek Johns, a Sotheby's man. Dowagers downed Mercier beside crimpers and

the music began with Bach.

Tonight is VIP night for London's glamorous and glitzy, a last chance for straights to cast envious eyes Heavenwards. If anything Heaven's headache will lie in deterring London's non-gay discophiles. Experienced investors know that punters will swallow a lot of prejudice for the sake of ace sounds and a space-age system. And Heaven could prove Gay Lib's smartest move.

"We'll have a relatively slick door operation," says Kennedy. "We'll know whether someone is gay or

just pretending." Where, though, do you drum up 1000 gays a night? Even the Embassy, Heaven's Bond Street elder sister, attracts only 300 people or so of a midweek evening.

Says Kennedy: "There are a high proportion of gays in London and we've got 1500 members before opening. The buzz has been extraordinary. But you must be careful not to type people too narrowly. Even accountants come to the Embassy at weekends."

Heaven at Charing Cross will prove very handy for that last train to Sidcup.

