

QB

Nottinghamshire's Queer Bulletin

August/September 2007
Number 37

In this edition:

Things beginning with **B**

- ◆ Bombs
- ◆ Browne of BP
- ◆ Bears
- ◆ Brides in black
- ◆ Books
- ◆ Biscuits
- ◆ Banna
- ◆ Ballbois
- ◆ Bible
- ◆ Broadway

 * This edition of QB is sponsored by the wonderful **Co-op** via their Community Fund. *
 * They have a genuine commitment to equality and diversity and would welcome applications (pick a form up at your local store) from other LGBT groups and organisations. *

If you have any information, news, gossip or libel, please send it to

QB
Lesbian and Gay Switchboard
7 Mansfield Road
Nottingham NG1 3FB

or e-mail

notts@lgswitchboard.fsnet.co.uk

The deadline for the next edition will be mid September 2007.

**Switchboard is registered charity
number 1114273**

NOTTINGHAM PRIDE 2007 ... ONE FINE DAY ...

FREE

If the recent floods were God's reaction to the Goods and Services Act (see **Notes and Queeries**), then how do we explain July's one sunny day coinciding with Pride. Easy! The Pride committee's Mid-summer night naked ritual anti-rain dance worked again.



A rose between two thorns?

We would like to thank everyone who provided prizes for Switchboard's Tombola game at Pride.

Thanks especially to Broadway, John Lewis, the Playhouse, Fuze events, Starbucks and some very kind people at Radford Unity Complex and Nottingham Children's Services.



Those wonderful Co-op People



A display of famous LGBT faces



Definitely the cutest bear in the Arboretum, if not in the whole forest.



Lots of people (over 12,000) having lots of fun. Nottingham Pride gets better and better. The Pride Committee said "Don't rain on my P..ride" and it didn't. Thank you for all your work.

THE HISTORY PROJECT

The potential Heritage Lottery funded History Project has a provisional name it's "**Gay Nottinghamshire - Then and Now**".

On August 18th a steering group was set up to manage the project. The first hurdle will be making a successful grant application and they hope to do this by the end of September. At present 24 people have expressed an interest in the project.

Are you interested in any of the following: helping to organise the project; being interviewed about your views and experiences; providing or loaning "memorabilia" (e.g. photos of you and friends at LGB venues, programmes from gay-themed events ...); or just being informed about what's happening. Until the project gains a life of its own, Switchboard is acting as a contact point, so if any of the above things apply to you, leave your contact details with them. You can also see fuller details on the Switchboard's History Project website

www.nlgshistory.ik.com

By the way, Switchboard's History Project is independent of the project described above, but its resources will be made available to that project.

A PINK PAUSE

The popular women's night, **PINK**, will be having a one month's break in September, so after Saturday August 4th, the next PINK will be Saturday October 6th. It's at China, China.

WHO'S OUT TODAY?

On Switchboard's History Project website a Powerpoint presentation of 588 "**Famous LGBT Faces**" is mentioned. It's also mentioned that the number of faces keeps growing as either our avid researchers dig out more information or someone is outed by the media or someone who was LGBT but unknown suddenly acquires fame.

The most recent additions to the Faces are Lord Browne (Ex boss of BP), David Hyde Pierce (Niles from Frasier) and 2 people prominent from this year's Eurovision song contest - the winner, Marija Serifovic and Ukrainian TV Verka Serdyuchka.

There have been recent newspaper articles suggesting that we should finally remove the question mark that has long hung over former Prime Minister Edward Heath. Comments that in the 1950s he was warned about his cottaging habits were dismissed by some members of the Conservative Party, but they would, wouldn't they?

GROUP OF THE DAY

In May 2006 10 virtual strangers got together at Gresham Fields, West Bridgford to play a game of football. Fast forward to today and **Nottingham Ballbois** are about to enter the Gay Football Supporters Network league for their first season of competitive matches. Trips to Brighton, Bournemouth, London and Leeds await; which means some great weekends away.

The club has moved at pace since that first evening and now has over 30 members with ages ranging from 20 to 45. Not everyone wants to play - which is fine; just supporting and cheering the team on gives everybody a boost.



15 friendly matches have so far been played, with the Ballbois initially having to borrow kit. Thanks to sponsorship from the Money Shop, they now have their own.

Recently, the club celebrated its 1st birthday with an anniversary tournament and they reached the final - only to lose to Birmingham on penalty kicks. The national five-a-side tournament was held in June in Dublin and Nottingham entered 2 teams, both making it through to the quarter final stage and one to the semi final. No other club achieved this feat.

Although it's mainly a gay team, Ballbois welcomes anybody and everybody; in fact the captain happens to be straight! Training night is Sunday at 6 pm, but for those who perhaps just want a laugh and to keep fit, the club has just started a Wednesday Kickabout session on the Forest.

For further details, check out the website at

www.nottinghamballbois.com

or give us a call on 07950 484865 or 07810 786491.

John C. Smith (Coach)

N.C.C.L.G.B.T.F.

Stands for **Nottingham City Council Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender (LGBT) Forum**. The Forum meets bi-monthly to discuss issues which affect the LGBT community.

It is made up of individuals and representatives from a number of community groups e.g. the GAI Project, Lesbian & Gay Switchboard, BreakOUT, Outburst. It is an official group, recognised by Nottingham City Council and its role is to challenge and support the Council, particularly around issues which impact on LGBT people.

Successful projects to date include:-

- ◆ Tackling Homophobia in schools pack - sent to all City Schools, Colleges and Youth Groups
- ◆ Tackling Homophobia in Schools Conference - attended by City & County schools as well as youth support agencies
- ◆ Nottingham City Council's funding of 'Outburst' Youth Group. Over 50 young people are on roll to date
- ◆ Liaison with other agencies e.g. housing on key projects
- ◆ Annually supports Pride, LGBT History Month and sponsor of QB

Priorities for the coming year include:-

- ◆ Working with the Police on hate crime issues
- ◆ Support for elderly people in care
- ◆ Safer taxi scheme
- ◆ Engaging in sexual orientation awareness training for City Council Employees
- ◆ Working with the City Council to address the issues around sexual orientation monitoring of its employees

If you would like to get involved in the Forum or have an issue you would like us to consider please contact Nottingham City Council Equality & Diversity Team via e-mail at:

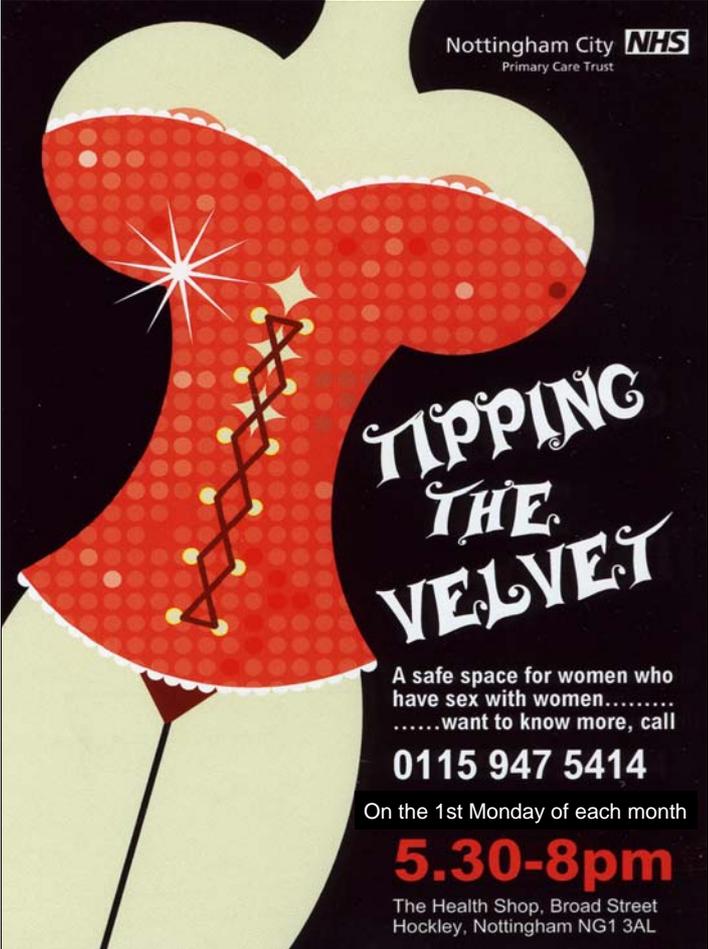
equalityanddiversityteam@nottinghamcity.gov.uk

QB'S BITS

You can download two interesting recent reports from www.stonewall.org.uk - one is called "The Colour of Your Money" and relates to the Goods and Services Act; the other is "The School Report" about homophobic bullying in schools.

The Lesbian and Gay Foundation have produced a 56 page guide to your rights. Everything from employment, hate crimes, adoption to immigration and Civil Partnerships. Download from www.lgf.org.uk

Finally, a thank you to Reflections Health Club for raising £30 for Switchboard from a raffle.



Nottingham City **NHS**
Primary Care Trust

TIPPING THE VELVET

A safe space for women who have sex with women.....
.....want to know more, call
0115 947 5414

On the 1st Monday of each month
5.30-8pm

The Health Shop, Broad Street
Hockley, Nottingham NG1 3AL

BRIEFS ON THE SCENE

Tipping the Velvet: a new group for women starts in August. The poster above says it all.

Bears in the Forest meets 1st Friday each month in the Green room, the Lord Roberts from 9pm.

Bears Day at Reflections Sauna in Nottingham is the 1st Sunday every month from 1pm 'til 9pm.

A new bears group, **Grizzly**, meets on the 3rd Thursday every month at Niche Bar from 8pm. See www.grizzly-nottingham.co.uk

The Hole is a new, men only bar open Thursdays to Sundays from 7pm. It's in the room above **Niche** - entrance on Convent Street.

WEST BRIDGFORD IS REVOLTING

10 copies of QB are sent to each of the larger libraries throughout the county. Three readers have not only reported to us that QB isn't appearing in West Bridgford, they have also drawn its absence to the attention of the Library staff.

A phone call to **West Bridgford Library** produced the response "We aren't sent any copies". A phone call to County Library HQ produced the response "Oh, yes they are!". West Bridgfordians revolt! Demand your bimonthly QB! A letter to the library has since brought a satisfactory response. They do have QB, it's on the correct shelf It's just that the library staff who were asked about it didn't know where to look or direct library users. They do now.

TRANSPORTS OF DELIGHT

The City Council (in conjunction with the Police, LGBT Forum, the GAI Project and others) hope to have a "Safer Taxi Service" scheme operating by the end of the year. Taxi companies who sign up for it will pledge to provide a non-homophobic service. There'll be more about this in future editions of QB.

In the meantime, one very LGB friendly service is already available for those special events.

LIBERTY-OCCASIONS

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Mobile: 077386 77397

CHAUFFEUR DRIVEN

NOTES AND QUEERIES

- ◆ **Egay** hopes to be the gay equivalent of Ebay. Unfortunately it has only 17 items up for sale and 5 of those are "hunks in trunks" fridge magnets. Must do better.
- ◆ We deeply regret that the last QB's diary section failed to mention the June 20th New York premiere of a new opera. "**Pumped Fiction**" is by John Eaton and is about the world's leading distributor of penis pumps.
- ◆ Documents obtained under US freedom of information laws confirmed that the country's military considered developing a "**gay bomb**." In 1994 the US Air Force requested \$7.5m to make a bomb that would cause enemy soldiers to become gay, and to have their units break down because the soldiers became irresistibly attractive to one another.
- ◆ The Rt. Rev Graham Dow, the **Bishop of Carlisle**, has stated that the floods that have caused chaos and death across the UK were caused by God after he was provoked by the introduction of gay equality.

MEN'S SEX SURVEY 2007

This year's **Vital Statistics** survey is out. The survey's results are very useful in planning safer sex campaigns and HIV services. You've got until the end of August to fill it in.

You can either complete the survey on line, or pick up a copy from the GAI Project. The website is:

www.sigmaresearch.org.uk

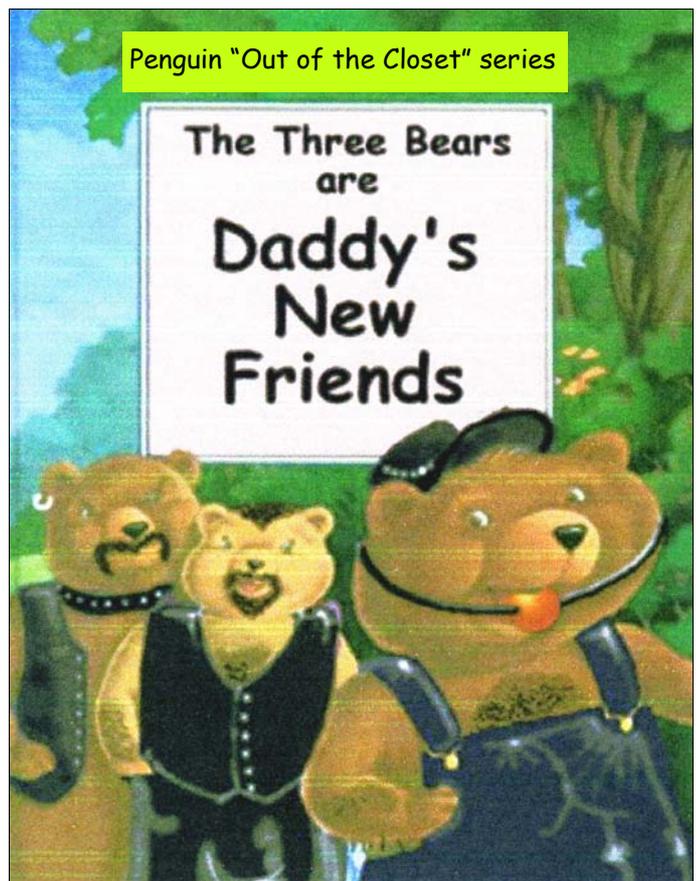
LIBRARIES GO LGBT

Nottinghamshire Libraries have recently bought over 100 LGBT themed books. These include novels by gay and lesbian authors (such as Stephen Fry, Sandi Toksvig and Sarah Waters) and biographies of famous LGBT people like Freddie Mercury. Books offering advice on issues like Lesbian and Gay Weddings, Lesbian and Gay Parenting or Sexual Health mingle with titles which certainly never appeared in the libraries of yesteryear How could you resist the following:

- ◆ The Ultimate Guide to Strap-on Sex
- ◆ Toygasms: The Insider's guide to sex toys
- ◆ The Bride wore Black Leather and he looked fabulous

For all these and more, go to the website www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk and follow the links to Libraries, Library Gateway, LGBT

We must point out that the volume shown below will not be found in the County Library's collection.



LGB DIRECTORY

The **North Notts LGB Development Group** has just published a new version of its LGB Directory. It covers venues, services, groups and support facilities not only for Nottinghamshire, but also for Lincolnshire, Derbyshire and South Yorkshire. Contact Switchboard if you would like a copy.

Lesbian & Gay Switchboard

0115 934 8485 or 01623 621515

Monday-Friday
7-10pm

7 Mansfield Road, Nottingham, NG1 3FB.

notts@lgswitchboard.fsnet.co.uk

www.nottslgs.org.uk

www.nlgshistory.ik.com

The GAI Project

0115 947 6868

Monday-Friday
daytimes

c/o The Health Shop. Broad Street,
Nottingham NG1 3AL.

gaiproject@nottinghamcity-pct.nhs.uk

Police Homophobic Crime
Helpline

0800 085 8522

SOME LOCAL LISTINGS

- Breakout** Social group for gay & bisexual men. Tuesdays 7.30 pm (at the Health Shop) Contact Switchboard or GAI Project or go to www.breakoutnottm.org.uk
- Older Gay Men's Group** Support and social group for men aged 50+. Meets 3rd Sunday of month, 4 pm at the Health Shop. Contact GAI Project.
- Outburst!** Group for LGBT young people up to the age of 25. Meets every Monday at Base 51. Phone or text 07940 761160 (Davina) for details.
- Tipping The Velvet** A safe space for women who have sex with women 1st Monday of each month 5.30 - 8.00 pm at the Health Shop. Phone 0115 947 5414 for info

Details of the following groups can be obtained from Switchboard:

Nottingham Hyking Dykes; Notts Lesbian Book Club; Trans-Action (TV/TS); Women's Badminton; Lesbian and Gay Christian Movement; East Mercia MSC; the Chameleon Group; University of Nottingham & Trent University LGBT Societies; Peak Ruffties Women's Walking Group; Bears in the Forest; Grizzly; Something Social; Notts Police OUTNetwork; Flying Colours; Nottingham Bi Women's Group; LiNk-Notts; LIFT; Lesbians in Ashfield Friendship & Support; North Notts Gay Women's Walking Group; Ball Bois gay football team; Sparta Women's Football; LGB Youth Groups in Work-sop & Mansfield; Tagadere: Weekenders; Pink - Women's disco; East Midlands Gay Outdoor Club and, of course, S.H.A.G.G.E.R.S.

DIARY

ERASURE

Erasure, the 50% gay group, is performing at the Royal Concert Hall. 7.30 pm September 4th.

I'M SORRY

I'm sorry to say that when we tried to book seats for "I'm sorry I haven't a clue" (September 9th at the Theatre Royal) there were only a few left and those were in the upper balcony, where none of the QB staff would be seen dead. Let's be honest, by the time you read this it will be sold out, so you'll just have to wait to hear Humph and co. on Radio 4.

SUNDAY SOCIAL

Sunday Social is on Sunday **Sept. 2nd** 4-8 pm at the Slug and Lettuce on High Pavement. Everyone welcome; deals on food and drinks + competitions in a friendly atmosphere.

EUROPRIDE 2008

In August 2008, **Europride** will be taking place in wonderful Stockholm ... but why (apart from our well-known Sverigeophilia) are we mentioning it in QB? It's because Sterling airlines will be operating cheap flights (about £50 return) directly to Stockholm from East Midlands airport from November.

LESBIAN AND GAY FILM FESTIVAL

Broadway, as usual, is running an LGBT Film Festival in August. The details are:

The Blossoming of Maximo Oliveros - Maxi, a twelve-year-old boy with cross-dressing tendencies, develops a troublesome crush on the new neighbourhood cop. August 17th.

Amnesia - The James Brighton Enigma - This fascinating drama is based on the true story of an American found naked and amnesiac in a Montreal car park in 1998, who remembered only that he was gay. August 18th

Eternal Summer - A beautifully filmed and well-acted drama of infatuation exploring the challenges and unexpected consequences of adolescent love. August 19th.

Red Doors - The Wongs, a Chinese-American family, are struggling to cope with life, love and their own version of dysfunction in the suburbs of New York. August 20th.

Sonja - A delicate coming-of-age story that explores the emerging sexuality of 16-year-old Sonja. August 21st.

Octopusalarm - Alex Jürgen was assigned as male gender at birth, but reassigned as female at the age of two. This documentary follows Alex as an adult, who makes the decision to live as an intersex man.