

# QB

## Nottinghamshire's Queer Bulletin

October/November 2008  
Number 44

In this edition:

Well, all sorts of fascinating things

..... and at this point we will take the opportunity to remind you that QB stands for Queer Bulletin, not, as some people have said:

- Quite Boring
- Queen's Bedtime
- Quintessentially Brainless
- Quirky Badinage
- Quaintly Bonkers

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](mailto:notts@lgswitchboard.fsnet.co.uk)

The deadline for the next edition will be early November 2008

**Switchboard is registered  
charity number 1114273**

## NOTTINGHAM PRIDE TO LEAVE ARBORETUM?

FREE

Last year the City Council considered moving Nottingham Pride dependant on the volume of people that attended this year. Their concerns relate to health and safety considerations in terms of the capacity of the Arboretum. As this year's Pride was attended by record numbers of people, the possibility of a move to another venue is now under consideration.

The larger alternatives include Riverside, the Goose Fair site and Wollaton Park. As a venue, Wollaton Park is magnificent, but would significant numbers of people be put off by the distance from the City Centre? The Goose Fair site is just a stone's throw from the Arboretum, but does it have the atmosphere?



There's a poll on the [www.nottsrainbowheritage.org.uk](http://www.nottsrainbowheritage.org.uk) website which you can use to show your preference.

## RUFUS RELATED TO ROBIN HOOD

**Rufus Wainwright** must have felt at home during his performance (resplendent in green trousers) at July's Splendour Festival, because his ancestors come from the heart of old Sherwood Forest.



Way back in the 1600s when Bassetlaw's Pilgrim Fathers were forced out of England because they weren't allowed to live the life they chose (sounds familiar even today), some of the **FitzRandolph** family from Kirkby-in-Ashfield chose to join them for a better life in America.

From these FitzRandolphs descends Rufus - and Barack Obama! Some of Rufus's ancestors also left France at the same time for the same reason, and through them Rufus is related to Madonna and Camilla, Duchess of Cornwall. Perhaps what Rufus may find most pleasing is that he and Judy Garland - one of his greatest idols - both descend from King Edward I. Rufus is also related to the inventor of Vaseline.

And finally, Rufus descends from Sir John Clanvowe's cousin, Sir John being the gay man who wrote the original legend of Robin Hood.

# QB GOES TO EUROPRIDE

Stockholm was host to this year's Europride. In Nottingham, the feeling is often that Pride is something for "them". In Stockholm, the feeling is much more that Pride is for "us". All the buses carry rainbow flags as do many shops. Pride banners are displayed in major shopping centres; department stores put on gay-themed window displays. Money may be a motivating factor, but for whatever reasons, Pride is everywhere in Stockholm.



One of the highlights of Europride was the "Glitter and be Gay" concert given at the Sofia Church. About 45 musicians from all over Europe formed the Pride Sinfonietta, a new lesbian and gay orchestra with its gay conductor Jonathan Sheffer. The second half of the concert was an opera recital by several Swedish singers, some well-known, some just starting on their careers; some straight, some gay - like tenor Leif Aруhn-Solén ... pictured on the right.



After a week of scorching weather, the Stockholm Pride committee failed to follow the Nottingham committee's anti-rain dance procedure, so Saturday's big parade was accompanied by some rain. The parade is huge, starting at 1.00, finishing at 6.00 and viewed by nearly half a million people.



The parade was led by gay Prince Manvendra Singh Gohil, who came out in 2006 and is still one of the few out public figures in India.

All the support services had their floats: doctors; police; nurses; fire-fighters; armed forces. Golden Ladies, groups demanding an end to persecution in other countries, dykes on bikes, lesbian mothers, parents of LGB children, gay youth groups, Trans people, leather guys and girls, "queer crips demanding access", political parties, folk dancers, choirs, drummers, bears, all shades of drag, gay bars and clubs + the "pope" and a bee.



## NOTES AND QUEERIES

Because of Europride these notes and queries have a Swedish flavour. The following is a list of questions which potential visitors have sent to the Stockholm Tourist Information Service:

- Will I see the Northern Lights in Stockholm? *Definitely! Just order a schnapps in every bar you can find.*
- I would love to visit a famous clock factory. *In that case turn left when you get to Arlanda airport, head for Austria and ask directions for that little country beginning with "S".*
- Is it true that all the girls are drop-dead gorgeous? *No. Only 87%. The rest are just supermodels and movie stars.*
- Will I see any polar bears in Stockholm? *Of course, the place is crawling with them. Just make sure that you carry a bag of chocolate biscuits as they love those.*

## GROUP OF THE DAY

**Welcome to the Open Walking Group.** This new gay walking group started in September, which is a little different to most others out there. It is open to all 'LGBT' people - women, men, gay/bi, and any level of 'trans'. It's being publicised mainly to gay groups, but is also open to straight people, so if you want to just come along on a walk, and bring a friend/family along, you can do so. The walks are on either Saturday or Sundays (for now), with varying start times. For full details see the web site:

[www.freewebs.com/openwalks](http://www.freewebs.com/openwalks)  
or e-mail [jenny4walk@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:jenny4walk@yahoo.co.uk)

If you have no internet access, ask the Switchboard for phone number. In October there is a walk planned for the afternoon of Sunday 19th, from Radcliffe on Trent (just 6 miles for this one). Walks starting mid morning (10-11 am) are longer (8-12 miles), others start in the afternoon and will usually be 5-8 miles long.

## EXTREME NEWARK

Perhaps next it may be Erotic Cropwell Bishop or Raunchy Ruddington, but for the moment we have **Extreme Newark** - which is a group which hopes to inject some much-needed LGBT social life into the Newark and Sherwood district.

Their first event was at Hatton House on August 26th and they hope to follow this up with other socials. One of their aims is "To provide regular social events and positive experiences for the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender community"

Their website is [www.extreme-lgbt.co.uk](http://www.extreme-lgbt.co.uk)



**Nottinghamshire's  
RAINBOW HERITAGE**

At Nottingham Pride, **NRH** asked people to use Post-It notes to comment on several issues. The most popular "issue" was .... "What is the most unusual place you've had sex?" And the answers included:

Under the stars in a field ....Buxton, on top of the Blue John mine .... Up a tree .... Up the same tree ..... In the hot room at Roko Gym .....On the roof of the Victoria Centre ... The Manager's Office at Lloyds (it has CCTV) .....Against a bookcase in the Bodleian Library ....At the back of a Barton's bus .....Through the railings at Great Portland Street Hospital ....Manager's Office Burger King ....Middle of a field in a stone circle ....On the back of a horse when it was trotting ...Chatsworth House graveyard .....and if you want to add your own experiences, go to the Blog on the NRH website.

About 35 people donated their images ... which is just a fancy way of saying that they let us take their photographs to become part of NRH.

Some of the photos are on our website and some will be seen at future exhibitions and displays.



The NRH website has two polls running at the moment. It would be invidious to comment on which local bar (past or present) is the most popular - you will just have to look for yourself, but we can comment on your selection from the list of gay icons.

At first it looked like a romp for Martina Navratilova, who was later overtaken by John Barrowman. In the end, the clear leader was Rufus (I'm related to everyone) Wainwright. Could this possibly be something to do with his recent appearance in Nottingham at Wolaton Park? The wonderful Sandi Toksvig lies in last place.

AIDS scare:  
School ban on gay  
swim pool

DAILY  
**STAR**  
SUNDAY

Pool ban on kids in AIDS fear

THE  
**SUN**

AIDS scare halts swim lessons

THE  TIMES

## The Gay Swimming Furore

Of all the Nottingham LGBT related stories which made it into the newspapers, the one which got the most coverage, locally and nationally, was the decision of Nottingham City Council in 1986 to allow gay only swimming sessions. It went far beyond the Evening Post, featuring in most of the national dailies and in regional papers from Cornwall to Scotland.

*The Council had set up lesbian and gay sub-committees where issues of concern could be discussed. It was maintained that gay men had been harassed and victimised when they had used sporting facilities in the past, so an alternative was to try gay-only sessions.*

*Swimming was the first suggestion which was tested out ....at the Victoria Leisure Centre.*



I find the fashionable notion that AIDS is now a heterosexual disease quite sinister and counter productive. AIDS is spreading through homosexual groups like wildfire, yet no-one has the courage to denounce homosexuality for what it really is. Namely, moral degradation of the most wicked and corrupt kind, punishable by AIDS.  
R. Johnson Dec. 16th - Evening Post

I would like to take up a point made by the Council, namely "gays are everywhere". Sadly this is true. It's one thing knowing one or two have used the water, but I draw the line at a whole army of them.

David Shelton, Governor,  
Jesse Boot Junior School. Dec. 9th - Evening Post

Persecution and victimisation of gays should never be tolerated in this day and age, but there was never a scrap of evidence that it was happening anyway. Editorial. Nov. 28th 1986

Nov.28th. PARENTS SEEK PLEDGE ON AIDS.

Gay swim row schools quit. Nottingham schools have dropped children's swimming lessons at the Victoria leisure centre because of gay sessions there.

Nov. 29th. NOW BOYCOTT IN GAY SWIM ROW

Pool attendants at the Victoria Leisure centre are boycotting the City Council's controversial gay swimming sessions.

Contrary to your repeated assertion, there is a mass of well-documented evidence on the victimisation and persecution of lesbians and gay men in every area of life. I enclose a basic reading list of ten books as some indication of this. Colin Clews. Letters Evening Post Dec. 18th 1986

The Nottingham experience suggest that what used to be considered a small minority still remains so. For too long we've been pushed around by a vocal minority who have convinced large numbers of opinion makers that homosexual behaviour is quite natural, under-privileged and deserves to be subsidised. It's about time these notions took a long overdue high dive. The Daily Mail April 16th 1987.

# Gay Nottingham Times

No. 5

Claiming our history, Celebrating our present, Creating our future

## Forgotten Holocaust Victims



As well as Jews, the Nazis persecuted other minorities. An estimated 20,000 men were sent to the concentration camps because they were gay. In 2005, the UK Holocaust Centre at Laxton unveiled a memorial plaque for all gay victims.

Gay prisoners were forced to wear a pink triangle, and lesbians a black triangle. After the war, the pink triangle became a symbol of defiance and freedom used by German gay groups. In the 70s it began to be used by the wider LGBT community.

## Alan Turing (1912-1954)



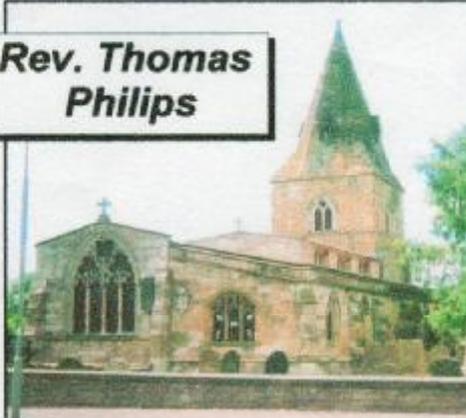
Alan was instrumental in decoding the Nazi cyphers that helped to end the war. Turing, from an Edwinstowe family, also invented the modern computer. After he was prosecuted for being gay, he committed suicide by eating a poisoned apple (inspiring a computer logo). Turing helped defeat Nazi homophobia, but he couldn't defeat it at home.

## Law and Disorder

The LGBT community has always been a victim of crime. The most common forms of abuse in the 20th century were blackmail and queer-bashing. But there was also the legal abuse inflicted by legislation.

The 1885 Criminal Law Amendment Act made homosexuality illegal. It only applied to men, because Queen Victoria remarked "women don't do that sort of thing". In 1921 an amendment to include lesbians was rejected on the grounds that it might encourage it. Gay culture was driven underground. Many men were imprisoned or committed suicide because of the law.

## Rev. Thomas Philips



One of the biggest trials in Nottinghamshire involved 23 men in 1961. They were prosecuted after an Alfreton man was arrested, and their names were uncovered as regular visitors to a certain house in Mansfield. 13 of the men were imprisoned for up to 3 years.

## Operation Shield



One of the first initiatives specifically tackling anti-gay crime was started by Nottinghamshire Police in 1997 in the run-up to Nottingham's first pride event, Pink Lace. What emerged was Operation Shield and the "Blow the Whistle" campaign.



The question of gay clergy has always been controversial. Only one Anglican vicar in the county was prosecuted for being gay - Rev. Thomas Philips, Vicar of Misterton (pictured), in 1910. He pleaded guilty to several incidents with teenagers, and resigned. He was given 15 months hard labour.

## WANTED

Nottingham area. 33 year old WLTM persons of any age with GSOH, good listening ear and friendly disposition for 121 chats on a regular basis! Good telephone manner essential.

Yes, **Lesbian & Gay Switchboard** is 33 this year and is looking for new volunteers for the next training session beginning very soon (training days will be **October 19th** and **26th**) - we especially welcome women and people from ethnic minorities. Our office has wheelchair access. Use the contact details on the back page to get in touch if you are interested.

## Gay, Lesbian, & Trans Actors Wanted

For a thought-provoking exhibition which celebrates Nottingham's rich and diverse LGBT History.

The performance piece explores the lives of three citizens of Nottingham –

- A young man being blackmailed in the **1950s**
- A teenage girl at the point of realization in the **1980s**
- A merry Transsexual looking forward in the **1990s**

We will be holding an open audition on Tuesday Oct. 14th 2008 from 7 pm at 7 Mansfield Road

Contact Spencer on 07706557880 or [Spencerking22@hotmail.com](mailto:Spencerking22@hotmail.com) for further info

*Help us to commemorate your history!*

## RAINBOWS IN MANSFIELD

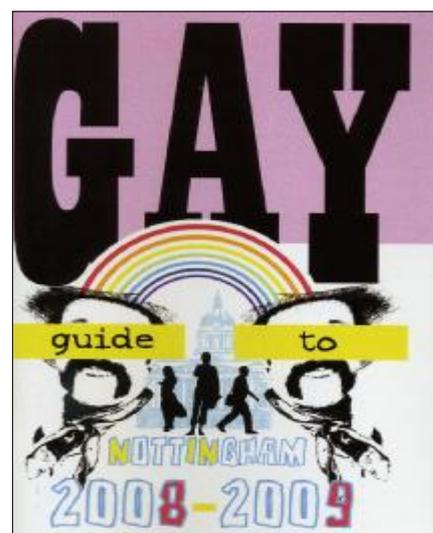
There's a new gay night called **Rainbow** on Monday the 6th of October at Chicago Rock in Mansfield. The publicity says "It is looking to be quite a bit event, with a Pink tribute band on, a drag act and also live entertainment with a DJ from 8 pm. A buffet will also be put on from 7-9. It will become a Monthly Monday event from the launch night."

The address is Chicago Rock Café, Clumber Street Town Centre, Mansfield - phone 01623 640074.

## NEW GAY GUIDE

Well, actually its seven weeks old, but as a source of local LGBT info, **Healthy Gay Nottingham's** Gay Guide is invaluable.

You can also read it online at Healthy Gay Nottingham's website which you can find at



[www.healthygaynottingham.org.uk](http://www.healthygaynottingham.org.uk)

## WHAT'S IN A NAME?

A few months ago we asked you what you thought about Switchboard changing its name to Gay Information. The response was mainly "not a lot". The consultation brought out some other themes:

1. Don't lose the word "lesbian"
2. Spell out lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans gender in your literature and publicity
3. LGBT - to use or not to use

There were 3 responses which strongly advocated changing the name to LGBT Switchboard. There were many more responses which said "lots of people don't know what LGBT stands for", including from two LGBT awareness trainers and the front page of Lookout magazine.

So, for the time being, the current name will remain and we will adopt suggestion 2) wherever possible.

## THAT'S SO GAY

That's the title of 2 one-day LGB Awareness training days which are being run by Nottinghamshire's Rainbow Heritage. Because the courses are subsidised by the Heritage Lottery Fund, they will only cost £10.

They are particularly aimed at those who work with young people. The dates for the courses are Tuesday November 25th - at Ashfield Women's Centre - and Wednesday November 26th - at Arnold Library.

For more information and for application forms e-mail [nottsrh@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:nottsrh@hotmail.co.uk) or phone 0115 9349529

## THAT PINK POSTER

In the last QB we pointed out the huge pink poster on the side of the **Methodist Mission**. Here's a comment from someone who works at the Mission.



"The wonderful message of Jesus Christ is He loves you and nobody is excluded. Life at the Centre, the church at the City Mission on Lower Parliament Street, wants you to know that Jesus made no exceptions, so neither do we.

This is why we put up a great big pink poster marking Nottingham Pride. At a time when newspapers regularly headline the debate within the Anglican Church concerning sexuality and same-sex relationships, Life at the Centre wanted to make our position very clear.

God created us, each one as we are. He loves us and gave Himself for us. So whether we are gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender; black, white, single or married; rich, broke, young or old; we are all massively valued and loved.

As far as scripture is concerned, there is always a danger that Christians, as well as those of other faiths, read more into sacred writings than they read out of them. They can be selective in the weight they give to different scriptures and how they apply them, however liberal they claim to be.

In our approach to belief, we have an obligation to use intellect and reason as well as faith. Whatever issues we might be unsure about, we can be certain that God desires us to share a loving relationship with every single one of us and Jesus made that possible.

We gather for progressive worship 10.30 Sunday mornings and for traditional hymns 6.30 Sunday evenings. We'd like to welcome you.

The poster read "GOD LOVES PINK". Indeed, He loves everyone. As for Life at the Centre, so do we."

Rev. Peter Willis.

## HGN ON THE MOVE?

**Healthy Gay Nottingham** is waiting for the final go ahead to move from its dismal offices in the basement of the Health Shop - see below.



If the new premises are approved, HGN hopes to start the move in November and after a transition period, when some services will still function from the Health Shop, there should be a complete re-launch in the new building around March 2009.

The new premises are currently occupied by the City Council and are above the Ice Nine shop on Heathcote Street - see below.



The expansion of space would be accompanied by an expansion of services:

there would be a new range of on-site testing for a wider range of STIs; opening hours would be more varied, not just 9.00 to 5.00 ... and that should include Saturdays when there could be a drop-in facility and chance for a chat and some coffee; rooms would be available for training and for use by LGBT community groups.

Sounds as though this might be just a bit like a mini version of what OutHouse hoped to achieve.

Lesbian & Gay Switchboard  
 0115 934 8485 or 01623 621515  
 Monday-Friday 7-10pm  
 7 Mansfield Road, Nottingham, NG1 3FB.  
[notts@lgswitchboard.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:notts@lgswitchboard.fsnet.co.uk)  
[www.nottslgs.org.uk](http://www.nottslgs.org.uk)  
[www.nlgshistory.ik.com](http://www.nlgshistory.ik.com)  
 \*\*\*\*\*  
 Healthy Gay Nottingham  
 0115 947 6868  
 Monday-Friday daytimes  
 c/o The Health Shop, Broad Street,  
 Nottingham NG1 3AL.  
[gaiproject@nottinghamcity-pct.nhs.uk](mailto:gaiproject@nottinghamcity-pct.nhs.uk)  
[www.healthygaynottingham.org.uk](http://www.healthygaynottingham.org.uk)  
 \*\*\*\*\*  
 Police Homophobic Crime Helpline  
 0800 085 8522  
 \*\*\*\*\*  
 Nottinghamshire's Rainbow Heritage  
 c/o NVAC, 7 Mansfield Road,  
 Nottingham NG1 3FB.  
 0115 9349529  
[nottsrh@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:nottsrh@hotmail.co.uk)  
[www.nottsrainbowheritage.org.uk](http://www.nottsrainbowheritage.org.uk)

## SOME LOCAL LISTINGS

- Breakout** Social group for gay & bisexual men. Tuesdays 7.30 pm (at the Health Shop) Contact Switchboard or HGN or go to [www.breakoutnottm.org.uk](http://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 HGN.
- 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 or e-mail [outburst@nottinghamcity.gov.uk](mailto:outburst@nottinghamcity.gov.uk)
- Lookout** The quarterly free lesbian newsletter. For details e-mail [lookoutmag@hotmail.com](mailto:lookoutmag@hotmail.com)

Details of the following local groups can be obtained from Switchboard:

Nottinghamshire Hyking Dykes; Notts Lesbian Book Club; Trans-Action (TV/TS); Women's Badminton; Badminton Social; Lesbian and Gay Christian Movement; East Mercia MSC; the Chameleon Group; University of Nottingham & Trent University LGBT Societies; Peak Ruffties; Nottm Women's Film Group; Bi Delight; Grizzly; LIRAIN; Notts Police OUTNetwork; Flying Colours; Nottm Bi Women's Group; LiNk-Notts; LAFS; Eat Out Nottingham; North Notts Gay Women's Walking Group; Ball Bois football team; Sparta Women's Football; Youth Groups in Worksop & Mansfield; Tagadere: Weekenders; Lesbian Writer's Network; Gay Outdoor Club.

Switchboard has an accommodation file: if you are seeking flat/house share or have accommodation to offer, contact us; the service is free.

## DIARY

### TRIUMPH OF THE WILL

**Will Young** appears at the **Royal Concert Hall** as part of a 17 date tour on Friday November 28th 7.30. Contact the Box Office on 0115 989 5555, or go to the RCH website ... or you could even walk there.

And while you are there, you may notice that the **Theatre Royal** are putting on "**We're going on a bear hunt**" from Oct 30th to Nov. 1st. The blurb says "Look out for the gigantic swishy swashy grass, the splishy splashy river and the thick oozy, squelchy mud-fight. What a surprise awaits you in the cave on the other side of the dark forest." It also says for children aged 3 and over.

### FOUR POOFS AND A PIANO

The 'Friday Night With Jonathan Ross', regulars set out on their first national tour ... promising an eclectic mix of song and dance, from jaunty re-workings of classic covers to their own comic observations of life in the noughties.

Sunday October 26th 8 pm at  
 The Y, 7 East Street, Leicester, Leicestershire, LE1 6EY. Tel: 0116 255 7066 6EY.

### GOWN AND OUT

**Ceri Dupree**, arguably the UK's leading female impersonator, is more than a comic in a frock; he promises colourful stand up comedy, amazing vocal impersonations and jaw dropping costumes. Meet Cher, Diana Dors, Amy Winehouse, and many more. 26th - 28th November at The Y (see 4 Poofs).

### FANNY'S

#### Women Only Night

Upstairs @ The Canalhouse Bar,  
 Canal Street,  
 Nottingham NG1 7EH  
 (Next to Via Fossa)

Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> November 08  
 8pm - 1am

Disco starts at 9pm £5 Entry

Although this venue is upstairs,  
 there is a lift.

Tickets will only be available on the night.