

QB

Nottinghamshire's Queer Bulletin

June/July 2009
Number 48

In this edition:

The usual mélange of wit and wisdom, reportage and rubbish, tripe and onions PLUS a breath-bated anticipation of this year's Pride.

The next edition of QB will appear later than usual, as it will come out after Nottingham Pride.

We hear that some of the new members of the Pride Committee are reluctant to take part in the annual Midsummer's night naked anti-rain dance.

Take your umbrellas.

If you have any information, news, gossip or libel or wish to comment on anything in QB, please contact

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The deadline for the next edition will be mid July 2009

**Switchboard is registered
charity number 1114273**

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HOMOPHOBIC CRIME? REPORT IT!

FREE



*Some of you will have seen this poster displayed on some Nottingham buses recently. It's a joint effort between **Nottinghamshire Police** and **Healthy Gay Nottingham**.*

It also give us another chance to remind people of the 0800 number shown in the poster. In an emergency always phone 999, but otherwise we strongly encourage people to report homophobic incidents via Notts Police's 0800 line. You may have to leave a message on an answerphone, but if that's the case, the people who get back to you will uphold your confidentiality and speak only to you ... and they are very well trained in dealing with the issues which concern you.

HOMOPHOBIC BULLYING? REPORT IT!

The **Equalities and Human Rights Commission** says "Homophobic bullying is spreading across our schools. Stonewall's Living Together survey reported that 17 million adults witnessed homophobic bullying at school, millions of people have witnessed homophobic bullying at work. These and figures from other similar surveys really do make this new online reporting facility vital."

The service they are talking about is the Online Reporting Service available at www.eachaction.org.uk. It builds on EACH's freephone UK-wide telephone support service, which has run successfully since 2003. The charity is introducing this new, dedicated online reporting service to provide better access to support for young people.

THE BIG GAY PHOTO & THE POWER OF FACEBOOK ON A COLD SUNDAY



Davina Daniels, the Youth Worker for OUTBURST LGBT youth group, decided to use Facebook to gather a group of local out LGBT people for a photo in front of Nottingham Council House. The end result was that just under 40 people + dog + rainbow flag were snapped at 4.30 on Sunday March 22nd.

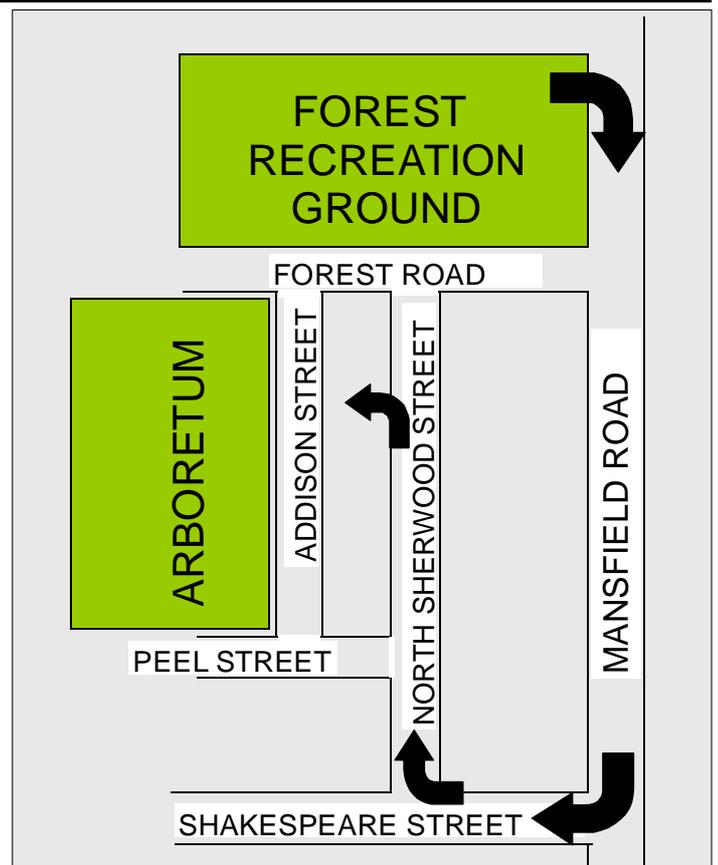
SATURDAY JULY 25TH: PRIDE MARCHES ON

"When is Nottingham Pride going to have a march?" they asked last year, and the year before, and the year before

The answer is Saturday July 25th 2009. The Police have given the go-ahead and the plan is that people will gather on the Forest Recreation ground between 10.15 and 11.00 am. The provisional route is shown on the right.

The march will set off at 11.00 am. from the Forest Recreation Ground, down Mansfield Road and turn into Shakespeare Street and then go right on to North Sherwood Street, eventually leading on to an entrance to the Arboretum via the tunnel. The expected time of arrival will be round about 12.00 noon. We have been told to expect marching bands and steel bands; we will be most disappointed if the Breakout Swanee Whistle and Kazoo Ensemble fails to appear.

There's a site on **Facebook** where you can see who has put their names down to join the march - at the moment there are over 1000 people. See www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=88609350952 for more.



SAPPHIST WRITERS

1979

Our lot didn't have rainbows. We had the Venus symbol, with or without the fist inside. We had boiler suits smelling of oil and hand knitted jumpers. The Women's Centre was rooms above the chip shop on Shakespeare Street. There were piles of damp newspapers in the hall, broken down furniture, plaster peeling and the only heating was an ancient convector heater that did little but stir the dust on the bare board floors. We had commitment, co-operation, solidarity and struggle. We hacked lumps off ourselves and each other because the personal was political and there was a world to be won. Thirty years on, the political is personal, I is okay as I is and the world is kinder to us. We have comfort and sleek mag-nolia paint.

© Floe Shakespeare

Nottingham Haiku

Robin Hood? No thanks!
I'm more in the market for luscious
Maid Marian please

© Rachel Phillips

EAST MIDLANDS LGBT NETWORK

This new group met on April 4th in Nottingham. Meetings, meetings, meetings. What is the point of it all?

This particular meeting got off to a good start in that the **Equality and Human Rights Commission**, which helped to initiate the meeting, provided everyone with an excellent lunch at the Laguna Tandoori Restaurant and also paid travelling expenses. We have long complained that many organisations continue to expect voluntary groups to attend meetings at their own expense and be thankful if they are rewarded with a cup of instant coffee Notts Police being an honourable exception.

People from LGBT groups and organisations in Derbyshire, Notts, Leicestershire and Lincolnshire attended.

Now that the Equality and Human Rights Commission has responsibility for all the "diversity strands", one role of the Network will be to try to make sure that the LGBT strand really does get its share of "Equality". There is hope that this may provide a route for supporting and funding some struggling local organisations.

BRIEFS ON THE SCENE

- **Pink** bar in Nottingham is kindly opening doors to under 18 year old LGBT young people who want to socialise safely and responsibly in Nottingham. It's every Monday 8-10 pm and started on 20th April. Soft drinks only.
- **Niche** has re-opened. We hear that it's gone a bit Lawrence Llewelyn-Bowen-ish with sofas, candles and ornaments.
- There's a new bar in Mansfield. **The Social** at 37 Stockwell Gate (next to the bus station), open Wednesday through 'til Sunday, Wed, Thurs 3-midnight, Friday and Saturday 3 pm to 2:30 am. Sunday 7-12 pm, entry free. Tel: 01623 420466
- There's a new gay night for Worksop. **Viva la Vida** held it's first night on Thursday May 7th. They hope to continue as a monthly event. Vida Lounge, Watson Road, Worksop, Notts, S80 1DT, phone: 01909 531666

QB'S BITS

- **Pink Power.** An area of Mansfield is trying out a new scheme to deter badly behaved teenagers *pink fluorescent lights*. They have found that the teenage boys avoid the lights a) because they are pink and b) because they highlight acne and other facial blemishes.
- When the View from the Top Gallery closed on March 31st, Nottinghamshire's Rainbow Heritage was left looking for a new venue for its LGBT History Month exhibition. The City Council have arranged the booking of **Angel Row Gallery** for next February BUT the future of that gallery is also uncertain, so that may not be the end of the search.
- Local Historian Tony Bilton has suggested that next LGBT History Month should see the revival of **Julian and Sandy** - the camp duo from "Round the Horne". An appropriate sketch has already been written ... brace yourselves for "**Tate Bona**" - those under 45 will not have a clue what this is about.
- **Zeus sauna** has updated us on the "no condoms from the PCT" situation. They say that there is little change - the GU clinic supply the odd box of condoms when they have some to spare, but generally Zeus provides them (free) to customers. Please feel free to complain to the PCT, your MP etc etc

Civil Partnership



Jenny and Jacqui - Nottingham's first civil partnership

Civil Partnership was one of the new themes explored at the Nottinghamshire's Rainbow Heritage exhibition.

Here are photos of some of the local people who have donated pictures of their ceremonies to NRH.



Ian and Mike - Worksop's first civil partnership



Roy and Roger, December 24th 2005



Norm and Steve at Nottingham Council House



Terry and Narvel at Ripley Register Office.

Gay Nottingham Times

No. 9 Claiming our history, Celebrating our present, Creating our future

Until the late 20th century, cross-dressing was seen as acceptable only in the name of entertainment. Here are some local people who lived, played or suffered in drag.

Changing Attire

In 1979 a group for cross-dressers and transvestites was formed in Nottingham. It became the Chameleon Group in 1984.

Nottingham-born Vesta was a big music hall star. Although straight, her act as "Burlington Bertie (NOT from Bow) and other male characters appealed to many Victorian lesbians because she wore real men's clothes and not a costume. Vesta's act was so popular that this style became publicly acceptable and many "mannish lesbians", as they were called, began to dress as men in public without fear.

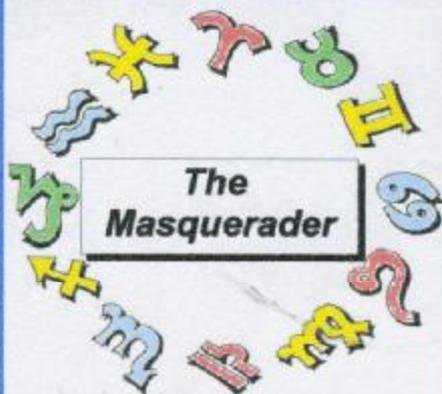
Vesta Tilley
(1864-1952)



Douglas Byng
(1893-1987)



Carrington-born Douglas was the most successful panto dame of the 20th century. He began his career as a costume designer, designing his own outrageous costumes, which pantos ever since have copied. Described as "bawdy, but British", he retired to the South Coast, where he became toasted as the "Queen of Brighton".



The Masquerader

In 1915, an eccentric Nottingham woman, an astrologer, was arrested for begging. In custody she was revealed to be a man. At his trial it emerged that this Masquerader (as called by local press) was an orphaned Serbian refugee. He was found guilty, and sentenced to a month's hard labour.

"Lady Stella Clinton"



"Lady Stella", partner of Lord Arthur Pelham-Clinton of Clumber Park, MP, (both pictured left), was a famous Victorian cross-dresser called Ernest Boulton. Boulton performed on stage and appeared in public dressed as a woman, for which he was put on trial for "outraging decency". He was found not guilty, but Lord Arthur died (probably by suicide) the day after he was summoned to appear at the trial.

Kris Kirk
(1950-1993)



Whilst studying at Nottingham, Kris joined the Gay Liberation Front, attracted by their support of "radical drag". He also joined a gay street theatre group and performed as Maid Marian. He became a music journalist, and wrote a book on drag in 1984. His book stands alongside that written by Edwinstowe-born journalist ROGER BAKER (1934-1994) as the first major books on drag.

"Mysterious Mabel"



In 1910, 20-year-old Arthur Vernon, a female impersonator (stage name "Mysterious Mabel") was arrested in Nottingham with a navy on charges of gross indecency. Both were found not guilty, but Arthur complained that he had previously been arrested 15 times for dressing as a woman.

UNIFORMS, BUT NO TRUNCHEONS

Gay police officers from Nottinghamshire Police OutNetwork and Notts Gay Police Association will be out and about in local Gay venues later this year.

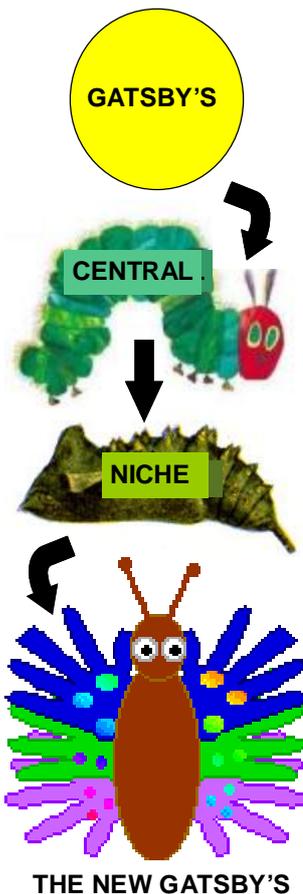
Out Cops and Police staff will be visiting the Lord Roberts, Niche, AD2, NG1, Pink and the New Forsters to set up their stalls. In Mansfield they will be visiting Cheeky Monkey and the Late Lounge.

The aim is to build dialogue and contacts between the LGBT Community and Notts Police and encourage confidence to report any incidents of homophobic hate crime across the county by using the 0800 number. Its a chance to chat to cops in an informal setting ask questions and have your say.

Police Staff hope to start this in the near future and, when this is underway, the plan is to be in Nottingham venues on the first Friday of the month and in Mansfield the second Wednesday of the month.

METAMORPHOSIS

And we don't mean Kafka. Elsewhere in QB you will have read about the "Changing Rooms" transformation which the newly re-opened Niche has undergone. And now... wait for it (will one Prozac be enough?) from out of the chrysalis of Niche will soon spring "The New Gatsby's".



Friday June 5th is the date for the re-launch and things kick off at 9.00 pm with a buffet for all guests and performances from one of Blackpool's "Funny Girls" and from Norma Lewis, including her recent single "Turn Around".

The unbelievable, the incredible, the ineffable **Peter Martine** of Revolution fame, will be one of the resident DJs, along with John Dixon of Hed Kandi.

The New Gatsby's Talent show "The Queer Factor" will be hosted by singer Blue. We hear that Freddie ("Fun with a frankfurter") from New Basford has already put his name on the list.

(Historical note: the original Gatsby's was opened by Maid Hilda in 1397).

CHAMPIONS



Nottingham Ball Bois are now champions of the Gay Football Supporters Network League after a win against Leicester Wildecats on April 26th.

GFSN League Table at 19.04.09	Pts.	Pld.	GD
1 Nottingham Ball Bois	24	8	+27
2 GFC Bournemouth	16	9	+6
3 Birmingham Blaze	15	8	+11
4 Leicester Wildecats	15	8	+7
5 London Titans	15	8	+5
6 Hotscots FC	13	9	+3
7 Yorkshire Terriers	12	9	-2
8 London Falcons	11	9	-1
9 Brighton Bandits	6	9	-11
10 London Leftfooters	0	9	-36

ROSS ON WHY

April 7th's Breakout event nearly burst at the seams to accommodate all those who came to hear **Ross Smith** talk about why he started Part Two club in 1981.



We heard about the battle with the licensing magistrates, the objections from Nottingham's other gay club and the eventual successful opening when 875 people turned up - the club was licensed for 535.

The performing artists and guests who appeared at the club ranged from a drunk Eartha Kitt, the cast of Coronation Street, Jerry Herman (composer of Hello Dolly), Marc Almond and Danny La Rue.

There's much more to read about this on the Nottinghamshire's Rainbow Heritage website.

PROJECT JUDGED A SUCCESS

The Nottinghamshire's Rainbow Heritage people have received confirmation from the **Heritage Lottery Fund** that their progress report has been assessed and approved.

This means that they will now get a further £16,240 which will enable them to continue the project until the end of 2010.

CHURCH TIMES 1

For three consecutive issues of QB we had positive letters and articles from three local churches, but it couldn't last.

The **Minnesota Family Council** now say that gay marriage will trigger the end of the world. "If everyone is a gay, this world will cease to exist in ten years," said Ikram ul-Huq, the imam and religious director of the Muslim Community Centre of Bloomington (will that be on the morning or the afternoon of June 3rd 2019?)

Pope Ratzinger has stated that the use of condoms could make Africa's AIDS crisis worse.

A spokesman for the **Archdiocese of Melbourne** has said that they will be using "tests" to identify gay would-be priests so that they can be banned from the Catholic priesthood. Hide those Kylie CDs, Father.

That will be three straight jackets, please, nurse.

CHURCH TIMES 2

On the other hand ...**"Life and Work"**, the Church of Scotland's official magazine has just published the following:

"Every student of the Bible is a selective literalist. Those who swear by the anti-homosexual laws in the Book of Leviticus wouldn't publicly advocate slavery or stoning women taken in adultery."

"They presumably no longer accept Biblical teaching on sexual matters such as polygamy and sex with slaves. And yet there are many who continue to be bound by a few Biblical verses - none of them in the Gospels - about homosexuality."

The next comment is, weirdly enough, from a crime novel by Norwegian writer **Jo Nesbo**.

"Charity. Sharing and helping your neighbour. The Bible deals with nothing else. In fact, you have to search extremely hard to find anything about sex before marriage, abortion, homosexuality and a woman's right to speak in public. But of course, it is easier for the Pharisees to talk about subordinate clauses than to describe and perform the great actions which the Bible leaves us in no doubt about."

ART OPPORTUNITY

Artistic souls wanted to form team to produce from scratch "work/s of art" which arises from themes of the Rainbow History Exhibition, 2009. It will include applying for funding from Arts Council, to forming ideas, to organising/producing work in suitable context. All interested please contact Stephen at

stevekalatrix@yahoo.co.uk

OLDER LGBT PEOPLE IN NOTTS

"Nobody loves a fairy when she's 40", goes the old song. But what happens when you are 50 plus?

Nottinghamshire County Council is doing a survey through which they hope to clarify the needs of older people in the County and they want LGBT people to participate.

The questionnaire asks you to comment on the availability of a range of services in your area, on whether you have actually accessed any of those services and if you have had any problems when accessing them.

It asks whether there are services which you would like, but which are unavailable to you and also whether you are aware of any of the Forums for older people. As many of us would think that the latter might not be appropriate for us, you may wish to comment that a specific forum for older LGBT people could be worth testing. For those who suffer meeting fatigue an on-line forum could be an alternative. To be sent a copy of the questionnaire by e-mail, contact Shannon Burns at

shannon.burns@nottscc.gov.uk

SHAKE IT ALL ABOUT

Have you heard about the **Salsa classes** at the **New Foresters**? Sharon Hamilton is running these 6-week courses on Wednesday nights in two sessions: at 7.00 pm for complete beginners and at 8.15 pm for level 1 dancers. She says "It's the Cuban style ... sensual, playful and fantastic fun."

It's £6 for the first week, to see if you like it, and £25 to continue with the next 5 weeks. To get more information and to find out the date when the next course starts, phone Sharon on 07794 272236.

THE MOON TURNS BLUE

This lunar transformation was also accompanied by the sight of low flying pigs over Hockley. The final, and truly unbelievable phenomenon, is that **Healthy Gay Nottingham** has at last been allowed to accomplish its move. Yes, it's not to the premises they wanted and, yes, it may be temporary ... or it may be permanent.

HGN can now be found in the building (12, Broad Street) to the left of the Health Shop. So that's the place to go if you want Breakout, the Older Gay Men's Group and/or any of the truly fantabulosa services which HGN provides. And, mirabile dictu, HGN is at last to get an additional 2 full-time workers.

Lesbian & Gay Switchboard
 0115 934 8485 or 01623 621515
 Monday-Friday 7-9.30 pm
 7 Mansfield Road, Nottingham, NG1 3FB.
notts@lgswitchboard.fsnet.co.uk
www.nottslgs.org.uk
www.nlgshistory.ik.com

 Healthy Gay Nottingham
 0115 947 6868
 Monday-Friday daytimes
 c/o The Health Shop. 12 Broad Street,
 Nottingham NG1 3AL.
 read more (and e-mail) via
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
www.nottsrainbowheritage.org.uk
 (Heritage Lottery funded)

SOME LOCAL LISTINGS

- Breakout** Social group for gay & bisexual men. Tuesdays 7.30 pm (at 12 Broad Street) Contact Switchboard or HGN 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 12 Broad Street. 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
- Lookout** The quarterly free lesbian newsletter. For details e-mail lookoutmag@hotmail.com

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

Nottinghamshire Hyking Dykes; Stately Homes Group; Notts Lesbian Book Club; Re-Creation; Trans-Action (TV/TS); Women's Badminton; Badminton Social; Lesbian and Gay Christian Movement; East Mercia MSC; 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; Open Walking Group; Tagadere: Weekenders; Sapphist Writers; 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



Derbyshire's second Gay Pride Festival, free admission, Main stage, market, children's area. Parade leaves Duke Of York at 11 am. 11 am - 6 pm. Saturday July 4th.

SHEFFIELD PRIDE

The **Sheffield Pride** committee is pleased to announce that Sheffield Pride 2009 is to take place on Saturday 20th June 2009 at Endcliffe Park (subject to finalising details with local authority). The event is set to be even bigger and better than the 2008 event held last year. With a full line up of great acts for the main stage, a community area, civil partnership fair, stalls, a dance arena, beer tent and dedicated children's area, there's truly going to be something to please everyone. See

www.sheffieldpride.org.uk

THE LADYBOYS OF BANGKOK

The blurb says "Combining the heady spice of Bangkok's exotic nightlife with the glamorous showgirl appeal of Las Vegas, this spectacular and flamboyant show is performed by 16 of the world's most beautiful showgirls, every single one of them a Thai male, in a glamorous and funny review show" and they are at the Royal Concert Hall on June 24th.

GAY ICONS

Gay Icons, a photography exhibition held to celebrate the contribution of gay people to history and culture, will open at the National Portrait Gallery this summer. The exhibition will run from July 2nd to October 18th

COMING ATTRACTION

At the Royal Concert Hall, on June 17th, there is something called "**Here come the boys**". Not too sure about the demographic of the audience to which it is directed. Let's just say that the poster for the event shows 6 shirtless good looking muscular young men. One person viewing the poster was heard to remark "at least two pairs of socks stuffed down there." You'll have to judge for yourself.