

# QB

## Nottinghamshire's Queer Bulletin

October/November 2009  
Number 50

In this edition:

We answer the W questions

Who do we detest?  
Where are fannys located?  
What is HGN's favourite herb?  
Who started a Revolution?  
What is worse than a wet bee?  
When will Eddie Izzard strip?  
Who wears suede shoes?  
Where did the wrath of God strike?  
What happened on the trampoline?

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

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 early November 2009

**Switchboard is registered  
charity number 1114273**

This edition of QB is sponsored by all those lovely people who helped Switchboard raise £420 on its Tombola stall at Pride.

# FULL STRENGTH HGN

# FREE



For the last three years Jens Zimmerman has not only managed **Healthy Gay Nottingham**, but has been its only full-time worker. The long-promised increase in staff has finally arrived with the appointment of Ric Sharples (see QB no. 49) and now Ryan Marjoram to work full time at HGN.

The increased funding and staffing, plus the new premises present a great opportunity for expanding the service. Ryan's background in Psychotherapy (see page 2) will benefit HGN's work on mental health issues. Being qualified to deliver GMFA courses has already been put into practice through the "Sex Course" which they ran in August; next in line is the "Friendship Course" - see the Diary section. The whole team is going to be trained in "auricular acupuncture". I had a Maths teacher who used to do that with a compass - how education has changed.

HGN's annual **Gay Guide** came out at the end of July/beginning of August. If you want one, just ring the doorbell at 12, Broad Street and pick up a copy, or go to the HGN website (see the back page) and download it.



## QB IS 50

After QB first spluttered out of the temperamental Health Shop photocopier in May 1998, those present at the birth might not have guessed that the inky infant would reach 50.

When, in 2003, it was absorbed into the short-lived "I'm Free", it seemed to have reached the end of the road .... only to resurface in 2005 supported by a grant from Nottinghamshire Community Foundation to give it a kick start for one year. Since then it has been financed by the occasional grant, advertisement and donation ... the Heritage Lottery Fund pays for the pages with a "historical" connection. Some of the money from the closure of the Outhouse Project is being used to keep QB going for another 5 years.

To celebrate reaching the 50 milestone, you'll find some "gems" from previous issues on page 4. Only 10 more issues to go before QB claims its bus pass and gets its heating allowance.

**NEW TO QB ..... Dear Marj (see page 7)**

## YET MORE FANNY'S

### Fanny's!

#### Women Only Night

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

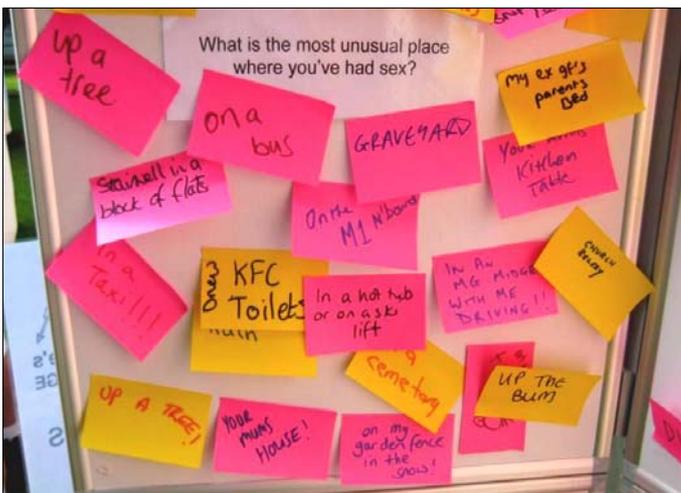
Saturday 21st November 09  
8pm – 1am

Disco starts at 9pm £5 Entry

Although this venue is upstairs, there is a lift.  
Tickets will only be available on the night.  
Any queries e-mail

fannys.nottingham@hotmail.co.uk

## POST ITS



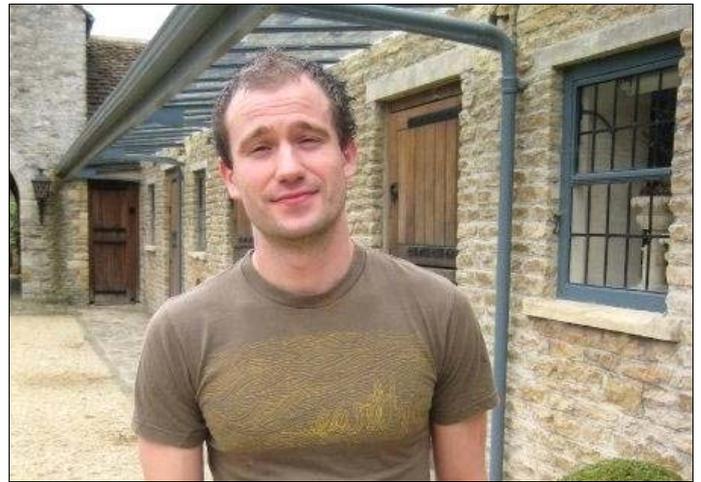
**Nottinghamshire's Rainbow Heritage** again used Pride as an opportunity to gauge people's views on various issues. The answers were stuck on to their display boards using Post It notes.

Of course, the issue that everyone wants to hear is the answer to "What is the most unusual place where you've had sex?" So here they are....

In a cemetery; On my garden fence in the snow;  
Your mum's house; Up a tree; On a train;  
In a hot tub; On a ski lift; In a taxi; On a bus;  
On the M1 northbound; Next to truckers;  
A stairwell in a block of flats; On a telly;  
On a trampoline; In an MG midget with me driving;  
In a church belfry; On your mum's kitchen table.

**ACCOMMODATION SOUGHT:** comfortable share within 30 mins walk city centre by so-called 'mature' male looking to move to Nottingham from Totnes, Devon. Contact Rory 07738983694 or silverogue@gmail.com

## AND THEN WE WERE THREE



**Ryan Marjoram** is the latest addition to Healthy Gay Nottingham. He's got a degree in Psychology and a mental health nursing post graduate diploma with experience in working with acutely unwell prisoners. He is now doing a 4 year MSc in integrated psychotherapy.

With that sort of background, you won't be surprised to hear that he's taking the lead on the following strands of work for HGN .....

Short and long term counselling and psychotherapy for:

- Coming out
- Dealing with homophobia and hate crimes
- Relationship issues
- Sexual health awareness and advice
- Self esteem
- Coping with trauma after homophobic incidents or assault
- Anxiety and depression

As well as alternative therapies (such as Reiki) and workshops sexuality awareness.

From that list, Ryan would very much like to start a support group for those who have experienced homophobic incidents and consequent trauma.

To cater for people who aren't up to dropping in at HGN or even phoning, he hopes to start a section on the website which will be a column to allow people to e-mail on a confidential basis.

Ryan is from Ipswich - we will not expand on this, merely offer condolences. Hobbywise, he likes camping and the outdoors, horror books and films, Harry Potter, yoga and meditation. He loves travelling and has a thing about the far east. Having visited China, he now hopes to get to Japan and Thailand. He is also a virtuoso on the Tibetan nose flute.

## SAME SEX DOMESTIC ABUSE

The **MA-NN project** has recently been set up to support **Male Victims of Domestic Abuse** in the North Nottinghamshire Area i.e. Mansfield & Ashfield, Newark & Sherwood and Bassetlaw.

MA-NN can provide information, practical and emotional support to keep men and children safe. In addition they can provide independent advocacy to help support victims through criminal prosecutions and civil injunctions.

We recognise that it can be difficult for men to come forward as they may feel ashamed, embarrassed and have a fear of not being believed.

If you live in the North Notts area and wish to receive confidential advice and support, phone Adrian on 01623 683633.

## SAPPHIST WRITERS

### Coming Out

I came out at 18. Nobody believes me, because there were only men in my life between this, and my final coming out at 33. But it's true. I was sitting in a pub, thinking of a woman who had disappeared without my having ever told her how I felt. I told the complete stranger sitting next to me I was a lesbian, and for fifteen years couldn't come up with a good reason why I'd said it.

Oh, it's because I am a lesbian; the thunderbolt hit all those years later at Donnington race-track of all places, when I realised my affinity for bikes and leather and pretty women was not, as I'd always tried to tell myself, just me trying to be cool and different.

This time I believed myself. I had to say it out loud for six months before I did anything about it, but eventually I went in search of others of my elusive kind. Shy of bars and other noisy places, I discovered hiking dykes. Walking drew me to the Peaks, and friends I made along the way drew me to Nottingham. Through walks, Switchboard, Banna Housing Co-op, LiNk-Notts, Book Groups, Pink, Fanny's, Sapphist Writers and the Women's Centre, I have met the most amazing women a person could ever meet.

I didn't come out, I came home; to my lesbian family and to Nottingham.

© Sandy Hopton

## YOU WANT PRIDE? PRIDE WANTS YOU!

Everyone agrees that Nottingham Pride 2009 was a great success. The Police estimate that the numbers were similar to last year ... which means that it is likely (though not 100% certain) that Pride will remain at the Arboretum.

Pride is organised by volunteers. The more volunteers, the lower the shared workload. Without new volunteers Pride 2010 will not take place.

If you would like to do your bit and help out, get in touch with the Pride Committee NOW. You can contact them via their website, which is

[www.nottinghampride.co.uk](http://www.nottinghampride.co.uk)

## QB'S BITS

The **New Gatsby's** has closed. And re-opened. And now it's just Gatsby's ... and ...

Something called **Propaganda** is about to burst out in the Lace Market ... will they have taken the advice (most helpful) we sent them?

The **New Carrington Inn** (335 Mansfield Rd) is lesbian-run and definitely gay-friendly as evidenced by their presence in this year's Pride brochure.

A new group for young LGBT people at **Centre Place**, Worksop will be starting soon.

**Techno Chances**, the group for young LGB people near Mansfield is up and running again, but has changed its name to **Open Door**.

You can get fuller details about the youth groups in Mansfield and Worksop by phoning/e-mailing Nottingham Switchboard.

## LGB AWARENESS TRAINING

A reminder that if anyone in the organisation that you work for is in need of high quality LGB Awareness training, then Nottinghamshire's Rainbow Heritage's "**Proud to be Gay**" sessions are taking place on November 20th (near Mansfield) and November 26th (at Arnold Library).

There are a few - but not many - places left. For details, either phone 0115 9349529 or e-mail [nottsrh@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:nottsrh@hotmail.co.uk)

At £15, this is not cheap training, but very expensive training made cheap because it is sponsored by the Heritage Lottery Fund.

# QB IS 50 ... a few raves from the grave

## Q(B) TIPS

*Your problems with DIY, cooking, grooming and all those other issues fundamental to the queer household are now answered:*

What could be worse than a wet bee? If you despair when your little honey-makers get saturated, rescue the situation with the new energy saving Bosch Bumble Dryer.

Want to protect your valuables from damage by pesky farm birds? Then wrap them securely in geeseproof paper.

For those who like to keep their seafood neat and tidy, why not try the Flymo rotary prawn mower.



Hyking Dykes at Clun Youth Hostel 2005

## HOW TO SPOT A HOMO

**Havelock Ellis** "They cannot whistle or spit"

**Magnus Hirschfield** "If you throw something into the lap of a seated male homosexual, he will open his legs to catch it" (you can have 3 guesses at what a lesbian will do)

**Ambroise Tardieu** "They cannot urinate in a straight line as they have a corkscrew shaped penis" (so useful when the bottle opener's gone missing)

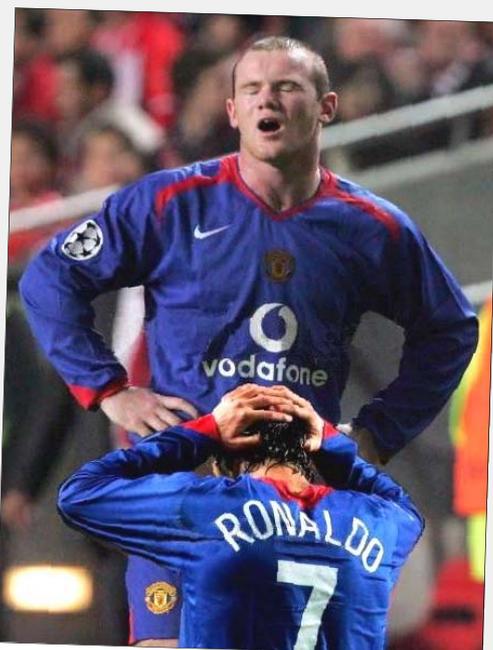
## NOTES AND QUEERIES

Joyce Grenfell's biography mentions film actor Maurice Flynn, described as "every gay man's dream". While filming, he left to go to the lavatory and was only found 8 days later painted blue from head to foot and playing the ukelele.

A brief note in the New Scientist mentioned that in a US hospital, the man in charge of surgery for penile dysfunction was Steve Hardman and his colleague responsible for vasectomies was Dick Chop.

A BBC radio programme promoting safer sex mentioned getting free condoms, which would be given away on "a first come, first served principle."

Servants made redundant by the death of Princess Margaret included not only the Yeoman of the Pantries and the Maid to the Coffee Room, but also the Page of the Backpassage . We are not making this up.



Wayne Rooney's penalty shoot out

# Gay Nottingham Times

**No. 11** Claiming our history, Celebrating our present, Creating our future

The club scene has always been important and is always evolving. Clubs as we know them today began in the 1970s as the LGBT community began to develop its own identity after the legalisation of homosexuality in 1967.

## Nights Out!

Nottingham became the focus for clubbers in the Midlands during the 70s. Various venues made attempts to stage LGBT club nights. Many lasted only a short time. Here are some of the more enduring.

### Mario's

In 1972, Nottingham's first permanent gay club opened. Called Mario's, it was originally a 60's teeny-bopper disco. It underwent several name changes ("Shades" then "Whispers") before the focus of LGBT venues moved across the city in the 1980s.



La Chic made history when it opened in 1973 as the UK's first specially licensed gay club (as opposed to an established club going gay).

It became the biggest club in the Midlands. After a successful few years it closed unexpectedly in 1977. It was reborn in 1981 at Part II, and was regarded as one of the top clubs in the UK. This, too, closed after a few years in 1985.



### La Chic

### Nero's

Between 1986 and 1994 the only gay club in Nottingham was on St. James's Street. Like Mario's, it went through several name changes - Club 69, L'Amour, and finally Nero's.

## REVOLUTION

Nottingham was host to the world's longest running gay monthly "one-nighter". Starting in 1984, REVOLUTION hit the city. The brainchild of Count Peter de Gryff-Marvinkowski (thankfully better known as Peter Martine), Revolution brought big-name performers to the LGBT scene, thanks to Peter's Career as a DJ, producer and remixer under the name "Sleazesisters".

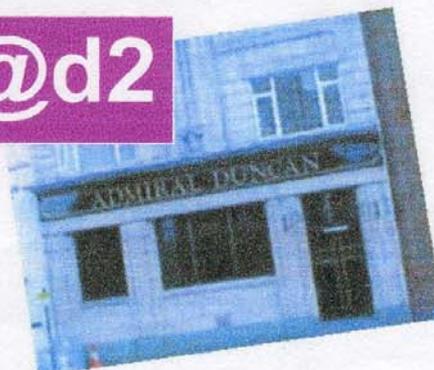


sleazesisters

### Admiral Duncan

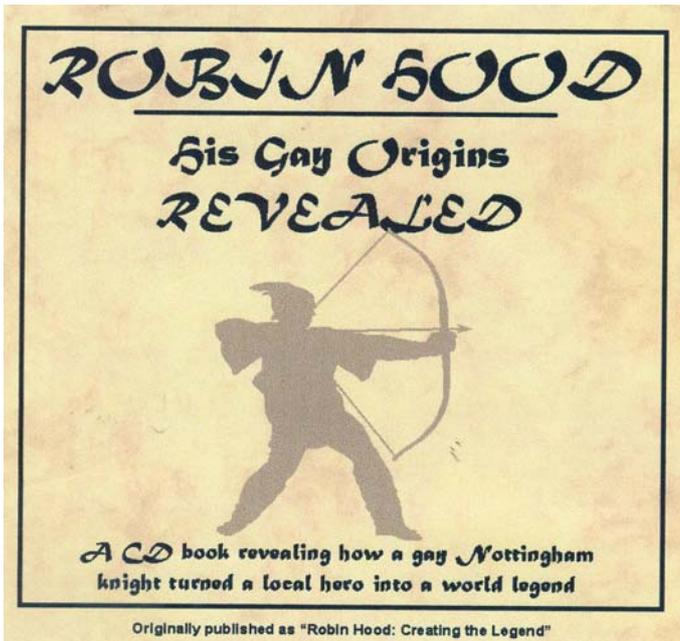
Like the famous Soho pub, Nottingham's Admiral Duncan is named after a hero of the Napoleonic Wars. Opened in 1935, the Duncan became an LGBT venue in the 1980s, and by the 90s became THE place to go. In 2001 the Duncan was rejuvenated into the more youthful @d2.

@d2



The most recent, and now the only permanent LGBT club in Nottingham, opened in 1999.

## ROBIN GOES DIGITAL



Tony Scupham-Bilton has revised, expanded and re-written his book about the background to the Robin Hood legend and about the gay man, Sir John Clanvowe, who wrote it.

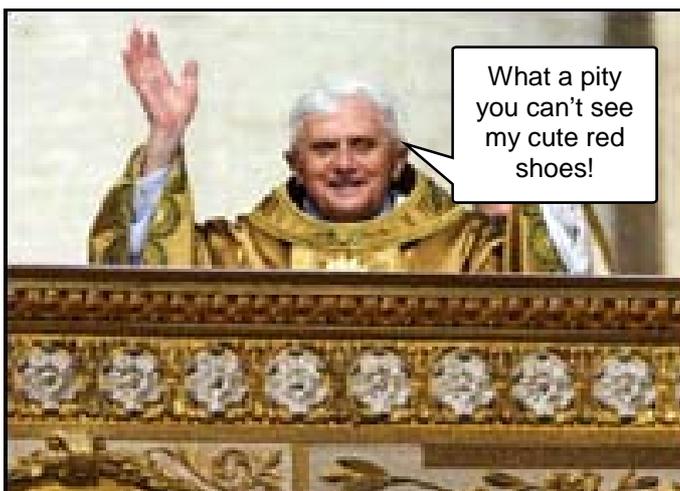
The book is now in a CD format and costs £5. You can get a copy by contacting Nottinghamshire's Rainbow Heritage - see back page for details.

## MORE POST ITS

Visitors to this year's Pride left the following answers to the question "Who is your most detested homophobe?"

- Chris Moyles
- Maggie Thatcher
- The Kaczynski brothers
- Robert Mugabe
- L Ron Hubbard
- Nick Griffin BNP leader (the one that looks like a sweaty frog)
- My dad

But the run-away winner, with 7 votes, was the Pope.



**A Day In Hand** announces the first ever international **Same-sex hand holding (Sshh!) Saturday** on September 26<sup>th</sup> 2009. On this day, same-sex couples and friends all over the world are encouraged to hold hands in public to support the visibility of Lesbian, Gay, Bi, Trans (LGBT) people. **Sshh! Saturdays** will occur on the last Saturday of every month.

Please email [info@adayinhand.com](mailto:info@adayinhand.com) if you would like to be a part of it. The images sent to [yourstories@adayinhand.com](mailto:yourstories@adayinhand.com) will be spread throughout the world via our website [www.adayinhand.com](http://www.adayinhand.com). Visibility of same-sex love is particularly important so that LGBT people become part of the cultural fabric of people's lives.

## THE COUNCIL & POLICE SURVEY

Nottingham City Council and Notts Police are carrying out a survey to get the views and experiences of staff working for Nottingham City Council and Notts Police who identify as lesbian, gay, bi-sexual and/or transgender. We would appreciate your help in doing this.

**Why should people take part?** *Basically if you do not tell us if there is a problem we cannot fix it!* However by filling in this anonymous and confidential survey we will have the information we need to begin to make changes.

The research will:

- Investigate the feelings and experiences of LGBT staff around their 'acceptance' at work
- Look for suggestions for supporting LGBT staff in the workplace, particularly around coming out/transitioning at work
- Find out if there is a need for improved LGBT training for staff and managers
- Help identify the gaps and barriers in provision of Domestic Violence Services for the LGBT community.
- Improve the employee LGBT networks by understanding what people want from these.

**How can you take part?** You can complete the form online at [www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/lgbtsurvey](http://www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/lgbtsurvey). Or you can get a hard copy from the LGBT Switchboard (telephone 0115 9348485). If you have any queries or concerns contact Jacqui Walker on 0115 9158803 or email [Jacqui.walker@nottinghamcity.gov.uk](mailto:Jacqui.walker@nottinghamcity.gov.uk)



Dear Marj,

*I have just been accepted as a student in Nottingham but am terrified about making new friends. I've recently come out to a really understanding group of friends and am scared that the new people I will meet at Uni won't be so cool about it and I'll just end up lost and alone. I know that moving away from home will be a good thing but there's a part of me that doesn't want to in case everything goes wrong. What should I do?*

Anon, 18.

Dear Anon, 18,

First of all congratulations on being accepted at Uni and coming out. It is never an easy thing to do and it takes a lot of courage to look inside your self and embrace all aspects of who you are. It sounds as though you've been really lucky with regards to your friends' reactions but it is natural to feel anxious about telling your new mates as no two people's reactions will be the same. Unfortunately there are still a lot of narrow-minded people out there but equally our society is evolving and becoming more accepting of us. Having taken such a massive step already it will be difficult for you to go back in the closet now (and not terribly advisable) but remember that it is your choice as to how, when and if you decide to tell anyone else.

The main thing is to just be your self. It is natural to feel isolated and to fear being alone, particularly when first coming out and even moving away from the previous safety and security of our home. However, by taking this leap you will inevitably meet a diverse cross-section of people and begin to mould a new life for your self, which is entirely of your own making and desires. Some of these new people will be your friend until the end and will accept you for who you are, whereas others may fall by the way-side as the semester progresses. Ultimately find like-minded folk with whom you can trust and rely on. It will be trial and error but isn't this always the case with any new experience?

Yes there is the potential that things might not work out exactly as you originally planned but there is an even greater possibility that things will turn out much better than you'd even imagined so don't hold back...life is too short.

Most universities have an LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bi and Trans) Society so it might be worth trying to contact them for more information. You can also check out Healthy Gay Nottingham's website ([www.healthygaynottingham.org.uk](http://www.healthygaynottingham.org.uk)) for information about gaining additional emotional support whilst you are in Nottingham, counselling, details about upcoming events, workshops and social groups, sexual health and relationship advice.

So finally, go forth, conquer and have fun. A new world of opportunity is about to be opened up to you and I wish you all the best for the future.

Marj.

## FICKLE FINGER OF FATE



Well actually it's the wrath of God striking the island of Lewis with a 110 mph tornado. Rev. James Tallach, of the Free Presbyterian Church of Scotland stated that the new Sunday ferry service is "immoral and a sin". The clincher, says the Rev, is that Lewis has just hosted its first civil partnership ceremony.

## QUOTE QUOTA



In Europe and America the majority of homosexuals wear suede shoes. They favour green as a colour in clothes and decorations. They are given to an excessive display and use of the handkerchief.

Dr. P. Campbell (1950).

"If you want a queer for a neighbour, vote Labour. If you don't want to be gay, join the Conservatives today". Anne Robertson - delegate at Conservative conference.

"I'm all for bringing back the birch, but only between consenting adults." Gore Vidal.

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, 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 HGN, 12 Broad St.) 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; Stately Homes Group; Notts Lesbian Book Club; Re-Creation; 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; 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**

**EDDIE IZZARD STRIPS**



Britain's most well-known surreal, large-headed, transvestite, stand up comic, Eddie Izzard will be bringing his 'Stripped' tour to Trent FM Arena Nottingham as part of his first UK tour in six years. It's on Friday 23rd and Saturday 24th October 2009 . The 24-hour ticket hotline is at 08444 124 624.

**GAY ICONS**

If you are in London, remember that the Gay Icons exhibition at the National Portrait Gallery closes on October 18th.

**2500 YEARS IN 50 MINUTES**

David Edgley, from Nottinghamshire's Rainbow Heritage, gives a whistle-stop tour of 2500 years of gay history in 50 minutes. "A poetic start, a dreadful middle and a happy(ish) ending ... with much silliness en route".

Tuesday October 20th at **Breakout** gay men's group c/o Healthy Gay Nottingham, 12 Broad Street. Starts promptly at 8.00 pm.

**THE FRIENDSHIP COURSE**

Another new development for Healthy Gay Nottingham. They will be running the Friendship course on Saturday 31st of October at the HGN base, 12 Broad Street Nottingham.

This GMFA course has been developed to help gay and bisexual men identify what they need from and in their relationships; how to develop the skills to initiate conversations with others and to ask the right questions; how to manage the relationship if it becomes sexual and how to keep the sex safe.

For more info, phone 0115 9476868 or e-mail via their website at [www.healthygaynottingham.org.uk](http://www.healthygaynottingham.org.uk)