QB

Nottinghamshire's Queer Bulletin

December 2009/January 2010 Number 51

In this edition:

Towers and trees Birds and Bees CCTVs

and

Bitchy queens Gobby queens Bitter queens and aubergines

and

Gropeapanda (spell check failed) NCCSOIEAG (spell check failed??)

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

QΒ

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 January 2009

Switchboard is registered charity number 1114273

SHERIFF TO OPEN LGBT HISTORY EVENT



Nottinghamshire's Rainbow Heritage's 2010 exhibition will be preceded by a celebration in **Notting**ham Council House.

They will use the Ballroom to preview the exhibition, showcase some of the work that the history project has done and present awards to groups and organisations which have made an important contribution to our community.

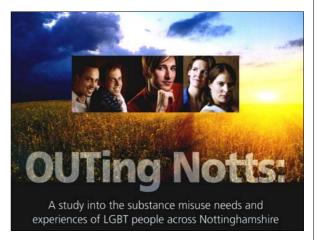
The Sheriff, Councillor Leon Unczur, has agreed to present the awards. The event will take place on Tuesday February 16th from 7.30 to 9.15 pm and is free and open to all. Unbelievably the food and drink (*some* of it alcoholic) will also be free.

..... and while we are giving you advance notice of things for next year's LGBT History Month, we can also tell you about the Exhibition. Now that the View from the Top gallery (above Waterstones) has closed, the exhibition will be sited in the **Studio at Broadway Cinema**. The dates are Tuesday February 23rd to Sunday February 28th. Like the Celebration, the Exhibition is free.

LGBT DRUG USE IN NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

OUTing Notts was a joint effort by the Nottingham Council for Equality and Human Rights, the Notts Drug and Alcohol Action Team and the University of Central Lancashire.

The report was launched on October 29th at Broadway cinema.



Statistics on local LGBT drug use are presented by age, type of drug, gender etc. What was most valuable were the comments from the various focus groups and recommendations for future action by those agencies which support people with drug and alcohol problems. The latter included:

- The importance of monitoring sexual orientation
- The need for staff training
- The need for services to be pro-active
- The development of more services for gay, bisexual and trans women

The document will be made available in pdf format. E-mail Nottingham Switchboard for a copy.

COUNTY COUNCIL LGB EVENT

Something with the long name of the Notting-hamshire County Council Sexual Orientation Independent Equalities Advisory Group (or NCCSOIEAG?) met more or less for the first time on October 21st. The group was asked to make initial comments on the Nottinghamshire Sustainable Community Strategy and how their priorities might affect LGB people. E.g.

- Do people feel able to access local services? If not, what stops that happening?
- What do you think could be done to celebrate diversity and promote tolerance in Nottinghamshire communities?***

... and rather a lot more. Many useful comments were made, but they need to be developed in much more detail over the next few years.

The group will now meet quarterly and will alternate a) between the North and South of the County and b) between daytime and evening meetings. Please note that people who attend in a voluntary capacity can claim travelling expenses.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday January 27th in the evening in Nottingham. If you wish to attend either as an individual or as a member of a group or organisation, please send an e-mail to Switchboard or Rainbow Heritage.

*** One of many things which were suggested was for the County Council to fly the rainbow flag (as the City Council does) above County Hall next February.

What will Mrs Cutts say? Wait and see.

NEW GAY HOTEL FOR NOTTINGHAM

Switchboard gets calls from time to time asking for gay hotels in Nottingham and our response has been ... "well, there are one or two which are gay-friendly, but nothing you could really call a gay hotel". That may be about to change.

The New Gables Hotel is a 12 bedroom gay hotel just over a mile from the city centre.

We can't let you into the secret of the address yet as there will be an official opening on November 24th with the Sheriff of Nottingham (he gets around) as guest of honour and a launch party on November 27th at the New Foresters. For information, or to book a room, contact Debbie or Maria at the New Foresters.

0115 958 0432 or debbie@newforesters.com

UPLOAD DOWNLOAD

One of the ways in which the Nottinghamshire's Rainbow Heritage website is developing is in the number of documents which you can download directly from the site.

For example, you can now read all (yes, every single one!!!) 51 editions of QB. You can download the entire book which your beloved editor wrote about gay Nottingham in 2000 and you can see the full details of Fairy Towers (see page 4).

Many of the displays which were on view at the LGBT History Month exhibitions in 2008 and 2009 are there, including:

- Gays and lesbians in the Holocaust
- Gay Nottingham Times
- Civil Partnerships
- Birds, bees and educated fleas
- Nottingham Forest Anti-homophobia poster
- Cartoon gays
- The Justin Campaign
- Notes and queeries
- Punishment across the world for gays

Most of these are in the NRH's Resources section of the www.nottsrainbowheritage.org.uk website.

VERSE AND WORSE

Inspired by the Sapphist Writers, QB thought it was time to launch itself into the world of poetry. Unfortunately, all we have come up with is a few Limericks which each address a quirk of the English language.

The **OUGH** problem

A Loughborough farmer named Clough Was tilling his fields through and through, When he started to cough And fell off his plough, Though his workmanship stayed very thorough.

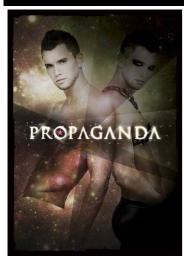
The "Nothing rhymes with orange" problem

One day, while eating an orange I bumped into old Mr Gorringe. He said "Dolly Clacket Looks like Hilda Bracket". I said "No! She looks like Dr Hinge."

The "posh people's names" problem

The Right Hon. Miss Ellen Q Cholmondeley Looked exactly like Joanna Lolmondeley But Hiram P. Featherstonehaugh Cut off her head with a bandstoneaugh Her appearance is now much less colmondeley.

PROPAGANDA



It's "fresh", "new", "dazzling", "plush", "hot" and "exciting" and probably several other adjectives.

And "it" is the new gay bar **Propaganda** at

8 Broadway The Lace Market Nottingham NG1 1PS

We have no pics from inside, so if you want to know what it's like, you'll have to go along and have a proper gander yourself.

GATSBY'S GRATES

Gatsby's has closed as a gay bar. HGN received a letter from the management. Here are some bits from the letter:

"There are a few narrow-minded bitchy queens on the gay scene that have boycotted Gatsby's for their own reasons, tried to cause me and my friends/family a lot of trouble over the last few months."

"Those old gobby queens know who they are and the kind of games played by grown men is beneath me and my standards and should be left in the playground!"

To those that did nothing but cause trouble and slate the place, you will be the first people to complain that there are only a few gay bars left, but if you're going to be vile old bitter queens, you're never going to have a nice gay bar in Nottingham. We have decided to close."

CCTV

Homophobic incidents continue to happen near NG1 and @D2. As a result of prolonged discussion at the Police LGBT Forum and with the City Council, CCTV coverage of those areas should start soon.

WHERE PRAISE IS DUE

The City Council have agreed to print a leaflet outlining many of the things happening locally for next February's LGBT History Month. Early in the new year, you will be able to pick these up at the bars, NG1, Broadway etc.

Will they be flying the rainbow flag again over the Council House? Wait and see.

COME TO DADDY



Come to Daddy is a new once-a-month night. It's a men's only night for bears, bigger guys, hairy guys, and their admirers, in fact anybody (short, tall, fat, thin, hairy smooth). that wants a male-only night out. It's every THIRD Friday in the month at the Foresters, so the next event is on December 18th - 10 pm to 4.00 am. £5 entrance For further info contact info@cometodaddyclub.co.uk

The website is at www.cometodaddyclub.co.uk

WOMEN'S FIVE-A-SIDE FOOTBALL

A women-only, friendly, no experience required, 5-a-side football session. The group meets for fun and fitness and all levels and abilities are welcome; the group operates as an equal opportunities session for gay and straight women and welcomes those with disabilities. Minimum age 18 ... but we can make exceptions! A good opportunity to make friends. The social side is very supportive and we often do socials throughout the year

Operates Tuesday and Friday evenings, 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm, cost £2.50 per session. Meets at the Astroturf area, Forest Recreation Ground, Mansfield Road.

For more information email: joolzy_joolz@hotmail.co.uk Telephone 07790 998205

WEST NOTTS COLLEGE GROUP

There's now a support/social group for students at West Notts College in Mansfield. It meets every first Monday of the month during term time.

For details, contact Sharon (daytimes only) on 07947 782036.

FAIRY TOWERS

Just in time for Christmas, Nottinghamshire's Rainbow Heritage has produced "Fairy Towers", the board game about Nottingham's LGBT scene, past and present.

You can see the layout below. The purpose of the game is to get on to the inner circle and do a complete crawl around the 12 pubs. The first person to visit all 12 pubs is the winner. It's not easy, as from time to time you will get thrown off the circle.

You start off with £500 pink pounds, which you will need for various expenses: landing on a club costs £10; landing on a pub costs £5 for a drink and a packet of crisps; botox treatment costs £50; the advert in Lookout to sell your collection of stuffed ferrets costs £15 etc, etc. You can also add to your pink pounds in various ways for example "A short-sighted drinker mistakes you for a person of easy virtue.... an hour later you are £50 better off."

If you land on one of the 6 information points, you have to pick up an Information card. If you land on Central Police Station, you pick up a Police card. Examples of the consequences of picking up these cards are given on the right.

INFORMATION CARDS

Your attic is filling up with your collection of toilet seats stolen from gay clubs. What should you do? Move to Rainbow Heritage. They will store and catalogue them for you.

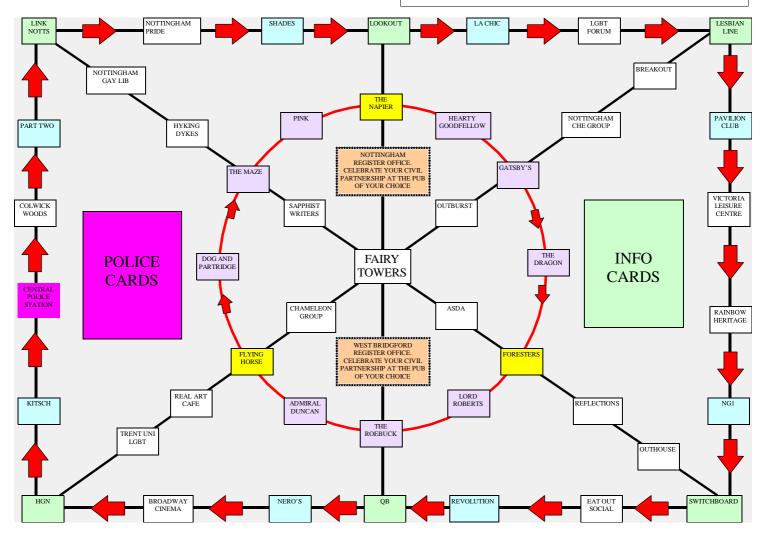
You are looking to meet younger people. Divide your age by 2. If the answer is 25 or less, move to Outburst. Otherwise, spend £20 on Boots "Perfect and Protect" anti-wrinkle cream.

You wish to report a homophobic incident which occurred near the aubergines in Waitrose. Move to Central Police Station.

A friend says he has discovered a wonderful, gayfriendly place situated in rural surroundings. Move to Colwick Woods.

You need emergency accommodation. You are offered temporary space on a two-seater IKEA sofa in Fairy Towers. Move there immediately.

Fairy Towers costs £10. Contact NRH (see back page) for details.



Gay Nottingham Times

No. 12 Claiming our history, Celebrating our present, Creating our future

In commemoration of the 700th anniversary of the accession of King Edward II in 1307

Nottingham Castle was one of King Edward II's favourite residences, and he is its most famous gay inhabitant.



W. H. Auden (1907-1973) poet



Virginia Woolf (1882-1941) writer

King Edward II (1285-1327)

The Plantagenet Kings of England



Out of Their Tree

Edward's DNA survives in several

million people around the world today.

Here are some his LGBT descendants

The Smiths of Nottingham



Lawrence of Arabia (1888-1935) soldier/adventurer



Anthony Blunt (1907-1983) Soviet spy

The Stewart Kings of Scotland

The Beauforts

The Kings of Spain The Pierreponts of Holme Pierrepont

The Hastings, Earls of Huntingdon

The Stanhopes of Shelford and Rampton

The Stewart Kings of Scotland The Strothers of the USA

The Tudor Kings of England

The Stewart Kings of Great Britain



Marlon Brando (1924-2004) actor



Queen Kristina of Sweden (1626-1689)

The Turings of

Edwinstowe



Clare Balding (b.1971) sports journalist



E. M. Forster (1879-1970) writer

The Byrons of Newstead



Sir Noel Coward (1899-1973) actor/ writer



Lord Byron (1788-1824) poet



Alan Turing (1912-1954) inventor of the computer



King James I (1566-1625)

Space restricts giving the full lines of descent. Only selected linking families are included.



Rupert Everett (b.1959) actor



Dear Marj,

I think I've really fucked up. I met this guy the other night in the club. We were both pretty drunk and whilst we were shagging he kept taking my condom off and asking me to do him bareback. We ran out of condoms and in my drunken state I agreed to. We both came in each other, which was great at the time but now I'm really worried that I may have caught HIV. He denied being positive but I'm really worried. What should I do?

Notts, 31.

Dear Notts, 31,

It sounds as though you are being very hard on yourself. You certainly haven't fucked up Honey but I'm glad that you have written to me as your concerns are very valid and you certainly aren't alone in this matter.

It's not uncommon for us to meet alluring, up-for-it people but can we ever really be sure what their sexual health status is? It's great that you decided to use a condom initially but maintaining your safety as well as the safety of whomever you are shagging should always be considered throughout the whole sexual experience (as well as the obvious pleasure aspect).

I understand that after having a few cocktails (or the like) our inhibitions can become considerably lowered but there appears to be an increase in the number of people engaging in risky sexual behaviours and a correlation between this and the rise in Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs).

There is no certainty that you have been infected but to put your worried mind at ease it may be worth making an appointment at your local G.U.M clinic or through HGN as we offer STI testing too, as you may have been exposed to other infections which do not necessarily present with any overt symptoms.

If you are worried that you may have been exposed to the HIV virus, it is important to get tested but remember that it will take up to three months before the antibodies show up in your blood so you will not get an accurate blood result of your HIV status before this time.

If you do decide to get tested then try to make sure you have someone supportive to go with you e.g. a friend or colleague that you trust. We do offer free and confidential sexual health advice and emotional support here at HGN so you don't have to go through this alone.

It is natural for your anxiety levels to be heightened but sometimes such negative experiences can actually have a positive effect in altering our behaviour and really make us think about the potential consequences of our actions. Whilst I understand that you were both on your merry way and the chap you slept with states that he is not HIV positive, this should not be taken as the gospel truth as he is under no obligation to disclose his status to you and he himself may not even be aware of it. Either way, using a condom is the best way to safe-guard yourself against any future anxiety or sexual health risks. They will give you peace of mind whilst you happily shag-away and allow you to fully embrace the moment.

Hopefully everything will be O.K for you Honey but should you wish to speak to us for further advice, counselling or as much condoms and lube to fill your boots with, then do not hesitate to get in contact with us at HGN.

Best wishes and happy safe-shagging,

Marj xxx

Email: dear.marj-hgn@nottinghamcity.nhs.uk

FANCY A GOOD STUFFING?

Health Gay Nottingham would like your help with assembling condom and lube packs.

Stuffing takes place on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month.

Time: 6.00 - 7.30 pm
Place: The Health Shop, Broad Street

Tea, coffee, high quality biscuits provided along with superb company. This could be the acme of your social calendar.

Just turn up, or phone HGN if you want more info see back page.

Contrary to what you might have read previously you will not be manacled to a condom conveyor belt - hope that doesn't disappoint with superb company. This could be the acme of

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NEWS FROM HEALTHY GAY NOTTINGHAM

Healthy Gay Nottingham "Drop In"

If you're in town on a Saturday between 10 am and 2 pm or Monday evenings between 5 pm and 7 pm, why not drop into Healthy Gay Nottingham for **FREE** tea, coffee, juice and biscuits.

Join us for a chat; meet up with friends; get advice about any aspect of your life as a member of the LGBT community

Access counselling; get tested for HIV, Syphilis, Hep B, Gonorrhoea and Chlamydia, (testing is every Monday evening and alternate Saturdays).

Christmas Party



Come and join us on Saturday 19th December at the "Drop In" for our Christmas Party between 10 am and 2 pm. This year we have decided to have a Christmas party for the community. Come along and pull a cracker, sing along to Christmas tunes, meet up with friends and other groups and organisations, all welcome.

Free non-alcoholic drinks and buffet nibbles.

HGN Closing times over Xmas and New Year

Closes 1 pm on 24th December and re-opens 10 am Monday 4th January

New for the New Year at HGN:

Auricular acupuncture

(That's small pricks in your ear). A balancing treatment to help with relaxation, low mood, anxiety, addiction and help alleviating post party blues.

See website or call for further information or to book a session.



World Aids Day 1st December 2009

Come and join a variety of Nottingham organisations and groups on a free evening of music, dance and theatre to mark World Aids Day 2009.

Tuesday 1st December between 6 pm and 8 pm @ "Life at the Mission" on the corner of Parliament Street and George Street, opposite Argos.

There will also be a cake baking competition with a prize for the winner and an art auction, so bring your wallets and purses, all art donated by local people.

Money raised on the evening will be going to the Notts. Hardship Fund. For further information contact Ric at Healthy Gay Nottingham (0115-947 6868)

World Aids Day Service

A service for World Aids Day at St. Peter's Church in Nottingham (next to Marks And Spencer). Reflection – Remembrance – Prayer. **Sunday 29**th **November** at 3 pm, followed by refreshments.

BRITISH MUSEUM TURNS PINK

The people involved with the national LGBT History Month organisation are having a launch event on November 19th at the British Museum in advance of next February's celebrations.

Ben Bradshaw, Trevor Phillips and Michael Cashman will be among the speakers. The event is timed to be a part of Anti-Bullying Week and there will be afternoon and evening sessions for teachers and youth workers.

There will be exhibitions and displays from many organisations including (we hope) Nottinghamshire's Rainbow Heritage.

LESBIAN PARENTS' GROUP

The point about the Lesbian Parents' Group is that there isn't one. At fairly frequent intervals Switchboard gets requests from local women for information about such a group. That suggests that there is an unmet need.

If there are local women, either single or couples, who have children and would welcome a local group where they could gain support and socialise, then leave contact details with Switchboard. When/if we get a reasonable response, then we will try to organise an initial meeting.

Our contact details are on the back page.

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

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

Older Gay Support and social group for men aged 50+.

Men's Group Meets 3rd Saturday 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

Lookout The quarterly free lesbian newsletter. For details e-mail

lookoutmag@hotmail.com

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

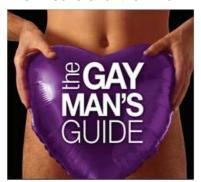
Nottinghamshire Hyking Dykes; Stately Homes Group: Notts Lesbian Book Club; Re-Creation; Women's Badminton; Badminton Social; Lesbian and Gay Christian Movement; East Mercia MSC; Chameleon Group; University of Nottingham & Trent University LGBT Societies; Peak Ruffties; Nottm Women's Film Group; Grizzly; LIRAIN; Notts Police OUTNetwork; Flying Colours; SMOC; 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; Women's 5-a-side 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

THE GAY MAN'S GUIDE RETURNS

Paul Strickland's play was performed to a full house at the Lace Market theatre in 2008. It returns, in a re-written form, to the same theatre in February 2010. The play is based on real interviews with gay men - several of them from Nottinghamshire.



February 3rd - 6th 7.30 pm Tickets £7

At the Lace Market Theatre, Halifax Place, Nottingham.

0115 950 7201

BREAKOUT XMAS PARTY

Breakout's party is on December 15th at the Lord Roberts (in the Green Room) from 8.00 onwards. It's a "bring food and share" event.

We expect that there will be a raffle and that the prizes will be up to the fabulous standard to which we are accustomed.

MORE WORLD AIDS DAY EVENTS

Friday 27th and **Saturday 28th**. Fundraising for the Hardship fund (£1 entrance) at the **New Foresters**. A staff show on the Friday.

Tuesday Dec. 1st: collections for the Hardship Fund in the **Market Square**

CLAUSIFIED AD

Nottingham: large Scandinavian bear type seeks fairies and pixies for sack-emptying duties.

★ Short term contract only. No claus-trophobes ★ need apply.

♣ Details from the Elf Shop, 10 Broad Street or ★ from the National Elf Service.

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STRAIGHT TALKING

For those able/willing to travel to Birmingham, the Crescent Theatre is performing "Straight Talking" on November 26th & 27th.

It's about some of the problems of obtaining appropriate help from your GP if you are LGBT. For details go to

www.crescent-theatre.co.uk