

QB

Nottinghamshire's Queer Bulletin

June/July 2010
Number 54

In this edition:

Doom and gloom
Fear and dread
Wailing and teeth gnashing
Sackcloth and ashes
Rending of clothes
Tearing of hair
Quaking in boots
Morris dancing

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

QB
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or e-mail

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The deadline for the next edition will be mid July 2010

**Switchboard is registered
charity number 1114273**

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WILL IT BE ANOTHER CON TRICK?

FREE



Now that David Cameron is our new Prime Minister, it's worth asking the question "what is the true face of the Conservative party?"

Wolfenden's 1957 recommendations for decriminalising gay sex were sidelined by the 1950s/1960s Conservative governments. They were only put into practice when Labour took over. Despite that one forward step, the law at the time offered no positive support to LGB people; in fact the law actively discriminated against us in many ways:

- Unequal age of consent for gay men
- Lack of job security if you were outed
- Banned from the armed forces
- Problems with adoption and fostering
- Problems over achieving child custody after divorce
- Many "next of kin" issues, with repercussions in hospitals, funeral arrangements and housing tenure
- "Goods and services" issues with hotels, newspapers etc

What shocks many people who are unaware of our history is that all the above were still true after 18 years of Conservative government through the late 1970s to 1997 - indeed, they added the notorious Section 28 in 1988.

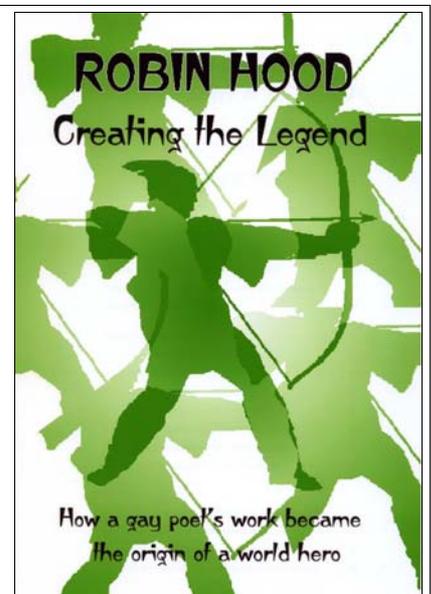
All the recent positive moves have come under a Labour government. The Tories have described themselves as "changed" and "gay friendly", despite having voted against most of the recent reforms. We shall see.

ROBIN HOOD'S GAY CONNECTIONS

By the time you read this, Ridley Scott's Robin Hood will be on cinema screens across the world and that will reflect some attention on to Nottingham. I would like to believe the report in the Nottingham Arrow that this city has just made it into the world's top 10 tourist destinations.

Will those tourists be aware that the original story of Robin Hood (The Geste of Robyn Hode) was written by a gay Nottingham poet, Sir John Clanvowe?

For more details, see the website of Nottinghamshire's Rainbow Heritage at www.nottsrainbowheritage.org.uk



NOTTINGHAM'S GAY HOTEL & ITMA



The **New Gables Hotel** is at 1, Hucknall Road and opened in February. After delays caused by the usual problems with workmen, the official celebration of the hotel's opening took place on April 6th.

For those not old enough to remember, ITMA = "It's That Man Again", the man being Sheriff of Nottingham Councillor Leon Unczur. The Sheriff and his lady were welcomed by Debbie Law - see below. Unfortunately, we missed the opportunity to photograph the Sheriff lying on a rose petal strewn bed - we are not making this up, you know.



CONFUCIUS SAY

"If you are in a book store and cannot find the book for which you search, you are obviously in the ...



QB JOINS TRIPADVISOR (PART 2)

West Jet airline attendants make an effort to make the in-flight "safety lecture" and announcements a bit more entertaining. Here are some examples.

"Ladies and gentlemen, we've reached cruising altitude and will be turning down the cabin lights. This is for your comfort and to enhance the appearance of your flight attendants."

" Please be sure to take all of your belongings. If you're going to leave anything, please make sure it's something we'd like to have."

"There may be 50 ways to leave your lover, but there are only 4 ways out of this airplane. "

"Thank you for flying West Jet Express. We hope you enjoyed giving us the business as much as we enjoyed taking you for a ride."

"In the event of a sudden loss of cabin pressure, masks will descend from the ceiling. Stop screaming, grab the mask, and pull it over your face. If you have a small child travelling with you, secure your mask before assisting with theirs. If you are travelling with more than one small child, pick your favourite."

"That was quite a bump, and I know what y'all are thinking. I'm here to tell you it wasn't the airline's fault, it wasn't the pilot's fault, it wasn't the flight attendant's fault, it was the asphalt."

BRIEFS ON THE SCENE

- **FOUNDATION** lounge bar, "a chilled out and sociable addition to the scene, a place to meet and chat before a big night out", opened on March 26th on Broadway in the Lace Market.
- Shortly followed on April 1st by **FUEL** (April Fuel's Day?), a two floor gay club. "Expect all the playfulness of Propaganda spread over two rooms of modern music in the friendliest and welcoming atmosphere!"



- **Outburst's** group for young trans people now meets on the first and third Thursday of each month. Phone/text 07940 761160 for more details

THE TOURISM CENTRE

After several local LGBT groups bemoaned their frustration at the apparent unhelpfulness of the Tourism Centre, two people from the Centre came to the March meeting of the City Council LGBT Forum.

They said that a lot of the issues stem from their website, which they admitted was crap and is soon to be replaced with one where a search does not produce a system error. They also say that they will put in links to local LGBT websites and put in all the news about LGBT events that you send them. Send, send, SEND, **SEND**.

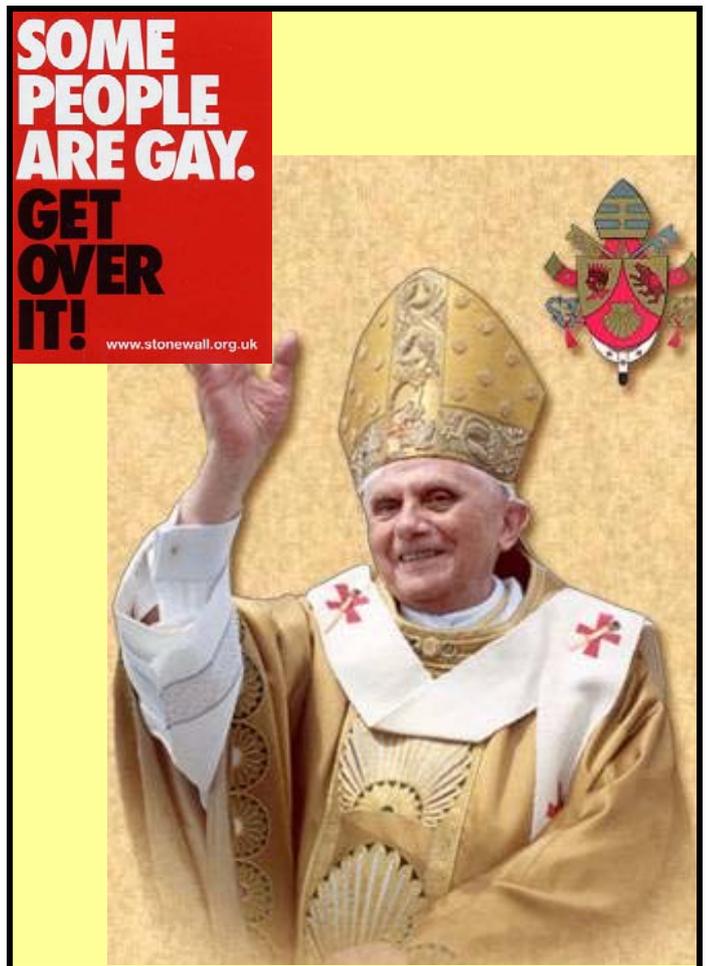
The issue about displaying voluntary groups' literature (unless you pay £200) has not been resolved, but there may be a way forward via the City Council. If so, we will let you know.



QB'S BITS

- Better late than never. A slide show of photos from **Nottinghamshire's Rainbow Heritage's** exhibition at Broadway can now be viewed on NRH's website. It's in the NEWS section.
- **Nottingham Switchboard** will soon be starting a new service where you can send in any requests for information by text; apparently this is aimed at young people ... as we know, young people do not write or speak, but they do text.
- Yet more **Sheriff** news. The Guardian quotes the Sheriff as saying that he sometimes likes to live up to his "baddie" image, so when Nottingham turned the Market Square into a beach, he made it his business to kick over the children's sand castles. Boo!! Hiss!!
- Do you wish to be **Master of your Domain**? The person who owns the gaynottingham.co.uk domain (not to be confused with Ray Wilson's gaynottingham.com domain) has not used it for 10 years. He would like to know if anyone from the voluntary sector in Nottingham would like to make use of it. If "yes" send us an e-mail and we will pass it on.

NICE HAT, PITY ABOUT THE ABUSE



RIPLEY V. THE EQUALITY ACT

In reply to a letter from Narvel Annable which was printed in the Derby Evening Telegraph, Rob Faulkner (a Christian from Ripley) wrote

"Bigots because we don't agree? No!" "Just because someone thinks that something is wrong does not make that person prejudiced." He also said - "It is inappropriate to teach children that homosexual relationships and heterosexual relationships are of equal standing."

Narvel comments: These words remind me of racist language I often heard in 1960s Detroit when African-Americans were asserting their civil rights. During the bitter debates over the issue of 'bussing' to integrate black and white children, "respectable" Christians like Rob Faulkner took the view that it was perfectly acceptable to 'disagree' with black leaders who continued to repeat the mantra - "We Negroes are as Good As You!" The Detroit News was full of letters arguing that it was inappropriate to teach children that people of African ancestry and people of European ancestry were of equal standing.

You have invited me to enter your own church - where I will be received with 'love and respect'. But how can that be if I have no equal standing? In a modern civilised society, you have no moral or legal right to deny equality to the gay community.



Nottinghamshire's RAINBOW HERITAGE

NOTTINGHAM IN THE NEWS

LGBT HISTORY

Nottinghamshire's Rainbow Heritage, your local LGBT history project, has been collecting cuttings from newspapers going back as far as 1915. This page is devoted to quotes based on what the papers had to say about us.

GAYS PLAN CENTRE

A national centre to promote gay and lesbian arts is planned for Nottingham. Organisers hope the centre will become a major tourist attraction - bringing in visitors from all over Britain, Europe and the United States.



They aim to develop a building in the city to provide workshops, studios, a museum and library, which will be a national and international information and arts resources centre, and provide up to 60 jobs.

Jacky King, spokesman for the National Centre for Lesbian and Gay Arts, said: "The visitors we would get would be mammoth; the benefits would be gigantic. People would come from all over the world because it is unique."

Nottingham Evening Post March 12th 1996.

"MISS" NOW "MR"

"This summons is inaccurate," said Mr. R. A. Young, a solicitor, at Nottingham yesterday, "as it names a witness as Mr. Tillitson, whereas it is a Miss Tillitson. She is sitting over there.

"I am not a lady," the witness said, and Mr Young apologised.

Interviewed afterwards, Mr Tillitson said that a change of sex came about at the age of 20, and about three years later he obtained official permission to change his name from Miss Tillitson to Mr. Clive Montague Tillitson.

WE NAME THE KILTY MAN

He runs club for gay frolics

(News of the World
Feb. 16th 1992)



Pervert Mervyn Tacy loves a Gay Gordon. Or a Campbell. Or a McDonald. In fact ANY gay in a kilt.

For he organises kilt parties where partners are chosen by lottery to have a Highland fling.

By day bespectacled Tacy, 43, helps send out poll tax from Bassetlaw Council in Worksop. By night he sends out a newsletter containing crude porn to members of the International Kilt Appreciation Society, which he runs from his home in Retford, Notts.

And at weekends he is busy hosting parties for gays who want to show what Scotsmen keep under their kilts.

JUDGE HITS AT BROADMINDED

Mr Justice Melford Stevenson, at Nottingham Assizes yesterday, gaoled two men for homosexual offences. He said: "There are many people in this country in high places who are prepared to smile tolerantly on this sort of behaviour and may have expressed sympathy for it.



If they had the experience Judges of Assizes have in dealing with these matters, they might be a little less - as they think - broadminded".

The Yorkshire Post July 7th 1965

Gay Nottingham Times

No.15 Claiming our history, Celebrating our present, Creating our future



Lily Langtry



Oscar Wilde

An Artistic Bent

Frank Miles (1852-1891)

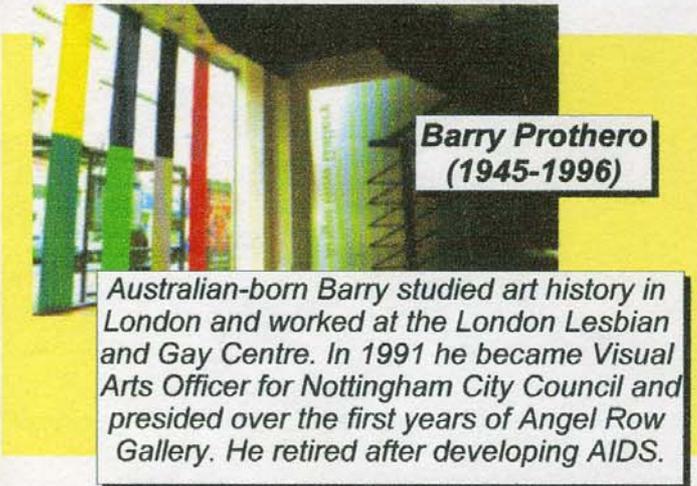
Son of the rector of Bingham, Frank was a society portrait painter (even though he was colour-blind!). His favourite subject was his friend Lily Langtry. Frank had an affair with the young Oscar Wilde and they lived together for a few years. This ended when Frank's father read Oscar's poetry and threatened to cut off Frank's allowance. Frank then sank into depression and died in a Bristol asylum.

A typical Tuke painting



Philip Streatfield (1879-1915)

In 1914, painter Streatfield met the teenage Noël Coward and an affair developed. Philip was a follower of Henry Scott Tuke, known for his paintings of naked youths. Philip joined the Sherwood Foresters on the outbreak of World War One and died in the trenches.



Barry Prothero (1945-1996)

Australian-born Barry studied art history in London and worked at the London Lesbian and Gay Centre. In 1991 he became Visual Arts Officer for Nottingham City Council and presided over the first years of Angel Row Gallery. He retired after developing AIDS.



Karl Wood (1888-1957)

Known as "Windmill Wood", Karl painted over 1,000 windmills, the first being a Nottingham mill. As a child he lived in Nottingham then moved to Gainsborough, Lincolnshire. He often took advantage of his painting trips in the country by enjoying "other activity"! After serving 2 years for being gay, he retired to a monastery, where he died.



The Pansy Project

This part-art, part-crime victim project is the work of Sheffield artist Paul Harfleet. He decided to plant a pansy at locations where he received homophobic abuse. In 2006 he planted a pansy on Goldsmith Street, Nottingham. The Project became the basis of the publicity for the London Gay and Lesbian Film Festival in 2007.



Nigel Coates (b.1949)

After studying architecture at Nottingham University, Nigel went on to become an innovative architect. His most famous work is the Body Zone in the Millennium Dome. In 1996 he became Professor of Architectural Design at the Royal College of Art.



Dear Marj,

I am really struggling with my life at the moment and I don't know where to turn. I have been in a relationship with my partner for about 7 years now. The first 5 years were brilliant, we got on really well and moved in with each other. However, things have changed the last couple of years.

When he is drunk we have had major rows and 3 times it has resulted in him hitting me. The next morning he is always remorseful and sometimes can't even remember it. When we are good we are great and when we are bad things are awful.

I love him, I want to stay with him but however much we discuss things nothing seems to change. Will he change? The thought of having to go through the long and painful process of splitting up, including selling the house etc is enough to make me just settle with what I have

From Anon (33)

Dear Anon (33),

It sounds as though you've been going through a really difficult time but have made an incredibly brave and important step by contacting me. There is definitely a problem and one that needs to get sorted as soon as possible.

Anger is not something that we choose to feel... it is a natural emotion, which can be used both productively and destructively by all of us. The level of violence and aggression that your partner appears to be showing towards you is certainly not productive and IS a choice that he is making. Despite what he may say, there is nothing that you can do that would deserve this level of ill-treatment. Expressing remorse the following day and developing selective amnesia is also not an excuse, particularly when these violent outbursts seem to be becoming more frequent.

I understand that feelings can run a little high when alcohol is involved but again this does not justify his violent behaviour towards you.

I appreciate that you love your partner but that does not mean that you deserve to be subjected to violence. What you are describing sounds like domestic abuse and something, which if not handled properly, could escalate and put you at further risk of harm.

All relationships need to be based on mutual respect and trust. If either of these foundations begin to crumble, the relationship can land-slide in to chaos, uncertainty and despair. Working through these issues in couples therapy (Relate Counselling: www.relate.org.uk) is always an option, but your partner needs to also acknowledge that there is a problem and be willing to address his part in this. If he is unable to do either then it may be worth asking yourself whether or not this is the type of relationship that you want to stay in if change does not seem possible for either of you.

I understand that there are practical implications, such as your house and possessions, if you were to separate but your safety and well-being must come first. Ultimately I cannot make any decisions for you but it might be worth getting out of the house for a few days and spending some time with close friends or family (if possible) so that you have a bit of space to think about what it is that you want without the influence of your partner getting in the way.

As well as accessing support and counselling from HGN, there are national organisations such as Broken Rainbow (0845 2604460, www.broken-rainbow.org.uk) and The Nottinghamshire Domestic Violence Forum (0808 800 0340, www.ndvf.org.uk) who can also offer further support and advice.

Whatever you decide, the important thing to remember is that this is not something that you have to go through on your own. Plus, you have already taken the first step. You are a person in your own right who deserves to be treated with love and respect...you certainly do not have to settle for unacceptable or abusive behaviour. A partner who is incapable or unwilling to provide respect in a relationship will not be able to adequately meet your needs and certainly raises the question of how much they really care about you.

Take care and feel free to contact me again if you need any further support. I hope everything works out for you.

Marj xxx

NOTTINGHAM PRIDE 2010

nottingham pride

GET A LITTLE COLOUR INTO YOUR SUMMER!

Main Stage Acts from The Cheeky Girls to The Dream Bears plus lots more!

A funfair, three bars and more than 100 stalls! This is the summer event you don't want to miss!

Free entrance
No public parking
More info on
www.nottinghampride.co.uk

NOTTINGHAM PRIDE 2010
Nottingham's ONLY LGBT festival

Confirmed date: 31st July 2010
Forest Fields Recreation Ground
From 12 noon - 8:00 pm

THE MARCH IS BACK!
Meet at the Old Bandstand,
The Arboretum at 10:45 am

ZOO TIME

After reports in Pink News about gay swans having hissy fits and Sainsburys turning moths gay, it's time to tell you about the sex life of the Humming Bird.

About a quarter of all sexual activities in Humming Birds is between pairs of males.

The proportion remains the same when the birds are presented with stuffed birds of both sexes.

They also have been known to try to mate with brightly coloured inanimate objects e.g. small feather dusters.



This does not say much for their powers of discrimination.

Nottingham Pride lists the following acts on its website

- The Cheeky Girls
- Kelly Wilde
- The Dream Bears
- Canine Feline
- Pink Tribute
- Kenelis
- Andy Scott Lee
- Sean Ramsey
- Janis Kay

It's all on Saturday July 31st
12 noon - 8 pm on the
Goose Fair site.



..... AND THE PRIDE MARCH

Last year, the march started at the Forest Recreation Ground and ended up at the Arboretum. This year, of course, Pride is being held on the Forest Recreation Ground so, with appropriate logic, the march will start at the Arboretum.

Marchers should meet up at the Arboretum bandstand at 10.45 a.m.

JOINING THE CHOIR INVISIBLE

We are sorry to hear that the **Older Gay Men's Group** is no more. There is talk that a group which serves some of the same purposes and clientele may emerge or may not.

LESBIAN PARENTS' GROUP

Here's a response we have had to the article in QB no. 52 about setting up a local group for lesbian parents.

Hello - I just wanted to mention that a small group of lesbian grans and mums meet with our kids/grandkids every so often at various places but mostly Stonebridge City Farm in St Ann's.

We think we are fairly obvious, but if anyone wants to ring me to get more details and so I can look out for them that will be fine. 07888657916 is my personal mobile.

Most of the kids are little i.e. under 5, but we occasionally have a 12 year old and would welcome any age. The farm is free and has a little cafe with cheap drinks and some snacks.

Judi

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
 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 HGN, 12 Broad St.) Contact Switchboard or HGN or go to www.breakoutnottm.org.uk
- 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; Bi-Delight: Stately Homes Group; Notts Lesbian Book Club; Women's Badminton; Badminton Social; Lesbian & Gay Christian Movement; East Mercia MSC; Chameleon Group; University of Nottingham & Trent University LGBT Societies; Peak Ruffties; Grizzly; LIRAIN; Police OUTNetwork; Flying Colours; SMOC; 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; Youth groups in Mansfield (Open Doors) and Worksop (WOW).

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

DIARY

LESBIAN LITERATURE EVENT

Bold Strokes Books is organising an evening of readings and signings by a group of their writers. The writers attending are: Jane Fletcher, Justine Saracen, Rebecca S. Buck, Lindsey Stone, Lesley Davis, Gill McKnight and I. Beacham.

Rebecca S. Buck's novel "Truths" is actually set in Nottingham in a fictional version of Shire Hall/Galleries of Justice.

This free event is at Waterstones on July 28th starting at 6.30 pm. As well as the readings, there will also be an opportunity to chat with the writers.

MAKE A FUEL OF YOURSELF

Have a laugh with the **FUEL** staff at their **Bad Drag Party** on May 30th.

Starts at 8 pm, finishes at 3 am.

Fuel is on Broadway in the Lace Market



OUT OF THE BLUE

Here's a reminder that the wonderful **Rabbi Lionel Blue** will be appearing at the Djanogly Theatre (in the Lakeside Arts Centre) on Tuesday June 15th. An "Evening with Rabbi Lionel Blue" starts at 8.00 pm. Tickets £12 to £20

Box Office: 0115 846 7777 www.lakesidearts.org.uk

BOYS .. PET SHOP

The Pet Shop Boys, the 50% gay team, are appearing on the main stage at **Splendour in Nottingham**, the annual bash of popular-type music-type stuff at Wollaton Park. It's on Saturday July 24th.

Go to www.splendourfestival.com for fullest details.

BOYS .. HISTORY

Alan Bennett's award winning play, **The History Boys**, returns to the Theatre Royal from June 21st to June 26th. Phone 0115 989 5555 for details.

JOHN BARROWMAN

The Tardis Social group (and others) will be interested to hear that the delightful Mr. Barrowman will appear at the Royal Concert Hall on October 18th

Phone 0115 989 5555 for details.