

QB

Nottinghamshire's Queer Bulletin

February/March 2011
Number 58

In this edition:

An apology.

As you will remember, the last edition of QB had a paragraph printed in a new invisible ink which responded to microwaves. Unfortunately, we forgot that the metal staples in QB would cause arcing. Several people reported that their copies of edition 57 burst into flames. In one household the oven suffered a small explosion which shattered a nearby Lalique swizzle stick. Sorry.

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 March 2011

**Switchboard is registered
charity number 1114273**

LGBT HISTORY MONTH FEBRUARY 2011

FREE



The last QB mentioned the Celebration and Awards evening in the ballroom of Nottingham Council House. It's on Tuesday February 15th from 7 pm until 9 pm. Please note that the ballroom holds a maximum of 200 people, so although entrance is free, latecomers may have to be refused admittance. This year's awards will go to:

- Outburst LGBT Youth Group and Davina Daniels
- Nottingham Ballbois football team
- LAFS (lesbians in Ashfield friendship and support)

For organisations, groups etc no longer operating, awards go to Part Two Club (and Ross Smith) and the North Notts LGB Development Group and Julia Hughes. The awards will be presented by Peter Tatchell.

HEALTH INEQUALITIES IN NOTTINGHAM

On November 29th, the Nottingham Fairness Commission were given a presentation on health inequalities in Nottingham. One of the most striking points was illustrated by various city bus routes and the average life expectancy of people living near to each bus stop. If you take the 22 bus and get off at Wollaton West, your life expectancy is 79, but 3 stops further along at the Bilborough, you die at 69.

Health inequalities is one of four strands which the Fairness Commission is examining. Each strand has been extracted from a document called "World Class Nottingham". That document mentions issues relating to age, disability, young people and BME people. There isn't a single mention of LGBT people. When this was raised, we were told that two organisations in the "promoting health" sector which target LGBT people are New Leaf and Framework. New Leaf says it does NOT target LGBT people. Framework says it does not target LGBT people, though lesbians are one of the groups it prioritises in its accommodation services.

In essence, the only local service that actively targets LGBT people is Healthy Gay Nottingham. Would you be surprised to hear that in the current economic climate and the incipient trainwreck of NHS reorganisation, there is a large question mark over the future of Healthy Gay Nottingham?

LGBT HISTORY MONTH DISPLAYS

Nottinghamshire's Rainbow Heritage has organised the following displays

Libraries

- Arnold Jan 31st to Feb 21st
- Clifton Feb 7th to Feb 25th
- Hyson Green Jan 17th to Jan 29th
- Keyworth Jan 31st to Feb 25th
- Meadows Feb 1st to Feb 25th
- Radcliffe on Trent Feb 7th to Feb 28th
- Radford Feb 2nd to Feb 25th
- Sherwood Feb 1st to Feb 12th
- Sneinton Feb 1st to Feb 12th
- West Bridgford Feb 7th to Feb 20th

Civic Centres

- Gedling Feb 1st to Feb 9th
- Rushcliffe Jan 31st to Feb 7th

Other

- The Council House Feb 14th to Feb 15th
- West Bridgford Register Office
Jan 31st to Feb 7th

... AND MORE

Some other events taking place include:

- An LGBT History Month Stonewall walk in the Arboretum. Starts 11 am, February 5th. This is organised by the University of Nottingham. For more info, e-mail lgbtq-staffnetwork@nottingham.ac.uk
- Nottingham Ballbois are organising a football vs Homophobia day on Feb 11th (see their website for more details) and they kick off with a launch night at the New Foresters on Saturday Jan. 29th (starts 8 pm) with their display and with the involvement of the Justin Campaign.
- Nottingham City Homes LGBT Employees Group has organised a presentation on LGBT history on Feb. 25th.
- The University of Nottingham SULGBT group will be having an LGBT History workshop on Feb. 2nd.
- Tony Bilton hopes to run some of his Gay History Tours (with a St. Valentine's theme) during February. Contact Tony for fuller details at pegasus.tour@amserve.com
- For those prepared to travel abroad (i.e. Leicester) the incredible Ceri Dupree will be performing "Blonde for Danger" at the Curve Theatre from the 16th to the 19th of February, when she will bring you "every blonde from Mae West to Lady GaGa"

NRH DOWNLOADS

The Nottinghamshire's Rainbow Heritage website is bursting with things for you to download. There are:

- All 58 editions of QB
- 7 quizzes
- 45 audio extracts from interviews
- 1 complete book and 2 local surveys
- 31 displays on different themes for LGBT History Month (see pages 4 and 5)
- 12 slide shows (including not only every Nottingham Pride, but Sydney Mardi Gras and Stockholm/Europride) as well as the San Francisco GLBT Museum, pictures of local people's Civil Partnerships and NRH's exhibitions from 2008, 2009 and 2010.
- Favourite Youtube videos including David Cameron's interview with Gay Times, Nottingham Ballbois on East Midlands Today and the lesbian invasion of the BBC Six o'clock news in protest about Section 28.

A recent addition is a collection of all those useful documents produced by Stonewall, various Trade Unions, Childline, FFLAG, the Government and others on issues relating to health, education, the workplace, civil partnership, coming out, goods and services, gay and lesbian parenting and a lot more.

You can find all these by going to the **NRH's Resources** page of the website. On the Home page, there's a link to a page detailing all the local events and to the national LGBT History Month website, which has a calendar of events for the whole of the UK. NRH's website is at

www.nottsrainbowheritage.org.uk

STOP HATE CRIME UK

In the last QB, we mentioned Stop Hate Crime UK, which attempts to do what it says on the tin. The service started in Nottinghamshire on Nov. 30th and details of the website and the 24 hour phone line will now continue to appear on the back page of each QB.

The service is supported and paid for by the City Council and Notts Police - the County Council "supports" it, but (we hear) doesn't pay .. we love you Mrs Cutts.



QB'S BITS

- **Foundation** has closed
- The Evening Post reports that the **B-Bar** on Heathcoat Street is to reopen as a gay bar named **Rumours**. It was closed following a stabbing in August. Police complained about a series of other issues at the bar at the time including three glassing assaults. (Sounds ideal - see below)
- **Pink's** licence was revoked at end of December. Detective Superintendent Chamberlain said the continued trading of the nightclub "puts the public at risk", and she had "no confidence" in the management to prevent the possibility of further violent incidents. Tata.
- To celebrate International Women's Day, the **Women's History Walk** will take place on March 12th. Starts at 1 pm at the Castle Gatehouse and will take about 2 hours.
- May 17th is **IDAHO Day** - international day against homophobia. On that day a conference on homophobia will be held at the University of Nottingham, with participants from 4 countries. For more info, contact emily.frisby@nottingham.ac.uk

RE-CREATION RECREATED

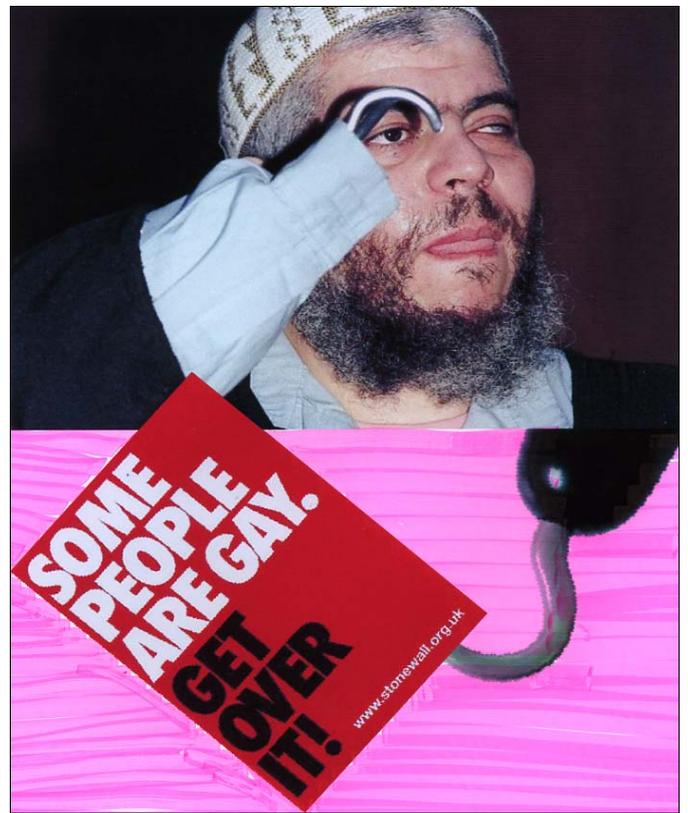
Re-creation was a group in Nottingham which I wish to start up again soon. It will be for adults (i.e. aged 18 or above) who identify as trans, transgender, transvestite, cross dressing, transsexual, gender queer, gender neutral, anyone affected by gender identity issues including supportive friends and family members. I aim to offer a safe, supportive, confidential, social space and time for people to express themselves, share experiences and access practical advice should they wish to.

I need your views on whether the group should meet on Wednesday evenings, Friday evenings or Saturday afternoons. I also need your views about which is more important for a venue:

- is central in the city?
- is at a "scene" pub?
- is at an LGBT friendly venue?
- has space to get changed?

With regards to accessibility, I will only research venues which are fully accessible/have full wheelchair access.

I also need people who are keen to be on a new management committee for the group. If you want to give your views or be involved please contact me- Davina (cis-gendered) - on 07940 761160 or Davina.daniels@nottinghamcity.gov.uk



WOW

W.O.W (Workshop out on Wednesdays) is a free, confidential support group for young people aged 16 to 25 year olds who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or questioning their sexuality living within Bassetlaw (Nottinghamshire). It officially opened its doors on 10th February 2010 and has consistently run every Wednesday evening from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm since.

The group provides informal support for other like-minded young people, providing a safe environment in which they can be themselves and discuss topics such as sexual health, "coming out", LGBT rights and homophobia.

The W.O.W group attended Manchester Pride this year and has plans to attend other gay prides next year with the hope of taking part. The group has a programme of activities which run every week including: DVD night, games night, bowling, quizzes, meeting other LGBT groups

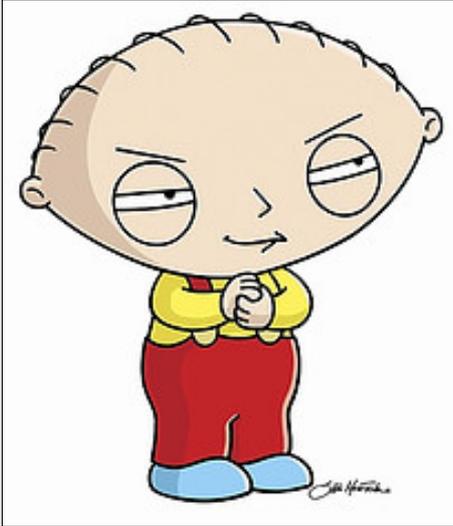
Some of the young people attending the W.O.W group have provided quotes to tell you what it's like:
"It's a good place to meet, I can voice my opinion as a young LGBTQ person"
"I'm more happy and comfortable with my sexuality"
"Made me feel welcome and comfortable"
"It gives students somewhere else to go outside of college to get LGBTQ information"

The W.O.W group is also part of the C-Card scheme, where young people are able to access free contraception, including dental dams

If you are interested in the W.O.W group please text WOW to 07977673167 or 07815289606, or alternatively call 01909 479191.

BUILD YOUR OWN FABULOUS LGBT HISTORY MONTH DISPLAY

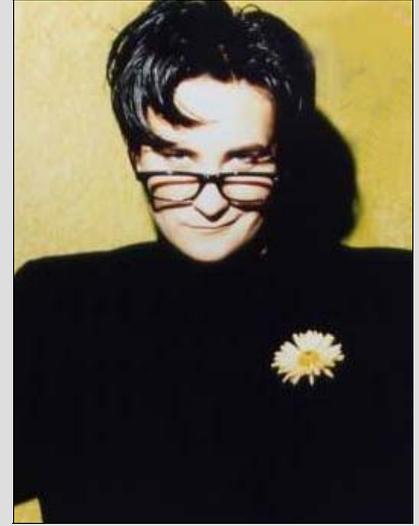
Here are some examples of the 31 different displays you can download and pick and mix from the Nottinghamshire's Rainbow Heritage website.



LGBT cartoon characters



LGBT sports people



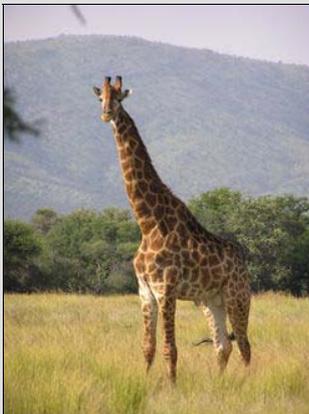
LGBT singers



LGBT imagery



LGBT local venues



LGBT animals



LGBT badges



Civil partnerships

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.



Dieter Schellenberger, resident of Düsseldorf, lives in "The Pink House". The outside and inside walls are pink, the windows have "rose-tinted" glass. Carpets, curtains, furniture, bathroom suite, light bulbs, toilet rolls ... you name it ... all are pink. Herr Schellenberger is not gay.



In the past 52 years, the Women's Singles Championship at Wimbledon has been won by a lesbian on (at least) 23 occasions. Not by the same lesbian each time, obviously.

Cardinal Francis Spellmann, who supported the McCarthy witch-hunts against homosexuals in 1950s USA, had a fondness for Broadway chorus boys and was known to his friends as "Thelma".





Dear Marj

I have done something rather silly. I'm gay and have been in a monogamous relationship with my boyfriend for just over a year and a half now but I recently discovered that he has given someone else a blow-job when he was last out. To get my own back I had full-on sex with a random guy I met in the club. I figured that two can play that game! I don't want this to be the way our relationship is though...I always thought we were so perfect together but it feels like trouble has been brewing for a few months now. I don't want to lose him but feel angry and guilty. What should I do?

Anon, 22.

Dear Anon, 22.

Try not to be so hard on yourself. As human beings it is impossible to be "perfect" and when we feel betrayed by someone it is natural to feel hurt, angry and to sometimes act erratically in response to this. There does however appear to be something not being said in the relationship, which will need to be acknowledged and explored. If you have noticed that something hasn't felt right for a few months, the chances are that he has too so perhaps it is time to re-assess the boundaries and explore what it is that you both want from the relationship.

First and foremost though, you didn't mention whether or not you or your partner engaged in safe sex. If one or neither of you did, it would be worth getting yourself tested at your local G.U.M Clinic or at HGN for any potential STIs, just in case.

Now, with regards to the relationship, it sounds as though there has been a break-down in communication and a crossing of boundaries by both you and your boyfriend, which will need to be addressed if the relationship is to have a future. What seems to be happening is a bit of a tit-for-tat scenario, which doesn't seem like a terribly healthy way of maintaining a relationship. I can understand that you were feeling betrayed and wanted to get your own back but speaking to your partner about his indiscretion (currently or in the future, should it happen again)

would give you the opportunity to convey how you feel in a more healthy and controlled way.

It is up to you how you decide to handle the current situation but be prepared, as your partner may not take too lightly to your indiscretion either. If you both decide to speak with each other about recent events, try to be clear in your mind about what it is that you both want from the relationship. Monogamy is not everyone's cup of tea and if you are able to negotiate a relationship that is open and meets both of your needs, then it can be fulfilling and reduces the risk of anyone getting hurt. It is important though that you are both on the same page and negotiate how you will keep yourself and each other safe (both emotionally and sexually).

If an open relationship is not on the cards then it is certainly worth clarifying in your mind what it is that you both want from a monogamous relationship and what the recent indiscretions are saying. There may be some unresolved issues that are bubbling under the surface that probably need addressing. No relationship is easy and in order to maintain the spark, both of you have to be willing to work on it and spice things up if necessary. Mistakes are inevitable in any relationship, that doesn't mean that the relationship has to be written-off.

Being open about how you feel, what your needs are, and in particular what your boundaries are will allow you to not only learn from and rectify any mistakes that have been made but also strengthen the bond between you both. It is important that you both know where you stand with each other. However, it may be that this relationship is not what you want after all. It is okay to feel this way. It is better to learn from mistakes and find a way of moving forward instead of staying in a relationship that may not be terribly healthy for either of you. Whatever you decide to do, be honest with yourself and see what happens.

If you feel that you need more support with this, HGN is going to be offering support to couples as of January 2011, whereby we can offer 7 sessions per couple (each session will last for 2 hours) on a weekly basis. The program gives both partners the opportunity to explore various difficulties in the relationship and to work together to explore possible solutions. The process allows space for both individuals to be open and honest about how they feel and to work towards a relationship that incorporates the needs and feelings of both individuals. The sessions will follow a structured problem-solving approach and will predominantly focus on the here-and-now instead of delving into either of your pasts.

Both you and your boyfriend deserve to be happy and need time and space to really understand what it is that you both want. The initial steps are to be honest with yourself and each other.

Take care and good luck with whatever you decide to do.

Marj. xxx

THE WARREN CUP



The BBC recently broadcast a series called "The History of the World in 100 objects". One of those objects was the Warren Cup.

This Roman silver cup, decorated with scenes of homosexual love, is one of the highlights of the British Museum and is central to a wider discussion on sex and sexuality in the Roman world.

The Weston Gallery in the Lakeside Arts Centre at the University of Nottingham, is running an exhibition and a series of talks on the theme of Roman Sexuality: mages, myths and meanings ... with the Warren Cup as its centrepiece. The events run from January 14th to April 10th.

Coinciding with LGBT History Month, the following event takes place on Friday 11th February between 1 and 2 pm.

THE WARREN CUP: A REFLECTION OF ROMAN SOCIETY?

Dr Paul Roberts, Senior Curator of Roman Art and Archaeology, British Museum and Co-curator of the exhibition, looks at the Warren Cup in the context of Roman society. How widespread was sexual imagery and what did it mean to the Romans? Was the Warren Cup a depiction of fact or a flight of fantasy? Admission is free but places are limited so please book your tickets with the Box Office on 0115 846 7777. For further details go to

www.lakesidearts.org.uk

QUEER OLD BIRDS

Consuming high doses of the chemical mercury makes some birds appear to turn gay.

It is known that mercury reduces breeding rates in ibises, but scientists in Florida and Sri Lanka were surprised to discover that the higher the dose given to male birds, the more likely they were to try to mate with another male (or a thermometer?).



There was outrage in Germany when Münster's zoo decided to separate two gay vultures. Having shown no interest in female vultures, Guido and Detlef began grooming each other before setting up a joint nest last March.

Now Guido has been removed and replaced by a female Czech vulture in the hope that she will entice him into mating (Czechmate?). Curator Dirk Wewers said the 2 male vultures' domestic union was far from idyllic. "The other vultures picked on them and stole their nest materials".

A PUBLIC CONSULTATION

Death and dying is in the news at the moment with the Department of Health's new End of Life Care Strategy. Researchers from the University of Nottingham want to know what LGBT people think about death, dying and bereavement. That includes those without experience of caring for someone with a terminal illness or the death of a close relative or friend. How to get involved:

1. You can complete an online survey by pasting this link into your web browser: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/VHTTJH7>
2. You can attend one of a series of consultation meetings to be held throughout January in Nottingham.
3. You can share your views individually via e-mail, telephone or in person. For further information, contact Rebecca O'Rourke: Text or phone: 0797 643 5547 or E-Mail Rebecca.o'rouke@nottingham.ac.uk

Lesbian & Gay Switchboard
0115 934 8485 or 01623 621515

or text 07624809360

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

Nottinghamshire's Rainbow Heritage

c/o NVAC, 7 Mansfield Road,
Nottingham NG1 3FB.

0115 9349529 nottsrh@hotmail.co.uk

www.nottsrainbowheritage.org.uk

Stop Hate Crime UK

(now operating in Nottinghamshire)

0800 138 1625 (24 hour helpline)

www.stophateuk.org

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 LGB young people up to the age of 25.
Meets every Monday at Base 51.
Phone Base 51 on 9525040 for details
The Trans group meets at 6.30 on 1st/3rd Thursday
each month at the International Community Centre
Contact Davina 07940 761160

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; SMOG; 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 (Opening 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.

STEPHEN K. AMOS

The number of out gay black comedians can be counted on the fingers of a one fingered hand. It helps that he's rather good. Fresh from a busy year filming his own BBC2 comedy series 'The Stephen K Amos Show', Stephen is back on tour and he's at the Playhouse on the 10th and 11th of March.



HAIRSPRAY



From March 1st to the 12th at the Theatre Royal, Tracy Turnblad, a big girl with big hair and an even bigger heart. sets out to follow her extraordinary dreams and win the boy she loves.

Despite the disappointing heterosexual theme, we have been led to believe that this musical is just a little bit camp.

THE TROCKS ARE BACK

The world renowned **Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo** come to the Theatre Royal on March 18th and 19th.

Affectionately known as The Trocks, this company of professional male dancers presents an inspired blend of their loving knowledge of dance, their brilliant comic approach, and the astounding fact that men can, indeed, dance en pointe without falling flat on their faces!

Dancers such as Sveltiana Lofatkina, Ashley Romanoff-Titwillow and Ida Nevesayneva execute (the word was carefully chosen) Swan Lake Act II.

