

QB

Nottinghamshire's Queer Bulletin

June/July 2006
Number 30

In this edition

- ◆ Groceries
- ◆ Flamingoes
- ◆ King Gustav V (again)
- ◆ Low-noise fireworks

New feature can you spot the deliberate mistake?

If you have any information, news, gossip or libel, please send it to

QB
Lesbian and Gay Switchboard
7 Mansfield Road
Nottingham NG1 3FB

or e-mail

notts@lgswitchboard.fsnet.co.uk

So that we can include a feature on this year's Pride, the next edition of QB will appear in early August, rather than at the end of July as our avid clientèle would normally expect.

The deadline for the next edition will be late July, 2006.

Switchboard wishes to thank the University of Nottingham Students' Karnival Appeals fund for a grant. Amazingly, this is the 22nd time that they have provided us with a grant since 1978.

A SIGNIFICANT EVENT

FREE



Holocaust survivors form a small and, inevitably, decreasing number. Janni Kowalski, seen in the centre of the picture on the left, is now 80. (The lower picture shows the pink triangle plaque at the Holocaust Centre.)

On April 6th an audience at the Beth Shalom Holocaust Centre in Laxton heard Janni talk about his life during World War II. We heard how a head injury, caused by being trapped under a collapsed building, completely wiped out his memory and how he was rescued by a Jewish family which then became his own family.

His story moved on to harrowing experiences in the Warsaw ghetto and later in the concentration camps of Auschwitz and Bergen-Belsen.

While at that time being gay led to many people being persecuted and killed, Janni frankly admits that he survived *because* he was gay and became the lover of a senior German officer. Janni's story is told in his book "Liebe Macht Frei".

HISTORY ON FOOT

Tony Bilton hopes to use his experience as a tour guide (he used to do cave tours of the Castle) to start some Gay Nottingham History Tours. He expects that they will be ready for Pride - they would certainly be interesting as part of next year's LGBT History Month events.

In the City Centre there are over 20 buildings which have housed lesbian and gay pubs or clubs in the past. We might pass by the world-famous "Pansy's Parlour", as the Flying Horse was sometimes known. We could hear about the Masquerader of Woolpack Lane; a strange woman (who was actually a man) dressed in beads, rosaries and crucifixes, whose home bore the sign "Miss Dr. Vien FRHS, Astronomy Recorder".

In pre-1967 days, the Scala cinema on Market St. was a gay meeting place. One former customer says "It was like musical chairs - for one and ninepence you could have a wonderful night out". By the Council House, we could recall 1975's Gay Street Theatre production of the "Alternative Robin Hood", which by chance took place in front of a rather surprised delegation from the Soviet Union. The character dressed as "Major Oak" suffered the indignity of having a dog pee up her leg.

Tony says "These tours are not solely a troll around cottages, cruising sites and gay pubs. There's much more to know about gay life in Nottingham. Hopefully the tours will appeal to all communities, not just our own. As well as the well-known aspects of gblt Nottingham, there are other things to discover, such as the location of Burlington Bertie's Backside, why Edward II was rogered to death by Roger, and why you should NEVER stuff a chicken with snow!" Tony would welcome any information, especially anecdotes, which could be sent to his e-mail address, which is pegasus.tour@amservice.com

GROUP OF THE DAY

"Welcoming Women Walkers" – a gentle alternative to the scene.

So where do you meet like-minded people outside of nightclubs and the internet? How about getting out in the countryside - a little fresh air, a little exercise, a chance for some relaxed conversation, and maybe a pub drink at some point too. I have been going to this North Nottinghamshire walking group since its start in June 2005. What makes it special is that it was founded on the idea of inclusion – you don't need to be a particular "type", have a particular background or be sure of your identity – if you are a woman who is attracted to other women, either lesbian or bisexual, this is a happy and safe place to be.

For me, coming out at 33 was a bit of a shock, and the gay scene even more of one. It was a huge relief to find there are alternatives to trying to communicate with scary-looking women in a deafening nightclub.

The walking group is a very diverse group of women, of all ages and backgrounds, and what brings them together on the second Sunday of each month is having a place to make friends and enjoy the company of like-minded people. It is not a singles event, and although sometimes people do meet their partners here, both single women and couples come to walks for camaraderie and friendship, as well, of course, as the exercise and beautiful countryside. Walks are five to six miles, taken at a gentle pace. Starting at eleven, we usually brave most weathers, and finish off at a pub for coffees or drinks and sometimes food.

From the first step of turning up to a walk and finding myself chatting to a good selection of welcoming women with often comfortingly similar life experiences, the walks quickly became a happily anticipated monthly event, and soon I found myself in contact with other groups through this one, and developed an ever-widening circle of friends. Members of the group have organised other activities such as nights out and weekends away, and after many months of being contentedly single, I met my wonderful partner Susi on a walk, too. From the seed of one little Sunday stroll a whole, rich social life has sprung. Suddenly being a lesbian is no longer a feeling of being on the outside, but one of belonging to an inclusive and supportive social group.

For further information on the North Notts Gay Women's Walking Group, email nnwalkers@yahoo.co.uk or phone 07961 847091

Sandy Hopton

NOTES AND QUEERIES

- ◆ On the road driving south out of Stockholm to Södertälje is a feature known as "The King's Kerb." This is where King Gustav V's car crashed because the driver was distracted while being given a blow job - probably by the King (see QB no. 28).
- ◆ Carlos and Fernando are two gay, and very pink, flamingos. They have been a couple for several years, during which time they have raised some baby flamingos from eggs stolen from other nests.
- ◆ The idea that Civil Ceremonies will be an ample source of revenue for service providers is borne out by the current edition of Gay Times. There you will find advertisements for venues (9) ranging from Tower Bridge to Stevenage Arts and Leisure Centre and for ceremony planners (5). There are 4 entries for wedding jewellery and 2 for appropriate legal advice. 1 each for gift-list organisers, photographers, wedding stationers and providers of low-noise fireworks. While you're in the mood, you could precede the big day with a quick colonic irrigation (1) and an STD test by post (2).

NOTTM, 31 YR OLD, WLTM

..... persons of any age with GSOH, good listening ear and friendly disposition for 121 chats on a regular basis! Good telephone manner essential.

Yes, Nottingham & Nottinghamshire Lesbian & Gay Switchboard is 31 this year and is looking for new volunteers for the next training session beginning late June - we especially welcome women and people from ethnic minorities. Our office has wheelchair access.

If you can help, then phone, write or e-mail using the contact details given on the back page.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

The following exposition of religious truths is by courtesy of the Amsterdam Lesbian and Gay Information Service.

Taoism	Shit happens
Buddhism	If shit happens, it isn't really shit
Hinduism	This shit has all happened before
Islam	If shit happens, it is Allah's will
Catholicism	Shit happens because you deserve it
Protestantism	Let shit happen to someone else
Judaism	Why does shit always happen to us?

AND HOW WAS YOUR EASTER?



FLYING COLOURS

Flying Colours Investment Club is a group of gay guys who are interested in the stock market and try to make a profit with our investments. We've been investing for 5 years and this May sees our 5th AGM.

Each month on the last Thursday at 8.30pm we gather in the Lord Roberts and adjourn to the Green Room where we discuss how our investments are progressing and, if there is any money in the 'buying' account, what shares we might like to purchase.

Yes, we have had some success, and currently are showing a healthy increase in our investments. Like anyone who invests in the UK stock market there are winners and losers. We have a policy of using a technique called 'Stop loss' where we automatically sell if the share price falls back a certain %. Mind you this also at times goes against us, and a notable exception to this was a company called Speedy Hire, where the 'stop loss' situation arose and we sold our investment. Now this company is one of the country's star performers, and if we had kept this share, the members would have been ready to take a long holiday on the Queen Mary 2 -2007 Gay Cruise.

The group meets regularly for a fun, thought provoking evening to pursue an interest in making money from stocks and shares. If you have an idea that this type of group would be of interest please, contact the secretary at esp369@ntlworld.com.

Ted Marshall

COURSES ON LGB ISSUES

You can book the following courses online by going to www.bcvs.org.uk/events

1. Tackling Homophobia, Developing and Embedding Good Practice and Improving Services for LGB People (Thurs. 29th June 9.30-4.00)
2. Working with Young LGB People (Mon. 19th June 9.30-4.00)

Both courses are at Beech House, Ransom Wood Business Park, Mansfield and both cost £10 for voluntary and £20 for statutory organisations. Shirley Macredie is the experienced trainer for each course.

BROKEBACK TESCO

A mole at Tesco's online shopping service has provided us with these weekly lists of requirements sent by Ennis Del Mar and Jack Twist during their visit to Brokeback Mountain.

WEEK 1: Beans, bacon, coffee, whiskey

WEEK 2: Beans, bacon, coffee, whiskey

WEEK 3: Beans, bacon, coffee, whiskey, KY

WEEK 4: Beans, Pancetta, Coffee (espresso grind), Skyy vodka (cranberry flavour)

WEEK 5: Fresh Fava beans, Jasmine rice, Prosciutto (approx. 8 ounces, thinly sliced) Medallions of veal, Porcini mushrooms, 1/2 pint of heavy whipping cream, 5 bottles good Chardonnay, 1 large bottle Astro-glide

WEEK 6: Yukon Gold potatoes, Asparagus (very thin), Eggs, Lemons, Gruyere cheese (well-aged), Walnuts, Arugula, Butter, 1 Cub Scout uniform size 42 long, Olive oil, Balsamic vinegar, 6 yards pale ivory taffeta, 1 case Chardonnay, large dispenser Liquid Silk.

BRIEFS ON AND OFF THE SCENE

SWIFT is now **LIFT**. That is to say, the social group is now called *Lesbians into Food 'n' Talk*. Contact details from Switchboard or LiNk-Notts (see below).

The **GAi Project** are looking to employ some more session workers (who must be over 18) for outreach work. For fuller details of what the work involves and how to apply, contact the GAi Project using the details on the back page.

LiNk-Notts. LiNk has been set up by popular demand by and for lesbians in the Nottingham and surrounding area who would like to LiNk up with other lesbians for on and off-scene activities. If there's an activity you'd like to share with others, or an event you'd like to attend, then send an email to this list and see who else wants to join in. For details, go to www.linknotts.org.uk

Club Delicious (at the Lost Weekend) no long functions, but **Revolution** has been resurrected and is now back at Faces club on Broadway on the first Monday of the month.

READING IN BEESTON

Enjoy reading lesbian and gay themed or authored fiction? Want to join a reading group?

Nottinghamshire Libraries would like to set up a new reading group to look at this genre of writing. Register your interest by sending your contact details to laura.ewart@nottsc.gov.uk or call Beeston Library on 0115 9255168.

Lesbian & Gay Switchboard

0115 934 8485 or 01623 621515

Monday-Friday
7-10pm

7 Mansfield Road, Nottingham, NG1 3FB.

notts@lgswitchboard.fsnet.co.uk

The GAI Project

0115 947 6868

Monday-Friday
daytimes

c/o The Health Shop, Broad Street,
Nottingham NG1 3AL.

gaiproject@nottinghamcity-pct.nhs.uk

Police Homophobic Crime
Helpline

0800 085 8522

SOME LOCAL LISTINGS

- Breakout** (at the Health Shop) Social group for gay & bisexual men. Tuesdays 7.30pm
Contact Switchboard or GAI Project or go to www.breakoutnottm.org.uk
- Older Gay Men's Group** Support and social group for men aged 50+. Meets on 3rd Sunday of month, 4pm at Health Shop.
Contact GAI Project.
- Married Men's Group** Support for men who are (or have been) in relationships with women and are also attracted to men. The group relaunches on June 1st and then meets on the 1st Thursday evening of each month at the Health Shop.
Contact Switchboard or GAI Project for details
- Outburst!** Group for LGB young people up to the age of 25. Meets every Monday at Base 51. Phone or text 07940 761160 (Davina) for details.

Details of the following groups can be obtained from Switchboard:

Nottingham Hyking Dykes; Notts Lesbian Book Club; Trans-Action (TV/TS); Women's Badminton; Lesbian and Gay Christian Movement; East Mercia MSC; the Chameleon Group; University of Nottingham & Trent University LGBT Societies; Women's Cycling Group; Nottingham City Women's Football Club; Refugee Forum Gay Men's Group; Something Social; Notts Police Gay & Bisexual Support; LiNk-Notts; LIFT; Flying Colours; Nottingham Bisexual Women's Group; Lesbians in Ashfield Friendship & Support; SASSI, North Notts Gay Women's Walking Group; LGB Youth Groups in Newark, Worksop & Mansfield; Newark Gay Men's Social Group; East Midlands Gay Outdoor Club and, of course, S.H.A.G.G.E.R.S.

DIARY

WHIP CRACK AWAY!

18th June 2006 at 1-00 pm. Nottingham Pride have arranged a Fundraising singalong to the film **Calamity Jane** courtesy of Broadway Cinema.

Come and join in the fun; you don't need to know the words as there will be subtitles.

NOTTINGHAM PRIDE

What more can we say? Returning to the **Arboretum** for a fourth successful year, **Nottingham Pride** promises a truly spiffing time for all the thousands of lovely people who turn up.

Saturday, July 29th from 12 noon to 6 pm.

Music, food, drink, entertainment, community stalls, amazing things to buy, outrageous costumes, exploding giraffes, policemen and police women in uniform (some of them may actually be from the Police) and fun, fun, fun and entrance to the Arboretum is free!

The Pride Committee guarantees that the sun will shine.

COLONEL MUSTARD'S LEAD PIPE

The scene is set at a guesthouse on the outskirts of Nottingham... dramatic goings on at this murder mystery event which includes arrival drinks, canapés, and 3 course dinner. This production will be an adult murder mystery drama with experienced actors.

WHERE? The Guesthouse at Rempstone, Main Street, Rempstone, Loughborough, LE12 6RH.

HOW MUCH? £22.50 per person.

WHEN? Saturday 12th August, but you MUST book through the website www.murdersocial.co.uk

PRIDES AT A DISTANCE

EuroPride will take place in London from 17th June to Pride Day on Saturday 1st July 2006. The march will go along Oxford and Regent Streets. 80 floats and 200 costumed groups.

See www.pridelondon.org

31 Jul - 6 Aug 2006 **STOCKHOLM PRIDE FESTIVAL** - the major Pride celebration of the Nordic countries. Stockholm Pride Org, Box 3444, **Stockholm**, SE-103 69, Sweden Tel:+46-8-33 59 55

See www.stockholmpride.org