

QB

Nottinghamshire's Queer Bulletin

October/November 2006
Number 32

Voted Product of the Year.

In this edition:

- ◆ Death by tea cozies
- ◆ Make your own atomic bomb
- ◆ 210 people committed
- ◆ Something Social's octuplets
- ◆ Some other stuff

Congratulations to LOOKOUT on reaching edition number 40 and on 10 years of providing news and information to local lesbians and bi-women.

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

The deadline for the next edition will be mid November, 2006.

Switchboard would like to thank Boots Charitable Trust for a grant of £475 which will allow the reprinting of an updated version of its history book.

SWITCHBOARD'S FIGHT FOR GRANT

FREE

"You offer amazing value for money" and "You easily exceed all our criteria" so we'll stop your grant. Thus spake Rushcliffe Primary Care Trust.



The grant totals £1450. The consultation process to examine whether the decommissioning of the grant is appropriate will probably cost more than the grant itself. There is a rumour that the Rushcliffe PCT Christmas party may have cost more than £1450.

Without the grant Switchboard will still continue its work; it just makes life that little bit harder and may mean that some parts of the service are reduced. We find it surreal when they say "this is no reflection on the value of the work you do" and that "they will explore alternative provision", when there is no alternative provision and that setting up alternative provision for £1450 is a non-starter.

A recent reply from **Brian Brewster**, Acting Chief Executive of the PCT, suggests that: Switchboard does not contribute to improving the health of the LGB population; that the Samaritans might provide an alternative helpline service; that the GU clinic and the overworked GAi project pick up the rest. The Samaritans (who do not give out information or refer people) were rather surprised by this. The GAi Project is, of course, established to promote the sexual health of gay and bisexual men. The PCT has still to make clear its strategy for the L and the T in LGBT.

There's still time for you to write or e-mail Switchboard if you feel that a reduction in Switchboard's service would affect you or people you know.

WHAT THEY SAY ABOUT THE GRANT CUT

The support, counselling and contacts provided by Switchboard save a considerable amount of doctor, nurse, counsellor and GU clinic time. **(Nottingham University Health Service).**

The PCT's comment that Switchboard does not contribute directly to health targets seems to be short sighted and not part of the community inclusion and equality agenda that all health providers need to evidence **(Notts Drug and Alcohol Action Team).**

What is achieved by your dedicated volunteers with very modest funds is remarkable **(Relate).**

A reduction in the Switchboard's work will have negative outcomes against the health indicators that the NHS seeks to achieve **(Victim Support).**

LGBT people are vulnerable in society and turn to non-statutory services such as Switchboard because they experience discrimination and exclusion from mainstream agencies. Your work should be supported by the NHS as part of its fundamental commitment to diversity and inclusion **(NAVO).**

This move by the PCT seems only likely to increase the burden on the NHS in the short, medium and long term. It seems perverse and counter-productive given the statements Rushcliffe PCT make on their website **(Community Accounting Plus)**

We believe people may find it difficult accessing help and support from mainstream services because of the fact that they identify as LGBT **(Gedling CVS).**

A little money goes a long way and the "return" from the current level of finance would be an unfair challenge to any other sector of health services. It simply could not be done. **(Amicus)**

GROUP OF THE DAY

Tagadere is a voluntary sector self-help/support group for people affected by HIV and AIDS, their partners, relatives, carers and friends, living in the Nottingham area.

You can get contact details and fuller information from their website www.tagadere.btik.com, but some of the things which they provide are:

Drop In

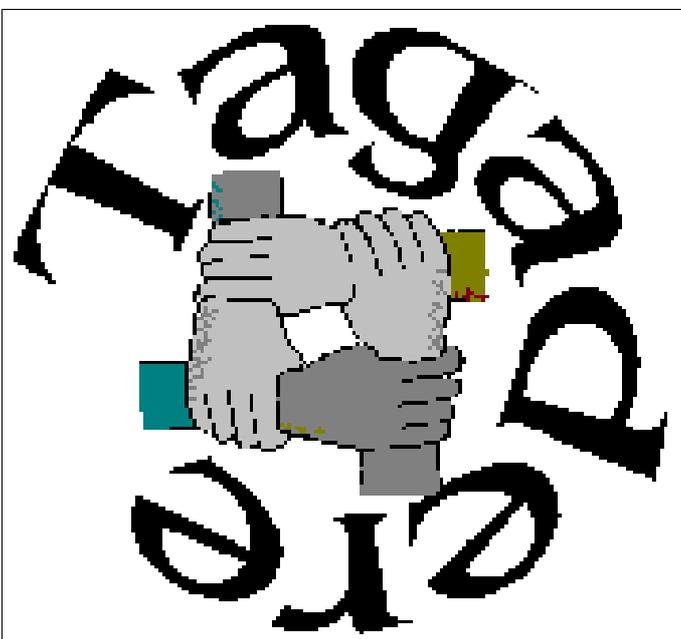
A once-weekly service which enables people who are HIV+ to meet for social and emotional support. It also gives the opportunity to access Nottingham Positive Care Team's services in a non clinic setting. It runs from 10 am to 4 pm on Wednesdays. Refreshments and lunch are provided at a nominal charge. It is in an accessible venue in Nottingham City Centre.

Tagadere Meetings

Tagadere meet in a pub in the city centre on Thursdays from 12 noon and the emphasis is very much on it being a sociable thing. We do talk about issues involved in being positive and about services, but are just as likely to chat about life in general - just because we have a medical condition does not change who we are inside. We also find it a comfy environment to sit and share experiences of particular drug combinations (very useful if you are having to start or switch medication), and to talk through issues like whether to go back to work, enrol in a course or do some voluntary work.

The Hardship Fund

The Hardship Fund is a registered charity that provides financial support for people affected by HIV living in Nottinghamshire, by helping with the purchase of basic and essential items, when they are not able to afford them from their own resources.



AND NOW THEY ARE EIGHT

New strands are being added to Something Social by the week (if not by the minute). The Sunday Social, Badminton Social and Eat Out Social have been going for a while. The recent first Murder Social was a success.

They have now started **Football Social** (in collaboration with Ball Bois) and **Tardis Social** for Dr. Who fans - see the DIARY section.

In addition, we now have **Arts Social**. Whether you're interested in Films, Music, Dance, Theatre, Drama, Art, Musicals, Ballet, Exhibitions... this monthly social event in Nottingham is a chance to meet with like-minded individuals in an open minded, relaxed environment. They meet once a month at a variety of venues.

Next in line is a proposed **Pub Quiz Social**. If you'd like more info about these monthly quizzes, add yourself to the mailing list and send an e-mail to contact@pubquizsocial.co.uk Fuller details of all the Something Social events can be found on their website www.somethingsocial.co.uk and for those of you without internet access, just phone Switchboard for details of all the events.

LIES, DAMNED LIES AND

- 39** Number of people visiting hospitals each year after accidents involving tea cozies
- 7** Time in years you would have to fart to produce the energy of an atomic bomb
- 80** Percentage of Japanese who rent artificial wedding cakes
- 8** The number of spiders a person accidentally eats at night during their lifetime
- 30** Minutes - the length of a pig's orgasm
- 158** Verses in the Greek National Anthem

STATISTICS

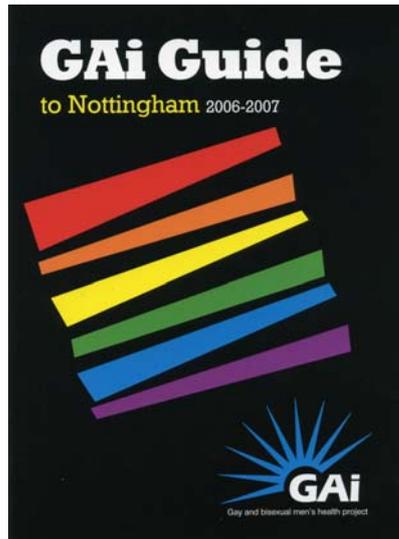
In Nottinghamshire, the number of civil ceremonies which had taken by August 2006:

Basford - 25 (22 at the Register Office, and 3 at Approved Premises.)
Mansfield - 25 (all at the Register Office).
Newark - 17 (15 at the Register Office, and 2 at Approved Premises).
Rushcliffe - 31 (30 at the Register Office, and 1 in an Approved Premise).
Bassetlaw - 12 (7 at the Register Office, and 5 in Approved Premises).
Nottingham City - 100 (95 at Register Office and 5 at Approved Premises)

Grand Total - 210.

NEW, IMPROVED, BRIGHTER, GAiER

Yes, the new, indispensable **GAi Guide** is out, so whether it's the bars, sexual health, support, social groups, sport - you name, it's there. Pick up your copy on the "scene" or at the Health Shop. If you can't do either of those, then phone Switchboard and we'll post you a copy.



QB'S BITS

- ◆ **Banna** provides reasonably priced lesbian housing and accommodation in Nottingham. At the moment there is a 1 bedroom unfurnished flat available for a single person or a couple. Contact Switchboard for further information.
- ◆ While on the subject of housing, some people may not know that Switchboard has a free accommodation file. If you want to share a flat or house then put yourself on the file. If you are looking for new shared accommodation, there are about 15 places to choose from; most are in Nottingham, but some are further away e.g. Mansfield and Loughborough. At the moment - unusually - there is also a complete, fully furnished 2 bedroom house in West Bridgford to let.
- ◆ Does anyone know whether **Nottingham City Women's Football Team** is still going? We have left several messages on the contact person's answerphone, but have had no reply.
- ◆ The same problem applies to a local group called **Rainbow Hood** (for LGB deaf people). Our e-mails have not been answered, but we don't want to remove either group from our database if they are still active.
- ◆ Switchboard now edits the Nottingham LGB section of the **Dmoz** search engine, which is used by Google and Yahoo. At the moment, there are 13 websites listed, but if you have heard of any more, let us know. They must be Nottingham based and up-to-date. You can see what's there already by going to www.dmoz.org - look under UK, Nottingham, Society and Culture, Gay Lesbian and Bisexual.

A WALK THROUGH THE PAST

A few weeks ago we gave a road test to Tony Bilton's **Gay History Tours** and discovered lots that we didn't know about Nottingham's gay past.

If you thought that Civil Partnerships were a 21st century concept, you may be surprised to hear that in the 14th century William Neville (Constable of Nottingham Castle) and John Clanvowe were able to be married as "Wedded Brothers" with the sanction of the Catholic Church.

We learned that the 17 year old Noel Coward was adopted as the Mascot of the Sherwood Foresters regiment and that there was a Nottingham connection to Oscar Wilde through his relationship with the son of a Nottingham vicar.

We heard how at least 3 of the 4 people depicted in statues on the Trent University Building on South Sherwood street were gay. They included Isaac Newton and Francis Bacon (who died from pneumonia after an experiment when he tried to preserve a chicken by stuffing it with snow.)

If you want to know more, contact Tony on pegasus.tour@amserve.com

Zeus@71

SAUNA For Gay & Bisexual Men

MANSFIELD

Open Seven days a week.
12.00.pm - 10.00.pm
Last Admissions: 9.00.pm

TEL: 0871 2261371

Friendly & Fun!

www.gay-mansfield.com

Lesbian & Gay Switchboard

0115 934 8485 or 01623 621515

Monday-Friday
7-10pm

7 Mansfield Road, Nottingham, NG1 3FB.

notts@lgswitchboard.fsnet.co.uk

www.nottslgs.org.uk

www.nlgshistory.ik.com

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 the Health Shop.
Contact GAI Project.

Married Men's
Group (at the
Health Shop)

Support for men who are (or have been) in relationships
with women and are also attracted to men. The group
meets on the 1st Thursday evening of each month.
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 or Ryan) 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 Foot-
ball Club; Refugee Forum Gay Men's Group; Something Social; Notts Po-
lice OUTNetwork; Flying Colours; Nottingham Bi Women's Group; LiNK-
Notts; LIFT; Lesbians in Ashfield Friendship & Support; SASSI; North Notts
Gay Women's Walking Group; Ball Bois gay football team, LGB Youth
Groups in Newark, Worksop & Mansfield; Tagadere: Weekenders; Newark
Gay Men's Social Group; East Midlands Gay Outdoor Club and, of
course, S.H.A.G.G.E.R.S.

DIARY

THE GAY WEDDING SHOW

Over 100 top class exhibitors + fashion shows. The
largest Gay Wedding Show to date (they say). It's at
Pride Park (of course) on Nov. 12th. Free parking
too. Phone 01773 880620 or look at their website
which is www.gayweddingshows.co.uk

QUEER STUDIES

On November 7th at 8pm, **Greg Woods**, Professor
of LGBT Studies at Trent University will be talking
about his work to Nottingham Switchboard.

We have decided to open up this meeting to people
who are not involved in Switchboard. Entrance is
free, but seating is very limited at 7 Mansfield Road,
so if you are interested please, phone or e-mail us
in advance to let us know that you are coming. (See
contact details at top of page).

HOMOTOPIA

November 15th sees Liverpool's first ever-dedicated
perspective of events by and for the LGBT commu-
nity. **Homotopia** is a bold and ambitious festival
featuring a variety of events including theatre, film,
art, performance, photography, heritage and story-
telling. For details go to www.homotopia.net

YORK LESBIAN ARTS FESTIVAL

29 Nov 2006. 2 day book festival sponsored by Lib-
ertas with Whitbread-winning novelist Ali Smith,
Jackie Kay, Manda Scott, Stella Duffy, Jenny Rob-
erts, VG Lee, Jane Fletcher and more. Comedy
night. Concert. Club Diva. Out on the Streets +
workshops. Event Location: York.
Tel 1: 020 7485 8317 Website: www.ylaf.org.uk

THE THREE MUSTYQUEERS

Men in tights. Buckle your swashes for Northern
Ballet Theatre's "rip-roaring" combination of dance
and sword fights as they leap through their choreog-
raphy of Alexander Dumas' famous story. 18th-21st
October at the Theatre Royal.

MURDER ON THE TARDIS?

Bongy bong, biddily bong, bongy bong biddily bong.
Ooooooooooooooooooooooh. Which, translated,
means that the next **Tardis Social** is on Tuesday
October 10th. 8.15 pm at the Lord Nelson Pub in
Sneinton. Clearly a categorical imperative for all
you Dr. Who fans and following that there's
the next **Murder Social**. It's on November 3rd at
the Britannia Hotel on Maid Marian Way - see the
website for full details.