

QB

Nottinghamshire's Queer Bulletin

December 2006/January 2007
Number 33

In this edition:

QB goes to the zoo

- ◆ Water Buffalo
- ◆ Ants
- ◆ Killer whales
- ◆ Crabs
- ◆ A tortoise
- ◆ Rat poison
- ◆ Strabismoid bears
- ◆ Slugs

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 January, 2007.

Switchboard is registered charity number 1114273

Thanks to all the lovely people at **NG1** for a donation of £480 and to the **Lloyds TSB Foundation** for a grant of £2200.

WADS HAPPENING

FREE



For this year's **World AIDS Day** the theme is "You, Me & Us" designed to encourage individual responsibility around HIV as well as within the wider community.

- ◆ The **GAI Project** will be distributing new information booklets (see below) and red ribbons at the local venues.
- ◆ The **Health Shop** is organising a display of artwork produced by local artists. This will include photographs, paintings, etc. Their brief has been to incorporate the theme for the year and the red ribbon. The work will be displayed from Nov. 27th to Dec. 1st at Broadway, the Health Shop, Wax café/bar, Alley Café or The Social.

On December 1st, the following events are happening:

- ◆ **Broadway** is screening "Boys on the side" at 6 pm.
- ◆ There will be an auction (including a signed CD from Elton John!) at **Broadway** at 5 pm on behalf of the Hardship Fund. They will also staff a stall at Broadway and alongside the **Hardship Fund** stall in front of the Council House on Dec. 1st from 9.00 - 5.00 pm. There will be a candlelit vigil starting at 4 pm.
- ◆ The Hardship Fund will have a second stall in front of **St. Peter's Church**.
- ◆ **St. Peter's Church** will host the WADS service which will take place at 5.00 pm.
- ◆ Annual World AIDS Day Celebration service at **Derby Cathedral**, with personal stories, dance, a choral performance, a harpist, vocal trio and a procession of light to end the service. Refreshments served. Free. All welcome. 7.30 pm.

GET IT IN HAND

The **GAI Project** are producing a **Gay Man's Handbook**, which will consist of 3 booklets. The first two will be available for World AIDS Day.

The first one will take the format of a light-hearted whistle stop tour of Sexually Transmitted Infections...what they are, how to recognise them, how they can be contracted and what to do if they are contracted.

The second booklet will take the format of a series of humorous agony aunt columns designed to give advice on a variety of issues around sexual practices and relationships.

The idea behind the booklets is to provide education and advice in an easy-to-read and comical way that is accessible to gay and bisexual men in and around Nottingham. The booklets will be relatively small and should fit in to your back pocket.

PROUD HERITAGE

Proud Heritage will be a virtual museum for LGBT history. At the moment, its website just gives a flavour of some of the areas it will look at, but when the site is fully launched it will provide an extensive and valuable resource. The website will also alert people to relevant exhibitions and events around the country and draw upon examples of LGBT history from around the UK. Some of the themes Proud Heritage hopes to develop include:

- ◆ Queen and Country - recording the experiences of the LGBT people who served in the armed forces.



- ◆ Black Pride/Gay Pride - celebrating LGBT people from BME communities.



- ◆ 21/12 - The numbers refer to the date in 2005 on which the first Civil Ceremonies took place. Proud Heritage wants people who had a civil ceremony on December 21st to provide photos of their special day and comments about their feelings on that day.
- ◆ People's experiences and feelings at their "First Pride".

Eventually Proud Heritage intends to acquire premises where materials can be displayed and viewed, but in the meantime the website can be found at www.prouderitage.org

PINK PROFESSIONS

Switchboard has produced a Powerpoint presentation of **436 famous LGBT people**. Using the 436 as a fairly unscientific starting point, the Top Ten gayest professions seem to be:

Writer, Actor, Singer, Politician, King (or Queen), Composer, Poet, Film Director, Artist and Tennis Player. Gangster comes in at 31, Magician at 37 and Serial Killer at 53 (tying with Pope).

REST IN PIECES

An American website claims to give the top 20 deaths of the year. It may not be true, but who cares? Here are three:

- ◆ Peter Stone was murdered by his 8 year old daughter Samantha, who put 72 rat poison tablets into her father's coffee. Samantha was given a suspended sentence as the judge felt she didn't realise what she was doing, until she tried to poison her mother using the same method one month later.
- ◆ Jay Newton was killed after a co-worker at Sea World Florida dropped a 10 ton killer whale on him.
- ◆ David Smee, aged 7, and his 6 year old sister Ann were left alone by their parents in a hotel room on the 27th floor. The bored children looked out of the window and decided to try to "squish" the things which looked like ants on the pavement below. They started by throwing fruit and then tipped out chairs and a television set. Mary Dridely and Joseph Coles were the "ants" who got "squished".

RUSHCLIFFE PCT

The attempt to reverse Rushcliffe PCT's proposal to stop its grant to Switchboard continues. At a meeting with a commissioning manager, we learned that the response received on behalf of Switchboard had been far greater than that for any other organisation whose grant was under threat. Thank you everyone out there who has helped!

The PCT was provided with about 300 signatures on petition forms (some with appended mini-letters), 33 letters from organisations, 16 letters from individuals (including Kenneth Clarke MP), analyses of health related calls, articles from newspapers, and a DVD.

This submission was handed in the day after it was reported that on the NHS target "Improve the life outcomes of adults and children with mental health problems by ensuring that all patients who need it have access to a comprehensive child and adolescent mental health service by 2006", Rushcliffe PCT has been assessed as having failed.

We were therefore able to make the comment that as they could not cope with the number of people trying to access mental health services, perhaps they should consider increasing rather than cutting their funding to organisations providing preventative services.

More news to follow.

QB'S BITS

February 2007 will be the third **LGBT History Month**. Already, 3 or 4 events are in the pipeline. If you, or a group or organisation to which you belong, are planning to do something for LGBT History Month, let us know; we can publicise it in the next edition of QB.

Gay Ostomates is a support site for anyone who has undergone surgery following intestinal failure or may have experienced bowel problems including cancer. You can find the website at www.gayostomates.org. The aim of this site is to provide ostomists with news about events, products, health information and the chance to e-mail each other and possibly meet up.

Badminton Social (part of Something Social) has now moved to Tuesday nights 6-7 pm. It's still at the Victoria Leisure Centre, Sneinton.

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.

Your very own QB editor had a letter published in **The Guardian**. It was part of a sequence relating to "mishearings". Amongst other mishearings of The Lord's Prayer ("Our Father which art in Hebdon" and "Harold be thy name") it pointed out that Nottingham children have been heard to say "Lead us not into Trent Station". By the way, if there is a zoo in "Hebdon", do you think you might find the Prairie Tortoise and Gladly my Cross-eyed Bear - possibly pictured below.



THINK BEFORE YOU SPEAK

In the book "Read my lips", Riki Anne Wilchins lists several things that you **don't** say to a transsexual. Here are some:

- ◆ **"You must have a lot of courage to face the surgery"**. To have the actual surgery I just had to be able to breathe deeply, count at least partway backwards from 100 and fall asleep with some semblance of dignity. In all of these tasks, I was reliably aided by enough anaesthesia to subdue a small water buffalo.
- ◆ **"Is it true that transsexuals are women trapped in men's bodies?"** Yes, that's right. In my case, they had to call in the fire brigade and even then it took 3 hours to cut me out. Luckily, I had my Walkman and a few Judy Garland tapes, so it wasn't too awful a wait.
- ◆ **"You look just like a REAL woman"**. How splendid, especially when you recall that I'm composed almost entirely of soy by-products. And you look just like a REAL transsexual. Oh, sorry - I didn't realise that was an insult.

Zeus@71

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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; Refugee Forum Gay Men's Group; Something Social; Notts Police 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

SOMETHING SOCIAL

The next **Sunday Social** is on Sunday (surprise) 3rd December 2006, 16:00-20:00 at the **Slug & Lettuce**, Low Pavement Nottingham NG1 7DL.

The next **Tardis Social** (for Dr. Who fans) is scheduled for Tuesday December 12th. 8.15 pm at the Lord Nelson in Sneinton.

December's **Eat Out Social** will be on Thursday 14th, but do book in advance through the Something Social website, www.somethingsocial.co.uk

ANYONE FOR A FUDDLE?

Breakout's Christmas Party - they describe it as "infamous" (Infamy, infamy, they've all got it oh, never mind) erupts in the Green Room at the Lord Roberts on December 19th.

PANTOPHILIA

If the phrase "He's behind you", evokes an irresistible urge to view some theatrical festive cross-dressing, then you can choose from **Cinderella** at the Playhouse and **Aladdin** at the Theatre Royal, with Christopher Biggins as Widow Twankey. So it's a choice been spectacular balls and a good rub on something shiny.

ROYAL HORROR

The Rocky Horror Show returns to the Theatre Royal from Monday January 29th to Saturday February 3rd. Yet another excuse for cross-dressing. Frank N Furter warns us "this show has rude bits".

Meanwhile, at the Royal **Concert** Hall, there's "Big Time American Wrestling". No prize, but certainly a generous acknowledgement, for the best suggestion as to what music might be played as an accompaniment. (All we could come up with was excerpts from the Ring, played by the Boston (Crab) Symphony Orchestra).

TAKE A LAKE BREAK

The **Edward Carpenter Community** is organising a Gay Men's New Year week (Dec. 28th to Jan. 4th) in the Lake District. For the full details, go to their website, which is at www.edwardcarpentercommunity.org.uk

PREPARE FOR PRIDE

Nottingham Pride 2007 will be held on Saturday July 28th at the Arboretum. Anyone who would like to join the organising committee, or be a steward on the day, or just has some ideas for Pride should come to the "**Get Involved**" night Thurs. Jan. 18th - 7.30 pm Posters will soon appear giving the venue and more details.