

# QB

## Nottinghamshire's Queer Bulletin

February/March 2007  
Number 34

In this edition:

accentuate the negative

- ◆ Where **NOT** to go for your holidays
- ◆ What **NOT** to wear
- ◆ Who does **NOT** want your blood donation
- ◆ What **NOT** to do with a red hot poker
- ◆ Who **NOT** to rely on for support for LGBT issues

See our local  
**LGBT History website**  
at [www.nlqshistory.ik.com](http://www.nlqshistory.ik.com)

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](mailto:notts@lgswitchboard.fsnet.co.uk)

The deadline for the next edition will be mid March, 2007.

Switchboard is registered charity  
number 1114273

A big thank you to **Breakout**, for a donation of £100 and to **"Something Social"** for raising £700.

## LGBT HISTORY MONTH

# FREE

February 2007 marks the third LGBT History Month. Locally the following events have been arranged:

Feb. 1 - Feb 7th **Displays** in the foyer at County Hall. Different people will be by the display each day, including Pride organiser Pam Burrows, Sheelagh Gallagher and Laura Ewart (The Big Gay Read) all on the 1st, local historian Tony Bilton (2nd), info about the LGBT reading group (5th), gay author Narvel Annable (6th) and Brian Crosby (Unison) and your own QB editor (7th). 12.00-2.00 pm each day.

Feb 6th (Tue) **Breakout** gay men's group have a talk on Ye Olde Nottingham by Tony Bilton. It's at the Health Shop at 8.00 pm.

Feb. 8th and 9th **LGBT History display** at Notts Police HQ (Sherwood Lodge).

Feb. 10th (Sat) 3.00 pm **A Gay History Walk** (see DIARY for details)

Feb 12th (Mon) - Feb 24th (Sat). Angel Row Library 1st floor - a **display** of Switchboard's work and history + a Timeline of events since 1967.

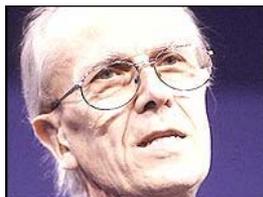
Feb 20th (Tue) **LGBT History Quiz** in the Green Room at the Lord Roberts. Starts (fairly) promptly at 8.00 pm. There will be a small buffet. Entrance £1. Prizes for the winners.

A sequence of **films at Broadway**: we haven't got the details yet, but they will be posted in the QB Diary section of the website (see left column) as soon as they are available.

February will also see the launch of an **Anti-homophobic bullying pack** + posters for Nottingham schools and a leaflet publicising new LGBT books from **Notts County Libraries**; for the full book list contact Beeston Library on 0115 9255168 or e-mail [beeston.library@nottscclib.gov.uk](mailto:beeston.library@nottscclib.gov.uk)

## THE NAME, THE FACE

There's a small prize for the first person to name correctly all the people below who have been notably anti-gay in recent (post 1967) times.



## NO BLOODY USE

Students at the University of Nottingham are supporting an online petition against the UK's ban on gay blood donors. The petition, which runs until April, has so far received around 800 signatures.

The petition calls on the government to carry out a review of the National Blood Service policies and overturn the current policy against gay and bisexual men and instead discriminate against unsafe sexual practices.

James Walsh, of the NUS, said: "The policies of the NBS are outdated, making decisions as to whether or not your allowed to give blood on how honest you are."

Italy, South Africa, Sweden, Spain, Portugal, Russia and France have all repealed previous bans.

An NBS spokesperson said "We have had these policies in place for many years in order to maximise blood safety." The NBS points out that it also bars heterosexuals who have indulged in dangerous practices and anyone who has recently had acupuncture or lived in countries where HIV infection is rife.

You can find the petition at

<http://petitions.pm.gov.uk/bloodban/>

## BALL GAMES

All those who detested playing rugby at school might think again if they knew how much pleasure the game can give.



## "YOU'RE ALL LEGAL NOW"

This was the view of many people after the Sexual Offences Act was passed in 1967. Things were not that simple. Yes, you were no longer imprisoned if you had sex with a consenting male adult (that's over 21) in private (that's not in a hotel) .... though make sure you didn't live in Scotland or Northern Ireland. Lesbians were not mentioned in the Act as the law didn't recognise their existence.

Not a lot changed on the legal front for over 30 years after the 1967 Act. You could still be thrown out of the armed forces until 1999; you could still be sacked simply for being lesbian or gay until 2003; any partnership you were in was denied any legal support until 2005.

Here we are in 2007 in a position where nearly all of the laws which discriminated against lesbians and gay men have been swept away ... though changing the attitudes of many parts of society will take a lot longer.

What we should remember is that for LGB people living in some other parts of the world, the situation is still horrific.

The following countries retain the death penalty as punishment:

Mauritania; Sudan; Iran; Saudi Arabia; United Arab Emirates; Yemen; Chechnya.

The following countries can impose prison terms - the maximum duration in years is listed:

Algeria (3); Benin (3); Botswana (7); Cameroon (5); Eritrea (3); Ethiopia (3); Gambia (14); Guinea (3); Kenya (14); Libya (5); Malawi (14); Mauritius (3); Morocco (3); Mozambique (3); Nigeria (14); Senegal (5); Sierra Leone (life); Somalia (3); Tanzania (life); Togo (3); Tunisia (3); Uganda (life); Zambia (14); Zimbabwe (3); Afghanistan (15); Bahrain (10); Bangladesh (life); Brunei (10); India (life); Kuwait (7); Lebanon (1); Malaysia (20); Myanmar (life); Oman (3); Pakistan (life); Palestine (10); Qatar (5); Singapore (life); South Korea (1); Sri Lanka (10); Syria (3); Turkmenistan (2); Uzbekistan (3); Barbados (life); Grenada (10); Jamaica (10); St. Kitts (10); St. Mary's (10); St. Vincent (10); Trinidad and Tobago (25); Cook Islands (14); Kiribati (14); Marshall Islands (10); Niue (10); Palau (10); New Guinea (14); Samoa (7); Solomon Islands (14); Tokelau (10); Tonga (10); Tuvalu (14); Guyana (life).

This should serve to remind us that:

- ◆ What we have got was hard won and could be taken away.
- ◆ We should try to support others in countries where the idea of a Human Rights Act is a joke.

## HISTORY'S KINGS AND QUEENS

At the age of 18, King Frederick the Great of Prussia tried to run away with his lover Hans von Katte. In this pre-civil registration age, the elopement failed and von Katte was executed.



Fred was a great soldier-king, hence "Great". He also composed symphonies and played the flute.

Edward II of England wasn't very much into kingly, so he let his lover Piers Gaveston run the country. Because of this, the Barons were revolting. Edward is perhaps most famous through Marlowe's play in which he is killed by a red hot poker up the bum.



King Ludwig II of Bavaria was often referred to as "Mad" King Ludwig. A little eccentric certainly, as his life centred around three things:



Building fairytale castles, affairs with handsome young men and the operas of Wagner. In 1886 he was declared insane and died from drowning soon after.

Queen Anne of England was not just a style of furniture. She was a woman obsessed by Sarah Churchill, Duchess of Marlborough.



She married Prince George, but still could not bear to live apart from Lady Churchill. Her indifferent husband was more fond of food and drink.

Gustav III of Sweden was an enlightened and reforming king who just happened to have a fondness for his male courtiers. He was shot at a masked ball - the subject for Verdi's opera "Un ballo in maschera". While in Sweden, we could have mentioned Queen Christina or Gustav V, who caused a car crash when giving a blow job to his chauffeur (see QB no. 30).



## PROUD HERITAGE SEMINAR

Museums in the UK are waking up to the fact that LGBT History is an important resource, but one that is often difficult to locate and difficult to categorize - museums love nothing better than allocating things to their categories. Also, ephemeral resources (like your complete editions of QB stored under the bed) are frequently discarded by their owners.

On December 14th, Proud Heritage held a seminar at Leicester University at which 18 (mainly) museum and library workers looked at the issues which complicate the development of LGBT history. One of them was the homophobia of many of the institutions themselves. For example, in the US the Liberace Museum nowhere acknowledges that their subject was a raving queen and in the Walt Whitman Museum, Walt's sexuality is merely hinted at.



Rather more positive is the way that the museum at Plas Newydd (see above) celebrating the Ladies of Llangollen, is now being welcomed in the area as a splendid tourist attraction.

## TIME FOR BUDDY BYE BYES?

We have received the following article from a member of the **Notts Buddies** befriending service, which supports people with HIV/AIDS and is based at the Health Shop.

"The Buddy scheme is in meltdown and unlikely to continue when its current coordinator retires in March. Over the past 2 years the service has been run down and the 30 befrienders have been treated in a deplorable manner.

In spite of the rise in numbers of people with HIV/AIDS, professional colleagues are referring fewer people to the befriending service. One must ask why no new volunteers have been trained in over a year, why the service is not being actively promoted and why support for existing volunteers has ground to a disgraceful halt?"

## WHAT GAY MEN LOOKED LIKE (?)

What IS Kenneth Clarke MP doing here? See how you think Mr Clarke (definitely NOT gay) fits the 1964 article on "How to spot a homo". "They wear suede shoes and sports jackets, they smoke and they like the company of ladies with large bosoms". Sorry Ken, you're a dead ringer.



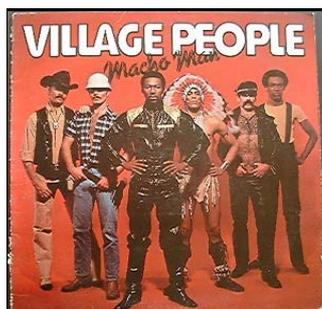
From 1965 to 1968 about a third of the UK listened to Julian and Sandy (Kenneth Williams and Hugh Padgick) on Round the Horne. We only "saw" them on the radio, so you must judge whether their cartoon image fits.

The next picture is from 1973 and, unfortunately, is utterly true to life.

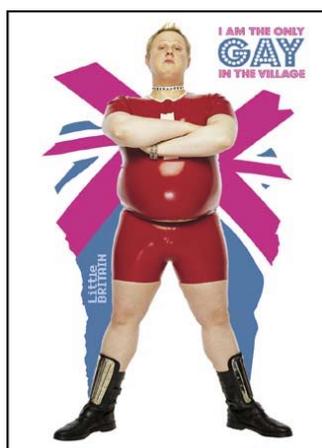
It shows the opening night of La Chic club on Canal Street as reported in the Nottingham Evening Post.



By the late 1970s, we were encouraged to cast aside flared trousers and long hair in favour of a pick'n'mix macho, red indian, cowboy, leather, industrial or law enforcement look. Some people were allergic to the feathers.



In 2005, of course, "village people" were clad in PVC .... with absolutely nowhere to hide their iPods.



The lesson, I suppose, is that you don't have to be gay to fit a gay stereotype and you don't have to be stereotypical in order to be gay.

## SPARKLE WITH PRIDE

Nottingham Pride is set to sparkle with success again this year as it celebrates 5 years at the Arboretum (and 10 years since the first Nottingham Pride event, Pink Lace).

The committee are excited by an offer to stage a HUGE after-Pride celebration at a venue in town. Details will be announced in a few months. In the meantime, the Pride committee is always welcoming new ideas and voices, so if you would like to volunteer to be steward on the day - Saturday 28th July - then drop them a line to [info@nottinghampride.co.uk](mailto:info@nottinghampride.co.uk).

If you would like to run a stall, you can also contact that address to receive a stall-holders pack. For all you fun-loving queers who like to dress up, now's the time to start thinking of what you're going to wear to tie in with this year's theme - SPARKLE WITH PRIDE! Let's have a glittering Pride. (See also "The Word according to Gloria")

## NEWS FROM THE GAI PROJECT

### A SAD FAREWELL

It is with great sadness that the GAI Project bids farewell to a much loved and admired team member, Eli Joubert, who has returned to his homeland of South Africa to pursue his studies in clinical psychology. Although he was only with the project for just over a year, he will be greatly missed and everyone who has known him or worked with him will wish him all the success and happiness in his new pursuit.

With this in mind please be aware that until the posts are filled, Jens Zimmermann is the only member of the team currently left in the project. Whilst every effort will be made to continue the work of the project there may be a reduction in some of the services offered by the project.

### FACTS AND TRIVIA

To mark LGBT History month the GAI Project will be posting interesting and amusing facts and trivia on their information boards located at the Foresters and AD2 ..... have a look. Also if you come and see us when we are doing outreach you can fill out a quiz to see how much you know about the history of the LGBT community. Free gift for all those who enter!

### SORRY

For all of you eagerly awaiting the release of the sexual health hand books due for World AIDS Day, we are sorry to announce that there has been a delay, but we will let you know as soon as they are ready.

Finally the GAI Project wishes everyone a fab New Year and hopes all your dreams come true.

## NOTES AND QUEERIES

The **Archers** is the first soap to have a Civil Ceremony. On December 14th chef Ian and farming dogsbody Adam tied the knot, much to the embarrassment of stepfather Brian (what will the village think?) Aldridge. Will the course of true love run smoothly, or will one of them fall into the threshing machine? Dum-ti-dum-ti-dum-ti-dum dum-ti diddly dum.



The **Conservative Party** has chosen to become part of Stonewall's Diversity Champions programme, while the Labour Party has decided not to be involved. Not everyone is happy. Ann Widdecombe MP says "This is going back to ancient Rome. We should be promoting traditional marriage". Let us recall that this is the party of Stephen Norris, Harvey Proctor, Cecil Parkinson, John Major, Stephen Milligan, David Mellors .... and many more with "interesting" histories in the bedroom. Perhaps she's referring to the Hamiltons.

Does your name influence the job you do? Think of all those TV gardeners ... Pippa Greenwood, Bob Flowerdew, Alan Titchmarsh, Stefan Buczacki (Polish for carrot). It comes as no surprise that the **World Health Organisation's** announcement that circumcision can halve HIV infection came from Kevin de Cock.

## ONE NOTTINGHAM

**One Nottingham** is a local strategic partnership. It brings together the public, private, community and voluntary sectors based in Nottingham, so that every one living or working in the city has the chance to have their say about its future. One Nottingham's vision is to: "Reduce inequality, so that no one is disadvantaged by who they are or where they live".

At a recent meeting to take the One Nottingham agenda forwards, some people from the City LGBT Forum were present. The subject of the Police's 0800 anti-hate crime phone lines was mentioned and we were surprised by a) the almost 100% ignorance of their existence b) the interest it generated. It was agreed that it should be publicised through the Nottingham Arrow..... we now just have to wait.

Concern about homophobic bullying in schools featured strongly in the workshop about young people. We hope that this concern provides a spur for action in local schools.

## THE WORD ACCORDING TO GLORIA

The Bible has been translated into **Polari**. To give you a sample, here's Genesis Chapter 1

In the beginning *Gloria* created the heaven and the earth. And the earth was *nanti* form, and void; and *munge* was upon the *eke* of the deep. And the *fairy* of *Gloria* *trolled* upon the *eke* of the *aquas*.

And *Gloria* *cackled*, Let there be *sparkle*: and there was *sparkle*. And *Gloria* *vardad* the *sparkle*, that it was *bona*.

Here's a bit of "*Matilda*" Chapter 9

And *Josie* knowing their thoughts *cackled*, Wherefore think ye *nana* in your *thumping cheats*? For whether is easier, to *cackle*, Thy *kertervers* be forgiven thee; or to *cackle*, Arise, and *mince*? But that ye may know that the *homie chavvie* of *homie* hath power on earth to forgive *kertervers*.

Then saith *she* to the sick of the palsy, Arise, *lell* up thy bed, and *troll* unto thine *lattie*. And *she* arose, and *trolled off* to his *lattie*.

For those who want more, you can find the whole lot at [www.thesisters.demon.co.uk/bible/](http://www.thesisters.demon.co.uk/bible/)

## BRIEFS ON AND OFF THE SCENE

Central pub has had both a change of management (welcome to Sue Annable) and a change of name; it's now called **Niche**. It is described in an article in the Evening Post (so it must be true) as having the reputation of being the friendliest gay bar in Nottingham.

**Pink** is here. Nottingham's new Women Only night. Upstairs @ The Canalhouse Bar, Canal Street, NG1 7EH (Next to Via Fossa). The first night is Saturday March 3rd 8.00 pm to 1.00 am. Disco starts at 9.00 pm. £5 entry. For further information e-mail [pink-women@hotmail.com](mailto:pink-women@hotmail.com).

We got into a thorough muddle about **Badminton** in the last issue of QB. Gays and lesbians obviously can't get enough of shuttlecockery as there are now three local badminton groups. There's: the all-women's badminton on Saturdays and Thursdays; the Badminton Social on Mondays and then the LGBT Badminton group on Tuesdays ... all at the Victoria Leisure Centre.

In the last QB, mention was made of the hypnotic Powerpoint presentation of 436 **Famous LGBT faces**. Since then it has grown to 530 Faces and will be seen at various places during this February's LGBT History Month. It will be part of the display at County Hall, but will also be shown at Police HQ at Sherwood Lodge, at the Capital One building and Castle College. Boots dismissed it because it "didn't have a business focus" (!)

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

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The GAI Project

0115 947 6868

Monday-Friday  
daytimes

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

gaiproject@nottinghamcity-pct.nhs.uk

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Police Homophobic Crime  
Helpline

0800 085 8522

## SOME LOCAL LISTINGS

### Breakout

Social group for gay & bisexual men.  
Tuesdays 7.30 pm (at the Health Shop)  
Contact Switchboard or GAI Project or go to  
[www.breakoutnottm.org.uk](http://www.breakoutnottm.org.uk)

### Older Gay Men's Group

Support and social group for men aged 50+.  
Meets 3rd Sunday of month,  
4 pm at the Health Shop.  
Contact GAI Project.

### 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.

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; Peak Ruffties Women's Walking 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 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

### GAY SPIRIT SUMMETTE

The first UK gathering of gay and queer men to share and explore our experiences and practices around gay spirituality. This event is being held at Whaley Hall in the High Peak, Derbyshire, from 23rd -25th March 2007. For details, e-mail

tim@gayspirituality.org.uk or go to the website:  
[www.gayspirituality.org.uk](http://www.gayspirituality.org.uk)

### BRIGHTON WINTER PRIDE

For those who fancy a Winter weekend break, Brighton Winter Pride promises a host of exciting events across the city: everything from Vodka tasting to speed dating, live music to cabaret nights, comedy and club nights. For details, phone (01273) 775939 or go to the website [www.brightonpride.org](http://www.brightonpride.org)

### SOMETHING SOCIAL

The next Sunday Social (at the Slug & Lettuce, High Pavement from 4 pm) should be on Sunday (that's a surprise) March 4th.

Arts Socials continue at 7.30 pm at the Malt Cross on the 1st Wednesday of each month; so that's February 7th and March 7th.

### WOMEN'S DISCO

Sat. Feb 17th 8.00 to 1.00. Charity disco at Abbey Sports and Leisure Club, 70 Slater Street, Frog Island, Leicester. Tickets £10 in advance, £15 on the door.

Tickets/enquiries via [mckbart@btinternet.com](mailto:mckbart@btinternet.com) all profits to charity (Cancer Bacup and Breakthrough Breast Cancer).

### LGBT HISTORY MONTH

For a guide to what's happening around the country, have a look at the LGBT History Month website at [www.lgbthistorymonth.org.uk](http://www.lgbthistorymonth.org.uk)

### GAY HISTORY WALK

Sat. Feb. 10th. Meet between 3.00 and 3.15 pm. at the Council House (by the "tramside" lion). The walk will be led and by Tony Bilton and will take about 90 minutes, ending at the Lord Roberts .... those who just fancy the "Lord Roberts" bit without the walking can just turn up there at about 4.40 pm.

The price is £2 per person. You can just turn up, or you can let Tony know in advance or get more information by e-mailing [pegasus.tour@amserve.com](mailto:pegasus.tour@amserve.com)