

QB

Nottinghamshire's Queer Bulletin

June/July 2007
Number 36

In this edition:



We are bathed in the warmth of universal love - at least on the front page.




 This edition of QB is sponsored by **Cath and Emma**. They had their Civil Ceremony a few months ago and asked all their friends to make out cheques to Switchboard rather than buy them presents. Thanks go to Cath, Emma and friends and if anyone else would like to follow their example, our address is below


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 late July, 2007. Because it's the PRIDE edition, it won't appear until early August.

**Switchboard is registered charity
number 1114273**

R.I.P. RUSHCLIFFE PCT HAIL NOTTS TPCT



Just a reminder.

1. TPCT isn't a disinfectant. It stands for Teaching Primary Care Trust.
2. Rushcliffe PCT - millions of pounds in debt - wanted to help solve their financial problems by stopping the small grant that they had given to Switchboard for 13 years.
3. Rushcliffe PCT is now a dead PCT having joined the choir invisible.

Switchboard has just received a letter from the new, glossy Notts tPCT saying that the consultation procedure produced feedback from stakeholders (that's **you**, dear reader) which convinced them to reverse Rushcliffe PCT's and maintain a grant to Switchboard.

So, to the 100s of people who signed forms or wrote letters (including Kenneth Clarke MP) and to the 35 organisations which added their support, we give our thanks.

This good news means that, in the medium term, our basic service is no longer under threat. We are, however, still struggling to fund important "extras" such as the £1500/year cost of QB and the £2000/year to continue our work in North Nottinghamshire.

SPARKLE BRIGHTEST WITH PRIDE

Get out your best gold lame frock, put on your glass slippers, and don your plastic tiara (girls may wish to wear something more understated). This year's sparkling theme is sure to light up the city, as **Nottingham Pride** looks set to become the biggest and best ever Pride in the East Midlands as it celebrates its 5th year at the Arboretum Park. With Leicester Pride taking a year out, the Nottingham Pride committee hopes that their Leicester friends will help to make this an event that may never be topped.

As well as the usual fun and frolics there will be a special food and drink area where people can chill out before venturing back into the expected 10,000 crowd. Of course, there are the beer tents, stalls, and merchandise. The bandstand stage a string of gems performers, ranging from hot new boy-band "Code 5", whose debut single is out this summer. The stage will also light up with solo artists and music for every taste, including rock, Asian music and steel band.

Venues across the city have been raising funds and will be polishing their many facets to celebrate in their own way. The biggest event is the Fuse After-Pride Party at Nottingham Trent University Students Union. The New Foresters is holding its own unique blend of music and entertainment, and Niche Bar is hosting a Bear weekend.

"The whole organising committee is really excited about this year's Pride", says committee Vice-Chair Ian Robson. Committee Chair Carlton Symonds adds, "We've had tremendous encouragement from the city council, and we hope to work with them on future projects." We hope to prove that Nottingham is still Queen of the Midlands.

The Pride committee would still like to involve people in their final preparations. If you have any stories or photos of previous Nottingham Prides they'd like to hear from you. Some of these will appear on the Pride website and in the official programme.

Every event has its 24-carat stars, and that means the many worthy volunteers. There's still time to add your name to the team, just check the website for contact details. This is your chance to be part of something big. Be sure to add your sparkle to Pride. www.nottinghampride.co.uk

WALKING FOR LIFE

On **Sunday 3rd June** the Notts. Hardship Fund will again be holding its sponsored walk, "walking for Life", in Bestwood Country Park. It is a great opportunity to enjoy a sociable walk (of either 10k or 4k) at a gentle pace in the company of the park rangers, with friends of the Hardship Fund and members of the public.

The walks (both short and long versions) start at 11 a.m. from the Bestwood village car park. Light refreshments are provided at the end of the walk, but bring a packed lunch to eat on the way.

Some people raise sponsorship, and all the money raised goes to help the Hardship Fund (a registered charity) in its work supporting local people affected by HIV and AIDS – but sponsorship isn't essential and all are welcome, sponsored or not.

Full details are available from Armored Young (0115 845 7135; armoredyoung@ntlworld.com) or The Health Shop (0115 9475414) ask for Lynne Ellis or Kathryn Straw.

ROMP THROUGH THE ALPHABET

Sexually transmitted infections from A to Z are featured in the latest booklet from the GAI Project. Chlamydia, Gonorrhoea and Herpes, as I'm sure you know, are not a firm of Greek solicitors or the daughters of King Lear. All three of them and many more are dealt with in a clear and often light-hearted manner, along with references to Skegness, Macbeth and the Simpsons! The booklet will be available at the Health Shop and on the scene from June.

And there is more. The GAI Project website is about to undergo one of those Dr. Who type transformations and become fabulous, flashing and interactive. Go to www.gaiproject.org.uk - soon.

FANCY A GOOD STUFFING?

The **GAI Project** would like your help with assembling condom and lube packs.

Stuffing takes place on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month.

Time: 6.00 - 7.30 pm

Place: The Health Shop, Broad Street

Tea, coffee, high quality biscuits provided along with superb company. This could be the acme of your social calendar. Just turn up, or phone the GAI Project if you want more info see back page.

GROUP OF THE DAY

With almost every edition of QB, there is a new strand of **Something Social** to report, so perhaps it's time to bring people up-to-date about all the different parts of this local social network.

Something Social started out as a social real world gathering for an online gay community on OUTeverywhere.com in 2001. There's no wish to make money; it's simply people organising "non-scene" social events in their spare time! There are several components to "Something Social".

- ◆ **Sunday Social**, which has been going for 5 years, meets once every few months and is a free event offering drink and food deals as well as competitions which are designed to get people talking. See the **Diary** section for the next event.
- ◆ **Badminton Social** is a weekly Badminton social aimed at people with mixed levels of badminton skills. It involves people playing doubles at Victoria Leisure Centre in Nottingham and costs just £2.50 for 2 hours with shuttles supplied.
- ◆ **Real Ale Social**; if you like real ale then this may be for you.
- ◆ **Eat Out Social** is a dinner club designed to be a social opportunity while also getting a great deal in a good restaurant and a great atmosphere.
- ◆ **Arts Social** is for anyone interested in Theatre, Film, Music etc. The group meets on the first Wednesday of each month and also organises group trips to local events.
- ◆ **Tardis Social** is for those who are fans of Dr. Who and Torchwood.

To keep up-to-date with what Something Social is doing, phone/e-mail Switchboard or go to the website, which is www.somethingsocial.co.uk

HOUSE SHARE/FLAT SHARE?

About 20 years ago Switchboard started a house share/flat share service. This allows people who have accommodation to share to leave their details with Switchboard and for those seeking shared accommodation to use that information ... **all for free.**

In the last couple of months we have noticed that the amount of accommodation on our Nottingham listings has shrunk considerably. If you have space in your house or flat and would like to share, give us a phone call or send an e-mail and tell us what facilities you can provide and how much you will charge.

GOODS AND SERVICES ACT

The Newark Advertiser, which a few months ago refused lesbian and gay related ads has now accepted an ad for Nottingham Switchboard. We were actually hoping to use them as a test case, but the new law seems to have had the desired effect.

FUZE THE FIRST

Champagne and strawberries served from an ice-filled grand piano, luxury chocolates and a warm, personal welcome made a delightful contrast to the chill weather outside at the launch of the new gay night 'Fuze@Oceana'.

Fabulous Scottish songster Warren Bacci (pronounced in the Italian style 'Bachi') came on at midnight with 2 equally gorgeous dancers and wowed everyone with original and excellent danceable tunes.

Tiny Tony known for filling dance floors with some great gay favourites didn't disappoint and when guest DJ Little Miss Natalie (Essential, Manchester) started her set, the hard core dancing began.

One thing is for sure; Fuze@Oceana is likely to build into quite a popular monthly feature on the gay calendar. With live acts, personal appearances, guest DJ's and lots of surprises in store, it's a classy alternative which is a likely to bring a host of new faces into the City to see what it's all about.

Wednesday 9th May was the beginning of something quite beautiful and it's only just begun:

Fuze host the Nottingham heat of Mr Gay UK on Wednesday June 6th.

Get yourself on the stage to struck your funky stuff and tantalise the judges or pop down to ogle at the eye candy and have your vote for the tastiest hunk.

Or you could just get down and boogie – for the June event ONLY, Fuze will be taking over the New York Disco – featuring Europe's largest illuminated dance floor and infinity mirrors so you can catch the contestants from every angle.

The room is being specially kitted out to stage Mr Gay UK complete with red carpet at the door and early birds will once again get treated to a champagne reception with strawberries and chocolates. Miss it, miss out!

Fuze@Oceana is every first Wednesday

10pm til 3am. £5 entry

All Drinks £1.50 before 11pm

Fuze@Oceana

Every 1st Wed,

10pm til 3am

All Drinks £1.50 before 11pm

A Midweek Mini Weekend!

June 6th Mr Gay UK Nottingham Heat

Compete, ogle the eye candy or just party!

£5 entry includes

Champagne Reception early birds

Oceana, Lower Parliament St

July 4th – Live performance

by itunes favourite Natalia

Find out more - Info@fuze-events.co.uk

QB'S BITS

- ◆ The first website solely designed to help employees and employers fight discrimination in the workplace has been launched today. **www.discriminationonline.com** is a website run by Brabners Chaffe, specialists in discrimination law. It contains useful information for anyone who thinks they are being discriminated against.
- ◆ It's been going for a while, but for those who haven't heard ...**Bears in the Forest** is a night for bears, cubs, chubs and chasers in Nottingham. They meet every 1st Friday in the downstairs bar of the Lord Roberts pub and on average they have 75+ guys turn up for a monthly gathering. For more information have a look at www.bearsintheforest.com
- ◆ Choreographer Matthew Bourne (Of Swan Lake fame) explores more paths of traditional gender-bending, this time with the classic Prokofiev ballet **Romeo and Juliet**. Bourne's new plans include killing-off Juliet, implementing an entirely male cast, providing Romeo with a male lover, and renaming the ballet "Romeo, Romeo".

Purple

Events for women only

On **Sunday June 24th** we're taking over the luxurious Oceana nightclub in Nottingham to celebrate Summer Solstice, the longest day.

Be welcomed at 3 pm with a complimentary Champagne Reception and enjoy an afternoon of stalls (naughty and nice), Salsa lesson, competitions and films and then at 7pm we open the ballroom and begin an evening of spectacular entertainment with dancers, singers, comedian Julie McNamara and starring Claire Summerskill (named by Radio 4 as 'the lesbian Victoria Wood') and plenty of other great surprises...

Tickets for this mammoth event 3pm 'til 1am are just £12 in advance £15 on the door on the day.

Sunday June 24th 3 pm 'til 1 am

You can take advantage of a 10% discount on the bulk purchase of 10 or more tickets.

Let us know how many you want or ask us a question at Enquiries@purple.uk.com

Have a look at the website for more details on this and other events for women like our new monthly women's disco – June we launch the new venue; China China and July is belly dancing!

www.purple.uk.com
www.myspace.com/purpleloft

PINK! news

**New Venue Launch!!!
Saturday 2nd June PINK!**
celebrates in style in the new home of
Nottingham women's disco:

**'China China'
Champagne and Cocktail Lounge
8 'til very late**

£5 entry
Accessible venue, fantastic food, groovy tunes, dancing, sofa chat room, champagne, cocktails, hot and cold drink choices, flat screen TV's with some top class L-viewing... oh...and beautiful women!
Pass it on, this one's going to become legend, it'll be great to have you there to create it.

Champagne and Cocktail Lounge
Upstairs
China China
Chapel Bar
Nottingham
NG1 6JQ

Check out photos of the venue at; www.chinachinanottingham.co.uk

The venue is perfectly luxurious though a little smaller than we might have wished for, you might want to plan to get there early to avoid disappointment.

For more great events, visit the PURPLE website at www.purple.uk.com and have fun at our myspace: www.myspace.com/purpleloft

Enjoy Life The Purple Grrlz x

A LOTTERY HERITAGE GRANT FOR LOCAL LGBT HISTORY?

A representative from the **Lottery Heritage Fund** came along to the LGBT History display at County Hall in February. She suggested that it would be worth considering developing the resources on display with the aid of a grant from her fund. She pointed out that projects on similar themes in several parts of the country had obtained grants of around £50,000.

The County Hall display was a joint effort involving Switchboard, UNISON, the Pride Committee and Outburst. Several of those involved in the display went to a seminar organised by the Lottery Heritage Fund and the outcome was a general feeling that we should at least explore whether there are sufficient ideas and sufficient enthusiasm to take things a stage further.

As a result, an e-mail list has been set up for those who either wish to be involved in a potential project, or wish to be informed about its progress. Also, a meeting will take place towards the end of June (date and venue to be arranged) where people will look at the resources we already have and see what our next steps might be. If you would like to be added to the e-mail list and/or have details of the late-June meeting, leave your contact details with Switchboard (see front and back page for contact information).

THE GAY MAN'S GUIDE

Civil partnerships. Queer coppers. Triple therapy. Sean in The Rovers. Gay men have never had it so good. Apparently.

The Gay Man's Guide is a new and revealing piece of verbatim theatre that seeks to discover what it means to be gay in Britain today. From playground to pension book, synagogue to sex shop, The Gay Man's Guide examines the lives of over fifty gay men using their own words e.g.

'It's central to my being, but it doesn't mean that that describes what I do in my personal life or what my interests are or what my politics are - and that I only like Kylie.' Jon

Challenging, shocking and comic in generous proportions, the Gay Man's Guide runs from May 30th to June 17th at the Drill Hall, Chenies Street, London. You can get more information from the website www.drillhall.co.uk

And now the Nottingham connection. The author of the Gay Man's Guide is Paul Strickland, who used to work at the Lace Market Theatre and was a volunteer for 7 years on Nottingham Switchboard. Some of the people whose remarks are used in the play are themselves from Nottingham. Paul is optimistic that after the London performances the play will tour and he hopes to bring it to Nottingham as part of next February's LGBT History month events.



QB'S BITS

- ◆ **Leicester Pride** has been cancelled. The main reasons seem to be the obvious ones of a shortage of both cash and volunteers.
- ◆ **PINK**, the Women's disco night, will move to China, China (in the Champagne and Cocktail Lounge) Chapel Bar from June onwards. PINK is on the first Saturday of the month.
- ◆ May 4th saw a jazz band entertaining a long queue in the Victoria Centre branch of Boots. I believe they were queuing for bottles of "**Protect & Perfect**", the anti-wrinkle cream that actually works. We at QB shun such fripperies, relying on alternating treatments of goose grease and sandpaper to retain our ever youthful visages.

TANGLED WEBS

There are parents whose lack of foresight when naming their children can lead to years of childhood persecution (Ophelia Balls etc). When naming their websites, the following companies have fallen headlong into a similar trap.

Experts Exchange is a knowledge base where programmers can exchange advice. Speed of Art is a designers' website. In New South Wales you will find Mole Station Nursery. Want to know a celebrity's agent? Who Represents can help ... or perhaps you need a therapist, if so try Therapist Finder. The Mecca for buying a pen is Pen Island and then there is the Italian Power Generator company.

Their websites (feel free to check) are:

- ◆ www.expertsexchange.com
- ◆ www.whorepresents.com
- ◆ www.speedofart.com
- ◆ www.therapistfinder.com
- ◆ www.molestationnursery.com
- ◆ www.penisland.net
- ◆ www.powergenitalia.com

I DON'T BELIEVE IT

Viewers in Los Angeles and New York have been able to see an advert for a new water-based lube - the first time a gay sex lubricant has been advertised on TV. Surprisingly, the ad was considered unsuitable for viewers in San Francisco.

The ad's theme is "You won't believe it's not Boy Butter".

On a related blog, you will find the comment "There were nowt wrong wi' lard in my day".



ANTIPLUVIAL ACTIVITIES

Thursday June 21st is the time when the Nottingham Pride Committee do their naked ritual dance to avert rain at this year's Pride. Join them at midnight in the Arboretum. Mosquito sprays will be provided.

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

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

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; Bears in the Forest; Something Social; Notts Police OUTNetwork; Flying Colours; Nottingham Bi Women's Group; LiNk-Notts; LIFT; Lesbians in Ashfield Friendship & Support; North Notts Gay Women's Walking Group; Ball Bois gay football team, LGB Youth Groups in Worksop & Mansfield; Tagadere: Weekenders; Pink - Women's disco; East Midlands Gay Outdoor Club and, of course, S.H.A.G.G.E.R.S.

DIARY

SUNDAY SOCIAL

Sunday Social is on Sunday **June 3rd** 4-8 pm at the Slug and Lettuce on High Pavement. Everyone welcome; deals on food and drinks + competitions in a friendly atmosphere.

MIDSUMMERNIGHT'S DREAM

There's a massive women-only summer extravaganza at Nottingham's biggest nightclub, **Oceana** on **24th June 2007**. Spanning the afternoon from 3pm right up until 1am that night, this lezfest has some fab DJ's, stalls with naughty and nice things to buy, competitions, lounges, great food and headlining the varied bill is no less than Claire Summerskill (known as the lesbian Victoria Wood). **Midsummer Night's Dream** costs £12 tickets in advance (£15 on the day). From tickets@purple.uk.com.

CAMPERAMA

For those so inclined, the **Royal Centre** has the following treats:

- ◆ The Ladyboys of Bangkok June 20th
- ◆ One night of Queen June 24th
- ◆ Singalonga Sound of Music June 29th
- ◆ Noddy and friends July 20-22nd

PRIDES NEAR AND FAR

London Pride takes place on Saturday **June 30th**. Pride London has confirmed today that the 2007 parade will return to Oxford Street, where you can watch the spectacular parade of celebrities, floats, and performers celebrating Europe's largest gay and lesbian festival.

This year's confirmed route will also include Regent Street and take in landmarks including Trafalgar Square, Whitehall, Piccadilly, and Houses of Parliament. Get full details from www.pridelondon.org

Nottingham Pride will return to the Arboretum on Saturday **July 28th** (see the article earlier in QB) and QB will be sending its entire staff to **Stockholm Pride** on **August 4th**. Vi ser fram emot att ser vår vänner igen - as I'm sure you would all agree.

PET SHOP BOYS

The **Pet Shop Boys'** show is a musical and multimedia extravaganza featuring songs from their two decades of hits which attracted rave reviews and ecstatic audiences when they toured North America at the end of last year.

It's at the Royal Concert Hall on Tuesday **June 5th**