



## MAGIC MUSHROOM

"I was surprised not to see **Mushroom Bookshop** on the Nottinghamshire "Fairy Towers" board game featured in the last QB. For those new to town, or needing reminding, Mushroom was a radical indie bookshop that lived in Hockley from 1972-2000 (I worked there from 78-95, more than a life sentence). Thanks to Colin Clews Initially, the bookshop developed what became huge sections for lesbian and gay books.

The shop sold tickets for coaches to Pride, and hundreds of people picked up the *Pink Paper* and the various Nottingham gay freesheets edited by Richard McCance. *Gay Times* was the shop's best selling magazine. The bookshop took the lead in organising against Clause 28, publishing a list of writers who were gay or lesbian or who had written positively about gay and lesbian people, and organised a series of readings under the banner of "Unsilenced voices". Mushroom brought many gay and lesbian writers to the city, the highlight being a reading with Armistead Maupin.

Simply having sections in the shop saying "Lesbian writing" and "Gay writing" - treated the same as "History" and "Fiction" meant a lot to people. As well as the more public impact, I still feel moved by a few conversations with people who worked in jobs or places it was hard to be out, that these sections were a lifeline for them. The words of one woman still ring in my head, who told me that when she was young she thought she was the only girl who was attracted to other girls until she stumbled on the lesbian section at Mushroom.

Things have changed now of course, in bookselling and in the public profile of lesbian and gay people, but Mushroom was important in its day to the lesbian and gay scene. I hope that when Rainbow Heritage come to reprint "Fairy Towers" there can be a small corner for Mushroom!"

Ross Bradshaw

(The version of Fairy Towers shown in the last QB was a draft version; the final version does indeed include Mushroom. Ed.)

## FUN WITH A BANANA

There's a complete lack of LGBT stuff at the Playhouse, Royal Centre and Arena at the moment, but my attention was caught by an event at the Lakeside Arts Centre. Called "**Vegetable Sculptures**" it provides a workshop of delightful activities using bananas and cucumbers. To quote the brochure

"Twist, prod and poke away. Find new ways to enjoy your five a day". Perhaps the details were written by someone who thinks that innuendo is an Italian suppository.

Feb. 19th details from 0115 846 7777

## MORE FOR LGBT HISTORY MONTH

A reminder that "**The Gay Man's Guide**", Paul Strickland's play based on interviews with gay men, returns to the **Lace Market Theatre**, Halifax Place, Nottingham. 0115 950 7201

February 3rd - 6th 7.30 pm Tickets £7

On February 9th at 7.30 pm there is a **Talkback** event, where you can discuss the play with the cast. Entrance is free.

Libraries taking up the LGBT theme this February include:

**Angel Row Library** Feb.15th to Feb. 26th  
*The Pride march, Gay cartoons, Notes & Queeries Nottingham in the News, the Older Generation*

**Meadows Library** Feb. 3rd to Feb. 26th  
*LGBT and BME, Pink Professions*

**Bingham Library** Feb. 2nd to Feb. 25th  
*Gay Nottingham Times, Gay cartoon characters*

**Burton Joyce Library** Feb. 8th to Feb 12th  
*Pink Professions*

**Radcliffe on Trent Library** Feb. 3rd to Feb. 25th  
*Pink Professions*

**West Bridgford Library** Feb. 3rd to Feb. 26th  
*LGBT and BME, Gay cartoon characters*

**Keyworth Library** Feb. 2nd to Feb. 25th  
*Pink Professions*

**Cotgrave Library** Feb. 2nd to Feb. 25th  
*Civil partnerships, LGBT Royalty*

**Ruddington Library** Feb. 2nd to Feb. 12th  
*Civil Partnerships*

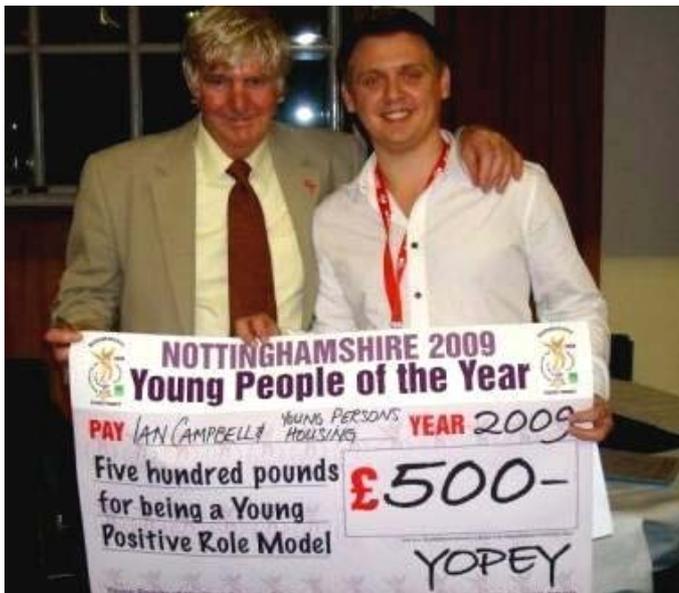
Inevitably, other events will be organised after QB has been printed. You should be able to find details of these events - both local and national - by going to the calendar on the LGBT History Month website at [www.lgbthistorymonth.org.uk](http://www.lgbthistorymonth.org.uk)

## A GUIDE TO GOOD PRACTICE

The **North Notts LGB Development Group** has produced a guide to good practice in the workplace. It provides useful advice and information for organisations which want to make themselves LGB friendly and wish to build upon the many positive changes in the law which have taken place over the past 10 years.

The printed booklet will soon be available and they hope also to have it in a pdf format which can be forwarded by e-mail. For further information, contact Nottingham Switchboard.

## WHAT'S YOPEY ?



What's YOPEY? It's "Young People of the Year". Who's YOPEY? The picture shows **Ian Campbell** (On the right, on the left is Terry Durand) receiving a cheque for £500 for being a "Young positive role model" What it doesn't spell out is that Ian is a positive role model for young LGBT people.

Ian has already done significant work in countering homophobia. An example of this is a forceful DVD on which he and colleagues from North Notts College produced. You will be able to see this at the LGBT History Month exhibition at Broadway Cinema.

## YET MORE AWARDS



At Breakout's Christmas Party the awards piled up. The picture shows Armored Young, of the Notts Hardship Fund, receiving a cheque from Steve and Norm on behalf of "**Eat Out Social**". They also donated a cheque to Nottingham Switchboard. Both organisations also received cheques from **Breakout** itself, presented by Ray Wilson. Switchboard was delighted to get a third cheque from Matt Talbot-Hartshorn on behalf of the Nottinghamshire **Police OUTnetwork**.

Your photographer also won a fabulous (well, very big) watch in the Breakout raffle.

## NOTES AND QUEERIES

1. A Ukrainian scientist has invented a condom that plays music during sex. A miniature loud-speaker and motion sensor implanted in the condom's upper cuff provides a range of musical tones during sex.

Music volume depends on the intensity of love making and the tone varies depending on the sexual position. At Christmas it plays "O, come all ye faithful". (We made the last bit up).



2. In a 1954 News of the World article dealing with criminal aspects of sex abnormalities, Captain Athelstan Popkess, Chief Constable of Nottingham, stated:

"We know that homosexuality is beginning to eat into the very vitals of the nation like a cancer. The public would be horrified if they knew its extent, and it is on the increase."

3. Beware the acronym. "These days everyone knows what LGBT stands for" is said often enough to suggest that a lot of people believe it to be true. We at QB have done research on this. At every opportunity we accost complete strangers and ask them "What does LGBT stand for?"

Until recently, the best answer was "It's a service for Local Government provided by British Telecom". This has now been superseded by "Isn't it the slogan of Virgin Rail? "Let's Go By Train".

## UPLOAD DOWNLOAD PART 2

Organisations like Stonewall, the NHS, Childline, NUT, ACAS and others have produced valuable documents on issues relating to sexual orientation. To save people having to search through numerous websites, 32 (so far) of these documents have been gathered together in one place on the Nottinghamshire's Rainbow Heritage website. Go to NRH's Resources on

[www.nottsrainbowheritage.org.uk](http://www.nottsrainbowheritage.org.uk) and then to Nationally produced documents



## Nottinghamshire's RAINBOW HERITAGE

# NOTTINGHAM IN THE NEWS

LGBT HISTORY MONTH: FEBRUARY 2010

**Nottinghamshire's Rainbow Heritage**, your local LGBT history project, has been collecting cuttings from newspapers going back as far as 1915. This page is devoted to quotes based on what the papers had to say about us.

### WHAT A PIZZA CHEEK! POLICE NICK GAY BRITS



A gay council big-wig and his boyfriend were grabbed by police and held for two days in their swimming trunks after being mistaken for terrorists.

Councillor Dick McCance and live-in lover Dick Richardson were seized while enjoying a dream holiday for two in Sorrento, Italy.

The couple were bundled off to police HQ and thrown into separate cells while officers ransacked their hotel rooms. After fingerprinting and nothing to eat for 24 hours, they had plates of pizza shoved into their hands.

Police had mistaken Nottingham Councillor McCance for CIA traitor Frank Terpil, who is accused of terrorism in Italy. Police claimed that their vital proof was the councillor's holiday diary, written in Pitman's shorthand. They said it was secret bomb plots written in Arabic.

Mr. McCance and his boyfriend were finally released, still in their swimsuits, after 47 hours.

The Sun. August 22nd. 1985.

### "PROFESSOR OF GAY STUDIES" PROTEST

A row broke out yesterday over the appointment of Britain's first professor of lesbian and gay studies.

MP Ann Widdecombe branded the move "a phenomenal waste of public money". She added: "It would be far better spent giving young people academic and vocational training to ensure they get jobs. It is not clear to me what kind of job this would qualify someone for."

But gay campaign groups hailed the appointment of Professor Greg Woods at Nottingham's Trent University as a step forward in the recognition of homosexual culture.



A spokesman for Stonewall said "There is tremendous ignorance about lesbian and gay issues. This will help redress the balance."

Professor Woods 45, who has lectured at Trent for 8 years, described his appointment as "small but pioneering". He said: "It's encouraging that the University has taken what is a slightly brave decision."

Sunday Mirror July 5th 1998.

### GAY NIGHTCLUB CLOSES DOWN

La Chic, Nottingham's nightclub for "gay" people has closed down, despite tremendous support and a membership of around 12,000. The club became a national landmark for homosexuals and lesbians when it opened in November 1973.

Its owner, Mr. John Glover, said it was a sad loss. La Chic was the first nightclub of its kind in the Country.

Nottingham Evening Post  
May 23rd 1977.

### CLOSED CLUB

A brief comment on your item about the closure of La Chic club.

To speak of "homosexuals and lesbians" is misleading - lesbians are homosexuals. The phrase compounds the error of thinking the word homosexual applies to men - the word covers both sexes.

La Chic was not "the first nightclub of its kind in the country". In fact a club was already in existence in Nottingham prior to La Chic's opening in 1973.

Tony Barker  
Nottingham Evening Post  
May 27th 1977

# Gay Nottingham Times

No.13 Claiming our history, Celebrating our present, Creating our future

## Lt. Arthur Pelham-Clinton, RN (1840-1870)

Son of the Duke of Newcastle, Arthur served with the naval brigade during the Siege of Lucknow in 1857. He was later elected MP for Newark.



Arthur committed suicide before his partner, a well-known cross-dresser, was put on trial for "outraging decency".



## Joining Forces

The armed forces have always had a love/hate relationship with LGBTs. Thousands of gay men and women went through national service (1947-60), and these stories come from before, during and after conscription.

## Lt. Philip Streatfield (1879-1915)

Artist Philip had an affair with the teenage Noël Coward. At the start of World War One, Philip joined the Sherwood Foresters.



Young Noël was popular with the other officers and they adopted him as their unofficial regimental "mascot". Philip died in the trenches of France.

## Lt. Richard Cowell, RN



Richard attracted national notice when he became Mr. Gay Plymouth 2005. As a serving officer he was discharged for taking part. He later came 2nd in the grand final.

Richard was a student in Nottingham, and a popular member of Jacey's bar staff in the city centre.



## Capt. Sir Osbert Sitwell (1892-1969)

From a typical horse-loving aristocratic family, Osbert found his short career in the Sherwood Rangers very uncomfortable. After continually falling off his horse, he said he preferred giraffes!

## Capt. Myles Hildyard, MBE, MC (1914-2005)

Owner of Flintham Hall, Myles joined the Sherwood Rangers in 1939.



He served in Crete and North Africa with distinction, earning an MBE and a Military Cross. Openly gay, he often took his partner to regimental dances.

## Flt. Lt. Harold "Ike" Cowen (b.1917)

Whilst stationed at RAF Wymeswold, Ike would visit Nottingham. On leaving the RAF he became lecturer in law at what is now Trent University. He was legal adviser to the Campaign for Homosexual Equality, and founded its Nottingham branch in 1971.



## Lawrence of Arabia (1888-1935)

A heroic army career earned him his nickname, then Lawrence entered RAF Cranwell. He often played snooker in Newark, when he wasn't dashing around on his Nottingham Brough motorbike. He was riding a Brough bike when he had his fatal crash.





Exercise can be a great way of getting the blood pumping and all those feel-good chemicals flowing around our body. Even as much as taking a walk around some of the prettier spaces in your local area and getting fresh air can have a surprisingly up-lifting effect (plus it gives us a sense of having done something relaxing and productive and maybe working off those nagging pounds we've gained from the 57 Christmas dinners we've been forced to eat). Devising any kind of routine, whether it is going to the movies, joining a sports or social group, returning to work (shudder), studying or seeing friends etc., can provide a positive sense of structure and purpose to our day, thereby helping us to feel as sense of accomplishment.

It's great that you've contact me my Sweet as talking about what's going on for you is one of the best ways of externalising the anxiety and low mood that you are feeling.

Often depression can develop as a result of anger or frustration being turned on ourselves instead of being able to direct it where we really want to. This combined with feeling generally exhausted and burnt out can have a knock-on effect on our libido.

Whatever the cause of the depression, finding healthy ways of exploring and talking about your feelings with friends, a therapist, or through creative exercise such as art or writing etc., can help you to become more in tune with yourself and understand what the deeper origins of your low mood could be. Once you are able to name the problem it makes it considerably easier to tackle.

If you do have a history of depression though honey and your mood fluctuations are not just restricted to January it may be worth making an appointment with your G.P for some additional advice and support.

There are also telephone help-lines available such as Rethink (0800 0272127) or the Samaritans (08457 909090) if you feel in crisis. Here at HGN we can offer you brief or long-term support through counselling and psychotherapy or provide holistic treatments such as Auricular Acupuncture at our drop-in sessions (the first Monday of each month between 5pm and 7pm and Saturdays between 10am and 2pm) to rebalance and stimulate those feel-good chemicals in the brain and restore a bit of harmony to your body and mind.

Whatever you decide to do, try to take care of yourself and don't put yourself under too much pressure. Realistic, achievable goals are the key and remember that we are here if you need additional support.

All the best,

Marj xxx

Dear Marj,

*Every January I feel like shit. My libido disappears and I feel really depressed. My friends all think I'm being anti-social but all I want to do is curl up in bed and eat. It usually subsides but I don't know what I can do to make myself feel better now. Any ideas?*

Simon, 28

Dear Simon,

Ah, the January blues, a not uncommon condition to affect many of us during these cold and dark days following the lights and excitement of the festive season (whether we celebrate it or not). The events over December can be incredibly exhausting as we seek to make friends, family and colleagues happy whilst often discarding our own needs for some well earned relaxation time.

There can be a lot of pressure to "have a good time because it's Christmas" but it can in fact be a very lonely time of year or at the other extreme a time of excessive socialising and over-indulgence leaving us feeling heavy with guilt because we've put on a few extra pounds, overdone it with the shandies, spent a little too much or partied like the world was going to end tomorrow.

Whilst those tried and tested little comforts of eating and sleeping can leave you blissfully safe in a little cocoon and away from the hustle and bustle, the world is still moving and unfolding around you and if you are not careful you'll miss all the potentially exciting or relaxing things that you could be doing to help lift the descending thunder cloud and gloom.

You're not going to find your life or your libido at the bottom of a Quality Streets box honey so hop to it and start setting yourself some realistic goals that get you up and out of your little love nest.

## NEWS FROM HEALTHY GAY NOTTINGHAM

### Healthy Gay Nottingham "Drop In"

If you're in town on a Saturday between 10 am and 2 pm why not drop into Healthy Gay Nottingham for **FREE** tea, coffee, juice and biscuits. Join us for a chat; meet up with friends; get advice about any aspect of your life as a member of the LGBT community; access counselling; get tested for HIV, Syphilis, Hep B, Gonorrhoea and Chlamydia, (testing is alternate Saturdays starting 9<sup>th</sup> January).

Throughout the whole of February we will be displaying the History of HGN and its prequel incarnation GAI, within the drop in.

Starting Monday 1<sup>st</sup> February we will be offering a New clinic Every **FIRST** Monday of the month 5pm – 7pm, where you can receive **FREE** alternative therapies like: Reiki and Auricular acupuncture, or get tested for Sexually Transmitted Infections. Contact us for an appointment (see back of QB)

### Auricular acupuncture (That's small pricks in your ear).

Auricular acupuncture is a holistic balancing treatment originating from China. It focuses on 5 specific points in each ear, which when stimulated by acupuncture needles will rebalance and stimulate those feel-good chemicals in the brain and restore a sense of harmony to your body and mind. This form of acupuncture is particularly useful in temporarily alleviating some of the symptoms associated with addiction, depression, anxiety, trauma, and those post-party blues.

See website or call for further information or to book a session.

### New@HGN

**Reiki** is now available on an appointment basis with a Qualified Reiki Master. Sessions at HGN last approximately 45 minutes and can have the following benefits:

- » Reiki helps us to cope with physical illness, depression, stress, anxiety and tension
- » Reiki can re-energise a tired body and mind, and helps us to feel refreshed
- » It can address minor aches and pains, migraines, shoulder, neck and back problems
- » Reiki encourages us to maintain a balance in our lives by providing us with the opportunity to take time out for ourselves and to relax
- » Reiki can help you to deal with personal problems (relationships, family, work, grief) with a clearer mind
- » It provides you with something to look forward to as an escape from the hustle and bustle of daily life

### GOT a Problem?

'**Dear Marj . . .**' is the new advice column that is featured in QB, and gives the LGBT community the opportunity to write in with any worries or concerns about things going on in their lives.

Whilst only some questions and replies will be featured in QB, all questions will be directly replied to by '**Dear Marj . . .**' via email. Confidentiality is maintained throughout and written consent will be obtained from anyone whose '**Dear Marj . . .**' question and response is to be published.

'**Dear Marj . . .**' can be contacted via email at: [dear.marj-hgn@nottinghamcity.nhs.uk](mailto:dear.marj-hgn@nottinghamcity.nhs.uk)

**A Big Thank You** We'd like to say a big thank you to all the staff and customers of the Nottingham gay bars and club for their generosity during our collection for WAD. We managed to collect a fantastic £163-55 for the Nottingham hardship fund. **COMING SOON: *Coming Out Guide*.**

[www.healthygaynottingham.org.uk](http://www.healthygaynottingham.org.uk)

## F IN EXAMS

Amongst this year's Christmas presents was a book about the "Best exam blunders". Here are a few:

"What is a vacuum?". Something Mum says I should use more often.

"What is a fibula?" It's a little lie.

"What does *terminal illness* mean?" It's when you get sick at an airport.

"What are the 3 types of blood vessels?" Vanes, anchovies and caterpillars.

"Name six animals which live in the Arctic." Two polar bears and four seals.

"What is the name given to inhabitants of Moscow?" Mosquitoes.

"What artificial waterway runs from the Red Sea to the Mediterranean?" The Sewage Canal.

"Christians only have one spouse. What is this called?" Monotony.

"What was the Cold War?" It started when someone threw an ice-cream, then someone threw a lolly back.

Lesbian & Gay Switchboard  
 0115 934 8485 or 01623 621515  
 Monday-Friday 7-9.30 pm  
 7 Mansfield Road, Nottingham, NG1 3FB.  
 notts@lgswitchboard.fsnet.co.uk  
 www.nottslgs.org.uk  
 \*\*\*\*\*  
 Healthy Gay Nottingham  
 0115 947 6868  
 Monday-Friday daytimes  
 c/o The Health Shop, Broad Street,  
 Nottingham NG1 3AL.  
 read more (and e-mail) via  
 www.healthygaynottingham.org.uk  
 \*\*\*\*\*  
 Police Homophobic Crime Helpline  
 0800 085 8522  
 \*\*\*\*\*  
 Nottinghamshire's Rainbow Heritage  
 c/o NVAC, 7 Mansfield Road,  
 Nottingham NG1 3FB.  
 0115 9349529  
 nottsrh@hotmail.co.uk  
 www.nottsrainbowheritage.org.uk  
 (Heritage Lottery funded)

**SOME LOCAL LISTINGS**

- Breakout Social group for gay & bisexual men. Tuesdays 7.30 pm (at HGN, 12 Broad St.) Contact Switchboard or HGN 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 Saturday of month, 4 pm at the Health Shop. Contact HGN.
- 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 or e-mail [outburst@nottinghamcity.gov.uk](mailto:outburst@nottinghamcity.gov.uk)
- Lookout The quarterly free lesbian newsletter. For details e-mail [lookoutmag@hotmail.com](mailto:lookoutmag@hotmail.com)

Details of the following local groups can be obtained from Switchboard:

Nottinghamshire Hyking Dykes; Bi-Delight: Stately Homes Group; Notts Lesbian Book Club; Re-Creation; Women's Badminton; Badminton Social; Lesbian & Gay Christian Movement; East Mercia MSC; Chameleon Group; University of Nottingham & Trent University LGBT Societies; Peak Ruffties; Nottm Women's Film Group; Grizzly; LIRAIN; Police OUTNetwork; Flying Colours; SMOC; Bi Women's Group; LiNk-Notts; LAFS; Eat Out Nottingham; North Notts Gay Women's Walking Group; Ball Bois football team; Sparta Women's Football; Women's 5-a-side football; Open Walking Group; Tagadere: Weekenders; Sapphist Writers; Gay Outdoor Club.

Switchboard has an accommodation file: if you are seeking flat/house share or have accommodation to offer, contact us; the service is free.

**DIARY**

**WINTER HAFLA**

19th February 2010 @ 7.30 pm 'til late at Canal House, 48-52 Canal Street, Nottingham NG1 7EH. Women only. Tickets £ 5.

**WINTER HAFLA** (a party where women dance for each other) - in aid of Million Women Rise (organised by Roshni Women's Aid charity).

For more info contact: [mocooper@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:mocooper@yahoo.co.uk) and for more about the Million Women Rise go to [www.millionwomenrise.com](http://www.millionwomenrise.com)

**EMHRCLGBT IN LEICESTER**

No, this is not the Midlands Scrabble championship. **EMHRCLGBT** stands for the East Midlands Human Rights Commission Lesbian Gay Bisexual and Trans forum.

The intent is that people and organisations in the East Midlands (Notts, Derbyshire, Lincs, Leicestershire and Northants) should discuss issues of mutual interest and share best practice. The next meeting is on Saturday March 6th, 11.30 am at the Leicester LGB Centre.

Those interested should e-mail Tony Montinari at [info@gayderbyshire.co.uk](mailto:info@gayderbyshire.co.uk)

**A SINGLE MAN**

We hear that this highly praised film, based on a novel by Christopher Isherwood, comes to Broadway Cinema during LGBT History Month.

George Falconer (played by Colin Firth), a 52 year old British college professor is struggling to find meaning to his life after the death of his long time partner, Jim. George dwells on the past and cannot see his future as we follow him through a single day, where a series of events and encounters, ultimately lead him to decide if there is a meaning to life.

Check Broadway website for times/dates.

**LGBT HISTORY MONTH DISPLAYS**

Smaller scale displays can be seen at:

- Nottingham Council House: Feb 15th to Feb 19th . Forbidden Love
- W. Bridgford Register Office Feb. 1st to Feb 8th Civil Partnerships
- Gedling Civic Centre Feb. 1st to Feb 8th The Older Generation
- Rushcliffe Civic Centre Feb. 8th to Feb 12th Nottingham Pride
- Lace Market Theatre Feb 1st to Feb 6th Playwrights & Actors