

QB

Nottinghamshire's Queer Bulletin

June/July 2008
Number 42

In this edition:

- Disgusting pornography
- Green sheep
- Flyswatters
- Lang's watershed
- Artefacts
- Death
- Trim or extra large

Also, we are already quivering with anticipation in advance of July's Nottingham Pride Festival.

Will the Pride Committee's annual naked rain dance yet again ensure fair weather? (Be there ... June 21st, Arboretum, midnight)

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 July 2008. As this will be the Pride edition, it will appear a little later than usual.

Switchboard is registered charity number 1114273

This edition of QB is sponsored by Nottingham Students' Carnival

FOREST SAYS "NO" TO HOMOPHOBIA

FREE

Nottingham Forest players say:
'Homophobic and Transphobic bullying is wrong. Let's tackle it together!'



If you are Gay, Lesbian, Bi, Trans, Straight or unsure and have been bullied in any way e.g. physically, verbally or by text, talk to a teacher or another adult you can trust.

You can also call the Police Homophobic and Trans Incident Reporting Line on 0800 085 8522 or speak to/text the Outburst Youth Project Worker on 07940 761 160 all in complete confidence.

You can also find out about services for Lesbian, Gay, Bi or Trans young people in the City on this last number.

Rights, Respect, Responsibility and Inclusion



After the application of amazing powers of persuasion by Nottingham City Council, **Nottingham Forest** have given their considerable weight to a local poster campaign to tackle homophobic bullying in schools. The poster's launch was timed to coincide with IDAHO day - May 17th, the International Day Against Homophobia.

By "Nottingham Forest", we mean both the men's and the women's team. QB believes that they are the first UK teams to put their names and faces to this sort of publicity. Sport remains a largely homophobic zone and old-style macho attitudes are more prevalent in football than in most sports. The Forest teams deserve congratulations and much respect for their courage. We can now add a further "well done" following Forest's promotion to the Championship.

Viewing the poster may remind us of former Forest player Justin Fashanu, who killed himself after prolonged homophobia.

QB'S (O)BITS

The following groups have joined the choir invisible:

- **LIFT** - Lesbians into food 'n' talk. Women who like to eat out in pleasant company should note that Eat Out Nottingham was given a glowing recommendation on the front page of Lookout last December; yes, it's mainly men at the moment, but if ex-LIFTers make use of it, the gender balance can be changed.
- **Compassion** - lesbian disco. It came. It went.
- It is with the deepest regret that we mourn the passing of **SHAGGERS** - both contact numbers are now unavailable and the e-mail address generates no response. Death must be assumed. If we could, we'd send horse-drawn carriages and provide a 21 gun salute at the wake. SHAGGERS (an acronym full of promise) provided a social group for those interested in **Stately Homes And Gardens** etc, etc, etc.

A QB TYPO

Apologies to Bi Delight, the local group for Bi couples. We gave their e-mail address with a hyphen, when it should have had an underscore ... so it's

bi_delight69@yahoo.co.uk

NOTTINGHAM PRIDE GOES SWEDISH

Nottingham Pride has an **ABBA** theme this year. So, it's "Välkomna till Nottingham Stolthet" to all you dancing queens.

We will be most disappointed if the Pride Committee (or should we say Stolthet Ut-skott?) fail to provide a stall selling fermented herring and meat balls.



Regardless of that, we expect to see lots of flared trousers and spangly outfits galore - and that's just on the Police.

We hear that Sandi Toksvig and the Stranglers are amongst the celebrities who have given their support to this year's Pride.

SUPPORT FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

The front page shows a success story about one of the City Council's attempts to counteract homophobic bullying. The County Council intends to run a major event looking at homophobia in schools and other young people's organisations later this year - its provisional title is "**Notts Out**".

There are also moves from various quarters to provide more support for LGBT young people. QB's editor has been to several meetings where a willingness to do this has been expressed.

The people who might provide this support have asked where they can get appropriate training and where they might be able to refer young people who have problems coming to terms with their sexuality. Some of the people present have praised highly the training in working with young LGBT people delivered by Healthy Gay Nottingham. Some of those people have similarly recommended the "coming out" sessions delivered by HGN.

The problem that any future local developments will face is that HGN finds it difficult to provide time to run such training courses and impossible to run a regular sequence of "coming out" sessions. The reason for this is simple - HGN, which should have a staff of 3 people, has only one permanent member of staff. The Primary Care Trust has been promising to advertise and fill the other two posts for over a year and has similarly been promising to find appropriate new premises.

It is time that promises were translated into action. Failing to do so will again demonstrate that the NHS has a hierarchy for its diversity strands and that LGBT issues are low in that hierarchy.

WALKING FOR LIFE

On **Sunday 1st 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 3k) 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; armorelyoung@ntlworld.com)

NEWS FROM THE CITY COUNCIL

Nottingham City Council is committed to celebrating the diversity of the city we serve and we're grateful to QB for giving us space in this edition.

Nottingham City Council is proud of our recent work to improve our service provision and employment opportunities for local lesbian, gay and bisexual people. We've recently produced guidance for our managers and on the most recent Sexual Orientation Regulations (2007) to help them understand how to make sure we don't discriminate in our service provision and we're planning some training to support this guidance. We flew the Rainbow Flag over the Council House for a week in support of this year's LGBT History Month, and we're about to launch our LGBT Action Plan which contains objectives and outcomes for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people both as employees of the Council and as recipients of our services. Our internal **LGBT Employee Network** met recently for the first time in several months, and has planned regular meetings throughout 2008 to give LGBT employees a chance to have their say on Council policies and practices, as well as to meet up and socialise.

We're keen to ensure that LGBT people living, working, studying and socialising in Nottingham are able to have their say on our services.

The external LGBT Forum meets bi-monthly to do this and to discuss issues affecting the LGBT community. It is made up of individuals and representatives from a number of community groups such as Healthy Gay Nottingham, Nottingham & Nottinghamshire Lesbian & Gay Switchboard, BreakOUT and Outburst.

It is an official group, recognised by Nottingham City Council, and its role is to challenge and support the Council, particularly around issues which impact on LGBT people. Recent meetings have focused on how the City Council can promote its employment opportunities better to LGBT people, how we can improve our care provision for elderly LGBT people, and how hate crime is being tackled. Members of the group have also recently received training on the Goods and Services Regulations.

We'd like to encourage more involvement from local organisations, groups and individuals interested in LGBT issues in the Forum to make sure as many people as possible have their say. The next meeting is in June, with future meetings every 2 months.

If you would like to get involved in the Forum, would like more details about upcoming meetings, or have an issue you would like us to consider please contact Nottingham City Council Equality & Diversity Team on 0115 915 6736 or email us at equalityanddiversityteam@nottinghamcity.gov.uk. Please also contact us for further information on anything in this article.

OUTHOUSE: THE FINAL CURTAIN

Many people have been disappointed and frustrated by the **OutHouse** saga. The idea for a lesbian and gay centre was first talked about in 1979. In the mid 1980s it was founded as a Cooperative Society and started the long trek to gain funding and premises.

When it received a lottery grant of £228,000 in 1998, we thought we were home and dry. Premises on Cranbrook Street were bought in 1999. Eventually it became clear that there wasn't enough money to complete the project and the building had to be sold.

The story is not without a positive side. In the 1990s OutHouse arranged several LGBT film festivals. In more recent years, under the guidance of Bidy McMeel, two important activities were organised.

One was the "**I Count**" survey of LGBT experiences and opinions in Nottinghamshire. When organisations say "and what evidence is there that X or Y is needed, we can say "The I Count survey shows".

The other was the revival of **Nottingham Pride**, which turned it into the successful event we look forward to each year.



The final OutHouse good deed was to donate its remaining financial assets to two local LGBT charities at a party hosted by the New Foresters on May 1st. A cheque for £15,000 was received for Nottingham Pride by Carlton Symonds - above. A cheque for £40,000 was received for Nottingham Switchboard by David Edgley - below.



QB'S PORNOGRAPHY PAGE

Readers of QB will be shocked to learn that there are newspapers which make things up. In the 1980s there was a national campaign by the right wing press and the Conservative government to label Labour councils as "Loony Left". Stories on themes like black one-legged lesbians' trampolining classes were used to persuade voters that Labour councils were wasting your money.

In Nottingham, we had "Gay swimming on the rates, mothers fear AIDS risk". In London there was "Baa baa, green sheep", about a local authority which had told school teachers that "Baa baa, black sheep" was racist and that teachers should substitute "Baa baa, green sheep".

The thing to remember about these stories is that 99% of them were just that - stories. The newspapers made it up. Yes, in schools in that authority you could hear infants reciting "Baa baa, green sheep", not because of the local authority, but because the teachers had read about it in the Sun and - amazingly - believed what they read.

The most notorious example was "Infants given gay pornography" and "Infants encouraged into homosexual practices". The pornography and the "encouragement" was delivered by a book called "Jenny lives with Eric and Martin". You can see a typical pornographic page below.



No child was ever given the book. One copy existed in a Teachers' Centre for use by teachers only. The book depicts Jenny, her father Martin, his lover Eric and is "the story of how they spend their weekend".

The book was used as the main lever for the introduction of Section 28. Never let the truth stand in the way of a good story.

NOTTS RAINBOW HERITAGE

Volunteers involved in NRH, your local LGBT history project, have been having fun trying out their new audio and video recording equipment. They have also received some training from the East Midlands Oral History Archives.

By the time you read this, they should have started interviewing people to gather a collection of people's reminiscences, views, opinions and experiences. If you would like to be interviewed, contact the project - details are on the back page.



Nottinghamshire's RAINBOW HERITAGE

NRH now has a friend called Dorothy. She's a tailor's dummy. She has decided to dress herself in an LGBT-themed T-shirt and is now in the process of pinning dozens of LGBT badges to herself.

If you want to be a friend of Dorothy, you can meet her at Pride. NRH will have a marquee where you can find out more about the project, see some of the project's resources, post your views on various issues and perhaps give a mini-interview.

Since the last QB, NRH has been given:

- A huge anti-Section 28 banner and a powerpoint presentation dealing with Section 28.
- A powerpoint presentation detailing the 2004 "I Count" survey of LGBT Nottinghamshire.
- A DVD of Narvel Annable reading extracts from his novels.
- More display materials showing the history of the OutHouse Project.
- Old copies of Lookout

Any more items of memorabilia will be gratefully received.

The County Council has requested the use of some of NRH's resources for the **Notts Out** conference on homophobic bullying which will take place in November. Recent training sessions with Notts Police and at West Notts College, Mansfield, have made use of NRH's resources.



No. 3 | Claiming our history, Celebrating our present, Creating our future

PRIDE in Nottingham

Pride events grew out of the gay rights marches held in the aftermath of the Stonewall Riots of New York in 1969. In 1970 the riots were remembered with a parade in New York, attended by Nottingham-born Bob Mellors. Back in the UK, Bob founded the Gay Liberation Front, which organised the first London Pride march in 1972.



Nottingham Pride started as Pink Lace, a street party organised by the GAI Project. Fears of homophobic attacks led the county police to develop their first programme to tackle anti-gay crime.

Nottingham Castle
12 September 1998
11 September 1999



Broad Street 13 September 1997



9-10 September 2000
Victoria Embankment



30 August 2003
Arboretum



24 July 2004
Arboretum



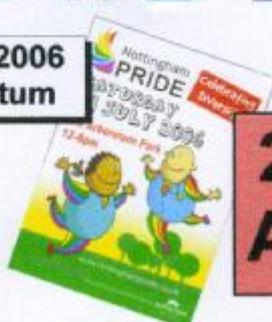
23 July 2005
Arboretum



28 July 2007
Arboretum



29 July 2006
Arboretum



26 July 2008
ARBORETUM



QUEER MUSIC

"Queer Music Heritage" is both a radio show and a website and the goal of both is to preserve and share the music of our culture, because the gay and lesbian music of the past should not be forgotten. The radio show which goes out on the 4th Monday of each month on KPFT in Houston, Texas, is produced and presented by JD Doyle. Yes, I know it's American but there is nothing comparable to it in the UK.

The website has archived over 100 shows going back over nine years, with many of the shows expanded because there are no time constraints and the content can be more "interesting". JD states "I believe our music culture is a visual and an audio experience, so I try to share the images of this music...photos of the artists and recordings, and to pack in as much information as possible, while still trying to entertain". On the website each month's page/show gives the playlist as well as additional information and you can stream or download every show.

Many of the shows are themed - gay musicals, queer country, transgender music, queer girl group songs, bisexual songs, bear music (a whole 6 hours dedicated to this theme alone), gay Christian music, queer blues, gay hip hop and two of my favourites - gay disco and gay Christmas music. There are many interviews, including Tom Robinson, RuPaul and the wonderful Janis Ian as well as articles on gay music associated with such diverse themes as musicals, HIV/AIDS, Matthew Shephard and gay marriage songs. And lastly a wonderful section featuring naked musicians.

Go on try it... queermusicheritage.us or simply google queer music heritage

OFFENSIVE LANGUAGE

Comments have appeared in QB before about the sledgehammer application of e-mail filters by big organisations such as the NHS, the Police etc. The latest example is from the City Council.

At their request, **Nottinghamshire's Rainbow Heritage** sent them the list of DVDs that they have so far acquired. This was done so that the City's LGBT Consultation Group might be able to select one or two which they would find useful to watch.

The e-mail was returned saying that it contained "offensive language". With DVDs like "Smile if you're gay" and "The gay decade", we wondered whether there was an objection to "smile" or "decade". Perhaps "A very British sex scandal" caused a blip when "British" tried to get through. Other filter triggers might have been "police", "Fantabulosa" or "Frankie Howerd". We await clarification.

NEWS FROM HGN

- Healthy Gay Nottingham will be updating their **Gay Guide** to Nottingham from May-June for release at Nottingham Pride (fingers crossed). If there are organisations, groups, gay orientated businesses which aren't in the current Guide, then contact HGN.
- HGN have now put up posters in the venues letting you know when they are next doing **outreach** at that particular bar/club
- Did you know that **National Condom Week** took place in May? (Did you know that National Condom Week took place at all?). HGN highlighted the Thick v Standard condom issue. As long as the right lube and other guidelines are taken into account, i.e. extra water bases/silicon lube, checking the condom regularly, there is no difference in breakages. This means there is much more choice i.e. ribbed, trim, extra large.

GUYS ... WANT TO BE A FATHER?

Two women in loving, committed relationship would like to start a family. We are looking for a co-parent/father/sperm donor. We are flexible about level of involvement depending on the person.

If you are a man (non-smoker, healthy) with a genuine interest, please contact us on our e-mail telling us a bit about yourself. creativejoy2@hotmail.com

YOUR HELP NEEDED

We are two academics at the University of Nottingham who are conducting a study on the politics of desire, examining the interaction between sexuality and ethnicity.

We would like to invite men (aged 16 or older) of South Asian or East Asian origin residing in Britain, who are attracted to and/or have sexual contact with men. This study requires participants to complete an anonymised questionnaire, which is available online, and takes approximately 10 minutes to complete. Hard copies of the questionnaire (and prepaid envelopes) could also be sent to those who wish to disseminate them. This study has been granted ethical approval by the Institute of Work, Health and Organisations Ethics Committee, at The University of Nottingham. The questionnaire can be found at:

http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=VYMNIHGKKBtNmDRxI_2bsGKw_3d_3d

Should you have any questions re this study, please do not hesitate to contact Dr Roshan das Nair on 0115-8468314 (roshan.nair@nottingham.ac.uk) or Dr Shirley Thomas on 0115-8466670 (shirley.thomas@nottingham.ac.uk).

(We've put the questionnaire on Switchboard's website if you can't face typing out the huge url!)

GAY BIRMINGHAM REMEMBERED



On May 8th, an invited audience came to the official opening of Gay Birmingham Remembered's LGBT history exhibition at Birmingham's Symphony Hall. The exhibition was displayed on the 4th and 5th floors throughout May.

As well as personal histories, the exhibition explored themes such as homophobia, how we are/were viewed by the media, the local gay scene etc.

A keynote speech was given by Michael Cashman, MEP for the West Midlands.



Various well known Birmingham characters appeared on parts of the display. Our Nottingham contingent were utterly shocked to discover that Noelle Gordon was a lesbian.



NOTES AND QUEERIES

Arriving serendipitously at a website which gives a list of words for "gay" in a variety of languages, QB now presents the following terms to add to your Berlitz tourist dictionaries:

| | |
|---------------|----------------------------------|
| Puerto Rico | "plumifero" - with feathers |
| Russian | "goluboy" - light blue |
| Portuguese | "queima-rosca" - doughnut burner |
| French | "tapette" - flyswatter |
| Slovenian | "toplovodar" - warm water person |
| Czech | "bukvice" - beechnut |
| Luxembourgish | "tatta" - aunty |

TIME FOR A CHANGE?

Four years ago Nottingham Lesbian and Gay Switchboard changed its formal name to Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Lesbian and Gay Switchboard to demonstrate that, despite our location in Nottingham, we served the whole county.

Since then, some people have suggested that we expand our name to include bisexual and transgender. Our concern is that this would produce a ridiculously long and awkward name. Shortening lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans to LGBT works for many, but there are still lots of people out there who would not understand that acronym. Those involved with LGBT awareness training know that to most of the general public, it is a meaningless term ... to quote "I know that LG stands for local Government, but what is the BT bit?".

Switchboard is now more complex than it was 15 years ago. We have our own history project, we are also part of the bigger "Nottinghamshire's Rainbow Heritage" history project; we provide occasional training, are involved in about 5 consultation groups and produce QB newsletter.

We have come to the conclusion that a completely different name for the information-giving part of our service might be timely. "Switchboard" is a very outdated term and does not take into account the fact that we deal with many contacts by e-mail and will soon start a texting service.

One possibility that we have discussed is using a term such as Gay Info or Gay Infocentre for the information service. We would retain Switchboard's full name for the charity itself; our website would continue to say that we provide information and support for "People who are lesbian, gay, bisexual or trans" and similar wording would appear on our literature. But we do need to consult.

We would like feedback from QB readers on this possible name change. Contact details are on the back page.

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

 Healthy Gay Nottingham
 0115 947 6868
 Monday-Friday daytimes
 c/o The Health Shop, Broad Street,
 Nottingham NG1 3AL.
 gaiproject@nottinghamcity-pct.nhs.uk
 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

SOME LOCAL LISTINGS

- Breakout** Social group for gay & bisexual men. Tuesdays 7.30 pm (at the Health Shop) Contact Switchboard or HGN 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 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
- Tipping The Velvet** A safe space for women who have sex with women 1st Monday of each month 5.30 - 8.00 pm at the Health Shop. Phone 0115 947 5414 for info

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

Hyking Dykes; Notts Lesbian Book Club; Trans-Action (TV/TS); Women's Badminton; Badminton Social; Lesbian and Gay Christian Movement; East Mercia MSC; the Chameleon Group; University of Nottingham & Trent University LGBT Societies; Peak Ruffties; Nottm Women's Film Group; Bi Delight; Grizzly; LIRAIN; Notts Police OUTNetwork; Flying Colours; Nottm 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; LGB Youth Groups in Worksop & Mansfield; Tagadere: Weekenders; Lesbian Writer's Network; 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

K.D., WONDERFUL K.D.

K.D. Lang has announced a series of European tour dates in July and August as part of her continuing worldwide **Watershed Tour**. She's at Sheffield City Hall on July 24th. Go to www.sheffieldcityhall.co.uk

SPLENDOUR IN THE PARK

Saturday and Sunday July 19th/20th are the dates for Splendour in Nottingham, which takes place in Wollaton Park. The amazing **Rufus Wainwright** appears on the Sunday. 3 years ago at the RCH, he closed the show wearing revealing blue spangled pants, red high heels and angel wings.

The City is offering discounts to all those who have an adult Citycard. You can get tickets from www.gigantic.com www.alt-tickets.co.uk or from the Royal Centre in person or by phone.

LIPSTICK LOUNGE

Nottingham's premier women's music night, held on the first Thursday of the month at NICHE. 9 pm onwards. This month with Rachel Delicata and KMF.

There's red velvet curtains and a free buffet! What more could you want?

BICON IN THE EAST MIDLANDS

BiCon is the UK National Bisexual Convention, a fun weekend-long festival for bisexual people and their allies. This years BiCon is on 28th - 31st August 2008, at Leicester University (Oadby Campus).

For details go to www.bicon.org.uk

EUROPRIDE

From July 28th to August 3rd, Stockholm's huge annual Pride Festival becomes even more huger as it expands to accommodate Europride. Saturday August 2nd is the day of the big parade. Sparing no expense, QB is sending its entire editorial team to report back on the event.

See www.europride.info

NOTTINGHAM PRIDE

Join the friendly, diverse throng which helps to make Nottingham Pride special. The Arboretum hosts the event from 12 noon to 6 pm on Saturday July 26th. Go to the website for details

www.nottinghampride.co.uk