

QB

Nottinghamshire's Queer Bulletin

December 2008/January 2009
Number 45

In this edition:

Quite a lot but all of it pales before the opening of Waitrose in Trinity Square. The fuel which will be saved by hoards of gay men no longer trekking over to Newark Waitrose will probably reduce Nottingham's carbon footprint to that of a third world village.

Dec. 10th is the big day. Go along with your copy of QB, which will entitle you to a discount of 15% on their range of organic quince preserves..

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 early January 2008

**Switchboard is registered
charity number 1114273**

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UK'S BIGGEST LGBT EXHIBITION RETURNS

FREE



A full schedule of local events for LGBT History Month will appear in the next QB, but here is advance notice of the LGBT Exhibition (last year's exhibition is shown above) which will be staged at **View from the Top** in February.

Some of the themes on display last year will return again, though usually in expanded form - a lot more on Black and Asian LGBT people, on local venues and local LGBT publications, on Trans people and on homophobic bullying. New themes include: Section 28, Civil Partnerships, Nottingham in the News, Gone but not forgotten, Nottingham CHE, Dorothy the Badgelady and others as well as a prize quiz

The View from the Top gallery is on the 4th floor above Waterstones. The exhibition runs from Tuesday February 17th to Sunday February 22nd. From the Wednesday to the Sunday the opening hours are simply the times when Waterstones is open. On Tuesday 17th, the exhibition begins with an evening launch event from 7.00 - 9.00 pm with free food and drink.

OUT OF HER TREE



After the last QB's revelations about Rufus Wainright's Nottinghamshire connections, we can now reveal that **Ellen Degeneres** also has a family tree with Nottinghamshire roots.

Ellen descends from the Pierreponts of Holme Pierrepont and Thoresby. One LGBT link is Lady Mary Wortley Montagu (nee Pierrepont), who had a teenage affair with Anne Wortley. After Anne died, Lady Mary ran off to Turkey with Anne's brother. The spur for this was her father's plan to marry her off to someone called - we are not making this up - Clotworthy Skeffington.

GROUP OF THE DAY



The **LIRAIN** (Lesbians into Real Ale in Nottingham) group celebrated their first anniversary on Friday 14th November. They met in the Lincolnshire Poacher, Mansfield Road where they 'took over' a corner of the pub.

The very first LIRAIN meeting was also held in the Poacher a year ago. Since then the group has met in The Canalhouse, Ye Olde Trip to Jerusalem, The Lion Inn, and the New Carrington Inn.

Many, many beers have been enjoyed (sadly a few were less than at their best) but soft drinks, wine and lager have also been consumed! There have been at least 20 women at each meeting and some even make a special trip from Leicester to meet up.

If you fancy joining the group you can just go along or visit the LIRAIN yahoo group at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/lirain/>

WHAT'S SMOC?

Well, actually it's a new service starting at the Health Shop. It stands for **S**upport for **M**ixed **O**rientation **C**ouples.

It offers support and information to heterosexual partners (current or former) of gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender mates and mixed orientation couples for constructively resolving "coming out" issues such as:

- Their partner's sexual orientation
- Sexual rejection and mismatch
- Shock, hurt anger and self-blame
- Effects on children and relatives
- Their own crisis of identity
- STIs or other health issues
- Deception, distrust and confusion

For further information, contact Vicky at the Health Shop on 0115 947 5414.

GOD AND GAYS

In the last QB, it was refreshing to hear the Reverend Peter Willis from the Methodist Church in Nottingham speak warmly of God's welcome for all people including those within the LGBT community. The church across the denominations has an unenviable reputation concerning its attitude to gay and lesbian people and has often provided a hostile and unwelcoming environment for us; Peter's words offer a welcome alternative to what many LGBT people think about the church.

The Church of England is no exception to this but it must be made clear that whilst the current 'official' line of the CofE on 'queer' matters is disappointing, where it matters, in the individual churches, things are sometimes very different. I am a member of the city centre parish of **All Saints, St. Mary and St. Peter's** and have been so since 1984. We have 3 magnificent church buildings with warm-hearted congregations who adopt a liberal attitude to life and faith.

St. Peter's (next to Marks & Spencer's) has for a long time been noted for its welcome to gay and lesbian people and that combined with challenging preaching and a fine musical tradition make it a sound place to explore the Christian way; services are held each Sunday at 8.15 a.m. 10.45 a.m. & 6.30 p.m. **St. Mary's** (in the Lace Market) is the civic and Mother Church of the city and likewise has an excellent music tradition and services are again held at 10.45 a.m. & 6.30 p.m. on Sunday. **All Saints** is a large and impressive Victorian building on Raleigh Street near to the **Arboretum** and the Sunday service is held at 10.30 a.m.

As well as a Sunday schedule the churches are open in the week for quiet reflection and services (check the website for times) and St. Peter's has a busy coffee room open Monday to Friday 11 a.m. till 2.00 p.m. Like our Methodist friends we believe that the Christian way of life is for everyone without exception. In our churches you will find no judgments and no conditions ... just a welcome! Maybe check out our website and see something of who and what we are for yourselves ... visit us at

www.nottinghamchurches.org

We would love to see you!

Andrew Wallis
Parish Reader, All Saints, St. Mary & St. Peter

There will be a **World AIDS Day** Service in St. Peter's Church (Next to Marks & Spencer) in the city centre on Sunday 30th November at 3.30 p.m. It will provide an opportunity to Remember, Reflect & Pray and will last for 50 minutes or so with refreshments to follow..

RE-CREATION

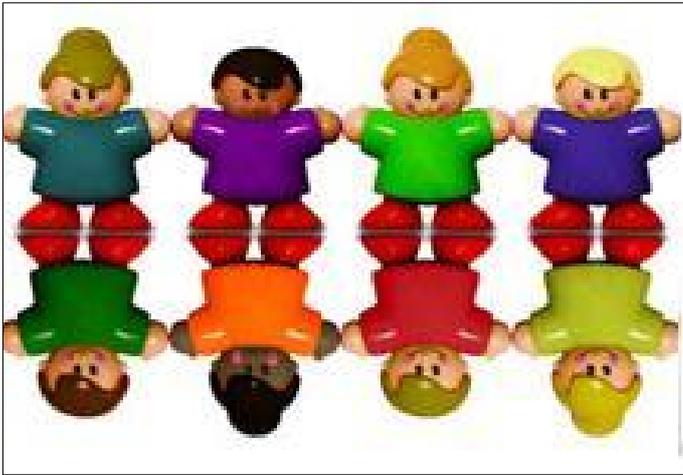
Re-creation is a new social and support Trans-group meeting fortnightly for anyone who is affected by gender identity issues. Various activities are planned. Come and join us @ Chameleons cafe, (just above Clinton Cards on Angel Row, entrance at the side). The launch night took place on Friday Nov. 7th.

Other dates for your diary:

Friday 21st November Between 6.00 - 8.00 pm.

Friday 5th December Between 6.00 - 8.00 pm.

Contact us at
re-creation2008@hotmail.com



“Re-Creation” provides a regular support and social group for anyone who is affected by gender identity issues. We aim to raise awareness about gender issues amongst professionals and the general public.

We intend to provide a safe and confidential place for people to explore issues surrounding their Gender identity, including practical advice and help. We will work to increase knowledge so that everyone will accept and support the right of trans people to be valued members of society.

JEREMY FARRELL

Jeremy Farrell died of cancer shortly before this edition of QB was going to the printers. Jeremy was the Keeper of the Costume and Textile Collection at the Costume Museum and his knowledge of the subject was remarkable.

If you go to the Castle, you can see a gallery called “Circle of Life”, which was Jeremy’s last big project. To read a fuller appreciation, go to the Blog section on Nottinghamshire’s Rainbow Heritage’s website - details are on the back page..

Our thoughts go to Jeremy’s partner, David.



Nottinghamshire's RAINBOW HERITAGE

One of the strands on the NRH website is about Civil Partnerships, and that includes pictures of civil ceremonies. So far, five couples have provided photographs. If anyone out there is happy to loan us some photos to scan (or send them as jpegs) please e-mail NRH - contact details on back page.

At Pride we asked people to post comments about what they would want if they had to go into a residential home for old people. Here are some posts:

- Books, books, books and more books
- A double room for me + girlfriend
- Privacy and safety
- An OFF switch for the telly
- A gay DVD library
- Smiling staff and a urine neutralising spray
- Other LGBT people to talk to
- Staff trained in LGBT issues
- Hot and cold running rent boys

OUTING Nottinghamshire is a six month survey,

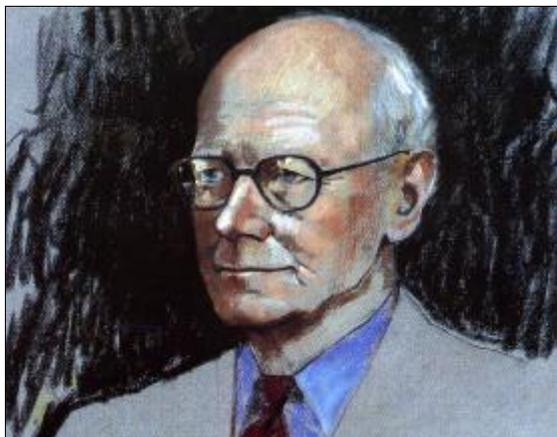
OUTING NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

which is looking at drug and alcohol use within Notts LGBT community, the needs of substance users in that community, examples of good or bad practice in the provision of substance use services for that community. They will also investigate whether there may be a relationship between the experience of “coming out” and/or discrimination and prejudice on one hand and of substance use on the other.

The survey would like local LGBT community organisations to participate by, for example, organising a small discussion or focus group or administering a small number of questionnaires. The deadline for expressions of interest is **December 5th 2008**.

Up to £500 is available to Community groups to help cover the costs associated with helping (e.g. room hire, refreshments, participants expenses). If you are interested, you can download the full documents from home pages of the websites of Lesbian and Gay Switchboard and Nottinghamshire’s Rainbow Heritage - both are given on the back page.

The build up to the implementation of the Wolfenden Committee's report via the 1967 Sexual Offences Act: Letters in the Post



Sir John Wolfenden

Not always is homosexuality due to perversion and corrupt sexual contacts, but can be due to harmful religious instruction emphasising "sin" and showing God to be a vindictive deity. Wollaton July 1st 1965

Apparently the bill to legalise homosexuality has the support of the Church of England. The argument has been advanced that homosexuals leave themselves open to blackmail. What a fatuous argument. The crime of murder could lend itself to exactly the same conditions, but this does not make it necessary to legalise it. I am appalled that the Church should so debase itself.

O.R.R. June 2nd 1965.

Must Nature Lover write such nonsense against the Sexual Offences Bill? Until we (I am one of them) are left alone to our own desires, the practice will still be regarded as disgusting. People do not know what hell it is to be born with this disease, and it is a disease, a mental illness, which causes much anguish to resist. I beg that we are left alone to our problems. Pam. January 3rd 1966



Sodomy is the cardinal sin and the greatest abomination in all the behaviour of mankind and the contemplation of this major crime being pandered to by any religious or legislative body is unthinkable.

Robbery, forgery, blackmail and harlotry are mere child's play to the frightful debasement of homosexual vice.

West Bridgford July 1st 1965.

Homosexuality is certainly no affront to the Creator, and it is simply one of nature's safety valves against excessive population; at the same time being a release for the natural instincts and is no more revolting than many so-called heterosexual practices, in fact - much less so.

Grantham July 1st 1965

The letter from O.R.R. shows very little understanding of the situation, The Church, however, has shown great foresight in support of the Bill. These people are ill and desperately need medical treatment, and the only way to get them to come forward is to ensure that they are not prosecuted in an attempt to get medical aid.

Miss Denise Smith, Hucknall Road,
Nottingham June 10th 1965.

After a discreet interval we again read of this Government's intention to legalise homosexuality, to have coloured police and no death penalty.

Could anyone in their right mind still be for this administration?

N.B. February 18th 1966

Gay Nottingham Times

No. 6

Claiming our history, Celebrating our present, Creating the future

HIV

HUMAN IMMUNO-DEFICIENCY VIRUS

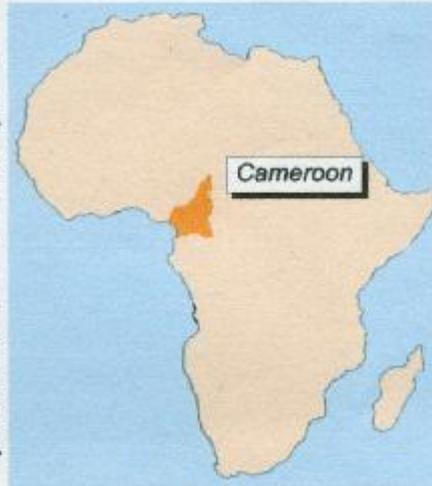
The infectious virus that can cause AIDS.

Nottingham doctor leads AIDS research



The University of Nottingham

In 2006, Dr. Paul Sharp, Professor of Genetics at Nottingham University Queen's Medical Centre, presented evidence that HIV was passed onto humans from chimps in southern Cameroon.



Paul and his team spent over 15 years tracing the genetic origin of HIV and its related ape equivalent, SIV. By studying (amongst other things) chimp shit, HIV is traced back 30 years before the earliest evidence known in 1959. The common ancestor of HIV and SIV has been traced back a million years.

AIDS

ACQUIRED IMMUNE DEFICIENCY SYNDROME. The destructive effect HIV has on the immune system. There is no known cure.

By finding out how HIV evolved, we can understand how and why it works, and try to develop more effective treatments - perhaps even find a cure.

WORLD AIDS DAY



On 1 December 1988 the UN Joint Programme on HIV/AIDS launched the first **WORLD AIDS DAY**. It has been held on 1 December every year since then. In Nottingham, events have been hosted by the Health Shop and St. Peter's Church among others, and include street collections, services of reflection, and health advice.



Nottingham GAI (Gay AIDS Initiative Project) was created in 1994. Its aim is to promote the health and well-being of gay and bisexual men. In 2007 the GAI Project became **Healthy Gay Nottingham - HGN**.

HGN provides HIV and syphilis tests, vaccination against hepatitis B, free condoms health advice, coming out, relationships ... anything affecting your life as a gay or bisexual man.



HGN produces a free guide to just about every service any LGBT person in the county needs to know. Listed are LGBT social groups, venues and services including AIDS support groups such as the Buddies and the



WORLD AIDS DAY 2008

Notts TPCT have sent us the following information about events leading up to and following this year's World AIDS Day.

Art Exhibition and Auction

Monday 24th November - Monday December 1st at Broadway Cinema

Tuesday December 2nd - Tuesday December 9th at Loggerhead Pub, Canal Street

Monday December 15th - Sunday December 14th at the Malt Cross Pub, St. James Street

All proceeds from these events will go to the Notts Hardship Fund.

World AIDS Day Church Service

Sunday November 30th 3.30 pm at St. Peter's Church, St. Peter's Square (see article on page 2)

The following all take place on Monday December 1st, World AIDS Day.

- 5.30 pm Candlelit Vigil outside Broadway Cinema
- 6.00 pm. Fashion Show and Musical Performance by young people at the Muse Bar, opposite Broadway. This brings together young people from Bulwell and Bestwood to showcase a collection of clothes designed by themselves and inspired by WAD. "Street Surdo", an Urban Street Beat young people's band will be performing and young people from the "Beats and Brains" project will perform tracks written specifically for WAD.
- 7.00 pm. Art Auction at Muse Bar
- 8.00 pm. Blackdrop - evening of spoken word and poetry with a WAD theme. £3 on the door at Canal Bar, Canal Street.

SHARING TONGUES

Are you Black, LGBT, over 35 and a city-dweller? **Sharing Tongues** wants to hear from you. It's a unique project that will uncover and record a range of individual stories and experiences. For more information, please contact Ajamu X or Topher Campbell at Rukus! PO Box 53614, London, SE24 0WS. Phone 07813 823 095 or info@rukus.co.uk

See also www.rukus.co.uk

QB'S BITS

- **Niche** has closed, but will re-open soon under new management. Will it be gay, gay-friendly, eco-friendly, straight, curved or icosahedral? Who knows? We wait with baited breath.... but **PINK** will open soon - see back page
- **Healthy Gay Nottingham's** move to new premises on Heathcote Street has been approved, but has also been postponed until 2009
- **Jake Hodder** is a student at the University of Nottingham. He is doing a dissertation on the shifting gay geographies in Nottingham over the past sixty years. When finished, he will provide QB with a summary of his findings.
- Jacqui and Jenny would like to point out to those women who used to enjoy eating out with the SWIFT group (which turned into LIFT) that **Eat Out Nottingham** welcomes women and provides an enjoyable night out. The next Eat Out is on December 12th at Encounters Restaurant, 59 Mansfield Road. For info contact eatoutnottingham@hotmail.co.uk

TROCKS IN FROCKS

The world renowned **Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo** come to the Playhouse on Monday Feb. 23rd.

Affectionately known as The Trocks, this company of professional male dancers presents an inspired blend of their loving knowledge of dance, their brilliant comic approach, and the astounding fact that men can, indeed, dance en pointe without falling flat on their faces!

Dancers such as Svetlana Lofatkina, Ashley Romanoff-Titwillow and Ida Nevesayneva execute (the word was carefully chosen) Act II of Swan Lake as well as a feather-bestrewn "Dying Swan".

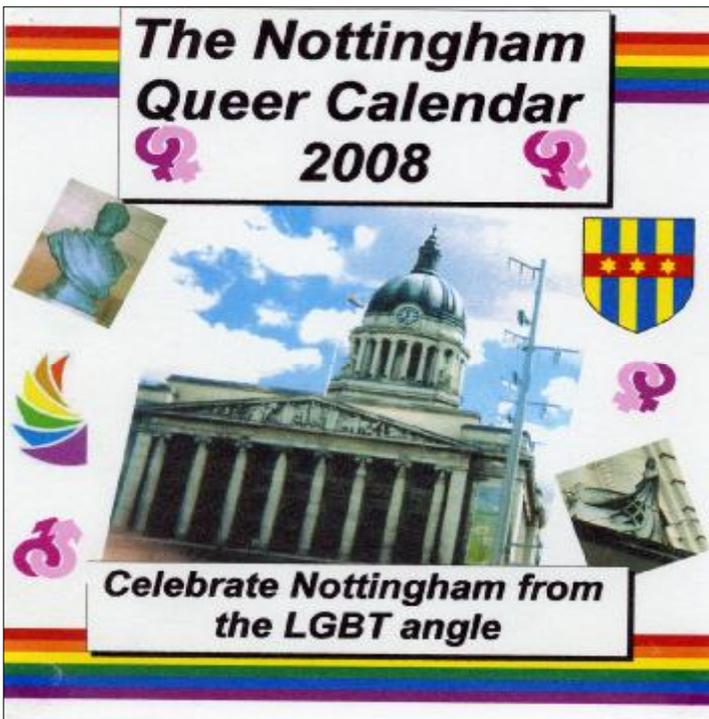




CALENDAR WITH A DIFFERENCE

Tony Bilton is the guy who writes Gay Nottingham Times for QB. He also spends half his life in Nottinghamshire's Archives researching things like the family trees of Rufus Wainwright and Ellen Degeneres. Some of you may have been on one of his Gay History Tours.

He's now planning a Nottingham LGBT Calendar. What you see above is part of a prototype. The real thing may not be a January - December calendar, but perhaps a calendar beginning in February (for LGBT History Month) or July (for Nottingham Pride).



The calendar comes in a standard CD case. You take the month cards out, open the case as far as it will go so that it then serves as a self-supporting stand into which the cards slot. You can see the whole calendar as a slideshow ... go to the NEWS section of Nottinghamshire's Rainbow Heritage website.

Anyone who is interested in having one of the calendars when it is in its final form should send an e-mail to pegasus.tour@amserve.com

WHAT'S IN A NAME? (2)

In the last QB, mention was made of a possible new name for Lesbian & Gay Switchboard. Those in John Train's book "**Remarkable Names of Real People**" are best avoided. They include:

- Iona Victory Bond
- Adolphe Faux-Pas Bidet
- Mustafa Kunt
- Gaston L. Feeblebunny
- I. O. Silver
- Clarence Clapsaddle
- Memory Lane
- Grecian T. Snooze

New York has a firm of attorneys called Lawless and Lynch as well as a detective agency called Wyre and Tapper, while in Geneva there is a company called Bull and Schytt.

CALLING LGBT ORCHESTRAL MUSICIANS

There's only one LGBT orchestra in the UK and when you live in Nottingham, London's a long way to travel to rehearse! So, being a keen Nottingham-based amateur Oboist of limited talent but unlimited enthusiasm, I'm investigating the possibility of setting up something in the East Midlands with a view to public performance.

Ideally I would like to see an inclusive, safe, LGBT and straight-friendly space for musicians of all levels. The format (ensemble, chamber orchestra or full-fat symphonic) I guess depends upon how many people are interested, what instruments they play and the kind of music they enjoy.

In terms of what music to play; classical standards, lesser known classics, early music, show tunes and anything nice and "con fromage" are all possibilities we could explore as a group.

Interested in getting involved? If so, please email me at triciamoore@tiscali.co.uk detailing ...

- Your name and contact details (I tend to email stuff);
- Where you live so I can minimise travel when considering the rehearsal venue;
- The instrument(s) you play;
- Your assessment of your level and experience;
- The kind of music you like to play.

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
www.nlgshistory.ik.com

 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

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
- Lookout** The quarterly free lesbian newsletter. For details e-mail lookoutmag@hotmail.com

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

Nottinghamshire Hiking 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; Re-Creation; 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; The Open Walking Group; 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

PANTOMANIA

The battle of the Pantos resumes. Camperama and cross-dressing explode at both theatres.

Join Widow Twankey as she whisks away a lad and his lamp on a magic carpet ride of family fun and frolics. There's nothing Wishee Washee about this Far Eastern fantasy favourite: come and see, shout and sing along for yourself! (Well, that's what they say). **Aladdin** is at the Playhouse from Nov. 28th.

At the Theatre Royal - where they predict hissing and booing in true panto style - **Cinderella** opens on Dec. 5th. Both pantos continue well into the New Year and perhaps forever.



FANNY'S

Women Only Night. Upstairs @ The Canalhouse-Bar, Canal Street, Nottingham NG1 7EH (Next to Via Fossa) Saturday 29th November 8 pm – 1 am. Disco starts at 9 pm

£5 Entry. Although this venue is upstairs, there is a lift. Tickets will only be available on the night.

PINK AND (POSSIBLY) THROBBING

Jumping in to fill the gap left by the closure of Niche, **PINK** will open up early in December. It's on the corner of Heathcote Street and Parliament Street; to those with well-functioning medium term memories, it's in the building which used to house Jacey's.

PINK will open at 11.00 am and close at 3.30 in the morning.

PARTY TIME

Breakout's annual Xmas party is on Tuesday December 16th at the Lord Roberts starting at 8.00. If you want to drop in, remember it's a "bring a bit of food to share" event.