

# QB

## Nottinghamshire's Queer Bulletin

April/May 2009  
Number 47

In this edition:

We've gone all alphabetical

Arboretum  
Bees  
Catholic Children's Society  
Dracula  
Equality  
Fannys  
Gardener's Question Time  
Haemoglobin  
Information  
Jimmy Chinn  
Keynes (Maynard)  
Lloyds  
Manganese  
Nottinghamshire County Council  
Outburst  
Police  
Queens  
Richthofen (Baroness Frieda von)  
Shaggers  
Torchwood  
University of Nottingham  
Vienna Horticultural Institute  
Weekley (Professor Earnest)  
X for your vote  
Young people's group  
Zeus

If you have any information, news, gossip or libel, please send it to

QB  
Lesbian and Gay Switchboard  
7 Mansfield Road  
Nottingham NG1 3FB

or e-mail

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

The deadline for the next edition will be early May 2009

**Switchboard is registered  
charity number 1114273**

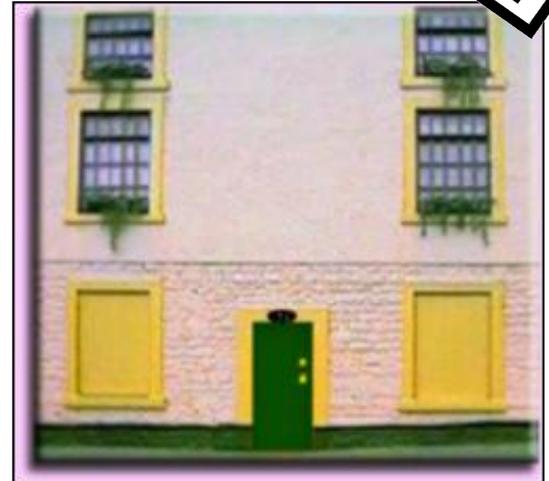
## FALSE ECONOMIES AT THE PCT

FREE

*"No more condoms for Zeus", says Kings Mill GU Clinic.*

Zeus is the well-established gay sauna in Mansfield. Until recently it has been receiving a supply of free condoms via health services run by the PCT which supports Kings Mill Hospital.

A few weeks ago we received the following e-mail.



"It has come to my attention that Kings Mill GUM clinic has ceased supplying condoms and lubricant to Zeus Sauna in Mansfield. Apparently, it has been inferred to the sauna that they should supply their own, as they are a business. However, the owners run a sauna service in my opinion; not a health service.

This is an atypical situation; saunas up and down the country receive these resources for customers to collect for free (usually from specialist MSM projects - but there isn't one for North Notts, although Derbyshire and Nottingham City have one).

I am concerned that the GUM clinic will be creating an obvious false economy for itself in terms of preventing STI transmission which will affect the health and gay and bisexual men and subsequently result in greater demands on the clinic's resources. I am therefore worried about what could have prompted this change in policy, especially as I am sure MSM should be a priority group for this kind of service."

*Healthy Gay Nottingham, after a survey of several services (some NHS funded, some not) found that they all provide free condoms to places where men have sex with men, regardless of whether that place is commercially run.*

## STATUS QUO FOR PRIDE

No, we don't mean that the super-annuated rock group is coming to Nottingham in July. We did GCE Latin, we did.

We can confirm that negotiations between the Pride Committee and the Police (No, not THAT group either) have resulted in Pride staying at the Arboretum for 2009.



Nottingham Pride - Saturday July 25th - 12.00 - 6.00 pm  
at the Arboretum

## LGBT HISTORY MONTH EXHIBITION



Somewhere between 150 and 200 people attended the launch night of Nottinghamshire's Rainbow Heritage LGBT history exhibition at the View from the Top gallery. The exhibition received financial support from **Nottingham City Council**, **Switchboard** and the **Co-op** as well as several wine boxes from the **New Foresters** - thanks again Debbie. A lot of food and drink disappeared remarkably quickly.



Three achievement certificates were presented by novelist **Narvel Annable**: to **Richard McCance** for service to the LGBT community over 4 decades; to the **Chameleon group** - now nearly 30 years old - and to the team which has produced **Lookout** magazine for the last 12 years. Contact Switchboard for details of the Chameleon group.



## LGBT HISTORY MONTH EXHIBITION



Richard, on the left, was unable to be present on the launch night, but the certificate was presented a few days later, by Tony Barker.

This year's exhibition (visited by nearly 700 people) explored many new themes such as Famous Trans people; Section 28; What the Papers said; Civil Partnerships. Some local groups such as the Sapphist Writers, Notts Police Outnetwork and Nottingham Ballbois were involved with their own displays. The Project hopes to involve more local groups in future exhibitions.



Dorothy the Badgelady made it into the Nottingham Evening Post (along with Tony Scupham-Bilton from NRH and Phil Smith from the County Council LGBT employees group) as part of a very positive full-page article.

Perhaps the highlight of the evening was when several people had to be rescued by firemen after being trapped in the Waterstones' lift for over an hour and a half.



## TIME FOR A NEW DIET

I'm eating things that rhyme.

Peas, cheese and manganese

Bees

Fleas and antifreeze

Knees (just nibbled)

Seas (Salty and kibbled)

Skis in threes

Which makes me wheeze in degrees

Much more than hairy Cousin Louise

And her big fat Burmese

I'm in danger of contracting a

communicable disease

Wondering about maple syrup urine disease

(yes really)

Drinking any number of china and herbal teas.

But I'd rather like a melon

© Pam Burrows

That was the first of a series of poems we hope to print by people from the Sapphist Writers. They meet every month, and - for those who cannot get to meetings - also work via the internet. You can contact them on [sapphistwriters@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:sapphistwriters@yahoo.co.uk) and the blog <http://sapphistwriters.blogspot.com/>

## QB'S BITS

**Techno Chances**, the group for 16-19 year old LGBT people in Mansfield has been re-launched. It's 6-8 pm every last Wednesday and you can get details either by phoning 01623 480830 or e-mail [techno.chances@ntlworld.com](mailto:techno.chances@ntlworld.com)

The **Catholic Children's Society** in West Bridgford has now changed its name to "Families are best" to comply with the Goods and Services Act.

The **Stately Homes Visiting Group** is back in business with a full programme of events lined up for 2009. The membership fee is waived this year so if you know of anyone who's membership has lapsed please let them know. E-mail them at [stately.homes@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:stately.homes@yahoo.co.uk) if you are interested and would like to receive their programme for 2009. (QB is just a bit disappointed that they have cast off their old name of Stately homes and gardens, gays enjoying rural settings i.e. SHAGGERS.)

The winners of Nottinghamshire's Rainbow Heritage's exhibition quiz were Graham Woodhouse and Linda Stone.

We hear that the **Gay Man's Guide**, the play by Nottingham actor/author Paul Strickland, may return to the Lace Market Theatre in February 2010.

Is it true that **Niche** has been bought by 2 Birmingham drag queens? Wait and see.

## LONDON 115, NOTTINGHAM 123



The score refers to the number of entries on the LGBT History Month website calendar. Most of us are used to the London media's notion that if it's not happening in London, it's not happening. The Pink Paper did include a single (and inaccurate) mention of one of the Nottingham events and that was that.

The "Nottingham 123" is actually an understatement - other events took place which never made it on to the calendar and you can see a photo of one of them above. **Castle College** released 145 pink balloons, one for each of the (estimated) LGBT students at the college.

## OUT FOR THE COUNTY?

The County Council has said that it is trying to engage LGBT people in its overarching diversity policy. To this end, they arranged a meeting for Friday Feb. 20th to look at the Nottinghamshire County Council Equality Scheme.

The meeting was cancelled when no one from the County Council was able to turn up. So, no box ticked there.

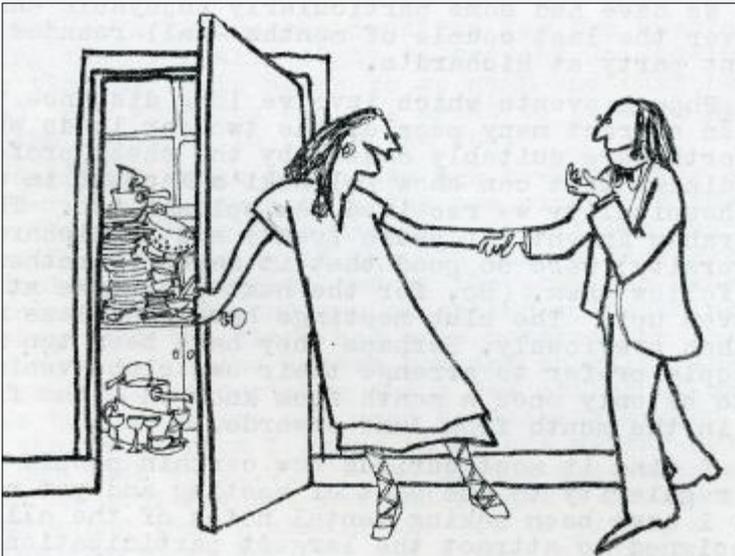
## LOOKING FOR A NEW VENUE

The wonderful gallery where Nottinghamshire's Rainbow Heritage held its first two LGBT History exhibitions closed at the end of March. The View from the Top was central (above Waterstones), spacious, beautifully lit, had relatively easy disabled access and not that expensive.

The history project will continue to hold LGBT History Month exhibitions as long as it continues, but it is difficult to imagine that they will find such an ideal location.

# CHIMAERA

Chimaera (1972-82) was the Newsletter of the Nottingham Campaign for Homosexual Equality. Two of Chimaera's regular features were a collection of silly news snippets and cartoons - some were original and some were shamelessly pinched from various newspapers and magazines.



I've got a tremendously interesting tactile experience for you

We hear that the Pavilion Club recently held a Halloween Party .... where all the members joined hands and tried to contact the living. One CHE member went dressed as Dracula and was heard singing "Roamin' in the haemoglobin" and "Fangs for the mammary".

"Elderly budgerigar and limping hedgehog abandoned by Salvation Army bugler" The Daily Telegraph.

On Gardener's Question Time, Alan Gemmell mentioned Professor Weiss (rhymes with rice) of the Vienna Horticultural Institute.

He devised a compost heap that was incorporated into a flower bed and which prevented frost damage by the heat it generated. They were called the Hot Beds of Weiss.

Wax effigies of Margaret Thatcher are now available from the "Encircling Gloom Candle Co." The Guardian.



You don't often see a real silk lining these days

On a recent BBC TV programme about Covent Garden, the maitre de ballet, who was rehearsing The Sleeping Beauty, shouted "No, no, no, no! You must never turn your back on a Queen."

# Gay Nottingham Times

**No. 8** Claiming our history, Celebrating our present, Creating our future

It's amazing how many Nottingham connections can be found in literary circles.

## Lady Chatterley meets Maurice

A gay Nottingham professor provides a link between two sexual literary characters.

### Prof. Ernest Weekley (1865-1954)

Described by Lytton Strachey as "a pompous old ape", Weekley was Professor of French and Head of Modern Languages. Lawrence was one of his French students.



### Baroness Frieda von Richthofen (1879-1956)

German aristocrat who married Prof. Weekley in 1899. After falling in love with Lawrence, he persuaded her to divorce Weekley. Frieda married Lawrence in 1914.



### D. H. Lawrence (1885-1930)

Lawrence, hinting at bisexuality, once said, "the nearest I've come to perfect love was with a coal-miner when I was 16". Homoerotic and lesbian themes run through much of his work, which twice came up against obscenity laws. First with "The Rainbow", and then with "Lady Chatterley's Lover".



### "Lady Chatterley's Lover"

The first draft of "Lady Chatterley" dates from 1926. Lawrence's friendship with Forster meant that he read the "Maurice" manuscript and borrowed some of its themes. Originally privately published, the book caused a scandal when it was published in full in 1963, bringing a prosecution for obscenity.

### The University of Nottingham



### Prof. Sebastian Spratt (1897-1971)

Philosophy lecturer from 1928 and Professor from 1960, Spratt knew all the Bloomsbury Group, but was not a member of it. He often "lent" his working-class partners to Forster. Spratt lived simply, and had ex-convicts as servants.



### "Maurice"

Forster began writing "Maurice" in 1910. He never published it, thinking it's gay subject too controversial. He left the manuscript to Spratt, who left it to Cambridge University. The theme of aristocratic desire satisfied by a game-keeper influenced "Lady Chatterley". When first published in 1971, "Maurice" was criticised as being a gay "Lady Chatterley".

### E. M. Forster (1879-1970)

Forster became Spratt's closest friend. It was this friendship that led Forster to make Spratt his literary executor. Forster was also a close friend of Lawrence, one of the few Bloomsbury people Lawrence liked. Forster defended Lawrence at the "Lady Chatterley" trial.



### John Maynard Keynes (1883-1946)

An odd Bloomsbury member, in that he was an economist rather than a writer or artist. He met Spratt at Cambridge and they became lovers. Keynes surprised everyone when he suddenly dumped Spratt to get married, but they remained friends.

### Lytton Strachey (1880-1932)

"The oddest, grimmest place in the world. The Nottingham accent has an odd barbarous affect", wrote Strachey after a visit to Spratt in 1926. He engaged Spratt to catalogue his papers during the summer vacations.

### The Bloomsbury Group

A group of wealthy and well-connected writers and artists, most of them LGB, who met in Bloomsbury, London. Most of them visited Prof. Spratt in Nottingham.



## DISPLAYS AROUND NOTTS



As well as the big exhibition, NRH provided displays for 8 libraries (Angel Row library seen above), 2 Register offices, 5 Civic Centres, a museum and Notts HealthCare Trust (see below).



## DRUGS AND ALCOHOL USE SURVEY

**OUTing Nottinghamshire** is a study investigating drug and alcohol use in the LGBT community in Nottinghamshire. The study wishes to explore the relation between a person's sexual orientation and their substance use. In particular:

- the nature and extent of substance use within the LGBT community; (including trends and cultures of use of specific substances)
- the particular needs of substance users within the LGBT community
- whether there may be a relationship between an individual's experience of 'coming out' and/or of discrimination and prejudice on the one hand, and of substance use on the other
- examples of good or bad practice in relation to the provision of drug services for the LGBT community.

To take part you must be LGBT, over 16 and have an NG postcode. You can do the survey online, but as the URL is long and complicated, we have put a direct link on the homepage of Nottingham Lesbian and Gay Switchboard's website [www.nottslgs.org.uk](http://www.nottslgs.org.uk) NB. If 2 people wish to complete the survey, they will need to use different computers.

## GET A BOYFRIEND

But you'll have to go to Sheffield or Leicester on Saturday April 25th. **GMFA** are running these courses which aim to give men knowledge and skills that will help them decide what they want from a relationship, and how to go about getting it.

The course covers the time from preparing for and meeting a potential partner up until about three months into the relationship. It is designed to help you understand whether you are ready for a relationship; what you bring to, and want from a relationship as well as the qualities that attract you to a man. Practical exercises will help you to have a better understanding of yourself, and of what you look for in a relationship and in a potential partner. The courses are free, but have to be booked in advance - for details phone **020 7738 6872**

## NO GAY TOURISTS IN NOTTINGHAM

Healthy Gay Nottingham has been refused permission to display their Gay Guides in the Nottingham Tourist Information Centre next to the Council House. They have been told that they can go "under the counter".

The Centre is run by **Experience Nottingham**. If you put "gay" or "lesbian" into the Experience Nottingham website's search facility the response is "error".

In fairness, it must be said that when they were told about Nottingham Pride being absent from their website, they did add it a few days later.

## A JOB AT SWITCHBOARD

Switchboard holds a large database of information relevant to LGBT people e.g. social venues, support groups, self-help groups, publications, accommodation, solicitors, police and council contacts. Most of these are local, but some are regional or national. Switchboard is looking for someone to keep that database up to date by checking the entries on a regular basis.

The job will be 3.5 hours (flexitime between 9-5) per week and will pay about £11 an hour. Applicants will need to have experience of word processing and using a database and have satisfactory levels of grammar and spelling. They will need to be able to communicate effectively by phone, letter and e-mail. They should have some knowledge of LGBT issues.

If you would like an application form, contact Switchboard by phone, e-mail or letter - the details are on the back page. Applications must be received by Friday April 10th.

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](mailto:notts@lgswitchboard.fsnet.co.uk)  
[www.nottslgs.org.uk](http://www.nottslgs.org.uk)  
[www.nlgshistory.ik.com](http://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](http://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](mailto:nottsrh@hotmail.co.uk)  
[www.nottsrainbowheritage.org.uk](http://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](http://www.breakoutnottm.org.uk)
- Older Gay Men's Group** Support and social group for men aged 50+. Meets 3rd Sunday of month, 4 pm at the Health Shop. Contact 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; Stately Homes Group; Notts Lesbian Book Club; Re-Creation; Trans-Action (TV/TS); Women's Badminton; Badminton Social; Lesbian and Gay Christian Movement; East Mercia MSC; 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; 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

### CAN'T HAVE TOO MUCH OF FANNY'S

#### Fanny's!

Women Only Night

Upstairs @ The Canalhouse Bar,  
 Canal Street,  
 Nottingham NG1 7EH  
 (Next to Via Fossa)

Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> April 09  
 8pm - 1am

Disco starts at 9pm £5 Entry

Although this venue is upstairs, there is a lift.  
 Tickets will only be available on the night.  
 Any queries e-mail

[fannys.nottingham@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:fannys.nottingham@hotmail.co.uk)

### IDLE VICE

"Dough, that stuff you have to knead. Ray, a fellow who's a tart. Me, the one who writes this screed. Far, the first 3 parts of fart. So....." so, perhaps my memory is playing up. If the words are not quite as you recollect, refresh yourself at **Sing-a-long-a Sound of Music**, April 23rd 7.00 pm, at the Royal Concert Hall. As they say, fancy dress, though not obligatory, is highly recommended.

### STRAIGHT AND NARROW

Bob and Geoff have lived together in a happy, gay relationship for years. Regular visitors to the household are Bob's two sisters and their husbands for whom this situation presents no problems. Also a regular visitor, however, is Bob's interfering and domineering mother. How much does she know about the relationship? Does she realise that **The Straight and Narrow** is not for her little boy? Finding out generates the fun in this playful, domestic and unusual comedy by Jimmy Chinn, directed by Alan Chambers'

### TORCHWOOD - THE MUSICAL

Well, actually, it's the ubiquitous yet remarkably decorative **John Barrowman** performing songs from his new album Music Music Music, at the Royal Concert Hall, May 12th 7.00pm.

Monday March 30th - Saturday April 4th at the Little Theatre, Dover Street, Leicester, LE1 6PW.  
[admin@lds-mail.net](mailto:admin@lds-mail.net)  
[www.thelittletheatre.net](http://www.thelittletheatre.net) Telephone 0116 255