

The 1980s and 1990s

When everything else had failed there was always the Casablanca on Greyhound Street, often referred to as the Khazi.

In 1995 it re-opened as Kitsch. It is remembered for being very small.



By 1987 the Admiral Duncan was tentatively moving towards being a gay bar. Switchboard started holding its monthly meetings there at that time.

In the 1980s and early 1990s the management of the Duncan was a well-meaning straight couple, but toward the end of the '90s an all-gay management took over and changed the name to @D2. The pub was smartened up and attracted a lively crowd.

The 1980s, 1990s and 2000s



In the 1980s, the Hole in the Wall, on North Sherwood Street, was gay friendly. A 1984 copy of GEM shows the management stating that it was their wish to attract a gay clientele.

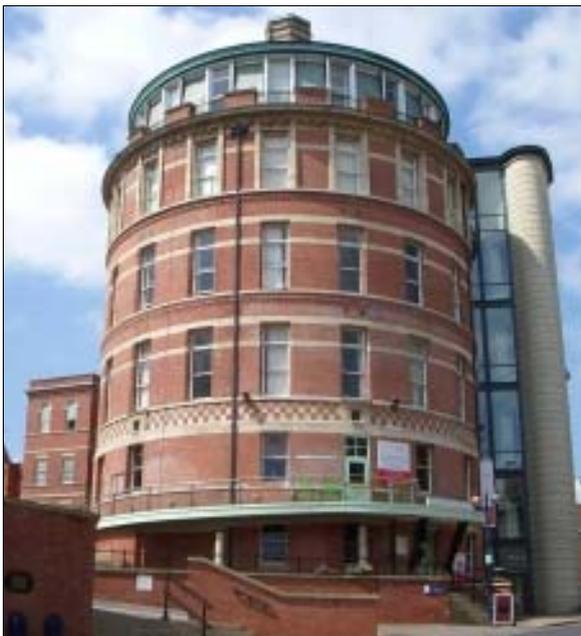
Over a long period “gay friendly” is a term that could be applied to the Newmarket on Lower Parliament Street.



Broadway cinema and its bar and restaurant also come under the “gay friendly” heading. Each year they have a season of LGBT films and have been supportive to the community in various ways.

The 1980s and 1990s

Nottingham Women's Centre acted as host for several lesbian groups and organisations at this time: Lesbian Line, Women are Gorgeous and the Black Lesbian group to name three.



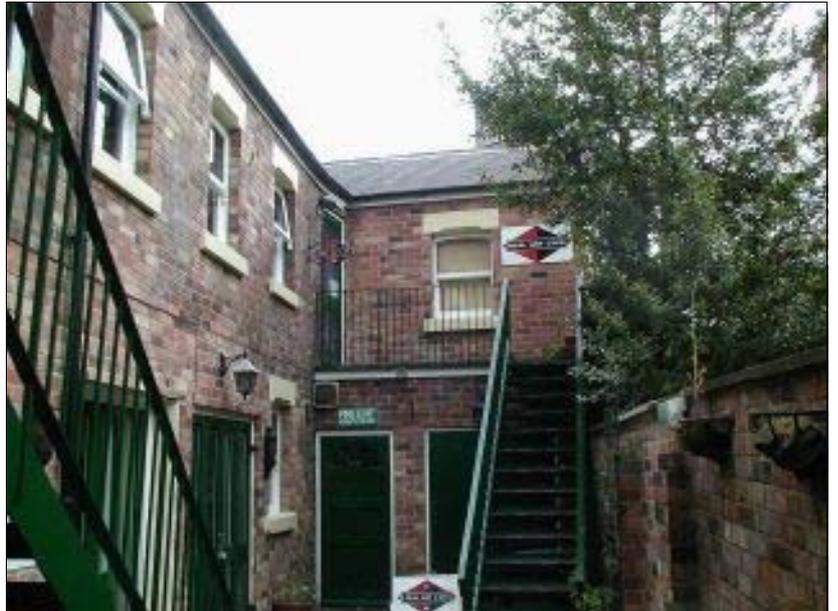
For several years the Rotunda on Standard Hill was the base for the monthly women's discos known as Infinity and Eternity, which continued into the 2000s.

Shortly before Gatsby's became THE bar in Nottingham, The Dragon had a brief life as a gay meeting place.



The 1990s and 2000s

Quite a lot of places acquire the “gay friendly” description, e.g. the bar in Broadway cinema. Another such place (shown here) was the Real Art Café in Hockley.



The Lord Roberts also used to be described as gay-friendly. But in recent years it began to take the first steps towards acknowledging its sexuality and to saying “yes, actually I am a gay pub”.

The 1990s and 2000s



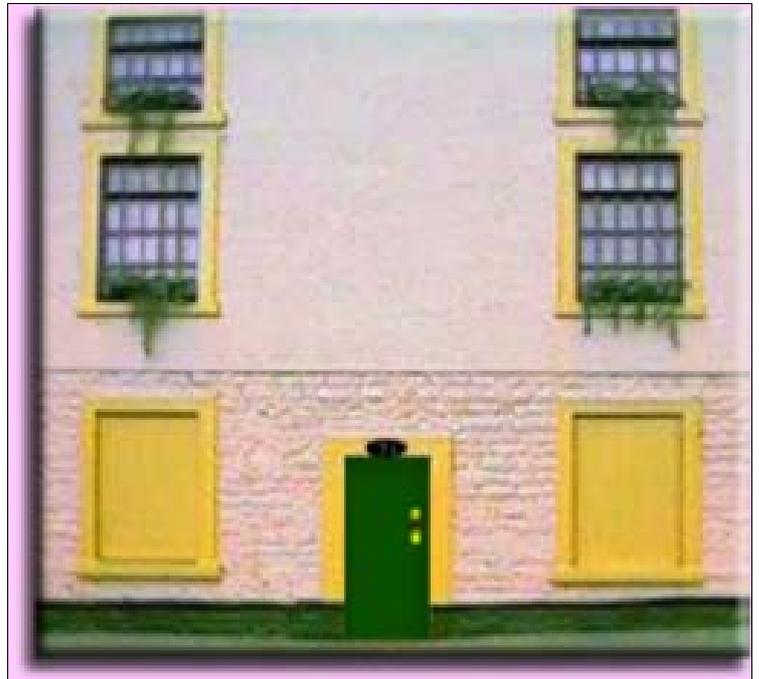
Even in the early 1980s the Mill had a vague reputation of being gay-friendly. It was never an out-and-out gay bar, but towards the end of the 1990s it was popular with a mixed gay/studentish crowd. It was swept away in the new millennium by the speculative tide of "innercity living" when it was bought for conversion into trendy flats.

The Maze at the Forest Tavern on Mansfield Road has for a long time been the venue for the occasional women's night called "Hidden Talents".



The 1990s and 2000s

Venues in Mansfield have been few and far between, but Zeus gay sauna started in the 1990s and keeps going.



In QB, a poem covering all the LGB venues included: “Those who take a Northern road may end up at the door of Zeus, where steam will make your pores explode and turn your buttocks brilliant puce”.



Nottingham caught up with Mansfield in 2006, when Reflections Sauna and Health Club opened on Crocus Street.

The 1990s and 2000s



Established as a gay pub in 1999 - the largest gay pub in Nottingham - Jacey's was initially very popular. A change in management to someone (who shall remain nameless) who took less interest in the views of his clientele, saw that popularity start to fade. After a revamp and a name change to "ICE", customers melted away ... but was resurrected in 2008 as PINK.

Oceana (not to be confused with Ocean) was formerly the Palais and was often home to once-a-month gay nights, including Peter Martine's "Revolution"



In 2000, Nottingham's first proper gay club for several years opened as NG1 next door to the Admiral Duncan. It is large, well-equipped and clean and (here the resemblance to a personal ad breaks down) on two floors.

The venues time forgot

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The OutHouse

The OutHouse Project was an attempt to start a centre for LGBT people in Nottingham. Its story was a long drawn out saga with several false starts, a grand moment of potential triumph followed by disappointment.

- *The May 1979 edition of Chimaera outlined a scheme for a Gay Centre to be established in Nottingham.*
- *In 1983 the Nottingham Evening Post wrote “As part of Nottingham’s Equal Opportunities Programme, gays could soon have their own council-supported day centre.”*
- *In 1985 the Council set up lesbian and gay Equal Opportunities sub-committees equivalent to those for ethnic minorities. There was once again discussion about opening a lesbian and gay centre as soon as possible.*
- *In March 1993 the OutHouse Committee received an unsigned letter from a Councillor saying “You lot should be put down”.*
- *In 1998, the OutHouse Project was awarded £228,000 by the National Lottery Jackie Frith was appointed as a worker to oversee the project. Prior to the award, they had looked at the TGWU building on Mansfield Road and then another in Hockley, both of which were unsuitable.*
- *On gaining the grant, OutHouse found suitable premises on Chapel Bar, had plans for alterations drawn up and were in serious negotiations about buying, when the owners did an about-turn and withdrew.*
- *It was eventually late 1999 before OutHouse exchanged contracts on a building on Cranbrook Street.*

