

QB

Nottinghamshire's Queer Bulletin

April/May 2011
Number 59

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Hall (County)
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If you have any information, news, gossip or libel or wish to comment on anything in QB, please contact

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The deadline for the next edition will be early March 2011

**Switchboard is registered
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PRIDE TO START IN THE MARKET SQUARE

FREE



In the past few years several people have put forward the idea of making Pride a more high profile event. This year's main innovation intends to do just that.

Richard Townsley, Chair of Pride writes:

"Pride will start with the March, which this year will set off in the City Centre on the old Market Square. That means we are marching right in the very heart of the city centre. We want to make this year's march the biggest, best and most colourful yet. If you have any ideas and want to help let us know. The march will set off at 10.45 am."

"We are holding an Ordinary General Meeting on April 4th at 7 pm at Edins Café, 15 Broadway, Nottingham and anyone who is interested or wants to find out more is invited to attend.. Your committee can report back on what we have been doing and what we plan for the event itself. It is also your chance to ask questions and hold us to account."



This is the new Nottingham(shire) Pride logo. It's changed - to find out why and to find out all the other news about this year's Pride, go to page 7 ... and there is another linked event which is detailed on the back page.

COMPETITIVE? US??

Here are the current number of entries on the national LGBT History Month calendar - at the time of writing

East Midlands	222
Greater London	182
East of England	58
South East	50
Scotland	45
North West	42
Wales	19
South West	18
West Midlands	17
Yorkshire/Humberside	9
Northern Ireland	5
North East	5

CELEBRATION EVENING



Just over 140 people came along to the Celebration and Awards evening at Nottingham Council House. Displays by Notts Rainbow Heritage and also by Health Gay Nottingham, Notts Police, Pride, Lesbian and Gay Christian Movement and Nottingham NHS Trust were accompanied by quite a lot of food and drink - including a donation of some wine from Debbie at the New Foresters ... thanks once more.

After a stirring speech by Peter Tatchell on 4 decades of Gay Liberation, 5 awards were presented. One was to Davina Daniels and Outburst youth group who invaded the stage en masse - see above. Part Two Club was fondly recalled from the 1980s. Its manager and founder Ross Smith sent a message read out by his friend David Betts. Awards also went to the North Notts LGB Development Group, LAFS (the Mansfield/Ashfield based women's group) and Nottingham Ball Bois - seen below.



QB'S BITS

- We hear that **Outburst**, the young LGB people's group is flourishing even though the City Council's financial support has been withdraw ..
- ... BUT the young people's Trans group has closed
- However, **Re-Creation**, the Trans group for people 18 and over now meets at the New Foresters every Wednesday from 6 pm to 8 pm.
- One of our avid readers pointed out that the names of some of the social/support groups on the back page were not self-explanatory, so we have put in a few details where this was the case.
- Nottingham's **Malcolm Wilson** was awarded the MBE in the New Year's Honours. It was given for services to the community, services which include work as a witness service volunteer and for decades of help for local arts and drama. Many will remember his performance in the Gay Man's Guide at the Lace Market Theatre. 
- We will follow with interest the prosecution of 5 Muslims from Derby who distributed leaflets inciting homophobic hatred. Along with the recent successful prosecution of the owners of the B&B who turned away the gay couple, this looks like another consequence of recent protective legislation. Most people who don't take equality laws seriously will probably change their minds after an expensive day in court.
- On Feb. 29th **Nottingham Ball Bois** launched their LGBT History Month events with an evening at the New Foresters (thanks, Debbie). They presented Nottingham Switchboard with a cheque for £120. They were joined by members of the new gay rugby club, **Panthers RFC** (see below). For info about this club go to www.oanthersrfc.co.uk



GAY FREE ZONE?

Some of you will remember the small anti-gay demo by a few male Muslims at last year's Pride March. You may also have heard about the stickers which were posted in Hyson Green claiming "Gay Free Zone".

Nottinghamshire's Rainbow Heritage would never wish to be deliberately provocative, so the LGBT History Month display they installed in Hyson Green Library was all done in the best possible taste. It featured 64 pictures of black and Asian LGBT people.



MEMORIES OF HYSON GREEN

The Partnership Council charity in Nottingham has launched a new local history project which aims to celebrate life in the 60s, 70s and 80s, in the Hyson Green area of the city. The project will focus on the vibrant history of the former Hyson Green flats, which stood where Asda does now. The flats were built in 1965 and were demolished in 1988.



If you lived in the flats or know someone who did, the Partnership Council would love to hear from you. They're particularly keen to find out what it was like being LGBT and living in the flats for example. The project will tell people's stories via a website and booklet coming soon, and also through events and a public exhibition planned for later in the year.

Helen Bates from the Partnership Council says: "We want to gather as many different people's stories as possible, to ensure that everyone who lived in the flats has a chance to share their memories."

The charity is also looking for volunteers to help run the project. Anyone interested is welcome to call Helen Bates on 0115 970 8200 or email helenb@partnershipcouncil.co.uk

GAY TED & THE PCT UNITE



Those of you with your own home electron microscope will notice that the Hyson Green LGBT History Month display includes the Stonewall "Some people are gay get over it" poster - as so fetchingly sported by Gay Ted.

We heard that in one library it was censored, with the "Get over it" bit snipped off. It's a bit of a contrast with the staff of Nottinghamshire T-PCT (below) who are pushing exactly that same message as part of their initiative about improving their service for both LGBT staff and service users.



LIVING WITH THE CUTS

We have heard rumours, yet to be confirmed, that Nottingham Lesbian and Gay Switchboard is likely to lose its grants from both the County Council and a Primary Care Trust.

If this materialises, we will give you full details in the next edition of QB. Switchboard's grants are very small compared with those given to most other local voluntary groups and charities, but losing them will have implications which we will make clear.

A Trans Timeline - 1



The 18th Dynasty pharaoh Hatshepsut ruled Egypt for two decades (from 1479 to 1458 BC), which makes her the first major female head of state - the first one we know about, anyway.

While women could be leaders in ancient Egypt, a pharaoh was by definition male. So Hatshepsut had to invent a hybrid gender, presenting a challenge to the sculptors charged with translating her flesh into stone.

Known as the next worst emperor after Caligula, the Roman Emperor Elagabalus (222BC) regularly cross-dressed.

He organised a competition to find the man with the largest penis in Rome - he then married the winner.



1577 King Henry III of France frequently crossdressed and while dressed as a woman was referred to as her majesty by his courtiers. Even his male clothes were considered outrageous despite the flamboyant standards of 16th-century France.



1654 Queen Christina of Sweden (often considered bisexual) abdicated the throne, dressed in men's clothing and renamed herself Count Dohna.



Notes and Queeries



Servants made redundant by the death of Princess Margaret included not only the Yeoman of the Pantries and the Maid to the Coffee Room, but also the Page of the Backpassage. We are not making this up.



Welcomes careful drivers

Is the sexuality of a town defined in any way by its name? Perhaps it is if you live in Gay Head (Massachusetts), Gays (Illinois), Fort Gay (Wyoming) and then there's Dildo (Newfoundland).

At the unsuccessful trial in the 1980s - for wilful obstruction - of gay Councillor Richard McCance (Nottingham's only living Saint), the prosecution complained about microphone feedback from a woman who appeared to be trying to record the trial. The woman was Richard's mother; the feedback was from her hearing aid.



Lesbian composer Dame Ethel Smyth was imprisoned after becoming active in the "votes for women" campaign. She conducted a performance of her suffragist anthem from a window in Holloway Prison using her toothbrush as a baton.



Homosexual activity is common in giraffes and is actually more frequent than heterosexual behaviour - which may be quite rare. In one study, mountings between males accounted for 94% of all observed sexual activity. We're not sure how they actually do it.



MORE FROM LGBT HISTORY MONTH

Expect to hear more about new LGBT History projects starting up in the East Midlands. Derbyshire hopes to apply for a project grant and Leicester LGB Centre have just been awarded a grant.

The Leicester team have just started making oral history recordings and they also invited Nottinghamshire's Rainbow Heritage to take over their first floor for an exhibition at the end of February. The picture below shows about 10% of that exhibition, which also included projections and recordings of extracts from oral histories.



A rainbow flag flew over Duncan Macmillan House, the home of Notts Healthcare NHS Trust. Just another indication of why the Trust is the highest NHS service in the Stonewall 100 best LGBT employers list. It's at number 13.

The County Council used to be 37th in the pre-Mrs Cutts era. Since the Conservatives took over, that Council first fell to number 100, then dropped out of the list altogether.



The Trust hosted a display of work by Nottingham's Sapphist Writers celebrating sexual orientation and mental health.

Sapphist Writers is a network of lesbian and bisexual women in the East Midlands who write or have a desire to write. The only requirement for membership is that your identity as a woman writer places you outside of mainstream heterosexual identity.

If you would like to get involved/find out more, go to <http://sapphistwriters.blogspot.com/>



County Hall experienced an explosion of Tony Bilton in the foyer. The Nottinghamshire historian's display included work on LGBT Nottinghamshire family trees, a range of Pride flags, material on the Holocaust and ground-breaking work on LGBT participants in the Olympic Games.

We hear some County Council busybodies tried to put administrative hurdles in the way of the display... but their attempts to stop it failed.

YES, YOU CAN ADVERTISE IN QB

1000 copies of QB are printed. They go to:

- the Nottingham gay scene; to 13 LGBT social or support groups across the County; to the 12 major County libraries; to 2 saunas and to places such as Broadway, the Playhouse, the Women's Centre, the Tourism Centre, the Nottingham Voluntary Action Centre.

QB is also present in a downloadable form on the following websites: Lesbian and Gay Switchboard; Gay Nottingham; Nottinghamshire's Rainbow Heritage.

Advertising costs £60 for a full A4 page and in proportion for smaller ads e.g. £30 for half page £15 for quarter page and £8 for an eighth page. Use the contact details on the front page if you would like to advertise.

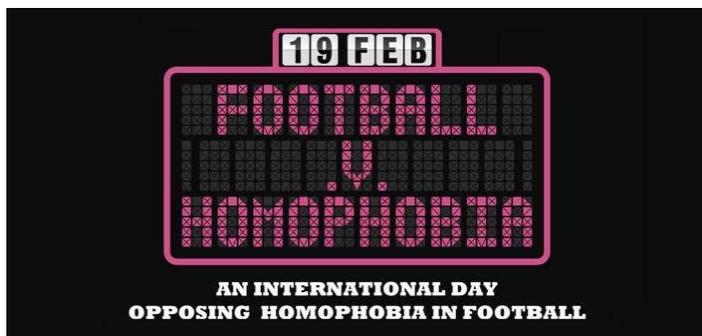
The private members Sex and Relationships Bill has been put forward by Chris Bryant to make sex education compulsory in all schools. It has been listed as Bill 69.

FOOTBALL V HOMOPHOBIA

If you asked the question “has any professional football team made an effort to tackle homophobia?” until recently the answer would have been “Yes, one only - Nottingham Forest.”

Forest collaborated 3 years ago with Nottingham City Children’s Services to lend their name and photographs (men’s AND women’s teams) to an anti homophobia poster.

This February Nottingham Forest included a new anti homophobia poster in their match day programme. The poster was headed by the logo shown below and included reference to Justin Fashanu and the Justin Campaign. The poster also gave the Justin Campaign’s website and the contact details for Stop Hate Crime UK and Nottingham Switchboard.



There’s a long way to go, but just possibly things may be changing. Let’s hope it filters through to the over-paid, infantile and egotistical prima donnas of the Premier League.

WHO’S A PRETTY BOY?

A Valentine’s Day civil ceremony was held in Derby for 2 male parakeets, Peter and Joey. They became inseparable since being taken in by Derby RSPCA.

The romantic pair “spend all day grooming each other and tweeting sweet nothings”. The RSPCA say that the ceremony took place to raise awareness of animals which have formed close bonds and need to be rehomed in pairs.



NOTTINGHAMSHIRE PRIDE

Saturday 30th July 2011 is the date of Nottinghamshire Pride 2011. Didn’t it used to be Nottingham Pride ...why Nottinghamshire? We have decided to widen it out and make sure that everyone in both the County and City are included and invited.

We have confirmed that Pride will be on the Forest (the Goose Fair site) and the gates will open at 12 noon. Pride will remain FREE entry, but we will certainly be asking for a donation for each visitor! This year we need to raise over £40,000 to put on the event and keep it FREE admission. We can only do that with your help.

Please support our various fundraising efforts over the next few months before the event itself and give generously on the day. We also need lots of volunteers (50-100 people on the day) to help us run the event, if you can spare just an hour or two, please let us know.

Now we have some dull, but important constitutional stuff! Pride was set up as a Charitable Trust and each year the Trustees are elected at an Annual General meeting, usually held in September. Pride is supposed to have members, i.e. you join Pride as a member and you get to vote at the AGM and elect the committee, get to scrutinise the accounts and hold us all to account. In effect our members own Pride and take responsibility for it. I want Pride to be open and accountable, to do that we need as many members as possible. Membership is easy; we have set a membership fee of £4 for 2011. The money from membership fees will be used only to pay for the running of the AGM etc and costs for the Charity. The Pride event will raise money separately for event itself. I want as many of you as possible to join Pride!!

Finally, we have produced a range of new NOTTINGHAMSHIRE PRIDE wrist bands which will be on sale at £1 all proceeds to Pride 2011, we have all six colours of the pride rainbow to sell. Support your Pride 2011, enjoy your Pride 2011!!

Richard T Pride Chair
www.nottinghamshirepride.com



Lesbian & Gay Switchboard
0115 934 8485 or 01623 621515

or text 07624809360

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

12, Broad Street,
Nottingham NG1 3AL.

read more (and e-mail) via

www.healthygaynottingham.org.uk

Nottinghamshire's Rainbow Heritage

c/o NVAC, 7 Mansfield Road,
Nottingham NG1 3FB.

0115 9349529 nottsrh@hotmail.co.uk

www.nottsrainbowheritage.org.uk

Stop Hate Crime UK

(now operating in Nottinghamshire)

0800 138 1625 (24 hour helpline)

www.stophateuk.org

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

Outburst!

Group for LGB young people up to the age of 25.
Meets every Monday at Base 51.
Phone Base 51 on 9525040 for details

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; Bi-Delight: Stately Homes Group; Notts Lesbian Book Club; Women's Badminton; Badminton Social; Lesbian & Gay Christian Movement; East Mercia MSC; Chameleon Group (trans); University of Nottingham & Trent University LGBT Societies; Peak Ruffties walking group; Grizzly; LIRAIN (lesbians into real ale in Nottingham); Police OUTNetwork; Flying Colours (investors' group); SMOC (for heterosexual partners of LGBT people); Bi Women's Group; LiNk-Notts (local lesbian e-mail info service); LAFS (Lesbians in Ashfield friendship & support); 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 (HIV+ support group); Weekenders (Sheffield based walking group); Sapphist Writers; Gay Outdoor Club; Youth groups in Mansfield (Opening Doors) and Worktop (WOW).

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

DIARY

MEET THE AUTHOR

Narvel Annable has been invited as the guest speaker at Nottingham's Breakout social group for gay and bisexual men.

On Tuesday, May 17th, he will entertain by reading edited extracts from his new book *Secret Summer*. This will give the audience an opportunity to ask questions, exchange views and comment on a variety of LGBT issues.

Existing and new members are always given a warm welcome to Breakout, which meets at the Healthy Gay Nottingham offices at 12 Broad Street. Doors open at 7.30 pm and the talk will start at 8.00 pm.

SPRING AWAKENING

The Nottinghamshire Pride's annual naked midsummer night's anti-rain dance has changed both its date and venue.

In anticipation of the Pride March starting in the Old Market Square, the anti-rain dance will also take place in the square. To ensure that July 30th is once again sunny and bright, add to the crowd by subtracting your clothes. Note the time: 12 midnight. Note the date: April 1st.

NOTTS PRIDE EVENTS

The Pride committee has organised a series of events in the run up to Pride itself. Here are some:

- April 8th. Launch of Nottinghamshire Pride 2011 at the New Foresters 9 pm start. Disco, raffle with prizes + meet the Sheriff of Nottingham
- April 20th. Nottinghamshire Pride 2011 event at the Late Lounge Mansfield 9 pm start.
- April 23rd. Easter Event at Propaganda
- May 1st. Burlesque Night at @d2 9 pm start
- May 17th IDAHO (International Day Against Homophobia) quiz by NHS - details to follow.
- May 29th PINK PICNIC at Woodthorpe Park 12-5 pm, with after party/BBQ at The New Foresters 5 pm 'til late with cabaret/DJ.
- July 9th. pre-pride BBQ at The New Gables Hotel (1, Hucknall Road) 12-4 pm
- and, of course, Nottinghamshire Pride itself is on Saturday July 30th at the Forest Recreation Ground (Goose Fair site) from noon.