

# QB

## Nottinghamshire's Queer Bulletin

June/July 2012  
Number 66

In this edition

Things beginning with C ....

Centre (women's)  
Centre (NGY)  
Constables  
Claire  
Contest (Eurovision Song)  
Coronation Street  
Conservation services  
Cauliflowers  
Concert Hall  
Community Safety Officers  
City Council  
Cohesion  
Cowboy Pride  
Castle (The)  
Cupboard's  
Can Can

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

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 June 28th 2012

**Switchboard is registered  
charity number 1114273**

## OVER THE RAINBOW, NOT OVER THE HILL

**FREE**

What is "old"? Some people who are determined to live to 110 describe 55 as "middle-aged". Governments seem to consider that older people are those over 50.

A crucial factor relates to one's health. If you can remain healthy, then for many people "old" age can be the best years of your life.

Is this the case amongst LGB+T people? It is a truism to state that the gay-scene is youth orientated and that even 30 year olds

can feel a little past it. 60 year olds on the gayscene either become invisible or, worse, objects of scorn.

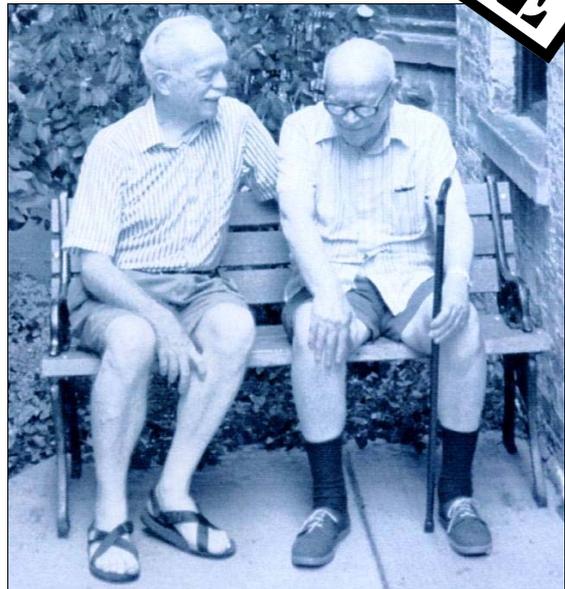
Nottingham Switchboard hopes to do research into two areas:

- Older LGBT people in Nottinghamshire - what, if any, facilities currently exist for them, what are the gaps and what are their concerns for later life
- How aware of the needs of LGBT people are those who provide services and care for older people

They intend to have a printed survey which will appear in QB and elsewhere, as well as an online version. They will also run some focus groups and take the survey to Pride 2013. A second survey will be sent to, for example, residential homes for older people. It is hoped that the surveys will have the backing of both Councils and AgeUK.

The timeframe would involve starting the surveys towards the end of 2012 and finishing after Pride 2013. After analysing the results, the project would finish with training sessions made available for care providers.

The project is dependent on getting a grant - so, without that it may come to nothing. Fingers will be crossed.



## QUEEN'S JUBILEE VARIETY NIGHT

**Nottinghamshire Pride** hosts The Queen's Jubilee Variety Night, a royal variety performance-esque set-up with bands The Idolins (folk), Subway Circus (Rock), Babserella Rubenstein (as seen on Deal or No Deal), the fabulous House of Gaga (Lady Gaga tribute), & the Rollo Academy of Performing Arts. It's on June 1st at the Royal Concert Hall at 7.30 pm. Tickets are £10.



## QB'S BITS

- Both **Base 51** and **Outburst** youth group are now at the new NGY Centre. It's at 29-33 Castle Gate. Base 51's phone number remains the same - 9525040
- After a few years operating mainly in a virtual world, the **Nottingham Bi-women's group** is now holding regular meetings. They can be contacted by e-mail at nbwg@bi.org
- "**Living our lives**" is an exhibition about trans people. Nottinghamshire's Rainbow Heritage has secured the exhibition for 2013's LGBT History Month.
- Looking even further ahead, London-based Liberal Judaism is about to submit a Heritage Lottery Fund grant proposal titled: '**Rainbow Jews: Celebrating Jewish LGBT History & Heritage**'. This will, amongst other things, produce an exhibition. They hope to bring the exhibition to Nottingham in 2014.
- Reflections sauna has reopened as "**New Reflections**" at 1 Kilbourn Street (off Huntingdon Street). Phone 0115 9588880.
- "An Ordinary Dog" by **Greg Woods** (Trent University's Professor of Gay and Lesbian Studies) has been shortlisted for the £1,000 East Midlands Book Award. See [www.writingeastmidlands.co.uk/awards/emba\\_shortlist\\_2011/](http://www.writingeastmidlands.co.uk/awards/emba_shortlist_2011/)
- **Man Up** is the new bears night - now running every last Friday in the Green Room at the Lord Roberts.
- **Bold Stroke Books** will hold their 3rd lesbian book festival at Waterstones in early August - more details in the next QB.
- For many years the **Newmarket Inn** on Lower Parliament Street (see below) has been described as "gay-friendly". Now gay-run, it is yet more gay friendly. You can even pick up your latest edition of QB there. On Saturday June 9th it will run a "**Newmarket Market Day**" which will include a stall and fundraising event for Nottingham Switchboard - more info on page 7



## RECREATION

The trans community is often in a difficult place. We're the T in LGBT but often face different issues to the LGB community. The LGB community isn't always aware of our needs – our struggle to get medical treatment to affirm our gender, the breathtaking injustice of couples having to annul their marriage in order to get a civil partnership, or the transphobia we may encounter.

The LGB community is well-meaning but sometimes doesn't get it – "but if you like men, you could just be gay!" and sometimes it's more hostile. All of these things mean that trans people need trans spaces where they can meet and get support from people in similar situations.

**Recreation** started in February 2011 to give trans people one of these spaces. We use as broad a definition of "trans" as we can and welcome anyone who has gender identity issues – people who have, are in the process of or want to transition from one gender to another, cross-dress, are genderqueer, agender, non-binary gendered, third gender, bi-gender, or feel that the way their body looks isn't the same as the gender they feel they are.

It can be hard for families, partners and friends to understand and we have a monthly "Family, Friends and Supportive Others" evening where they can come along with someone in the group, support someone at their first meet or to learn how to support someone else. Some parents come along because their child has recently told them that they're trans and they want to find out more.

We aren't affiliated with the Gender Clinic and we can't provide counselling, but we can direct you to appropriate resources. We organise speakers for some of our meets and in the past, have discussed issues like trans healthcare, hate crime and trans campaigning, and have invited trans people to speak about their experiences. However, most of what we do is providing a social, supportive space for trans people.

Speaking as Secretary, one of the most rewarding things about my involvement in the group has been observing the visible change in people as they grow more confident, happy and affirmed in their gender identity.

We meet in a city centre pub on Wednesday evenings. We're open to all ages until 9pm, then it has to be 18+ because of the pub licensing. If you're interested in coming along and would like more details, please email [recreationtrans@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:recreationtrans@hotmail.co.uk) or contact LG Switchboard.

## LESBIAN CAFÉ EVENING

On the 2nd Monday of each month the Women's Centre (30 Chaucer Street) will be hosting a lesbian cafe evening. It will be run on a drop-in basis from 5.30 pm - 7.30 pm with volunteers making the food. It's a chance to unwind after work, socialise and meet other lesbians (as well as an ongoing opportunity to talk about things you'd like to see happening at the Women's Centre).



The Sapphist Writers are meeting at the Centre straight afterwards. If any other groups would like a space to meet, please get in touch - e-mail address given below.

Also, the lesbian noticeboard is now back up in the Welcome Space (and bigger than ever). Please use the board to advertise events, groups, houses to let, lesbian-friendly services and anything else appropriate. If you've got anything to advertise please drop it in to the Centre or e-mail it across to

admin@nottinghamwomenscentre.com and we'll get it up when we refresh the board each month.

## THE JUSTIN TOURNAMENT

Once again the University of Nottingham will be organising the Justin Tournament in July.

Unfortunately due to resurfacing of the University's pitches, the tournament can't be held at the University Sports Centre. Instead they will be using their pitches at the Power League Soccer Centre in Lenton.

Due to an 8% increase in printing costs, the cost of advertisements in QB will rise by roughly the same amount.

A full page will now be £65, half page £33, quarter page £17, eighth page £9 etc.

## A SLIMMER RAINBOW

**Nottinghamshire's Rainbow Heritage** project was financed by a Heritage Lottery Grant. That grant ran out last April, but between the start of the project



in 2008 and the present time, they have raised a further £12,000. That sum will also run out (by March 2013) if they have to pay their current level of costs.

In order to prolong the life of the project, they have decided to phase out their costly office space, which has largely been used as a storage area. Members of the project will themselves store the display materials and some small pieces of equipment. Further fundraising will continue.

The project's phone line will continue to be provided by Nottingham CVS, who will also provide a pigeon hole for correspondence - so all the contact details will be unchanged.

The major change will be that the project's archived materials will be housed at Nottinghamshire Archives - on Castle Meadow Road near the Magistrates' Court. The materials (documents, newsletters, photos etc) will be stored as a single unit with access for the general public; the Archives have described them as "of national importance". What is more, they will be classed as a loan and remain property of Nottinghamshire's Rainbow Heritage, who will continue to add to them.

They hope the new arrangements will be in operation by the end of September. The project is also considering trying use some of its recorded interviews as the basis for a small booklet.

## IDAHO DAY

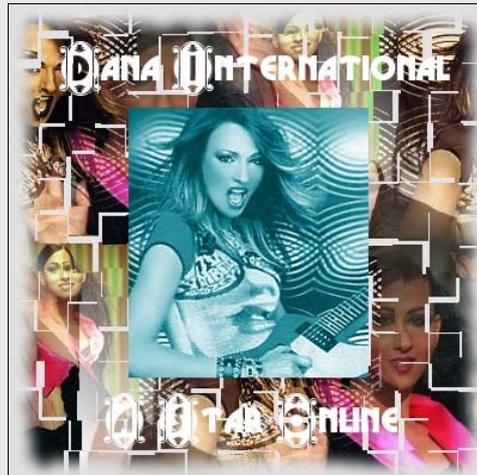
IDAHO day is May 17th and is the International Day Against Homophobia.

This year Nottingham City Council LGBT Employees Network will be organising the following:

- Displays in the Atrium of the Council's HQ at Loxley House
- Rainbow flags flying over the Castle, the Council House and Eastcroft.
- They also hope to organise some workshops.

# A Trans Timeline - 8

1998 Dana International, singing a song called 'Diva', becomes the first transsexual woman to win the Eurovision Song Contest.



1998 Julie Hesmondhalgh joins the Coronation Street (Britain's longest running television soap) as transsexual character Hayley Patterson.

1999 The UK Sex Discrimination Act is amended to include protections on the basis of Gender Reassignment.

2003 The Draft [Gender Recognition] Bill is the Government's response to decisions of the European Court of Human Rights and the House of Lords holding that aspects of English legislation violate rights under ECHR Article 8 (respect for private life) and Article 12 (right to marry) so far as it refuses to give legal recognition to a transsexual person's reassigned gender.



On Dec 7th 2003 British transvestite potter Grayson Perry, 43 scooped the controversial Turner prize, and collected £20,000 at a ceremony at Tate Britain in London, dressed as alter ego Claire.

This wonderful array of LGBT related flags has been produced in the form of fridge magnets by Tony Bilton. It is hoped to have them ready for Pride .

 <p><b>TRIANGLES</b> Emblems originally used by the Nazis to denote gay men (pink) and lesbians (black—along with prostitutes). Adopted by the lgbt community in Germany in the 1950s.</p>	 <p><b>PINK JACK</b> Designed by artist David Gwinnutt. Adapted from the Union Flag of 1801 for an exhibition on lgbt sexuality in Britain in 2005.</p>	 <p><b>ORIGINAL RAINBOW</b> Designed by Gilbert Baker. Introduced on 28 June 1978 at the San Francisco Gay Freedom Day Parade.</p>	 <p><b>LGBT NOTTINGHAMSHIRE</b> Adapted from the county flag designed by Richard Odams introduced in 2011.</p>	 <p><b>LAMBDA</b> Greek letter adopted in 1970 by the US Gay Activists Alliance. Declared lgbt symbol at the 1974 International Gay Rights Conference in Edinburgh.</p>
 <p><b>BEAR PRIDE</b> Designed by Paul Witzkoske from an idea by Craig Byrnes. Chosen by the guests of a Chesapeake Bay Bears summer party in July 1995.</p>	 <p><b>BI-ANGLES</b> Of uncertain origin these represent the bisexual community. Based on the triangles used by the Nazis. It's colours inspired the Bisexual Pride flag.</p>	 <p><b>RAINBOW PRIDE</b> Based on Gilbert Baker's design. Introduced on 27 June 1979 at the San Francisco Gay Freedom Day Parade.</p>	 <p><b>LABRYS</b> Symbol of power in ancient Crete and some matriarchal societies. Adopted by the lesbian community as a symbol of strength in the late 1970s.</p>	 <p><b>GAY PAGANS</b> Designed in Feb 2006 by Laura Seabrook, based on an earlier similar design of hers. Features the pentacle symbol used by Wiccans.</p>
 <p><b>LEATHER PRIDE</b> Designed by Dr. Tony DeBlase for the International Mr. Leather finals in Chicago on 18 May 1989.</p>	 <p><b>GAY GOTHs</b> Adapted from the Goth flag designed in 1990 by Erik Dunesque. The Eye of Horus symbol dates back to Ancient Egypt.</p>	<p><i>Put the Flags out</i></p> <p>The world of lgbt flags and symbols.</p> <p>Place whole sheet on your fridge. Or cut out and rearrange.</p>	 <p><b>UNIFORM PRIDE</b> For lovers of a man or woman in uniform, specifically a military one. It dates from before 2002 and its origins are obscure.</p>	 <p><b>FEATHER PRIDE</b> Designed for the drag community by Sean Campbell in June 2000. Inspired by the phoenix and the harlequin costume.</p>
 <p><b>COWBOY PRIDE</b> Designed by Sean Campbell in June 2000 for the Palm Springs Gay and Lesbian Times. The colours are based on denim and leather.</p>	 <p><b>VENUS SYMBOL</b> The symbol for the planet Venus, first used in Ancient Greece, was first used to denote the female gender by botanist Carl Linnaeus in 1751.</p>	 <p><b>LIPSTICK LESBIANS</b> For femme lesbians. Designed by a lesbian New York blogger, and introduced at New York Pride, June 2009.</p>	 <p><b>MARS SYMBOL</b> The symbol for the planet Mars, first used in Ancient Greece, was first used to denote the male gender by botanist Carl Linnaeus in 1751.</p>	 <p><b>BDSM PRIDE</b> (Bondage/Discipline/Sado-Masochism) Introduced in 1997. Based on the Leather Pride flag. The disc emblem was designed by "Quagmyr" in 1995.</p>
 <p><b>TRANS SYMBOL</b> One of several variations, this one by Holly Boswell. It combines the Mars and Venus gender symbols with the ancient hermaphrodite symbol.</p>	 <p><b>BISEXUAL PRIDE</b> Designed by Michael Page. Introduced on 5 Dec. 1998 on the 1st anniversary of the internet-based bi community bicafe.com.</p>	 <p><b>TRANSGENDER PRIDE</b> Designed by Monica Helms in 2000 and introduced at Phoenix Pride in Arizona. The white stripe symbolizes gender transition.</p>	 <p><b>PANSEXUAL PRIDE</b> For lovers of all sexes and genders. Designed by Nottinghamshire blogger Just-Jasper. Introduced on 11 Aug. 2010.</p>	 <p><b>PANSEXUAL SYMBOL</b> Symbol designed by Nottinghamshire blogger Just-Jasper. Based on the letter P with male and female gender symbols.</p>

## THE WAY OF THE WORLD

Nottingham Switchboard recently reached a milestone. The statistics for 2011 show that when silent phone calls are put aside, then for the first time the number of contacts by e-mail and text exceed those by phone. As things go this trend is unlikely to be reversed.

Switchboard also reports that the number of contacts has risen by about 100 after a few years of slow decline. It's now about 1500/year.

We are often led to view London as the centre of the universe. It came as a surprise to learn that London Switchboard announced it would start receiving enquiries by e-mail and text in March 2012. Nottingham began using texts two years ago and e-mails twelve years ago. They shot their carrier pigeons in 1994.

## JUICY NEW WOMEN'S NIGHT

**JUICE** is a new women's night. 8 pm. to 1 am. at Federation House, Clarendon Road (between Hucknall Road and Sherwood Rise. £6 waged, £4 unwaged. It's got: dancing (with resident DJs D'Or & Diddy); Garden; free parking; pool table. The first night will be on Saturday May 26th. For more information e-mail [juicenottingham@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:juicenottingham@yahoo.co.uk) or join Facebook: [juicenottingham](https://www.facebook.com/juicenottingham)

## VOLUNTEERS FOR NOTTS POLICE

Nottinghamshire Police have a variety of volunteering opportunities that we would like to promote within the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender community.

### Special Constables

Special Constables are volunteer police officers who are asked to commit a minimum of 16 hours a month duty time working alongside their regular police colleagues making local communities safer. Special Constables go through a selection process which involves making an application, interview, written tests, fitness test, medical, security vetting and references. Once successful, candidates have 22 days of classroom training spread over a four month period followed by 'on the job' training at a police station with a regular police officer mentor.

For further information please contact specials.  
[recruitment@nottinghamshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:recruitment@nottinghamshire.pnn.police.uk) or telephone 101 extension 800 3474.

### Police Support Volunteers

These roles are numerous and varied ranging from office based clerical work to gardening, driving or proactive roles such as supporting the neighbourhood policing teams as a Community Safety Volunteer. Nottinghamshire Police are committed to finding the right volunteer role for each individual that will provide a beneficial experience for each volunteer. For further information please contact [volunteers@nottinghamshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:volunteers@nottinghamshire.pnn.police.uk)

## It's back ! NEW REFLECTIONS

### Nottingham's No.1 Gay & Bi Men's Sauna

@ 1 Kilbourn Street, Nottingham NG3 1BQ 0115 958 8880

(off Huntingdon Street, less than 5 mins walk from the Vic Centre bus station)

[www.reflectionshealthclub.co.uk](http://www.reflectionshealthclub.co.uk)

**It's bigger !** Largest purpose built sauna in the East Midlands, new bespoke steam room, DVD lounge with leather sofas, tropical beach themed hot tub, new double showers, free Wi-Fi.

**It's better !** Entrance on quiet side street (no busy traffic)  
private outside smoking patio (dressing gowns provided),  
free car parking in the area, central heating throughout.

**Still friendly, where all ages are welcome**

## BRIEFS ON THE SCENE

**G-spot**, at 34 Heathcoat St., is Nottingham city centre's newest members-only lounge bar – meaning it's exclusively gay. According to G-spot itself, the bar plays "*chilled out music and live lounge music, something the Nottingham scene has a gap for with its boutique, relaxed theme that gives people the chance to relax and socialise*".

We went down there to see for ourselves, and once past the burly but courteous bouncers, we were met with polished, intimately-lit and well-finished surroundings, with modern comfortable sofas and décor, and images of Marilyn Monroe on one wall. The interior designers have done well with the place, and drinks are well-priced. G-spot has the feel of Propaganda, actually, which is of course a good thing.

The sound system, although fully-functional, was turned up rather loud for a lounge bar, and the tracks a tad upbeat for chilling out and socializing; but I'm guessing G-spot is a bit of a Jack of all trades and will adapt its ambience to suit each occasion. Indeed, the DJ booth has a built-in smoke machine which is rather impressive but not so great when sat at the sofas next to it having a convo with your girlfriend... It was a little empty when we were there, the paper towels in the toilets needed replenishing and only one of the three members of staff were at all friendly; but all in all, G-spot could slot nicely into the Nottingham scene.

Richard Frost

Conservation Services



Antique Furniture Repair

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Tel. 0115 9622121

E-mail  
richardtfrost@hotmail.com

or visit us @

[www.furniturerepairantiquenottingham.co.uk](http://www.furniturerepairantiquenottingham.co.uk)

## BRIEFS ON THE SCENE

Friday 19<sup>th</sup> April saw hundreds of lesbians from Nottinghamshire and beyond flock to the **Rescue Rooms** (Goldsmith St.) for a glimpse of electro-indie royalty. **Uh Huh Her (UHH)** are an American rock/electropop band, formed in 2007, consisting of lead vocalist/guitarist/keyboardist Camila Grey, and bassist/guitarist/vocalist Leisha Hailey.

Musos love them for the aural pleasure they bring through their multi-layered melodies and clean breaks combined with Grey's raw vocal talent, and many lesbians will know them, since Hailey, also an actress, plays Alice Piezecki, one of the lead characters in the ever-popular cult US series the L word. Judging by the crowd's lacklustre response to some actually rather good music and an enjoyable show, I'd say most people fell into the latter group. The band played a string of some of their more classic electronic tracks, with some more recent rockier songs from their album Nocturne. Despite this, the audience was fairly static, preferring to take smart phone pictures of Hailey and Grey, heavily pixelated due to the zooming in.

It was, however, great to see a mix of so many women of all ages convened in one place, and some of us even enjoyed the music. It also helps that the band are extremely easy on the eye, and I couldn't resist joining the queue (100s of people long) after the performance to get a quick snap of the girls as they were selling band merchandise. The drummer was rather cute too - one for the boys!



**The Newmarket** is a lovely friendly pub, on Lower Parliament Street where the staff are always jolly.

Not an exclusively gay pub, it's owned by a gay couple who "welcome all our gay brothers and sisters to our establishment", and has seen a recent surge in popularity in the community with a karaoke night, a drag night, and now a Market Day, with stalls and activities and games seen at traditional markets brought to life, Aussie style. All proceeds are to go to a local gay charity... and yes, there'll be a barbeque! The beer garden no doubt will be buzzing, so it will be well worth a visit.

The 1st Market Day is on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> May, with proceeds going to Notts Pride. Be sure to head to the following one too - June 9th - where proceeds will be going to Nottingham Switchboard. The pub is welcoming quality donations, including any donations of prizes for the tombola, and if anyone would like to sell anything at any of the market days, it will cost sellers £5 a table.

Briefs on the Scene reports by Natasher Beecher.

Lesbian & Gay Switchboard  
0115 934 8485 or 01623 621515

or text 07624809360

Monday-Friday 7 pm-9.30 pm  
7 Mansfield Road, Nottingham, NG1 3FB.  
notts@lgswitchboard.fsnet.co.uk  
www.nottslgs.org.uk

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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

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Nottinghamshire's Rainbow Heritage  
c/o NVAC, 7 Mansfield Road,  
Nottingham NG1 3FB.

0115 9349529 nottsrh@hotmail.co.uk  
www.nottsrainbowheritage.org.uk

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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 the Chair on 07941 855921 email andyandsteve01@gmail.com www.breakoutnottm.org.uk
- Outburst!** Group for LGB young people up to the age of 25. Meets Mondays at NGY (29-33 Castle gate) Phone Base 51 (at NGY) 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:

Notts Hyking Dykes; Bi-Delight: Lesbian Book Club; Women's Badminton; Badminton Social; Lesbian & Gay Christian Movement; Chameleons (trans); Re-Creation (trans); Nottingham & Trent Uni LGBT Societies; Peak Ruffties walking group: LIRAIN (lesbians into real ale); Police OUTNetwork; Flying Colours (investors' group); Sapphist Writers; SMOG (for straight partners of LGBT people); Lesbian Café evening; SYNT (Women's social group): Gay History Tours; Bi Women's Group; LiNk-Notts (local lesbian e-mail info service); LAFS (Mansfield women's group); Eat Out Social; North Notts Gay Women's Walking Group; Ball Bois football team; Sherwood Ladies 5-a-side football; Open Walking Group; Tagadere (HIV+ support group); Weekenders (Sheffield based walking group); Gay Outdoor Club; Worksop Youth group (WOW); Panthers Rugby Club; Dinner Ladies (women's eat out group); LGBT Recovery (drugs/alcohol) Download a detailed directory of groups & services from the Local Facilities page of Switchboard's website

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

## DIARY

### A TINY FESTIVAL

It's **WOVENFEST** - in celebration of all the strands it's weaving together.

It's not "A music festival", more of a "gig that's a bit special". And it's not "A queer festival" as such - but you won't be surprised to hear I'm fully intending for it to be LGBT-friendly space. I've already got some posters from Stonewall whose theme is "Different families, same love" - sort of an unofficial theme for the event.

Venue will be the Friends' Meeting House (i.e. Quakers' building, a beautiful space) Clarendon Street, Nottingham.

The music will be indoors; the venue also has a little terrace by the hall and a garden, so subject to weather we've got the option of outside picnicing and play.

It won't be free admission: I'm looking at possibly doing a "set your own value" price so as not to exclude skint people.

All the scheduled stuff will be in wheelchair accessible spaces. **June 9th**

Jennifer Moore

### SAPPHIC DESIRE

The blurb states "David Mamet's incisive satire of decorous vulgarity, barely repressed Sapphic desire and class hostility, full of double entendres and vernacular expressions, **Boston Marriage** concerns the relationship between two women and their maid at the beginning of the twentieth century."

At the Lace Market Theatre (Halifax Place Nottingham, NG1 1QN) from 18th-23rd June.  
Phone 0115 950 7201

### BOURNE AGAIN

Favourite amongst gay ballet choreographers (of which there are many, many, many) Matthew Bourne brings a triple bill of his early works to Nottingham Playhouse (27-28th June).

The first item on the bill is **Spitfire**, which places the most famous 19th Century Ballet showstopper in the world of men's underwear advertising. **Town and Country**, explores notions of national character from a bygone era, while **The Infernal Galop** was inspired by icons of France in the 30s and 40s. Traditional clichés are joyously paraded, climaxing in Offenbach's inevitable Can-Can.