

QB

Nottinghamshire's Queer Bulletin

April/May 2010
Number 53

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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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or e-mail

notts@lgswitchboard.fsnet.co.uk

The deadline for the next edition will be mid May 2010

**Switchboard is registered
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IT'S PAY AND DISPLAY AT THE TOURISM CENTRE

FREE



What used to be called the Tourist Information Centre is now the Tourism Centre. Could this explain the following incident? A young visitor from Glasgow phoned Lesbian and Gay Switchboard having previously visited the Centre. He said that at the Centre he asked for some local gay information and was told that they didn't have any.

The Centre explains this by saying that they will only display information from organisations which pay them at least £200. Health Gay Nottingham have tried to get the Centre to take their Gay Guide, but were told "We'll have them, but they will be under the counter".

The commercial gay scene is located fairly easily on the internet. It's not so easy to pinpoint Nottinghamshire's nearly 50 social groups, special interest groups and support organisations. Only 2 of these have paid workers, the rest are entirely volunteer led; they are run by their members. Usually they operate on shoestring budgets or no budget at all.

The Tourism Centre wishes to make a profit out of not-for-profit groups. It is difficult to comprehend why an organisation which hopes to attract people to Nottinghamshire ignores the "pink pound". They say that the organisations which pay for their items to be displayed would not be happy for not-for-profit groups to get a freebie. If a small free section for not-for-profit groups and charities were installed would it really bring down the wrath of the larger commercial organisations? Have they been asked? Perhaps they might think that anything which brings more people to Nottingham would also benefit them.

They do, however, say that LGBT events can be listed on their website .. so we sent them some. After a few days we phoned them to ask why the things in our e-mail weren't on the website. "We never received it", they said. How strange that an identical e-mail sent during that phone call arrived immediately.

Whether information is on display or not, surely in 2010 the centre should have a database on computer. Switchboard is quite happy to waive its normal fee and provide them with the LGBT information absolutely free.

HISTORY MONTH CELEBRATIONS



Precisely 145 people attended the Celebration and Awards evening on Feb. 16th at the Council House. The picture shows a Certificate of Recognition presented by the Sheriff of Nottingham to **Nottingham Hyking Dykes**.

Other certificates were awarded to **Healthy Gay Nottingham** and **Breakout**. This year there were two further certificates called the "Michael Raymond Memorial certificates" for organisations or groups which are no longer active, but which made a valuable contribution in their day. They were awarded to: **Nottingham Lesbian Line**, which provided a valuable service for local women for over 20 years and to the **Pavilion Club**, the first gay club in the East Midlands. You'll need to go to the Nottinghamshire's Rainbow Heritage website to find out about Michael Raymond and the reasons why the certificates carry his name.

As usual, the (free) food and drink disappeared rapidly. Thanks once more to **Debbie Law** for providing a lot of the wine.

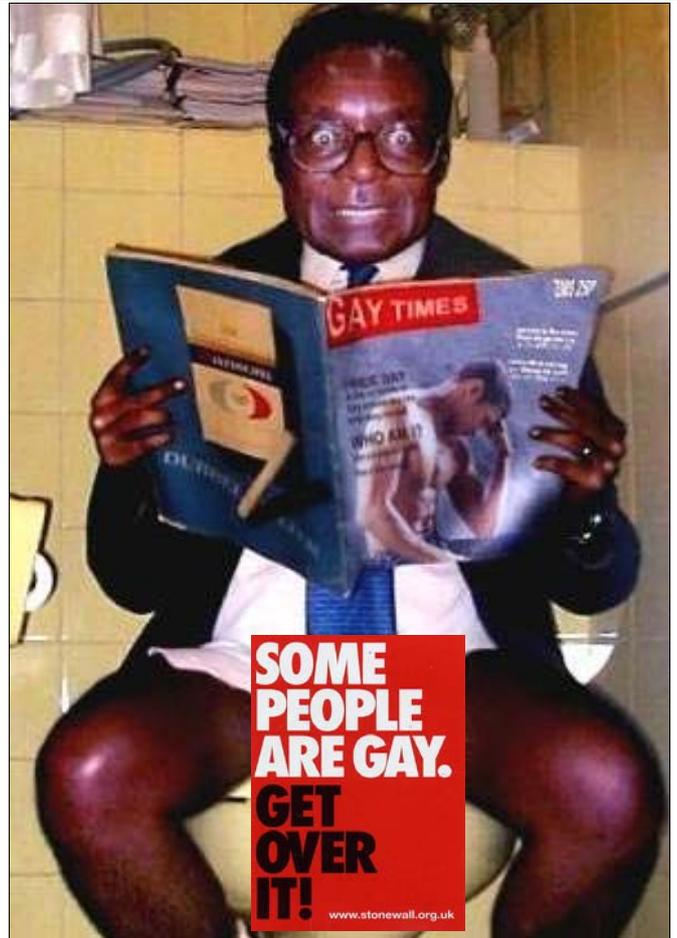
The **Nottingham Ballbois** mannequin was part of 4 displays which were set up alongside stalls from Notts Police, UNISON and the City Council's Adoption and Fostering service. As the event was judged to be fantabulosa, we have booked the Council House for Feb. 15th 2011.

The Ballbois were also part of the big LGBT History exhibition at the Studio at Broadway. People really liked the exhibition, but attendance was a bit disappointing and NRH will probably have a rethink about venues if there is to be another exhibition next year.

Other events included a full house to hear novelist **Narvel Annable** talk about his latest novel and sold out performances of the **Gay Man's Guide** at the Lace Market Theatre.



MUGABE IN THE CLOSET



QB'S BITS

- There has been a further addition to the strange ideas some people have about the meaning of LGBT. The latest one is "Isn't it some type of sandwich? I know about the lettuce, bacon and tomato, but I've forgotten what the G stands for. Is it gorgonzola?"
- **LIFT**, Lesbians into Food and Talk, has been revived. So if you like good food and good company, you can get details by joining the **LiNK Notts** e-mail list at <http://www.linknotts.org.uk/>
- Nottinghamshire's Rainbow Heritage's last LGB Awareness training days were oversubscribed, so they are doing an extra day on May 6th at Arnold Library. If you know anyone who might want (or need) this, get them to e-mail nottsrh@hotmail.co.uk
- On the **National LGBT History** website, they list what's going on around the UK. This year the leading "scores" were London 245, E Midlands 269.
- We hear that a new gay bar AND a new gay club are to open near to Propaganda in the Lace Market. More info in the next QB.
- **Re-Creation** Trans group has ceased meeting, but it is hoped that it will be revived soon.
- **Jens Zimmerman** celebrates 14 years with Healthy Gay Nottingham - on April Fool's Day.

NOTTS CLIMBS THE (STONE)WALL

It's been said quite often that amongst those big three state employees, the Councils, the NHS and the Police, it's the Police who lead the way in LGB awareness followed by the Councils, with the NHS trailing a long way behind.

Things seem to be changing - at least locally. Stonewall reports that "The most improved employer was **Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust**. At 19th, it was the best-performing employer in the health sector and was praised for measures such as "theatre-based diversity training", along with raising the rainbow flag for LGBT History Month." (see also page 7)

There's good news, too, from the **County Council**. They have just squeezed into Stonewall's top 100 employers.

A local blog describes **Mrs Kay Cutts** (the newish leader of the County Council) as an "out-of-her-depth opportunist". QB will have nothing to do with this vile calumny.

In the area of Equality and Diversity, she is reported to have stated that she will do everything the law requires her to do. We are convinced that the splendid contribution she has made to furthering the welfare of Nottinghamshire's LGBT community has been instrumental in gaining this recognition from Stonewall. Well done, Mrs Cutts!

NEW HOME FOR PRIDE

Perhaps QB was the last to find out ... but in case you haven't heard, this year's Nottingham Pride will take place at the **Forest Recreation Ground** - the Goose Fair site. You may remember that last year's Pride March actually started off there.

A lot of people will miss the Arboretum, but at least the new site is not that far away and is easy to reach by buses and the tram. The Pride Committee already has lots of acts lined up for the event which will now end at 8.00 pm, rather than 6.00 pm. They've also got **Peter Tatchell** for the Speaker's Corner bit.



You can read about all this on a highly revamped Pride website www.nottinghampride.co.uk

I must warn everyone, that the website has no mention of the annual midsummer night naked anti-rain ceremony, so this year bring your umbrella on July 31st.

FIRE AND RESCUE

Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service (NFRS) has been working hard to improve the awareness and understanding of its staff and managers on LGB issues and we thought it would be useful to tell you what we have been doing and what we plan to do in the future.

In 2008 the Service joined Stonewall and in 2009 we entered their Workplace Equality Index to see how they think we're doing on LGB issues. The results of this are due in this month. NFRS recently set up the Service's first LGB network for staff which met for the first time in November. The Introduction to Equality and Diversity training, attended by all staff, covers LGB issues and as well as this, the Service is now delivering sexual orientation training to approximately 200 managers. Key policies are also being reviewed to ensure that they fulfil the needs and expectations of NFRS's gay staff. The Service is fully committed to championing a culture of diversity, fairness and equality for all our employees and service users. The Service is also a regular attendee at Nottingham Pride enabling us to showcase ourselves as an employer of choice. We hope to see you there this year!

Did you also know that we offer free home safety checks and advice on safety in the home as part of our commitment to make Nottinghamshire a safer place to live? Home safety checks can be booked by calling 0800 0223235

You will be contacted by your local station who will then visit you at a mutually convenient time. They take 20-30 minutes to complete and you will be provided with free smoke alarms, should you require them.

WOW IN WORKSOP

A while back we mentioned the likelihood of an LGBT youth group starting up in Worksop. The group is organised via Centre Place and has now started meeting every Wednesday from 6.30 to 8.30 pm.

It's called **WOW** ... Worksop Out on Wednesdays (we won't quibble that it ought to be called WOOW!) . The group provides free confidential support for young people from 16 to 25 who are LGBT or questioning their sexuality.

As well as having an opportunity to meet other young people, the group will also provide free sexual health information.

For more information text WOW to either 07977673167 or 07815289606 or phone 01909 479191.

DISCRIMINATION IS ILLEGAL

Thanks to funding from the Equality and Human Rights Commission, Chesterfield and Nottingham Law Centres are offering **free** legal advice and representation aimed at helping people to work and access to goods and services without discrimination and harassment.

This is for people who lives in Nottinghamshire, Lincolnshire and Derbyshire and have been discriminated against because of age, gender, race, disability, transgender issues, sexual orientation, faith, religious or non religious belief.

Have you experienced discrimination or harassment, for example, by:

- Colleagues, manager or employer?
- Banks or building societies?
- Cinemas or theatres?
- Doctors or dentists?
- Hospitals or clinics?
- Leisure centres, hotels or B&Bs?
- Police?
- Public and private landlords?
- Council or other public body?
- Shops or markets?
- Transport providers?

A person or organisation may discriminate against someone for a variety of reasons, but no matter whether it is based on race, colour, gender, age, disability, sexual orientation or religious or non religious belief - it is unlawful and the specialist workers at the Law Centres can help.

For Employment Advice contact Nottingham Law Centre, and for advice around accessing to goods and services contact Chesterfield Law Centre.

For free advice contact:

Carol Lambert
Nottingham Law Centre
119 Radford Rd, Nottingham, NG7 5DU
Tel: 01159 787 813
Tel: 01159 792 969
Typetalk: 18001 01159 787 813
Text box: 0845 833 4252
Email:
enquiries@nottinghamlawcentre.org.uk

Here's advance notice that the wonderful **Rabbi Lionel Blue** will be appearing at the Djanogly Theatre (in the Lakeside Arts Centre) on Tuesday June 15th. An "Evening with Rabbi Lionel Blue" starts at 8.00 pm. Tickets £12 to £20
Box Office: 0115 846 7777
www.lakesidearts.org.uk

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 Nottingham Voluntary Action Centre.

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

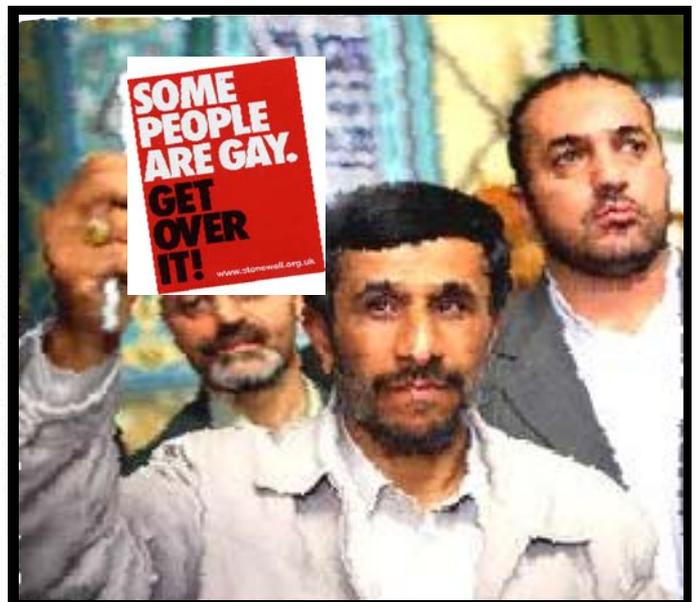
Advertising costs £100 for a full A4 page and in proportion for smaller ads e.g. £50 for half page £25 for quarter page and £13 for an eighth page. Use the contact details on the front page if you would like to advertise.

WHO'S THE DADDY?



A pair of lesbian royal albatrosses in New Zealand have welcomed their first chick into the world.

The couple, who live at Royal Albatross Colony on South Island, are not unique, but it is particularly unusual for lesbian albatrosses to successfully incubate an egg. Royal albatrosses are an endangered species and the new chick is one of just 17 new additions to the colony this year. The colony has had three lesbian couples in the last 70 years. It is not known who the father of the chick is.



Gay Nottingham Times

No.14 Claiming our history, Celebrating our present, Creating our future

Robin Hood

Robina Hood and Her Gay Folk

Nottingham's only gay street theatre group, formed in 1975, performed a parody with a female Robin, Maid Marian in drag, and a mincing Major Oak. An official Soviet delegation thought they were the real Robin Hood Society.



Man in pink tights?

Robin Hood is a world legend. Today he is synonymous with Sherwood and Nottingham. We know nothing of the real man behind the legend. All we do know comes from the earliest ballads from the late 1300s. But who wrote them? And was Robin Hood really gay?



The Forest Queen

In 1999 Prof. Stephen Knight gave a lecture on a Victorian novel about Maid Marian.



The novel focused on Robin Hood's close male-bonding group of Merry Men. Knight said some people might think they were gay. The media did, and had a field day!

But which King?

The king who pardons Robin Hood is usually King Richard the Lionheart. Rumours about the king being gay originated after his death, based mainly on his closeness to King Philippe of France. The early Robin Hood ballads, though, mention no King Richard, but ...



... King Edward. Analysis of the ballads suggests Robin Hood met Edward II, not Richard. Edward was famous for his gay relationship with Piers Gaveston, whom he made Constable of Nottingham Castle, and he came to Sherwood in 1324 to pardon outlaws.



Creator of the Legend?

Every film, book and tv series is based on the ballads. Evidence suggests that poet Sir John Clanvowe (d.1391) may have written them. Using old Robin Hood stories, he added new material based on real rebellions against Edward II, and on the family background of his "husband" Sir William Neville, Constable of Nottingham Castle. Did Sir John create the legend we now today?



Perfect together??? Possibly....but no person and no relationship is ever perfect. Where would the fun be in that? However, there is obviously something about this guy that is getting you all hot and bothered so I can understand why you would want to explore this or find out where you stand. It's not easy to squash the intense feelings that you are no doubt experiencing but be careful to not let them become an obsession.

It does sounds as though you're doing a lot of exhausting detective work that would even make Sherlock Holmes look like an amateur so I'm wondering what it would be like for you to actually speak with him instead of fantasising about it all day? He may be experiencing shame or guilt about what he told you, plus he may have chosen to use "selective amnesia" to forget about his little confession. There could potentially be a lot at stake for him.

Either way, there was a part of him that reached out to you and may be continuing to do so via the frequent gazing across the office (or maybe he's just noticed you ogling him for the 7.5 hours of the working day). We could sit here and debate until the cows come home about what he is feeling but the truth is that you will never know until you speak to him face to face or even through Facebook, if this feels more comfortable. Be mindful to not say that "you know that he's gay" as a label is probably not what he needs. Maybe suggest a drink after a hard day at work and let the relationship (in whatever form) unfold naturally. However, until you know more about what he needs, give yourself a bit of a break.

If it all goes wrong honey and you feel the need to talk to someone about it for advice or support, our doors are open every Saturday between 10am and 2pm.

Good luck and take care,
Marj

Dear Marj,

I am a 19 year old gay man and I am totally in love with someone at work. I know he is gay too but he is in a relationship with a girl. Once when we were drunk at a work do he confessed he always thought he may be gay. Nothing happened though. Now at work I just look at him all the time and try to think of any excuse to talk to him. I think about him all the time and when I get home from work I spend hours on his Facebook page just to find things out about him. I really think we could be perfect together. If only I could get him to see it. I feel he is looking at me at work, so I think he might be interested. Help!

From 'Obsessed 19 year old'

Whoooooaaaaa boy! Step away from that computer and get yourself some chamomile tea and chillax. Whilst my heart is racing for you in the eager anticipation of a new and potentially budding romance, I'm also having flashbacks to a little film from the 80's starring Glenn Close. Boiled bunnies ringing any bells?

Seriously though, I do have the deepest sympathy for your plight as it sounds rather confusing not only for you but also for this other guy. Him disclosing that he is questioning his sexuality must've been a massive and incredibly frightening step for him but it sounds like he saw something in you that made him feel at ease and able to trust you with such a valuable part of himself.

If I'm honest though, it sounds like what this guy needs most at the moment is a friend and someone to talk to. Who knows what the future could potentially hold for you both but at this point in time it feels important that you respect his boundaries and relationship...let him explore his sexuality at his own pace. As for you my love-struck little minx, there is nothing wrong with a healthy bit of fantasising but don't let yourself get too carried away, as the reality could be somewhat disappointing and emotionally painful for you.

Fanny's! Women Only Night

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

Saturday May 22nd 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

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

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

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
 (Heritage Lottery funded)

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

Older Gay Men's Group Support and social group for men aged 50+. Meets 3rd Saturday of month, 2-4 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 Hyking Dykes; Bi-Delight: Stately Homes Group; Notts Lesbian Book Club; Women's Badminton; Badminton Social; Lesbian & Gay Christian Movement; East Mercia MSC; Chameleon Group; University of Nottingham & Trent University LGBT Societies; Peak Ruffties; Grizzly; LIRAIN; Police OUTNetwork; Flying Colours; SMOC; 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; Women's 5-a-side 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

STOP MESSING ABOUT



This Kenneth Williams extravaganza is based on radio shows from the late 1960s which also featured Hugh Padgick and Joan Sims. It's a follow-up to "Round the Horne Revisited".

May 10th to 12th at the Theatre Royal. Box office is 0115 989 5555.

LAFS BRANCHES OUT

LAFS, the Mansfield-based women's social group (which is attended by women from all over North Notts) meets 7-9 pm on the last Wednesday of the month. It's also planning a series of excursions.

- Saturday April 17th: Day trip to York
- Saturday May 15th: Day trip to Chester
- Saturday June 19th: Overnight stay in Manchester

For more details call 0784 979 8802 or
 E-mail lafs1@hotmail.co.uk

OUR FAVOURITE GAY ICON?



At least, that's what the Nottinghamshire's Rainbow Heritage poll found last year. If you agree, you will want to see **Rufus Wainwright** at the Royal Concert Hall.

An Evening with Rufus Wainwright starts at 7.45 pm on Sunday April 25th.

SIGNS OF A STAR-SHAPED DIVA

"Tammy, the alter ego of undertaker Sue Graves, has to make a life-changing decision with the help of her most trusted friends ... Judy Garland, Dolly Parton, Billie Holiday, Dusty Springfield and Patsy Cline."

Does this sound just a bit gay to you? "Signs of a star-shaped diva takes us on an emotional rollercoaster of signed song, interpreting and telling the stories of songs that have touched a generation" .. they say.

It's at the Djanogly Theatre 19th/20th April at 8.00 pm. Box Office 0115 846 7777
www.lakesidearts.org.uk