

# QB

## Nottinghamshire's Queer Bulletin

October/November 2007  
Number 38

In this edition:

The usual assortment of rubbish that you have grown to love and cherish ....

plus

- ◆ Acronyms
- ◆ Men in tights
- ◆ Velvet tipping
- ◆ A possibly unhealthy pre-occupation with vibrators

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

The deadline for the next edition will be mid November 2007.

**Switchboard is registered charity  
number 1114273**

## THE CITY COUNCIL WANTS TO HEAR FROM YOU

**FREE**

### HELP US TO HELP YOU

Nottingham City Council now has a team of three Community Development Officers, who will be working with 'Communities of Interest and Identity' across Nottingham city. These include:

Gender	men's groups and women's groups
Sexuality	gay, lesbian, bi-sexual and trans-gender groups
BME	black and minority ethnic groups
Faith	religious groups
Age	groups for the old or young
Disability	physical and mental health groups

At present, the team are trying to meet individuals and groups who work with any of these communities, to find out what they do, and what support they might need – they can then identify which groups most need help, and look for any gaps in the services being provided. It's all about helping groups provide better services to their communities in future.

Can you help? Do you know of, or are you an individual or a group that the team should be meeting? If so, please contact:

Mandy Pride	(Gender & Sexuality)	9156831 or mandy.pride@nottinghamcity.gov.uk
Suki Shergill	(BME & Faith)	9158849 or suki.shergill@nottinghamcity.gov.uk
Carla Alletson	(Age & Disability)	9155853 or carla.alletson@nottinghamcity.gov.uk

### HERE'S HOW THEY DO IT IN SWEDEN

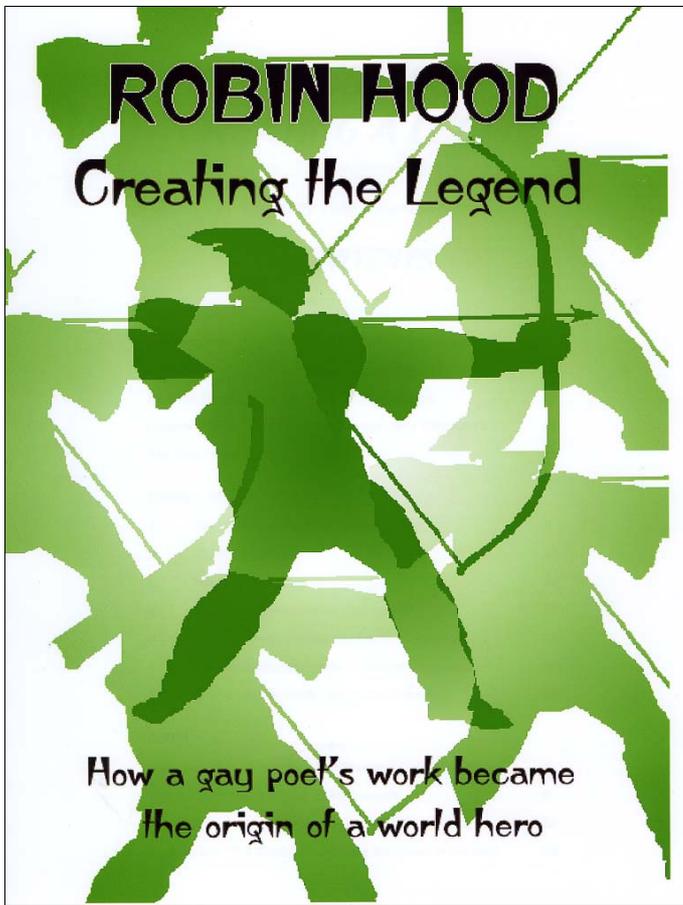
The parade to Pride Park was several miles long and took almost 2 hours to pass by. The entire route was packed with a crowd of half a million people.

One big difference with Stockholm Pride compared to the UK is how many people in the crowd were just members of the public enjoying a fun event.

... and in 2008 (July 26th-August 3rd) Stockholm is the host for Europride.

If you are interested in Europride 2008, then have a look at the website of Sterling Airlines. From November they will be flying three times a week directly to Stockholm Arlanda Airport from Nottingham East Midlands; return tickets are about £50.





For £4 you can get Tony Bilton's new book about Sir John Clanvowe (the male partner of the Constable of Nottingham Castle) who created the first stories about Robin Hood. To order a copy, contact [pegasus.tour@amserve.com](mailto:pegasus.tour@amserve.com)

## CALLING ALL LESBIAN WRITERS

A new and different kind of writing network is starting up in Nottingham on September 18th. Tired of the usual homogenised groups, we thought we'd mix it up a little. The **Lesbian Writers' Network** is open to all lesbians who write – poets, dramatists, fiction writers, bloggers and kitchen table scribblers. Our vision is to explore our own creativity and the diversity of Lesbian experience, and to break down the barriers and social constructs which hold us back from using our voice.

We are hoping for an organic exchange of ideas, that will invigorate each other's creative processes and stimulate new and exciting work. Using the internet and meetings to share ideas and writing in a safe and supportive environment, hopefully we will work towards compiling and publishing an anthology in the future.

We hope the freshness of this group will create new work both from writers who are not currently producing and perhaps for successful writers who wish to re-invigorate their writing. This journey will be shaped by all those who participate, working towards establishing a group that reflects the multiplicity of the lesbian community and takes us on an expansive journey. For further information, please contact [sandyhopton@lycos.com](mailto:sandyhopton@lycos.com)

## GROUP OF THE DAY

### A Service for Women who have Sex with Women.

Have you always believed sexually transmitted infections are a problem for straight people & gay guys & not something that you should even think about let alone worry about? If so, you need this service!

“**Tipping the Velvet**” is a new service in Nottingham for women who have sex with women. Whether you're lesbian, bi or just curious, this service is for you. It is a safe, social space to meet up for a coffee/tea/herbal tea/juice or just plain water, and a chat with like-minded ladies. It is running on the first Monday of every month at The Health Shop in Hockley where there will be workers from the main service and Chill Out Sound Support to offer advice and support around sexual health and drugs issues, problematic or recreational, for the group or on a 1-2-1 basis.

If you would like a 1-2-1 discussion but don't feel like attending the group, contact The Health Shop on the number below and you will be given an appointment for the next meeting and seen in a confidential area away from the group.

It is planned that each month there will be different activities arranged covering a wide range of issues such as sexual health, drug use, domestic violence, etc. Ideas for topics or activities are welcomed. If you are thinking: “This sounds like something I would like to go to but I would rather do...” contact The Health Shop, ask to speak to one of the workers involved in Tipping the Velvet and let us know your suggestions.

We would like to make this service one that women want & will access regularly, so to do that, we need your input. What would you like from this group? What would make you come out on a cold wintry Monday evening? What would be your idea of a good night out with the girls? (Keep the suggestions clean!!)

So why not come & join us at the next meeting and see what you think, it'll be on **the 1st Monday of the month, 5.30-8 pm at The Health Shop, 12 Broad Street, Hockley, Nottingham NG1 3AL.**

Or for further information or suggestions for future group sessions contact: Moira or Donna on 0115 9475414.

Still thinking the group is not for you, well if you don't need advice but just fancy a night out with the girls, come along anyway, it'd be great to meet you!!

## NOTES AND QUEERIES

Military bomb experts were called to Hasland post office in Chesterfield to carry out a controlled explosion over a package which started buzzing. On further inspection, the package was found to contain a vibrator which had self started.

The latter has absolutely nothing to do with Nicky Jex, of Leicester, who held up a branch of Ladbroke's with a vibrator disguised as a gun.

If you talk in acronyms, expect to be misunderstood. At a recent meeting of the local Equality and Diversity Forum, the following statement was heard "This LGBT ... I know that LG stands for Local Government, but what is the BT bit?"

As the UK manufacturing industry slowly withers, its place is being taken by an expanding service sector, which is now reaching into areas hitherto unexplored - as shown by this Canvey Island firm.



## NOTTS LGBT HISTORY PROJECT

The LGBT History Project for Nottinghamshire is now at the boring stage of trying to put a Heritage Lottery Fund grant application together. The people involved hope to send off the application by the beginning of October and receive a decision early in January.

The main strands of the project are probably going to be:

- ◆ gathering and recording oral histories
- ◆ gathering memorabilia
- ◆ setting up a website
- ◆ organising displays and events
- ◆ establishing a "heritage trail"
- ◆ cataloguing and archiving everything which is produced.

The 3 year project's displays and events will mainly centre around Februaries (for LGBT History month) and Pride festivals.

If you want to be added to the e-mail list so that you can be informed about what's going on, contact Switchboard until the Project has its own address .

## GAI WEBSITE, GAI GUIDE

The **GAI Project's** new website is now up and running - see below - and (pausing only for a gin and tonic and a quick fag) they have also produced the new GAI Guide.

# advice for life

[www.gaiproject.org.uk](http://www.gaiproject.org.uk)



The GAI Guide will be full of everything you could conceivably wish to know about social and support groups, venues, services and lots of other stuff. Soon to be available on the scene, at the Health Shop, Switchboard and all quality stores in your area.

**Our sexual health is important.** Nottinghamshire Police would like to remind you that not everyone is careful when having sex with someone else. There have been reports of people who are carrying infections deliberately having unprotected sex with others to infect them. Please always use protection - make sure that condoms are used. For further advice on sexual health visit the GAI Project Website.

## WANTED

**Nottingham area. 32 year old WLTM persons of any age with GSOH, good listening ear and friendly disposition for 121 chats on a regular basis! Good telephone manner essential.**

Yes, Nottingham & Nottinghamshire Lesbian & Gay Switchboard is 32 this year and is looking for new volunteers for the next training session beginning late Autumn - we especially welcome women and people from ethnic minorities. Phone, write or e-mail if you want to get involved. Our contact details are on the front page.

Lesbian & Gay Switchboard  
 0115 934 8485 or 01623 621515  
 Monday-Friday  
 7-10pm  
 7 Mansfield Road, Nottingham, NG1 3FB.  
 notts@lgswitchboard.fsnet.co.uk  
 www.nottslgs.org.uk  
 www.nlgshistory.ik.com

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The GAI Project  
 0115 947 6868  
 Monday-Friday  
 daytimes  
 c/o The Health Shop. Broad Street,  
 Nottingham NG1 3AL.  
 gaiproject@nottinghamcity-pct.nhs.uk

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Police Homophobic Crime  
 Helpline  
 0800 085 8522

**SOME LOCAL LISTINGS**

Breakout Social group for gay & bisexual men.  
 Tuesdays 7.30 pm (at the Health Shop)  
 Contact Switchboard or GAI Project or go to  
 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 GAI Project.

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.

Tipping The Velvet A safe space for women who have sex with women  
 1st Monday of each month 5.30 - 8.00 pm  
 at the Health Shop. Phone 0115 947 5414 for info

Details of the following groups can be obtained from Switchboard:  
 Nottingham Hyking Dykes; Notts Lesbian Book Club; Trans-Action (TV/TS);  
 Women's Badminton; Lesbian and Gay Christian Movement; East Mercia  
 MSC; the Chameleon Group; University of Nottingham & Trent University  
 LGBT Societies; Peak Ruffties Women's Walking Group; Bears in the For-  
 est; Grizzly; Something Social; Notts Police OUTNetwork; Flying Colours;  
 Nottingham Bi Women's Group; LiNk-Notts; LIFT; Lesbians in Ashfield  
 Friendship & Support; North Notts Gay Women's Walking Group; Ball Bois  
 gay football team; Sparta Women's Football; LGB Youth Groups in Work-  
 sop & Mansfield; Tagadere: Weekenders; Pink - Women's disco; East Mid-  
 lands Gay Outdoor Club .... and, of course, S.H.A.G.G.E.R.S.

**DIARY**

**ROYAL ROYAL EVENT**

Which is another way of saying that there will be a tribute evening to **Queen** and Freddie Mercury at the Royal Concert Hall on Friday Oct. 5th 7.30pm.

**GAY WEDDING SHOW**

Wedding planners, rings, fashion shows, etiquette guides, speeches, catering - but you've got to go to Birmingham on October 21st for all this. See the details at [www.pinkweddingdays.co.uk](http://www.pinkweddingdays.co.uk)

**ALVIN AILEY DANCE THEATRE**

The **American Dance Theatre** bears the name of its founder, Alvin Ailey who was a black, gay choreographer. The programme is mainly danced to the music of Duke Ellington, whose arranger - Billy Strayhorn - was another gay, black American. The performances are at the Royal Concert Hall on October 2nd and 3rd.

**PINK RETURNS**

The women's night at China, China (Chapel Bar, just round the corner from Angel Row Library) returns on Saturday October 6th. 8.00 pm to 1.00 am. For more info go to the website at [www.purple.uk.com](http://www.purple.uk.com)

**ARTS SOCIAL**

If you are interested in seeing either **New English Contemporary Ballet** (at the Playhouse on October 24th) or the play "**Visiting Mr Green**" (at the Theatre Royal November 30th), then get in touch with the Arts Social Group via [www.midlandssocial.co.uk](http://www.midlandssocial.co.uk)

**STEPHEN K. AMOS**

Fresh from sell-out success and critical acclaim at the Edinburgh Fringe and Melbourne International Comedy Festivals, Stephen comes to The Y, 7 East Street, Leicester, LE1 6EY on October 25th. Tel: 0116 255 7066 for more info.

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**FANCY A GOOD STUFFING?**

The **GAI Project** would like your help with assembling condom and lube packs.

Stuffing takes place on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month. Time: 6.00-7.30 pm  
 Place: The Health Shop, Broad Street

Tea, coffee, high quality biscuits provided along with superb company. This could be the acme of your social calendar.

Just turn up, or phone the GAI Project if you want more info .... see back page.

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