

QB

has risen from the
grave

Nottinghamshire's Queer Bulletin

November/December 2005
Number 27

The last edition of QB appeared 3 years ago. After that, it was incorporated into the OutHouse Project publication "I'm Free", which seems to have folded. To alleviate the local LGB community's withdrawal symptoms, some people decided to resurrect QB so here it is.

This masochistic enterprise has been made possible by a grant from Nottinghamshire Community Foundation.

In this edition things beginning with Ho

Holocaust Centre
Homo spotting
How to register
Homophobia in schools
Homeopathy
Ho Ho Ho

and much, much more

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-January, 2006.

IN MEMORIAM

FREE

On September 22nd, a ceremony was held at the Holocaust Centre at Laxton. The purpose of the ceremony was to celebrate the donation of an LGB memorial plaque to the Holocaust centre and, at the same time, to remember the lesbians and gay men who died in the Holocaust.



About 45 people assembled to hear readings from the book "The men with the pink triangle", by Heinz Heger. The ceremony ended with candles being lit by everyone present while the names were read out of countries where homosexuality is still punished by imprisonment or the death penalty; it was a long list.

The plaque is a simple square, bearing a pink triangle and the words "In Memoriam". Thanks must go to the North Notts LGB Development Group, and particularly to Mike Newstead of Bassetlaw CVS, for raising funds for the plaque and for organising the event.

WAD'S UP

Some events have been organised locally in support of **World AIDS Day**, which is on Thursday December 1st.

In Mansfield

- There will be a walk from **West Notts College** to St Peters Church, Thursday 1st December at 17.30 pm. Contact Clare 07917 517353 for details.

In Nottingham

- **Breakout** gay men's group will be holding an auction in conjunction with the GAI project for the benefit of the **Hardship Fund**. The event will be held in The Lord Roberts on Tuesday 29th November starting at 8.00 pm. Leave any items for auctioning at the Health Shop.
- There will be a WADS service in **St. Peter's Church** at 5.30pm - all denominations and faiths are welcome.
- There will be a stall in the **Market Square** and a collection; for details phone Armored Young on 0115 8457135
- **Base 51** is holding an awareness raising event for young people. Contact Chris Crouch on 0115 9525040 for further information.
- On Saturday December 3rd there will be a torch-lit walk from **University Park** to Beeston. More information from Liz Pierce on 0115 8752098

CIVIL REGISTRATION OF PARTNERSHIPS

This becomes possible from December 21st. For those living in Nottingham the procedure is as follows:

Phone the City Register Office on 947 5665 and make an appointment to see them – they're at 50 Shakespeare Street and are very helpful. They need at least 15 days notice before a ceremony can be arranged unless you are on your deathbed, in which case both notice and venue become more flexible.

The ceremony can take place at the register office or any of the City's other approved venues. The ceremony can take up to 30 minutes and you can arrange your own form of vows, readings, music etc, though the register office will provide guidance and examples if you need them – nothing of a religious nature is permitted.

The fees will be £40 for the ceremony and £30 each for booking the ceremony. You can find fuller details on the City Council website.

At one time, the Register Offices in the County gave different information depending on which you contacted; one suggesting that you might have to pay a further £200 if you want anything other than the formal signing of the legal documents. The West Bridgford Office, however, gave identical information to the City.

The County does now seem to have sorted itself out, with clear details on its website under "Civil Partnerships".

HOW TO SPOT A HOMO

The infamous 1960s' newspaper article of that title included "wearing suede shoes" and "walking leaning backwards at an angle of 95' to the ground", but some 19th century psychotherapists had different ideas:

Havelock Ellis "They cannot whistle or spit"

Magnus Hirschfield "If you throw something into the lap of a seated male homosexual, he will open his legs to catch it" (you can have 3 guesses at what a lesbian will do)

Ambroise Tardieu "They cannot urinate in a straight line as they have a corkscrew shaped penis" (so useful when the bottle opener's gone missing)

READY TO REGISTER?

The "**Absolut Commitment**" planning guide provides advice for all those thinking of Civil Registration ... starting 12 months before the ceremony.

Here are just a few of their helpful suggestions:

12 months before: choose your ushers, groomsmen and/or bridesmaids; start an exercise regime before you start to shop for your wedding ensemble; create a "website" online so your guests can have access to all your planning details

9 months before: choose musical selections, book singers or DJ; interview service providers to narrow down your choice of florist, caterer, videographer etc; enrol in online gift registries to make purchases easy for your guests

6 months before: personalise your ideas for menu, flowers, cake etc; reserve marquees and gazebos; clarify any pre-nuptial agreement forms with your solicitor

3 months before: memorise and rehearse your vows; enquire about vaccination requirements for your chosen honeymoon destination

1 week before: delegate the work of the attendants e.g. pick up and distribution of toasting flutes and boutonnieres; copy your itinerary for the dog sitter

1 day before: schedule time for a visit to your therapist followed by a relaxing massage and nap (no chemical peels)

(Perhaps of more practical use is the guide to civil partnership "**Get Hitched**" available by contacting Stonewall on 020 7881 9440 or via www.stonewall.org.uk)

CAPTURE THE MOMENT

If you want an LGB-friendly photographer to take some snaps of your ceremony, one person who can help is Alistair. He's local and can be contacted by e-mailing

orangestudio13@hotmail.com

LIFE UP NORTH

The **North Notts LGB Development Group** has organised the production of a Directory of LGB services, support and facilities aimed at those in North Notts. The Directory - funded by Lloyds TSB - covers the whole of Notts, much of Derbyshire and Lincolnshire along with South Yorkshire. If you want a copy, contact Switchboard. The whole Directory will probably be put on to a website fairly soon - details to follow.

GROUP OF THE DAY



Nottingham Hyking Dykes are a friendly group who meet at least once a month to hike in Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire and Leicestershire – and sometimes further afield! The group has been going about 12 years and typically walk about 6-8 miles usually finishing at a tea shop or pub.

Their regular day is the third Sunday of the month but in the summer they have a programme of mid-week evening short walks finishing with a meal at a local pub. It can be a great way to get to meet other local lesbians.

OFFA'S DYKES



At the beginning of November they hired the Clun youth hostel in Shropshire and 21 women (and one dog) had a great weekend of walking, chatting and laughing. The weather was a bit miserable but it didn't dampen the spirits, also lifted by the beautiful scenery (and copious quantities of gin, wine and vegetable tagine).

If you would like to join in or find out more check out the website www.nottinghamhd.homestead.com or email hyking@celiac.clara.co.uk or send your details to the Switchboard.



Hyking Dykes are offering a small prize for anyone not present who can identify these women who dressed for the occasion at Clun Youth Hostel!

MONEY, MONEY, MONEY

QB should be available at the local LGB venues, but also at libraries, Broadway Cinema, The Health Shop, Nottingham Voluntary Action Centre and elsewhere. You can also see it online at www.nlgshistory.ik.com

If you find it difficult to get copies, you can get a year's worth (6 copies) mailed to you by sending a cheque for £3-50 made out to NLGS and sent to the address on the front cover.

Yes, we will take advertisements. Contact us to find out our rates.

Finally, the grant which finances QB will not last forever. If you, your group or your organisation would like to sponsor an edition, let us know.

BEERMATS AT BROADWAY

The anti hate crime beer mat campaign (see Report It), was launched on September 30th at Broadway cinema.

The joint Police-GAi Project initiative was backed by the City Council (a speech from Councillor Eunice Campbell). Jens Zimmerman, of the GAi Project, spoke of his own experiences of homophobic violence.

The event was reported on BBC local TV news and in the Evening Post. Though the focus of the event was homophobia, the Post gave the anti-racist helpline number, but not the anti-homophobic helpline number, which is 0800 085 8522.

46 NOT OUT

The possibility of being “outed” deters many people from taking to court those who have committed homophobic crimes. **Section 46** of the **Youth Justice and Criminal Evidence Act** can help.

It will not stop your name from being mentioned in court, but it can be used to stop your details being reported by the news media. (“No matter relating to the witness shall, during their lifetime, be included in any publication if it is likely to lead to them being identified as being a witness in the procedure”).

It is stated that there are certain types of cases where this provision may be beneficial - they are: domestic violence; racially aggravated crimes; homophobic crime.

P.. P.. PICK UP A PASSPORT

Those nice people at Nottingham City Council have produced the **Pink Passport**.

This is a guide to the services and support it provides for LGBT people. The passport has information about Civil Partnerships, fostering and adoption, advice on harassment and bullying, training opportunities along with various contact details.

The passport first made its appearance at Nottingham Pride 2005. If you missed it then, you can get copies from Switchboard or by phoning the Action on Diversity Team at 0115 9157244.

ON THE MOVE

There has been a revolution at Revolution. Peter Martine’s long running once-a-monther has moved from Faces night club to The Lost Weekend on Huntingdon Street and changed its name - to **Club Delicious**. (Always tasteful - now tasty, too)

Outburst, the LGB group for young people, has moved from the Health Shop to Base 51 on Glasshouse Street. It’s also expanded its age range, so you can now cling on to the “youth” label up to the age of 25.

For details, contact Davina (phone or text) on 07940 761160.

HAIL AND FAREWELL

Most previous editions of QB were assembled under the severe editorial eye of John Lippitt - one third of the GAi Project. Photographs of John at various Prides revealed him to be a master of disguise. We have pictures of him not only as Friar Tuck, but also as Bob the Builder and as a tablecloth.

Unbelievable as it may seem, John (who’s favourite colour is blue) has left Nottingham for Liverpool. We wish him well.



Four things you didn't know about John Lippitt

John Lippitt has a Grade 7 certificate for prowess on the euphonium. He can be heard playing the solo on the 1990 recording of “May the Bluebird of Happiness fly up your nose”

When he was 11, John Lippitt made a model of Liverpool Anglican Cathedral out of Garibaldi biscuits

In 1993, John Lippitt invented the Giant Panda

A namesake of John Lippitt was arrested for lewd behaviour involving a bicycle pump, several litres of quick setting pineapple jelly and a latex model of Anne Widdecombe

TACKLING HOMOPHOBIA IN EDUCATION

On November 4th about 80 people attended a conference on this issue at the Denewood Centre in Nottingham. A powerful speech from Sue Sanders (of Schools Out) was followed by workshops on: Supporting young people in coming out; Supporting young people in education; Your obligations under the law; What schools and youth agencies need to do now.

For those who are interested, but could not get along, you can put yourself on a mailing list which will allow you to be informed on developments. E-mail info@hrn.org.uk to get on the list.

REPORT IT

Many people think “What’s the use of reporting anything to the police, they’re not interested in me?” Well, Roger Freeman from the Force’s Hate Crime Team says that’s not so.

Nottinghamshire Police has now been specifically recording homophobic incidents for 5 years. Roger says ‘Although some people might have thought that homophobic and Transphobic incidents were not an issue, we knew that was not the case. The levels of reporting bear that out, with 142 incidents recorded by the police in Notts last year, and around 700 incidents in the last 5 years.

To support both victims and the investigation of homophobic and transphobic incidents the force has a Hate Crime Team which consists of 3 officers. The officers have a responsibility to oversee Hate Crime in general across the whole force. Roger looks specifically at issues affecting the LGBT community.

Some of the work undertaken by him includes providing support for victims of homophobic/transphobic incidents and also advice to officers dealing with incidents. The team has at its disposal personal attack alarms, fire safe letterboxes and CCTV cameras, all which can be used to either help identify who is responsible for the victimisation, or to provide reassurance. They also work with various agencies to try to bring about successful conclusions or reductions in incidents.

Roger says, ‘Prior to the existence of the Hate Crime Team there appeared to be little recog-

nition in Nottinghamshire Police of the harassment suffered by people in the LGBT community. The ‘Blow the Whistle’ campaign run by the City police in the late 90’s began to record incidents and provided some insight and important contacts. This work was useful when the Hate Crime team was formed, as we were able to build on the work already done in the city. Since that time recording has been expanded across the county and advice leaflets, self-reporting forms and a free phone reporting line have been developed’.

The police also have a LGBT Consultative Group, which meets four times a year. This group has a membership that includes representatives from a number of agencies and groups, including the GAI Project, Lesbian and Gay Switchboard, and Trans-Action. There are also a number of independent members on the group. Some recent achievements of the group were the hate crime beer mat campaign that advertises the free phone reporting line, and awareness training for front counter staff at Central Police Station.

If you are a victim of, or witness to, hate crime and require advice or support, the team can be contacted in a number of ways. Self-reporting forms (Freepost) are placed at various venues in the City centre, or you can ring the free phone reporting line on 0800 085 85 22. Your call will only be answered by one of the team who will treat any information confidentially. Unfortunately the line is not staffed 24 hrs so if no one is available please leave a message and they will return your call. For further information please visit,

www.nottinghamshire.police.uk/crimeprevention

COMING OUT

Elizabeth Stone is a Trent University student doing a dissertation on the “coming out” process for lesbians. She would like to interview women prepared to talk about their experiences. Those interested can contact Elizabeth by e-mailing N0019102@ntu.ac.uk (NB. Those are zeros not “O’s) or tel. 07766 281 299.

HOMEOPATHY

Unfortunately, we have nothing about homeopathy in this edition of QB.

Lesbian & Gay Switchboard

0115 934 8485 or 01623 621515

Monday-Friday
7-10pm

7 Mansfield Road, Nottingham, NG1 3FB.

notts@lgswitchboard.fsnet.co.uk

The GAI Project

0115 947 6868

Monday-Friday
daytimes

c/o The Health Shop, Broad Street,
Nottingham NG1 3AL.

gaiproject@nottinghamcity-pct.nhs.uk

Police Homophobic Crime
Helpline

0800 085 8522

SOME LOCAL LISTINGS

Breakout

(at the
Health Shop)

Social group for gay & bisexual men. Tuesdays 7.30pm
Contact Switchboard or GAI Project or go to
www.breakoutnottm.org.uk

Married Men's
Group

Support for men who are (or have been) in relationships
with women and are also attracted to men.
Contact Switchboard or GAI Project

Older Gay Men's
Group

Support and social group for men aged 50+. Meets on
3rd Sunday of month, 4pm at Health Shop.
Contact GAI Project.

Outburst!

Group for LGB young people up to the age of 25.
Meets at Base 51. Phone or text 07940 761160
for details.

Details of the following groups can be obtained from Switchboard:

Nottingham Hyking Dykes; Trans-Action (TV/TS); Women's Badminton; Lesbian and Gay Christian Movement; East Mercia MSC; Trent University LGBT Society; Notts Lesbian Book Club; University of Nottingham LGBT Society; Sparta Women's Football Club; Nottingham City Women's Football Club; Refugee Forum Gay Men's Group; Police LGB Support Network; Nottingham Bisexual Women's Group; Lesbians in Ashfield Friendship and Support; North Notts Gay Women's Walking Group; LGB Youth Groups in Newark, Worksop & Mansfield; Newark Gay Men's Social Group; East Midlands Gay Outdoor Club and S.H.A.G.G.E.R.S.

DIARY

GETTING AHEAD

On February 2nd 2006, Opera North will bring a performance of Salome to Nottingham. The story is quite straightforward. Salome's page boy fancies the Captain of the Guard. The Captain of the Guard fancies Salome, as does Herod, her step-father. Salome fancies John the Baptist, but the feeling is not reciprocated, since John the Baptist fancies Jesus. Salome has a hissy-fit, strips off for Herod, who grants her what she wants - a tasty hors d'oeuvre of John's head on a plate. Salome kisses the head. Herod orders the guards to crush Salome with their shields. So different from the home life of our own dear Royal Family.

LGBT HISTORY MONTH

February 2006 will be the second LGBT History month. Several utterly fabulous things are already being planned for Nottingham - details in the next QB - and if you have any plans of your own that you would like to publicise, let us know as soon as you can.

HO,HO,HO ... IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR

Men dressed as women; women dressed as men; 2 men inside an old cow at the same time; a giant on top of a huge, leguminous erection - it's got to be "Jack and the Beanstalk" at the Playhouse from Friday 25th November 2005 to Saturday 21st January 2006. We'll be there! (Oh, no we won't - Ed.)

FAIRIES AT FORTY

CLARE SUMMERSKILL ACTS HER AGE - Described as 'A lesbian Victoria Wood' by BBC Radio 4's Woman's Hour, Clare presents a new show following the tale of a forty year old lesbian who finds her relationship coming to an unexpected end. It contains a mixture of monologues, stand up, comedy characters and original songs. - **Sat 10 Dec.** Time: 8pm, Tickets: £9' £6 concessions - The Y, 7 East Street, **Leicester**, LE1 6EY . Tel: 0116 255 7066.

CHRISTMAS

This year, Christmas will be on December 25th.