

QB

Nottinghamshire's Queer Bulletin

August/September 2006
Number 31

This issue of QB is partly sponsored by Nottinghamshire Police.

Did you spot the deliberate mistake in the last issue? 17 people claimed that our deliberate mistake was the reference to "exploding giraffes" at Nottingham Pride. We deny this. We saw at least 4 giraffes exploding - though we won't reveal what we were on at the time. The correct answer was that there were actually 3 references to colonic irrigation in Gay Times, not 2. (Or were there?)



A Pride giraffe three minutes prior to detonation

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 September, 2006.

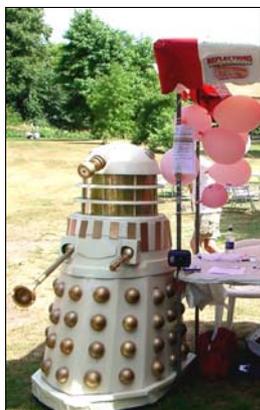
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NOTTINGHAM PRIDE JULY 29TH 2006

FREE



Crowds, crowds, crowds. The Pride Committee estimates that about ten thousand people passed through the gates of the Arboretum on July 29th. As always, the weather was excellent - helped (it is rumoured) by the midnight naked ritual weather dance that the Committee performs before each event. However clothed, they deserve congratulations.



Above, you can see some of the more colourful apparitions who wandered, sauntered and trundled around the Arboretum, sustained by a diet of ice cream, pancakes, beer and squash. Lots more stalls this year, including Council stalls supporting Civil Registration and encouraging adoption and fostering. On the right is a surprised winner of one of the odder prizes in Lesbian and Gay Switchboard's Tombola. Below are members of Nottinghamshire Police and East Mercia MSC. You can decide which is which.



GROUP OF THE DAY

Since November of last year, **Outburst** - the youth group for LGBT young people aged 11 to 25 in Nottingham - has gone from strength to strength. The group (run by the Youth Service and the GAI Project together) now meets in a convenient and safe city centre venue every Monday night. We have an average of 10 young people, who identify as LGBT or may be exploring their sexuality or gender identity, coming to the group every week, and more are always welcome!

The aims of the group are to offer a safe and confidential space for young people to socialise, seek support and get involved in social and personal education opportunities. For example, this year Outburst are involved in the Nottingham Pride festival, are working towards a campaign for tackling homophobia in education, and are aiming to have two LGBT youth councillors to advise the Council, its partners and the Youth Parliament itself. In May, a production company making educational films for Channel 4 consulted the group on issues for LGBT young people that they would want to see dealt with in the programmes.

Of course, it's not all serious – we do all kinds of things as a group such as going bowling, laser questing, trips out to local and national Prides, having games and film nights, and chill out sessions. We have a discreet office on the second floor in Central Library, where young people can get advice, support, free condoms, get access to other services or just come in for a chat. The office is run by two part-time staff so it's best to ring first to make sure someone is in!

So whether, you know someone who might want to join us, or ARE someone who wants to join us, you can ring Ryan or Davina on 0115 9152882 or 07940 761160 to find out more.

NOTES AND QUEERIES

- ◆ Frankie Howerd's home has recently been opened to the public. On display are not only the comedian's wig and false teeth, but also his walking stick, hollowed out to allow it to be filled with gin.
- ◆ Pope Sixtus IV (1414-1484) was asked by the Cardinal of Santa Lucia for permission to practice sodomy during the three hottest months of the year as it was less tiring than heterosexual intercourse.
- ◆ Omar, star of the Channel 4 documentary "The World's Biggest Penis", was spotted by a Nottingham Evening Post reporter in the Valley Road branch of Tesco. "Every little helps" is perhaps not the appropriate slogan in this case.

GOD WANTS TO KNOW

God would like to thank you for your belief and patronage. In order better to serve your needs he asks that you take a few moments to answer the following questions.

1. How did you first find out about God?

Newspaper	Television
Word of mouth	Mail shot
Divine inspiration	Google
Fly posting	Other
2. Are you currently using any other sources of inspiration or guidance in addition to God? Please tick all that apply

None	Tarot
Bio-rhythms	Sex
Insurance policies	Alcohol
Fortune cookies	Lottery
Horoscopes	Television
The Atkins diet	Other
3. God generally employs a limited amount of divine intervention to keep a balanced level of felt presence and blind faith. Would you prefer (tick one only)

A) More Divine Intervention
B) Less Divine Intervention
C) Current level is just right
D) Don't know
4. God also attempts to maintain a fairly balanced level of disasters and miracles while still moving in a mysterious way. Please rate on a 1 to 5 scale God's handling of the following:

<i>Disasters</i> (Flood, famine, war, Rupert Murdoch)	<i>Miracles</i> (Recovery from disease, heroic rescues)
1. Unsatisfactory	1. Unsatisfactory
2. Poor	2. Poor
3. Average	3. Average
4. Good	4. Good
5. Excellent	5. Excellent
5. Do you have any additional comments or suggestions for improving the quality of God's services?

LET'S TALK ABOUT SEX

It's that time of year – the Gay Men's Sex Survey. You can pick up a copy at the gay venues or from The Health Shop. The information is sent to Sigma who then reports back the results both locally and nationally. You can either return the booklets to the project or send them direct to Sigma via free post. Last year we had a record return.

Did you know that 19.6% who completed last years survey had more than 30 sexual partners within a year – wonder what the results will be for this year given this long hot summer?

SCRUFFY CHICKEN

A gay murder mystery based in pre-1967 Derbyshire, which includes chapters set in the Derby Turkish Baths, Nottingham's Flying Horse Inn and references to Canning Circus and Markeaton Park "cottages" is obviously not from the pen of Ruth Rendell or Ian Rankin.

The "scruffy chicken" of the title is 19 year old Simeon Hogg, from Belper. Simeon's experiences are largely based on the real life of local author Narvel Annable, who writes about characters (some fictional, some real) and attitudes from the 1960s.

The book is enjoyable in its own right, but for people of a certain age or with an interest in local gay history, it's fascinating to read about the rivalry between the Nottingham and Derby crowds, about the niceties of gay social etiquette in the 1960s and about a parade of what the author describes as Derbyshire "freaks". If you'd like to hear about characters who "had had more pricks than a second hand dartboard", then for £9-95 you can order "**Scruffy Chicken**" either from bookshops or by contacting the author. E-mail narvelannable@hotmail.co.uk

TRIUMPH OF THE WILL (1)

If you are married and your partner dies, some things will automatically happen because of your marital status even if you haven't made a will. This fail-safe situation now applies to people who have taken up civil partnerships. Even in these circumstances, it is still foolish to fail to make a will.

If you are not in an official relationship, will making becomes even more important. Nottingham now has a very gay-friendly will making service which you can access by contacting Andrew Thompson via 0115 9529523 or jayandservices@yahoo.co.uk

The service also covers issues such as what sort of mortgage to take out if you wish to share the financial responsibility and how a "Tenancy in common" may be a better arrangement than a "joint mortgage".

Andrew reminds us that when a partner dies, it is a stressful time for all involved and having to make decisions about the type of funeral is far better done in advance as part of the will making process. If these decisions are not put into writing, they can often be taken over by others. This was brought home to me recently when I attended my aunt's funeral. She was always scathing about religion, but having made no will, she was given an off-the-peg Catholic funeral where the priest spent many minutes talking about people "clothed in white samnite", but next to nothing about my aunt and her life.

CAN YOU HELP?

As part of her MA, Grew is collating material such as interviews, film footage, photographs, magazines and music of the lesbian scene in Nottingham. Her starting point is the Lesbian Housing Co-op which has been running since 1979.

She has conducted a number of interviews with past and present members and would like to broaden her remit. Her intention is to produce an interactive archive on a web-site.

She is looking for lesbians to be interviewed about their experiences of the scene. Whether it be political, the social scene, the women's centre, lesbian mothers etc. She would also like to interview young lesbians about their experiences today...there must be a wealth of stories waiting to be told.

The interviews can be on film, voice recording or the written word. Anonymity is guaranteed if you would prefer that. She is also looking for any other material e.g. photos, magazines, badges, music etc that she can archive. You will get all material back. If you can help, then contact her at:

grewvis@aol.com or phone: 07739 404691

Zeus@71

SAUNA For Gay & Bisexual Men

MANSFIELD

Open Seven days a week.
12.00.pm - 10.00.pm
Last Admissions: 9.00.pm

TEL: 0871 2261371

Friendly & Fun!

www.gay-mansfield.com

SWITCHBOARD MAY LOSE GRANT

Switchboard has received grants from Rushcliffe PCT and before that from Nottingham Health Authority) for about 12 years. Several years ago, at a time when we just operated the phone line, the Health Authority stated "You offer amazing value for money" and "You easily exceed all our criteria". Since then, we have expanded our service to include:

- ◆ providing training for Nottingham University, Victim Support; New College, Nottingham Social Services, Nottingham Education Dept., Nottingham CVS, Rushcliffe CVS, North Notts LGB Development Group
- ◆ Establishing a lottery award winning History Project
- ◆ Organising 2 conferences on LGB issues in BME communities
- ◆ Furthering LGBT issues at regular forums organised by the Police, the City Council and the North Notts LGB Development Group
- ◆ Reviving QB

The PCT has just informed us that they propose to "decommission" Switchboard's grant. They also say: "This is not a reflection of the value of the service you provide"; "It was acknowledged that the service is reaching a vulnerable group". "It was felt that alternative provision needed to be explored".

What this actually means is "We are millions of pounds in debt and you are an easy target". We are very curious to know what the "alternative provision" might be If you know of any alternatives out there, please let us know. If we lose the grant, in the relatively short term our service will have to be reduced, though exactly how is a matter of guesswork.

We now have a 3 month consultation period. This will involve gathering evidence from Statutory and Voluntary organisations and from the general public (that's **you**) about any impact a reduction in our service might have. If you feel that any of the following would be against your interests and/or the interests of LGBT people in Nottinghamshire (Switchboard does cover the whole County) then write to us or e-mail us giving your views:

- ◆ Reduction in the publicity we provide across the County about our service in particular and LGBT issues in general
- ◆ Reducing our ability to be involved in consultation with the Police on homophobic crime
- ◆ Reducing our ability to be involved with the Council about equality issues in education, housing, provisions for elderly people
- ◆ Reducing our involvement in launching new groups e.g. we started Breakout in collaboration with the GAI Project
- ◆ Closure of QB
- ◆ Reducing how we publicise and assist numerous small social/support groups (see page 6)
- ◆ Reducing the training we provide
- ◆ Reducing the number of nights we operate or, as a last resort, closure of the helpline

I'M PINK, THEREFORE I'M SPAM

Does your internet service provider have a spam filter and, if so, is it LGBT friendly? Does it remove mail that you might want to receive as well as the prizes from the Netherlands Lottery, offers of £10 million from grieving widows in Nigeria and penis enlarging lotions? Accessing Switchboard's e-mails by Outlook Express doesn't reveal what has been spammed. Accessing the e-mails by webmail allows us to see what goes into the spam junk box and sometimes we have to do a rescue job.

There is the (probably fictional) story of the spam filter which won't allow anything through which contains a reference to Scunthorpe, but we have found that inclusion of "lesbian", particularly in an e-mail's subject heading, can cause it to be spammed. An e-mail sent to us by Hyking Dykes headed "lesbian romp" was junked. "Gay" doesn't seem to be similarly affected.

Simply putting "from Notts Lesbian and Gay Switchboard" as a subject heading has caused some of our e-mails to be rejected by the County Council: they have been told about this and, we hope, adjusted their filters. Our e-mails get through to the Police but, at least until recently, the recipient is warned "possible spam".

Another e-mail sent to us which was spammed didn't contain the "L" word. It was about organising a counter demonstration to that of the religious fanatics who were parading outside the Theatre Royal at the end of June. What tripped the spam filter? Was it "Jerry Springer, the Opera" or "crypto-fascist bastards"? I like to think that it was "Christian Voice".

NOTHING TO BE PROUD OF

Having been the victim of hate crime on several occasions, imagine my shock when two lesbians and a gay man carried out an attack on one of the GAI Project sessional workers. Why? Because of the colour of his skin. What started as verbal abuse outside the Central, turned into a physical attack, only after he was on his own. My partner and I ran to his aid. The matter is now in the hands of the police. It is hard to understand why such a thing happens. We use the word 'community' but community also includes diversity. Unfortunately this also includes bigoted racist bullies. If we want ourselves to be taken seriously then we must also challenge those who perpetuate hate crime – **KEEP RACISM OUT OF THE GAY SCENE.**

If you having any information regarding hate crime please contact the GAI Project at The Health Shop on 0115 9476868/9475414 or the Police Hate Crime team at 0800 085 85 22.

Information will be treated in the strictest confidence. (Jens Zimmerman, The GAI Project)

BRIEFS ON AND OFF THE SCENE

At last, a group for Nottingham's football crazy gay men! **Ball Bois** - Nottingham's gay football team trains at Gresham Playing Fields on Wilford Lane, West Bridgford every Sunday 6pm - 8pm. See their website for details and map - www.ballbois.org

At last, a gay sauna in Nottingham! **Reflections Health Club** opened just too late to squeeze into the last QB. It's at 1a Station House, Crocus Street. 2 saunas, jacuzzi, gym, TV room, indoor garden patio. Tel. 0115 9553103. Membership also allows you discount at **Phil's Autos** in Bulwell so it's first lose that spare tyre and then buy a new one with 10% off.

At last, a mixed lesbian/gay walking group! **Weekenders** organise walks mainly in the Peak District national park, near Sheffield. All are welcome regardless of age or ability but please ensure that you bring clothing and footwear suitable for the time of year. (Feather boas should at least be waterproof) You should also bring a packed lunch. Contact: Richard 01909 770626 Website: www.geocities.com/weekenders_uk

At last, an **LGBT Origami** group for Nottingham! Well, no we made that up.

Speakoutonline is a website for school students organised by Stonewall, where people can tell someone about anti-gay attitudes and bullying at school. It's at www.speakoutonline.org.uk but you can also phone 020 7881 9451 or write to Sam, Freepost, SW5537, London SW1W 0YJ.

Tony Bilton's **Gay Nottingham Tours** (see QB no. 30) will soon be ready to start. They will cost £2/person and take place at evenings and weekends, lasting between an hour and 90 minutes. You can contact Tony at pegasus.tour@amservice.com

Any women out there who are interested in playing **Bridge**? If "yes", contact Clare Martin, who is hoping to organise the occasional get-together. You can contact Clare by e-mail on clare.martin@dwp.gsi.gov.uk or phone on 07986 295618.

It's **all change** at the **GAI Project**. The GAI Project is going through some major changes. Peter Thomas is no longer working for the project. He is now working as part of the Health Shop team. As a result the project will be looking to recruit a full time member to join the team. At the same time we are evaluating the project so will be engaging with the community to get your ideas of what you think we do well, what we could do differently and what you would like to see us do in the future. If you wish to contact us to let us know, please give us a ring. Questionnaire will be available from October. Please help us shape the project's future by completing a questionnaire.

CONGRATULATIONS To Eli Joubert, from GAI Project, who ran at the Gay Games in Chicago. He completed the 10kms in 48 min to raise money for the Triangle Project in Cape town as well as the Nottingham Hardship Fund.

RICHARD WEBSTER

Richard Webster, who died aged 75 on May 9th after a long illness, played an important role in lesbian and gay life in Nottingham in the 1970s. For several years he was the convenor of the Nottingham group of CHE, the Campaign for Homosexual Equality. He was also the driving force behind Nottingham Friend counselling organisation. Though Nottingham Friend closed many years ago, Derby Friend and Derby Switchboard, both still flourishing, developed out of Nottingham Friend.

1976 was a remarkable year for Richard. In that year he was instrumental in organising the Forum "Homosexuals as People". It was held at La Chic and was directed towards people in "the caring professions". 125 people took part and the audience was made up of people from Social Services, Probation, Relate, Samaritans, Student Organisations, NCVS and the Clergy. He also helped set up and took part in the 15 minute radio programme which Nottingham CHE made for Radio Nottingham.

Most significantly, at the 1976 NALGO (now UNISON) AGM, Richard Webster proposed that in their dealings with Notts County Council, the Council should state that it would not discriminate against employees on the grounds of sexual orientation. Richard "came out" while proposing the motion, which was passed by an overwhelming majority. This was one of the first instances in the UK where a move towards including sexual orientation in equal opportunities policies was established.

A few weeks before his death, Richard and David, his partner, took part in a civil partnership ceremony in Llandudno, where they had lived together for many years.

.... We also need to mention that Peter Duffton, a former Switchboard Coordinator and long-time member of East Mercia MSC, died early in July.

WHAT LIES BENEATH

In 1988 the Tory government introduced Section 28 of the Local Government Act which, amongst other things, described same sex couples as taking part in a "pretend family relationship". In 1999 the local opposition Conservative councillors made it clear that, if elected, they would stop grants to organisations such as Lesbian and Gay Switchboard. Conservative MP Theresa May said that in order to get back into power they must stop being seen as "the nasty party".

So now we have cuddly, gay-friendly, hoodie positive, bicycling David Cameron. But if we rip off the mask, is it still the same load of bigotry underneath? Kay Cutts, leader of the County Council Conservative group is now fulminating about wasting council tax by supporting Nottingham Pride (to the extent of about 2p per County resident). Perhaps the 1980s slogan needs reviving - "Stop the Tory Cutts".

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

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

Older Gay Men's
Group

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

Married Men's
Group (at the
Health Shop)

Support for men who are (or have been) in relationships
with women and are also attracted to men. The group
meets on the 1st Thursday evening of each month.
Contact Switchboard or GAI Project for details.

Outburst!

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

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; Women's Cycling Group; Nottingham City Women's Football Club; Refugee Forum Gay Men's Group; Something Social; Notts Police Gay & Bisexual Support; LiNk-Notts; LIFT; Flying Colours; Nottingham Bi Women's Group; Lesbians in Ashfield Friendship & Support; SASSI; North Notts Gay Women's Walking Group; Ball Bois gay football team, LGB Youth Groups in Newark, Worksop & Mansfield; Weekenders; Newark Gay Men's Social Group; East Midlands Gay Outdoor Club and, of course, S.H.A.G.G.E.R.S.

DIARY

TRIUMPH OF THE WILL (2)

Yes, it's **Will Young** on ice - or at the Nottingham Arena, to be precise. We can hardly contain ourselves; but enough of our incontinence problems. The date is Sunday September 17th and the tickets will cost you £30. Ticket Hotline is 0870 121 0123.

PRIDES BEFORE THE FALL

York's Pride in the Park. Sunday 20th August. Location: Rowntree Park, York. Organised by Yorkshire Mesmac - they plan a great afternoon, so bring your own picnic and join in.

Cardiff Mardi Gras Sat. Sept 2nd from Midday in Bute Park as their website says "*mae Mardi Gras Caerdydd i chi ac rydym yn croesawu yma bobl o bob lliw a llun, beth bynnag yw eich oed, rhyw, ethnigrwydd neu rywioldeb*" ... so make sure you do.

Manchester Pride 18th-28th August. A 10 day event with the carnival floats on the Saturday followed by a festival in the gay village. For more info, phone 0161 238 4548 or go to www.manchesterpride.com

RETURN TO THE SLUG

It's **Sunday Social** number 15 on Sunday 3 September 2006 from 16:00-20:00 at Slug & Lettuce, Low Pavement in Nottingham, NG1 7DL.

LGBT FILM FESTIVAL

25th-31st August. Touring London Lesbian and Gay Film Festival at **Broadway**. Films include:

25th: **Eleven Men Out** - A successful combination of a coming out tale and an underdog-makes good football story.

26th: **Happy Endings** - An epic of interlinked stories set in contemporary Los Angeles.

27th: **The Journey** - Told with great compassion and insight, a story of lesbian desire set in the Southern region of India.

28th: **Show Me** - A compelling and taut psychological thriller about a cat and mouse game between a yuppie and her grungy teenage captors.

29th: **Unveiled** - A subtle thriller about a female Iranian immigrant who poses as a man.

30th: **50 Ways of Saying Fabulous** - The traumas of growing up gay in a New Zealand farming community in 1975.

31st: **Whole New Thing** - Emerson struggles to fit in with his sports-mad near-illiterate classmates, while developing an awareness of his sexuality.

THE HISTORY BOYS

Alan Bennett's Olivier Award winning play is at the Theatre Royal from Tuesday Sept. 19th to Saturday Sept. 23rd.