

QB

Nottinghamshire's Queer Bulletin

December 2007/January 2008
Number 39

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If you have any information, news, gossip or libel, please send it to

QB

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7 Mansfield Road
Nottingham NG1 3FB

or e-mail

notts@lgswitchboard.fsnet.co.uk

The deadline for the next edition will be mid January 2008.

**Switchboard is registered charity
number 1114273**

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Nottingham Ball Bois.

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE'S RAINBOW HERITAGE

FREE

The application form for a Heritage Lottery grant towards a local LGBT History project has been completed and delivered. The decision about the grant will be known in January.

Some things can be confirmed. Firstly, the name for the project has been finalised as "Nottinghamshire's Rainbow Heritage". Secondly, things will happen for LGBT History Month next February, regardless of the Heritage Lottery Fund's decision. The main novelty is that the Large Gallery at "The View from the Top" above Waterstones will be booked in February, from Tues. 12th to Sun. 17th. It's a large, bright space and we hope it will provide an ideal launch for the project - see the back page for more details. The picture below shows part of the gallery.

With a bit of luck, Waterstones may be able to coordinate an event to coincide with the display, which will have pictures dealing with: Nottingham Pride; homophobia; famous LGBT people; LGBT people in the Holocaust; local LGBT history and more. If you are interested in getting involved or just want to know more, Switchboard is the contact point until the project has its own address, phone, e-mail etc.



SPAMALOT

We are used to having some of the e-mails that we send being rejected by some organisations spam filters - generally it's that word "lesbian" that's considered unacceptable. A chap from China complained that we weren't replying to his e-mails when, of course, it was the Chinese government which filtered out our replies. There are, we are told, no homosexuals in China.



In the current edition of our sister paper "Lookout", the editor rightly fulminates that when she tried to access Switchboard's website while at work, the County Council's filters blocked the site and told her that they were preventing her from seeing an "alternative lifestyle" website. So much for an LGBT friendly council which claims to be a Stonewall Champion.

At a recent Nottinghamshire Police training event, the leader of the training group stated the he was also surprised by receiving the same response when he tried to access Switchboard's details via a police computer. As he said, "I could access the BNP's website, but not Switchboard's". He says that once the Police were informed about this, they made the necessary adjustments.

NOTES AND QUEERIES

Gay Star Trek actor George Takei (Mr Sulu) has had an asteroid named after him. Mr Takei was nominated because of his work with leading US gay rights group Human Rights Campaign.

QB no. 37 reported on the "gay bomb", which would cause troops to cease fighting because they became irresistibly attracted to each other. We are pleased to see that the researchers have been awarded the **Peace Prize** in this year's **Ig Nobel Prizes** for the silliest research. Other current or previous winners include:

- ◆ The **Aviation Prize**: for discovering that hamsters recover from jetlag more quickly when given Viagra.
- ◆ The **Medicine Prize**: for research on "Acute Management of the Zipper-Entrapped Penis" and for "Termination of Intractable Hiccups with Digital Rectal Massage."
- ◆ The **Public Health Prize**: for a report on "Transmission of gonorrhoea through an Inflatable Doll."
- ◆ The **Biology Prize**: for showing that herrings communicate by farting

A children's book about two male penguins who hatched and raised a young female named 'Tango' has topped a list of the most challenged books in public and school libraries in the US. *And Tango Makes Three* is based on the true story of Roy and Silo, who formed a couple in New York's Central Park Zoo.



BRIEFS ON THE SCENE

PINK, the once-a-month women's night at China China, has closed

.... but another once-a-month women's night, **Compassion**, has opened. It's on the 1st Monday of the month at LT Nights (formerly Jacey's) 47, Heathcote Street 9.30 pm - 3.00 am. £3 before 11.00 pm, £4 after. And, yes, guys can be admitted as guests, but you need two women to take you in.

Like a butterfly emerging from its chrysalis, the GAI Project has shed its name and emerged, wings-a-flap, as the all-new **Healthy Gay Nottingham**.

GROUP OF THE DAY



I had played girls' football throughout my school years and loved every minute of it. Arriving at university in Nottingham in 2001, and suddenly being a small fish in a very large pond, I somehow talked myself out of trials for the university women's team. Late nights, kebabs and revision comfort food kicked in and four years later and about 2.5 stone heavier I decided to try and get back into the sport I loved.

After a bit of research I found **Sparta** Nottingham WFC and psyched myself up for going along to a training session. Although straight, I had got hold of the club details through the LGBT Switchboard which led me to wonder if it was a club for gay women only. I remember turning up on my first evening and a quick glance around at some of the players served only to strengthen some of my suspicions! Before the training started I feebly admitted to someone that I wasn't gay and asked if it was still ok to join in. This was immediately met with a few laughs, putting me at ease.

I started training every week and last year I signed up to play matches every Sunday. Now I'm the Secretary of Sparta, we've just recruited a new, fantastic FA-qualified coach/manager and we're hoping to develop the team over this season. Sparta welcomes women football players – gay, straight, funky hair-styles, married, single, Danish, Australian...!

We train every Thursday 7.20pm – 9pm at Southglade Sports Centre. Training is £2.50. Matches are every Sunday afternoon.

For further details give me (Anne) a call on 07813 142112 or visit our website:

www.spartawfc.co.uk

BULLYING SUCKS

There is a lot of local action at the moment on ways of tackling homophobic bullying in schools, colleges and universities.

- ◆ Students at Trent University are promoting the NUS "Bullying Sucks" campaign - not just posters, but also mini stick-of-rock sweets bearing the campaign's motto. If anyone in schools or colleges wants these materials, you can order them free. Just put NUS and Bullying Sucks into Google.
- ◆ Nottingham City Children's services sent out anti-homophobic bullying packs to all Nottingham schools earlier this year; they now hope to enlist the aid of Nottingham Forest women's football team, who will appear on anti-homophobia posters.
- ◆ Staff and the LGBT students group at Castle College are working on anti-homophobia measures.

THE ELECTRIFIED WILLY TEST

On the subject of homophobia, a 1996 study by psychologist Henry Adams supported Freud's claim that homophobia is often a screen people use to hide their repressed homosexual urges.

Adams tested a group of men who considered themselves to be exclusively heterosexual. He gave each of them a questionnaire to find out how homophobic they were and then showed them videos of gay porn. While watching the porn, their penises were attached to devices which electronically measured how turned on they were.

The research showed that the more homophobic they were the more they were aroused by the gay porn. This parallels the list of homophobes who have eventually been outed - usually after their death e.g. J. Edgar Hoover, Cardinal Francis Spellman does anyone else have their suspicions about President Ahmadinejad of Iran?

CULEBRON ESPAGNOL

We have received the following information by e-mail. We offer it without comment.

Apples. Apples is the first Spanish online serial. The serial has 7 episodes, as many as its main characters, and tells us about the crazy lives of a group of lesbian students, a dummy, and a teddy cat. The story takes place in two flats located in the same building, one just above the other, where the girls move back and forth according to the swinging of their relationships. All this dressed up with the best sauce: an epic love of Juliet and Juliet style. Apples is available at www.appleslaserie.com

QB'S BIBLE STUDIES CLASS

All registered charities will echo the thoughts of St. Paul in his 13th epistle to the Corinthians. Here's a bit of it in Polari.

But when that which is absolutely fantabulosa is troll, then that which is in part shall be done away. When I was a chavvie, I cackled as a chavvie, I understood as a chavvie, I thought as a chavvie: but when I became a homie, I put away childish fake-ments.

For now we varda through a glass, darkly; but then eke to eke: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known. And now letteth faith, hope, charity, these trey; but the dowriest of these is charity.

SOMETHING'S GETTING BIGGER

Something Social expands. Again. In addition to Badminton Social, Arts Social, Eat-out Social, Murder Social, Tardis Social and Real Ale Social now there is **Book Social**. Talk about your favourite books and hear others' reviews and recommendations. The first meeting took place upstairs at The Peacock pub, Mansfield Road, Nottingham on Thursday 15th November - so you've missed it. For details of future meetings, go to <http://www.booksocial.co.uk>

REAL LIVES

Real Lives is a 30 minute DVD commissioned by Nottinghamshire County Council's Learning and Development Department to raise awareness around current and historical lesbian and gay issues. It shows interviews with local lesbians, gay men and children of gay parents talking about their experiences of coming out, changes in legislation and other issues.

It's fun, informative and enlightening. The film can be used to educate, to encourage informal discussion or in training sessions. If you want a copy of the film, it's £9-99; contact Pam Burrows at PB@Satori-uk.co.uk or on 07974 309442.

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CHAUFFEUR DRIVEN

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

Healthy Gay Nottingham

(Formerly The GAI Project)

0115 947 6868

Monday-Friday
daytimes

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

gaiproject@nottinghamcity-pct.nhs.uk

www.gaiproject.org.uk

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 Forest; 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; Lesbian Writer's Network; East Midlands Gay Outdoor Club and, of course, S.H.A.G.G.E.R.S.

DIARY

SLAP THOSE THIGHS

The annual battle of the pantos returns. The Theatre Royal is fielding **Peter Pan** and The Playhouse is presenting **Dick Whittington**. Despite Peter's assortment of crocodiles, hooks and fairies, for me Dick wins every time.

Take your choice: Dick Whittington (cats, rats and daft old bats) November 30th - January 19th; Peter Pan (including tumbling pirates, The Acroloons) December 7th - January 30th. Can I resist? Oh, yes I can.

PARTY TIME

Breakout's annual Xmas party is on Tuesday December 18th at the Lord Roberts starting at 8.00. If you want to drop in, remember it's a "bring a bit of food to share" event.

SUNDAY SOCIAL

.Sunday Social is on Sunday **Dec. 2nd** 4-8 pm at the Slug and Lettuce on High Pavement. Free entrance and usually around 60 people turn up. Everyone welcome; deals on food and drinks + competitions in a friendly atmosphere. For more information go to www.somethingsocial.co.uk

FOR WORLD AIDS DAY

COMMUNICATE - a day of events for World AIDS Day at the Sillitoe Room, Waterstones, Bridlesmith Gate, Nottingham Friday **Nov. 30th**

The schedule is: 10am-4pm: A display of a piece of writing about HIV translated into several different languages, artwork & poetry representing HIV images. 4.30-5.30pm: Music performed by local musicians. 5.15-6.15: Fashion show using designs made of condoms! 7pm onwards: A candle lit vigil.

Saturday **Dec. 1st** 11 - 3pm. The Hardship Fund will again be running a street collection in the city centre, with an information stall outside the Council House.

LGBT HISTORY EXHIBITION

There's information on the front page about the LGBT History month exhibition at the View from the Top above Waterstones.

Though the exhibition will be open during Waterstones' normal opening hours, we can now give advance notice that there will be an extension of these hours for an official launch. This will take place between 7 and 9 pm on Tuesday **February 12th** and there will be some food and drink for those who can get there.