

QB

Nottinghamshire's Queer Bulletin

August/September 2009
Number 49

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Lots of things beginning with P

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Polyvinyl chloride

and of course

Pride

..... and congratulations to the
Pride Committee

If you have any information, news, gossip or libel or wish to comment on anything in QB, please contact

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 early September 2009

**Switchboard is registered
charity number 1114273**

NOTTINGHAM PRIDE 2009

FREE



By now we assume that Nottingham Pride will be successful, enjoyable and sunny, so the things which are worth mentioning are the march (see next page) and involvement of a significantly growing number of organisations which want to demonstrate their LGBT friendliness.



Nottingham Pride's sequence of fine weather was maintained. The Pride Committee augmented their midsummer night's anti rain dance with a no-expense-spared potion. We hear that their cauldron was designed by Antony Gormley and they used organic, Duchy Original eye of newt and toe of frog.

GOD LOVES YA, BABY!

Congratulations once again to those people at the Nottingham Methodist Mission for their up front support for Nottingham Pride.



MARCH IN JULY

Nottingham, quite literally, had seen nothing like it before. In the first Nottingham Pride march, nearly 1000 people trooped down Mansfield Road, then along Shakespeare Street before heading off to the Arboretum. Nottingham's shoppers seemed to enjoy the experience. You can see a slideshow of photos of the march on the Nottinghamshire's Rainbow Heritage website - go to "NEWS".



ANOTHER SURVEY

The Lesbian and Gay Foundation are carrying out a nationwide survey about drug and alcohol use amongst LGBT people. They say "We have also carried out two regional pilot studies over the past five years which is now enabled us to secure support for our national study. We have the survey online and www.partofthepicture.co.uk "

Sara Ashworth Drug & Alcohol Officer

Tel: **0161 235 8011**

Email: sara.ashworth@lgf.org.uk

They would welcome any responses from QB readers who would like to go to the website and complete the survey ... which should take about 15 minutes.

OUTBURST EXCELS

Outburst, the group for young LGBT people, is now recognised as one of the most successful groups of its type in the UK. It was therefore worrying to hear that Davina Daniels, the City Council worker who is behind Outburst, was one of those people whose jobs were under review in the Council's recent reorganisation.

It's therefore great news to hear that she has been confirmed in her post and will continue supporting the group.

Let's remind you that as well as the regular Monday evening meetings, Davina is also organising the occasional weekend meeting for trans young people. Her office, based at Angel Row library, is used for one-to-one meetings/counselling for those requiring such support.

THANKS

Nottingham Switchboard would like to thank the following local companies for their very generous and much appreciated donations to Switchboard's Tombola stall at this year's Nottingham Pride:

- Reflections Health Club
- John Lewis
- Le Bistro Pierre
- Memsaab
- A M F Bowling
- Marks & Spencer
- Diva Magazine
- Nottingham Playhouse
- East Midlands Trains
- Attitude Magazine
- Champions Solicitors

HGN: WHO'S NEW? WHAT'S NEW?



Though **Ric Sharples** (above) has been doing session work for Healthy Gay Nottingham for some time, he's now a fulltime worker for HGN. Apart from university, he's had a varied past as a compere, a cleaner, an electrician and a stand-up comedian under the name of Randy Wornhole.

The theatrical connection also extends to Coronation Street (no, not as the long lost love-child of Ena Sharples, but the grandson of Bernard Youens, who played Stan Ogden) and to the master of disguise visible at Nottingham Pride - see below and front page.



At QB we ask the most probing of questions, so here we can reveal that Ric's favourite colour is red.

The increased staffing at HGN means that some activities which have been on hold are now being revived, along with some things which are completely new.

The HGN team are now qualified to deliver GMFA training; an example of this is the *Sex Course* - see the back page for fuller details.

HGN: WHO'S NEW? WHAT'S NEW?

Already started are the Saturday Breakfast Club (Alternate Saturdays 10 am-2 pm) and the Monday Night Chill Zone (every Monday 5.00-7.00 pm) These sessions are not just for the free lube + condoms and medical testing, but also function as drop-ins for a chat over tea, coffee, juice and biscuits.

The Older Gay Men's group is being "developed" and the Married Men's Group may be revived. Sessions for younger people and for issues such as coming out are being considered. A Sex Quiz, (devised by Ric) which is both fun and informative has been successfully tested at Breakout.

HGN hopes to expand its work with other groups and organisations - such as both SPA (Straight partners anonymous) and SMOC (Support for mixed orientation couples) and those organisations in need of sexuality awareness training.

SAPPHIST WRITERS

To be a lesbian

To be a lesbian you must open doors,
and help women on with their coats,
and wait at the bus stop or walk her safely home.

Unless of course you're her,
in which case you must always be late
because you were brushing your hair,
checking your make-up, or making the bed.

To be a lesbian you must have a full toolset ;-)
and a cupboard full of brushes,
and a good selection of gloss paint.

Unless of course you're her, and if you are...
you must want for the newest range of oven,
or the latest, most expensive t-shirt and coat.
The handbag is not necessary of course,
but still handy for the mirror and pink RAZR
phone.

To be a lesbian you must have a name
like Chris, or Robyn, or Claude.

Unless of course you're her,
in which case you may be called
Pearl, or Passion, or Prudence.

To be a lesbian you can be all of that...
(this describes plenty of lesbians I know)
Or you can be just you...
your very own rainbow of characteristics,
the cobwebs gleefully blown
from the carefully woven stereotypes
within which we've grown

© Sarah Edwards

1981– 1985: The Part Two Story



In 1980 Ross Smith (seen on the left) decided that he wanted to open a gay club in Nottingham which would compare well with the best in the country. He became aware that the Boots company had blundered in their task of providing a social venue for their workers - the blunder was that they had bought two buildings. Boots put one of those buildings up for rent at £9500 for each of the 4 floors. This was the former home of La Chic on Canal Street. "I'll take it", he said. At the time he had £1200 in the bank.

The plan was to use the 2 lower floors for the club and to rent out the upper floors. He got backing from Billie Pearson and Patrick Mooney, 2 local business people, and from John Smith's Brewery which agreed to match the other funding. With the extensive and high quality renovations which were planned, a lot more money was still needed, but with the aid of a friendly accountant's introduction to an obliging bank (it was 1980), the money was made available.

Boots then changed their mind. They decided not to rent, but to put the property up for sale at £235,000. "I'll take it", he said and amazingly his backers went along with it.

The next problem lay with the Nottingham magistrates who didn't want to approve any more clubs in the City. The strategy to counter this involved: making the club a "members only" club; obtaining a petition with hundreds of signatures; invoking divine intervention - the Rev. Bob McCulloch agreed to speak of the need for such a club at the hearing.

When the hearing took place it was obvious that the magistrates were thoroughly embarrassed by the process and went on circuitous verbal deviations to avoid using the words "gay" or "homosexual". They were also concerned about how the management of the club would be able to verify that its clientele was genuinely gay or lesbian eventually answering their own question with "it takes one to know one?" The licence was granted. Part Two opened on July 3rd 1981. 875 people came along. The club had a licence for 535.

MEMORABLE EVENTS

The mud wrestling event which took place in cooperation with HIM magazine.

One Halloween, the club was raided by the Police - the raid passed off without incident.

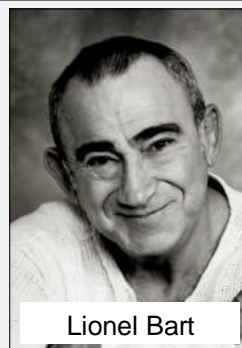
42 loo seats were stolen - all from the Ladies loos. Apparently, they were passed through the toilet windows and treasured as souvenirs.

One Easter there was a "Hot Cross Buns" competition. A large screen with several strategically placed holes was set up. The contestants - hidden on the far side of the screen - pulled their pants down and had their assets graded as they poked through the screen.

A FEW OF PART TWO'S FAMOUS GUESTS



Danny La Rue



Lionel Bart



Marc Almond



Imelda Staunton



Justin Fashanu

Gay Nottingham Times

No. 10 Claiming our history, Celebrating our present, Creating our future

Take your partners

21 December 2005 marked a step nearer true equality with the Civil Partnership Act. The first civil partners in Nottingham were Kevin Clayton and Alan Breach. But what society, and especially the Church, has forgotten is that male partnerships were recognised by the church over 600 years ago

King Edward II (1284-1327) and Sir Piers Gaveston (1284-1312)



The medieval Catholic Church held services for male couples who became **SWORN** or **WEDDED BROTHERS**. The idea was to form strong spiritual unions and were not exclusively gay. The idea appealed most to soldiers. In Nottingham, there are 2 probable couples, both involving Constables of Nottingham Castle. Three of the men married and had children, as was expected of them at that time.

Sir William Neville (c.1341-1391) and Sir John Clanvowe (c.1341-1391)

Sir William, Constable of Nottingham Castle from 1381, came from a powerful northern family. Sir John came from more humble origins and was a diplomat and poet. Both were friends of Chaucer, who came to Nottingham several times..

Forget what you see in "Braveheart". The real Edward was known for his athletic build, strength, and good looks. He was big, butch, and drop-dead gorgeous! And he had a partner to match! Both were expert horsemen and joustiers, and huge party-goers.

They **MAY** have become wedded brothers. Nottinghamshire was a favourite destination for Edward. He stayed often at Nottingham Castle, usually at Christmas when he held extravagant all-male parties.

Piers was made Constable of Nottingham Castle by Edward in 1310, but the barons were resentful of his power and they murdered him in 1312. Edward then turned his affection to a slimy gold-digger called Hugh Despencer. Edward himself was later deposed and murdered.



The murder of Gaveston.



They probably became wedded brothers after 1376, and they displayed their coats of arms in the same manner as husband and wife.

Both were Knights of the Chamber to Richard II, and members of a group called the Lollard knights, supporters of the religious reformer John Wyclif.



In 1391 William and John went on Crusade. John died of plague in Constantinople, and William died 2 days later of a broken heart. Their tombstone depicts them in an embrace.

BROADWAY'S LGBT FILM FESTIVAL

7 FRI AUG, 8.45PM BEFORE STONEWALL
Exposes the fascinating and unforgettable history of homosexuality in America, from 1920's Harlem through to World War II and the witch hunt trials of the McCarthy era.

SAT 8 AUG, 5.30PM DOLLS
Dolls is a beautifully made, slow-burning and deeply poignant coming of age tale. After graduation best friends Iska, Vendular and Karolina, Iska's secret crush, set off on a hitchhiking journey to Holland in search of summer jobs.

SUN 9 AUG, 5.30PM BROTHER OUTSIDER: THE LIFE OF BAYARD RUSTIN
Illuminates the life and work of Bayard Rustin, the black activist and strategist who has been called "the unknown hero" of the civil rights movement. Rustin dared to live as an openly gay man during the fiercely homophobic 40s, 50s and 60s. The documentary reveals the price that Rustin paid for this openness, chronicling both the triumphs and setbacks of his remarkable 60-year career.

TUE 11 AUG, 6PM GREEK PETE
Director Andrew Haigh worked with a group of London rent boys to create a semi-improvised drama based on their lives. This fictional and occasionally graphic result is a million miles from an idealised version of prostitution. The boys may gloss over some of the issues but this is a privileged record of a sub-culture as never before seen on film.

WED 12 AUG, 5.30PM TO EACH HER OWN
Follows the coming out of Jess, a young woman brought up in the shadow of a mother who believes that homosexuality is a sin. To escape Jess married her high school sweetheart straight after graduation, yet she's unable to keep away from the charming, cynical, out and proud Casey.

THU 13 AUG, 8.45PM BANDAGED
Destined to become a cult classic, *Bandaged* blends old-school horror with forbidden love in a kitsch homage to *Eyes Without a Face*.

TUE 18 AUG, 6.15PM BABY LOVE
Manu and Philippe, a well-off, established Parisian gay couple, live in trendy Belleville, their lives seemingly perfect. When Manu decides that fatherhood is his priority the relationship is put in jeopardy. Nothing is ever simple in this brilliantly entertaining comedy of errors.

WED 19 AUG, 6.15PM GHOSTED
Ghosted is a mysterious love story set in Hamburg and Taipei that follows artist Sophie as she comes to terms with the murder of her girlfriend, Ai-Ling.

ADOPT OR FOSTER WITH US

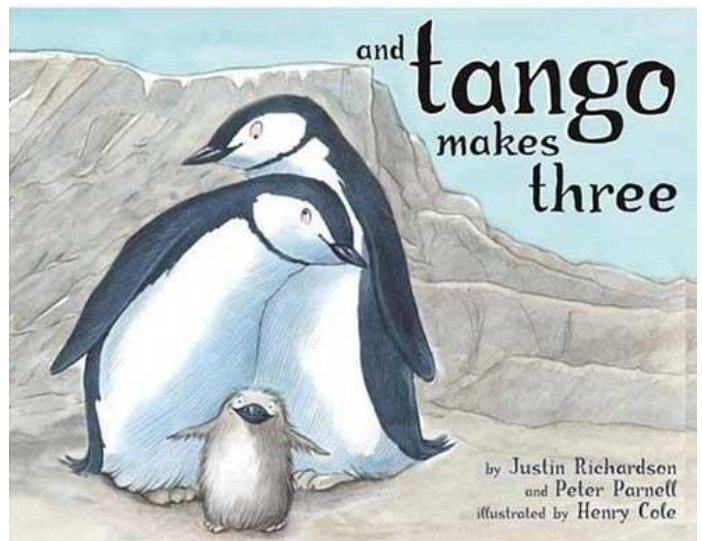
Nottingham City Council's Fostering and Adoption Services again attended this year's Nottingham Pride to recruit foster carers and adopters from the LGBT community.

Foster carers can offer to provide short-term or permanent care for children, whilst adopters legally become the new parents of the child. With over 400 children in care Nottingham urgently needs more foster carers and adopters who can offer a safe and stable home. Foster carers or adopters may be single, married, divorced, parents or childless, working or unemployed and from any cultural or religious background.

As a foster carer you will receive generous allowances for child expenses and a weekly skills fee of up to £165. You may also be entitled to further benefits in family tax credits. A full training and support package is offered for both adopters and foster carers.

If you are interested in finding out more about fostering or adoption you can request an information pack on 01159 915 1234, email fa.info@nottinghamcity.gov.uk, or visit www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/love.

PENGUIN PANIC



"And Tango Makes Three" by Justin Richardson and Peter Parnell is now the book at the top of the USA's "Book we most want to ban" list.

The book about the true story of two male penguins who adopted an orphaned chick has been condemned as anti-family, anti-religion and pro-gay.

Philip Pullman, whose "Dark Materials" books were in second place, said "They never learn. The inevitable result of trying to ban something – book, film, play, pop song, whatever – is that far more people want to get hold of it than would ever have done if it were left alone. Why don't the censors realise this?"

LESBIANS WANTED!

Are you homeless? Vulnerably housed? About to lose your home? Did you know there is a supported housing service for you?

Noelle House, safe accommodation for women, without discrimination. Gives priority to black women, lesbians, lesbian couples and HIV+ women. Tel : 0115 911 9420 (9 am-5 pm Mon- Fri)

Noelle House provides ten units of accommodation with support including two move-on houses, for women 16 years and over. We aim to develop your confidence and living skills to help you live independently. We provide a stable, supportive environment where you can realise your full potential. We welcome anyone who is interested in living at Noelle House to give us a call. You are welcome to come and have a look at the house without commitment and meet the workers.

Please make sure you tell all your friends and family about us – we are the only supported housing service in Nottingham that is specifically for lesbians and this could change if we don't have your support. After being here for 20 years we would hate to have to change our criteria and lose a valuable resource to the lesbian community.

Please call us if you would like any further information or have any suggestions on how we can help to get the message out there to homeless women in Nottingham. We would be happy to come and talk to local groups or send you information to share with others.

If you are in need of housing urgently please contact the Gateway Team at Housing Aid, Parliament Street, Nottingham Tel: 0115 9153000 to be referred to Noelle House or to other services. If you wish to be placed at Noelle House please make sure the Gateway Team are made aware of this when you go for your interview. If you would like support in contacting the Gateway Team please feel free to call us and we will help you through the process.

NRH POLL

The current poll on Nottinghamshire's Rainbow Heritage's website asks "What was the most important advance for LGBT people in the UK since 1945?"

The clear winner at the moment is the 1967 Sexual Offences Act, followed by Civil Partnerships and then the 2003 Anti-discrimination Employment legislation. Everything else followed a long way behind.

Go to www.nottsrainbowheritage.org.uk and then to "Vote Here".

OUT OF THIS WORLD

Tardis Social is the liveliest Doctor Who group in the Midlands, and probably the universe! It's not exclusively gay, but it is gay-run and very gay friendly. Come and have a few drinks and a chat about the good old Doctor, win money in our charity sweepstake, The Time Sweep and join in the fun and free-to-enter Quiz of Doom! We have a private room all to ourselves!

Where? The Stage pub, Upper Parliament Street/Wollaton Street, Nottingham city centre

When? 8:15 pm, every third Tuesday of the month.

How much? It's FREE!

E-mail dwcnottingham@hotmail.co.uk

WANTED

Nottingham area. 34 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 34 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.

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 £80 for a full A4 page and in proportion for smaller ads e.g. £40 for half page £20 for quarter page and £10 for an eighth page. Use the contact details on the front page if you would like to advertise.

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
www.nlgshistory.ik.com

 Healthy Gay Nottingham
 0115 947 6868
 Monday-Friday daytimes
 c/o The Health Shop, 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 the Health Shop) 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 Sunday of month, 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; Stately Homes Group; Notts Lesbian Book Club; Re-Creation; Women's Badminton; Badminton Social; Lesbian and Gay Christian Movement; East Mercia MSC; Chameleon Group; University of Nottingham & Trent University LGBT Societies; Peak Ruffties; Nottm Women's Film Group; Grizzly; LIRAIN; Notts Police OUTNetwork; Flying Colours; Nottm 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; 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

PROUD TO BE GAY

As part of its remit to the Heritage Lottery Fund, **Nottinghamshire's Rainbow Heritage** will run two LGB Awareness training days each year. This year we are calling them "Proud to be Gay".

Last year's two sessions were fully booked and received wonderful evaluations. If you work for an organisation where there are people who would welcome training in the area of sexual orientation, let them know about this year's sessions which will cover issues such as:

- Using the right language
- Homophobia
- Coming out
- Changes in the law
- Becoming LGB friendly

Attendance will cost £15, but this is not cheap training; it is expensive training made cheap because nearly all costs are borne by the Heritage Lottery Fund. The sessions are on November 20th at Ransom Wood Business Park (near Mansfield) and November 26th at Arnold Library.

For further details e-mail nottsrh@hotmail.co.uk or phone 0115 9349529.

THE SEX COURSE

This is a free, fun-packed one day course run by **Healthy Gay Nottingham**. It will help you explore what you want from your sex life and make it both safer and more enjoyable.

10 am. to 5 pm. Saturday August 22nd. Book your place online at www.gmfa.org.uk/national or phone 020 7738 3712.

LORD OF THE MINCE

Julian Clary is at Nottingham Playhouse on Wednesday September 30th. Describing the show, he says "The second half is a secret. I'm not going to tell you what it is but it's very surprising and rather alarming for the audience. So we have ushers standing by with flasks of brandy, just in case it's too much for people."

Phone 0115 941 9419 for further info.

WE ARE NOT SORRY

... to say that "**I'm Sorry I haven't a Clue**" returns to the Royal Concert Hall on Wednesday September 23rd. We hear that swine flu may prevent the appearance of Samantha, so it will be Sven sitting on Jack Dee's right hand.