

local listings

Lesbian & Gay Switchboard

0115 934 8485
Monday to Friday, 7 – 10 pm
7 Mansfield Road, Nottingham, NG1 3FB
nottingham@lgswitchboard.fsnet.co.uk

Nottingham University Lesbian and Gayline

0115 951 4999
Monday term time only

Police Homophobic Crime Helpline

0800 085 8522

Outburst!

Group for LGB young People up to age 21.
Meets first and third Friday of the month
The Health Shop, Broad Street
Tel: 0115 947 6868

Older Gay Group

Support and social group for men aged 50+
Third Sunday of the month, 4.00 pm
Health shop, Broad Street
Tel: John 0115 947 6868 (daytimes)

Married Men's Group

Support for men who are (or have been) married or in relationships with women and are also attracted to men.
Tel: 0115 947 6868 or 0115 934 8485

Metropolitan Community Church

Because God loves Queers too.
Sundays 11.30
Queen's Walk Community Centre, The Meadows
Tel: 01332 835 238 or 01332 872 143

The GAI Project

Gay and bisexual men's health project
The Health Shop, Broad Street,
Nottingham, NG1 3AL
Tel: 0115 947 6868
Email: gaiproject@nottinghamcity-pct.nhs.uk

Breakout

Social group for gay and bisexual men.
Every Tuesday, 7.30 pm
Health Shop, Broad Street
Tel: 0115 947 6868
www.breakoutnottm.org.uk

WAG

Relaxed and friendly social group, open to all lesbians and women questioning their sexuality.
Details from Lesbian & Gay switchboard
Tel: 0115 934 8485.

Chameleon Group

Group for transvestites and transsexual people. Changing facilities available.
Thursdays 7.30pm - 11.00pm
Wollaton Grange Community Centre,
Treymane Road, Billborough.
Secure parking available.
Tel: 0115 928 3610

Trans-Action (UK) Nottingham Group

A support group for transgendered people of all persuasions. Friendly atmosphere in warm homely surroundings. There is a charge of £1. Meet 1st Wednesday of the month, 7pm - 11pm.
Tel: Charlotte Belle (Charlee) on 0115 958 7403
www.geocities.com/trans_actionuk/classic_tan.html
Email: NorthNottsTransAction@groups.msn.com

LGCM Nottingham Group

Support for Lesbian & Gay Christians.
Meet 3rd Friday of the month.
Tel: 0115 9827475

Out House Project

Working to open an LGB community centre.
Suite A, 40 George Street, Nottingham, NG1 3BG
Tel: 0115 9110545
www.outhouse.org.uk
Email: info@outhouse.org.uk

Venue listings

@d2

Gay bar next to NG1
Mon-Wed 1pm-Midnight, Thurs 1pm-1am
74 Lower Parliament Street, Nottingham
Tel: 950 2727

The Central

Gay bar (behind the Palais)
Open Mon - Wed 3pm - 12pm, Thurs 12pm - 1am, Fri - Sat 12pm - 2am, Sun 12pm - 12.30am
Huntingdon Street, Nottingham
Tel: 958 5883
Web Site: www.central-online.co.uk

Eternity/Infinity at the Rotunda

Women only night
Last Saturday of every month
The Rotunda, Standard Hill, Nottingham
Details: 934 8485 (Switchboard)

The Foresters Inn

Gay friendly pub
Open pub hours
Huntingdon Street, Nottingham
Tel: 941 9679

George's

Gay friendly bar/restaurant
Open Wed - Sat evenings
Broad Street, Nottingham
Tel: 948 4045

Lord Roberts

Gay friendly pub
Open pub hours
Broad Street, Nottingham
Tel: 941 4886
E-mail: lord_roberts24@hotmail.com

New Foresters

Pub hours, mainly women
St Anns Street (behind Victoria Centre), Nottingham
Tel: 958 0432

Revolution at the Palais

Gay club night.
First Monday of every month, 10pm - 2am
Palais night club, Lower Parliament Street, Nottingham

NG1

Large, stylish gay club
Open Wednesday - Sunday from 10pm. Closed Thursdays
Free entry through Soba before 11pm (Saturdays before 10pm)
Free entry on Sundays
76-78 Lower Parliament Street, Nottingham, NG1 1EH
Tel: 958 8440
Website: www.ng1club.co.uk

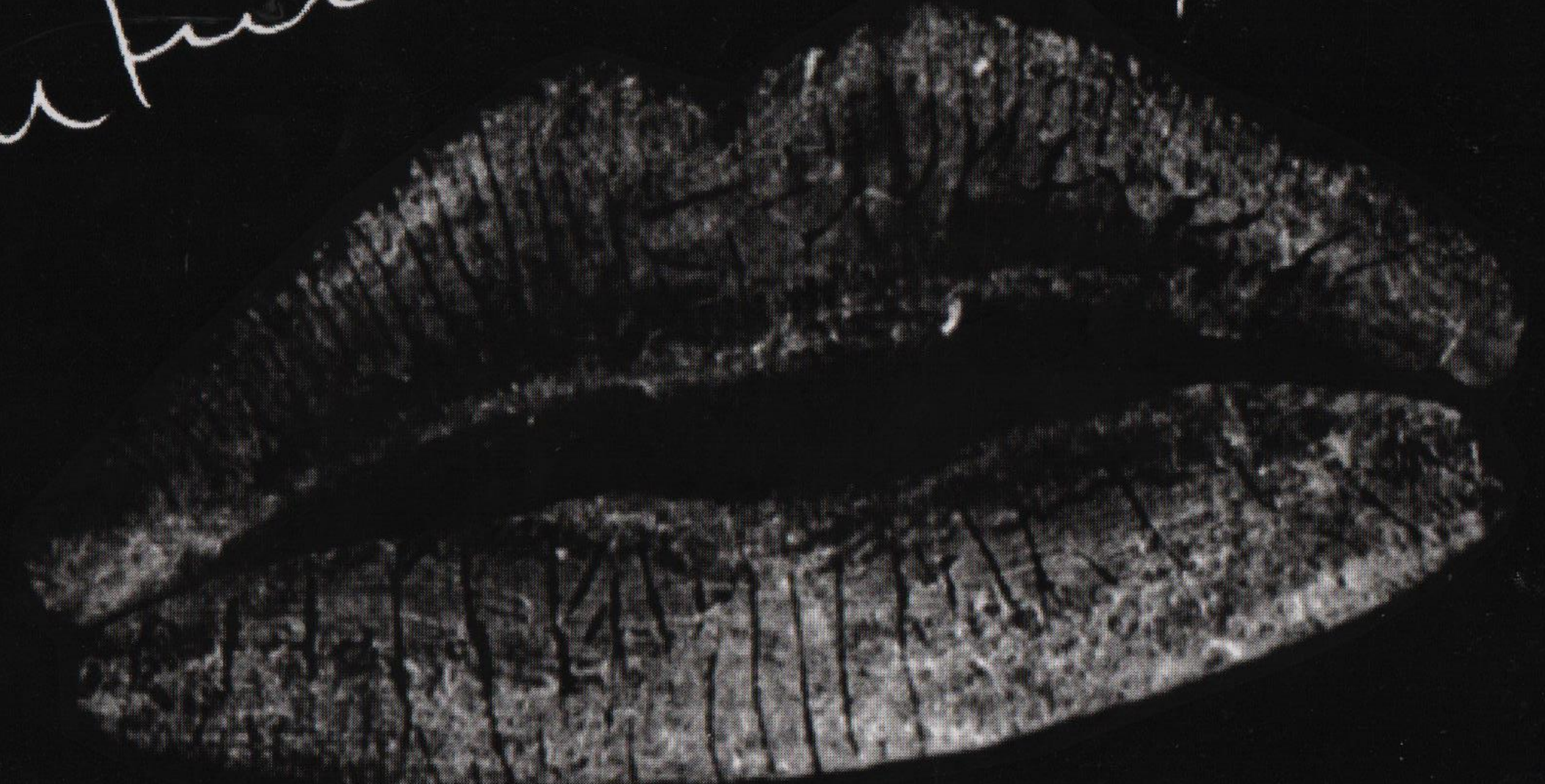
The Women's Café

Women only
Second Tuesday of every month, 7pm - 10pm
George's, Broad Street, Hockley, Nottingham
Details: 934 8485 (Switchboard)

i'm free
INCORPORATING THE OUTHOUSE NEWSLETTER & QB
SPRING 2004 ISSUE 4

COMMUNITY NEWS - HOROSCOPES - COMPETITIONS - QUIZ

love to all our
readers on
Valentines Day x



Editor

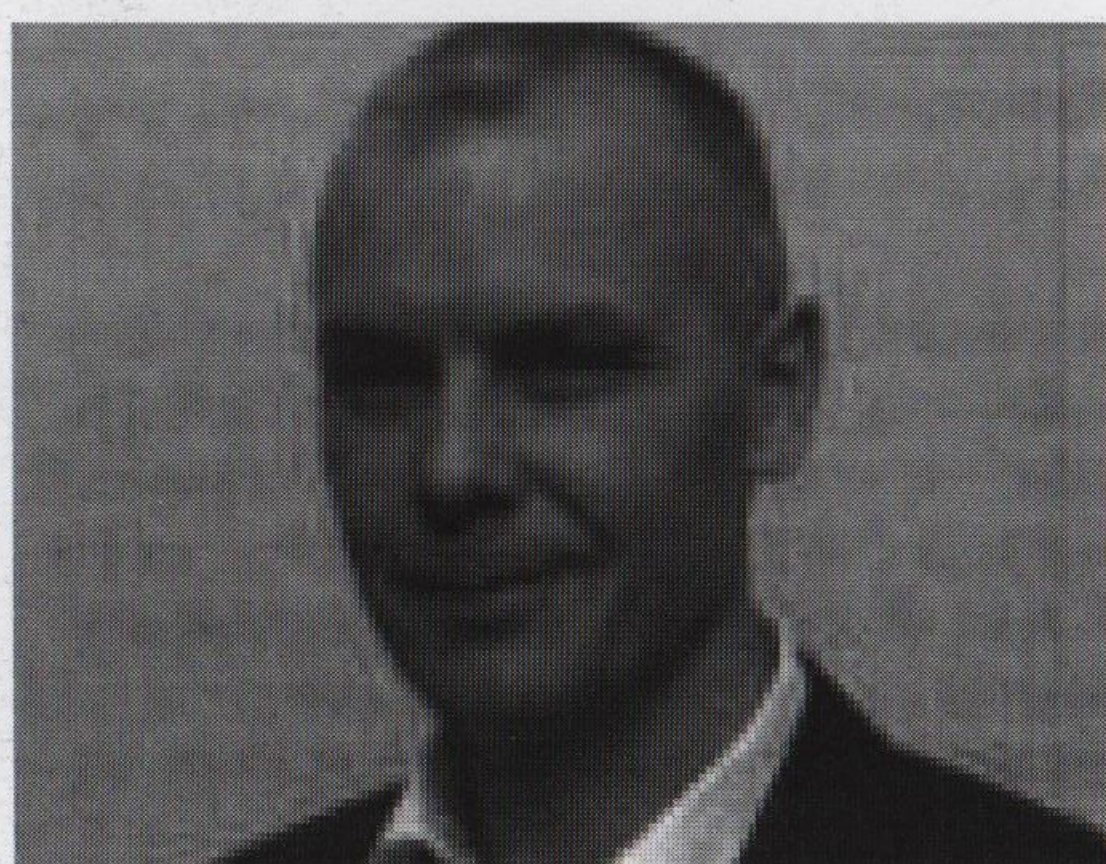
Hi everyone,

Welcome to our Valentines edition—Issue 4 and we're still going strong! You'll notice we now have an astrology column provided by the internationally renowned Scratchy McScratchycat. After a little gentle purr-suasion she has kindly donated her services for an extra cupful of lams (Ocean mix).

It would be great if you could let us know what you think of the new look I'm Free, we get very lonely at the I'm Free offices and are feeling unloved, which is a terrible way to be feeling so close to Valentines day - so spare us a though and drop us a line - kisses, flowers and chocolate are optional.

Copy date for issue 5 Friday 16th April 2004. Email: imfree_editor@hotmail.com

GAY CONNECTIONS CONFERENCE



Ben Summerskill, from Stonewall, will be the principal speaker at a conference organised by the North Notts group Gay Connections. It will be held on Thursday 4th March 2004 at South Forest Conference Centre, Robin Hood Crossroads, Clipstone Road, Edwinstowe, Nottinghamshire, NG21 9JA from 9.00am-1.30pm. This conference will focus on lesbian, gay and bisexual issues within the educational sector. This half-day conference is for anyone involved with the educational sector covering schools, colleges and community education in North Nottinghamshire.

For further details, please contact Shirley Macreadie Conference Organiser
Tel: 0799 069 2873
Email: walkingmiracle15@hotmail.com

CHANGES IN THE LAW

In the past few months not only have we said farewell to Section 28, but also welcomed the law making discrimination in employment on the grounds of sexuality illegal. Unfortunately, there is - at the moment - an exception for employers in religious/faith based organisations. Many people in schools wrongly imagined that Section 28 prevented them from dealing with homophobic bullying; it didn't. The development of appropriate responses was and remains in the hands of the Head Teacher and the Board of Governors. Will the repeal of Section 28 galvanise Boards of Governors into activity? Nottingham City LGBT Consultation Group is looking at how the council can promote good practice in terms of counteracting homophobic bullying in schools and has suggested that Boards of Governors receive suitable training - training which is compulsory in the area of racially motivated bullying.

Promised for the relatively near future are revisions to several laws which affect gay sex: "Gross Indecency", sex in "public" places and "soliciting in a public place for immoral purposes". The government has also done a 180° turn on homophobic hate crime and, after long denying that it was a significant issue, have now promised to make it officially a crime.

CRIME TIME

In 2003 Notts Police carried out a survey in the LGBT community to find out people's worries about crime, their experience of homophobia and their satisfaction with the police. (Speaking personally, tighter trousers would improve my satisfaction with the police, but that's another matter...) Here's a few of the results:

22% of respondents said they felt unsafe going to or from gay venues in Nottingham

67% felt unsafe displaying affection in a public place (we think this means a peck on the cheek rather than cottaging)

74% of those who had been the victim of a homophobic incident had not reported it to the police
54% said they'd like to use a dedicated homophobic incident line to report to the police, but 68% said they didn't know such a line already exists.

Well, it does. The number is 0800 085 8522; and it's staffed by officers trained to deal with homophobic incidents. If they're not there when you call, leave a message and they'll get back to you.

They will only speak to you directly, and won't "out" you to friends or family. This is not an emergency line - if you are in danger, call 999.

Homophobic incidents can also be reported anonymously to the police via third parties such as the GAI Project, Switchboard, the Outhouse, or by filling in a self-reporting form, available from the Health Shop or gay venues.

NEW(ish) GROUPS

SWIFT is a group for Single Women Interested in Food 'n' Talk. It meets roughly once a month at various venues including George's. Phone Switchboard for further details.

Trans-Action is a self-help social group for transvestites, transsexuals and all others who identify themselves as transgendered. They hold monthly meetings in Nottingham and also social activities outside of the group meetings. They are able to call on several professional consultants to provide advice at the meetings on such things as: corrective make-up techniques; transgender issues within the family; hair removal using electrolysis; assertiveness counselling; Police LGBT liaison advice relating to transphobic crime. The group can be contacted through organiser Charlotte Belle or via the group's e-mail or, for further details, phone Switchboard.

charlotte_bellets@hotmail.com
NorthNottsTransAction@groups.msn.com

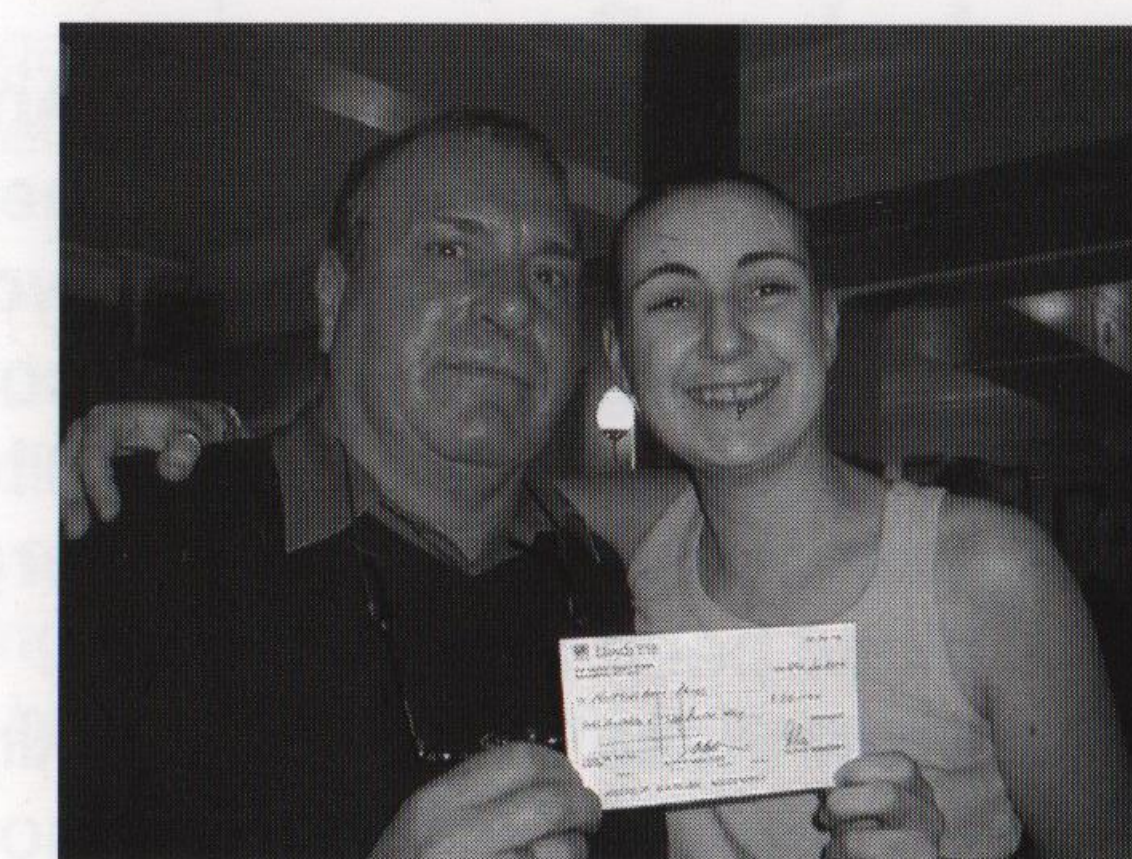
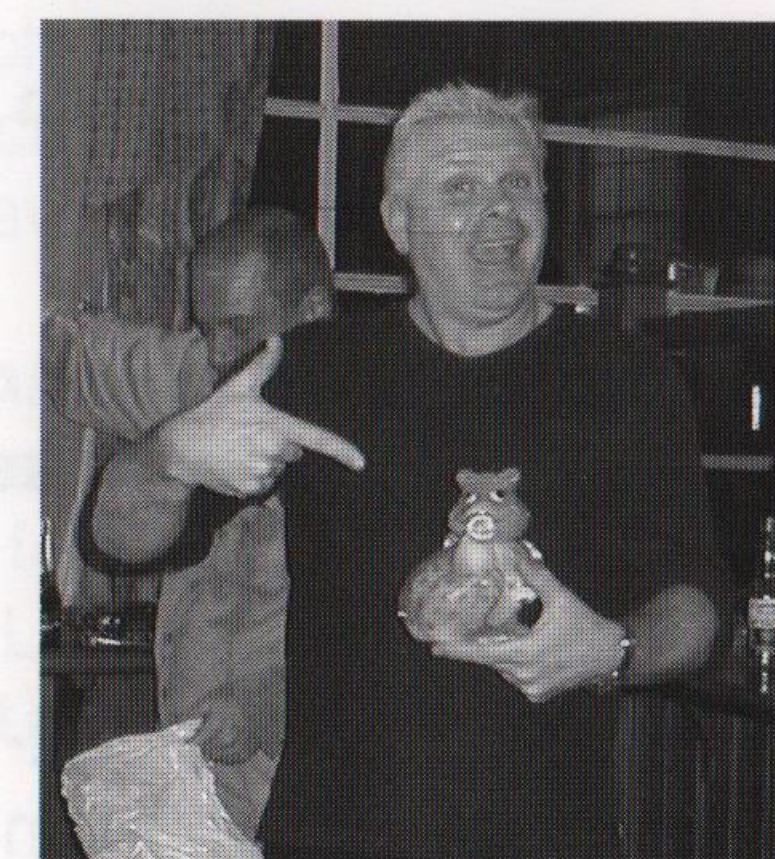
And a not-so-new group which is nevertheless new to us:

Rainbow Hood is a Nottingham group for lesbian and gay deaf people. They welcome anyone who is deaf/hard of hearing who can sign BSL level 1 and above. They started about 2 years ago and meet every 2 months for drinks on a Friday. For details, write or e-mail Switchboard.

LESBIAN & GAY PARENTING

A student at Nottingham Trent University is researching lesbian and gay parenting. If you would like to help with this research please contact Christina on: EB120500@ntu.ac.uk and she will e-mail you back with a few questions for which she needs answers

THANK YOU



The Nottingham Pride Committee would like to thank the Breakout group for organising a fund raising auction for Pride 2004. The event took place at the Lord Roberts pub on 13th January and an eclectic mix of lots (unwanted Christmas presents?) appeared as if by magic, shortly after 6.30pm. Michael Yeomans was our brilliant auctioneer (and banged away happily all night; for charity of course!). £110.00 was raised. We still can't understand why everyone is so rude about you Breakout lot - we think you're great!

Also the Nottingham Pride Committee would like to thank Russ and John at NG1 for staging a fund raising evening on 28th December - a great time was had by all and £178.00 was raised. Thanks to everyone who took part in these events. More events are being planned - so keep your eyes on the Outhouse web site, the Pride web site (which will be up and running soon), and the Venues for details.

If you would like to get involved in any aspect of Pride - we'd love to see you and will make you very, very welcome. We can be contacted through the following e-mail address:
nottinghampride@hotmail.com

WEBS OF INTRIGUE

Switchboard has a new website - www.nottslgs.org.uk for those who are interested. Starting a new website means that huge numbers of organisations have to be contacted to tell them that the listing they have for Switchboard is now out-of-date. Finding the relevant organisations through a web search on Google brought home the extent to which ancient websites acquire a life of their own and float about on the internet uncorrected.

A visitor, gathering from the internet a list of LGB things to investigate in Nottingham, might jot down The Mill, Jacey's, Cellos, The Malt Cross, De Luxe (which has a paragraph about how it will raise money for local gay good causes - perhaps they meant the Manager's benevolent fund?), Lesbian Line, advance information about Pink Lace 1997 and other cyber-ghosts. Some of these sites were clearly set up in a spasm of activity by people whose enthusiasm rapidly faded, but some are amenable to change if you contact them - so if you come across sites with inaccurate information, why not tell them about it.

An LGB website has been set up via the North Notts LGB Development group. It's at www.nottslgb.org.uk - only one letter different to Switchboard's site. It's got quite a lot of information for young people as well as links to organisations such as Stonewall.

The Outhouse – The Future

Ask anyone in our LGBT Community what the Outhouse is, and you will get a fairly mixed response. Some people think it does really good work, some people have never heard of it, some think its been a failure, and there are those who think the original goal of opening a Community Centre could have been achieved by now, but is still worth working for.

Time to set out exactly what the Outhouse was, and what it is now. The Outhouse Project was set up over 15 years ago with the aim of opening a Community Centre to promote the well being of the Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Communities in the Nottingham Area.

The Management Committee acquired a building on Lennox Street in Hockley. The Community Fund also gave us some money for a project worker to try and raise the funds required to renovate and refurbish the building. After 5 years of trying to raise those funds we had not been successful and in May last year we called a Special General Meeting to discuss the future direction of the Outhouse. At this meeting it was agreed that we would sell the building and give the Community Fund their money back and use the remaining money to attempt the less ambitious goal of opening a Community Café. It was also acknowledged that in 15 years things have changed and a Community Centre is not such a popular idea anymore.

In December we sold the building and now have a sum of money with which to open a Community Café.

Anyone who would like to help us achieve this goal would be extremely welcome and can contact us on 9110545 or info@outhouse.org.uk.

Almost 2 years ago the Outhouse received a grant from the Home Office to employ a volunteer co-ordinator. Since the appointment of Biddy McMeel, the Outhouse has successfully re-started Nottingham Pride with a team of volunteers and also developed 'I'm Free' by merging QB and the Outhouse newsletter, again this is largely done by volunteers (god bless 'em).

The Home Office also asked the volunteer co-ordinator to find out what services the Community already has, and those it doesn't have - but wants. The 'i cOUnT' questionnaire was developed to do this and the results are due next week, so more of this in the next edition.

Well, there you go a history and an update of the Outhouse. Hope this makes things clearer.

If you're not already a member of the Outhouse and would like to be, it will cost you £1. For this tiny sum, you will get 'I'm Free' sent to your home and also the chance to decide what the Outhouse does in the future – now that's what we call value for money!

If you are interested in becoming a member, please contact us using the details given earlier in this article.

Membership Update

The Outhouse is currently updating it's membership list, so we have written to everyone to see if we have their correct contact details.

If you have received a letter and not yet replied - then please do so as soon as possible, otherwise you will be removed from the Outhouse mailing list.

If you are currently a member and have not received a letter, it probably means that you've moved house since joining. If this is the case, the please contact the Outhouse to let us know your new address.

Thanks
Ted Marshall
Outhouse Chair

Not Shy – but Retiring!



At the end of October, the lovely Mark Simons left the Outhouse Project for a well-earned retirement. Mark has been involved with the Outhouse since the beginning and has worked tirelessly as a volunteer and a paid worker. We miss him dreadfully – all the plants have died (!) and the office is seriously missing his organised touch – but mostly we just miss him. Thanks Mark – don't be a stranger.

NOTES AND QUEERIES

Dr. La Forest Potter has listed several characteristics of the typical gay man. They include: large nipples, an acne-free skin and a lack of perseverance. Did he just forget to include having a name like "La Forest"?

A 425-million-year-old fossilised penis has been discovered by scientists. This part of the ostracod Colymbosathon eclecticicos ("astounding swimmer with a large penis") has been found preserved in volcanic ash at a site in Herefordshire. On "Two Fat Ladies" Clarissa Dickson-Wright memorably remarked that "There's a lot to be said for an old cock", but this is ridiculous.

Dieter Schellenberger, resident of Dusseldorf, lives in "The Pink House". The outside and inside walls are pink, the windows have "rose-tinted" glass. Carpets, curtains, furniture, bathroom suite, light bulbs, toilet rolls ... you name it all are pink. Herr Schellenberger is not gay.

Is the sexuality of a town defined in any way by its name? Perhaps it is if you live in Gay Head (Massachusetts), Gays (Illinois), Fort Gay (Wyoming) ... and then there's Dildo (Newfoundland).

Nottingham Playhouse Competition

A pair of tickets for Double Indemnity on Saturday 13th March could be yours if you can answer the following question:

Name the female lead in Raymond Chandler's 1944 film adaptation of 'Double Indemnity'

Answers must be received by Tuesday 9th March 2004 at the I'm Free Office.

DOUBLE INDEMNITY—Friday 12 March - Saturday 3 April

Noir classic full of seduction, corruption and murder. Bewitched by the feminine charms of Phyllis Nirdlinger, Walter Huff finds himself embroiled in a murder plot that could reap dividends. However, a wily insurance investigator begins suspect that everything is not as it seems.



THEATRE ROYAL COMPETITION TABOO RUNS MON 16TH - SAT 21ST FEB

We have 2 tickets to give away for the Thursday 19th February performance. All you have to do is answer the following question.

In what year did 'Do you really want to hurt me?' reach number 1 in the UK charts?

All answers need to be received by midnight Monday 16th February and can be e-mailed to:
imfree_editor@hotmail.com

Please provide a contact number, the winner will be notified on Tuesday 17th Feb.

Get your pricks after dark

The GAI Project runs an evening clinic for gay and bisexual men on the second and fourth Friday of the month, 5.30 – 8.30pm, offering:

- Hepatitis B Vaccinations
- HIV Testing
- Syphilis Testing
- Free Condoms and Lube
- Information and Advice

At the Health Shop, Broad Street (near the Lord Roberts, next to the Broadway Cinema)

Appointments not necessary - just drop in, or call 947 5414 for more info.

The clinic is staffed by gay men

Bugs on the up

More great news on the sexual health front...we hear there has been a "significant increase" in Syphilis amongst gay men in Nottingham. Syphilis had all but disappeared until recently but seems to be making a comeback (honestly, gay men are so fickle). If left untreated it can damage the heart, brain, eyes, nervous system, blah blah blah, so it's pretty bad news, OK? Most people with Syphilis will get sores or a rash (not a good look), but these could be internal so will go unnoticed. It's also possible to get it and have no symptoms, but still be able to pass it on to others. Most of the recent cases have been transmitted by oral sex, so even if you think you're being safe by using condoms for anal sex you might still be at risk. Syphilis can be detected by a blood test and treated with antibiotics; if you think you may have been at risk you can get tested at the Health Shop (947 5414) or GU Medicine at City Hospital (962 7744).

OPERA QUIZ

1. Who wrote Carmen?
(A) Gioacchino Rossini
(B) Giuseppe Verdi
(C) Georges Bizet

2. In Puccini's La Boheme, what rhapsodic aria did Rodolfo sing to Mimi?
(A) Nessun Dorma
(B) Che gelida manina
(C) Recondita armonia

3. What do Andrea Cheniér, Hoffman and Rodolfo have in common?
(A) They're all poets
(B) They're all characters in a Puccini Opera
(C) They're all in love with Turandot

4. In Mascagni's Cavalleria Rusticana, who did Turiddu get pregnant?
(A) Santuzza, but he really loved Lola
(B) Lola, but he really loved Santuzza
(C) Both Lola and Santuzza. He couldn't make up his mind

5. In Puccini's Tosca, what does the character Tosca do for a living?
(A) Seamstress
(B) Singer-Prima Donna
(C) Princess

6. In Donizetti's Lucia di Lammermoor, who was the object of Lucia di Lammermoor's affection?
(A) Edgardo
(B) Chevalier des Grieux
(C) Calaf

7. In Verdi's Ballo in Maschera, Renato was not too keen on Riccardo because...?
(A) Riccardo was having an affair with his wife
(B) Riccardo had atrocious table manners
(C) Riccardo had burned down his house

8. What was the first name of the Duke of Mantua in Verdi's Rigoletto?
(A) Rinaldo
(B) Roberto
(C) He didn't have one. The censors wouldn't let Verdi give him a name.

9. In Massenet's Werther, the hero was in love with....?
(A) Sophie
(B) Charlotte
(C) himself (all tenors are)

10. In the final scene of Bizet's Carmen, what did Carmen throw to the floor and thereby drive Don Jose even crazier than he was before?
(A) her cigar
(B) her ring
(C) her blouse
- Fabulous prizes to be won - as always, so get your answers in by sending them to:
Opera Quiz, I'm Free,
c/o The Outhouse Project
Suite A, 40 George Street
Nottingham, NG1 3BG
or email:
imfree_editor@hotmail.com

Are you a gay man?
Are you homeless or threatened with homelessness?
Do you need supported housing?

If the answer to all these questions is **yes** then
Framework Community Houses Project has a space in their Gay Man's house.

If you're interested or want more information call our office on 0115 9709535

80's pop quiz winner

Congratulations to our 80's Pop quiz competition winner R. Extall (winter edition, issue 3). With a stunning total of 20/20 you blew the competition out of the water. Prizes shall be winging their way over to you.

For those of you still struggling with the answers here they are:

1. Fine Young Cannibals,
2. Martika, 3. Duran Duran,
4. Bangles, 5. Def Leppard,
6. Yes, 7. Billy Joel, 8. Dire Straits, 9. REO Speedwagon,
10. Heart, 11. Los Lobos,
12. Tiffany, 13. Huey Lewis & The News, 14. George Harrison, 15. Pet Shop Boys,
16. Ray Parker Jr, 17. Suzanne Vega, 18. Berlin, 19. Irene Cara, 20. Chicago

Photo Competition winner

Congratulations to our Pride 2003 photo competition winner Paul Wolfe. All on the I'm Free team agreed that it was the best of the bunch.



Back To Skool (sp. see me)

You know how it was. You had a crush on your P.E. teacher / best mate / a dinner lady / that big kid in the 6th form (delete as appropriate) but you couldn't tell them. The nearest you got to physical contact with another person was in a vicious team game involving lots of mud and unflattering sports wear. Sex education was about making babies and catching something nasty they called "V.D." You moped around listening to Joy Division / Nirvana / The Smiths (delete as appropriate) and assumed you'd never, ever have sex.

So enough about my school-days - what were yours like? If they were anything like the above, here's your chance to redress the balance. The GAI Project is putting on a School Disco at the Central on Valentine's Day (Feb 14th for the unromantic). Do all the stuff you couldn't do at school. Hold hands in public! Snog behind the bike sheds! Drink alcohol, legally! Tell someone you love them! Have your school photo taken without the acne and dodgy haircut! (OK, we might have to work on that one).

GAI Project staff will be dishing out condoms, sweeties, relationship advice and 6 of the best to the naughty children. There'll be fun and games, trashy 70s/80s/90s music and prizes for the best school wear, be it uniform, P.E. kit, teachers, whatever. Assembly is at 9.00pm, but it's one of those free and easy schools so just turn up anytime after that. If it's anything like my school discos, all the girls will be stood on one side and all the boys on the other...but maybe this time we want it that way.



Horror-Scrapes

Runes read and furniture ruined with Miss Scratchy McScratchycat professional sooth (and mouse) slayer

Aries

What ever you do, don't wear those dreadful shoes you bought last week. They don't go with anything you've got. Luck recalls mutton and lamb.

Gemini

"I just called to say I love you", no I didn't! Stop calling my house and following me to work, how many injunctions do I need to get? Luck strikes the ex who doesn't know when to let go with a baseball bat.

Leo

The lion was a fantastical mythical creature with untold powers and an uncanny ability to win at backgammon, so why it's associated with your sign is beyond me. You'd do well to learn something from Omar Shariff. Luck wears a wedding ring.

Libra

As the geologist said to the barmaid, 'don't be fooled by the rocks that I've got'. Even the most unbalanced Libra can agree that gold weighs more than poo painted yellow. Luck is a brick with your name on.

Sagittarius

Tact comes in many guises, unfortunately none of which are yours. Which ever way you fire your arrows they're all going to miss the point. Knowledge is everything; and whoever said that obviously hasn't seen Trisha. Luck says 'gone fishing'!

Aquarius

Don't put every bad taste in your mouth down to the gone off sherry you found under the sink (even though more often than not, that's all it is.). Luck carries a stolen TV past the cop shop.

Taurus

Everyone's heard the story of the bull in the china shop but how many have heard of the one about the six-inch pianist? Luck is elusive.

Cancer

Every cloud has a silver lining, what a load of rubbish! Don't expect your lottery numbers to come up, it's never gonna happen. The itching in your pants isn't an indication of new horizons and opportunities. Luck sees a trip to the GUM clinic.

Virgo

Diets are the cause of all your problems. Time is no stranger to a fish supper and the only thing salad ever gave anyone is diarrhoea, so eat something decent you skinny wretch. Luck is a woman wearing purple.

Scorpio

You certainly do have a sting in your tail this week, which is not always a bad thing. However, genital warts are bad. Dave is not only below you but that growth on his back should have put you off long ago. Luck tells the time using a carriage clock.

Capricorn

What's the difference between begging and conning a pensioner out of all their life savings in an insurance scam? Apparently five to ten. Don't worry you're bound to get off on a technicality anyway, I did. Luck calls you a bitch and steals your fags.

Pisces

There are only so many times a salmon should jump at a weir before it gets bored and catches a bus, but seeing as how it's just a stupid fish what do you expect? Luck says don't kill yourself to get laid!