



**Nottinghamshire's  
RAINBOW HERITAGE**

# NOTTINGHAM IN THE NEWS

**LGBT HISTORY MONTH: FEBRUARY 2009**

Nottinghamshire's Rainbow Heritage, your local LGBT history project, has been collecting cuttings from newspapers going back as far as 1917. This newsletter is devoted to what the papers had to say about us in the 1960s, 1970s and 1980s.

## New Club For Notts



*Geoff Vickers (centre), owner of 'La Chic', greeting guests on the opening night.*

So Nottingham, famous for its association with William Booth, that man of God, is to achieve infamous notoriety by allowing the opening of a club for homosexuals. The first of its kind in the country!

God rained fire and brimstone upon Sodom because of its people's manifest pleasures in such malpractice. Abuses of themselves with mankind (men) are prominent in the list of those who shall not inherit the kingdom of heaven, but who are in danger of eternal damnation. Frank Hill, West Bridgford.

There are, it is true, a small number of people born with an imbalance of genes, but the vast majority of prospective members for the new club do not belong to this small minority. These people are sexual deviants and perverts who behave in this way, calling themselves bisexuals.

No one seems to have considered the corrupting influence these clubs will have on young teenagers who will visit this club and become involved with these evil people who, having lost their self respect, are anxious to involve as many other as possible. Concerned Parent, Wollaton

I was amazed and disgusted to hear that £40,000 is to be spent on a club for "gay people". What on earth is happening to the world? Surely woman was made for man? The idea of men kissing and dancing together makes me sick - the same with women. In my opinion, such people ought to be put on a desert island, given picks and shovels and made to cultivate it.

I had 40 years of marriage to a good man. When he died the bottom of my world dropped out. Surely all things natural are right? To some people I may seem intolerant. Thank God I am. Rachel Creasey, Stanesby Rise, Clifton.

The comments on the right are all prompted by the opening in 1973 of La Chic night club on Canal Street. The letters were all printed in local Nottingham newspapers and were provided by the Lesbian and Gay News Media Archives.

Haven't we got enough gay people, as they call themselves, without bringing them from places like London, Birmingham, Manchester and other places? This is the last straw to a dying city and to a very unhappy citizen. Mrs M Ford. Bramcote Lane, Beeston



## Letters to the Editor

So, we shall soon see the opening of the first club for homosexuals in the country. Nottingham is well named "**The Queen of the Midlands**".

S. Cronk, Abbey Road, Bingham

Whenever the subject of homosexuality arises, it is always accompanied by the cry "Think of the effect it will have on young people".

Homosexuals do not go out of their way to corrupt young people - in fact, any consultation of crime statistics will verify that your son is far less likely to be molested by gay men than is your daughter by heterosexuals.

What effect will the opening of this club have on young people in Nottingham? If they are heterosexual, they will ignore it - if they are homosexual, they will go along and enjoy it. Veritas, Clifton

"I realise that this "gay, unhappy breed" are in need of help, but why choose our city?"

Some letters prompted by the news of a gay club for Nottingham suggest that most people do not know what is meant by the term "homosexual". They know only the false image which that term implies.

This image projects the idea of effeminate, mincing males who spend their time chasing young boys. It puts forward the picture of hefty, masculine women who probably smoke cigars and work on building sites.

If we use Kinsey's figures, 5% of the population are exclusively homosexual, 10% mainly homosexual and over 30% have had some homosexual experiences. From this we can calculate that we should have seen between 15,000 and 100,000 people fitting those descriptions walking the streets of Nottingham. That such a sight has been denied us is because practically all homosexuals look, dress, walk, act and live like everyone else - except that they go to bed with people of the same sex. C.L. Chilwell

## Councils and the Press

### Pin-ups return to council walls.

A labour ban on pin-ups in Council offices was scrapped by Conservatives who won control of Nottingham City Council at the local elections.

The Tories also overturned a ban on persistent leering or staring at females and calling women colleagues "sexy, gorgeous or lover". An Equal Opportunities Unit set up four years ago to deal with race, lesbian and homosexual minorities is also to be closed.

May 27th 1987

**The Daily Telegraph**

Gays and lesbians should not be employed by Newark and Sherwood District Council in posts such as changing room attendants, councillors were told last week.

"I think we should discriminate against them" said Bill Bailey (Con.) during a debate on the council's equal opportunities policy."

May 31st 1985 the Newark Advertiser

Tory opposition leader Coun. Bill Bradbury said the city's emphasis on gay issues was "counter productive".

He was commenting on the council's equal opportunities policy on gays and lesbians, which, he said, was very low down on the Tory list of priorities.

Sept. 18th 1986

From Nottingham  
Evening Post

AIDS scare:  
School ban on gay  
swim pool

DAILY  
**STAR**  
SUNDAY

Pool ban on kids in AIDS fear

THE  
**SUN**

AIDS scare halts swim lessons

THE  TIMES 60p

## The Gay Swimming Furore

Of all the Nottingham LGBT related stories which made it into the newspapers, the one which got the most coverage, locally and nationally, was the decision of Nottingham City Council in 1986 to allow gay only swimming sessions. It went far beyond the Evening Post, featuring in most of the national dailies and in regional papers from Cornwall to Scotland.

*The Council had set up lesbian and gay sub-committees where issues of concern could be discussed. It was maintained that gay men had been harassed and victimised when they had used sporting facilities in the past, so an alternative was to try gay-only sessions.*

*Swimming was the first suggestion which was tested out ....at the Victoria Leisure Centre.*



I find the fashionable notion that AIDS is now a heterosexual disease quite sinister and counter productive. AIDS is spreading through homosexual groups like wildfire, yet no-one has the courage to denounce homosexuality for what it really is. Namely, moral degradation of the most wicked and corrupt kind, punishable by AIDS.

R. Johnson Dec. 16th - Evening Post

I would like to take up a point made by the Council, namely "gays are everywhere". Sadly this is true. It's one thing knowing one or two have used the water, but I draw the line at a whole army of them.

David Shelton, Governor,  
Jesse Boot Junior School. Dec. 9th - Evening Post

Persecution and victimisation of gays should never be tolerated in this day and age, but there was never a scrap of evidence that it was happening anyway. Editorial. Nov. 28th 1986

Nov.28th. PARENTS SEEK PLEDGE ON AIDS.

Gay swim row schools quit. Nottingham schools have dropped children's swimming lessons at the Victoria leisure centre because of gay sessions there.

Nov. 29th. NOW BOYCOTT IN GAY SWIM ROW

Pool attendants at the Victoria Leisure centre are boycotting the City Council's controversial gay swimming sessions.

Contrary to your repeated assertion, there is a mass of well-documented evidence on the victimisation and persecution of lesbians and gay men in every area of life. I enclose a basic reading list of ten books as some indication of this. Colin Clews. Letters Evening Post Dec. 18th 1986

The Nottingham experience suggest that what used to be considered a small minority still remains so. For too long we've been pushed around by a vocal minority who have convinced large numbers of opinion makers that homosexual behaviour is quite natural, underprivileged and deserves to be subsidised. It's about time these notions took a long overdue high dive. The Daily Mail April 16th 1987.

# The 1967 Sexual Offences Act

Sodomy is the cardinal sin and the greatest abomination in all the behaviour of mankind and the contemplation of this major crime being pandered to by any religious or legislative body is unthinkable. Robbery, forgery, blackmail and harlotry are mere child's play to the frightful debasement of homosexual vice. West Bridgford July 1st 1965.

Homosexuality is certainly no affront to the Creator, and it is simply one of nature's safety valves against excessive population; at the same time being a release for the natural instincts and is no more revolting than many so-called heterosexual practices, in fact - much less so.

Grantham July 1st 1965

With deep disgust I notice Parliament is yielding to allow discussion on the Sexual Offences Bill which seeks to legalise private homosexual conduct.

What would be understood as "private"? Could the vicarage, the garden shed, the butler's pantry be considered suitable seclusion? The homosexual contaminates society and should be eliminated as a pest.

Nature Lover February 2nd 1966

After a discreet interval we again read of this Government's intention to legalise homosexuality, to have coloured police and no death penalty.

Could anyone in their right mind still be for this administration?

N.B. February 18th 1966

The letter from O.R.R. shows very little understanding of the situation, The Church, however, has shown great foresight in support of the Bill. These people are ill and desperately need medical treatment, and the only way to get them to come forward is to ensure that they are not prosecuted in an attempt to get medical aid.

Miss Denise Smith, Hucknall Road, Nottingham June 10th 1965.

*Desperately need treatment ....cardinal sin ... disgust .... perverts slimy .... mental illness ... degenerate .... vile .... abomination*

Not always is homosexuality due to perversion and corrupt sexual contacts, but can be due to harmful religious instruction emphasising "sin" and showing God to be a vindictive deity. Wollaton July 1st 1965

In my previous letter I was referring to the moral perverts who prostitute the sexual act in a degenerate and filthy fashion, who are the subject of the Sexual Offences Bill. The slimy characters who loiter in public urinals to ply their vile trade are typical of the homosexual pests. The consenting male is a monstrous affront to decency and should be treated as such. Nature Lover Feb. 25th 1966

I do not think homosexuality should be made legal. Some commit the offence only once or twice and I should like to think that homosexuality is temporary and that sooner or later they will find themselves and become normal. L.D. February 25th 1966

Must Nature Lover write such nonsense against the Sexual Offences Bill? Until we (I am one of them) are left alone to our own desires, the practice will still be regarded as disgusting. People do not know what hell it is to be born with this disease, and it is a disease, a mental illness, which causes much anguish to resist. I beg that we are left alone to our problems.

Pam. January 3rd 1966

Apparently the bill to legalise homosexuality has the support of the Church of England. The argument has been advanced that homosexuals leave themselves open to blackmail.

What a fatuous argument. The crime of murder could lend itself to exactly the same conditions, but this does not make it necessary to legalise it. I am appalled that the Church should so debase itself.

O.R.R. June 2nd 1965.



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