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LOOKOUT!

Jun Jul Aug 2009

Issue 51

Editorial

You can breathe a sigh of relief this quarter - I do believe there's so much to write about I can afford to curb my trite ramblings. Yep, you can skip the starter & dive straight in to the main course. If you have queries or comments, contributions or donations.....

You can make contact via lookoutmag@hotmail.com or C/o The Women's Centre, 30 Chaucer Street, Nottingham NG1 5LP.

Nottingham PRIDE - Marching into history

For the first time EVER in its history, Nottingham Pride will start off proceedings this year with a march. Its inception was something that Nottingham Pride had always wanted to do but with so many other things to organise for the day it was deemed not feasible. Step forward Mark Daunt - the newest member of the Nottingham Pride Committee.

Mark,(46) a company director had been to many other Pride marches and festivals and hoped every year that his home town would follow suit.

Mark:"I kept badgering the committee to see if they would arrange one, but with the volunteers being so busy with the gargantuan task of just getting the day up and running, there were never enough resources or people or time to do it"

"In the end they said: 'Why not arrange it yourself?' and I realized if I and friends wanted it that much then why shouldn't I do my bit?"

Liaising tightly with the police and city council, walking prospective routes took Mark many months of planning. He set up a Facebook account to see how many people would want such an event and it quickly got over a thousand supporters. He also worked closely with Nottingham Pride to make sure it meshed smoothly with the festival and in the end, joined the Committee itself.

Ian Robson, Nottingham Pride Chair: "This is a wonderful thing that Mark has done and we are so pleased to have him - and his skills - on our Committee. We get thousands of people from around the country joining us and we can't wait to see all his hard work pay off"

The march will set off from the Forest Recreation Ground at 11am on July 25th 2009, move down Mansfield Road, turn into Shakespeare Street, up North Sherwood Street and into the Arboretum Park via the tunnel arriving at around 12pm. Those wishing to join are asked to meet there between 10.15 -11am.

Nottingham Pride hope this will be an annual event

Mark Daunt can be contacted on 07854 870 693

Mark's Facebook page:<http://www.facebook.com/home.php#/group.php?gid=88609350952>

**Issued by Michelle Varney, Nottingham Pride Communications Manager.
Contact:07887 906 701 or press@nottinghampride.co.uk**

Michelle Varney
Communications Manager
Nottingham Pride

Nottingham Arboretum - July 25th 2009
<http://twitter.com/NottinghamPride>

LOOKOUT! Is sponsored by CAMPIONS SOLICITORS

WOMEN'S REGULAR EVENTS & SPECIAL ACTIVITIES

Women only

DISCO

Friday 19th June

7:30 – 12:00

(Bar til 11:00)

Dancing to DJ Mandy

British Legion Hall
Derby Road
Melbourne

Just south of Derby

£2 entry

Full travel directions available from
lookoutmag@hotmail.com

Off the Shelf Events



for Single Lesbians

Following on from our fantastic launch in April (the now legendary Greek Mezze Night) we are proud to announce our next event:

MIDSUMMER MADNESS FUN AND GAMES IN THE PARK

Egg and spoon race
Welly wanging
3 legged race
Rounders

And much much more!

Saturday 27th June 09

Venue and cost to be confirmed

2pm – the games begin

5pm – evening picnic (please bring your own)

Then off to the pub for further merriment!

To find out more and to join our mailing list, email us at
offtheshelf@rocketmail.com

Other goings on

New Gatsby's

Nottingham's first gay venue is being re-branded under new management; embracing the past whilst looking to the future.

The venue, previously known as Gatsby's, Central & Niche, is to be re-launched as **The New Gatsby's** on Friday June 5th.

Plenty of entertainment from top notch DJs & performers - contact Joel Carey for full details. Plus drinks offers like John Smiths & Carling at £2 a pint as well as house spirits doubles & selected mixers for £2. The evening will kick off at 9pm & there'll be a buffet provided for all guests.

310 Huntingdon Street, Nottingham NG1
Email newgatsbys@gmail.com
07899 844604

Women In Tune

The Women In Tune festival takes place in beautiful countryside in Wales, 28th Aug – 1st Sept., and is the perfect destination for an end of summer break. The festival is a celebration of and for Women In Music. Women come here not only from Wales, but also from Europe and beyond, to get together, sing and play or listen to music of all styles and influences. The festival is a supportive environment where women and girls can try out their musical wings, and where more experienced musicians can come and share their talent and knowledge with others. Of course, there are women here who are also just keen to listen to the music and enjoy the atmosphere.

The festival is a showcase and an opportunity to teach and learn. With workshops during the day and concerts later in the evening, there's something for everyone to enjoy. Camping is included in the ticket price, and there will be a cafe for food and drinks.

Bookings made before 30th June are at the discounted price of £90-£50 sliding scale. Full price for the festival is £110.

Further details are available at
<http://www.womenintune.org.uk>

Lesbian Information Board at Nottingham Women's Centre

Banna Housing Co-op have arranged with Nottingham Women's Centre for a new Lesbian/LBTQ information board in the welcome area next to the drinks machine at the Centre on Chaucer St. It is there to advertise events, services and most importantly accommodation for those within our community. So if you have a house/flat to rent or share, or are looking for accommodation, this is the place to post it. And please make sure you copy Banna in to mailings about upcoming events.

Please email information to bannahousing@yahoo.co.uk (for black and white printing only) or drop it off/ post it to Lesbian Information Board, c/o Nottingham Women's Centre, 30 Chaucer St, Nottingham, NG1 5LP

Sapphist Writers

the East Midlands network for lesbian and bisexual women who write or desire to write, has a new blog at <http://sapphistwriters.blogspot.com>. If you already write, are looking for inspiration to write, or simply enjoy reading the work of others, we invite you to take a look.

You will find examples of free-writing exercises that have been used successfully at the group's meetings, members' contributions to the recent Nottinghamshire Rainbow Heritage Project exhibition celebrating LGBT History Month, and new original writing.

Join us at our monthly meetings at Nottingham Women's Centre on the second Monday of the month from 7.15pm, or get involved online. Comments and feedback are very welcome from all at <http://sapphistwriters.blogspot.com>.

Email sapphistwriters@yahoo.co.uk for further information.
We believe every woman has a story!

All welcome



Badminton
VICTORIA LEISURE CENTRE
ADJACENT TO
SNEINTON MARKET
THURSDAY EVENING
9PM-10PM
&/or **SATURDAY MORNING**
from 9AM

(very occasionally the venue has to change due to other events at Sneinton so please ring first if you're new).

For more details

Contact Cate on 07796 581651
or lookoutmag@hotmail.com

L A F S

Lesbians in Ashfield Friendship & Support

Would you like to meet other women who are lesbian, bisexual or uncertain of their sexuality? Come along to this informal group run by lesbians, for a confidential chat, gain information/support, make new friends and have fun.

Meet last Wednesday of each month
7.00pm–9.00pm

At Ashfield Women's Centre,
Diamond Avenue, Kirkby in Ashfield
In a safe, accessible, women only space

To find out more details phone Cheryl or Alison on 01623 473010 (Mon -Fri 9.30am–1.30pm)
Or leave your name & number confidentially on 07849 798802 & Alison or Cheryl will phone back

Midweek Book Group

The new venue of the Canalhouse bar seemed to work well. The next agreed meetings are:

Weds 3rd June, 7.30pm: to discuss Jackie Kay - Trumpet
Weds 9th Sept, 7.30pm: to discuss Jeanette Winterson - The Powerbook

Happy reading :-)

If you would like to join us please contact the group co-ordinator by joining the yahoo discussion group: midweekbookgroup-subscribe@yahoo.co.uk

House to Let

Cosy 3 bed cottage, with garden, in Newstead Village (2.5 miles from Hucknall). Open fire, beamed ceilings. Excellent bus and rail links to Nottingham. Available June. £400 pcm excl.

Ring Louise or Sarah on 01623 720293

Million Women Rise 9th March 2009

By Mo Cooper

One woman-One Body-One Song-One Heart

We marched along Oxford Street and Regent Street, waving the banners the children had made on the coach from Nottingham. We were no longer invisible women silently fighting against male violence - we were one body shouting that 'enough is enough'. We listened to speakers and messages from around the world - as women from Australia to Africa also RISE. We will be there again next year and the year after.

I hadn't felt so invigorated and powerful in many a decade, but it was sad that we still had to sing our "reclaim the night mantras" from the 1970s. We can send rockets to the moon; destroy cities with a press of a button; but we cannot hold perpetrators accountable for murder, rape and the slavery of the sex trade. There didn't seem to be as many people as last year on the march, although the spirit was still strong. So put it in the diary NOW to come & support this wonderful movement next International Women's Day, don't think it's ok because there'll be loads of other people there - WE NEED YOU.

For more info see <http://www.millionwomenrise.com> or contact Rahni tel 0115 948 3450 for info, travel and activities in the East Midlands

Next meeting of LIRAIN Fri 26th June**Venue to be confirmed**

Great opportunity to meet up with like minded women. General chit chat through the conversation spectrum to put-world-right philosophical debate..... plus moderate intake of your favourite tipple.

Learn this sexy dance in just 6 weeks**SENSUAL CUBAN SALSA**

3RD JUNE

@

THE NEW FORRESTERS



BEGINNERS CLASS @ 7PM
LEVEL 1 CLASSES @ 8.15 PM

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION
TEL: SHARON 07794 272236
18 ST ANNS ROAD, NOTTS, NG1 3LX

**'Off the Shelf Events' for Single Lesbians
Launch Event a Resounding Success!**

Friday 3rd April saw the exciting launch of 'Off the Shelf Events' for Single Lesbians. Over 35 women attended a Greek Mezze evening at the Eviva Taverna in central Nottingham. An 'island-hopping' format, between courses, ensured everyone present got to meet as many other women as possible in a light-hearted and informal way. Greek music, belly-dancing and amusing topics for debate also helped to ensure the evening was great fun.

The feedback was extremely positive with all present enjoying the evening immensely and striking up new friendships. So great was the enthusiasm for this hugely sought after 'face-to-face' way of meeting other single lesbians, & so numerous were the suggestions for a follow up event, the Off the Shelf team immediately sprung into action to organise the next event.

The event, which ranked top of all the suggestions made by attendees of the Greek night, will be an afternoon & evening of fun games, picnic and drinks in a Nottingham park & then pub (venues to be confirmed) on the afternoon and evening of Saturday 27th June. The event, called 'Midsummer Madness', will include old favourites such as welly wanging, egg and spoon and sack races. The emphasis will be on having great fun and meeting new women. The format of the event will ensure maximum opportunity to make new friends, have a lot of laughs and engage in interesting conversations.

So, for all those single lesbians out there, dust yourselves down, get off that shelf and come and have some great fun with women in a similar boat.

For more information about 'Midsummer Madness' and Off the Shelf Events please email Offtheshelf@rocketmail.com



**Following the success of our
International Women's Day history
walk (57 people!) we've decided to
repeat the walk on the evening of
Thursday 16th July 2009.**

**Come along and learn about famous -
and not so famous - women of
Nottingham - it's free!**

**Meet at Nottingham Castle gates
6:45 for 7pm start
(walk lasting approx 2 hrs)
No need to book - just turn up on the
day - everyone welcome.**

**For further information contact
Mo mocooper@yahoo.co.uk,
Tel: 07950 472022 or
Val 07745 847005**

**We are also trying to find a free venue
that would allow us to run a
programme of talks in the autumn**

Rainbow Heritage History Project

.....celebrating Nottinghamshire's LGBT lives,
hidden history and culture.

Do you have memories of places, events, groups
and activities which are part of our lesbian and bi-
sexual women's local history? The Women's
Centre and Lesbian Centre. The walking and
sporting groups. The Fleece, The Tavern? But not
just pubs! Were you here in the 80's or before..or
since!

The Project is aiming to collect and preserve
memories of our often hidden history.

Visit www.nottsrainbowheritage.org.uk or email
andreacbarker@googlemail.com

WORKSOP

May 7th saw the opening night for a new
monthly gay night in Worksop.
Building on the success of other nights in
the area the organisers are offering fun and
a friendly, lighthearted atmosphere where
everyone is welcome & free to be
themselves.

Vida Lounge

Watson Road Worksop S80 1DT
01909 531666

7pm till midnight

Another day in Paradise by Kim Hindmarch

Another quarter was going by with little to do for us ladies: endless bad weather and nothing happening. So, as the seemingly self-appointed social secretary of a ladies walking group, I decided that something needed to be done! As a lover of fine bone china and all things fancy, this event could only mean one thing. There was to be a re-creation of my Champagne Afternoon Tea at Fortnum and Mason's, darling!

Formal invitations were sent out; RSVP's returned and preparations begun. Linen needed to be pressed; teapots soaked and the menu planned. It was easy enough to prepare, with a small interlude whilst I spoke to Jonathan Ross about it and entered a quiz on Radio 2. I even won a few prizes! But, back to the sandwiches. Crusts cut off and items arranged on tiered plates, sugar cubes with tongues, hand-crafted menus and place names at each setting. It was a wonderful success, with 14 attending. They devoured the sandwiches, scones with cream and delicate pastries, the kettle nearly burnt out with the numerous pots of tea being made. (No darling, we don't say "brew" at afternoon tea!)

We musn't forget the champagne (well Cava). To a background of classical music and Ella Fitzgerald (obviously not together) we toasted birthdays and anything else that we could think of to toast.

As the sun was shining we were able to spill out into the garden and await our carriages to take us on to 'Fanny's', where our night was completed.

Who says we can't do it in style?

News, articles, adverts, forthcoming events, sporting fixtures, clubs, groups and any miscellaneous items of interest for the next issue of Lookout to lookoutmag@hotmail.com by May 7th please

Walking Groups

NOTTINGHAM HIKING DYKES walk on the 3rd Sunday of the month at 10:30.

21st June SPECIAL EVENT Sherwood Forest Woodland Craft Day for details see website as pre booking is essential

19th July meet in centre of Crich for a 10:30 start. GR350541. A 6/7 mile loop with great views

16th August meet at Beresford Lane Farm near Hartington GR117584 6/7/8 mile walk

Details of these and further walks from

Lesbian and Gay Switchboard 0115 9348485 or www.nottinghamhd.homestead.com



Derby Walking Women - there will not be a walk in June

Sunday 31st May meet 10:45 for 11:00 start at Ticknall Village Hall car park with free parking.

5 miles through open countryside, parkland & woods. Mainly flat, could be muddy.

(Walks are normally on the 1st Sunday of the month, each walk is organised by volunteer(s) and full details are given out on the walk the month before).

Details can also be obtained by contacting the overall co-ordinators on 07786 803455 or an email can be sent on via lookoutmag@hotmail.com

North Nottinghamshire Walking Group

This is a friendly group open to all Lesbian and Bi-Sexual Women living in or near North Notts.

Walks are held on the second Sunday of each month and are generally 4-8 miles long. The walk organiser suggests that all participants bring appropriate clothing, waterproofs & footwear, and refreshments for each walk.

This is a special event to celebrate the **4th anniversary** of this walking group.

Please contact Julia beforehand if you intend to join in.

Sunday 14th June 11.00am - Ravenshead : Meet at the Little John Inn 117 Main Road NG15 96S.

Well made paths throughout the walk & no stiles

Phone Julia 07961 847091 or email nnwalkers@yahoo.co.uk for more details.

SHEFFIELD HIKING DYKES All walks are on Sundays and start at 10:30 unless

otherwise stated. Contact the group direct for details of locations and definitive times for evening

walks. A full & varied programme of walks throughout the year, for further details check out their

website <http://www.freewebs.com/hikingdykes/sheffield/index.html> or

phone Sandra on 01226 767179 or email sheffield-hd@hotmail.com



7th June Dunford Bridge 8 miles Meet at the car park half mile SW of Dunford Bridge, grid ref. SE 154 019

14th June Snake Path 9 miles Meet at Birchen car park, grid ref. SK 109 915

Sat 20th June 23 miles Annual long walk joining the Ruffy Tufties

EVENING WALKS

Wed 3rd June High Bradfield 3 miles meet outside The Horns grid ref SK 268 925

Tue 16th June Mayfield Valley 3-4 miles meet at junc St Albans Road & St Albans Drive

Peak Ruffies are for women who like walking longer and faster and over more challenging ground. Hikes are usually about 10 to 12 miles in the Peak District on the last Saturday of the month. When you join us for a walk, please ensure you have appropriate walking gear – boots, waterproofs and warm clothing – and carry sufficient food and drink for a full day in the hills.

20th June (see Sheffield HDs); 25th July - led by Deena - 13 miles; 22nd August - led by Helen - *The Peaks of Upper Dovedale*, 12 miles

Further dates: September 26, October 31 and November 28

For details of upcoming hikes, email jeanelle@degruchy.co.za or vivpointon@hotmail.com or phone Viv on 0115 973 3717.

HELP — updated from The Gay Guide

Nottingham Rape Crisis Centre

If you have been sexually assaulted and need help, information, or someone to talk to phone 0115 941 0440. Confidential, free and independent.

Run by women for women

Women's Drug Service

Free and confidential service for women who use, have used or are at risk of using drugs. Tel: 01623 785 444

Outburst!

Is an LGBT group for young people aged 11 to 25. Meet at Base 51 every Monday from 5:30 to 8pm.

Contact details
07940 761160
0115 915 2882

Nottingham Police LGBT Consultation Group.

Meets every 3 months (usually at the Adams Building in the Lace Market). Representatives from local lesbian/bi groups are welcome. Details via Switchboard or the GAI Project.

Broken Rainbow

Helpline 020 8539 9507 for lesbians experiencing abuse from their partner.

FLAME (Lesbians with ME group)

Support & social group for lesbians with ME (Chronic Fatigue Syndrome) contact Self Help Team, Ormiston House, 32-36 Pelham St. 0115 911 1661 or Morag on 0115 916 2672 or email: morag-@ntlworld.com or nottslesbiancentre@ntlworld.com

Relate Nottinghamshire

The Relate counselling service is available to all adult couples experiencing problems in their central relationship, including gay and lesbian couples. Tel: 0115 950 7836.

Services include Family Counselling, Sex Therapy, Relationship Education and training courses

Nottingham LGBT Consultation Forum

(formerly Notts LGBT Community Voice) (and before that the LGB Forum)

meets every 3 months, and can be contacted via Switchboard (0115 934 8485), the GAI Project (0115 947 6868) or the City Council Action on Diversity Team (phone John Cowings on 0115 915 7244).

Tipping the Velvet

Advice for women who have sex with women. Advice & help with sexual health, drug use, domestic violence, etc. Service is free & open to women of all ages. For more info contact Donna.

The Health Shop, 12 Broad Street, Hockley, Nottingham NG1 3AL or 0115 947 5414 or healthshop@nottinghamcity-pct.nhs.uk

Nottingham & Nottinghamshire Lesbian & Gay Switchboard

Confidential info, advice & support from trained volunteers.

C/o VAC, 7 Mansfield Road, Nottingham NG1 3FB

0115 934 8485 or 01623 621 515 Mon - Fri 7.00 - 9:30 pm

Email: notts@lgswitchboard.fsnet.co.uk

Website: www.nottslgs.org.uk

New listing

Domestic violence within Lesbian and Bisexual relationships

Services available:

Roshni Community Outreach service for ALL women

0115 988 1414

Monday to Thursday: 9-5 pm

Friday: 9-4.30 pm

Broken Rainbow helpline

08452 60 44 60

Monday: 2 - 8pm

Wednesday: 10 - 1pm

Thursday: 2 - 8pm

24 hour Freephone Domestic Violence help-line 0808 800 0340