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Community
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LOOKOUT

Mar Apr May 2011

Issue 58

At last, could Spring be in the air? Getting home from work to a few hours of daylight – what joy. Please don't forget, if you're on the move this year, to let Lookout know so we can change your details. Even if you change your internet provider and go for a new email address, it would be great if you let us know.

Apologies to those getting a printed version this time. The "HELP" page had to be sacrificed in order to fit in a piece of writing that has been submitted. It makes me more determined than ever to get a web page organised so that a wider range of interests can be catered for. Another suggestion has been a sort of Trusted Trader list where people can write about good services they've received from local work(women). I hesitate to use the word "recommendation" for obvious reasons.

Nottinghamshire Pride 2011

Plans are now advancing well and we are on track for a fantastic event on 30th July, so it is time we let you all have a say!

On Monday 3rd April we are holding an OGM, an Ordinary General Meeting of Pride, it is open to anyone who is interested and supports Pride. It will be an opportunity for YOU to come along and hear what we have been doing and to ask questions about what we have planned for 2011. It starts at 7pm and will finish at 9pm. It is at Eddins on Broad Street in the Lace Market, opposite the Broadway Cinema.

This meeting will be open to all but the next meeting, the AGM when you get to elect the Pride Committee for 2012, will be open to members of Pride only. So if you want to be responsible for Pride you need to think about joining. We have now opened membership, and it is just £4 for the year.

If you choose to join Pride as a member you get to vote at the AGM and elect the committee, get to scrutinise the accounts and hold us all to account. In effect our members own Pride and take responsibility for it. I want Pride to be open and accountable, to do that we need as many members as possible. Membership is easy; we have set a membership fee of £4 for 2011. The money from membership fees will be used only to pay for the running of the AGM etc and costs for the Charity. The Pride event will raise money separately for event itself. I want as many of you as possible to join Pride!!

Richard T (Pride Chair)

www.nottinghamshirepride.com

Come along and have your say!

Insight from the recent Nottingham City Council and Mental Health Care Trust LGBT staff conference

Firstly, the new chair of Nottingham Pride is keen to see a growing Pride membership, not to be co-opted onto the committee every year, but to develop a lobbying group to protect local LGBT services or services that are LGBT friendly. You may be aware that the city council stopped funding the only LGBT youth group this year, whilst at the same time being awarded some kind of Stonewall award for equalities. Lots of people opposed this, but being able to contact people through Pride, which is funded by the city council may give enhanced power to any lobbying activity.

Secondly, Peter Tatchell spoke at the conference and was incredibly interesting and inspiring. Nationally there is a move to set up a Peter Tatchell Human Rights Fund, to support campaigning, research, educational activity in the UK and wider world. He has worked very closely on the move to equalise civil partnerships and civil marriage and other activities and Lookout readers may be interested in finding out more about this? see www.petertatchell.net.

MILLION WOMEN RISE UNCUT 2011

London Saturday 5 March 2011

Coach going from Roshni NAWA - Nottingham for details call: 0115 988 1414

LOOKOUT! Is sponsored by CAMPIONS SOLICITORS

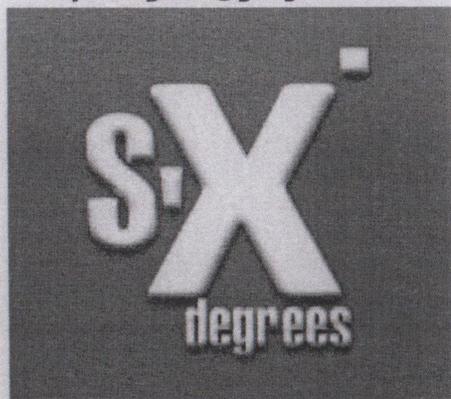
WOMEN'S REGULAR EVENTS & SPECIAL ACTIVITIES

WOMENS DISCO

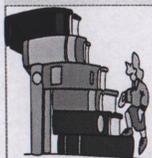
26th February, 11th June & 15th October
2011

8PM - MIDNIGHT
BELPER TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB. FREE PARKING.
£5 ENTRANCE ON THE DOOR

EMAIL REQUESTS TO
djsixdegrees@googlemail.com



Belper Town FC, Christchurch Meadow, Bridge Street,
Belper, DE56 1BA



Midweek Book Group

Read a set book and then join in
with the discussion group
7:30 Canal House bar

If you would like to join us please contact the
group co-ordinator by joining the yahoo discussion group:
from now on please check on the LinkNotts group email
facility for details of next meeting

Sapphist Writers

Nottingham Based Women's
Writing Network

Meets Second Monday
of Every Month, 7.15pm

For more info email
sapphistwriters@yahoo.co.uk
<http://sapphistwriters.blogspot.com/>

An interesting piece of writing appears
on page 7 of this issue

Submitted by

Caroline Salzedo, Shiatsu Practitioner,
Nottingham.

Emails can be forwarded if anyone
would like to know more about Shiatsu

Advance notice

Following on from
last year's highly
successful

Lesbian Authors night at Waterstones

This year's event
should be even
better

24 - 25 July
more to follow

Dyke Out Lincs (DO Lincs)

~ The social & friendship group
for

Lincolnshire Lesbians ~



Online website with discussions and events/
get2gethers

- * Going out and meeting other Lesbians around
the county & surrounding areas
- * Chilling out at other local events
- * And it's totally free to join!

How do we all meet up?

- * Regular get2gethers each month
- * Adhoc get2gethers...pubs, walks, meals,
movies etc
- * Members can add get2gethers

Come and join in...meet more people and have fun
To join Dyke Out Lincs (DO Lincs) -

<http://dykeoutlincs.ning.com>

Women only

DISCO

Friday 4th March

8pm—midnight

(bar til 11)

Dancing to

DJ Kaz

British Legion
Hall

Derby Road

Melbourne

Just south of Derby

£2 on the door

Cheap bar prices

Email Lookout for travel directions



Sports & Socialising

LESBIAN, BI & TRANS WOMEN @ TENNYSON

Women @ Tennyson is a free monthly social
group for lesbian, bisexual and trans women.

The group runs the first Wednesday of the
month at 1 Tennyson Avenue, Chesterfield from
7pm to 9pm.

Please call Sarah or Michaela on 01246 559431
or email sarah.thomasin@nhs.net for more info



support, advice, friendship and fun!

The Justin Tournament for 2011 is
on Saturday 2nd July

Separate male & female tournaments. Closing date to
submit teams 1st June. £4 per player.

Last year was a great event.

All queries

nottingham.events@thejustincampaign.com

Lezzie Family Group

The Group continues to meet first Saturday of
the month at Stonebridge City Farm, St Ann's,
Nottingham middayish. We are a small group
with mainly young kids 0-8 but happy to welcome
older kids and mums/grans/aunties of all sorts.
The kids are black, white, boys, girls, fostered,
adopted, with donor's help or home made. The
farm is free, has a few animals, a small play
area, café and gardens. We sometimes arrange
to meet at other places too.

Next meeting March 5th.

Ring to check us out first if you like

Judi 07888657916

LAF'S SUPPORT GROUP

Would you like to meet other women who are
lesbian, bisexual, transgender who identify as
lesbian, or uncertain of their sexuality
- age 16 plus?

*Informal group in
Mansfield/North Notts areas
Come Along For A Chat
Make New Friends And Have Fun!*

**Now Meeting
on the last Thursday
of each month
7pm - 9pm**

So Come And Join Us!

Call 0784 979 8802 (before 9pm)
Or email: lafs1@hotmail.co.uk
for details and venue

GOGO FESTIVAL

(formerly Lez Go Camping)

More details www.gogofestival.com

Lesbians in Nottingham konnected:

An online community/ email group in
Nottinghamshire
for lesbians to keep in touch and informed
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/linknotts>

WOMEN'S BADMINTON

Now at PORTLAND LEISURE CENTRE at 8:30pm

Followed by social drink
for details of

THURSDAY EVENINGS

Contact

Cristina on 07903 943064

For details of

SATURDAY MORNINGS

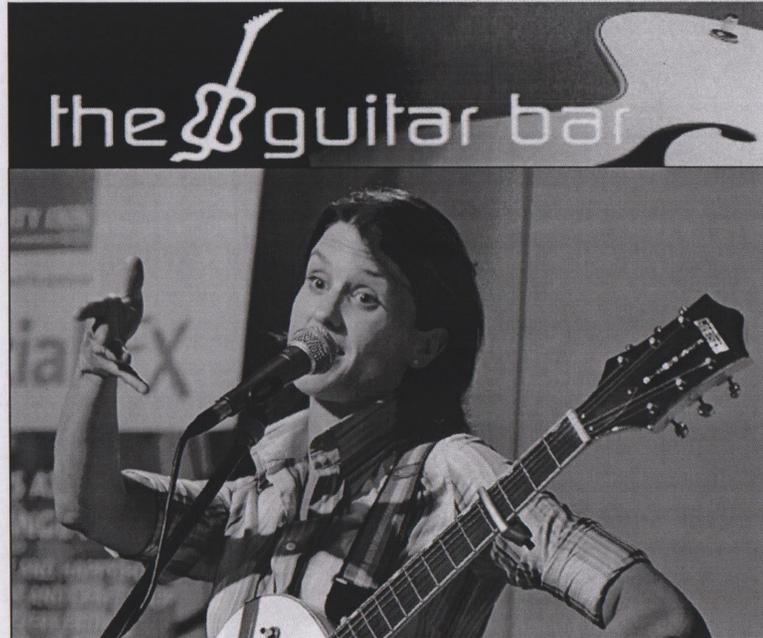
Contact

Ruth or Rachel on

0115 982 6952



LOCAL LIVE GIGS



3 sell out evenings can't be bad.

Heather was lovely. The night I went she chatted away to her audience in between a selection of her own material and some accomplished covers. She told us snippets about loads of things from her tv career (London's Burning, Ultimate Force, Lip Service) to her current girlfriend.

See heatherpeace.com for full details of her stairway to stardom, lots of great photos and forthcoming tour dates.

The Guitar Bar is an intimate 60 max venue but Heather is now touring larger theatres although the nearest to us will be Birmingham on April 13th.

Which date leads me on to.....

Wednesday April 13th
The Glee Club Nottingham
Castle Wharf, Canal Street

Her bombastic delivery, infectious personality and cheeky observations have turned this British comedian into one of America's hottest comics.

Listed as one of the Observer's top 10 Best Female Comedians, miss this rare chance to see award-winning **Gina Yashere** at your peril!

From the traditional (Songs of Robert Burns) to the contemporary (Patience of Angels) Glasgow's Eddi brings to joyous life all forms of song. The former Fairground Attraction vocalist's debut releases 'Perfect' (single) and 'First of a Million Kisses' (album) were both chart toppers around the world.



Eddi was awarded an MBE in 2006 for her services to singing.



Wednesday 9th March 8pm
Nottingham Playhouse

Women In Tune Music Festival 2011
It's Here! It's small and it's beautiful...
August Thu 11th - Sun 14th

<http://www.womenintune.co.uk>

Women in Tune Festival,
Swan Y Ddol, Llanfair Clydogau, Lampeter, Ceredigion, Wales, SA48 8LD

Noelle House is a supported housing service for women. Our service is at risk of closure at the moment and we are the only service in Nottingham specifically providing housing services for lesbians. We particularly welcome lesbians and lesbian couples. If you would like more information please call 0115 9119420.

"History is herstory too"

2011 marks 100 years of celebrating International Women's Day. The first was launched in 1911 by the German socialist Clara Zetkin. During International Women's Year in 1975, IWD was given official recognition by the United Nations and was taken up by many governments, in some countries they have a public holiday. There should be lots of activities in Nottingham this year – check out the council web site <http://www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=13208>
Last month Nottingham Women's History Group celebrated their 1st anniversary & launched a website <http://www.nottinghamwomenshistory.org.uk>

Saturday 12th March

Women's History Walk

Meet 1pm at Nottingham Castle Gatehouse

(We will follow a different route from previous walks)

Thursday 10th March

Showing of **Hidden Herstories, women of change** reveals how the achievements of Claudia Jones, Amy Ashwood Garvey Jayaben Desai and Octavia Hill, had significant international impact on the issues of race relations and social poverty. With talk by Val Wood on Nottingham connections to these women

6pm at Nottingham Castle

Thursday 17th March

Talk on women's history by Mo Cooper of Nottingham Women's History Group

10am at Sherwood Library, Mansfield Road, Sherwood

For further information and to join our mailing list contact Nottingham Women's History Group

email nottmwomenshistory@googlemail.co.uk

Tel Mo 07950 472022 or
Val 0115 941 9186

The last couple of events have been poorly attended; we are keen to have feedback on what women would like to see us do – we can't survive without you!!!!

Parallel Looniverse

Did she let the side down?

She was the first female Home Secretary: one of the most senior political posts in the country. Should her personal life have been squeaky clean? What do we think about hubby's penchant for porn? Are we as annoyed about that as we are about the expenses fiddling scandal? Probably not but what about turning the whole debacle into an opportunity to launch into a tv career?

On the subject of dubious sexual mores, what has the Italian Stallion been up to lately? Not content with getting himself into a certain amount of hot water vis a vis young ladies of easy virtue he's now been on the blower to his erstwhile chum Gandalf, presumably on a damage limitation exercise.

And what on earth was said Gandalf up to in that 4x4 having to manage his own umbrella? It was like watching old news footage of Michael Jackson's odd comings & goings. The voluptuous blonde Ukrainian nurse he goes nowhere without was, in fact, nowhere to be seen. Perhaps she was driving.

Lookout's proof reader is somewhat concerned that the Looniverse column has slipped off the face of the cosmos and will leave you, dear reader, perplexed as to the true nature of its purpose and the identity of protagonists.

Please be assured that it's just a bit of a lark; no sinister hidden message and no offence meant or implied. Anyone is welcome to join in at any time to share their off the wall thoughts on current peculiarities.

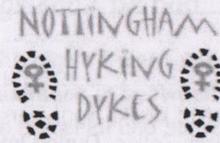
A young Egyptian man has decided to name his first born daughter Facebook in a tribute to the social media site's role in his country's political revolution. Shades of Ben Elton's scarily prophetic book Blind Faith. Little Caitlin Happy meal no doubt would herself give birth to Facebooks & Twitters a plenty. At least we can start to wind up the weapons industry with social networking taking on the task of putting the world to rights.

You can send your own reviews, requests for further information, donations, adverts, articles and details of social events (by 7th May please) to lookoutmag@hotmail.com or to Lookout C/o The Women's Centre, 30 Chaucer Street, Nottingham NG1 5LP.

Walking Groups

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

No details beyond February 2011 at the moment but keep an eye on Linknotts or the following websites www.nottinghamhd.homestead.com or www.peakhd.webs.com or ring Lesbian and Gay Switchboard 0115 9348485 for info.



Derby Walking Women

Walks are normally on the 1st Sunday of the month, meet at 10:45 for 11:00 start, each walk is organised by volunteer(s) and full details are given out on the walk the month before or check out the website (see below)

Sunday 6th March meet at the Barley Mow, Main Street, Kirk Ireton

Pub post code is DE6 3JP but it hasn't got a car park so park on the road or in the small public car park.

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

Belated exciting news: There is now a web site where you can find a complete list of walk dates for the whole year and full details of the location, distance, terrain of the next walk on the agenda.

<http://www.derbywomenswalkinggroup.webs.com>

Melbourne Disco

Xmas Party 2010

Women from the Derby Walking Group gave & received just one card each & then made a donation to the Derbyshire Children's Home at Skegness. A total of £30 was raised.

I've just pinched some news about a new circular walking and cycling route that has been created in Erewash.

Website for full info <http://www.broxtowe.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=7799>

"The Trail takes in over 30 miles of beautiful waterway and countryside landscape on the Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire borders. The route is available for walking and cycling and offers good access to the fantastic wildlife and heritage features which make this area so interesting."

North Nottinghamshire Walking Group

News is needed from this friendly group open to all Lesbian and Bi-Sexual Women living in or near North Notts. Used to walk on the second Sunday of each month, generally for 4-8 miles.

SHEFFIELD HIKING DYKES All Sunday walks start at 10:30 unless otherwise stated. Contact the group direct for details of locations and other walks. A full & varied programme of walks throughout the year, for further details check out their website <http://hikingdykes.webs.com/sheffield/> or phone Deena on 0114 268 6409 or Sandra on 01226 767179 or email sheffield-hd@hotmail.com

13th March: 10.30am start - Alport Castles, 9 miles Meet at 2nd car park GR 180 885

27th March: 10:30 start Wetton & the River Manifold 7 miles GR 109 552

10th April: 10:30 start Edale 6 miles meet Edale car park GR SK 124 853

17th March: Planning meeting & social 7:30 ring for details



Peak Ruffty walks: Future Peak Ruffties walk dates: February 26th; March 26th; April 30th

Peak Ruffties are for women who like walking longer and faster and over more challenging ground. Hikes are usually about 10 to 14 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.

For further information contact emmaholland7@me.com or kerryvincent@ntu.ac.uk; to sign up to the Peak Ruffties yahoo group email: peakruffties-subscribe@yahogroups.com

<http://peakhd.webs.com/walks.htm>

Here it is : one web site with ALL the walking group dates in calendar format



I feel the rising and falling of her belly, my hand over the navel. I am scared.

"Can you feel it?" she asks.

"Feel what?"

"The cancer?"

I do not want to answer. I take my mind's eye into her tissue. I am looking but I don't want to see. My hands are below where the incision was. I cannot take them up there.

"Can you?"

"I don't know," I say. I am aware of a catch in my throat. I swallow.

"Put your hand there," she says, "over the scar."

I take a deep breath, begin to move my hands slowly upwards towards the transverse colon. A voice in my head kicks in: transverse colon lying beneath the stomach, not attached like the ascending and descending colon. It can be very floppy.

I have felt many of them, easily, happily; allowed my fingers to prod deep, to ask where it hurts, to ease things along, a friend of peristalsis. I have felt my own, squeezed, parried and pummelled into it. I have felt hers. Right up until the pain began, followed by blood mixed with stools that fell out of her. Until then her belly was my friend, my playmate, my canvas, my delight.

"Put your hand there," she says, "please."

I see the entreaty in her eyes. I bend down towards her lips, put my tongue tentatively into her mouth. I feel I am catching both our tears, sucking them into me for another time. She has moved her own hand and, even in its weakness, it sits between my shoulder blades behind my heart and insists. Deeper, come in deeper.

At the moment where the kiss explodes I am aware of my hand over the burning scar. I know I can feel it. I know my mouth changes, my tongue reacts, and she stops, our faces pulling apart.

"You can't you?" She says, "you always have."

"I can feel the scar tissue," I say.

I will not look at her. My eyes are staring into the distance of her belly. "It feels hot, twisted," I am aware of the power of my words, "but I think it's healing well."

I sink my awareness into it. Does it feel like the place I found on an early exploration of her body, in the darkness of the covers, my hand stopping – what's this – because it felt dusty, tangled, cold underneath, like a shrivelled up prune?

"I had my appendix out, years ago," she said, "how did you know?" and I gloried in my knowledge, chuckling, "you're a witch" she said, "wow! No wonder."

"Now wonder what?" I asked.

And she pulled my fingers down and said "you know!"

I drink that memory in, shutting my eyes, probing with my spirit. Does it feel like that, this blazing new scar?

She puts her hand gently on top of mine. I inch myself further onto the bed, aware of how scrunched up I feel.

"I wish you could get in," she says, "and touch me. Touch me everywhere, the way you used to."

"When you get home," I say, "I'll touch you then." But I do not know when that will be. I do not know if that will be.

"Will you?" Her eyes search for something in mine. "Do you still love me?" she asks.

"Of course." Her hand and mine are glued to her body. It is like a magnetic force holds us there, over the scar tissue, the place where a malignant mass was cut out, the space that was cancer. I make myself say the word in my heard. She is right. I did feel it. I felt its sucking nature like a dark force that would pull everything in, a vacuum where nothing else could survive. I realise she is still staring at me. My eyes have answered her. I see tears well up, and flow over her eyelashes, out of the corners of the sockets, down her cheeks, into her ears. My hand is still over the pitted belly.

"Is it gone?" she says. The words arc out into the white walled room, through my ears, through my insides, and into the vacant day.

I ease my body down next to her, squeezing my head onto the pillow. I lick the tears from her cheeks, put my tongue in her ear and taste the saltiness. "I don't know." It is all I can say, and I feel my own tears straining to come out.

"Remember," I watch the way her cheek moves as she speaks, the dimple that creases when she makes certain sounds, the flare of her nostrils, "when you used to draw the organs on my body?"

"Yes," I say, "my most wonderful revision!" The image sears into my mind. Her naked body, skin like marble, the face paints, her lying still, eyes open and ready, as I drew. "This is the liver," I moved her right breast gently, "it's enormous. And here, the right lung, squatter than the left to allow for the liver. It goes right up above the collar bone. Both lungs do, right up high." I remember my gasp, as I traced the lines with my finger, and it sounds like an echo in an ancient cave. "Here in the middle is the heart." I put my hand on her breast bone and her heart fluttered underneath like a bird ready to fly.

"I want you to love me like you did then", she says, "now, not with your fingers but with your mind. I want you to trace every part of me, inside and out."

I feel her breath rise shuddering to its peak and falling again. She has not finished speaking. I wait, moving closer, nestling my cheek against hers, warm against cold.

"And make me whole," she says, "like I was."