

local listings

i'm free

INCORPORATING THE OUTHOUSE NEWSLETTER & QB
SPRING 2005 ISSUE 8

Lesbian & Gay Switchboard

0115 934 8485
01623 621 515
Monday to Friday, 7 – 10 pm
Write C/O VAC, 7 Mansfield Road,
Nottingham, NG1 3FB
nottingham@lgswitchboard.fsnet.co.uk

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

The GAI Project

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

Lookout!

Quarterly what's on newsletter for
lesbians in the Nottingham area.
For a copy, write to:
Nottingham Lesbian Community
Centre, c/o Women's Centre,
30 Chaucer Street, Nottingham,
NG1 5LP, or e-mail
nottslesbiancentre@ntlworld.com

Nottingham University Lesbian and Gayline

0115 951 4999
Monday term time only

Flame (lesbians with M.E. Group)

Support and social group for lesbi-
ans suffering from ME/CFS.
Flame, C/O Self-Help Nottingham,
Ormiston House, 32-36 Pelham
Street, Nottingham, NG1 2EG
Tel: 0115 911 1662 (9am to 1pm or
leave a message)
E-mail:
nottslesbiancentre@ntlworld.com

Nottingham Bi-Women's Group

For all women who identify as bi,
who recognise attraction to more
than one gender, or who are ques-
tioning their sexuality.
Nottingham Women's Centre,
30 Chaucer Street, Nottingham,
NG1 5LP
www.nottsbi.info
Email: nbwg@nottsbi.info

East Mercia MSC

Friendly gay men's club and wel-
coming guys who are into leather,
rubber, skinhead kit, full replica
sports kit, uniform, western and
work-gear. STRICT dress code.
Regular meetings in the Cellar Bar
at the Lord Roberts, 24 Broad
Street, Nottingham City Centre from
8.30pm - 11pm, second Friday of
each month. Other events are
arranged throughout the year.
P.O. Box 6360, Leicester, LE3 5ZZ
www.emmsc.org.uk

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

Police Homophobic Crime Helpline

0800 085 8522

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 trans-
sexual 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

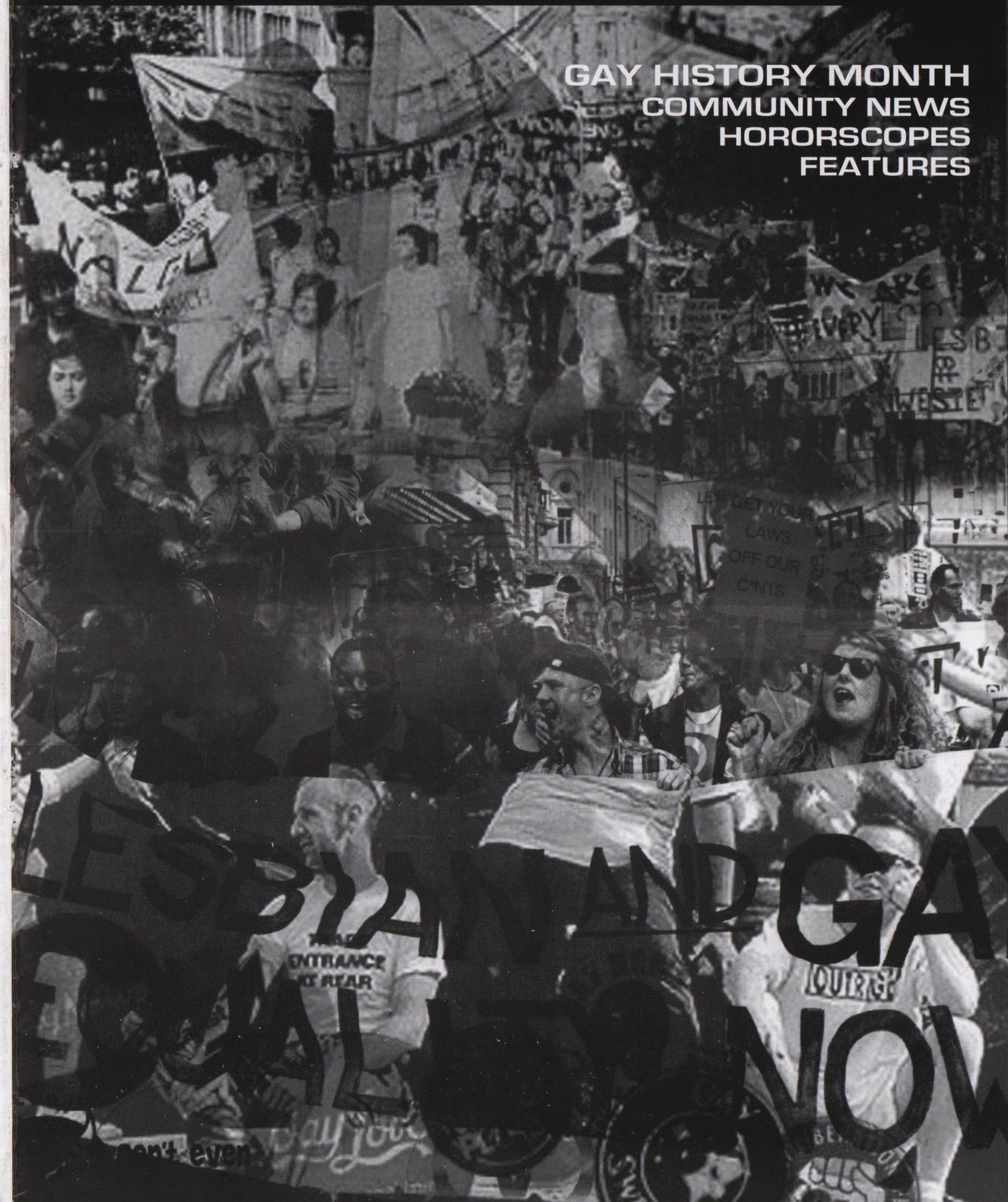
A support group for transgendered
people of all persuasions. Friendly
atmosphere in warm homely sur-
roundings. There is a charge of £1.
Meet 1st Wednesday of the month,
7pm - 11pm.
Tel: Charlotte Belle (Charlee) on
0115 958 7403
www.geocities.com/trans_actionuk/
classic_tan.html
Email:
NorthNottsTransAction@groups.msn.com

LGCM Nottingham Group

Support for Lesbian & Gay Chris-
tians. Meet 3rd Friday of the month.
Tel: 0115 8545944

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



Editor

Back again with this edition celebrating Gay History Month. The UK Government has recently announced that the country's first ever LGBT (lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transsexual) History Month will take place in February 2005.

Gay History Month will be a celebration of gay history and also recognition of the treatment and experiences of LGBT individuals from history. Gay History Month is about uncovering hidden histories so we can promote positive LGBT images today. It is also a time to reflect on the homophobia and discrimination faced by so many, and remember their struggles which have been so instrumental in leading us closer to equality in the law.

By the time this edition reaches you, Valentines day will have been and gone and we hope you had sack loads of cards, presents and flowers, but if not, just remember what a commercial, contrived event it is and feel superior for not falling prey to it. I personally haven't decided which view I'm going to take (depends on how many cards I get!)

Love to you all. Ed.

It was 30 years ago today...

"TV. 12 inch", proclaimed the ad (and even in a dress, that's not too bad).

I wrote - but suffered disillusion. They sent a set from Redifusion.

The following personal ads appeared in Gay News (1972-1984):

Hope someone can make me happy. Must be interested in 78rpm records and wind up gramophones.

La Chic, Nottingham, June 15th. You, cream suit, pink shirt. Me, grey suit. You smiled, yes? Please write.

Dalescroft railway enthusiast and loco spotter wishes to meet similar

Photos you can't take to Boots? I'll do them for you!

I'm turned on by winklepicker boots. Anybody know where I can get them made?

Knight of Cups seeks Page of Swords.

Before the bloom of youth fades and paranoia sets in completely, I'm off to live in Amsterdam - anyone like to join me?

Julien Denys Grinsspoon gets randy too. Anybody into last resorts can contact me at Gay News.

Do you want to live in a semi-ruinous medieval castle surrounded by moat and fields? Then you are my dream.

Young cuckoo seeks nest, bring own feathers.

Larry from GN72. Gone to Nepal - back in 3 weeks, please write (fast) to PO Box 711, Katmandu.

Out House The Future

The Out House Project will be meeting with it's membership on Sunday 10th April at 11am to discuss the future of the project.

The venue is still to be confirmed but we are aiming for it to take place in an unlicensed venue so all members are able to attend.

Members will receive a formal notification of this meeting shortly.

Why gay history month...?

The UK Government has recently announced that the country's first ever LGBT (lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transsexual) History Month will take place in February 2005.

But do we really need a Gay History Month? Surely with all of the positive changes the gay community has witnessed in recent years, from the equalising of the age of consent; the removal of section 28; civil partnerships; the right to adopt children; the European employment directive - which for the first time outlaws workplace discrimination based on sexuality...the list goes on, do we need a whole month dedicated to gay history? Hasn't society and its' institutions recognised the discrimination of the past and shouldn't we be looking ahead as opposed to looked back in anger? And aren't we in danger of being a bit too PC?

In reply to any of the above I would argue that Gay History Month is needed now more than ever. With the recent changes highlighted above we could be forgiven for thinking that the gay community has achieved equality in society. However if we look at the facts this simply isn't the case. In employment gay men and lesbians face discrimination daily, from benevolent stereotypes to hostile intimidation. A report by Stonewall found that 48% of respondents said they had been harassed because of their sexuality. The harassment described ranged from mild to very serious, and included unwanted jokes, innuendo and loaded comments, verbal abuse, being sent to Coventry, malicious gossip, name-calling, bullying and victimisation, being 'outed',

false accusations of child abuse, graffiti, abusive phone calls, anonymous mail, damage to property, blackmail, violence and even death threats.

In schools homophobic bullying is the order of the day with the word 'gay' being used as a general term of abuse. A recent survey of 300 secondary schools found 82% of teachers are aware of verbal incidents, and 26% aware of physical incidents of homophobic bullying. Only 6% of schools had anti-bullying policies specifically designed to combat homophobic bullying.

" Schools should make sure that homophobic attitudes do not go unchallenged "

OFSTED

Homophobia and homophobic bullying are major problems for pupils, parents, staff and all those involved with young people and their education, irrespective of whether they are straight, lesbian, gay, bisexual or trans.

Homophobic bullying is not only experienced by pupils or professionals who are lesbian, gay or bisexual. It can also affect any child, young person or staff member who does not conform to ways of behaving that are traditionally associated with being 'masculine' or 'feminine'. Abuse can be verbal, physical or psychological.

Bullying can harm the physical and emotional well-being of both those who are bullied and those who bully.

Research shows that homophobic bullying:

- increases truancy rates

- increases self-harm and suicide by young people
- lowers educational attainment
- damages self-esteem

Combating homophobic bullying can positively affect the academic attainment and emotional and physical well-being of both parties, and anti-bullying policies, equal opportunity policies, coverage of the issue of homosexuality in the curriculum, behaviour management, pastoral and other support are essential elements for strategies that do this.

This is why Gay History Month is vital: to provide gay young people with a sense of history: to remove the idea that all great men and women from history are heterosexual; to highlight the positive contribution that gay men and women from history have made to the civic life of the UK and to provide our young people with a sense of belonging above all to reassert that the discrimination of the past is not far behind us and that it continues today in subtler forms.

Gay History Month has already received messages of support from key figures. Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Schools Stephen Twigg has said he will be "encouraging" schools to take part, while the Minister for Women and Equality Jacqui Smith said that Gay History Month would be "important in helping to drive the culture change to create a more inclusive society".

What do you say...?

ALTERNATIVE HEALTH TIPS that actually work !

HANGOVERS

The homœopathic remedy 'Nux Vom' is great and available cheaply at ordinary chemists and health shops. Buy it in a 30C potency. Make sure you've had nothing to eat or drink except water (and no ciggies) for 5-10 minutes and then put one little pill under your tongue. Let it dissolve and you'll feel that crashing headache beginning to lift. Leave another 5-10 minutes before eating/drinking smoking again.

You can repeat the process every half an hour if you need to and that dodgy stomach should shift too. Don't forget that you should drink as much water as you can to counteract the dehydration caused by all that alcohol - one of the main reasons why hangovers feel so bad.

Another good thing about Nux Vom is that it's also helpful as a preventative. Try to take a pill or two before a boozing session and (providing you can still see!) take one before you go to sleep. Either or both of these will help loads for the morning after. Cheers!

WINTER COUGHS, COLDS AND FLU

Winter really doesn't do our general health any favours. We not only spend increasing amounts of time in stuffy offices and hence in closer proximity to whatever sniffles, snuffles and bugs that are doing the rounds, but we also tend to eat less raw food such as salads and summer fruit and crave stodgy, starchy 'comfort' foods that don't do much to keep up our general resistance. Also, unlike our nice, warm and dry indoor environment, the temperature

outside tends to be all over the place and usually damp simply because of the very nature of British winter weather and we have to continually alternate between the two extremes. And then there's such a shortage of that precious commodity, sunlight. So it's no wonder that our health needs a boost at this time of year.

Rather than opting for that flu jab however, which will only play havoc with an already tired immune system as well as containing chemical preservatives such as mercury, there are two simple things you can do to help yourself avoid those winter ills, chills and blues.

The first is to make sure you get as much Vitamin C as possible from natural sources such as fruit, especially citrus, and the second is to take a herbal supplement such as Echinacea (Purple Cone Flower) which works particularly well with Vitamin C. If you feel you could do with extra vitamins (or can't face eating fruit and plenty of fresh vegetables) then make sure any vitamin or mineral supplements you do buy are naturally produced. Put simply, the synthetic varieties just don't hit the spot.

If you've taken good care of your self and your immune system and you still find you're getting cold after cold or your coughs just won't go, then it's time to see your qualified homœopath who will prescribe for your whole health and well-being.

Sue Smith BA(Hons) LCHE
Licensed Homeopath
tel: 0115 841 8110

Mystery Prize Quiz

Test your historical knowledge. Send your answers to the usual address by the 11th March. I'm Free, c/o The Out House Project, Suite A, 40 George Street, Nottingham, NG1 3BG.

1. Which celebrated gay man said "Bigamy is having one wife too many. Monogamy is the same"?
2. Which famous painter was charged in April 1476 with sodomy?
3. Which British Prime Minister is rumoured to have had a fling with Ivor Novello?
4. Which English stately homo once said "Fashion is what you adopt when you don't know who you are"?
5. Which gay couple met at St Martins College of Art in 1967 and set up a business offering themselves as 'living sculptures'?
6. Whose book prompted the following reaction "Unfortunately these women exist, and the book asks that their existence and vices should be recognised and tolerated....it is an obscene libel"?
7. Who, murdered on 27th November 1978, said "If a bullet should enter my brain, let that bullet destroy every closet door"?
8. Which British photographer won the Oscar for costume design for his work on 'Gigi'?
9. Which British playwright was murdered on 9th August 1967 by his lover of 16 years?
10. Whose relationship with Virginia Woolfe led to 'Orlando' being written, and to whom was she married?

Gay and New (to Nottingham) and Twenty Two

November 1971 was the month when I decided that I wanted to leave London and the loneliness that living there entailed, and move to Nottingham where my family had just settled.

I had found work before I moved so I was at least able to fund my lifestyle, and wow what a lot there was found to be on offer.

The first place I discovered was the Flying Horse, a hotel in those days with restaurants and bars. It was smoky and humid as it was winter, but to walk in there and be the centre of attention was such a thrill. Full of beautiful gay men (at least I hoped they were all gay) and some very glamorous women, who were nearly all wearing fairly heavy perfume. The bar staff were very polite and good at their work. It was affordable; I could buy alcohol instead of my usual coke. In time I was to discover that some of the guys were in fact straight, but who cares if the eye candy suits. I learnt fast that there was a pub on Mansfield Road, "The Roebuck", that was run by a lesbian named "Maxie". This was a totally different atmosphere; still full of good looking guys, and also many women, the difference being that they were more butch and the fragrances were much more subtle. The atmosphere here was amazing. Folk were very friendly and I was to visit the place quite frequently. Another popular venue was the "Old Dog and Partridge", owned by the well renowned Bradley family, and overseen

by Hilda Bradley (together with her four sons, 3 of whom were gay). This was a fairly up market place, with the interior being constantly revamped. I loved this bar, the clientele were slightly piss-elegant, but at that time it was quite the norm for "gays" to pose. I think we were the first to set the trend for "posers". I had many a good night in there and met some really nice people.

There were several other city centre pubs with a gay clientele, but not as busy as those I've mentioned. Some guys went to the Yates' Wine Lodge and some to the "Trip" a few straggled into the Salutation and for a short spell the Bradleys had the George and Dragon.

When the pubs kicked out at closing time either 22.30 or 23.00 hrs, we would all tramp down to Stamford Street, where Nelsons Solicitors are now. Here we had a club on two floors, the basement with a long bar down one side and a dance floor with a cavernous feel about it and on the ground floor there were booths where one could sit and snog the latest conquest. They served food and a bar was serving the prerequisite booze. On a Sunday night, you were given a free supper (a lettuce leaf, a slice of paper thin ham or chicken roll and a slice of tomato) this was to outwit the licensing laws. In 1973 /4 a new phenomenon arrived in Nottingham, the first officially licensed Gay Club in the UK. This was the La Chic.

The late John Glover and John Greenaway, who were later joined by Brian Mowbray, opened it. They gave Nottingham a club with clean air, a stage, a restaurant and something special, "Pride" Here one felt safe to do as one wished. You could dance with your same sex partner and know that there was no way that some intolerant straight was going to kick your head in. The entertainment was fantastic. Top stars were visiting in their droves and it was the place to be seen. Business was brisk and they soon opened the first floor, moving the restaurant and also providing a very large quiet lounge where you could chat up the person you had pulled on the dance floor downstairs.

I am sure that many of the younger readers would have loved it all as much as I did. I know the scene is fairly good out there now, but in those days, you would meet folk from all of the major cities of the U.K. Nottingham was the Queen of the Midlands. If it had continued, it could have out shone Manchester and Birmingham. Sadly it drained away and so far it shows no signs of re-emerging. If you want a good scene, one has to support it, at the same time, the owners of the venues must offer what their punters are looking for. I am not sure what comes first, the chicken or the egg. I hope that the future offers to you and the next generation, that which Nottingham offered me when I was out to find myself.

Celebrating Gay History

In Nottinghamshire, the Human Relations Network / Gay and Lesbian Equalities Network is working in partnership with Connexions to develop a series of positive LGB images/ supported by LGB workshops. The workshops are aimed at raising awareness amongst all young people, school professionals, youth workers, connexions staff and all others who aim to promote an inclusive society.

The first of these joint events will be a two-hour workshop. This workshop will be an interactive experience that will explore gay history and its relationship to the experiences of young LGB people today.

The workshop will be facilitated by Human Relations Network / Gay and Lesbian Equalities Network and Connexions. It will take place at:

Voluntary Action Centre
7 Mansfield Road
Nottingham
NG1 3FB

On:

Mond 28th Feb, 2 - 4 pm

The month has already received messages of support from key figures. Gay Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Schools Stephen Twigg has said he will be "encouraging" schools to take part, while the Minister for Women and Equality Jacqui Smith said that Gay History Month would be "important in helping to drive the culture change to create a more inclusive society".

For more info please contact Deana Goode on (Mobile: 0773 9196173) or 0115 9838988

Magenta The darker side of pink

A new gay night is set to take place in Nottingham

18/3/05 - 9pm til 1am

£2.50 before 10pm, £3.50 After

Gay/Gay Friendly, Rock, Indie, Punk, Electro,
Alternative Intro and definitely NO Steps

Dress code: No effort, no entry and no baseball caps!

Bunkers Hill, Hockley, Nottingham

More info e-mail: magenta-club@hotmail.com

Don't touch
the hair

HRN—LGB Video Project

The project is aimed at Nottingham's gay and lesbian community. Using digital sound and images (photography and video) we will explore and document local stereotypes of Nottingham's gay and lesbian communities through stories of coming out. We will explore, through interviews, the issues Nottingham's gay and lesbian community faced when telling friends, family members, work colleagues etc that they were either lesbian or gay.

The central theme of our project will be to explore all the aspects of stereotyping, prejudice and discrimination people faced and still face when telling others that they are lesbian or gay. We will document stories from a range of decades, from the 1960s to today, thus ensuring we include all age ranges in our stories of coming out. We will also target gay and lesbian members from Nottingham's BME communities.

The outcome will be a collection of oral histories on DVD, and digital photographic images with text, that will be put together and used as educational resources for other community groups, youth groups, schools etc in Nottingham. Overall the aim of the project is to provide a voice for the gay and lesbian community and to challenge stereotypes of Nottingham's gay and lesbian community.

For more information on the above please contact:

Abi Zambon - Project Worker
or Dan Robertson - Director

Gay & Lesbian Equalities
Network
Voluntary Action Centre
7 Mansfield Road
Nottingham
NG1 3FB

Telephone 0115 9833988.

venue listings

@d2

Gay bar next to NG1
Mon-Wed 1pm-Midnight,
Thurs 1pm-1am
74 Lower Parliament Street,
Nottingham
Tel: 0115 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: 0115 958 5883

The Foresters Inn

Gay friendly pub
Open pub hours
Huntingdon Street,
Nottingham
Tel: 0115 941 9679

Lord Roberts

Gay friendly, pub hours
Broad Street, Nottingham
Tel: 0115 941 4886
info@lordroberts.com
www.lordroberts.com

The New Foresters

Pub hours, mainly women
St Anns Street (behind Victoria Centre), Nottingham
Tel: 0115 958 0432

NG1

Large, stylish gay club
Open Wednesday - Sunday
from 10pm.
Closed Thursdays
Free entry before 11pm
(Saturdays before 10pm)
Free entry on Sundays
76-78 Lower Parliament
Street, Nottingham, NG1 1EH
Tel: 0115 958 8440
www.ng1club.co.uk

Revolution

Gay club night, first Monday
of the month. 10pm - 2am
Faces night club, Broadway,
Lace Market, Nottingham



Horror-Scrapes

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

Libra

Worry not my little librarian friend, remember the sorry tale of the teddy bear, all that walking and all he got was a quick tickle, the moral being if you want a thrill you have to work for it. Luck says give me Sheba and I'll tell you anything you want to hear.

Sagittarius

What have prince Albert and a doughnut got in common? On second thoughts don't answer that. Feathers are the new black and plastic rain hoods are in this season, but don't wear them unless you want to look like a total idiot. Luck buys you a plane ticket to get rid of you if you don't get me Sheba

Aquarius

Aquariums and Sheba have a lot in common, both contain fishy forms. The only difference being that one is tasty and nutritious, and the other needs a wash. Put yourself in the later category. Luck dines on Sheba and a nice Chianti.

Aries

You may feel like people are ramming things down your throat, but you've never complained about that before. And besides you don't see me whinging about being hard done by, even though I am. Luck feels nobody cares whether I starve from lack of Sheba or not.

Gemini

It's all a case of swings, roundabouts and that other thing that got banned cause some inconsiderate child got themselves maimed. Luck says just because some other feline lost their teeth cause they wouldn't eat biscuits doesn't mean the rest of us should suffer.

Leo

Stop whatever you're doing, it's probably filthy anyway. Learn to give more and to appreciate that Sheba is the only way. It's the way forward, a revolution in fact. Luck will resort to hypnotism if pushed.

Scorpio

Well stroke my fur and call me Susie! Fantastic dreams ahead for you according to my neighbour Froo Froo La Mare, but then I don't really trust her cause she still insists she was married to Danny La Rue. Luck may be misguided but come on! PS Buy me Sheba.

Capricorn

Love, life and liver disease, just three things that can be found in a gin bottle. The fourth one of course being gin. Too many late nights and early mornings have certainly taken their toll, but on the upside, you're the first 19 year old with a pension book. Luck loves you if you buy it Sheba.

Pisces

The world really doesn't give two hoots if you can't open jars, after all there are people you can pay to do that for you and they're cheaper than getting a partner. Luck says good jars to open are Sheba ones.

Taurus

Give me Sheba you tight bitch, and whilst you're at it, get me a PA, a limo and I only want hand carved diamante kitty litter from now on. Luck turned down a very lucrative whiskers contract for you so I think it's about time I was treated with a bit of respect.

Cancer

My crystal ball tells me many things, some of which are too shocking to publish during family viewing time. But **your** ball is something else, whoa! If you want the name of a good agent or where to get the cream let me know. Luck comes at a price, 79p for a whole tin, bargain!

Virgo

Hey lady get with the programme! We can't all be as amazing as me and I should know, I have to live with me but can you live with a Sheba starved pussy? Luck isn't asking for much is it.