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LOOKOUT!

Sep Oct Nov 2005

Issue 36

Editorial

Autumn is almost upon us... as if we even noticed we'd had a Summer. Hopefully the Nottingham Pride event will still be fresh in your memory. Once again an absolutely fabulous occasion, and our thanks to all who organised it and who attended it, to make it the best ever to date. The stage acts were brilliant, and we thought that the stalls were varied and colourful, hopefully there was something there for everyone. Fantastic effort—well done!!

So girls—we are still waiting for a regular successor to Eternity, and as yet there are not any venues that have come to our attention for the time being that really match up, although there have been some very good nights to be had at all the regular weekly haunts. The Central has been holding its own night in a room above the main disco and bar, which hopefully will go from strength to strength. Go and try it out and support the girls running it if you can.



There is still no Women's Café to go to at present, but maybe someone will come up with a reasonable alternative to previous venues. The Crocus Café in Lenton has been mentioned as a possible place to try it, and perhaps there's some merit in going in and sampling the hospitality and atmosphere—but as yet no-one has approached the owners—so it's a bit of an unknown quantity. Try it out—and let us know what you think of it.

As ever, if you know about something that might interest others or if you would like to make some suggestions for regular features please let us know by contacting the email address or by post Lookoutmag@hotmail.com

C/o The Women's Centre
30 Chaucer Street, Nottingham

Nottingham Pride 2005

This contribution was from a satisfied customer at Nottingham Pride—please send your contributions to the Lookout Magazine, on venues and events you've visited recently and we'll try to find space for it. Nottingham Pride was in the Arboretum park again – a great venue. The morning looked ominously grey as I packed an umbrella. I got there with some friends at 11:50a.m. especially to see our friend Al open the event with the song 'Something So Strong Inside' Everyone joined in – although in truth there weren't that many people there at that point. By 1pm people started arriving in force and the sun came out as well. As usual there were a number of stalls selling everything from jewellery to condoms. There were also the usual local organisations giving out information about what they do and urging people to join such as Bulwell Credit Union. Nottingham City Council had one of the most popular stalls. For the first time ever they were giving out free t shirts, yo-yos and other great gifts. They were also giving out information on where people could 'get married;' under the new Civil Partnership Bill that comes into force in November. I was surprised to see that the Masonic Lodge has been registered as an approved venue! The co-op stall also had large queues, as tickets being handed out gave people the chance for a free go at a giant spin the wheel competition with everyone getting a prize. These ranged from fair trade chocolate to a foam banana. Meanwhile at the bandstand were a range of great acts. The Very Good Rock and Roll Band were there as usual with their own unique brand of rock and roll. I especially liked the hand puppets during the song 'Teddy Bear'. The Foresters also had a tent with a great singer with an acoustic guitar, although I didn't catch her name. She was very popular with the women though. It was great just wandering around seeing lots of old faces, and in my case meeting up with a number of women who have had babies since I last saw them! There were lots of people lounging around on the grass, enjoying the atmosphere and the unexpected sun. The beer tent was popular as usual, although the more cost conscious amongst us had brought their own. The day finished off with Al leading a communal sing song on the great gay classic 'I Am What I Am'. As everyone wandered off to go home or on to a party or pub, I thought what a great day it had been.

LOOKOUT! Is sponsored by CAMPIONS SOLICITORS

WOMEN'S SPECIAL EVENTS

Libertas

Now to be known as

The York Lesbian Arts Festival

will be back this year from October 26th – 30th October

Tickets should be available through Libertas.

A new website will soon be up at www.ylaf.org.uk to bring you details of the festival.

WOMEN'S REGULAR EVENTS

Notts Lesbian Book Club

This is a Social Group/Book Club which meets monthly.

Members take it in turn to choose what book to read.

This Group is open to all women with an interest in good company and page turning.

Contact Nicola on 07733 377704

The New Foresters Pub

First Wednesday in the Month—Is

LADIES NIGHT (with a female stripper).

2nd Tuesday in the Month—Is

Fancy Dress—Movie Theme Night

(September—Rocky Horror Show)

***** Other events being held are *****

Sat 3rd September—4th Year Anniversary Party
“Disco, Cabaret, Sister Act” and be ready for their special guest “Jo Frances”. (Singer)

Halloween Party with a Cash Prize for best dress.

New Years Eve Tickets £7.00 each a whole evening with good entertainment guaranteed, and they will be open until 07.30a.m !!!!

FORTHCOMING WOMEN'S EVENTS—CEILIDH

There WILL be another ceilidh! At present the search is on for a female band to put on another Ceilidh at the YMCA in Nottingham. If anyone knows of any musicians who would be up for this, please let Di and Anne know.

Contact them via Lookout at LOOKOUTMAG@HOTMAIL.COM

CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS—NOTTM CITY COUNCIL

Nottingham can Civil Partnership You: The legal status of same sex couples in permanent relationships will change at the end of this year with the introduction of the Civil Partnership Registration Scheme. Nottingham City Council are proud to offer this service to Gay and Lesbian couples. Each ceremony will be unique, and can incorporate words, readings and poems that have special meaning to them.

Make your enquiries or book your partnership ceremony

Telephone: 0115 947 5665 or visit the website at

www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/sitemap/community_and_living.htm

American Dykes

Lesbian Connection

We have a few copies of this publication sent through to us, so if there are any people interested in a copy, please send an A4 S.A.E. and 2 first class stamps to LOOKOUT at the Women's Centre, Chaucer Street, Nottingham, and we'll forward one on to you.

Out & About

Lesbians and their Children

End of Summer Get - Together

Fun, play, food, new friends.

Venue - probably St Johns Hall Sherwood.
(Ring to confirm venue. Share cost of hall hire.)

Phone Kath to book
0115 910 9210
0781 635 4371

Bring food to share

Sunday September 4th
3pm-6pm

Or email Karen:
shalom@zetnet.co.uk

Bouncy castle: it's enough families to share cost.

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LOOKOUT !!!

We are on the Lookout for Volunteers to assist in getting Copy for the Editorial Team.

An Advertising Co-ordinator is also required—Can you devote a few hours of your time a month to generate some advertising revenue for Lookout ?

Then you are just the person we're looking for in our team:
Lookoutmag@hotmail.com

Walking Groups & other events

SHEFFIELD HIKING DYKES

Sheffield Hiking Dykes is a walking group for lesbians and women questioning their heterosexuality. More info can be obtained by contacting: Deena on 0114 268 6409 or Kate on 0114 221 8426. All walks start at 10.30 am unless otherwise stated. Please bring a packed lunch and drinks for the day. Some of the walks are rocky and rough underfoot and/or climb quite high onto exposed areas so wear suitable footwear and bring a waterproof and something warm to put on.

SEE THE SHEFFIELD HIKING DYKES WEBSITE FOR ALL FUTURE WALK DETAILS.

NOTTINGHAM HIKING DYKES

This is a walking group for female born lesbians only. They walk every month, usually the 3rd Sunday, over a distance of 6 to 8 miles.

Update on www.nottinghamhd.homestead.com or the Lesbian & Gay Switchboard 0115 934 8485

18th Sept: Carsington Reservoir.

16th October: Crich

3rd/4th/5th November Weekend Away: Clun Mill. Future dates: 20th November & 18th December.

Derby Walking Women — a friendly group who meet once a month, usually on the first Sunday. Details of walks are available 1 month prior and start at 11 am. They have a rest part way round when you can eat your packed lunch or there is usually scope for a drink &/or hot food in a pub or tea room at the end.

Next walk will be Sunday Sept 4th meeting at Hartington Village Green and Duck Pond for a walk of approximately 5.5 miles to Pilsley Castle. Park at Warslow Road Car Park or find a space in the village. If you like Stilton get there early and visit the local cheese shop..... It's delicious!!

Also there's a Concert in the Park at Darley Park DERBY later on, the same evening. If you've already met the walkers earlier in the day, they will no doubt make you welcome as they gather together at the Open Air Concert and probably encourage you to bring along some food & drink to share. Parking on site is usually £5.00.

(Details of future walks held by this group can generally be obtained by contacting us here at 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.

At present we do not have details of the walk programme, but if you email us at the regular address Lookoutmag@hotmail.com, we will make every effort to help publicise the event to you.

Cycling:

Would you like to go out and get a different form of exercise and socialise with like minded people? Well you can but you'll have to get on your bike first!!!

Alison has asked us to invite other women to go for short or medium length cycle rides (half an hour to an hour and a half) in afternoons or evenings

You can contact Alison on 07733 182724 or you can email her at - arussell@ntlworld.com

News Stories from Stonewall

Two Iranian teenagers have been executed (publicly hanged) for the "crime" of homosexuality. Outrage have organised a demonstration outside the Iranian Embassy to protest and condemn their killings.

Both men had admitted to having gay sex but in their defence had said that most young boys had sex with each other and they were not aware that homosexuality was punishable by death.

Three other young gay Iranians are being hunted by the police, but have gone into hiding and can't be found. If caught they will also face execution.

Outrage say that since 1979 the Iranian Government has executed an estimated 4,000 LGBT people. They are urging people to email, phone, fax and write their protests to the Iranian Ambassador.

Alternatively you can sign a petition at www.petitiononline.com/1021ir/petition.html

Lesbian and Gay men are still suffering from all forms of discrimination in spite of the Governments pledge to eradicate it by the introduction of the Single Equality Bill. Widespread publicity surrounded the gay couple who got turned away from a Scottish guesthouse last year, but in addition to that, one woman Stonewall spoke to had been refused a smear test quite simply and explicitly on the grounds of her being a lesbian.

A "Christian" counsellor has told a man that if he wanted to get better from his alcohol dependency he would have to "give up homosexuality", and in South London Bromley council have announced that it will only allow gay couples to register their civil partnership by signing the register after December 5th and they won't be allowed to have friends present or have a celebration in the same way as heterosexual couples would.

NOTTINGHAM CITY COUNCIL — PINK PASSPORT

Nottingham City Council Diversity Team have been busy producing a pink passport booklet which talks about the issues surround civil partnerships, jobs, careers and training opportunities in addition to information about fostering & adoption, harrassment & bullying in various environments (work/services).

CIVIL PARTNERSHIP

Same sex couples will be able to register their civil partnership at any Register Office around the county. Registration means the relationship is recognised in law, and the couple will have the same responsibilities and rights as a heterosexual couple.

Visit the County's website at: [Http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk](http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk) to get the latest information on what Nottinghamshire Council has to offer to same sex couples.

Send your email address to lookoutmag@hotmail.com to either have your name put on the e-mailing list or let us know about any events that will happen before the next printed version of Lookout! (Next issue out in December, deadline for copy/adverts will be 7th November)

NOTICE — Re Lesbian Line, Black Lesbian Group and Lesbian, Gay & Trans-sexual Switchboard

We've received a mail from a guy called David Edgley via Lookout regarding the demise of Nottingham Lesbian Line.

As David says, the work of the Lesbian & Gay Switchboard broadly mirrors the work carried out by the Lesbian Line and he is asking for previous incumbents working on behalf of Lesbian Line to get in touch with him. This would be to discuss the possible transfer of the funds—which may already lie in an account termed "Dormant" by the relevant bank— if the account hasn't been used for over two years many banks deem an account dormant, so it would be good to see the money used fruitfully.

Although the L&G Switchboard does receive some funding for one-off projects, to assist their general day to day running, this money would be helpful to them & support our own cause overall.

He mentions that there is a procedure for the disposal of the assets attributed to the Lesbian Line (which currently has a bank balance in credit to the tune of £500). So if anyone can help him further, please get in contact with him on the email address below: -

David Edgley <edgley@dircon.co.uk>

Also the Lesbian & Gay Switchboard have been given some mail—from the Women's Centre which relates to a now defunct group—Black Lesbian Group— This has alerted them to the fact that this mail is no longer being collected, and suggests that their name and address be removed from mailing lists.

David tells us that following conferences held by their organisation there is likely to be a local social/support group formed for lesbians and gay men from Black and Minority Ethnic groups. Contact with the Lesbian & Gay switch board to check out further details about the formation of this group, and if it's already underway— where the meetings for it are being held.

HELP

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

Notts LGBT Community Voice (formerly the LGB Forum)

All LGBT people welcome.

Tel 0115 911 0545 for details or e-mail: chris@outhouse.org.uk

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 a group for lesbian, gay and bisexual young people up to 21.

Meet at the Health Shop, Hockley, Nottingham every Friday 6pm-8pm. A space to meet other lesbian, gay and bisexual people.

FLAME

(Lesbians with ME support group). Social & support group for lesbians with ME/Chronic Fatigue Syndrome meets monthly. For more details contact Morag on 0115 916 2672 or email: morag-@ntlworld.com

Broken Rainbow

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

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

BANNA HOUSING CO-OP NEEDS

VOLUNTEERS URGENTLY..

PLEASE CONTACT MARGUERITE VIA

BANNAHOUSING@HOTMAIL.CO.UK

IF YOU CAN OFFER YOUR SUPPORT & BECOME A MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEMBER.

AND FINALLY.....

ARE YOU PLANNING TO HAVE A CIVIL PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN DECEMBER 21ST 2005 AND THE END OF JANUARY 2006? BBC TELEVISION IS LOOKING FOR LESBIAN AND GAY COUPLES TO FILM IN THE WEEKS LEADING UP TO THEIR BIG DAY, AND ON THE DAY ITSELF FOR INCLUSION IN A NEW SERIES OF WEDDING STORIES.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO TALK IN MORE DETAIL ABOUT THE PROGRAMME GIVE THEM A CALL ON 020 8752 5724 OR EMAIL THEM AT— WEDDING@BBC.CO.UK

ARE YOU FREE ON THE WEEKEND OF NOVEMBER 11-14 2005? IF SO, YOU CAN JOIN AMY LAME, AND 100 OTHER PEOPLE WHO SUPPORT STONEWALL FOR THE 3RD NEW YORK EQUALITY WALK. YOU NEED TO RAISE A MINIMUM AMOUNT IN SPONSORSHIP AND PAY A £50. REGISTRATION FEE, (REDUCED 50% FOR EARLY BOOKINGS), & YOU GET A FABULOUS WEEKEND IN NEW YORK WITH CHAMPAGNE PARTIES AND SPECIAL EVENTS ON EACH & EVERY NIGHT ABSOLUTELY FREE!!

CONTACT EMMA ON 020 7881 9442
EMAIL EQUALITYWALK@STONEWALL.ORG.UK
OR ALTERNATIVELY LOG ONTO
WWW.STONEWALL.ORG.UK FOR FURTHER DETAILS.

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GET YOUR HIKING SHOES OUT NOW.

Nottingham Women's Centre

(Charity Registration Number 1105837)

TED Project



FREE* Courses for Women 2005

Course Subject	Start Date	Duration	Time
Building Self-Confidence	Monday 19 Sept	10 weeks	1-3
Coping with Everyday Stress	Tuesday 20 Sept	10 weeks	1-3
English and Maths	Mondays	Term-time	10 - 12
Yoga	Tuesdays	Term-time	1.30 - 2.45
Card Craft	Friday 23 Sept	10 weeks	9.30-11.30
Teacher Training-Level 3 ABC	Friday 30 Sept	10 weeks	9.15-12.30
English Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL)	Wednesday 14 September	Term-time	To be confirmed
Creative Writing	Wed 21 Sept	10 weeks	5.30-7.30
Community Action & Leadership Skills	Tuesday 13 Sept	10 weeks	10.30-12.30
Women into Paid Work	Ring for details		
Arts & Crafts			
Arabic dance (belly dancing)			
Beauty Therapy (OCN)			
IT for Beginners & the Utterly Bewildered <small>NOCN entry level</small>	Friday 30 Sept – 16 Dec	10 weeks	9.15-12.30
Pre-CLAIT/CLAIT <small>OCR Level 1/2</small>	Thursday 29 Sept – 16 Mar	20 weeks	9.15-12.30
ECDL 1 <small>BCS Level 1 European Computer Driving Licence</small>	Tuesday 27 Sept – 13 Dec	10 weeks	9.15-12.30-2
ECDL 2 <small>BCS Level 2 European Computer Driving Licence</small>	Tuesday 3 Jan – 20 June	22 weeks	9.15-12.30-2
DTP <small>Deck Top Publishing OCR entry level</small>	Fri 9 Jan – 27 Mar	10 weeks	9.15-12.30
Internet + E-mail workshops	!Several sessions coming up! Please register if interested		
One-on-One <small>Need help? Get 1-on-1 tutorials</small>	Ring for details		
DROP-IN Times**	Wednesdays Thursdays		1 – 3.30 1 – 3.30
Learndirect courses: Prepare Job Interview Prepare + take your GCSE Exams Manage your bank account /credit cards and much more!	Call us for more information! If you have any suggestions for courses you might be interested in, please let us know!		

* IT Courses are free unless you are waged; in this case you will be required to pay the exam fee.

30 Chaucer Street NG1 5LP
Tel: 0115 924 0041 or 947 5212 Fax: 0115 947 6815
tedproject@nottinghamwomenscentre.com
www.nottinghamwomenscentre.com

