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LOOKOUT!

Sept Oct Nov 2008

Issue 48

Editorial

Domestics

Like they say at the beginning of those annoying work related training sessions you have to go on: "let's get the house keeping bits out of the way". Lookout exists because a very small handful of people are prepared to keep it going in order to give a bit of cohesion to a pretty disparate bunch of women who live in the general vicinity of Nottingham, Derby, Leicester. Although I did notice recently that Leicester have a new LGBT initiative including advice, support & a range of social activities. You can also "Celebrate 2008" in Leicester from 29th September to 5th October: a whole range of events going on. There's a Big Gay Fete at the LGBT Centre in Leicester. For more details of this and all the other activities contact Sian Lambert on 0116 254 7412 or email sian@llgbc.com or check out the web at llgbc.com

As many of you know, you can get Lookout by email. All you have to do is send your email address to lookoutmag@hotmail.com to be added to the list (which is kept in strictest confidence and never shared with anyone else) alternatively, if you don't have access to the internet or use a work email and can't accept certain types of mail then we do still send out postal copies. Although this is free, it would be lovely to receive the occasional small donation towards P&P. You can write to us via the Women's Centre, 30 Chaucer Street, Nottingham NG1 5LP.

Please, please, please, let us know if you
change your land mail address or
email address.

Dori Kirchmair
Complementary Therapist

Member of EMBODY / Complementary Therapists Association

INDIAN HEAD MASSAGE

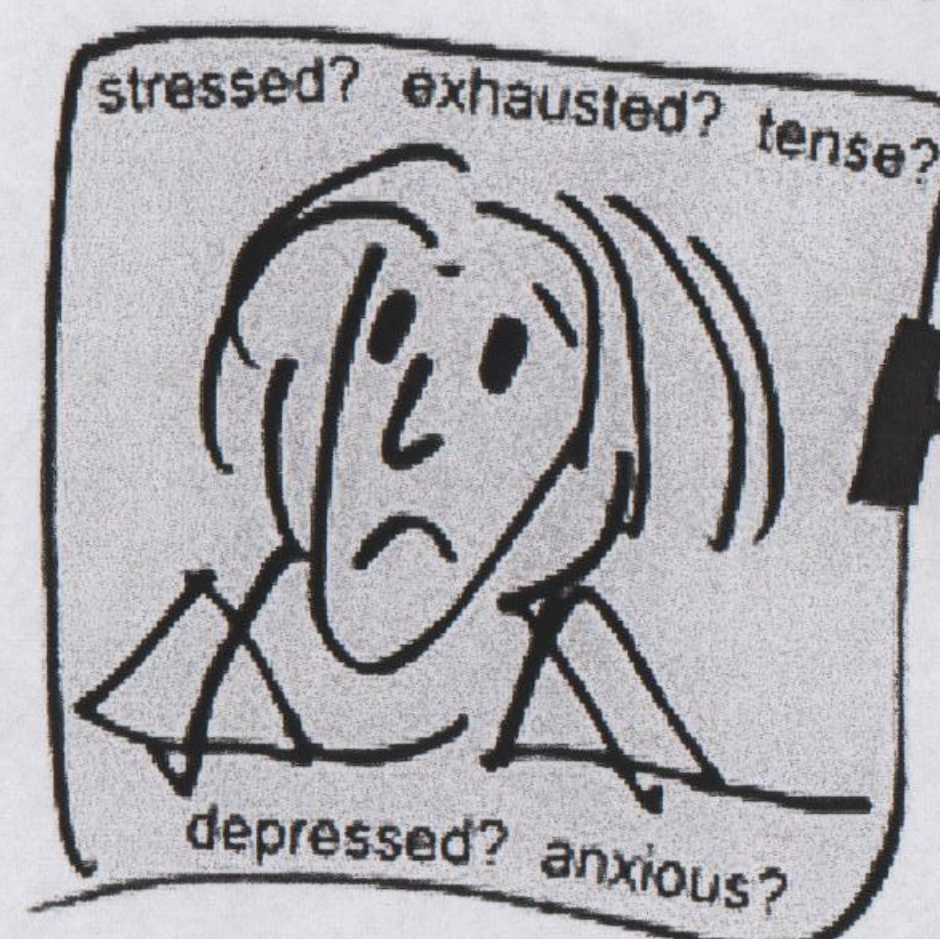
www.geocities.com/dori-k

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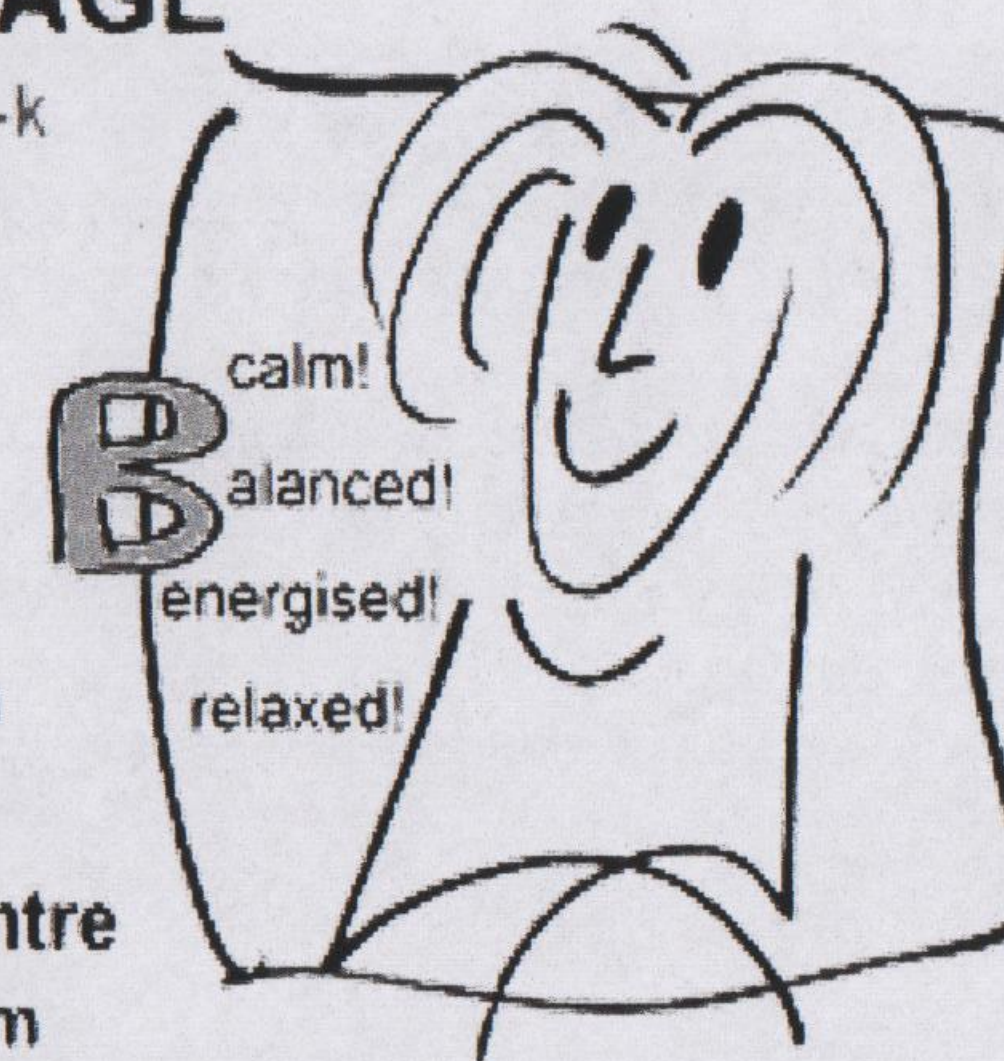
To book your session
call 0115 978 1006

Alternatives Therapy Centre
Tuesdays 10.00am - 4.00pm

170 Derby Road, Canning Circus, Nottingham NG7 1LR



A



B

LOOKOUT! Is sponsored by CAMPIONS SOLICITORS

WOMEN'S REGULAR EVENTS & SPECIAL ACTIVITIES

Women only

DISCO

Friday 19th Sept

7:30 – 12:00

(Bar til 11:00)

Dancing to DJ Mandy

British Legion Hall
Derby Road
Melbourne

£2 entry

Full travel directions available from
lookoutmag@hotmail.com

Fanny's!

Women Only Night

Upstairs @ The Canalhouse Bar,
Canal Street,
Nottingham NG1 7EH
(Next to Via Fossa)

Sat 29th November 08

8pm – 1am

Disco starts at 9pm

£5 Entry

Although this venue is upstairs, there is a lift.

Tickets will only be available on the night.

Any queries please email:

Other goings on

The New Carrington Inn

How about a get together at the lesbian run, fully refurbished pub (you wouldn't recognise it...!). The outside decking area is well-liked and our resident ghost in the cellar seems most pleased with the name change!

Real ales are still selling well and we now offer a full menu of hot & cold food daily plus, of course, our popular Sunday roasts and Tuesday curry nites. We have options for non-meat eaters too ~ please come and check us out again.

For more details contact

Sue Smith
Curries & Communications
at The New Carrington Inn
335 Mansfield Rd
Nottingham
0115 962 2458



Rhona Cameron

One of the best stand up comedians in the UK, Rhona Cameron made an impact on the comedy scene in 1992, winning Channel 4's 'So You Think You're Funny' award.

A decade of sell-out Edinburgh Fringe shows and tours in the UK, and A/NZ followed. TV includes Have I Got News For You, Never Mind The Buzzcocks, Graham Norton and The Frank Skinner Show; hosting 4 series of BBC2's pioneering Gaytime TV and in 2000 her first BBC sitcom series, Rhona.

In 2002 she joined the West End cast of The Vagina Monologues, before heading off to the Australian jungle for the massive ITV hit, I'm A Celebrity-Get Me Out Of Here for which she won a 'Best TV Reality Moment' award. Her famous 'Sometimes' speech is now part of television folklore. Rhona went on to present 'Russian Roulette' and 'The Luvies' and 'Rhona's Rudest videos' for ITV, as well as guesting on Jonathon Ross and Parkinson.

She played the first ever female narrator in 'The Rocky Horror' show on tour and then in the West End. In 2003 she wrote her first book- '1979 A big year in a small town' to critical acclaim, an autobiographical account of a year in her life in childhood.

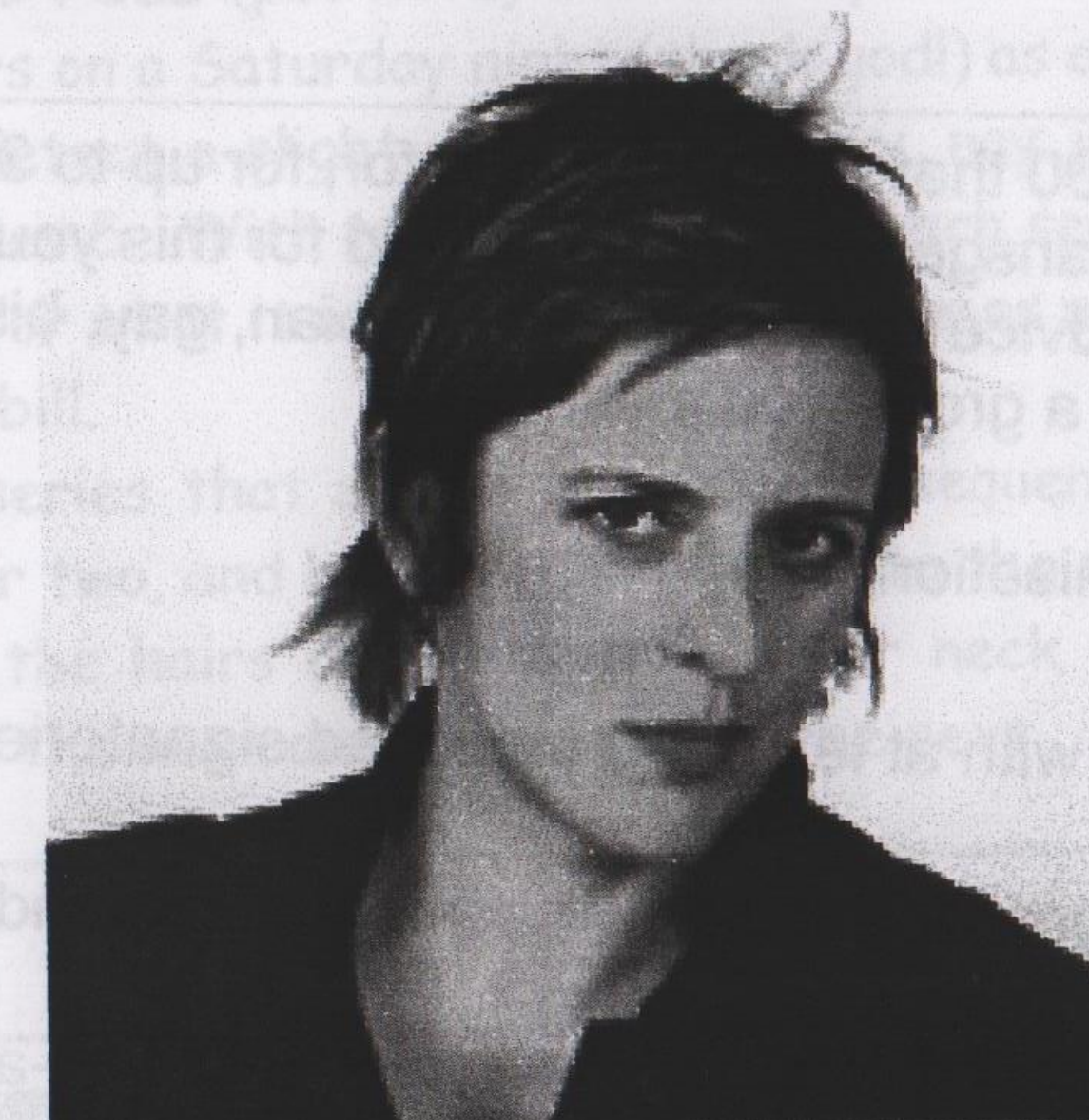
Since then Rhona has appeared in a national tour of 'Grumpy Old Women' along side fellow comedienne Jenny Eclair.

In 2007 her debut novel 'The Naked Drinking Club' Was published. She returned to the Gilded Balloon after a four year break from stand up, for a sell out three week run.

Rhona is currently co-writing the screenplay of her second book, and returning to the Edinburgh Festival performing at the Gilded Balloon for one week only before heading out on a national tour.

The paperback edition of the 'Naked Drinking Club' will be published in August this year. Rhona Cameron returns this autumn with her most revealing show to date. This is a laugh-out-loud journey through the darkly comic and ridiculous life of one of the UK's most talented and highly respected comediennes.

Expect brand new material, impeccable timing and a generous helping of her classic sharp-witted observational humour!



Rhona
will be at
Nottingham Playhouse
November 19th
&
Buxton Opera House
December 1st

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 Womens 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

Nottingham Pride — a review

It was a gorgeous day as we made our way into the Arboretum Park for this year's Nottingham Pride. There seemed more people than ever this year, listening to the music, browsing around the stalls, or just lounging around on the grass drinking beers with friends. The stalls were the usual wide variety from the Police and Switchboard to massage and sex toys all on offer. Nottingham City Council were there as usual asking people what the council could do to make their services more relevant for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered people. As usual there were many interesting comments including a plea for more lesbian books in the libraries. It would be nice to get some feedback though as to whether any of these suggestions actually led to anything.

There were also the usual stalls run by hotels trying to persuade us to part with our pink pounds and have a Civil Partnership in their venue. And the free wedding cake they were giving out went down well!

There was a range of entertainment on the bandstand from The Abba and 70's Experience Duo to Titty Bang Bang. Unfortunately the entertainment wasn't as good as usual. The standard appeared to be lower than normal although this wasn't helped by a terrible sound system that had far too much bass, making it difficult to hear any of the singers. Hopefully this will be sorted out for next year.

As usual there was a range of play activities for children run by Nottingham City Council, alongside a sumo wrestling contest in which participants climbed into large fat suits and proceeded to try and knock each other over. The beer tent as usual was very popular although many people had brought their own supplies from beer cans to champagne.

At the end of the day everyone wandered off either to carry on the party somewhere else (The Foresters was packed that night) or back home to recover for next year.

Funding available

Nottingham City Council currently have a grant pot of £5,000 that groups can bid for, for up to 3 years funding, to do work relating to lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender issues. To bid for this your application has to be for £5,000 grant funding to provide advice and support for lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgendered people living in Nottingham. To apply as a group you must have

- a constitution - a set of rules that set out how the organisation is run
- an equality and diversity policy
- a bank or building society account in the groups name with at least two unrelated signatories
- annual accounts for groups over 12 months old
- a 6 month cash flow for groups under 12 months old showing predicted income and expenditure

To find out more and get an application form, look online at www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/grant-aid or phone the Recurring Grants Officer on Tel. 0115 915 8845

There is also grant funding available for community or voluntary groups delivering other types of services as well such as finance advice, or women's issues.

The deadline is 4pm on the 26th of September 2008.

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

What is all the fuss about?

Talk about "it takes all sorts". My partner & I are card-carrying unmistakable dykes; out to family, friends and in the workplace but we've never got into The L Word. Our more closeted chums are avid watchers of the tv series and have bought each available series on dvd. We clearly don't go to the top floor on this one.

Here's someone else's take on it.

For those of you that belong to the minority of our minority group, that is those of you that have never seen The L Word, you don't know what you are missing. But before we go any further, I have to confess, that this review is totally skewed towards the series, because I am a confirmed fan.

It is a series about a group of professional lesbians in Los Angeles and we voyeuristically peer their world. It shows us the ups and downs of friendship, love, lost love, betrayal, pregnancy (yes!) death (yes!) and female to male transgender (yes!)

The characters are varied, with the topics of confirmed fans being, "who would you like to be". Or "who do you fancy". Shane's haircuts get more bizarre with each series, Bett gets more selfish, and Jenny, well I for one would contribute to the contract! Alice's chart typifies what we have all known, namely that there are six degrees of separation between most of us and all roads lead to some stud we have known in the past!

The L Word does for lesbians, what Sex and the City does for heterosexuals, what the Archers does for farmers and what Eastenders does for cockneys! It is pure, unadulterated, idealistic fantasy. It is a world where all the women are beautiful. They are dressed in the most chic manner possible, but no one is ever seen queueing up at Matalan. No one is ever caught pegging a line of washing out and no knickers are ever seen on the radiators. They all seem to have a constant glass of wine, but no-one ever swears at their best friend or falls off the bar stool. They live in fabulously stylish clean houses, but no-one is ever seen running the Ewbank round, or polishing the windows with the Vyleta window cloth. They all seem to pick at delicious food, or shovel Ben and Jerry's down, as they seem to do in a crisis, WITH THEIR MOUTHS FULL (pet hate) but never put on weight. Their lesbian venues look nothing at all like The Foresters on a Saturday night (thank god!) as all the women are glamorous, skinny and six foot seven.

Do you detect a slight modicum of envy, nay jealousy. Yes, yes and thrice yes! But I love it!! We are now onto series 5. With twelve episodes in each series, that makes a wacking 60 hours of viewing!

Take it for what it is, it's not a Henry James novel, nor a Gosford Park DVD, but for a night of escapism, it fits the bill.

It is a series that should be watched sequentially, ideally with a group of friends, a nice glass of Pinot Grigio, or two, and by the time you get to the end of series one, the opening bars of the introductory music will put the hairs on the back of your neck on end, and you won't want to retire to bed until you have watched the next and the next and the next.....

Who's on?

CLAIRE SUMMERSKILL

"WE'RE THE GIRLS"

Clare has just had her first book published packed full of comedy monologues, hilarious song lyrics and a few of her uniquely written short stories!!

Sarah Waters said of it:
"Smart, witty, and with an eye for the sometimes poignant detail of everyday life."

Watch out for Claire at the York festival
23—26 October 2008
Ylaf.org.uk

Kate Rusby

Barnsley's leading export will let loose her wit, charm and effervescent folk credentials on a spellbinding set of classics and brand-new songs. Plus a rousing Christmas finale (South Yorkshire style), as she recreates the vigorous northern tradition of 'village carols' — mass community-led pub singalongs of sacred and festive fare.

'Folk music doesn't get any cooler than Kate Rusby.'
Q Magazine

Sunday 21st Dec Nottingham Playhouse
Friday 26th September Derby Assembly Rooms

Walking Groups

NOTTINGHAM HIKING DYKES walk on the 3rd Sunday of the month.

Sunday 21st September meet at 10:45 prompt at the Attenborough Visitor Centre (car park £1.50) to catch the 11:12 train (fare £1.60) to Long Eaton for a 9-13 km back to Attenborough via Sawley & Trent Lock finishing at the excellent visitor centre café.

Details of these and further walks from Lesbian and Gay Switchboard 0115 9348485 or www.nottinghamhd.homestead.com



Derby Walking Women

Sunday 7th September Tittesworth Reservoir, Leek, Staffs meet 10:45 for 11:00 at the visitor centre car park (£2.50 all day) for a 4 mile walk through woods & meadows, some steps. (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.

Sunday 14th September 11.00am - Farnsfield Meet in the car park of the Red Lion pub (the landlord is ok with this) Just over 4 miles through woods & fields. Could be muddy. Post code for pub NG22 8EY Phone Julia 07961 847091 or email nnwalkers@yahoo.co.uk for more details.

A new local walking group starts this month. Open to all LGBT people plus their straight family & friends. Check out their website www.freewebs.com/openwalks More details in the next issue of Lookout

SHEFFIELD HIKING DYKES

7th Sept Stainborough 6.5 miles meet at Wentworth Castle car park GR 320 035. Parking £2
28th Sept Hope & Win Hill 8 miles meet at Hope station car park GR 181 833
12th Oct Linacre 9 miles meet at Linacre reservoirs GR 335 726 park at lower of 3 car parks
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



Peak Rufties are for women who like walking longer and faster. Hikes are usually about 10 to 12 miles in the Peak District on the last Saturday of the month. The next dates are August 30th, September 27th, October 25th, and November 29th. For details of upcoming hikes, email jeanelle@degruchy.co.za or vivpointon@hotmail.com or phone Viv on 0115 973 3717.

You may be interested in this mailing list - chatty, worldwide, helpful and lesbian!
All you do to subscribe is send an email to: mailinglist-subscribe@lesbiangardens.net.
Website at lesbiangardens.net too

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

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 915 882

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 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

Please feel free to send us updates to this list

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).

BADMINTON



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HELD IN NOTTINGHAM
AT VICTORIA LEISURE CENTRE
ADJACENT TO
SNEINTON MARKET.

YOU CAN ENJOY A GAME ON
THURSDAY EVENING 9PM-10PM
&/or SATURDAY MORNING
9AM - 11AM (very occasionally
the venue has to change due to other events at Sneinton so please ring first if you're new).

GOOD SOURCE OF EXERCISE PLUS LOTS OF
SPIN OFF SOCIAL ACTIVITIES WITH THIS
FRIENDLY GROUP OF WOMEN

For more details

Contact Cate on 07796 581651
or lookoutmag@hotmail.com

House share opportunity

Professional female required for house share in New Basford, Nottingham. Double room. All mod cons. Fully furnished. Must like dogs. Short term let. £200 pcm excluding bills.

For further details contact Helen: 07709759901 or email h-entwistle@hotmail.com

House for rent — BULWELL

2 bed semi-detached with garage, garden & off-street parking in a quiet cul-de-sac with good access for motorway & trams.
£400 per month
Full details from Jill 07909 834017

Workshop Wanted

I'm looking for a studio/workspace preferably to the north of the city centre for drawing, painting & printmaking. Ideally with good lighting.
Contact Jeannie at eightpaws2cats@yahoo.co.uk