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# LOOKOUT!

**Sep Oct Nov 2009**

**Issue 52**

## Editorial

During the past quarter, a very unpleasant episode in the lives of several friends of the Lookout fraternity, came to a conclusion. Not, perhaps the most satisfactory of conclusions but the perpetrator of the deception is behind bars for the time being and hopefully, by the time she gets out, enough people will remember her face from the photo below and reports in the national newspapers, not to be drawn in by her lies.

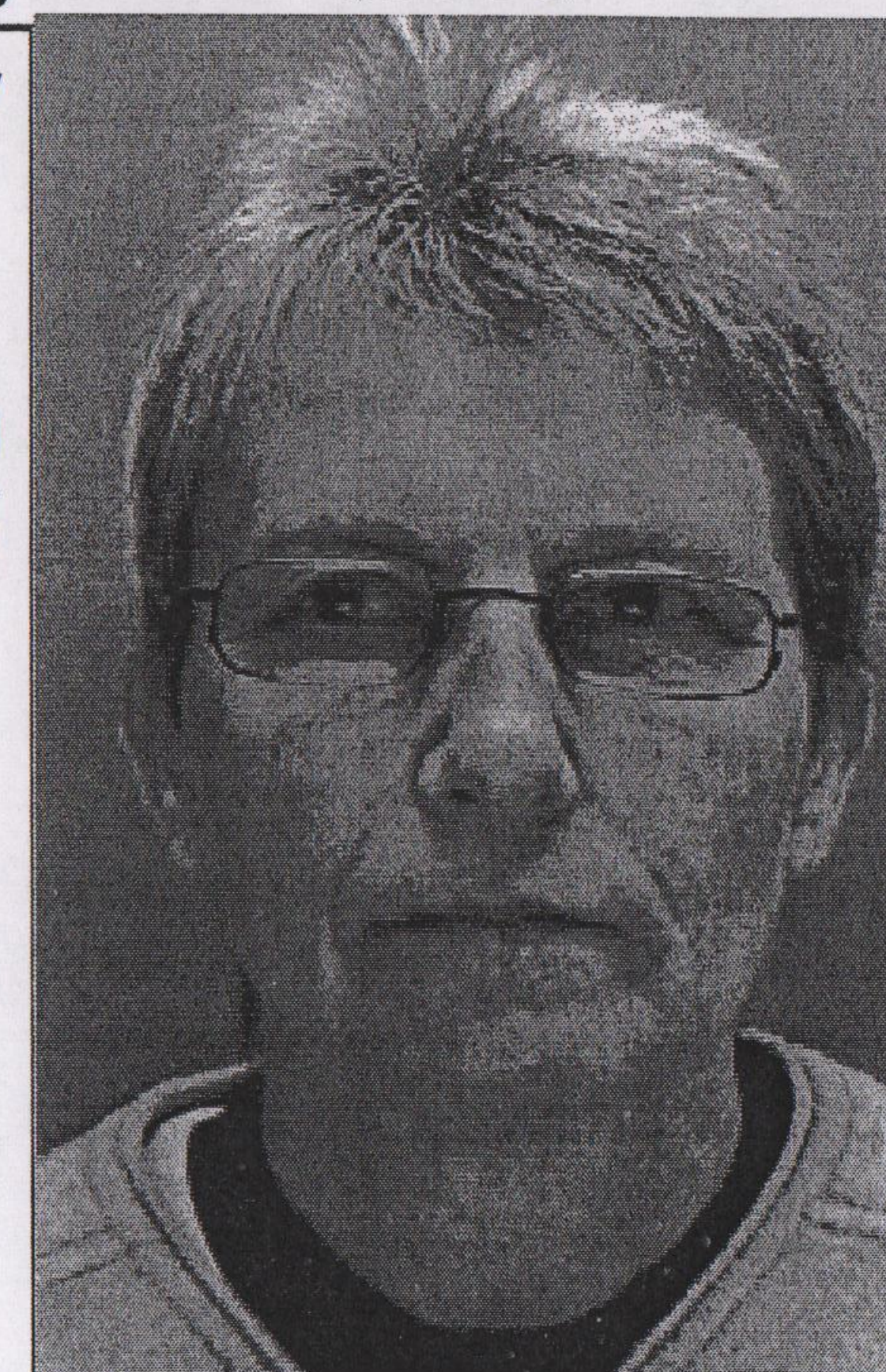
## Caring local women deceived by Joann Wood

Joann Wood, 53, using many aliases, conned lesbians she initially met on gay website chatrooms by telling them that she was terminally ill with cancer and needed money for treatment.

In June, however, she appeared at St Alban's Crown Court and was found guilty of four charges of obtaining property by deception, two offences of fraud by false representation and two offences of possessing a Class A drug. At her court hearing it was revealed that in total Wood had conned her victims out of almost £100,000.

Mr Chrimes, prosecuting, told the court: 'What the defendant has done here, in the most dramatic and cynical fashion, is to take advantage of their good nature by spinning yarns to victims, some of which were cruel, some of which were untrue.' He told the court that the lies included tales that she had cancer and a variety of tumours.

Wood also claimed that she was a vet and even a police officer - in one case telling a victim that she was an expert in the gold trade and investments. The court also heard that one man had given £10,000, which she spent on herself rather than investing as promised.



Wood, of Knightsfield, Welwyn Garden City, is thought to have conned victims across the UK with her claim that she was dying. Once she had gained their trust by declaring her love for them, she would ask for money for cancer treatment. On other occasions, she befriended elderly people, some of whom themselves were terminally ill, and acted as their carer. From them she was able to steal medication which she used to persuade other victims that she was being treated for cancer. Her eldest victim was in her mid-80's.

One woman, local to Nottingham, befriended Wood in 2005 and that friendship blossomed into a relationship. But when Wood told her that she was suffering from cancer, she parted with her life savings of £28,000 over an 18 month period, and was later persuaded to take out four credit cards and withdraw money on each of them.

Another local woman, who lost £10,000, said that she believed Wood had hidden the money away. 'She was never one to live the lavish lifestyle, so where did the money go? I think she has hidden it away for when she comes out. I would have liked to have seen her get longer, because this woman can't change and I think other people will fall victim to her when she comes out of prison.'

Also believing the lie that Wood had been suffering from cancer, another online dating site user lost £22,000, whilst yet another friend parted with £3,000.

Wood's deceptions also extended to staying in hotels and leaving without paying bills, in one case, stealing a Landrover car from the property owners.

The court heard that Wood had a string of previous offences dating as far back as 1976. In total she had twelve convictions, including one for impersonating a police officer, but predominantly for fraud and theft.

**LOOKOUT! Is sponsored by CAMPIONS SOLICITORS**



## WOMEN'S REGULAR EVENTS & SPECIAL ACTIVITIES

Women only

### DISCO

Friday 4th Sept

7:30 – 12:00

(Bar til 11:00)

Dancing to DJ Cath

British Legion Hall

Derby Road  
Melbourne

Just south of Derby

£2 entry

Email for directions

### Fanny's!

Women Only Night

Upstairs @ The Canalhouse Bar,

Canal Street,

Nottingham NG1 7EH

(Next to Via Fossa)

Sat 21st November 09

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:

[fannys.nottingham@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:fannys.nottingham@hotmail.co.uk)

DJ Clare is also doing a Women's Night in Belper on 3rd October. Dance and funky music from 8.30pm to 12.00pm. £ 5 on the door, Belper Town Football Club DE56 1BA - the first of what is to become a quarterly event.

Other goings on

### Square Dancing

In the last issue you were invited to learn the sexy Salsa — this time we have something quite different on offer

at

**Mapperley Community Centre,**  
Woodborough Road, Nottingham NG3 5GG

8 pm

commencing

**21st September 2009**

£3 weekly inc refreshments

Try a free taster session beforehand on

**7th & 14th September**

If you get really hooked there are scholarships available to train as a caller

[www.uksquaredancing.com](http://www.uksquaredancing.com) for list of classes

[www.iagsdc.org](http://www.iagsdc.org). details of scholarships

It's all about reconnecting

A group of Nottingham women met up at an event in Yorkshire and realised that, although they all lived in the same city, they hadn't seen each other for years because there wasn't a single place that they all went to socialise.

(Comment from the Editor — maybe they don't all get Lookout because there are social activities that various organisers work very hard to promote for just this reason) Anyway, a special social event has been planned — it'll be held in Nottingham on October 31st (O joy, a reason NOT to be there for trick or treaters!)

The aim is to create a place to reconnect with old friends and maybe make some new ones. A place to enjoy yourselves that isn't a club but that's big enough to dance if you want to or talk or do both. A place to have a drink and enjoy live entertainment.

If this idea appeals & the first event is a success then it may become a regular thing — feedback would be great. In the meantime check out the flyer on page 4 with all the contact details. Get pro-active!

Issue 52

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## Love to Give, Time to Care?

With over 400 children in care, Nottingham City Council needs more foster carers and adopters of all ethnic groups who can offer a safe and stable home, especially for children over the age of five and sibling groups. Foster carers or adopters may be single, in a civil partnership, divorced, parents or childless, working or unemployed and from any cultural or religious background.

People interested in fostering or adoption can choose the age of child they want to look after and can offer to provide short or long term foster care or to adopt a child or children and make them legally a member of the family for life.

As a mainstream foster carer you would receive generous allowances for child expenses and a weekly skills fee of up to £165. You may also be entitled to further benefits in family tax credits. A full training and support package is offered which includes:

A dedicated social worker for you and your family.

- Local carer support groups.
- 24 hours support, 365 days a year.
- Training packages to enhance your parenting skills.

£1000 bonus on completion of the relevant NVQ level 3 course.

**Could you change the life a black or mixed race child?**

**6<sup>th</sup> October, 10am - 6pm**

**New Art Exchange, 39-41 Gregory Boulevard, Nottingham, NG7 6BE**

This event is aimed at anyone interested in fostering or adopting mixed race or African Caribbean children, although anyone interested in fostering or adoption is welcomed.

**National Adoption Week Drop-in Event**

**12<sup>th</sup> November, 10am – 5pm**

**The Nottingham Mechanics, 3 North Sherwood Street, Nottingham, NG1 4EZ**

An opportunity for anyone interested in adoption or fostering to come and speak to the Recruitment team.

**For further information, or an informal chat and information pack phone 01159 915 1234, email [fa.info@nottinghamcity.gov.uk](mailto:fa.info@nottinghamcity.gov.uk), or visit [www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/love](http://www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/love).**

## 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

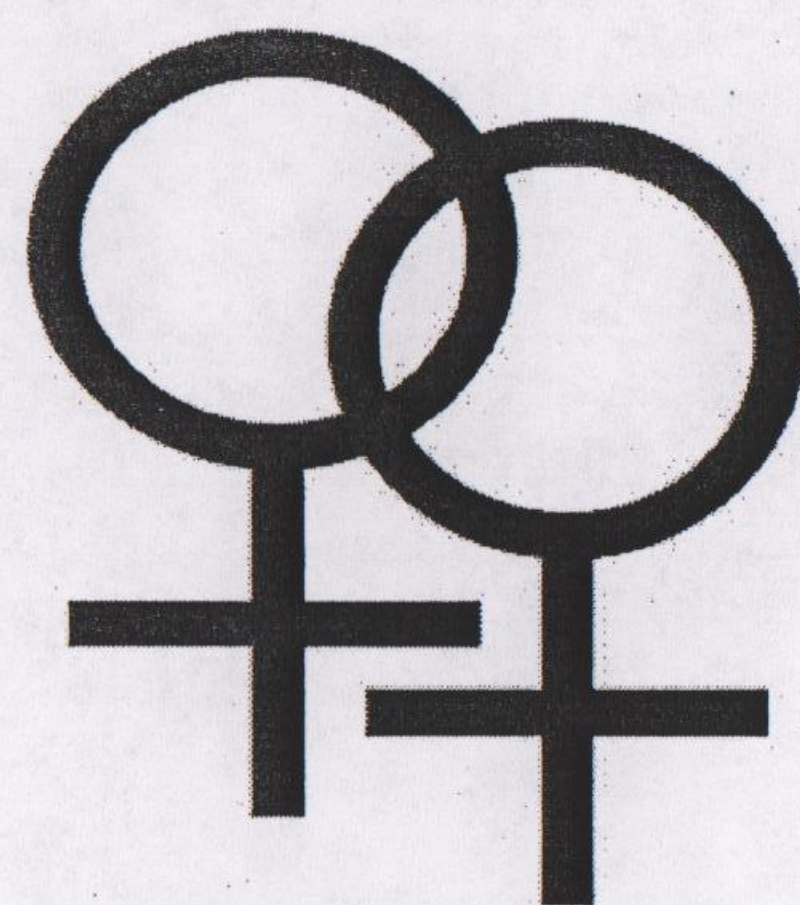


**I'm really not a sporty type person but I can't help but notice that women's national football & cricket teams get the "drop the dead donkey" treatment in favour of men's club level games — even on the pc savvy bbc. However, I do believe that England (men) may have just shown the Aussie's a thing or two about how to play the game. Our women won the ICC 'WORLD' Twenty20. If you're interested in playing women's cricket there may be opportunities in Nottingham next year. Watch this space.....**



# Lez Girls Nottingham

a place for us to reconnect with old friends to enjoy ourselves in an environment that isn't a club but that's big enough for some of us to dance and some of us to talk and some of us to do both where we can have a drink with some live entertainment



- live acts to be announced
- quiet seated area
- DJs and dancing
- late licensed bar

## 31 October 2009

For more information or to get involved:

go to [www.lezgirlsnottingham.co.uk](http://www.lezgirlsnottingham.co.uk)  
join Lez Girls Nottingham on Facebook  
email us at [info@lezgirlsnottingham.co.uk](mailto:info@lezgirlsnottingham.co.uk)  
or watch out for further details



Derby Traditional Music & Arts Festival  
9-10-11 October 2009

Loads going on over 3 days at the  
Assembly Rooms & the Guildhall

For details see [www.prpromotions.org](http://www.prpromotions.org)

Special highlights on Saturday night are  
The Poozies (above) are an inspirational band  
of women with singer Sally Barker.

"In a world wrapped in grey, they are a giant  
splash of colour"

Eliza Carthy (left)  
2003 Radio 2 Folk  
Singer of the Year,  
Best Album & Best  
Traditional Track  
winner



### 'Off the Shelf Events' for Single Lesbians Midsummer Madness Proves Big Hit!

On 27th June, the second "Off The Shelf Event" for single lesbians took place in West Bridgford Park. The event, entitled "Midsummer Madness" combined a high tea with races typical of a primary school sports day and a rounders match. Over 20 women enthusiastically took part in old favourites such as welly wanging, egg & spoon, tug o' war and an amusing obstacle race, with a great deal of hilarity all round! The event was great fun and new friends were made during the afternoon and later in the evening at a local pub.

Whilst 'Off The Shelf Events' is primarily about single lesbians having fun and making new friends, the organisers are pleased to report a few relationships further to the first two events! It's clear there are many advantages in meeting other women, in a similar situation, face to face at an informal and fun event as opposed to, for example, over an impersonal computer screen.

The feedback from attendees of both events has been extremely positive with requests coming in for the next event, which will be announced in due course. 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](mailto:Offtheshelf@rocketmail.com)

You can send requests for further information, donations, adverts, articles and details of social events to  
[lookoutmag@hotmail.com](mailto:lookoutmag@hotmail.com) or to  
Lookout C/o The Women's Centre, 30 Chaucer Street, Nottingham NG1 5LP.

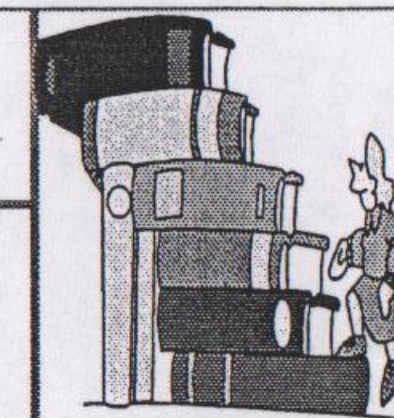
### A review of Pride — thanks to Ruth

After several days of sheeting rain, the outlook for Pride didn't look good. But Saturday surprised us all and turned out to be a glorious day. The day kicked off with the first ever Nottingham Pride march that attracted about 600 to 700 people - a lot more than I certainly expected. The march which started at the Forest Recreation Ground was a loud and fun affair with drums, whistles and lots of rainbow flags. It made its way down Mansfield Road to the Arboretum where the main event took place.

The Arboretum was packed full of people and there seemed to be much more LGB young people than ever before. People were lying around enjoying the sun, listening or dancing to the music or spending cash at the stalls. There were more stalls than ever this year including those from community organisations such as Switchboard, food stalls and quite a few selling t-shirts and other clothing. The AD2 stage was great with lots of quality music including a sound alike Lily Allen and the alternative rock band Kenelis. However the music on the bandstand wasn't so good. The poor quality of the sound system didn't help, but whilst at the AD2 stage there were crowds of people dancing, at the bandstand most people were indifferent to the music and largely ignored it.

In spite of that everyone seemed to have a great time whether they were lying around and drinking beer or catching up with old friends. The evening finished with the usual post pride parties at AD2 and the New Forresters, which were both full of people partying the night away.

Next year Pride will probably be at another venue. Nottingham City Council feel that the event is now too large to be held at the Arboretum and to be fair it was crowded this year, so both Victoria Embankment and Wollaton Park are being proposed as alternative venues. So, as they say, watch this space for more information...



### Midweek Book Group

The new venue of the Canallhouse bar seemed to work well. The next agreed meeting is:

Weds 9th Sept, 7.30pm: to discuss  
Jeanette Winterson - The Powerbook

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

If you're interested in watching Pro40 cricket games at TB on Wed 2nd Sept or Sun 27th Sept &/or in attending matches next season, or if you're already involved in the local women's cricket scene and could help with info about future match schedules, please contact us via  
[info@lezgirlsnottingham.co.uk](mailto:info@lezgirlsnottingham.co.uk)

### ALISON MOYET



Alison is on tour & will be appearing at the Royal centre on 23rd November to promote her Best of Alison Moyet album to be released on 19th October

A deluxe version will contain 11 brand new interpretations of favourite songs from her back catalogue.

### I Was There by Kim Hindmarch

It is a wonderful feeling, knowing that you are part of history being made. Now don't get me wrong, it wasn't history that made News at Ten, but it was definitely part of a significant change in the LGB History of Nottingham.

The organisers worried about the numbers of people that would turn up for the march and that it would be small, but this fear was unfounded, as it was estimated that between 700-1000 were there! Not bad for the first Nottingham Pride March. I was surrounded by all ages, heights, weights colours, fashions, genders. Their presence was determined by one fact: their desire to be Out and Proud!

As I walked down Mansfield Road, a road that I have travelled up and down all of my fifty one years, I reflected on the changes that have occurred. I could not imagine that, even ten years ago, such a march would have been allowed by the Police, the City Council and even the People of Nottingham.

As we know, homophobia still exists and attacks, both physical and verbal still occur, but there is now far more acceptance of our sexualities. Of course there is still a way to go, but as I walked under the banner representing The Nottingham University Hospitals with my nursing colleagues, I felt proud to be happily pipped and waved at by car drivers bus passengers and bystanders.

Walking with an older friend, who experienced many acts of brutality and discrimination in the sixties, we discussed how times have changed and that she would have never envisaged this moment when she was in her twenties. It was a moving moment.

In the history book of my mind, it will be a chapter that I will read many times. The chapter will be called "I WAS THERE!"

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](mailto:lookoutmag@hotmail.com) by Nov 7th please



## Walking Groups

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



20th September meet at the Visitor Centre, Carsington Reservoir GR241517

18th October Hathersage meet near the Plough Inn on the A6001

15th November Charnwood Forest meet at the car park on the Cropston side of Bradgate Country Park

20th December Cromford meet at Arkwrights Mill near the tea shop GR298570 for a shortish walk

Details of these and further walks from

Lesbian and Gay Switchboard 0115 9348485 or [www.nottinghamhd.homestead.com](http://www.nottinghamhd.homestead.com)

### Derby Walking Women

**Sunday 6th Sept** meet 10:45 for 11:00 start at Nether End, Baslow car park (£2.50/£3.50) next to Devonshire Arms. 4.5 miles NOT the usual saunter, more of a challenge. Hills, no less!! (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](mailto: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.

Walk 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 13th September 11.00am - Southwell : Meet in the Church St car park opposite the Minster** for an easy 4.75 mile ramble past watermills and orchards in the shadow of the historic Minster. Couple of small inclines in fields. Dog friendly

Phone Julia 07961 847091 or email [nnwalkers@yahoo.co.uk](mailto: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](mailto:sheffield-hd@hotmail.com)



**6th September Eyam** meet at the pay & display car park 7 or 12.5 miles 2 loops SK 216 766

**13th September Baslow & Chatsworth** 7.5 miles Meet at Baslow P&D car park, grid ref. SK 257 722

**27th September Matlock & Riber** 7 miles meet on Matlock Bridge SK 298 602

**11th October Grindleford Café & Burbage** 8 miles meet at the café (9:30 for breakfast) SK 250 788

**25th October Crowden** 8 miles meet at the P&D car park SK 073 993

**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.

Further dates: September 26, October 31 and November 28

For details of upcoming hikes, email [jeanelle@degruchy.co.za](mailto:jeanelle@degruchy.co.za) or [vivpointon@hotmail.com](mailto:vivpointon@hotmail.com) or phone Viv on 0115 973 3717.



I've not checked this out yet but I've been told there's a new web site that has all walking group details in calendar format <http://peakhd.webs.com/walks.htm>

Details of September walk for mixed group on web site ([www.freewebs.com/openwalks](http://www.freewebs.com/openwalks))  
For more details of group or walks, get in touch by email or phone (07950843820)

## 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](mailto:morag-@ntlworld.com) or [nottslesbiancentre@ntlworld.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:notts@lgswitchboard.fsnet.co.uk) Website: [www.nottslgs.org.uk](http://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