

## local listings

### Lesbian & Gay Switchboard

0115 934 8485  
Monday to Friday, 7 - 10 pm  
7 Mansfield Road, Nottingham, NG1 3FB  
nottingham@lgswitchboard.fsnet.co.uk

### Nottingham University Lesbian and Gayline

0115 951 4999  
Monday term time only

### Police Homophobic Crime Helpline

0800 085 8522

### 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

### Metropolitan Community Church

Because God loves Queers too.  
Sundays 11.30  
Queen's Walk Community Centre, The Meadows  
Tel: 01332 835 238 or 01332 872 143

### The GAI Project

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

## events diary

Thursday 27th November 2003 - **CARRY ON UP THE TOGA** (Theme Night) @ The Lord Roberts, 8pm onwards

### WORLD AIDS DAY EVENTS

Friday 28th November 2003 - **LORD OF THE RINGS CHARITY RAFFLE** @ The Lord Roberts, 8pm onwards  
Saturday 29th November 2003 - **UNIFORM THEME NIGHT** @ The Central, £1 on door, 9pm onwards  
Sunday 30th November 2003 - **SPECIAL VARIETY CABARET** @ @D2  
Monday 1st December 2003 - **RED & WILD** @ Revolution  
Tuesday 2nd til Friday 5th December - **HIV/AIDS AWARENESS EXHIBITION** @ Nottingham Trent Students Union  
Saturday 6th December 2003 - **WORLD AIDS DAY (CANDYLAND)** @ NG1, £1 extra on door, 3am License

Monday 15th December 2003 - **CARA "MADONNA TRIBUTE AND DISCO** @ New Foresters, 8pm onwards  
Thursday 18th December 2003 - **CAMP AS CHRISTMAS** (Theme Night) @ The Lord Roberts, 8pm onwards  
Friday 19th December 2003 - **POPTASTIC** @ NG1, £2 before 11pm £4 after  
Sunday 21st December 2003 - **ROCKY HORROR** @ @D2  
Sunday 21st December 2003 - **NG1 CHRISTMAS PARTY** @ NG1, £1 extra on door  
Monday 22nd December 2003 - **ALL FEMALE NIGHT** @ New Foresters, tickets £4, members only, 8pm onwards  
Wednesday 24th December 2003 - **"HOT & SAUCY" CHRISTMAS EVE PARTY** @ New Foresters, 8pm onwards  
Friday 26th December 2003 - **BOXING DAY DISCO** @ New Foresters, 8pm onwards  
Sunday 28th December 2003 - **NOTTINGHAM PRIDE FUNDRAISER** @ NG1, £1 on door, 2am License  
Sunday 28th December 2003 - **ROCKY HORROR** @ @D2  
Wednesday 31st December 2003 - **NEW YEARS EVE PARTY** @ New Foresters, late late license, 8pm onwards  
Wednesday 31st December 2003 - **NYE** @ NG1, late late license, open till 5am

### 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

### WAG

Relaxed and friendly social group, open to all lesbi-  
ans and women questioning their sexuality.  
Details from Lesbian & Gay switchboard  
Tel: 0115 934 8485.

### Chameleon Group

Group for transvestites and transsexual 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 per-  
suasions. 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 Christians.  
Meet 3rd Friday of the month.  
Tel: 0115 9827475

### Out House Project

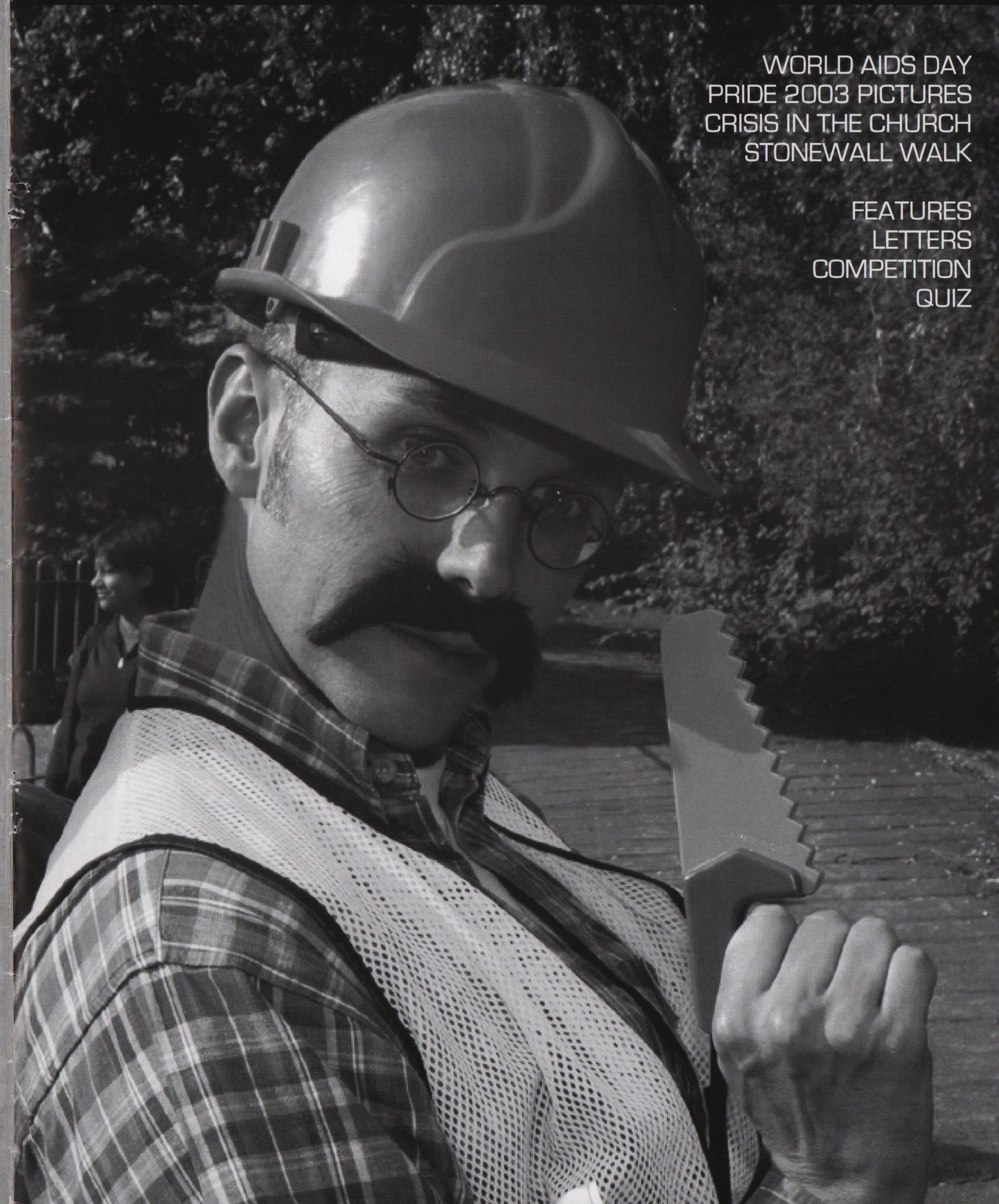
Working to open an LGB community centre.  
Suite A, 40 George Street, Nottingham, NG1 3BG  
Tel: 0115 9110545  
www.outhouse.org.uk  
Email: info@outhouse.org.uk

# i'm free

INCORPORATING THE OUTHOUSE NEWSLETTER & QB  
WINTER 2003 ISSUE 3

WORLD AIDS DAY  
PRIDE 2003 PICTURES  
CRISIS IN THE CHURCH  
STONEWALL WALK

FEATURES  
LETTERS  
COMPETITION  
QUIZ





## Editor

Well here we are again – we've had a bit of a makeover and hope you like it! Since the last edition much has happened, some good and some bad.

### The Good

- Nottingham got it's Pride back after a 2 year absence.
- The worlds first out gay bishop (Gene Robinson) has been ordained in New Hampshire after much hoo-ha from the worldwide Anglican community.
- The much hated Section 28 has finally left the statute books, so I guess we're not pretending any more.

### The Bad

- An HIV+ man was jailed in November for infecting two women with the virus.
- Michael Howard – one of the most reviled politicians in the last 20 years has been made leader of the Conservative Party – so that's the Pink vote out of the window then!

The next copy date for 'I'm Free' is 12th January 2004, should you want anything including please contact us at: I'm Free, c/o The Outhouse Project, Suite A, 40 George Street, Nottingham, NG1 3BG or e-mail at: imfree\_editor@hotmail.com

## 80's pop quiz

Name the artists who had hits in the 1980's with the following song titles:

1. She Drives Me Crazy
2. Toy Soldiers
3. A View To A Kill
4. Manic Monday
5. Love Bites
6. Owner Of A Lonely Heart
7. We Didn't Start The Fire
8. Money For Nothing
9. Keep On Loving You
10. Alone
11. La Bamba
12. I Think We're Alone Now
13. Hip To Be Square
14. Got My Mind Set On You
15. West End Girls
16. Ghostbusters
17. Luka
18. Take My Breath Away
19. Fame
20. Hard To Say I'm Sorry

Fab prizes to be won - as always, so get your answers in by sending them to:

80's Pop Quiz, I'm Free,  
c/o The Outhouse Project  
Suite A, 40 George Street  
Nottingham, NG1 3BG

## letters

Dear I'm Free

Further to my letter in the summer edition, with reference to the GAI Project working at The Palais, following the attack outside the club on one of our project workers.

Having had a meeting with Chris Beasley, the manager of the venue, the GAI Project is happy to announce that we are back providing a stall at the Revolution nights. It was agreed that both parties would review their procedures. As such the project workers will now carry ID badges and make themselves known to the door staff. The door staff have also been encouraged to be more aware of what is going on outside the club with reference to people hanging around or people in parked cars.

As always we do encourage people going to or leaving venues to be aware of their safety. If you do have any problems do not hesitate to call the police or report incidences via the homophobic incident line on 0800 0 85 85 22.

If homophobic crime is not reported nothing can be done about it.

Jens Zimmermann  
GAI Project Team Leader

Dear I'm Free

I am Ian Wilson and I used to work in the teaching profession with Sue Hodgkinson in Derby. Sue was a major activist at Greenham Common but in 1987 moved to Nottingham with her partner.

Sue and I were true friends and I would like to know her whereabouts but I appreciate she might not want to know ours.

If anyone knows Sue then can you pass on the message that her pal Ian owes her a load of whisky and can be contacted via the Outhouse (0115 911 0545).

Please if you know Sue then say Ian and Jill (Ian's wife) are keen to get in touch. If you know Sue then please ask her to call us.

Thanks  
Ian Wilson

COVER BOY: JOHN LIPPITT  
IMAGE COURTESY OF 'MIDLAND ZONE'

# WORLD AIDS DAY

MONDAY 1ST DECEMBER

## WAD - What's the point exactly?

The 1<sup>st</sup> of December is World AIDS Day and HIV/AIDS will once again be highlighted in the gay and straight media as something for us to think about.

Earlier this month Mohammed Dica, 38, from London was jailed for 8 years for infecting 2 women with HIV. It was stated in court that Mr Dica was aware of his HIV infection at the time of passing the virus on. The possession of this knowledge was seen to imply that Mr Dica maliciously infected the women. The Judge accepted the argument, hence both the verdict and the severity of the sentence. I am very disturbed by this case and the verdict.

People who are HIV+ should not be seen as bearing the sole responsibility for protecting the (so far) uninfected population, then we would not have a situation where 2 women can call for a man to be imprisoned because of a precaution he didn't take, **but they could have.** Mr Dica did not behave well, I agree, but should he be imprisoned because of this? What if he did not know he was HIV+ at the time of transmission? Would that change things? Probably he wouldn't have been found guilty, but those 2 women would still be HIV+.

We should by now have created a sexual culture in this country where safer sex practices are the expected norm, and where risk is considered. It is shameful that we have not yet reached that point. I believe this has not been achieved due to the Government, Health Authorities and schools pandering to the prejudices and sensibilities of those who believe themselves to be immune from risk.

The point is HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted infections are something that we should think about every time we may be putting ourselves at risk.

There is no doubt that in the Western world, lack of knowledge and information were certainly major factors in transmission when the disease started to appear in the 1980's; no one knew how to protect themselves then. A new wave of any sexually transmitted infection would have to accept complacency and inappropriate public health education as major factors in its ability to spread effectively now.

Safer sex has for too long been seen as a message that solely promotes the use of condoms. Of course condoms are an important part of safer sex practices, but not the whole story, for men or women. Lesbians, who only have sex with other women, are not particularly at risk of contracting HIV, but need to consider their sexual practices in relation to sexually transmitted infections. **Safer sex is a message that affects all of us who are sexually active** - it's about vigilance, awareness and taking care of ourselves and others; it's about considering our full range of sexual behaviours and assessing the associated risks of each of them individually.

World AIDS Day is extremely important - it's a time to remember those who have died, those who live with the virus, and those whose governments let them die by refusing access to information, or treatments that would prolong lives and reduce rates of infection. It's about naming the drug companies who make the drugs too expensive for many countries to afford. It's

about a history of racism, homophobia and sexism in the reporting of HIV/AIDS. That's what I think World AIDS Day is about.

By all means wear a red ribbon on 1<sup>st</sup> December; but why not make a resolution to practice safer sex if you don't already?

Ed

## Make yourself useful

I know, you're probably very useful already. But if you want to *really* make sure you're going to heaven, why not help out with this year's World AIDS Day street collection for the Nott's Hardship Fund? The Fund is a local charity that gives financial support to people living with HIV in Nottinghamshire, and World AIDS Day is their biggest fundraising opportunity.

The street collection happens on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> December from 9.00am - 6.00pm.

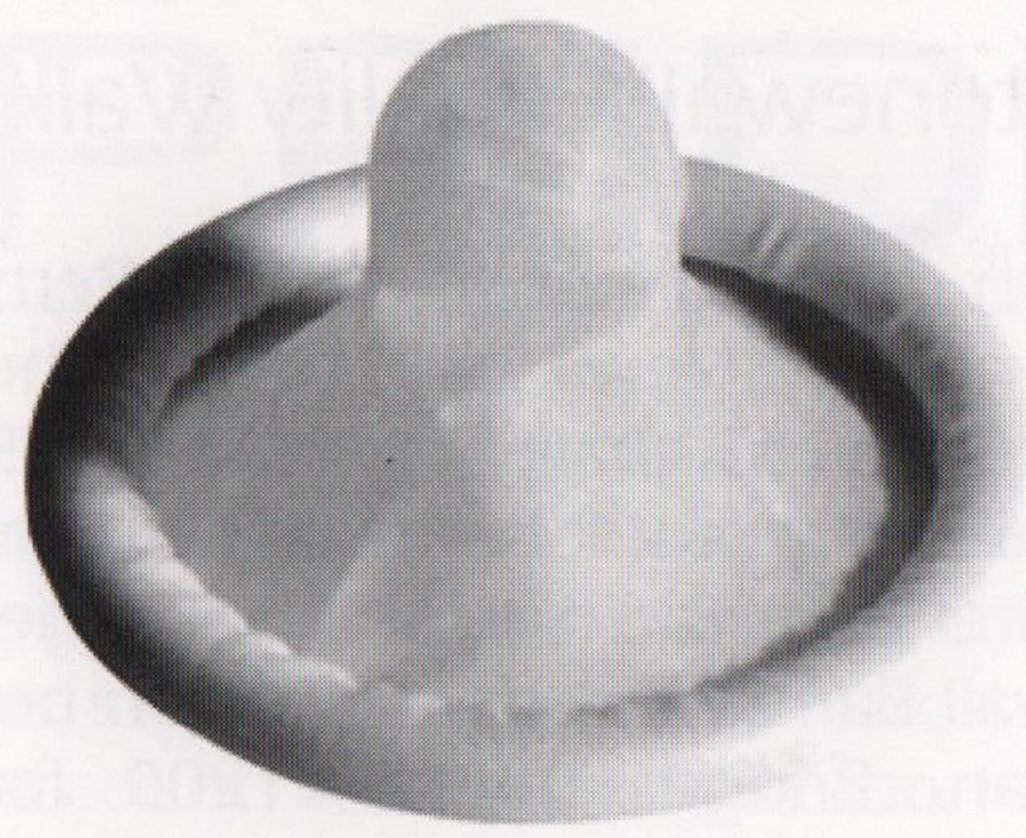
If you can spare an hour to rattle a tin, just turn up on the day at the Hardship Fund stall outside St Peter's Church (next to Marks and Spencer).

For more information, or to make a donation to the fund, contact Armored Young on 845 7135 or John Lippitt on 947 5414.

WAD Weekend @ St Peters Church 28th November - 1st December. A Weekend of awareness raising activities culminating in the annual church service to mark WAD

Contact Mpume on:  
07984 466124





## Over-stuffed

Supply has outstretched demand in the free condom market! This doesn't mean that the gay men of Nottingham are having less sex, but that the lovely bunch of volunteers who meet twice a month to stuff condom packs for the GAI Project have been so productive lately that there's a surplus.

Consequently the Saturday packing session has been suspended for the time being, and the super gorgeous packers will only meet on the second Wednesday of the month from 6.30pm at the Health Shop. (Please note how nice I'm being about them, because they told me off for calling them "foul-mouthed" in a previous issue).

If you'd like to join the fun, just turn up on the night. PS. They're great. All of them.

## One for the ladies

We hear on the grapevine that the New Forester's has been granted a licence for entertainment of an adult nature. Yes, we do mean strippers. And yes, we do mean female ones.

The action happens 24th November and includes disco and free food. Sorry ladies it's a members only ticketed event and unfortunately it's nearly sold out. So for those of us unlucky enough not grab tickets for the first night, we'll have to wait till 22nd December, but be quick because apparently they're going like hotcakes!

To become a member simply pop into the bar for details.

## Late night shopping

The Health Shop has started an evening clinic for gay and bisexual men, offering Hepatitis B vaccinations, HIV and Syphilis testing, advice and support and a wide range of free condoms and lube. The clinic is hosted by the GAI Project and runs on the second and fourth Friday of each month, from 5.30pm - 8.00pm. They're hoping that men will use the clinic on their way home from work or on their way out to a night on the town. You can just drop in (The Health Shop is on Broad Street, opposite the Revolution bar) or call 947 5414 to make an appointment.

## WAG - Women Are Gorgeous

Do you want to meet new friends or extend your social life? Are you new to Nottingham or just coming out?

WAG is a friendly social group for lesbians which meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of each month at the Nottingham Women's Centre, 30 Chaucer Street, Nottingham

The next get together will be on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2003 - Xmas party with quiz. Bring drink and nibbles

Dates for 2004 are:  
9<sup>th</sup> January 2004  
13<sup>th</sup> February 2004

For more information Tel:  
Nottingham Lesbian, Gay & Bi  
Switchboard on 0115 934 8485

## Newark Gay Men's group

At the moment, this meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month in a local pub. The main aim is to provide a social and support network for other gay/bi guys in the Newark area. Contact Mike on 01636 612200 or email:  
michaelcricksmith@hotmail.com

## We get letters

We even get letters from the Ukraine. Nottingham Switchboard recently received a letter from a guy who wrote about the problems of being gay and "out" in the Ukraine. If anyone is interested in writing to him, he ended his letter with this brief "ad";

*Good looking 27-year-old Russian boy, university education, looking for serious man for long term relationship or for good meetings. Fedor Belokon, PO Box 122, Kiev-58, 03058, Ukraine.*

(As far as we know Easyjet doesn't fly there so beware, it could get costly)

## Co-parenting

Are you involved in a relationship with a partner who has children? Is this brilliant, difficult, both or something else? Fancy talking with others on the same situation? If so there's a new group being contemplated, if you would be interested then contact: 'I'm Free' by calling 0115 9110545 or e-mailing us at: imfree\_editor@hotmail.com

## Alcohol Free Zone

Fancy getting involved in a social group which is alcohol free? It's becoming clear from pursuing the 'i Count' returns that a number of people responding are unhappy about the alcohol focus of Nottingham's gay scene. The group could undertake a number of social activities.

You don't need to have a problem with alcohol—just a weariness of pubs and clubs. Please contact 'I'm Free' by calling 0115 9110545 or e-mailing us at: imfree\_editor@hotmail.com

## Notes and Queeries

Everything you've ever wanted to know about LGB history, culture, politics and more!

Joyce Grenfell's biography mentions film actor Maurice Flynn, described as "every gay man's dream". While filming, he left to go to the lavatory and was only found 8 days later painted blue from head to foot and playing the ukulele.

Dr. Eddie Persson (from Stockholm Gay Opera Lovers) has written a book on "deaths in opera" full of fascinating statistics. 45% of sopranos die in operas, but only 17% of basses. Sopranos and tenors are both 5 times more likely to die by being stabbed than mezzo sopranos, but tenors are nearly 4 times more likely than sopranos to be killed by explosions. Unfortunately, this essential tome is only available in Swedish.

On a 1975 Radio Trent phone-in, the Rev. Michael Hall emphasised that there were far more "invisible" gay men than "visible". Letting his descriptive powers blossom, he said that "Those you can see are merely the fringe of the iceberg".

The dictionary of Gay Slang defines Australian Sex as sex which involves licking all parts of the body in a set order. New Zealand Sex is the same without the rimming.

## The love that dares Nott's speak its name

"Archives Awareness Month" was celebrated by Nott's Archives through an exhibition entitled "Forbidden Love". It explored Nottinghamshire's history in terms of records of interracial marriages in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century, moral offences in church courts and gay relationships. For those overwhelmed with curiosity to see this .... you are too late. It closed on October 10<sup>th</sup>.

## Not so grim up North

Efforts are being made to start LGB Youth Groups in various parts of North Notts. Groups in Ashfield and Worksop have already started. Frameworks for groups have been set up in Mansfield and Newark and it is hoped that they will start functioning soon. Contact details are: - Worksop: tel 01909 479191 or info@centreplace.org.uk also www.centreplace.org.uk Ashfield: Phone or text 07990 585647/2 Monday - Friday or phone the office on 01623 727476 Mansfield: tel 01623 652031 or northnottsoutheastproject@hotmail.com Newark: The organisers are based at the Unique Coffee Bar, a youth cafe for people 14-25. If you want to speak to someone there, ask for Matt on 01636 701526 or e-mail matt@uniquecoffeebar.com

## End of the line

Nottingham Lesbian Line has been struggling to staff its service for a long time. In recent months they have just provided an answer phone message and in the last few weeks their number has become "unavailable". Whether the service is revived in the future remains to be seen, but at the moment it needs to be stressed that most of the information carried by Lesbian Line is also available from Nottingham Lesbian and Gay Switchboard. Women who wish to publicize new events or groups are encouraged to leave details with Switchboard; similarly, women who have helped, or considered helping, on Lesbian Line are welcome to volunteer for Switchboard. Switchboard's training programme begins very soon; phone, write or e-mail for details.

## The Women's Café

The long running 'Women's Café', moved to George's Wine Bar in September and is proving a great success with over 40 women attending the relaunch.

For those that haven't been before it's a Women only, easy going space, providing a chance to catch up with friends and make new ones. Don't be afraid to come by yourself, just introduce yourself at the bar and we'll adopt you.

The café is held on the second Tuesday of every month from 7pm to 10.30pm. Georgina, our host, will provide hot and cold food and non alcoholic and alcoholic drinks. It's a reasonably accessible ground floor venue, right opposite to Broadway Cinema.

George's Wine Bar, Broad Street, Hockley

Future dates are  
9<sup>th</sup> December 2003  
13<sup>th</sup> January 2003  
10<sup>th</sup> February 2003

For more information Tel Lesbian & Gay Switchboard on 0115 934

## Lost? Get a Guide!

If you need a little help navigating the crazy world that is queer Nottingham (and who doesn't), look out for the new GAI Guide to all things LGBT in the city (and beyond). It's half the size of the last one, but has got even more in it. Wow...it's like the Tardis. Not only that, it's got a funky new cover with pictures and everything, and it fits in an average-sized pocket. You could say it's pocket-size. Copies are available from the Health Shop and scene venues. If you don't know where the venues are, there's a handy map in the GAI Guide.