

September/October 2025

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If you have any information or ideas you would like to see in the Review, just e-mail the details to

Nottinghamshire's Rainbow Heritage

at nottsrh@hotmail.co.uk

The deadline for the next edition will be October 24th



NOTTS RAINBOW REVIEW

LOOKING BACK AT NOTTS PRIDE





The occasional spot of light rain had little effect on the enthusiasm of the crowds - bigger than ever - which thronged from Lister Gate, through the Market Square, through Hockley to end at Sneinton Market.

It took over an hour for the whole of the march/parade to pass by. Once again, thanks must go to the Pride Committee for successfully organising an event on this scale.



COMING UP SEPT/OCT

John Mackay and Sally Homer, in association with Curtis Brown, present

Sandi Toksvig – Friends of

Dorothy

Tue 30 Sep



30th September at Nottingham Playhouse

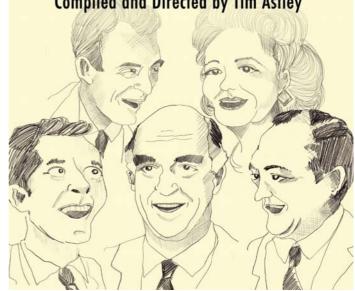




ROUND THE HORNE

APOLLO THEATRE COMPANY PRESENTS

Written by Barry Took and Marty Feldman Compiled and Directed by Tim Astley



Noted perhaps above all for the gay innuendos generated (often in Polari) by Julian and "his friend" Sandy, portrayed by Hugh Paddick and Kenneth Williams, the 1960s radio comedy show was enjoyed by millions.

It's brought back live on stage on October 7th at the Mansfield Palace Theatre.





QUEER NOTTINGHAM BOOK LAUNCH

Join us to celebrate the launch of the new Queer Nottingham 1960 - 1990 book. Step back in time with readings, slideshows, quizzes, stalls, DJ sets and more!



NOTTINGHAM CITY LIBRARIES notts queer history archive 18.9.25

6:30pm - 8:30pm

Central Library

Scan to book your ticket



All proceeds go to Notts LGBT Network

You are invited to relive the past... with a slide show, a DJ set from Mike Atkinson, an exhibition, display of old periodicals, contributions by those who were there, including from Simon Smalley, readings from the period and a prize quiz.

What songs do you remember? What did you do in those exciting decades? You can also attend if you were not even born then, as we look back to the sixties/seventies/eighties and then forward to the next book about the decades to date coming out in a few months.

Feel free to dress in period costume, but only if you have to... Bring your own photos if you have any

Bar. cafe and stalls on site

Thursday, 18th September, 2025

6:30 pm - 8:30 pm Start of proceedings 7.15pm

Nottingham Central Library
1 Carrington Street, Nottingham, NG1 7FH

All ticket money goes to the Nottingham LGBT+ Network – https://www.nottslgbt.com/ – currently celebrating fifty years supporting the local LGBT+ community.

Book via QR code or online at Five Leaves Bookshop

https://fiveleavesbookshop.co.uk/events

AT FIVE LEAVES BOOKSHOP HTTPS://FIVELEAVES BOOKSHOP.CO.UK



Radclyffe Hall The Well of Loneliness

OXFORD WORLD'S CLASSICS



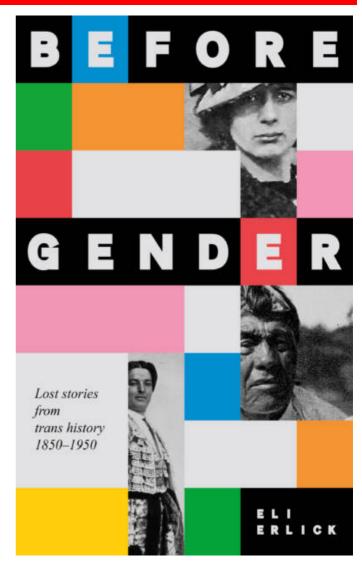
Join Jana Funke and Hannah Roche, editors of the new Oxford World's Classics edition of Radclyffe Hall's *The Well of Loneliness*, for a no-holds-barred discussion of the most famous banned book in LGBTQ+ history.

Published and banned as obscene in the UK in 1928, *The Well of Loneliness* has offered support and affirmation to generations of readers across the world. However, the so-called 'Lesbian Bible' has also alienated, offended, and divided readerships, and it continues to inspire debates about gender and sexuality, freedom of speech, and the identity-shaping power of literary fiction.

In this illustrated talk, Funke and Roche will share the delights and challenges of working with *The Well of Loneliness*. Looking ahead to the centenary of the novel's publication and trials, the talk will situate the novel in queer cultural history and consider its ongoing significance to a diverse range of readers today.

Drawing on archival finds, historical articles and artefacts, and personal testimony, Funke and Roche will reflect on a century of *The Well of Loneliness*.

Wed. Sept. 10th 7-8.30pm At Five Leaves Bookshop - book online



Discover the trailblazing lives of thirty trans people who will radically change everything you've been told about transgender history.

Highlighting influential individuals from 1850 to 1950 who are all but unknown today, Eli Erlick shares thirty remarkable stories from romance to rebellion and mystery to murder. These narratives chronicle the grit, joy and survival of trans people long before gender became an everyday term.

Organised into four parts, paralleling today's controversies over gender identity – kids, activists, workers and athletes – Before Gender introduces figures whose forgotten stories transform the discussion. These ground-breaking histories include two of the first teens to access gender-affirming medical treatment, a countess who instigated an LGBTQ+ riot forty years before Stonewall and the greatest female billiards player of the 1910s.

Bold and visionary, Erlick's debut uncovers these lost stories from the depths of the archives to narrate trans lives in a way that has never been attempted before.

Tues. Oct, 7th 7-8.30pm At Five Leaves Bookshop





OPEN TABLE

NOTTINGHAM

An affirming worship community for LGBTQIA+ people and those who love them

Meeting the **last Sunday** of every month from **5-7pm** with a **bring-and-share meal**

St. John's Carrington, Mansfield Road, NG5 2DP

Dates for 2025 SEPT 28th OCT 26th More info:

stjohnscarrington.org.uk/ opentablenottingham Facebook:

opentablenottingham

LGBT+ EVENSONG AT ST. PETER'S

An afternoon of readings and hymns to welcome and celebrate the LGBT+ community in Nottingham.

St Peter's Church, St Peter's Square, Nottingham, NG1 2NW

3pm Sunday Sept. 28th



St Peter's church is part of the "inclusive" church, a movement which believes that there should be no differentiation within the Church on the basis of sex, race, age, disability, sexual orientation etc

CONTENT CAFÉ ON THE MOVE



The Content Café social group has been meeting on Saturday mornings in the House of Fraser. The House of Fraser store in the Victoria Centre will be closing in October. They will now be meeting at the John Lewis Place to Eat (3rd Floor)

LGBTQ+ FAMILY MEETUPS



Come join other LGBTQ+ families for an afternoon at the farm! Feed the animals, explore the playground and circle back to the community space for refreshments. It's been one year since we started so there will be cake to celebrate!





AT THE LORD ROBERTS





Nottingham's wizard queen BENTHIC ZONE and Derbyshire's cybergirl DOXXIE PHISHER invite you to NIGHTMARE! NIGHTMARE! KILL! KILL!, a wild drag variety show that merges performance, viewing party and game show.

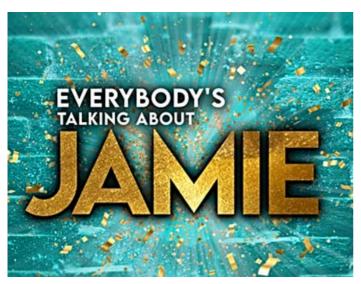
With special guest host, Axolotl Full Throttle!

Tickets £8-50 - search "Nightmare" on Outsavvy



The **Niche Artefact** Two-Year Anniversary Retrospective Exhibit will be the 12th Art Showcase from Niche Artefact. Diving deep into all the themes covered in the last 2 years, while giving you the opportunity to mingle with all the live performers and local artists.

Located at Revolution de Cuba, Alexandra House 26-28 Market St Nottingham NG1 6HW 01158 715735. This unique glamorous art event with a full live main stage show will begin on Sept. 11th at 7pm. Get tickets from www.gigantic.com - search for Niche Artefact



Jamie New isn't like the other kids. While his classmates plan their futures, Jamie dreams of stepping into the spotlight as a drag queen.

Facing doubt, bullying, and a world that doesn't always understand him, Jamie finds strength in his mother's unwavering support, his mentor's wisdom, and the friends who stand by his side.

Everybody's Talking About Jamie is a joyous, life-affirming musical that blends dazzling choreography, an electrifying pop score, and an inspiring message of self-expression and acceptance.

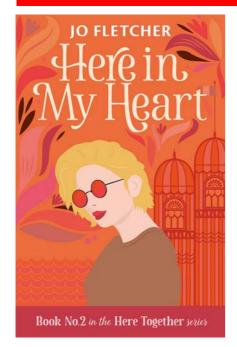
At Derby Theatre Oct.28th-Nov.1st 7.30pm



If you would like to come along to this HIV support group, please contact your Consultant at Nottingham City Hospital or alternatively email liam@thespencertrust.co.uk



NEW RELEASES FROM GLOBAL WORDSMITHS https://globalwords.co.uk



Here in My Heart by Jo Fletcher (out August 1st)

One awkward marine biologist. One ambitious professor. One gap year that changes everything.

Professor Sylvie Boucher is sharp, elegant, and chasing a major promotion. The last thing she wants is to chaperone a bunch of Californian gap-year students—until she meets Adelaide Poole.

Ade is an awkward, earnest marine biologist more at ease with sea life than people. But Sylvie captivates her, and to Sylvie's surprise, the feeling is mutual.

As warm days fade into cosy nights, their connection deepens. But with an age gap, diverging paths, and an ocean between them, can a fleeting spark become something more? A warm sapphic romance about unexpected love, self-discovery, and finding someone who truly sees you.



One wedding. One ex. And one week of chaos that might just lead to forever.

Emma Smith closed the door on New Orleans and the painful memories it held long ago. But when her best friend's wedding pulls her back to the vibrant city she swore she'd never revisit, a familiar voice on the plane sends a jolt through her. Suddenly, the memories of one unforgettable summer—and the woman who made it so special—flood back.

For Riley, life in New Orleans flows as smoothly as the Mississippi. The family business is her focus, and the dreams of her youth have settled into the past. Until Emma's unexpected return.

Thrown together for a week of wedding celebrations, the spark between them reignites, unsettling Riley's carefully constructed contentment. But as laughter and old feelings resurface, so do the reasons Emma left. Can they seize their second chance at love, or are some wounds too deep to heal?



Step into a world where the unexpected thrives and every story has a spark of magic.

From a soul-bound motorbike with a destiny of its own to a mysterious blind date that's anything but ordinary, *SapphFic Eclectic Six* delivers a fresh collection of stories with heart, mystery, and imagination. Encounter a devil with charm, the eerie pull of a witch tree's power, and characters navigating love, identity, and grief.

This sixth volume in the *SapphFic Eclectic* series brings together an exciting blend of voices—emerging talents, first-time writers, and seasoned authors alike—each contributing a unique perspective to this vibrant celebration of sapphic fiction.

As always, this anthology offers something for everyone: romance, speculative twists, supernatural encounters, and deeply human moments. It's a free gift to our supportive and passionate reading community—and a perfect starting point for discovering your next favourite author.

free download) - download link: https://dl.bookfunnel.com/3xo46osgnt

Prescribing hormones and blockers for transgender patients



NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire is carrying out a listening exercise to help inform the commissioning of a new, permanent service to prescribe and monitor hormones and blockers for adult transgender patients in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire. Your views and experiences will help us understand what's working well and where improvements can be made. Your feedback will help shape the design of this new service, which is expected to launch in April 2026.

Scan the QR code below to share your thoughts.

To share your views over the phone, request a hard copy of the survey,or to invite us to your community group meeting, please contact

Email: nnicbnn.engagement@nhs.net Mobile: 07818584419

Please contact us if you would like this information in a different language or format

The survey will run until 23:59 on 12 September 2025.







The **Notts Queer History** Archive is hosting Open Donation Days at Nottingham Central Library!

We're building a community collection of zines, posters, t-shirts, badges, photos, keyrings, books, flyers, newspapers... You name it. If it tells a story about LGBTQ+ life in Notts, past or present, we want it!

Just turn up, donate, and help shape the archive. We'll be there with a big empty box, ready to collect your queer history. No need to book- just bring your items and be part of preserving Nottingham's queer legacy!

Bring your history to life by contributing to Nottingham's ever-growing queer history archive - we'll be ready to welcome your stories and treasures. Whether it's from the 70s, 70s, 90s or last week, your contribution matters. The Notts Queer History Archive is a radical, community-led initiative founded by CJ DeBarrain 2022. The aim is to collect, preserve and share the stories of Nottingham's LGBTQ+ communities both past and present, through everyday objects and memories.

Currently, the archive comprises 173 oral history interviews, 208 items and 830 newspaper articles, both in physical and digital format.

Sat 27 Sep | 9am-4pm Wed 15 Oct | 4-7pm Sat 15 Nov | 9am-4pm

Central Library, first floor, Local Studies

For more information, search for Nottsqueerhistoryarchive on Instagram

LOOKING BACK



PANEL DISCUSSION

Building an LGBTQIA+ Friendly Nottingham



How can Nottingham better support and celebrate its LGBTQIA+ communities? How can the city create a greater sense of belonging for LGBTQIA+ people, improving their quality of life?

On July 30th there was an online conversation with the panel members shown above which addressed these questions and more.

Issues discussed included:

- How do LGBTQIA+ people living in Nottingham experience the city?
- What barriers exist in terms of safety, visibility, access to services, and access to the city's cultural life? What are the opportunities to remove them?
- How can Nottingham's businesses, arts and cultural institutions and support services be reshaped to make it a more LGBTQIA+ inclusive and affirming city?
- How can we embed equity, creativity, and authentic community voice in future planning and policymaking?

A comparison was made between the situation in Nottingham today compared with the early 1970s.

At that time Nottingham had two gay bars and one social group and the gay bars were of the "private party" type i.e. you had to know that the particular room behind the notice was gay.

Today it is possible to list over 80 groups, activities and venues which support our community. Despite that people do remark that it in the past there were specific full time successful nightclubs.

At the moment there is much more integration where LGBTQIA+ people are welcomed within a wider community, but the need for specifically queer spaces was stressed and also the need for the individual components of "queer" to have their own spaces .

Funding for relevant services is always difficult and is made harder when some organisations are reducing or stopping support, perhaps because finances are stretched, perhaps influenced by a right wing agenda.

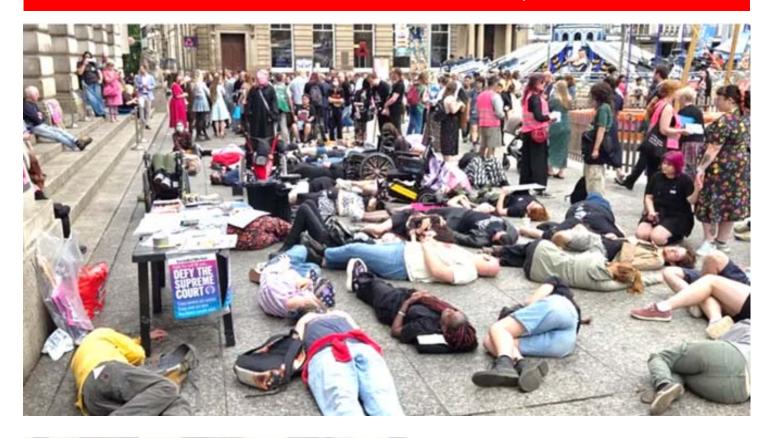
Providing training on queer issues for organisations was emphasised, but of course this costs money. Simple and cheap steps - such as the use of imagery - can go a long way to reassure the community. The Pastel Project's YS2 stickers are an effective example.

So many local endeavours depend entirely on volunteers and that may result in "burn out" or the collapse of a service when a lead volunteer leaves.

The development of the Rainbow Quarter should provide a significant advance in terms of visibility, of recognition of our community and as a generator of resources and initiatives.

The discussion can now be viewed online at https://city-arts.org.uk/building-an-lgbtqia-friendly-nottingham/

TRANS "DIE IN" AT THE MARKET SQUARE







On August 16th, Nottingham Against Transphobia held a die-in in Nottingham city centre to demand justice from the Labour government and the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC), and show the general public the reality of what trans people are currently facing.

They say "Nottingham Against Transphobia is organising a peaceful, community-led die-in because the EHRC and Labour are pushing trans people out of public life and pushing people to suicide." "Day to day, trans people are ostracised, shamed, harassed and assaulted for simply living our lives. 48 per cent of trans adults having attempted suicide at least once. Not because there is anything wrong with us, but because of the hate, violence, and discrimination we face."

The protest comes after a version of the EHRC's finalised guidance – published by The Times – will allegedly urge service providers to ban trans people from all single-sex facilities and services including changing rooms, wards and sporting competitions.

The EHRC's draft guidance outlined that trans women and men should be barred from services and facilities that match their gender but also added trans women can be banned from the men's and trans men from the women's in "some circumstances". An example for objection could "because the gender reassignment process has given them a masculine appearance or attributes to which reasonable objection might be taken".

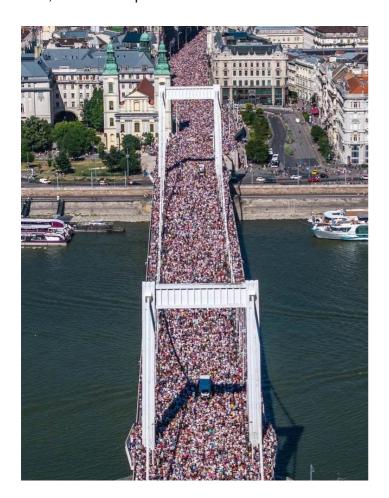
MARCH OR BAN?



Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán warned that anyone involved in the June 28th banned Pride of Budapest march will face "legal consequences".

Those involved in Saturday's march could also be forced to pay fines. As well as approving the use of Al-powered facial recognition to identify people at banned events, Orbán's party, Fidesz, has streamlined the process of issuing them with financial penalties.

The threats had a galvanising effect and, rather than the usual 30,000 participants, between 180,000 and 200,000 turned up.



167 AT 100TH



Nottingham Front Runners celebrated their 100th run on July 8th. They hoped to get 100 people to take part and were delighted when 167 turned up.

PRIDE ON RADIO NOTTINGHAM



In the week leading up to Nottingham Pride, Radio Nottingham did a series of interviews with a range of people who are or were involved with different aspects of LGBT+ Nottingham.

The interviewees included:

Leigh Ellis (Notts Pride), Tony Challis (about Section 28), Nottingham Front Runners; David Edgley (Notts Rainbow Heritage/Notts Rainbow Review); Tony Barker (Nottingham Gay Switchboard/Notts LGBT+ Network), CJ DeBarra (Notts Queer History Archive) and Lucy and Shell Buckle (Notts Queer History Walk and East Midlands Non Binary Association).

NOTTS QUEER HISTORY ARCHIVE AT THE PRIDE SHOP



To coincide with Nottingham Pride, CJ DeBarra installed some of the resources of Notts Queer History Archive at the Pride Shop on Maid Marian Way. The framed pictures consist of local queer newsletters, magazines and posters. They include GEM (Gay East Midlands), the three newsletters produced by Richard McCance: Gay Nottingham, Metrogay and Outright, and also

women's newsletters such as Lookout and Diversion and others like Chimaera (from the Nottingham CHE group), NOGSOG, Gaysoc and posters from Gays against the Nazis, Pink Lace and Nottingham Pride. Nearly all of these can be downloaded from the Nottinghamshire's Rainbow Heritage website and/or The Sparrows Nest - see the Miscellany section in this edition.

AT THE LORD ROBERTS



SPREADING THE WORD



It is no surprise that the Nottingham Pastel Project's "Your Space Too" stickers have been taken up by our local Oxfam. The good news is that Oxfam stores across the UK are now showing the stickers.

NOTTINGHAM'S RAINBOW QUARTER



The plan to make Hockley into Nottingham's Rainbow Quarter were aired on BBC East Midlands today, which included interviews with Sam Harvey and CJ DeBarra.. It is hoped that things will be in place for 2026's Pride. There is a survey through which you can make comments and suggestions about the Rainbow Quarter on the Pastel Project's Linktree

VACCINE FOR GONORRHOEA



Gonorrhoea vaccines have now been made available in sexual health clinics across the UK, in a bid to tackle record-breaking levels of infections.

The jabs will first be offered to those at highest risk people who have a history of multiple sexual partners or sexually transmitted infections.

NHS England say the roll out is a world-first, and predict it could prevent as many as 100,000 cases, potentially saving the NHS almost £8m over the next decade.

RECEPTION & CAKE IN CORK



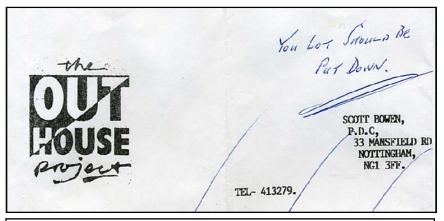
Nottingham-based author, historian and archivist CJ DeBarra got married to Lindsey in Cardiff in April and then held a Reception in August in Cork, including an utterly spectacular wedding cake.



LOOKING FURTHER BACK

COUNCILS AND US - SOME ECHOES FROM THE PAST





In the 1980s there were moves to establish what at the time would be Nottingham's "gay centre". This was to be the Outhouse. In 1993 Outhouse Project's secretary sent a letter to all Nottingham City Councillors informing them of the project.

One letter was returned as shown above. Attempts to determine the Councillor responsible were unsuccessful. The letter generated the "Coffin Parade". The coffin bearing the words "here lay the remains of Nottingham City Council's equal opportunities policy.was carried through the streets of the city before being parked in front of the Council House which was then besieged by a large crowd of screaming lesbians and gay men.

Gays and lesbians should not be employed by Newark and Sherwood District Council in posts such as changing room attendants, councillors were told last week. "I think we should discriminate against them" said Bill Bailey (Con.) during a debate on the Council's equal opportunities policy. May 31st 1985

Newark Advertiser

Pin-ups return to council walls

A Labour ban on pin-ups in Council offices was scrapped by Conservatives who recently won control of the City Council.

The Tories also overturned a ban on persistent leering or staring at females and calling women colleagues "Sexy, gorgeous or lover". May 27th 1987

The Daily Telegraph



The precarious nature of employment for many lesbians and gay men was emphasised in 1984 by a policy decision of the Tory led Rugby Council.

"In future any homosexuals will not be employed by the Council. They may be the best applicant, but they will not get the job".

In attempting to justify the move, a councillor said "We would not employ a known rapist in the typing pool".



In 1986 Cllr Bill Brownhill (Leader of South Staffordshire Council) called for lesbians and gays to be gassed to prevent the spread of AIDS.

A subsequent sit-in at the councillor's house by 12 members of the Nottingham Lesbian & Gay Youth Movement was broken up violently by the local police and all were arrested, but all charges were later dropped.

Sometime later, one of the people arrested received compensation of £30,000 for the way she was treated by the police.

GROUP OF THE DAY

QUEER ADVENTURE COLLECTIVE

We run two main events per month which are advertised on our Instagram feed and announcements page on our WhatsApp channel. We aim to make these events as accessible as possible and they are organised by a group lead.



We also have smaller community channels which run ad hoc meets based around specific interests, such as cycling and swimming. There aren't official organisers for this, it's about meeting like minded people with similar interests - and arranging a time and a date!

Our community groups currently consists of: Paddleboarders, Open Water Swimmers, Skaters, Cyclists, Climbers, Parents and Runners.





Recent events have included:

- Attending the Belvoir Castle Firework Championship - a celebratory afternoon and evening of relaxing, picnicking, a few tipples and watching the drone & firework shows in the beautiful grounds of Belvoir Castle
- A walk along the River Soar and to explore Cossington Meadows and Mountsorrel Meadows Nature Reserve. Taking a look at the birds on the water, as well as spotting butterfly species for those who are interested.
- A hike in the Peak District, starting at Matlock Bath and following a circular trail up to High Tor and Riber Castle. Refreshments and social in Matlock afterwards
- Attending the Space Late event together at the National Space Centre! The evening included a planetarium show, live outdoor stargazing, talks and workshops on all things space.
- A walk up through Dovedale, climbing Thorpe Cloud (steep climb, but short- optional), visiting the famous Dovedale steps and the interesting cave formations in the area. The walk itself lasted about two hours, but in addition there were tea breaks and time to socialise.

Queer Adventure Collective is an East Midlands based LGBTQ+ group, bringing people together to enjoy the outdoors. For events go to "queer.adventure.collective" on Instagram



MISCELLANY

TWINS A TALE OF TWO CITIES



Nottingham is twinned with the Belgian city of Ghent. They are cities of a similar size. Both cities have a tradition of lace making and they also have long standing LGBT+ support services. In Nottingham it is Notts LGBT+ Network. In Ghent it is **Casa Rosa**.

Casa Rosa is the East Flemish Rainbow House and is part of **Çavaria**. Çavaria is the advocate for LGBT people in Flanders and Brussels. Çavaria is an umbrella organization of more than 120 affiliated associations which are offered support, participation and training and together form the LGBT community

On the ground floor of their building is **A-Pluss**, a professionally run café with "an accessible and open character where young and old of all orientations are warmly welcome." There is now a new street terrace and live music at weekends.

The bar is where everyone can get to know new people in a casual way, in a cosy atmosphere. and in an attractive setting.



Çavaria campaigns, informs, raises awareness, lobbies and expresses opinions. The free and anonymous Holebifoon offers help and you can report discrimination. ZiZo magazine is Cavaria's showcase, on paper and online

Lumi is Casa Rosa's equivalent of Notts LGBT+ Network's helpline.



Lumi asks "Do you need help or do you know someone who needs help? Lumi is a reception and information line for all your questions about gender and sexuality. You can ask for information or tell your story." It operates by phone, e-mail, texting and social media.

Unlike our Network, Casa Rosa has several paid workers in addition to its volunteers. Much of their funding comes from government grants, but they are becoming harder to obtain - a familiar story.

At the front of the building is a mural by the famous Belgian illustrator Brecht Vandenbroucke (see bottom of page). They say "With this mural, the City of Ghent wants to make clear that Ghent is an LGBT friendly city."



LGBT+ AWARENESS TRAINING

Do you belong to an organisation, a company, a group that would benefit from LGBT+ awareness training or would like to have a presentation on aspects of LGBT+ history?

When Nottinghamshire's Rainbow Heritage was set up in 2008 with a grant from the Heritage Lottery, part of its remit was to provide regular training. In the last seventeen years training and presentations have been provided for over one hundred organisations and groups. They include:

- 6 hospitals
- 8 health-related organisations
- 5 care homes
- 5 housing organisations
- 10 schools/colleges
- 3 universities
- Notts Sexual Violence Service
- Notts Police and both local councils

Between 2014 and 2020, the former Police and Crime Commissioner Paddy Tipping supported numerous training sessions which included a focus on hate crime against LGBT+ people.

The main elements of the training are:

- Getting the terminology right what the "words" mean .. and which words not to use
- Homophobia, biphobia, transphobia: what they are their frequency, their causes and the effects they have
- Homophobia, biphobia & transphobia in a wider context of general prejudice against minorities
- Myths and stereotypes
- Negative laws and the more recent positive changes in the law.
- "Coming out": what it means; what it's like to be "stuck in the closet" and what happens when you come out

There can be an additional focus on issues such as

- Health issues and LGBT+ people's interaction with health care providers
- Supporting victims of LGBT+ hate crimes; why these crimes are under-reported and how reporting can be encouraged
- Same sex domestic abuse/Male rape
- The special concerns of young LGBT+ people and also of older LGBT+ people, particularly those in residential care
- Local resources and support systems

For further information e-mail

nottsrh@hotmail.co.uk

THE SPARROW'S NEST ARCHIVE

Explore Nottingham's Proud LGBTQ+ History

Amongst the thousands of documents in our FREE Digital Library are hundreds of local LGBTQ+ newsletters, journals and papers, going back to the early 1980s.

Chimera, Gay Nottingham, Lookout, Diversion and all the others are bursting with amazing





Curating tens of thousands of books, journals, pamphlets, zines, leaflets, posters and unpublished archival materials, we focus on the history of anarchist groups and individuals in the UK and beyond, as well as the history of other social movements, protests and radicalism in Nottingham and the wider region.

https://thesparrowsnest.org.uk info@thesparrowsnest.org.uk







Nottingham & Nottinghamshire

REFUGEE FORUM







CELEBRATING DIVERSITY, SUPPORTING RECOVERY

At **Nottingham Recovery Network**, we want everyone who walks through our doors to feel welcome, supported and celebrated for who they are. We know that drug and alcohol use can affect anyone – no matter their background, identity or circumstances. That's why it's so important to us that our services are a space where everyone feels welcome to come for support, without fear of judgement.

Our pledge says it best: "At Nottingham Recovery Network, we pledge to value and celebrate the diversity in Nottingham City." We are committed to making our services accessible, so that everyone feels supported, appreciated and empowered. We want this to be a space where everybody feels welcome and valued, and where differences are respected.

Thank you for helping us create an inclusive community where dignity and respect are at the core of everything we do."

Putting our pledge into action.

This year has been a big one for us when it comes to making our services as inclusive as possible. We've set up a dedicated LGBTQ+ Inclusivity Committee, who are working hard to make sure everything we do is safe, supportive and affirming for LGBTQ+ individuals. To back that up, all our staff take part in mandatory LGBTQ+ inclusivity, pronoun and sexual health training. It's been amazing to see the conversations this has opened up across our team.

We were also over the moon to receive a 'Your Spaces Too' sticker from the Notts Pastel Project – a recognition of our commitment to being a truly transinclusive service.

Joining the community

This summer we joined the Notts Pride parade for the very first time and had a stall in Sneinton market. It was such a brilliant experience meeting people, hearing their stories and showing that NRN is a proud part of the LGBTQ+ community in Nottingham.



We've also been working with our friends at The Health Shop to promote sexual health, provide safe needle exchange support and – excitingly – we've created a brand new Chemsex Harm Reduction booklet together.

And because learning never stops, our staff have been taking part in fantastic 'Lunch and Learn' sessions with Notts Rainbow Heritage, exploring the rich LGBTQ+ history of Nottingham. It's been a real eye-opener and has given us even more motivation to keep building inclusive spaces and following in our city's pioneering footsteps.



Looking ahead

We know that creating a truly inclusive service is an ongoing journey, but we're proud of the steps we've taken so far to remove barriers to support – and we couldn't do it without the voices of the community guiding us. Thank you for helping us make NRN a place where everyone feels safe, valued and empowered.



Drug & Alcohol Support in Nottingham

Participants Wanted!

Exploring middle-late aged LGBTQ+ adults plans for the future-ageing in place vs residential/domiciliary care

Deadline for participation— 1st October 2025 Are you an LGBTQ+ adult aged between 40–70?

ar

Are you based in the UK?

Are you worried about the future? Do you have concerns about the current care sector in the UK?



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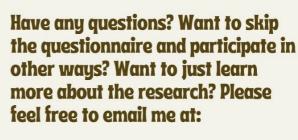
★1 =

To participate please scan this QR code with you phone camera and fill in the relevant questionnaire.





Nottingham Trent University



harriet.argyle2019@my.ntu.ac.uk

NOTTS QUEER CALENDAR

You may have wondered who assembles the Notts Queer Calendar and how it is put together. Now read on....

My name is Nat Taylor, and some people may know me from my time at the helm of Netherfield Pride with my wonderful wife Hanna, but now I have flown the nest to spread my wings across a wider area in search of all the events for gueer people in our city.

My main goals for starting the calendar back in April was to try and get out of the house more, and to stop the overwhelming feeling of being out of the loop when it came to the queer community.

There are some great resources for queer events (you're reading one right now!) and in fact Rainbow Review was a huge inspiration to me. I thought 'wouldn't it be great if I knew what was happening every day?' which then, of course, morphed into 'wouldn't it be great if everyone knew what was happening every day?'.

I still pull a lot of my information from the local listings here, as well as websites from specific organisations such as Notts LGBT Network, Notts Trans Hub, the Pride Shop, and the Spencer Trust. Another fantastic resource is the Notts LGBTQ+ Discord channel, who have a dedicated events thread that is regularly added to.

The rest comes from Instagram accounts: there are lots of lovely people who send me the events they are hosting or things that they've seen, and every week I scour through people's posts to see what they're advertising. Then I either put it on my trusty spreadsheet or jot it down in a list for the upcoming week, and all that comes together to make Friday's weekly roundup!

I also periodically do reviews of events I've been to to give people an idea of what to expect when they go somewhere. It's helping me to push myself out of my comfort zone and be more sociable, and I hope it's motivating other shy or socially awkward people to put themselves out there too.

The best way to see what's going on (outside of following the calendar and looking at the weekly roundup, of course!) is to take a look at the many incredible people I am following. Nottingham's queer community is so full of life and culture if you know where to look for it, and I am so touched and overjoyed by everyone who has shown me support and gratitude over the past few months. I really didn't think it was going to be as popular or as useful as it has turned out to be! What started as a way of finding community has grown into something where anyone can find what they're looking for.

So, if you're hosting an event, thinking about hosting, or just want to chat to someone queer about queer stuff, please get in touch!

Nat natjhallam@gmail.com

LGBTQ+ HOSPICE



A hospice in East Sussex has announced it is to become the UK's first dedicated hospice for the LGBTQ+ community.

The move by Sussex Beacon, based in Brighton, has been dubbed a "landmark development" by NHS Sussex, aiming to combine inclusive care with expertise in specialist HIV care.

The charity has been offering palliative and end-oflife care to people with HIV for more than 30 years, recently expanding its services to the wider LGBTQ+ community, regardless of HIV status.

A 2018 report published by Stonewall – an LGBTQ+ charity – found that one in seven LGBTQ+ people (14%) avoided seeking healthcare for fear of discrimination from staff.

Hospice UK's I Just Want To Be Me report from 2023 also revealed that the LGBTQ+ community often found healthcare unwelcoming after coming up against insensitivities or misconceptions.

"The Sussex Beacon is uniquely placed to change that," Ms Brett added. "We will not only provide inclusive palliative care, but also act as a national resource, helping other hospices improve their services for LGBTQ+ patients."



THE LOCAL LISTINGS



Singing Proud Nottingham is Nottingham's only LGBTQ+ choir. We are a bunch of people with varied musical experience and talent.

No auditions are necessary and some people have a better singing ability than others....but we enjoy singing togeth-

er, learning and developing

We meet term times on Thursday Nights at 7.15pm to 9.15pm at a venue in Carrington. We charge a fee of £20 a month (or £10 a month for low/no waged).

Contact us at 07448 464938 or e-mail singingproudnottm@gmail.com



The Pride Shop 65 Maid Marian Way

The shop is packed with every sort of Pride merchandise, but it also offers a safe and welcoming space for LGBT+ people who would like an alternative to the bars.

There are hot and cold drinks and an array of cakes. Closed on Tuesdays, otherwise Monday to Saturday 10am-7pm and Sunday 11am-5pm, but these may change so check first. More info at

0115 8918456 www.theprideshop.co.uk

PRIDE OF MEN GROUP



The social group for gay men aged 30s to 50s now usually meets once a month.

If this is something which interests you, contact Notts LGBT+ Network for more information.

You can sign up using the mailing list on the website www.nottslgbt.com



Notts Trans Hub, the trans information and support service, and Trans Space Notts, the trans social and support group are both under the name of Notts Trans Hub. They are now registered charity number 1199241. They can s be contacted through

trustees@nottstranshub.org
For more details go to

https://www.nottstranshub.org and https://www.instagram.com/nottstranshub



Whether you consider yourself to have no artistic talent, are a budding artist or just dabble in crafts every so often, you are very welcome to join. We will be creating on our own and with each other in a calm atmosphere. You are welcome to come for as little or as long as you like. Book at

Queer-Crafts.Eventbrite.com



A space for LGBTQ+ parents and guardians to ask questions, share experiences/knowledge, and plan meet ups for our little ones to get together and normalise LGBTQ+ families... our wonderful allies most welcome too! You can find us at

https://www.facebook.com/groups/1141143773051692



Weekly Queer Social. Meet with fellow LGBTQ+ people at The Pride Shop at the Monday afternoon 4PM - 6PM Queer Social . 65 Maid Marian Way.



Proud Forest is the new LGBTQ+ Forest supporters group. You can contact them at

proud_forest@outlook.com
and www.proudforest.co.uk



Purpose: inclusive social group for all those who identify under the LGBTQ+ umbrella. Age: Over 18

Events: all members can put up events for other group members to join them. All events need to be approved by group admins to ensure they meet group rules and the focus of the group.

A valid Facebook account is required to join the group. https://www.facebook.com/groups/936928346942338/



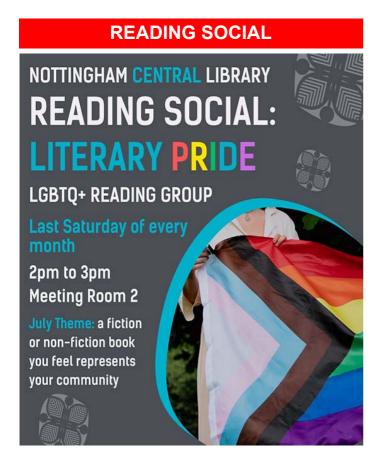
The OUTlaws



The Outlaws is the LGBTQ+ and allies supporters group, for Nottinghamshire County Cricket Club and The Blaze.

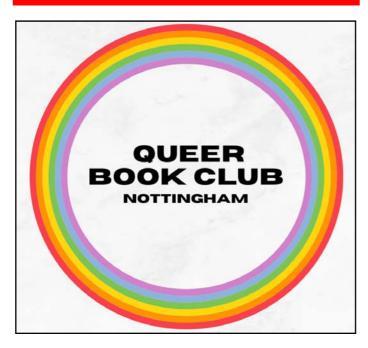
£3 Donation Free Tea & Coffee 6:30-8:30 PM

Our website is currently a facebook group which can be found here - https://www.facebook.com/groups/557658973013935



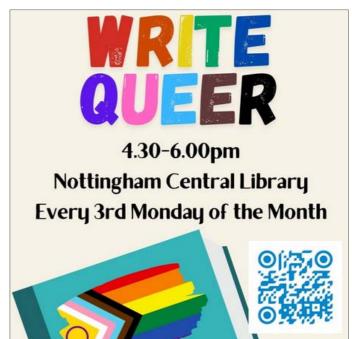
If you are involved in starting a new group, or if your current group is changing how it operates, please let us know.

e-mail nottsrh@hotmail.co.uk



A new queer book group has started. We'll be selecting a book to read every month, focusing on LBGTQ+ stories and authors, and meeting up to discuss. Dates and venues vary.

For updates, follow in Instagram at @queerbookclubnotts





OutdoorLads is a friendly group for the gay, bi, and trans community to get together to enjoy adventures and activities.

Our events are run by volunteers all over the UK and include walking, cycling, running, hostel and camping, water sports, climbing, cultural/heritage. We also organise expeditions worldwide. Locally Notts is part of our Central England region.

For details go to www.outdoorlads.com

CONTENT CAFE



A welcoming LGBTQ+ social event - refreshments and chat every Saturday 10.30 to 12pm at the "Place to Eat" John Lewis 3rd floor.. Just look for the table with the golden pineapple on it.

Their Facebook page is https://tinyurl.com/rnbkeft9



All asylum seekers, refugees and immigrant women who identify as lesbian or bisexual are welcome to join! We meet monthly at: Nottingham Women's Centre, 30 Chaucer Street, NG1 5LP

For more information or directions contact us at: lisg.nottingham@gmail.com 07938 556788

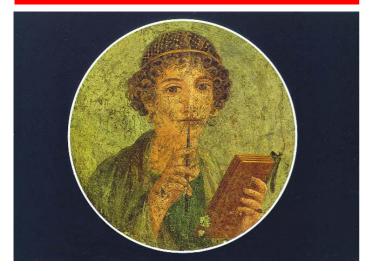


We're a social and support group for anyone on the transgender spectrum, their families, and friends.

We have a safe space just outside Nottingham where you can be yourself and you – or you and your partner, parent or friend – can be sure of a warm welcome. We meet on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month at 8pm at the Temple Community Centre, Nottingham Road, Nuthall, Nottingham, NG16 1DP. For details, go to

www.nottinghamchameleons.co.uk

SILVER SAPPHICS



Silver Sapphics is a new social group for lesbians over 55 who want to meet socially and make connections. They meet on the last Thursday of the month in the Lord Roberts at 7pm.

Come along and make new friends. Any enquiries contact Jane at jw8418549@gmail.com



Weekly 11-16 and 16-25 LGBT+ Groups at Centre Place, Worksop. We offer confidential one-to-one and group support providing specialist services to young people on a weekly basis.

Providing a safe and non-judgmental place where children and young people can be themselves, meet new people, make new friends, take part in activities and access specialist support from trained staff.

Details from www.lgbtplusnotts.org.uk



Outburst is open to 11-21 year olds, with the groups split between Tuesday (11-15) and Wednesday (16-21) 5pm-7pm! We'll also have a counsellor available in sessions. Open to anyone in the LGBTQIA+ community, or anyone who thinks they might be. Base 51 is on Peachey St.

Details from www.base51.org/outburst



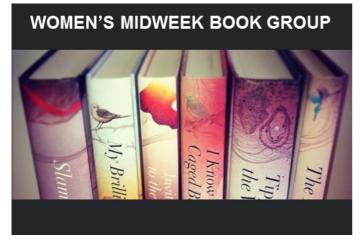
The Gay Outdoor Club is for everyone in the LGBTQI+ community who wants to enjoy outdoor activities

Details from www.goc.org.uk/gay-outdoor-club



The aim of Rainbow Vision is to provide a community of women where they can engage in conversation, meet new people, and share their experiences. If this sounds like something that interests, you then follow this link to the private Facebook page:

https://tinyurl.com/5dref4tr



The group meets in Nottingham to discuss books. Read a set book and then join in with the discussion group.

At the moment, they meet at the VAT and Fiddle 12 Queensbridge Rd, Nottingham NG2 1NB, but the venue may change. To be added to the group's e-mail list, contact info@nottslgbt.com for details.

On Sept. 24th we will discuss The Underground Railroad by Colson Whitehead





Queer Adventure Collective is an East Midlands based LGBTQ+ group, bringing people together to enjoy the outdoors. For events go to "queer.adventure.collective" on Instagram



Gay City Bowlers is an inclusive LGBTQ+ tenpin bowling group proud to be running in Nottingham. All skill levels welcome. We meet at 7pm at Nottingham Bowl, then play two games before heading to the bars for a drink and social.

Tickets can be purchased through our linktree in the Gay City Bowlers' Instagram bio and Gay City Bowlers' Facebook page.



If you are aged 18 years old or over, have an interest in the arts/an artform and genuinely identify as LGBTQIA+ (or questioning), we would love you to join us at Nottingham Playhouse. Monthly meetings, on tast Wednesday of every month 7pm – 9pm

For more details and to book a space at a session go to https://tinyurl.com/yyncbuma



LGBTQ+ Magpies is the group for LGBT supporters of Notts County football team. Go to their Facebook page at

https://www.facebook.com/Lgbtpies



The **Gay Classic Car Group** is the club for all LGBTQ+ classic car enthusiasts and their friends. We have over 1000 members in the UK and worldwide who share a common enthusiasm for classic cars of all kinds. We organise events all year round.

Info about the East Midlands region can be obtained from

eastmidlands@gccg.org.uk



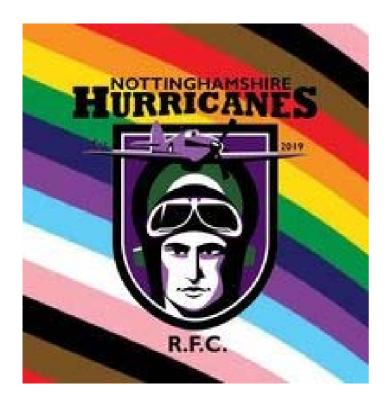
Rock Painting Social. Come as you are and enjoy an afternoon of painting, chatting, and making new friends in a safe, inclusive, and welcoming space. We'll provide the rocks, paints, and all supplies — just bring your creativity and an open heart.

Thursdays 4-6pm at the Pride Shop.





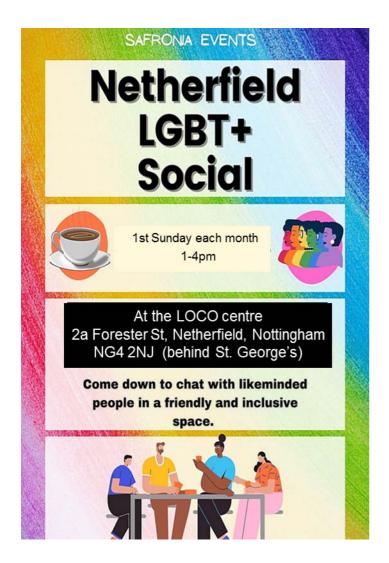




Gay and inclusive Rugby Football club. We train on Tuesdays at 7:30-9pm at Nottingham Casuals Rugby Club, Canalside, Beeston Rylands, NG9 1NG.

Open to all, regardless of gender, sexual orientation, age, fitness level or ability. No special kit needed.

Contact nottshurricanes@outlook.com



SAPPHIC SUNDAY

Join us at Blend Cafe, Sneinton (Nottingham) for coffee, cake, and conversation. Look for the table with apple, all sapphics welcome. 10.30am to 12.30pm, every Sunday starting March 2, 2025



CRAFT & BOARD GAME SOCIAL

A Place I Can be Myself

Now every Monday at the Pride Shop 4-6pm. No need to book just turn up - bring a craft project, a book or a board game of your choice, or choose from some we have in our space!



Meet every Tuesday at 6.30 at the Robin Hood statue for a 5km run, finishing at the Lord Roberts. For more information go to Facebook

www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100094769503086



Each week every Monday from 7.30pm we hire the sports hall at: Samworth Academy, Bramhall Road, Bilborough, Nottm NG8 4HY For more information go to

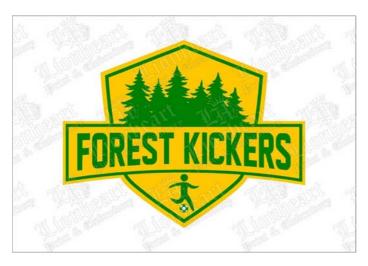
http://www.badmintonsocial.co.uk/



This group for bisexuals and allies meets on the 2nd Thursday of the month 7:30pm-11:00pm in the room at the right of the upstairs Mezzanine bar in Broadway, 14-18 Broad Street, Nottingham, NG1 3AL.

For fuller details e-mail

nottinghambitopia@gmail.com



Forest Kickers and Ninja Queens women's football groups meet each week on Tuesday evenings. Details from Julie at

info@nottinghamtrainingservices.co.uk

55+ Women's Group

Are you over 55
Lesbian or bisexual (you don't have to be a granny)
Looking to make new friends
Feeling lonely or isolated
In or out of the closet

I'm starting a new social/support group in the Mansfield/Ashfield District 2nd Friday of the month If interested, please e-mail Dee on:

Dee1.k@icloud.com

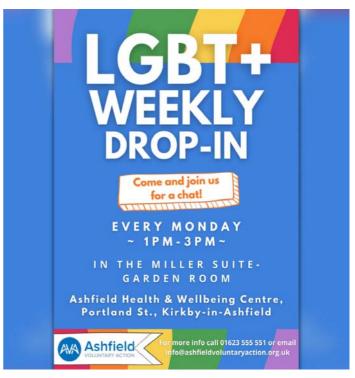
And I'll get back to you asap
I look forward to hearing from you

Confidentially assured!

ALL-WOMEN'S BADMINTON

Meets each week at Carlton Forum Leisure Centre. For full details contact Notts LGBT+ Network on

info@nottslgbt.com



Ashfield LGBT+ Hub has organised a regular meet up. There is a weekly LGBT+ drop-in café in the Ashfield Health & Wellbeing Centre - Meet new people, enjoy a cuppa and have a chat!



Meets once a month 2-4pm
First Friday of each month
Discussions and guest speakers
Walks, picnics, quizzes & films
In friendly, safe spaces
Email silverpride55@gmail.com



Nottingham Lions FC is a LGBT+ friendly football club - see them at

https://www.facebook.com/nottinghamlionsfc



Nottingham Hyking Dykes meet every month, usually the third Sunday.

This is a walking/hiking group for lesbians and women questioning their sexuality. We walk 6 to 8 miles often in Derbyshire, but also Leicestershire and Nottinghamshire. Bring a packed lunch. We try and finish at a teashop! For details, go to

www.nottinghamhd.org.uk



Shell has recently set up this group for non binary people in the East Midlands. You can find more and contact them on the Facebook page

https://tinyurl.com/7n8yff94

SOMETHING MISSING?
SOMETHING WRONG?
SOMETHING OUT OF DATE?
E-mail nottsrh@hotmail.co.uk
AND WE WILL PUT IT RIGHT



The New Foresters

Nottingham's oldest LGBT+ bar.

20, St. Ann's Street, Nottingham, NG1 3LX

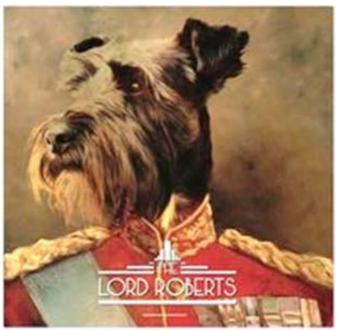
Has a beer garden./outdoor seating/sheltered smoking area

Live music, cabaret, drag, karaoke, dance space, late night closing

0115 646 1459

https://thenewforesters.co.uk/

https://www.facebook.com/TheNewForestersLGBT/



The Lord Roberts

24 Broad Street , Nottingham, NG1 3AN

Art Deco LGBT+ pub 0115 948 1592

Quiz night every Wednesday

Has sheltered beer garden

Runs special events in basement bar + DJs and dance space

https://www.facebook.com/lordrobertsnottingham/



NGQ stands for Nottingham Gay Quarter and the NGQ Collective is a collection of safe space bars. They say "Our aim is to create a safe space area rather than just individual venues, We aim to do this through working in collaboration with each other."

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Saturday Sept. 6th	Content Café 10.30am* Place to Eat (John Lewis)
Sunday Sept. 7th	Sapphic Sunday * 10.30-12.30 Blend Cafe
Wed. Sept. 10th	Well of Loneliness* 7pm Five Leaves Bookshop
Thursday Sept.11th	Queer Open Mic night* Hockley Emporium 7.30
Thursday Sept 18th	Queer Nottm Book Launch Central Library 6.30pm*
Friday Sept. 19th	Transinvasion 8pm* The New Foresters
Saturday Sep.27th	Queer Archive Donations* Central Library 10am-4pm
Sunday Sep. 28th	LGBT+ Evensong 3pm* St Peters Church
Monday Sept.29th	Queer Crafts 6-7.30pm* Nottm. Contemporary
Tuesday Sept. 30th	Sandi Toksvig 7.30 pm* Nottingham Playhouse
Friday October 3rd	Silver Pride 2-4pm* Sobar - Friar Lane
Sunday October 5th	Netherfield LGBT+ Social 1-4pm* at LOCO Centre
Tues October 7th	Before Gender 7pm* Five Leaves Bookshop
Wed. October 8th	Thrive 5-7pm* HIV Support Group
Tuesday Oct 14th	Front Runners 5Km* 6.30 Robin Hood Statue
Wed. October 15th	Queer Archive Donations* Central Library 4-7pm
Thursday Oct.23rd	Chameleon Group 8-11pm Temple Centre, Nuthall*
Saturday Oct. 25th	Gladrags Nightmares* Saltbox 8pm-2am
Sunday Oct. 26th	Open Table 5-7pm* St.Johns Carrington
Wednesday Oct. 29th	Quiz night 7.30pm* Lord Roberts

^{*} fuller details can be found in the main Review

SUPPORT SERVICES



Notts LGBT+ Network provides information and support

- By phone 0115 9348485
- E-mail info@nottslgbt.com
- Website www.nottslgbt.com

THE HEALTH SHOP

12 Broad Street, Nottingham

We are a small team that specialises in harm reduction and health promotion, and we offer advice and support around substance use and sexual health. We work specifically with people who use drugs, people experiencing homelessness, people within the LGBTQ+ community and refugees and people seeking asylum.

For more information please contact 07585 991542 or email healthshop@nottshc.nhs.uk

VICTORIA HEALTH CENTRE

Glasshouse St, Nottingham, NG1 3LW

A FREE, confidential and friendly sexual health service. Phone 01159 627 627

NOTTS SEXUAL HEALTH SERVICE

- Phone 0300 131 7010
- Website https://sexualhealthnn.co.uk/
- Walk in at clinics (see website for details)

FIVE LEAVES BOOKSHOP

14a, Long Row, Nottingham, NG1 2DH

Five Leaves Bookshop maintains a dedicated LGBT+ section. The bookshop supports and promotes LGBT+ issues and welcomes people dropping in leaflets and posters advertising LGBT events. Phone 0115 8373097

Go to https://fiveleavesbookshop.co.uk/