



January/February  
2026

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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](mailto:nottsrh@hotmail.co.uk)

The deadline for the next edition will be  
February 24th



# NOTTS RAINBOW REVIEW

## CELEBRATING LGBT+ HISTORY MONTH

### 2026 CELEBRATION AND AWARDS EVENING



### AT NOTTINGHAM COUNCIL HOUSE

Nottinghamshire's Rainbow Heritage  
and Notts Pride present

The 18th Celebration & Awards Evening  
at Nottingham Council House

7.00pm-9.00pm Wednesday February 25th 2026  
A date for your diaries

In-person event with refreshments and food.  
Participation is free - no need to book.

Awards will go to people, organisations and services which have benefitted the local LGBT+ community

The event will also showcase the work of local groups and organisations.

COMING UP JAN/FEB



FOR TICKETS: Go to the Skiddle link on the Notts Pride Facebook page at  
<https://www.facebook.com/nottspride/>  
N.B. Minimum age is 18.

## WHO IS GETTING AN AWARD?

The three Nottinghamshire's Rainbow Heritage awards for 2026 will be going to:

**Nottingham Frontrunners**, which has become a very successful group in a relatively short time. Not only promoting fitness, but providing a warm social environment and also campaigning against issues such as transphobia.



**Lucy and Shell Buckle.** Lucy and Shell have been the organisers of what is now an annual Queer History Walk. Lucy (seen right below) has, in her role as the "Nottingham Forager", organised several nature-related community events such as "Gays in the Garden". Shell has given her professional expertise to the swimming sessions sponsored by the Spencer Trust and has also founded the East Midlands Non Binary Association.



**CJ DeBarra** started researching Nottingham's LGBT+ history a few years ago. They have interviewed a huge (and growing) number of people and what originally might have been a single book (the first was published in July) has now turned into a second and probably a third.



A biproduct of the research and of the interviews was the beginning of a collection of artefacts and memorabilia and this has grown and grown and blossomed into the Notts Queer History Archive. Most of these materials will remain in Nottingham, but some - particularly duplicates - will go to the LGBTQIA+ archives at the Bishopsgate Institute in London

Nottingham is aware that it is "the Centre of the LGBT+ Universe", but it is time for others to realise that there is life beyond London, Brighton, Manchester etc.

Awards (to be announced) will also be presented by co-hosts Notts Pride. Thanks go once again to Pride for their generous funding of food and refreshments. To anyone who has been before, we need to say, yes, it's all free.

During the first half of the event people attending the Celebration and Awards evening can also have a look at the information tables which will be staffed by:

The Spencer Trust, Five Leaves Bookshop, Singing Proud, NASUWT, the Health Shop, Global Words, Notts LGBT+ Network, the Pride Shop, The Pastel Project, Nottingham Front Runners, Equation, Nottingham Recovery Group, Nottinghamshire Hurricanes and more.

After the presentation of the awards, we will have a performance by the choir from Singing Proud.



The information on Notts Rainbow Review is often constrained by its bimonthly deadlines. If you want something that gives an update on what is happening week by week, go to the weekly meetup guide on Notts Queer Calendar

search for Notts Queer Calendar on Instagram.



Beauty's looking for love — but instead finds herself trapped in a castle with a beast with a very big... personality. Packed with outrageous innuendo, dazzling drag, and more sass than you can shake a candle stick at. This is a laugh-out-loud, adults-only twist on the fairy tale you thought you knew.

Nottm Arts Theatre Sun Feb 22nd 4pm and 8pm

## The Em Show – Tales From A Little Laughing Lesbian



Tales from a Little Laughing Lesbian is an electrifying one woman show packed with stand-up, improv, and clowning, all delivered through Em Stroud's signature energy and joy. From therapy to parenting, marriage to motorbikes—no topic is off-limits in this hilarious journey of self-discovery.

Uplifting, bold, and wildly funny, this is a show for everyone (yes, even non-lesbians!). So, are you ready to laugh, reflect, and maybe even see yourself in a whole new way?

Nottingham Playhouse  
Thursday 15th Jan 2026 7.30pm



COMEDY  
**Cerys Bradley's Queer Tales For Autistic Folk**

Sat 14 Feb 2026

Join award-winning comedian Cerys Bradley for the national tour of their wonderfully bonkers, expansive, interactive choose-your-own-story comedy show. All participation in this show is voluntary, and all contributions are celebrated.

Nottingham Playhouse Saturday Feb. 14th 8pm

Jan. 14th/Feb.11th 5-7pm



# tHrIVe

Peer support group



THE SPENCER TRUST

NHS

Nottinghamshire  
Sexual Health Services

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](mailto:liam@thespencertrust.co.uk)

# fifth word.

Fifth Word is an award-winning theatre company based in the East Midlands, founded in 2007. We develop and produce vital new plays that change how people see the world. We make work with and for younger audiences and under-served communities: uncovering the stories that need to be told.

In partnership with Nottinghamshire Archives, we are developing **Our Story** which is a collaborative heritage project uncovering trans and gender diverse lives in Nottinghamshire through oral histories, photography, and film.

In collaboration with Mansfield Museum, My Place Youth Centre, Notts Trans Hub, and Loughborough University, the project will train young trans and gender diverse creatives and their allies to capture oral histories of local trans and gender diverse stories.

These interviews will be dramatised into audio stories and released as a podcast, accompanied by a touring pop-up exhibition of portraits and a sound installation. Launching at Mansfield Museum and Nottinghamshire Archives, the exhibition will tour libraries across the county.

All stories will be archived for future generations, aiming to amplify trans and gender diverse voices, preserve overlooked histories, and increase representation in museum and archive collections.

**Our Story** will be produced in June/July 2026.

## NETHERFIELD PRIDE TO BE REVIVED



If you would like to join in the organising of a grass roots free event, you would be very welcome!

## ANNOUNCEMENT

# Netherfield Pride

Saturday 6th June 2026  
10am until 4pm  
Outside Coop in Netherfield



The team are planning another sparkling day. Those eagle eyed will notice we have not had a pride this year! We had hoped to bring the event to Netherfield but personal circumstances got in the way, so it's all good for next year!

# QUEER OPEN MIC NIGHT

Jan.8th/Feb.12th

START: 19:30



15 MILES  
OR THIRTY THOUSAND STEPS

COME CELEBRATE OUR FIRST  
BIRTHDAY & QUEER TALENT

MUSIC, COMEDY, DRAG &  
OTHER ART FORMS  
WELCOME

FREE ENTRY

THE  
HOCKLEY  
EMPORIUM

## RAINBOW QUARTER OPENING DATE



In July, it was announced streets around Hockley would be transformed into the 'Rainbow Quarter' area, in a style similar to the popular "Gay Villages" in Manchester and Birmingham.

The area will cover Broad Street, Carlton Street, and Heathcote Street around Hockley and see historical plaques installed, maps updated to reflect the district's new title, and a collective image for businesses.

The initial proposals were outlined by Sam Harvey, director of The Pastel Project charity which is spearheading the scheme, with the backing of It's In Nottingham and other local organisations.

The project is now expected to be fully complete and open by May 4, 2026 - a date agreed with It's In Nottingham and the city council.



Whilst the initial funds have already been secured, in order to allow the Rainbow Quarter to reach its full potential, we're asking for community support to help continue its growth!

Your donations can help increase the number of heritage plaques we can fund, add more flags, maybe even a mural or two!

This project was brought about with £0 in Council funding, we wanted to make sure the Rainbow Quarter is fully independent- belonging to and shaped by the whole community, not another diversity box-ticking exercise! Go to

[https://www.instagram.com/notts\\_pastel\\_project/](https://www.instagram.com/notts_pastel_project/)

## NEW STARTER SESSION



Come along to the rehearsal and see if you would like to join the choir.

WHEN: 7pm Thursday January 8th  
WHERE: St. John the Evangelist Church  
Mansfield Road, Carrington, NG5 2DP

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



**QUEERATIVES**  
(the creative writing club)  
EVERY 2<sup>ND</sup> & 4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY  
2 - 4PM @ THE PRIDE SHOP  
hosted by @nottsqueercalendar

## THE NETWORK'S NEW GROUPS



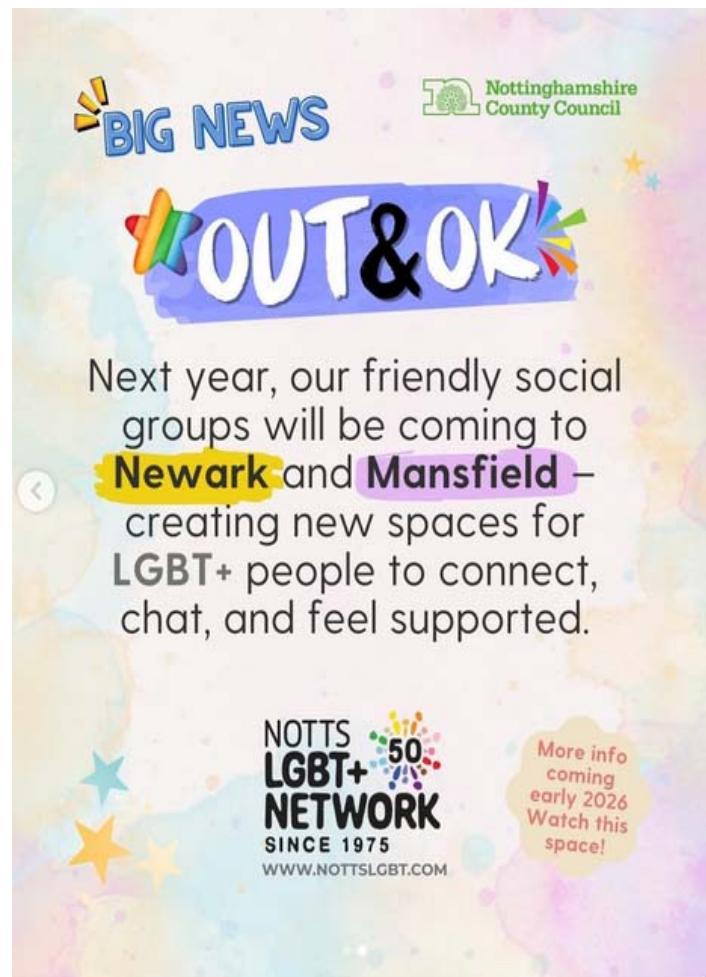
**BIG NEWS**

With funding from  
 **Nottinghamshire County Council**

We are taking  
**OUT&OK!**  
on the road

**NOTTS LGBT+ 50 NETWORK**  
SINCE 1975  
WWW.NOTSSLGBT.COM

Call or  
Email us to  
find out  
more!



**BIG NEWS**

 Nottinghamshire County Council

**OUT&OK!**

Next year, our friendly social groups will be coming to **Newark** and **Mansfield** – creating new spaces for **LGBT+** people to connect, chat, and feel supported.

**NOTTS LGBT+ 50 NETWORK**  
SINCE 1975  
WWW.NOTSSLGBT.COM

More info  
coming  
early 2026  
Watch this  
space!

For more details, e-mail [outandok@notsslgbt.com](mailto:outandok@notsslgbt.com) or phone 0115 9348485.



**OPEN TABLE**  
Come as you are

**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  
2026**  
**JAN 25th**  
**FEB 22nd**

More info:  
[stjohnscarrington.org.uk/  
opentablenottingham](http://stjohnscarrington.org.uk/opentablenottingham)  
Facebook:  
[opentablenottingham](https://www.facebook.com/opentablenottingham)



# The OpenHouse

We are a group for LGBTQ+ people of faith in Nottingham. We meet each month, usually at

St. Andrew's with Castle Gate United Reformed Church. Goldsmith Street, Nottingham. NG1 5JT

Our monthly events provide an opportunity for all to be themselves, share their stories, and learn about issues affecting people of faith who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and more.

The next meeting is on Wed. September 24th For more information go to

<https://www.theopenhouse.org.uk>



Saturday Feb. 14th 9pm at the Hockley Emporium.  
LGBT Bear night.

Search "Beary" on Eventbrite.



Saturday Feb. 7th 9pm at the Hockley Emporium.

Search "Tainted" on Eventbrite.

### NEW BOARDGAMING NIGHT

## Nottingham's LGBTQ+ Board Gaming Group

No strangers, just friends you've yet to meet



92 Lower Parliament St.

A Welcoming Tabletop Social for LGBTQ+ Gamers, Allies & Friends Tired of noisy bars or cliquey spaces? Want something low-key, welcoming? Tuesday LGBTQ+ Boardgame Night at Games Haven, 92 Lower Parliament St, Nottingham. Tuesdays 6-11pm

Search "Games Haven" on Eventbrite



### JANUARY CLUB NIGHT

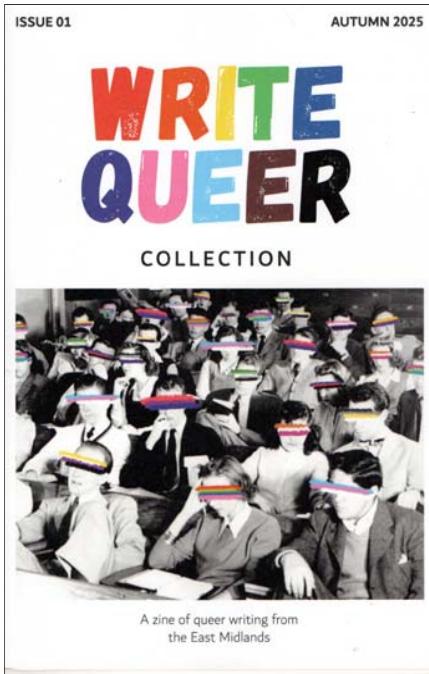


22pm-3am For tickets, search Big Pink on <https://ra.co/events>

The Model, 23 Goose Gate, Nottm NG1 1FE

# LOOKING BACK

## WRITE QUEER NO. 1 IS LAUNCHED



The **Write Queer** meetings started in October 2024 and over the last year many attendees have developed their writing skills.

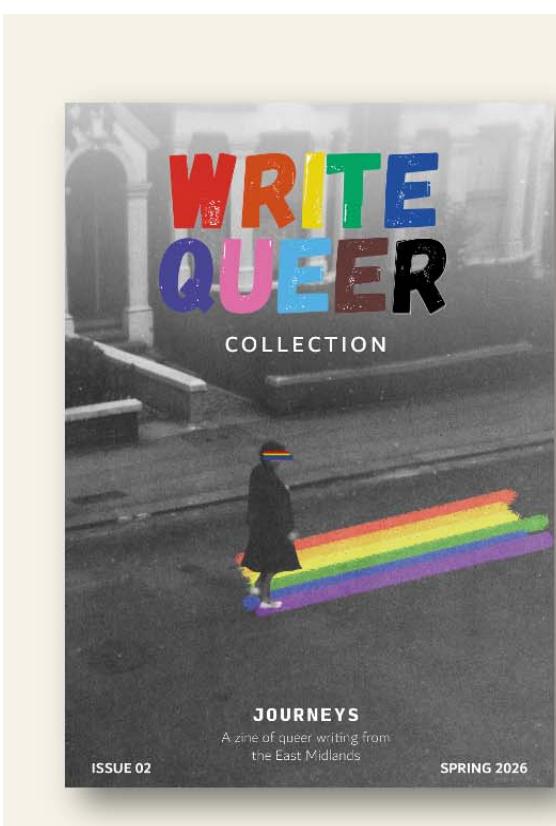
On November 1st about 50 people gathered at Central Library to welcome the launch of the first collection and hear readings by several of the 33 contributors.

The project was initiated by Richard Gidlow, who is pictured above on the right

The Write Queer meetings take place 4.30-6pm every third Thursday of the month at Central Library.

There are also Write Queer online sessions for those who may find it difficult to attend the in person events. Just search "Eventbrite Write Queer Online."

The second Write Queer collection will be released next Spring and opportunities to submit writing will be open to all, just scan to QR code below for the details of how to get involved.



**OUR NEXT WRITE QUEER  
COLLECTION ZINE WILL BE  
RELEASED IN SPRING 2026  
AND WILL HAVE THE  
THEME OF 'JOURNEYS'**



**SCAN HERE FOR THE  
GUIDELINES AND HOW  
TO SUBMIT**

# THE QUEERISH WINTER BALL FOR NOTTS LGBT+ NETWORK



## PRIDE AND PREJUDICES



On November 5th internationally acclaimed human rights lawyer Dr Keio Yoshida spoke at Five Leaves Bookshop about their new book **"Pride and Prejudices - Queer Lives and the Law"** and about the ongoing battle for LGBTQ+ rights, how far we've come, and how much further we have to go.

Keio is an international human rights lawyer and a qualified barrister and in 2025 Keio was named one of Attitude Magazine's 100 LGBTQ+ influential trailblazers.

In *Pride and Prejudices*, Yoshida analyses case law from around the world, including *Rosanna Flamer Caldera v Sri Lanka*, the first global precedent to call for the decriminalisation of same-sex intimacy between women, in which Yoshida acted as counsel, as well as other timely cases such as the bitter debate over self-ID for trans people in the UK and Florida's recent 'Don't Say Gay' bill.

The right to life and the right to live life free from discrimination are rights that are codified and legally protected, but there is no dedicated and binding treaty or convention in international human rights law with respect to LGBTQ+ rights.

Combining deeply personal stories from their lived experience, together with their expert, accessible legal analysis, this book is unique and is a must read for all who care about equality and a much-needed antidote to attacks on trans rights.

## ONE FAT LADY?

Drag Bingo celebrates number 8. Yes, they have been going for eight years with much help and support from Rough Trade.



## FRONT RUNNERS' NEW RUN





## CONVERSION THERAPY CONTINUES

Recent research by Prof Hel Spandler suggests electric shock aversion therapy practice was far more widespread than previously documented.

The BBC has found records confirming more than 250 cases, but Prof Spandler's analysis of medical archives and oral histories indicates the true figure could be close to 1,000 cases across the UK. Many of those treated were referred to hospital by their teachers, priests or GP.

Electric Shock Aversion Therapy was a form of conversion practice based on associating same-sex attraction with pain.

Patients were strapped to a chair and had electrodes placed on their arm or legs, they were shown images of men or women and then given painful electric shocks, sometimes for up to an hour at a time.

In 2017, NHS England and the Royal College of Psychiatrists pledged to stop practising conversion therapy, including electric shock treatment.

Yet conversion practices still remain legal in the UK and continue to take place in private homes, churches, and through some counsellors or therapists. According to campaigner Saba Ali: "People are still tortured and hurt in the name of conversion therapy."

The government has promised to draft a bill to end conversion practices by the end of this year, but it has not happened as yet.

## QUEER BEER FOR THE 50TH YEAR



Black Iris Brewery has released a new beer to celebrate Notts LGBT+ Network's 50th anniversary. The brewery describes it in the following way....

"We went for a sessionable pale with Heidelberg malt for low colour and oats and wheat for body. With Idaho 7 and Citra in the copper, Mosaic Cryo at pitch and Azzaca, Cashmere and El Dorado in conditioning, this beer is packed with tropical notes with a citrus twist."

So now you know.

## YET MORE QUEER BEER



The comedian Joe Lycett has launched a Pride-themed beer, in collaboration with the London-based LGBTQ+ beverage company, Queer Brewing.

The drink was launched to support Lycett's Queen's Heath Pride project, started by the comedian in 2021 in response to a anti-LGBTQ+ protests in King's Heath Birmingham. The event is run together with Lycett's local pub, The Juke.

The beer is called "Rainbow Juice" and is a single-hopped Luminosa pale ale (4.5%), with "lots of tropical and peachy-mango-lemonade notes, and a soft, juicy body."

## SEATTLE SAYS NO TO IRAN & EGYPT



Plans to celebrate LGBTQ+ rights and freedoms in Seattle during the World Cup next summer will continue despite objections from the Egyptian and Iranian football federations over the "Pride Match" due to take place in the city.

Seattle organisers confirmed that they are "moving forward as planned" with Pride activities in the city when Egypt face Iran in Group G on 26 June. FIFA will also allow rainbow flags into the stadium.

## SUPPORT FOR THE PASTEL PROJECT

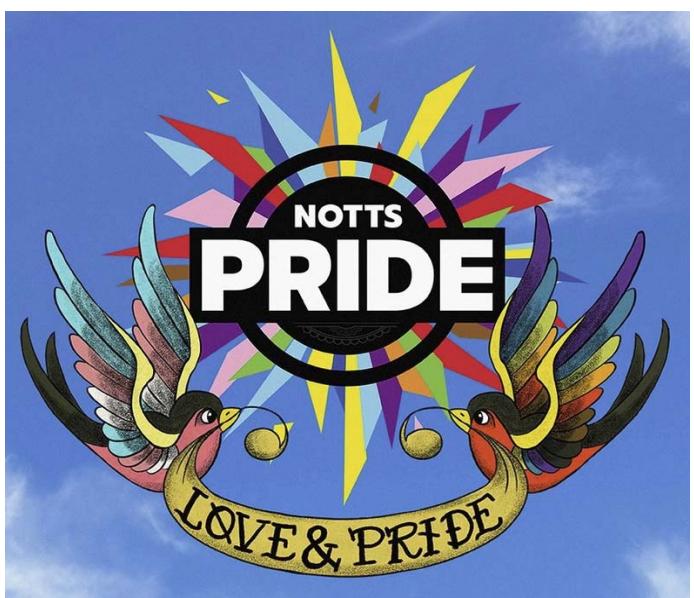


## THE SPENCER TRUST CELEBRATES



After another successful year, the Spencer Trust volunteers followed their AGM with a Christmas lunch at Bistro Pierre.

## AWARD FOR NOTTS PRIDE



Notts Pride has been awarded funding from the National Lottery Community Fund to help with their new community project.

They say "We are thrilled to announce our Notts Pride Hub which we will be launching in January 2026. With the funding we have received we will be able to offer a place for LGBTQ+ people and community groups in Nottingham."



## GRINCHLY COME DANCING?



Between sessions as Cinderella's Wicked Stepmother at the Theatre Royal, Craig Revel Horwood popped into the New Foresters.

## THE TRUMP EFFECT



The U.S. has received an 'F' on an LGBTQ human rights scorecard, alongside Russia, China and India. In 2023, they received a 'C.'

## FRONTRUNNERS DRESS FANCY



Nottingham Frontrunners welcomed the Health Shop for their quarterly sexual health screening combined with "pick a fancy dress theme!" It seemed to be a cross between the Adams Family and Halloween.

A few days later they took in the delights of the Winter Wonderland.



## SUPPORT FOR PRIDE IS FALLING



The UK's biggest businesses are rolling back their public support for Pride celebrations, Guardian analysis suggests, prompting warnings that "clear signals" are needed in the face of growing global LGBTQ+ hostility.

## NO FOR JAPAN



On November 28th A Japanese court ruled the country's ban on same-sex marriage as constitutional - bucking a trend set by courts around the country that had raised hopes for marriage equality in Japan.

Japan is the only G7 country that does not fully recognise same-sex couples or offer them clear legal protection. But it's not an outlier in Asia, where only Taiwan, Thailand and Nepal offer same-sex marriages.

The ruling by the Tokyo high court marks an exception to this series of verdicts, which had been adding weight to the push for same-sex marriage to be legalised in Japan. The cases will next be taken to the Supreme Court.

## YES FOR POLAND



On November 25th The EU's highest court has ruled that same-sex marriages must be respected throughout the bloc and rebuked Poland for refusing to recognise a marriage between two of its citizens that took place in Germany.

The court said on Tuesday that Poland had been wrong in not recognising the marriage of the couple when they moved back to Poland, on the grounds that Polish law does not allow marriage between people of the same sex.

## NO FOR ITALY



### ITALY BANS GAY AND LESBIAN COUPLES FROM BECOMING PARENTS AT HOME OR ABROAD – LAW THREATENS PRISON AND \$1.2 MILLION FINES

On October 15th Italy made it illegal for its citizens to go abroad to have a baby through surrogacy.

The move extends a ban on the practice inside the country to also include those who seek it out in places where it is legal, like the US or Canada. Those who break the law could face up to two years in prison and fines of up to €1m

## GHANA ... AVOID, AVOID



President  
John Mahama

NEWS

Ghana's new President says he will sign a bill into law that makes it a crime to identify as LGBTQ. The so-called "Human Rights and Family Values Bill" could land openly queer Ghanaians in prison for up to three years.

# LOOKING FURTHER BACK

## IT WAS ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO



Violets as a symbol of lesbian love rose in 1926, when Édouard Bourdet's play *The Captive* showed a female character sending another woman a violet bouquet.

The play led to an uproar and calls for boycott and censorship, but some women wore violets to showings as a sign of support. The colour of violets (and fellow purple-hued flowering plant, lavender) was used as a derogatory way to describe gay or effeminate men in the turn of the 20th century.

The Broadway performance of *The Captive* prompted a New York State law making the performance of any play depicting "sex perversion" a misdemeanor. The law remained on the books until 1967.

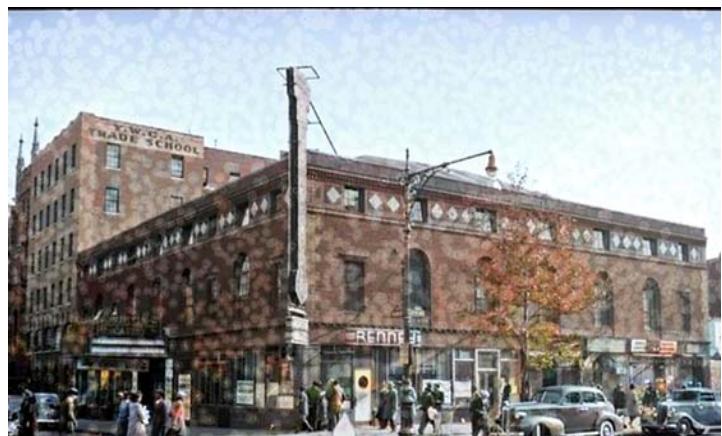


Lotte Reiniger's film, *The Adventures of Prince Achmed* (1926) offers a very, very early cinematic gay relationship between the Emperor of China and his companion Ping Pong.

"I knew lots of homosexual men and women from the film and theatre world in Berlin, and saw how they suffered from stigmatization," Reiniger said, "I suspect that when the Emperor kisses Ping Pong, that must have been the first happy kiss between two men in the cinema and I wanted it to happen quite calmly in the middle of *Prince Achmed* so children — some who would be homosexual and some who would not — could see it as a natural occurrence, and not be shocked or ashamed."

On a Friday night in February 1926, a crowd of some 1,500 packed the Renaissance Casino in New York City's Harlem neighbourhood for the 58th masquerade and civil ball of Hamilton Lodge.

Nearly half of those attending the event, reported the *New York Age*, appeared to be "men of the class generally known as 'fairies,' and many Bohemians from the Greenwich Village section who, in their gorgeous evening gowns, wigs and powdered faces were hard to distinguish from many of the women."



In Berlin, figures like Lotte Halm were shaping the lesbian movement and entertainment scene through clubs like the Violetta Ladies' Club. Magazines like those published by Radzsuweit in Germany promoted the first homosexual movement and LGBTQ+ businesses.



Below is a photo of drag queens dancing in Berlin's famous cabaret club, Eldorado on Motzstraße in 1926.



# GROUP OF THE DAY

## NOTTS LGBT+ NETWORK

In 2025 Notts LGBT+ Network celebrated its 50th anniversary - or did it? Actually, it's a little more complicated than that. Originally it was an offshoot of CHE, the Campaign for Homosexual Equality.



The Nottingham CHE group started in 1971 and soon realised that many of the people who contacted it had "issues".

In 1974 the People's Centre opened on Mansfield Road. It was a sort of alternative Citizen's Advice Bureau and had themed nights when people could drop in and have help with legal issues, medical problems and more. The CHE group asked "can we have a gay night?" They said "yes" and this, in 1974 was the start, but it was just a face-to-face service on Thursday nights.

In 1975 the "gay night" acquired a phone line and a gay helpline was now underway similar to those already set up in Edinburgh and London, but it was still under the heading of CHE.

In 1976 the helpline copied London and started to call itself Nottingham Gay Switchboard. That means that the start of the service can be 1974, 1975 or 1976 depending on how you define it.

Though it now had its own name, Switchboard was still a part of CHE and was dependent on it for its expenses. Over the next few years the helpline added more nights one by one until in 1987 it was operating 5 nights a week and receiving over 2000 contacts per year. At that time the contacts were predominantly by phone with the occasional letter.

In the 1970s Switchboard had a prolonged battle with local newspapers (particularly Nottingham Evening Post) which refused advertisements. The main source of publicity at that time was through the Gay Guide pages on the fortnightly national Gay News. Most newspapers, including the Post, relented in the early 1980s.

For several years after 1987, things changed gradually. The service became more well known and started to receive grants from the Councils, the NHS and others. It changed its name to Nottingham Lesbian and Gay Switchboard. It started to liaise with other organisations, to have a presence at community events such as Pride (initially called "Pink Lace") and was invited to provide training on LGBT+ issues for the University of Nottingham, Notts Police and Victim Support.

Here's the Network at Pride in 2025.



Major changes began in the late 1990s. The clumsy printed database was replaced by one on a computer. The use of the internet meant that from about 2000 onwards contacts by phone started to drop and contacts by e-mail rose. These days, though the phone is still important, there are more contacts by e-mail and through social media.

Another name change brought in Nottingham and Notts Lesbian and Gay Switchboard and by 2015, after a survey, that was changed to the current name of Notts LGBT+ Network.



After so many years of providing a valuable service to thousands of people, the Network was nominated for the King's Award to Voluntary Service (the equivalent of an MBE) and this was awarded in 2024.

For details of how to contact the Network, see the information on the back page.



# The Queerstory Files

Tony Scupham-Bilton produces the fascinating Queerstory Files. He says "LGBT history for everyone. No academic gobbledegook. No deep analysis. Just queer facts." To read more about the Queerstory Files, go to

<http://queerstoryfiles.blogspot.com/>.

Here are some features of LGBT+ Sydney.

## LGBT Holocaust Memorial

This monument, designed by Jennifer Gamble and Russell Rodrigo, commemorates the many LGBT+ victims of the Nazis during the Holocaust. The pink triangle that gay prisoners were forced to wear has become an iconic symbol of gay rights in the 1970s.



## Qtopia

Sydney's first permanent LGBT+ museum, said to be the world's biggest, opened here in February 2024 in buildings that were originally Darlinghurst's police station. (See picture top right). It is situated just off Oxford Street's pink mile in Sydney's historic gaybourhood.

As the police station it was where people arrested on homosexual charges were held in custody. This included a large number of participants in Sydney's first Mardi Gras in 1978, people who proudly sport the name of The 78ers. Sadly, a sign of the times included police brutality against those in custody.

The museum also has sections on AIDS, and a reconstructed AIDS ward from the neighbouring St. Vincent's Hospital where many AIDS patients were treated.



## The rainbow crossing

Sydney's famous crossing was first established in 2013 for that year's Mardi Gras. However, due to concerns that people standing on it to take selfies put them in danger of being run over, the city removed it. This sparked a spate of graffiti chalk rainbow crossings popping up across the city in protest. Thankfully, the city council realised the importance of such a statement of identity and repainted crossing in 2019.



## The Progress Shark

During World Pride 2023, hosted by Sydney, many artistic expressions of LGBT+ culture were on display. One of the most unusual, located outside the museum entrance, was the **Progress Shark**, a huge life-size model of a great white shark dressed in a Progress Flag-inspired lycra swimsuit.

Created by Sydney-based artist George Buchanan, the shark quickly became a tourist attraction and icon of WorldPride. Like many artworks created for the occasion it was taken down afterwards.

## I RAM WHAT I RAM



Michael Schmidt's new collection of clothes is called "**I wool survive**" and is made from the wool provided by Michael Stücke, who runs a company called Rainbow Wool - see above.

The company produces wool from 'gay sheep' saved from slaughter, with his flock in Germany.

Rainbow Wool buys gay rams directly from breeders, outbidding the price they might receive from a slaughterhouse, and keep them for their wool. No ewes is good news?

## TRANS HATE CONTINUES

### Global Stats

**281** trans and gender-diverse people were reported murdered between October 2024 and September 2025.

**34%** of victims were sex workers, the most targeted occupation.

**90%** of reported murders were feminicides (i.e., victims were trans women or transfeminine).

**88%** of victims were Black or Brown trans people.

## mental health matters.

FREE AND LOW-COST COUNSELLING SERVICE

Whatever you're going through, we're here to help. A friendly, supportive, non-judgemental and confidential counselling service for the LGBTQ+ community

**PRIDE SPACE**



@pridespaceuk  
pridespace.org

0115 891 8456 (option 3)



The **TRUE VISION** website explains clearly what a hate crime is and that includes internet hate crime. It gives advice and guidance about reporting hate crimes, including reporting hate crimes online, if you do not want to report directly to the police. Go to <http://www.report-it.org.uk>

# LGBT+ HISTORY MONTH QUIZ ..... MATCH THE EVENT TO THE DATE



April Ashley outed as trans by the People newspaper



London Gay Switchboard begins operating



MP Frederick Macquisten fails to criminalise lesbian sex



First Nottingham Pride-type event Pink Lace

THE DATES

1895

1921

1953

1961

1964

1974

1982

1983

1988

1990

1992

1997

1999

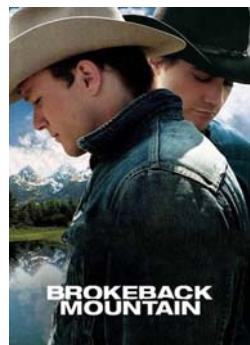
2005

2014

2016



World Health Organisation declassifies homosexuality as a mental illness



Brokeback Mountain film opens



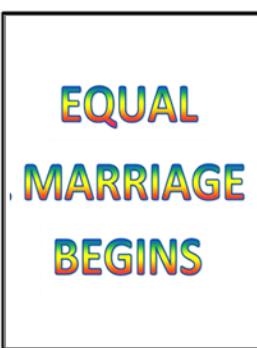
Oscar Wilde imprisoned



Homosexuality decriminalised in Northern Ireland



George Michael dies



Equal (Same sex) marriage begins in UK



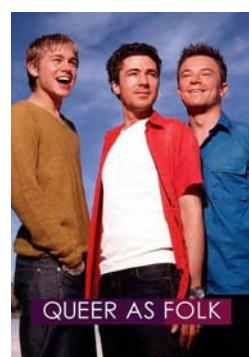
Dusty Springfield has no. 1 with You don't have to say you love me



Richard McCance elected as openly gay councillor in Nottingham



Actor Sir John Gielgud arrested for cottaging



1st series of Queer as Folk on C4



Jodie Foster wins Oscar for silence of the lambs



Section 28 enacted into law

## SUPPORT FOR OLDER LGBT PEOPLE



### Rainbow call companions

Our rainbow call companions offer friendship to older people who live alone.



**Re-engage** offers a free telephone befriending service specifically for LGBT+ people over the age of 75. You will be matched with a volunteer who is also LGBT+ and receive a friendly call every week or two.

Our friendly rainbow companions love a good chat and they are great listeners too. What's great is that the same volunteer phones you every time, so you can get to know each other and share stories and laughter.

Call Freephone 0800 716543 or e-mail  
info@reengage.org.uk or go to  
www.reengage.org.uk

## SMALL GRANTS FOR LGBT GROUPS



## THE SPENCER TRUST

Grants are available for groups who aren't already funded to specifically benefit the LGBT+ community. Your project or activity should benefit a minimum of 70% LGBT+ people.

Grants of up to £400 will usually be allocated, with an additional discretionary £200 available. The board meets bi-monthly to review applications. For full details go to

<https://www.thespencertrust.co.uk>

## 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](mailto:nottsrh@hotmail.co.uk)

# 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 together, 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](mailto:singingproudnottm@gmail.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 be contacted through

[trustees@nottstranshub.org](mailto:trustees@nottstranshub.org)

For more details go to

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



**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](http://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](http://www.nottslgbt.com)



Septembers meeting will be on Sept. 29th

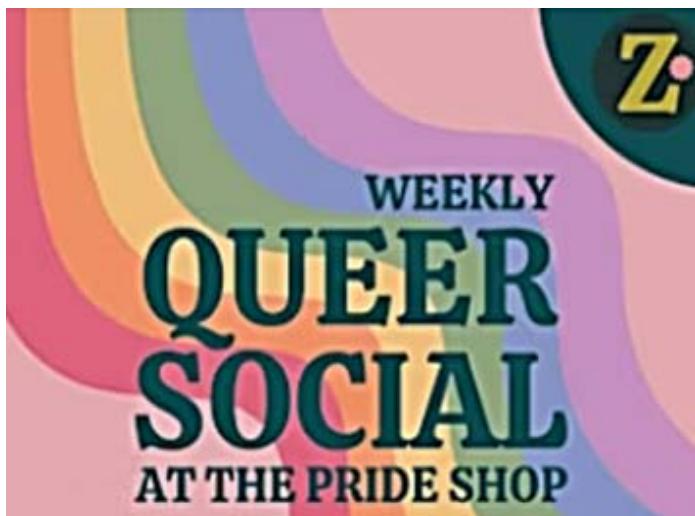
Whether you consider yourself to have no artistic talent, are a budding artist or just dabble in crafts every so often, you are very welcome to join. We will be creating on our own and with each other in a calm atmosphere. You are welcome to come for as little or as long as you like. Book at

[Queer-Crafts.Eventbrite.com](https://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](mailto:proud_forest@outlook.com)

and [www.proudforest.co.uk](http://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/>

## QUEER CRAFT CLUB



LAST SUNDAY OF EVERY MONTH

Unit 42 & 43 Sneinton Market, Freckingham Street, which is wheelchair accessible.

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

## The OUTlaws



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

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

## READING SOCIAL

### NOTTINGHAM CENTRAL LIBRARY READING SOCIAL: LITERARY PRIDE

#### LGBTQ+ READING GROUP

Last Saturday of every month

2pm to 3pm  
Meeting Room 2

July Theme: a fiction or non-fiction book you feel represents your community



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](mailto:nottsrh@hotmail.co.uk)

### QUEER BOOK CLUB NOTTINGHAM

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

For updates, follow in Instagram at  
@queerbookclubnotts

## WRITE QUEER

4.30-6.00pm  
Nottingham Central Library  
Every 3rd Monday of the Month



There is also Write Queer Online, search "Eventbrite Write Queer Online"



**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](http://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.

# KAIROS

## NOTTINGHAM LESBIAN IMMIGRATION SUPPORT GROUP



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](mailto: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](http://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 second Thursday of the month in the Lord Roberts at 7pm.

Come along and make new friends. Any enquiries contact Jane at [jw8418549@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://www.lgbtplusnotts.org.uk)



**Outburst** runs from 4-7pm on Wednesdays, open to 11-21 year olds. Just show up! Check [base51\\_outburst](#) on instagram for updates on locations! Nervous? Email us beforehand and we can meet you first and show you around! Here to be your safe space.

Details from [www.base51.org/outburst](http://www.base51.org/outburst)



## Gay Outdoor Club

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](http://www.goc.org.uk/gay-outdoor-club)



Fortnightly 11.30 am at Revolucion de Cuba, 26-28 Market St, Nottingham

Contact [www.thespencertrust.co.uk](http://www.thespencertrust.co.uk) for full details

## WOMEN'S MIDWEEK BOOK GROUP



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

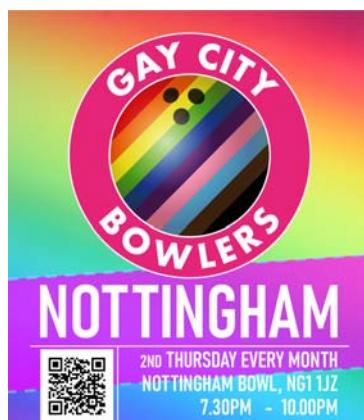
At the moment, they meet at the VAT and Fiddle 12 Queensbridge Rd, Nottingham NG2 1NB, but the venue may change.

To be added to the group's e-mail list, contact [info@nottslgbt.com](mailto:info@nottslgbt.com)

The next meeting will be on January 28th when we will be reading The Safekeep by Yael van der Wouden.



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+ ten-pin 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 last Wednesday of every month 7pm – 9pm

For more details and to book a space at a session search "Nottingham Queer Arts Collective"



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

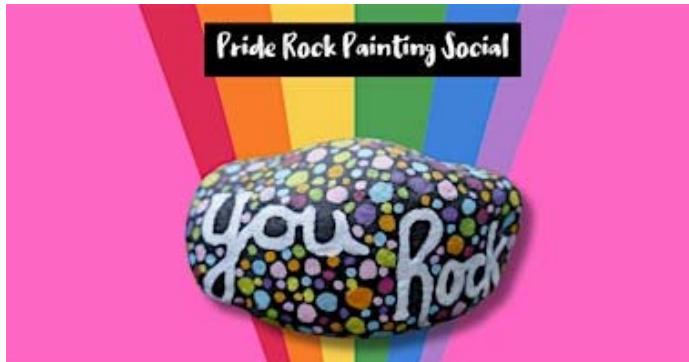
<https://www.facebook.com/Lgbtpies>



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](mailto: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.



# Transphoria

Supporting trans and gender diverse young people in Nottingham City

**We are a social group for young people aged 13-17 who are trans and/or gender diverse. We will meet weekly to provide a safe and inclusive space to access social support and community.**

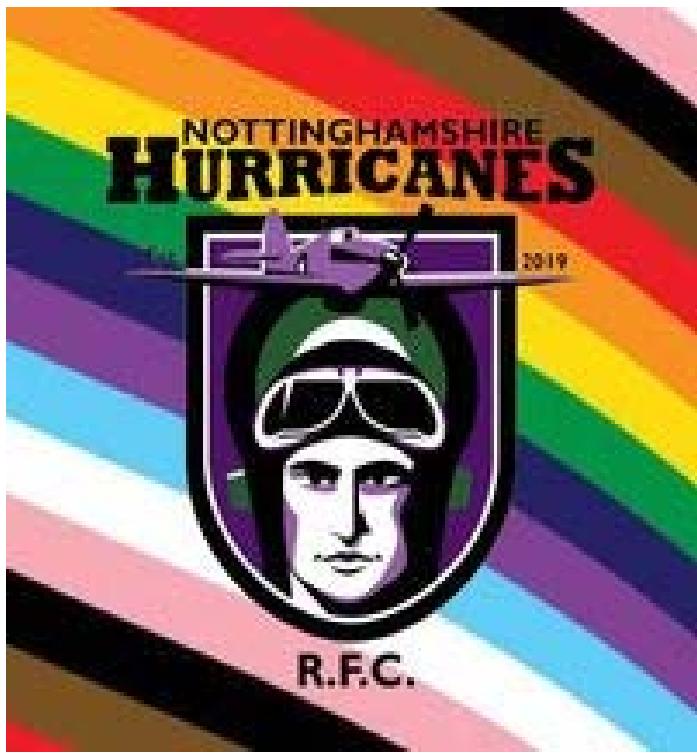
**Every Tuesday  
5:00-6:30pm  
at Cafe Sobar**

22 Friar Lane, Nottingham NG1 6DQ

[transphorianotts](#)  
 [transphorianotts](#)  
 [transphorianotts@hotmail.com](mailto:transphorianotts@hotmail.com)

**Transphoria**





Gay and inclusive Rugby Football club. We train on Tuesdays at 7:30-9pm and Saturdays at 10.30am 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](mailto:nottshurricanes@outlook.com)

SAFRONA EVENTS

## Netherfield LGBT+ Social

1st Sunday each month  
1-4pm



At the LOCO centre  
2a Forester St, Netherfield, Nottingham  
NG4 2NJ (behind St. George's)

Come down to chat with likeminded people in a friendly and inclusive space.

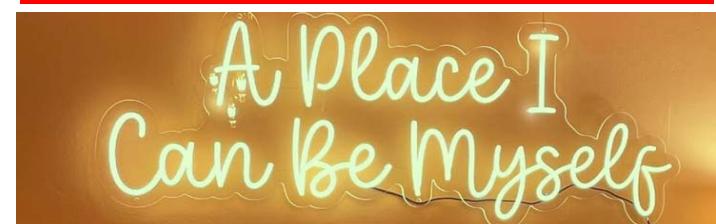


## SAPPHIC SUNDAY

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



### CRAFT & BOARD GAME SOCIAL



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!



## NOTTINGHAM FRONTRUNNERS

Meet every Tuesday at 6.30 at the Robin Hood statue for a 5km run, finishing at the Lord Roberts and also Women, Trans, Non-binary runs on 1st Thursdays. For more information go to Facebook

[www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100094769503086](https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100094769503086)



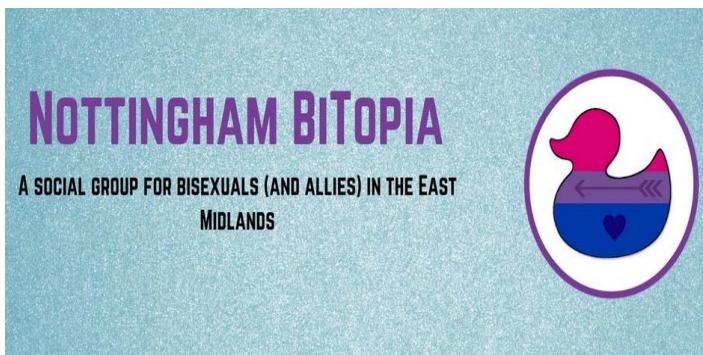
Each week every Monday from 7.30pm we hire the sports hall at: Samworth Academy, Bramhall Road, Bilborough, Nottm NG8 4HY For more information go to

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

## 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!



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](mailto:nottinghambitopia@gmail.com)



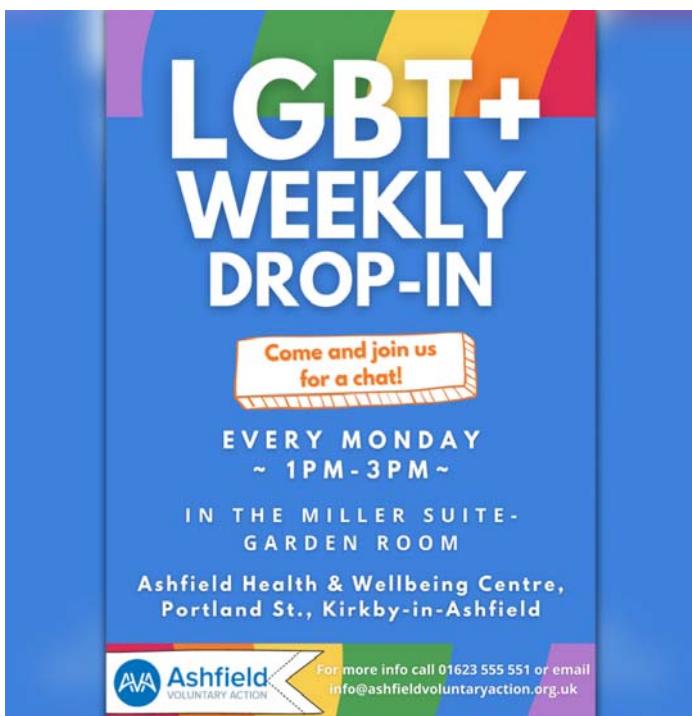
Forest Kickers and Ninja Queens women's football groups meet each week on Tuesday evenings. Details from Julie at

[info@nottinghamtrainingservices.co.uk](mailto:info@nottinghamtrainingservices.co.uk)

## ALL-WOMEN'S BADMINTON

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

[info@nottslgbt.com](mailto: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!

# Silver Pride

A social group  
for older Gay  
and Bi men



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](mailto:silverpride55@gmail.com)



NOTTINGHAM LIONS FC

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](http://www.nottinghamhd.org.uk)

EAST MIDLANDS  
NON BINARY  
ASSOCIATION

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, which is on the Home page of the Spencer Trust website

<https://www.thespencertrust.co.uk/>

SOMETHING MISSING?  
SOMETHING WRONG?  
SOMETHING OUT OF DATE?  
E-mail [nottsrh@hotmail.co.uk](mailto: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

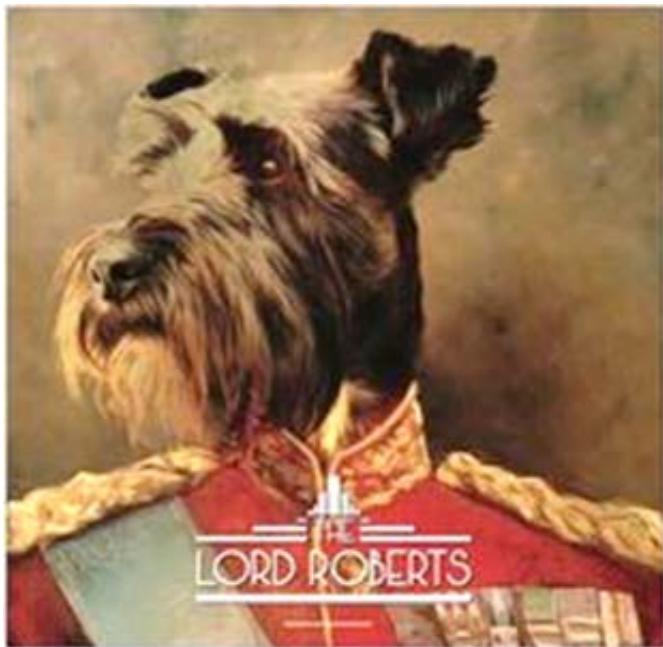
Has a beer garden./outdoor seating/sheltered smoking area

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

Wed. January 7th	Quiz Night 8pm* Lord Roberts
Saturday Jan. 10th	Content Café 10.30am* Place to Eat (John Lewis)
Sunday Jan.11th.	Sapphic Sunday * 10.30-12.30 Blend Café
Wednesday Jan.14th	Thrive 5-7pm* HIV Support group
Thursday Jan.15th	The Em Show 7.30pm" Nottingham Playhouse
Friday January 16th	Transinvasion 8pm* The New Foresters
Thursday Jan. 22nd.	Chameleon Group 8pm Temple Community Centre
Sunday Jan. 25th	Open Table 5-7pm St. John's Carrington
Tuesday Jan. 27th	LGBTQ+ board gaming* Games Haven 6-11pm
Wednesday Jan. 28th	Women's midweek book Club VAT and Fiddle *
Friday Feb. 6th	Silver Pride 2-4pm* Sobar, Friar Lane
Monday February 9th	Transphoria 5-8.30pm* Sobar, Friar Lane
Thursday Feb 12th	Queer Open Mic 7.30pm Hockley Emporium*
Monday Feb. 9th	Badminton Social 7.30pm Samworth Academy*
Saturday Feb. 14th	Queer Tales* Nottm Playhouse 8 pm
Monday Feb. 16th	Write Queer 4.30-6pm* Central Library
Sunday Feb. 22nd	Beauty and the Beast* Nottingham Arts Theatre
Wednesday Feb.25th	Celebration & Awards* 7pm Council House
Friday Feb. 27th	Notts Pride Winter Ball* 8.pm at the Palais
Saturday Feb. 28th	Literary Pride 2pm* Central Library

## SUPPORT SERVICES



Notts LGBT+ Network  
provides information and support

- By phone 0115 9348485
- E-mail [info@nottslgbt.com](mailto:info@nottslgbt.com)
- Website [www.nottslgbt.com](http://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](mailto: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/>