



February 2026

EXTRA

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



**Nottinghamshire's
RAINBOW HERITAGE**

NOTTS RAINBOW REVIEW

Extra! Extra!

read all about it!

Radical Queer Ink

talk & workshop

Broadway. 21.2.26 @1pm

Join us for an afternoon of learning about Nottingham's secret Queer print past from activist newsletters to punk print, newsletters, and zines.

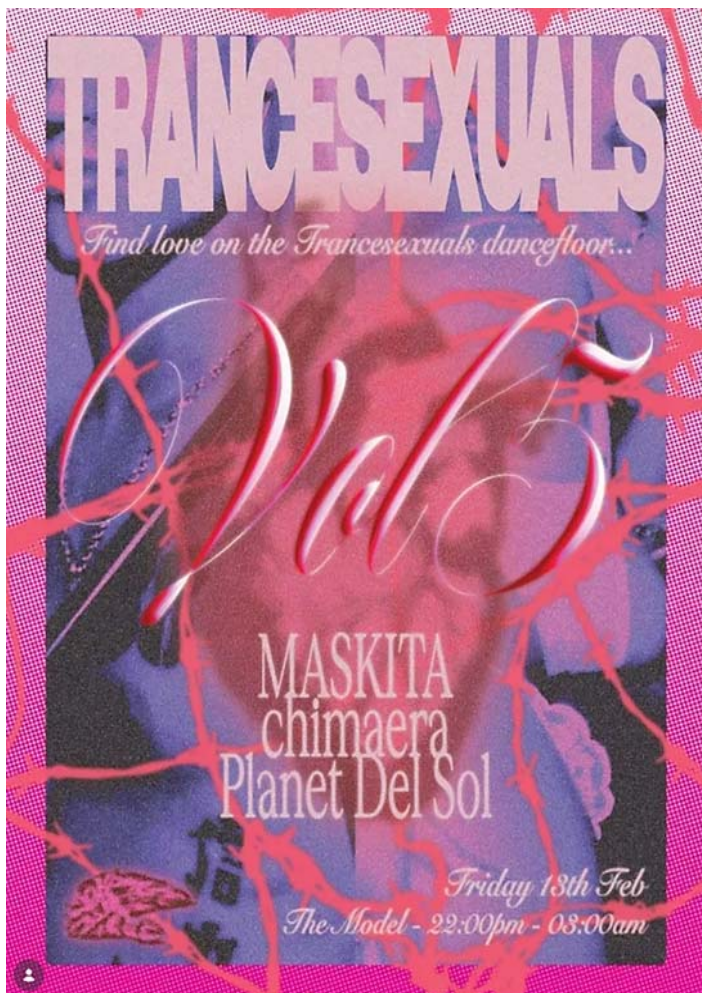
Journalist and founder of the Notts Queer History Archive, CJ De Barra, will take you through the decades, then give you a chance to read all about it in their secret stash of Gay News newspapers.

Saturday Feb. 21st
1pm-4.15pm with interval

Learn all about Mary Whitehouse and Gay News, bookshop boycotts, and HIV in the headlines in Nottingham with this unique talk and workshop.

All proceeds go to the Notts Queer History Archive, and there will be a chance to pick up some vintage badges, Queer Nottingham books and stickers!

book at
<https://broadway.org.uk>



For tickets, search "Trancesexuals" on
<https://ra.co/events>



Our LGBTQ+ Recovery Support Group is a safe, affirming space for queer and trans folks navigating recovery.

Whether you're just starting out or have been on this journey for a while, you deserve support, understanding, and community that sees you for who you are.

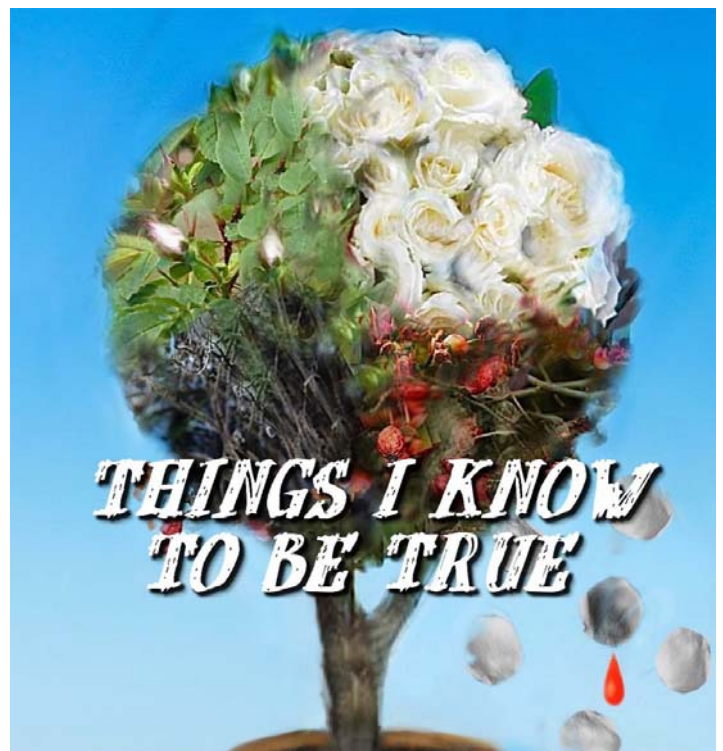


Join us at **Hopkinson Antique, Art & independent centre** on **February 13, 2026 at 6:00 PM** for a fun and inclusive speed dating event!

Looking for love or just more queer friends this 2026? This is your chance - perhaps to meet someone special before the 14th so you can make an entire day of it with your new friend or partner!

This is a casual event in the bar area of Hopkinson where alcohol, soft drinks or hot drinks are served. There are only 30 spaces due to the size of the bar area so make sure to sign up sooner than later!

Search "Hopkinson" on eventbrite



Things I Know To Be True follows the story and the many struggles of the Price Family. One struggle includes the Price's second child, Mia (previously referred to as Mark) who comes out as transgender and announces her plans for her transition, which include her plan to move to Sydney to begin transgender hormone therapy.

At the **Lace Market Theatre** Halifax Place, Nottm.
 9th-14th Feb. 7.30pm

"THE BBC'S FIRST HOMOSEXUAL" COMES TO LOUGHBOROUGH



THE BBC'S FIRST HOMOSEXUAL

700 Tues 24 Feb & 230 Wed 25 Feb 2026
Martin Theatre, Loughborough University
Free for Lboro staff and students (£5 gen. admission) at lboro.ac.uk/arts/whats-on

A NEW PLAY BY
STEPHEN M HORNBY

DIRECTED BY
OLI HURST

LGBT+ History Month
SCHOOLS CUT

Inkbrew

Loughborough University

UKRI Arts and Humanities Research Council

BBC's first ever programme on male homosexuality was put together in 1954. The subject was so taboo that the finished radio programme was shelved until a heavily edited version was broadcast on the Home Service three years later.

Then it was forgotten until the original script was rediscovered by the historian Marcus Collins. The script has been brought to life for a new stage play titled *The BBC's First Homosexual*, which will tour England in February as part of LGBT+ History Month, beginning in Salford and coming to Loughborough University on 24th (with an input from CJ DeBarra) and 25th of February.

The play tells the story of the radio programme, shines light on the experience of gay men in the 1950s and explores themes that still resonate today, including so-called conversion practices.

Collins, a professor of contemporary history at Loughborough University, said there were a number of gay "scandals" in the 1950s that made headlines and led to debates on whether there was a need to clamp down on the "immorality" or to decriminalise.

"The BBC saw this ruckus and thought that as the BBC, the voice of balance and authority, it should say something definitive about homosexuality," Collins said.

WHAT THEY SAID ABOUT THE PROGRAMME AT THE TIME

"All the homosexuals I've known have been extremely eager, like alcoholics, to spread the disease from which they suffer." (Lord Hailsham).

A Church of England moralist warned any "invert" who may have been listening in of "transitory attachments, disillusionment and loneliness in his old age".

The educationist John Wolfenden recommended "a healthy and normal" home life as "the best sort of prophylactic against all sorts of troubles of this kind".

The more liberal voices said that conversion therapy works and you ought to give it a go at least – and if not you can live a quiet life of abstinence and not do anything which would scare the horses."

The only remotely gay voice on the programme was an anonymous "reformed homosexual" who believed in the value of "sheer will power" to sort people out.

The programme was presented by CR Hewitt, later chair of the Homosexual Law Reform Society, who in the programme described homosexuality as "a sort of infantilism" and "a state of arrested development".

The BBC's director general decided not to broadcast the programme in 1954 after internal debates, including over whether it might increase homophobia. Another argument made, Collins said, was simply "that the BBC doesn't talk about sex".

When the edited version was broadcast in 1957, the backlash was such that bosses took the decision there should be no more programmes on the subject "except for special purposes and special occasions", Collins said. "They say we've covered the Wolfenden report, that is the end of discussing homosexuality ... there's nothing more to say."

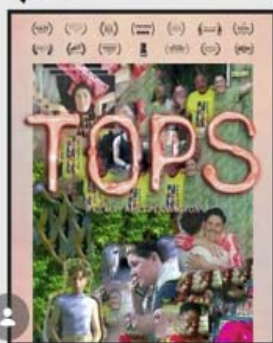
LGBT+ HISTORY MONTH!

AT BROADWAY CINEMA

TO SEE
TOPS
WITH
DIRECTOR
Q&A



01.03.26
2PM



NOTTINGHAM
PASTEL PROJECT
BROADWAY

In collaboration with the Pastel Project. A fun pastiche of the chaotic, brash, self-deprecating and clueless 1990s/2000s British reality, TOPS sees self-proclaimed future award-winning filmmaker Ames Pennington present their landmark faux-documentary.

Casting themselves as the invasive presenter, Ames goes on a satirical odyssey through the lives and homes of four unique individuals.

Ames asks the crucial question that defines the transmasculine experience: "what TOP did you want to wear after your TOP surgery?"

Followed by a Q&A with director Ames Pennington, hosted by T Girls on Film's Jaye Hudson. March 1st, 2pm.

14-18 Broad St, Nottingham

Tickets from
<https://broadway.org.uk/>



sexual abuse & sexual violence AWARENESS WEEK

NOTTS
SVS
SERVICES

This year's Sexual Abuse and Sexual Violence Awareness Week (SASVAW) runs from 3 – 9 February. It is the chance to raise awareness of sexual abuse and sexual violence.

Go to the Notts SVS Services website for details

<https://nottssvss.org.uk>



Tickets are free, but you need to book. Just search for Nottingham Queer Arts Collective, which will bring up the relevant page of the Playhouse website.

PRE GAG HORS D'OEUVRE#

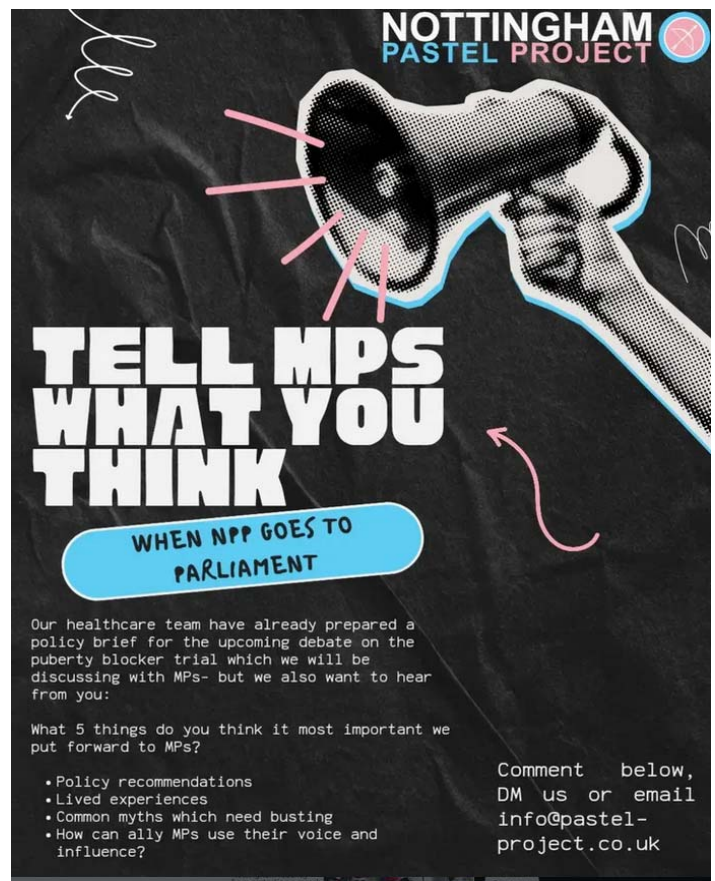


The folks at Broadway say "We give you permission to celebrate as you please this St. Valentine's Day. In consensual partnership with our pals at **Gladrags** you are invited to grease your wheels before their decadent kink-inspired club night **GAG** at Rough Trade, at our playful dress-up screening of **Pillion**.

Experience the "sub-dom rom-com" hit of 2025 in style! Don your finest attire on the theme of bikers, leathers, locks, or leads, or whatever else inspires you."

- **17:30 – 18:30:** Bond in our private Mezz Bar with music and drinks
- **18:30 – 19:00:** Let Nana Arthole take you in hand and get you warmed up with a pre-show performance
- **19:00 – 20:50:** Film
- **20:50:** Nana returns as our Pervy Pied Piper to lead you (literally?) to GAG at Rough Trade

Tickets at <https://broadway.org.uk>



Nottingham Pastel Project have been lucky enough to be invited down to Parliament to speak to MPs during LGBTQ+ History Month.

With the petition to cancel the NHS puberty blocker trial reaching over 100,000 signatures and triggering a debate in Parliament, our healthcare team have created a policy document to brief MPs on the dire need for these trials to continue. This event will be the perfect opportunity to expand our contacts amongst allied MPs, and equip them with the tools they need to allow the vital healthcare needs of the trans community to continue. It's still a long way from perfect, but it's a start.

We understand this is a controversial move and is likely to cause division- in the past other LGBTQ+ groups have seen events like these as nothing more than a photo op or networking event, we're heading down with a mission:

- To make MPs face the harsh effects this government is having on the trans community and hold them accountable
- To give them tangible actions we as a community want to see put into place
- To bring lived experiences, facts and truth into Parliament- not fear mongering, lies & bigotry

As with all the work we do, we look to the community to guide our work- and so we're asking you: with limited time to talk to each MP present, what 5 things do you think it most important we put forward. Email your suggestions! Info@pastel-project.co.uk

As our organisation grows we will continue to put pressure on those in power to do what is right, and hold them to account and make them face the consequences of their actions when they fail our community!

Pride

LGBTQ+ HISTORY
FEBRUARY 2026

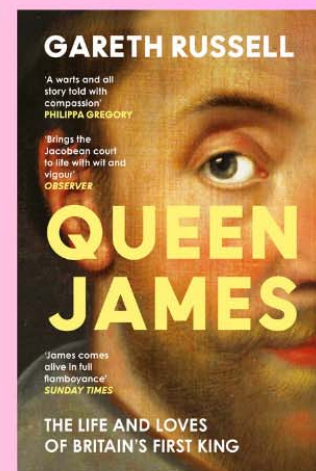
IN THE PAST

AT THE NATIONAL
CIVIL WAR CENTRE,
NEWARK

4TH FEBRUARY / 19:00

QUEEN JAMES Free for under 25s

The life and loves of Britain's first King. Gareth Russell delivers a fascinating talk on his bestselling book 'Queen James'. This groundbreaking new book puts James – genius, liar, spendthrift, idealist, witch-hunter – and the men he loved at the centre of one of the most dramatic stories in British royal history.



7TH FEBRUARY / DROP-IN FROM 10:00
THUMBPRINT KEYRINGS

Make a truly unique thumbprint keyring with somebody you love. As part of the free Family Saturday event.



14TH FEBRUARY
10:30, 11:30, 13:30, 14:15

**PUPPETRY AND
IDENTITY WORKSHOP**

Learn how to design and create a puppet with local artist, Robbie Bellekom, then use your puppet to tell a story. There will be a showcase of the puppets at 15:00



**17TH, 18TH, 20TH AND 21ST FEBRUARY
10:30 - 13:00 AND 14:00 - 16:00**

EXPRESS YOURSELF: MASK MAKING.

LGBTQ+ history has a strong connection with theatre and performance. Drop in and decorate a mask to celebrate all the things that make you you!

**28TH FEBRUARY
LEARNING THE SONG 10:00 - 12:00
RECORDING THE SONG 12:00 - 13:00**

JUST BE YOU: COMMUNITY CHOIR

Join a community choir and learn a piece of music celebrating individuality and belonging. The song will be professionally recorded on the day and released on Apple Music and Spotify. All abilities welcome.

LGBTQ+ HISTORY TRAIL

**National Civil War Centre
at Newark Museum
14 Appleton Gate, Newark NG24 1JY**

This flyer was designed by the Creative Influencers, the youth panel based at the National Civil War Centre. For more information, contact opendoors@newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**

**OPEN
DOORS**

**NATIONAL
CIVIL WAR
CENTRE**
NEWARK MUSEUM



Funded by
UK Government

USA: THE POSITIVE#



Congratulations to Nottingham Frontrunners Rob who finished his first marathon ending up with Mickey & co in Florida, meeting all of the characters along the way then enjoying the rides afterwards!

USA: THE NEGATIVE



LGBTQ+ Family Meet-Up

Join us for our next meet-up!

Homemade Cafe, Forest Recreation Ground
Sunday 15th February
2pm - 4pm

Gender neutral toilets and accessible access
Children's Playground on site
Free parking accessible via the Mansfield Road entrance,
next to the white lodge (use NG5 2BU in Maps)

