



# NOTTS RAINBOW REVIEW

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



**Nottinghamshire's  
RAINBOW HERITAGE**

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

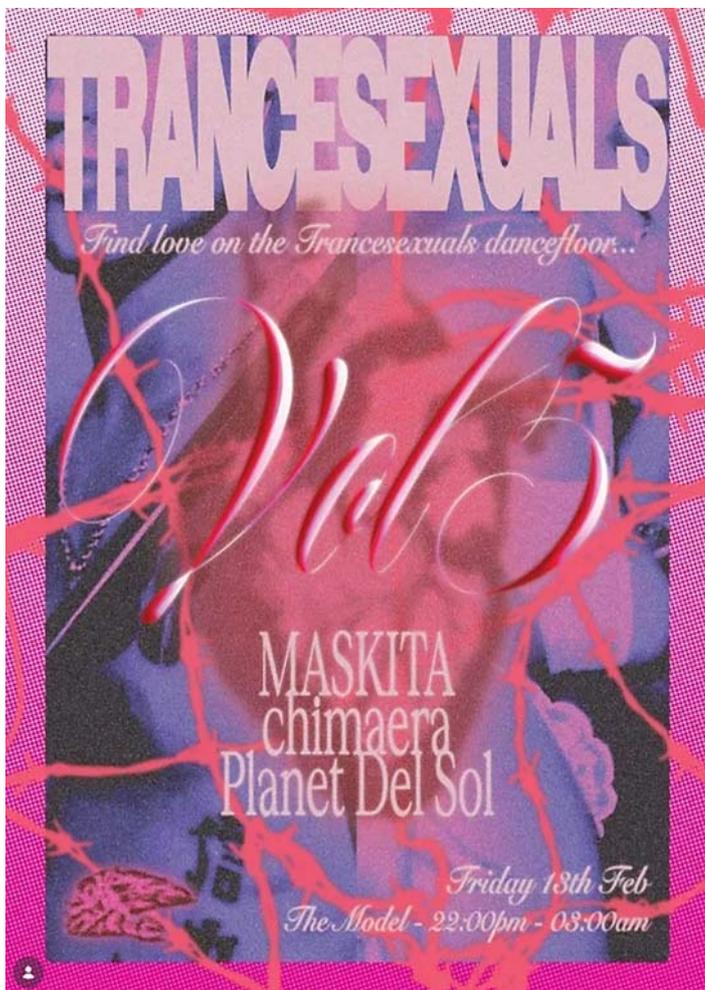
Journalist and founder of the Notts Queer History Archive, CJ De Barra, will take you through the decades, then give you a chance to read all about it in their secret stash of Gay News newspapers.

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>



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!

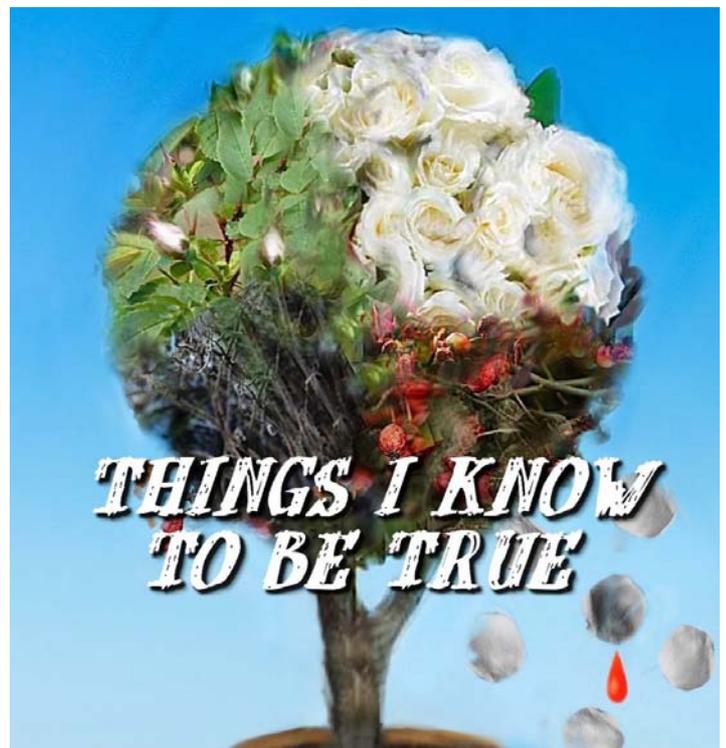
This is a casual event in the bar area of Hopkinson where alcohol, soft drinks or hot drinks are served. There are only 30 spaces due to the size of the bar area so make sure to sign up sooner than later!

Search "Hopkinson" on eventbrite



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.



**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](http://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.”

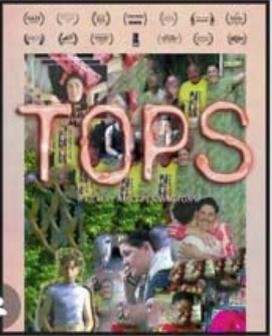
# LGBT+ HISTORY MONTH!

**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>

Nottingham Queer Arts Collective presents

# Open Mic Night!

Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> of January  
7PM - 9:30 PM  
Nottingham Playhouse, Company One

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>



A poster for the Nottingham Pastel Project. At the top right, it says 'NOTTINGHAM PASTEL PROJECT' with a logo. The main text reads 'TELL MPS WHAT YOU THINK' in large, bold, white letters. Below that, in a blue rounded rectangle, it says 'WHEN NPP GOES TO PARLIAMENT'. The poster features a hand holding a megaphone with pink arrows pointing towards the text. At the bottom, it says 'Our healthcare team have already prepared a policy brief for the upcoming debate on the puberty blocker trial which we will be discussing with MPs- but we also want to hear from you:' followed by the question 'What 5 things do you think it most important we put forward to MPs?'. A list of bullet points follows: '• Policy recommendations', '• Lived experiences', '• Common myths which need busting', and '• How can ally MPs use their voice and influence?'. On the right side, it says 'Comment below, DM us or email info@pastel-project.co.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](mailto: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

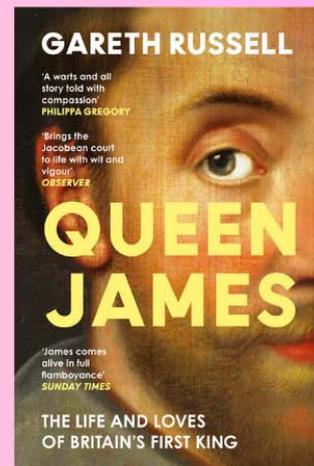
IN THE PAST

AT THE NATIONAL  
CIVIL WAR CENTRE,  
NEWARK

4<sup>TH</sup> 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.



7<sup>TH</sup> 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.



14<sup>TH</sup> 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!**

**28<sup>TH</sup> 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](mailto: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)





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Three Lions Pride: LGBTQ+ Fans To Boycott 2026 World Cup In US



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**LOOKING FOR PARTICIPANTS!**  
**for a Social Experiment Film**  
 Be part of a unique filmed project in Nottingham!

**Theme: Life · Connection · Stories**

📅 1st March 2026: 11:00 AM – 4:00 PM  
 📍 Location: Nottingham Contemporary, NG1 2GB

RSVP on Eventbrite  
 OR Email: admin@communitiesinc.org.uk with queries

**Lunch will be provided for everyone**

NOTTINGHAM More In Common PARTNERSHIP  
 Nottingham City Council



**EVENTS VOLUNTEERS**

NOTTINGHAM QUEER ARTS COLLECTIVE ARE LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS TO SUPPORT WITH UPCOMING EVENTS.

DUTIES INCLUDE SETTING UP AND RESETTING EVENT SPACES AND WELCOMING ARTISTS AND COLLECTIVE MEMBERS TO EVENTS.

INTERESTED? SEND US A DM.



**GOT AN IDEA FOR AN EVENT?**

WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE FROM NOTTINGHAM QUEER ARTS COLLECTIVE?

WE'RE CURRENTLY ORGANISING NQAC EVENTS ACROSS THE YEAR, GOT AN IDEA FOR AN EVENT?

TELL US IN THE COMMENTS OR SLIDE INTO THE DMS.

<https://www.instagram.com/nottsqueerarts>



**CONTENT CAFÉ**  
**EXTRA**

**SECOND ANNIVERSARY LUNCH**

Saturday 12.30pm  
 Feb. 21st

Bistrot Pierre, 13-17 Milton Street, Nottingham, NG1 3EN

We're thrilled to be celebrating another milestone achieved together -Content Café has been running for two years.

To book a seat for lunch with the group, you'll need to drop in to any of our coffee mornings (i.e. by 12pm on a Saturday) and sign up in person, no later than 14 February. Alternatively, it would be fine to ask a regular in the group to sign up for you.

Please note: the restaurant charges a £10 fee for cancellations less than 48 hours before the booking and 'no shows'.

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Three Lions Pride: LGBTQ+ Fans To Boycott 2026 World Cup In US



We are now hosting a fabulous day for everyone! The last Tuesday of every month. just bring yourself, friends, partners and anyone else that you think might be interested to come join our inclusive hangout.

Feel free to use any and all of our games or use the space to meet new people.

£7.50 per person or £12.50 as a pair all day free tea

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# TRANSEXUALS COMMUNITY FUND

**UP TO  
£70**

TRANSEXUALS CLUBNIGHT HAS  
CREATED A FUNDING APPLICATION  
FOR NOTTINGHAMSHIRE'S TRANS+  
COMMUNITY TO COMBAT  
HARDSHIP, PROMOTE SOLIDARITY  
AND HELP TRANS+ PEOPLE ACCESS  
HEALTHCARE.

FROM EVENT PROFITS

MORE INFO ON APPLICATION  
FORM. LINK IN BIO.



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