

July 2025

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 first volume of C.J. Debarra's books charting Nottingham's queer history from 1960 onwards will be published on July 25th just in time for Nottingham Pride.

The book costs £12 and can be pre-ordered from Five Leaves Bookshop via the website www.fiveleaves.co.uk

Full details about the book can be read on the next page.

## THE QUEER NOTTINGHAM STORY

Both a historical record and a celebration of unique stories, people and places, *Queer Nottingham 1960-1990* gives us a powerful glimpse into the lives of LGBTQ+ individuals in and around Nottingham over three pivotal decades of the last century. It will be followed by a second volume, *Queer Nottingham 1991-2020* in February 2026 to coincide with LGBT History Month.

For the two volumes, journalist and author CJ DeBarra conducted over 170 interviews with people who remember the times.

Combined with archive materials and research, the story in the first book takes us from the underground queer spaces of the Swinging Sixties, through the fight for LGBT+ liberation in the Seventies, to the heartbreaking years of AIDS fear and activism. The stories told reveal the struggles, queer joys and activism that defined the community, and shed light on the fight for recognition and equality during a time when being queer often meant living in the shadows.

#### DeBarra says:

"Nottingham's LGBTQ+ history is similar to yet completely different from that of London. Nottingham has so many firsts that should be noted: the first nightclub with a license for LGBT+ people, the first rainbow crossings, and the first openly gay footballer.

"For me, the proudest part of this project has been connecting and reconnecting people. I have seen friends meet for the first time in decades, and people who grew up as neighbours but never knew each other share a pint over memories of Mario's."

Pippa Hennessy, publisher at Five Leaves, says:

As a queer person who arrived in Nottingham in the mid-1980s, it's fascinating to read how the 'scene' as it was then came about. I remember some of the venues described in this book, and several of the people too. I'm immensely proud to have been a part of this project, and I can't wait to publish the second volume too. *Queer Nottingham 1960-1990* will be published on July 25<sup>th</sup> for Nottingham Pride, with a launch event at Five Leaves Bookshop. The book costs £12 and can be pre-ordered from www.fiveleaves.co.uk

CJ DeBarra is an Irish author and journalist based in Nottingham. They founded the Notts Queer History Archive in 2022 as an oral history project to capture LGBT+ stories. DeBarra's first book, *NeuroQueer: A Neurodivergent Guide to Love, Sex, and Everything in Between*, was published by Global Words Press in 2023.

Five Leaves Publications is an independent press publishing in Nottingham since 1995. It has an eclectic list, including LGBTQ+ interest, Jewish interest, social history, poetry, fiction, politics, cityscape and landscape. It also has a bookshop in Nottingham's city centre.



## 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 For about two years, Silver Pride's First Friday of the Month meetings have been at the Health Shop on Broad Street.

Silver Pride is a victim of its own success. The numbers attending the meetings have grown to the extent that the room at the Health Shop is simply too small.

From August, the group will move to the Sobar Café on Friar Lane, where they can access a much larger room.

For fuller details, including the extra meetings which Silver Pride organises, email

silverpride55@gmail.com



AT ROUGH TRADE



## GROOVEBOX At Binks yard



Groovebox Festival 2025. It is important to point out that this event takes place on the day of Nottinghamshire Pride but is an independent organisation separate from Notts Pride.





# FAMILY < PRIDE 2025

26 July 2025 (Saturday)

12.00pm - 3.00pm

\*quiet hour 12.00pm-1.00pm\*



Sneinton Market, between Avenue B and Avenue C, Nottingham NG1 1DW (near Blend Coffee)

JOIN US FOR AN AFTERNOON OF OUTDOOR GAMES, FACE PAINTING, DRAG STORY-TIME, CIRCUS SKILLS, CRAFT AND BOOK SHOWCASES, AND MORE FUN ACTIVITIES!



## wagamama

THE SPENCER

Make new LGBTQ+ friends & maybe more!

Monday 21st July @ 6pm wagamama Cornerhouse contact liam@thespencertrust.co.uk to reserve your spot

Zestycollective is hosting a one-off event celebrating Notts LGBT+ Networks 50th Birthday this summer!.

1.30-4.30pm Saturday 9th August at AMC Gardens, Kirkby Gardens, The Meadows, Nottingham, NG2 2HZ (indoors with options to roam around gardens)

Birthday themed materials and activities are provided but you're welcome to bring your own materials or projects to work on. Birthday cake and soft drinks provided. Booking is required due to capacity and safety

> - link is happy-bdaynetwork.eventbrite.com



New Date A

**FROM** 

THE

SPENCER





### **Further Info**

#### **Transport**

The nearest train station is Sileby, and is a 5-10 minute walk from the meeting point. There is also a station in Mountsorrel. Regular fast trains to both villages from Leicester, Loughborough and Nottingham. There is limited free parking along Mill Lane or further into the village. There is also a paid car park next to the station called King Street Car Park (LE12 7LZ).

#### Walk information

The walk is mostly flat, but there may be uneven ground and we will be by the river and open water. Walk length 1-2 hours.

#### Other Info

This event is free to attend and welcome to families and dogs, however please note under 18s and dogs are under their parent(s) and/or guardian(s) responsibility. Dogs are required on lead through the reserves.