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Nottingham, NG1 3FH
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LOOKOUT!

Dec 07 Jan Feb 2008

Issue 45

Season's Greetings one & all



Advance Notice

The breast cancer fund raising women's disco is on
Saturday 2 February 2008 at the Abbey sports centre.

Tickets £10.

Details of how to get tickets will be available as soon as I
have them.

It's a great night!



HIDDEN TALENTS
cabaret + dancing
thurs 13th dec @ the
8:30-1 ★ Maze
£3/5
women
only

LOOKOUT! Is sponsored by CAMPIONS SOLICITORS

WOMEN'S REGULAR EVENTS & SPECIAL ACTIVITIES

Real Ale



Quite a few photos were taken at the inaugural meeting of LIRAIN — does anybody remember these two on the left? No? Well, that just goes to show what a fab boozey ol' night it was then!!

We met at the Lincolnshire Poacher on Mansfield Road Nottingham on Friday 16th November. They had an excellent range of beers on that night and many were sampled and discussed. The evening was a great success with over 30 women managing to stage a 'take-over' of the Poacher's middle room. Women came from far & wide: Nottingham, Derby, Lincoln & Leicester — beer must be good for a great get together!

We will be organising another gathering in January 2008 so if you want to come along why not join the Lirain group?

See alongside for details

Do you like real ale and decent pubs? If so, consider joining LIRAIN. We are a group of lesbian and bi-sexual women who get together to drink fine ales and chat. Get togethers are informal and there is also a yahoo chat group. To join check go to the yahoo group: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/lirain>

Other events

Singer songwriter night featuring
Hannah Brackenbury
Ali Wright
Rachael Delicata
Niche Bar (Was the Central Bar)
Huntingdon Street .
Thursday 6th December
9pm start



LGBT HISTORY PROJECT



February 12th - 17th

Tuesday to Sunday there will be an LGBT History Exhibition at the large gallery at the View from the Top above Waterstones (4th floor) on Bridlesmith Gate. The gallery will be open during Waterstones opening hours

9.00am - 7pm Tuesday - Saturday

10.30am - 5pm Sunday

If we can get funding, we hope to have a launch party (free food and drink!) 7-9pm on Tuesday 12th. Keep an eye on the website for confirmation.

February 18th - 29th

A display on the 1st floor of Nottingham Central Library on Angel Row.

February 26th

This Tuesday night will be LGBT History Quiz Night - in the Green Room (downstairs) at the Lord Roberts. Starts (fairly) promptly at 8.00pm. As some food will be provided as well as prizes for the winners, £1 entry charge.

Million Women Rise March – 8th March 2008

Women across the county are being called to unite against violence against women. A UK wide million woman Pow Wow is being called and they need **YOU**.

Would you like you to join in & support the efforts to end violence against women in all its forms. It's being organised by grass root workers and it comes from the core of our being we have had enough and we will march.

There are 30 million women in the UK—just one million standing up and be counted would make a massive impact.

The united issues are to end violence against women, further perpetrating violence against women through no recourse to public funds, the global sex trafficking of women and children, the withholding of medication for women and children suffering from HIV in Africa, violence against women in wars, honour killing, forced marriage, female genital mutilation, racism, sexual exploitation, poverty, violence through control of single mothers, domestic violence, rape and pornography.

As well as a million women marching through London there is planned an international all female platform of women activists, speakers, women elders and artists.

The Pow Wow will be held in Hyde Park.

The plan is to come together on Saturday 8th March 2008.

The aim, more than trying to convince the powers that be, is for us as women to come together and hold a mirror up to ourselves and reflect our tremendous power and talent, our ability to self sustain, our weaknesses and shortcomings, acknowledge our needs and what we will do about it?

Come and get involved and add your support in any way you can and then spread the word ... the time is now the power is **YOU**.

For more info contact Rahni at Roshni NAWA rahni@roshninotts.org.uk

Nottingham Women Centre, 30 Chaucer Street, Nottingham NG1 5LP

Banna — back in business

Over the last year you may have heard increasingly desperate pleas from the Banna Lesbian Co-op for tenants - how on earth did these fabulous flats stay unwanted for so long? We'll never know. However, a leafletting campaign at Pride seems to have reversed the Co-op's fortunes.

By October, Banna finally filled the last of its vacancies and the waiting list is already accumulating. Word has got around, and Banna is well and truly back in business! For those of you who want to put their name down, we offer safe, affordable self-contained flats for lesbians with or without children in a lovely listed property close to town. Banna has been running for seventeen years and is looking forward with optimism to the next seventeen.

Many thanks to all those who continue to support Banna. We still have openings on our Management Committee, meeting monthly to help with the strategic management of the Co-op.

For further information please contact us on 07770895697 or bannahousing@yahoo.co.uk

L A F S

Lesbians in Ashfield Friendship & Support

Would you like to meet other women who are lesbian, bisexual or uncertain of their sexuality?

Come along to this informal group run by lesbians, for a confidential chat, gain information/support, make new friends and have fun.

Meet last Wednesday of each month

7.00pm—9.00pm

At Ashfield Womens Centre,

Diamond Avenue, Kirkby in Ashfield

In a safe, accessible, women only space

To find out more details phone Cheryl or Alison on 01623 473010 (Mon -Fri 9.30am—1.30pm)

Or leave your name & number confidentially on 07849 798802 & Alison or Cheryl will phone back

Film Review - Puccini for Beginners

For those who missed this cute little film at the Broadway this summer (Shown as part of the Lesbian and Gay Film Festival, and playing to a full house), the DVD may make a welcome Christmas/Yule/Hanukkah /Diwali/ "Cheer me up its winter" present. Deep, sexual and angst-ridden it isn't – it could almost be a family movie, admittedly for a fairly progressive family who don't mind seeing a bit of lesbian kissing and the odd sex toy.

Puccini for beginners is a New York screwball rom-com about a bisexual love triangle. Allegra, the Puccini-loving lesbian protagonist, has just been dumped by her ex because of an inability to commit, and she spirals off into a self-questioning free-fall that finds her slipping into an unexpected relationship with Philip. As the film plays out in flashback, we very early on discover the ludicrous love triangle she subsequently finds herself in, as she bumps into Philip and the girl he dumps for her at a party. Yes, somehow Allegra has been sleeping with both of them, all blissfully unaware of their interconnectedness. The dialogue-rich and slightly analytical body of the film takes us to this neatly paced, farcical party scene where (hopefully) we surrender to the silliness of it all and laugh delightedly.

The film has the look and feel of classic Woody Allen, whilst also paying homage to the black and white screwball comedies beloved of its heroine. The style and cinematography are familiar to the New York setting (think *Manhattan* meets *Sex and the City*, with lesbians), and it doesn't really stray from this attempt to reproduce a reliable product. Even so most women will smile, laugh and nod knowingly at many of the comments and scenarios depicted, and even though the main characters are not always loveable, the film as a whole is thoroughly engaging.

BADMINTON



TO SUIT ALL SKILL LEVELS
HELD IN NOTTINGHAM
AT VICTORIA LEISURE CENTRE
ADJACENT TO SNEINTON MARKET.
YOU CAN ENJOY A GAME ON
THURSDAY EVENING 9PM-10PM
&/or SATURDAY MORNING
9AM-11AM.

GOOD SOURCE OF EXERCISE PLUS LOTS OF SPIN
OFF SOCIAL ACTIVITIES WITH THIS FRIENDLY
GROUP OF WOMEN

WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?

events are actively
promoted as being for open minded
people - people who share ideas about
gender, belief and sexuality, and who want
to enjoy themselves!

So, this is an opportunity for you, whether
you are man, woman, gay, straight, have a
religion or don't... to meet new people in a
social context, make friends and have a
good time.

There's no wish to make profit, just organise
social events that people will enjoy. Where
there is a charge we will arrange a special
deal and then add for a charge onto the cost
per head and then pass that charge on to
charity so that by our enjoying ourselves
we're doing our bit for the community as
well!

Worth watching out for

French & Saunders, Britain's most celebrated female comedians, embark on their first UK tour for more than seven years in April 2008. The show will feature the best of French & Saunders' characters and sketches from the three decades that they have been making people laugh, together with brand new material written by the first ladies of comedy.

She's been a card-carrying punk, a blues shouter, and a dance-floor diva. She's taken one of the most expressive voices in pop music and used it to vividly depict the depths of despair and the celestial joys of love. In short, Alison Moyet, revered singer/songwriter, has regularly challenged the limits of pop music.

A Basildon school leaver at the age of 16, Alison Moyet's intention to study piano tuning came to an abrupt halt when 'Only You' became a worldwide hit for her and Vince Clarke, the duet otherwise known as Yazoo. Yazoo went on to completely reinvent British dance music, merging cool synthesised soundscapes with sweet soul. Two albums and a Brit Award for Best New Band later, Alison struck out on her own with her debut solo outing, 'Alf' which spawned three UK Top 10 hits. Between 1984 and 1987 she toured extensively, won two Brit Awards and performed at Live Aid in 1985. Her next album, 'Raindancing' won her a third Brit and brought her to the US for the first time as a solo performer.

Following a sabbatical to pull back a career that was moving faster than she was, Alison sequestered herself in the studio for an extended period emerging with the highly acclaimed 'Hoodoo', a complex collection of raw rock roots and deep soul music that garnered her a Grammy nomination.

In 1995 'Singles' entered the UK album chart at No.1, and clearly demonstrated just why Alison Moyet is one of Britain's finest recording artists. Following another sold out tour of the UK (including three nights at the Royal Albert Hall), the 'Singles' album was repackaged with a bonus live CD ('No Overdubs') and re-entered the Top 20.

Towards the end of 2001 Alison made her stage debut in the West End hit musical 'Chicago' playing the role of Matron 'Mama' Morton to critical acclaim: "...the packed auditorium saluted Ms Moyet with a deafening cacophony... (she stole the show" - Evening Standard. Alison stayed with the show for six months.

'Hometown', her first studio album in eight years, was released in 2002 to loud critical acclaim and quickly topped 100,000 sales, catapulting Alison into the Top 5 Best Selling Female UK Artists and was nominated for Best Female Vocal at the 2003 BRIT Awards. Alison then embarked on a national tour of the UK, her first for several years: In 2003 she narrated The Josephine Baker Story for BBC Radio 2 and Behind The Mask, a 10 part jazz biographical series, for Jazz FM. She also recorded a voice over for a Channel 4 documentary entitled 'School Reunion'.

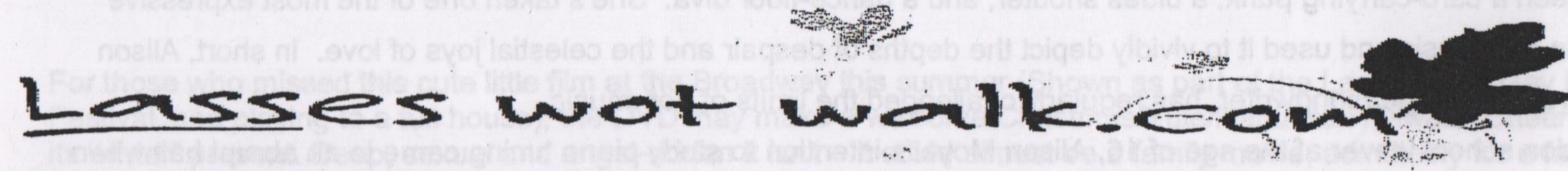
Her most recent Top 10 album, 'Voice', was released to great acclaim in September 2004 was produced by Academy Award winner Anne Dudley, and quickly earned gold status in the UK selling over a quarter of a million copies.

In May 2005 Alison embarked on a sold out, critically acclaimed UK tour, entitled 'One Blue Voice', performing with an eight-piece band including a string quartet. The tour, informed by the album 'Voice', also included songs from 'Hometown' and tracks, previously not performed live, from her back catalogue. In June Alison narrated Behind the Glass – The Phil Ramone Story for BBC Radio 2, and filmed a special version of the 'One Blue Voice' concert at The Hospital in Covent Garden, and released on DVD in September 2005. The following year, Alison returned to London's West End in 'Smaller' in which she co-starred with long time friend Dawn French. The play was directed by Kathy Burke and opened in London that April after a national tour.

October 2007 sees the release of her sixth studio album of new material, THE TURN, her first record for long-term associate John Williams' W14 label. Working with her producer and co-writer Peter Glenister, Alison has created pop that combines pathos, drama and spills; from the lush orchestration of lead single ONE MORE TIME to the greatest song that Dusty Springfield or The Walker Brothers never recorded, ANYTIME AT ALL. The album also includes three of the songs she wrote for 'Smaller.'

Catch Alison on tour early next year. She'll be appearing at
Nottingham's Royal Centre on January 23rd

Walking Groups (check out the webi for cool outdoor gear by post)



NOTTINGHAM HIKING DYKES walk on the 3rd Sunday of the month.

16th December Meet in the centre of Crich (WC, shop etc) for a 10.30am start. Off the A610 near Ambergate GR350541.

20th January Meet at 10.45 at the Visitor Centre car park at Attenborough Nature Reserve

17th Feb & 18th March — walks to be arranged, check for details.



Derby Walking Women

Sunday 2nd December Monsal Head Meet in the car park behind the Monsal Head Hotel

GR 185715 @ 10:45 for 11:00 start (mince pies will be provided)

(Walks are normally on the first Sunday of the month, each walk is organised by volunteer(s) and full details are given out the month before. The overall co-ordinators can be contacted on 07786 803455)

North Nottinghamshire Walking Group

This is a friendly group open to all Lesbian and Bi-Sexual Women living in or near North Notts.

Walks are held on the second Sunday of each month and are generally 4-8 miles long. The walk organiser suggests that all participants bring appropriate clothing, waterproofs & footwear, and refreshments for each walk.

Sunday 9th December Caunton 5miles. Park on village roads & meet at 11 in Caunton Beck pub car park

No long term walk programme, but you can email nnwalkers@yahoo.co.uk for the latest info.

SHEFFIELD HIKING DYKES

Sunday 2nd Dec Hope to Edale 6.5m. Meet at Hope station & return there later by train.

Sunday 16th Millthorpe 6m GR 317765

Sunday 30th Dec Xmas social & short walk, Bradwell 3m meet nr the church

Sunday 6th Jan Peak Forest, Rushup Edge 8m meet GR 115797

Sunday 20th Jan Ford 6m meet car park behind Bridge Inn

Sunday 3rd Feb Vale of Edale 6.5m meet nr Edale station GR 12385

Sunday 17th Feb Linacre reservoirs 7.5m meet in lower of 3 carparks GR 336727

Next planning meeting Monday 4th Feb Rutland Arms, Brown Street, Sheffield

A full & varied programme of walks throughout the year, for further details check out their website or phone Sheila (0114 2580211) or Deena (0114 2686409) or email sheffield-hd@hotmail.com



The Peak Ruffies

The Peak Ruffies hiking dyke group aims to provide walks in the Peak District over a good distance, at a steady pace, and over more challenging terrain. email: vivpointon@hotmail.com or jeanelle@degruchy.co.za and we'll put you on our contacts list.....sign up first to get details of walks.

HELP

<p>Nottingham Rape Crisis Centre</p> <p>If you have been sexually assaulted and need help, information, or someone to talk to phone 0115 941 0440.</p> <p>Confidential, free and independent.</p> <p>Run by women for women</p>	<p>Women's Drug Service</p> <p>Free and confidential service for women who use, have used or are at risk of using drugs.</p> <p>Tel: 01623 785 444</p> <p>Outburst! for lesbian, gay and bisexual young people up to 21.</p> <p>Meet at the Health Shop, Hockley, Nottingham every Friday 6pm-8pm. A space to meet other lesbian, gay and bisexual people.</p>	<p>Nottingham Police LGBT Consultation Group.</p> <p>Meets every 3 months (usually at the Adams Building in the Lace Market). Representatives from local lesbian/bi groups are welcome. Details via Switchboard or the GAI Project.</p> <p>Broken Rainbow Helpline 020 8539 9507 for lesbians experiencing abuse from their partner.</p>
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<p>Relate Nottinghamshire</p> <p>The Relate counselling service is available to all adult couples experiencing problems in their central relationship, including gay and lesbian couples. Tel: 0115 950 7836.</p>	<p>Nottingham LGBT Consultation Forum</p> <p>(formerly Notts LGBT Community Voice)</p> <p>(and before that the LGB Forum)</p> <p>meets every 3 months, and can be contacted via Switchboard (0115 934 8485),</p>
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WANTED

Nottingham area. 32 year old WLTM persons of any age with GSOH, good listening ear and friendly disposition for 121 chats on a regular basis! Good telephone manner essential.

Yes, Nottingham & Nottinghamshire Lesbian & Gay Switchboard is 32 this year and is looking for new volunteers for the next training session beginning soon - we especially welcome women and people from ethnic minorities. Phone, write or e-mail if you want to get involved. 0115 9348485, NLGS 7 Mansfield Road, Nottingham, NG1 3FB,

Switchboard have been sent details of a website www.girl2girl.info is developed for and by women who have sex with women and provides accurate and accessible information, please forward these details to any individuals/ organisations you think may be interested.

Volunteers needed at Switchboard

Did you have someone to turn to when you were first coming out? Someone to ask where to meet people, how is it supposed to feel, is this normal? For many people in Nottingham and around, that someone is a Switchboard volunteer. At Nottingham Lesbian and Gay Switchboard we get calls from all across the LGBT community looking for information, advice, support or just a friendly voice.

Switchboard volunteers are given training in listening skills and LGBT issues and have a database of information at their fingertips. The only qualification for a volunteer is being a good listener, and being able to put our names down for two evenings per month on the rota, plus appropriate attendance at meetings and training. The rewards are numerous - meeting people, gaining new training and skills, learning more about your own community and the satisfaction of being there for people when they need it.

We especially welcome women and people from ethnic minorities. Please phone, write or e-mail if you want to get involved or to find out more. 0115 9348485, NLGS 7 Mansfield Road, Nottingham, NG1 3FB, notts@lgswitchboard.fsnet.co.uk