



Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Trans

Staff Network Newsletter

Issue #33
September 2024

“Visibility Education Celebration”

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The Queen of My Dreams

This month, the NCC LGBT film group saw, “The Queen of My Dreams”, a Canadian/Pakistan comedy drama. Azra leaves her girlfriend at home in Canada when she travels to her family home in Pakistan to attend her father’s funeral. She navigates her strained relationship with her mother to understand her mother’s youth and both explore their differences and similarities. Lots of music and humour in this atmospheric story.



Bisexual Awareness Week

Friday 16 September was the start of Bisexual Awareness Week, also known as #Biweek. This week aims to raise awareness of and celebrate bisexuality across society, as well as reduce judgement and highlight the issues faced by the bisexual community.

Bisexual people can often face difficulties, some of which include their sexuality being accepted by family, friends, and society. It can take a huge amount of strength to be open to family and friends about our sexual identity and, when it is met with judgement and non-acceptance, it is not an easy thing to deal with.

There is also a range of negative stereotypes attributed to the bi community, including people being 'greedy' or 'indecisive' when it comes to who they chose to date. Moreover, bisexual representation in the media, and on our screens is limited; the nuance of this sexuality is little explored by creators of film and TV.

Prides

Nottinghamshire County Council was represented at Prides in Nottinghamshire, Worksop, a small newcomer, Long Eaton. As well as Pride marches, there were a number of Pride events also supported by NCC including Queer History at the Nottingham Archives, and the Birth of Pride in Nottingham Library which showcased LGBTQ+ music, dancing, art and performance.

Corporate Induction Event

The LGBTQ+ network had a stand at the induction even on 18th September at County Hall. These events are an opportunity for new NCC starters to acquaint themselves with the networks and unions available to them. The LGBTQ+ Network regularly has a stall which highlights the value of the Network, not only for those who are part of the community, but those frontline staff who feel they would benefit from the wide bank of knowledge that the network has to offer.

LGBTQ+ Profile: Eleanor Rykener

Eleanor Rykener was a trans woman who lived as a seamstress, barmaid, and sex worker in medieval England. The limited information of her comes from records of her arrest in 1394 which were recorded and are stored in the London Plea and Memoranda Rolls (the civic records of Medieval London).



She was arrested and

interrogated (though apparently not charged) in December 1394 for performing a sex act with a man when, “discovered in women’s attire, she named herself as Eleanor”

It is unusual that the case was brought before the civic court rather than the church. This was possibly because she had named several clergy as clients. Prostitutes were not usually arrested in London during this period and were seen by the law and the (more powerful) church as providing a necessary, if unsavoury, service. Sex between two men was a criminal offence but the law (and church) used medieval Latin which

only had feminine words for prostitution, acknowledged that Rykener as her employment as a sex worker was not illegal, she could not have been detained on those grounds.

This record and those of her other arrests has been discussed in historic and academic circles with a view to understand the visibility of trans people and the medieval social understanding of gender.

Historian, Ruth Mazo Karras—who in the 1990s rediscovered the Rykener case in the City of London archives—sees it as illustrating the difficulties the law has in addressing things it cannot describe.

More information on the Plea and Memoranda Roll A34, m.2 from the London Metropolitan Archives.

Picture by Dr. Dayanna Knight (vikingspecialist@gmail.com)

LGBTQ+ Book Club

The LGBTQ+ book club meet at 5pm on the last Thursday of each month to discuss an LGBTQ+ related book.

The group will meet to discuss the next book via Microsoft Teams on 31st October. If you don't have the meeting invitation and would like more information or to join, please contact catherine.englefield@nottsc.gov.uk for details.

Forthcoming dates for your diary

Reading Proud. 5 October. Nottingham Central Library

Five Leaves Bookshop are delighted to be bringing back their half day showcase of LGBTQ+ writers, histories and stories- *Reading Proud*- for its third year. This half day event includes talks from poets, children's writers, historians and more! You'll be sure to hear some excellent talks from brilliant writers.

Information including talk times and speaker bios can be found on the Five Leaves event page, as well as booking tickets:

<https://fiveleavesbookshop.co.uk/events/reading-proud-3-an-afternoon-with-lgbt-writers/>

Meet Author, Alan Hollinghurst. 8 October.

Waterstones Nottingham (1-5 Bridlesmith Gate, Nottingham NG1 2GR) welcomes Alan Hollinghurst to celebrate the release of his new novel, *Our Evenings*, on Tuesday 8th Oct. 2024 at 18:30. Alan will be in conversation with academic and writer, Dr Hongwei Bao to discuss his new novel, answer questions and sign books. Alan Hollinghurst's first novel was *The Swimming-Pool Library*, a closely observed story of gay life in London in the 1980's. His best known work – the 2004 novel *The Line of Beauty* – won the Booker Prize for Fiction and was later adapted for television. Other works include *The Stranger's Child* and *The Sparsholt Affair*. Book at <https://tinyurl.com/2vnurdca>

National Coming Out Day. 11 October

This is an annual LGBT awareness day observed on October 11, to support LGBTQ+ people in "coming out of the closet" if it is safe to do so

Spirit Day. 17 October.

Spirit Day is an annual observance aimed at raising awareness against anti-LGBTQ bullying and harassment

International Pronouns Day. 16 October.

International Pronouns Day seeks to make respecting, sharing, and educating about personal pronouns commonplace. Referring to people by the pronouns they determine for themselves is basic to human dignity. Being referred to by the wrong pronouns particularly affects transgender and gender nonconforming people. Together, we can transform society to celebrate people's multiple, intersecting identities.

Meet Author, Simon Smalley.

28 October

Smalley's first book *That Boy of Yours Wants Looking At* was about love, loss, adversity, and acceptance. At its core was a child with a wild imagination and a desire for glamour trying to survive being gay and disabled on a Nottingham council estate in the sixties and seventies. It has had numerous complimentary reviews on Amazon and also from people such as Tom Robinson and Sue Pollard. The second book takes the story further, following the difficult years of AIDS and the easier years of greater acceptance of gay life. We rejoin Simon as he strives to establish his own identity on a tough, 1970s inner-city council estate following the death of his mother when he was aged eight. Simon will be launching the book at Five Leaves Bookshop on Monday October 28th 7-8.30pm. To book, go to the Events section at <https://fiveleavesbookshop.co.uk>

Trans-Parent Day. 3 November

This is a day to celebrate and honour transgender parents instead of the traditional Mother's or Father's Day.

Trans Awareness Week. 13 – 16 November and Transgender Day of Remembrance. 20 November.

Transgender Awareness Week is a one-week celebration leading up to the Transgender Day of Remembrance (TDoR), which memorializes victims of transphobic violence.

TDoR occurs annually on November 20, when transgender advocates raise awareness of the transgender community through education and advocacy activities

Previous Webinars and events you may have missed:

- **Lesbian Visibility Day:** [Have you heard of International Lesbian Visibility Day? | NHS Confederation](#)
- **'Asexuality: a minority within a minority'** by Yasmin Benoit. (Hosted by Nottinghamshire Healthcare) <https://youtu.be/WruRIOfHYKO> (49 minutes long)
- **'Behind the Lens'** by Adam Zmith. (Hosted by Nottingham University Hospitals) <https://youtu.be/R8OVaOvmcJE> (54 minutes & 30 seconds long)

New Members Welcome

New members are encouraged and will always be welcomed by the network. There is no obligation to “out” yourself or to contribute.

The network’s e-mail account is LGBT@nottsc.gov.uk. It is secure and is only accessed by committee members. All correspondence is treated in the strictest confidence.

Future Network Meetings

- **Thursday 10th October 2024,** 2:30pm-4:30pm on Teams.
- **Thursday 14th November 2024,** 2:30pm-4:30pm on Teams.

Network members are entitled to this time as paid work time.

Contact Us

Committee members:

- Co-Chair: Becky Sampson
- Co-Chair: Cate Englefield
- Publicity Officer: Sarah Morgan
- Treasurer: Colin Sawyer

Please email us at

LGBT@nottsc.gov.uk

