



**Nottinghamshire
County Council**

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Trans

Staff Network Newsletter

**Issue #36
March 2025**

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Visit to Southwell Workhouse

LGBTQ+ History Month 2025 celebrated key historic figures including Octavia Hill (co-founder of the National Trust). With Nottinghamshire County Council's close links to Southwell Workhouse and Infirmary, the LGBTQ+ network organised a visit. The visit was well-attended and provided valuable insights into the history of the workhouse and its close historical connection to the Council's current social care work. This helped attendees understand the evolution of social care from the workhouse era to the present day. It also included a guided tour and a special peek at some of the collection.

Ageing in the LGBTQIA+ population



At the *Ageing Within The LGBTQ+ Community* webinar, Dr. Paul Taylor-Pitt used his forthcoming book, “Still here! Still Queer! Now what?” to address issues relating to Inclusive care for the ageing LGBTQ+ population. His book is based on interviews of 100 people aged between 40 and 60 highlights some of the unique problems affecting the LGBTQ+ community in regard to

care. It shows some of the causes, effects and suggests some solutions to problems such as higher social isolation, increased risk of mental health issues including, depression, anxiety, suicide ideation. He suggests that the current systems aren't aligned with LGBTQ+ issues and concerns and that systemic change is required to address these. He recommends that the NHS take proactive steps to ensure inclusive healthcare for ageing LGBTQ+, recognises chosen families rather than next of kin, and implements inclusive policies to remove barriers to dignified care in care homes and hospitals.

A recording of the webinar is available here:

[Ageing in the LGBTQIA+ Population - February 2025](#)

Beautiful Thing

Friends of the LGBTQ+ network met to watch the 1996 'Urban fairytale', *Beautiful Thing* which explored the coming-of-age of two teenagers trying to navigate their sexual identities and the expectations of their South London neighbours.

The Prohibition Roast: Battle Of The Bellas

A group of network members went to the History Month celebration event, The Prohibition Roast where The Lord Roberts' Queen in residence, Liv, presented a night of live singing, lip-syncing and comedy with some of Nottingham's finest drag artists.

Transgender history (and why it matters to you!)

In this webinar, James Davison from the University of Liverpool and the Annual Trans Historical Conference, gave a brief history of trans identity and how it has been viewed and ignored by historians. The hour long webinar was divided into three parts:

Part 1 – tour of histories of individual trans people

Part 2 – relationships between these histories and experiences today

Part 3 – Q&A

Speeding through history, James covered topics including Hatshepsut who ruled Egypt, the Roman Empress Elagabalus, the Anglo-Saxons, Shakespearean actress Lady Rich Robinson. In each case James described how their 'transness' had been explained away and he demonstrated how these explanations didn't stand up to scrutiny. He then brought us up-to-date with Dr. James Barry, and Martha P Johnson and provided a number of 'further reading' suggestions with a list of books, podcasts and videos.

The webinar was hosted by Melanie Holloway, chair of NHS England staff network.

a recording of the webinar is available (see links on last page)

Nowhere

The outtakes group went to see the 1997 film *Nowhere* which told the story of a group of American teenagers who tried through the medium of drugs, alcohol and angst, to figure out a meaning to their lives. The 90s grunge-rock soundtrack provided the backdrop to the sex, drugs and alien abductions of parties in nineties LA.

Octavia Hill



Savoy Hill House © National Trust / Laurence Pordes

Octavia Hill (1838 to 1912) was one of Victorian Britain's most important social reformers. One of nine children, Octavia was born on 3 December 1838 at Wisbech in Cambridgeshire. Born into a family of radical thinkers and reformers with a strong commitment to alleviating poverty, she herself grew up in difficult circumstances due to the financial failure of her father's businesses. Home educated by her mother, she worked from the age of 14 for the welfare of working people.

Hill was a significant force behind the development of social housing. She believed in self-reliance and made it a key part of her housing system. Her early friendship with John Ruskin enabled her to put her theories into practice with the aid of his initial investment in 1864. She began buying neglected and decaying properties in London: overhauling them and transforming their tenants' lives. Her scheme was a success and rapidly expanded with new investors. By 1874 Octavia had over 3,000 tenancies around London. In the early part of her career, she used her skills as a manager of working-class housing to create healthier communities and trained other women to do the same. She established the idea of personal case work, the importance of good maintenance of housing, and believed in self-help rather than hand-outs for the poor. Hill coined the term 'the green belt' and worked to preserve it to give Londoners access to the countryside. Her ideas paved the way for modern town planning. She was instrumental in saving open space for recreation in inner-city London. Her work to preserve the Lake District from encroaching railway companies contributed to the setting up of the National Trust in 1894 of which she was a co-founder.

Octavia Hill reportedly had a 'passionate intimacy' with Sophia Jex-Blake, one of the first woman doctors. Subsequently, Octavia Hill's long-term companion was Harriot Yorke, who lived and worked with Hill for 30 years. They lived together in Marylebone Rd, London and in Kent. Hill and Yorke are buried together in the churchyard at Crockham Hill, near Edenbridge, Kent. Hill is celebrated with a blue plaque at 2 Garbutt Place, Marylebone, and a monument on the summit of Hydon Ball hill, looking out over the Surrey countryside.

Punching Above its Weight - Nottingham in the Context of Britain's Queer History

This public lecture, delivered by guest speaker David Edgley from Nottinghamshire's Rainbow Heritage, offered a brief survey of the UK's queer history, heritage and activism, with a focus on those relevant to Nottingham and Nottinghamshire. Starting with the 1885 *Labouchere amendment* and including the imprisonment of Oscar Wilde, banning of The Well of Loneliness, the 1948 Kinsey report, the arrest of Alan Turing, the outing of April Ashley and the 1967 Sexual Offences Act and its deficiencies leading up to Section 28. It moved on to the positive legislation from 2000 onwards.

Out and about with Linden: Nottingham book launch

Photographer Stuart Linden Rhodes shared a collection of photographs from the Linden Archives telling stories behind the photographs.

Linden was in discussion with CJ De Barra from the Notts Queer History Archive to talk about the 90's queer scene. The show included photographs from Nottingham and the midlands from the era

The Lovers Exhibition: Sunil Gupta and Charan Singh

New Art Exchange, Nottingham on until 3rd May

The Lovers, an exhibition of photographic portraits that celebrate LGBTQIA+ relationships and the changing visibility of LGBTQIA+ communities today.

[The Lovers by Sunil Gupta & Charan Singh | New Art Exchange | NAE](#)

Allyship Event – 16th May

[Save the date: celebrate allyship - 16 May | Nottinghamshire County Council Intranet](#)

What to expect:

- Hear from departments who will be showcasing good practice
- Opportunities to network with colleagues
- Interactive activities and learning
- Supportive and open conversations around allyship

This event is open to all. Save your spot by emailing equalities@nottscc.gov.uk. Tea and coffee will be provided.

JOIN US FOR A DAY TO
CELEBRATE ALLYSHIP AT
NOTTINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY
COUNCIL

Are you a proud or
anti-racism ally? are
you someone who
wants to know how
to support your
colleagues and
friends? Exciting
event coming up,
open to all, please
save your spot and
let us know if you
need any
adjustments by
emailing
equalities@nottscc.gov.uk

**FRIDAY
16TH MAY
2025
9.30-3PM**

**SAVE
THE
DATE**

Venue: To be confirmed and will
be communicated soon!

Tea and coffee
will be provided

What to expect?

- Hear from departments who will be showcasing good practice
- Opportunities to network with colleagues
- Interactive activities and learning around anti-racism practice and proud allyship
- Supportive and open conversations around allyship

Links to previous webinars and events you may have missed:

- **Trans History and Why it Matters to You** by James Davison
<https://www.youtube.com/embed/YRz8gtfnU3U?si=M78Auj8oZBol-P3I> (54 mins)
- **Ageing in the LGBTQIA+ Population** by Dr. Paul Taylor Pitt
<https://www.youtube.com/embed/CpbF5OLpc3I?si=c2dG6BtVNC209ZMA> (33 mins)
- **'Asexuality: a minority within a minority'** by Yasmin Benoit.
(Hosted by Nottinghamshire Healthcare) <https://youtu.be/WruRIOfHYK0> (49 mins)
- **'Behind the Lens'** by Adam Zmith. (Hosted by Nottingham University Hospitals)
<https://youtu.be/R8OVaOvmcJE> (54 mins)

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.

If you're interested in joining contact us via the network's e-mail account, LGBT@nottscg.gov.uk. It is secure and is only accessed by committee members. All correspondence is treated in the strictest confidence.

Future Network Meetings

- **Thursday 24th April**, 2:30pm-4:30pm
- **Thursday 8th May**, 2:30pm-4:30pm
- **Thursday 12th June**, 2:30pm-4:30pm
- **Thursday 10th July**, 2:30pm-4:30pm

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

Forthcoming dates for your diary

6th April - International Asexuality Day

26th April – Lesbian Day of Visibility ([LDoV](#))

16th May - Allyship event, [Save the date: celebrate allyship - 16 May](#) A day to celebrate allyship at Nottinghamshire County Council. It is open to all employees.

17th May – IDAHOT Day

7 June – Bircotes and Harworth Pride

26th July – Nottingham Pride

Contact Us

Committee members:

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

Please email us at

LGBTQ@nottscg.gov.uk

