Brian

Enjoyable. Well observed for a teenager.

What year was that?

Is it all going to be published?

I could read another 500 words happily.

You know that ‘John’ was John Lyttle who is back in Norn Irn?

Then you saw him at my MBE dinner in Lincoln’s Inn

Very cruel remark - Jeff ‘who doesn’t dress very well’.

Who did amongst us then? Had flares gone?

What it would be true to say is that I had no hair sense in that bits were always sticking up as indicated in photos (see attached).

Best

Jeff

16 March 2020.

Dear Jeff, have been talking to a researcher who is going through my diaries of coming out. Here's a little taste of our first meeting (Saturday 13th September) which I thought you might enjoy (with apologies).

I had arranged to meet Graham at 12.15pm and so I bought a few sweets and had a white lemonade at the station bar. It was very cold. Graham materialised at 12.25pm. He drove me round to his flat stopping on the way for some celery and a red pepper. The Secretary of Gay Lib (Brian) a straight- and very nice-looking, dark, moustachioed chap with a very femme, bedenimmed, blonde, made-up quean 16 complete with bangles arrived. Jeff and William arrived next. Jeff alias “Bunny” is a quiet, late twenties, very intelligent gay who doesn’t dress very well. William had quite a lot of hair on his head, he was small, quiet and very nice. Graham prepared lunch while everyone talked about so-and-so at the club last night or where was Ronald. It was all frightfully gay and a bit camp but I enjoyed it all, even the bitchiness and the crude gay jokes eg. Graham: “And he wouldn’t even give me 20p.” John (the quean): “Your prices have gone down.” “Well, from two weeks ago, yes.” John: “Don’t flatter yourself.” John is outrageous, adores Alice Cooper, but not the brightest. Brian Gilmore told me the Royal is famous for perverts and queers. Salad lunch and we talked on about gay literature, my trip to Austria, gay society in Belfast. They talked about Cara-Friend, GLS funds, the Europa and a planned protest. All highly interesting and delightful after I got rid of my initial embarrassment. I travelled home on the same train as the Japanese junior girls’ national hockey team who are on a tour of Ireland. I really enjoyed my introduction to gay society and I felt like hugging them all. They were unbelievably nice, kind, sympathetic and helpful. They were all at the CHE conference in Sheffield a few weeks ago. John, the quean, was a bit gushing (spying a book): “Oh poetry! Do you like poetry? I do. Oh you do! That’s nice. I write poetry. Do you? Yes. Well, you show me yours and I’ll show you mine.” (playing with her bangles all the while).