

On the way back we got on the wrong tube but without much difficulty changed over and arrived at Leicester Square station from where we walked back to the hotel passing all the "prossies" on the way. What a life but probably most lucrative. I don't think men are safe in London at night. Geoff says he remembers on one occasion, it was after dark, he was waiting outside a shop while I was shopping. One of the assistants saw him, came out and said 'I think you are safer inside sir while waiting for you wife who is inside'. I thought it very kind of him for there were one or two tarts hanging about.

After tea with Aunt Cissie I am having a hair do all ready for the week end in Kent. We shall have to be away soon after ten tomorrow and will have an AA Pilot to see us out of the City.

8th May. I will take over for a while. And mention that having a pilot to guide us out of London was a good idea for the roads were busy and the way out seemed that the roads zig zagged a lot and on our own I am sure we should have had a bit of trouble. Our Pilot, however seemed to have no trouble at all and went through without any hesitation. He eventually put us on the road to Maidstone and bade us good-bye. The charge was 12/6 plus a tip. He said he had to find his own way back by train or bus. The charge I thought was very reasonable but mind you that is his job, piloting and driving people about. He told us that every summer he goes over to the Continent and does the same for the AA over there. He told us that in the early spring he was up in the Lake District but became very ill as it appears the beds where he was staying were not aired and were therefore damp and he caught a bad chill which kept him in bed for three weeks.

We eventually arrived at Grove House, Ellison Macartney's home, quite a mansion of a place with about eight acres of ground where he had a beautiful vegetable and flower garden and the rest of the ground he lets for grazing.

It was cold and drizzly when we arrived there at about twelve and were met by John Macartney and another guest Barbie Styles who had been out for a long walk and had just returned. John's home is filled with treasures for every piece of furniture is antique and there are hundreds of portraits in old gilt frames. The silver and crockery too is very old and very lovely. It is nice to see these things are in use and not stuffed in glass cases. It is all stuff which has been handed down. His father was at one time Governor of South Australia. One feels that he should marry and have an issue, and his sister of 50 is a spinster, so it seems wicked to think otherwise all these things will have to be sold. I don't know why he does not marry perhaps he is not the marrying type, as he seems to have numbers of weekend girl friends and so enjoys life. As a bachelor he is having a good time. This girl, Barbie, or one of the other many guests, judging by the visitors book, he has for weekend parties. These include Mrs Schoenegevel who as mentioned stood in for his sister when we lunched with him in London at the Bath Club.

John has a queer set of staff. He has two men, ex Queen Victoria Rifles men, of which regiment he was Commanding Officer and with whom he was taken prisoner at Calais. They are Green the gardener and general utility man and Morrison who does the house work and also chef and waiter. He is I must say a first class cook.

As Lorna being a woman and understanding more than I do about the feelings towards men will now have her say.

John should by now be settling down and producing an heir. One day he will have to be told by his sister of this or by some friend. He is a charming and perfect host, adores company and has guests to stay every weekend. Barbie, about his age would I am sure accept him. I felt an intruder when I spotted her looking at him with her very soul in her eyes, not once but often. I see by the visitor's that Mrs Schoenegevel is a frequent visitor and she too, I am convinced, was very much in love with him, my womanly intuition. I can only think that he is perfectly happy in his bachelor life and household, with man, Morrison, and the gardener, Green, both excellent men and devoted to him. He enjoys women and mens' company and enjoys being loved by many women. He does not seem to be frustrated in any way

so he must have/