**Kim Stevens**

**Extract 1**

**Kim:** I got married in 1976,

**Interviewer:** Ok and how old where you then

**Kim:**  I was 18. Um,

**Interviewer:**  and this was to John.

**Kim:** Yeah. I should have married the horse anyway.

Anyway, um, I was still sort of, you know, having these, um, feelings for women and I was quite open with John as well. I told him that I had feelings for women, but I think he was like, The typical man, you know, the thought of seeing two lesbians. Um, I was going to work one morning and I was coming down the escalator and I saw some stickers on the wall at Warren street, tube station, and I kept taking a number down.

It was a sticker for lesbian line. And after a couple of weeks, I did ring them. Um, and, uh, the woman was ever so nice. Um, she kept saying, if you're still there, tap on the phone. Cause I was really nervous and scared of, you know, even talking. Um, but she just told me about this really, uh, this place where women meet, um, which was at the Sols arms.

Which was great because it was right opposite where I worked. So I thought one night it was a Tuesday night. Oh, let me go along. So I find the husband and said, look, I've got a darts, match at. Coralls. I' am going to um

**Interviewer:**  Corrals is where you worked?

**Kim:** Yeah, I am going to go and play darts. I will be home later. So I went to Sols Arms lovely atmosphere I felt really at home. I thought I looked around, I thought, Oh, this is what I really I'm really happy here. And, um, went home with a woman, Oh, I was scared. Cause I thought oh my god. What you do, you know? Um, but it was really nice. It was relaxing. You know, she was really honest that she wasnt looking for a relationship, but, you know, whatever.

And after a while, um, she introduced me, um, to another woman and, uh, was my ended up being my first love. And we were together for about four years. Um, And I know that before all that, obviously I was still married and I decided that day I'm leaving him. And I went and stayed at my sister's. Um, I did tell my sister, Brenda, because she was a bit easier to, taklk to, I did tell her what was happening with me and then, uh, Out of the blue.

I get a call from my sister. Edna saying we want to see you, can you come over? So I went over that night. Oh, I didn't like the atmosphere anyway, there, it was like sitting in a waiting room and uh, sat down. And my sister said to me, well, and I went, well what, well . Is it true? I knew what she, what she, what she would mean, but I really don't know. I think at that young, I wanted, I wanted her to ask me direct and it went on for about 20 minutes, you know, is it true? Is it true? And I kept saying,is what true and then it finally come out. Is it true are you a Lesbian. And I said, yes. And I think what really. Um, I couldn't believe her next thing was we'll get out and never come back in this house.

Well, Oh, that really upset me and my mum and dad didn't say a word they were just sitting there and uh, I remember going out the front door and my mums's next door neighbor. Lovely woman always been even a friend of the family now to this day. Um, Said, Oh, kim are you all right she took me in made me a cup of tea and sat down, told her then she said, well, you know, going to take time, you gotta remember different, you know, they were different age group. Um, you know, but just give them time. So she was really nice.

**Extract 2**

**Interviewer:** do you have pleasant memories of, um, being out and proud in London?

**Kim:** Oh, I think. I will never, Oh, I'm really glad that I saw that sticker on the tube really. Cause otherwise I could be still bleeding, married, and Ironing bleeding shirts.

**Interviewer:**  you're not married now.

**Kim:** No, I mean, I got I think I got divorced in 1982 I thinkit was , um, yeah. Uh,

So, yeah, no, no. I just really thank that whoever put that, stick them stickers down at Warren Street you know? Oh, well, I'd love to give em a big hug and a kiss. I said, you changed my life.