

Sun special inquiry into the sex-change revolution



JULIA GRANT: "Truly a woman"

**Q** Why are Julia and Judy different from other women?



JUDY COUSINS: Men attract her

**A** They were once both men



JUDY COUSINS is a tall, elegant, middle-aged woman. She leads an active social life and plays golf several times a week.

She has three children and five grandchildren. She is also a talented sculptress, specialising in bronze figures.

Yet only 10 years ago Judy, who lives in Windsor, was a physically normal, fully functioning man. A former officer in the Indian Army.

# In love, but marriage is not allowed

JULIA Grant is a large, jolly lady who makes no attempt to hide her past. Until a year ago she was a man, George.

The story of her sex-change operation and her life afterwards are told in the BBC series.

Julia 26, hopes it will help people understand the bewildering problems transsexuals face.

Before her operation she felt she didn't know who she was. She had the brain of a woman inside a man's body.

She considered she could not be happy and at ease until she had altered her body to conform with her inner self.

I met Julia in her flat in Hackney, London. She was preparing to go out and sat expertly applying make-up as we talked.



JULIA GRANT  
Before the operation

## DETAILS

Why did she feel she wanted to make such a film, portraying the most intimate details of her sex-change operation?

"It happened before I went ahead with the operation," she says. "I had a friend who knew a producer at the BBC and the subject interested him.

"And I wanted to let the general public know what happens when somebody changes sex.

"Now I feel I am truly a woman."

But the law thinks otherwise. Although Julia outwardly conforms to the feminine species, legally she is

still a man. Her birth certificate is unchanged and she is unable to marry.

This worries her, as she has a boyfriend she would like to marry.

"I am confident that the law will soon be changed and that I shall be able to marry within a year."

Julia plans to open a London club specially for transvestites.

She says: "It will be a club where men can come and dress up as women without feeling ashamed.

"We shall have storage facilities for their female clothes.

"I want to bring the whole subject into the open."

She is one of Britain's many hundreds of transsexuals. They suffer from a condition now recognised by doctors as a genuine illness.

The sex-change operation which helps them is the subject of a three-part BBC-2 documentary starting tomorrow and continuing on Thursday and Friday.

## Wrong

Judy has been a woman for 10 years. She works to bring the plight of transsexuals out into the open.

She has just formed the Self Help Association for Transsexuals to try to study the problem and help people who feel that they are the wrong sex.

*Though there are some women who want to become men, the vast majority of transsexuals are men who feel they are "trapped" in the wrong body.*

Judy says: "Since I

By LIZ HODGKINSON

formed the Association at the beginning of the year, I have had letters from every type of person, from unemployed labourers to university professors.

"For most of us, there's nothing for it but to have a sex-change operation."

*This operation, available on the National Health, enables people to achieve a passable resemblance to the sex of their choice.*

The operation removes the male organs and replaces them with an approximation of female organs: There is no womb, of course, and no transsexual could ever conceive a child.

Female hormones soften the masculine outline and give more feminine curves, including breasts.

But that is as far as the medical treatment can go.

"The beard has to be removed, slowly and painfully, by electrolysis," Judy says: "This is not available on the NHS. It takes two years."

## Secret

Judy lived with her problem for nearly 50 years before deciding to go ahead with the operation.

She says: "I used to go to fancy dress parties as an Indian dancing girl. This gave me an opportunity to dress up as a

female, in an acceptable way.

"Later, I used to dress secretly in women's clothes and stay in hotels."

Judy is luckier than many transsexuals. Her children, all grown up, are friendly, see her often and call her Judy.

But, she says, her ex-wife, who has remarried, is less sympathetic.

*"When I first became a woman I had nothing and nobody. I had to start out again, entirely by myself and also keep a dark secret about myself."*

## Admire

"In order to minimise the distress to my family, I moved to another town and changed my name."

*What does "feeling like a woman" entail? Do these men want to be cherished, protected, admired? Do they feel women have a far easier life?*

"Some transsexuals feel this," Judy says. "But you have to be realistic.

"A young, beautiful real woman may find a man to look after her but transsexuals will always have to fend for themselves.

"When I was a man, I was only attracted to women, though, like most transsexuals, I was never highly sexed.

"Now I am more attracted to men but can admire beautiful women."

# A STOP ON OPS

THE most famous sex-change clinic of them all has stopped carrying out surgical operations.

Doctors at the Johns Hopkins University medical school in Baltimore say that it is possible, by skilful advice, to get patients to accept themselves in their natural sex.

In Britain, Genda Identity Clinics have been set up in several hospitals.

Anyone worried that he — or she — is transsexual can be referred to one

of the clinics. If psychiatrists are satisfied that the sex-change urge is deep seated and genuine, they may recommend the operation. But only after the person concerned has lived for 18 months in the chosen sex.

Psychologist Margaret Branch says: "Many transsexuals have a fantasy picture of a woman's life which must be killed before they go any further.

"Some think they will become attractive as women, but this is rarely the case."