

CLUB TOGETHER

JENNIFER COX SIGNS UP FOR...

Coffee, Cake & Kink

I came to Coffee, Cake & Kink (the erotic gallery-café-bookshop) for the group discussion on kink and fantasy but instead find myself debating something far more shocking. Julia – a statuesque transvestite with a pretty bob – has just admitted she shaves her eyebrows. Alan (the transgender co-founder of CCK) and I are scandalised. 'You can't shave!' I splutter. 'Twice as much will grow back,' Alan agrees in astonishment. 'You have to wax and pluck,' we say in unison.

I didn't know what to expect from CCK: to be trussed up in a corner or fight off tiresome lechers? Instead, amid the elegant whips and shelves of BDSM (that's Bondage, Discipline and Sadomasochism) literature, I find ordinary Londoners drinking fair-trade coffee and leafing through books.

Downstairs in the erotic art gallery, a group is earnestly discussing sexual role play. Karen leafs through an



artist's portfolio: 'It's wonderful coming here,' she beams. 'I can be myself, without feeling judged.' Uma, a first-timer, agrees: 'I'm a Sikh and I want to be able to have a coffee and read erotica without feeling I'm bad or wrong.' Meanwhile, Julia raises her (shaved) eyebrows in exasperation. 'I lead a busy life,' she says slightly crossly. 'I don't have

time to learn how to be more like a woman. Here I can chat with other T-Girls [transvestites] and share what we know.'

Alan looks contented. 'People have this impression that the kink scene is all wild sex with multiple partners, when really it's just people working out who they are and finding a place where they can be accepted for it.'

Coffee, Cake & Kink, 61 Endell Street WC2. Tel: 020 7419 2996.

www.coffeecakeandkink.co.uk

Tube: Covent Garden/Leicester Square

E-mail Metro about your club at life.london@ukmetro.co.uk