

# LOCKED OUT

A STRANGE little scene was enacted in one of London's most exclusive residential areas last week.

A man arrived outside a house and set to work changing all the locks on the doors.

I am sure the millionaires, aristocrats and show business people who live in this elegant Belgravia backwater—William Mews—were intrigued by this strange performance.

Today I can tell them why it happened — and they can stand by for a shock. The locks on the doors of No. 12 William Mews were changed to keep out the most loathsome vice creature in London.

## Fooled

It was six weeks ago that the top-drawer people of William Mews first noticed the new occupier of No. 12.

And, happily, there seemed no cause for alarm. Her sleek, blue Cadillac matched up in length and beauty with the Rolls-Royces and Bentleys already parked in the cul-de-sac.

Her platinum-blond hair was always beautifully coiffured.

And, finally, her name and title ensured acceptance into this haven of respectability—Lady Barbara Ashton had arrived.

But, I am sorry to say, she fooled them all. Lady Barbara Ashton was in fact born a man.

After extensive investigations over the past week I can reveal that her real name is Robin Ashton-Rose—who has been convicted of getting money from men by posing as a female prostitute.

In 1962, when he was fined £385, a Harley Street psychiatrist said in evidence:

"He is the nearest approach to a neuter I have come across. He would be maladjusted in Brixton prison and I think it would be improper for him to go to Holloway."

Holloway prison is, of course, for women only.

## 'Miss Bliss'

Ashton-Rose who says a sex change operation has taken place has thought fit to continue with this vile trade.

To lure unsuspecting clients to the house in William Mews he used the well-known method of advertising in shop display boards.

One card, placed in a shop in Denman Street, Piccadilly, reads: "Young lady, ex-showgirl, seeks interesting part-time work. Phone Miss Bliss: BEL ....."

I phoned the number given and a woman who answered said: "She is a lovely

## 'Lady Barbara' the impostor who preys on men



← A locksmith changes the locks on the front door of No. 12 William Mews, Belgravia. This way the company who lease out the flat are ensuring that "Lady Barbara Ashton" will not be allowed back to continue her disgusting activities.



● This is "Lady Barbara Ashton"—real name Robin Ashton-Rose—pictured alighting from one of her cars. When a "People" reporter discovered her secret she was very cross.

girl, you will be very pleased. She is 23 years old, she is a platinum blonde, her measurements are 40, 24, 38, and she is 5 ft. 7 in tall."

And she made it clear that the girl was available for the most perverted sex practices.

The woman then gave instructions on how to get to No. 12, William Mews.

## Negligeé

The door was opened by a middle-aged woman who explained she was the maid and said: "Lady Barbara will be with you in a minute—you will have to wait in the bedroom."

I followed her up a spiral staircase and into a bedroom. She left me alone. Two minutes later in walked a platinum blonde wearing a black negligée.

Immediately I recognised Ashton-Rose. He asked me to follow him into another bedroom where he made an immoral suggestion.

While I was in the room the telephone rang. He picked up the receiver and after a short pause said: "Yes, this is Lady Barbara Ashton speaking."

After the call I made an excuse and left. Ashton-Rose warned me: "Be very discreet darling. This is a highly respectable area and no one knows what I do."

As I walked out into the mews a taxi pulled up. A man got out and went straight to the door of No.

12, rang the bell and was admitted.

During the next two hours I saw five other men go into the house and leave after several minutes.

Four nights later I again called at No. 12 and was admitted by the maid. Ashton-Rose came into the bedroom.

On this occasion I revealed my identity and said: "You are Ashton-Rose."

He became extremely angry and shouted: "Don't you dare write anything about me. I am Lady Barbara Ashton—and a respectable person. I own this house and don't cause anyone any trouble."

## Suspended

I pointed out to him that no Lady Barbara Ashton is listed in Debrett, and that a service offering torture and bondage was hardly the mark of respectability.

Three hours later Ashton-Rose left the house and drove off in the Cadillac. The maid told callers: "The service is suspended."

I called on Mr. Leslie P. Woolf, senior partner of Farebrother, Ellis and Co. (Chartered Surveyors) of Fleet Street.

His firm arranges leases for many of the houses in William Mews—including No. 12—on behalf of the owners.

Understandably he was horrified when I told him

what had been happening at No. 12. He said:

"A solicitor is the tenant of this house and another gentleman holds a lease. It seems that this "Lady Ashton" has rented the house from this second gentleman.

"Our firm was founded in 1882 and is highly respected. Believe me we will take immediate steps to get this person out. I thought that every person living in William Mews was beyond reproach."

Indeed, Mr. Woolf was perfectly entitled to believe that. William Mews is so exclusive that a uniformed porter keeps a list of the names of tenants in a sentry box.

He raises a pole barrier fixed across the private road to allow in residents or their guests.

The list of residents includes the names of Richard Starkey (Ringo Starr of the Beatles), Brian Epstein, the Beatles' manager, and several peers.

## Deep voice

The man who arranged the lease of No. 12—a company director and property owner—was also shocked when he learned the truth about "Lady Barbara."

He told me: "She was recommended to me as a tenant by a friend. She asked for a lease and everything was done through solicitors.

"She gave me the name 'Lady Barbara Ashton,' and naturally you expect a platinum blonde to be a woman.

"I met her for only about two minutes when I handed over the keys at No. 12. I thought she had a rather deep voice and was a bit 'horsey.'"

Now that "The People" has shown that Ashton-Rose is still involved in his disgusting trade, I trust the police will keep a close watch on him . . .

. . . to ensure that he does not again set up in his degrading business.

Trevor Kempson