

FANTASY IRELAND

Fetish fans get fix in kinky club

KINKY BOOTS: PVC-clad ladies, and (below) a poster for Nimhneach



EVER fantasized about being hog-tied and lashed with a leather rod?

Maybe your secret desire is to be locked in a cage in the corner of a dark underground club.

How about a scantily-clad dominatrix putting you over her knee and spanking you until you beg her to stop?

Perhaps not. To most, these sound like rather cruel punishments.

But it's just good kinky fun an increasing amount of more sexually-adventurous Irish people, willing to fork out to get their kicks.

Every month fetish-lovers gather in the specially kitted-out basement of the Academy nightclub in Dublin to share a passion for bondage, S+M and general kinkiness.

The night is called Nimhneach — an Irish word meaning pain. Last weekend *Star Sunday* went undercover to delve into the strange world of the Irish fetish scene.

The club is open to anyone but there is a strict dress code of "fetish, rubber, leather, vinyl, high formal, cyber, gothic, fetish drag, corsetry, lingerie and burlesque".

Our reporters hired out a burlesque 1920s-style dress and dug out an old pair of fake leather trousers. In this case, the dress was for her but cross-dressing is very acceptable here. Once inside, the club

STAR SUNDAY REPORTERS

seemed — at first glance — like a fairly normal dark club with couples sitting around in groups and people dancing on a small dancefloor.

But on taking a closer look, everything was a little stranger than your normal Saturday night disco.

The groups sitting around were dressed in tight rubber suits, PVC dresses and leather chaps — trousers with the buttocks exposed.

In the centre of the room there were two large A-frames — a wooden scaffold that looks like a medieval torture instrument — designed to tie people up to be spanked.

In one dark corner of the room there was a pretty girl locked into a three foot square cage — by choice.

"I just enjoy being watched by men while I'm in here. It's my fantasy," she said, declining to give her name.

"I wasn't dressed in fetish gear when I got here. But they offered to let me cover myself up in this duct tape so I could go in," said Alice, who said she is a primary schoolteacher.

Married

Another pair of first-timers, a married couple who had travelled from Kerry, hadn't realised the club provided a changing room.

"It was nerve-wracking walking down the street in our fetish gear.

"But once we got here we were greeted like long-lost friends even though we've never been here before," they said.

As we talked a stockily-built man wearing an open leather waistcoat and leather chaps helped to tie his female friend into the A-Frame.

Once she was bent half over into the frame and her wrists were securely bound into it, her friend, who said his name was Pat, gently slapped her buttocks with a wooden bat.

"We are really comfortable acting out our mutual fantasies here. It's a safe environment here and everyone is very open-minded. There is no one judging you," said Pat from Galway.

He explained that the bondage, spanking and whipping are all consensual and the couple agreed on "safe words" in advance.

"As soon as somebody says that's it, that's consent withdrawn; the person who's doing it has to stop," he said.

Elsewhere, in the dungeon part of the club, a pert blonde girl in her twenties dressed in tight frilly knickers, sexy black stockings, high heels and leather tassels over her nipples, stood as two men kneeled behind her and licked her bum cheeks.

She continued in conversation with a young man wearing a top hat and holding a cane — except to tell the men to get on with it whenever they slowed down.

Later the men took turns spanking her with their hands. Nearby a fat man in boxer shorts was getting spanked with a cane as a group of PVC-clad voyeurs watched.

A woman dressed as a schoolgirl was caned on the backside by a man dressed as a schoolmaster, complete with cap and gown.

In another chamber of the dungeon a 10-foot high wooden scaffold had ropes hanging from the top and a woman helped to tie her boyfriend up by his wrists.

"I just love being helpless. I love being her slave. It's what turns me on and we can re-live that fantasy later on in private," said Dessie, who asked us not to use his real name.

He added: "We keep the bondage side of our life very private. We just enjoy the sense of freedom."

There are some rules at Nimhneach — no frontal nudity and no sex.

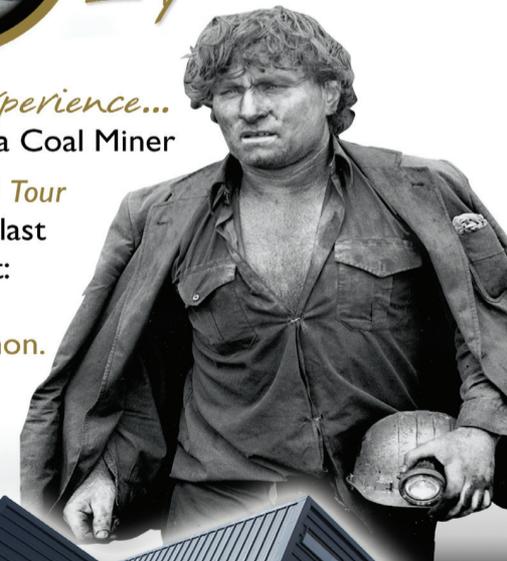
Fig, one of the organisers, explained that he wanted to provide is a space where "alternative sexuality" is nurtured and encouraged.



Arigna Mining Experience

Discover and Experience... the fascinating life of a Coal Miner

A Unique Underground Tour in what was Ireland's last working Coal Mine at: Derreenavoggy, Arigna, Co. Roscommon.



Only 12 Miles From Carrick-on-Shannon. Tel: 071 9646466 Web: www.arignaminingexperience.ie