

# IF A GUY IS BEING HIMSELF HE COULD WEAR LEDERHOSEN, I WOULDN'T CARE



**GOING GREEK:** Melinda and pals, left, share a holiday villa in new ITV show

## Mel for leather

**GREAT news if you're preparing for a date with Melinda Messenger. She won't mind you wearing leather shorts.**  
"I don't give a monkey's about clothes," she's telling me. "As long as a guy is being himself, that's what matters. Honestly, even if he wore lederhosen, I wouldn't care."  
It's a reality show where she and seven other famous women, all single, shack up for the season in a Greek villa, and although finding love is by no means their only aim, it's certainly on their minds a fair bit.  
"So I figured I'd ask Melinda, whose marriage to Wayne Roberts ended in 2012, what her ideal bloke would be. I've even drawn her up a list, suggesting factors she might want to consider. How old, how tall, how smart, how smelly and so on.  
Age-wise, it seems she'd like someone close to hers (47), or a tad older.

### THE MIKE WARD INTERVIEW Melinda Messenger TV PRESENTER

"Certainly someone with life experience." Height? "Not relevant."  
Sense of humour? "A must. Life's too short not to laugh about it."  
Gym bunny? "Oh, God, no, that would put me off."  
And personal hygiene? "Well, yeah, I guess it'd be a bit of a barrier if there were a huge stench!"  
Easily topping Melinda's priority list, however, are self-awareness and kindness. "They're massively important."  
"Janet's view was no, mine was yes," she explains. "There's more to us than just our physical bodies."  
Talking of bodies, it turns out that

Melinda'surgently needs feeding. Hectic day. Barely had time so far. She orders mac'n'cheese. So, if you don't mind speaking between mouthfuls, I tell her, this new show must have been quite an experience. She shares that Greek villa with Stan Lloyd, Nancy Dell'Olio, Aggie Mackenzie, Ninia Benjamin, Lizzie Cundy, Annabel Giles and Ingrid Parrant. "Yeah, I thought I might hate it," she confesses. "I like my own space, I like a cup of tea in the morning on my own."  
"I don't want people to talk to me. But actually it was lovely. I reckon I could actually live in a commune now!"  
And what did the others make of Melinda? "They all said, 'Oh, God, you're a real surprise. We didn't expect you to be intelligent. You're like a professor' and I'm, like, really, I don't think so!"  
She's being typically modest, of course. Melinda - discovered by the Star in 1997 - is actually studying for a psychotherapy degree and has been for some while. "I started eight years ago, but I've taken breaks when I've had to focus on work etc," she says.  
"And when my marriage ended I needed to be full-time with the kids." It's a course

### MELINDA'S FAVOURITES

**TV SHOW:** Stranger Things  
**FILM:** Big Fish (right)  
**ACTOR:** Robin Williams  
**COMEDIAN:** Jack Whitehall  
**SONG:** Everybody's Talkin' (Harry Nilsson)  
**SPORTS STAR:** Freddie Flintoff  
**CITY:** Bath  
**HOLIDAY DESTINATION:** Greece or Cornwall  
**APP:** Trainline. Sorry, that's such a boring choice, isn't it?  
**FOOD:** Roast potatoes  
**DRINK:** Earl Grey tea  
**ANIMAL:** Dog



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