

Thursday, August 28, 2008

## Life As A Tall Woman

**In 1974 Sandy Allen, at 7ft 7in the world's tallest woman, wrote to The Guinness Book of Records, hoping to meet people of similar height. Earlier this month, Allen died, aged 53, having felt lonely all her life. We met some of the Tall Persons Club Great Britain to find out how the world looks from 6ft plus - in heels**

By Alice Fordham

“...A brisk voice for the positives of tallness is Arianne Cohen, a 6ft 3in New Yorker, who is writing *The Tall Book*, a hymn to height to be published next year. Cohen stresses the bright sides - it's quite hard to get fat, she says, there is lots of room when you're pregnant and you have a “romantic fanbase” of men who like tall women.

“Tall is gorgeous,” Cohen insists on the phone, “and the moment you perceive yourself that way, other people perceive it too.” She adds that: “I also think that women blame a lot of their issues on being tall, when that two or three or six inches are not that important. If you were 5ft 8in, you would have all the same problems. It is an easy hole to fall into.”

This seems a hard lesson for the ladies lunching in Chester, lots of whom would probably quite like to have a hole to stand in. Life can be difficult for the tall woman not blessed with confidence and an understanding that unwanted comments are, according to Cohen, “everything to do with people's perceptions of what femininity is.”...

