

- ▶ Send your stories
- ▶ Send your videos
- ▶ Send your pics
- ▶ Join a forum

 RSS News for you | What's this?

Home ▶ News ▶ Wales News ▶

## Men wary of paying women compliments

May 18 2007 by Rin Simpson, Western Mail

MEN have become too worried about political correctness to pay women simple compliments, according to a new survey.

Their concerns are backed by 65% of women who suspect there is nothing innocent behind a flattering remark from a work colleague or new acquaintance.

While 89% of women loved to receive a compliment, 67% felt uncomfortable if it came from anybody other than their partner, the poll for Loire Valley White Wines found.

And those in Cardiff were some of the least likely to receive innocent compliments, along with women in London, Birmingham and Bristol, the survey found.

Among those in long-term relationships, 63% of women said their partners paid them fewer compliments now than they did five years ago.

Fewer than one in five women questioned (16%) received the "recommended" five compliments a day, and 12% said no one had paid them a compliment in the past three months.

Relationship expert Christine Webber said, "In my experience, women do actually care a great deal about what people think about them.

"A compliment massively boosts self-esteem. And whilst it may seem somewhat frivolous, it is in fact a vital ingredient for well-being.

"The trick though is to be able to pay someone a compliment and make them feel good about themselves, rather than coming over as smarmy or, worse, a bit lecherous."

Researchers found women preferred to be complimented on their ability to listen and give advice, and juggle career with home life. They also liked compliments regarding their outfit, haircut or style.

Older generation

Elaine Morgan, writer:

"I take any kind of compliment as a compliment. I think most women are tough enough to be complimented without quivering.

"I don't know any women who would be insulted at receiving a compliment. I know very few women who would feel annoyed or pestered by it.

"It depends what you compliment. If someone say nice boobs you may think 'I'm up here!' but if they say 'you're looking good tonight' or 'nice dress', what's the problem?

"The further you go back in time, well it was a totally different world.

"People on the whole, women on the whole, didn't go out and snog and sleep with people until they were fairly sure it was going to be a long-term relationship.

### SITE TOOLS

- ▶ Print
- ▶ Email a friend
- ▶ RSS feed







Should more money be spent on protecting Wales' beauty spots?

### YOUR ICWALES

Get involved...  
We want your local stories, videos & pics.

- ▶ Send your stories
- ▶ Send your pics
- ▶ Send your videos

### IC WALES CLASSIFIEDS

-  find a new job
-  find a new car
-  find a dream home
-  your dream date
-  shopping directory
-  book an ad

### HOMES

Find your new home:

Minimum price £

Maximum price £

Located in

If you read novels by men at that time, it showed the agonies they had getting to first base and the months they waited.

"In those days women were in control and were expected to say no and most of them did.

"Then men were very cautious about making a pass because they were afraid of being rejected.

"I'm no expert on what happens today but I can't believe either men or women are so wimpish as this survey implies."

Clive Thomas, former international football referee:

"I find a big difference with women these days. I find they look bemused or even shocked if you just hold a door open for them, or allow them to go through one before you.

"It's as if they're not used to it, which I find very disconcerting.

"I've been brought up to think that you should do things like open the door for ladies.

"If I meet a man, I'll shake him by the hand and tell him it's nice to see him again and ask him how it is. If I meet a lady, I'll kiss them on both cheeks.

"I'm sure they must like it, but at the same time they're taken aback by it.

"I've seen that happening increasingly over the past 10 or 15 years, and that's a huge shame.

"I get annoyed by the reaction of younger people to it, and I feel it's the responsibility of us older people to keep that respect going.

"When younger girls are complimented, they react like this because they don't expect it, because they are not used to it. But that doesn't mean we should give up on it."

Younger generation

Matt Johnson, actor:

"It depends on the situation. If you're out on the town it could be a come-on, or if you say 'nice dress' it could sound like you're gay.

"But if you go up to your nan and say 'nice earrings nan' that's a nice grandson thing to say.

"If somebody gives you a compliment people should learn to accept them – some people can't take compliments.

"Even if someone is coming on to you, it's still a compliment. It's nothing but something nice, something positive, it's not negative.

"I think it's pretty weird that some girls don't want to get a compliment from someone who isn't their partner. Do they feel guilty?"

"If Alex, my wife, got a compliment off some guy she wouldn't feel bad about it.

"Some people should just lighten up a bit.

"With Alex she gets lots of compliments all the time.

"She's just recently opened up a Myspace page and there's always comments saying 'nice pic Alex' or whatever.

"It doesn't worry me and hopefully if I got a nice compliment slung my direction she wouldn't flip out either."

Clare Lloyd, Red Dragon presenter

"An ex-boyfriend of mine was fantastic with other people in the office, I would hear him say someone looked nice and I'd turn around and think 'yeah they do'.

"He wasn't being creepy, he was just saying what he thought and being honest.

"I was out with my friends the other day and a guy came over to me and he said, 'We were just talking about you and I was thinking, why think it when I can tell you – you have got the best bum I've seen in

ages. He saw that I was blushing and said, 'That's it, just thought I'd tell you.'

"He and his friends didn't speak to us again, they weren't into us, it was just a compliment.

"It's not going to harm you. If someone comes on to you that's different."

#### SHARE THIS ARTICLE

[del.icio.us](#) [Digg this](#) [Newsvine \(What's this?\)](#)

#### NEWS FROM WALES



### Man admits killing girlfriend

A man admitted the manslaughter of a mother-of-two today on the eve of standing trial accused of her murder. [Read](#)

### Couple poisoned by deadly gas

FOR three years, Angela Phillips and Gareth Rees' lives fell apart – and they had no idea why. [Read](#)

- ▶ [Council hits OAP with £16k land-grab bill](#)
- ▶ [Crew brought man back to life 12 times](#)
- ▶ [Hundreds grieve for brave Ed](#)
- ▶ [More Welsh news](#)

Copyright and Trade Mark Notice ©owned by or licensed to Media Wales Ltd 2007 icWales™ is a trade mark of Media Wales Ltd. Please read our [Terms and Conditions](#) and [Privacy Statement](#) before using this site.

Site sections: [Wales News](#) | [Business](#) | [RugbyNation](#) | [FootballNation](#) | [Cardiff News](#) | [Blaenau Gwent News](#) | [Cynon Valley News](#) | [Merthyr News](#) | [Neath News](#) | [Pontypridd & Llantrisant News](#) | [Port Talbot News](#) | [Rhondda News](#) | [Rhymney Valley News](#) | [Bridgend & Maesteg News](#) | [Blogs](#) | [Forums](#) | [Expats](#) | [Buy & Sell](#) | [Shopping](#) | [E-editions](#) | [Magazines](#) | [Photosales](#) | [Popular tags](#) | [Accessibility](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [Sitemap](#) |

Our sites: [jobswales.co.uk](#) | [homeswales.co.uk](#) | [motorswales.co.uk](#) | [publicjobswales.co.uk](#) |

icWales, the best source for Welsh news, sport, business and entertainment. Powered by the Western Mail, South Wales Echo, Wales on Sunday and Celtic Weekly Newspapers. Produced by Media Wales Ltd.