

## One of My Favourites

The dress for the college ball was green, a delicate pale green. My chosen fabric was tree bark satin, which had a texture, unlike the sheen of slipper satin. My Mum, a skilled needlewoman, made the dress. It had a boat shaped neckline, a fitted bodice and a flared skirt reaching to just below the knee. I bought a pair of ivory satin court shoes and had them dyed to match the dress. My clever Mum covered a clip topped make up bag with the dress fabric to serve as an evening bag, just big enough to hold my keys, a little money, a comb and a lipstick – no mobile phones to consider in the late sixties. The girls had made a terrific effort with their dresses and the men had stepped up a gear too in their dinner jackets and bow ties. The evening was full of dancing, flirting and laughter – a great success.

One of the treasured memories of my youth is, in my twenties, playing the part of Nancy in a production of “Oliver”. My costume, which was hired, was green. It consisted of a low cut pale green blouse with frilled sleeves, over which I wore a tight dark green bodice which was cross laced down the front. The skirt was olive green and long. It had to be full enough to allow me to dance and long enough for the period, but also be manageable for the scene where I was “murdered” by Bill Sykes and subsequently carried off, slung over the shoulder of the unfortunate young actor who was given that task!

I have always loved interesting shoes and once had a pair of green wedge heeled shoes. The leather was a rich green with just a hint of blue with a pattern on the open toes. They were summery and elegant – at least I thought so. Unfortunately, they weren't as comfortable as I had hoped so wearing them to work wasn't an option.

I once had a pair of glasses with green frames. Their shape was quite large, which was popular at the time and they were a very bright and startling lime green. I loved them!

I love a gilet and have had many different types. Over the years I have bought them in all sorts of fabrics, from corduroy to faux fur, warm wool and even patchwork panne velvet. In recent years I have favoured the padded gilet and have bought them in several colours. My favourite is probably the bright emerald green one which is warm and will zip up to keep out the cold.

How I love to wear green, in all its shades and types!

Jan Rees    September 2023