




Top Hats

And

Gears

An FMP

By Jacob Manuel



What is Steampunk? A question that many people may ask themselves when they hear that word even you may ask yourself that right now well today this gallery will show you just what Steampunk is and the community that has formed from this sub-culture and its long history.

Starting off as nothing but a sub-genre of books written which pictured a look into the Victorians thought would be the future, a world powered by steam but staying mostly the same in terms of fashion and culture this where the fashion sense of Steampunkers was born a mixture between Victorian era clothing and futuristic tech made from bronze, brass or iron.

The Purpose of Top Hats and Gear is to enlighten the viewer on the members of the community showing their fashion and simply great Steampunkers dress in this mixture and range of fashion choice but also their experiences, moments and they what they love about Steampunk and its community.



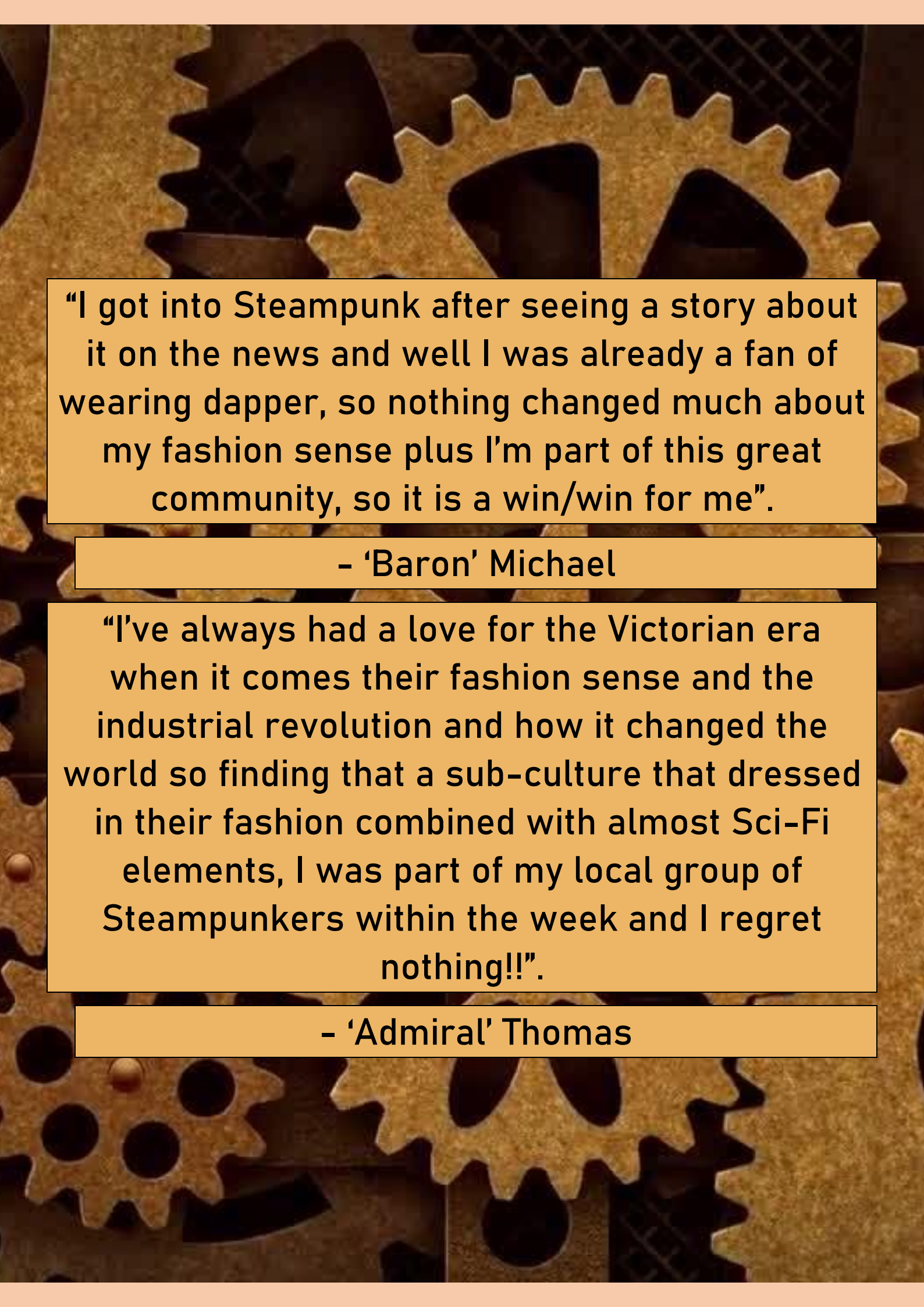


**'Captain' Alice**









"I got into Steampunk after seeing a story about it on the news and well I was already a fan of wearing dapper, so nothing changed much about my fashion sense plus I'm part of this great community, so it is a win/win for me".

- 'Baron' Michael

"I've always had a love for the Victorian era when it comes their fashion sense and the industrial revolution and how it changed the world so finding that a sub-culture that dressed in their fashion combined with almost Sci-Fi elements, I was part of my local group of Steampunkers within the week and I regret nothing!!".

- 'Admiral' Thomas














I got into the steampunk 'scene' when I was 15 and from there it was a case of experimenting to see what I liked and did not like, what suited me and what did not. I loved the neo-Victorian aesthetic and the books and the films, some of them are terrible but still a good laugh all the same.

Then when I started university and joined the steampunk society there and the local steampunk group, I met more people and gained new ideas and more confidence, I saw how people made the aesthetic fit around them and their needs, saw how inclusive and welcoming it was. The group was very welcoming, despite the age gaps between me and other members. I also started going to conventions and other larger events in the UK, which was enlightening and gave me even more ideas. It just snowballed, for a better term of it.

When I wear my steampunk outfits, they make me feel like a different person. Sure, corsets, dresses and boots and other paraphernalia probably are not the most suitable of clothing sometimes but it is exciting and really nice to wear them. These clothes are the difference between Alys or Captain Manuel. It has gotten to the point where I can ignore any funny looks, I get when I wear my steampunk clothes out and about because I look and feel good, I feel more confident. Honestly, there is nothing more empowering than wearing a corset. Especially knowing I stand out rather than blend in.

**'Captain Alice'**

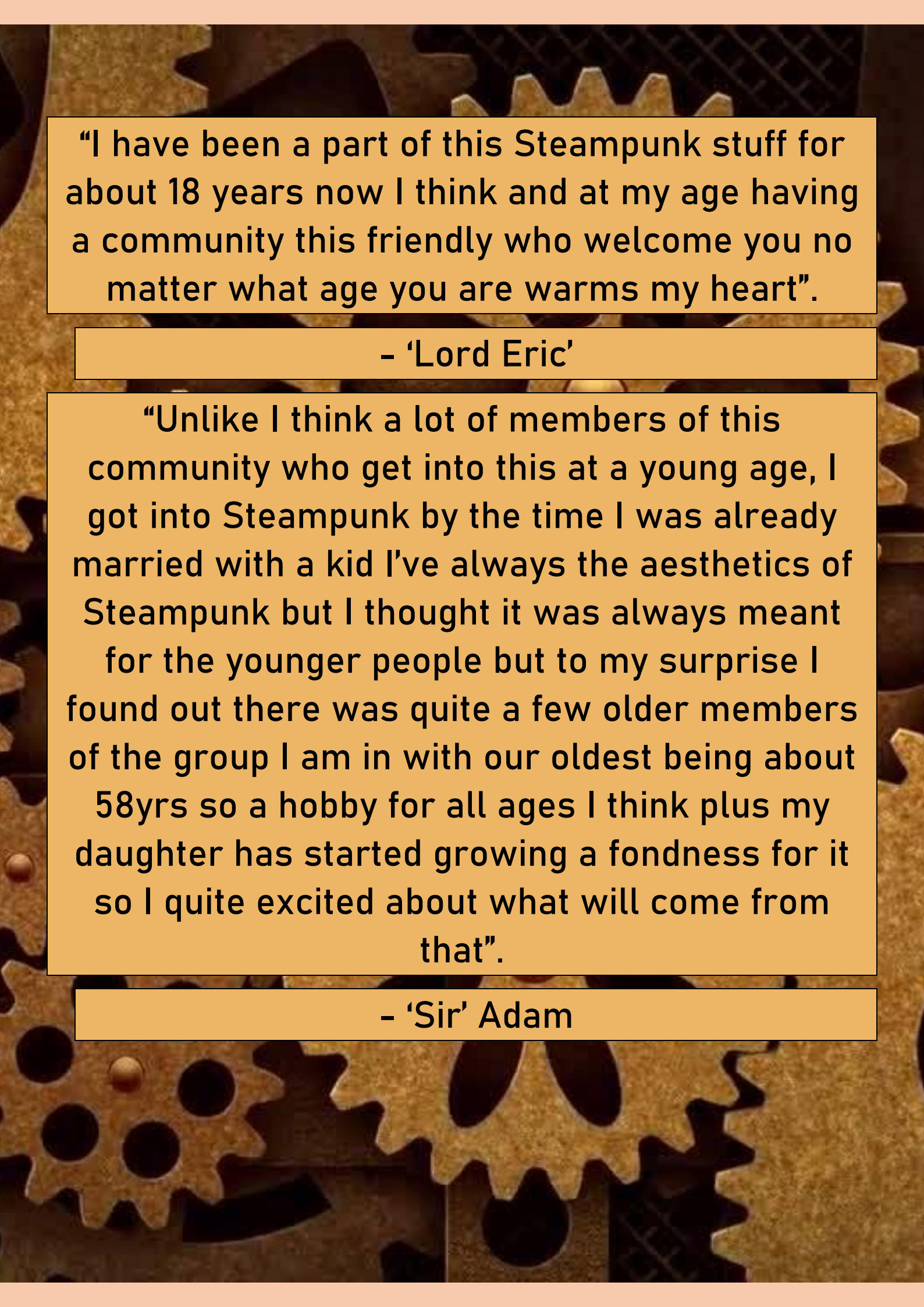










The background of the entire image is a close-up, artistic photograph of several interlocking metal gears. The gears are made of a dark, possibly black or dark brown, material with a matte finish. They are set against a lighter, textured background that appears to be a light brown or tan color, possibly wood or a similar material. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting the teeth of the gears and creating deep shadows in the spaces between them. The overall aesthetic is industrial and mechanical, fitting the 'Steampunk' theme mentioned in the text.

**"I have been a part of this Steampunk stuff for about 18 years now I think and at my age having a community this friendly who welcome you no matter what age you are warms my heart".**

**- 'Lord Eric'**

**"Unlike I think a lot of members of this community who get into this at a young age, I got into Steampunk by the time I was already married with a kid I've always the aesthetics of Steampunk but I thought it was always meant for the younger people but to my surprise I found out there was quite a few older members of the group I am in with our oldest being about 58yrs so a hobby for all ages I think plus my daughter has started growing a fondness for it so I quite excited about what will come from that".**

**- 'Sir' Adam**

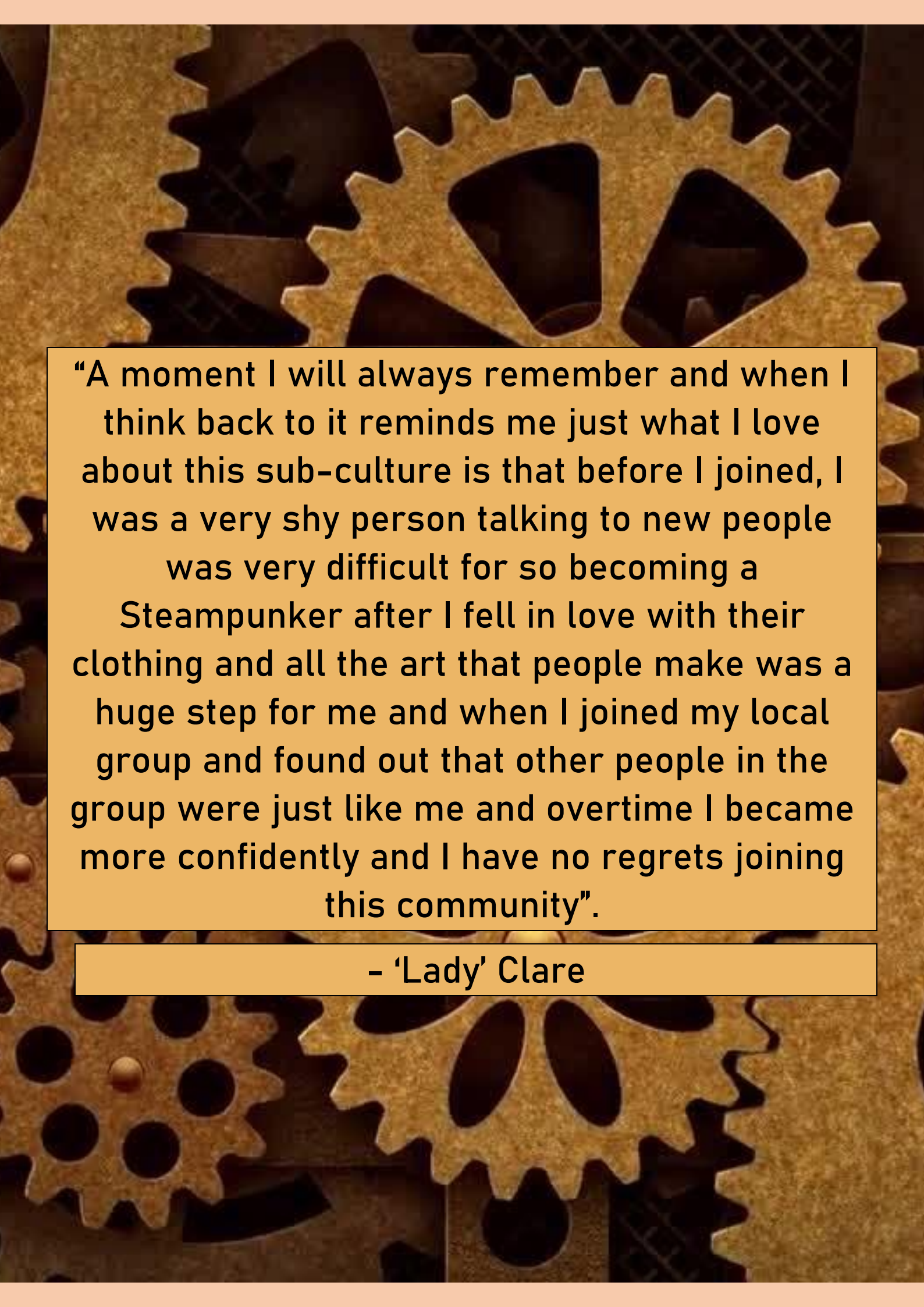












“A moment I will always remember and when I think back to it reminds me just what I love about this sub-culture is that before I joined, I was a very shy person talking to new people was very difficult for so becoming a Steampunker after I fell in love with their clothing and all the art that people make was a huge step for me and when I joined my local group and found out that other people in the group were just like me and overtime I became more confidently and I have no regrets joining this community”.

- ‘Lady’ Clare











