

## The new Bridget Jones turns out to be . . . a man

**Edinburgh** Forget Bridget Jones stereotypes about lone women desperately trying to hold their lives together (writes Charlene Sweeney). Women are, in fact, better than men at living on their own, according to a University of Edinburgh study.

It found that men living alone are more likely to have financial, health, and housing problems and that more men than women are unhappy because they do not have a partner. The Bridget Jones columns, books and films depicted the heroine as a neurotic singleton desperate for a

partner. Researchers studied 140 men and women aged between 25 and 44 and found it was men on their own — not women — who were also more likely to be socially isolated. Half the women and a third of the men were in a relationship.

Lynn Jamieson who led the research, said: “Women who have decided they’re not having children are the most content about the future without a partner.”

The General Registrar Office for Scotland predicts a rise in one-person households to 44 per cent in 2031.

