

Interview Notes on Allan Hollamby (born 1956)

Monday 5 June PM at the BFI

Interviewer: Maggie Perrin, Summariser: Richard Cohen

Born Camberwell – mother a school administrator, father a GLC Assistant Record Keeper.

Early holidays: His parents and grandparents went on holidays to Cornwall and he can remember an early holiday in Bridgewater in Somerset. And he went to the Isle of Wight from the age of 11 onwards. Later he went on holidays independently of his parents and attended Boys' Brigade camps and later on worked in in the Boys' Brigade as a member of staff.

Adult holidays: Has been on many trips to Germany with his wife's family and also Christian Holiday camp in Minehead (Somerset). He went there with his peer group of friends from his church to attend a multi-denominational event as part of the Evangelical Alliance.

Some Memories: The chalets were basic. The beds had to be moved round but it was a step up from camping. The food in the restaurant was nice and no one got food poisoning. As it was early in the season the staff were learning on the job. There was a good rapport with the staff. It wasn't just seminars and discussion groups there was swimming and he enjoyed the Skytrain around the camp.

He had to save and put money aside and they had to take warm clothes as they sometimes went early in the season when the weather was still cold.

His immediate reaction on arrival is "Wow, this is an enclosed space. How do I get out?" but the staff did make everybody feel welcome.

Activities: Snooker, swimming, table tennis, billiards and table football. Some quizzes and competitions held within the worship sessions. The evenings were taken up with evangelical events which well-known preachers sometimes attended. Singing – Christian pop with less choral singing from the 1980s and more individual singers. These events were attended by a range of people – not just white.

Seminars, discussions and walks.

In 1986 the Big Top blew down at the camp and everyone helped to clear up the marquee.

Sights, Sounds, Smells: Very loud tannoy with a distinctive Bing Bong sound.

Best things: Liked being himself and not cooking. Meeting different people. Making new friendships which lasted over time. Getting a different view of life from meeting people from different ethnic backgrounds. Enjoyed the whole experience.