

Speaker 1 This is analyst and conducting an interview for the Hello Campus Project at the BFI on Wednesday the 7th of June 20, 23. What is your name?

Speaker 2 It's Graham Aslett.

Speaker 1 What year?

Speaker 2 In 1961.

Speaker 1 When were you born in Finchley?

Speaker 2 North London.

Speaker 1 And what did your parents do for a living?

Speaker 2 My father was an accountant and a lecturer, and my mother did various jobs over the years. She worked in a driving instructor's administrative side, and she was also a veterinary nurse as well. Yeah.

Speaker 1 So first of all, look at the background to how you tell us about the holidays. Your grandparents and parents went home when they were young.

Speaker 2 I don't I'm not aware too much of what they used to do, but I'll be perfectly honest. Yeah.

Speaker 1 That's fine. Thank you. And can you tell us about your trips you went on before you went into a holiday camp?

Speaker 2 Predominantly, you'd be day trips to the seaside in the days you could use to get, like, a coach from a lot more than two little Hampton or Eastbourne or Brighton. So they were the predominant night trips that we used to go on. And also a lot of them going to places like Box Hill and places where, you know, Leatherhead, where we'd go collecting conkers and stuff like that.

Speaker 2 But in the distant past, I must admit, they are.

Speaker 1 Yeah. Do you remember having any holidays where you stayed overnight before the holiday camps?

Speaker 2 Personally, I can't recall any. No. You know, I think the thing I remember one thing from my younger days were there's four children and we went to see a gran on the Saturday who lived in Raynes Park, and then my mum and dad would just take two of us at the four to Kingston shopping and the other two stayed with McCarran.

Speaker 2 So that sort of thing. I remember from those of days and also that the houses I didn't have any baths. There's a lack of public baths at the end of the road. Four or five baths in a place near Bryant Park Library. Yeah.

Speaker 1 Thank you. Could you thriftiness the different camps you went to?

Speaker 2 I think the when I looked, I did make a few notes, actually, so I don't need them to. I went to a started off going with my parents, then moved on to going with my friend's parents, then me and my mates and then me and my children and my wife. So we were

like, you know, gone through all the ages really from I think the first one I went to went to was 1969 and then my children now like 28 and 26.

Speaker 2 But until those like ten, 11, we still go to holiday camps.

Speaker 1 So and the first one was that they opened.

Speaker 2 Not the first one that I went to was with family, was to a place called the Savoy Country Club on the Isle of Wight. And it's like, you know, had chalets and the things I can remember about it, one that we caught a coach from Kingston down there to borrow close to the Portsmouth and then across and that I got the very first edition of Shoot Football magazine, which is a football magazine that came out in 1969.

Speaker 2 And I read that on the couch and I think the thing I can remember about it is it is predominantly sort of centred around like the swimming pool, like it was like my you only activities were held. And I can remember that day like once a week, like donkeys would come in so you could have donkey rides. And also I remember my brother was like ended up in the bottom of the swimming pool and had to be dragged out because he decided to just going at the deep end without any really thinking about it.

Speaker 2 And I remember not always we probably always like down the bottom of the swimming pool, not that did not drag him out. So that's a lot of memory of that. And then ironically, many years later, my sister was there for a little while as like a waitress. So I went back there with another friend and we just camped and visited her while she was there.

Speaker 2 So that brought back some memories. And I understand now from speaking to my sister that it's now like a school holiday rent. It's not like a camp anymore. So but as in Yarmouth and Tottenham by around that on the Isle of Wight.

Speaker 1 So that was your first experience of the county.

Speaker 2 So yeah, So that's it? Yeah, it's a Savoy Country club.

Speaker 1 You only see Pontins Warner's.

Speaker 2 Yes. Yeah.

Speaker 1 Caistor.

Speaker 2 Yeah. Butlin's Yes, Yes.

Speaker 1 Do you know the areas?

Speaker 2 Yes, a lot. Yeah. So the bonds of what I said, I went with my friend and his parents. We went to Pontins and in South Devon, not near Paignton, it was near Paignton Zoo. And that would have been 1977 because the year before I would depend on my we a couple of friends on that really hot summer of 76.

Speaker 2 And then I went to Pontins with my friend and his parents the following year and then we also, the year after, went again to the Isle of Wight and we went to a place called Woodside Bay Holiday Camp, which was near was on the road towards Cowes that way. Yeah.

- Speaker 1 And Caistor.
- Speaker 2 Our case was a lot, lot lighter. That would have been when I was in my thirties, 28, 30, that type of era, and that was predominantly I belong to an organization called R18+ and it's like really like there's groups all over the country for people fighting upwards to about 30 that had each week you had a meeting and then the local group would perhaps have a discussion or something.
- Speaker 2 But there's one major holiday each year, Caister and the R18+ took over the whole of Caister and not the caravan site next door which is called Silver Sands. And then I had events in the evening, a lot of groups to watch and some of the buttons like Motorhead were there and I remember you had in hot rods and each there's like five guys and they had stuff on at lunchtime and the right one moved there quite frequently, you know, John Powell and people like that.
- Speaker 2 And they had lunchtime entertainment. And in the evening after the music had stopped and people just sort of had shadow parties, really. So a lot of fun. Yeah.
- Speaker 1 Fantastic. We'll talk more about that. Yeah. Yeah. Did you go to Canada Times as a girl?
- Speaker 2 Yeah. When? A couple of times going on pines that have been when my daughter was the youngest daughter was probably two and my wife is pregnant with my other daughter at that time. So the kind of things I remember about that was that my daughter just seemed to have a fascination for wanting to see on the stage like she's only like little, as I said, to be like I wanted to go on the stage.
- Speaker 2 And we also had been there before, but was not pregnant with her. And that's where we came up with her name. I remember that was one of the things that on holiday we came up with the name for you. Yeah, so but we didn't know what is going to be a girl or a boy. So we sort of had two names depending on what happened.
- Speaker 2 So as it turned out was a girl and her name was Kirsty. Yeah.
- Speaker 1 Fantastic. Thank you. And then fighting's funny.
- Speaker 2 But yeah, I went there. That would have been 1991. It's Christmas before me and the boys married the following year. So. And we both live down at our own properties at the time and it has got interesting because it's not that we'd never been to a massive places Butlins impressively so going to funny we went to the beach on Christmas Day, which is quite nice, but there's like lots of entertainment there.
- Speaker 2 And again, I suppose one of the things I remember was we used to play bingo, like we're not doing it for money. Like, where are you in like, like in the amusement arcade that they had there. And I remember we both won an electric carving knife. For some reason and we so she had won and I had won some bizarre reason.
- Speaker 2 And I also remember that the shallow was in the lovely womb because like the hot water system for the camp seemed to run through the through the roof of our where we Stynes and I was quite interesting but that was a good holiday as well and yeah, just before we got married so yeah.
- Speaker 1 Thank you. And then also know you've been to lots of, of income since then.

Speaker 2 Yeah, we say a with models, we've been to many, we've been to Devon Cliffs which was in Teignmouth, went there a couple of times and I guess the thing I remember the girls were quite young there and they had, you know, they some that dresses up as the character and the character was called Maurice Minor and now, you know, come 8:00 or whatever they like, do the good night to the kiddies.

Speaker 2 I've, I've done that little disco. No, I know that they both were really frightened of this Boris minor character. For some reason, they just did not like him at all. But we went to say like a couple of years and in the summer enjoyed ourselves there. We also went to one in Exmouth and I want Company was a it's I think it was houses.

Speaker 2 It was one of these no big holiday companies. And I think the thing that reminds me of that is that everyone seems to be really crammed in. I mean, the chalets lie really close to each other and there's every bit of space seemed to be taken over with. You know, people don't sell their accommodation as such. So that's something that was quite strange to have, I must admit.

Speaker 2 But then that was good. And so several other places as well, one with the girls. So like we said, we've been to go Napoleons, but yeah, oh, good fun. And then as we got older, then we started going abroad when they were older, but I could span of holiday camps.

Speaker 1 You know what year period the last so.

Speaker 2 Different camps, holidays, the last of the camps I would have been to would have been from the early 2000s. Yeah. Because I know they were born in 95 and 97. So it would be not 2000 probably to 2005. I would say I have got a list, a home of all the old wasn't able to retrieve it, but I've got a list on a computer this of all the holidays that we've been to.

Speaker 2 So yes.

Speaker 1 Fantastic. Thank you.

Speaker 2 Very much. Okay.

Speaker 1 Tell us, please, about any planning or packing that took place. Field trips.

Speaker 2 Okay. I think when I was with the girls, it would my wife think or Alice would have done every fit into my because she's like very organized. But I think because we move in the friend, you know, it'd just be like my mum would have, you know, said, Right, you need this, this, this and this. And that's what you, what you took so long to sell.

Speaker 2 And I think it's also like I remember because we were like in my friend's dad's car and it wasn't a massive car. So it's quite a, you know, quite a long journey down there with like a in a small come is also crushed together because it's not his mum and dad, him, his brother and me and all our suitcases and stuff for like a fortnight's holiday and but there was obviously there's a great deal of planning on my part.

Speaker 2 I was just like, right, this is what you take. And obviously when I was out and going with my friends, it and I would just, you know, pack my own stuff. There wouldn't be not much planning other than I need swimming trunks. I need stuff to wear during the day, some small stuff for the evening and and such like.

Speaker 2 Yeah.

- Speaker 1 Thank you. Tell us about your typical journey to the camps.
- Speaker 2 Mm hmm. Right. Other than the very first one, when I know we went on the couch, they would have always been in the car. We'd always, like, travelled by car to wherever we went. And I think what we always used to try and do is leave really early on the Saturday morning, because going down to Devon on a Saturday in August is always a tiresome journey, particularly like when you get to like near so free, like the road is like, like a single file road so it can get very, very busy on just remember what was used to set off allowed in at 6:00 in the morning so that we would
- Speaker 2 get there, you know, not in a good time, but it was always, always went by car. We never went like on public transport to get to Devon in that type of place.
- Speaker 1 So, you know, you have lots of different trips. But he remember he travelled with.
- Speaker 2 Yeah, well I know when I, when I suppose when I went to the Isle of Wight with my friends I thought that the one thing that stands out was that there was four of us that went and my friend drove, but we weren't able to get a ferry on the Saturday, so we had to get a ferry on the Friday night.
- Speaker 2 So we got the lightest ferry we could that was put about 11:00 at night. And we just I mean, we just parked up in. Right. And just slept in his car and he'd broken his arm or friend who was driving. And I remember we had to go to like Newport Hospital in the morning for him to get the plaster removed.
- Speaker 2 So but we, we had we slept overnight in night in his car along right seafront because we couldn't get on a ferry the following day because it was all booked up. Yeah.
- Speaker 1 Describe your first impressions when you arrived.
- Speaker 2 I think it was I'm probably quite I'm sure my wife was out. Quite knows you're not to know what is going on. So I would always lie. And the information that they gave out, you know, like when they gave you your keys, you'd always be given like a little information pack about what time the meals were and what time the the bar open, what time the can cafes opened and what have you.
- Speaker 2 And not always quite like having a walk around the camp just a lot. And I familiarize myself, I guess with the environment I was going to be in for the next week or fortnight. That's probably like the one thing I remember doing and also is a lot going back now that the more ones when I was younger is remembering things that have obviously changed our days.
- Speaker 2 We used to get to a lot of the sites. A bookmaker would be in the reception in the morning and people that obviously because there wasn't any phone betting or anything like that. I just remember people would be going up to him each day and not writing out their bets and he would obviously then take it to the local bookmakers and then he'd come back in the evening and hand out everybody who would obviously won their money.
- Speaker 2 So rather than people having to venture into the town, they used to provide like a bookmaking service in the actual reception of the holiday camp, which is quite novel, I felt at the time. Yeah.

- Speaker 1 I'm keen to go to it now about the accommodation. Could you describe what accommodation was like?
- Speaker 2 Yeah, so varied. Quite, quite a bit. Yeah. I've that the inn in general is literally had like a small like I suppose combing the area where you'd normally have like a a sofa, a table and chairs and they'd normally be like a television in there and then you'd have like a room for like myself and my wife and then no girls would have like a room for themselves.
- Speaker 2 It's very, very basic. I would say the, the accommodation. But I think over the years things have like, you know, if I went, when I went in, they seventies, obviously it's quite different to what it was available in the 2000. So it's a 30 year time frame. So I think it very much, I think when we went in in the seventies and eighties predominantly you had the meals that were provided by the accommodation.
- Speaker 2 They did like pontins you have like you have like breakfast and lunch and evening meal in the canteen there. So the rooms didn't have anything. There's no light kettles or anything. Like literally it was a room. I think predominantly the one that brings brings about was Warner's in Park Paul which is on the Isle of Wight where I went back there a few years later because I went we went to the and one I said, oh, let's go and have a look and use I was there.
- Speaker 2 They said, Yes, you can go and have a look. And I didn't realize really how small actually, because literally like we went in the door, there was a bed, a gap, another bed, and then there's literally a sink and a toilet. And then that was it. And it's a very, very, very small, you know, the size of the actual chalet as such.
- Speaker 2 But it's so low over all these different, different places and different sized accommodation. But I think overall you'd think the idea, though, quite small to get more people in, I guess. Yeah.
- Speaker 1 Have you got I think in particularly think of how it has changed over the years to experience.
- Speaker 2 Yeah. I think as I say like because over the years you'd get, I think the, the difference was over the years you could then not specify, you could, wouldn't be just not the I think when you first went it was not you just had a chalet and that was it. But then as days go by that they would say no, but they were offering.
- Speaker 2 You could have more so you could like, right, I can I have a chalet. We've got basically nothing in it or you can have one where they would provide shapes rather and you have to bring your own chaise or there would be like a bigger TV or they might be like a kettle to make yourself a drink, even if you were having the meals in the actual camp canteen for want of a better word.
- Speaker 2 I think just living in those things and then you got to have microwaves and things like that. So stuff certainly improved, but you paid for it. You know, you can either have the bog standard accommodation or you could have, I guess, the luxury. And obviously there's not all bits and pieces in between and you could, you know, pay a bit extra to get an early check in like I guess you do with ease.
- Speaker 2 You didn't know you could have like a priority boarding pass. You could pass as all of that they started promoting. But you could have you can check in at 2:00 rather than 3:00,

you know, that type of thing. So yeah, but I think I guess as I would progress of those things, I just allowing first with the microwave hadn't even been thought of but now you know so you wouldn't go anywhere without there being a microwave door.

Speaker 2 And I see some of these places now you can have like a hot pool and things like that. There's not so much out there. And but yeah, so there's I guess from what we had to what you can have now, it's like completely different. Completely different. Yeah.

Speaker 1 Thank you. Okay so accommodation in the cabins compared to home and.

Speaker 2 Okay, it's different. Oh, you had a holiday camp. Was I a chalet or a or a caravan? That was it. Yeah. But obviously the, the difference is obviously that you're on a massive site where, you know, you got lucky and have a swimming pool, football field, all manner of things that you could do. But with regards to it, I think you would then obviously like the fact that they probably last 5 hours before you got into your accommodation.

Speaker 2 Somebody else had been in there. So you did sort of find stuff where to because there's such a small period of time for them to clean all the chalets that you did find in I love the Beach, had you opened the fridge and there's still be stuff in there because the previous occupants hadn't taken it and they had noticed it or you get like the salt bins out.

Speaker 2 They were still like quite grimy. But I think they're just not part and parcel of the experience really. But I wouldn't say it's quite difficult to compare it to how many as much as like, you know, we had like a three bedroom property with a garden. But that's very difficult to compare that to, like a small chalet on a big massive holiday camp.

Speaker 2 So.

Speaker 1 Yeah, so now we're going to need to think about.

Speaker 2 Um.

Speaker 1 Could you tell us how your family decided whether to go self-catering or fully catered?

Speaker 2 Yeah, it really would be on price and I think lot it didn't. It only really went one with my parents and my siblings. That was the one on the Isle of the Savoy. That's only one I remember going and I know that we had had the meals that they provided in which that which was quite, you know, a luxury, really, because like I guess from like your parents point, they're not they have don't have to cook for a week did I.

Speaker 2 And I think that for them was what was quite nice but predominantly outside I probably been more self-catering as we got older I think we'd and not all the places offer food nowadays because there's some that they will have like a canteen and you can go and buy what you want. I think the last one I can recall that had where you had the choice took they so I'm sure they still do if you want.

Speaker 2 It was the one at Butlins where we had, which was a Christmas. We went and we had like three meals but I don't remember. They had not advertised, you know, like it was something like seven courses. But one of the courses was literally like, you know, like two Jacob's Cream crackers and a bit of cheese in a polystyrene polythene.

Speaker 2 And that was not classed as a one of the courses as was like a a cup of coffee was like, you know, classes of course as well. But as far as I'm not fancy so I've really just enjoyed the meals. But I think it definitely, I would say that the it would be not necessarily just us barfing anybody at one holiday camp.

Speaker 2 It was really low on the price side of things. Could you like could you afford to go all inclusive or could you just go go self-catering pretty much as you do now if you go abroad, isn't it? You've got like the option to do an all inclusive holiday or don't do self-catering and obviously you pay more of all inclusive.

Speaker 2 And I think that that's totally like I think the thought process that said there were some camps where you had to have like the the meals so I don't remember my friends at Warners on the Isle of Wight. You did have that was the only choice was you had the meals, which I had no problem with. So I've always found the food there quite nice.

Speaker 2 But as I say, I'm not fussy and I just like it. If something that you will eat it. If you're hungry, you know, you get it really and really soak up all the bitter event the night before. Really. So yeah, yeah.

Speaker 1 Describe meal times and the dining hall for us.

Speaker 2 Yes. I think it's I'd have to say it's quite regimented because they obviously had so many people obviously that they needed to feed if it wasn't being used. It's ones that were not having the meals of they've been provided. So you had like sort of like set times that you could go into them. And I think they did what they tried to do is to make sure that either they had like a steady flow rather than like the doors opened at six and like hundreds of people piled throws.

Speaker 2 So I think if you cleverly just tended to go in a bit lighter sort of after the initial rush, but it you know, it's a big old is a big thing for them. But all those meals was like so many people. But a guy who does a lot remember not waiting a long period of time and the kind of the things that changed a guy in obviously predominately in the earlier times I went and you had catering it was whites service or waitress service.

Speaker 2 I was used to come round and serve you, whereas that you get a lot further along the line. It became more of a buffet type where you can't collect your own food. But yeah, you had the same table in like I, not you. If you had a bottle of wine and you didn't drink it all, they would put a coke in it and bring it back, you know, the following evening meals, you know, your, your own bottle of wine as such.

Speaker 2 So yes.

Speaker 1 What was the atmosphere like in the dining halls?

Speaker 2 I think in general, it was quite. Yeah. And there's some of the obviously very, very big places. No, I guess the things that always do you remember is when somebody drops, apply it and it smashes and everybody starts cheering and that sort of thing so that it normally is no use able to at and what have you. But when something happened, it's obviously quite a laugh.

Speaker 2 And everybody like Ray, when you know somebody smashed a plane, obviously the poor whites or whoever had done it, like, you know, I was embarrassed and I scurries away.



But yeah, it was I would say like the atmosphere was what you would probably say, like a restaurant, really, you know? Yeah.

Speaker 1 Thank you. And what was the food?

Speaker 2 Like I said, I'm not fussy, so I always enjoyed the food. And I think one thing I sort of remember is in the mornings, not only was one of the places like you could have like an omelette and not do it, and I would actually ask what you wanted dinner. So you should. There's like a separate queue for an omelette.

Speaker 2 And I did chuck in like cheese and ham or mushroom or whatever you wanted. And I was like an alternative to the, to the main meal. But I don't know if I found the food personally. Nice is a good variety. You know, I sometimes if he's at the same place for two weeks, you'd find it. The second week was the same as the first week in that.

Speaker 2 So like on Mondays I know sausages and mash or whatever. The following Monday it would be sausages and mash, but it was fine. Yeah, I really had no problem with the food whatsoever.

Speaker 1 How is it that compared to the food at home.

Speaker 2 Yeah, I would, I would say that the food home was better because there's obviously more variety than you've got. Obviously a fridge in your home and you've got like several different sources and what have you. But you know, it, it mass market catering, wasn't it, in those days and it was desert as far as it was. You know, there's no frills if it was no, the breakfast would be like a sausage, a fried egg, a bit of bacon and some baked beans and some house.

Speaker 2 And that was it. So, yeah, but I you know, I'd probably say my food at home was better. But that said, it didn't detract from the holiday that, you know, I'm not if as all this is disgraceful take it away type of thing. So yeah sure do.

Speaker 1 Thank you. So now we're going to talk about back to E. S. Could you describe some of the activities you did during the day?

Speaker 2 Yeah, I think a lot of it, they all seem to have things on during the day that you could do that you could take part in. There's always like darts competitions and snooker competitions. They always seem to have visiting wrestlers that used to come along and you could go and watch it and you used to have some quite famous, you know, they all seem to have snooker halls as well, the the camps.

Speaker 2 And you get, you know, some, you know, top players come into, you know, challenge the campers is such and I know I remember Ray Reardon being at one of the camps that was I was like at the world champion snooker player at the time. And he would turn up and you'd have like say, like wrestlers and they'd have like darts, competitions, swimming competitions.

Speaker 2 But the one I or two remember was the camp when I was born is on the Isle of Wight. They did a Superstars competition, which is like broadly based on what the TV program was that was out at the time. But rather than not like that, they had the things that they had swimming, they had a rowing, like they had rowing, swimming, running.

Speaker 2 I think there's like, you know, a boom in, in a whole lot of basketball. And they did like one or two events each day throughout the week. And there's about 20 people in there. And I remember all one and I was so pleased because there's a fair there's like a semi-professional footballer there and who thought it was, you know, really good anybody who's obviously very fit.

Speaker 2 But remember, beating, running. So I was really pleased about that. I know, I know. I won the competition. I you got knocked out like a medal at the end of the week and certificate and a bottle of wine, which is quite nice but of my highlights and that.

Speaker 1 Could you tell us about some activities, the other activities that stick out in your mind from the day time up camps like those?

Speaker 2 Yeah, so a lot of them. But I've always said it always seemed to be again, a weekly football match between the campers and the staff that worked at the camps. So those like every week there would be a game between as I like the camp because people would get to know who the good footballers are, but they had their player guides, you know, like the chefs and the waiters and what have you.

Speaker 2 And it's quite good because quite a lot of people would go to watch it because obviously it was one that obviously the camp has to win and but that's part of the thing also. So I'd remember they did during the day and they'd have like other things, like sometimes they have like, you know, bingo during the day and they always used to have stuff.

Speaker 2 It was pouring rain, you know, like they'd put like a film on in the ballroom. They'd also have ballrooms in them days and like, you know, like the music need was the band. It wasn't like, you know, a disco. It was like a the resident band would be like playing, but I would like to put a film on if it was Poor Rain because like so a lot of it was centred around getting people sitting around the swimming pool, really.

Speaker 2 And if it was poor, right, you couldn't do that. So they, they put other things on for you during the day. Yeah.

Speaker 1 Can you tell us about some of the competitions and tournaments you remember.

Speaker 2 Yeah. As I say, I mentioned about the superstars and I have, they'd always have a game, particularly in the more outlandish swimming competitions, you know, So like, you could enter like the two lengths breaststroke or the two lengths freestyle or whatever it may be. And they that was certainly something they did the camps and other things that they did, but they'd have like, you know, youth darts competitions and snooker competitions.

Speaker 2 And again, what seemed to happen was that if you won a particular competition at the end of the season, all the winners would be invited back. So all the people that won, so the dance competition in the 15 weeks of the season in October would be invited back and then to have a competition amongst all the winners. I never got to that particular stage, but that's what they tended to have.

Speaker 2 Not all the people that won the snooker competition would be, you know, would be bagged. So that's something that they always seem to do. And it was a free holiday. I think they still did it under the half term holiday in October where people would go, which is the last week of the season effectively, and people would go back and they were all the winners would have a competition.

Speaker 2 Yeah.

Speaker 1 Can you tell me about any competitions that you would.

Speaker 2 Say I've won? I said, I've won the Superstars. That's the one I remember. And also where it was in all of this when I was with my mates, all in their twenties, there's not four of us and we was there when I had to go to school. Broad Festival. And it's like what they did at the camp was that they had a big fancy dress competition and myself and my friends, we, we dressed up as like a flock of sheep and we had Moss nightclub all over us and we won the competition and we as a prize we were given to free people could go the following year.

Speaker 2 So basically we went the following year and we just obviously split the costs between us. So we went the following year, the same two weeks. And this at that time they had the is kind of fancy dress competition was on and we dressed up as like a a like a scene out of a hospital. So we had like a we tightened we actually took the camp baby and Daniel took the thing out and bought some casters for it.

Speaker 2 So we like going out in the camp with this bed and then fittings and casters and we could really about and then one of us dressed up as a doctor and there was a patient and Naka fellow was a surgeon and what have you. And that year we came runners up and bruv on it, but our prize was like I, I a cassette recorder and obviously it's quite difficult to divide that up amongst four people.

Speaker 2 But the thing is, you know, you start taking power, it is like a good event. And the vast majority of people in the camp dressed up on this one particular. This is a really good event. Yeah, and successful.

Speaker 1 And excellent. Thank you very much. So we could talk more about the entertainment that was available. Could you describe the entertainment that was in, for example, in music halls?

Speaker 2 Yeah.

Speaker 2 What you tended to get is that now you'd have like the white stars again, the most familiar that have like early evening, you'd have like bingo. That was absolutely like a must. I think that people play bingo. And I think Paul and people went because I knew that they'd be like bingo every night. So that was like, without doubt, there was a first thing in the evening.

Speaker 2 Bingo. And then they'd have a typical evening with you then would probably have after that they'd have games for like children. So no, the little kids could get involved and what have you, and they'd have like a little dance scene. And they always seem to have like I camp song that they would sing the children's and not, you know, scream and shout and what have you.

Speaker 2 And then you'd have like the resident band would play for a bit and obviously people would gather and dance maybe, and then they'd have like the highlight of the evening would be like, either like, say, the war was like yellow coats, that they were winners, you know, they would, I would do a show or they'd have somebody from outside come in not do magic or ventriloquist or that type of stuff.

Speaker 2 And then there'd be more band music at the end and that. So it was not the end of the evening. And then sometimes you'd find that they'd have certain places where they got like more than one room, you know, they'd have like late night entertainment. So you could go and watch comedy or that type of stuff from stuff that's probably a bit more risqué, I guess.

Speaker 2 And I don't remember a told about that one of the day trips that they had for me. Basically, you know, you could just basically either pay a few quid or whatever they took in a couch to like some sort of club somewhere. And they just had like, you know, comedians and, you know, probably stuff that they couldn't really, like do on an evening in front of like kids.

Speaker 2 And so it's like an adult themed type of thing, but it's really quite funny. Yeah.

Speaker 1 Do you remember any famous acts that you saw, Kath?

Speaker 2 A cast and nothing that springs to mind really as a lover of the like. So when you went to Case to, as I said, the 18 plus groups, they always had like very well known bands I said of the era are so sweet that, you know, they had them and they had Motorhead and Edwin Rhodes and they had like so well known bands at the time that used to ply their but actually in holiday camps, it sometimes you had no say who appeared on Opportunity Knocks, you know like in the B somebody that Yeah.

Speaker 2 Oh yeah I vaguely remember him not Roger too cause he was like he was, he had like a pop, that type of thing. Oh yeah. So slightly remember, And some of the entertainment stuff there. But it had been in no place in the West End, you know, And I remember one he'd been in hair, which I think was long probably in the late sixties, but I remember and he played the trumpet and he was really light is like a young lad.

Speaker 2 So I think all the sort of girls are, he's like, you know, really I fancied him type of thing, but you know, I don't remember anybody particularly famous. So I really did not play snooker. And you get a few of the wrestlers that were the ones that you see on World of Sport. So there was like, you know, the ones you'd see on the TV like before the football results used to come on in the seventies, you'd see them floating around.

Speaker 2 Yeah. Okay.

Speaker 1 Tell us about any entertainment to stick out in your mind at the camp, for example? Music?

Speaker 2 Yeah. Um, I thought I said like, a case to say, like, you obviously had some, some really good bands that but I can't think of anything that it was this was always there's always good singers I think that I think that always come to mind. There's always people that could sing that were part of the entertainment segment. I guess the people who's not performing most nights, you sort of got to know them, not they were actually some of them really were good and obviously some of them a lot.

Speaker 2 I think usually like as a launch pad, because obviously a lot of people don't quite young. We're not the yellow coats and what have you and not they obviously had a hard job to do and they know they'd be singing. They still be able to crack at dawn the next morning, but there's nobody there. So a lot of the guys that sort of jumps out as being that was, you know, a dark, darker night.

- Speaker 2 There's lots of good entertainment, don't get me wrong, you know, and quite a variety of what they did. But there's nobody that I can think that was particularly famous. But although they may have been might be now or might have been. Yeah.
- Speaker 1 Can you.
- Speaker 2 See this might be a good time.
- Speaker 1 To say. I was going to say could you tell me the story about the drums?
- Speaker 2 Dave Oh yeah, Yeah. So this, yeah. So this was a case of one of the evenings they had Motorhead were playing and we basically as like three or four different venues, but was able to go out to see Motorhead and they had, they had a drummer from Sax, and because their drummer wasn't available, they had Motorhead and the drummer from Sax, and these name was Filthy Phil and the thing that we recall about it was just the loudest noise you could imagine and not, you know, people walking around with light coal wool in their ears.
- Speaker 2 It was absolutely the noise was unbelievable because of the lead singer, I think is Lemmy is, if memory serves me right. And Dave's obviously like weren't as well known as obviously are all on now and at the end of the concert this got thrown out into the crowd and I caught it and it's like filthy filth thrashes and that's what it says on here and all this is that whereas he's only smashing the drum but yeah.
- Speaker 2 So that's like a treasured possession now. Yeah.
- Speaker 1 How long have you had that for it.
- Speaker 2 I have probably had this best part of 30 years, I would have thought. Yeah, yeah. Go to ours. Particularly for today. I think that's okay.
- Speaker 1 Tell us how visitors dressed at the camps.
- Speaker 2 Oh, what, you mean the guests are such? Well, I think probably are people dressed in the trends of the of the particular era, if I'm being honest. I guess under sort of the very first with camps, I mean, there's probably quite in them days, like a few people dressed up as teddy boys and that type of stuff, because obviously that was the era and a few, you know, people that obviously like rockers.
- Speaker 2 One was, Oh, that was like that. That's the end of that sort of era was like teddies and teddy boys and rockers. But I think no say no. I remember a lot people used to wear flares, flared trousers. They would obviously the things of the time and conventions, whatever the fashion seemed to be, is what people tended to like dress, dress, you know, I guess there's nothing no, you know, there's obviously there's I think girls were always a lot more modest in them days.
- Speaker 2 You know, they would sort of walk around, you know, that with their bellies exposed or what have you, you know, proper dresses. And people would always dress up nicely for the evening, you know, like, I think it's like it I think because he's gone into lockable room and not having a drink and socializing and you would dress up appropriately for that.

- Speaker 2 It always like be smarter in the evenings than you were I guess during the day, just like daisies. I had your swimming trunks and what have you and t shirts and if it was warm enough shorts and in the evening you would dress up smartly. And I, I guess that was expected. I think you wouldn't be thrown out if you turned up in a pair of shorts.
- Speaker 2 But people just tended, I suppose, to be respectful. Yeah. Okay.
- Speaker 1 So now we're going to think about the sights and smells. Mhm. Yeah. Could you describe the atmosphere of the camp.
- Speaker 2 Um, I, I tend to think I love, I've been to so many different camps and there's always like you know, different bits and pieces, but I think what you tended to find camps was that they'd always be, you know, certain people that were very loud, they'd always be like, you know, family. That would be like every event they would be in, you know, that type of thing.
- Speaker 2 And you know, that that would be absolutely everything that they don't snooker, swimming or what have you. They would be no defence. But, you know, in general, I'd say like the atmosphere to me was always I never saw any trouble there at all or anything like that, you know, And people had a lot to drink. But, you know, people did have a laugh.
- Speaker 2 And I think one of the things I remember we did in our piece I worked for we like Beat Road, but what we did when we went on holidays was there was five of us on this particular one and we we went out and got t shirts printed and the one I had was like, I think was called now was this, I don't know.
- Speaker 2 It's our nose is a famous sign on it, but can't remember what it is now. But one of our friends got a T-shirt and I him for a laugh. He got this t shirt and he said, not if he's not outside this, I'd eat shit and die on it. And he just thought that was a laugh. And we've gone into the mail and we'll sit in there and they suddenly announce if, if, if somebody's birthday, they made you stand up on your chair.
- Speaker 2 And then everybody clapped. And so like they said his birthday and we said was our mate's birthday. You had this t shirt on in the middle of a meal and it wasn't his birthday. And they made him stand out in the sit on stand on this chair and he's got this t shirts and shit and die. And he absolutely crucified as he didn't speak to us for the night.
- Speaker 2 He was so annoyed. But we will always a laugh. But he didn't see the funny side of it. But yeah, that was a very amusing start. As Tyler. Yes.
- Speaker 1 What do you remember about songs like for example, that always?
- Speaker 2 Yeah. Yeah. I guess because of you will see not hide behind the TV one and I think morning hampers my view and I think that was that was again like in the seventies that that type thing did happen. It was not that that was the system and I guess one of the things I always found not quite odd because you wouldn't even dream about it now, but frequently you'd find in the ballroom there'd be a blackboard and they'd have baby crying and they'd write up on the board the name or the chalet number where there's a baby crying because people used to leave their kids in their chalets, go into the hole to have some

- Speaker 2 drinks and what have you. And they had people walking round the camp listening for babies. And if a baby's going to put baby crying in Chalet C 23 and then the parents would then go back, but obviously now you wouldn't even dream of leaving your child. But in ten days it was thought that suppose that was the norm, you know, So that was a nice thing.
- Speaker 2 And sometimes if they hadn't found the parent, they'd like make an announcement as well that no babies crying in this particular show. As I say, like in those days, if that was the norm. But now obviously that clearly you do take it, you really don't vote in them dies. It isn't nice things change. Yeah. So that was like an odd thing that used to happen.
- Speaker 2 But yeah, just say that you got the tannoy system have you? And, and it was so loud. Very much. Heidi. Hi. But again, like, say, over these things, things change. Not, you know, you not now You go to holiday camp and you turn your TV on and there's like a screen that tells you everything that's going on in in the holiday came out on that particular day.
- Speaker 2 So things change.
- Speaker 1 So what does a typical day like for you if you pick out a particular favourite, What's a typical day like.
- Speaker 2 Um, I thought, you know, with kids, right. Why would I talk about We have a lot of young girls, too. Young girl. So very, you know, we get up in the morning and we, we would probably go, we self-catering with our girls, so we'd have breakfast and then we'd like normally we would normally go out somewhere to like, perhaps go down to the beach or to the zoo or to some local attraction.
- Speaker 2 And then we'd come back and we'd then we normally would have a tea, we don't know. No eat out and then have had tea back in that where we were staying. And then we'd really sort of get ourselves ready for the evening. And the girls used to love dressing up as well because I, you know, I was only little.
- Speaker 2 But like they all, they always nose very small for the evening. That's like what we would do. You know, perhaps I would have gone swimming in the swimming pool as well. Sometimes I had indoor pool, sometimes an outdoor one and we'd go use the pool and then they'd get themselves nice and small for the evening, and then we'd come nuts.
- Speaker 2 I would play bingo, listen to the entertainment quite often because of their age, we would come back before it all finished and then they would go to bed. We watch a bit of TV and then we would start all over again. But sometimes we'd like on holiday with our friends as well, so they would be like in another chalet or another caravan next door or what have you.
- Speaker 2 So and we don't go out for the night, but often we go to die. If we stay, for example, in Devon, we'd go, we'd go to like Torquay or Brixham or wherever it might be, and enjoy ourselves and just look around that for a bit. The kids didn't know visiting places, but we always had a always had a good time.
- Speaker 2 Always had a good time. Yeah.
- Speaker 1 And how did your typical day compare with your earliest camping experience? Camp experience with your groups of friends?

Speaker 2 I think there's a lot of. I remember when we went to the Warners, we were there for a fortnight and I think we probably the camp once when I was with my mates because we, we, we, I think I left the camp once in like a fortnight and we stayed in the camp, We just did a brief on the camp.

Speaker 2 But I guess because of that age we start at twenties where you know you'd, you'd have some drink, you don't have a couple of drinks at lunchtime because the door was open but you had the situation not the only now that I and it wasn't like a normal day like the bar would be open 12 till two because as, as the pubs were and then in the evening it would be open night from 7 to 11.

Speaker 2 So there's all but when I say like in my twenties that we would, we would, we would get up in the morning and have breakfast at one thing, we used to play a lot of pinball. We used to, we could play pinball for hours and that probably take up in the morning because we'd love playing pinball and then we would join in the entertainment as I like did the Superstars competition would enter dance competitions and what have you.

Speaker 2 And then really, then you'd go back, have your evening meal, and then go. Even as we know, we used to play bingo and, oh, you know, in them days, you know, you win £25 on bingo. Like that was like a lot of money. And we did win £25 blown bingo. And we had like a little pipe that we'd share out amongst ourselves.

Speaker 2 But yeah, so we would, we would just join in everything really, and enjoy ourselves. Yeah.

Speaker 1 What were the best things about going to play against.

Speaker 2 The best things? And this was loads of different men. So one of my mates met his wife there. They kind of, I think one of the things were like in their twenties that we used to do was I think we used to call it slop drinking, not biting like at the end of the evening, not people just left drinks and we would like literally go round and drink them.

Speaker 2 She would like have somebody leave a scotch and drink it and it's like it was like a game I guess. And then not if it was a strawberry milkshake, you know, that you would find and not to eat. And I just I just think that you used to do, I guess. But yeah, there's lots of different memories. And I said, No it for 2 minutes.

Speaker 2 It also like to say that I said that those are things that jumped to my mind and not just knowledge. It's seen people enjoy themselves. I think that's like a really good thing because it people that that was your holiday. That was, you know, like your two weeks and that was you two weeks, because I was sort of like, sadly or not, I sort of read Billy Butlin's book and how that sort of started off not in Clacton 1936.

Speaker 2 And then that became I was taken over by the war. And so the barracks were they're not used by the army or the holiday camp was used by the army because it isn't that is quite an interesting raid. And I did a little bit of research all about these things. But yeah, lots of memories. And, and I think that I also like people that you met as well and you know, you always bump into people also remember like, you know, no some punk rockers that we met at one of the camps that was that when I was like probably 17 or 18.

Speaker 2 No. And, you know, those are really nice fellows. Nice to bump into people that live near you. You'd be like, in Devon, like, where did you live? New Malden. And now I live in Wimbledon. Not 5 minutes away from where you live. So that always seemed to be or



that you could, you know, bump into people that you didn't even know existed, but literally, like were down the road from you.

Speaker 2 But yeah, yeah, yeah.

Speaker 1 What were the things that you didn't like so much?

Speaker 2 I probably at this point, there's nothing I didn't really know, to be quite honest. I think the, the worst thing is when it rains, isn't it. And no, this is quite miserable. Like if it rains for like a couple of days and then if you're there for a week, not two days, it's raining because that's not so. The weather did play a big part in I think if you know, if it was bad weather, that was like boredom as such, wasn't it?

Speaker 2 I guess that's now probably because I'm quite easy to please. I guess not. To me, the fact that it isn't hard, I, I just used to enjoy myself and the to me the memories are that I had a really good time and you'd always meet people, you know, that you could speak to, not discuss football teams, whatever, and, and the like.

Speaker 2 And there's nothing not that I really didn't like particularly. Sometimes not like the chalets are a bit like I said, like you can tend not to be low base that we're missing, you know, what have you. But you speak to the reception, they come and sort it out. So I think not the people that worked in the camps predominantly knew you wanted to make sure you had a good time as well.

Speaker 2 So but there's nothing I was I really didn't like that about it. Now, I enjoyed the food, enjoyed the company that I was with during the people that were there. And the fact is that you're on holiday, wasn't it? And it's like, Yeah, I'm on holiday now and I'm going to enjoy myself. Yeah.

Speaker 1 Tell us about the song that takes you back to a time on holiday in the camps.

Speaker 2 I think what I said so briefly before one of the people was in how I know I think the song are all remembered. I used to sing This is really, really good with the I think it's called Aquarius. And it was like, this is the dawning of the Age of Aquarius, and it's like a really famous song in that time, but it's one that I always remember him singing because he was so good at this particular rhythm and he'd go and knock on the like stone people's eyes sing this song, and he would even sing it now because it was the one that really sort of reminds me of holiday camps.

Speaker 2 And another one was like, there was a game. Like when I was like young in his group, 1617 with also Leeds, although it's that age group and there's like a jukebox in the canteen and no one. So it was used to play with like a coffee it was Tina Turner, but when she was with like Ike, it's like Ike and Tina Turner songs like kind of in the late sixties, like a famous song of hers that we always played on this too, but I can't remember what it was.

Speaker 2 COBA I just remember it was like a Tina Turner's on the way. We played for ever and ever. Like everybody put their money in and played the same song. So yeah, but there's a couple of songs I remember from the days.

Speaker 1 Now we're going to talk about the social life and people. Yeah. Tell us about the different kinds of people you met.

Speaker 2 Yes, I love the different eras. Obviously it made me different people, was what you tended to do is like you would you would meet out of a socialize, I suppose, with people from your age group. So when I was out with my friends, we would get together with people of a similar age group and we would like, you know, meet at the camp and what have you, because I think after a while what they started doing was like they stopped single sex parties, so you couldn't get like a lot of the blokes going together or allowed the girls going together because I wanted the family side of things, I guess.

Speaker 2 But we would meet with socialize with people from age group. So I just remember like pontins with mobiles and we would meet people of that age because they had like sort of entertainment designs with like 16 and 17 year old type of things before you were able to drink, you know. So we would say with those two and you was used to lie in a lot of holiday romances and that type of stuff.

Speaker 2 And same people that, you know, you probably see like a couple times afterwards and be the last ever them type of thing. But you do. And I guess when we was older, like my wife and the family, we would not speak with people from our age groups. And funny enough, we went to one in Ilfracombe, in Dubai, and it was just a guy who was just before we got married and I bumped into I was just looking at myself.

Speaker 2 I saw a fellow running down the road and I said, I know this fella. And then we bumped into the guy lighter and I, we went to school together and bumped. I hadn't seen him since school, so we may not probably 13, 14 years I hadn't seen him. And then him and his wife were there and I had like really small children at the time.

Speaker 2 And we've kept in touch ever since. So the fact is we bumped into him on holiday camp and then we saw Woolacombe Beach. You know how we know each other? Don't be enemies. Yeah. Yeah, yeah. And what have you. Weeks ago, the same SKO. And we've been firm friends ever since then, so that that was like something that happened from being at holiday camp in Ilfracombe.

Speaker 2 In Devon? Yeah.

Speaker 1 What's your memories of time spent with your family?

Speaker 2 Okay, you know, if I summed up a lot to me, just a really happy, joyous time, the fact that on holiday was I especially know when your daughter's like, you know, four, five, six, what have you. It's just like a lovely, you know, I've been have been away with them, you know, as far as I'm aware, they enjoyed themselves.

Speaker 2 I never said that they didn't have fun. And it's just a nice time being with your family. I think the fact they like you've got a week away in Devon or wherever you might be, The Isle of Man. Yes, I went there quite a few times and just having a really good fun time, you know, I thought, there's nothing I can say that came to me.

Speaker 2 Obviously things changed through the ages, but I, you know, I think they've always liked trying to do things to make it make things better for people and, you know, get value for your money. And I just have some very happy memories of life with my wife and my daughters on holiday. Really good times. Yeah. Yeah.

Speaker 1 How did that compare to the time spent with your family at home?

Speaker 2 Um, I don't know if it is a sign. Isn't a lot. You know, you go into holiday mode and just the fact that you're. That you're not home, you know, because at home you got a routine and obviously it children obviously going to school one night as well. So like the routine is like you take them to school and then Obama if you stayed in the school and then you'd pick them up and what have you, and then with their identity, they go to bed or do their homework or what have you but won't hold.

Speaker 2 I haven't got any of those pressures. And even for like me and wife, you know, I suppose I worked in banks and, you know, see different pressures from working in all kinds of environments. But for those couple of weeks, you know, you didn't have that pressure because and then Daisy's vote, there wasn't a much younger you didn't have not, you know, like phones where everybody could contact you all the time.

Speaker 2 You know, she was on holiday and that was it. And you enjoyed your holiday. You didn't have emails pinging fruit, you and what have you. So I was able to actually, like, relax and enjoy yourself and yeah, really enjoyed out of my holidays. I really enjoyed. Yeah.

Speaker 1 What do you think about the people who worked there?

Speaker 2 Yes, I like there's obviously so many because I've been to so many different I think you use there's always seems to be a favourite, I guess a favourite person on the entertainments committee or the entertainments team. There's always but to me I was, you know, everybody has like, you know, the bad moments and what have you in that.

Speaker 2 But I always seem to be like trying to make I guess they're their ethos is that we're to help entertain you throughout the day. That is our job, to entertain you. And I think that, you know, in the vast majority of cases, that's what the entertainment staff did. They would entertain you and do their very best to make sure that your holiday was really good and you would hopefully then go back there the following year as such.

Speaker 2 And I think sometimes I think, you know, you do get questionnaires sent to you about like, did you enjoy yourselves? Who's your favourite people? In my view. And I guess that that that's all like, obviously. But if I knew I was going to be like, reviewed or not, how I perform, then obviously you would do your very best.

Speaker 2 But okay, you know, as far as I'm concerned, not people did what they did or what they could do to help entertain you. Yeah.

Speaker 1 Did any of the characters stand out from the staff?

Speaker 2 Um, and so then what? So odd story I remember was when we also friends and we was obviously like on 17, 19 or what have you, that was probably a bit more and noisy than like people to expect to know. And I, we got told of ones by like that, so like I had a pair of shoes and I had the have Blakey's in them, they had like sort of metal things you could put in the bottom of your shoes.

Speaker 2 And I saw by clicking noises and, and I got click, click these Blakey's things and I had the Blakey one of them had come out so I only had one and I remember neither. And I was trying to find out who had been the species that night, you know, when we would jump in the swimming pool at night, you know, things like that, which obviously weren't supposed to do.

Speaker 2 And we so like got called and got hold in front of like the so not the person in running in the camp and not I remember saying that and who was the one with the clicky shoes and it was me and click click, click and we just got like no reprimand in the mustn't jump in this room important and that type of thing but you know, proud of us did it And it was it was at the time it was a good laugh Yeah but we obviously we probably called a camp commandant or something like that because you know, they will obviously.

Speaker 2 But that's obviously they've got a job to do every night. So yeah.

Unknown Tell us about some.

Speaker 1 Memorable experiences you had.

Speaker 2 Um, yeah, some of the old ones, I think like said ourselves a lot memorable. Like when we won the fancy dress competition, which I talked about alluded to, that was absolutely brilliant. You know, like winning a holiday for two people was like for a couple of hundred quid in ten days. But that was a long a lot of money.

Speaker 2 And my were I mean right before was right to have you can go in for nothing. It was like wow. So that was a really good experience. As I win in the superstar competition, something that always in my mind I was still visualize that semi-professional for, but something that really, really enjoyed what I did. I did feel kind of things that me found easily.

Speaker 2 I remember about over there about now but there's so like so I enjoyed that something nice also said remember and I was been on the stage and things like that, you know, like they'd have like little kiddies dances. But when I was out there, they looked so happy, you know, like dancing on the stage with all the little friends they'd make, you know, it was really quite nice, you know, and, you know, and all the parents going like that.

Speaker 2 But that was Lala, another memory that I really sort of treasure. Really seen them on the stage and having a really good time. Yeah.

Speaker 1 Describe any first time experiences you had to come then.

Speaker 2 So I know, as I said, because this has a different so different many areas I've been in other I thought was nothing that I could probably want to say on camera if I'm being quite honest, that there's certainly a few things that happened over the years, I must admit. So like when I was single. But nothing particularly not, you know, as far as just, I suppose, the Bombay, I guess it's like kind of I was without my parents.

Speaker 2 I suppose it's like that was obviously quite different because I'll say that one of the first camps when I went, my parents in 69, but not then, not 77, 70, I was with a friend and, his parents, and that was quite different because, you know, your mum wasn't there. His mum and dad lot basically be responsible for me really.

Speaker 2 So that was quite different because obviously for him his parents were still there. But for me I was just like under the control of him or of her, their parents as such. That was something I first really. No I don't hold I aside that that was different because like now responsible for your own life. So yeah.

Speaker 1 What of my first time activity experienced at camps such as sports?

Speaker 2 I think the end of things I remember doing that I'd never done before was it water polo? And water polo was quite an aggressive game of volleyball. I mean, we played volleyball and I think that was one I remember doing a first time probably was archery because, you know, they'd have like, you know, you have an afternoon spend an hour or so pinging arrows about.

Speaker 2 So that was quite good. And I and I did rowing as well. I'd never rode before, but part of the supervising was a rowing was fun events was actually like in a boat with like tools. And so I'd never done that before. So that was quite interesting as well. So that is not some sport I'd never done before, but I had played darts and snooker previously, But I have a few ones that I'd never done before or dressing up in fancy dress.

Speaker 2 I don't think I'd done that before, before we did that. So yeah.

Speaker 1 Did people find love at camp?

Speaker 2 Yes. As a friends made one of my friends, they'd meet his wife on a holiday camp. Was it on the Isle of Wight? And yeah, I think that our older friends that I was with at one time or another, we'd go, you know, pair up with ladies and think quite often the staff were quite friendly, shall we say that.

Speaker 2 And I remember to say like, you know, I've been, you know, that is like you'd always want to try and find a lady or a girlfriend I guess from, from what was on holiday. That holiday romance wasn't there. I guess so, yeah. Had a few of them over. Over the years. Yeah. Yeah. Leave it at.

Speaker 1 What were people's attitudes back home towards holiday camps?

Speaker 2 I guess to me, I don't know what it was. I don't think it would be people would be jealous because then that enough people were starting to go abroad more as well. When I first started go and scams up, that's when you know, people were going to like Benidorm and places like that. But but I think there's jealousy about, Oh, well, I'm going for two weeks a holiday camp or a week holiday camp, and I'm going for a week at a caravan park.

Speaker 2 You know, they, they didn't seem to be any no stigma attached to it. I think it just Yeah. I'm just kind of why for two weeks to Devon really know that that was Yeah. I don't think there was any a feeling like you know oh you must be like not poor or something. You can only go to a holiday camp rather than like two weeks abroad.

Speaker 2 I don't recall anything being of that. Oh, no, no.

Speaker 1 How does it compare to other people's holidays at home?

Speaker 2 I think because of the so close went by So so that's what we what we did say as a you know, like when I was young, people used to go to holiday camps that that was not what we did. And then as I grew into adulthood, you'd go on holiday with your mates. Then we had a break where we put our garden abroad in my base and then would be back with my daughters.

Speaker 2 We got married and young children, so we started to go into holiday camps again. And then as you know, things developed, we then went abroad, but we was able to afford more things now. So I be go abroad in the summer, but we'd go perhaps like holiday

camp at Whitsun, you know, So we'd have like was able to afford a summer holiday and not a whitsun holiday.

Speaker 2 So and we would normally then go to somewhere in the UK for a holiday and then, and go abroad in the summer. Yeah.

Speaker 1 And in weekend do break. She'd been on the campus.

Speaker 2 Yeah. Yeah. So like a been a couple. So we went to like a place with my wife and like a group of people all in their thirties and I guess we went to in Sussex Wittering somewhere around that part of the world. But one thing I do move in absolutely freezing and I not the chalet was bitter. I mean, that's one thing I do remember of a particular we went on a weekend and it was absolutely freezing this weekend for some reason.

Speaker 2 And I know my wife had it because we were we were together, but she'd gone on holiday with her parents to Spain and she came back and then had like a week of Norway, a weekend after she'd been to Spain when it was. And I said, Well, it's been obviously lovely weather coming back and it was freezing and the room was freezing, know, Is that how you turn the oven on to let the with the door open to let the heat out to try and warm the place up.

Speaker 2 So that was not an odd one. I also remember at that particular place I for some reason we've got this about eight or ten of us not left my money at home and about frequent in my pocket. And so I was going to borrow from friends. But we've played bingo and I want about 100 quid a bond like the cost of the weekend from playing bingo on that first evening, which is quite lucky.

Speaker 2 So it's like an odd thing, but I don't remember that. Yeah.

Unknown 32. So I didn't know.

Speaker 1 If you could we the day to come, what would it be?

Speaker 2 What would it be? I say I enjoyed all the things that I did, like with Bob, with my family or with my friends. But I guess it's just a sort of sigh, really. The so many different aspects, but I don't say because we've won this competition, not the forgotten holiday of our mice, which is not the first time we've been away as a group of mates, really like and just like I suppose the thing that remembers is like just drinking loud, to be quite honest.

Speaker 2 I mean, I remember the first time we got there, like at lunchtime, we'd like, you know, we were doing like seven points of light at lunchtime and then we did not go to Chalets and then went back out in the evening and period, another seven or eight bars. Not, but we see. But in the end I just didn't have more capacity.

Speaker 2 You know, you could drink, seem to be able to drink more. Who is a lot younger I guess, and going out and then not drinking, not the slops drink as we used to call it. And having just a really good, good time, you know, and being young as you were. Have a good crack there. Yeah, there's a very good time.

Speaker 1 Looking back, what to your time. So when it comes to.

Speaker 2 Just lots and lots of good memories, really, whatever the camp offered you to, you know, like I said, I've never been one to complain about something really. You just get on with it. But I did the sort of things, the things that sort of jump out of attraction a lot. No. When you used to have bookmakers there and you used to have like no billy competitions and like GLOW, you know, glamorous granny competitions they used to have, which, you know, you think about this now like you couldn't have these sort of competition and you wouldn't, you wouldn't be allowed to I don't think, you know, you know, having a competition for that.

Speaker 2 And they used to have like, you know, like Miss Warner's in and then they have a competition for like, for people like, like the Princess the week or they that type of thing, you know, things like nowadays you, you wouldn't be allowed to do not say like you couldn't leave your baby initially anymore. You know baby crying and that type of stuff.

Speaker 2 So that's the sort of things that I remember. And I just start really having a a good time and not say a lot. The fact that it was on holiday to me was like thing that you just really remember. Because if you enjoy your holidays, don't you know, you know, we all work hard and that's your pleasure. I'm off for two weeks or what have you.

Speaker 1 So I'm finally. Is there anything you'd like to say that we haven't already covered?

Speaker 2 Um, I was just neither of, I guess, just to say that, you know, I've enjoyed having no time to die in the hope it's been useful. I think that, you know, it's a, like an evolving industries need holiday camps and not wanting a lot to do. If I could get move on to the grave, go again, because we do tend to, you know, go abroad now.

Speaker 2 But I would just start to like go guide and I guess, well, we are in some seven council free days actually to where we used to work. We both work for a bank big time. And that waste, if I'm allowed to say that and we used to have a training centere in near Oxford and that has now become a Warners Leisure Hotel complex.

Speaker 2 So we're going there in a few weeks time to see what that's like and obviously revitalize our memories when we used to go there as youngsters. Um, been trained by the bank to do the things for the bank. So yeah, but now it's just fancy for this opportunity. So I might save my Alan sugar hat on.

Speaker 1 And thank you very much. Okay.

Speaker 2 Okay. All right. Thank you.