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START AUDIO

Respondent 1: \_\_\_[0:00:01] everything but I’ll do my best.

Interviewer: Wonderful. Okay. So, basically, as I said before, I’m interested in older people and how they are civically active. I heard that you are going to put on a show about political engagement.

Respondent 1: Well, in [place] – that’s where I live – we have a Green Growing Project where we’ve got some redundant flower beds at the local library and sports centre. They’ve been renovated. We’ve taken all the weeds out and all the bushes and we’ve put new flowers in. Round the corner, there was a bit of an embankment which was doing nothing so we’ve levelled it off. We’ve actually got a greenhouse now, as well. We plant stuff like… We’ve tried with potatoes in the bags and stuff, just as an experiment.

Interviewer: Did you report on this as part of your radio?

Respondent 1: No. I’m sorry, no, we didn’t because there is one person on the Community Reporters.

Interviewer: Yes.

Respondent 1: The radio is separate. It’s with [[station]], you see.

Interviewer: So what do you do with [station]?

Respondent 1: [station] Radio?

Interviewer: Yes.

Respondent 1: We had a community group from sheltered housing and we used to meet on a regular basis every month, just to… The new little things like, “What were you doing when you left school?” or “What’s your favourite record?” “What were you doing when that was in the Top 20?” That went on for about eight months.

Then, [[station]], [[person] 0:02:00] asked me if we’d like to make a programme – me and her friend, called [person]. We went in the studio. We did this programme where we picked a year. We spoke about our own experiences of the year and played a record for the year. Also, we spoke a bit about the history of that year – what went on. Like, for instance, “In this year, Tower Bridge was moved to the USA and a new one was built.” That sort of stuff, you know.

Interviewer: Yes.

Respondent 1: We did two programmes of that. Then [person] got a bit fed up and she said, “That’s enough now.” So, I was with Age Concern. We were at the Pride of [place] Awards. On stage was a quartet – the [name]. The guitarist, I didn’t know at the time. We met and we’ve recorded two swing and jazz big band programmes, which we did ad lib. We didn’t have any script for it, like we had for the first two programmes. It worked quite well. Since then, I haven’t seen [person] at all because he’s been doing his exams. So, we hope to get back together again and do some more programmes.

Interviewer: So, was this your idea to come up with the-?

Respondent 1: I told them that I liked jazz.

Interviewer: Yes.

Respondent 1: Then [person] said, “Oh, get a jazz programme going then.” You know?

Interviewer: Yes.

Respondent 1: [person] and I both picked the bands we wanted to hear. Then we spoke a little bit of the history about them. Then we did it ad lib. It was a bit of a challenge, I think, for [person], finding the actual records we wanted (Laughter) because they were that old. You know? Yes, it was good – a marvellous experience. They were recorded at the floating studios at the College of Music.

Interviewer: So, did you do any of the technology at all?

Respondent 1: No, not on that one because [person] wanted… The two jazz programmes, we’re talking about.

Female: Okay, yes.

Interviewer: Did you do it on any other programme?

Respondent 1: No. All we did was record the programmes.

Interviewer: Yes.

Respondent 1: Since then, we’ve been to this class at [station] Radio, doing the sound balancing. I’ve done two lessons there. I’m just getting into the way of the technology that surrounds (Laughter) radio.

Interviewer: So are you quite interested in getting these skills to be able to produce?

Respondent 1: Yes, I am quite interested. It’s going to take time with my age but I’ll get there. If they’ve got the patience, I’ve got the patience.

Interviewer: So, do you want to produce your own…? Can you imagine-?

Respondent 1: Yes, it would be nice to produce my own little 30-minute programme.

Interviewer: Do you have specific topics in mind for that?

Respondent 1: It would be jazz again, probably.

Interviewer: Yes.

Respondent 1: Yes, different types of jazz though.

Interviewer: Yes.

Respondent 1: There is Dixieland jazz, trad jazz, New Orleans jazz. Then there is also the modern jazz quintets. There is big band jazz, swing. There are some nice modern singers now, as well, who play with these big bands – like Nina Simone. She’s a marvellous singer.

Interviewer: You just said you were involved with Age Concern. What was your involvement there?

Respondent 1: Well, I’ve just told you about the Green Growing Group. I also do Tech and Tea, which is learning for the over 65s: How to use a laptop-

Interviewer: Yes.

Respondent 1: Showing them how to switch it on, navigate the keyboard, give them an email address if they haven’t got one. Show them how to google – get into Google and internet shopping.

Interviewer: So you do all of this at home as well? Are you learning it?

Respondent 1: No. We go all over the City of [place] to libraries, cafes, sheltered accommodation – all sorts of things.

Interviewer: Okay.

Respondent 1: We have a group of about eight or nine people on each session. It’s a two-hour session, five days over fives weeks.

Interviewer: Yes.

Respondent 1: When they have completed the course, if they have done four or five attendances, they are entitled to a cheap laptop – for £65, brand new.

Interviewer: That’s good.

Respondent 1: They’re very good, actually. I took the course three years ago. I’ve got a laptop now as well.

Interviewer: Did you use that laptop for the editing?

Respondent 1: Not for the music, no. I use it for emails and searching. You name it.

Interviewer: Do you use social media?

Respondent 1: No, I don’t actually do Twitter, Snapchat, ‘Birdy Birdy’ and all that lot-

Interviewer: (Laughter)

Respondent 1: Twittering, I don’t actually because I haven’t got the equipment, really. I’ve only got a small phone. I think I’ve shown it to you. It was £4.99.

Interviewer: Yes. So, you are going to upgrade to a smartphone?

Respondent 1: I’m going to upgrade, you know. I mean, I put £10 on it in February and I’ve still got £7.69 left. (Laughter)

Interviewer: (Laughter)

Female: Whenever I try to phone it, it’s never on.

Respondent 1: It’s never on-

Interviewer: (Laughter)

Respondent 1: Because I don’t expect anyone to ring me, you see. You know? I only charge it every three months.

Interviewer: This is just hypothetical. Do you think if you get a smartphone, would you want to use it to advertise your jazz show?

Respondent 1: Yes, I probably could do. Yes, definitely. Most certainly. Once I learn how to navigate the smartphone. That’s going to be a full-time job. (Laughter)

Interviewer: I think it’s pretty straightforward once you’ve got the main functions sorted.

Respondent 1: Yes. Just ‘tchoo tchoo’.

Interviewer: My grandparents got very good at it, actually, pretty quickly. I mean, they sat down at first and had to really think about what they wanted to do. Then I think they started exploring and they quite liked it actually.

Respondent 1: Yes.

Interviewer: Cool.

Respondent 1: Yes, I quite enjoy going on the internet and modern technology. I haven’t got the time half the time. I’m too busy doing other things to sit down and play with them. That’s my problem.

Interviewer: Yes.

Respondent 1: If there is something on the TV that I want to watch, I watch that. I never have my laptop switched on on a Saturday because that’s my housework day and my shopping and all that lot. I don’t bother with it. Again, nobody emails me. All the emails I get are adverts and junk mail, so I don’t bother normally. I’m certainly interested in this [station] Radio and doing the radio shows and that, definitely.

Interviewer: What do you like most about making radio?

Respondent 1: I like speaking down the microphone, normally and getting the right balance. Also, doing it ad lib, without stuttering as well. Because, when you start, if you’ve got a script in front of you you start reading it and you start bubbling a bit. It’s no good. It just sounds like you’re acting. I just like it to swing, to roll off my tongue.

Interviewer: Do you know who is listening to your show?

Respondent 1: I believe there are people in… Is it northern Australia and Canada, somebody in been listening to the show?

Female: Yes.

Interviewer: Do your friends listen to the show?

Respondent 1: Two of my friends. The others haven’t got a laptop or anything. They’ve only just got colour TV some of them.

Interviewer: (Laughter)

Respondent 1: That’s how behind they are. (Laughter) “Yes,” they said, “It’s very nice.” Because you sent me the links, didn’t you? I’ve given them the links, you see. Yes, I’ve listened to mine about four times now and I still say the second show is better than the first one.

Interviewer: It’s practising, maybe.

Respondent 1: Maybe that is it, yes.

Female: Well, we recorded them back-to-back in one day.

Respondent 1: We did, yes.

Female: There was a bit of a… Even getting started because [person] is a student and he’s in his final year. The idea was that [person] and Respondent 1 would take on the show together and I would butt out and have nothing to do with it. So, we’ve got another two people whose show I’ve got no involvement in. They just send me it to make sure it’s checked – the sound is okay, the sound is balanced – and then I stick it up and that’s it.

The idea was that [person] was meant to take that mantle. Because it was the first time we did something like that, I took the desk. [person] is trained up. [person] did a bit of the tech. It was about intergenerational work and about bringing people together to work together, to teach each other.

Interviewer: Yes, exactly.

Female: So, [person] had never done it. Respondent 1 had never done it. It doesn’t matter if one person is young and one person is old. You’ve not done it. It’s about bringing it together, taking the show past the first two episodes and creating a series.

Interviewer: Yes.

Female: Then [person] just got busy with his final year and probably a little bit lax about coming back to us and stuff like that, wasn’t he?

Respondent 1: Yes.

Female: The intention is there. Sometimes the follow through isn’t. So, now we’ve literally just said, “Right. Well, okay. Great, maybe it just becomes Respondent 1’s jazz show.” In which case, great.

Respondent 1: Yes.

Female: In which case you’ll be doing it yourself.

Interviewer: If you have a smartphone, you could even-

Respondent 1: I’ll get a smartphone and I’ll be able to, yes.

Interviewer: You could record on the go.

Respondent 1: Yes, I could do, definitely.

Female: Well, we just recorded a bit of… We might put bits of [blog 0:14:11] together about our trip here. I don’t know, maybe [we will].

Interviewer: Can you send me the video as well that you took?

Female: So this is what we’ve just recorded on the train.

Respondent 1: ‘Right, well we’ve got on the train at [place] We’ve sat down.’

I’ve got a terrible voice, haven’t I?

‘[Crosstalk 0:14:29] going backwards. We could be backwards all the way to [place].’

Female: ‘What are we going to [place] for today?’

Respondent 1: ‘We’re going to meet some people from the University at [place] to discuss stuff about [station] Radio and how the company could get involved.’’

Female: ‘Fabulous.’

So, yes. It’s just like we thought we would try and do bits and pieces.

Interviewer: It’s nice.

Respondent 1: Well, we can carry on with that.

Female: Yes, we can. So we can do something a bit now we’ve been here. Yes [we can do a bit more 0:15:05].

Respondent 1: Yes.

Interviewer: Yes, so what do you think about the festival idea?

Respondent 1: I think it’s a marvellous idea. I really do. It’s just when we get the dates and that. Yes, definitely. We have a nice mix of people and most of them have been on the radio before, haven’t they?

Female: Yes.

Respondent 1: So, it should be alright, yes. A nice one-hour show, yes.

Interviewer: What would you think you would be most interested in, if we had a festival?

Respondent 1: Do you mean interested in the topic of the show?

Interviewer: Yes. If we had this festival with all these things that we discussed earlier, what would you think would be this number one thing, “I want to go and I want to do this”?

Respondent 1: I want to give an account of what life is like in [place], really. Do a bit of that. How it was in the old days – the old cloth cap and clogs. The old days and all the mills that were around there. All the coal mines. A bit like [place] with the coal mines. Yes, I’d give a bit of a history of [place], if that’s what you would like.

Interviewer: I think that would be nice.

Female: Yes. I think it is something that a lot of people in [place] would identify with as well.

Interviewer: Yes.

Respondent 1: Yes.

Female: You know – the docks, [Crosstalk 0:16:36] and the coal mining-

Respondent 1: Yes.

Female: And the downturn in [place] was the same time as there was a big economic downturn in [place].

Respondent 1: They used to call them the [place]. The biggest part of them was in [place].

Female: (Laughter) They are called [place] now, aren’t they?

Respondent 1: Yes.

Female: It’s all posh now.

Respondent 1: All posh, it is and modern and quite expensive to live there, I believe.

Interviewer: Do you still live in [place]?

Respondent 1: I live in [place] now. I’ve not always lived in [place]. I was born down the road in [place], in 1947. I moved down to [place] in 1950, I think it was. I stopped at my gran’s with my mum and dad. Then they got a house. I can always remember going to this new council house because we were walking down the street and my dad said to me, “King George VI died this morning.” I hadn’t a clue. I didn’t know who he was or anything then. It’s always stuck in my mind, that has.

Then we moved to [place] in this new house. I stayed there until 1981. We got married. We moved down to [place]l. Then we moved into [place] in 1996. That’s where I am now – just on the outskirts of [place]. It’s in [place] and I enjoy living there. Nice neighbours. Friendly neighbours. That’s what you want. It’s convenient. A good bus service. Tram service. It’s about a 10-minute walk.

Interviewer: Yes.

Respondent 1: That’s it. I’ve been there now since 1996 and I hope to finish my days there. Then, when my wife passed away in 2003 on St Valentine’s Day, in the March I thought, “I’d better start doing something. I can’t sit around moping.”

So, the housing association called the [name], had an open day at [place] Town Hall. So I went to have a look what was going on. I got talking to one of the managers there. I spent the next 10 years on their committee, until they got rid of us all. They had a reorganisation and everything had to be done online and smiley faces. “What do you rate: 1 to 10?” You know? They just got shot of us all.

So, I went back. I had two operations on my feet. About nine months later, I was in the library. There was this computer course advertised. The librarian said, “Would you like to go on it?” I said, “I might as well.” Then, the following Monday I turned up with about eight others and we took the course. I got my laptop and they said to me, “You’ve done alright. Would you like to volunteer helping us out?” I said, “Yes, okay then.” I’ve been doing it ever since. That’s one of my volunteering jobs – helping out with Tech and Tea.

The other volunteering jobs – I’m chair of the British Transport Pensions Federation, [place] Branch-

Interviewer: Yes.

Respondent 1: Which meets every three months. I’m also with the NHS – a volunteer with [place] Health and Care.

Interviewer: What do you do there?

Respondent 1: I’m on the Patient and Public Action Group. We meet every month. We discuss anything that’s new, that’s not been tested yet. We give our views. There are about 16 of us altogether. We check the paperwork and see if it’s worth being implemented. If it is, it will go to the board. If it’s not, we just send it back to them.

Interviewer: Yes.

Respondent 1: I’m also on the [Quality 0:21:30] and the Performance Board for the NHS, which meets every month, discussing targets. Why haven’t they met this target? Why haven’t they met that target? It’s very interesting. Last month I had 245 pages to read (Laughter) before the meeting. It takes me four nights to do it.

Interviewer: Yes.

Respondent 1: So, I’m still quite busy, like.

Interviewer: [You are really incredibly busy 0:21:55].

Respondent 1: Then I’ve got to report back to the Patient and Public Action Group what went on there as well. So, it’s all go. There are other things as well. There are workshops and knowledge briefings and all sorts. I’m an inspector for the CCG – the hospitals and the nursing homes and that. Mind you, I’ve not done that for 12 months. You have to go round every two years or so and make certain everything is… There are three of you that go.

Interviewer: You’re very busy.

Respondent 1: I’m quite busy, you know.

Interviewer: What do you like about volunteering?

Respondent 1: Keeping me busy. I’ve got no qualms about it. It’s my choice. It’s something different every day, near enough. I do get times when I think, “That’s it. I’m going to have a few days off.” I book a holiday somewhere. Off I go to Amsterdam, Switzerland. I went to Switzerland three weeks ago, you know. I went via Amsterdam.

Female: \_\_\_[0:23:17].

Respondent 1: I got on the plane at Amsterdam. I got to Basel in Switzerland. I got off the plane, got on the bus, got into Basel, about to get off the bus. “Where’s my shoulder bag? I’ve left it on the plane.” (Laughter)

Interviewer: Did you miss anything in the end?

Respondent 1: All my cards were in there.

Interviewer: Oh, yes.

Respondent 1: My euros, my swiss francs, my pounds. All I had on me was my passport.

Interviewer: Did they send it to you?

Respondent 1: No. I got the bus straight back. When I got to the airport, I went to the KLM, Air France desk. It was shut. So, I went back into the Arrivals hall. I went to the police office. They directed me to the lost and found. They said, “Oh, no. You want the one in France, down the other side.” I went down there. I thought, “I’ve seen the last of this.” I got down there and knocked on the door. The light was on. I opened the door. There is my bag on the table.

Interviewer: Oh.

Respondent 1: (Laughter)

Interviewer: That was lucky.

Respondent 1: I’ve never been more relieved in my life.

Interviewer: Yes, I can imagine.

Respondent 1: How I managed not to pick it up, I don’t know.

Interviewer: Yes.

Respondent 1: It was under the seat in front.

Interviewer: Yes.

Respondent 1: I’ll make sure it won’t happen again.

Interviewer: Yes.

Respondent 1: That’s a fact.

Interviewer: It sounds like you are incredibly active in terms of community service, really.

Respondent 1: Yes.

Interviewer: Is that important to you?

Respondent 1: Yes. [I get the 0:24:55] community and that user friendly. It’s not a bad community. Most of it is user friendly. There is always something to do.

Interviewer: Yes.

Respondent 1: Actually, I’ve got a leaflet in my bag in the hotel. It was the Annual General Meeting of the [place] one. I’ll show it to you tomorrow, if you want.

Interviewer: Yes. That would be-

Respondent 1: It’s got all the figures in: What we do.

Interviewer: That would be brilliant, yes.

Respondent 1: My picture is on the front.

Interviewer: (Laughter) Poster boy. (Laughter)

Respondent 1: (Laughter) Dear me. I don’t know.

Interviewer: That sounds really great. Are you thinking about expanding your radio programme to talk about other things in your life? Is it really just focused on jazz?

Respondent 1: No. Like I say, I’ll talk about [place] and that and the different things. Perhaps, I don’t know whether they want any music playing or not. I don’t know. I mean, I can still do the jazz if they want me to do, as a separate entity and every now and again just do one of these ‘Where was I on that date?’ sort of things. You know?

Interviewer: Yes.

Respondent 1: ‘All Our Yesterplays’. That sort of thing. Yes.

Interviewer: It sounds really good.

Respondent 1: So long as they want me at [station], I’ll be there.

Interviewer: Yes.

Respondent 1: I mean, nothing is certain, I don’t think. Nothing is 100% anywhere, no matter what you do, I suppose. I’m enjoying what I’m doing with them.

Interviewer: Yes.

Respondent 1: They are nice people, as well.

Interviewer: It’s fun, isn’t it?

Respondent 1: It’s a fun day.

Interviewer: Yes.

Respondent 1: It soon flies by, the day. It’s just like today. It’s flown today, actually.

Interviewer: Yes.

Respondent 1: It’s a nice experience: Something which I hadn’t dreamed of ever seeing, all this.

Interviewer: (Laughter) Yes.

Respondent 1: I didn’t know it existed, to be quite honest with you.

Interviewer: Yes.

Respondent 1: Yes, it’s marvellous. Whether I can get technical and as savvy as what these people do, I don’t know.

Interviewer: Yes.

Respondent 1: My young nephew is at senior school. He’s about 14 now. He’s computer programming as part of his lessons.

Interviewer: Yes.

Respondent 1: He’s doing very well, I believe. We never had anything like that when I was at school.

Interviewer: Yes.

Respondent 1: Mind you, they weren’t invented then.

Interviewer: (Laughter) Yes. I think it’s really nice to see how you are taking your show and you want to actually produce your own show, edit your own show and create the content.

Respondent 1: I do, yes.

Interviewer: It’s just nice to see that you want to be in the whole process from the beginning to the output, really.

Respondent 1: Yes. If [person] joins me, he’ll have to have some share of it as well.

Interviewer: Yes.

Respondent 1: Whether he’s that savvy or not… I don’t know how much he knows about it. Yes, I wouldn’t mind at all. I’m game, definitely. The other lady that I did the programme with, she might join us. I don’t know. I can always ask her.

Interviewer: Yes.

Respondent 1: She’s one of these who likes the high life and what have you. When I mention university, she’ll be there probably. (Laughter)

Interviewer: (Laughter) Yes, you can mention it to her.

Respondent 1: Yes. I’ll say, “Would you like to go to [place] University?” “Oh, yes please.”

Interviewer: (Laughter)

Respondent 1: Yes. “Are we going by taxi?” I’ll say, “No, we’re not. We’re going by train.” (Laughter) Yes, it’s been very good. I’ve enjoyed today very much.

Interviewer: Good. I’m glad you did.

Respondent 1: You’re a lovely lady, as well.

Interviewer: Thank you.

Respondent 1: You are. You’ve a lovely smile on you.

Interviewer: If you finish the day with a smartphone, I mean-

Respondent 1: Yes. That would be the ultimate. It would.

Interviewer: Yes.

Respondent 1: Who knows what’s going to happen in the next four hours. (Laughter)

Interviewer: Yes. Right, should we wrap it up and grab some dinner maybe?

END AUDIO

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