

Julian Lockett Interview: May 10th 2016

Interview at The Avenue, Brockhall Village, with Nigel Ingham

Introductory chat.

(0:00:55.1) Moved to Brock as a family 1970. Father - Chief Nursing Officer. Mother - Ward Sister on Karen Ward - 'for more violent and disturbed residents'. Lived in grounds, near former church. Near tennis court. there until 1974.

(0:01:31.6) Father changed things. Arrival - 'almost like a military establishment. Residents moved from ward to ward in almost a marching sort of style.' All female residents - white ankle socks. Father stopped that because depersonalising. Changed military regime. Father 'quite social'. Had close friend network in area - mixture of those at hospital and others. Regular at a couple of local pubs. Julian - 'I have very pleasant memories of my childhood here.'

(0:02:33.4) Previously father Deputy Assistant at Carstairs. Mum and Dad after school - both on psychiatric nursing. Met at college. JL spent childhood at psychiatric hospitals because of parents. That was his 'normal'. Majority of friends sons/daughters of staff because majority lived on site. Quite insular.

(0:04:12.5) Born Dec 3 1960. Came to B aged 10. Final primary school year at St Mary's in Langho. 'Absolutely fantastic' growing up at B. Loads of facilities to use - tennis courts, crown green bowling, football/hockey pitches, pitch and putt area. Reflections. Residents - some of whom he thought then that shouldn't be there. e.g. residents members of B Sunday football team. Found residents to be 'normal people'. Unthreatened. Not discuss with mum and dad.

(0:06:47.2) Parents never mentioned anyone passing away. Parents kept work and home separate. Extremely rare - if at all - for work to be discussed at home. Not go with mum to Karen because high security ward, but went into father's office 'on fairly regular basis'. Also went to joiners for shavings for pet rabbits. Friend's father worked in Bakery. Not go on wards but walked round hospital 'on a daily basis'.

(0:08:36.9) Good relationships with residents. 2 or 3 female residents in kitchens give J and his friends roast potatoes etc. Wondering what these people doing in B. 'Ordinary people'. Others thought could see why in B. But felt c15% of residents in contact with 'like me and you.' 'Most pleasant days of my childhood were here.' Further reflections.

(0:10:18.3) Graveyard. 'When we were children here we didn't know that existed... We were never told anything about things like that.' Wonders why never told.

(0:11:32.5) Movement as a child in the hospital. No go areas. One area - told not go because 'that's where the very low grade patients are.' As teenage group (staff children) main meeting place sports fields at bottom (where B Rovers train now), near farm. Swim in Ribble + nearby brook.

(0:13:31.7) Mauritian nurses. One married a local man. Still lives locally. 2 - 300 Mauritian nurses lived near J on site. J had lot of interaction with some of men. Played football with them. Only non-British people came across before were Italians because of Roman Catholic upbringing. Quite a few Italian nurses on site. Italians J knew - their parents had been POWs at B. 4 or 5 generations of Italians.

(0:16:15.8) Status of his father as Chief Male Nursing Officer - overall second in command but on site in charge. 'One of his projects was with the high grade patients make them more self sufficient.' Says something about 4 independent units his father set up. Resistance from some of the 'old school' staff. Trying to introduce more purpose into people's lives.

(0:19:58.2) 'I can never remember anybody ever leaving here.' Thought residents must have but no memory. Knew of staff resistance because of discussions between father and mother.

(0:20:36.9) Religion. Sunday masses held in Recreation Hall. Whole family go (although father not RC). Residents came to mass as well.

(0:22:07.2) School. 1971 - J went to St Augustines in Billington after left Langho. Lot of B staff kids went there. 90% of J's circle were B related. Lots of staff at B - nurses and others. Outside attitudes to B - 'unpleasant comments made towards us and obviously towards the patients. I mean it still goes on now doesn't it?' gives e.g of someone he knows now. As a kid describes his responses to name calling. Verbal then often physical confrontations. 'I feel privileged that I have been through it because it gave me a huge stepping stone in later life to be very diverse and accept other opinions and be very open-minded.' Fed into work practices. As a policeman involved nationally with post Stephen Lawrence changes in police service. 'Got the grounding from here.'

(0:26:58.8) Talks about how this background impacted on his police role as a Family Liaison Officer - called in after a homicide or very serious crime. Describes the instance of working with the family after one of the most high profile murders ever in Lincolnshire. 'I think being brought up here... did assist me greatly in later life.'

(0:28:55.7) Women residents with white ankle socks. Father changed it. Describes his wider impressions of clothing. Female residents wearing pink dresses. His memory is of the women being marched around more than men. Recalls some of 'high grade male residents' working in bakery, laundry. Memory they just wore ordinary work clothes - same as staff.

(0:30:26.5) Describes nursing uniforms - including Mauritians. Father wore suit.

(0:31:21.6) Farm. Next to sports fields. Livestock. Never went to farm. Talked recently to a Polish man who worked on the farm.

(0:33:15.7) Summer 1974 Father promoted to District Nursing Officer. Moved to Wrightington Hospital at Wigan. Mother stopped working after moved. Later in 1974 Father died. Family moved to Caistor, Lincs. Always lived in hospital accommodation so had to find own accomm. Mother's parents lived in Caistor. Mother had 4 children at that point. J left home at 16 and a half.

(0:35:33.0) Parents shift patterns at Brock. Shared out child care. Mother did early shifts and week-ends. Father 9-10 hour Monday to Friday. 'My father was off Saturdays and Sundays so he'd look after us from the local public house and - ! Memories of sat at the bottom of the stairs with my bag of crisps!' Father on-call at week-ends.

(0:37:05.1) Social side of staff life. Hospital social club (building still exists). Mother and father no go in there because of his seniority. Parents used to go to Black Bull (nearby) and Tanners Arms in Dinkley. Describes connection to people - through an old friend - who used to run Tanners Arms. Tanners Arms - both residents and staff used to drink regularly in there. 'These must have been high grade patients.'

(0:40:37.6) Terms. J explains how as a youngster he would be making 'grading' calculations. Mother's and father's respective families had all worked in the area of mental health. Expected that J would follow in their footsteps. J not want to. 'If we're here now for example and it was open... and residents coming in I'd say high grade, middle grade or low grade. I would describe them as that, yes.'

(0:41:40.6) Not really recall changes introduced by father, other than those mentioned. Discusses his appointment as deliberate to introduce change at Brockhall. Time of 1971 'Better services'.

(0:43:54.8) Relationship to Calderstones. Aware as a child of its existence and father visiting there. Remembers his father saying, 'It is a smaller version of Brockhall.' J never went there.

(0:45:44.0) Wards. High risk ward for men as well. Not recall Johnswood - think he would have done because father's name John. Female wards named after flowers, except Karen - former Chief NO named it after his wife.

(0:47:00.3) Looking at Brock plan (1979). Discuss location of various places - including where lived.

(0:49:34.5) Brock School. Maths teacher from St Augustine's did some voluntary teaching at the hospital school. School no go area for Julian and friends. Altho' old double decker bus in school's play area. J and friends told off for playing in it - but carried on! Recalls Fire Station + Fire Engine. Large torch in engine. J and kids borrowed large torch to go down into ventilation shafts which ran under whole site. Still looking at map and locating and describing places. Used to be a security lodge 24 hours a day.

(0:53:44.1) J's House - very close to Karen Ward. Describes house. Attached to Mauritian nurses quarters - locked door. Garden. Memories of table tennis, trampoline in gym., badminton. Church tower. On the 1979 map house part of 'Female Hostel'. Seem to be more female wards than male wards. Discusses this. Looking at aerial photo - finding places on that. Commenting on size of place.

(1:00:57.1) J does some reading in hotel - claim that largest 'mental hospital' in Europe. Discussion about relative sizes of Calderstones and Brockhall. Discussion about what happened to people after B closed in 1992.

(1:05:57.4) J thought from what his father had said that Calder something 'like a 40 (bedded) unit sort of place.' Discuss actual figures in table on laptop. Discuss Calder, Brock and Royal Albert histories.