

## One & Other Project

[Interview conducted from *Skype to Skype* without video]

*My name is Verusca Calabria and I'm interviewing today Louise Barrett on the twenty-third of March 2010, at about nine am on behalf of Random House Group as part of the One & Other Project. So Louise, thank you very much for agreeing to be interviewed today.*

Oh that's okay, thank you.

*So as you know, I'm here really as a follow-up from your time on the plinth, because you were interviewed before you went on the plinth, but we don't really know what it was like once you were on the plinth and following, or coming off the plinth time. So I'm just trying to really bring you back to that time if you can remember it. Perhaps talk about your time on the plinth just as a warm up question?*

Yes, sure. I applied to go on the plinth because I wanted to raise awareness into cot death, so when I got the call to say that I'd been accepted, obviously it was excellent. And so I didn't really know what I wanted to do whilst I was up there, so what I decided to do in the end, after a lot of thinking, was just to sit there and tell a story of my son who died very small from cot death, so that other people could realize that they weren't the only people that were affected by such a thing, because I'm quite an outgoing sort of person and quite happy to talk about it, whereas I think a lot of people may not be, because it's quite a touchy subject, talking about the death of a child. So what I wanted to make people understand is that they're not the only person to go through it and, and for other people who had not lost a child, what you actually do go through, with if fact there is a police investigation and the funeral to organize and all this sort of thing and all the follow-up after that, because once you, if you've been pregnant for nine months and then have a baby and then all of a sudden it's gone, it's, a very strange sort of feeling. So that's what I wanted to get across to people. So I took my laptop with me, got that so that it was on the internet, used a 3G modem, took my chair and sat there to broadcast to the world really. I took questions via twitter and *Facebook* so that people could contact me whilst I was up there so although the plinth was a very lonely experience in, in one way that I was there by myself, it was actually really quite comforting that particularly the people on twitter, were there asking me questions and giving me encouragement and telling me their own stories. There were people that had contacted me from America, all over the UK, telling me that they had been in a similar position, or they'd had miscarriages or so on, and so it was, it was really nice that they would be in touch with me whilst I was in quite a lonely place really.

*Thank you for that. So just to bring you back to the story that you told, both my colleague in the pre-plinth interview and also I watched you when you were on the plinth, you know just recently*

Yes.

*When did your child die?*

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It was seven years ago. So it would have been about six and a half years ago at that point.

*Okay, and would you mind telling me more about the foundation that you've been supporting in terms of when did they come into contact with you and your family and how did they help you?*

They came into contact with our family almost immediately. The hospital will always put you in touch with someone who can offer you support, and someone for you to talk to really, people who have been through a similar thing because my aunt had lost a baby five years before, but he'd been born stillborn, so it was slightly different, so, but that was the only contact I'd had with anybody that had lost a child, so it was quite nice to be able to talk to people that understood how we felt and the foundation for studying infant death do research into what causes cot death, and to find out exactly what goes on, so we've been quite heavily involved with them ever since. We've done quite a lot of fundraising for them, we've done a coast-to-coast bike ride, and I'm running the London marathon next month. We do the, there's a mile in memory walk every year so we've been quite heavily involved with them pretty much from the beginning, and they really are a very supportive group of people. They have a befriending programme, so for instance my mother didn't handle it very well at the time and they, they put her in touch with grandmothers who had been in a similar sort of position, because for my mum it was her first grandchild, and so she was able to speak to someone else who had been through the same sort of thing, so that my mum realized that she wasn't the only person that had been affected in this way and there was somebody out there that understood how she felt.

*What kind of support did you get personally?*

Well a similar sort of thing really. It's that they, they give you lots of information. I, I was less wanting to talk to somebody about my feelings, because that's, although I'm quite an outgoing sort of person, I'm very private when it comes to how I'm feeling about things. That's why, standing on the plinth was quite an interesting experience for me, because I've never really told my whole story and the people from, from the foundation were there, so they've seen it as well, and they've used it in some of their marketing material. But, for me directly, for me and my husband, they provide us with written communication quite a lot. We're in touch with the people there by email and there's always somebody there if we did want to talk. It wasn't suitable for what we wanted out of it, but because of all the research that they've done, I've read up quite a lot of what they've done so that I, for me you see it was very difficult because I, I can't see how somebody can die for no reason and that's what I found very difficult out of the whole thing because cot death doesn't mean anything, it just means that they don't know what your child died of, and I find it very frustrating that no one can say he had a heart condition, or he had a liver problem, or he had a kidney problem, that there was no apparent reason for his death, so that's, what they've given me is somewhere to be able to start so that I can do you know read up on their research and the investigations that they've done.

*Ok. Just to bring you back to the cot death, so you've said they don't know what causes it?*

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Well there's been lots of research since so you know, some, there's been research in New Zealand to say that it might be something to do with the mattresses and the toxins that come from used mattresses, and there's been more research recently that, I don't understand a lot of it because I'm not a medical person, but um but yes, to all intense and purposes, nobody knows why a baby dies for no apparent reason and cot death is just the term for it, but yes nobody knows really what causes it.

*And how common of cause is it of death in children?*

Nowadays, there's about three hundred deaths a year, so it's much, much better than it used to be. About twenty years ago, it used to be about two or three thousand babies a year. But they did a big campaign, I don't know how long you've been in the UK, but there's been, there was a big campaign at the time from Ann Diamond, who's child had died, where you put the baby's feet at the bottom of the cot, so and that, and then you also put them on their back as well so you don't sleep them on their front or on their side. If they put them on their back, they're less likely to die as well. So with all of that research, they discovered ways to help prevent it. And more recently they've discovered as well that if your baby has a dummy, it's less likely to die from cot death as well. So all that sort of thing has made it a much less common occurrence. So like say only three hundred deaths a year. Obviously three hundred too many, but so much better than it was.

*Okay, thank you Louise. Now just to bring you back to the time when you went on the plinth. You mentioned that you wanted to tell the story of what happened to you, to make sure that you could inspire other people to feel like there were others out there that had the same experiences and so on, but really what I really like to know is how you felt once you were on the plinth, what was it like?*

Initially, I was quite scared because it was quite high up and I don't do heights but fortunately for me it was the middle of the night so I couldn't see the ground, so because the lights were so bright, I soon got over that fear. And I found as I was going along, it was quite a release really and I told, I told the cameras I suppose, things that I'd never told anybody else, and my feelings and how I'd felt at the time, because at the end of the day, there's a police investigation when a child dies at home in that sort of way and I suppose to all intense and purposes, the first thing they're going to try and discount is the fact that you, you didn't murder the child, so it's very hard to explain to somebody that you have in some ways been investigating, investigated for the murder of a child. Although, there was, there was never any suspicion by the police and the police were fantastic. What I, what wanted to get across to people was that, or that police sometimes do get a bad rap over these sorts of cases and the fact that they can be quite insensitive, but in our actual case, the police were brilliant, and it was things like that that I wanted to get across to people, that whilst I was there, it was, I suppose it was almost a release really just to tell people. It was a bit like a counseling session but by myself.

*And now just to think about what happened when you came down from the plinth, immediately after. Do you remember what happened?*

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Well I felt like I'd wanted to stay up there and to carry on. It was, it was quite a weird feeling really, the fact that I'd spoken to so many people around the world and it's, it's almost a bit of a letdown I think, coming down and not having that anymore. And since then I've spoken to other people that have been up the plinth, and they've said a similar sort of thing is that it was such a unique experience that you can't explain to somebody really who's not done it, you know the feeling of when you came down. It was, it was, it was weird and then we drove home so we had four hours in the car to get home and every, when it was my turn to drive, everyone else was asleep in the car and it's all I thought about for the whole of the journey home. It was really quite a bizarre feeling and I kind of miss it. It's, which really sounds quite pathetic, but it's I think it's because it's something that had never been done before and that was so, you get so involved with the people who had organized it and other people that had done it. For instance, the people who had set up on twitter a time, we've all kept in touch, so you know I must have made about fifteen friends as a result of it. And we've all kept in touch. So we've all sort of in some ways I suppose clung on to the experience.

*Okay, so when you mentioned you've spoken to others, you mean the people that you have kept in touch via twitter?*

That's correct yes.

*And are you still in touch with them?*

Yes, yes, definitely. They are, they all know I'm talking to you this morning. I wasn't sure if it was a secret or not.

*No, it's not a secret for sure, because your interviews are going to public archives, so don't worry. Okay, so just to try and understand really the power of the interaction, using the internet and social networking sites from your point of view, how do you think this operated really in the choice of what you did on the plinth, I mean I know that you wanted to talk about the cot death, but also the ways that you chose to talk about it, how much do you think the online audience influenced your choice?*

It was key. It wouldn't have been the same without the internet, absolutely. The fact that so many people have seen the video of the hour since, the people that had asked questions during it, the fact that from the *Facebook* point of view, my friends and family, every single one of them watched, everybody stayed up late. I had the midnight slot so they all stayed up late. They all sent me messages of support through the *Facebook*. The twitter people who were people I didn't particularly know, you know, they all kept in touch with me, during my hour. And to, and also from that point, I raised two hundred and fifteen pounds through my just giving site, so whilst I was up there, in the hour I was up there, people were donating online to my charity. So my hour would have been very different without the internet. And I don't think it would have had the effect that it did as a result of the internet really.

*Okay. Can I just check something with you Louise, are you maybe playing with something with your hands or moving something, because now and again I hear some feedback, just some noise?*

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Oh I'm sorry, I fidget, I'm sorry [laughs].

*Don't worry, I can tell because I'm recording, don't worry about that. Okay, so this online audience again, do you think it might have had an influence on things you might have left out, the fact that you knew so many people were there to watch you and sort of support you as well?*

No, I don't think so. I think I probably spoke more honestly because I knew there were so many people watching and listening. And I wanted them to know what I had said. I think had they have not been there, it's, you probably right, possibly I might have left things out, but because people would contact me via the internet and ask questions, it made me remember things that I had not written down. I had taken a notebook with me that, um I had pointers of the things I knew I wanted to talk about. But there were things I had forgotten and when people asked questions I, I remembered things that I hadn't written down and possibly things I hadn't remembered for the past six years that came back to me as a result of the questions people asked.

*I understand. So you mentioned that quite a few people began to tell you about difficult experiences that they had.*

Yes, they did yes, there was a few people that had contacted me and said that they'd had miscarriages or knew someone that had had a cot death baby. I happened to mention that Ellis' cord, umbilical cord was huge and that it was very different than when I had my next baby. And so there was a bit of a conversation about umbilical cords because someone else had said that that was linked in to sometimes into a heart condition that they knew of. So I never managed to keep up with whoever that person was, that would have been interesting to carry on that conversation and afterwards, so it was, it was quite interesting to get other people's perspective on some of the things that I had never spoken to anybody else about before.

*Okay, so what would you say the impact on people that were watching you online, or people that were following you on twitter or Facebook, or on the One & Other website?*

Yes, they were, they were extremely moved, and so many people since then have said to me that they think that my plinth hour was one of the best they'd ever seen with regards to the you know the sad stories that were told. Because there were quite a lot of sad stories told up there I think. But I think people were moved by mine possibly one because it was a child, but also because I was so honest. I told people exactly what I felt and exactly, and in my own words and included in it, the humour side of things [background noise], so it wasn't all a doom and gloom hour, you know it was funny as well [sirens in the background] and my family were there so I, and I interacted, interact with the crowd a little bit, so I think people just saw it, it was a very brave thing to do because not many people would stand up there and tell that sort of story.

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*Yes, of course and in fact it would be perhaps good for you to tell us more about how it affected you afterwards, what was the impact on your personal experience?*

*I... well, I felt kind of relieved really that, because some of the things I said, I hadn't spoken to anybody about, not even my husband and for instance when we got home the next day, because my mum and dad had actually come with us, they hadn't heard or seen what I had said, so they watched it when they got home. And my dad cried through it, and I've never seen my dad cry ever and so it kind of changed my relationship in some ways to some people because they, they kind of understood how I was at the time. Because I'm a very British stiff upper lip. I'm a bit like well this has happened, let's deal with it, let's get on with it. You know, there's nothing we can do to change it, and other people for instance, my husband, he fell to pieces. He was, it was just absolutely, I don't know how to explain it but I mean he was, it well he wasn't like I was, being getting on with it I suppose and so I think people when they saw my hour on the plinth, realized why I was like the way I was at the time. So but, people who didn't know me, obviously it was, all they saw was a brave woman talking about what she'd been through, but with regards to people that did know me, I think that it opened their eyes as to the fact that I had, it wasn't that I was being cold or anything like that, I was, I was just I suppose trying to be brave for everybody else at the time.*

*Yes, so just to re-elaborate, what do you think the plinth provided to you in terms of opening up so much to people close to you? What was the difference?*

Well I suppose I could tell them my story but without looking into their faces. I think sometimes it's always, it's easier to hide behind a screen and tell your story. I've written articles before and people have read those and so it's easy to, I suppose, hide behind the story if you can't see their faces. And so I think from my point of view, it was an easier way of doing it, because if I was telling that story while somebody was looking at me, I probably would have cried. And I did have one close moment on the plinth where I, when was talking about the funeral that I came very close to crying, but I didn't cry and I think had somebody been there with me, and I was telling them the story, then I almost certainly would have done, and I think that that gets away with what I was trying to get across to people really.

*Okay, thank you, and now just to think about the impact on the foundation that you've been supporting. You mentioned that they used some of the parts of your time on the plinth for the marketing material. Have they had any way of telling how your time on the plinth might have impacted on the services?*

I don't know to be perfectly honest. That's a really good question, I ought to ask them what sort of results there as, because they had two people up on the plinth. There was me and they had another lady from ... they have a teenage parent website, called *Bubbalicious*<sup>1</sup> and the lady from there, she, she went up on the plinth as well and so she told a story from a very, from a different point of view, because she was trying to promote a new website to do with young parents. So I think they got quite a

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<sup>1</sup> [www.bubbalicious.co.uk](http://www.bubbalicious.co.uk)

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lot of response from that one as well. They used it in their promotion, the fact that someone had been up there and told their story, I suppose. What they did with me is shortly afterwards, I wrote an article for them, which was published, they have a monthly newsletter so I wrote my article and that appeared in the monthly newsletter then with a link to the One & Other site so that people could go and read it. But how many people clicked through that link, I don't know. It would be an interesting thing to find out really and whether they still tell people that it's there, I don't know.

*Talking about media attention, did you get any other journalists, or television companies interested in what you were doing on the plinth?*

Yes, I'm a bit into getting awareness and so and so, the local paper covered it, the local radio, TV, so yes there was quite a lot of media attention locally for it.

*Was it that before or after?*

Well the TV, I was actually on, the TV the day that I went, then they did a follow-up shortly after. The radio I was on, I was on the radio before and then their newspaper they did an article about it the day after I had an interview with them on the Sunday, and then they did quite a big spread which went over two pages in the local paper so there was, there was quite good media coverage. But yes a bit of both really, some before, some after.

*Ok, I'm just thinking about one of the things you said when you were on the plinth, when you were talking your experience of losing your child, you mentioned that you had a difficult birth of your second baby?*

I did yes. I'm not very good at having children it seems. The second baby was born breach, and because I was in a midwifery ledge unit, there were no doctors, so there were no chances of cesarean or anything and he was on his way and the first they knew, was a foot came out and so yes, I'd, he was delivered breach. He ended up in special care for about twenty-four hours right as ray now of course. But yes that was all a bit frightening at the time, so we've never gone on to having any more children. We just thought like cut our losses and stick with the one that we've got [laughs].

*And how was that, that experience of having such a fright?*

Oh it was horrendous, but it's weird isn't it, it's almost like these things come to test you and they're trying, they test the people that they know will be alright with it, but it was very frightening at the time because he was born in a birthing pool, and by and once he was born, he looked dead, and I just thought I don't know that I could cope with having a second dead child. But as it happens, he was just very cold and he it'd obviously been quite a traumatic experience for him, because most of his body had been born but then it took about twenty minutes for his head to come out so once they'd put him on like a warming machine and given him oxygen, he came around and he was fine. He didn't feed for quite some time but other than that, he was actually fine. And he was a good sized baby so he was eight pound two, so he, he had a good start in life I suppose, the fact that he was a little bit bigger so you know he had the fight in him.

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*How is he now?*

He's nearly six and it's funny because I always say to him he was awkward since the day he was born, but yes he's a very lively six year old. Very much, he's a lovely little boy really. He is, he is, he's it makes me sad sometimes because I think had Ellis have lived, Alex may never have been born and that makes me sad, but I, he's he is such a lively child and such a cheerful child that we've been very lucky with him so I suppose everything happens for a reason doesn't it, but yes he is a very lovely little boy.

*And how are you coping with having the loss of Ellis now, looking back after all these years?*

Well, it, the sadness and the pain never really goes away but you learn to live with it, you just ... because you don't have a choice. You just have to get on with it. It's one of those things, there's nothing you can do to change it. There's nothing I could have, nothing more I could have done to prevent it, and then when Alex came along, we had been for some resuscitation training. He had an apnea monitor which monitored him for the first two months so that if he were to stop breathing, an alarm would sound, so we did all of those sorts of things with him, but it's difficult to explain to Alex that his brother had died before he was born and he's really sad about that, but we've never kept it from him. So he's known all along that he wasn't technically an only child, even though really he is now. But he's yes it is a very, very sad thing that's happened but there's nothing I can do to change it so life must go on and it really does for us. What we do is we raise the money for the foundation for sudden infant death so that we can hopefully in time find out why it happens and prevent other families going through what we did.

*And how is the marathon training going then for your fundraising?*

Oh, I'm never doing another one, I can tell you that for nothing, but the training I've pulled a hamstring, I've had a sore foot, and my legs always ache. I've never been a runner before so I've only been training since August, but I'll do it. There's absolutely no doubt about that because I'm running for such a good reason, I'm not sure I'll do another marathon, but I'll definitely keep up the running but it's yes, it's it's been hard work. And so far we've raised about fifteen hundred pounds, so hopefully we can get some more than that as well. That's yes, it's definitely one of the hardest things I've done.

*And where is the marathon and how long is it going to be?*

It's the London marathon and it's twenty-six miles or so, but I think it'll take me probably about six hours.

*Okay thanks for that. I'm just really like to go back again to what you said about your family being affected by your time on the plinth and then really understanding your experience from a novel point of view. Can you tell me what else might have come out of that experience for your family, or in other words how were they affected by it?*



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I think that they were possibly seeing me in a different light with how I, how I was once they'd seen what I you know, understood what I felt at the time with some things I'd not told them at the time, but I also think that for my family, they were immensely proud that I had the guts to stand up there and tell my story and I know that they're proud because they're constantly telling other people about it. And my boss at work, he's the same, because often if someone comes in and they're chatting about something, he'll say oh well Louise was on the plinth last year, and she was really good and he's quite, when I told him that I would be late into work today because I was doing this with you, he said, he said I think your hour was definitely one of the best hours, because we watched it quite a lot in the office, so we'd seen a few, but he also had said that I think he was quite surprised because I did, I worked for the same company I work for now, was when I had the baby then and I had some time off work obviously and I don't think I ever really told anyone at work the sort of things that you would maybe say to your close friends outside of work. So for them, they really got to understand where I was coming from at the time. And certainly for the new people that I work with that didn't know me at the time, they, I think they were quite surprised because I think they sometimes at work see me as quite this loud, brash sort of person that possibly can be quite cold and not feeling, do you know what I mean. Not mean at that sort of way, but quite hard at work and suppose and don't, I don't let my home life interfere with my work and so I quite often don't talk about it and so I think for the people who are new to me, inside and outside of work really, so friends that I've made since. I think it was quite an eye opener for them, that actually I could have this sort of feeling and you know tell people about something that is really quite close and personal to me.

*So you're saying that the experience has changed the relationships you care about in a positive way?*

Oh absolutely, absolutely yes, no hesitation about that, definitely.

*And I'm just wondering because in the previous interview, only mentioned your husband, you know just in passing.*

Yes.

*How was it for him to have you on the plinth?*

Well I think he, he was immensely proud because, because he didn't cope with it very well at the time and he's not been one really to talk about the whole time, since then. I think brought back an awful lot of memories for him and we have talked about it quite a lot and he's, he's watched my hour back obviously and he pretty much cried the whole way through so I think that it made us as a couple talk about it more than perhaps we even did seven years ago because we'd both reacted in such different ways at the time. It's, it's I think that it's it's difficult to say really but we have talked about it more now since September than we did I think at the time, so I think it's had a positive effect on our relationship too because I think he understands how I felt and now since then, he's told me more about how he felt at the time. And so I think it's had a very positive effect there also.

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*I see. You also mentioned that your hour was going to be like a counseling or therapeutic session, but then you sort of said not really, you wanted to tell the story and then you mentioned in the previous interview that you didn't also had counseling at the time when your child died.*

And that's something I think we probably should have done to be fair. And I think that, so doing my hour on the plinth and talking in that way, was the counseling session I probably should have had six years, or six years or seven years ago. And because it was such a release to talk about it in the way that I did and to go right from the beginning of getting pregnant right through to straight after the funeral and then things that we had done since, I honestly think if anyone ever came to me now and said they'd lost a child, I would say, really would encourage them to have counseling because I think you really do need to talk about it and I don't think that we did enough at the time, which is why after I'd come off the plinth, that my husband had seen it, I think we talked more about it then, and so, although I might have said that on the plinth that it was less like a counseling session, I think to all intense and purposes, it really was.

*So have you done any counseling since?*

No. Do I take any of my own advice, do I really? But, I think I got from the plinth what I wanted to out of a counseling session anyway. I'd spoken openly about it and I also I suppose in some ways because I've done a lot of radio interviews and newspaper interviews and written articles, I think I've had my counseling I suppose in that way since the event, but I think I possibly should have seen a counselor at the time, but I don't think it's particularly necessary now.

*Ok, now we're coming towards the end of the interview now, and I just wanted to ask you a bit more about your life really, your background, you mentioned to my colleague in the previous interview about your father being in the army, but you never told us what he was doing really and where he was stationed and you mentioned you were moving around a lot as a child.*

Well I was born in Bedford and then we lived at Aldershot as well. After that we moved to Germany. I have a sister who, she was born in Aldershot. My dad was stationed in Germany. We went, we lived there twice, the second time we lived there, my sister and I went to boarding school in London, but my dad worked for the signals division so did things like the radios, Morse code and all that sort of thing. I didn't really understand it at all, antennas, that sort of which interestingly I do now. I sell antennas so it's a bit of a turn around, at the time I didn't understand it all. But so yes we lived in Germany a couple of times, but then, he finished in the early eighties, we lived at Leconfield in Yorkshire and we, at that time we all had to decide where we wanted to live and Leconfield was the nicest place we lived so we stayed up here and I still live here now. I had the travel bug I suppose because I have traveled since, but you know I lived in America for a year and work in the Middle East for a bit, but I've settled in Beverley which is just south of Leconfield. So it's still, my parents still live here as well.

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*And what did you do when you were in America?*

I worked as a nanny. So it was an easy way to get there. I taught skiing whilst I was there as well. Yes just looked after some kids in Vermont. Just went there on a year visa and it was excellent, I had a really good time.

*And how about your time in the Middle East?*

Picking grapes on a kibbutz. I was nineteen then so I just went for a long summer in between when I was at college, so from the end of one term to the beginning of the next, so I was there when Iraq invaded Kuwait so it was a very volatile time when I was there. The press in Israel was all censored so I didn't really know what was going on, just got updates from home every now and again, but that's before we all had our email accounts and Skype accounts and so on so it was just if I managed to grab a phone call with them every now and again, but didn't really know what was going on, so yes it was quite an interesting time, and also when I came back, just to see the news reports and think, oh, I was actually over there, that could have been a very scary situation, but I was, as it happens, I was alright.

*So Louise, tell me which year were you in the Middle East?*

It was 1991 I think, yes about 1991.

*Ok and what made you decide to go and stay in a kibbutz?*

Well it was quite interesting really because my aunt had won a holiday to Israel the year before and she'd said what a fantastic time she'd had and that she would like to go back to a kibbutz, but when she did some investigations into it, she was too old, so she suggested that I might like to do it because you can go just for a couple of weeks or you can go for a couple of years. So I did the investigations and I was certainly within the age range and I wanted to go for about I don't, it was about two months I went for. And so I went over there, I didn't go with anyone else, just went by myself and had a such a fantastic time. It's I suppose it's just like working on a farm with lots of other people from around the world. I shared a room with a girl from the UK and there was someone else on our block that was South Africa and others from America. And then all of the kids that had grown up on the kibbutz as well, so it was, it really was a fun interesting time.

*And how do you think the experience impacted on you later in life?*

Well I think it possibly made me certain in my independent. I was fairly independent anyway as me and my sister had been to boarding school so you become an independent person that can cope on you, on your own but going to a foreign country where I was responsible for myself as well, that was it was quite an eye opener for me and I was only nineteen so I mean, you can do silly things when you're nineteen can't you but it was, I think it, it had a really positive effect on me really because I met so many different people. I think it would have been very different if I had gone with somebody else as well so I was more open to meeting new people and traveling around with them and it was real exciting I suppose.



## One & Other Project

*Okay, thank you. It's just to give some context really to your story and it's been a real pleasure talking to you today.*

It was you.

*Is there anything else that you'd like to add before we finish this call?*

I don't know really, I just, I just think the whole plinth experience has just been such a fantastic experience and I kind of hope that they never do the same thing again so that the people that took part will always be the only people that have ever done it and I think it would be sad if it was done again because it would take away from the uniqueness of the whole project and I just, I really would like I suppose in some ways, just to thank Antony Gormley for the opportunity really. It was such a clever inspired idea, when you see the sorts of people that were up there, that were, some people sat there and did nothing and other people talked like I did, or there were the people that talked about the lady on death row, and just think it was such an interesting experiment really. Yes I'm just really pleased I took part.

*Well thank you very much, it's been a pleasure talking to you today and I hope we stay in touch Louise.*

Oh that would be good, yes. I found you on Twitter [laughs].

*Yes, I saw that, I saw that, thank you, and I'm following you on Twitter as well.*

[Laughs]

**END OF RECORDING**