

## One & Other Project

*My name is Verusca Calabria and I'm here today to interview Suzanne Harding on the 9<sup>th</sup> of August 2010 in Brixton on behalf of the Wellcome for the One & Other Oral History Collection. So Suzanne, thank you so much for coming today and to be re-interviewed as part of your time on the plinth. What I wanted to ask you was to bring you back to the time when you went on the plinth to raise awareness of the Blue Fin Tuna. So what was it like to be on the plinth?*

Well it was quite scary at first I think because you're kind of exposing yourself to lots of people. I'm not really an exhibitionist in any sort of way so it was really, I think, quite a brave thing for me to do. I'm quite a shy person naturally I think. So it was fantastic really, it was just really good to be doing something for a cause that I believe in and to get the message out there as lots of other people did, you know, the thousands of people that were up on the plinth just to be able to highlight issues that I'm passionate about. So yes, I really enjoyed my time up there. It was quite a scary experience but a fantastic one nonetheless and I think probably slightly life-changing which is a bit of a cliché maybe but it was certainly an experience that I'll never, never forget.

*In what way would you say it changed you?*

I think in a way seeing ... not necessarily through what I did, but seeing the other people that went up there. I think it really made me realise what a fantastic nation of people we have in this country and passionate people and because so many people took part in it I think it was just fantastic seeing different people's views and there was one person before me who went up there, a guy who was talking about his football club and how he wanted to get rid of the chairman of the football club. It's just so varied, the different types, so people with different passions, different interests and it was just really, really interesting to go up there and to see all the other people and what they were into and what they were shouting about really. And you kind of get the people that aren't necessarily ... they just go up there to have an experience, they don't necessarily advertise themselves or advertise anything else. They just go up there for an experience and to say that they've stood on the plinth in Trafalgar Square which is obviously a very, very famous plinth because it stood empty for so long. I think it was just fascinating just seeing the different types of people and what different people are passionate about.

*Did you have any interaction with people in the Square when you were up there?*

Definitely yes. I think I did. It was a bit mixed, like there were lots of school

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children there which I thought was fantastic because they're very ... they question everything and they're so interested in what you're doing and there were sort of classes of people, of children and they would ask lots of questions, they would ask a lot about what we were doing up there and I think children are really a good way of getting information across, especially I think to do with the activism that I'm interested in and the plight of the Tuna Fish or certainly the Blue Fin Tuna and I think it was just a really good way. So yes, again, not just school children but lots of other people that would just come and watch, take photographs, ask what you're doing up there. I think it was quite obvious, with the signs, I had what I was doing but people were just really interested. And again a wide variety of people in Trafalgar Square tourists, businessmen and women, families, classes of people of children yes it was it was fantastic. So really good interaction with the public I think at times throughout. I think towards the end of the hour it felt like a lot longer than an hour. It seemed to, not that it went particularly slowly but it certainly felt like it was longer than an hour up there because you kind of feel like you've got to entertain people as well you feel like you're there for their purpose as well as your own and your own cause. So yes, you kind of feel like you've got to try and interact with people otherwise you think well what's the point really? So there were lots of questions fired at me. I think some children nicknamed me 'fish lady' because I had the fish on sticks which was quite funny, but at least they were asking questions about what I was doing up there and why I was holding two giant fish on sticks. So yes, the interaction was really good, really good.

*So how did you get the idea of putting the fish on the stick like that?*

I actually ... I'm a member of my local *Greenpeace* and I actually contacted the marine department and spoke to the head of the ocean campaigns and he said that they had created these sticks, these signs with fish on, and several slogans and he said I could borrow them and was more than happy to let me take them and he came along and made sure the public kind of were informed about what I was doing so he was there to answer questions as well. I was also doing it in conjunction with a film called *End of the Line*, a documentary film about the plight of not just Tuna Fish but also generally the state of our oceans and life within our oceans. I was doing it in conjunction with them and again there was a lady there handing out badges and information on the ground to people just to explain a little bit about the film and what I was doing up there and why I was doing it so it was both with *End of the Line* and with *Greenpeace*.

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*How did you make contact with the people that produced The End of the Line?*

It was actually through *Greenpeace* again. He gave me the contact, then at *End of the Line* the producers and some of the assistants that were working on the film at the time and promoting the film because it was newly out at the time. And so yes, it was through *Greenpeace* again that I got in contact with *End of the Line* and it is a fantastic film and I would urge anybody to watch it because it really does highlight some genuine issues with what we're doing to the oceans.

*Did you talk to anyone or did anyone come up to you when you came off the plinth?*

Not really. I think because we were kind of ... once we were on the lift down we were then wheeled round the back and then it was back into the office to just finish off everything in the office so I didn't really have an awful lot of interaction afterwards with the public. But it was mainly while I was on the plinth that I had that interaction so yes not so much when I was off it. I then quickly went for lunch 'cause I was starving hungry as well, food is very important. So yes, not a great deal of public interaction afterwards.

*Did you have any friends and family there?*

Yes my family came along, took lots of photos, my sister who worked round the corner actually from Trafalgar Square she came along in her lunch break so lots of family there taking photos and I think they were laughing at me to be honest. That was probably because of the fish and the fact that the children were calling me 'fish lady' but yes, they were there to support me it was really nice to have them there actually and they appreciate what I do I think and they kind of understand why I'm doing it and that I'm passionate about it.

*Are you saying this may have been one of the impacts of going up there for them to understand more about why you do what you do?*

Definitely, absolutely, because my mum now she will not eat any seafood at all or fish. It's great so hopefully that'll pass on and pass on. And it's not about just stopping eating fish its about sustainable fishing and being sensible and we can obviously live quite happily if we just sustainably fish I think so yes, they definitely got the message. I think I sort of hammered it into my family so they're kind of a bit fed up of hearing about it now but it's definitely had an effect on them, without a doubt, yes.

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*When did you first become aware of these issues with fish dying?*

I would say probably three or four years ago because I've had a lot of to do with *Greenpeace*. I've kind of, locally, had been part of the local group in Bedford and I would say that yes, a few years now and its becoming more and more high profile now. I think a lot of celebrities ... and as soon as celebrities latch onto something it tends to get a lot more publicity for obvious reasons so it's definitely more of an issue now. I think with the films that have come out, there've been a couple of documentary type films as well as *End of the Line* and I think even newspaper articles. I saw a newspaper article a few months ago in *The Times* about the plight of the fish and the oceans and not just whaling everyone concentrates on the bigger fish generally and kind of forgets about the smaller ones and they're all part of the food chain so it's all very important that we maintain and sustain all of it really but yes.

*So just to recap, what is it that you were trying to raise awareness about on the plinth in your own words?*

The plinth was definitely targeting and highlighting Blue Fin Tuna because it is in serious danger of becoming extinct. It's still eaten widely in Japan, they still fish for it in Japan and it's quite a delicacy I think in Japan with Sushi. And it's still sold over here, there are restaurants like *Nobu* which are very famous high profile restaurants part owned by Robert de Niro, they still sell Blue Fin and I know there've been some protests really at the *Nobu* restaurants but it's not just Japan, it's in this country as well and if it's here it's going to be in lots of other countries. So it was really specifically highlighting the plight of the Blue Fin Tuna and the fact that it is very, very close to extinction and that's all down to humans, you know, and what we do and again if we stop now it could improve vastly but again it's about sensible sustainable fishing and we're just not very good at doing that until its too late, until a species has gone. I think we're very good at highlighting plights of Whales and Dolphins and all these pretty big, big ocean species but things like Blue Fin Tuna perhaps the smaller varieties don't quite get the high profile and the publicity that other big Whales and fish get which is, you know, which is fine but there are, I think, lots of people who probably haven't heard of Blue Fin Tuna, never mind eaten in ... they probably wouldn't have even known if they had but yes, my time on the plinth was specifically for Blue Fin because it's so close to extinction.

*What would be the impact of a fish dying in the sea to the rest of the ecosystem?*

Well there are obviously knock-on effects; it's part of the food chain. There are

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other species that rely on Blue Fin and then also you've got the problem if there aren't Blue Fin around the fish that they then eat become more populated and so then there's an issue potentially environmentally with an overpopulation of a species that isn't part of the food chain because certain other species have been taken out of it. So the impact is quite is quite big, as if you'd check any species out of any system it would have a large impact on the fish that it then survives on.

*When did you first get involved with Greenpeace locally?*

I got involved with *Greenpeace* probably about six or seven years ago. I was trying to ... I wanted to travel a bit and I was trying to figure out ways of helping without having to ...it's hard to then get in and earn and make a career out of volunteering. But obviously I wanted to give some time and I had lots of spare time around my full time job just to help *Greenpeace* locally and they just highlight all sorts of issues, obviously not just about the oceans but about other issues as well and it's just something that I really wanted to get into. When I have the time I will go along to help on stalls and things just to help promote *Greenpeace*.

*What brought you to decide to be active in this area?*

I've just got a passion for animals. I've always, since I was a little girl, loved animals and I just feel like as humans we always think we're at the top of the food chain and therefore we have a right to destroy anything below us in the food chain. But I honestly believe, again probably sounds a bit clichéd, but I honestly believe that we're all the same, you know, we're all sharing this planet and there's no reason why we can't all live together without destroying any species. You know there's too many that have become extinct already because of the human race so I honesty I've just got a passion for animals. I've always, since I was a little girl, loved animals and I just feel like, as humans, we always think we're at the top of the food chain and therefore we have a right to destroy anything below us in the food chain. But I honestly believe, again probably sounds a bit clichéd, but I honestly believe that we're all the same, you know, we're all sharing this planet and there's no reason why we can't all live together without destroying any species you know. There's too many that have become extinct already because of the human race so I honestly believe and I like to promote that as well and again it sounds a bit clichéd but I like to ... I've just got a passion for it, I always have, I think it's probably come from my mum because my mum, she's very animal orientated, she's always had pets and cared for the environment so I think I've

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always got that ... I think I've got that from her and I'm just really passionate about it and I really feel that we are equal I don't feel that we are superior to any other species no matter how small or big I think we are on a par with we all share the same planet.

*Have you been involved in other campaigns with Greenpeace?*

Not massively. I mean the only things I've done is the local promotion of Greenpeace in general. I often support them they have online campaigns were you write letters to your MPs and different things like that and I got involved with it's actually a bit different it's not necessarily about saving a species but its about tail docking of dogs and the fact that to a lot of people it was just a fashion thing for people to have their dogs tails docked and I just couldn't understand it really and a lot of people do it illegally so that was something I really got involved with contacted my local MP. I think that's the other thing I think a lot of people don't realize they can actually contact their MP and talk about issues that they're passionate about or have issues or have problems with. And actually that law was passed and it's not illegal to dock you're your dog's tail unless there's a legit reason for doing it. So I think people often feel like they can't do an awful lot but even just writing a letter to your MP can really help with issues or situations if you've got problems so that kind of another thing I was involved with, not so much with *Greenpeace* but more of a bit of an issue I had myself personally [chuckles].

*You mentioned that you see yourself as an activist in the pre-plinth interview. When do you think that began to happen to you in terms of your identity?*

Oh gosh, again, when I started looking into *Greenpeace*, probably about six or seven years ago, I would say, that I really started to get passionate about it and then you could join protests and go along to there were often protests in London and when I get the time I would join or write letters to MPs which is which is also a really good way of getting involved with activism via *Greenpeace* and they always on the website ... it's so easy, you go on and all the letter is there ready you just need to put your constituency in and who your MP is and they'll send the letter off. So that's a really good and easy way where you don't have to commit too much time. It's a really good way of getting involved with activism and issues you're passionate about.

*And how would you describe an activist? What is the role of the activist?*

I think it kind of is obviously the word 'activism.' It kind of means you're actively partaking in something. So I would say it's about ... its kind of fighting



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for, but it's about doing ... it's about actually getting involved and doing something to help the cause you're interested in. So yes, I would say that's basically in a nutshell what activism is about, well, my point of view anyway.

*Just to bring you back to you mentioning your mother who's interested in caring for the environment and animals when you were really young. Would you like to talk about her a bit, tell us a bit about her?*

Yes I mean she's a very nurturing lady and she's very caring and it's definitely come from that side. She, from a very young age, she would get us involved with animals and obviously take us to zoos which again have their own problems but yes, from a very young age just had lots of pets the house was full of full of animals and she now works in a vets and she's just brought us up to care about things other than humans and who we are and to be pretty selfless really and to just help. So she's just really inspired me and she's definitely the reason why I am now an activist. I would say she was just brilliant and it's just the way I've been brought up I think just to care about other things not just yourself and the little tiny world bubble around you, but to care about other species as well as humans.

*Where do you think she developed this interest herself?*

Well she grew up on a farm so I think it probably came partly from that and obviously spending her childhood on the farm, having a lot of freedom on the farm. She's very much a tomboy as well bit like me she would really get stuck in and yes she just from a very young age I think grew up with animals and just learned to love them and nurture them and involve them in her life so yes I think that's where she got it from anyway.

*Was she there at the Square when you went on the plinth?*

She was, she was there taking photos. I think she was quite proud of me, bless her, yes she was, she was very proud of me because it's quite easy to say you believe in something and then not do an awful lot about it you know. But I think to stand up on the plinth, I think she thought I was quite brave to do that and it's something that I've never really done before not like that anyway mind you I don't think anybody had. So yes she was very proud of me.

*What attracted you to apply for a place in the first place?*

Well originally I didn't even think about doing something for *Greenpeace* or for another cause. I actually thought about because I'm interested in photography

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as well, I think I just thought I'd go up there to take photographs because I thought it'd be a really good opportunity to ... rather than people and tourists taking photographs of the plinth it would be like me taking photographs of everybody else and what it's like to be on the plinth, that view. You don't quite realise how high it is up there but once you get up it's pretty high and quite daunting. So I originally went up there to just take photographs I didn't really have a set agenda. And then I kind of really got thinking and I got inspired by some of the others that had already started going up and I thought 'do you know what I really need to use this opportunity to highlight some issues that I'm passionate about'. So yes, I kind of changed my angle and although I did take some photographs while I was up there I obviously also took the Tuna Fish up there as well. So yes, it originally started as something quite different but because I was inspired by others who had gone up there and seen what people were doing, I really thought it would be a good way of highlighting issues that I'm passionate about. But the reason I applied I think it, I love Antony Gormley anyway his projects are amazing I think he's a fantastic artist so to get involved in something that's really quite rare will never ever happen again and to say you've been involved in an Antony Gormley project is quite a quite a fascinating thing I think and quite a, it's made me quite proud to say that I've been involved in something that he was associated with and created. So I think that's probably the reason I went up there in the first place or applied anyway to go on to the plinth. I couldn't believe it when I was selected I honestly didn't think, as most people I'm sure, that that applied just didn't think they would get the opportunity to go up there so it's one of those sort of 'off the cuff' 'Okay well I'll apply but it will never happen' and then of course you get the phone call to say 'right you've been selected' and you're like 'oh my God what am I going to do?' 'What am I actually going to do up there?' So yes, I would say it was because of Antony Gormley that I applied in the first instance and then it kind of developed ... my ideas developed, you know, gradually as to what I was going to do when I was up there. I didn't want to waste the time, you know, it's only an hour so I didn't want to waste it by just going up and taking photos so it was really good to have something to go up and promote anyway and try and highlight.

*What do you like about Gormley's art?*

Oh gosh that's a really ... that's quite a hard question. I love his *Angel of the North* and I guess probably a lot of people will say that because that's his most famous, but I just ... it's really iconic for the North of Britain, it's hard to put my finger on it but everything he does I seem to like. I did see recently that one of his projects ... again, they were statues of people quite life-like statues,



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they actually ended up getting engulfed in water because there was a flood and the river kind of ... and I thought that was quite interesting actually that that they've ended up managing to get them back I think. It's hard to put my finger on what I like about Antony Gormley but everything he comes out with I seem to like for one reason or another I think his work is quite varied as well, it's not all the same which makes him quite interesting I think. And to do this project is just something that's completely unusual and I actually went into the National Portrait Gallery after I'd been on the plinth and I realized there was a big flat screen in there showing the plinth project and I realized gosh I've actually been in the National Portrait Gallery [chuckles] that's quite scary I hadn't realized that it was in there but that was really good. Yes, it was nice to see.

*Thank you. You mentioned photography, an interest in photography. When did that start?*

Oh that started probably about ten years ago but just with a small digital camera nothing amazing, just ... especially landscapes ... love to on your travels as well just really interested in taking photos and capturing that moment in time on my travels. So yes really, really like ... that's where it started, I guess when I first started travelling and seeing a bit of the world and capturing that and then taking it home and showing everybody what you've seen and what you've captured. And then you can end up printing them off. These days you can get, you know, canvases printed of your own photographs so it's really, really easy to decorate your house with your own work, you know, so that's really good and it's just developed from there really.

*Did you take any classes or you learned earlier on?*

I haven't no, I haven't. But I am going to, it's definitely something that I want to get into and I've been looking at *City in Guilds* classes to try and get some qualifications behind me. But yes, it's definitely a passion of mine and something that I will eventually get round to doing hopefully.

*You mentioned being very passionate about conservation. I wonder whether there are any other causes that you are following or supporting?*

One of my other passions is the plight of the Orang-utan and palm oil in Indonesia and the production of palm oil and big companies like *Unilever* using it in a lot of products that most people wouldn't even realise palm oil is in: soaps, detergents all these other things. So that's definitely another passion of mine and I hopefully will get to go to Borneo. I'm hoping to do

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some voluntary work over there for a couple of weeks, again that needs to be arranged but that's definitely what I'm hoping to do in the next couple of years get over there to try and just try and help out and donate some cash where I can to help save the Orang-utans because they're in big trouble they are you know they're verging on extinction. So yes palm oil plantations are definitely another issue that I'm passionate about and really want to get involved with. Again either via *Greenpeace* or there's another company, a charity called *Care for the Wild* who look after Orang-utans in Borneo so that's definitely another area of conservation that I'm interested in.

*What's happening to the Orang-utans?*

Basically their habitats are being destroyed because of deforestation. They're taking down all natural habitats and they are planting palm oil, which is then mass-produced and goes into lots of products that Westerners use and buy again without realising. And again it's just about knowing what to buy, what not to buy and *Greenpeace's* website is brilliant. *Care for the Wild's* website is brilliant at letting you know and telling you what products have palm oil in and what products to avoid. So it's about education, I think, and trying to get it ingrained into people that this is not something that can carry on, we can't keep destroying habitat for, you know, for these species. So yes and the Orang-utan are in danger, they're in serious danger of becoming extinct so I think it's something that really needs to be high on the agenda for activists and I know it is for a lot of people but still a lot more needs to be done to help save these animals that are being left homeless. They'll either be killed or, you know, the young are often left because they're parents have been killed because of the deforestation and they can't feed themselves or their babies so there are lots of charities helping and there are a lot of orphanages for Orang-utans in Indonesia but again it's about educating I think Western society and trying to get palm oil replaced you know or sustainably farmed.

*Thank you. Now just a general question. What do you think the project was about the One & Other project?*

Gosh that's quite a tough question because I think it was a way for Antony Gormley to highlight perhaps variety and the different types of people. I'm not sure; I'm not really sure what he had in mind. It's quite hard to get your head around because it was such a big project and lots of people were involved. But I think mainly I would say it was a really good way of highlighting, and I think especially at the moment, times of recession and everything on the news is bad news. So to see so many different people talking about things they're

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passionate about or doing different things, it was just great to see a wide variety of people up there. I'm not quite sure what Antony Gormley had in mind but I think it was just a really good way of highlighting how positive society can be and how passionate people are. You know, the human race does take quite a pounding at times so it was just really good to see passionate people expressing themselves in a way that they wouldn't normally get to do so yes, it's a hard question.

*It's okay. Now just to bring you back to the experience of the plinth. You know that you set up a profile before you went up and I've got it here in front of me and the people could make comments and I had a look at these comments and I think quite a few were your friends and family. Did you read them at all?*

I saw some of them, yes, I did see some of them. I did notice there was a couple of negative ones on there about going up there to do what I was doing but I think you've got to get that. I think you get that

*I think one of the perhaps negative ones may have been this person saying that it's all about talking about menus and restaurants rather than looking at the broader issue of fish.*

Sure, sure, I think perhaps they didn't really understand. Because I'd talked about *Nobu* the restaurant I think they thought that's who I was targeting but actually it was just highlighting the general issue. I didn't really speak to anybody about *Nobu* when I was on the plinth. I was wearing a Robert de Niro T-Shirt just to try and highlight the fact.

*So do you think the fact that there was an inter-active website for you before you went up on the plinth, do you think it had any effect on what you might have left out?*

I don't think it had an effect on what I actually did on the plinth but it certainly encouraged me I think. It helped seeing encouraging comments, some positives and the negatives obviously but I think it just reassured me that actually I'm doing the right thing. Again, as I said earlier, I'm quite a shy person so it was quite a big thing to do for me. Some people love doing that sort of thing but it's not really, so seeing those comments I think really encouraged me and sort of I think made me a little less nervous about what I was doing.

*You had a very high number of people pledging to watch you: 571.*

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Oh right okay, I didn't realise it was that many. That's really good; I'm really pleased that there were that many. And not all my family and friends because I don't know that many people.

*Presumably it was people watching what would come up and see what you'd written in your profile*

Sure okay, were interested

*And they would have been interested*

Yes okay, that's really good, that's really good, it means that people were obviously interested in why I was up there and what I was doing so that kind of highlights the issues even more which is great I didn't realise it was that many actually so that's good I'm really pleased.

*Did you use any other social networking sites to let your friends know you were going on the plinth?*

I did I have *Facebook* so I put it on *Facebook* so all my friends were aware and were watching on line. *Facebook* is a brilliant tool for advertising anything so yes it's a really good I often use *Facebook* now to highlight issues because you can link to various websites I often link to *Greenpeace* website *Care for the Wild's* website. Yes so *Facebook* is a really good tool for getting your message out to people.

*And did you know that there were two groups of people the plinthers on Facebook and Twitter?*

Yes, I joined the *Facebook* page yes, and it was nice to hear from people and I know they had a reunion in July where everybody got back together. I couldn't make it unfortunately but I was aware that there was a reunion by the plinth in July, which is fantastic. I don't know how many people they got to go but yes, I got that through the *Facebook* page.

*Did you get involved with any of the reunions previously?*

No, sadly I haven't been able to. That was actually the only one I heard about to be honest. I haven't heard of any other reunions so it was only that one in July that I'd heard about. Again, it's finding the time to get down there but for sure if there's any in the future that I can make I will definitely go along, just because it's a great way to meet new people on a wide variety of people there are all sorts of people that went up there so yes I'll definitely get involved in

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any reunions in the future if I'm available, yes.

*And would you say you've met anyone through the process of online interaction and the project?*

I think I've ... definitely on the *Facebook* page have had some conversations with people on the Internet about that but not a massive amount I must admit. But that's probably my own doing because I haven't been involved or actively got involved with that as much as I probably should have done. But I will definitely keep on the page and keep looking to see if there are any more reunions 'cause I think it's great to meet face to face with these people just to hear their stories cause again you couldn't watch all 2400 or whatever it was people up there so it would be a really good way to hear other people's stories and why they went up there and what they did.

*Did you watch yourself afterwards?*

No I refused. I couldn't, I would have died of embarrassment I think if I'd have watched myself. So no I didn't. I don't think I ever will.

*Thank you. Just to then go back to your story the story of your life I mean what you talked about with my colleague in the pre-plinth interview. You mentioned you were about to start a degree in HR. Has that happened?*

That hasn't happened mainly because as I work as a Civil Servant we've had a lot of public sector cuts. However I'm now kind of looking at the possibility of moving away from that anyway away from HR because I would like to get involved in voluntary work at some point in the future but it's finding, you know, when you live on your own and you've kind of got to support yourself it's hard to volunteer. So at the moment I'm just looking at doing short stints of voluntary work and then perhaps I've been looking at Marine Biology degrees and things like the which I'd possibly be interested in so my career is kind of changing course a bit since last year when I had that interview. I've definitely become more passionate over the last twelve months whether it's a result of the plinth its possible, but because you kind of feel exhilarated as well because once you've done something like that you just feel like you've A kind of made a bit of a difference in that you've told your story to different people even if there was no interaction I think it was quite obvious what I was doing up there. So yes, my career path is definitely changing I think I'm edging away from HR and the business side and I would really like to a) travel more and b) hopefully work for somebody like *Greenpeace* or one of the other charities at some point in the future I think that would be really, really good. Because I'm

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so passionate about it I just can't see me stuck in an office all the time and I find it very difficult to see myself in an office in ten years time or whatever. There's too many things that I want to get involved in ... so I think my career path is definitely changing gradually [chuckles]. But its quite hard to kind of commit yourself to that side because you have to start off volunteering and obviously you need to live as well and survive and that's not always that easy when your volunteering. Or so to start with committing time my spare time to charities to *Greenpeace* and to activism, and then eventually hopefully building up to being able to do it full time and possibly use some of the skills that I've learnt from business and from the Civil Service to take into that particular sector.

*What do you do at the moment?*

I actually I work in HR. I work as a 'Learning Change Assistant' and we're basically we're creating an Academy; it's a learning and development programme. It's interesting but I have to say it's not my passion. My passion is obviously the activism and conservation so ideally I'd really like to move over to that at some point whenever I can.

*You also mentioned you've got a sister who's just had a baby.*

I do yes, she has. My world has kind of been consumed with babies or a baby particularly the last six weeks so yes been trying to help her out wherever I can and just loving being an Auntie for the first time. It's a whole new world for me babies. I don't have any myself so yes and it's a brilliant experience and again my sister who's a career minded lawyer has just transformed into this nurturing mother it really is amazing and its fascinating to see her make that transition from businesswoman to mum and its I'm really, really proud of her she's doing an amazing job and yes just loving being Aunty to little Baylan so yes, fantastic time for our family.

*There's something else I wanted to ask you actually about the experience of the plinth. You know when you got a place you received a booklet to encourage you to contact your local newspapers and media and so on to raise awareness whatever you might be doing. Did you do that?*

Not specifically, again, just highlighted on *Facebook* to friends and obviously got involved with the group on *Facebook*. But no, I didn't contact and perhaps with a bit of hindsight it's probably what I should have done but no I didn't unfortunately.



## One & Other Project

*That's okay, I was just curious to know.*

Sure.

*Did you get any media attention afterwards?*

No I haven't had, not other than obviously your contact. I haven't had any other contact since then unfortunately. But I think there are other people who went up to highlight not just Tuna but I know there was a guy who went up dressed as a fish so there were other people on there doing similar things which is great so hopefully they got a bit of media attention as well.

*And what would you say is important to you right now in your life?*

Family with Baylan obviously coming into the world he's definitely a priority at the moment and my sister. But also there's a film that I watched about a month ago called *The Cove*, a documentary film which is about fishing in Japan and its actually about Dolphins who are slaughtered and then eaten for meat which is kind of quite a bizarre concept I think to most people. But this happens from September to April every year and its kind of a, it's not really culture in Japan to eat Dolphin A because its high in Mercury so it poisons them anyway but its all linked to *SeaWorld* and places like that that come along and they and they buy for a hundred 150,000 dollars Wild Dolphin usually Bottlenose that they then take back to *SeaWorld's* across the world but then whatever's left is then slaughtered and that can be thousands of Dolphins. And this film it just it really hit the spot with me and that's something that I'm really interested in looking into further and I would I would encourage anybody to watch it it's an amazing film. So that's something that I'm really interested in. And again I know *Greenpeace* haven't been involved in that particular campaign but I'm certainly going to speak to the oceans campaigner about that. So that's another area I'm passionate about at the moment it's just one of those films that hits you right in the heart and I think I cried through most of it I was an emotional wreck but yes, that's another interest of mine that's quite recent. Yep.

*Thank you. I hope you've enjoyed being interviewed today?*

I have. it's been nerve-racking.

*Thank you.*

Oh dear. Sorry I hope that was all right.



## One & Other Project

*It was fine. Thank you very much.*