Tony, interview 1, 06.02.19 (at Tony’s home)

**Information about Tony (names and places have been anonymised throughout):**

Tony is a 54-year-old\* white gay man and a father of two boys at secondary school, Marlow and Ben. He has mixed European heritage. He co-parents with a lesbian couple, Suzanne and Emily, who the children live with most of the time. Tony and Suzanne met through an advert Tony placed in a local lesbian magazine in the early 2000s, looking for a co-parent in Blackham, where he lives. They got along well, finding that they shared a similar outlook on life and a mutual understanding of the importance of flexibility and communication. Emily joined the co-parenting family soon after, before Marlow was conceived. The three of them continue to keep lines of communication open, in part through a WhatsApp group called ‘the mamas and the papa’. Tony’s membership of the Fae Revolutionaries is an important part of his life – he describes the revolutionaries as his people, and a group to which he feels a firm sense of belonging. He connects with other Fae Revolutionaries both on and offline, and is able to share a more vulnerable side of himself with this diverse, open and accepting queer community. Tony lives in Blackham, in the East Midlands, and works as a self-employed musician and company director.

\*all information is true as of May 2019, the mid-point in the data construction process

Notes: timestamps are given at regular intervals. J = Jai Mackenzie, the interviewer. T = Tony, the interviewee.

## 6.21

J: yeah so erm I guess do you wanna just start by just kinda just telling me your story of your family

T: mmhmm

J: and kind've how you started and how you came to be and erm yeah we'll see how

T: yeah

J: how far we roll with that

T: okay yes erm so (coughs) well how far do I have how far back to go I kind've always assumed

J: yeah as far back as you want yeah

T: yeah when I was growing up I assumed that I would have children someday kind've before I knew I was gay erm and then I suppose around the time I came out I was quite a late well maybe not late for today by today's standards I was about 22 when I came out

J: mmhmm

T: in in the 80s it maybe wasn't that late anyway erm and er I had a lot of lesbian friends and some of us talked jokingly about having children I mean we were kind've all too young to be kind've be planning thinking about having children but it was a kind've thing that people talked about having rai we didn't call them rainbow families but kind've y'know

J: yeah

T: alternative arrangements erm so it was kind've the idea was there and er I'd been I was quite interested in communal living erm

J: mmm

T: and so the the the thought that I had the ideaI I ha notion I had would would be a big like living in a commune and co-parenting a whole group of people co-parenting

J: mmm

T: erm kind've mixed lesbian gay and straight and just all of the parents would bring up all the children would probably be a nightmare (laughs)

J: (laughs)

T: actually I don't know whether it actually works like that in er in communal communities er like that but erm then kind've yeah so then I then I had I was with a partner for 17 years who kind've said for right from the start he was not interested in having children

J: oh really

T: at all ever not wanting anything not wanting to have anything to do with any children so I kind've shelved that whole idea and put it on a on a back burner really and then towards my I spose my mid-thirties there were a couple of things on TV that got me thinking about it again

J: mmm

T: erm there was Queer as Folk

J: yeah

T: the original Queer as Folk which has a kind've or parenting storyline in it erm but then a documentary I saw as well about erm a gay man or maybe it was maybe it was several different m but anyway it kind've showed different set ups and things and erm the one that struck me most was like a man who lived a couple of streets away from the lesbian mums who had the children erm and he kind've spent a lot of time there but not living there erm and so I'd kind've think oh well that's maybe that's a model that we could I could pursue and talked about it with Carl and er he he kind've yeah he kind've came r came round to the idea that if h y'know that would be a possibility for me that he wasn't he wouldn't be a parent and that I would

J: okay that that's your long d the long-term partner yeah

T: yes yes erm so yeah and he would probably say that's the reason that we ended up splitting up

J: oh mmm

T: (laughs) the fact that I had children turned out a long time later erm turned out that he thought when he said yes go ahead and do this and I will be supportive he thought that it wouldn't happen

J: ahh

T: bit like Cameron and the Referendum apparently

J: (laughs)

T: (laughs)

J: yeah

T: but erm yeah he thought it wouldn't happen and then suddenly when it when it was real and we'd conceived a child it it things changed completely and he was I mean it’s a whole different story anyway but thinking about the unravelling of our relationship but erm (coughs) so anyway yeah going back a bit then to how it how it came about then was that s sort of once he'd said yes okay you can try this erm so by that time the kind've the lesbians that I'd been friends with before I'd lost touch with completely

J: okay

T: erm although thinking of the whole the online thing I actually one of the reasons I joined Friends Reunited

J: mmm

T: which was like

J: that's a blast from the past

T: ooh that’s going back a bit isn’t it (laughs)

J: (laughs)

T: erm was to maybe try and and I actually did I did find one of my really close lesbian friends from the eighties erm just to kind've I n and I didn't actually I didn't didn't end up asking her the question I kind've we'd corresponded a bit and I was thinking y'know cos you can't really just turn up out of the blue fifteen twenty years later and say would you like to have my babies

J: (laughs)

T: she was living somewhere in Lampton I think and er so it was all a bit impractical but then what I did I kind've then found various websites around erm lesbian mainly lesbian parenting I suppose (coughs) and put adverts on some of those chat groups

J: yeah

T: and things like that

## 11.35

J: which one do you remember which ones you used

T: umm I don't but I saved all of the emails

J: ah wow there we go

T: from those days (laughs)

J: (laughs) okay

T: I thought somebody someday might want to look at some of these (laughs)

J: we could have a look at them next time actually

T: yeah

J: we're gonna look at more of the digital stuff then

T: so no I don't remember any of the names of them at the moment erm but I guess they're there

J: mmm

T: in the emails so maybe mmm anyway erm but actually I met Suzanne through erm an advert that I put in a local print newsletter

J: okay

T: and I can't remember what that was called either but and I don't s I don't know if it still exists but a kind've lesbian magazine that came out every month or two or something

J: mmhmm

T: erm and I put the advert in there and it was actually a friend of hers who saw the advert and said this is the kind've thing you've been talking about and erm and she got in touch with me so because I put in the advert that I wanted to be y'know I wanted to be not just a donor that I wanted to be an actively involved father

J: yep

T: erm because obviously my understanding was that a lot of lesbians don't want a father involved at all they just want you know that we can be two perfectly good parents and it doesn't need a father kind of thing

J: yeah yeah

T: erm

J: yeah

T: so I just thought you know well I needed to make it clear I'm not just wanting to

J: donate some sperm

T: to donate some sperm or even I know there's some s cases where I mean like the one in in Queer as Folk for example that he was kind've known as the dad but not necessarily wanting to be involved particularly

J: yeah yeah

T: erm

J: I don't remember the storyline (laughs) it’s going back quite a long way

T: it wasn't a big part of the plot really it was just a fairly

J: okay

T: fairly incidental part of it

J: oh so you didn't know Suzanne is the main one you got in touch with first

T: no I didn't know Suzanne beforehand at all

J: okay

T: no

J: so then once you made contact with her

T: mmm

J: how did that kind've evolve

T: so then well we emailed a couple of times and erm then met erm and we both were agreed that I think we would want to take a long time to get to know each other before even deciding that we were gonna have go ahead and do it obviously it’s you know it's a massive commitment (laughs)

J: mmm

T: I mean it's a a big enough commitment to do with somebody that you know and are very close to and trust and all that but with a complete stranger it's

J: mmm

T: kind’ve erm so we probably spent about a year to eighteen months meeting regularly and getting to know each other and just having lots of conversations about what kinds of things we expected parenting to be like and just stuff about ourselves our own families and all those kinds of things erm

J: just with Suzanne

T: just with Suzanne yes at the time so her partner Emily was living in Balland at the time erm they'd known each other for a long time but not actually erm been they were both part of the mutual therapy movement and that's how they'd met and it's kind of a big a big no-no within the mutual therapy movement to have a relationship with somebody that that you're in a therapeutic relationship with

J: oh okay

T: it's certainly not not just y'know it's like not banned between members of the the movement at all but if you're having and that's you know they did they actually had a mutual therapy relationship and they were both involved in training and stuff and so it would er they kind've stayed apart as a couple even though I think they wanted to be together but

J: mmm

T: well partly they were separated (laughs)

J: yeah

T: by being on opposite sides of the world erm but also that it meant putting an end to being part of the mutual therapy movement

J: okay

T: which was a big thing in both of their lives so and it wasn't actually until mmm yeah I think it was around the same time that we actually decided and were starting to try insemination erm so but and it was actually it was before Suzanne got pregnant that er

J: sorry what was before

T: that they made the decision that

J: ahh

T: Emily was gonna actually m move to Britain and they were gonna be together as a couple

J: okay so it wasn't

T: so

J: always on the cards that it was gonna be the two of them

T: it wasn't no it was actually it was likely to be just just me and Suzanne

J: mmhmm

T: we were kind've I was about to say we were both single no she was single (laughs)

J: (laughs)

T: and I had this partner who wasn't gonna to be involved

J: yeah

T: as a as a parent erm so yeah it was gonna be just the two of us and then er then I yeah once we'd made the decision and kind've were gonna start I think then they reached a point when I think they er Emily then very much wanted to be part of that and it was gonna be Suzanne felt she'd y’know be better off with a partner than being a single mother and

J: mmm

T: all that stuff

## 16.47

J: and were you happy with with that I guess I guess that's not what you discussed from the start

T: it wasn't erm and I guess it was yeah it was kinda it I wasn't given any say in the matter I suppose erm I didn't I don't remember it it feeling like an issue I kind've I think we probably discussed the possibility of m er what if I'm in what if I meet somebody and I thought well I guess I have to just go with it really

J: yeah

T: I can't say no you can't

J: yeah (inaudible)

T: have a partner because we have a child together it's erm so I guess it yeah it kind've I think it wasn't erm a complete surprise there maybe something about it in the emails there was somebody I was corresponding with at the time but I remember writing something about it

J: okay

T: erm s so yeah so then Emily moved over here possibly yeah around the same time as we were starting to try inseminating I think although maybe we waited because Suzanne actually flew out to Balland to get her kind've thing and help her pack up and then

J: mmm

T: come back with her so maybe we waited so that not that it's a problem flying pregnant in the first trimester I thought or second even but r erm but I think maybe maybe Suzanne d decided she wanted to wait until Emily was there before we started so er yeah

J: so do you remember what sort’ve conversations you had it sounds like it sounds like you had sort've conversations about y'know what will we do in this situation and like y’know

T: mmm

J: if we have a partner and did you have what sort've conversations did you have

T: erm yeah I mean it was stuff about well like I said before about the kind of parents we'd want to be the kind've erm kind've parents we had

J: mmm

T: kind've erm experiences of being children and like expectations about parenting erm and kind've acknowledging that actually that communicating and constant communicating was gonna be the key to erm

J: mmm

T: to making it work and not necessarily having a kind've making a set of rules that we're gonna go by and stick to it's kind've well s’ that we're making it up as we go along really (laughs)

J: (laughs)

T: erm we also met up with a couple that Suzanne knew erm who'd done a similar thing and just kind've shared experiences and talked and asked them questions and things and erm Suzanne had a bit more experience she had some other f some other friends as well who live in Torland who were co-parenting erm with a different set-up again and they actually they live very close to each other and the children actually had a day with each parent

J: okay

T: alternating day by day (laughs)

J: (laughs)

T: which er (inaudible)

J: and do you live very close by

T: I do yes I do when we first so there was the other thing that yeah at the time when when I first met Suzanne Carl and I lived over in Herford erm Suzanne lived in Romley and still does in the same place and Carl and I actually moved to Belton w we talked we did talk about moving anyway

J: mmhmm

T: and so once we'd decided that we were doing that we moved and er I was actually closer there to them than I am here (laughs) it's slightly further

J: okay

T: away erm but when we broke up I needed to live somewhere else and so

J: mmm

T: this is where I ended up so it's just far enough that I don't walk as often as I'd like to (laugh) or cycle

J: to them

T: to them yeah I tend to drive it's only a like five minutes’ drive

J: yeah

T: and kind've fifteen or twenty minutes’ walk fifteen I suppose well erm but I don’t do yeah I sometimes cycle there if I don't have to carry (inaudible)

J: yeah

T: it’s a bit irrelevant really

J: (laughs) it's all right

T: but yeah it’s so that's kind've that's the distance really

J: mmm

T: and that's not erm whereas y'know before it was literally a less than a five minute walk between

J: yeah

T: erm between the two houses

J: yeah

T: so that was really good

## 21.32

J: and I guess they could walk to you as well

T: yeah

J: n now they're a bit older

T: they could

J: (laughs)

T: they weren't at all prepared to walk

J: (laughs) oh dear

T: but er anyway that's a different story

J: so I guess there's then sort've fifteen years of of of story left in a way

T: mmm

J: of kind've what what it was then like in the early days

T: yeah

J: and kind've adjusting to your that new role as a parent

T: yeah erm

J: and whether there's been any major milestones that kind've stick in your mind I guess as they got older

T: well I guess er the yeah I mean well maybe not so much in terms as a as of a parent but the whole thing er was was ending the relationship with Carl

J: mmm

T: erm cos that had been that that was a huge struggle it was really difficult um but I think part of part of what he felt threatened by initially was that that a it was going to take over that my relationship with the children or with the mums was gonna be become more important than my relationship with him erm and I was always I think wanting to reassure him that that's not that wasn't the case and that erm I'm about to say he would come first but actually that's probably you can't actually

J: mmm

T: say that when you've got children

J: yeah well

T: (laughs)

J: (laughs)

T: so the children have to come first but erm erm anyway so yeah I said that he y'know I think he would probably say that it was cos I had that I had a child that was erm the cause of the break-up erm and I say it's because he was alcoholic (laughs) which is just another huge part of the thing that actually it's

J: mmm

T: it ended up that his main relationship was not with me it was with vodka

J: mmm

T: erm and that was a huge thing as well but erm so I mean well once once we once we did actually split up I kind've realised that a looking back over the whole seventeen years that he'd actually been quite emotionally abusive a lot of the time and d there was a lot about the relationship that just was not right and like we were mutually toxic I think to each other

J: mmm

T: erm but it was after when we first conceived Marlow the elder child that was when things started to get really bad

J: mmm

T: in between the two of us and he was he was very erm verbally abusive about them not never to them he was kind've erm he was pretty much always very erm polite to them and they kind've wanting to be liked and things erm but with me he was just it was just constant constant attacks (laughs)

J: mmm

T: and about how awful they were and that they're not our kind of people and y'know th and this is once y'know once a child has been conceived and I'm committed to the whole thing is once I couldn't I couldn't do anything about it I couldn't say

J: no

T: okay well we won't

J: yeah

T: or I won't d in fact that had happened during the kind've during the early discussions before when I was meeting Suzanne and we were having talks about it and before we dec even decided we were going to try erm Carl had said one day I don't want you to do this it's making me ill

J: mmm

T: erm and and yeah so the next day I was kind've I was at work and kind've completely distracted by this thing thinking what am I gonna basically thinking what am I gonna say to Suzanne how am I gonna how’m I gonna say I have to stop

J: mmm

T: in this process because my partner doesn't want me to erm which I suppose looking back I probably would not have been unreasonable really but erm I was kind've dreading having to do that erm but then I got home from work that night and he'd changed his mind again (laughs)

J: oh (laughs)

T: he said he said I think you should do it because otherwi if you don't if I tell you not to do it and you don't do it I think you'll spend the rest of your life resenting me for it telling you not to do it

J: yeah

T: and I think that was yeah that was the point at which he was saying yes go ahead and do it and thinking it wouldn't happen Suzanne was nearly forty or was forty and I was nearly forty and but

J: mmhmm

T: around the age when it's kind've starting to possibly be too late

J: yeah

T: or risky at least erm and he just yeah I suppose he convinced himself that she just wouldn't actually be able to conceive a child erm

## 26.35

J: I didn't ask about the conception actually w did that all kinda go smoothly

T: erm

J: or was that kind've a long drawn-out process

T: I was I just remembered as well o one another thing's one of the things I did was erm get my sperm tested

J: ah yeah

T: erm

J: yeah

T: and er and then actually that my GP at the time said to me actually I wouldn't you're not not an ideal donor and there’s r are not looking great actually numbers were fine but motility was not good apparently

J: okay

T: but then y'know we ended up having two k kids (laughs) without too much

J: so when you say

T: problem so

J: you had it tested was that for how sort've how fertile you would be for

T: for fertility

J: like a genetic thing

T: yeah erm maybe there was a genetic thing as well I don't think I don't think we were looking at that particularly

J: okay

T: erm no

J: okay

T: no I mean I yeah there's no history of anything in my family particularly no I think it was just purely for fertility

J: okay

T: erm and I did you know I I stopped smoking and changed to boxer shorts (laughs) instead of briefs and you know erm made sure I ate like I had plenty of zinc in my diet and that sorta thing

J: yeah

T: read up on it erm so yeah but in terms of the erm the insemination yes it went fairly smoothly and the was I was like kind've just the awkwardness of erm

J: (laughs)

T: handing over a jar of jizz (laughs)

J: (laughs) is that how you did it in a jar

T: in a jar mainly yes yes erm

J: I I've heard erm

T: and then

J: some somebody else say they used they used like you know the squeegy thing you get in Nurofen

T: oh yes

J: the or Calpol or whatever

T: yeah

J: like the squeegy thing (laughs)

T: well that's essentially a syringe

J: y well y

T: really and in fact that's like what that's

J: appropriate yeah

T: what Suzanne used

J: well yeah yeah yeah

T: for her side of it to actually obviously and she's actually a GP so

J: ah that helps

T: she had erm

J: yep that helps

T: access to syringes (laughs)

J: yeah yeah

T: and erm yeah and the knowledge to know that you know you don't have to do go to a clinic you know

J: mmm

T: you just stick it up there basically (laughs)

J: yeah yeah yeah

T: I mean the the friend a couple friend of hers that we went to erm to chat with about it she said oh I did it with a jam spoon

J: ahh

T: what (laughs)

J: (laughs)

T: that doesn't sound very comfortable but here we are erm so I think it was I think each time it just took about four or five cycles

J: okay

T: erm

J: it's not it wasn't a very long wait then no

T: it wasn't it wasn't no

J: yeah

T: no

J: cos some people have sort’ve drawn-out processes don't they or

T: yeah yeah

J: sounds fairly

T: yeah s

J: yeah so so you and Carl split up when your your older son was quite young

T: erm

J: is that right

T: yes Marlow was five

J: oh oh so okay you did stay together

T: well

J: for quite a while after

T: quite a while and yes and in fact the y'know the time to have a second son as well

J: yeah yeah okay

T: which was also a big erm a big thing that er so yeah when Marlow was a baby and Carl was doing all the horrible stuff and and all the while I was keeping that from Suzanne and Emily as well

J: mmm

T: I was in a terrible

J: mmm

T: terrible situation really kind've

J: were you very close to them

T: erm well I at the time I wasn't I suppose but getting closer all the time

J: yeah

T: of course through being you know through having a baby together erm and we had regular meetings to talk about how things were going and they would always ask y’know how are things with Carl and I would lie basically

J: mmm

T: or I would say or I'd kind've paint a different picture to what was actually happening and yet wouldn't say it's terrible he insults you all the time (laughs)

J: mmm

T: I mean (sighs) I kind've I struggle to even say it but erm a lot of the time he I mean at best he referred to them as the lesbians

J: mmm

T: and at worst he'd call them those fat ugly bitches kind've

J: yeah

T: that was a phrase he regularly used

J: mmm

T: erm so yeah it was pretty horrible

J: yeah I guess that'd wear you down over time as well

T: yeah yeah and so I had this tension of kind've trying to keep them apart but also wanting to bring them together because he by then he was then talking about uh still not wanting to be a parent but maybe having a role as a step-parent

J: mmm

T: which they were very particularly Emily was very wary about and saying well y'know it's still got the word parent in it (laughs) what's y'know why is it different and mmm so erm

J: is are are Emily and Suzanne equal parents because you said at first it was mainly Suzanne that was involved

T: uh well

J: and Emily came later but (inaudible)

T: yeah well Emily so yeah Emily came along and yeah became her partner before we even conceived

## 31.36

J: mmm

T: the first child erm and so yes they're equal paren

J: yeah

T: in fact Emily was the one who stayed at home mainly when when they were little and Suzanne was working as a GP

J: mmm yeah

T: and she did go back part-time initially but erm so yeah and that was that was also a tension between me and Carl as well he didn't he couldn't seem to compute this the fact that this second woman had come along and was also a parent

J: mmhmm

T: erm and he claim he k kind've tried to make out later on that I hadn't ever said that sh that she was going to be a parent when she was moving from Balland sort've well how could she not y'know erm but anyway erm where was I up to erm

J: I guess sort've up to when

T: the second oh I was saying something about having the second

J: oh yeah yeah that's

T: erm having a second yeah so when things were bad and he'd said he was saying right no that's it okay I'm tolerating what's going on now

J: mmhmm

T: there will not be a second child and I just can't wait for the next eighteen years to go by so we can get rid of them or so that I can be rid of them

J: yeah

T: erm and there were times that he talked about moving out and stuff and er yeah there was an awful lot of (laughs)

J: yeah

T: stuff went on

J: that sounds really hard

T: erm

J: at the same time as having

T: yes

J: two young children

T: yeah

J: in your life

T: exactly yeah and so yeah there were times so Marlow would come like for an hour or two to the house sometimes

J: mmhmm

T: and erm yeah I mean there were a lot of times when Carl did make an effort to to engage

J: mmhmm

T: and to play with him and stuff erm and then there was anoth there was another whole per and I expect he was drinking at the ti see a lot of the drinking was secret

J: mmm

T: from me so I never really knew at what point it started erm there was a period where when Marlow was at the house he would just he wouldn't be in a different room he he would be in the same room but reading the paper kind've just not giving him any attention

J: mmm yeah

T: and er and in fact I don't know quite well but I suppose they must have asked me but they got to hear about that and erm and Suzanne actually didn't actually say I'm not gonna let Marlow go into your house anymore (laughs) but kind've engineered things that

J: mmm

T: each weekend is oh let's do such and such or I'm y'know kind've made it so that Marlow wasn't with me at the house it would be somewhere else and without Carl erm

J: cos you s is that sort've is that part of the reason why you you sort've mainly go to them

T: erm

J: even now that you kind've started that habit

T: I don't think so no it was always mainly it was always kind've this is their home

J: yeah

T: they have one home

J: yeah okay

T: not two

J: yeah okay

T: erm and they yes they can certainly visit you and spend time with you but this is their home erm

J: and that's something you talked about

T: yeah

J: early on

T: yeah

J: okay

T: and that was yeah that was defined thing from the start yeah

J: okay

T: and I'm here now I'm here with the one bedroomed flat and so

J: mmm mmm

T: you know if if I had a house with a that they could have a bedroom each it might be a different thing

J: mmm

T: erm but it seems silly to have a house with two spare rooms

J: yeah

T: when it's most of the time just me

J: yeah

T: erm so

J: so how did things change then once you split up with Carl

T: erm just got a lot easier really (laughs)

J: (laughs)

T: in terms of so I mean it it should be I should mention I think well I think it's worth mentioning that actually the four of us went to family therapy

J: okay

T: for quite some time to try and kind've we were like going right this we can't go on like this and particularly me I was I was actually getting very ill

J: mmm

T: with depression at the time it took me a long time to realise that that's what I had

J: yep

T: and that's what was going on erm but actually it's kind've yeah we were all realising that it couldn't couldn't go on as it was with the the tensions that were happening and erm so yeah we met th somebody at Relate in Blackham

J: mmm

T: who actually she was a very skilful family therapist so we had sessions all four of us

J: okay

## 36.26

T: erm which actually were really really helpful erm I mean I learnt things about Suzanne and Emily that I wouldn't necessarily have heard through our own conversations erm they certainly got to hear a lot more about Carl's side of things and he heard more about theirs and and stuff and it all in terms of that whole dynamic it made things a lot easier erm but then that was kind've that was the end of our relationship (laughs)

J: okay

T: then but erm er yeah he d he we stopped having all the rows about Suzanne and Emily and about the baby and erm he stopped saying all the awful things that he said had been saying

J: mmm

T: but then there was nothing else there was no kind've n no closeness between us then came back to take its place

J: mmm

T: erm and it yes he was drinking a lot as well even though he was saying that he wasn't and he was told me that he well he did see a psychotherapist f for some time but then again secretly stopped seeing her

J: right

T: was telling me that he was still seeing her but wasn't c I think basically she said you can't keep doing this if you're drinking

J: yeah

T: erm or he decided he didn't I don't know decided it was too difficult for him or something but erm so yeah basically by the end of it there was there was just nothing left

J: mmm

T: erm and so one day I was just like no I've got to stop I wanna move out really and he said yeah you're right there's nothing left erm

J: yeah sounds like that was really significant for you

T: yeah yeah and it really yeah I think it should've happened a lot earlier but erm

J: mmm

T: for many reasons it didn't but erm so yeah in terms of what happened then yeah things got a lot easier erm although erm things w for me were very difficult for a long time in terms of getting over that whole thing I was still suffering with depression and erm then I started drinking too much (laughs)

J: (laughs)

T: erm and yeah so some some things were really quite quite difficult for for a while after that but erm

J: yeah yeah

T: just just slowly gradually got better because I wasn't constantly wondering oh god what's Carl gonna say

J: yeah

T: about this

J: yeah and have you had a had any other relationships since then

T: not what I call properly no there has been there was someone who I saw for a while he was erm he also had a husband and er he lived somewhere else erm

J: mmhmm

T: and it was it was a polyamorous thing it's not it wasn't cheating

J: yeah

T: it was all known about I met his husband

J: I c kind’ve gathered from the fact that you didn't seem angry about this or anything no it was

T: okay

J: it was a happy situation

T: yes yeah it was all er yeah I knew that from the start

J: yeah

T: erm so that was all fine but it was yeah it was never really gonna go anywhere as a serious relationship

J: okay

T: it was kind've I was always the secondary partner to him

J: okay

T: even though I didn't have any one else erm and er yeah he did meet the family a couple of times when he was visiting Blackham erm and it was kind've it was yeah neither good nor bad really it was okay and yeah he played football with them which is not the kind've thing we did at all (laughs)

J: (laughs)

T: he made an effort to (coughs) erm to fit in and stuff and that was okay and yeah and they didn't yeah they didn't form any bond with him

J: yeah

T: particularly and then that relationship kind've fizzled out erm and no there hasn't been anyone else

J: yeah

T: at all I've had various flings with people but they nobody else that they've met

J: no

T: or that they've known about

J: no no one that's kind've come into the family

T: no

J: no

T: no

## 40.49

J: so I guess that'd be kind've a good point to ask erm about I guess your kind've identity as a parent

T: mmm

J: erm do you see yourself ha having a an identity as a gay parent erm and if you do kind've what does that kind've mean to you

T: mmm erm w yeah I guess I do erm cos that's what I am I mean I think in a lot of casual conversations I talk about having children and that I don't live with them and people with certain er people that I don't know terribly well maybe erm I th I know and I I think th they're assuming that I'm divorced

J: okay

T: erm and that's y'know that's a fairly logical assumption for people to make erm it's only kind've maybe later in other conversations that I'll make a point of I mean sometimes if it seems necessary or relevant erm I might make a point the first time of saying something about the er the thing and I tend to kind of go oh it's terribly modern y'know (laughs)

J: (laughs)

T: and be a bit flippant about it

J: yeah

T: erm

J: and do you get good reactions from other people

T: a almost always yes yeah yeah there was there was one bloke once who referred to it as an experiment like oh

J: oh

T: how’s your experiment going with children it's not an experiment

J: (laughs)

T: that's not very nice erm but yeah I yeah it's been very support some people some people are like really impressed like wow that's amazing it's great and I I I do think it's amazing (laughs) erm yeah I kind've actually become a parent against the odds really

J: yeah

T: and for a lot of people generally it might be the other way round they become parents by accident and

J: yeah

T: and erm don't particularly want to be maybe and stuff like that but erm yeah that I kind've I decided that's what I wanted to do and set out to do it and did it erm

J: yeah yeah

T: so it does yeah it does feel really important it feels like I've done something really quite amazing

J: yeah

T: there

J: yeah

T: erm which is not I think yeah not something that's recognised very often I mean yes people's responses are generally positive erm but I guess

J: you mean people would other people don't always recognise kind've how amazing it is is that what you mean

T: I think that's what I'm saying yes

J: yeah yeah

T: yeah erm and that's fine I'm not saying that I need that validation particularly

J: mmm

T: but erm when the times that I do get it it's great and I kinda think yeah it is really something very special (laughs)

J: yeah

T: that I've done erm I think a lot of other people I suppose maybe particularly other parents and heterosexual parents just kind've go well yeah and don't see it as particularly a special thing maybe

J: mmm

T: and

J: yeah

T: but erm I mean it's probably worth talking about how erm how I talk about it with other gay men

J: yeah that's interesting

T: erm cos actually I'm not I kind've have never been on the scene I've not n I don't have gay friends well I didn't have gay friends particularly er or when I was with Carl he actually sai w when I was kind've saying oh maybe we should try and get to know Alex and Richard a bit better and y'know let's have some gay friends and he was like we can’t we can't have gay friends cos we'll end up having sex with them and it wouldn't be right and kinda

J: (laughs)

T: we can't oh I don't know

J: (laughs)

T: so he seemed to think that it was not possible to be friends with other gay men

J: okay

T: (sighs)

J: (laughs)

T: (laughs) anyway erm so yeah I've not kind've n not known a lot of gay men historically after I split up with Carl I discovered the Fae Revolutionaries which I don't know if you've heard of at all

J: no

T: I haven't mentioned them er again that's a whole other

J: (laughs)

T: thing

J: I'm intrigued though

T: erm well it is it is quite intriguing yes it's erm it's kind've a sort've counter-cultural alternative quite hippy but not exclusively erm often kind've might be described as queer rather than LGBT

J: yeah

T: erm started in America was mostly men to start with but erm it's actually getting a lot more diverse these days erm kind've it's r rejection of heteronormativity

J: mmm

T: basically where whereas the kind've the more kind've mainstream gay men thing if you like and gay liberation gay equality for example says well we want to be able to get married

## 45.41

J: yeah

T: same as anyone else Revolutionaries are more likely to say actually we don't wanna get married

J: yeah

T: (laughs) we want to have polyamorous relationships

J: yeah

T: and w we want to make our own rules and not fit into the rules that society kind've might allow us to go along with

J: yeah

T: we're saying well actually you know we've been kept outside of a society and in many ways we are erm and it's more a kind've celebration of that as no not setting ourselves up as separate really

J: mmm

T: but that kind've that our otherness we celebrate erm so yeah

J: so you became involved in in that

T: so I became involved in that erm yeah which is how I met James who was the other partner I had for a while

J: ah yes okay

T: erm and w oh this is about being a parent yes and actually the very first time I went to a gathering I didn't talk about being a parent at all I kind've

J: mmm

T: it felt like I was very much that I was a minority there

J: yeah

T: within that

J: mmm

T: minority and so and and it's not that I y'know I don't care if people think I'm divorced people think I've had a a wife or a female partner and then discovered I was gay I actually don't it doesn't bother me that people might think that even though

J: yeah

T: you know I was gay came out when I was 22 never really had a girlfriend and all that in terms of gay credentials (laughs)

J: (laughs)

T: oh no no I'm a proper homosexual (laughs)

J: (laughs)

T: erm but for some reason I just it just felt really strange and awkward to talk about erm I mean I have done subsequently

J: mmm

T: but it it felt again I suppose it felt like a kind've coming out

J: yeah

T: it’s kind've erm

J: that's interesting

T: yeah but I am it is I am a minority within a minority within a minority basically that of of

J: (inaudible)

T: gay men who have children

J: okay

T: I'm in that I'm in a minority among them as well

J: okay

T: because actually most of them did get married and got divorced

J: okay

T: cos there's

J: ah okay

T: like there's this group Gay Dads UK

J: yeah

T: which is one of the online things that I'm part of

J: I think I've come across that one yeah

T: erm where you know it's a bit like a Facebook people put their profile and

J: mmm

T: their stories and their their and virtually everyone has a story of how they had to come out to their wives

J: okay

T: and how awful that was and

J: yeah

T: the the adjustment the resettling and do their children y'know how do their children cope with it and

J: yeah

T: erm and people say to you well how did you tell your children well y'know I didn't it's like

J: mmm

T: I did I’ve never told my children I was white or a male y'know

J: (laughs)

T: it's just s

J: it just is

T: they just have always known

J: yeah

T: so er

J: yeah yeah I think maybe that's changing now

T: yeah

J: erm with a lot more gay couples adopting

T: mmm yes

J: and using things like surrogacy

T: yes I think it probably is

J: so I think that probably is changing

T: maybe it's just within that particular group

J: but yeah with your kind've age cohort I guess

T: yeah

J: yeah

T: and so I kind've I joined that group and then I've actually not been I've not been to any of their meet ups or anything I just

J: mmm

T: it just feels like I actually haven't got very much in common with them

J: mmm

T: cos they want it seems that rather than talking about parenting and about ch

J: mmm

T: or fathering and about children they want to talk about (laughs) how awful it was having to split up with their wife

J: mmm yeah

T: and it's not an experience I had

J: okay so you're sort've in these different groups

T: yeah

J: so w when if you're talking to the Fae Revolutionaries

T: mmm

J: then you're kind've different because you're a parent

T: yeah

J: and then if you're talking to straight people who've got children then you're different because you're gay

T: mmm yeah

J: and then I guess you've got a different family set up as well

T: yeah

J: and then wi amongst those gay dads

T: mmm

J: then you're different because it's not

T: yeah

J: you didn't have a

T: yeah

J: a straight relationship i is there a group where you sort've feel like yes these are my people

T: well I mean I do feel that with the Revolutionaries

J: okay

T: I mean I really do

J: yeah

T: and because because they're so accepting and diverse it actually is fine

J: yeah

T: and there's I've never had any negative reaction at all

J: mmm

T: to the fact that I have children erm and I mean yeah there are some other Revolutionaries who have childr they tend to be older

J: yeah

T: who have grown-up children and it's yeah it is th because they got married and stuff y’know some with grandchildren even erm so yeah I mean it's yeah it's not as if I feel that I need to find other men who have a similar situation

J: mmm

T: in the co-parenting arrangement

## 50.30

J: yeah

T: erm

J: so are you you said you were in like an LGBT parents’ group at some point is that the gay dads group or is that something different

T: erm no it was more a the kind've online when I was actually looking for a lesbian to be

J: ahh that was way back okay

T: that was way way back then yes

J: yep okay

T: yeah erm and I'm not sure if I was actually in a group as such but I j kind've joined online forums and things like that

J: mmm that was when you were looking for

T: yeah

J: somebody uh somebody to have children with

T: yeah

J: and then since then what sort've it doesn't have to be online erm so you've mentioned like the Fae Revolutionaries

T: mmm

J: and I think that's the only thing you've really mentioned what other sort of support networks have you got sort've available to you

T: erm well there's my erm my family as well my father lives

J: mmm

T: in Little Norton not far away

J: yep

T: erm and is very supportive and very involved as a granddad kind've visits erm nearly every week if he can

J: yeah

T: and erm (sighs) well my mum died four years ago and she lived in Anster so that actually made her made it harder for her to be

J: yeah

T: as supportive

J: yeah

T: and involved erm but er she sent books a lot in the early days she er she was Ansteran

J: okay

T: and had moved back there with my stepfather after my parents split up and erm so I think she was very keen that they would grow up speaking Ansteran as I had

J: okay

T: but my dad was an Ansteran teacher whereas Suzanne and Emily well Suzanne speaks a bit of Ansteran but Emily not at all so there was actually very little chance that my sons would grow up

J: yeah

T: bilingual but erm but my mum sent books erm she would send a monthly book (laughs)

J: (laughs)

T: for a while until I

J: in Ansteran

T: in Ansteran yes until I ended up saying yeah that's actually too much

J: (laughs)

T: it’s like it felt it felt awful like saying stop sending presents to our grandsons but er erm yeah it was just and the they weren't that interested and as they w you know when they're very little

J: mmm

T: and they're just picture books with hardly any words it's fine (laughs)

J: mmm

T: it doesn't really matter that it's in another language

J: yeah

T: and I would kind’ve read to them read them to them in Ansteran but then getting slightly older it's actually harder to find a book that's appropriate

J: yeah yeah I can imagine did she keep sending them in Ansteran even as they got quite a lot older

T: yeah well n not quite a lot older I suppose I mean maybe till Marlow was about five or something or maybe maybe not even that old but erm yeah I mean I and I tried to talk to them a bit in Ansteran but they didn't like it at all (laughs)

J: (laughs)

T: Marlow and there was one one of Marlow's quotes that I remember from this no Tony don't do language

J: (laughs)

T: stop it don't do language (laughs)

J: don't do language (laughs) do they call you Tony

T: they did they did in those days

J: they did then

T: and then one day erm they just suddenly both were calling me dad out of the blue

J: aww

T: erm they'd actually they'd been away they'd been to Balland for a month

J: okay probably talking about you rather than to you (laughs) that's probably why

T: yeah and then they came back and they were both calling me dad and that was it so

J: yeah yeah

T: but it was yeah it was Tony for a long time

J: yeah I think children call call you what they hear you being called cos I remember both my children calling me

T: unless they're actually

J: my first name for quite a long time as well

T: unless they're actually told

J: yes exactly

T: I mean I have I had some some hippy friends who actually told their children no don't call us mummy and daddy call us Rich and Lesley

J: yep yep

T: cos that's what they wanted to be

J: yep yeah

T: but erm yeah I mean I was saying it was one of Suzanne's big things about the name just let them call us what they want to call us

J: yeah yeah so are there any are there any other kind've people that you've sort've

T: oh

J: turned to or

T: support we were talking about

J: yeah

T: weren’t we yes erm oh so I was still talking about my family

J: yeah

T: I mean I have a b I have two brothers as well the older one lives in Anster as well is also alcoholic and I actually barely talk to anymore erm so he's not a source of support at all

J: no

T: erm I have a younger brother who I think he's quite fond of being an uncle and erm

J: mmm

T: cos he buys them too much chocolate at easter and that sort of thing

J: (laughs)

T: erm but I wouldn't say he's sort've involved particularly he doesn't live locally he visits kind’ve two or three times a year and I yeah I'm not likely to turn to him very much for support

## 55.40

J: no

T: erm it’s a I mean I think a one of the things I said to you in the early on in this is that I

J: yeah

T: I don't know that I do actually access that

J: yeah you did

T: that much support in terms of specifically support over being a parent

J: yeah

T: erm I mean when there are difficulties I suppose I talk to Suzanne and Emily about it

J: mmm

T: mostly

J: yeah and you said that you said on the phone that you kind've really message quite regularly with them

T: mmm

J: yeah

T: yes

J: and do you think is that is that something that you want more of because I think I remember you saying at one point oh you kn oh this has kind've made me realise that I don't

T: well

J: perhaps I need more support than I have

T: yeah I mean I did wonder that erm but actually it's not something that I've found myself doing

J: no no

T: erm no it all I mean it seems to be going fine

J: mmhmm

T: erm I'm sure it's also worth mentioning that actually since about last June May June time I was having psychotherapy as well

J: mmhmm

T: I actually stopped only a couple of weeks ago

J: okay

T: cos I fin it felt like I'd achieved what I needed to achieve and erm I'm not having symptoms of depression anymore

J: mmm

T: erm

J: well that's quite explicit support then I guess

T: yes

J: yeah a definite place to go

T: oh I yes

J: yeah

T: seeing a therapist yeah a again it wasn't I mean I did obviously I did talk about the children but it was more about my own childhood and stuff

J: yeah

T: rather than but I guess yeah all of that impacts on me as a parent and so

J: yeah

T: yes I did talk about erm things but I think also in in terms of that process and what that's done for me I th I think I've q handled a lot better the difficulties that I've had as a parent and particularly a lot of exchanges with Marlow who's kind've I think has been a challenging teenager since he was about three

J: (laughs)

T: (laughs) and now that he's actually (laugh) adolescent it

J: yeah

T: it's kind've (explosion noise) really the full force of it erm

J: yeah have there been any have there been any big changes as they've kind've gone into that they're both now in that kind've teen stage aren't they

T: yeah well yeah Ben is twelve now so

J: tween

T: yeah

J: yeah

T: erm yeah I mean it's just yeah just sometimes very challenging stuff and yeah and times when I completely lose my rag erm

J: mmm

T: there's been a lot of that I suppose erm but I'd say less so I think since I’ve since I had a big breakthrough in the therapy

J: mmhmm

T: and things seem to be a lot better erm although having said that i just this last weekend there was a big shouting match well I described it in a text to Emily like it was like the d it it went from nought to sixty in 2.4 seconds it was kind've (laughs) erm but it was just a big (explosion noise) really and Marlow stormed off to his bedroom and kind've an hour later he was it was all fine again and erm but actually wh what I noticed particularly that m my own my own response to it and having to having him shouting at me and to having shouted at him which always makes me feel

J: mmm

T: I feel guilty and erm I actually came out of that very ver quickly and calmed down whereas there've been other times when I've kind've the anger has lingered with me

J: mmm

T: for a long time in the kind've (growls)

J: mmm

T: and want to go back and sort've shout at him some more (laughs) and stuff and

J: (laughs)

T: erm so

J: what do what do you kind've clash over is it just boring stuff

T: oh all kinds of things

J: (laughs)

T: the usual I mean I mean that that one at the weekend was that erm he well he’s just he was being mean to his little brother basically and completely unreasonable and then arguing that actually he was in the right erm and so yeah it was the it's those kinds of things I mean there's the whole er cos I'm a second child though that I kind've identify with

J: okay

T: Ben in those situations

J: yeah yeah yeah

T: more than Marlow because I had a big brother who bullied me erm

J: yeah

T: and I suppose yeah that side seems to come across stronger in me than than having a l an annoying little brother cos I did know that that little brothers are ac actually are incredibly annoying

## 1.00.38

J: you were in the middle you had an older and a younger

T: I was in the middle yeah

J: okay yeah

T: yeah but in terms of how I respond as a parent I do and he says gah you're always taking his side against me and

J: yeah

T: erm I try not to but

J: how how do you

T: quite often he is the aggressor and that's (laughs)

J: yeah yeah

T: which is what big brothers do you know

J: typical mediating (laughs)

T: yeah

J: everyone tells you if you're gonna have more than one that's mainly what you're gonna be doing

T: yes

J: (laughs)

T: so it's erm yeah it’s it's those things and the kind've making sure that he's not hurting and damaging Ben

J: yeah

T: erm but also just stuff that er you know stuff that he refuses to do basically and having to remind him five times that he's meant to be emptying the dishwasher and

J: mmm

T: it's like all right god you're so controlling and

J: (laughs)

T: those kinds of things

J: yeah

T: erm

J: yeah so you said that you said that you were like texting I can't remember

T: Suzanne and Emily

J: Suzanne and Emily

T: yes

J: and you were sort've saying you know oh this happened and how do you kind've work through those kind've things as as the three of you because you don't live together

T: mmm

J: does a lot of that happen like over

T: erm well actually mostly doesn’t

J: digitally or you go and talk

T: no most of the digital stuff is actually just about practical arrangements

J: mmm

T: erm of which there's a lot and obviously you know they have different activities that they go to and have to be driven to and stuff and so

J: yeah

T: a lot of

J: yeah

T: and also w when we when I see them at the weekends that's always ad hoc it's never been

J: yeah

T: a fixed time and day it's always y'know w when they're free

J: mmm

T: or if I'm busy y'know and and there's sometimes there's been weekends where it’s just too full and there's actually very little time to

J: yeah yeah

T: to see them or I'm away or whatever but er no but in terms of yeah conversations about things like that it's more likely to happen in person

J: yeah while you're is that while you're kind've s hanging out with over there

T: yes

J: or staying there

T: yeah

J: yeah

T: or we make a specific point of meeting to I mean in the early days it was we were were regularly doing that once a month and we would actually sit and put it in the diary and stuff and that was the thing that we did once a month

J: mmm

T: and then sometimes Carl was part of that but mostly not erm and it was easier when they were little and they'd go to bed earlier and then

J: yeah

T: you have the evening to do those things and gradually as they've got older and older w

J: yeah

T: erm and we've done it less and less in terms of actually formally

J: mmm

T: saying we're having a parenting meeting in fact we haven't we probably haven't done that for maybe a year now or maybe more I can't even remember when it was that it kind've erm but it feels less it feels like less that we need to but also there are more times when they're both in front of the tele

J: mmm

T: or on the PlayStation or in their rooms and erm

J: just entertaining themselves

T: that we have we have more opportunities

J: yeah

T: to have conversations without them or we have conversations with them about

J: yeah

T: things and erm

J: yeah are they more involved in those conversations now then that it's a family meeting become

T: yeah I guess

J: includes them

T: well we don't actually do that and call it that

J: no

T: but erm I suppose times that we've done that it's because there's been there's a specific incident

J: yeah

T: that needs to be addressed or an issue

J: yeah

T: that needs to be talked about and sometimes they will wait for me to be there to to bring up a subject that's erm

J: okay

T: that they want to t all five of us to be part of and sometimes it's more you know it's that to know that I've heard them say what they're saying that the kids know that I've heard the same thing that they've heard (laughs)

J: mmhmm

T: cos they will d you know they'll try and play me off and

J: yeah

T: stuff and say well mum lets me do that (laughs)

J: yeah

T: and er you know so when we're all in the same room at the same time I can I can say no that's not what was said (laughs)

J: that makes sense (laughs) yeah erm yeah I guess erm I don't know whether we've we've we’ve missed out any of the kind of digital stuff erm you said you sort've

T: mmm

J: there's there's not a lot that you're doing sort’ve online

T: no

J: but I don't want to miss anything that you are

T: erm

J: you also said on the phone that there's sort've you are using online things and apps that are not necessarily directly associated with parenting

T: mmm

J: that kind've side of things

T: yes I mean uh just when you were asking about the texting or I mean actually quite often it's a WhatsApp you know the three of us

J: mmm

T: will be so that rather than me texting one or

J: yeah

T: either of them or both of them it's kind've we're all three

J: yeah

## 1.05.25

T: we all three know that we're seeing the same messages erm that's reminded me that w we hardly ever use emails between us we did sometimes in the early days we did but there were a couple of occasions when probably at Carl's behest I think that I d I composed emails that I shouldn't have sent

J: mmm mmm

T: and er but I did and those kinds of things and

J: mmm

T: and er kind’ve well it's for those kinds of communications email is not really a

J: no

T: a good er good platform

J: no

T: for it so er

J: yeah that makes sense

T: yeah we also barely interact on Facebook Suzanne's on Facebook Emily oh actually Emily is but is hardly active at all

J: mmm

T: she just I think she went on Facebook specifically to keep in touch with certain friends in Balland

J: okay

T: erm but erm

J: and are you on Facebook

T: she I'm on Facebook a lot

J: you're on f you’re on Facebook a lot okay

T: yes

J: so and you said so you mentioned there's like a a Gay Dads Group

T: yeah

J: that you you

T: yes there

J: (inaudible) what

T: yeah tha that's on Facebook and although it was I initially saw it just as a standalone website um which

J: mmhmm

T: but then they wanted people to pay for membership so I don't

J: oh really

T: don't know if it even still exists

J: okay

T: erm I think it's probably been taken over by the Facebook group

J: oh okay

T: erm or overtaken rather see what I mean

J: yes

T: the difference or the distinction there

J: yeah

T: erm so yeah in terms of I'm not active in that group

J: mmhmm

T: at all I don't post stuff to the grou I occasionally see posts when they're saying oh we're having a meet up in Newgate or in Brigforth where all the gays are (laughs)

J: (laughs)

T: I did I once posted something about how the is there anyone in the East Midlands and there was I think there was one bloke responded who was a like kind've much older man with adult children

J: okay

T: who lived in Southwell and er so and I didn't get in touch with him

J: no

T: so

J: no

T: erm

J: so what do you use Facebook for then what things are you doing on Facebook

T: erm well I'm keeping in touch with the kind've seeing a lot of things from I mean a lot of it is a lot of my Facebook friends are in the folk scene

J: mmm

T: erm or just y'know some actual friends that it's good to a good way to keep in touch with and to keep up with and photos and things erm but fairly a lot of political stuff

J: mmm okay

T: erm

J: the usual

T: yeah

J: yeah yeah

T: yes erm and I don't post about the boys very often

J: mmm

T: and partly that's a conscious choice for kind've for their privacy

J: mmm

T: I mean they're actually they're both on Facebook now

J: are they

T: but erm but actually Facebook to them is Facebook's for older people

J: yeah

T: like and they all it's all Instagram

J: it's not cool is it

T: for them no it's not cool no

J: (laughs)

T: they're on it but they don't really use it very much and

J: yeah yeah

T: erm

J: what about the the Fae Revolutionaries is that does that is that online

T: oh yes yes a lot of those a lot of those are on Facebook as well

J: and that so you do they have like a specific page or

T: erm yes yeah there

J: okay

T: well there are several different ones

J: okay

T: erm yeah but again there's not I wouldn't post to them anything to do with parenting really (inaudible) me

J: yeah yeah you mentioned dating as well you said you were on like dating apps

T: yeah

J: and that you use that's another way that you're using kind've digital media

T: yeah I'm on Tinder and Grindr

J: yeah

T: and that's all erm I'm on there a lot of the time (inaudible) sort've over the years since I split up with Carl I was on lots of different websites as well

J: mmm

T: but erm a couple of years ago I reached a point where I was just I was just getting no joy with any of it

J: yeah

T: at all I just erm just ditched the lot of them and so I'm not on any dating websites

J: yeah

T: at the moment just just Tinder and Grindr

J: yeah and do you mention being a parent on those

T: I do I've got yes I mean I'v d I kind've refresh update my profile quite a lot

J: okay

T: although actually on Tinder it's it doesn't say on Tinder

J: okay

T: and in fact I’m the most recent bloke I've met on Tinder it came up in a in a chat

J: okay

T: and erm he was kind've quite interested I think and erm a bit surprised but erm

J: yeah

T: and er and I said oh and I kind've then I said in the chat mess and I said oh yes should I should put it on my profile shouldn't I and er and his response was oh no no I've got nothing against children kind've thing as if

J: (laughs)

T: erm I mean I should say he's Vietnamese En English is not his first language

J: okay

T: so that probably makes a difference

J: yeah

## 1.10.27

T: but erm but I think there was yeah there was the kind've where I was feeling that I that maybe I should've been more upfront about it by having it in my profile straightaway erm

J: yeah

T: but I think he was saying yeah having it in your profile would not have stopped me getting in touch with you I think is

J: okay yeah that makes sense

T: the meaning that was was behind that

J: yeah yeah

T: yeah

## 1.10.46