

From a Whisper to a Roar

Interview Summary	
Name: Sue Potter	Date: 28/08/19 Age: 62
Key issues: London. Lesbian. Lesbian bars/clubs of London. London Lesbian and Gay Centre. Pride. Drag Queens and Kings. Gay Scene Disappearance. Club and Bar Closures.	
Narrative summary: <p>Sue had her first kiss with a girl when she was around 8 years old, and it was around this time that she realised she liked women. She was a tomboy, but she talks about how everyone was sort of unisex anyway; they were 'sort of skinheads'. She never worried about bullying growing up, and was always sure of herself. She had her first relationship with a woman at age 18, and that lasted for 7 years.</p> <p>Sue has comprehensive recall and talks about all the different LGBTQ+ venues she frequented in London: The Bell, Louise's, The Silver Lady, The Sol's Arms, The Duke of Wellington, Beryl's etc. She thinks that social media has a lot to do with the current lack of LGBTQ+ spaces disappearing and closing down. Sue also highlights the effect that gentrification has had on queer spaces, and how venues have fought and struggled to stay open.</p> <p>She talks about how she has never really had an issue with being out and proud; for her it comes down to respect. Sue thinks that if you respect good people, then you'll get respect back, and your sexuality becomes almost meaningless. Sue never had problems with coming out to her family or her friends; everyone was accepting.</p> <p>She gives younger lesbians the advice of living your life as full and as happy as you can; and remember to put time into your friendships, because those are the relationships that last the longest.</p>	
	Length of interview: 1hr 3 mins



Marguerite: This is Marguerite McLaughlin. It's the 28th of August and I'm interviewing Sue Potter. I've shown Sue my identification and had the release form signed. Just to begin with, Sue, tell me about your early life and when you started suspecting that you might be into women.

Sue: In my primary school.

Marguerite: Cool.

Sue: Yeah, in my primary school. That was my first kiss with a girl that all the boys used to fancy. I must have been about eight, eight years old. The guys used to sort of like run after this girl. I'll never forget her name, but I won't say it. Anyway, so we just went back into school, and I was just leaning against the wall, and she just came up and kissed me.

Marguerite: Wow.

Sue: But I had my eyes open. My eyes were going everywhere, sort of from side-to-side, up and down, anywhere ... Then I had kind of butterflies. First like feeling of like a women's touch, basically. Yeah, so that was my first sort of, that was my first kiss. And then from there, I was just a tomboy. Used to hang out with the guys, go scrumping. Which we used to do, scrumping. Or we used to say knocking dollies out of bed, but I was just a tomboy, just hang out with the guys, and ...

Marguerite: Where did you actually grow up?

Sue: I grew up Islington, here.

Marguerite: Right.

Sue: Right here. I've never actually moved.

Marguerite: How amazing. That's brilliant.

Sue: Well you know, I was born in Liverpool Road, but then we moved down, in the East End, Plaistow. From there, we moved to Highbury, in an off license, when I got a job in the off license for Finches, and been around here all my life. So, yeah, love it, still love it.

Marguerite: So, how was it for you in terms of, you obviously knew that you were a lesbian. Can you identify as lesbian, or do you want me to use another word?

Sue: Yeah, no, lesbian is fine. That's what I am.

Marguerite: How did you manage knowing so young, in terms of what other people might have thought, or felt, or said that you ought to be?

Sue: In them days really, nobody really sort of thought anything of it. Just thought I was a tomboy, and I don't think then the lesbian fancy didn't really come up, or anything like that, they just thought I was a tomboy. Just always in jeans and

whatever. You know, as '69 come, everyone ended up all the same because it was like we were skinheads sort of, we'd have all the same sort of dress wear.

Marguerite: Right.

Sue: You know, so it's like unisex. Everything was unisex sort of thing to wear and the only thing I didn't agree with that at that particular time was some of the guys going off used to say they're going gay-bashing or they're going Pakki bashing and stuff like that.

Marguerite: Yeah.

Sue: Which is I ..just stayed out of the way. I thought, just grow up. One day they'll grow up.

Marguerite: Yeah.

Sue: I don't think they ever went. They'd just make out.. They'd go off and at that point I don't think they ever went down to the West end, that's what they'd say but I don't think they ever went. I don't think they had it in them. It wasn't really like that them times, really.

Marguerite: And did you know anyone else like you early on?

Sue: Yeah my friend who passed away who we was talking about before...

Marguerite: Yeah, the one that was your neighbour.

Sue: No not the neighbour, but the shy one.

Marguerite: Oh okay.

Sue: Yeah, yeah.

Marguerite: Oh right.

Sue: Him and [inaudible 00:04:10].

Marguerite: Yes, yes.

Sue: Yeah. Yeah the shy one, yeah. I was seeing a girl. The girl I was 16, I was 18, and it was like my first real sort of relationship. And on my way home I said to Elaine, I'll meet you. But we went to a place then it was called Louise's.

Marguerite: Oh yes.

Sue: Yeah. [crosstalk 00:04:36] Down on Wardour Street.

Marguerite: Yes.

Sue: At that time. You know downstairs-

Marguerite: Yes I'd forgotten about that.

Sue: There was this, you know this ... more like a drag queen, but I think that was Louise actually with a big old fur coat and you know, hair high.

Marguerite: Yup.

Sue: Yeah so, we went there. And we were just making out, we wasn't gay to one another. We were just going to see what it was like.

Marguerite: Yeah.

Sue: But you know, and then we just came out to one another, you know. But yeah, that was, yeah good times.

Marguerite: So you didn't really have too much trouble growing up in terms of bullying?

Sue: No, not at all. But I could look after myself that's why. I mean, there was no boy who would pick on me, that was for sure.

Marguerite: Right, right.

Sue: At that time, you know? I was hooked up to [inaudible 00:05:32] sort of anything else, basically.

Marguerite: Excellent.

Sue: Even though I wasn't a bully in there, but I could stand my own.

Marguerite: Yeah.

Sue: Against anybody and anything.

Marguerite: Yeah.

Sue: That's the way I was, that's the way I was brought up. Because my parents were elderly, I had to stand on my own two feet.

Marguerite: Right.

Sue: You know I couldn't go running home to mum and dad and drag them out while some kid's stirring trouble.

Marguerite: Yeah, sure. [crosstalk 00:06:02]

Marguerite: "I'm going to tell my dad"

Sue: Yeah, yeah, yeah nothing like that. So when I first come out to my mum, I said to my mum, I said, "Mum," you know me and my first girlfriend were split up. After seven years, sort of thing.

Marguerite: Oh wow, that lasted a long time.

Sue Potter.190828_0014 (Completed 09/02/19)

Sue: Yeah, she went off with someone else and wanted to then come back. And I was already seeing somebody else and I wasn't too sure what I'm going to do.

Marguerite: Lesbians move on very fast.

Sue: Mm-hmm (affirmative)

Marguerite: Don't you think?

Sue: Well yeah, I was waiting about, you know for, a couple of months. But I got involved with her cousin actually. It was bisexual so-

Marguerite: Keep it in the family.

Sue: Yeah, yeah, yeah. So she was bisexual, so ... and I knew it wasn't going to be a permanent thing.

Marguerite: Sure.

Sue: But it lasted a year and a half.

Marguerite: Right.

Sue: And she always said to me, and I'll never forget, you know she said, "Relationships don't last, friendships do." You can have a relationship for like 25 years but you'll have your friends for like, 30, 40, 50 years until whenever. Which is true if they're really good friends.

Marguerite: It is.

Sue: So that's that, and I said to my mum, that was like my flatmate. I said, "Sue's left me".

Sue: Mum said "Oh, she'll be back don't worry."

Sue: And I said "I don't think so, mum," I said "she's gone off she won't be found."

Sue: She's like "Yeah of course she will".

Sue: I said, "Mom I'm gay. She's gone off with another woman".

Sue: She said, "No, but I'm gay too".

Sue: Mom said "I'm gay too" thinking it's like "I'm happy". She said "I'm happy".

Marguerite: Right, right, right. Yeah that would be a shock. Wow.

Sue: So after I stopped laughing I explained to her, no, I do like other women you know. She said, "Oh. Oh". But then you know, she got used to it and then she told like, because she used to go bingo, and she's telling all her friends. They said "What about your Susan will she get married?" She's like "No, she's gay!" So

she was quite happy about the situation. She didn't care. She loved me and that was it.

Marguerite: Yeah, exactly.

Sue: Mm-hmm (affirmative)

Marguerite: Love is stronger.

Sue: Oh, god, yeah. Blood as well, you know, thicker than water you know, and all those sayings.

Marguerite: So we were talking before the recording, but for the sake of the recording, early on we're talking what kind of year?

Sue: Well I'm talking late '70s.

Marguerite: Mm-hmm (affirmative)

Sue: Early '80s.

Marguerite: And where were you hanging out? Where were you going?

Sue: We were going Hemingford Arms, which was off of [inaudible 00:08:48].

Marguerite: So very local pub.

Sue: Very local pub. Yeah, really local.

Marguerite: Yeah.

Sue: Then we were going, obviously Louise's for like a nightclub. There used to be Bolts's on Haringey [inaudible 00:09:06].

Marguerite: Oh yeah, yeah. Oh gosh, yeah.

Sue: Yeah.

Marguerite: There was quite a lot in north London. Over a long period of time.

Sue: There used to be another one called the Silver Lady.

Marguerite: Okay I don't know that one.

Sue: That was up sort of near, just off Turnpike, West Green Road, somewhere like that.

Marguerite: Okay, oh wow.

Sue: Yeah, yeah.

Marguerite: The Silver Lady.

Sue Potter.190828_0014 (Completed 09/02/19)

Sue: It was called The Silver Lady.

Marguerite: I'll have to ask if other people remember it.

Sue: Yeah, it was The Silver Lady, I think it was on a Friday night. Might have been a Friday or Saturday night. I'm not sure if it was every other week or once, I'm not quite sure.

Marguerite: Yeah. And you mentioned the Sol's Arms.

Sue: The Soul's Arms.

Marguerite: Would have been very early on.

Sue: Yeah. There was Rackets also.

Marguerite: Rackets kind of came in in the, kind of early '80s, wasn't it?

Sue: Yeah, we had the Duke of Wellington.

Marguerite: Oh yeah, Duke of Wellington came and went couple of times.

Sue: Yeah, [crosstalk 00:10:01] yeah, that's right because the guy-

Marguerite: What's the road that the Welly was on?

Sue: [inaudible 00:10:03]

Marguerite: That's it.

Sue: Sir Paul's Road. [crosstalk 00:10:09]

Marguerite: So really you were spoiled for choice.

Sue: Yeah. And opposite it used to be the Greyhound.

Marguerite: Oh yeah.

Sue: Yeah. With some polite guy. That was also a gay.

Marguerite: Yeah. And of course there were some in south London, if people were willing to make the trek down there.

Sue: Yeah.

Marguerite: But it was always so difficult to get back home.

Sue: Yeah, there was one on Old King Road, named after, I thought it was Kentbury Arms or something like that. That was really going back.

Sue: Yeah, I didn't like going over south. Didn't like going south.

Marguerite: At the same time as Rackets there was one on, it was kind of near Islington Green.

Sue: Yeah there was a swinger's forum. And I forget, whether it was up, not upstairs. You used to go downstairs.

Marguerite: Yeah. [crosstalk 00:10:57] And we used to call it the old cracked pot, because it was so kind of, so many of the places were so shabby.

Sue: Yeah, it was, then.

Marguerite: And that one felt like a real fire hazard.

Sue: Yeah, yeah. And then we had The Bell.

Marguerite: Oh, yes, of course The Bell.

Sue: We had The Bell.

Marguerite: Did you ever go to the lesbian and gay centre?

Sue: Yeah, yeah. My friends used to go up there, I had couple friends go up there.

Marguerite: What would you say was the reason why it closed? Because people now who are much younger, find it absolutely amazing that we had a lesbian and gay centre, that we then managed to lose.

Sue: Uh, lack of funding I think it was.

Marguerite: Do you think?

Sue: Yeah, lack of funding. And then obviously, I mean look, it's near a famous, near Smithfield market, you don't really think about it, it was a prize area really.

Marguerite: Yeah.

Sue: And you know, they didn't get the funding on it maybe you do now.

Marguerite: Yeah.

Sue: But then it was really hard to keep places open and running.

Marguerite: Exactly. What a terrible shame.

Sue: Yeah, yeah. We had friends who worked there. Used to go down there quite a lot. Because it was Farringdon, wasn't it, sort of?

Marguerite: Yeah.

Sue: Yeah, that's it, yeah.

Marguerite: And big, it was-

Sue: It was huge.

Marguerite: Big.

Sue: It was humongous. Because you had upstairs, then you had downstairs with the clubby bit and stuff like that.

Marguerite: Yeah, and the tea dance downstairs. That was something that was legendary, as the entire community found itself learning to do ballroom dancing at a point where it was not fashionable.

Sue: I know.

Marguerite: It was very camp in a way.

Sue: I know. That was the one thing I didn't do. They used to have line dancing down at The Bell didn't they?

Marguerite: Yup.

Sue: You know?

Marguerite: Yeah. Because everyone went over to The Bell, once everyone started learning.

Sue: They moved to Southern Campus.

Marguerite: Yup. There were a lot of places.

Sue: Yeah. There was-

Marguerite: You could go out during the week, at the weekend, after hours, you remember the Ace of Spades?

Sue: I do.

Marguerite: That was dog rough place.

Sue: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Marguerite: But you know, there was something, it's hard to describe to people, the fact that in certain ways it was actually quite fun that things were bit of a dive on a back street-

Sue: You didn't care where we went.

Marguerite: Exactly. It was all kind of a little bit like, you know-

Sue: Yeah.

Marguerite: A secret life.

Sue: Yeah, yeah it was. But you know, Beryl's.

Sue Potter.190828_0014 (Completed 09/02/19)

Marguerite: Beryl's, my God, you've got a good memory!

Sue: Beryl's, that was classic.

Marguerite: Yeah.

Sue: I was upstairs talking to one girl, come back downstairs talking to another girl.

Interrupted for a phone call.

Sue: Sorry about that.

Marguerite: No worries.

Sue: It's just-

Marguerite: Beryl's. Oh my goodness.

Sue: That was ... I loved Beryl's. You know there was pick up there.

Marguerite: Yeah you were saying, that phone rang at a very bad moment.

Sue: Oh no, sorry.

Marguerite: You could go up the stairs-

Sue: You go up the stairs talking to one girl, come back down talking to another. Because my friend who lives across the road, her and her partner at the time used to watch me and they used to pee themselves laughing. You know, me going upstairs coming back down with one girl, back up with another. I'm up and down like that. It's like escalator, sort of. It was very fun.

Marguerite: Did you ever have more than one girlfriend at a time? Because at one point that was considered a very okay thing to do.

Sue: I was free. I was free then. Lots of one night stands, you know, at that time when I was free.

Marguerite: Yeah.

Sue: But once I was in a relationship then I was faithful.

Marguerite: Right.

Sue: Yeah I was really faithful. But I had, you know, you have your moments. Because you get fed up with one night stands and...

Marguerite: Sure.

Sue: You know, you say I'll settle down sooner or later. And then I did. You know, so, you know, that was another seven year relationship. I can't go past seven years, maybe it's the itch. The seven year itch.

Marguerite: Well yeah they say that don't they?

Sue: Yeah, yeah. You know, so, but I've enjoyed it. I totally enjoyed it.

Marguerite: And did you ever go on anything like the gay pride marches and-

Sue: Yeah! When they were free [crosstalk 00:16:10]

Marguerite: Demos and all that.

Sue: Demos not so much, but pride, always.

Marguerite: Yeah.

Sue: You know, it was free. It's like over Clapham Common. Oh, Finsbury Park I think we had to have tickets there. But we went Clapham Common, Kennington Hall Park.] it was all free. But now they just ... it's very exploited now, I think. With all this business like, pay this and pay that you've got to pay everything now. Pay for everything where it was free. And you used to get a lot of crowds and crowds and crowds, you know?

Marguerite: It was more a community event, wasn't it?

Sue: Yeah.

Marguerite: You'd bump into everyone you knew.

Sue: Yeah, and also you get people there with their kids and everything.

Marguerite: Yeah, oh yeah. [crosstalk 00:17:01] It was just like a big picnic there-

Sue: Yeah.

Marguerite: You got stalls and music and just a nice time.

Sue: Yeah and it was a great time.

Marguerite: Yeah.

Sue: And now you know, you're just paying for ... you're just paying for it all the time.

Marguerite: Do you still march ever?

Sue: No, not anymore. No I'm sick of, we used to like the marching and stuff like that, but the march isn't so long now.

Marguerite: Mm-hmm (affirmative)

Sue: You know it's quite a short march, isn't it now?

Marguerite: Mm-hmm (affirmative)

Sue Potter.190828_0014 (Completed 09/02/19)

Marguerite: Well for a major city-

Sue: Yeah.

Marguerite: I think it's-

Sue: I went on the bus once-

Marguerite: It's complicated.

Sue: An open-top bus, a friend of ours, we went on an open-top bus which was good. And I quite enjoyed that.

Marguerite: And have the changes that have happened in the law affected you much in any way? Because as you've described it you've been pretty happy and able to live your life without much interference or threat.

Sue: Yeah.

Marguerite: So, over the years how do you see that things have changed?

Sue: Well I don't really go out much anymore, because there isn't really anywhere to go.

Marguerite: Sure.

Sue: And when we do, we have the Royal Oak and that and 'cause it's only down the road we just stagger down the road and stagger back.

Marguerite: Yeah.

Sue: [inaudible 00:18:24] Sometimes you just get the odd guy come in and start hitting on the girls and stuff like that.

Marguerite: Yeah.

Sue: But I've stood my own. You know, picked on me. The wrong one to pick on.

Marguerite: Well, quite.

Sue: The wrong one to pick on. Definitely. So I could always stand my ... I won't be talked down to by a piece of trash that don't have a clue, you know, just don't got any sense really, to know what's going on and know we just want to go in there, just want to avoid the trouble.

Marguerite: Yeah.

Sue: He got hauled out and then Jackie got [inaudible 00:19:13]. The person at the door on staff, you know. So it was all right, all was all right. And we just get, obviously afters in there, the locals.

Marguerite: Oh yeah, I think that's something that's always very interesting that happens is once people get used to the fact that it's gay people and they might go be curious and want to look at us like we're on TV-

Sue: Yeah.

Marguerite: Like some spectacle. People very quickly realise that there isn't much difference at all.

Sue: No it's not, and they're just basically wasting their time.

Marguerite: People ... love is love..

Sue: Or even now you get probably guys who maybe speak to straight women, and because they don't fancy the guy they think, oh they're a lesbian.

Marguerite: Yeah.

Sue: You know? They label them like that and it's like, how ridiculous. It's like you know, get a life, really and truly.

Marguerite: And yet, I think certainly back in the old days, in terms of the women's movement and the gay rights movement, the lesbians part of the gay rights movement got very fed up with the women's movement when the women's movement would back away out of fear of being considered lesbians. And that was a long time ago but it was a real dynamic that went on.

Sue: Yeah, yeah it was like Greenpeace. Maybe there was some lesbians and maybe the majority wasn't but they would cast as like lesbians. Even though they weren't, they were just sticking up for their rights or what they think was right.

Marguerite: Exactly.

Sue: So you know, you can't cast them in the same category as you think, oh they're a whole bunch of lesbians. That's what we used to get.

Marguerite: Yeah.

Sue: You know, a bunch of dikes and all this that and the other.

Marguerite: And then we used to get the exact opposite. I used to work for Hackney Adult Education Institute.

Sue: Okay.

Marguerite: And I had a colleague who was, he was someone who was from an Asian family background.

Sue: Uh huh.

Marguerite: He had never encountered out gay people.

Sue: Right.

Marguerite: We got on really well. The institute was very progressive, the principal was a lesbian, there were loads of lesbian and gay people who worked there. So this colleague of mine, it got to the point where I had to remind him that not every strong woman that he met was a lesbian.

Sue: Oh yeah.

Marguerite: It went from one extreme to the other.

Sue: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Marguerite: And he thought every outspoken, assertive, strong woman was a lesbian. He was starting to assume that.

Sue: Yeah.

Marguerite: And I used to have to say, oy, remember, it's not the case.

Sue: Sometimes in their community, it's the men, you don't talk back to the men. It's sort of, you don't do that. It's like you got to put your point of view across and if he doesn't like it, then so what? You're not a lesbian because you're putting your point of view across, you know?

Marguerite: Exactly! But we did laugh about it. It was a thing in making adjustments and learning and changing-

Sue: Yeah, yeah.

Marguerite: It was again, that whole issue of being out in the world that everybody pretty much knows and you don't feel like you have to explain yourself.

Sue: No.

Marguerite: It's really important.

Sue: I know. Well I never did. If somebody asks me, then I'll tell them.

Marguerite: Yeah.

Sue: But-

Marguerite: You've lived your life the way you wanted to live your life.

Sue: Everybody around here knows I'm gay.

Marguerite: Yeah.

Sue: You know, I've gone into a straight bar, they know I'm gay. I went to a party Friday, they all know I'm gay. They don't give a monkey's.

Marguerite: Yeah, of course. You're you.

Sue: That's all you can be.

Marguerite: Yeah.

Sue: Is you. Gay, straight, or whatever-

Marguerite: Exactly.

Sue: You are you.

Marguerite: But I think that's something that made a lot of people change their attitudes.

Sue: Yeah, yeah.

Marguerite: Just being able to see us all as people who are as different or as alike as everyone else.

Sue: I know. It's like, this guy I was speaking to, he only lives round the corner, and he's bit against, from that sort of background. He buys me a pint, we sit down, we chat, he knows exactly what I am.

Marguerite: Yeah.

Sue: And he's got no problem with it. People don't have a problem with it. If they like you, they like you.

Marguerite: Exactly.

Sue: Yeah. Yeah, yeah. And I've got on with everybody. I get along with everybody. It's sort of like, I don't know what it's called, it's sort of like this. It's absolutely fine, you know. I've got no enemies, believe me. That's how it's supposed to get on.

Sue: My neighbours, they're both away and I've got their keys in case something happens in their flats and stuff. It's a trustworthy, sort of like they know who I am.

Marguerite: Yup.

Sue: You know.

Marguerite: Well your heart.

Sue: Yeah, exactly.

Marguerite: People know your heart.

Sue: Exactly. As long as you're a good person, it doesn't matter what you are. That's the way I see it. I've seen so many lovely people coming through my life, on the gay scene.

Marguerite: Yeah.

Sue: You know. Some pretty tough ones and some lovely people an' that, you know.

Marguerite: Well as we were saying before we put the tape on, there was an era when people had to be really very tough.

Sue: Oh yeah, you have to be. Because you know, as I said growing up I was a tomboy and that was it. You know, I stood my own. They can call me, behind my back, I should imagine .. call me what you want. Black Cap, remember?

Marguerite: Oh yes, it's very sad they fought so hard to keep it.

Sue: Why?

Marguerite: It was such a unique place.

Sue: It was. I know it was very male dominated sort of thing but the acts he used to get on there-

Marguerite: And I never felt unwelcome.

Sue: No, no, no no, not at all. Not at all. I used to know a lot of guys down there an' that.

Marguerite: But I've always felt that about drag. I know that there can be some very anti-women jokes that are told by drag queens.

Sue: But I like it, I don't mind it. I think it's funny.

Marguerite: There are a lot of drag queens that do a lot of charity work, are very involved in very good things.

Sue: There used to be one, it was called the Bull and Pump.

Marguerite: Yeah.

Sue: We used to call it Bull and Dump. They used to be the alternative round the corner in Fenchurch Street. They used to have a lot of drag, round there. Dave Lin.

Marguerite: Oh [crosstalk 00:26:24] Dave Lin.

Sue: Yeah, yeah yeah.

Marguerite: Fantastic guy.

Sue: Yeah.

Marguerite: Paul O'Grady used to be down at the lesbian and gay centre. He used to regularly do gigs down there and he was one of the first people, drag queen,

not drag queen, whoever, who really started trying to give the men of London the message about safer sex, because-

Sue: Yeah, yeah, of course.

Marguerite: Of AIDS.

Marguerite: And he used to throw, into the audience he used to throw sweets and condoms.

Sue: Yeah, yeah.

Marguerite: Into the audience.

Sue: The sweets-

Marguerite: It was very early on.

Sue: Was that the sweets for the lesbians?

Marguerite: Exactly! Exactly. Sweets for the lesbians, condoms for the boys.

Sue: Condoms for the boys. Yeah yeah.

Marguerite: Dave Lin, yeah, I really liked him.

Sue: Yeah. I like most of them. But Dave Lin I liked him, I thought he was really, really good. There used to be a couple of, two men that were meant to be sisters or something, they were good. I loved them all.

Marguerite: What do you think about drag kings? Have you seen many?

Sue: I've been to the Piano Bar with drag kings. Yeah, the Piano Bar when that was open. A photographer was on stage there and she was a famous photographer, lesbian.

Marguerite: Can you remember the name?

Sue: Yeah. I didn't think I was allowed to-

Marguerite: Oh, oh, yes. You'll have to tell me later.

Sue: Oh yeah, yeah, yeah.

Marguerite: Just in case.

Sue: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Marguerite: No, it's just that I know a number of lesbian photographers, so I'm just curious.

Sue: Oh all right, okay.

Marguerite: But yes, we'll leave that for-

Sue Potter.190828_0014 (Completed 09/02/19)

Sue: Yeah, yeah. We shouldn't [inaudible 00:28:48].

Marguerite: Right. Okay.

Sue: I don't feel any of them are as pretty as the men dressed up, actually. You know? My friend who lived upstairs, she took me down to the Piano Bar and it was drag kings, they're not as pretty as the drag queens. They seem to dress up as like 1920 gangsters.

Marguerite: Mm-hmm (affirmative)

Sue: I don't mind it.

Marguerite: No.

Sue: To each their own, you know.

Marguerite: Sure.

Sue: I don't care. If that's something you want to try out, you know, they used to be like dungeons and S&M and everything. If they're up for all that, that's absolutely fine.

Marguerite: Well interestingly, that whole scene of things like SM, were very welcoming to a whole range of queer people-

Sue: Uh huh.

Marguerite: Very early on.

Sue: Yeah.

Marguerite: Very open to respectful including of people.

Sue: Yeah, yeah yeah. Nothing as queer as folk.

Marguerite: Exactly. And a lot of that went on in places like Manchester, for example, with the whole gay scene there becoming really huge in the '80s. There had been nothing and then suddenly a whole gay village really.

Sue: Yeah, and also because I had a couple friends of mine used to be into that and the freaks used to have a night on.

Marguerite: Oh that's right.

Sue: Yeah. They used to have a night on. A band and all that.

Sue: My friend, there was a video of it, and my friend was on it actually.

Marguerite: Mm-hmm (affirmative)

Sue: Yeah.

Sue Potter.190828_0014 (Completed 09/02/19)

Marguerite: Did you ever used to go to the Drillhall? See the shows there? Or go to the bar?

Sue: I went there, I think I've been there in my life, about twice.

Marguerite: Right. So you're not particularly into fringe theatre performance type stuff.

Sue: Yeah, not really, no. Even though I've gone, I'm going to see a theatre show, I'm going to see something sort of like a play or something like that. [inaudible 00:30:39]

Marguerite: Like Motown?

Sue: Oh yeah I went Motown. I'm going to go see Tina Turner.

Marguerite: Oh great.

Sue: In September.

Marguerite: I reckon it'll be really good.

Sue: Yeah, it's like a life story-

Marguerite: Yeah, like a tribute.

Sue: Yeah, yeah, so looking forward to that. And then I'm going to my sister's, we're going to Windsor because she lives out in Berkshire.

Marguerite: And you've been out to your whole family pretty much the whole time?

Sue: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Marguerite: And did they have relationships with your partners over the years?

Sue: Yeah, my sister liked some of my partners.

Marguerite: Mm-hmm (affirmative)

Sue: Some she didn't. Yeah, yeah, my sister, they know what I am. But they don't care, you know. My nephew always comes down, just before my birthday he took me out for lunch and stuff like that, with his kids.

Marguerite: Yeah, great.

Sue: Greatnephews, you know?

Marguerite: Yeah. That's what it's about.

Sue: That's what it is. It's like your family and everything, they respect you. As long as you respect people you get respect back. That's what it boils down to. I don't think sometimes I don't think it's about your sexuality. It's about respecting people in general. You got a lot of respect for people, you'll get respect back. No matter what.

Marguerite: Yeah.

Sue: And I don't care, it's all the same like I don't care what you are.

Marguerite: Yeah.

Sue: And that's what I find. That's why I never had to demonstrate anything really in my life. I'm out and proud.

Marguerite: Yeah.

Sue: I'm out and I know I'm out and so does a lot of people. So to me, it's like, this old man, "Alright, Sue? Alright?" and sometimes a cuddle and everything. No problem. It's got to lighten up, straight people around here, gay people. All creeds and colours and everything.

Marguerite: Why do you think the scene has disappeared so much? Because there's still, I know that if you look at it in a really official way there were a lot of us because we were the end of the post World War II baby boomers so there were a lot of us. And it was very sudden that loads of people came out all at the same time. But there still have to be lots of lesbian and bi women, for example-

Sue: Yeah, of course.

Marguerite: Why is there nothing for us anymore?

Sue: There's a lot of social media now. That's taking over a lot of people's lives. And what we used to do, we set out to find a phone box, you know?

Marguerite: Yeah.

Sue: You had to find a phone box that was working. Or you'd meet all your friends: we'll be there, we'll be, say, we'll be at Rackets at seven o'clock or we'll be there at half past seven and whatever. You know, so that was being out and being socialising with everybody.

Marguerite: Yeah.

Sue: You knew everybody.

Marguerite: We were all really [crosstalk 00:33:51].

Sue: Yeah, you know? You knew everybody. And everybody knew you. And it's like, okay yeah, and we used to get on with it. But now I can't see where to go actually.

Marguerite: I know. It puzzles me.

Sue: It puzzles me.

Marguerite: And it's sad.

Sue Potter.190828_0014 (Completed 09/02/19)

Sue: It is. I went to Blush one time for my birthday and that's closed down. I know it was pokey but you know-

Marguerite: But it was local.

Sue: It was local and it was like somewhere to go. But people don't, I suppose, ... over Vauxhall an' that, I suppose it's the clubs over there like round the Elephant & Castle.

Marguerite: Have you ever been to Ducky's at the Royal Vauxhall Tavern?

Sue: Um, I probably have, yeah. I used to go to the Vauxhall Tavern sometimes.

Marguerite: That's an interesting place, because it very much creates a sense of community.

Sue: I haven't been there lately or anything like that.

Marguerite: Well they had a big fight to keep the building.

Sue: Oh, okay.

Marguerite: Because developers wanted to tear it down.

Sue: Okay.

Marguerite: Same old story. And it sits there right on a lot of land, so it was something that was very desirable to destroy.

Sue: Yeah, developers.

Marguerite: Exactly.

Sue: Yeah, yeah yeah.

Marguerite: The fight has been successful so far.

Sue: Yeah because it was on the news.

Marguerite: Yeah.

Sue: It was actually on the news, local news.

Marguerite: And that is a place where people are very friendly and talk to one another-

Sue: Yeah, yeah yeah.

Marguerite: Even at our age you might bump into people that you know.

Sue: Yeah.

Marguerite: But of course for us, the thing, as you said, you haven't been out to many of those places in a long time even if they were there-

Sue Potter.190828_0014 (Completed 09/02/19)

Sue: Yes.

Marguerite: Because they're not the kind of thing for us anymore.

Sue: No they're not local. I mean I'd go there for a pint and whatever, but if it's local. Jackie... [inaudible 00:35:51] now it's just for anybody. And it was empty Friday night, absolutely empty nobody in there, where it used to be heaving.

Marguerite: Yeah.

Sue: It used to be heaving on a Friday and Saturday night.

Marguerite: Yeah.

Sue: You know, and sometimes in the week. But that's gone. I don't know about the Wellington, the Duke of Wellington anymore.

Marguerite: I think it's long gone. It's probably-

Sue: It's still there.

Marguerite: A bearded hipster place.

Sue: Yeah, it's that and it's like, but if you go anywhere, to meet people.

Marguerite: Yeah.

Sue: As I said, social media has got a lot to answer for and affects socialising. Which we used to have to go out.

Marguerite: What kinds of things, if you could wave a magic wand, or you could say to ODL, okay these are the things I would like there to be... what kinds of things might you ask for?

Sue: I'd like just to ask for a place where we could all, sort of like, the girls could all meet, sit down, have a drink. A nice bar.

Marguerite: Yeah.

Sue: Yeah. And not just open to anyone really. Just like a nice girls bar.

Marguerite: Yeah.

Sue: Yeah. To see what kind of girls you get down there and stuff like that.

Marguerite: Yeah.

Sue: To see how that went. Even if it was like once a week on a Friday night, you know. I mean Blush wasn't that heaving because it was too small.

Marguerite: Yeah.

Sue: But as you said Due South used to be.

Marguerite: Yeah.

Sue: You know? And also Lonsborough.

Marguerite: Oh yeah.

Sue: Lonsborough. That was another place, you know, where people used to gather.

Marguerite: Because it's that thing of, rather than have to make arrangements with people, you know. Put a date in your diary and all go to a specific place. Those places that we knew that there would be people there, it gave you choice.

Sue: Yeah. And also you knew people would be there.

Marguerite: Yeah.

Sue: And it's like, if you was going on your own, you know you'd find someone in there-

Marguerite: Exactly.

Sue: To talk to.

Marguerite: Exactly.

Sue: You won't have to go be like "I'm not going there, I'm not going there on my own" Because you're going sit down on your own and noone is going to be talking to you.

Marguerite: The last place that I felt that about was the Glass Bar. That you could go in there and even if you didn't bump into anyone you knew, the woman who ran the place would include you in conversations that she-

Sue: Oh, okay.

Marguerite: Was starting with various people.

Sue: Okay.

Marguerite: And particularly people who would sit at the bar. People who came together and wanted to chat, or whatever, might sit at the tables. But there was always an opportunity to sit around the bar and be included in a conversation with loads of people you've never met.

Sue: Yeah, yeah.

Marguerite: People who were very nice, very interesting. And supported by this woman Elaine whose bar it was.

Sue: I probably know her.

Sue Potter.190828_0014 (Completed 09/02/19)

Marguerite: Yeah, you'd know her to see her.

Sue: I'd probably know her to see her, yeah. Elaine, yeah.

Sue: It's like as I said, we knew everybody then. A lot of my friends have passed away now. And they passed away early.

Marguerite: Yeah.

Sue: Passed away really quite early.

Marguerite: Yeah, because from what you were describing and your age people aren't that old.

Sue: No, no, not at all. My friend Elaine who passed on, she was like, she had reached 50.

Marguerite: Gosh.

Sue: Yeah. That was the little shy one we was talking about before.

Marguerite: Yeah, yeah.

Sue: Yeah.

Marguerite: Absolutely. [crosstalk 00:39:41]

Sue: So, life's too short as they say. You've got to really live it.

Marguerite: Absolutely. But boy, we did.

Sue: Oh, did we just? Didn't we have some times? That's what I'd like, just a magic wand, just for that. No social media, no nothing. Just one place to meet.

Marguerite: Yeah.

Sue: All the girls like meet in heaven for one night only.

Marguerite: Yeah. I remember a friend of mine who was involved in the Drillhall and there used to be a huge woman's discos there. Every once in a while there would be-

Sue: Okay.

Marguerite: And it would be 400 women in there. Just-

Sue: Why didn't I know about that then?

Marguerite: I don't know!

Sue: Neither do I!

Marguerite: You really missed out.

Sue Potter.190828_0014 (Completed 09/02/19)

Sue: Because you know why, because there's so many other places to go-

Marguerite: Of course.

Sue: So you wouldn't go there.

Marguerite: And the reason I did was because I knew people who were working there.

Sue: Of course, yeah yeah.

Marguerite: But I remember this friend of mine who was part, oh thank you-

Sue: You're more than welcome.

Marguerite: Who was part of running the place. I remember a girlfriend of hers one time standing and looking across this huge room at all these women and saying, "Ah, just look, here is your past, your present, and your future."

Sue: Yeah.

Marguerite: And it's so true. Because all of us had exes in the room, all of us had current girlfriends in the room-

Sue: Yeah, yeah yeah.

Marguerite: And all of us probably had future girlfriends in the room.

Sue: Yeah, that you probably never met [crosstalk 00:41:29].

Marguerite: Let's be honest, let's face it.

Sue: Wow. Good.

Marguerite: But it was, it was an absolutely hilarious quote.

Sue: Yeah, yeah.

Marguerite: And it summed up that whole era.

Sue: Yeah, yeah. I'm so glad I was brought up in the era I was.

Marguerite: Absolutely, you and me both.

Sue: Yeah, I'm so pleased. I was blessed basically.

Marguerite: Yeah.

Sue: Absolutely blessed.

Marguerite: Yeah.

Sue: Because I loved it. I loved every minute of it, you know?

Marguerite: Me too.

Sue: It was just a great time.

Marguerite: It was.

Sue: Just such a great time. I was so happy. I was happy without social media or anything. You liked going out to meet people.

Marguerite: It was so exciting, wasn't it? Life was just exciting.

Sue: Life was a breeze.

Marguerite: So much was going on. It was easier to get jobs, if you didn't like one job you could go and find something else, there were all sorts of opportunities.

Sue: There was.

Marguerite: And the women!

Sue: I know! Damn it, tell me about it! As you said, you could walk out of a job on Friday and go in a job on Monday.

Marguerite: Exactly.

Sue: I mean, I remember thinking, I'll have a week off and then, you know, you could get a jobs, snap, you know.

Marguerite: Yeah. And you could be yourself.

Sue: Oh, yeah.

Marguerite: There really wasn't, I think there was an era where maybe it was so unusual that people almost didn't have time to be against us. It was like, oh okay.

Sue: Yeah, no one cares as long as you did your job.

Marguerite: Yeah.

Sue: They don't give a monkeys.

Marguerite: Exactly. You could be out in work, out in your life, out in the neighbourhood.

Sue: Yeah.

Marguerite: Because I was as well. Everyone was. Everyone knew.

Sue: Yeah, that's right. And it's like, I was a courier and I used to go out of town, I'd go down to deliver a parcel and stuff like that. I'd go to, down to Torquay to deliver one parcel. I loved it. It's out of town, going to different jobs like Brighton and stuff like that. It was lovely. It used to be really great.

Sue: I must tell you about a pub in Brighton we found. It's the King's Arms in George Street, it's opposite the Queen's - I don't know if it's the Queen's Head or Queen's Arms- mind you, It's about four years ago, I found this pub. You know how expensive it is for drinks?

Marguerite: Shocking. Really shocking.

Sue: This is George Street off of James Street.

Marguerite: Yeah I know George Street.

Sue: All right yeah, there's a pub. I was sitting there and I've got a large white wine while my mate, she had a double scotch and a bottle of coke. Six quid.

Marguerite: You are joking me.

Sue: Oh no, no. No, no.

Marguerite: Twice that would have been fairly cheap.

Sue: I mean this was four years ago I don't even know if it would still be going. It was a straight bar, and whatever, but we didn't care. Because obviously they're used to seeing gay people there in Brighton.

Marguerite: Yeah.

Sue: [inaudible 00:44:28] a bottle of coke. As well as a double scotch.

Marguerite: Hm.

Sue: Six quid, she said "no you're joking". I mean this was like four years ago. So we stayed there all day, didn't we? We wasn't going out of that pub. It was amazing. But it was the cheapest pub around. So after that, I'm sure it hasn't gone up probably that much but I don't know...

Marguerite: But I think that is also one of the things in terms of socialising and doing socialising in pubs, because I don't know how young people do it.

Sue: Well they've been doing it-

Marguerite: So expensive.

Sue: I know. But we say that, but there's a pub down here, down on the corner over there-

Marguerite: Yeah that one just there.

Sue: It used to be the old Robinson Crusoe...

Marguerite: I'm glad you said that because I was trying to remember the name and I couldn't.

Sue: Yeah, it was-

Marguerite: As I was coming to you. I was thinking what did that used to be called.

Sue: But everyone still it calls it Robin, despite its called the Clissold Park Tavern, or whatever. But it's heaving!

Marguerite: Oh okay.

Sue: Every weekend it's heaving there. And it's like, you know what? There is money about. There is money about.

Marguerite: Well young people live on credit, don't they.

Sue: Someone went to a pub and they didn't take cash they only took credit cards.

Marguerite: Oh yeah. That extraordinary.

Sue: I know. And I only like paying cash. I don't like that. Because you don't know what's coming out. By the time you'd had a few, it's like, oh I don't care.

Marguerite: Exactly.

Sue: And then you get your bank statement and it's like, what the...!

Marguerite: Exactly.

Sue: Then it's like, did you spend that much? But you can... if you got cash in your pocket you don't take cards out, you know your limit, you know what you can afford. I think it's best I think, it's best to buy a bottle of wine for two people, rather than two large glasses actually. That's if you're into wine drinking but if you're on shorts, maybe you get house. Happy hour, I don't know if they still do that anymore.

Marguerite: Yeah, I don't know really. Do you know many younger lesbians?

Sue: No really, no. Well I say no, my friend she's like just turned 50, but-

Marguerite: No I mean much younger, like-

Sue: Much younger, I don't-

Marguerite: Other generations.

Sue: Oh, baby dykes. They're baby face. I don't actually. No, because I spend most of my time with the dogs and such.

Marguerite: Of course.

Sue: My whole-

Marguerite: So is that kind of like a bit of an alternative living?

Sue Potter.190828_0014 (Completed 09/02/19)

Sue: It helps me at night because it gives me something to do. I'm up at seven if it's really hot, take the dog out, because of the heat.

Marguerite: Mm-hmm (affirmative)

Sue: [inaudible 00:48:19] It's just the well-being thing as well.

Marguerite: Yeah.

Sue: Being around animals, sometimes rather than people, gives you a lot of comfort in life. Especially if you're not in a relationship. You know I don't think I could get myself into a relationship nowadays.

Marguerite: Why?

Sue: I'm too set in my ways. I have a friend who comes, she's straight, sometimes she stays, we sleep in the same bed and stuff like that. But I just feel like, I do like my own company as well.

Marguerite: Yeah.

Sue: You know?

Marguerite: But that's great.

Sue: It is and with the animals and stuff like that, I'm well happy.

Marguerite: Excellent.

Sue: You know, really happy, with myself. I socialise as well, I go out and socialise-

Marguerite: Sure.

Sue: And stuff like that. As I said, I'm going to a party. But I don't know many young lesbians anymore. I suppose they're all on the social media texting one another. Skyping one another...

Marguerite: One of the things that's interesting is that it's very obvious in terms of things like Opening Doors London, that younger lesbians are actually very interested in knowing us.

Sue: Okay.

Marguerite: And I've found that very comforting in a way. That we're not overlooked.

Sue: Yeah.

Marguerite: That women are really interested in knowing and knowing us and understanding aspects of us and I really feel like it's almost like before we disappear-

Sue: Yeah, yeah, but-

Marguerite: Which is exactly what this project is about.

Sue: Okay, yeah.

Marguerite: Is to make sure we don't just vanish.

Sue: Oh sure, do you know, if they were zapped back into our time they would have loved it.

Marguerite: They would.

Sue: They would have loved it!

Marguerite: I think sometimes people think, oh I wish I had been around.

Sue: Yeah, yeah. They would have loved it. They would have never seen anything like it in their lives.

Marguerite: Yeah.

Sue: They would never, now, obviously. Because things ain't like what they used to be.

Marguerite: But presumably you had lots of straight friends as well as the dikesy-

Sue: Oh yeah, of course yeah, I still have.

Marguerite: And I think that's something that's so important for people too.

Sue: Yeah, yeah. My friend says ... There's someone around there, she's not very nice, but you know I just say hi to her. But my friend, she said "oh, I've heard about you Sue". She said, "yeah, what have you heard? Whatever you heard it's all true". She doesn't care. It's great the way she is. They don't care, whatever people think let them think it. They think she's gay and she said I don't care, just as long as I'm decent. People just don't care anymore. People don't really got an interest in anything anymore. I just don't think they have, like what we used to have, we used to go out in different places and that was like, it was always a fun time sort of thing. And I don't think that the younger generation ever really got that like what we had, which isn't many places.

Marguerite: One of the things that interests me is this whole idea of, you know, you and I have been saying a lot about people are people, and we should all be together. But one of the things I'm noticing and it's through ODL, is all of these gay staff organisations at corporations that have become funders of ODL. What's interesting about it is that it feels to me almost too much like everyone else. So you're at work and you're at a finance company or a multinational legal company or even Disney International and all of the gay people there talk about their husbands or their wives and-

Sue: Are you talking about secret service, of the lesbian and gay, maybe they got secret lovers going?

Marguerite: No, no this is people who are very out.

Sue: Oh okay.

Marguerite: But who make reference to a wife, same-sex wife or a same-sex husband.

Sue: Oh, okay okay.

Marguerite: But-

Sue: I just say they're my partner.

Marguerite: So like everyone else that it doesn't feel like there's any alternative at all. It feels like... too much the same. Because we know that a lot of straight people are very bored.

Sue: Yeah.

Marguerite: Or trapped in their relationships. And one of the things that was so powerful about our era-

Sue: Uh huh

Marguerite: Of lesbian relationships was if it didn't work, you left. You didn't stick around.

Sue: Of course. No, no you don't stick around in any kind of relationship really if it's not working out.

Marguerite: And that ability to consider things maybe in living in ways that were a bit different than everyone else. Yes, you were part of a community but that whole idea of having some choice that meant that you might be different, like having loads of girlfriends rather than, a wife. The whole thing, getting married, the whole thing now .. It's exactly what [inaudible 00:54:44].

Sue: I had a blessing. That's all I had because wasn't marriage wasn't a thing. All I had was a blessing.

Marguerite: Right.

Sue: Blessed the relationship and well, as I said, it lasted seven years.

Marguerite: Right.

Sue: And I had to get out of it. It becomes sort of... [inaudible 00:55:07] on her part and my part. It just didn't work, it wasn't working for me.

Marguerite: Yeah.

Sue: And when she, she had this friend and this friend made out she had all sorts of things wrong with her. Especially she pretended she had cancer one time, she didn't.

Marguerite: That's like out of a soap opera.

Sue: Oh god, it was. And so I phoned up this hospital, like the Royal Marsden Hospital and she wasn't even registered there.

Marguerite: Ay.

Sue: Yeah. Yeah I know. And I said to her, she isn't even registered there. And she was taken for a fool, basically, but it was interfering with our relationship.

Marguerite: Yeah.

Sue: As a couple.

Marguerite: Yeah.

Sue: So once she decided to get, after months of me suffering, this sort of stuff that was going on between them. It done my head in. Then I called up and it's like, you know what, I can't go back to the way it was now. And when I left she kind of broke down and started stalking me and stuff like that. And it's like, it's not on. It was a real drama. It was better than the soaps actually.

Marguerite: Yeah. [crosstalk 00:56:26] Sounds like it.

Sue: Stalking and stuff like that. It was horrendous. It was horrendous.

Marguerite: Oh dear.

Sue: And I just couldn't wait for her to meet somebody else. Which she did. Do you remember the Artful Dodger?

Marguerite: Yes.

Sue: Well-

Marguerite: I never liked it there particularly, but I can't remember why.

Sue: The guy who actually owned it, he was in a three-way relationship [crosstalk 00:56:54].

Marguerite: Oh, yes now that you mention it.

Sue: Yeah, it was really bad for about 25 years but they had this little pretty boy working behind the bar. Used to share the bed with him. But he turned that into an S&M place. My friend had a birthday party down there, a 40th it was, and he was touching her up.

Marguerite: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Sue: He used to like treat the girls pretty rough, as well. Never me.

Marguerite: Yeah.

Sue Potter.190828_0014 (Completed 09/02/19)

Sue: Because he looked for me one time. He said, "Oh Sue I didn't do this da da da", I said, "Well that's not what I heard".

Marguerite: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Sue: And yeah, anyway, yeah he treated the girls pretty rough. So anyway back to the relationship, this person who my ex went with, she was with her about three years and she believed everything, that I was the bad one. And she went to me and, Sue, she said, "how did you stay with her for seven years?" And I said, "Well at that time I loved her". Now she said, "I tell you what," she said, "she is absolutely nuts". And I said, "What can I say?" I still like the girl, but-

Marguerite: Oh, sure.

Sue: I don't hold grudges.

Marguerite: Yeah.

Sue: I don't hold grudges. That's one thing you shouldn't hold in life.

Marguerite: Absolutely. It just poisons you.

Sue: Yeah and there's no place for it really. If it doesn't work out, it doesn't work out. On either part. If one person thinks, well that isn't working for me, it might be working for the other person, just let them go.

Marguerite: Yup. Absolutely.

Sue: You know, maybe the grass is greener maybe it isn't. You never know.

Marguerite: If there was anything that you could tell to a younger generation, what would you say to younger lesbians?

Sue: Younger lesbians. Live your life as full and as happy as you could. And if you're in a relationship, it's going to be happy for as long as it's going to be happy, and as a friend said to me before, or an ex-partner said, relationships don't last but friendships do. So make sure you got plenty of friends.

Marguerite: Absolutely.

Sue: Yeah. Because your friends will always be there.

Marguerite: Mm-hmm (affirmative). Are you friends with any of your exes?

Sue: Yeah, yeah, yeah. I don't see, because one moved down to... some have moved out of London. Two have moved out of London, I don't really see them. But I was in touch, with her father, who, he passed away. I still send them Christmas and birthday cards and stuff like that to their parents.

Marguerite: Like your in-laws.

Sue: Yeah. And I'm still friendly with the recent one, that I split up from about nine years now.

Marguerite: Right.

Sue: But I still see her mum and dad and stuff and I still see her, still friends. You know, it's no good holding grudges.

Marguerite: No.

Sue: You know, it just doesn't get you anywhere. Just makes you feel bitter.

Marguerite: Yes.

Sue: And if you feel bitter than you're not moving on.

Marguerite: No.

Sue: And it's hard, it's really hard to move on. Sometimes it's hard but you'll get there, you know. You'll get there and people will meet people and don't always look for a relationship, you know. Go out and be friends and enjoy. Enjoy life as much as you can.

Marguerite: Yeah.

Sue: [inaudible 01:00:52] A lot of people are bad now, that I know.

Marguerite: Absolutely. But it's great to hear that you feel, looking back over the whole of your life, that it's been happy and right for you.

Sue: Yeah. It was a rollercoaster, but hey, it was great. Absolutely great.

Marguerite: So do you feel you lived it to the fullest so far?

Sue: Yeah. Amazingly so, yeah.

Marguerite: Excellent.

Sue: And if them clubs were still out there, I'd still be down there! I would.

Marguerite: Well we'll have to organise some.

Sue: We'll have to. We'll have to organise something like that [through Opening Doors, which should be great. And get some young lesbians out.

Marguerite: Absolutely.

Sue: Out there. You guys have to hire a hall or something like that, get some funding.

Marguerite: Yeah. Have a mass-

Sue: Yeah.

Marguerite: Lesbian meet-up.

Sue: Yeah! That would be great.

Marguerite: All generations.

Sue: Oh, that would be-

Marguerite: Let's do it.

Sue: Yeah, why not?

Marguerite: Yes.

Sue: That'd be something to put to the board.

Marguerite: It certainly would.

Sue: Wouldn't it. Just say: Girl power.

Marguerite: Yeah. That would be seriously good... we'll have to explore that.

Sue: Yeah, it would be good. And I would be good, And I'm sure everyone would agree to that.

Marguerite: Exactly.

Sue: Yeah.

Marguerite: Sue, for the sake of the tape I'm going to say thank you so much.

Sue: You're more than welcome. It's been a pleasure. More than a pleasure. It's been great going back over the years.

Marguerite: It has.

Sue: I thoroughly enjoyed it.

Marguerite: Cheers.

Sue: Thank you.

Marguerite: Thank you. I'm just going to turn this off.