

**Clip 1 (Beverley):**

Oh okay. So, my, one of my next-door neighbours had a young teenage son. There was a few problems in the family, and he used to come and talk to me, he lived on a different floor, and he used to come and talk to me. And, his mum used to come and talk to me as well, you know. And, and we, we were just, it was Bonfire Night, and he was saying, 'Oh, where are you going with the kids?' Because my children were very young. My eldest daughter was, just turned five, and I had just had my son. And he said, 'Oh what are you doing for Bonfire Night?' I said, 'Oh I don't know.' He said, 'Oh come over Weavers.' He said, 'They're having a big Bonfire Night.' So, and that's how I started.

And then it shut down for a little while, not very long, but then it reopened up, and then I started going with my daughter, and I had had my second daughter by then, my third child. So she was a baby in the pram. And I used to go over there then.

**Clip 2 (Alexander):**

One of the easiest ways of getting a child to open up to you, or to, not look at you as a threat, is to, you know, or anything like that, is to act silly, come down to their level. Yeah? But, it's difficult, because you still need to have those boundaries. Get it? So, you can come down to their level. So tell them stories. I always tell stories.

My favourite story, they say, 'How did you get that scar?' And I explain to them, I used to be stationed in the Amazon, and I got attacked by a sabre-tooth tiger. I say it on purpose, because it shows me what they know about life. They say, 'Hang on, sabre-tooth tigers don't exist. They're extinct.' You know? Or maybe they'll just not, say nothing, and I just carry on with the story, and I'll say, 'Oh yeah...' And then, 'I got attacked by a tiger, and then, also, this little child came out of the bushes with a long spear, she was wearing a nappy. And she's saving me.' You know? And then she, and turned out, her name was Amber, you know? 'And so, we went to the village where she lives, and it was prophesised that she would save me, and I adopted her.'

You know, stuff like that. So, it makes, it relaxes them. And they think you're silly, or, kind of, you know, like that. But at the same time, they see that you're competent. They see that you can do stuff, you can create stuff, you can make stuff. So, in their brains, you've got that dual kind of character to them.

**Clip 3 (Michelle):**

I don't like swings very much. And there was a big rope that would go round, and you'd have to catch it and jump on it. And then you'd have to get off, and it's away up the ground. And so that was a big challenge, and you'd often get a group of children up there, supporting, and challenging. You know, nobody would get pushed off, nobody would get... You know, if you had got the rope and you didn't want to go, fine, you just pass it to your friend. They'd say, next time, you know.

We built a closed-in area, and so that was like, a house on stilts, you could just climb up these steps into this enclosure, like a house, and nobody could see you from outside. So, you know, if

you needed that space away from the world, which really helped me a lot, you could do that kind of thing.

Graffiti was very much encouraged, art, graffiti, artwork, was very much encouraged. So yeah, you could just, get mucky, you could sit in a corner and dig, you could plant some seeds if you wanted to, you could paint something on one of the structures, you could write your name on one of the structures, or carve it if you wanted to. Just, just things like that.

#### **Clip 4 (Zaffer):**

They had big structures then, like ropes. So we used to, we used to play a game, it was called boarding. So someone would get on, as soon as they were on the ropes, someone would shout, 'Boarding,' and no matter where you was in the adventure playground, you'll all go, and, board. And so, the idea of it obviously, not to, be at the bottom. Because everyone would just jump on the ropes and see how many they could hold.

I remember, one point, obviously later on in the years, they had a big structure, and I helped, I was painting the beam post at the top, and I remember, I fell over and dislocated my shoulder here. Yes. Another time, trod on a nail. But then it was, it was like, we was more, we was more tougher then, you know what I mean? Like, you didn't... You know what I mean?

We was built different I think, our generation. I mean I'm 57. So our generation was more... You got, if you didn't go home with any bruises, or anything like that, you wasn't really, you know what I mean, you wasn't really enjoying yourself.

#### **Clip 5 (Steve):**

We were approached by a guy, Steve Dalway[sp], and he had intentions of doing the Notting Hill Carnival that year and was looking for a space to create the costumes. So, they would use the hall, this hall, to create the carnival costumes. And, in return they would do things for and with the kids, yeah? So, there was a big black community, predominantly... No, no I can't, you know, demography-wise, there was a lot of West Indian, West Indian? Caribbean, community, around here, but out towards Mile End as well, yeah?

So, for that whole year, the Easter holidays, we, they were doing little bits, but we ran storytelling, so, you know, Caribbean stories, history stuff, artworks, lots of painting, and all of that, all with the Caribbean feel to it, food tastings. So, we'd have plantains, saltfish and ackee, you know, all of that sort of thing.