

English Interview Homework

Interviewee – Dad

Thank you for taking time out to be interviewed.

Me – So where were you born?

Dad – Hillingdon Hospital
Hillingdon is a suburb in the West of London.

Me – At the time what was the area like?

Dad – The area at the time was quiet, peaceful, and very boring.

Me – Did you ever move from that area?

Dad – Yes.

Me – How old were you and where to?

Dad – I was 18 and we moved to Putney.

Me – And what was the area like?

Dad – It's in south-west London and at the time it was more urban than Hillingdon and a bigger had a bigger ethnic minority.

Me – Did this suit you?

Dad – For me it was new and more exciting.

Me – As a child what primary school did you go to?

Dad – I went to Field End primary school

Me – And did you fit in?

Dad - Yes but the only ethnic minority in the school was the Chinese boy, a mixed-race West Indian boy and I.

Me – Did you feel special because of this?

Dad – No I just didn't think about it until 1976 (I was 13) when 'the national front' (BNP of it's time) was in the news and our house was attacked.

Me – And how did this attack affect you?

Dad – I felt scared and angry for the first time in this neighbourhood. Our house was pelted with rock from about 4 boys from a nearby estate. However

the most terrifying part of this was that my mother, who had kidney failure, was on a dialysis machine in a Porto cabin in the back garden which was also being targeted by these youths. My father who was in the cabin with her ran out to see what all the commotion was as I did I but I was in the kitchen instead.

(Rosiita Dutta died in 1979 aged 38. I was 15.)

Me – How did you respond to this racial attack?

Dad – My father went down to the local pub and straight to the landlord. He asked “who is the hardest guy here?” After pointing him out he asked “what’s his favourite drink?” He then bought this and went to the man laid the drink down and said “you may not like my family, but my wife is dying and I’m asking you to stop the idiots who are attacking us”. The man accepted and we were never attacked again.

Me – At the time you were 12, So 6 years later you moved to Putney, having suffered the death of your mother. Was this move a ‘breath of fresh air’?

Dad – No

Me – Why?

Dad – I didn’t have a choice in the situation. My father sold the house and we moved but I felt it was taking me away from everyone and everything I knew.