I know what I like

I know what I like

Everyday objects

Do you have a favourite mug?

No it doesn't matter. Alright we have mugs. I don't necessarily have a favourite totally. I have a mug that I like using more than others ones, bigger ones, but I don't necessarily have a favourite.

It depends what you're using and what you're drinking from it really, I think. Tea, water, beer, you know. It depends what you're wanting at the time. So I'm not that fussed about size really.

Actually, I mean, if you're taking a tablet for some reason you would have something you drink from which is sufficient for you to be able to swallow the tablet without any problem and that might be a big mug. Because the tablet, it might be such, it might be one that doesn't sort of flow so easily, because of it's surface. But um, no!

Podgers

Podgers
Podgers

My Long Handled Fork

We've got an allotment and I dig with a long handled fork It's extra big. I mean it it fits me nicely. I am tall, six foot and a few inches. It's a bit too big for my wife.

Have you had it a long time?

Basically all the time we've had an allotment which is quite a few years, along with a spade of similar size. We've had the allotment a while, since before I retired. I would say it's steep, but its really not *that* steep. So you're either pointing down the hill or pointing up.

Obviously its not much use going up if its rained a lot and its all wet really – we're on a slope and you slide around a bit. Then you get the other contrast when its been hot and dry and theres no water and its all quite dry.

To a certain extent sometimes, if you've had any really excessive amount of rain and water in the soil it all sort of moves down slightly. There's a small element of just taking, if there's an excess at the bottom, just sort of moving it, pushing it up. Quite a good fork. It's necessary.

Hollingbury
Hollingbury Park Golf Course
Moulsecoomb Wild Park
Roedale Valley Allotments
Lower Roedale Allotments
Ditchling Road
Garden Hill
Hartfield Avenue
Lewes Road
Burstead Close
Rivenwood Crescent
Rylands Drive
Selsfield Drive
Thornhill Road

The Allotment

It's up in Hollingbury. It's on the road that runs right the way out of Brighton and there's a golf course up there. The road runs in between and then there's these allotments. And you can walk through the woods - up onto the Downs. Quite a pleasant place really. Equally in bad weather it gets wet and you can get the snow and ice. When you're up there you have got quite a view across the Downs, looking towards the East because the hills drop down.

We've got half, and a friend of mine's got the other half.

The satisfaction of growing something that's nice as well and you have to be careful you've got to pick it at the right time. Make sure the circumstances for growing are right dont we?

We go up once a week and sort of water, if necessary. I mean the facilities for that are all there for watering. There are quite a few of them. And there are two paths and the pipes run underneath these paths and you go up to the tap and attach your hose and come back.

We grow vegetables

We grow vegetables, potatoes, any and actually to a certain extent things that actually will grow because one or two things don't necessarily grow. One or two things will get attacked or whatever, by insects. But mainly potatoes and we've got an apple tree, cabbages. Its mainly sort of potatoes, carrots and up to a point what will survive.

I think some things have not necessarily done as well as we thought so we've given up on them. And what you buy. If you buy something slightly different, slightly new to plant, you've got to make sure that that's doing what it's doing and you're getting it right!

There is something I don't know... there is something quite different about the flavours isn't there? The way they taste, from what you buy in the supermarkets.. .the potatoes.

We've got blackcurrants and raspberries

You're always trying to keep all the weeds under control. It's what you can keep down. You can keep it down by planting other things in there where they would be but yes, it's a continuous job in that sense.

We've got an Apple Tree

There's a time of the year when they're more or less all ready to be picked. You've got to go up and do it otherwise they'll sort of rot and go off. So you've got to get them at the right time. And the allotment is on a bit of slope so if they fall off they do tend to roll away and you lose some.

You pull them off. You can tell more or less when they're ready they'll come off. I dont always get up there to climb up and get them. Some people are better than I am! We've got ... a contraption on a pole to get them off as well. It is a tall tree, so there are those that you cant quite reach so it is useful. And a friend who is a bit more athletic and can get up there and do a bit of harvesting for us.

SH2-12X: Who peels them and cooks them? It's the royal we for all this! You do realise that! We is me!
SH2-12: I peel some
SH2-12X: You dont cook them, no that's me.
SH2-12: That's true, I'd be worried about over cooking them.

Our Garden

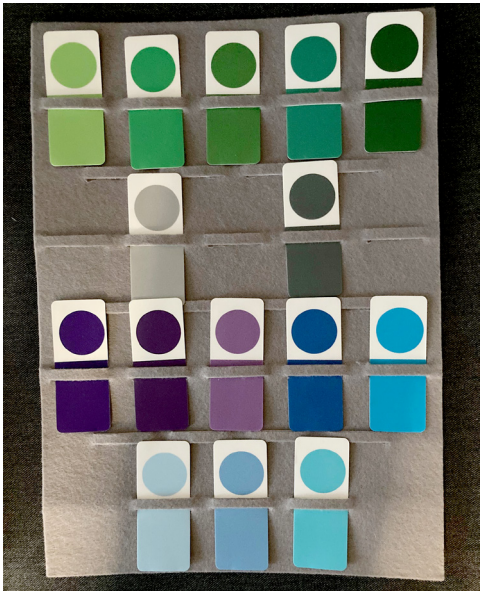
We've got a small front garden and a back garden. its all on a slope.

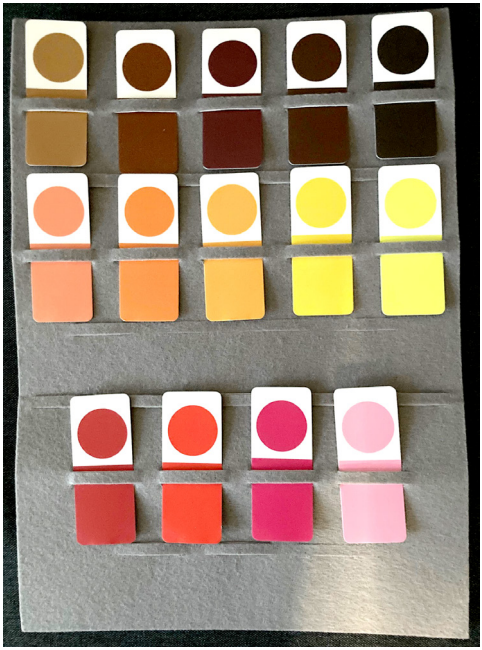
That's a garage (and) Oh yes, the summer house, the green building in the front. So it can be quite nice in the summer!

Do you do gardening out there as well?

SH2-12: Not much. We just keep that ticking over in a way
SH2-12X: We used to but we get somebody in to do it now. We're a bit beyond that ..
SH2-12: Yes, bending down all the time. You make sure the animals, cats and things don't come round. Yes, so its something that you can't ignore all the time you've just got to be alert to what's happening?

Colour



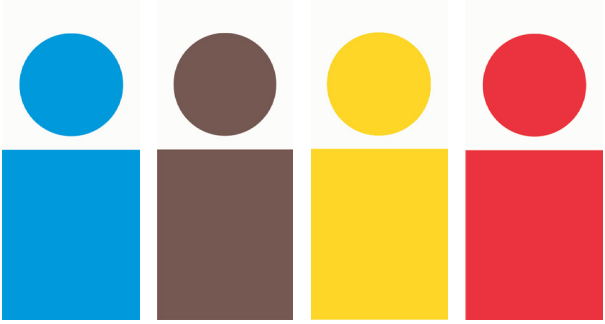


It's interesting. The reds are subtly different. There seem to be more reds both top and bottom than these other two.

So that ones the same top and bottom as far as I can see.

I suppose you've got the yellows and greens here, so they're sort of the same. The greens, I suppose I can see how all the greens tie up.

And the reds over this side... and the browns are different browns anyway.



My Likes

I have chosen those three.

And actually, there is a blue one here - I quite like that one as well.

It's how you feel with them. It's how you you feel with seeing the colours.

And then most of them (the others) are the same. But there are some subtle differences between them aren't there?

Yes I do like red as a colour

SH2-12: Clothes, I dont think so, I've never really thought about it! I dont wear red clothes do I?

SH2-12X: Well you did wear a red shirt this year, and someone saw you in it and said: "God, that's a bit loud isn't it?" and I don't think you've worn it since! I dont know if you haven't worn it because you've gone off it, or if you remember somewhere in the back of your brain what they said?

SH2-12: I'd probably keep away from it, yes, as a result of that. (Then) you don't feel you're necessarily looking odd in that sense.

When I was working, I worked for the Council in Finance. There seemed to be a feeling that you could only wear white shirts, or shirts that were more sort of in keeping.

Anything that was a bit of a different colour was: "No, I don't like that!" You couldn't be different in what you wore, you had to sort of fall in with the blue shirt and tie, that sort of thing.

Red? Red? Cor! Because I think that sometimes people associate it with perhaps your political views? And if you like red then you lean that way. No way! I mean that's rubbish to think anything like that. I mean to say that to a person, where did you come from? That's a daft idea! People like the colours because they like the colours.

To a certain extent I tended not to conform so much. It didn't help, but then I think it moved others, one or two others too. Because I got away with that, so there was a sort of...

You're all in the office with your traditional white shirts. Sometimes I wore different coloured shirts. You had to be bit careful with ties.

It was an element of conformity and with that there's a bit of dullness. A bit of colour, a bit of brightness makes all the difference.

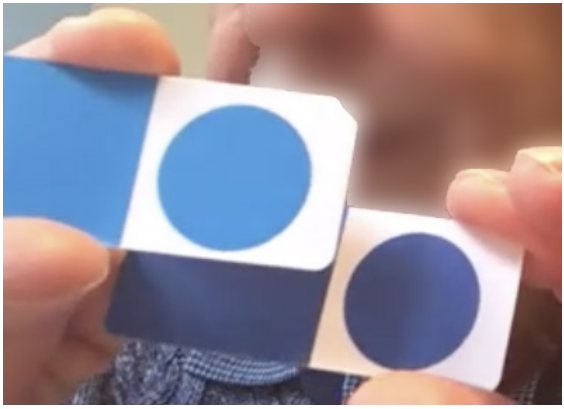
I think that it fits in partly with the general atmosphere of the place. You know you could have a dark miserable day and wearing something bright and garish would seem out of place, it doesn't work. But on a really sort of sunny day, something, light and bright is fine surely...

Having said that I can remember when I was at grammar school, I can't remember the tie I put on, but the Headmaster didn't like it. Said I was a scruffy urchin.

It was a sort of, it wasn't a conventional... it was a tie with a colour and stripes on it. Nothing extraordinary... to that extent. I just thought it was a nice tie that I liked.

You have a dull old school tie, with the initials, with the school emblem on it.

I know there's probably an element of having an image of the school and the pupils that go to it, which is what he was sort of after, but it was ridiculous to a certain extent. Boring unattractive stuff. You wore it because you had to.



Yes, it's a nice bright blue. Yes because I've got another blue here which is a lot darker, but I think I prefer (this one).

I haven't got any real reason but I just like it better.

SH2-12: Yes it's a nice colour but I don't think I would wear anything yellow. I'm just trying to think about that. I can't offhand, I can't think of any yellow in the house anywhere?

SH2-12X: Not in this house, but in the bungalow you had more that orangey colour? You had that on the walls.

SH2-12: I mean a lot of colours seem to be a system of control. Well not control, but of mood, of how you were. The other colours were dull and uninteresting.

And Brown

That's just the way it is up to a point isn't it? I suppose I mean if you're doing a drawing of some sort, you use different colours to emphasise, or whatever, to show it up, in theory.

WEMBLEY, BEWARE THE SEAGULLS ARE THERE
BRIGHTON F.C.

The Brighton FC scarf is when we went to Wembley

And this is a school scarf

I do like drawing

But I remember when we used to do painting and those sorts of things. We used to paint a picture, mine always seemed to be a bit more colourful.

And I remember one Master, anything red, he got quite upset about red. On reflection I wonder whether that was political? But any surplus of red, he didn't like that. But red's a nice colour!

Funnily enough, I was only thinking the other day, oh I might do a bit of drawing. I make up pictures. To a certain extent, anything. Buildings, cars, trees, and plants, anything with a bit of colour. Also ships on the sea.

I can remember doing art at school, doing a few things that the Master, the Art Teacher wasn't overly enthused about. And I was a bit taken aback I think by it. I thought, you should be a bit more flexible than that. I can't remember what it was now. I did something, OK, it wasn't that great, but from my point of view the colours and what I did was quite good. But he didn't like it. It didn't put me off! I think what I felt was that the teacher, was a bit sort of narrow minded.

My dad was member of a local theatrical group, and I used to go down with him and do that.

My dad used to work with carpets, furniture and that sort of thing where he worked, that's what they did, and alongside it he went to art college a bit. So he was into sort of colours and mixtures and things like that, and he could recommend or suggest that this colour of suite, and that would go together or not go together, depending on whatever, and people took to it. He was pretty good.

We did the local amateur dramatics group. He tended to do the decor, the sets, and colour schemes, and it was him who sorted out the scenery really, the painting which would go onto the stage. I used to go to the place, not so far away where all the stuff was kept and go and paint it, you know and go and help him paint it and assemble it in the theatre . Just opposite the Theatre Royal.

I didn't mind doing it, but I mean I think that's partly what sort of lead me into doing drawing and painting.

TATE MODERN COLLECTION
GILBERT & GEORGE
WWW.TATE.ORG.UK

I like seeing painting. Obviously sometimes you look at things and you think…? But it's still, the doing of it, you wonder about the person, what they were thinking sometimes.

I can't see why people have an objection to something that uses different colour schemes or how you show a tree, how you show a view. If you want to use a bit of red or blue, if you want a bit of green, or not green but something that's not totally accepted as normal, you know, I dont see what the harm is?

You look at it and think, Oh? And if you look at it and think about it a bit more, you come to understand that .. . I mean sometimes I look at something, and I think, oh gosh that's awful, you know? But I don't condemn the person for having done it? Its just how they've done it.

school work home

This booklet is a selection of quotes and images from a recorded zoom conversation we had on 21st December 2022. This was the third of three meetings that started by asking about favourite objects, favourite colours and then favourite spaces.

This meeting lead to recollections about school, work and involvement in amateur dramatics.

Thank you for your time

Marney Walker
Research Degree Candidate
Lab4Living
Sheffield Hallam University

Likes and Dislikes

So far as I am aware of at the moment, I'm not against anything if you see what I mean. Everything is fine.

School

We lived in Osborne Road which ran off Ditchling road and then down the steps to Balfour road. So I was at Balfour Primary and then I went from Balfour Primary to Dorothy Stringer, and then from there I would go to Varndean Boys.

I was at Balfour Primary School and we could see Dorothy Stringer being built.

The first school I went to was Balfour primary school and then to Dorothy Stringer secondary school. Dorothy Stringer was an alderwoman and then she became a headmistress.

The secondary modern was a mixed boys and girls school and the attitudes, the way you carried on, was quite different. The fact that you can actually talk with them and deal with them on an equal basis because you might all have the same interests in the theatre, or books you read, or art. It's much more available in co-education. You had similar interests, you know, that you wouldn't necessarily expect and there wasn't an actual: this is a boys thing and that's a girls thing.

Where you still have all boys schools and all girls schools, I'm not sure that's good idea at all to be honest.

We did put plays on and things like that

I didn't mind doing a little bit of the acting in the school. I think I was the executioner in one! I did in school, a couple of school plays I suppose. I remember in one of them I had to carry something that you could use in an execution, but I cant remember what the play was now. I don't think I really had quite the courage to do it myself. I think I didn't feel like I could do it justice. … not the full hundred percent doing that. Lady Precious Stream was one of the plays. I don't remember the other ones off-hand.

But with Dad, we were in the local amateur dramatics, a local theatre group. One of the things we did the painting for the sets. There was a place where all the hardware was kept, and you'd go round there, and he'd do the painting and I would go with him on a Sunday morning. We'd go down there, do the painting, painting the colours and all the rest of it. Then it would be assembled in a small theatre in the town for the play that the actors, the group, were doing.

Varndean College

When I got old enough to leave there and go on to Varndean, it was all boys and I found it, I got on with it, but I found it quite different from the mixed education to the boys school.

I can remember attitudes to a certain extent, that the boys had at the all boys school, was quite different to the attitudes they had at the co-educational school where you mixed with boys and girls all together in the classroom. You had the boys school down here and then right across a couple of fields up the top was the girls school. There were occasions when there were dances. It was all very awkward, I thought. It didn't work.

The attitude was quite odd really. I remember thinking, no, this is not right. I was quite taken aback. Not that I felt uncomfortable, but I just thought it was silly. The attitude that the boys had was quite amazing. I thought you're not going to survive like that with those sort of attitudes! It stuck with me, I don't think we've improved at all over time. I'm not convinced that the male and the female is quite as it ought to be.

TOWN HALL
ITALIA

Work

I can remember there were some senior managers making real assumptions about a person when they turned up for the interview. If what they were wearing, they didn't like that, that was hard luck I think, in terms of the interview.

Actually, that was fairly early on when I started there. I think that as time went on, I suppose there was a bit of change in some of the senior people at work and younger people came in. It got a little easier. It didn't seem to me to be quite so severe.

I think to a certain extent things had to change because you didn't necessarily get the, not demand, but response, the re-action. We didn't necessarily get hordes of people wanting to come, and I suppose someone like me was not always going to totally and utterly conform.

I left Varndean Boys and went to work at the Council. Part of the issue I got there was that a couple of the guys that were in charge had been at Varndean Boys. I think it was because I was at Varndean Boys that I managed to get a job at the council .

When I turned up there, about three or four of them had all been at Varndean. They'd all had Hutchins as the headmaster. They used to talk about him and his peculiar ways. He had some quirky ways of going on and I'd say: oh yeah, he still does that! It was quite fun. It was quite interesting.

Even then I can remember coming across the attitudes of the males to the women there. It was quite marked. Considering on the council you had both women and men. The attitudes that some of them sort of struck I thought: that's not right ?

Some of them were a little bit old fashioned, and were unnecessarily disciplined. We weren't in the services, we didn't have to be disciplined in quite that way. I think part of it was that their life experience was obviously slightly different. Some of them had had to do their (military) service.

I always have this image in my mind: there was one manager, I think he'd always like us to salute him as we went past! We didn't do it, but it was his attitude, the way he was. I think as it's gone on, other people like myself took over and the whole thing has got more relaxed. That was another aspect actually, who you employed. Employing girls .. towards the end that was happening. The senior posts, the Assistant Treasurer was female, so things changed. As time has gone on, more women have got into business, and I think nationally probably having a female prime minister and so on. I feel that is something that has happened in my lifetime.

I was in the finance department. So it's the accountancy, the finance department, the spending of the money. So a certain amount of time I did attend council meetings, and say you now, you can spend this amount of money. It was a Conservative council so there was an element of that. But it has changed. I think it's still Conservative but then Labour got in and I think some of the Conservatives themselves, some of the members they changed as well.

In the council you had the individual council groups for different services. So you have entertainment, and you had schools ... So some had a much more relaxed attitude. The housing department was more relaxed.

I think I said my bit. Occasionally, I got told off by some of the councillors themselves! Once or twice I had a slight sort of disagreement with the councillors. They didn't like sometimes what people were saying. But well, come on, you know, it's a a mixed town we live in? And of course I don't know what you've picked up, but Brighton had bit of a reputation for being a bit sort of gay and more … relaxed

Boundary of the
Naturist Beach

BeTogetheR
Star
Girl

Brighton

It's definitely a town of its own sort of culture. We have quite a few festivals and events and I mean at one end of town there was a nudist beach.

A real mixture in a sense, gay and ... quite relaxed. I know one or two of the people we employed were quite taken aback at first. They got the hang of it but they were surprised at how relaxed it all was really.

It has changed quite markedly. Whereas I think about Worthing or Eastbourne, they are still more or less, as they were. Whereas Brighton, and I suppose it's because of everything: all the sort of odd events and things that took place down here. The attitudes changed quite a bit.

Do you have a favourite place in your home?

I haven't consciously got one, but I am aware, thinking about it, I was thinking, I am quite happy in this room. We have dinner and all the rest of it in this particular room.

I can't think what (the picture) is called now

We have got some plates here, I like the design, the colour and everything. They're just nice.

I do like painting pictures

I have always liked art I must admit, I have always liked drawing: and curiously I've been thinking recently about getting it out, doing a bit of drawing, painting, getting into it.

I think I have probably got some of it up in the loft where I have put it away, but yes, funnily enough I was just thinking recently, I was thinking of doing it. I think a couple of days ago I was thinking, oh I want to get some paper and do some drawing.

Anything I think, to certain extent. Country possibly, or houses or cars anything that sort of... I suppose it would depend on how well I was doing? Yeah, that looks sensible, or that looks awful.. !