**F2F Recursive Interview Anastasia, Richie, and David Arben 10.10.2014**

I was in London already, having been to the West Country to do the Woolf’s interview the day before. I decided to drive to Anastasias’s home as it had been pouring with rain and it would be a walk and 2 buses to get there otherwise. Our arrangement was for 4.30pm. She told me there were some roads where you could park for free after 11am, and I’d also found some Pay and Display places on the internet map beforehand. But when I got there I couldn’t find anywhere at first and had to call Anastasia, who described exactly how to get to the road for free parking. By luck I found one space there which had probably been left because it had a parking prohibited sign up, but this was for the following week so I could park there. Anastasia had walked down to meet me as I was walking to her place. She was looking good – she’d just been to the hairdressers and had her highlights done. Nearly at the flat I couldn’t remember if I’d closed my passenger window as I’d opened it to ask a parking warden where the pay and display places were, so I had to rush back to check – and of course I had. Then when I got back to her block I rang the bell downstairs several times and each time the gate wouldn’t open so eventually Anastasia had to come down and let me in.

David was in his bedroom when I arrived and Anastasia called him out – he looked very much the same, maybe a little bit bigger. Anastasia told me she was going to dinner with a friend later, about 7pm, it was now after 5pm as it had taken so long to park. I set up the laptop on the table in the lounge and we sat round it with a drink of juice. Anastasia and I were on chairs and David was balancing on the arm of the settee that was right next to the table. The cat was wandering around and then went to sleep under the coffee table. Anastasia told me that she was working several mornings a week looking after a 98 year old man called D who she said was very nice – he rings her up every evening, as he did when I was still there later. She also cares for a woman who has dementia, and this is not so nice.

I explained to them, more for David’s benefit, how and when we set up the Motherhood study with pregnant mums like his mum, so that I’ve known him since he was inside her. I described how the Project was about the changes in motherhood over the last few generations and how I’d also talked to his dad, and his grannie (mother’s mum) and Jill who lived next door to their old flat who used to be like another mum to Anastasia. I then read the quotes out, one from M1 with Anastasia quoting her husband Richie saying he’d be happy to be a househusband in ten year’s time, and then a quote from M2 when this is endorsed once again a year or so later. Anastasia and David then insisted on fetching Richie out of the bedroom (I hadn’t even realised he was there.). So we read the quotes back to him and he said he was still happy to do this but he was kind of making fun of it, talking about laying around watching soaps etc. as though that’s what being a househusband means. He then stayed – mainly leaning again the wall watching the website, for the rest of the interview, and occasionally joining in. I explained about anonymity and the need to have pseudonyms, and told David his name, and his mum’s and then his dad’s, and they were quite amused by all this. Anastasia had known hers already and they joked about her being a Russian princess.

I also read a quote from Richie (P1) saying how he could now take David out in the pram without being stared at as a man, because times had changed and he was happy with this. Then his quote about having a son who would carry on the family name. It seems that as a boy he took on the name of the relatives he stayed with when he went to school and so when he grew up he wanted to revert to his mother’s name. So he was saying that there weren’t many ‘Arbens’ around yet.

Then we moved on to look on the laptop at the Day in the Life multimedia site for 2008, watching all of it. David didn’t really remember it at all, although Anastasia was trying to get him to remember going to the Farm that day. He was quite interested, but not that involved. But Anastasia was very interesting in that she said that it didn’t seem like her that I was talking about in the narrative. She said it had been a really hard couple of years in her life and that person I’m talking about there seemed to be a different person to what she was now. So the time had changed her. It felt very strange to her as she feels she is going, or has now gone, back to more the person she was before having David, as she’s now got more of a social life and is doing some work. So this does not really feel like her on the DIL.

David was not very forthcoming when I wanted his views about any of the sites, he wouldn’t really say that he liked or disliked them, and didn’t want to change anything either. Again, like the previous interview with the Woolf family, I wondered if he’d be any more communicative if I was showing them to him on his own, especially as in this case both his parents were there watching the websites, but I’m not sure as it is very different describing your familiar toys, which he was very good at, to giving opinions on a website.

Then we moved on to the Favourites site, which I’d shown Anastasia when I came earlier in the year to do David’s school Day in the Life. We watched some of the toys, like the guitar, Barnaby his floppy dog, the Dalek, and the guns, when he talks about shooting his dad’s fat belly and his mum’s fat bum and we had a laugh about this. I asked what he thought about hearing his own voice and he said he didn’t mind it. I asked if he still played with any of these toys, and he said only Barnaby, who he still sleeps with. He’s now totally into Minecraft, which he’d also talked about in the Favourites, and I think he’s busy using the site to make a whole development of houses.

Then we moved onto the Day in the Life 2014, when I went into school with David. We went all through this and there was a discussion of whether it was a typical day – Richie saying that it wasn’t because the teacher was away, and also because the lessons were PE and music and drama. Anastasia mentioned again about the canteen refusing to give me lunch because I hadn’t booked it. I asked David if we’d got the balance right between the busy and quiet times of day and he agreed, but I’m not sure that he really thought about it or maybe didn’t quite understood exactly what he was being asked.

I told them about the future Curating Childhoods project and the Archive and they said they were happy to be involved and consulted on anything. If there was a workshop, Anastasia asked if I was likely to go to that and I said that I probably would.

Anastasia then filled in the consent form covering the F2F interviews and website for herself and for David, who signed his part. I gave the vouchers in a thank you card to Anastasia and chocolate coins to David. David drew me a picture, which was his representation of the Zoom audio recorder, which was rather well done. He put ‘To Sue’ on it and signed it. Then I took a few photos of them (Anastasia, David and Richie) together and Richie took a couple of me with Anastasia and David, these all for my own use, and to send copies to them too. I left just after 8pm. Anastasia was obviously running late for her meal with a friend, but didn’t seem too bothered. She walked a little way with me towards my car, and then went off to get the bus to her friend’s home. As usual, I’d enjoyed seeing them all, they feel like friends, and I know that I will keep in touch with them outside of any research.