



**Mental Health: Lennox Castle**

*Margaret: Life after Lennox*

**Howard:**

I'm going to ask you, just about what's happening in your life just now. What are you working at?

**Margaret:**

I'm working in Royston.

**Howard:**

What's Royston?

**Margaret:**

A computer class I do.

**Howard:**

And are there any other jobs that you're doing?

**Margaret:**

Partick Thistle football ground.

**Howard:**

What, are you playing?

**Margaret:**

No. I'm a Security woman.

**Howard:**

Security. What do you do?

**Margaret:**

Anybody comes in, anybody that smokes, you've got to tell them to put their fags out, and take their cans off them, if they come in with drink, they get sent home. We ban them altogether. You're not supposed to drink when you're watching. If anybody's got a drink they get grounded.

**Howard:**

Have you run into any problems doing the job?

**Margaret:**

Not really.

**Howard:**

Is it fun?

**Margaret:**

Mm Hm. You get paid for it, that's all I care about.

**Howard:**

And how often do you do it?

**Margaret:**

Just when there's a game on. And that's not this week, it'll be next week before I work there again. That's the stuff I wear.

**Howard:**

See in the day when you're going to work at that job, can you take me through your day. What time do you get up at in a morning?

**Margaret:**

Six o'clock in the morning. I go down to McDonald's and get my breakfast.

**Howard:**

What do you get?

**Margaret:**

I get scrambled egg, hash brown, a wee roll and a cup of coffee for £1.99.

**Howard:**

Are you yourself?

**Margaret:**

Yes.

**Howard:**

Do you ever meet up with anybody there?

**Margaret:**

I meet up with my pal, up at Roke Hill.

**Howard:**

What about the people that live round the corner, in Firhill? Do you still see them at all?

**Margaret:**

I see Hugh and Mary, and I see Phyllis. I see John. I see Derek and I don't see Alan now, he's a gonner.

**Howard:**

So where do you see them?

**Margaret:**

I'm seven doors away from them.

**Howard:**

So will you go and visit them.

**Margaret:**

Yes. When they phone me, when they want me up.

**Howard:**

Do they visit you?

**Margaret:**

Mm Mm. Hugh comes round on a Monday. He gets me up at six o'clock in the morning.

**Howard:**

Right. I'm not being cheeky, but is Hugh your boyfriend?

**Margaret:**

No.

**Howard:**

Is that a definite 'No'.

**Margaret:**

Definitely not. The men are out of the rota now.

**Howard:**

What about in the past. Have you had boyfriends since you came out of hospital?

**Margaret:**

I did have one boyfriend. And his mother asked me what age I was and I wouldn't tell her. So I gave up. Finished with boyfriends now.

Well, I like living on my own when I'm in myself, when I'm watching the telly. Paying my bills to get my shopping in. And go for a sleep.

**Howard:**

I've wondered off your day to day routine. What do you do for lunch?

**Margaret:**

I get myself a coffee. That's all I have at dinner time.

**Howard:**

And what time do you start the work at the football club?

**Margaret:**

I've to be there for one o'clock. One o'clock until five.

**Howard:**

How did you get that job at the football club.

**Margaret:**

My big pal Josie.

**Howard:**

So what did he do?

**Margaret:**

He was going down to.. He used to take tea and that down to. And the boss asked me to come in and see him. And that's how I got that job.

**Howard:**

How do you get on with the boss.

**Margaret:**

Aye. I'm only down..... They're my football ground now. I'm only up the road from where I stay.

**Howard:**

So do you support Partick Thistle now?

**Margaret:**

Mm Hm.

**Howard:**

When you go out in the evening, where do you go?

**Margaret:**

Sometimes I go to the Bingo. I'm a Bingo fan. I used to be, and now I still go to that big Bingo in Maryhill, it's getting dear.

**Howard:**

And you still best friends with Phyllis?

**Margaret:**

I still see her. You know Phyllis?

**Howard:**

When you see them, do you ever talk about past times in the Castle?

**Margaret:**

No. I'm trying to get away from it.

**Howard:**

Is it not nice some times to talk about things that might have been some way decent or pleasurable then?

**Margaret:**

I try not to talk about Lennox Castle now.

**Howard:**

What does it make you feel, when somebody does?

**Margaret:**

It does hurt and that. I've been in there since I was six year old. And now I'm trying to get away from it.

**Howard:**

When you came out of the hospital, where did you move to?

**Margaret:**

Well the first place was White Lodge Street. The second place was Spencer Street. The third place was Firhill Road. And the fourth place was Murano Street.

**Howard:**

Can you describe each of these places?

**Margaret:**

White Lodge Street was in Maryhill.

**Howard:**

And tell me what it was like inside, and who you were staying with?

**Margaret:**

I was staying with Mary and Bert at the time. And I only shared with Mary and Bert. Then I was living in Spencer Street with six of us. Three lasses on one side and the three boys in that side. And I was sharing with six up at Firhill Road, where there were 8 flats. Except for the bottom landing where there were two sharing. There was two living there, and a member of staff there.

**Howard:**

Did the member of staff sleep there as well?

**Margaret:**

Mm Hm.

**Howard:**

So what was it like there?

**Margaret:**

I was way up at the very top.

**Howard:**

Was it good to share with all these people?

**Margaret:**

Yes, it was alright. But you get used to it.

**Howard:**

Did you want to move out?

**Margaret:**

Mm Hm.

**Howard:**

Why was that?

**Margaret:**

I'd been used to living.. I've been sharing with all that crowd all my life. So I was glad to move out.

**Howard:**

Did you say to somebody 'I'd like to try and get my own flat?' Or did somebody say to you 'We've got some place for you'.

**Margaret:**

The Queens Cross phoned me to help me get my own flat.

**Howard:**

And has that surprised you?

**Margaret:**

Mm Hm.

**Howard:**

Did they say 'This is your flat.' Or did they say 'We'd like to try and get a flat for you'.

**Margaret:**

No. They got me a flat up at Murano Street, a way up the very top end, looking over the student village.

**Howard:**

And what did you think the first time you saw it?

**Margaret:**

The first time I went to see it, there was nothing in the house. Not even any furniture, or anything. And I had a key to let myself in, to go and try and stay overnight there.

**Howard:**

And where did the furniture come from?

**Margaret:**

Queens Cross.

**Howard:**

Did you get to choose it?

**Margaret:**

I picked the colours.

**Howard:**

So you're nice and comfy there. Do you think you'll move anywhere else?

**Margaret:**

No. I'm sticking to the bit I've got. I'm happy with that. Now I'm paying the bills for my flat. And paying the gas, electric, the phone bill and the TV licence, I wouldn't move. This is the last time I was moving.

**Howard:**

Does anybody come in to help you?

**Margaret:**

Yes, when I need them.

**Howard:**

How do you get them in?

**Margaret:**

I've got to phone them.

**Howard:**

And who do you phone?

**Margaret:**

The project. I know I'm not getting any job today so..

**Howard:**

Have you got one special person, or are there a lot of people?

**Margaret:**

Well there's only. I like them all. They're getting paid for it. So what's the difference.

**Howard:**

What kind of things do you need help with?

**Margaret:**

The housework. Yes. The housework.

**Howard:**

So you can phone them up and ask them to come in and do what?

**Margaret:**

Just to come in and spend time with me. They're getting paid for it. It's twenty five pound fifty. That's what they get off me on a Monday.

**Howard:**

What about bills, money and all the rest of it?

**Margaret:**

Oh I pay that. I pay the bills myself.

**Howard:**

Do you get lonely at all?

**Margaret:**

Sometimes. I've got to phone my pal to come round, when I'm sitting in the house. I phone my pal Hughie. I say Hughie could you come round for a cuppa. No bother Margaret. You do get lonely when you're in the house yourself.

**Howard:**

Since you've come out of the hospital, have you made any new pals that are not connected with Lennox Castle?

**Margaret:**

I've made a lot of. I used to pal about with big Kathy down the road. I never knew her at first. And then I've made a lot of friends up at where Hugh stays. So that's the way.

**Howard:**

Can you tell me three good things about staying in Lennox Castle?

**Margaret:**

Try to think. There were some staff I liked and some I didn't. And I used to work with the Chiropodist, I worked in the OT, and I worked in the gardens. So I've done my share.

**Howard:**

So the work and stuff you liked. Did you not do musical stuff as well?

**Margaret:**

No. I can't remember.

**Howard:**

Can you tell me what the worst things were about staying there?

**Margaret:**

The worse things? The moleskins and the cigs - the five fags a day you've got to have as your ration. That's been my nightmare.

**Howard:**

You say you got so many cigarettes a day.

**Margaret:**

You used to get five of them, five on a Monday. Ten on a Tuesday. Five on a Wednesday. Five on a Thursday. Five on a Friday and ten on a Saturday, and five on a Sunday. That was your rations.

**Howard:**

Aye. Was that payment for the work that you did?

**Margaret:**

Mm hm.

**Howard:**

When did you start smoking.

**Margaret:**

I've smoked since I was six year old, and I've been smoking since then.

**Howard:**

Are you thinking of giving up?

**Margaret:**

I've tried, but it's hard.

**Howard:**

Who did you tell you wanted to leave?

**Margaret:**

It was them that told us we're moving. The one, somebody came up to see us in Lennox Castle, to tell us we're moving out.

**Howard:**

How did you feel then?

**Margaret:**

Great. Better than stopping in there.

**Howard:**

Was it not frightening at all?

**Margaret:**

I was glad to get out.

**Howard:**

Generally, generally, every day or every week. Do you think you're happy in your life?

**Margaret:**

Mm Hm. Sometimes you get happy and sometimes you get sad.

**Howard:**

What would make life better for you, if you had a wish? What would you wish for?

**Margaret:**

My wish, to get more money.

**Howard:**

That would make a difference.

**Margaret:**

Aye.