Interview 12 – part 2

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Yeah, um... so that was the place that I feel most socially connected and that was, I had done a Lidl and then I decided to change it to the local off-license because I probably spend more time there and then I guess it's kind of going on that same theory that I'll talk about, but I guess the local off-license, um because I'd probably go in there about three, four times a week, I go in, I know all the people that work, a lot of the time there's always kind of the same customers in there as well, so, you know them and they'll always kind of stop and have a chat and be like 'oh, how's your day going', and everything else, even if you're not talking to them, you can hear some of the guys working there having conversations with other customers and you know, it's kind of, I don't know, maybe it's a bit sly, but kind of listening to other people's conversations a little bit and they're kind of talking about what they're doing and everything else and it's quite, I don't know, it's just very, a sense of comfort, because I know them but it's just, it's just quite nice to see a lot of people in that kind of immediate community area, all coming together and I don't know it's just like the simple things of buying something, but I guess because it is someone you talk to quite a lot, I guess, it's quite nice, but you kind of see it everywhere, doing, doing that, that kind of thing, even when I'm walking past, I'll still give like a little wave when I'm walking past kind of thing and, I don't know, it's quite nice, you like, you do feel like you're part of something, um and I guess, I had also done the local Lidl as well, because I go to Lidl a lot, but I figured this, the off-licence was probably a better example, because I tend to go there a little bit more and it's closer, um but yeah, I think it's just having that recognition from someone else, as in them recognizing you and you also recognizing them as well makes it really a big part of kind of feeling connected, I think more than just, yeah more than just walking on the street kind of thing, so.  You mentioned recognition, can you tell me more about that?  Yeah, I mean, I guess, it's a, I mean, obviously, their recognition of you is on a very kind of just arbitrary level, it's just, you're somebody who comes into the shop a lot, it's not like you're friends or anything like that, but there's still something, it makes you feel kind of special, being recognized, I think it makes you feel like that you're noticed and it, I guess same for them, as well, and then just being asked how your day was by them can be like quite a nice thing, it's, it's and you know, they'll sometimes, if I've told them something the week before, they'll ask me about how that went, kind of thing and it's, it's, you know, if that happens with your housemates, they're your housemates, you see them everyday, of course that's going to happen, um but like it's quite, it's quite nice knowing they could like, they could, for example, just be like 'oh, hi, this will be 10 pounds fifty', kind of thing, but they're not, um and there really is that kind of sense of community and sometimes they'll, they're always kind of laughing and joking and then you'll kind of start laughing with one of the other customers, because the main guy Aziz said something stupid and like, I don't know, it's just a really nice kind of atmospheres, there's always like kids and stuff in there as well and just always, always kind of nice, nice atmosphere and then yeah, I just, I think that notion of being recognized by someone... who's not your friend because they should be, I think, if that makes sense, it's quite, it's just quite nice, even just yeah, even if I'm just waving at him or one of them from like the other side of the road, even that's like quite nice, kind of just having that, makes you have a sense of, I think, belonging to the area as well, yeah, which I think is really, really nice.  Hmm, you also mentioned that you feel like a part of something.  Yeah, well it makes you feel like you're a part of the, part of the community, it's a kind of, as in there have been multiple times that I've been standing behind someone else and they've been talking about things that have been going on, recently, or just like things that they've seen happen out of the shop window and even if you're not part of that conversation, it's kind of you're seeing all this or hearing about all this stuff that you might not have heard about otherwise and I think yeah, just yeah, makes you feel like you are part of the community, which I think is a really nice feeling and it is so easy to not feel part of the community, if you've only, for example, for me, like, I've only lived in this house for about a year and I think, yeah, for me, it's a really nice thing to have, it's like, you know, we kind of, I look back at my childhood house and my childhood neighbourhood, where I knew a whole bunch of people lived on the street and everything else and we had like Christmas parties for the street every year and, you know, I knew all the people, the local cafes, everything else like that and it's kind of, but obviously I lived there for 20 years and my parents lived there for longer than that as well, um so then coming to a new city, I think that was like a very important thing for me to have because it does make you feel just like a lot more comfortable in the local area and, you know, like, you know, if, I don't know, let's say for example, obviously, I could always come home, but like let's say for example, one of my flatmates went crazy and I need to run off for help, like I know I could just go across the road and go into the shop and they would be able to help me and I would trust them to help me and they do actually help us with stuff like fixing doors and everything else, as well, so that's how it is, but no it is, it is, it is kind of, I think just having that, you know, there's a network I think, a network in the local area that you can trust I think and that makes it really quite nice, a nice thing and um it's like the neighbours, we kind of know the neighbours, but like not well enough, like if I see them we'll say hi, but that's the extent of it, um so, it is kind of nice having that connection to the community and I think, it really is kind of like a big, that shop, in particular, is a kind of big glue for the local community, as everyone, like a lot of people go there all the time and I think everyone has like, has quite a similar relationship with the owners there, um, but I think, I don't know, everyone, everyone knows that and everyone appreciates that and everyone in the era seems to quite like it, I don't know, people like I, obviously, people walk in and call him by his first name and stuff, a couple of guys who work there and stuff, and I think it's, it does create a sense of community, which is really nice.  You mentioned trust, can you tell me more about that?  Yeah, I mean, it's kind of, I mean, it's not like I wouldn't, you know, if I broke up with a boyfriend I wouldn't go to them for that kind of thing, but just knowing like if, for example, there had to be someone to come into the garden or something like that, and like we needed them or like we needed someone to be there, but they couldn't or like someone to hold a package for us or something like that, like I would trust them to do that, like if I had a very important package coming and I couldn't be here for it and no one else was in, I would be like 'oh, put it, can you give it to 'Cas'', and they would be like 'yeah, sure, that's fine, like you can leave it with us' and like, I know that I could trust them and I think I'm not like, I highly doubt there would be a time when I ever do need them for that, but just knowing that it is there, that I can trust them, is quite like, it does give a kind of sense of security, um like yeah, quite yeah, just makes you feel a bit, yeah, you have got someone you can trust on, which is, I think, a good thing to have in the community, because I think a lot of communities probably don't, I feel like we're quite lucky to have the 'Cas', as it's called.  Thank you, and how does that make you feel? Hmm \*pause\*  As in, do you mean as in...  Like, when you said that like you have, um like your, this local place that you go to and knowing that you can trust these people and then someone had that, how does that impact things and stuff?  Um... I guess for me like, it makes me, it just makes me feel quite comfortable in the area, I think, um, I know I can always kind of go in and have a joke with him, like not that I would hang out with them, but just, I think those small social interactions are quite important, like obviously, you have your main relationships with your friends and family and everything else, but I think it's like, it's also quite important to have those kinds of smaller side relationships with people, even if it's just kind of people who just passed, kind of regularly, I think, it's, I think it's little things, those little things that people take for granted and I don't know, I think for me, it just makes me feel quite, yeah just makes me feel very comfortable in the area, um, I don't know, it's, it's just, it's just like kind of a nice, a nice feeling, I guess, you feel connected to something, um, you're not just someone who's passing through, you're not just another customer, so it does just make you feel a little bit, I don't know, just yeah, it makes you feel nice, I guess.  Did you want to say anything else?  Um... I mean, I guess the only thing besides the fact that I was going to say the Lidl before, I was going to say the Lidl, anyway, even though the Lidl like I wouldn't probably trust them, but I think there's still that is, that sense of community in the same kind of sense that like I would say hello to a lot of them, I recognize all the people who work there, I recognize a lot of customers who go in there, because I probably go to Lidl like most days, when I'm walking to or from work and I think it's, it's slightly different isn't it? It's not on as much as a personal level as it is with the 'Cas', but I still think that is quite a big like important space in the, um... community for just, just those really small interactions of recognition I think, it's on a two slightly different scales, but I think it's also a very important place, but I guess yeah, that was just... same kind of thing, but less, less, kind of small, but yeah, but I think that's all I wanted to say on that.  Thank you so much, can we move on to the next box, please?  Yes, so the next one I said, I said Victoria Park but under like certain, so it's like a big park, I don't know how well you know the area, um, I said Victoria Park but only kind of in certain circumstances, like they do a lot of festivals and that kind of stuff and if you go there for a festival that's a very different vibe. So, I guess, I think I was specifically talking about like normally when I go for like a run in the morning, um, and I'll run around the park and it's just kind of, it feels, I don't know, for me personally, I'm there with my headphones in, so that's obviously one step that makes me feel quite disconnected from everyone else, but and then I guess, with me, it's all running, like I'm going quite fast, past everyone, but same with, in that Park, as well, there's a lot of other people running, there's a lot of people and bicycles and normally, in the morning, there's no people like leisurely strolling around, it's all kind of people trying to get somewhere and you do just feel, I don't know, I think, it's just som-, because you're just so fast, going past everyone, um, and everyone's kind of like in their own, own little world, it's the kind of thing that like, if you would have stopped someone there, just to say 'hello', I mean, not that you would do that anyway, but you get the feeling that they would be annoyed at you, you just get that like 'oh, I don't want to interrupt these people, doing these things, because I feel like it would be annoying'. I mean, you could say that about most people, in most places but, you know, like a lot of the time I feel like when people just, just in that kind of like specific time frame in the park, but I guess people are trying to get somewhere or do something, no one it's just there for like a leisurely stroll, it's kind of yeah, you get quite, not intimidating, intimidating isn't the right word, not intimidated, but it's just that you get, you get that feeling, yeah, that you would annoy them, if you stop them or go in their way or something like that, and it feels very, it makes you feel very kind of, I don't know, that you just, yeah, I don't want to get in anyone's way and everything else, um I guess. Yeah, that's kind of the main thing about that, but then obviously a couple of times in Victoria Park, when you hang out with your friends and it's a Sunday afternoon, there's lots of people like leisurely strolling around, there's no one trying to get to work, very different, very different vibe. So, I don't know if that's specifically to do with the place, but that's just what I can think of, I guess, um with that, yeah.  When you said that basically you don't want to upset people or you don't want to annoy people, can you tell me more about that?  It's not, it's just that you get, you just get a feeling that if, if you would have just kind of, I don't know, for example, when you're going in, if like, you're going on a Sunday afternoon walk, with a couple of friends or like even just by yourself, or you're going on like a hike somewhere, like, quite often when you walk past people, you feel like 'oh, morning or afternoon', or something like that, but it's the kind of thing like, I feel like if I was to do that, then people just give me like weird looks, to be fair like, I'm running, I'm not going to stop and say that, but like, let's say I had gone for a walk in the park at 6 a.m. in the morning, not that I'm going to do that, but if I had done that and if I was just walking past and I go like 'oh, morning' to people, they kind of just be like 'what? Why? Why are you saying 'morning' to people? Why?' like, kind of thing, and I think, it's just very, yeah, it's just \*pause\* people seem to be not open to that kind of, I guess, interaction, maybe because it's too early or something like that, could be that people are tired and they just want to get their run done or they want to get to work or whatever else, but it is, you do just feel very, yeah, disconnected from everyone that like you don't even want to try, because they probably would be grumpy, but yeah.  So, you feel most lonely there because you feel that people are grumpy.  Yeah, it's like lonely, in the sense that, it makes me feel more lonely I think than when I'm just sitting at home, because you are passing so many people, it's like the kind of hole like so close yet so far, it's kind of that whole thing like, you feel so disconnected from everyone, everyone has their own little world, listening to their own music, going past, fast, really, going past really fast and everything else, but you see so many people and I'm like I love, I love people watching, but it's kind of, like when I'm doing that like, I don't even have time to kind of imagine in my head what those, that person might be like, which is, you know, something I kind of do if I'm walking around or sort of sitting at a cafe and watching people go past, you know, it's like a little thing I do in my mind like, you kind of create in your mind what that person might be like or even like I, if I am walking to work I, you know, I often like smile at people, I mean, not all the time, because London's people don't smile that much but like, you know, I often smile to people when I'm walking past them, or, you know, just like giving a little nod or something like that, um, and it's kind of, I don't know, you do, even just that little, small, little nod, I think, it makes like a big, big difference of it, whereas just like that, at that point in the park, in the morning, it's just you don't get that of anyone really, everyone's just so focused and doing their own thing that, I don't know, they just don't want to look up, I think, from their own little world, but.  So, people just focusing on their own thing and...  Yeah, it could be, and, and it's very much, I don't know, just because they are, like you see so many kind of interesting people and it's kind of, I'm sure that a lot of them are really lovely, nice people, but because you do get that, that vibe of like, oh, there's a little bit also, as well, maybe, like a little bit of like competitiveness as well, I've noticed, like a lot of like athletic guys, as well, like kind of, I notice they will speed up to like overtake you and to like kind of like show off a little bit and you do kind of notice there's that slight, little like competitiveness among people, like running in the park and it's just, it's not, I don't know, there's just not that kind of like a friendly, not that it is unfriendly, it's just not particularly friendly, so and I think, I don't know, for me like, I just do, I just do notice that and there's just so many people and I'm like, I'd actually, I'm like so interested into like knowing what all you people are like, but obviously it's never going to happen and, and so it's just you, it's kind of just, being surrounded by all these people that you're sure are really nice, but just like feeling kind of very rejected by all of them, not that you should have a reason to be accepted by them, but it is just that sense of 'don't talk to me, even though you don't know them', you don't know anything, but there's still that sense of just like there being a lot of people, but that sense of just absolutely like not, yeah, no acceptance from anyone, I guess, in a very just like a physical, physical manner, um but yeah.  And how does that make you feel?  I mean, it's like, it does create a physical feeling of kind of disconnected from people and loneliness, but it's like, at the same time, I do understand why it is, it is, just because people will have their own things to do and they've got places to be and it's like, you know, it's not because they personally don't like you or have a vendetta against you or anything like that, but it, it, you can't just help but feel like, I don't know, it kind of makes me feel \*pause\* dis-, disappointed maybe, as in I think human interaction is a beautiful thing and I think people take it for granted and I miss, I don't know maybe because London is specifically bad at it as well, but I do miss just like the little like saying 'hi' to people on the street, even if I like barely knew them and that kind of stuff, or it's like that, it doesn't really happen here that much, um, and I think, I think, it's, I think, I don't know, I guess, yeah slightly disappointed and it's kind of like, you could be having all these nice like interaction with people and you never know, it's the kind of thing like sometimes a smile can make someone's morning really different, like you never know, um and so, I guess, it's just kind of disappointing, because it's like, I feel like I'm missing out and I feel like you guys are missing out on all this stuff as well, but obviously, you can't change like that's not going to change anytime soon. So, I don't know, I guess, yeah just disappointed that there isn't more of that interaction, I think.  Is there anything else you want to say about that?  I think no, I think I've probably said all I could say about that.  Okay, great, thank you so much, I'm gonna stop the recording. |