**18.05.21**

**So you live on a boat if that’s right? How long have you lived there?**

About three years.

**Cool, that's nice. And where whereabouts are you moored?**

There is no usual, I mean well, to be honest now with lockdowns and stuff, but traffic has been suspended as well. So we we have been in one place for quite awhile an and also there is something. A kind of like a maternity privilege or something like this. So now with the lockdown, maybe we can also stay a little bit longer in one place, but usually we cruise around the entire canal network within London though. Every two weeks normally you know non COVID times every two weeks we would we would move from one area to the next.

**Yeah yeah that's interesting. Yeah yeah yeah just 'cause we we always walk down by the by the Lee and always trying to almost peek in whenever there's like a window or something. Yeah it's probably really annoying.**

It is annoying, but also it's totally understandable. Like yeah, I mean before before we moved onto boat we would do the same thing. Yeah, right, it's fine.

**So, but you're in the process of selling, are you gonna move to another boat or you going to going to land life?**

There is no land life anymore. Boat life is, yeah, I don't know you get used to and then we did like very briefly talk about it, but we were both like yeah Nah not gonna happen. Yeah yeah yeah yeah we're moving on to bigger boat probably next month. I say so and. Not living though that that kind of lifestyle.

**You must end up being, you know, out in the elements and kind of quite. You know, spending a lot of your the outdoors is pretty pretty close to you compared to someone living in, say, a block of flats or whatever. As you know this research is all about people's conceptions of nature. So what does that word mean for you? What? What is nature and how do you interact with it on a day to day basis?**

It's quite vague, really, that question?

**Yeah, kind of purposefully, yeah,**

I yeah, I understand. I mean, if you just say nature, I would automatically think something green like greenery. Which is not necessarily obviously really the case. An yeah, I don't really know what it means for me. I mean, I kind of anticipated that you would ask this, but I didn't really prepare that. I think it means a lot of a lot of different things. I think it means. I mean, for us of course, since we are boating, it means you know looking out of your window and seeing you know water, fish, coots, geese now geese are having babies there. So damn cute. Fluffy yellow things you know in the water. It's amazing feeding Swans, you know, through your kitchen window. So it's it's definitely lots of lots of it is canal related for variable. Uhm?

Oh also. Gardening if you can say that. I mean it's not like we have a garden, but we have lots of plants on our roof and. A. I mean yeah, I don't know if it's if it's the kind of nature that your research is really focusing on, but something about. You know, putting your fingers into the soil and growing your own tomatoes, or at least attempting to grow them. And yeah, I don't know looking after, you know like little stuff like that. Yeah, but are growing your own seedlings and you know watching them grow into something, yeah? And I mean now things have been a bit different, of course with covid and stuff because. I haven't traveled as much an usually we would go and travel and then hike, loads or walk loads into nature.

Yeah somehow it COVID with weirdly enough bin alot more homebound. Kind of doing DIY things at home. Not necessary because we're super scared of catching covid. I mean we had covid both times and it was fine. It wasn't anything dramatic so it's not like we're afraid to go out or something, but I don't know. It just ended up. Being quite homey, homey time, obviously I was. I was pregnant as well as I was more like a missing. I'm sorry, I was listless. You know, walking around and. But before before covid we yeah we would do hikes and stuff and I don't know camp and you know sleep in the in the wild or are there to stars or or you know something like this is as soon as you go out of London there's yeah there's lots of stuff.

**What's the benefit of spending that time not in London, in in the more rural kind of area?**

I think it's mostly psychological benefit, right? It sort of clears your head, you know. I mean, I, I and it's. I guess it's also a sense of adventure, you know, like you instead of having you know stuff at home, you can just go and have an adventure. Or I I don't know if that if that makes. Sense, But yeah, somehow somehow it feels more right to just go out and do do stuff and walk and and. Yeah I yeah, I would say it's a psychological benefit. You can come home and even though your body is tired, your soul is more alive, right?

**Right? OK, that's nice. That's really nice.**

Quite an. Yeah, you can quote me.

**Yeah so I mean 'cause like some people might think because you're 'cause you're on the water. Not, you know you're not in a very built up environment.**

I would imagine that we're in Kings Cross here in Kings Cross. OK, right? Right? That's interesting so that I don't know if you ever notice, but do you know the area? By the way, yeah, yeah, yeah yeah, but like do you know? Coal drops yard, you know, like all the shops and restaurants? Yeah, so this is like on my right hand side. I can literally as I look out of my window. I can see into a shop that sells like really fancy and very expensive lights.

Yeah, but if I looked to the other side, there is actually a nature reserve. Yeah, well, I don't know if you know it like it's just a bit, but it you know, like if you if you look out from the right window it feels like this cannot be central London. Yeah, that's just did you is it? Is it open at the moment indeed. Spend the time over there.

**You can actually go there, right? OK.**

I don't think you can actually go there. Yeah, yeah. I don't know, may I never see anyone there look. It feels like it's. What's the word kind of like floating? OK, you need a boat to to go around. It's rather small, OK? But it's still your video came back OK. Yeah, I don't know what happened.

**So so Even so like that's that feels like like nature or like something that's more natural compared to this. Like super pricey light shop.**

Yeah, I mean to be honest, I think I don't really even mind that it's such a contrast between the two, like I think it's pretty cool that. You can have, like you know this super vibrant, you know. Buzzing space and then right next to it you can have something that's come. It's like I feel like it balances quite well. OK, yeah. You can see this of course. And they could be more wild I guess like the one here in Kings Cross is quite well. The thing is because people can't go there, so it's just doing its own thing. You know, like nature does uh-huh right? Which is so like the sort of nature. Whatever is kind of separate to is it like more natural because nobody's tinkering with it, and. Yeah, I mean it's it's like. Nature. It's kind of like how to. How do I say it? It's imperfect, but that's what makes it perfect. OK, right? There's like you kind of beauty in the chaos or something. Yeah, yeah, I mean nature is not supposed to be like, you know. Right angles and you know perfectly designed. Perfectly designed fits, you know, like they can look cool as well. But you know? It's not the real wilderness, you know, yeah, but if you had a little lesson in central London. Yeah, but it's but.

But like the wheels and this is like the opposite of central London basically yeah, OK yeah Alright wait wait wait.

**So like you know you were kind of like showing me the like your houseplant there, and there's other things. Today's what's the difference between something like that and something which is this more kind of untouched? Area, are they they were part of nature or they will natural?**

I'm yeah. I mean, there's I guess different levels of natural. And, uh, I mean if you live. Everyone lives in in, you know, at least in London you you have some limits of what you can do. You know? I mean, unless you have a very big I don't know how somewhere with a massive garden and. Yeah, this is just the only thing that we can do on a boat. We can put things on our roof and things on our windowsill. Yeah, it's you know it's our only option. Yeah yeah yeah massively different because you can see that. You know, I mean the plants are doing well, they're you know they're happy here, but it's it's still a very much controlled, controlled environment. Yeah, yeah, yeah. Very much.

So. Kind of like kind of artificial, you know, in a way, no way, sadly. I mean it, it doesn't. It doesn't mean that the plants are unhappy. I think they're pretty happy, at least most of them. I mean, I'm generally quite good at killing plants as well, OK? But I'm learning I'm learning I'm getting better. Yeah, the one that OK? He's there with you. Do you say green thumb, right? Yeah, yeah so yeah. So he, he's like I don't know he doesn't even do anything special but somehow like yeah he just like touches a plant and it grows into something massive. Have these powers. I'd try anyway.

**Cool, cool, cool, amazing thank you. So I've kind of got a kind of idea of what you're what you see is being part of nature. And yeah, you're saying there's these kind of grades of the wilderness versus like something which is a bit more controlled. Have you have you notice yourself over the past? You know, during the pandemic has that changed what you think about nature at all? Or have you thought or have you notice things in a different kind of way when you've been not able to travel so much? Or just not not chosen not to travel so much?**

To be honest, I don't think so. I don't think Pandemic has really affected me in that way. I think I mean obviously it's been annoying. Yeah, it's been annoying mostly because of work really because I'm self-employed, so I haven't been able to do my work and or earn any money really, and so I I feel like pandemic is pretty shitty. All other bits of yeah yeah. Were work related things but in terms of nature I don't think it's really changed. My relationship with nature. Because it's pretty much the same as what it was before, right? Yeah. Changed it more I.

I wish I could show you this. There is literally baby geese running on the pavement. Yes, but like their little fluffy balls, you know like yeah, yeah. They're so cute.

**I saw some baby Swans and cygnets the other day, actually.**

No amazing hold on I'll. I'll take a photo and I will send it to you because this so yeah. Cute. What are they doing? Are they just kind of running around here just like I don't know they're washing themselves and walking around there is like, I guess it's a father goose. He's just he's having a look around making sure no one's coming. Oh, they're so cute. Yeah, it's amazing this time of year we there's all the babies. Yeah I took a video as well so I could.

Yeah cool well yeah, you say actually what I I I do think what's changed a my perception maybe not perception but my. Engagement with nature more than pandemic is baby, right, right? OK, yeah, I think it kind of works in the same way as getting a dog.

**What's that mean?**

You gotta walk the baby? You gotta walk the dog. I mean walking the dog obviously is a lot more urgent an. But you know, babies sleep very well when they're outside, and so I really try to go every single day to do like I don't know. One hour, 2 hour walk around, even if it's just a walk around the block. Yeah yeah, because actually here. There isn't, you know, anywhere really to go that super nice. I mean there's few parks, but like OK, so you walk to the park then you do a circle around the park like whatever and then what you know? But yeah, and and also I think because weather has been kind of crap.

I think when it when it's bit more warm or like at least sunny or an I, you know I definitely want to go for hikes or at least longer walks like look at something I don't know where we're maybe a little bit outskirts of London. Then you know, venture out. But now you know I don't even want to go too far, because if it gets cold, if it gets rainy windy, you know it just kinda wanna come home yeah, yeah, yeah yeah, I feel like I feel like that's definitely changed my. You know, spending time outside more because I I feel like. Uh, yeah. For her benefit, I think it's I, you know, like I can't be lazy. Lazy. Yeah, and I think I think kids need to, you know?

I mean, I grew up in the countryside so you know, I I played in dirt and ate dirt and you know, slipped in dirt. And yeah, I feel like it's something really cool. Everyone, everyone should serve grow up like that if they can.

**Yeah, that's interesting. So you think your like childhood experiences really shaped like your view on what? What is nature and its importance?**

I think subconsciously definitely, and I I definitely look back at that time thinking like I was. So you know, blessed to have that experience. Not sure how much I enjoyed it at the time because the. I say it was like we had this farm. It was in the middle of nowhere so there was no other kids to play with. So it's quite lonely. So yeah, I think you need like human interaction in the nature.

**OK, right? And those are like two separate things. It's like the landscape and the dirt and stuff, and then the people are like separate to that.**

I mean, if you are in the landscape and in the dirt and whatever, and you're there alone. All the time. Then there is a difference between you know being with someone else as well, or at least having someone to play with. But you know, at the same time kind of being bored makes you more creative, especially as a child, yeah. So so I don't like I don't know how much I I minded it as a as a kid I don't really remember. Yeah, I can only look back in kind of think oh, that would have been nice. Or you know that was yeah. Yeah, I yeah I don't. I don't really remember that much but yeah I do. I do think that it would be it like it is important to to share it I think sure yeah yeah yeah yeah.

Wait, I mean, as an adult it's also very nice to walk by yourself. Yeah. So. I don't know, but it depends on the mood I guess. Yeah, socially, socially and the weather.

**(Explaining task)**

I I do have to say it's weather dependent, yeah? Kind of, I mean, just because. Pictures don't look good when it's crap weather. Yeah, I hate bad photos. Well, you know if there's. I mean, if there's a moment, of course I will. And I like this kind of stuff actually. I mean obviously I don't have that much time now as I did before, but.

I like earlier on this year I took part of another research. Yeah, it was. It was actually. Is the CRT CRT is like the governing body on the canals. It's canal and river trust. Yeah, they were doing some kind of research about boaters and and stuff. And so they asked for some photos and videos and like it was so cool because I just you know, I got to take loads of different shots and like explain stuff and it was really awesome. So I do like this. Well yeah I also wanna do it properly. Like I I wouldn't just send any old shit photo.

**You know I'm I'm literally so long as it's like yeah, they don't have to be beautiful like I. I don't really mind**

Anyway, OK, OK. OK well, that all sounds amazing and I'm yeah I guess let's just let's just I. I'm really looking forward to seeing seeing what you come up for it. And then, yeah, we'll talk in in a couple of weeks time.