

Essays

16 November 2017 18:34

Local industry
sea

11 My Past

- R: When I left school I took an exam at Chatham dock yard In July.
- R: I took it twice because I failed the first time.
- R: The second time I passed.
- R: Because I had passed I was employed at the dock yard has an apprentice for two years as an electrician.
- R: After my apprenticeship was up I stayed at the dock yard for a couple of years.

apprenticeship
exams
passed
failed

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12 MyPast

- R: When I left my last school, I had already applied for some apprenticeships for a Job in Chatham dockyard. I was applying for a Job as an electrician with another firm. I had already applied at Chatham Once before. I failed the first time but applied again as it had good pay. On the second time I passed in the maths and English exam which is only the exams that you take when you apply for an apprenticeship. I asked my father about an apprenticeship at Canning town Glass works but he told me that There were none going and That I needed GCEs in English Maths. After getting the note that I had passed in my maths-English exam at Chatham docks I rang my friends and asked if they had passed as well. Both of them had passed the exam and were taking an apprenticeship as electricians. Later on in life I got married to a young brunette who had been engaged to me for nearly a year. I was 30 years old when I got married, we now have four children ranging from 8 to 13 years old.

job
dock yard
failed
apprenticeship
exams
local business
marriage
children

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13 My Past

- R: Just before I left school I got a "promissary?" note" from the R.A.F to join as an apprentice technician. After I left school I {worked?} for the summer season in a stall. When I went in the R.A.F. in August of 1978. I went through the 3 year training and passed out as a junior technician. I was posted to overseas duty and soon most of the world. When I came out I got a job with Marion Elliotts until I retired.

apprenticeship
local business - work

From <<https://discover.ukdataservice.ac.uk/QualiBank/Document/?id=q-22074263-5b62-4e09-9e67-aaf5def63ef>>

14 My past

- R: When I left school I took up apprenticeship as a fitter and {turner?} this meant traveling from Sheppey to Rochester every day but this didn't bother me to much as I had already a moped and the next year I learned to drive a car so this didn't really affect me. So I stayed to become a skilled man.
- R: In the evening I had already a small disco when I left school, but as the years progressed I built the disco up and became quite good. Then when my apprenticeship had finished I had to make some kind of decision to what I was going to do so in the end I sold all of my disco and put the money into a small business using the skill I had already learned from my apprenticeship to become quite a good little engineering shop.
- R: I also had my girl friend who from the age of sixteen was beginning to take up lots of time and get involved in what I was doing so the shop I brought I had to make sure had a flat above so marriage could follow with out to much trouble which it did at the age of 23.

apprenticeship

marriage
owning property

From <<https://discover.ukdataservice.ac.uk/QualiBank/Document/?id=q-08eba196-12a3-48e4-af2e-5bf9b211ce26>>

15 ESSAY

- R: Looking back on my past I have few regrets, I know that if I had my time all over again it would be no different. People say the teens are the best time of your life, no worries or responsibilities, how wrong they are. Firstly I remember the conflicts between my parents and I, and how they thought I didn't care about my future, they were so very wrong. They couldn't understand how much I worried about getting a decent job, and that stomach pain that you had when you failed that test for the career you had been counting on.
- R: The teachers were only doing their job and they didn't care whether you got the job or not, and it was the same after school as well, when I left, people would ask how you were getting on, but they didn't really care, what was it to them if I was penniless with a dismal future.
- R: Another worry was the girls, you couldn't concentrate on much for long without thinking about that dishy bird sitting opposite, and how you'd like to get off with that.
- R: When I eventually got a decent job and settled down with a nice girl, there were the problems of that smarmy bloke getting with that managerial job you'd been hoping to get promoted to.
- R: Oh yes, there were good times as well, like when you find out your wife has just had a lovely baby boy, and you win a couple of grand on the horses, which was just enough to add to your savings to put a deposit on that new six bed roomed house.
- R: But now, I've made a lot of money and I've no need to work for the rest of my days, but money isn't everything, sometimes I wonder what would've happened if I hadn't been lucky in business, if I didn't make the money I had now. Would I be like my school friend Mark who is still working at the factory job he found when he was sixteen and how lucky I thought he was to take home £40 a week although we're probably equally as happy now.
- R: Now I've only to see my grandchildren running around me, to make me happy, and only death to look forward to. But my children will never have to graft like I did, at least I've got the money to give them and that's one thing Mark's children will never have.

job
worry

marriage

money

time passing

From <<https://discover.ukdataservice.ac.uk/QualiBank/Document/?id=q-638e25a8-1100-4c74-ab49-5f45c1508c77>>

16 Looking Back

- R: You know I was never very clever at school. Being that, people took the micky but I took no notice of them. people, when we did a test laughed at me when I got near bottom marks.
- R: I remember like it was yesterday, I went for an interview 3 month or, there about before I was due to leave school This was

no

Evening Back

- R: You know I was never very clever at school. Being that, people took the micky but I took no notice of them. people, when we did a test laughed at me when I got near bottom marks.
- R: I remember like it was yesterday, I went for an interview 3 month or, there about before I was due to leave school This was for the merchant Navy but failed the entry test. it was quite a blow for me I felt rejected yet again.
- R: My dada reckoned that he could get me a job at blueits but there were no vacancies as yet.
- R: I left school and on to the dole with thousands of other people.
- R: I didn't want to but in our small town of Queenborough more of a village really people talk about me and how I was on the dole they thought it was disgraceful but what else could a reject do as a result I spent a lot of time on the key side at sheerness watching the trout boat leave every hour to travel out to a large lash ship to see if there is anything needed like beer or a sick person needing to be taken ashore the people all knew me, and they I was on the dole but they didn't mock me one morning one of the men Joe said there was a vacancy for this job and he would put in a good word for me
- R: I got the job not a bad wage and I was happy at my work at 25 I had almost became a permanent fixture sometimes I slept there.
- R: I did trip after trip after trip I brought back the sick people aboard the people who before laughed at me at the age of 35 I had moved in to the boat and was known as old Killer the boat man I rescued people who almost drowned and earned quite a respect from other people I put a bit by each week for my retirement and a boat of my own to live on.
- R: I never got married although with one girl I was pretty serious but she died in an accident just my luck in fact it was typical of my luck,
- R: 2 years ago I retired the firm instead of a gold watch gave me the old boat they said they were getting a new one now here in the Thames I spend my time and from time to time am asked to do trip's in my boat to the lash when other people were ill. I am respected by all. if the people who mocked me all those years ago could see me now My mother and father died long ago I was sent back a long way when they died I buried them at sea with all the trimmings I was 41 then and Now I'm 68 a gibbering old man who is a respected old pest.

failure
BewAAs?
rejection

respect
death of significant
other - accident
respect

From <<https://discover.ukdataservice.ac.uk/QualiBank/Document/?id=g-5f4ea817-81b0-4e10-8603-4de969fd46fa>>

17 Reflections

- R: I like to watch the kids play across the road in the park. It gives me a sense of satisfaction, not that they realise it mind. There too locked up in their own fantasies to a dam anyway, shut away in their private worlds of solitude, free from the arms of reality. They don't know how lucky they are. But let's face it, they don't care anyway, well why the hell should they? It's not their turn to suffer; not yet.
- R: They will realise, as I did all those years ago, that time is not the illusion that they have created within themselves, when it can free its self, it will burn them first, then run away.
- R: Maybe I was like them once; not so free though, I think they have love, neighbours, perhaps a little honesty. Me? Well I was alone, unafraid yes but alone, and it hated me and I it, because like time it burned me. It still does.
- R: I remember, now, how I stood at a similar window, oh forty five years ago at least, on my last day at school in fact. I watched the cars leak, on that particular day and I hid myself away from the tears that those so much entangled with the place, shed as their last friend (sieved?) through the gate.
- R: Mine had gone, too soon I thought, but my inclination meant nothing, they were only whispers after all, to quiet to burst into reality; and no-one heard them.
- R: The cold floor made me shudder on that day. Funny how it hadn't before. I was sixteen and faced with nothing, only a hearse of a life that would eventually lead me to the cemetery gates. I didn't want to go, and I fought time in vain and I was shoved into the big bad world that called me.
- R: I had contemplated suicide. It was away, as I had explained to a friend, she begged me to reconsider, I did. I loved her.
- R: I still remember her name. Simple, but meaningful if you know what I mean. God knows I didn't think I'd survive without her. But well, I managed didn't I. She saved my life, I hadn't expected it at first, but her actions cheered me, I fought, I won. I thanked her.
- R: Then I was faced with real life and it's lust for my innocence. How I hated it, but I could not conquer it. It urged me on. My first job was meaningless and obscure, but I tolerated it's meagreness for my own sake because it offered a hint of salvation from the obscurity of my inner self.
- R: Packing crates, that was it. Hundreds of them, day after day. Straw, cups, straw saucers and my hands wept with the sweat of my labours and the offensiveness that surrounded them. There was, again, no satisfaction, no streak of content, biting me, no memories able to save me, and I sacrificed my last ounce of sanity for a measly 20 pounds a week. Hell, I earned it. Those crates were so heavy, a burden, took two of us and a lot of stress and strain to shift them, but we managed.
- R: Complication was my shroud, my continual oppressor. Christ I tried to escape it, and, thus learn from my mistakes, but it was hopeless. I was a fly caught in a web of incrimination that starved me of my right to be free, until I no longer expected it.
- R: I tried again, and my second job was better. A news reporter for a small local paper that paid me only on delivery. It was hard, but strangely, rewarding. I ate myself and rested within the concepts of my new found occupation and I worked damm bloody hard to get to the top of the pole. I succeeded. Barely.
- R: When I was 20. I moved on, totally unconvinced that small time obscurities could satisfy my appetite for power. I joined a national paper and met my wife.
- R: Her father worked for himself, well equipped to succeed in his line of work. Decorating.
- R: I thought I loved her, maybe I did, I could only love once, I surmized with such a total honest sincerity. Why? I don't know. The answer would not aid me.
- R: We had three kids, they've all left now, gone forever, to strive like I have. she's dead. Must be ten years ago now. Motor accident that killed her. she's safe now though.
- R: The paper carried me. Through my whole life I wanted something. I didn't know what. I know I haven't found it.
- R: That it really. Not much is it. Those kids playing now are tomorrow's losers, but they've time to work things out, think and plan ahead. They have got a chance; it's a damn shame really.
- R: Here am I, locked away in my room, house, my home, and the clock of life is still ticking, but it slowly wanes, and very soon, it will cease to exist; gone, forgotten, with no-one to care, and no-one to member. That clock is really me, its just a reflection. This is, perhaps, my last message to the world, and, like before, no-one has heard.

despair

disastition

job as a necessity -
no pleasure in
work.

being happy with your 18+

success
leaving 10 cal

love
death of significant
other - accident
time passing

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18

- R: I stayed on at school until I was seventeen, the idea was to take more 'o' level examinations because the year before I only took one 'o' level. I wanted to be a racing driver and I realised if I failed I would need 'o' levels to try and find another job with. After leaving school at Seventeen I went for an apprenticeship as a mechanic. I was told by the motor racing school that I would need to know a lot about the mechanics of the car. While I was working I was trying to save some money but I just kept spending it with nights out with friends. About half way through my apprenticeship I began to realise that I would not be able to save all of the money required for my motor racing lessons. The only way I could get enough was to borrow money from someone, but who? I tried my father first and he said that if I could raise half the money I need I will pay the rest. I did eventually raise my half and began my lessons. At this time I was still living at home on the Isle of Sheppey, and my motor racing lessons were at Brands Hatch. I could not catch a bus or train to the circuit so my parents were driving me over, but they did not want to make a habit of this. I'd have to get a flat near to the circuit but I could not afford to run it myself I had to share with another driver but after about six months we fell out with each other. I had nearly finished my lessons but I decided to come back to the island and get a job as a full time mechanic.
- R: The money I had saved up was now almost gone, I went back to live at home. Until I came back I had hardly any social life in the evenings and it wasn't long till I had a steady girlfriend and job. My girlfriend and I saved enough money to marry and move into a small house. We had two small children when we moved into a bigger house. Our original house was kept in very good condition by my wife and I, so it sold quickly. The new house we went into was a bit of a challenge, it needed a lot of time spent on it decorating, which we did on our own at weekends and any spare time we had. It took two years hard work to get the house how we wanted it. We decided we would know save up to go on a holiday abroad. We hadn't had a

exams
apprenticeship
money
failure

marriage

- R: The money I had saved up was now almost gone, I went back to live at home. Until I came back I had hardly any social life in the evenings and it wasn't long till I had a steady girlfriend and job. My girlfriend and I saved enough money to marry and move into a small house. We had two small children when we moved into a bigger house. Our original house was kept in very good condition by my wife and I, so it sold quickly. The new house we went into was a bit of a challenge, it needed a lot of time spent on it decorating, which we did on our own at weekends and any spare time we had. It took two years hard work to get the house how we wanted it. We decided we would know save up to go on a holiday abroad. We hadn't had a good holiday since our honeymoon. We went with our two children for nine days in the South of France.
- R: Looking back it seems funny that I never bought a car before we moved house. I had passed my test, wanted to be a racing driver, and worked on cars all day long. I soon started up my own business as a mechanic but went in for selling d.i.v. goods mainly, this is what everyone wanted to save themselves money.

marriage
children
car / transport

From <<https://discover.ukdataservice.ac.uk/QualiBank/Document/?id=q-59b03f6c-e070-4bb0-b544-01def8bef4f4>>

19

- R: After leaving school at 16 years old my first employment was in a factory. This employment was only found through four months hard slog looking for a job, even then I was not happy in the job I did. The factory was small situated on the island making clothes and other garments. To a certain extent, with school behind me I was happy to have "freedom". I would work from eight thirty in the morning to five thirty at night, travelling back home to my parents house on the no.9 bus which ran from (?) the factory to Minister. Every Friday I would receive my wage package containing £23.50 net; £25.50 gross. The work was not physically demanding or hard but I know if I did not turn up on time or not even at all I would pay financially or even pay with the sack, at that at the time I could not afford. The car my parents were going to buy me needed insurance, tax and some minor extras which all cost money. At the age of 18 I decided that the money I was earning could not support me fully. By Now I had a car, out nearly every night drinking and my wage was only £35. I found employment through the job centre, It was again factory work but it offered me better working conditions and hours. The factory was again on the Island, just outside Leysdown producing Japanese car components, for the cars which were being imported as now British Leyland had been liquidised six months ago. I still lived at home but thought about moving in to a flat with a girl friend but financially I found that unsuitable as the landlord was asking £30 per week rent, too much for me. By now my parents had begun to question me about moving out of their house (father mainly) and thinking of settling down finding some property and getting married of course. If I had had it my way I would have never got married but this I did at the age of 27. After several unsettled jobs and several bad decisions, the one which landed me in court after driving with two illegal tyres of the front of my car for example. My wife was of a middle class family, her parents being mildly well off. She found employment quite all along easily with her seven 'o' levels. The marriage did not last too long though, we had no children and an agreeable divorce, on both sides, came as a relief.
- R: After looking back at the past I had realised that now at 30 years old I had (done) bloody sod all with my life and had no goal. This is when I decided to return to night school and get some qualifications. Yes! Little pieces of paper which portrayed my intelligence, flexibility and responsibility to an employer. I got my qualification and even at the age of 31 decided to make a career out of engineering, electrical that is. I worked not in a factory but in one of the new large hydro-electric powerstations in Scotland, all this new employment was created by the uses of sea power. My job was comfortable. I was also happy in what I was doing. I then slowly began to climb up the ladder eventually becoming head of the department and then director. All this stayed the same until I retired, a happily married man, married to the second wife at 35. I had money in my pocket and my own property not to say one of the more luxurious car models produced in Russia. I thought about those years between the age of 16 and 30 and shamed my self because how I had wasted them. All that I did achieve was done after school hours when nearly it could have been done.
- R: Please tell me why I did not do it? Is it me, society or is it just the way life goes?

job / employment
distraction
money
car / transport
local employer
house / property
married

exams
satisfaction
car purchase

From <<https://discover.ukdataservice.ac.uk/QualiBank/Document/?id=q-a798c601-54df-47ee-8b9b-d4fd80ea14d>>

20

Reflections

- R: Although in some places my life has been poor, the majority has been rather good to me.
- R: Upon leaving school in 1978 I obtained, much to my surprise, five 'o' level passes and with these I managed to get an apprenticeship which gave me a good start in the world. Although the pay was extremely low, I was getting the training that I required.
- R: When I was seventeen, I bought a car and my social life lifted somewhat and I enjoyed my self. My apprenticeship was totally neglected until I met a girl who was understanding and calmed me down and made me take interest again.
- R: By the age of 20 I had married and lived in a flat, which we barely could afford, and at 21 my apprenticeship was complete.
- R: The firm which had trained me now offered me a job with them in tool-making, I decided that I didn't want this, having been there five years, and left.
- R: Being skilled in my work, I thought I could get a job any where, but I was wrong and I was out of work for about five months before I was offered a job with a small company which was going places.
- R: The pay was the best I had had and we got ourselves a new house. By this time I was the proud father of a little girl, I wanted a boy- less trouble.
- R: With the pay I was getting I got a nice large family car, which at the time was the pride of my life. I also wanted more children to fill it but my wife rejected the idea, my daughter was a difficult bird and she did not want to go through with it again.
- R: After about a year we finally had a son, it was at this time we decided to move to Germany where my work was expanding and I was given a promotion to manager of that part of the company.
- R: I gave my new family the best education I could afford and my wife was content in her new surroundings. When working late one night with my secretary we got talking and when we had finished we went out for a drink, or two. This was the evil beginning of an affair which some how my wife discovered.
- R: By the age of 30 my marriage was on the verge of destruction, but being what I was I was able to make things up and it turned out to be stronger than it ever had been before.

passed
apprenticeship
car purchase
employment
marriage
property ownership
children
infidelity

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