

MY LIFE DVD 2 BOOKLET

Peter McMahon



INTRODUCTION

One of the main reasons that I made the “MY LIFE” short film was because I had travelled on the public bus service for a total 13 years. I travelled to the Growing Concern Garden Centre where I attended a gardening project that was funded by Glasgow City Council; I also went to ADTEC, this was a computer training project based in Castlemilk. At this time I also attended the Silver Birch (Scotland) Ltd Project at Milton of Campsie, to which I travelled by mini-bus.

The so-called “normal people” who travel on public transport are often school kids who give me a hard time. They make fun of my disability, calling me a “Mongol”, a “Spastic” and other up setting names. In March 2008 three girls came on the number 46 First Bus from Parkhead to Easterhouse at Shettleston Road, one of the girls called me all the names under the sun, she pushed me up against one of the windows and her two friends thought it was great laugh.

I phoned and wrote a letter to the School in question and got a reply which was not very helpful, so I phone my local councillor, Grant Thoms. After this event I was sick. I closed my self away in my house for four weeks. I did not go to the Silver Birch project or the All Write Writers Group or my Swimming Club which meets at Whitehill Swimming Pool. I was going to give up my fundraising and organising work with the Glasgow taxis outing fund for Sick Children and cancel my Lourdes trip. As I say in the film, I just take it. I don't say anything at the time in case the people have a knife or something on them. But I didn't give up; I took the chance to make this DVD when it came along. If I had given up those who make fun of people with a learning disability would have won. So I went back to doing the things that I enjoy.

This film presents the audience with an insight to a problem faced almost daily by myself and many of my friends. If others can begin to understand the difficulties we face and how we try to deal with them, life can be better for all in the community.

Silver Birch(Scotland) Ltd



Had I not gone back to the Silver Birch Project I would have missed all my friends that I had made, from the Team Leader Shirley Craig, Depute team Leader Duncan Blair, to our Manager Mark McCrorie and other Staff members such as Ellen Campbell, Mark Williams, William Coventry, Joe McGroarty, Peter Wallace, Stuart Johnson, Hazel Reid, Lorna Stewart and Lynne Barclay.

I help run the sales area at the Silver Birch (Scotland) Ltd. I sell the plants, mushroom compost, ornamental bark and multi-purpose compost. I also water the plants, keep them weed free and looking nice.

In addition, I help in the canteen area by making the teas and coffees and a hot dish for the clients and staff.

In December 2010 I received an Individual Achievement Award in Horticulture from the Royal Caledonian Horticultural Society. In August 2011 I started doing my SVQ in Horticulture at Langside College.

GLASGOW TAXIS OUTING FUND FOR SICK CHILDREN



I have been going on the annual taxis outing since I was four years old. Now I am an honorary committee member of the Glasgow taxis outing fund. I help out behind the scenes and at fund raisers. I assist with the organising of the annual Glasgow taxis outing to Troon each year.

This year I have raised a total of two thousand pounds for the benefit of the kids for the 66th annual Glasgow taxis outing, which took place on Wednesday 15 June 2011. It was a great day but the weather was mixed, even so, all the kids had a great time

ALL WRITE WRITERS GROUP



If I had stopped going along to the All Write Writers Group on Monday nights at the Bridge I would have missed sitting writing about whatever I feel like writing about. It takes me a little bit longer than most people to write stories about the different things that I think about. The writers group have put their stories and poems into a book which is now published, entitled *Sure 2B Braw*.

I have written *Avoch Street in May*, *To Troon by Taxi*, *Glasgow Taxis Outing (June 1970)*, *Canniesburn Plastic Surgery Unit*, *My Life Film*, *Thief in the Night*, and *Avoch Street in June*.

SHOWS



This photo was taken at the Pavilion Pantomime with some of the cast on Saturday 20 December 2008. The photo is of Cat Harvey of the Real Radio; Des Mclean ex presenter of Radio Clyde 1; Dean Park of Clyde 2; and Stephen Purdon, an actor from the River City Programme on BBC1.



I would have missed going to the Pavilion Theatre pantomime and to see Sydney Devine, Charlie Landsborough and Dominic Kirwan; as well as some Irish folk singers such as Daniel O'Donnell and Foster & Allan.

HCPT



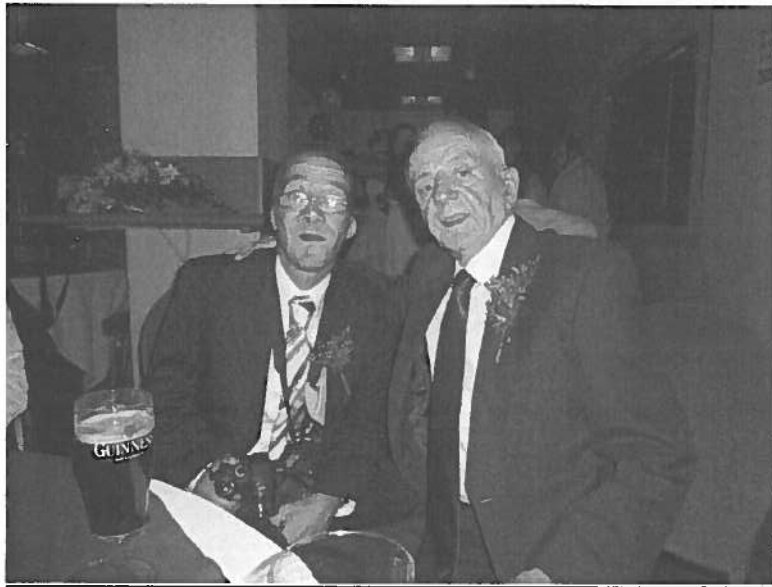
I started going to Lourdes with the HCPT on the Easter Pilgrimage in 1992 and an opportunity came up to join Group 522 which goes out to Lourdes in July each year. I have been on the last six pilgrimages with the group and if I had given up I would have not been there last year.

I would not have been able to continue doing these things in these different groups if I had given up after these people had upset me. I am glad that I made my film. I am glad I kept going, and enjoy the encouragement of my family and friends

PETER & FAMILY



Peter Gerry Patrick Jim Stephen McMahon



Peter James McMahon father

Thanks



**Thanks to Diversity films, camera crew, editor mentor, Marie Olesen, Doug Aubrey, Abegail Hopkins, Martin Dick, Iain Reid, Blair Young for all his hard work in edition this film in time for the Scottish parliament Screening Colin Menabney of Enable Glasgow for children adults with a learning disability/ Further thanks go the staff at the Bridge in Easterhouse and Robert Kinghorn Fr John Keenan Pauline Garvey of HCPT group 522 James Ferguson of the all write writers group also all the members of the all write writers group also James Lillies first bus driver for helping with the shoot for bus scene and also first bus for use of the bus and Mark Muir John Wheatley College, and not forgetting Shirley Craig, Duncan Blair and Ellen Campbell from Silver Birch(Scotland) who supported me during the film making process,
Thank you everyone and I will not forget you all when I am famous.**

**Thank you once again
Peter McMahon**

NORMAL IN THIS LIFE!
WHAT IS IT?
(A Citizens view)

I see you, but do you see me, or do you see only_ my, colour, my looks,
my beliefs, my height, my weight, my Intellect or my Disabilities?
Indeed could you (ever) look beyond these, to see me as I truly am?
In this Diverse Society, what is the Norm? And has it ever truly existed?
For like a Mirage, we chase it, but can Never ever catch it!

Could it be; that Normal, is naught but a Fantasy? Created by an Elitist
Society?

To keep the people.” You and Me” In their place!! (Beneath their feet)!
And to keep us there..... Invented, BUREACRASIES?
And in their shadow’s, we have lived, despairingly! Ever since?

For the bureracracic way, makes a Niche for all, in this class Society,
Which Dates back into Histories, Infinity. Yet see it not do we.
For all are caught up, in its Roaring Vortex, and dragged along we are,
striving to find, and climb, the ladder, that is not there! And this we do
hoping “To better ourselves”!
And become more “NORMAL” By this act?

And to then try and climb higher up this non existent ladder, so we can
say, Superior to you, Am I, (I Am more Normal than YOU!)
Indeed! A Secular View this is.

And In this Fantasy, there is a structure formed, a pecking order, top to
toe there is, and those on it look up or down, and its up they wish to be.
That they can then frown down on those below, that they will know,
Superior is they to them.
So those below will know their place, and knowing this strive harder, in
their life’s Quest! To climb this ladder, that they may feel this way too.
And shout on the way_ “EQUALITY” be DAMNED!

And when our vulnerable, and weak, are smashed and broken. On, falling
off, this ladder of despair.
They are shunned, ignored, and laughed at, by those, still grimly
hanging on, but more in fear they do this, for one day, they know
this could be them!

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Q&A

Q. What is Normal?

A. Normal is the same as everyone else.

Q. Is everyone else the same?

A. No.

Q. What are they then?

A. They are abnormal.

Q. In what way?

A. They don't fit in.

Q. In what way?

A. Their, cultures, beliefs, communities, colour, Intellectually,
Physically.etc.

Q. What should we do about this?

A. Exile them, kick them out, and show them whose boss.

Q. So normal is the same as you?

A. Yes.

Q. Who said you were normal, what tests were you given, to validate
your normality?

A. I just know.

END.

Conclusion.

Normality it seems is a group mentality, or secular belief.
And this normality is an elitist state of mindset, based on their own group.
e.g. Gangs, religious sects, Intellectual groups, countries, familys..Etc.
We are right... (W.A.R.)

Hypothesis...

It seems up close, as if an order of some kind has been imposed
subliminally, into the mindsets of these peoples at an early age.
A. bureaucratic. Class system. It seems, with its own pecking orders?

We then say, we are logical, and that we are clever to, but how can this be true?

When our Societies! Believes in! "SOCIAL CLASS" orders,
"MEANING" I am different and better than you!

We truly live in a World of self deluded fantasy. That, for some reason we cannot see? For in truth all mankind is equal, and this you must believe, to see the truth in this.

And then you will see, that this, "quixotic" ladder of success, lives only, in your own
(Bureacratic!) Fantasies

Peter McMahon October 2011

