



Transcript:

[Music]

Jan: Stanton Lodge is a complex of fourteen flats that have been built solely for the purpose of where there are couples that, um, want to live together where one partner has dementia. So just because one person has dementia, they're not going to be parted, because these couples have been together for a long time.

Brian: We were, erm, childhood lovers, almost. Er, we used to walk up together from the tram, er, on our way to school and ...

Olive: ... I had got another boyfriend as well, Barry [unclear 00:00:52], hadn't I?

Brian: Yes.

Olive: And, er, but ...

Brian: ... they all frowned on him. They wouldn't allow her to ... "oh, you shouldn't associate with him. What will Brian think?" (laughter)

Jan: Brian actually, by accepting help, is able to keep the role of being the husband. Erm, I have known in the past where husbands, erm, or wives, that are caring, have become the carers and they are no longer the spouse. And actually, the person who is receiving the care, the person with dementia actually realises that and so they're then living with someone who's got a strange role in their lives. But Brian is now able to relax and be husband, which is number one, and the carer, number two. We have had people who have been the carers that have died and so the person left behind is the one with dementia, and they carry on living here. Obviously, we increase the care package, or change the care package around so that they get more company. They get, erm ... they don't always need more help because people who have dementia are still very capable of doing lots of their own tasks themselves.

Carer: [bringing trays of food] Hello, lunchtime.

Olive: Hello.

Brian: Hello. What have we got today?

Carer: It's poached fish, mashed potato and some veg.

Brian: Oh, very nice.

Carer: There you go.

Jan: If it's the person who has dementia that dies, the carer has a chance of staying behind, if they would like to. And the majority of them have chosen to stay here.

Brian: We used to travel into work, Olive and I, on the trams and, erm, we miss them. So when I had some time to spare, I decided that I would recreated the Birmingham tramway system.

Jan: When people arrive, often they're very apprehensive, because it's a complete change of life, um, but we feel that everybody brings something with them to Stanton Lodge. Um, good examples of this is that we, we have some artistic people and they're very shy at telling us what they can do, but then they produce these paintings that they say "oh, what can I do with this? Shall I throw this one away?" and we grab it, quick, and put it on a wall because everybody wants to be part of the new person that's moving in. And we want everyone who's moving in to be part of Stanton Lodge.

Brian: You might like to have a look at these photographs on the wall. This is, er, our open day in November when we invited all the public to come and see what activities we get up to. And they prevailed on me to do a presentation on the, er tramway. And there, there we are in full 'fig', as they say.

Jan: Dementias are different. Couples are different. People in general are different. And so we have to have, erm, a facility whereby they can choose their care plan and change it as, as things progress or, or, um, just change in general.

Richard: With dementia you don't know what the levels of care are going to be ... or the need is going to be for the future and then advantage of Stanton Lodge

is that as the demands and the needs, erm, are created then they can supply more and more care as is needed. How are you?

Richard's mum: Alright, love.

Richard: Good. (kiss greeting)

Richard's mum: Thank you.

Richard: (presenting bouquet of flowers) There you go. Brought you some flowers, my dear.

Richard's mum: Oh, bless you.

Richard: Alright?

Richard's mum: Aren't they beautiful.

Richard: Mum and dad have been together for sixty-three years and with the increasing problems that we were having as the dementia was setting in, my biggest worry would have been that they would have been separated.

Richard: Do you want to do those, or shall I do them, eh?

Richard: Ultimately, he passed away here, in his own room, in his own bed. And I could think of many scenarios where people would not be in such a, a happy, welcoming environment as their own home.

Richard: Pretty, aren't they?

Richard's mum: (arranging flowers) Aren't they gorgeous?

Richard: Yeah. I think the, the lilies will obviously smell when they come out. That'll be nice. Alright, mother?

Richard's mum: Beautiful.

Richard: I'm sure many people have seen loved ones taken off to hospital, parted from their partners, which is a terrible way of passing away. Erm, and terrible ... it would have been terrible for my mother.

Olive: (looking at noticeboard) Who wants to be a millionaire? Wow. Come and join a team to play this popular quiz game at 3pm in today.

Brian: In the upstairs lounge.

Jan: I think the key to attaining personalisation is wanting to do it. We have to make sure that we have a workforce that we all think the same way and I'm very, very choosy about my staff that come to work here. Um, they're excellent staff and they all see from my point of view. I, I try to feel that I know how I would want to be treated, how my parents would want to be treated and, um, staff have to think along these lines. So they are very flexible in their thinking.

Carer: (in lounge, playing who wants to be a millionaire) And for a hundred pounds then, youngsters, what crime occurred on the 8th of August 1963?

Brian: I find that I'm very different from the, erm, shy little eremite that I was in Birmingham.

Carer: (continuing game) The Great Tram Robber, the Great Train Robbery or the Great Unicycle Robbery? (laughter)

General Chorus: The Great Train.

Brian: Here I am now, taking part in all the activities and feeling myself very much one of the family.

Carer: Well done. You've got a hundred pounds. Very good.

[End of Recording]