

David Bradbury Transcript

Aaron:

Hello there, what is your full name?

David Bradbury:

My full name is David Bradbury.

Aaron:

What year were you born in?

David Bradbury:

1953.

Aaron:

Where were you born?

David Bradbury:

Paddington in London, St. Mary's Hospital.

Aaron:

What did your parents do for a living?

David Bradbury:

When I was born, my mum was a barmaid in the Royal Oak pub in Paddington, and my dad was the head barmen in the same pub. And that's how they met in first place.

Aaron:

We're going to talk family and childhood.

David Bradbury:

Okay.

Aaron:

Please tell us why you decided to work for a Royal mail.

David Bradbury:

I decided I'd like to have a job that was on the outside. I didn't get on with school very much. I didn't like to be inside. So I wanted to do a job that was outside most of the time, although it involved working indoors to a certain extent, most of my time was outside. So that was the main reason because I was brought up in the countryside, so I wanted to work on the outside.

Aaron:

Tell us about any family members who worked for Royal mail.

David Bradbury:

I don't have any family. I've got three sons, but none of them work in the Royal Mount at all. So I'm the only one.

Aaron:

What did your family members think about your decision to work for Royal Mount mail.

David Bradbury:

Well, it just me, my twin brother, and my mum at the time, and my mum thought that that was a good idea because I'd only just left school and I needed a job and it was a very secure job that I knew that I could work for a very long time. So that was the reason.

Aaron:

Tell us how you started working for Royal mail.

David Bradbury:

I first started as a telegram boy back in 1970 at Hammersmith post office. And then I moved to Ealing where it was a slightly different office and a bigger area to cover. So that was my beginnings of my career in Royal mail or it was called the post office in those days.

Speaker 3:

Sorry, could you just tell him about the interview process? Cause you told me about that before. Can you tell him about that?

David Bradbury:

The interview? Oh right, yes. I had to go to the post office in Notting Hill Gate for an intelligence test and because they were very short of people in the post office, so they wanted to make it as easy as possible. And one of the questions were, if the plane is facing one way, what way does the wind have to blow for it to take off? So it was a very simple question because they wanted as many people to join the post office as possible. And that was the reason why it was so easy.

Aaron:

Describe the training you did.

David Bradbury:

The training at the beginning to be a messenger wasn't very much because it was just learning the area of Hammersmith. So I had to go out with someone. They had to show me where the streets were and the same thing with the union as well. So that was the basic training in those days because it was just delivering telegrams. So there wasn't much training needed really. The main training is when I became a postman at 18, but it was just knowledge of where the streets were. And if they say you wanted to go to, I don't know, a small muse in Hammersmith, I knew where it was. So it was basically remembering where you're going.

Aaron:

What was the first job you did for Royal mail?

David Bradbury:

The first job was I went to Hammersmith and I went out with another boy because I was shadowing him. He was showing me where to go and we were delivering telegrams in Hammersmith Broadway. So, that was basically my first job, yeah.

Aaron:

Tell us how you felt on your first days of work.

David Bradbury:

Nervous. Very nervous because I had to go to Paddington first of all to pick my uniform out, because that's where the main office was with the uniform. Then I cycled to Hammersmith and there was a naughty boy that used to go to school with me. He was always getting into trouble and he was there as a telegram boy. And I thought, oh no, I don't really want to be near him because he's very naughty. But I managed to get over that nervousness. It's a completely new thing I've never done before. Working for the first time in your life is a very nervous thing. So yeah, very nervous I was, yeah.

Aaron:

Describe your work in those early days.

David Bradbury:

My main memory was in Ealing because I didn't stay at Hammersmith very long. We had small motorbikes that we used to deliver telegrams in. And in those days there was no mobile phones, not many people had landline phones, there was no computers, the forms of communication was very limited. So I used to have to deliver telegrams and in those days the only time you had a telegram was bad news. And I used to deliver telegrams to people and it might've been a bereavement. So a few people that I delivered, they waited for me. They said, "Can I read it first?" And of course they got upset. So that, was a thing. It was a bit difficult to deal with it first.

Aaron:

What kinds of people were you working with?

David Bradbury:

There were lads the same age as me. All of them lads, no girls then. In those days, the mix of boys and girls in the post office was mostly boys. And so they're the same age as me. We used to go out socially, and have a drink, and mess about as you do. So, yeah, they were boys, 17 year old, the same age as me. Yeah, I got along with them okay. Some of them were a little bit lazy, they didn't want to do any work, but you get people like that in any industry.

Aaron:

Yeah. How diverse was your work place when you started?

David Bradbury:

No, not very diverse at all. Mainly whites. I think one black boy that was there. In those days, it tended to be mostly whites. As time went on it changed, but at the beginning, no, it wasn't very diverse at all.

Aaron:

What sort of equipment did you use in your work?

David Bradbury:

We had waterproof leggings, gloves, always had to wear a crash helmet obviously, even then, and waterproof coat, and boots, but they weren't very good because they leaked. So, that was the equipment we had. And also coincidentally enough, to deliver the telegrams I had a pouch with a belt on and you literally... Because the telegrams only that small, except for the greetings ones and you had to put that in here, but anyway, so basically you had the pouch and then you set them in order as you were delivering and took them out. And just by coincidence, I donated that to the post office museum a little while back. So, I knew that my children won't want it. So the post office museum have it now, yeah.

Aaron:

Interesting. Describe your uniform.

David Bradbury:

Right, it was Navy blue top. That was the main part and it had a badge number on it because each, they were called young postman then, needed to be identified by a badge number and my base number was 2227. And that was actually etched on my pouch, where I should deliver telegrams because what used to happen is the other boys used to pinch you belt and pouch if they didn't have theirs. And I could say, well, that's mine because my number's on that. So, yes.

Aaron:

Tell us about the skills you needed for your job.

David Bradbury:

To remember the area, this is when I first started, to get to know where the little streets were so you didn't have to, if it was a freezing cold day, you get a map out to know where you're going, because in those days there was no [inaudible 00:09:11] obviously. And so the skills I needed were remembering things really, that was the main thing before I actually became a postman, is remembering where I was going.

Aaron:

Interesting. Describe a typical day at work.

David Bradbury:

Are we talking about as a messenger or are we moving up as postman now?

Aaron:

Working life.

David Bradbury:

Working life.

Speaker 3:

We're up to postman.

David Bradbury:

Okay, postman. All right. So basically I used to get in at 6:00 in the morning, I used to prep my walk, prepare it. So basically all your letters were in a big pile all mixed up, then you had to sort it, and set it in, tie up and then go out and delivery normally by bus or a van used to take you. I used to do that because there used to be two deliveries, first and second, I used to do that, get back for breakfast about half nine, and then used to sort the second delivery up and go out. And the second delivery, finish about 2:00, something like that. So it was very labor intensive, quite difficult. But as I was only like, say, when I was 18 to 20, I had that energy, I could do that, and I couldn't do it now.

Aaron:

What were your favorite things about your work?

David Bradbury:

Meeting the public and also at Christmas time delivering parcels. It was nice to knock on the door. It's like been Father Christmas handing parcels out at Christmas, but it was hard work because obviously at Christmas there was a lot more parcels than there would normally be. So I was delivering parcels from 7:00 in the morning until 6:00 at night on some days. So very tough work it was, yeah.

Aaron:

Can you tell us... Sorry, what were the difficult things about your work?

David Bradbury:

Well, after I became a postman, I became a manager in charge of the postman. Dealing with them was difficult because they didn't want to do their work. They were lazy and naughty sometimes. Sometimes they never came in. They went sick, they turned up an hour late. So having to deal with confrontation was my most difficult.

Aaron:

Can you tell us about any discrimination you experienced or witnessed?

David Bradbury:

No, it wasn't too bad then as regards to the discrimination, because the union, they're like a body that helps the postman so that doesn't happen. So, if the managers or anyone else discriminate against someone, the unions say, look, you're not supposed to do that. That's not allowed. So, I didn't notice it very much where I worked because as a manager, I didn't allow it to happen and also the union didn't allow it to happen. So no, I didn't see much of that, although it did happen, but not where I was

Aaron:

Tell us a story that stands out from your working life.

David Bradbury:

All right. I've got a funny story. One Christmas. I was doing parcel delivery and I came into the sorting office and on my sorting table, I saw a goose. Not alive goose, I didn't have to walk it to the step, no. So basically somebody sent a goose through the post for the person to have their Christmas dinner rather than Turkey. I thought someone was teasing me. I thought it was a prank, but I saw the goose's legs and it had a string on it with a big label, with a lot of stamps on one side and the address on the other. So, I literally had to go up to this door in Ealing and say, here you go. "Oh, thank you. I've been expecting that." So that was a very unusual thing to happen.

Speaker 3:

So is it true you can put anything in the post and put a stamp on?

David Bradbury:

Not now. You could then, but not now. That wouldn't be allowed.

Aaron:

What were some of the naughty things people did at work?

David Bradbury:

Oh, skive. Do you know what that means? It means like trying to get out of work. So, one particular trick which actually I did and then it happened when I was in charge of post people where they went out on their walks and they finished their walks. They used to go in the cafe, this is me part of the way, I used to go in the cafe, have their breakfast come back and then you get your half hour breakfast break when you get back. So of course I've had my breakfast break already, so I just played [inaudible 00:14:09]. And when I became a manager, I caught quite a few postman out doing that. And they said, "Well, how did you know what I was doing?" I says, "I'll tell you why, because I used to do it." So, yeah, that was the naughty things that they were, basically having two breakfast breaks when they should only be having one.

Aaron:

Talk us briefly through the different jobs you did while working for [inaudible 00:14:38].

David Bradbury:

Right, okay. So first messenger, postman, then I did a thing called postman higher grade, it's the next grade up. That was with dealing with special delivery letters, more complicated things, working on divisions. In other words, I worked on the Middlesex. So I had to learn every single village and town in Middlesex and so that was a little bit more complicated. Then I moved up to a manager. I was in charge of people. And as I was telling you about, being in charge of casuals, especially at Christmas, these are people, temporary people that come in, it wasn't easy because they only had a week training and of course that wasn't enough. So they weren't very good at their work. And then, I ended up doing a project in Mount Pleasant, just not far from here. And I finished up as a tutor or a teacher teaching new entrance coming into the post office.

So I was actually on the other side of the classroom. So I was on the front and there was 20 people that I... It's just like you in class. But I was telling them all the rules and regulations, health and safety, et cetera, about becoming a post person. Yeah. So that's how I finished up in Royal mail when I finished back in 2004.

Aaron:

Interesting. Tell us your favorite job.

David Bradbury:

My favorite job? I think it was delivering letters. I felt that even when I was a manager at Paddington in charge of deliveries, when no one else wanted to do a walk, if someone went sick, I did it myself as a manager. So, I love going out on the streets and delivering letters. It had a sense of achievement to it. So it was nice that when you delivered a birthday card and you think, well, that's going to make someone happy today. So that was my best bit.

Aaron:

How did you progress in Royal mail.

David Bradbury:

When I was a postman higher grade in Paddington, I got a bit fed up with it because those days the job was very easy and I got bored. And it was so easy that I've played in the games room and I was very good at table tennis and snooker because I had nothing else to do. So I thought, well, I need a challenge. So I decided to move up as a manager, and then that progressed into a delivery manager, and then a project in Mount Pleasant, and then teaching in the end. So that was my progression within Royal mail.

Aaron:

Tell us about your relationship with your colleagues.

David Bradbury:

Yes. One particular man wasn't very easy to work with at Paddington because he was incapable. He really shouldn't have been a manager. And the only reason he got it is through seniority because he'd been there a long time.

It was a very old way of getting promoted and he wasn't very good at all. So I was trying to work with him. When you're trying to set a high standard, make sure that you do the job properly. Well, the people he was in charge of, they just did what they liked. So although it was in the same office and it was very difficult for these people that I was in charge of, having to look at them, why did they get away with it. So my relationship to that manager and I said to him, "Well, you really have to get them to back their ideas up." And he says, "Oh, don't worry it." He didn't seem bothered. So that was the difficult relationship with that manager because he was basically useless.

Aaron:

Tell us about your experiences of joining clubs at work.

David Bradbury:

Clubs, right. I joined the football club there and I joined the table tennis club because I was quite good at table tennis. So we used to play in a civil service table tennis league in London. So we used to go to places like the treasury, the Royal Navy, we used to play in there, all military or government offices. So, that was quite good. I liked that. That was my main thing. I didn't sort of go to Christmas parties and things like that. I tend to just stick to just sports things because I really... And I played football a lot as well. So that was my main thing with clubs in the post office.

Aaron:

Tell us about any other opportunities to socialize.

David Bradbury:

We had one week where we did an outward bounds course, it was like a team-building course in the late district. So that was an opportunity to get to know the other managers, and about teamwork, and helping them, and them helping you. So, I didn't really socialize with them too much, but that was the good opportunity to be with someone for a whole week and get to know their strengths and their weaknesses. We had to [inaudible 00:19:47] sail down a big rock face. And this big chap, he loved it. And the poor lady that was there, she was very, very frightened. So I had to guide her through it. And yet the next day we went into a cave and there was a thing called a cheese press so we had to go through a gap that much, and this man who was Mr. Muscles and very confident outside, he was frightened as a mouse inside. He didn't like it at all and the lady had to help him. So it was good to see out of post-office sort of behaviors, really. Yeah.

Aaron:

What made you join the union?

David Bradbury:

I had no choice because in those days, you wouldn't know what this means, but it is called a closed shop. So basically when you went into the post office, you had to join the union. You had no choice, but when I joined I was 17. You couldn't join until you was 18. And so I was told to join at 18, but before then they had a seven week strike that there was a big, long strike. And they said to me, "Well, you're not in any union, you don't have to go on strike." He says, "But I would advise you to, because I'd be very unpopular otherwise because everyone else would be losing money and I wouldn't." So I went out on strike. I was only living with my mum so financially it didn't make any difference at all. So yeah, I had no choice in those days.

Aaron:

Why is the union important for post services?

David Bradbury:

Because some managers and especially the post office itself, they can be quite mean to the staff. They can say we want you to work harder and to do more work but we're not going to give you any extra money. So the union was there for protection to stop them being exploited. And the post office, there was a lot of confrontation between the post office and the union because obviously, all the time the post office wanted to save money. But that meant that the post people that the union were representing, their working conditions wouldn't be so good. So that was the reason for the union.

Aaron:

What part did the union play in your life?

David Bradbury:

I didn't have much. I was asked to be a union representative, but I chose not to. Although I was in the union, basically, if somebody gets into trouble, that union representative helps them at an interview with the manager if he's off sick or if he's done something naughty. But it was a very stressful job because trying to please... If the post person is going to be sacked, for instance, and there's nothing you can do about it, the union representative really, unless there's some kind of loophole, you can't get... It was a very stressful job for them. And I really didn't need that stress in my life.

Aaron:

Tell us about any strikes or just how-

David Bradbury:

Disputes?

Aaron:

Disputes, sorry.

David Bradbury:

Yeah. Well, the 1971 strike, that went on for seven weeks over pay. So basically, the union says we want an extra 20, I don't know, 10 pounds, and the post office said no. And in the end, the members, everyone was so hard up for money they had to go back to work and the post office won that one. And there's been a few others as well during my time, a week strike we had when I was at Paddington. And I went out delivering special delivery letters as a manager because the post people weren't there. So that's the only two. There've been a lot of other smaller strikes and things like that. But as time went on, the union tended to get weaker and weaker because new people that came in were on a fixed term contract where they didn't have to join the union. So of course, there were less people joining the union.

Aaron:

What was your most memorable moment at the post office?

David Bradbury:

Most memorable moment? I'd say I was quite proud of the fact I did 34 years in the post office, and they had a 30 year award where we went to a dinner and I went with my wife and they presented me with a certificate and a present and that I chose to say, congratulations for doing 30 years in the post office. So that was a very nice time. That's a very proud time to be in a job for that long. Yeah, so that was my best moment, I think.

Aaron:

What was your most challenging moment at the post office?

David Bradbury:

Oh, without a doubt, I'm a delivery manager because a lot of them, not a lot of them, but some of them were lazy. They didn't want to do their work. So it was difficult where you had a very, very good post person doing their job properly and someone who didn't. And I had to discipline quite a few people for not doing their job properly, for lateness. I was very strict with lateness. Time off, there was a chap I had to dismiss because he took so much time off. He was warned, and warned, and warned, and when I told him, he cried, which was difficult to deal with, a grown man crying in front of you. So, yeah, that's the answer to that one?

Aaron:

Over your working life, what were the main changes at work?

David Bradbury:

Oh, main changes later on was mechanization, modernization as well, because I used to be a coder. I used to do 2000 letters a minute, an hour, where, when a letter came through you had to type the postcode and it put a phosphorus ink dye on it, and then the machine read it and sent it on its way. And then later on, they had machines that could read that. And now I think they've got these little reader things that you use a barcode for and it just does it automatically. So automation, yeah, it was the biggest change in Royal mail, and it had to happen. Again, that had union resistance because it meant less people working. So yeah, that was the main thing.

Aaron:

In what ways do you think the job has improved?

David Bradbury:

Oh, diversity. When I left, it was much more diverse. So that was good, where there was a lot of different cultures that work in the post office. And yeah, that was the main thing is the fact that there was a much wider spectrum of the community that worked in the post office rather than just mainly white people and females as well, a lot more females were joining as well. So it was a lot more equal in that respect. So, that was the thing. Yeah.

Aaron:

In what ways has it gone worse?

David Bradbury:

What ways has it gone worse? I'd say the personal attacks really because I think people tend to be in such a rush now and whereas in the past you could chat to someone on the door, how are you? Yeah, fine. Okay. Would you like to come in for a cup of tea? And I never did that because otherwise it'd delay you too much, but just a little chat, whereas, because now the work is so much harder and you have to do a lot more, you just don't have time for that. So, you've just got a rush about and not have that interaction with the public. Yeah, so I'd say that's the thing when I left anyway. I'm not sure what it's like now I've left a long, long, 18 years ago since I've worked for Royal mail, so I don't know what it's like now.

Aaron:

What would you think if your child wanted to work for Royal mail?

David Bradbury:

Yeah. I did mention that to one of my sons when they were just finished [inaudible 00:28:20] school in Islip and they laughed at me. One of them, he was very interested in cars so he did transport and design and my other two sons, no, they just weren't interested for some reason because they said to me, "It looks to me a little bit like too much hard work for me." And I'll said, "Well, this is what you got to do when you leave." And they've got all nice jobs now. They've done very well, but my wife said, don't go encouraging them to work for Royal mail. I let them do what they wanted to do and they're quite happy now.

Aaron:

If you were the boss of Royal mail, what changes would you make?

David Bradbury:

Oh my goodness. Oh, that's so good. Yeah, hugely loaded question that is. What changes? I think I would change the pension system because at the moment the pension system isn't very fair. So you put a lot of money into this pot and you don't particularly get much out of it. Whereas when I worked for it, it was a very good pension for which I'm drawing now. So, I would change that, make it a bit fairer, but unfortunately it's all to do with finance because if the money isn't there, then they had to save on it. So I would say that. I would try and make the pension system fairer.

Aaron:

Last question, looking back over your working life, what has working for Royal mail meant to you?

David Bradbury:

Well, it's given me security. It's given me a lot of confidence and also dealing with people as well. I find that I can deal with people a lot more. As I said, when I first went in as a messenger boy, I was very, very nervous. I'm thinking this is the outside world, what's going to happen? And then dealing with people, as I say, and all different types of people, and different types of scenarios, some people were happy, some people were sad. So yeah, working through Royal mail at that time, it's definitely the security because I was told it was a job for life, which it was. I left when it suited me. So yeah that, and it got me my house and the security that I have now. So, all that 34 years has paid for me, will help bring my three children up, and get the things that I wanted. So, yeah, that is a big factor. Yeah.

Speaker 3:

[inaudible 00:31:12] do you want to read the last bit?

Aaron:

I think [crosstalk 00:31:17]. Thank you very much for answering our questions. Is there anything you would like to talk about that we have not covered? Any questions??

David Bradbury:

No. I'm just wondering what the four of you would you consider working in Royal mail?

Speaker 3:

Oh no, let's keep it on you for the interview.

David Bradbury:

Oh, okay fine. All right.

Speaker 3:

Has anyone got any questions? I've got some [crosstalk 00:31:38].

David Bradbury:

Okay, yeah, fine.

Speaker 3:

Have you got any questions? If they ask questions, I know it's a bit weird but if you could just keep answering towards Aaron.

David Bradbury:

Okay, didn't know that.

Speaker 3:

Do you got any questions you want to ask?

Aaron:

What was your most memorable moment?

David Bradbury:

My most memorable moment?

Speaker 3:

Another one, you talked about this.

David Bradbury:

Yeah. Other than delivering the goose, I think I'm delivering a very important packet that got lost and I found it so I delivered it myself and it was at a wedding. It was a very important photograph. So I was very pleased with that. It was a very nice moment and they even invited me to the wedding, but I said, no, I'm busy. So yeah, that was a very nice moment in my Royal mail career.

Speaker 3:

Any questions from you at all? Anything at all? Aaron, have you got anything?

Aaron:

No.

Speaker 3:

I've just got a couple of notes here because I spoke to Dave before the phone, I've got all these [inaudible 00:32:39]. could you tell them a little bit about the pilfering side of things? You had some interesting stories around that. Tell them about pilfering because they don't know what that means.

David Bradbury:

Well that means stealing and it meant that some people were tempted to steal things from the post office, especially valuable things, especially with letters to a bank that had money in, for instance, or a jewelers, or something like that. And they used to put the envelope on top of their cup of tea. And I said, "Well, why did you do that?" He says, "Well, I want to keep my tea warm." But what they were really doing, the steam was taking the glue because if you steam a sealed envelope, where you lick it down, the steam will loosen it where you can open it, take the contents, close it again, and send it on its way, and no one will know whether anyone's taken from it. So, that was a thing that didn't happen very often because they had cameras in there.

But yeah, and people literally taking things out of the delivery bay they're supposed to be delivering, and taking it for themselves. But what happened in Royal mail is if they knew that it was happening, they let that person carry on doing it, carry on doing it, carry on doing it, and then they used to get them. And say, why did you do that? And because before they used to say, well, it's just a one-off, but they couldn't use that excuse because they'd seen them do it numerous times. And unfortunately some people that did get caught ended up going to jail. So it wasn't a good thing to do.

Speaker 3:

And couple of things, with the football stuff, did that carry on or did that get that close, all the clubs? Did that carry on? What happened with them?

David Bradbury:

While I was at Paddington, it did carry on, but then as time went on, and the duties became harder, and there was less time for the staff to have this recreation time, so you don't need to have half an hour for your dinner and then by the time you finished your dinner, you've got 10 minutes left. You haven't got time to play snooker or table tennis. Whereas when I was in there, my duty was very easy. So, even during my duty time, I had spare time to go to the post office. So, after a while then yeah, it all went. The snooker tables went, table tennis tables went, because no one was using them because no one didn't have any spare time then.

Speaker 3:

How did that affect the job, do you think?

David Bradbury:

Well, people realized that that was happening and unfortunately it didn't go down very well with some people because they did like playing snooker and table tennis, but they thought in the end, what's more important? Me playing snooker and table tennis or me earning a wage. And so, of course, they had to do extra work just to get paid and the fact that they didn't play table tennis or snooker really didn't matter that much.

Speaker 3:

And I've got two more. Could you just talk to them a little bit more about the walks, how the walks were set out in the [inaudible 00:36:03]?

David Bradbury:

Right. Okay.

Speaker 3:

Tell them what are walkies.

David Bradbury:

Well, our walkies are basically a group of say 10 streets. So I used to come in and on my, I had a big frame there, all my letters and I used to sort them out, and you had to set them in, make sure that you had number 1, 2, 3, 4, 5. So, once you got out, you weren't fiddling through your letters and everything. And as time went on, there used to be buildings knocked down so it meant you didn't have so much work. And then another person would go in, there's a big block of flats with 200 flats in it. And I haven't got time to do that. So we had to realign.

I actually did walk testing where you had to test how long it took a post person to do the walk. And it was all to do with how many letters you've got, how long it took. It was quite complicated. And as a manager, I used to go out with the post people and count their mail, see how fast they worked, and then see how many letters they delivered. So it was quite a complicated... In the end, it was all computerized. They just put all the information into a computer and it says, this office can work with 45 walks instead of 55 walks. So it's always to do with cutting down.

Speaker 3:

And the final one, could you say the circumstances of you finishing at Royal mail.

David Bradbury:

Right, yeah. As I told you earlier, I was working as a tutor, as a teacher, teaching new people to come in. And then in about the beginning of 2004, Royal mail had a recruitment freeze. In other words, they weren't bringing anyone in at all. So it meant that they didn't need any tutors. And so they said to me, "You can either go back as a delivery person or we'll give you-" it was called EVR, early voluntary retirement. So basically they gave me a nice package to leave. And they said to me, "Well, we'll give you your pension at 50 instead of 60." And of course that's what I did. I took it. And this was in 2004. And it was a very sad day leaving the post office for the very last time. A little bit of relief as well, because some of the times are very stressful, but it was a sad day, 34 years in one job is quite unusual. So it was a few tears as I walked away from that sorting office on that very last day.