

Interview Code: RJ201305A
Interviewer: Greg Reisman
Interviewee: Gordon Wolffe
Transcriber: Greg Reisman

Summary of Interview 1 Track

01:12:01 minutes in total

Personal profile, childhood and family [00:00:00 – 00:02:55]

Gordon Wolffe was born in London on 30th August 1948. Gordon talks about growing up in Northwest London (*"I grew up in NorthWest London, as most Jewish people do. Not all of them of course."*[00:00:43]). He talks about his Orthodox background. His mother's grandfather was a chazzan in the Adass Yisroel shul and was originally from Russia. His father was born in Glasgow and his parents met during the war while his father was on leave. They met through an arranged meeting organised by their families. They got married in 1942. John (Gordon's older brother) was born in 1945. (*"My father was a dentist by profession. My brother was also a dentist and I followed in the same vein, more or less because it was family tradition."* [00:01:28]). Gordon was brought up in Golders Green and went to primary school there, before going to Orange Hill Grammar School in Burnt Oak. Gordon then went on to study dentistry at Guy's hospital in London. Gordon graduated in 1970. He decided that he wasn't that keen on dentistry, but encouraged by his parents and having gone through the trouble of doing it, he decided to specialise. He wanted to specialise in periodontology and did a master of science programme at the Royal Dental Hospital (which no longer exists) in Leicester Square. One of his teachers there, Saville John Zamet [John Saville Zamet], suggested he go to America. He ended up doing his graduate studies in Philadelphia.

Gordon's realisation that he was different [00:02:58 – 00:04:23]

Gordon recalls first realising he was different when he was 4, 5 or 6 years old when he thought that he would rather be a woman than a man. He recalls it dawning on him during his school years that he was attracted to the same sex and that he was different to the other boys at school. Gordon notes that he never discussed these feelings with his parents, as it was a taboo subject. Gordon describes putting this aside to focus on his studies, as the most important thing was to graduate and get his fellowship in dental surgery. By that stage, Gordon was 21 and in the 1960s, homosexuality was still illegal. It wasn't until the Wolfenden Report, that Gordon felt he was able to progress any further.

"I think probably I realised that I was a little bit different from a very early age. I mean I can go back to when I was almost 4, 5, 6 years old thinking that actually I would rather be a woman than a man, but I wasn't quite er understanding it at that stage. Anyhow, but nothing of course happened until much later on in life when it suddenly dawned on me during my school years that I was certainly somewhat different from some of the other boys and was certainly attracted to the same sex, but I never of course discussed it with my parents whatsoever, because it was a completely taboo subject." [00:02:58].

"As you can probably imagine, when you're in your teens and this is sort of bothering you and bothering you and bothering you, you feel you want to do something about it, but being very tied up with all my studies, I really sort of put it aside..." [00:03:37].

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The most important thing was to graduate and to get his fellowship in dental surgery, to work and to teach. By this time, Gordon was 21 and he had realised that *"in the 1960s, homosexuality was still illegal, so one had to be very, very careful"* [00:04:08].

Discovering gay life [00:04:23 – 00:10:37]

Gordon recalls the big turning point in his life being when he was watching a television programme with his parents about the Campaign for Homosexual Equality in the early 1970s. His parents said, *"Oh, we turn this off we don't need to know anything about this. It's not interesting for us."* And Gordon thought, *"But it's very interesting for me. I want to know about it"*. [00:04:44] Gordon recalls waiting for his parents to go out and making a call to the television company, who gave him the number for CHE. He rang CHE and they put him in touch with another person. Gordon met that person in a pub and Gordon describes how that person told him of two options for gay life. One was to meet people in bars and the second was to go a weekly gathering in a church hall near Lysson Grove. Gordon went that evening to the gathering at Lysson Grove and his heart was thumping loudly as he went to enter the hall. There was a man behind the bar who beckoned him over and told Gordon that they had two things in common - they were both gay and they were both Jewish. Gordon thought, *"what a relief"*. Gordon describes the man as very kind: *"All he did was to explain to me the very basics of the gay community in London. Nothing more and never took me back to his home or anything like that. He was extremely correct. Gather that he actually knew my family. Er, they both went to the same shul... and he introduced me to gay life in London in a very cautious and a very well doctrined way, which I am extremely grateful for."* [00:07:44]

Gordon recalls that the man who ran the gatherings in Lysson Grove was a member of the clergy. He recalls that there were parties and the clergyman invited him over to dinner one day, where he met a man with whom he had his first relationship. However, that man was an extremely evangelical Christian and tried to convert Gordon, which rubbed Gordon up the wrong way. At the same time, one of Gordon's close friends told Gordon about an advertisement in Timeout for a Jewish gay group in London.

Gordon contacted them and went to the Jewish Gay Group, which was chaired by Peter Gold, and got to know various people there. One Chanukah in 1973, Gordon was at a party there and he met a young man with black curly hair. They looked at each other and a spark went across the room. The young man came over and talked to Gordon and introduced himself as a young American violinist studying in London, called Franklin Feldman. They got together and had a lot in common, because Gordon comes from a musical background. They spent the whole night talking to each other. That was the start of 30 wonderful years together.

Coming out to his family and introducing them to Franklin [00:10:37 – 00:12:35]

Gordon describes Frank's background. He had come from Brooklyn in New York, where he had been studying with a prominent violinist. Gordon introduced Franklin to his parents. Gordon says that his parents were shocked when he came out. Gordon came out to his father before he met Franklin. His father passed out. His father told Gordon not to tell his mother, but Gordon did tell her. Gordon recounts that his mother felt

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responsible for the way she brought him up and they weren't keen for Gordon to pursue this. Gordon introduced them to Reform rabbis who would talk to them about it and they went to various meetings together and they still didn't really want to accept it. Once Gordon and Frank decided to live together, Gordon recalls this changing. Gordon recalls his father saying, *"Look, there's no use our fighting it any more... Edna we've got to accept this. Gordon and Frank are going to make a life together. There's no point in resisting this any more. Let's accept it and try and keep a wonderful family relationship together."* *"And that changed the whole situation completely. We sat down – as many families do, we had a cup of tea – we talked about it. They accepted Frank. Frank became actually one of the members of the family and my father and he had the most wonderful rapport between each other and he looked after my parents like any son would look after any other parent. He was the most wonderful human being in that respect."* [00:11:55]

Life with Franklin in London, Philadelphia and Utrecht [00:12:35 - 00:17:08]

Gordon describes spending a year in London before he and Frank went off to America, to Philadelphia. Gordon had a two year programme in Philadelphia. After one year, Frank couldn't find any work as a violinist, but he had a very close friend and they were in the Whitehouse Strolling Strings together, the military band that played at the Whitehouse during the Vietnam War. This friend moved to Holland and got married to a woman there. Frank applied for an orchestra in the Netherlands and was accepted, so for the second year that Gordon was studying in Philadelphia, he was in Netherlands. They communicated on an almost daily basis by telephone. One of the conditions of Frank's scholarship was that he teach in London, even though he had been offered nice positions in America. So he came back to London and worked at the Eastman Dental Hospital as a teacher. Franklin came back to the UK as well. They purchased a flat with the help of Gordon's parents. Gordon recounts that in the 1970s, as an American violinist, you couldn't work unless you were a member of the Musician's Union, but you couldn't become a member unless you had British nationality. Franklin spoke to the head of the trade union, who said that he wasn't interested in the kind of relationship that Franklin and Gordon had, which was a sickness. Franklyn wanted to go back to the Netherlands, as his position was still open there. Gordon went with him and they lived in Holland in Utrecht. Gordon was offered a position at a university as a teacher and Franklin played in the orchestra. Holland was like a breath of fresh air, because they were totally accepted for being gay, although at first they were a bit scared and pretended that Frank was a relative of Gordon. They lived in the Netherlands until Frank was diagnosed with cancer and sadly died at the age of 59. Before Frank died, Gordon was planning to retire and the Frank's orchestra was going to disband, so they had planned to move back to London, although Frank wasn't able to see this through. Gordon came back to the UK in 2007, moved to Highgate and started to try to build up his life again.

Online dating and beginning life with Günther [00:17:08 - 00:21:29]

In his final year in the Netherlands, a close friend suggested that Gordon join a dating website. Gordon wasn't that keen on it, but joined the website, because he wanted to meet people and he continued using the website when he moved back to the UK. One

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day he got a message from a German man and wasn't sure whether he should reply or not, but thought it would be rude not to, so he did and they started chatting on the Internet regularly. Coincidentally, Gordon had arranged to stay with friends of his in the Netherlands and Günther had arranged to take a trip to Amsterdam at the same time. They met up in a café the friends that Gordon was staying with. They got on well, so one of Gordon's friends, Ed, told Gordon to invite him for supper that night and that was how they began a long distance relationship. At the end of 2007, Günther was able to agree with his company that he could work part-time as a computer programmer from England for a year. The arrangement worked well and so Günther stayed on once the year was up. The flat was quite cramped, so they moved to Hemel Hempstead. Gordon explains that he and Günther intend to celebrate their civil partnership together two weeks after the date of the interview. Gordon explains that he and Günther will be celebrating their civil partnership together two weeks after the date of the interview.

Role of religion in Gordon's life [00:21:29 - 00:27:48]

Gordon's family was an Orthodox family and they went to shul every Saturday morning, Gordon wasn't very keen on this so he joined the shul choir as a way of being in shul every week without having to take part in the service. Gordon joined the Jewish Youth Study Group (JYSG) as a teenager and went to summer and winter schools in places like Carmel College, where he describes being immersed in Judaism. Gordon became capable of taking a service himself, was the chairman of the youth synagogue at the Hendon United Synagogue shul and chairman of the Golder's Green JYSG, where he ran the lectures. Gordon describes his grandfather (who was a religious man) liking this, as they would sometimes go away to a kosher hotel and between Gordon and his brother, they ran the Saturday morning services there. Gordon's family was, and still is to this day, a traditional family. He notes that his brother's family is a traditional family and quite Orthodox. His brother had a great deal of difficulty with Gordon being gay and is not sure whether he has come to totally accept it, although he does think that he has come a long way and is now very accepting towards Günther. His brother's family is coming to the civil partnership ceremony, which Gordon thinks is a major move on their part, as if he had asked them to do so 20 years ago, he thinks they would not have come at all.

Gordon is still involved in Jewish life and is a member of Aylith synagogue. Gordon rejoined the Jewish Gay and Lesbian Group when he came back to the UK. Peggy Sherwood, the president of JGLG told Gordon to join the group and Gordon became a committee member until very recently when he took a year off, as there were a lot of other things going on.

[00:25:40] *"I feel still very affiliated to my Jewish background. It's something that I would never give up or deny one way or the other, although I sometimes get a little bit upset by some of the more extreme outspoken Orthodox, how can I put it, ways of expressing themselves when it comes to the problems of being gay and so on and so forth... I understand where they're coming from, but I don't agree with what they're saying of course, because of my background, but that does not make me feel any less Jewish in any way whatsoever."*

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Gordon always has a Chanukah party for the whole family. Although Günther isn't Jewish, he has followed a course headed by Janet Burden at WCLS in Access to Judaism, although he is not going to convert to Judaism. Gordon explains that Günther grew up in East Germany where religion was not acceptable, but explains that Günther wanted to understand about Judaism, which Gordon describes as "*a wonderful move*". Günther now "*throws out the odd Yiddish expression - of course, coming from a German background, that's not so difficult - and makes everybody laugh about it.*" [00:27:28]

Judaism and sexuality [00:27:48 - 00:29:44]

"I think I was always brought up with the idea that the Jewish religion frowned very deeply on homosexuality and that was a big conflict for me, because I didn't quite know how to make that compatible with my own particular feelings and it wasn't really until I discovered the Jewish gay group that that actually became much easier for me to accept that you could still be Jewish, still lead a Jewish life, but be gay at the same time - because other people were doing it." [00:28:06]

As Judaism was more or less "anti-gay", it didn't influence Gordon positively in his formative years. However, Gordon "*felt that you could also have the two things living side by side without a problem together and I went and proved that to my parents. ... [Frank] and I, you know, we lived a typical life for young Jewish people actually - although he wasn't Orthodox in any way - but he took part in all of the traditional things that went on in our family life. So it didn't impede my sexuality, but I don't think it encouraged it in any particular way... Nowadays of course, things have changed an awful lot and a young person growing up now would find it a lot easier to accept being Jewish and being gay without the conflicts that I went through. Let's put it that way.*" [00:28:52]

Gay Jewish groups [00:29:44 - 00:35:15]

When Gordon first joined, it was more or less a social group with the odd event related to a Jewish festival. Gordon didn't belong to this group for very long, because he moved to Philadelphia, where he was a member of Beit Ahava (a gay Jewish group). Beit Ahava had Friday night services and the group provided Gordon with lovely contacts and friends for the year when Gordon was there by himself. Gordon was just a member of these groups and didn't help to organise anything until he moved back to the UK in 2007, when Peggy asked Gordon to be on the committee. Gordon helped out in numerous ways and normally arranges a post-pride party for JGLG, although he has been involved in the more social activities, rather than the political.

In the Netherlands, there was a group called Shel Homo, which wasn't very active and more or less disappeared. Gordon and Frank did join for a little while, but it didn't have many interesting activities, so they weren't very involved in it. Gordon belonged to a two synagogues there. He belonged to an Orthodox synagogue, as one of the orchestra members had invited him to come along and he would at least then have burial rights if anything went wrong. After Frank died Gordon belonged to the equivalent of a Reform synagogue as well. Frank and Gordon got to know a man called Wim Reichsman very well and he introduced them to quite a few Jewish people, but they weren't very involved in Jewish life in the Netherlands.

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Civil partnerships and gay marriage [00:35:15 – 00:37:24]

Gordon talks about religious reactions to gay marriage. He notes the resistance from Orthodox leaders, but thinks that they may need to rethink how they express themselves. Gordon was married in the Netherlands to Frank. They had a 'samenlevingscontract' and they converted that into a marriage before there was a civil partnership bill in the UK. They got married just a couple of weeks before Frank died. Gordon is glad about the civil partnership possibilities in this country. *"For me, I mean the civil partnership I think is a great step. Marriage is sort of an upgrade."* [00:37:14]

Introduction to the gay scene [00:37:24 – 00:39:05]

Gordon didn't know much about the man who introduced him to gay life, but says that *"he used to take me out. He used to sit me down and he used to tell me about things that I'd never even heard of in my life... be like "active" and "passive". I'd say, "What do you mean by active and passive?"... I didn't know any of the terminology."* [00:37:55] This man also warned Gordon about the dangers and acted as a sort of father figure and mentor to Gordon. They knew each other for a couple of years and then he disappeared from the scene and Gordon does not know what happened to him.

Coming out to non-family members [00:39:05 – 00:40:27]

The first person Gordon came out to who was not a family member was a friend of his. She told Gordon that everyone knew that he was gay and that it was obvious. She wasn't surprised or shocked and has been amazingly supportive in the 40-plus years that they have known each other. Gordon was very nervous before telling her and it was a huge weight off of his shoulders.

Challenges still to come and those in the past [00:40:27 – 00:45:00:45:12]

Gordon discusses challenges still to come. He thinks that being gay isn't accepted universally and it will always be a challenge to be accepted as being a part of a minority group and that won't be easy to change. He explains that more conservative religious groups are springing up and that there may therefore be less acceptance from certain sections of society, rather than more. *"You'll always be, by certain sections of society, be looked on as being somewhat strange and unacceptable, so you got to be very very vigilant in the future."* [00:41:51] Gordon discusses the different reactions in the different places he has lived. In Northwest London there was a mixed reaction. *"My parents always wanted to sort of push it a bit under the carpet to their friends, but their friends... had far fewer problems than my parents did."* [00:42:21] In America, you had to be very careful. It was a much more conservative society. In the more public sense, it would not have been discussed openly. In the late 1970s when he came back to London, he was told by a colleague of his that he would have problems in work. That was one of the reasons he went to the Netherlands. The UK has changed vastly in the last 30 years. In discussing Hemel Hempstead, Gordon notes that they bought their house from a gay couple and that there have been no problems at all with the people living locally. Gordon notes that it is not London and he's always aware of that, so he is always a little bit

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cautious. Most of their social life takes place in London, rather than in Hemel Hempstead.

Wolfenden Report and Schooldays [00:45:12 – 00:50:33]

“It [the Wolfenden Report] came as a huge relief, yes, because... you don’t really think about it when you’re a teenager, that you’re doing something illegal. It never even occurred to me that I was breaking the law and ... when they started discussing the Wolfenden Report that I actually realised that I was committing a crime having sex with someone of the same sex. But it didn’t sort of scare me at all – I thought, well ok, so what, you know – no one’s going to find out anyhow. And funnily enough, Lord Wolfenden was on the committee that interviewed me for my scholarship to America, although this never came up in the discussion.” [00:45:23] Gordon notes that he wasn’t one of the kinds of people who was “running around in public places having sex”, so he didn’t think it was a major problem for him to be honest.

[Gordon describes that some of the boys at grammar school were very attractive, but he had to keep it all suppressed. There wasn’t any one particular person who he first recalls being attracted to though and at school being gay was never discussed, but was only the subject of the odd negative comment. He notes that there was no sex education in his school days.]

“I had had contacts with other men before that [contacting CHE], but I never thought about it being gay, it never occurred to me that that was something. I mean you know the word in those days didn’t even exist... I just knew it was something that I enjoyed, but that it was wrong or bad or gay or homosexual. It was only when - I remember the first time it hit me that I was homosexual. When I was about 16 years old, I think I suddenly realised, “My goodness, I’m not going to be doing what my parents wants me to do – getting married. This is not going to work with me. I’m not attracted to girls”. And in fact when I was at the Jewish Youth Study Groups... and everybody had to have a girlfriend, so of course I had a girlfriend. And this girlfriend said, “You’re not attracted to me, are you? I’m not for you. You don’t actually like girls do you?” And I sort of mumbled something – I can’t remember what it was – because I didn’t dare to admit that to her. Again, it hit me then – she was right. I like guys, I don’t like girls.” [00:48:25] Gordon felt scared and worried when his girlfriend said that to him and it was at the back of his mind that he was different.

Gordon only acted on this in a more public fashion when he saw the television programme about CHE, when he was just 21 and it was legal.

Motivation to “do something about this” [00:50:33 – 00:53:00]

Gordon was working at a dental school in London and he was a senior house surgeon in oral surgery. Every Friday evening at the end of the week, the head nurse there used to have a gathering of the staff, who would drink sherry together. On one occasion, the head of catering, a youngish man in his 30s walked in, and the head nurse introduced Gordon to him. Gordon found him very attractive. When he was about to leave, they made a leaving party for Gordon. This man helped with the catering. In the course of this, *“this lady’s car had broken down and he said, “I think we know how to fix it. I will get*

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under the car. Gordon you've got to help me." And he was under the car and I was sort of also partly in the engine, going through the engine, and I remember his hand came up and my hand came down and we made contact with each other. And he didn't let it go. And I thought, "Aha". And the next thing you do, he said, "Why don't you come over to my flat?" And I did and that was a bit of a disaster in that he then told me that he actually had a boyfriend and that rather shocked me – yes – and upset me terribly. He said, "Why don't you try and join one of the organisations, like CHE?" And coincidentally, after that there was this television programme, which I'd seen, so that actually motivated me." [00:51:36]

Children [00:53:00 – 00:54:00]

Gordon never really considered having children. Frank didn't really want to have children. His lifestyle would have been complicated, being a professional musician and Gordon had a very demanding job, so they never really thought about it at all. It was only when Gordon met Günther, who has children from his first marriage, that Gordon got involved with children and grandchildren and Gordon enjoys this very much. They don't see Günther's family very much, because they live in Germany, but they do meet up and they're coming over for the civil partnership.

Civil partnership with Günther [00:54:00 – 00:57:16]

Gordon and Günther decided to go through with the civil partnership last year. Gordon was planning to keep it very low key. One of the reasons for going through with the civil partnership is that Günther had given up a lot to move to the UK and had very little security Gordon felt it was something that he owed Günther. They were encouraged by their friends to do this as well. Gordon's marriage to Franklin had been a more tragic occasion, because it was 3 weeks before Franklin died, so to draw a line under that, they are planning a very happy occasion. The formal part of the celebration will be at a hotel and there will then be a high tea in a marquee in the garden with everyone – about 100 people. Then there will be a boat trip on the Grand Union Canal.

There wasn't a proposal as such. Günther and he had "talked about it, Günther and I, quite a lot and quite frankly it was – the motivation was - initially for legal reasons more than anything else. Talking to various lawyers who said, "If you can do it, we would advise it very strongly... To me this is just a piece of paper. It doesn't make any difference to the way we feel about each other or the way we're going to live... It's not so much that we want to make a statement to everybody. I feel it's very important for Günther to know that he's completely accepted here and feels that he has the security of knowing that he's got a person who, you know, will look after him anyhow, but he's got the security that it's written down now in a legal form as well and I think that that will give him peace of mind." [00:56:17]

First meeting Frank [00:57:16 – 01:00:48]

Gordon discusses first meeting Frank: *"We were at this party together and he walked in and we started chatting. In fact we were chatting with another woman who was at the party. They even had women at the Jewish gay group in those days. And at a certain point in time she said to both of us, "I think I'm actually not really needed here anymore. I*

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think I should leave it to you two guys.” And we hit it off. I mean it was literally love at first sight. There was no question about it. I remember we sat in the car outside his house – I didn’t go into his house on the first night – ... til about 3 o’clock in the morning... and I knew straight away it was going to be something special. ... So we arranged to do that and I told my parents, “I’m going out with a friend.” I didn’t tell them who it was. We went down to Hampstead Village. We went to – I don’t know which the restaurant was – I can’t remember now. We sat at a table. The owner came over and said, “I think you guys need a candle on your table. This is something very special.” And it was fantastic, that’s all I can say. From that moment on, I had the most wonderful life. I remember going out the next morning after that and thinking to myself, you know, “I’m in love.” The whole world seemed absolutely amazing to me, you know. “This is a completely new experience.”” [00:57:31]

Gordon had just bought tickets for a recital by Teresa Berganza and Gordon invited him along and Frank agreed. They went out for dinner together in Hampstead on Monday evening and the owner of the restaurant said that he thought they needed a candle on the table, because it was very special. The next morning, Gordon remembered thinking that he was in love and the world was amazing to him. Gordon phoned him every day from the Eastman where Gordon was working. They had long conversations in Gordon’s break at work. Frank joined the choir that Gordon was a part of and then when Frank found he couldn’t stay where he was living (in Archway), he found a flat in Wimbledon. Because Frank was going to go to America, but the scholarship was delayed for a year, Gordon moved in with Frank in Wimbledon.

Marrying Frank [01:00:48 – 01:04:23]

Gordon and Frank had heard talk about the Civil Partnership Bill and they’d enquired about returning to the UK and how they would be viewed from a legal point of view and everything was very vague. Marriage had been acceptable for a while in the Netherlands, so they decided to get married there. They thought it might give them the security they needed in case the Civil Partnership Bill didn’t go through. They were advised that it would make life easier for them in case something went wrong with either of them. You had to prove that you’d never been married before and go to different authorities with all of your documents. It was a long process dealing with lawyers. Gordon had to come back to the UK to dig up all sorts of information and get a special stamp. Franklin did the same thing from America. Then he became ill and everything was delayed and then they felt that it was very urgent for them to get married. They arranged a date in February 2005. They pushed everything forward and went to the registrar’s office under very difficult circumstances and presented all of their papers. Frank hadn’t got a particular stamp, but the registrar waived the requirement, because he could see how ill Frank was. On the day they got married, Frank was lucid enough to have the ceremony with a small group of people. After that, unfortunately Frank collapsed and that was the beginning of a difficult three weeks until he died.

Interaction with Frank’s family [01:04:23 – 01:07:17]

Franklin had a brother who is also gay. His brother had met a young Phillipino nurse in New York and they still live together in Manilla. His mother was from a traditional Jewish family. His father was not a very easy person to get on with. Frank’s mother was very

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artistic, but very unaccepting of their relationship. Her late brother became very friendly with Gordon's parents and came over to the UK a lot.

Summing up [01:07:17 – 01:09:45]

Gordon sums up by explaining how lucky he was to have parents who became very accepting of him and Franklin and how he and Günther take part in family activities. He explains that being Jewish and gay has been part and parcel of his life and that he is grateful for the support from family and friends that he has had.

Gordon explains what prompted him to take part in the Rainbow Jews project: *"I think I've been so lucky to have had so much help from so many people and I feel I'd like to give something back to the community – hence my involvement with JGLG – and hence doing this interview with you. And I hope maybe it'll be helpful for maybe other people who could have difficulties coming out. And maybe that they could read what I've talked to you about today and maybe it'll give them some inspiration or some help in some way in the future. You just never know."*

Photographs [01:09:45 – 01:12:01]

Gordon discusses some photographs he wanted to share with the project. Firstly, a picture of Franklin and Gordon in the early 1980s at a party for one of the people leaving Gordon's department. The person who took it said that seeing Gordon and Frank together had changed the way she saw gay people, as the photo just showed two people in love.

The second picture is a picture from their wedding in Holland. Although Frank was very ill, the same smile was still there. There was 30 years between the two photos and shows that you can have a wonderful life together as two guys or two girls.

The third picture is of Gordon's father, who always said that you had to deal with the future, not the past.

The fourth picture is of Gordon, Frank, his parents and some of their friends and they went on holiday together.

END OF INTERVIEW