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DATE

September 7, 2021

DURATION

3m 34s

3 SPEAKERS

Cathy

Interviewer

Alex

START OF TRANSCRIPT

[00:00:02] Cathy

I am very outdoorsy, so I loved growing up, particularly in Langdale. I really liked the space there, all the walking, all the freedom to, as a child, sort of roam about. But I mean, in terms of LGBT. Access to services, anything like that. I don't know I ever heard of a gay person growing up in Cumbria, I don't... I wasn't aware of... Where, it was never spoken of. Yeah, I would say there was no visibility, would be, I guess, how I would sum it up. Until, yeah, I would say until I went off to university. I think that's probably changing now. You know, I suppose civil partnerships have been in since 2005 and I left school in 2002, so I don't think it even then. It wasn't... I just wasn't aware of it being discussed. So, yeah. It probably wasn't the easiest from that sense, because there was no access, but I guess it was one of those things that sort of got on and focused on all the things that I wasn't available to speak about. So you just...didn't really speak about it, I would say. Yeah.

[00:01:24] Interviewer

But wouldn't you? I don't know, I don't know if people actually do start to realize some people don't. But when you realize you're probably attracted to girls, et cetera, do you feel you need to speak to someone at the time or?

[00:01:39] Cathy

Yes, I think it would have been nice to have somebody to speak to about it. But I guess at school again, the only times you tended to hear about gay people at school was with the in terms of a derogatory term and that, you know, that was something the person getting bullied would be called gay. Perhaps that would be the only time you'd hear it spoken of so. For as much as it would have been nice to have somebody to talk to you about it. I always felt it would be easier to, to not speak about it and just get on then to actually open up a whole can of worms and whatever was going to come out of that as a result, and that was that would be my feeling. So. And whether that was specific to Cumbria or just the sort of the time, I mean, I'm aware so much more now of that being a lot more visibility in schools. I mean, I don't know whether Section 28 was still in place when we were at school where you, you know, you weren't allowed to promote, um, LGBT anyway. So. Yeah, it might be that the teachers weren't even able to speak about it in a positive manner, perhaps.

[00:02:55] Alex

Oh, you've even got friends, gay friends, who are teachers who sort of a bit, hesitant to be, you know, completely honest with their students, I mean, they, erm...one of our friends, she suspects that most of her teenage students know, that she is, but equally, she's not, you know, doesn't crow it from the rooftops, as she'd say. So I think there probably still is, something, considered to be subversive about being a gay person, otherwise you'd probably be a bit more, feel more comfortable to be open about it.

END OF TRANSCRIPT

