

Les Moore

5.10.16, 8.11.16, 14.12.16

Minutes	
5.10.16	You married your cousin or something. Kept the family ties strong. Uncle Ted married outside the family but my dad didn't. My granny married Jimmy Moore, who was her cousin. We were all going to go to America. On Ellis Island there's a bronze statue – Annie Moore, was one of my family and they gave her a gold ten piece, the President did. She was the first.
Track One	
1.00	In Castlecomber the Moores were feuding with the Dempseys. On the boat Joe Moore fell in love with Mary Dempsey so they got off the boat at Liverpool and so did Patrick Moore. In America there was a boxer called Jack Dempsey, my dad's cousin, heavyweight champion. Small and broad.
2.30	In this country, Mary Dempsey's son became a world wrestling champion, and he called himself Jack Dempsey after his cousin. He beat Mick McManus at Crystal Palace for the world title. <i>Tell me the family's relationship with Hatfield and your connection with Hatfield.</i>
3.15	When I started there my Uncle Ted was a Deputy there. My dad was a ripper. We were the last family to be evicted by the Coal Board. My dad was working in the sump, and there's a little tunnel for men to go down to clean it out, and my dad was working there with a kid called Gilbert. They made a scaffold and were repairing the bottom of the sump. 2 muckers went through the keps, the tubs full of muck, and went down the shaft and they hit the scaffold and pinned my dad's mate to the side of the wall. From there he was just like minced meat.
4.00	My dad had to fetch the tubs off him and drop him into the cloth and into the tub and brought him out. Only a young man, with 2 kids. My dad didn't want to go down the pit after that. Dad was in his late 20s. So the Coal Board evicted us from the house, I can still remember it. The bailiffs kicked us out and put everything on the lawn. And locked the doors. The police were there. Dick Kelley, who became an MP, he managed to get us an emergency house in Thorne at 3am. When Buff Finley, who worked for Pickfords, finished moving all our stuff, he got sacked for moving us. The police were there to stop the neighbours. My mum was in tears.
6.00	<i>Were you aware of this happening to other people?</i>
7.45	Yes. If you finished at the pit, you got kicked out your house. It's a type of slavery. It was the 1960s. Dick Kelley was the man who got it all stopped, a very good MP.
9.00	<i>What kind of long-lasting feelings do you draw?</i>
9.45	At Thorne it was concrete floors and we all slept in one bed. I hated it, every minute. I'd been fishing and at the allotments and all my friends were there, but we were dumped in this town, only 2.5 miles away but for me it was the other side of the world.
11.00	Mining villages were very tribal. Never the twain should mix. This is an old Saxon village but the rest of it was built purely for the pit. To provide a ready source of labour. Everybody got entwined. Were farmers here, then the Irish came, then the Lancs, Geordies, Scots. It settled down when they started inter-marrying between each other. <i>The tribal thing is still there?</i>

11.45	Still there today, because we're Stainforth, they're Thorne. Our family had been dumped in the middle of another tribe. I was from Duncroft just over the bridge and there's a pecking order, at school I had to fight my way through the pecking order. It was a rough tough life. <i>Thorne's bigger than Stainforth?</i>
12.30	It is now. I didn't want to go out of the garden at Thorne for the first few days, I didn't like it. It was in the spring and it was cold. The first day I went out on the square I ended up fighting. I must have fought every day for about 4 months. My dad got a move to Stainforth, another tribe, and I'm fighting all the time here. But the lads were better here, and I'd got cousins here, Mally Moore, so I got accepted quickly here. I was at Thorne 6 months.
14.00	<i>What was the worst fight?</i> I got to be friends with him, down the pit. A big family of lads, called Marwoods. Them my age were alright. But the older ones were stronger. Every time I went to the shop I'd be coming across 2 or 3 of these Marwoods, there were loads of them. At the pit I went onto gate repair, down Barnsley, and
14.45	came across Paul Marwood. He was as good as gold. I became very good friends with him. My wife and his wife used to go out together. Poor old Paul died early. Him and Dave Johnson were having their snap when I walked up (at
16.30	the pit), Paul remembered me!
5.10.16	<i>Can you remember what it was like for your mum?</i>
Track	It was very hard for women here, there wasn't much work. They all worked in the fields, we got well fed from it. They would fill their bags with potatoes, carrots or turnips. Would stock up for the year.
Two	My mum had a window round, big heavy wooden ladders. I would go out collecting money with her. But my mum was only little. We'd come home
1.15	from school and me and my sisters would do the cleaning up, put the fire on, everybody had to muck in. My duvet was an old trench coat. A lot of prickly blankets like they had in the army.
	<i>Sisters?</i>
2.45	4 of them, no brothers. There were 4 sisters in one room, me on my own. It was freezing, 4mm glass with hardly any putty in. But it's character building because nothing fazes me now.
3.30	My dad was back at the pit. When I was born he was in an accident underground and his leg was hanging off. He had some horrific scars, across his face, his back. He'd been damaged a lot down the pit. He was a hard bugger. A tough upbringing. I had to go and collect wood and chop it up. We didn't know any better.
	<i>Do you remember getting a telly?</i>
4.30	Yes, we had a little telly. Used to watch Four Feather Falls on it. But that telly popped so we didn't have a telly for a long time. Everybody used to come and look at it. In the early 70s colour telly came out and we used to go to Winnie Spinks' to watch it. She won £2000 on bingo, an unusually large amount of money. So she had fitted carpets right through. Loads of us used to come from the pub and watch the midnight movie.
6.00	My dad was a disciplinarian – if he was watching the news we had to go in the other room, or go out playing. He was a harsh man at times. My mum left him. He'd got a burco boiler and he used to top it up. He was a boxer, of an Irish
7.00	family.

8.00	<i>Your mum went to Wigan?</i>
9.00	Yes I stayed with him, but he wasn't very good to my mum and sometimes he hit her. But that stopped at 16 because I flattened him. Then I left home. He was a bad tempered bugger. He'd had a lot of things happen to him in life. You could walk down this street on a Saturday after the pub had come out, about 2.30pm and at every house there'd be kids crying. And mothers. They were stressed from being down the pit. Most of them were traumatised. They'd be digging their mates out.
10.00	<i>Post traumatic stress with no counselling, no sunlight.</i>
11.30	The only way to get by was to go out at the weekend and get drunk. That's why there was so much boxing and wrestling and physical sports. I was living on the streets from 12 years old, for a long time, because my dad threw me out. My big sister was living at Mr and Mrs Hazel's, one of their friends. I was sleeping in a privet bush, it was snowing and my friend found me and took me to his brother's and I stopped on his couch all winter. I was stealing coal, to pay my way, from people's coal bunkers. It paid for my food. My mum and dad got divorced then got together on a bus!
14.00	<i>Did you get reconciled with your dad?</i>
15.45	Yes. I realised quickly what it was about. When I hit him I felt terrible. It was because he'd hit my mum. My sisters were terrified. I walked out of the house. A few months later we sat down and talked about it and became friends again. He didn't hit her again after that. I realised it wasn't all his fault, I told him he needed to see a doctor and he went. He got a bit of counselling. We used to go fishing. I bought a pub and opened an illegal nightclub upstairs. I took a pound on the door. It was me, my dad, our Malcolm and our Christopher. It was The Fox at the corner. Ronnie Cockin was the DJ, and John Emmett. I'd got my own little plumbing and heating firm after leaving pit on ill health. My helmet aggravated this thing on my head that was pre-malignant. I asked for a job on the pit top but they said no. The pit doctor got me out on ill health, I was married with children, about 1987. I was known as a big hitter because I negotiated my own bonus, we used to build the faces. We'd get a plan to drive a gate in and we'd drive a heading in. Very dangerous work. Just at Hatfield mine. Drove doscos. If the faces got bad they'd break off and send us in to put them right.
16.00	
18.00	
20.00	
21.15	<i>How do you get to be a big hitter?</i>
22.00	You have to be a pit man, a decent worker. Pit man could read the pit better than most men. We'd sit there, we'd get a water range, put a bagging on and fire water at it, because the water used to get in the cracks and fetch it down, it's safer on the floor. Then we'd start clearing it away.
23.45	We used to do all sorts of stuff that you shouldn't do. <i>Such as?</i> On the 77s the gear box had broke on the face machine. The gear box was as big as this table, all steel. You're about 3 miles from the pit bottom. The facemen are losing money. So we got it out at the weekend and then we needed a repair team behind us for a week. We needed the beltmen. I said 'it's 20 quid a shift, on top of weekend premium, and on top of bonus'. Sometimes we'd give them a price for it. Sometimes we tried it to the rope (a metal rope that goes up and round, might be a mile long, and you tie tubs to it and they go on rails) and dragged it. It smashed a few sweepers and stuff. Put some splits on belt then get chains. We had it out by dinnertime, 3 mile. The manager went barmy. Better than 2 months without coal. We used to do stuff like that. This

25.15	was after the strike. Only worked a couple of years after. That's when this thing started on my head, I got hit with a lump of muck out of the roof. They gave me an X-ray on my head, then another one, then my hair started to fall out. They wouldn't accept it was the X-ray.
27.00	They were running men down at that time. About a year after the strike we voted again, and we voted to strike again. Which shocked them, because they weren't ready for another miners' strike. The last thing they wanted was 100% of miners out. They told us there was going to be 20 uneconomic small pits and the men were going to be redistributed and there'd be no job losses. They lied. What they did was shut 57.
5.10.16 Track Three	We were being interviewed just outside coal house, when we sieged that. They said, 'what's your input on that?' and I said, 'what's a re-location? That means we're going on the dole'. That's what they've done with people. There's a lot of people here who haven't worked since.
1.15	<i>I've seen people who are begging now.</i>
3.00	There are two types of people going to the food banks. There are people who don't want to really go, but have to go, and another who thinks it's a bit of a touch. At Christmas, whatever we get will go to Kerry to sort out. However in this village, just over the bridge, we either need a note from somebody, or they need to show they've not got their benefits, or something like that.
3.15	<i>Yes people are getting sanctioned now, that's the big issue.</i> At other places they're just walking in. <i>It's getting worse now, there's no work. Families are in really bad poverty.</i> This won't all of a sudden end. <i>If you see younger kids begging or if people die from cold, maybe there'll be a public outcry.</i>
4.30	<i>We've always fought for a better society, from a mining background, but I don't think people are now. I feel like I'm on my own.</i> You have to fight back.
5.45	(Talk/discussion about cult imposing strict rules). You have to look into history to give you an inkling into the future. You see this pattern, and think 'where has this happened before?' People are starting to accept beggars.
7.00	<i>Poor kids in school are called povvos.</i>
8.00	Robotisation is the biggest danger we're facing. There must be a plan in place. <i>Like the Asos plant in Goldthorpe that employs 4000 people, they're changing it to be automated. A lot of foreign workers.</i> I can see them saying we'll have dedicated teams rehabilitating homeless. <i>There are gangs of people on the streets in Donny.</i>
10.00	I see a very bleak future. Trade unions and socialism will not stop manufacturing processes progressing to where human beings are not needed. <i>Socialism depended on people getting together and talking.</i> We don't live in a benevolent society. So what are we going to do with these people?
11.15	<i>You talked about the jungle in Calais, people will go and live in shanty towns.</i> Do you think they'll allow that? We're not silly people that live here, but we're not the most intelligent either. In this world if you meet the really intelligent people, they blitz us. You think, this guy can out-think me, without even trying.

12.00	What are these clever guys thinking? They are thinking decades in front, the next generation in front. <i>There is money in this country, but it's not going to help these people is it. They don't want these people to have it, they took it off them.</i>
13.00	<i>One thing I notice happening is there are certain centres which relate more to each other than anywhere else, London connects to New York, connects to Frankfurt....People are living in those bubbles and have a greater relationship with other people living in those bubbles, those global cities, than they do with the rest of us. Central London is a weird futuristic gated environment where rich people live. Went to Mumbai last year and the rich live right up against the poor.</i>
5.10.16	
Track	Twin was Steven, she was mentally disabled. She came to school with a patch over her eye. I think she's still alive, Stephanie. I said 'what have you got that on there for?' She used to stand next to me all the time, and she said 'I've got a problem with my eye, so if I put this on my eye it forces them to work', and I thought 'I've got the same problem' so I went home, told my mum and dad,
Four	and got a good hiding for it. But they wouldn't listen to me. So when I was at Stainforth Secondary Modern, there's a school in Hull where people pay to send their children and I was offered a charity place. My dad took me to Hull for the interview. Then it came to the lantern test and I failed it. So it upset me.
1.15	I could see myself having a good life and all of a sudden it was taken away from me. The people at that school wanted me, and they got me in that day with a professor who checked my eye out and he gave dad a bollocking. He said if it had been picked up my eye could have been saved and I could have gone to nautical college. My dad felt bad then. I said 'don't worry dad, I'll find something else to do'.
2.00	
3.00	
8.11.16	
Track	<i>Tell me about Hatfield and what you know about it post-strike.</i>
One	From my point of view there was no real reason to shut the mines, it was political. Other countries are going back to coal. While we were shutting pits and power stations, Russia built 9. Climate change is a big con trick. Without carbon in the air we can't produce any crops. I am not fully convinced of the arguments for shutting mines and throwing people out of work.
2.15	<i>How has it affected the area?</i>
3.00	First of all, from Hatfield Main, there were around 2000 wage packets taken out of the community. Not just from the mines but from the spin-offs; specialist steel, milk deliveries to the mine. 16 pubs and clubs to 4 that are struggling. All the shops; tailors, cobblers. But we've got loads of kebab houses, loads of cafés. Spin-off effect – people are not cooking like they used to do, becoming unhealthy and fat, eating a very poor diet, so a knock-on effect of the health service. There are other industries that have gone – the chicken factory was removed to the south of France and 650 jobs went out of the village.
4.00	The chicken factories don't last long because they can't compete with the EU subsidies. Was a sewing factory in the village, 360 jobs. That went to Spain and Portugal. This area voted, 68%, to leave the EU. It won't affect their job at all because office work is non-productive, it doesn't produce any products, it services people that produce things.
5.00	So we lost 1000 jobs from the EU. That's 3000 jobs gone from a village that has a 10,000 population. Out of that 10,000, half will be children and the other
6.00	

7.00	5000 will be women and men. So the first thing is, all your entertainment goes. Pubs shut. You've got the Steward, his family, bar staff, cleaners, the brewery industry, shops, cleaning products. Then people start leaving the village – we're now down to 6000 people. The population has gone, the industry has
8.00	gone, and there isn't much left here. So everybody has gone into selling drugs, apart from one or two who are working away and don't see their families. My nephew is working the other side of London, he's got a young wife and child. He comes home late Friday night, he goes to bed, wakes up Saturday
9.00	dinnertime, he has to sort his van out, then he has a few hours, Sunday is at home then Sunday night is on the road again. That's not conducive to a good family life, families break down because of the pressures. <i>You ran a nightclub, when was that?</i> About 13 years ago. <i>Presumably the pubs were already closing by this point?</i>
10.00	Yes, that's how I managed to buy the pub. A lot of people didn't keep up with the trend of how to live. If all of a sudden your trade is cut in half, what do you do? They didn't have the business acumen to say, right we're going to have to cut staff, it's all different. They didn't want to put their prices up. The pub shut
11.00	and I got my family together and we bought it. We put somebody in it, gave realistic wages. They wanted stupid licences to listen to music. Begrudged
13.00	paying council their punitive rates. It's short-termism. Now we haven't got any street lighting because people can't afford to pay.
14.30	Got a supper licence, did a room up upstairs, put a little bar in, got a DJ and charged a pound on the door to come in. Played house music. Sold bottles. Got in about 150, 200 on a good night. Locals.
8.11.16 Track Two	The police said we couldn't have a night club. Had the pub about 6 years. They said we had to serve food because of the supper licence. So I made a kitchen and served chips. Then they came at us because of the noise. So I put 100mm polystyrene up and boarded the windows. Then after 4 years they challenged my supper licence, so I applied for an extra-hours licence with the council. But I wanted to know that the investment wasn't going to be wasted. But they said
2.00	it would fly through. I went to the police, told them what I was doing and asked if there were any objections and they said no, it was keeping the streets quiet. Then this new sergeant came, and said he ran the village. When it went to
3.30	court, all of a sudden this policeman said he wanted to say something. I told my solicitor he (the policeman) should have submitted this before, so I could see it, but the solicitor wouldn't challenge it so I told him he was sacked, he was failing to carry out my instructions. I stood up and told them how long they'd had to produce something. This bloke on the bench said he accused me of wanting to make a profit! I had a right go at him. I went into a right rant. I told him it was a new world. The policeman came up to me outside and said
4.00	the youth were too aggressive, and they didn't want aggressive people in the village. I said 'do you know summat mate, you make me sick'. I said 'a fortnight ago, everyone was cheering on the aggression of the English youth, in Sierra Leone. The English Paras and SAS have saved 320 prisoners'. 'For
6.00	hundreds of years we've built an empire on the aggression of English youth and the leadership of the aggressive English nature'. He walked away.
7.00	They denied the licence. They allowed the policeman in, for the sole reason of stopping my licence. I wanted the hearing costs of £1330 back. I did get it

8.30	back. I carried on. I wouldn't answer the door to the police. If I saw them coming I would lock everything up. It used to happen on a very regular basis. I got taken to court. They said there were reports I'd been open till 2 o'clock in the morning. Sgt Johnson had brought Customs and Excise with him. They came in the pub and said they'd caught us drinking after time. But I said it was a private party. I sent loads of letters to the Secretary of State and got him moved.
10.00	
11.00	
12.00	They said in court, 'according to Sgt Johnson you have a private party every week, do you think that's reasonable?' but I said 'in my family, there are 220 of us in the area and we all have birthdays'. 220? 'Well', I said, 'there might be a few more'. I started naming folk, and I got away with that one as well. They left us for a while, Johnson went to Humberside, then after about a year he came back. He said he knew I'd got him moved. I told I hadn't started it. He said he wanted to see if we could work together. I said if he was off duty we'd invite him to the parties! He said we had to stay with the licensing laws. I said there were the laws of the land and I could do whatever I wanted with my property, and if I wanted to give away my beer at 3am I would do. He didn't like that. After a while we sold it.
13.00	<i>It was servicing a need in the area.</i>
14.00	But there's a bigger point to this. I had to become a criminal to survive.
15.00	I definitely know who does what, and they're all friends of mine. There was a really big downside to it. I was always a colourful lad. I'd got 4 sons. And they were growing up, seeing all this, they'd seen me arguing with the police. My lads lost all respect for law and order. I used the law. One of my sons, was a big, powerful lad, really good boxer, and he got in with the travelling community. He became an enforcer. 4 of them went to a house in Sheffield and had guns with them. There were 2 cars, one with 3 men in, the other car had the guns, masks. They got to the house, smashed the lock, got in, and this bloke walked in with his daughter. He had nothing to do with any criminal activity. It terrified him. He told him to sit down and sent the others off. Gave his mask and gun to the lads. He told the man he wouldn't hurt him, and to give them 10 mins before he called the police. But the bloke over the road had called the police. He was the only one who could be recognised. The other 3 got away with it and he got taken to court. The judge said he had a lot of compassion. So gave him 250 community hours. But he said 'no thanks, I'd rather do my time'. I was expecting a minimum of 5 years. He gave him 9 months. My mate was a prison guard and said 'don't worry about him Les, all your mates are working here'. There were loads of them from Hatfield Main.
16.00	He got Governor's Parole, so he'd only been locked up 6 weeks and the governor let him out.
18.00	
19.00	He wouldn't have done community hours, it would have interfered with his lifestyle. He would have done ever so well as a professional boxer but he decided to go into crime instead. He came home with a tag. We were going to Barnsley on a traveller do and I took him to the pub and told him I'd pick him up from Barnsley and bring him home. But he said no. His tag went off and he was late. I was about to get in the bath. Then I heard 'Dad, dad', and there's our son with a gun to his head. They put a bullet through his head, in front of me. I had to try and save his life, but he was a proper mess. He died while I was holding him. But he survived that shot. He's not like he used to be, he's
20.30	
22.30	
24.30	
25.30	
26.30	

27.45	blind and he's in Ireland with his mum. Sometimes life throws some bad things at you doesn't it.
8.11.16 Track Three	The paramedics rang me back straightaway and talked me through what to do. The paramedics missed my gate and went to the pub. One of my sons were in there and he came out and our Joe came out, so I had to deal with them as well. The paramedics were brilliant. He told the police to stay away from me. There were 2 men with one gun, who'd shot him. The gun squad turned up. They brought me in here, with detectives and forensics and they were taking swabs off me for the gun residue. The copper phoned his gaffer up and said they had to release me, which they did, so I could go and see our son.
2.45 3.30	
8.11.16 Track Four	They said my son was in a very good physical condition and they wanted his organs. I said 'no, give him a chance. Keep your fucking knives off him'.
1.30	I went to see our son and his head was like a football. My daughter, said he'd moved. I told them to phone the surgeon and his treatment was changed within an hour. Now he's walking about, you can talk to him, but he's blind and he has got some problems. His papers have gone all over the world. The first to survive that particular gunshot. It was through the temples, straight out. It was a horrible time, still is.
2.15 2.45	
14.12.16 Track One	Where the pension scheme's concerned, it's been a long drawn out process, where we've been ripped off. It started with Tony Blair and Gordon Brown, they were the first to physically take money out, but the preparations were done in 1994 at the privatisation of the coalfields. You've heard of Prendergast and Greatrex, one of them became a Trustee. I don't know if you know how they were selected and trained. No.
1.00	There was a man called David Hart. He was the advisor to Margaret Thatcher and also the advisor to Mr McGregor. His previous job was as Mrs Thatcher's ears, eyes and the man for America's Star Wars project. He was MI6. He was brought back and he was the man who selected and trained Greatrex and company. So that makes him a Government agent. When, in 1994, they removed an NUM Trustee and imposed a UDM Trustee, it was a Government agent who they put on the Board. The share in the surplus at that time was 70% to the miners, 30% to the Government. There was a vote to alter it to 50/50 at privatisation and I don't know if it was Greatrex or Prendergast, but one of them who was a Trustee for the UDM voted to go with the Government Appointed Trustees, to change it to 50/50. So the Government actually changed it.
1.30 2.15	
14.12.16 Track Two	I look at the UDM as a Government agency. It was David Hart who trained them up and provided the facilities and the finances for the UDM to break away. But this goes back to the Ridley Commission. After Edward Heath lost power the Ridley Commission, extreme right wingers, basically fascists, and what they decided to do, was curb trade union power.
1.30	<i>That's well known.</i> What they did, they started by demonising the miners. They said the miners brought Edward Heath down, but they never did. Edward Heath called a General Election, not the NUM. It's the British people who decide who they

2.15	vote for, not the NUM. The British people deselected him and that cannot be the NUM's fault. They use it as a big stick to have a go at the working man and remove every bit of power. Margaret Thatcher put the report into action. That's
3.15	how it all happened. Following on from that, and the bitterness of the 1984 strike, they realised that they had to remove the mining industry from the UK, because if we regrouped they knew we would come again. We weren't beaten mentally, or morally, it was through finances and people were drifting back to
4.00	work. When we got back to work we were going to be dealing with a more united union the second time. They would have had Nottingham on their side but we made contingency plans for that. Because the NUM was good at organising.
5.00	The thing with the pension is a carry on from the punitive measures put in place. <i>It was a condition of the fund that the Govt could take 30% at any time?</i>
6.15	If there was a surplus, they would (British Coal) receive 30%, which is basically the Govt. It was an agreement. The 70/30 agreement was done on actuarial advice. The 1994 agreement, there was no actuarial advice, no calculations, it was done as a punitive measure. It wasn't by agreement of the NUM, it was because the Govt had a majority vote on the Board. It was a pre-planned, well-orchestrated attack on the pensions of the miners. I want that
7.15	money back. They also took a pension payment holiday from 1987 to 1994. They stopped putting their money in. They had a fiduciary duty to the miners, a duty of care. This community was built to serve the pit. They encouraged people from all over the country to come into these little villages, little tribal fortresses, with everything centred around the mines. So the fiduciary duty was to everyone, not just the miners. They reneged on their duty. Margaret Thatcher told us 20 uneconomic pits would shut, she told us people would be transferred, people would be re-located, nobody was going to lose work. However 75 pits shutting on arbitrary grounds is not looking after her fiduciary
8.30	duty. So they owe us. That money they stopped paying in, the Govt benefited by 1 billion, 136 million pounds. <i>That was New Labour?</i>
9.30	Designed by the Tories but New Labour were part of it.
10.30	There is a case to answer, to have that money put back in the pension scheme, with the loss of investment returns going back to 1994. We've got 170,000 on our pensions. If that money had been left in, and built up, that would have probably doubled. That would have been paying us extra pensions. It would be a substantial amount that everybody would be getting extra, per week. That is only one of the things I've come across. The investment reserve, which they claim for their own, I challenge that because we would put a pound in and the Coal Board would put some in. That was part of a wage round agreement. So they should not be getting any money out of that. We would never have agreed to it. It was deferred wages.
11.30	<i>What has triggered your campaign against it Les?</i>
12.30	I came across a figure that the Govt have had 4 billion pounds out of our pension scheme. That's an obscene amount of money to be taking. So I started looking into it. They robbed me, and they robbed my dad. On the 30 th
14.15	anniversary, me and Mick organised, me and my son built the little memorial at the lamppost in Stainforth. Loads of lampposts were knocked down to stop the police convoys. It was worse than Belfast here, for physical violence and

15.00	fighting. There were no guns involved and it's a good job no guns were available. There were police smashing their way through houses. After the strike they forgot to clean up the smashed down lamppost, so we got permission to make a 30 th anniversary sign and we built a memorial where the picket line was. There's a plaque on.
16.00	When we organised the do and got Dennis Skinner to come down and open it for us, one of the guests (we had 4 guest speakers), Ed Milliband, was wanting to leave early so I kept him while last! I said 'when you get yourself back to Westminster, is there any chance of you and your mates putting any of that 4.2 billion pounds you pinched out of my pension scheme' well, the whole place erupted. He was giving me the dirtiest glare. He knew all about it. Earlier I'd introduced him to my mate Tony, and I said 'he's a sacked miner', then he was looking at his aide to come and rescue him. 'Where were all the sacked miners' jobs when you lot got in power?' He just looked at me. It annoyed me, so I thought I'd look into it properly.
18.00	(The campaign) has been going 18 months. We've got about 25,000 signatures. Just under 9,000 on facebook page. But pensions are complicated. Twice the Trustees of the MPS have approached the Govt, saying the 1994 agreement is unfair to the men. The Govt has said it's non-negotiable. The Trustees are actuaries – they engaged a highly reputable company of actuaries who had done the Govt work and they produced a little report and they too agreed that the surplus of sharing was unfair. The Govt are refusing to look at it.
18.30	What makes it worse, is if any of the miners contact them, they send a letter saying 'if you ask the Trustees to approach us, we will consider any approach the Trustees make'. They're lying. Because I know the Trustees have approached them twice, I've got all the documentation. I was in a meeting with the Trustees and I asked Dan Wincup why they hadn't approached the Govt to sort out the surplus sharing because it's obviously unfair. His answer was 'Les, we have twice approached the Govt, they have twice told us it's non-negotiable and we'd be really silly approaching them again'. So they're not going to do it. I sent in a Freedom of Information request but they said they're not going to deal with my requests anymore.
19.30	I do get other people to send them too. They say that the guarantee has cost the Govt a lot of money. But it hasn't cost them one single penny. Then they said the mineworkers get a lot of benefits from the guarantee. There's only one benefit – it gives the Trustees a little bit of confidence to take a little bit more risky investments, but it's not that much different. They still have to justify their investments. So I sent another letter, 'what exactly are the benefits of having a guarantor?' And it came back saying it was very difficult to quantify what the benefits are – so there aren't any.
21.00	You'll be aware of the injuries that miners have. (Shows hands). Can you feel that lump? I've got white finger, carpal tunnel. I look 100% don't I, but how can you tell what's going on in my lungs? The knee that I smashed, clicks. I've got osteo-arthritis in that knee. We've all got damage. That eyebrow, smashed to bits. I've got little scars all over the place. All miners are the same, they've all got little stitches. That's why we look down on people who get a fat lip and cry. Because we have to carry on working. We get it cleaned, stitched and sometimes we might be 4 miles in with a broken leg and have to be carried out. It's a different environment and sort of life. You're expected to carry on working.
22.30	
23.45	
25.15	
26.00	
27.00	
28.30	
29.30	

14.12.16 Track Three	The compensation I got, I got £200 for my knee, I had about 10 stitches. You could see my knee cap. But I couldn't walk. I had 3 weeks off. With broken fingers, you work the next day. My eye, they cut it, to straighten it up, then stitched it back together, and I was expected back at work as soon as the stitches were out. My head was numb for over a year. I've got broken toes. I did them in the showers! Someone had put some salt and it had gone, so it was slimy. What do you do? You strap them up, and that's it. We were all like that. Loads of injuries. Our pension scheme should have given us something for that. It was a different culture. You got sick pay, but not enough to pay the rent. And not enough to feed the house. You got a ton of coal. We used to give a couple of bags from our ton to retired miners and for the widows. We gave away some of our money to look after our own. That allocation of fuel didn't come from the Coal Board, that came from us. We paid, out of our wages, for a dozen nurses, for their training, uniforms. We paid for the welfare grounds. In this village we had an open air baths built, which we paid for, we had football fields, cricket fields, lovely gardens, bowling greens, a playground for the kids. All around the Miners' Welfare which was an institute of learning of its own. We had our own charity which still exists, called Sizwold. An industry, social and welfare organisation. We've got convalescent homes. If you worked in the city, you'd probably get free membership at a club, bowls club. There was nothing free for us, we had to pay for it, even the soap and to have the showers built. We paid for the nurses because we got injured. A lot of people don't see that side of it. We paid for the bands; their instruments, their uniforms, their travel. We were a very social group. St John Ambulance – we ran and financed it. <i>Now it's all gone and it gets people pissed off when the pension thing comes up.</i> We don't want a pat on the back, but we paid for this. It's ours. We want what's ours. We're being robbed by cleverer men than us. There's no money there now, in Sizwold. But there's money in the pension scheme. The Trustees are very open. They will tell us anything we want to know. Some of the lads tend to forget, they go in bull headed. You've got to ask in the right manner, not 'I demand'. But there's nothing left on the social side. Even our cricket team have to look after themselves now. The pension is a defined pension. If I die my pension pot stays with the pension scheme. What happens is, our widows get two thirds of our pension. Children of school age get an allowance, which is a good thing. The scheme does well, but it's handicapped by the Govt taking as much as it has. It's just under 5 billion.
14.12.16 Track Four	The Dept of Trade and Industry, Sale of the Mining Operations of British Coal Corporation 1996. They've doctored this. Page 18. They wrote, in repayment for the guarantee, Clause 1/21, estimate of the Govt's share of the surplus, net present value £2billion in total. Govt's actuary dept have carried out separate calculations which suggest this does not appear unreasonable. £1.35billion relates to surpluses when scheme was last valued prior to privatisation, and balance of £0.65billion relates to further projected surpluses which may arise in the future. In return the Govt has guaranteed pension benefits with a net present

1.45	value of £12.5billion as at 31 st Oct 1994. Govt will also be paying £345million to the pension scheme to meet future liabilities arising from early retirements. Les – they’ve changed the figure to £8billion, from £2billion.
3.45	<i>So the projected payment is £8billion.</i> Yes. They’ve doctored the figures. (They search through the papers). Energy Minister Andrea Leadsom explained the relationship between the £2billion and the £8billion in figures, in response to Parliamentary questioning June 2016. Les – that’ll be from me. (Question read out). The Binder Hamlyn report found that the total gross payments to the Treasury would be £8billion. Details of payments to the Govt from the MPS are in section 3.
8.00	
9.30	Les – so how does it all of a sudden jump? <i>Let’s look at section 3. There’s a list of years in surplus.</i> Les – I use this, because that tells me how much they’ve actually taken.
10.45	<i>That’s £835.2million, in Sept 2014. A cumulative figure.</i> Les – you get £3billion don’t you, and then we get the £1.136 to add onto that. The Trustees say they’ve benefited by the holiday period. It’s a lot of money isn’t it. I had to adjust my figures down. I wrote a brief. (Shows his brief).
11.45	‘We note the controversy surrounding the valuation and recommend the Govt’s actuary dept issues a statement addressing the risk to future liabilities faced by the ultimate guarantor of these schemes’. <i>What’s the status of that question?</i>
13.00	It’s still ongoing. People are trying to pinch my work, for their own. They mentioned my campaign a few times in there. I think they get annoyed with me. They know they will eventually address this, that’s why they’ve stopped talking to me (the Freedom of Information Act).
16.00	<i>What do you anticipate is going to happen?</i> Nobody’s going to say ‘here you are Les, here’s a billion pounds!’ I think what they’ll say is that they’re going to speak to the Trustees and negotiate, and take it out of my hands. The NUM are trying to take it out of my hands, because they’ve been shown to be an embarrassment. All these years, and where are they? They’ve got millions of pounds in the bank. Each area has got millions of pounds in the bank. Chris (Kitchen) is on over £100k a year. Here I am, creating havoc. So they’re getting a little bit upset. They’re talking behind my back. <i>Why would the Govt cave in on this?</i>
17.00	I sent Jeremy Corbyn the details so he could ask a question for me at Prime Minister’s Questions. I gave him the answers as well. I’ve got them lying. But he didn’t use it. I said he needed to change his advisors, they’re not smart enough. <i>You’re positive you’ll get something out of this?</i>
18.00	
19.30	They’ve been trying to stonewall me for 18 months. And now they don’t want to talk to me. I’ve got a lad who’s going to email all the MPs.
20.45	