INT: Ok, thanks DEB: cheers, that’s brilliant. And then if you keep that information sheet as well and then, it’s got our email addresses on so if you’ve got any questions or anything afterwards that you think of. Ok, so we’re ready to start, do you feel comfortable?

DEB: Yeah.

INT: Yeah.

DEB: Can I take my coat off?

INT: Yeah I was gunna say it’s quite warm actually this room as well, it’s quite stuffy.

DEB: Yeah it is.

INT: It’s quite cold outside.

DEB: I thought it was really warm.

INT: Did you?

DEB: Yeah, I think it’s quite humid.

INT: Yeah, I thought it was quite cold but, yeah it’s like close [laughs]. Ok, so what, what, what is it that you’re studying then at uni, what are you …?

DEB: Applied Psychology.

INT: Oh so you’re doing the full …?

DEB: Yeah.

INT: Erm just psychology, yeah?

DEB: Yeah, just psychology, yeah.

INT: And what year are you in?

DEB: Just finished my first.

INT: Right, brilliant.

DEB: I dunno know whether to say first or second [laughs].

INT: [Laughs]. That sort of in between.

DEB: Yeah [laughs].

INT: Ok, so are you ready to get started?

DEB: Yeah.

INT: Yeah, ok. Right so er, so this project is about friendship erm and I want you to think about one of your friends erm and can you tell me how you became friends?

DEB: A particular, just one particular friend?

INT: Yeah for now.

DEB: Er I’ve met a good friend from university, I’ve not known her long but I class her now as a friend [INT: yeah] kind of thing, we’re both mums and we both you know we’re on the phone all the time and wherever, whenever, like she’ll probably come here and meet me now cos I’m here kind of thing [INT: yeah] and we’ll have a cup of coffee together and stuff, and I just met her through starting this degree and [INT: ok] just erm, yeah I think we just had a lot in common and we just sort of stuck together when we first started, even though we never knew each other and I’d never seen her in my life before, but [INT: ok] it was nice.

INT: So how, how, how did you strike up a friendship together?

DEB: Erm I don’t know, I’m the sort, I don’t really struggle making friends cos erm everyone tells me I’ve got a big mouth and I don’t stop talking [laughs] so I’m quite, I don’t know I’m just chatty so I sort of meet friends that way [INT: yeah], just by not being quiet and sitting there cos I sort of do chat to people and you sort of get to know people then don’t you?

INT: Yeah, yeah so is that how, is that how you met just, just through you striking up a conversation?

DEB: Yeah, yeah, I’m trying to think exactly [laughs] yeah I think that’s what it was, we were both in the same research methods class [INT: ok] erm I just remember sitting next to her and we just started talking and she was a mum and I was a mum and we just had little things like that, but then the more, you know every, every time we came in we swapped phone numbers and we’ve just got more friendlier, so instead of her just being like a uni friend or someone I’ve just met in uni I will class her as my friend now, a proper friend.

INT: Yeah, and what, what kind of things do you do with this person, sort of how, how would you pass the time?

DEB: Talk [laughs], that’s all we do really erm, I don’t know when I’m with her we have a little bit of a, sometimes we have like a little mad moment and we’ll go on the giggles over stupid little things, you know like juvenile stuff [INT: yeah] and then we go ‘what are we doing?’, looking for silly people’s names on the, you know on the email thing and stuff like that, and just talk, and we compare stuff about our kids a lot [INT: yeah] kind of thing, not compare but you know I’ll say ‘Rob’s doing this’, a lot of people I think who haven’t got kids don’t wanna, they’re not interested but me and her ‘oh did she!’ and ‘did he!’ and you know [INT: yeah] we’re like that, we send each other pictures of our kids when they’ve done mad stuff [laughs], they’ve had their face painted I’ll send it to her.

INT: So that, that was a big kind of, that was a big sort of starting point for your friendship, the children.

DEB: I think so yeah, definitely, cos I think coming to uni, I think cos we’re both, obviously when you first start university as well a lot of people have just done their A levels and are like nineteen and eighteen [INT: yeah] and we were, like I’m twenty five and she’s, I think she’s about twenty five, twenty six and we both had you know a child [INT: yeah], so I think that was something that made, you know as well as us both being chatty and both getting on that was a major thing.

INT: Yeah, you felt kind of comfortable, comfortable with that, yeah and are your children a similar age as well?

DEB: Yeah, I think my little boy’s about a year older than her little girl [INT: ok], so it’s, yeah.

INT: Ok, so it’s nice to have that somebody like you say you can share that, share that with, yeah.

DEB: Definitely, yeah.

INT: Erm so, so you’ve been friends with this person for about a year now, not quite, an academic year, so like September till, yeah.

DEB: Yeah, just, yeah, yeah not long at all, yeah, yeah.

INT: And like you say now you consider her not just a uni friend but like a …

DEB: Yeah a friend, yeah.

INT: Yeah, a good friend, and do you do things outside of university with, with, with each other?

DEB: Yeah we go for drinks and that, we meet up and have dinner and stuff [INT: yeah] and we’re talking about, you know she’s rung me and said she’s been talking to someone and they’ve been talking about a festival in Holland and stuff [INT: oh right] and do I wanna go, so we’re looking at doing stuff like that together [INT: yeah], so it’s not just like in university, it’s, it’s, you know we are like looking to do stuff together outside that, you know I’ll invite her to things if, you know if I’m going somewhere I’d say ‘’do you wanna come?’ kind of thing.

INT: Yeah, and do, and do, do you feel that thats erm, sort of how soon did that happen after you became friends in terms of inviting each other out outside of uni?

DEB: Erm … erm I’d say a little, quite, not quite a while because it hasn’t been that long any way, but I’d say because I am chatty I meet so many different people and I wouldn’t class them as my friend, friend [INT: yeah], but like, you know like uni friends and I know loads of people, but I don’t know what it was, just, we just clicked and it wasn’t like that erm [INT: yeah], I think it was one day after, after uni, like a half term, you know when we’d finished up and we went to the pub, a group of us, and it was sort of like all people who were uni friends [INT: yeah] and it sort of like me and her ended up just sitting together like that [laughs] kind of thing [laughs] that was it.

INT: Yeah it just ended up staying in contact and …

DEB: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

INT: yeah. So how long can you see yourself being friends with this, this person?

DEB: I’d like to think forever now as much as we can, she doesn’t live close, it’s quite a way away, but we sort of make this as our base like town [INT: yeah] as where we meet up kind of thing.

INT: So does she live in Liverpool but?

DEB: Just outside Liverpool [INT: ok], she lives across the water [INT: oh, right, ok], so she has to like get a bus for an hour. All the way, yeah.

INT: Right to get into, yeah to get into Liverpool, yeah erm …

DEB: She’s offered me to like come and stay and that you know if we go on a night out she said ‘come for a night out by mine and there’s a spare room’ and you know and all that ‘you could stay in ours’ and stuff like that and I’ve said the same to her so.

INT: Yeah, yeah, so have you been over to her house yet then?

DEB: No, (laughs) as much as I regret like, but I haven’t yet.

INT: Yeah, I suppose with uni and everything as well you’ve been quite busy and you’ve only just finished and, yeah.

DEB: That’s it yeah, yeah, but I plan on, plan on going.

INT: Yeah, erm (laughs) so you’ve got this kind of close friend at uni erm, and er is there anyone else in your kind of current group of friends that you’re, that you’re particularly close to?

DEB: Erm yeah, I’ve got another friend, another mum [laughs] and I met her through erm when I had my little boy, she’s a bit, she’s quite older than me and she’s already done a degree and when I had my little boy erm we went to like a mother and toddler group and I met her there and I never knew that, I never knew that she’d, she got a degree or anything like that, I just remember talking to her saying ‘I wanna go to college because I wanna’, I said ‘I wanna go and, I wanna study psychology and stuff’ and she went ‘I’ve got a psychology degree’ and it was like ‘oh my god’, we got quite close, she’s got a psychology and biology degree, and we started chatting through that and even though she’s a lot older than me and already got her sort of friends so it was a bit, just like mums for a while [INT: yeah] and then the more we got to know each other kind of thing, she’d like invite me out and if I was doing, I’ve just been to that Ann Summers party with her the other day [INT: oh right, excellent], we had fun [laughs], erm yeah so stuff like that, or if I’m doing anything with my little boy I’ll phone her and see if her and her little boy wanna come with us and [INT: yeah] stuff like that.

INT: So that’s, that developed again out of the common ground of A being mums initially but then like finding that you had more in common.

DEB: Definitely, yeah, yeah, most of the other friends I’ve got are from when I was young [INT: right] cos I live in the same place that I, that I, I was born in really so I know everybody there and I’ve got loads of friends [INT: yeah], erm but they’re all from like playing in school when we were little kind of thing [INT: yeah] and I’m still friends with them, some I’ve, some I’ve lost, I’ve lost a few friends unfortunately [INT: mm], one of my best friends erm had Cystic Fibrosis [INT: oh right] when I was, when I was a little girl we were like inseparable [INT: yeah] kind of thing you know the way you do, and her mum, she was quite spoilt because she had that and she didn’t have to go to school and you know I think her mum and dad knew she was gunna die young [INT: yeah] and she wasn’t well kind of thing so, I just virtually lived in their house and slept there and it’s like she died when I was like, when she was twenty two [INT: oh wow], so it was like, you know [INT: yeah], but most of my friends are like that I’ve known from [INT: yeah] being a little girl.

INT: From school?

DEB: Yeah.

INT: From prior to school even then?

DEB: Yeah, and playing out after school and you know stuff like that.

INT: Yeah, yeah. So this, this friend that died, it sounded like it was like quite like a best …

DEB: She was like my special best, best friend when we were younger.

INT: When you were young, which is an important friendship isn’t it?

DEB: Yeah, and I mean we were still friends up until teenagers and I suppose we drifted apart a bit erm because sort of like she, her mobility was stuck down like she couldn’t breath as much and whereas I started going out and meeting new people and going out a lot and she sort of couldn’t, but I always come back and she was still my best mate you know [INT: yeah], she was still my best friend [INT: yeah], and her mum, I’m still like, cos her mum knows what we were like her mum’s still like, dead close to me [INT: aw] and still like comes round and sees me all the time and [INT: yeah] you know we talk about all our yesterdays kind of thing.

INT: Yeah and do you think erm, I mean do you think that’s been quite important for her mum as well that your, your, your friendship, yours two friendship?

DEB: I think so, I think cos she always talks about ‘oh remember our Charlotte this’ and you know she’ll say to me ‘oh I’ve got you on the camcorder skipping and our Charlotte’s doing this’ and I think it’s, I don’t know, I don’t know if it makes her feel closer to Charlotte [INT: mm], but it makes me feel closer to her talking to her mum [INT: yeah] do you know what I mean.

INT: Yeah it sort of keeps that memory alive I guess as well doesn’t it through her mum.

DEB: Yeah, definitely, yeah, yeah, well her mum, it’s quite a sad story but her other sister had Cystic Fibrosis as well, her younger sister she died at like an earlier age as well, like I think she was like thirteen [INT: oh right], but it was only two years after, after Charlotte died so their mum has been through it [INT: yeah been through a lot], yeah, yeah [INT: yeah], so I mean I always feel … I don’t know, I don’t, I don’t not wanna talk about it to her but I don’t think she doesn’t want me to talk about it to her so we still, we still talk about things like that [INT: yeah] do you know what I mean [INT: yeah], so it’s nice.

INT: And how, how, how did it feel for you when your friend died, cos that’s a big thing to happen, even if you’ve like you say grown apart, but …?

DEB: Gutted, yeah, I felt dead guilty because I thought ‘I haven’t even been round for like a month’ and I knew she was in hospital, but she was always in hospital, I spent half of my childhood life sitting in ward B3 all day with her cos you know if she had to go in and she had IV’s and she’d be in for like two weeks. I’d come home from school and go to the hospital and sit with her every night and we’d you know we were into Take That and all that [INT: yeah] so we’d sit there listening to Take That and you know drawing pictures and stupid things like [INT: yeah], but erm I was gutted like I’d just had a little boy as well and she hadn’t seen him [INT: aw] so that was quite [deep breath] kind of thing, but I think she will have now, you know what I mean.

INT: She’s looking down.

DEB: Yeah.

INT: Yeah, yeah, cos that must have been a real, yeah it must have been huge and like you say that, it sounds like the friendship erm changed as well when you said, you’re growing up and you’re spreading your wings.

DEB: I turned into, yeah, I turned into a bit of a rebel I think as well and you know got new mates [INT: yeah] and you know we hung around then we didn’t play out in the street kind of thing [INT: yeah] and we moved off, but she was still my best mate [INT: yeah] kind of thing [INT: yeah], erm I think it was when we were, when we were little, and we were like proper Take That fans and we were just, I don’t know, there was something just special, even now when I hear like Take That records and that and I go ‘aw’, she’d have been made up you know what I mean [INT: yeah], she’d have been made up they got back together [laughs] (inaudible), it was you know, it was like one of, like you said before, it was one of them special [INT: mm] friendships and it’s been made even more special cos she isn’t here any more [INT: yeah] kind of thing INT: yeah], so it’s nice [INT: yeah], it’s nice to think back, I mean it’s not nice, but it is.

INT: Yeah cos you can sort of appreciate it even now when you think back a bit.

DEB: Yeah, yeah, even more I think [INT: ok, yeah, yeah] cos she’s not here any more so that was even more special [INT: yeah] kind of thing, she only had twenty years here and, twenty two, and you know the years she was I was her best mate so.

INT: Yeah. So you sort of feel lucky that you had that with her.

DEB: Yeah, yeah, yeah, definitely.

INT: And so how, how about other friends at school, so you said that you’re friends erm with quite a lot of people still [DEB: yeah], or the kind of core of your mates [DEB: yeah] are still mates from, from school [DEB: yeah], so is this from very young school?

DEB: Yeah erm you know reception kind of thing [INT: right, ok] er grown up just, just, just the other day erm at the weekend I went to the communion of one of my friend’s little boys from who I grown up with, and you know the kind of friends who you don’t see for ages and ages [INT: yeah] but you’re still best, you’re still mates [INT: mm] er and I bumped into her and she said ‘oh it’s my little boy’s communion, come’ and like I went there and that was just, you know like all faces that you haven’t seen for ages and the minute you see them it’s still like you’s have never been apart kind of thing [INT: yeah], er it was a bit like that, all like friends from junior school and stuff [INT: yeah] who you have seen since you’ve left school and you know I’ve probably, I’ve been on a few nights out with them and stuff in the past five years but just haven’t seen them for about a year or something and it’s been ‘oh’ all hugs and everything [INT: yeah] ‘we’re gunna have to keep in touch’ and everyone’s taking everyone’s phone numbers again [laughs], it was good.

INT: That sounds really, that sounds quite unusual as well cos sometimes it’s more common to sort of lose contact perhaps with people [DEB: yeah] from, from school.

DEB: Well we all live in such a small area [INT: yeah], it’s, it’s unusual that we don’t see each other more, I think it’s because we’re all busy doing our own little things and you know you don’t see them in the shop kind of thing as much any more cos everyone’s working and got their own little thing going and [INT: yeah] you know like you do when you grow up and [INT: yeah] it’s just one of them but it’s, as I say when you see them again it’s like you’s have never, it’s like you seen them the other day, some of the things we talk about like remember this, remember that [laughs], all just sitting there laughing, it’s good.

INT: So was there quite a big erm group of you then that were quite close at school?

DEB: I think in my school it was like your whole year or your whole class [INT: ok], we were all friends kind of thing [INT: yeah] you know, yeah we had, and like close friends too, you know I’d say like I’ve only ever had about two or three best, best friends and all my other friends are just friends [INT: yeah], who, they’re still my, they’re still good friends you know you might not tell your deepest, darkest secret to them, but you’d go out and have a laugh with them [INT: yeah], they’re still your good mates [INT: yeah] kind of thing.

INT: So what, so the friends, so you say you’ve had sort of two or three best friends

DEB: Yeah.

INT: So what, erm one of them you said before was your special …

DEB: Charlotte, yeah, yeah.

INT: … your special friend from, from when you were younger.

DEB: Yeah, yeah and I think Becky my mate who’s starting to turn into like a best friend now kind of thing [INT: yeah] cos I think we’ve just got so much in common at the moment [INT: yeah], we’re doing the same course, and after exams we’re like that on the phone ‘what did you put for that’ [INT: yeah] ‘I put that’ [laughs] you know it like goes on for, sometimes I’m like ‘oh my god we’ve been on the phone for an hour and a half, talking about course work’, but I think that’s one of the main things with the, with that we’ve got so much in common at the moment so it’s just like [INT: yeah], but it’s not, it doesn’t seem like convenience it really is a friendship kind of thing [INT: yeah] I just think that’s helped us become better friends.

INT: Yeah and it’s helped you meet I guess as well like you say you’re in the same position. Yeah.

DEB: Yeah, cos as much as some of my best friends from when I was younger, as much as they’re still friends you sort of move away from them, you know you’re doing your own thing and they’ve got their own families now and stuff [INT: yeah] so.

INT: And how, how, how does that feel, like you say when you do make that move away, how does that, how does that feel?

DEB: I don’t know, I’ve always thought it doesn’t make me feel any further away from my friends, I always, I always still think if I picked up the phone and rung them they’d still be there and we’d still go ‘oh hiya!’ kind of thing [INT: yeah] erm I don’t know I just erm, I think as your life changes you just drift away from different people kind of thing and you meet new people [INT: yeah] and, and that’s sort of what’s happened.

INT: Yeah, it sounds like, you describe it more as a natural process.

DEB: Yeah.

INT: You know cos you need to make room for other friends, you know friendships that develop as, as your life changes and things as well.

DEB: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

INT: Yeah, so erm, so the friend, the friends you were at school with, do you have a special friend or a close friend out of that group of friends?

DEB: I’ve got twins, my two mates who were like, when I sort of moved off from my best friend when I was younger, Charlotte [INT: yeah], erm that’s who like, we hung around then [INT: yeah] and we were interested in boys then [INT: yeah] and you know started trying to buy a bottle of cider and stuff like that [INT: yeah] erm and they, they were my special friends, they were twins [INT: ok] so it was like the pair of them, I was probably closer to one than the other [INT: yeah], one always had a boyfriend [laughs], and it was me and Paula and I suppose we were, we were quite naughty sometimes actually, but er we had like a special little bond at that time [INT: yeah], definitely, yeah.

INT: And did that, did that having like that close friendship did that affect your friendship with your old school friends? Your special friends?

DEB: Yeah a lot of them when ‘oh yeah you’re always going with them’ kind of thing and I suppose yeah it stopped me from being like that with, with other friends cos that was it, it was just me and Paula then all the time [INT: yeah], we’d go out looking for our own fun kind of thing [laughs], just the two of us, but we were, we had, we were dead good mates back then [INT: yeah], but we’ve sort of drifted, that’s who’s christening I was in the other day, one of the twins [INT: oh right, ok], but erm it’s you know as much as we’ve drifted apart and I wouldn’t say we were best friends any more cos she’s got her own mates too and so have I, but we are still friends when we get together, we have a laugh and it’s again talking about all our yesterdays and stuff like that [INT: yeah] kind of thing, but I still regard her as you know a really good friend, we never ever had arguments or ended on bad terms, I think when I had my little boy I lost a few friends then [INT: ok] because I went from being young and single and happy go lucky and going out all the time, to my mates phoning me and I’d go ‘well I can’t’ [INT: yeah] you know ‘oh can’t you get a babysitter?’ and I’d be like ‘no I can’t’ [INT: yeah], ‘I can’t just phone people up and go can you mind the baby in like half an hour cos I wanna go out’ [laughs] you know what I mean, I don’t think they understood that at the time [INT: yeah] so that sort of, they were like ‘well we’re not ringing you no more cos you never come’ [laughs], but it was you know, just one of them.

INT: So that, that was a big change then having, yeah having your child.

DEB: Yeah definitely, yeah.

INT: And how old were you when you had …?

DEB: Nineteen.

INT: So yeah, so quite still quite young some of your friends.

DEB: Definitely, yeah, yeah.

INT: And, and, and how did that feel at the time when your friends, I mean did your friends actually actively say to you ‘we’re not ringing, we’re not ringing you if you’re not gunna come out’, or did it just more happen …?

DEB: Yeah, I think once they did [INT: yeah], and I was like cos it was, that’s what I said ‘you only ever ring me when you want me to come out with you’, it was a bit like that, cos they were that kind of people [INT: yeah] you know going out all the time and I was before I had my little boy, but things change and [INT: yeah] you know I had a boyfriend then as well and you know I had my own home and a family kind of thing and it was like ‘I can’t just go out at the drop of a hat’ and ‘I’m running a home here’ kind of thing [INT: yeah, yeah], you know what I mean erm, but I think now they sort of understand that as they’ve sort of got up to that now, and [INT: yeah] I think I was gutted at the time though, I did feel like I lost my friends [INT: yeah] because my boyfriend is like twelve years older than me [INT: yeah] so at the time it was like, I felt like he’d had his life kind of thing [INT: yeah, yeah] I was like ‘you’ve been eighteen and nineteen and had all your mates and done all this and now I’m there and I can’t do that’ [INT: yeah], but that’s more, I don’t know, I think that may be what I come to college, and come to uni [INT: yeah] and do things like that because I was so young having a baby so there was positives and negatives [INT: yeah] about it.

INT: Yeah and sort of like now you fell like you can kind of do the things that you may be would have done …

DEB: I’m made up I done it now because now I’ve got it out of the way and I’m still only twenty five [INT: yeah], and I’m on the first, you know I’ve just finished my first year and like I’ve probably never had a better social life in my life [INT: yeah, yeah] than now you know, so.

INT: Cos like you say now you’ve got different groups of friends as well haven’t you? So it’s not just like say your school mates, its uni friends …

DEB: I think that’s one thing I’ve got, that’s it, where I live it’s, I don’t know whether you’ve ever heard of it, but I live in ((LOCAL AREA NAME)).

INT: I’ve not actually, no.

DEB: It’s by Huyton a bit.

INT: Oh ok, yeah I know Huyton.

DEB: And it’s, it’s, I can’t wait to move it’s not very nice [INT: ok], it’s just full of lads walking around with them black hats on and black coats [INT: yeah, yeah, yeah], you know erm so I’ve got friends, I’ve got friends who are like that, I’ve got friends who are like I went to school with and now they’re probably like, I don’t know they’d probably be classed as criminals or something [INT: mm], and I just think I’ve got friends from such a broad spectrum [INT: yeah] from coming to uni and that and being in college and being friend with other, you know so many different types, I’ve got a friend who’s doing a Veterinary degree in Liverpool and you know, and then I’ve got friends who, I’ve got friends who’ve never worked a day in their lives (laughs) [INT: yeah] you know [INT: yeah] who sometimes I think, I’m starting to think like you know what I mean ‘come on’ I, I encourage everyone to go and do the access course [laughs]. Like go and do ..

INT: Like a vocal spokes person [laughs].

DEB: Yeah, yeah, the college would be made up with me [laughs].

INT: They should pay you for that, advertising, that would be great.

DEB: I know, I know, but I do cos I don’t know it upsets me (inaudible) sometimes when you just see a lack of … everything [INT: yeah] do you know what I mean [INT: yeah], people haven’t got a drive or nothing, a lot of people just have kids and that’s it, and you know they just sign on or whatever and, [INT: yeah, yeah], get their rent paid and you think well that’s alright but I think, you know when you go at them ‘don’t you wanna be anything? Don’t you wanna do anything’ but I can’t make that decision for them, all I can do is go [claps hands] ‘well I’m doing this and you should do it’ and just try and encourage people, but I just, now that I’m there I just think it’s mad that some of my friends that I went to school with and the way it changes and the way some of my friends are just so different I don’t think I could, they’d be some that I couldn’t get together kind of thing they’d be like [laughs] kind of thing.

INT: I was going to say, do you think going to uni in that sense then has affected your friendships at home because of your outlook?

DEB: Erm … no cos I don’t, as much as I say stuff like that I’m still friends with them [INT: yeah] and I wouldn’t have a bad word said, if someone else said that I’d be going ‘hang on a minute’ [INT: yeah], I’ve had it in uni and some people have said, and I’ve said ‘yeah, but it’s different growing up on a council estate and maybe they haven’t had the opportunities [INT: yeah] you’ve had’ and you know cos I do think that as well [INT: yeah] erm I just, I just think uni’s broadened my horizons and let me, you know it’s been an opportunity to meet new people [INT: yeah] and things like that [INT: yeah], erm I wouldn’t say I’m less closer to the people I know back home [INT: yeah], back home as if it’s miles away [laughs], [INT: Up the road] erm but then I think there’s people who’ve changed their opinions of me now cos I went to uni as well [INT: ok, ok], it was like ‘er just cos you read books’ kind of thing [laughs], erm so I just think it’s, I don’t know I think as you change just in general, as you grow older and you change [INT: yeah] type of thing, erm but I don’t know I’d still class people like that, people who, friends, maybe friends who are from here wouldn’t approve of I still class them as my friends [INT: yeah, yeah] and I know what other people might think and I could think ‘mm yeah’ myself but I don’t know I’d still, I’d still invite them to my house and say ‘are you alright? I haven’t seen you for ages. How are you getting on’, I’m still friends with them [INT: yeah], so.

INT: So you’ve got quite a wide kind of spectrum of friends?

DEB: Yeah.

INT: Yeah. Erm … and how important is that to you to have such a wide spectrum, spectrum of friends?

DEB: I like it [INT: yeah], I think it just keeps you, I don’t know just people who you’ve always known and I don’t think you could, I don’t know I’d feel like a big snob if I started going ‘oh no I can’t talk to you no more’ [INT: yeah], erm yeah I like it, I like it, I just, I like having a lot of friends, I like walking out and going ‘hiya’, ‘hiya’ [INT: yeah] kind of thing.

INT: Having people that you know around, yeah, yeah.

DEB: Yeah, yeah, definitely, and familiar faces.

INT: So it’s, but you mentioned wanting to move as well so how, do you think that would have an impact then on your friendships if you moved?

DEB: Maybe, I do wanna move cos it’s like everyone’s house is getting broken into and it’s, it’s not, it’s more worrying about my little boy, I don’t want him growing up there cos the kids, as much as we were naughty when we were kids our naughty was like playing knock and run and [INT: yeah] you know it wasn’t [INT: it’s different], we didn’t have guns and knifes [INT: yeah] and you know we didn’t take drugs the way they take them now, we might have like I said got bottles of cider and stuff like that or you know but we weren’t, they’re sort of on a different level now [INT: yeah] and I think it’s for him, that’s why I say I’d like to move, it’s more for him thinking about that.

INT: Thinking about his future and what he’s growing up around.

DEB: Yeah, definitely, yeah, yeah.

INT: And do you think that would have an impact on your friendships then if you moved?

DEB: Probably cos I probably, again like you know you move you meet new people don’t you [INT: yeah], but I don’t think it would stop me wanting to know the people who I used to know [INT: yeah] kind of thing [INT: yeah], erm I’d still wanna stay in touch with pretty much you know a lot of people [INT: yeah] erm but it’s not just, when I, it’s not just me though who lives there and who’s done quite well, a few people have and a few mates have got good jobs or you know have met a fella who’s got a good job [laughs] and now they live in nice, you know nice houses and I’m still friends with them and they’re off the same area too [INT: yeah] so erm …

INT: So you don’t feel like it would, like you say it wouldn’t change the friendships, you wouldn’t want them to change.

DEB: No I don’t, I wouldn’t like to think so.

INT: Yeah, yeah. Erm so the people, the friends that you’re friends with from school how long can you see yourself being friends with those people for?

DEB: Oh probably for as long as I see them, for as long as I’m in contact with them [INT: yeah], for as long as I still bump into them or see them, I’m still gunna be their friend kind of thing [INT: yeah], I don’t think there’d be a day that I’d bump into them and not go ‘oh hiya’ [INT: yeah] they’d still be my friend, I think there’s something special about knowing someone when you were younger [INT: yeah] it’s like that rawness, that you properly know them [INT: yeah] kind of thing, erm I don’t know, so I think I do, I think childhood friendships are dead special.

INT: Yeah, cos there’s something more kind of unique isn’t there cos they’ve known you for such a long time.

DEB: Yeah and I think when you’re a kid there’s no like erm, you just, you are who you are [INT: yeah] and that’s it, you don’t try and pretend or try and you know to get, you’re sort of, just it’s raw I think [INT: yeah], it’s just the person [INT: yeah], you really feel like you know someone I think if you’ve known them when they were, when you were younger.

INT: Yeah, absolutely cos I guess as you get older you develop, you know more kind of like …

DEB: Social skills and how to be with people don’t you.

INT: Yeah, yeah, absolutely, whereas when you’re a kid you know it doesn’t matter who you’re friends with you’re just friends cos you’re friends and that’s the only reason isn’t it?

DEB: Yeah, yeah, yeah, definitely.

INT: Yeah I can see what you mean with that. Erm so somebody, so erm you mentioned being friends with these two twins, erm and then that kind of obviously sort of fading in terms of like you say not being as close, what, what, what, what do you think erm changed so that you kind of weren’t as close to them as, as, as you were say at school?

DEB: Erm I just think that sort of growing up and moving on, me having my little boy and [INT: mm] just not spending as much time together and not doing the things that we used to do, like we used to be going out all the time [INT: yeah], and you know even if it was shopping or if it was going out for a drink or anything we, you know she’d say come round and meet me at my aunties you know and I’d walk round and meet her there and have a cup of tea, it was just [INT: yeah], we were sort of like, it didn’t matter what we were doing we’d just ‘I’m here’ and you’d walk round just to be with them kind of thing [INT: yeah], erm and I think as I sort of got my life together and as I had a little boy and a family and [INT: yeah] we just sort of grew apart [INT: yeah], I didn’t have the time to be going out with them any more and I think that was it kind of thing.

INT: Yeah. And then did you develop, so when, when you became a mum you mentioned about going to sort of mother and toddler groups

DEB: Mother and toddler groups, yeah, yeah.

INT: So did you develop new friendships from becoming a mum?

DEB: Yeah, when I first started, well not when I first, when like mothers and toddlers and stuff, basically like everyone I seen was a mum [INT: yeah], everyone, it was just like a mum’s world I think back then erm it really was, erm it was, erm it was, it’s just I think, I don’t know, I think when you have a baby it’s such a big thing in your life, everything, everything, just everything about what you talk about and everything is about the kids or [INT: yeah], and I think that you take them to like, cos you take them to mothers and toddlers and it think it’s easier to have a friend who’s got kids as well cos I know the, like the one who I mentioned before who I met from mothers and toddlers, me and her are like good friends now, but it was good for our little boys cos they both like had no, they’ve both got no brothers and sisters so [INT: yeah] erm we started doing a thing where like the mothers and toddlers was on a Monday and a Friday and it was only, it finished at like half eleven or something so we used to take turns and after mothers and toddlers we’d either go back to mine or go back to hers and you know we’d let the kids play and we’d have a cup of tea and a gab [INT: yeah] and then it was even like in the six week holidays, the summer holidays we were like ‘shall we carry on? Shall I come to yours on Monday?’ and we still done that so like the kids had someone to play with cos they made friends too and it was important for us to like keep them friends [INT: yeah] you know it’s, cos obviously they can’t get up and go round the corner on their own so it was like you know they didn’t have any other brothers and sisters and we just felt like it was good for them as well [INT: to play with] so, we still do it now you know ‘oh, you’s haven’t seen each other for ages’ and we’ll either have a day out or we’ll invite, someone will invite us round to theirs or something like that.

INT: Yeah, and are they good friends as well then still, yeah, yeah.

DEB: Def, yeah, yeah, that’s like his best little mate.

INT: Yeah, and how important was it for you as a, you know as a new mum to develop that kind of friendship?

DEB: Er I think it’s dead important, I think if there was ever an important time in your life I needed friends it was then [INT: yeah] kind of thing er especially when you know things aren’t going right with your partner, with you know with my boyfriend and he works away so I was on my own for a lot of the time any way and [INT: yeah] I don’t know whether you think, I don’t know whether it’s your hormones or just having a baby, I don’t know I think it’s easy to get stressed I think it’s good to have someone who you can ring up and talk to about similar things [INT: yeah] and they’ve been going through the same kind of thing [INT: yeah] and you know.

INT: And just having that common ground, and I guess especially if you’ve, if your like friendships that you’ve previously had have faded and your, cos your identity changes so much doesn’t it?

DEB: That’s it, that’s it, and I think erm yeah when you have a baby you think that’s all you talk about and I think your mates who haven’t got one like, it’s like you’re boring them I think [INT: yeah], pregnancy and this and that cos a lot of the time that’s what me and Becky, the friend who I met from university, we ended up going to the pub and there’s another friend who I’ve made from university, Pamela and she’s in our sort of little clique [INT: yeah] but I wouldn’t, me and Becky are sort of like closer [INT: yeah] erm and she, cos Pamela hasn’t got any kids [laughs], but we sort of sit there and we sort of like talk about giving birth [INT: yeah] and things like that, what it was like for her and what it was like for me, and she sits there like that, ‘oh hey’ like ‘that’s disgusting’ cos you know what I mean [laughing] she’s never like, but erm, yeah er I think things, people who you’ve got things in common with I think it’s easier to talk about problems that you’re having at the time because they’ve probably faced it all, and another thing you don’t feel out of place saying it to them because you know that they’re probably going through the same thing or they probably know someone who has or they’ve you know.

INT: Yeah. So sharing that experience, but also feeling comfortable sharing it and not, not …

DEB: Yeah, definitely, yeah cos I do think there’s people who I wouldn’t, I wouldn’t sit there and give them the ins and outs of my birth [laughs] you know.

INT: [Laughs] just the stranger on the street.

DEB: Erm yeah, so.

INT: Yeah so, so you, so you mentioned that you know obviously when, when you became pregnant, when you became a mum that that changed some of your previous friendships, did it strengthen any friendships from school, were people really curious and wanting to know about, about …?

DEB: I think more so now than when he was first born, yeah cos when he was born people would come round and go ‘oh he’s lovely’ and you’d get cards off people and that but then they sort of go shhtt [INT: yeah, yeah], but now he’s like five and when he’s out playing and that I’ve got a bit more freedom now so [INT: yeah] I think I’m just starting to get them back kind of thing [INT: yeah] do you know what I mean, they’re like ‘oh he’s lovely’, ‘hiya mate’, and I don’t think a little boy is as threatening as a baby [INT: yeah] do you know what I mean, when it’s a baby it’s like they rob all your time [INT: yeah] and people are scared to pick them up and it’s like, whereas when it’s a little boy it’s a ‘there you are, there’s a pound’ kind of thing, it’s easier to make friends with a little boy isn’t it.

INT: I think they’re probably a bit more grown up so they’ve got their own personalities and people can interact with them cos they feel a bit more comfortable, yeah.

DEB: Definitely, yeah, yeah, yeah.

INT: Erm so when, when, when you came to university then and you mentioned that you, that you just sort of start talking to people, is that how, is that how you went about making friends or …

DEB: Yeah, I’ve always, everyone tells me I don’t shut up, Alasdair calls me big mouth [laughs], and I’ve always, sometimes I try and, you know when you think ‘no I’m not gunna be the big mouth today, I’m gunna try and not talk’, but I just can’t, I can’t, I can’t hold my own water, I just have to talk, sometimes, I’ve got like a little theory about, some people say ‘oh you’re dead outgoing’, you know as if I’m not shy and I’m dead confident and I’m, and I think ‘I’m not’ [INT: yeah] I think that’s my like front [INT: yeah] I act like that so that people don’t wanna know kind of thing, I tell them first before they start asking me, or you know cos I wouldn’t, I think sometimes the more nervous I am the more I talk [INT: yeah] and I talk rubbish and I come home and think ‘why did I say that’ [INT: yeah] but at the time I just can’t help it. (laughs)

INT: Yeah, so you feel like, so when, when, when you came to university how, how did it feel for you to come to university knowing that you were you know this is like a new friendship group, a new experience?

DEB: Erm dead exciting [INT: yeah], erm and I just thought, I don’t know whether, I think I just thought ‘right I’m not gunna be the big mouth’, but I end up doing, being in my little group of friends [INT: yeah], erm but I don’t know if someone talks to me I talk back [INT: yeah], I’m just dead chatty [INT: yeah] there’s no, I don’t know how else to describe it, I’ll just sit there and if there’s something on my mind I just say it.

INT: Yeah. So how, how, how did you feel about making friends was it, was it different from your expectations, when you came to university?

DEB: No, no … well yeah, I don’t know, I didn’t really have a ‘oh I think it’s gunna be like that’ kind of thing it just happened, I was made up, I did, there is two people erm on this degree, on my course who I went to college with and, who were in the same course with me in college [INT: ok], and when we first applied and we were like, we all got accepted and everything it was like ‘oh well at least we’ll know each other’, as if we were still, cos I weren’t really their friends in college [INT: yeah] I knew them, but I weren’t their friends, but when we sort of got onto this course it was as if ‘oh cos we know each other we’re all gunna be friends’ and I sort of drifted away cos I wanted to make my own friends, I thought I don’t want to be stuck in a little group with you know people who I barely know anyway [INT: yeah], I’d rather make my own, whereas I still see them all and their little, you know the two of them together, and there’s another girl who I didn’t know and she went to our college but done A levels [INT: ok] and you know, so them three are like friends now, but I sort of, I don’t know I like meeting new people [INT: yeah], I like talking to new people who I’ve never met before [INT: yeah] so.

INT: And erm, so the people that, so you’re quite grateful in a sense then to separate out from the people that, that were, that you were at college with?

DEB: Yeah, but not in a nasty way [INT: no, no], yeah not like, just, just, I weren’t like big friends with them anyway, I mean I still see them and go ‘hiya, how you doing, alright?’ [INT: yeah] and you know I think I’ve got their phone numbers, its, erm but yeah I was a bit grateful, but only cos I didn’t wanna be, I didn’t wanna come to uni and be stuck in a little group of friends that I already knew [INT: yeah] cos I thought that’s one of the reasons I wanna go to meet new people anyway [INT: yeah], so I was keen to like sort of break away [INT: yeah] and meet new, meet new people [INT: yeah] and I’m made up I did.

INT: That’s good cos I mean like you say it’s, it’s probably easier in some senses to come with a group of people that you know and stay in their same [DEB: yeah, yeah], it’s more challenging and more scary [DEB: yeah] to, to, to come and actually not know anybody but just think I’m just gunna chat to people [DEB: well that’s it], that, that like again that confidence really [DEB: yeah], and, and how do you feel that er that, that’s impacted on you in terms of developing new friends, new friendships at university?

DEB: Erm I don’t know, I think the more friends you’ve got from different spectrums of life, it just gives you a broader sort of outlook [INT: yeah], cos instead of just thinking the way you think and you do start seeing things from different people’s point of views [INT: yeah], you know there’s so many different people in uni it’s not, you know it’s just, I don’t know, we go from like I mean I’m from a council estate you know [INT: yeah] in Liverpool and then I’m meeting people who are like from Wales, or one of my friends erm Margaret erm who’s on this course she’s from Poland and you know it’s just, I had a friend in college who was from Zimbabwe and [INT: yeah] there’s just so many different cultures [INT: just a mix], and I think that’s why I love Liverpool as well [INT: yeah] at the moment because it’s dead cultural [INT: yeah] and you know it’s just, I love that, like it’s just a big variety [INT: yeah] whereas I think that’s the side that people by mine wouldn’t like [INT: yeah], they like what they like and that’s it and anyone else who’s here it’s like you know [INT: yeah] whereas I love it, I think it’s, it’s, it just, it only richens the city kind of thing [INT: yeah], or your life you know, I like it, yeah.

INT: Yeah to experience that different cultures and different people and yeah.

DEB: Yeah, yeah, it doesn’t mean you have to agree with them or you have to like what they like, it’s just being open to what they like and I’m open to what I like [INT: yeah] and you know, Margaret the Polish girl, she had to show me where the cathedral was on Fresher’s week, [laughs] and I’m from Liverpool, so that sort of broke the ice with me and her [INT: yeah], she was from Poland and she said she was going there and I said, I was like ‘well I mean I know where it is, I’ve been past it in the car and that, I just wouldn’t know how to walk to it’, and she went ‘no follow me, this way’ [laughs] and she took us there.

INT: Yeah, it’s different living in a suburb though I think as well cos you tend to stay where you live don’t you?

DEB: Well that’s it, I come to, I come to town for like shopping [INT: yeah] or to go for a drink, whereas the students who live here they live here, it’s like their little playground [INT: yeah], they probably know it better than me now.

INT: Yeah, and like you say, you probably, as well you wouldn’t, like they probably come and go to these different places cos I remember when I was at uni here only in my final year going to the museums and stuff, I’d never been in three years, I’d never visited, cos when you live somewhere you don’t tend to do that as much.

DEB: I mean I go to the museums and that erm I take my little boy cos I like, you know and the art galleries and stuff like that [INT: yeah], erm but I know what you mean there is stuff round the city that I’ve probably never even noticed or I’ve never been to and [INT: yeah] it’s just because I live down there and I just come here and get my shopping and buy a new top and go home on the bus kind of thing.

INT: Yeah, that’s it yeah, just see that bit, yeah. So the friendship erm your sort of close friend at uni erm who you’re close, you say you’ve got like quite a few sort of groups of friends that you, erm can you, how long can you see yourself being friends with them for?

DEB: Like Becky, like my close friends who I’ve met

INT: Yeah.

DEB: I’d like to be friends with her forever [INT: yeah], I’d like to think that we could be you know we really have like struck up a good friendship [INT: yeah], erm yeah I’d like to think forever, I’d like to think when we get jobs and stuff like that, we talk about it like that, we say ‘oh you know in a few years and’, you know we still, you know what I mean it’s, it’s good.

INT: Yeah, so you can see it lasting for a long time?

DEB: Yeah and I’d like it to last, yeah.

INT: Yeah, ok. Erm can you think of an example from your own experience that demonstrates what a friend means to you?

DEB: Erm, oh that’s a hard one.

INT: It’s difficult isn’t it, so maybe if you think like a particular act of kindness or something that a friend’s you know done for you, erm an act that someone’s carried out for you that you’ve thought that, that just demonstrates to me what, what, what a friend means.

DEB: How much of a friend you are.

INT: Yeah.

DEB: Er … I don’t know, I think Becky’s like that who I’ve only just met [INT: yeah], she’s sort of like that, erm the other week I phoned her up and said, this sounds dead stupid, I phoned her up, I’d broke my phone [INT: oh yeah], my nice, lovely, new, pink, shiny phone, and I was made up with it and it was broke, it’s broke now, so I had to put my SIM card in my old phone and I phoned her and I was having a bit of a bad time at home with my fella as well and I phoned her and I was talking to her and she went ‘oh I’ve got a phone here’ and she’s like dead helpful like that, or erm she, like she, she’s just started working as a travel agent from home [INT: oh right] cos she’s been a travel agent before and she can do that and I was saying I’m a bit stuck I wanna get a job in the summer, but with me having my little boy and the six weeks holidays and his dad works away I’m sort of stuck [INT: yeah] and it’s, it’s annoying me cos I don’t wanna not be doing anything for all you know for all that time, and she was like ‘well I’ll tell you what, come to mine and I’ll show you how to use the system, like the programme, how to search for holidays’, she said ‘all you need to do is how to search for them and how to book them’ [INT: yeah] she said ‘and come to mine and I’ll show you and I’ll do it with you and you know you can have a go in mine with the phone’ she went ‘you pay your phone’ and she was like sorting it out for me to get that sorted for home and ‘and you can do it at home like me’ kind of thing and she’s sort of like that, if you ever say anything and you’ve got a bit of a problem, like my phone, I said my phone broke [INT: yeah] and she went ‘do you know what my dad’s has, and he’s got my old phone’, she said ‘but it’s not that old cos I’ve only just bought a new one so it’s you know’ [INT: yeah] and she said ‘my dad’s got it till the end of the month when he buys a new one so as soon as he gives me it back you can have that’ [INT: aw], she’s dead like, you know erm …

INT: Just really helpful.

DEB: Yeah, really [INT: yeah], if you’ve ever got a problem or anything she’ll, she’d never go ‘oh have you?’ you know [INT: yeah], she’s always looking for ways to ‘well can’t you do this, or could you do that or’, she, she is really helpful.

INT: So she’s like actively trying to sort of like help you?

DEB: Yeah.

INT: Yeah, and what, and what does that mean to you, well yeah you know what does that mean to you those kind of acts?

DEB: Well it means a lot even with, I remember being stuck on some course work and I was going ‘I just can’t do these results’ and she like, she went ‘I’ll come and meet you tomorrow’ and she just, you know like, I don’t know, you know I didn’t even ask her and she just went out of her way and come and meet me and went through it with me and shown me all how to do it, and I thought ‘you didn’t even have to do that, you could have just’ I mean I’ve done that for people, but at the same time I’ve, I’ve, I haven’t [INT: yeah] with some people and I’ve went ‘oh are you? Are you struggling? Just try and’ you know recommended a book for them or something [INT: yeah] like that whereas she actually properly went out of her way and really helped me and made me understand everything and I just, just stuff like that, it does make you think ‘aw’ you know ‘that was nice of her’ kind of thing, it’s nice.

INT: And what, what impact does that have on you in terms of, for your other friendships, those kinds of acts of kindness?

DEB: … Nothing really, I don’t think ‘oh well …’ I don’t think like ‘oh everyone should do that’ or nothing [INT: yeah], I don’t know it just makes me feel grateful to have her as a friend and that she’s a dead nice person [INT: yeah] erm yeah, I’ve got other, I’ve got like erm I can’t think of like a specific example but I know like at home there has been nice things that friends have done for me [INT: yeah] you know when you’ve been like stuck or you know when someone’s been there for you kind of thing to help you out kind of thing [INT: yeah], but erm that was just the one I could remember, that’s the most recent [INT: yeah], she has been really good with stuff like that, if you’re ever stuck or if you ever need help or anything, she’s always there and she’d never, she’d never say ‘oh no I can’t’ [INT: yeah] she’d always find a way round to come and help you [INT: yeah] she’s really, really helpful and really nice like that.

INT: So have you ever been, have you ever been erm let down by a friend?

DEB: Yeah [laughs].

INT: Can you tell me a bit about it?

DEB: Erm stuff like when you’re going out and they haven’t turned up, or another one was, my friends, you know girls don’t like going in pubs on their own [INT: yeah], I don’t like going in pubs on my own [INT: yeah] and I remember my friends they were already in a group of them erm and they’d been out and they’d asked me to come and I’d said ‘no’ and then they were coming home so they were like ‘well do you wanna meet us in like our local pub’ you know cos they’d been out for a meal and everything so they come back and you know ‘meet us in the local and we’ll be there’ and I was like ‘ok’ and I remember I walked over and I waited for like an hour for them in the pub and I ended up going home and I was like, you know when you’re dead upset thinking ‘they know’ you know ‘who likes going in the pub on their own?’ [INT: yeah] and it was like the erm, you know like the back wasn’t open so it was the bar where all the fellas were [INT: yeah] and I thought ‘they must have known I had to do that on my own’ and you know that, that was like quite upsetting [INT: yeah], not upsetting but I just thought you know ‘they knew that I’d have to do that’ [INT: yeah] and they’ve like took their time or they haven’t bothered coming or they’ve stayed for an extra drink or whatever they’ve done [INT: yeah] you know so erm, oh and I’ve been told by a friend, someone who’ll just cause trouble for you, one of my best friends, it was one of the twins, [INT: oh right, yeah], erm I’d just moved into my new flat, I hadn’t had my little boy yet but me and my boyfriend had just moved into the new flat, our first day there, so it was like our first night in our little home [INT: yeah] erm and she phones me and says ‘oh I’m made up you’re back’, cos I moved back to where I used to live kind of thing [INT: oh ok, yeah], so she was like ‘oh I’m made up you’re back here erm you’re coming out with me and I’m not taking no for an answer’ and I was going ‘well I’ve got no money, I’m not, I wanna stay here with Dave and it’s out first night, we’ve just put our curtains up and everything’ you know [INT: yeah], erm and she went ‘no I’m coming to get you and I’m picking you up with our other, some fella we knew in the car’ and I was thinking ‘oh alright then’, so I told my boyfriend and everything and he was like ‘oh alright’ you know ‘it’s our first day here’ and I was going you know ‘she said she wouldn’t take no for an answer, we’re only going, we’ll be home, I wont be late, I’ll only have a few, I’ll come home’ kind of thing [INT: yeah], and erm she got me in the car and she’d only met a fella from Seaforth and was taking me all the way there, and I had no money and I’m going ‘where …’, as we’re driving like away I’m thinking ‘where are we going?’ and she was just going ‘I knew if I told you where we were going you wouldn’t have come’ [INT: oh no] and I was just like ‘oh no that’s naughty that, you couldn’t do that’ and I mean I had a boyfriend and I’d been with him for like four years and she took me to sit with me and her and like a group of eight fellas [INT: oh] in this party where I didn’t know anyone [INT: yeah] and I had no money and we were all away in Seaforth you know [INT: it’s not a recipe for a good night is it], we ended up having to get like a lift home off these lads so I’m like ‘oh drop me round the corner’ you know what I mean [INT: yeah], I told my fella I was bringing chips home cos we were only supposed to be in the pub by the chippy [INT: yeah] you know so I had to make them stop at the chippy and I come home and I knew straight away when I went in, he knew, he knew, I can’t lie to save my life [INT: yeah], I never, I think when I was a teenager I could for a bit [INT: yeah] and now I just can’t [INT: yeah], erm I remember coming in and he went ‘hiya, did you have a nice night? Where’ve you been?’ and I went ‘only The Labour and The Barley’ you know like the pubs [INT: local, yeah] by ours, and he went ‘you liar’ straight away, he knew straight away, and straight away it was ‘[mumbled shouting]’, ‘I’m not getting into trouble for it’ [laughs], but that really did make me think about her, that was dead selfish and you know just cos she’d met some lad and do you know what I mean? [INT: yeah], it did make me think twice about her then kind of thing, as much as she’s still my mate and I think now you know, but it did, it just made, you know who your true friends are kind of thing, I thought I wouldn’t have done that to her [INT: yeah], I wouldn’t have told her a lie, I wouldn’t have said, I would have told her [INT: yeah] and asked her if she wanted to come with me, I wouldn’t have went, you know tricked her kind of thing.

INT: Into doing it, yeah, and how did that impact on your friendship then at that point?

DEB: Badly really cos my fella wanted to have a word with her you know he was like ‘how dare you take her away?!’ [INT: yeah] and you know cos he was saying ‘what if something would have happened to you’s? [INT: yeah] What if a gang of girls would have got you’s or something? Or you know anything would have happened, you didn’t even have taxi fare to get home’ [INT: yeah] and he went ‘and I wouldn’t have even known where you were’ [INT: yeah] and I was like ‘I know you’re right’ [INT: yeah], he was right [INT: yeah] you know, but it, it weren’t my fault [laughs].

INT: And how do you feel like it’s impacted on your friendship now, like you say you’re still friends, but do you feel that it’s impacted on your friendship at all now?

DEB: I don’t really think about it now [INT: yeah], cos I don’t really, you know, I wouldn’t, I don’t know I’d probably mention it while we were drunk if we were out or something like that [INT: yeah], laugh about it, I wouldn’t be bitter or have a cob on about it now cos it’s just dealt with, it’s just one of them things [INT: it’s gone, yeah], so.

INT: So in summary, how, can you sum up what friendship means to you?

DEB: Friendship to me just means someone you can have a, someone you can laugh with and someone you feel close to [INT: yeah], someone who you feel, it’s got to be mutual too [INT: yeah], it can’t be like ‘oh I think that of them but they’re sort of …’ you know it’s got to be something mutual that you both like [INT: yeah], a lot of laughter for me [INT: yeah] cos I’m always giggling and laughing and doing silly things [INT: yeah] with my friends, I think it’s, you know it makes you feel like you’re a kid again [INT: yeah], you’re back like, you know you’re, like you’re six again [laughs], giggling about stupid things.

INT: Yeah and feeling comfortable enough to do that with somebody is important.

DEB: Definitely, yeah and that’s another one yeah, feeling really comfortable in someone’s company [INT: yeah], yeah, that would be yeah a friendship to me.

INT: Ok, brilliant, that’s great.

DEB: Is that us.

INT: Thank you, yeah that’s it. Was that alright?

DEB: Yeah that’s brilliant.