

Miks Vizbulis b. 4/6/1990

Transcript of interview with Judy Caine - 5th March 2019

(N.B. – timecode numbers refer to the audio recording)

Judy Caine [00:00:01] Okay this is Judy Caine, I'm back over at Catthorpe Manor, and I'm talking to Miks, Vizbulis, I think I've said that right, on the 5th of March for the Latvian part of the changing Corby project. Miks, to start off, could you give me your name and date of birth please.

Miks Visbulis [00:00:19] Hi Judy, my name is Miks Visbulis, my date of birth 04/ 06/1990.

Judy Caine [00:00:26] A fellow Gemini! Miks, tell me when you came to England first of all.

Miks Visbulis [00:00:30] I came actually, came first time when I went abroad, I go to Scotland in 2009. Yeah. I think was the start of April 2009. I live half a year, a bit over half a year down in Scotland not far from Dumfries. And then afterwards I came here to England not far from Catthorpe Manor and Rugby.



Judy Caine [00:00:55] What made you go to Scotland first?

Miks Visbulis [00:00:58] I was in Latvia I was just turned 18. I want to see the world and looking for options. I look everywhere in Europe where can I go and the Scotland came as an option for me because one of my friends, my friend's father he worked there. So basically, he offer me if I want I can go there and live for a while and look, I was told that and I start working there and all that.

Judy Caine [00:01:22] What year was that?

Miks Visbulis [00:01:25] 2008, no, 2009, sorry.

Judy Caine [00:01:29] OK, Thank you. And then you came down to Catthorpe Manor, to Rugby. Why the move, what did you move for?

Miks Visbulis [00:01:36] The place where I worked in Scotland, at that time my English was far from good.

Judy Caine [00:01:45] Now it's superb.

Miks Visbulis [00:01:45] Now it's a bit better. But basically, the owner of the company, it's a small company it was sawmill, and he wasn't really nice man. We didn't get on really well so. So, I start looking for options in Scotland because I really like Scotland. I like Edinburgh and have been travelling a lot around there in this half-year's time and I really like that but in Scotland and my language barrier which was at the time I really can't find anything else. And then one of my friends was here already in Rugby so and he offered me if you want to come here. We'll, we'll see how was everything in England.

Judy Caine [00:02:22] So what did you do in Rugby when you first came?

Miks Visbulis [00:02:26] When I first came here, I start working for an agency called 'G-Staff' for windows manufacturer company, called Nationwide Windows which at that point it was a small company but now is grown as well. I started working as a window assembler and worked for, I worked there for almost a year. Then because I never was planning I will live in abroad for so many years. So as now, this is the eleventh year I think or tenth. Since 2009, so a full 10 years already and 11th started. So, afterwards I had options to start working for the few companies who is building the stage, doing the stage for the concerts, doing lights, stage itself, video screens and all that so I travel around the arenas and festivals in England.

Judy Caine [00:03:21] That sounds quite exciting!

Miks Visbulis [00:03:22] It was, it actually was one of my favorite jobs, so if, if I had the option to do that again I would definitely do it. But I will get that, I was in the point where I need to make a decision. Because it was, money was all right and I really loved the job which I did but did. But my decision to start rolling with the bands and go into tours and I was I was spoken to guys who is doing that. Some of them travel for 1 year, 2years. One of the guys said he just came back from tour with Metallica for 3 years tour around the world which sounds real excited but! But at that point I was start living together with my partner and we had our first, first baby was due at that point and that's why I need to make a decision. Do I make my career with the stage work or I need to turn to family life and I make decision to stay with the family.

Judy Caine [00:04:17] They're not really compatible are they - they don't really work together.

Miks Visbulis [00:04:18] No, that is the thing because as the guy says well, he was. He said he was on tour with Metallica for 3 years, but he had a family with two children. And I said what's your family said about that. If I can't, if they're not seeing you for three years he said. So, it's not like 3 years, sometimes when we come for concerts in England and I'm home for a few days and he said it's not like ... because the money is good and when I when I'm home I'm actually home and we can do whatever we like. And my wife don't need to work and she can be home with the kids which as well sounds alright. But I prefer to see how my kids are growing and not, not being around the world all the time.

Judy Caine [00:04:55] I think I'd have made the same choice, I really would. So, how did you get involved, or how did you hear of Catthorpe Manor?

Miks Visbulis [00:05:07] Well, the Catthorpe Manor it was a story as well. Because when I was in Scotland my friends Godfather, he work here in Catthorpe Manor as a gardener at that time, and when we come here from the first day I was involved with the Catthorpe Manor some, some way because we come here and help and do some things and had some parties going on and all that, so! But after he left the work, then I was getting busy with other things as well and then I didn't much, much been involved in what's going on here.

So later, later dates afterwards, I met lots of people who was as well in the Latvian community and all that. I was sitting by same thinking because at that time I start working for a recruitment agency and I've seen lots of people who come from abroad. And I found, I found out what is what, why they chose to leave the country and come here. And then we had conversations, how, why, was that. What are the reasons and all that and I start thinking? Because the reasons was quite sad on the situation was going on Latvia with the

families and I start a lot of thinking about how many families have been split how many families not spend Christmas together. Because there was one of one gentleman in quite good age he was around 58 years and he was just going to England without English, renting house, I ask Why did you came here. Because he was making the Avio models with the kids in Latvia and he was an engineer.

Judy Caine [00:06:38] Sorry, what models?

Miks Visbulis [00:06:39] Like plane models with radio controllers.

Judy Caine [00:06:44] OK, thanks.

Miks Visbulis [00:06:44] And his son lived in the Rugby and basically I spoke with him why do you came here. Because he was an engineer and he had this hobby as well, which he get really good in that, so why do you came to England. Left everything behind and just came to the country without the language and to undo it go and start doing some manual work because of language and all that? Said his wife died in Latvia and he didn't have anybody left only his son who lived here already. It was quite a few days for me to think over all that. How many families are round like that. I just sit and think what I as Miks, being in England. How can I change the situation there?

And then we start creating the little groups with discussions and things how we can involve with our time, with our help, with our knowledge, how to change things better. Then there was few, few ladies who was the teachers back in Latvia. And then we start thinking from start as well, what were the kids, how the kids don't lose the identity of the family. Okay. We can't, we didn't decide actually how much things what we can help that. But we start thinking about how we can help families here who have been here to not lose Latvian identity and speak as well, because as well in many of my friends families I've seen situations when the parents with bad English try to talk to the kid in English because the kids really spend more, most of the day in school with the English community and the English is much better than their parents and in a much shorter time. And actually the parents are making mistakes with is that they, because they try to help the kid fit in the English community and they try to help them with the English. But, actually it's been the wrong thing because the kids will be kids will pick up the language much quicker than they will if their parents want, with their bad English start teaching them how to speak English, then kids will learn correct English in the school not with the parents.

And if the kid from the from that side of the kids start seeing the parent as well communicating with him in English then it starts getting easier for them to communicate in English. You start forgetting the language and it's still getting easier for parents as well because kids start speaking bad Latvian language and then it's OK just tell me in English that because I see it's easier for you.

And then after that you have to see in many cases that we just start thinking how to how to save this old identity of Latvian language, how to do that like for all these families like, because one day Latvia need needs families. Maybe they want to return when the situation will be better there. But this was as well another thing which we've gone through because I make them checklists and we'll go to people like what will make you return back to Latvia? What are the things why you can't go back to Latvia at the moment?

Judy Caine [00:09:39] What was the most common reason for which they said they would return and what was the main reason they said they wouldn't return?

Miks Visbulis [00:09:47] It was quite interesting because when you asked the first question do you plan to return to Latvia? 85% said no. But when you start had a conversation with them they don't want to return to Latvia, like the Latvia is at the moment, like what the situation, political situation, economical situation and all, all those things which is in Latvia at the moment.

Judy Caine [00:10:10] And was this now? Or was this in 2010?

Miks Visbulis [00:10:13] No no no. This was basically 2015, when we started the project.

Judy Caine [00:10:19] So, I've done some Latvian research but I'm not sure what the problems were in 2015 - can you explain?

Miks Visbulis [00:10:26] It's still the same problems - still the same problems which are following since 2007/8. It's because how the tax system is created now. It's not right for ... it's good for rich people so basically they, they created a massive gap that was poor and rich. There is not any more like middle section. It's hard to be in the middle. You can be rich or you can be poor.

And as well the education system which some people don't like it in Latvia there is loads of things. And that's why we try to identify what is the real issues to start back in Latvia. Because at the moment it's not a point to return people who are here. But the main, main point what we should do and can do it is to see people remain in Latvia and not start travelling any more abroad and they can stay there and be happy there. And later if everyone real who is living there will be there later dates there will be some family members some people who can start going back. But not just concentrate because there was from the some members of the Parliament to start concentrating and making the real emigration plans how to re-emigrate people back from different countries from abroad back to Latvia. But they didn't realize that then they just need to stop immigration there. And basically it did identify all those problems.

I start with my contacts as well because I have a word for this recruitment agency. So, people who come in this area first, first thing they come to me. So that's why I had a quite good stat, statistics and I had a quite good contacts as well with the people who are the latest emigration here.

Judy Caine [00:12:09] I was quite surprised, and I can't remember exactly who I was talking to it might have been Zane and Marcis, actually, and they said that of the 2 million Latvians worldwide, 10 percent - like 200,000 are in the UK. That is quite a statistic!

Miks Visbulis [00:12:27] It is, because the UK is the largest Latvian community. The Latvians are everywhere in the world but most of them is in the UK. And, yeah, so, basically start going through all this researches and speaking with people during the day and asking them to fill out some papers as well to, like tests and all that. For where they, how things are in life. You asked me how many people want to go back. I said 85% said no, but when you start talking with them and identify the problems then only was 5% left who said they want to go back because they want to see different stage in the country.

And one of the main problems we find out was because the families were living here at the moment and kids are in school. They said how like for example with they live in here for 5,6,7,8 or 9 years. And the kids are been in the school how are they going to fit back into the Latvian education system?

Judy Caine [00:13:26] Well, yes, they won't have the language to be able to will they?

Miks Visbulis [00:13:26] Well, yeah, the first is the language then, as well the mentality as well, with the people who are, who are around because Latvia is much different. And people when they live in here for a longer time, they change as well. They take in some English mentality on them as well and they are quite different, different mind-thinking of how, how it was before.

And that's why we start thinking what we can do like for example how we can make later, maybe 1 year, 2,3 or 5 or 10 years that these families who really want to return back in Latvia. And if the problem is education and kids' language and all that so that's why we start thinking about how we can help to improve that. And then first, first idea was because we think there is quite many schools around like Latvian schools in England itself.

Judy Caine [00:14:14] Like Bradford, Leeds and London?

Miks Visbulis [00:14:16] Yeah, yeah, but there wasn't any school here in Catthorpe ...

Judy Caine [00:14:20] But there used to be one didn't there at Catthorpe? I was talking to an older gentleman, to Valdis, who used to be in the Straumeni choir, he retired recently because he was 90, he had his 90th birthday here last Sunday ...

Miks Visbulis [00:14:36] Oh yes, I know, I remember. Yeah, yeah.

Judy Caine [00:14:38] He used to bring his son and his daughter to the Latvian school that was here - but a long time ago.

Miks Visbulis [00:14:46] It's been really a long time then, because some of the, I spoke with some of the people who have literally lived here as well and not all of them remembered that. So, this might be a real long time ago ...

Judy Caine [00:14:58] ... oh, it must have been 30 / 40 years ago.

Miks Visbulis [00:14:58] Yeah. And we start thinking how we can do this not just for, in one school, how we can like make this is a program which can help everyone in our families. And we start thinking about YouTube channel which can be like lessons and all that but then we start thinking where we get the materials for that. Like we need somewhere to decide do it and then there was idea we can we can open our own school where we can learn ourselves and then later date we can create the channel or something.

Unfortunately if we run the school for 4 years - this is the fourth year for the Saturday school here but not get to the part with the student. But, but in the meantime, there has been from Latvia as well, there's schools in Latvia offering part-time learning in Latvia. And I try to put my daughter as well. So basically she starts. Yeah. Like in Latvia is a little bit different like year one in here. It's different than year one in Latvia. Latvia you start the one when you are age of 7 then you start it.

Judy Caine [00:16:01] And we start at 5.

Miks Visbulis [00:16:01] Yes yes yes. But then there's like I said its different system and all, and you can do the distance learning. Now, when I started, when I discovered there was one school it was one at that time. But now there's multiple of them. And then there is

as well online programs as well who can work where there is teachers funded from Latvian education fund. And then you can just directly to learning the language, learning the things work what you need to pick up in Latvian school you can learn it from distance and that's the programme is quite good.

Judy Caine [00:16:33] So you started your Latvian school in 2015, if it's in its fourth year, what age do you aim it at? Little kids, older kids, adults, everybody, are there different classes?

Miks Visbulis [00:16:48] We aim to everybody who are interested to do it, but the main work is with the parents who want to bring their child here and they speak with the children and they're telling the children why it's important. Because kids can enjoy it, when they come in here, they enjoy it because there is lot of kids around, they have a play and all that they are happy. But the main job is with the parents.

Judy Caine [00:17:09] What do you teach the parents?

Miks Visbulis [00:17:11] It's not teaching the parents, it's just conversations with parents. The parents understand why the Latvian school is important for them and why they need to bring the children here. Because sometimes parents are coming here, they see the kids are having fun a huge thing. Oh, it's hard to want to wake up every morning and every Saturday to bring the children here. Because kids get 5 days a week and in the in the proper school or nursery and then every Saturday to be here. It's like it's like hell for them as well.

Judy Caine [00:17:40] So what is the main aim of the school. Is it to teach the children Latvian?

Miks Visbulis [00:17:44] It's basically, the main aim, is to make them this community together to make the children see. There is lots of fun, they are not alone here. There is a lot of other Latvian childrens. There are children who still speaks in the same language with them. That's why the camps are really important as well, which are going on in summer because there has been cases when some, some parents bring their children who, children actually they really think because their live somewhere where it's not so many Latvians around, and children they don't know there in England, there is so many Latvian children's as well.

Judy Caine [00:18:13] The Camps, tell me about the camps? How long are they and what to do you do?

Miks Visbulis [00:18:16] There is, we, they use the word tradition which is called 'Puku Berni' - which is basically flower children, sunflowers, flower children or something like that.

And it used to, was a tradition it happened every year and then it was, it was missed for a few years and now they're starting again. There's a guy called Maris Pulis who is running the education fund here in UK for Latvians and he is taking the main in to creating that again.

Now we had last year we had a bank holiday weekend on May and then this year is going to be as well - it's confirmed. And yeah, and this is one of the camps and then there is ...

Judy Caine [00:19:05] Miks hands paper with Puku Berni written on ... this is children (points to Berni) and this means flowers (points to Puku).

Miks Visbulis [00:19:13] Uh, so ...

Judy Caine [00:19:15] ... this happens in May.

Miks Visbulis [00:19:16] It happens in May, and then there is, which has going on for quite a few years already, is 'Three by Three' camp in August. Three generations, children, their parent and grandparent.

The like if Puku Berni is going just for like two days which is a bank holiday weekend. Previously sometimes it's Sunday, Monday or Monday, Tuesday.

Judy Caine [00:19:43] Is this the Early May Bank Holiday or the late one?

Miks Visbulis [00:19:46] I think it's early one.

Yes. Yes. So, I can later double check the dates when it will be this May and I can forward to you.

Judy Caine [00:19:54] And this is August (the Three by Three)?

Miks Visbulis [00:19:55] This is August and again depends on, because here in Catthorpe there is going on three camps in August. One is a 'Three by Three' English speaking, one's a 'Three by Three' Latvian speaking and Estonian camp. And then they usually fit together which week everyone's taking but if 'Puku Berni' is going for two days only then three by three is going for one full week.

Judy Caine [00:20:26] Why Estonia?

Miks Visbulis [00:20:28] Because Estonians were, used to have a quite big community.

Judy Caine [00:20:32] In Latvia?

Miks Visbulis [00:20:32] No, here in England. Because Estonians they have a place in Leicester, they, how they own like property which they are Estonian house in Leicester, they have one in Bradford, and I think there is some more around, but this is the most popular that I've heard about.

Judy Caine [00:20:54] It does border Latvia, doesn't it?

Miks Visbulis [00:20:56] Yes, it is border, it's one of the Baltic states.

Judy Caine [00:20:59] The human chain? That was Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania?

Miks Visbulis [00:20:59] Yeah. Basically, there is Estonia on top then Latvia in the middle and Lithuania on bottom. Yeah. And, because apparently Estonians had a quite big community used to us. But, to be honest, in my living time here in England I met only two Estonians before I moved here. And when they're coming for Camp then I mean I've met them a lot of them, but Estonians round here not met many. But they are quite becoming used to us, quite big community. Not sure how, how many there are now.

Judy Caine [00:21:36] So how many teachers do you have who work in the school? Coz you're the head of the school, aren't you?

Miks Visbulis [00:21:43] I'm a head of the school. We have a 5 teachers, 3 of them is with education has been teachers. One is musical who can teach, she can teach music, she can teach piano lessons, she is professional piano lesson teacher in England as well. This is what job she is doing. Then we have one teacher with an education and degree from Latvia. She was Math teacher which is not actually go in what we teach in here, but she covers education and she know how to treat the children and how to be with the children and how the teacher thinks. So, it was hard for her as well to start teaching different things not math. But it's, this all right, and then third one as well who was the teacher in Latvia in nurseries. So, that's why it's quite good setup with creating the materials, creating what we are doing, setting up the yearly plan as well with everything. So, because to understanding as well we have this too, and then we have a dance teacher as well who is, she is certificate to be a dance teacher who do anything teaching Latvian folk dance for children.

Miks Visbulis [00:23:00] I guess, in the first year what's happened the first year, we create the Saturday school which everything was, it was quite good. But, because parents were sitting around here and doing nothing then they are starting, "you can't involve the parents then?". Then we decided we can also we can create folk dance which started adult folk dance and then we found as well, when we start doing, we always meeting new people which would have been involved. So, then the dance teacher who was for adults, his missus was want to try to do for the kids and then recreate the kids the folk-dance group as well. Then afterwards we create theatre for the adults which again afterwards we involve the children as well in the theatre and every year we just try to be adding new things to make it may make more people more interesting to come in here to find things to do for everyone.

Judy Caine [00:23:49] Sounds amazing. So what age are the children that you get here?

Miks Visbulis [00:23:54] Our youngest student is eleven months!

Judy Caine [00:24:02] That's young!

Miks Visbulis [00:24:04] It is not really, it's probably just because we have three classes. Because the youngest class up till 3, then we have a class, but again depends on what the kids can do or can't do. Because we can we can't just put everyone by the age group because sometimes as the older kids. In school in England they are on the age group on age level but they're probably not being so much in with the Latvians so they have a hard to get with the Latvians so they sometimes need to join the younger ones and that's why we try to sometimes mix the older group with the middle group together and we have a programs as well when all three groups come together and doing things.

Judy Caine [00:24:45] So, what ages are the middle group and older group?

Miks Visbulis [00:24:46] So middle group is a 3 till 7 and then next one is 7 plus.

Judy Caine [00:24:54] Would you have them right up to say 18?

Miks Visbulis [00:24:57] No.

Judy Caine [00:24:59] What's your eldest?

Miks Visbulis [00:24:59] Eldest student are 13 which is quite good age because at that age usually youngsters don't want to do any more Latvian things, they did decide they have it so much better things to do with their friends and all that. Not just come and study Latvian.

Judy Caine [00:25:18] Do you do any exams with them in preparation for maybe if they do go back to Latvia, or is it not that formal?

Miks Visbulis [00:25:24] We, no, the thing what we are offering, because we've had one family who return at start of this year. They've gone back to Latvia. What we offer is we're basically telling everyone about the programs which has been going on in Latvia when you can do this distance learning and what we are offering as well if some of the kids join to that program then we from our side are more than happy to help. And like if the kids have a problem with writing in Latvian or with the spelling or with putting the sentences together or math in Latvia because as well which was a funny thing for me my daughter, she is quite good in math. She, when, when I used as distance learning for this one year everything was fine, she get the results what was requested but the problem was when the teacher ask how you're getting results like that. She was struggling to tell because there is terminology in Latvia, how you need to, how you can get to that result and then you need to tell that in Latvian step by step. And this was a thing where she was struggle and that's why we offering the children who want to join the program as well to help. Do you like example if it's like I said because we have different teachers with different backgrounds as well. If there is some sector or thing where children struggle so we can try to create when we have this learning hours so we can try to create and put something from the that school as well to make the kids doing better in the sector.

Judy Caine [00:26:50] Wow busy time.

Miks Visbulis [00:26:52] It is. It is and yeah. I don't know what to say.

Judy Caine [00:26:59] What have I missed, what else is there that you would like to tell me about the school?

Miks Visbulis [00:27:03] There was something else, I just start talking about and that and that's why.

Judy Caine [00:27:06] We were talking about the math, the method, the programs in Latvia, the distance learning, the family that were going back ...

Miks Visbulis [00:27:13] ... Oh, I remember. So, basically the other thing which I found from my experience. I understand because basically we have this two-hour learning every Saturday. What we're doing. So, if we're calculating on a year which is basically we can in the week in a year's time we can just give them one week of education because some of the weeks or some of the Saturdays we cover like events, like we celebrate Christmas together always, so we celebrate Easter together, we celebrate different traditional Latvian celebrations together so this are not actually anymore the lesson just that celebration. Which as well, is they learning traditions, how Latvians is doing that or that as well. But in one week's education, in one week's education we can't do progress like that like example to prepare children to after like example he's been five years Latvian school. This means actually five weeks with education which can't view them enough to they can go back to Latvia now and be prepared for everything.

Judy Caine [00:28:18] But that's just a way of keeping them in touch with their roots really?

Miks Visbulis [00:28:22] It is, yes, it is, it's mainly like I said when we started project, I thought it would be really great and we would give them a really, really much increase of that. But from every year to every year from my understanding it's, we just giving something back. But if they start enjoying the things, like they really start enjoying the Latvian language because I've heard as well from the from the people who are living here longer. When their kids was growing 20 years ago or something, the kids, some of them didn't enjoy Latvian but later date when they turn 20 or 25, they start looking for their roots back in Latvia and then they start studying which was hard. Some parents didn't bring for example children to Latvian school they had opportunity and then children, which are not children anymore they adults in the adult age and they said why you didn't bring me? I don't know. I will be really happy if I know the Latvian language now. That's never happened for them and then at that age you have other things that's good then start learning Latvian.

So like I said the main thing which I can see we can do is giving those roots, giving them they know where they're coming from, to give them and if they wanted to learn more Latvian and speak more Latvian than they know they have an opportunity to do that and they know there is so many people around them who can do that as well.

Judy Caine [00:29:44] So what are your hopes for the future of the Latvian school here at Catthorpe.

Miks Visbulis [00:29:49] It's, it really depends on the teachers and the people around who are interested to come and help because this is volunteer work at the moment. What I'm trying to do from my side is, because as well one of the things what I'm doing are, we're getting really massive support with the premises from the Latvian Welfare Trust, because it's their premises and we can use it. And this is really a massive support. But there is lots of projects in Latvia who is financing as well some things you can do abroad and like for Saturday schools and and all.

Judy Caine [00:30:26] What sort of projects?

Miks Visbulis [00:30:28] You can apply for projects example like you have in Latvian school you will do, set up an event or something, then you can get some finances for it. If you apply for the projects like that but in my case is... because I know that my own money, all money, it sounds maybe silly, but all money like for the Latvian government money who can they can give out yeah, it's coming from taxpayers in Latvia. And that knowing the situation in Latvia I can see better options which they can do there because people can, people who are coming here and for the Saturday schools and paying them like what I'm started as well at the moment. Speaking with Latvian businesses who would like maybe to help us. And like sponsor something so we can help advertise in them and all that just get funds and that way not just from the projects and from the taxpayers.

Judy Caine [00:31:22] It's a big ask isn't it to ask Latvia to fund something over here.

Miks Visbulis [00:31:25] It is but they, they stepping forward to it, they're stepping forward today, they they want to do it, give that funds. But from from my side, and this is why for me sometimes people, people have hard work with me because I don't want to take them, I want to create something and found some new and not just take the money from there.

Judy Caine [00:31:44] No, I understand that, because if you create it here it's more sustainable isn't it? You can carry on without always having to Latvia and so on.

Miks Visbulis [00:31:50] Yes, yes.

Judy Caine [00:31:50] I hear the Latvian ambassador's quite proactive in things?

Miks Visbulis [00:31:58] It is, yes, and that, they really help as well and that as I said what I want to create my, my main plan is to get the financial status here so I can pay the teachers some kind of wage. This will help attract more, more teachers and help to get help to run. Because as well we have in this 4 years, we have teachers are changing every year a few teachers are changing because some become a teacher which we start together at the Saturday school she go back to university. So, you know, she not have much time anymore to join the Saturday school.

Judy Caine [00:32:36] Do the children pay to come to the Saturday school?

Miks Visbulis [00:32:39] Parents are paying 5 pounds per day, like if you have one children, they are paying 5 pounds per time. If you have two children, it's 8 pounds three children 10 pounds for all of them.

So, because we need to cover materials and like what are we paying at the moment we are paying petrol money for teachers who are coming here and as well if the teacher has children we don't ask from the teachers for the classes. So, this is the benefit for teachers getting for being involved and being the teacher since Saturday school. But what I would like to create is that we can pay proper wage for them. And then later is that one of the projects which are as well, a year ago I was I was thinking we can create here, is the as well like the camps are now in the summer we can basically do the camps on every school holiday here which will like ... at the moment we have a progress of one week of learning, just doing the camps every school holiday. We can increase that by five.

Because this is one of one of the things the what parents has taught me as a parent. What I usually struggle with when our kids' holiday, I can't take actually every single time weeks off from the work and then in August, all August off from the work, because nobody, I don't have a three months of holiday every single year.

So I struggle to where, where to, where can I bring the kids on the holidays. So, I found in the camps used to my kids because I was in well with the jujitsu club here in Rugby for a few years I helped them out and they were doing different things and then usually my kids gone there. But with my things, which I'm around at the moment, I really don't have a time to go there now and then my kids' college paid the babysitter.

Judy Caine [00:34:19] How old are your children now?

Miks Visbulis [00:34:23] My children, our youngest one is 4, then I have a son who is 7 and then daughter who is 8 and will be 9 end of this month.

Judy Caine [00:34:28] And you still have a full-time job as well?

Miks Visbulis [00:34:30] I'm running my own recruitment agency; I have business which I run on myself.

Judy Caine [00:34:37] Is that for everyone or just for Latvians?

Miks Visbulis [00:34:38] No it's for everybody, it's just normal recruitment agency. There is, Latvians usually found me, because they can be easier to come when if they have a language barrier that they can come and speak with me in the same language so that that's why there is quite a massive increase with Latvians. But no, it's standard recruitment agency for everyone. And yeah.

Judy Caine [00:35:01] Big plans!

Miks Visbulis [00:35:01] Yes, plans are big. Just need at least 30 hours a day and there should be really nice if there will be 10 days a week not seven. Then, then all plans can come through soon, sooner than planned.

Judy Caine [00:35:20] I know totally where you are coming from on that I really do.

[00:35:20] Well I wish you the very best of luck with that. I really do. I'd love to come and see your school but as I say I'm run a youth club myself on a Saturday and it's really difficult.

Miks Visbulis [00:35:36] So, in the point when we start creating that camps in the school holidays then there will be all week when you can come in one day and see how things are running. Just need to do the things from my side now.

Judy Caine [00:35:53] That sounds brilliant. I've actually pretty much got through all my questions. Is there anything else you want to tell me or have you said pretty much everything you want to say?

Miks Visbulis [00:36:04] I think I've said a pretty much I've talked so much I don't remember everything that I told you already. So, think if you have any questions, I'm more than happy to answer them but I'm not sure if there's something more I can add.

Judy Caine [00:36:18] No, that's wonderful you've given me a real insight into why you started it, who comes, why they come. Why you feel it's important for the youngsters to hang on to their roots; they can always go back to them, which is excellent so thank you very much indeed.

Miks Visbulis [00:36:36] Thank you.

