

Name: Reuben Fiander & Rebekah Eldridge
Address: Medbourne
Date of Birth: [Reuben] 1983 & [Rebekah] 1992
Place of Birth: [Reuben] Kent & [Rebekah] Milton Keynes
Date of Interview: 15th March, 2018
Interviewed by: Dave Harris
Duration: 00:21:45

00:00:04

Today's the 15th March and I'm Dave Harris and I'm interviewing..?

My name's Reuben.

And my name's Rebekah.

And yeah, so we need the year you were born as well, so...

[Rebekah] Yeah okay.

[Reuben] Okay, so do you want full names or just..?

Yeah, yeah.

[Reuben] Okay. My name's Rueben James Fiander and I was born 1983.

[Rebekah] And my name's Rebekah Lynn Eldridge and I was born in 1992.

Okay. So when and where did you first move to Milton Keynes?

[Reuben] I first moved to Milton Keynes when I was about ten years old. I can't remember the exact year that was.

[Rebekah] You was born in 1983 so it would be 1984 – er, 1993...
[Laughs].

[Reuben] Okay. I first moved to Milton Keynes in 1993. I'm originally from Kent.

[Rebekah] And I was born in Milton Keynes Hospital, so I was born here in Milton Keynes in 1992.

So, coming to Milton Keynes, Reuben, what did you think of Milton Keynes at that time? What were your first impressions?

[Reuben] When I first moved to Milton Keynes, my first impressions, I was quite young at the time so I was kind of going through the whole, "I miss my friends. What's it going to be like?" I was scared, I was nervous, when I first moved here but I obviously spent the majority of my childhood there and grew up there and, yeah, I love Milton Keynes. Milton Keynes is a great place. I prefer it to originally...I prefer it to being from where I was before; much prefer it to Kent.

So what do you associate with Milton Keynes?

[Rebekah] I associate home. Whenever someone says Milton Keynes, its home, isn't it?

[Reuben] Yeah, I think...I don't really...I associate it with home, I think, but then I think, when you talk to other people, the first thing that people say is the concrete cows, the roundabouts and now, obviously, the Milton Keynes Dons football team – it depends if you speak to a diehard fan or not because it can go either way, can't it, there? You know, they like Milton Keynes Dons or they're like: "Oh, it used to be Wimbledon."

[Rebekah] You associate roundabouts though, don't you?

[Reuben] Yeah, all the time.

[Rebekah] The main thing's the roundabouts.

[Reuben] Yeah.

So, a bit about your activities now, in Milton Keynes. Have you been actively involved in any organisations, societies or clubs, or is there anything that you've done that is particularly your story of Milton Keynes?

[Reuben] I was involved in...

[Rebekah] You was involved in a local charity, you was. You used to do that.

[Reuben] Local charity.

[Rebekah] That come...that's obviously from Milton Keynes, that charity.

[Reuben] Yeah.

I was thinking more about, you know, your comedy filmmaking and sort of like social media activities.

Yeah, start at the beginning of your comedy filmmaking; that would be great, if you wouldn't mind – or your social media thing that you do.

[Reuben] How we got into it, or..?

Yes, yes. Start from the beginning. That would be lovely.

[Reuben] Okay. How would you..?

[Rebekah] How do you start that?

Well, you said on the phone about how you started just doing it for yourself and then you had really great feedback from your family and friends and then it sort of grew from there; and then you talked about The Sun and The Mirror sort of jumped on you and all of a sudden it exploded – yeah, that sort of story.

[Reuben] Yeah, okay.

[All talk at once]

So how did it all begin? Where did you start off doing this, you know..?

[Rebekah] I think we're both quite jokey...

[Reuben] You've got to put the question in.

[Rebekah] Oh, okay. I think it started probably from where we first met. We met in a little Indian in Stony Stratford and I think we're both quite jokey people, whereas I was always the class clown when I was at school and vice versa, so was he. And I think we used to just joke around and laugh with each other anyway and then we filmed...you filmed it for your sister, didn't you? Sent it to his sister and she was: "Oh, that's quite funny. You should put it on Facebook for everyone else to see." Which we done.

[Reuben] The first video was about Rebekah taking so long to get ready. It was literally I was...I was ready within half an hour and Becca was taking like four hours to get ready – it was ridiculous. And I remember just getting my phone out and just kind of

recording...I was, like, on the floor and then Becca was sat on the floor in the mirror doing her makeup and I just remember saying, "God, why do women take so long to get ready?" And then, the end of it, I can't remember what I said, it was something quite cheeky and then I remember Becca actually giving me a slap... *[Laughs]*...towards the end. And I was like: "Oh, that really hurt, " sort of thing and I thought, ' Oh, that's quite funny,' and I sent it to my sister and my sister and I are very close, we have a very similar sense of humour, and she was like: "Oh, that's brilliant, that's so funny. You should post it online. I think people would like to see it." So I posted it online and then it got a few likes from my friends on there but then what I'd realised that, a lot of other people were sharing it and liking it as well, people that I didn't even know.

[Rebekah] People from Milton Keynes. *[Laughs]*

[Reuben] Yeah, yeah and then it kind of grew from there, didn't it? Everybody was saying, you know, "You should make a YouTube channel and, you know, put these videos up for other people to see." And we did and...

00:05:05

[Rebekah] And ReuBekah Vidz was made in Milton Keynes.

[Reuben] *[Laughs]* Yeah, basically and the Daily Mail liked it and asked if they could share one of our videos. The Mirror did as well. There was other pages, like big viral pages on Facebook that asked if they could post it as well and...Yeah, it was kind of...

[Rebekah] It's gone from there, hasn't it?

[Reuben] Yeah, gone from there really. It's just got bigger and bigger.

So what sort of other topics do you cover, you know, can you give us more of an insight into the work that goes on here?

[Reuben] The sort of videos we do are kind of...they're like prank videos.

[Rebekah] Pranks, challenges.

[Reuben] Yeah, challenge videos, so if there's...we did a video recently where there was these fire noodles that had come out – Korean fire noodles – and we'd managed to get them online from Amazon and everybody's kind of been saying, you know, "You guys should try this, you should try that, they're really spicy." We did them and, yeah... *[Laughs]*...that was...

[Rebekah] They were hot.

[Reuben] Yeah, they were very hot, yeah... *[Laughs]*. So we do challenge videos, prank videos...

[Rebekah] Some of the pranks, it's like you making that ketchup bomb. How did you...you put something in it.

[Reuben] Yeah, I found out that it...

[Rebekah] And then I opened it and it went everywhere.

[Reuben] I found out that with the ketchup it's got vinegar in it so I put bicarbonate of soda in it and then, obviously, when Becca shook it up to have some chips, it kind of just exploded and ruined the whole kitchen. I spent all...

[Rebekah] Literally.

[Reuben] Yeah, I spent all May bank holiday – it was a really...I remember it was really hot and my friends were like, you know: "We're all having a beer and we're going out for barbecues. Do you want to come along?"

I was like: "No, I'm repainting the kitchen." It was terrible; I'd ruined the whole kitchen. The first thing I did was call my mum up and I was like: "Mum, I've messed up."

And she was like: "God!" She was like: "You're thirty now, you need to take care of yourself, you need to stand on your own two feet." But she came over with her little cleaning box and, yeah, we managed to...

[Rebekah] Got all the stains out.

[Reuben] Yeah.

[Rebekah] The other one that done well was cat food pie: so, Reuben obviously loves a pie...

[Reuben] Obviously. *[Laughter]*

[Rebekah]...so I took the inside of the pie out and replaced it with cat food and then fed it to him.

[Reuben] Yeah, it was terrible; it was disgusting.

[Rebekah] You enjoyed that pie, didn't you?

What flavour was it? [Laughter]

[Rebekah] I think it was beef and gravy.

[Reuben] I think it was beef and jelly, or something. It was terrible.

[Rebekah] No, I think it was gravy. Or it might have been jelly. I don't know.

[Reuben] It wasn't even a good brand; it was some really cheap brand as well.

[Rebekah] No, I bought some cheap stuff so he didn't waste the good stuff for the cats. The cats would have told me off: "Don't give him our decent stuff."

Cats don't eat things they don't like, do they? They're like...

[Rebekah] No, yes. No, mine are really fussy, yeah.

So with the ketchup one, for example, have you got footage of that?

[Reuben] Yeah, yeah, we have got footage of the ketchup on the air.

It would be useful if we could...

[Reuben] Yeah.

...if we use maybe just a couple of bits, you know, even the beginning and a couple of...

What do you call your thing online, so people can look it up?

[Rebekah] ReuBekah Vidz, so we're called ReuBekah Vidz, so obviously Reub, Bekah and then Vidz with a z at the end. I don't know why we put the z on the end.

[Reuben] Yeah, we just put the z on it randomly didn't we?

You're obviously a couple as well.

[Rebekah] Yes, yeah.

[Reuben] Yes, unfortunately. *[Laughter]*

So how long have you been together?

[Reuben] We've been together...

[Rebekah] How long have we been together now?

[Reuben] Oh no. We've been together...

[Rebekah] Just over four years.

[Reuben] Yeah, there you go. I was going to say...

[Rebekah] And we started...

[Reuben] I was going to say that.

[Rebekah] Yeah, yeah, course. We start...well, we used to be jokey anyway, like I'd just put salt in his tea and I'm one of these annoying people that you'll be walking up the stairs and I will be hiding round the corner and just shout, "Boo!" and do things like that all the time.

[Reuben] All the time. All the time.

[Rebekah] All the time. Or when you're walking or, you know, you go up the city or something and we're walking, I'll just trip him up and...I'm just annoying like that. But we started with little things like that and then obviously it grew... – now I forgot what I was going to say. Where was I? What was I saying?

[Reuben] You was just talking about you being annoying.

[Rebekah] I was just talking about...yeah. I can't remember what I was going to say. We'll forget that.

So where would you like to take this in the future? You know, how would...can you see it developing any more or..?

[Reuben] We've recently...I think we've changed with our videos, so we started with the prank videos and we did them and then we do the challenges, which are fun, but we also, we've got quite into, like, vlogging as well and recording travel videos – every time we go on holiday, we like to do like a travel vlog – so I think it would just be good to...just to grow bigger I think and just...and do it as a full-time job, would be good. Becca has two small children as well and they've started to get into like YouTube Kids and they wanted cameras for their birthday and for Christmas and things so we...

[Rebekah] They've done a couple of videos with us, haven't they? Challenge videos. And my daughter is very much like me so she will literally creep up behind you and shout "Boo!" behind you and make you jump.

It would actually be good to incorporate some more of Milton Keynes, so some of the things around Milton Keynes, and do some challenges like the ski dome – go and do a challenge at the

ski dome or something like that. It would be good to do different things to get Milton Keynes out there on the page as well as be fun for us... *[Laughs]*.

[Reuben] Yeah.

Okay. Have you got any more questions on their sort of vlogging, video activities, or..?

00:10:00

Yeah, but I guess when I ask the questions, look at the camera.

[Reuben] Yes, yeah.

Talk to Dave, yeah.

So is there anything that you think Milton Keynes...like, living in Milton Keynes has inspired you to do all this stuff? How do you think living here has inspired you or is there support that has helped you progress it, or is it just not really that connected?

[Reuben] I don't know. We was thinking about this, weren't we?

[Rebekah] Yeah, we was thinking how to incorporate the videos in...

It doesn't have to have a Milton Keynes connection.

It doesn't have to. We were just wondering whether it did, that was all.

[Rebekah] No. They're all filmed here, apart from obviously when we went to Thailand and Corfu and things like that and we filmed things there. But they're all filmed here.

[Reuben] I was...

[Rebekah] There's...

[Reuben] Sorry, go on.

[Rebekah] What was you going to say?

[Reuben] I was actually saying to Becca, like recently, that it would be good to do like a vlog of Milton Keynes and kind of incorporate all the good bits that we've got in Milton Keynes. 'Cause there's a lot of greenery and a lot of really nice kind of places. I was taking the dog for a walk on...the other day – well, it was on Tuesday, I think it was – and just being around Furzton Lake and seeing the way the sunset was coming down was like, I would really like to get that kind of shot. I kept saying to Becca

that I'd like to get like a cinematic kind of video of Milton Keynes and incorporate the sunset and different parts of Milton Keynes. I think that would be quite nice 'cause it...Milton Keynes is a lovely place.

[Rebekah] It is, yeah. There's a lot of greenery. He's just got a drone as well and he wants to fly it everywhere. He's got the drone and then went online and found all these restrictions everywhere, so we've got to be careful. And we live right in the vicinity of the prison, 'cause we live over by... – that sounds bad, doesn't it? 'We live in a prison' – we live over by Medbourne – Medbourne, Shenley Lodge – and there's obviously a five mile radius around the prison so we was like: "Oh, let's go fly the drone," and we was like, "Well, we can't do it here, we've got to go all the way over there."

[Reuben] *[Laughs]* Yeah.

[Rebekah] So we need to be careful where we fly that.

Okay, so back to some Milton Keynes questions then, so... What do you think has made Milton Keynes a success or a failure?

[Rebekah] Cor, that's a good question, isn't it?

[Reuben] I think I...personally, I really...being from Kent and then moving to Milton Keynes, I often visit Kent quite a lot and, like I was saying earlier, that I much prefer Milton Keynes. I think it's more accessible to places like London and Birmingham. It's not too far away but you don't have the kind of hustle and bustle of London. So I like...I enjoy going to London quite a lot but I'm very happy to come back home to Milton Keynes and, like I say, I think there's a good mixture of nice places here as well as up-and-coming things to do, so if you do want a bit of peace and quiet, you've got your nice areas like Furzton Lake, you've got Willen Lake, you've got Campbell Park, which I really enjoy, as well as the up-and-coming shops and restaurants and bars and things that are in Milton Keynes, so I personally...I love Milton Keynes. I think Milton Keynes is a great place to have a family and to do...

[Rebekah] I think it's more successful than it is unsuccessful though.

[Reuben] Yes, definitely, yeah.

[Rebekah] And I do feel safe here as well so, you know, when you go and visit different cities and towns and stuff and, you know, although you're not from there, you walk around and it's...some places are really busy or some places have like crowds of people or things like that whereas Milton Keynes doesn't really have that

unless there's an event going on. It's quite...you know, it's always moving and it's busy but it's not majorly busy, as you said, like, when you go London it's...I hate going to London, it's so busy, like, stupidly busy, but if you go to Milton Keynes, like up the city centre, it's not always; it's not always busy and crazy like it is anywhere else.

[Reuben] I think it's a nice mixture of both. Up-and-coming as well as, you can have kind of peaceful...it can be peaceful as well. It's not...

[Rebekah] I like the fact there's a bit of everything here as well, there's something for everybody.

[Reuben] Yeah, definitely.

[Rebekah] Like you've got the ski dome and it's got obviously your skiing and things like that, which I can't even say another city where it's got a ski dome... *[Laughs]*. Or you can go skydiving in a building.

[Reuben] And there's lots to do for the children as well. As I said, Becca's got two small children and there's always things to do for them, isn't there? There's always an event going on or a place you can take them.

So if you could go back fifty years, as a sort of town planner, what do you think – with the hindsight that you've got now – what do you think that you would do different...is there anything different that you would have done for Milton Keynes? Or incorporated into Milton Keynes?

[Short break in interview]

[Reuben] Anything I'd do different?

Of course you may think its perfect, in which case we'll carry on.

[Reuben] No, I was just thinking if there was anything I would...

[Rebekah] Anything different? I...

What don't you like about it, basically?

Is there anything you don't like, you know, anything you would have changed and you think, 'Well, we could have done that better.'?

00:15:02

[Reuben] I'm just trying to think.

[Rebekah] I don't think there's much you would, like, change – “Oh, that's, like, terrible.” I like the fact that there's like all the different estates; I like that there's kind of...it's kind of like, not different towns in the estates, but kind of like different communities in each estate, you know, there's different, like...for instance there's like Greenleys Town Council, Wolverton Town Council. I like the fact that there's all like Stony Town Council – there's all different areas of Milton Keynes and there's always something different going on.

[Reuben] Is there anything you'd change?

[Rebekah] I don't think there's anything I'd change. I like the roundabouts; I think they're...you know, I'm used to roundabouts. You go some places and no one knows how...they don't know how to use a roundabout. Like, when we go to Corfu, they go the wrong way and everything and it's like: “Come on, like, it's a roundabout.”

[Reuben] Yeah, we've mastered roundabouts. Yeah I remember doing...

[Rebekah] I don't think I'd change them though. I might – apart from things like speed limits: I'd probably put them down. I don't think you need to go that fast on the roads 'cause there's a roundabout a hundred yards up ahead so you don't need to go, you know...things like that but I don't think there's anything major that you could really change that would make it either better or worse.

[Reuben] I think I probably wouldn't have...I wouldn't change anything back then. I think *now* there's some changes happening to Milton Keynes which aren't as good as they were before so, for example, there's so much traffic now and it takes...it can take me...to go to work in the morning, it can take me ten, twenty minutes to get off my estate, which is somewhat frustrating. But it's good because obviously the city's thriving and there's more people coming but I am worried that a lot of our greenery that we've got is going.

[Rebekah] It's going to be built on, yeah. Especially down towards Stony Stratford. There's all that greenery there that looks lovely but they're building like a whole big complex of houses along all that, all the way down. And there's some quite nice fields there. I remember going there – when you're kids you go out exploring and stuff and I remember walking through all them fields and now it's going to be houses. It's good that they're building more houses but you don't necessarily need them. But then there's a lot of homeless and stuff in Milton Keynes where they do need the houses, so...

[Reuben] Yeah.

[Rebekah] Yeah, no.

Yeah, that's almost answered some of the...what do you think the next fifty years is going to bring?

[Reuben] Oh, sorry. *[Laughter]*

No, no. [All talk at once]

How do you see the next fifty years?

[Rebekah] I see the next fifty years as more houses going up. More houses going up and more... I think...I'm hoping that Milton Keynes doesn't go as big as London. I know we're what they call the next big city but I wouldn't want it to be as busy and full-on and chaotic as London. They've just mentioned about a fourteen storey hotel going on the back end of the city centre and, yeah, you probably do need more hotels here 'cause it is busy and there's a lot of businesspeople that come to the city and work and need to stay but I don't think it needs to be right on top of the city centre. I like the city centre as it is. I like the fact the market's still there, although they've tried closing that for a time. I still don't know if that's still going to close or not. But I like the fact that there's that market there but then you can go indoors and there's the more up-and...You know, the upmarket shops and things like that. So I like the fact that there's a mixture.

I don't like the fact that they're getting rid of all the nightclubs. That's not a very nice thing to do 'cause they were quite good. There's not many of them around anymore, is there? But there's always lots of places to eat but...

[Reuben] Yeah, I think I'm the same.

[Rebekah] ...I reckon they're just going to keep building and building and building and it's going to get bigger and bigger and bigger and it will be shame because, like, the things that are in...so I work in a little village pub in Sherington. That's in Milton Keynes but you wouldn't think it was in Milton Keynes if you went there 'cause it's literally like a little village: there's a little pub, there's a little shop and it's like a little, you know, little community. And then you've got Emberton on from that, and Olney – they're all in the vicinity of Milton Keynes but you wouldn't think they were in Milton Keynes 'cause they're in like the countryside. And I like that they're in the countryside, they...you know, they're nice out there but if we keep building then we're going to crowd them and

then they'll be within the whole hustle and bustle of Central Milton Keynes, is what they call it.

[Reuben] Yeah, I feel pretty much the same, echoing what Becca said. Obviously, being a bit older and coming to Milton Keynes, I've seen obviously lots of changes in that time and some of them have been good but I really do hope that it doesn't get overcrowded because I think that will take the special out of Milton Keynes, I think, personally.

That's a good...that's a good phrase, yeah.

So, if there was one phrase then that you could sum up...you know, to sum up, how would you sum up Milton Keynes in one phrase, one word?

'Milton Keynes means...' or 'is...'

What Milton Keynes means, yeah.

[Rebekah] What's that of 'Milton Keynes is the next big city' isn't it? That's what they say.

00:20:00

[Reuben] What do you say though? What would you..? I would say...

[Rebekah] Milton Keynes has got diversity for everybody. Is that the right word? *[Laughs]*

[Reuben] When I think of Milton Keynes I think 'home'. Being from somewhere else originally and now Milton Keynes, I would always consider Milton Keynes to be my home and I think that if I ever moved on, I would consider Milton Keynes to be my home although it wasn't essentially my first home.

[Rebekah] So what would you call Milton Keynes then?

[Reuben] Home; I would say home.

[Rebekah] Milton Keynes is home?

[Reuben] Yeah, that's what I would think. Every time I think of Milton Keynes I would say 'home'.

I think that's where we'll end.

That's a lovely...nice ending. I think that's a lovely ending.

I don't know if you ever watched Creature Comforts, but that was a... [Laughter]

[Rebekah] [I'm sure he shed a tear there [unclear 00:20:50].

There's a project for you. You could put your voices on over the top of the...

[Reuben] Voiceover.

Is there anything else that you would like to add before we..? Do you feel you've..?That's lovely.

[Rebekah] I don't think so.

[Reuben] No, I don't think so, yeah. Was that okay?

Yeah, lovely.

[Rebekah] I remember watching that video – did you ever watch that video when Milton Keynes was first made and they done that video of all the...I think it was in Fullers Slade and they had...

[Reuben] And Wolverton as well.

[Rebekah] In Wolverton?

[Reuben] It was Wolverton as well in that thing, yeah.

[Rebekah] Oh, was it?

[Reuben] I think so, yeah.

[Rebekah] And there was all about Milton Keynes and they was meant to put the monorail in and things like that and now, looking at what Milton Keynes has become, it kind of has come that way but it's kind of gone beyond. They've not done a monorail or anything, have they?

[Reuben] No.

No, I think a lot of people say that's the biggest...

[Rebekah] But then, would it have worked?

Well, I still think it, you know, partly could work, just a loop in and...

00:21:45

END OF INTERVIEW