**Armchair Adventures, Episode 8- Transcript**

00:00 [THEME MUSIC STARTS]

Connie: Hi guys, welcome to Armchair Adventures- hosted by me, Connie.

Connie: On this episode I’m joined by some very special people. My family run travel agents was supposed to be organising them a trip to Buckingham Palace to have tea with the Queen, but because of coronavirus it was cancelled. Hi guys, I hope an Armchair Adventure will help you feel better about missing out. So why were you visiting the Queen in the first place, are you members of the Royal family?

Debs: No Connie, we are veterans of the armed forces.

Connie: What does that mean?

Martin: Well, we have all served our country and the Queen as part of the armed forces.

Hazel: In the Army, Navy or RAF- Royal Air Force.

Debs: Hi I’m Debs – RAF – I was on a training squadron.

Martin: Hi I’m Martin – British Army Bandsman

Jan: Hi I’m Jan– I was a Wren way back in 1970s

Hazel: Hi I’m Hazel– Army also in the 1970s- it was the WRAC then- the women’s royal army corps.

Lee: Hiya I’m Lee– Royal Army Medical Corps

John: Hello I’m John– Army, then Territorial Army, then 5 years with Lancashire Fusiliers

Connie: Oh I see, that’s amazing, I’m so excited to have you with us. Sorry your trip got cancelled.

Jan: Well, you can’t have it all Connie, we all have to make sacrifices and work together to fight this virus.

Lee: We’d rather families can see each other again and the schools stay open so young people like you can get an education.

John: Parties, even of the royal kind, can wait.

Connie: That’s very understanding of you, but my education is not going well at the moment.

Hazel: There’s lots of ways to be successful Connie.

John: Take the Queen's garden party for example.

The Queen's garden parties are a way of honouring and thanking members of the public who have gone above and beyond in serving charities and local communities.

Jan: The queen welcomes over 30,000 guests in her garden. There are over 27,000 cups of tea drunk and 20,000 slices of cake served.

Connie: That’s a lot of tea and cake. I know listener, let’s pretend to drink dainty cups of tea and nibble pieces of posh cake. Ready, go!

[SLURPING SOUND EFFECT]

Connie: Oh very posh. What else happens at the Queen's garden party?

John: Well, the national anthem is played by a military band and royals circulate meeting guests. It’s an amazing experience.

Connie: I know listener, let’s all pretend to be royalty mingling in the garden shaking hands with people and saying ‘how do you do’ to everyone we meet. Ready, go!

Lee: The garden parties are also a way of thanking members of the military community, just like us.

Debs: You see Connie, ‘serving’ is a big part of who we all are in the military. It gives life purpose.

Hazel: And you don’t have to join the military to serve people. There are lots of ways to do that.

Connie: I think I’ve got an idea, the actual Queen's garden party may have been cancelled. But there is nothing stopping us going on an armchair adventure to the Queen's garden party. What do you think?

[ALL IN AGREEMENT]

Jan: Ok, Connie lets do it. But let’s make it a journey to the Queen's garden party to discover what a life of service is all about.

[ARMCHAIR ADVENTURES THEME]

[GULLS, WIND, WAVES]

Connie: Wow, you all look so smart and I’m looking a right scruff bag!

Lee: Number 1s to visit the Queen Connie.

Connie: Number 1s?

Lee: Number 1s means your smartest uniform for special occasions. Bib and tucker, shiny medals, sword, peaked hats, gold thread, the lot. Everything has to be pristine.

Jan: Your shoes and your buttons should be that clean and sparkly you can eat your dinner off them.

Connie: I know listener, let’s pretend to be polishing our shoes and buttons ready for an important event.

John: Don’t forget to really put some elbow grease into it.

Connie: Elbow grease?

Hazel: It means rub very hard.

Connie: Oh right, I see. Yes ok, plenty of elbow grease listener. Ready, Go!

[POLISHING SOUNDS]

Connie: Phew! That was hard work. What about you Debs, you’re in a beautiful dress?

Debs: Thank you Connie. Yes, if you don’t fancy your number 1s you can wear a dress. The Queen's garden party is next up from your wedding day if you ask me. It’s important you dress to impress.

Connie: Oh, right, dress to impress? That definitely isn’t me today. I tell you what, I’ll just get you all there and then leave you to it. After all it is you lot who are being recognised for your achievements, I’m just a school kid.

Lee: We went by sea the last time.

Jan: No we didn’t, we went by air.

Lee: Sea.

Jan: Air.

Hazel: Are we going by land?

Jan/Debs (together): No chance.

Martin: Well, we’re here now at the harbour and my boat is shipshape and Bristol fashion.

Connie: What are you lot talking about? And why are we at a harbour?

Jan: Every year we take it in turns to travel to London by land, sea or air?

Connie: Why?

John: Because the military is made up of the army- land, navy- sea and RAF- air.

Connie: Oh I see.

Martin: But no one can remember whose turn it is.

Hazel: Land

Jan: No sea.

Debs: No it is definitely air!

Connie: Let’s find a compromise guys. No need to argue, this is an Armchair Adventure, and we can go anywhere we like, and we can travel in any way we like, so let’s just take it in turns.

Debs: Ok Connie, that sounds fair enough.

Martin: Well, we’re here now so may as well start with my boat.

Connie: Ok guys, including you listener, clamber aboard Martin’s boat. Off. We. Go!

Martin: Hold onto your hats!

[SOUNDS OF PEOPLE UNEASY ON THEIR FEET, THEN THE MOTOR STARTS AND WOAHS COMMENCE]

Connie: Wow! This is amazing!

[MOTOR SPLUTTERS]

Lee: What’s happened?

Martin: The motor’s gone.

Jan: Did you fill her up before we set off?

Martin: Well, sort of.

Jan: Sort of, what do you mean sort of?

Martin: Sorry, no. But don’t worry, I have plenty of oars, we can row back to shore.

John: Right, give me that oar!

Jan: No that one’s mine. Well, give me that oar then.

John: I’m rowing on my own here you lot.

Debs: You’re doing it all wrong.

John: No, you’re doing it all wrong!

Hazel: No you are.

[SPLISH SPLASH OF WATER, AND DRUMS START]

Connie: Guys, stop! You’ve got to work as a team otherwise we’ll never make any progress. We are heading that way towards that beach. So, everyone face that way. Grab your oars and after three follow my lead, 1 2 3 pull! And pull. And pull! That’s it, you're doing it. Well done everyone!

[FLAME]

Connie: Where are we now? What’s that?

Debs: It’s a hot air balloon. Time to travel by air.

Lee: I’m scared.

Connie: It’s perfectly normal to be scared Lee, but don’t worry I’ll look after you.

Lee: Thanks Connie.

Debs: Right, into the basket you lot. And you listener! Budge over you lot! Off we go!

[EVERYONE IMPRESSED AND COMMENTING ON THE SIGHTS]

Connie: Look at that view! It’s amazing.

John: Move out the way, I want to stand on this side.

Jan: I was here first.

Debs: I’m in charge and I want to stand on this side.

Hazel: Well let’s all stand on this side.

Debs: No, don’t all stand one side or the basket will…

[AHHHS]

Jan: Put more gas in Debs we need to go higher.

[GAS FLAMES]

Jan: Arrgh, that’s made it worse, take us back down, take us back down.

Lee: I’m really scared now Connie, do something!

Connie: Stop everyone. Pause. Breathe. Now slowly but surely spread out. Jan you go in this corner, Hazel move over there. John stay there. Lee stay with me and keep calm, everything is going to be ok. That’s it everyone, work together and spread the weight equally across the basket. Now Debs, slowly bring us down in that field. That’s it. Well done everyone.

[MILITARY DRUMS]

Lee: Thanks Connie. I don’t know what we would have done without.

Connie: Brace yourself for a little bump everyone as we land, including you listener, but it is nothing to worry about.

[THUD]

[REV OF MOTORBIKES]

Connie: So what are we doing now?

Lee: Traveling by land.

Connie: How?

Hazel: We march.

Connie: March?

Hazel: Absolutely. There’s a lot of marching in the forces. Arms straight with thumbs pressed down, always step off on your left foot, and then swing your arms from front to back.

Connie: Ok listener, let’s practice by marching on the spot.

Hazel: By the left, quick march!

[MARCHING FOOTSTEPS]

Connie: Well that was quite tiring. How far to London is it?

Hazel: Oh only about another hundred miles.

Connie: A hundred miles of marching. We will never make it.

[REVS CONTINUE]

Connie: Who are they?

Lee: They’re a motorcycle club Connie.

Jan: They wear leather clothes covered in embroidered pictures of skulls and fire and wings and all sorts.

John: They have long hair or shaved heads.

Debs: And colourful tattoos all over their body.

Hazel: And they drive the biggest baddest motorbikes imaginable- Harley Davison’s, Triumphs, you name it.

Connie: Well, I’ll just pop over and ask them if we can borrow some motor bikes- that’ll be better than marching.

[LAUGHTER]

Connie: What so funny?

Lee: You can’t just swan over and ask a motorcycle club if you can borrow their bikes.

John: Have you seen what they look like?

[REVS GET LOUDER] [MILITARY DRUMS CONTINUE]

Connie: You shouldn’t judge people by how they look. I never do. You lot wait here, I’m going in.

Jan: No Connie.

Debs: Don’t be silly.

Lee: Connie you can’t just…

[REVS AND DRUMS CONTINUE, VOICES IN BACKGROUND]

Hazel: What did they say?

Lee: Shall we run away? Are they angry with us- they look angry?

Connie: No, no, no, don’t be silly. They were lovely. Many of them are ex-military too.  They’d love to help.

Lee: They would?

Connie: Absolutely. Everyone grab a helmet and hop on your motorbike, including you listener.

Connie: Buckingham palace here we come.

[LOUD REVS AND MOTORBIKE SOUNDS]

Lee: I feel free, open road, no feeling like it.

Connie: How do you feel riding a motorbike as part of a motorcycle club listener?

Jan: Look I can see the Gherkin building.

Debs: There’s the millennium dome

Hazel: And the London eye.

John: There’s tower bridge.

Lee: And the houses of parliament.

Martin: It’s big ben! Listen! [BIG BEN CHIMES] And here’s Nelson Column.

Connie: And there up ahead is Buckingham palace everyone.

All: In awe

[ARMCHAIR ADVENTURE MUSIC STARTS]

Jean: Hi listener, it’s me. Jean. My Armchair Adventure was an artistic adventure back in episode 4. I’m so excited because it’s time to announce the winners of our art competition. I’m so happy to have inspired so many of you to use art as a way of expressing yourself and getting closer to the people and things that you love. First, I’d like to give a special mention to Maggie and Ivan who did some fantastic pictures, but as they are related to some of the creators of Armchair Adventures, we couldn’t include you in the final decision. All the runners up some from Year 3 at Millbrook Primary. With the support of their fab teacher, Julia Roberts. They are, Phoebe who created a rock climbing and skydiving adventure, Charlotte for a fairground adventure, Abigail for a safari adventure, Oscar for a seaside adventure and Theo for a camping adventure. You guys will have your pictures on Made by Mortals online gallery. I’d also like to give another special mention to the winner’s brother, Ben, who drew a city full of his favourite things: the seaside, football and sweets. The winner is Emma Fielding, aged 5. She drew a dream city with fairground rides, and shops. A fairy castle with stalls in it, swimming pool, every day is a birthday in her adventure. Watch out for an Armchair Adventure episode starring Emma in the coming months. I can’t wait!

[ARMCHAIR ADVENTURE THEME MUSIC GETS LOUDER, THEN FADES]

Connie: Look at all these people. Look at all the security personnel, I’ve not seen anything like it. Look at what that guard is wearing- a big fluffy hat, a red coat, black trousers and a big gun. Is he in his number 1s Lee?

Lee: That’s a member of the Queen’s guard Connie.

Connie: I thought he was a statue for a moment. He’s standing very still isn’t he.

John: Oh yes. The Queen’s guards are some of the most skilled soldiers you can get. He won’t move a muscle unless he’s called upon to protect the Queen or her estate.

Martin: You can pull funny faces at him if you want Connie, he won’t laugh.

Connie: He will. I’m an expert at funny faces, I’ll make him laugh easy, you lot watch this!

[STRETCHING TO PULL FUNNY FACE AND MAKING FUNNY NOISES]

Connie: Wow, he really doesn’t move, that was one of my specials as well. My cousin Sura laughed so hard she splurted Ribena back out of her nose last time I pulled that one. Ok, listener, you have a go. Imagine that the Queens guard is in front of you, and you are trying to make them laugh by pulling the funniest face you can. Ready, go!

[EVERYONE PULLING FUNNY FACES]

Connie: No, he didn’t move a centimetre.

John: They're very dedicated to their job Connie.

Jan: With security like this, it’s a good job we have our tickets.

Connie: Tickets, what tickets?

Jan: Tickets to get us past security, you don’t think they would just let us in without tickets do you?

Connie: Oh no, what am I going to do, I haven’t got any tickets for you guys. I’m so useless, we have come all this way and you won’t be able to get in to see the Queen. I’ve really let you down. I’m useless at school and now I’m even useless at being a travel agent too. Armchair Adventures are the only thing I’m any good at.

Soldier: Armchair Adventures!?

Connie: What? Sorry? Was that..?

Hazel (whisper): That’s the Queen’s guard Connie

Soldier: Armchair Adventures, did you say?

Connie: Errr…yes.

Soldier: My three kids love Armchair Adventures. They’ve listened to every episode. They even made me give you a five-star rating and a review- which I didn’t mind, cause you lot are brilliant! This isn’t the usual gang of customers though is it Connie?

Connie: No, no this is a group of veterans of the armed forces.

Soldier: And you’ve forgot your tickets I hear and can’t get into the Queen’s garden party?

Connie: Absolutely, yes, I’m afraid so.

Soldier: Well, come with me then.

Connie: Right.

[SHUFFLE OF FEET]

Everyone: Thank you, thanks very much!

Soldier: Come on Connie, hurry along, I’ve got to get back at my post.

Connie: Oh sorry, don’t let me keep you. I’m not going you see.

Soldier: Why not?

Connie: Well, I’m not actually invited and well… look at me, I’m hardly dressed for a garden party.

Soldier: Oh, I see. Don’t worry about that, my wife is one of the royal dressers. I’ll give her a call, she’ll soon get you kitted out. Go on. Get in there. It’s an opportunity not to be missed.

Connie: Oh, ok then. Thank you.

[GLASSES CLINK AND ROYAL MUSIC PLAYS]

John: Beautiful hats.

Hazel: Smiling faces.

Jan: Pristine gardens.

Debs: Colourful dresses.

Lee: Everything matching.

John: Flowers everywhere.

Lee: Handbags, make-up and medals.

Debs: Bling

Martin: Everyone looking dapper.

Jan: Spot on perfect.

Lee: And here’s someone that outshines them all.

John: The Queen?

Lee: Well, yes, but no, I mean Connie. Look!

John: Oh Connie, you look fabulous.

[ALL IN AGREEMENT]

Connie: Thanks guys, it’s not too much is it? I mean, I’m not even supposed to be here really. I mean, I’ve not actually done anything that deserves honouring.

Debs: Connie you look sensational, now let’s see you walk in that dress with some real swagger. It’s nice to look the part, but looking good is all about attitude. You mark my words.

Connie: Thanks Debs, ok everyone, including you listener, let's imagine we are dressed in amazing clothes and we are walking around a garden party with bags of confidence- like a fashion model on the catwalk or something, ready? Go!

Connie: That was mega fun. I’m starting to feel a bit more confident now. So, what have the people at this party done to get invited here?

Martin: Well, lots of things really.

Jan: Some people have shown bravery and courage in the face of extremely challenging circumstances.

Debs: And people are also here because they have sacrificed their time, skills and energy to help others in their hour of need. The Queen's garden party is a very special thing to be a part of.

Connie: That’s it. I’m sorry, but I’ve got to go. I don’t deserve to be here with all these people. I know you all mean well by being so welcoming to me, but I’m just a school kid, and I’m not even doing very well at school at the moment. I’m going to sneak back out the trade person’s entrance. Please don’t try and stop me.

[FAN FAIR]

Soldier: Please be upstanding for the Queen.

John: You can’t go now Connie the Queen is here.

Connie: Oh right, ok. Fair enough.

John: Look at her, doesn’t she look marvellous.

Connie: She does have a certain aura surrounding her. It’s quite remarkable.

The Queen: Welcome one and all to my garden party. It is my great pleasure to be honouring such a fine array of specially invited guests.

Soldier: Your majesty, one moment please.

We hear whispering.

Connie: Oh no I’m done for now. The Queen's guard is going to tell the Queen I’m not supposed to be here. They’ll probably lock me up in the tower, or worse- they don’t chop people’s heads off anymore so that’s a relief- or do they?

Queen: Oh I see. It has come to my attention that there is someone in our mitts that has not got an official ticket.

Connie: I’m so sorry your majesty, please forgive me, I’ll leave immediately.

Queen: It has also come to my attention that this person is the teenager responsible for helping people in lockdown through Armchair Adventures. Is this true, young lady?

Connie: It is your majesty.

Queen: Well, one loves going on an Armchair Adventure. I have had a marvellous time joining in with you and your customers over these last few months. What an amazing achievement. Well done.

Connie: I couldn’t have done it without my amazing customers and my listeners of course marm.

Queen: Well quite. Hello listener, yes you who is listening right now. I want you to say ‘why hello your majesty’ in your poshest voice. Ready, Go!

Queen: Did one do that correctly Connie?

Connie: Absolutely your majesty.

Queen: Good. Now I have also become aware that you may have some concerns about your education. I believe some friends of yours have words of advice on that very thing.

Connie: They do?!

[MILITARY DRUMS START]

Lee: Be patient Connie.

John: And keep it up.

Jan: Remember to be kind to yourself.

Martin: There’s more to life than textbooks you know.

Deb: You’re not alone Connie, there’s always somebody that you can go to for help.

Hazel: The leadership and communication skills you have shown getting us here Connie are remarkable. You should be very proud of everything you have achieved since this pandemic started. We all believe you have a very bright future ahead of you.

Connie: Oh guys, I don’t know what to say, thank you.

Queen: Thank you to all my wonderful guests for your service.

[MUSIC STARTS]

A life of service, is never ending.

Supporting others in their need.

Giving and sharing.

Listening and learning.

Ask yourself, how good can you be?

We may sail through tricky waters.

And fly through darkened skies.

But we march as one together.

And never give up. Always try.

A life of service, forever lasting.

Helping others in their need.

Teaching, understanding.

Protecting and caring.

Ask yourself, how good can you be?

We may sail through tricky waters.

And fly through darkened skies.

But we march as one together.

And never give up. Always try.

And when tough times come, they won’t get the better of me.

I’ll stand up tall and show you how good I can be.

Together, with kindness

Commitment and pride

We belong to serve the people in our lives.

We belong to serve the people in our lives.

We belong to serve the people in our lives.

And when tough times come, they won’t get the better of me.

I’ll stand up tall and show you how good I can be.

And when tough times come, they won’t get the better of me.

I’ll stand up tall and show you how good I can be.

Together, with kindness, commitment and pride.

We belong to serve the people in our lives.

We belong to serve the people in our lives.

We belong to serve the people in our lives.

[RED ARROWS FLY OVERHEAD]

Connie: How are we going to get back then guys?

Martin: I think we’ll just go be coach this time Connie.

Connie: Come on, that’s so boring!

[REV AND BEEP]

Queen: Fancy a lift Connie, I’ve always wanted to ride one of these babies!

Connie: Yes please, your majesty! See you back there guys!

[REVS OFF INTO THE DISTANCE]

Lee: How incredible. That was an experience I’ll never forget.

John: Me neither.

Martin: Too right

Hazel: Absolutely.

Connie: Thank you guys. It’s been an incredible Armchair Adventure. And it’s taught me so much. I’ve learnt the importance of service. I’ve also learnt that I have lots of skills that will be useful to me both now and in the future. Even though school feels tough right now, I’m going to stick at it and remember that there’s lots of ways to be successful in life.

Debs: We’re really pleased to hear you say that Connie. Thank you. Today has been really special.

Connie: Well, I have the best customers a travel agent could ask for- thank you. Next time listener, another one of my lovely customers gets to take us on another Armchair Adventure, inspired by their passions and interests, but for now, it’s time to say goodbye. Goodbye.

Everyone: [GOODBYES]

Connie: End. Call. Now.

Connie: Lovely.

[ARMCHAIR ADVENTURE PLAYS]

Rita: Hi, it’s me. Rita. What an incredible Armchair Adventure that was. We’re going to have a little break from making full episodes for a bit. I for one am pooped! It’s been non-stop since the pandemic started. Don’t worry though. There’ll be some bonus material released throughout the summer months. And we’ll be back with a new series in the Autumn. It’s going to be fan-blooming-tastic. So please, if you haven’t already, subscribe, rate and review. Bye for now! See you!

Lee: This episode was a Made by Mortals production, in collaboration with a group of veterans from the Armed Forces and supported by the veterans foundation, the national lottery, the arts council of England, Tameside MBC and Action together.