

Baby Boomers Talkin' About My Generation

Is Retirement Dead?

The up and coming baby boomer generation may change the face of retirement in UK

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Angle

Comparing first wave of baby boomers experience loosely to previous 'traditional retirement' in 1950's & 60's when baby boomers' parents/grandparents retired.

Compare that to the so-called X-generation and Thatcher's children Redefining 'retirement'.

Social, Political and economic impacts of such a large older generation Comparisons with other European countries

Intro

A brief summary of what the programme/series will cover. A kind of fast forward, sort of morphing of images, introducing the characters that will appear in the programme.

Background

Growing up in Sixties libertarian culture, shrugging off the grey 1950's, Born into The Welfare State – cradle to the grave. Greater financial independence. 'Golden age' - first generation not to be enlisted for war. Growth of social mobility for some becoming 'new millionaires' with the value of their property assets.

Set the scene with how the welfare state came about. Use archive footage from people's old photo's, home movies and BFI footage.

People talking about what life felt like in those days- perhaps the parents of the baby boomers expressing their hopes and fears for their children at the time.

People telling us what it was like being teenagers at the time and what attitudes, expectations there were about going into the job market or not- did they see themselves getting jobs for life, were they going to do what their parents did? What about the anti-establishment attitude?¹

Stepping in to the world of work

What age were they? What did they do? What were their expectations?

Dreams, hopes, fears?

A brief history of the baby boomers in employment

Through the interviews we'll have a look at the changes that happened through their working lives. Some may have adapted well to changing times,

¹ This is an area well covered by the media in terms of the middle classes, so we'll look at it through the eyes of working class and immigrant population more.

others not so well. We'll ask about their children. What were the hopes and expectations for them. Many of their children would have been born under thatcher. Again, interviews with a mix of home and archive footage as well as backgrounds

Time to Retire

They are about to stop work, think about a life change. What are the options out there? They've seen those older than them fail to cope with retirement.

People have had strokes, breakdowns, mental health problems.

They're aware that there are problems with pensions.

They don't want to see their children having to work til they're 80 to have to pay for their health, they don't want their children caring for them. They don't trust their children to earn enough to support them. They never had children and don't have those kind of worries.

They see communities breaking up.

They see areas being regenerated providing endless homogenous 1-2 bedroom flats and young people not having children til their 30's or even 40's.

Fast forward to 2025

- You are in your eighties-hopes & fears?
- How much money will I have to live on?
- Who will provide care?
- Where will I be living?
- Will I be a carer?

Here we can split the programme into to sections. These sections can be juggled around as they all link together really, but I think some of it depends on what we get from the participants. I've indicated in the list below which aspects relate to the wider subjects.

- Money/Economics
- Quality of Life/work/community/quality of death
- Health/care
- Politics/sociology- what will be the outcome?

Factors & aspects of baby boomers situation & experience

- Longer life expectation – male & female. Prospect of 20 plus years retirement. **QL/H**
- Different expectations about ageing (link to Gail Sheehey's New Passages). **QL/H**
- Early retirement experience (50 plus) **QL**
- Phenomenon of 'serial retirement.' **P/S**
- Multicultural aspects of retirement-including back to 'home' country. **QL**
- Growing insecurity of occupational pensions **££**
- Continuing erosion of state pension – for some, prospect of low income. **££/H**
- Current and future financial demands by adult children still in further education and assistance in purchasing property. (including re-mortgaging to subsidies Adult children). **££**
- Growth in Grey pound! **££**
- Phenomenon of 'New Millionaires' with value of property assets. **££**

- Increase in rate of marital breakdown (now particularly in later life) **QL**
- Second families and late parenting – younger children and financial commitments into later life. **££**
- Rise in inheritance transfers of property-finances. **££**
- Uncertain NHS services- prospect of paying for private health care. **£/H**
- Partner relationships – longer in retirement **QL**
- Increase of older people living alone **QL/H**
- Civil partnerships – same sex couples including changes in inheritance transfers. **££**
- Increased incidence of alcoholism in later life **QL/H**
- High risk of depression/suicide in 60plus (males)? **QL/H**
- Increased opportunities for concessionary leisure, learning, community involvement, mentoring, volunteering activities, and world travel ‘Saga Louts! **QL/£**
- Increase in living/retiring abroad. **QL**
- Increased opportunities for work (anti age discrimination act) **££/W**
- Downshifting – home, lifestyle, outgoings. **QL**
- New role of grand parenting – support (at a distance?) child care? **QL**
- Redefining aspects of loss – independence, expectations, bereavement **QL/H/C**
- Future care – own care, caring for partner/sandwich generation of care, paying for care in the future. **QL/H/C/££**
- Fear of new challenges to older life – Alzheimer’s, Cancer, Stroke, Heart disease **H/C**
- Last orders – euthanasia, living will, last rites- facing up to mortality. **QL/H/QD**

Additional Notes

Possible Themes of project:

Life Expectancy / Health – Care / Work / Relationships

Additional Questions the film should ask

- What are these people going to do about it?
- How are they going to keep themselves out of abusive homes, in a community, cared for by families?
- What do they want the future to be for their generation?
- What comparisons would they make to their children’s generation?

Include

- Social/Political Background
- Use of archive footage- home movie and BFI
- Base wider project on 10-12 couples/families/individuals
- Diversity- north/south
- Working/middle class
- Ethnic minorities
- Italian & French families

Possible Programme Headings

Quality of Life

Money

Health

Changing Times

Quality of Death

How do we compare with Europe?

Note: In 2004 the UK baby boomers held 80% of the UK's wealth and bought 80% of all top of the range cars, 80% of cruises and 50% of skincare products