



*Family reunion, March 2016*

*Speech by Viscount Jonathan Rochdale\**

*Good evening, on behalf of myself and my family I would like to say how fantastic it is to see you all. We had the privilege of knowing many of you as we were growing up and we will always be grateful for that.*

*I think many of you are aware of the breakdown in my relationship with my father and some of the ramifications of that. This evening I would like to share with you the positive things that I have learnt from this whole experience.*

*I am certain that developing and having an ability to understand and get on with people I come in contact with on a day-to-day basis makes a big difference.*

*I have found over the years that I get a real sense of personal satisfaction and achievement from helping out or doing something for others. This can be even more satisfying, when it is least expected. It is really easy to create little moments of 'joie de vivre' just by being complimentary and it can be to anyone, maybe the person serving me in a café. And if I can make them laugh or smile it is even better!*

*There are definitely times in life when it is worth standing up for what you believe in even when the easier path to is to probably let things go by. The real benefit of standing up is not necessarily the result, it is actually how it makes one a stronger person.*



*Adversity affects us all. When in those moments, I sometimes ask myself the question 'what is or what could be the positive here' and I can usually spot something. It is also really important for me not to dwell on what could have been but to look forward to the future, what I can create there and where I can make a difference. That is when life becomes exciting again.*

*And finally it is just having the confidence to be who we really are.*

*On a different note I would like to say how fantastic it is to be other members of my family and our daughter. She likes to keep me both on my toes. The other day I bought an iced doughnut and some honey coated popcorn. The following day, she looks at me in the eye and said dad, think of life as a series of steps, and right now you are here. It is really important to keep raising your game - so today I would like three things an iced doughnut, honey coated popcorn, and make the third- thing a surprise! And depending on what you get, depends on whether you have taken that next step! I like her style and spirit!*

*It is now a perfect time for the Kemp and Rochdale families to move on and continue to build new futures for ourselves. I am sure that Lingholm, the estate, people living and working here will leave us all with fond memories. And that is what I would like to celebrate and make a toast - to fond memories*

*To fond memories*

*\* An extract from the full speech*