# No Longer Shut Up – Running Order

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BZAgOs4Ngn4>

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| Time | Action |
| 0m 0s | Robin being name-called and egged. Robin leaving his house  Walking through the estate  Two ‘youths’ laughed, called Robin ‘retard’ and threw an egg at him |
| Om 40s | Robin going to friend’s house Robin goes to Stan’s house – meets Stan and Sarah  Robin explains that he has been ‘egged’.  Robin describes his disability.  Fearful that it stops him from doing things he wants to do. Says people not understand him.  Robin explains about his disability and how him and Stan were in different classes at mainstream school.  Sarah picks up on Robin saying he has a learning disability.  Robin says that his cerebral palsy affects his speech and balance. |
| 1m 55s | Mabel Cooper Sarah says she knows about learning disability because saw letters to this woman called Mabel. She went in a hospital and then came and ‘did a lot of great things’.  Sarah says that Mabel is dead, but she has things of hers in her room which can see. |
| 2m 50s | Learning about Mabel Cooper Robin and Stan go with Sarah to her room.  Sarah shows them Mabel’s medical notes from the 1950s.  Mabel was in St Lawrence’s Hospital from the 1950s to late 1970s.  We see and they read out the words in Mabel’s notes used to describe her. These terms include ‘retarded’.  Robin reads that Mabel’s health is said to be fine, so he asks why was she a prisoner in a hospital.  Sarah says that Mabel was not allowed out. Sarah also says that there were lots of similar hospitals in the UK and lots of similar stories. |
| 4m 0s | Mabel Cooper’s story: Put in homes and an institution Robin asks why Mabel’s family did not help her.  We see a picture of Mabel without a face and hear a clip of her talking. Mabel says “I didn’t talk’ because she was told to shut up. Only said ‘yes and ‘no’.  We see part of a BBC film of Mabel telling her story.  Mabel taken from her mum when 3 weeks old because mum begging on the street.  Granddad did not like M’s dad so could not live at home.  Police took M away and she lived in different homes.  Mum was put in Darenth Park.  Mabel did not see her mum again.  Mabel went to Bedford Homes run by nuns and then to St Lawrence’s.  (Black and white film of a classroom with children with disabilities.)  Mabel remembers going to the Town Hall and taking a test ‘to see how bad the learning disability was’.  She was told ‘you need care for the rest of your life’.  Mabel wonders how they knew this.  (Photos of a young Mabel) |
| 5m 40s | Reflecting on Mabel Cooper life We return to the present day and Stan, Robin and Sarah.  Robin says that Mabel was sent to an institution because her granddad did not like her dad. Stan thinks this was unfair on Mabel because it was ‘not medically based’.  Sarah says it was like that for a lot of people.  Robin wonders what it was like living in that hospital. The three of them then think of loads of questions to do with that. |
| 6m 25s | Talking to Mabel’s friend Gloria Sarah suggests that they meet with Mabel’s friend, Gloria.  Robin meets Gloria who was also in St Lawrence’s.  Robin asks Gloria why Mabel was in hospital when she was not ill. Gloria explains that Mabel just had a learning disability.  Gloria points out a BBC film Mabel and her made to show what life was like in hospital. |
| 6m 50s | Life in an institution: Not like a home BBC film extract:  Outside St Lawrence’s.  Mabel saying it was frightening because of the noise.  Black and white film of children.  Mabel’s voice over saying ‘not like a family home really’.  Got shouted at and pulled about – ‘I don’t like being pulled about’.  Film of beds in the hospital: Mabel and Gloria talking about the beds and saying that that no privacy.  Saying it was like prison – bars on the windows. |
| 8m | Life in an institution compared to life outside Clothes were not your own – one big cupboard. Shots of hospital laundry  One dress one day then next not have it anymore, someone else have it on.  Mabel compares to life after the hospital. Has her own clothes.  (Old shot of a hospital ward)  Mabel talks of fear of having babies.  Men and women were segregated in hospital.  Dances – men one side, women the other.  Film of Mabel in her own home. She describes it in detail. |
| 9m | Robin and Gloria discuss Mabel’s life in the institution Robin talks about what he has seen on the BBC film.  Gloria says it was not very nice.  After hospital moved to supported living in the community. |
| 9m 30s | Mabel’s life and life now Robin and Stan chatting together on a canal bridge. Looking at the boats and saying how they would like to live on one. Making fun of each other’s footwear. Saying that, unlike Mabel, at least they have a choice.  Robin and Stan reflect that leaving hospital to live in the community can not have been easy for Mabel. |
| 10m 20s | Mabel moving out of hospital: having to learn new things BBC Film – Mabel talks about moving out of hospital to community.  Says it was frightening after 20 years in hospital.  We see film clips of Mabel in ‘everyday’ situations and hear her talking about talking about having to learn how: to get on a bus or train; to read – takes a lot of time to learn new things.  Also using money was an issue. Dealing with making choices (such as going out, what to eat etc) – because not have choice in hospital.  Mabel says in the hospital she did not learn.  In the community she went to college for a year to learn to read. |
| 12m | Finding out more about the institution Robin went to local library to find out more – a book on St Lawrence’s.  Mabel and demolition of St Lawrences’s.  Say people not go to places like that anymore.  Robin and Stan standing by site of St Lawrence’s where new buildings are going up. |
| 13m | Mabel Cooper and her rights Stan asks - how did Mabel know what rights she had when she left the hospital.  Stan rang Sarah who answered that M join People First, a self-advocacy organisation. To find out more they need to talk with Jane. |
| 14m | Mabel becomes a campaigner Robin interviews Jane about Mabel and People First.  Jane explains about People First.  See a film with Mabel speaking at a PF meeting.  Through PF Mabel found out about her rights and got a voice.  Mabel became a campaigner for the rights of people with learning disabilities.  Ambassador for young people with learning disabilities.  Did schools work – anti-bullying  Wrote books – for instance with Dorothy Atkinson at the Open University  First person with a learning disability to get an honorary degree from the Open University |
| 16m | Mabel and her work with the Open University Robin interviews Professor Dorothy Atkinson  Dorothy talks about the day Mabel got an honorary degree. It was ‘magical’. (Photo of Mabel at the Barbican)  Mabel got the degree because of contribution to Open University, and to wider society – influencing politicians and policy.  Mabel started off at the Open University with her life story being in a book – ‘Forgotten Lives’.  Dorothy talks about Mabel wanting to find her medical notes. Determined to know what was said about her. Used this knowledge to prove people were wrong to say what they did about her.  Dorothy and Mabel spoke at a conference in Australia.  Robin and Dorothy discuss how to take Mabel’s work forward. Robin wants to use it to challenge views about people with learning disabilities, get better opportunities. ‘I’m going to fight the system.’ |
| 19m | Still lots to do! Robin, Stan and Sarah talking about what they have learnt. Agreeing still lots to do. |
| 20m | A poem about Mabel Credits with Jane Abraham reading a poem about Mabel written by a friend - Mary Coventry.  Mabel Cooper 1944-2013 |
| 21m | End and credits |