# Quotes relevant for ‘Bright Young Things’

# Getting into University

And as you sort of went through school and you've talked about you’re A Level choices, what did you want to do next?

RES: I had no idea at all. It was assumed that I would go to Oxford, all my brothers had. And my father just assumed that all his children would, so that was assumed. I did want to read history by the time I left school, but I hadn't thought beyond that.

So how did you approach this though? Because I know you did end up going to Oxford.

RES: Well, I didn't get in at first, I was on the waiting list and I thought, well, that's dicey. And I mean, it was harder for women, actually, there were fewer places. And my second choice, I think, was Manchester University. And again, it was history, but I started to wonder about sociology, not with great enthusiasm. And then the sort of January after, not too long after I'd been on the waiting list, they accepted me, you know, when Cambridge had picked there’s there were some more places, and so I went to Oxford.

And I presume you will have had an interview and everything beforehand, do you recall that?

RES: Oh, yes. Yes, you never forget your interview I don't think, and you sort of sit there looking at everybody else And find that although you'd been A joint head girl so had everybody else. Yes, I remember the interview.

And you mentioned that your father had been and he gained a double first and your brother's had even gone through or were still there?

RES: Yes. And two of them and my father had all been at Merton. And we'd always gone as a child gone back to Oxford to watch the boating, the college boating racing, that was our sort of thing.

Did you feel that there was quite a sort of pressure on you then to get that place?

RES: Oh, god, yes. I would have had a real chip on my shoulder I think if I hadn't gone there.

So you were very glad when you did I suppose?

RES: I suppose I was, yes … It was what I was expecting to do.

Anyway, that was that. And then I got a major scholarship to Cambridge, for history.to Cambridge, for history.

So you got an open scholarship to Cambridge?

Yes.

And I suppose your brothers were also encouraged to go to university?

No, they didn't. They didn't.They could have done.

Was it very unusual among all your wider family for a girl to go to university?

Yes, I was the first one who had.

Why did you go to Trinity College?

Well I'll tell you. I went because - my father was at Univ actually. And we didn't like - I can't remember who was master of Univ at that time, but I know he didn't like him and so he didn't want me to go there. And a tremendous friend of my mothers - a cousin of hers I think - had been at Trinity and had loved it. And said that if I took the entrance exam to Trinity - he obviously put in a word for me I think - and I got in and there it was. And - I never regretted it, it was a wonderful college. And as I said, my elder son went there too, which was rather fun.

you took a scholarship exam to Oxford.

Took...and I didn't get the scholarship, but I was allowed in on the basis of it, which was OK. But I did get some sort of exhibition, which I think helped my parents a bit, but...a Mynors Exhibition, that's MYNORS.

That was a special sort of...

I don't know what it was for, but...

MYNORS?

Yes, it was available...but it was an academic thing, I mean it wasn't anything... Because maybe it was...it was an exhibition to Univ., so...except there were quite a number of people; Rugby had quite a connection with Univ. at Oxford. So, then I went up...

So it could have been a sort of closed Rugby...

Closed Rugby grant, yes, I think it was, yes. So it wasn't all that...

Anyway, I went to the university, and I lived at home. And the university, I did Latin and Greek, nothing else.

When you say you went to university, I don't understand.

At Southampton.

And why were you able to go there?

Well, in those days, it wasn't quite, in those days, it was reallY done almost on interview, I mean, in Oxbridge.

So you went ....

I mean, if you were old Allyson's boy ... "Oh yes, I remember Allyson. Yes, yes, let's have him. "And they also had the idea that, you know, in the Colleges in Oxbridge, that you wanted generalists occasionally, or people who were good at amateur dramatics, or were able to read and write, but weren't, so to speak, high marks in exams. You had to pass Common, what was called Common Entrance, and I'd done that, that wasn't difficult.

So when you say you were taken away from that school because you wouldn't get into university, you mean, because you wouldn't get into Oxbridge?

No, I'd get in easily, so to speak. I shouldn't boast that! I could have got in ordinarily, but my father wanted me to get a scholarship, you see, because he was finding it difficult to pay for me. But unfortunately, I did quite well but I didn't do well enough, when the time came, so

You went from school, on to a degree course at Southampton University?

No, I went in for a year, by arrangement, because my father was a teacher there, so obviously had a swing, and the Classics professor was an old friend of his. And somebody else on the end of the desk, didn't make any difference. You know, you paid your fees and went. But he was quite a good teacher, but sadly, I wasn't good enough for the scholarship. I liked Greek, because I loved doing the writing, it was so interesting. It was almost like drawing. And then when I went to take the scholarship, those awful two nights in Cambridge, ah! the misery! Dark evenings and nobody ... knowing nobody. I did a paper on the Acropolis. I mean, I'd answered a question on the Acropolis. And when I had my oral, the ... the ... my oral tutor, who was a man called Charlesworth, said, "I'm afraid you aren't being recommended for a scholarship, but your ... your answer on the Acropolis is outstandingly good. Why don't you give up Classics, which is only going to lead you to an administrative job, maybe in the Civil Service, or what ... and because your interest in architecture is obviously latent there, and there's a School of Architecture here. Why don't you go and see them? See if they'll take you." Which I did.

Did you choose the college or how did that happen?

I think it was chosen for me by the Master of Marlborough, um, although (pauses) I cannot now actually remember what his connection with the college was but it was.... he had a connection with the with the college and he chose it for me and got me in there

Did you have to sit an exam in those days? An entrance exam?

No I never sat an entrance exam for Cambridge. Um, I think that the, um, I think my School Certificate and subsequent, um um, subsequent school record and the Master's own recommendation was actually enough. Um, I suppose I should say, um, (pauses) that, um, having passed reasonably satisfactorily the wartime exam where I got a 2:1, um, I got a First Class both in the in my first Post-War year and in my postgraduate's exam although these were the sort of things which were an enormous benefit for academic reasons, er, in fact is something which for professionally if you actually going to work within the profession, are absolutely meaningless.

Really.

I never knew what, um, what class, um, had been acquired by any of my colleagues in my my old firm and they certainly have no idea that what what class I achieved in university exams. It just wasn't part of the... It was a question of how good you were at doing your job not how good you were in your academic life.

INT: Yeah. And Balliol’s such a prestigious college as well. So, I mean, is that, did you want to go to a mixed college? Was that important to you?

RES Yes. But also, one of the Don’s, his daughter was at Cheltenham with me. So, I knew Balliol as a result. And so that's why I wanted, I had this thing about going to Balliol, because I knew this family, the Harris's, and I just wanted to go there because I knew about it. So, I got, I had an interview at (?) for a scholarship, and I was really worried that I was going to get it because in those days, if you were offered a scholarship, you were *forced* to go to the college that offered you a scholarship. I don’t know if they still do that, well no, they don’t do that because obviously they don’t have scholarships anymore, do they? But in those days, that's what happened. And also, Maxfield did offer me a scholarship, but they offered it to me *after* I’d accepted my place at Balliol, so I managed to get away from them. And also at that time, they weren't actually a fully admitted college. They were sort of on the periphery, you know, there's this weird thing where there were a couple of colleges that weren't actually part of Oxford University, and Manchester(?) and Mansfield weren’t part of the University, so luckily, I managed to dodge that. But yeah, so I got into Balliol … And there were two of us … Two girls reading law, so there were 9 people reading law and two of us were girls, which is actually quite a lot considering there were only 23 girls in the whole college.

INT: So when you left, you said that you considered Oxford and Cambridge, but ended up going to Durham, how did you pick Durham?

RES: Oh, gosh, I wish I could tell you it was scientific. I don't think it was at all. I think that it had been, as now, a good reputation. I was quite keen to go somewhere a bit further from home, maybe not to stay in the South. And it was sort of, I guess, peer example, as much as anybody else. I tried for Cambridge where my father had been, didn't get in. In those days you didn't try again because it was that the whole system was different. Got very good A-Level grades and Durham sort of, you know, said yes please and I didn't necessarily give too much thought to it (laughter) I just went with the flow!

INT:And how did you decide to apply to Oxford? What can you remember the process of that? If the school encouraged you or your parents?

RES: The school, the school encouraged me, yes.

INT:Can you remember the interview process or?

RES: Can’t remember much about it. I remember waiting for the, you had a letter, I don’t remember if they still have that, but if you don’t get in you have a letter. So I had to wait not to get the letter, is that right? […] they had general papers, which I did well in. And I've always been better, I mean I have very broad interests for what I do, I think. I think I have broad interests, which I have done, I think. And I'd also the maths although I wasn't very good at it, I was competing with g??, …. It was a math paper that for which everyone had to do, I think, who was doing SATS. I got a B or a D or something, I still did relatively well on the maths paper. So I got in. I didn’t get an award. I had a scholarship at St Paul’s. I didn’t have an award at Somerville. But, urm, I was just, I was an individual, and I've always gone my own way, which I probably partly got from my father, I mean he was certainly an individual being a communist. I mean he had to suppress it quite a bit. He always very much thought for himself. And the communists in the 30s was a bit more than 40s was a bit more common, a sort of idealistic, not knowing much about Russia sort of communism. But so I think that I was always an individual, anyway I got into Somerville.

**INT:** How did you find university, were you always going to go was there always that expectation?

**RES** Oh yeah, I mean it would have been, it just would have been unheard-of if we hadn’t gone, always, it just, it wouldn’t have entered either our consciousness or our parents’ that there were other ways of having a career other than going to university it was just, that’s what you did.

…

**RES** Yeah it wasn’t too bad, it wasn’t too bad actually, so that was really good and then, yeah, university was great again I went to Birmingham University because well, what was quite interesting was I applied to Cambridge, I sat the scholarshi—I sat the entrance exam to Cambridge because I decided, I decided I wanted to do Law because it was, well, because when I was growing up I wanted to be a doctor because it’s one of those professions that all Pakistani, well all Asian parents and lots of other immigrant [0:34:54.1?] want their children to do because it’s like a job that’s considered good, and it’s caring and it helps others and it’s a job that’s really well considered and thought of and respected...

**RES:** But then my sciences were never as good as my Arts and Humanities because I loved languages and I still do, and I was very fortunate that I could just do languages, and English and History and all those subjects, so I realised I was doing O Levels that frankly I should forget sciences I should be doing something with art, humanities, so then I was trying to see what could I do with it and I decided I was gonna be a lawyer so then I did some sort of work in the office with my dad’s solicitor for a while. It was mostly boring photocopying.. and going to court a couple of times, but I remember I used to watch this television programme about an American lawyer called Petrocelli?

**RES:** So that made me think it would be quite exciting [laughs], so I applied to do Law at Cambridge and I sat the entrance exam and I got through that and then I had an interview but I didn’t get the interv—I didn’t, no so what happened was they set the interview and I went for the interview for Law but then they didn’t give me Law but they offered me Classics and because I’d done well in my Classics entrance exam at Cambridge and I didn’t know and I didn’t asked anybody that I could have started that and then changed that when I got there, you know, I could have changed from Classics to Law or incorporated it and so, I didn’t realise that so I just said, “Well no I don’t want to do that I want to do Law”, and they didn’t offer me that so that was the end of that and now I think “oh, why didn’t I take some advice or why didn’t I ask somebody or why didn’t someone say something to me.”

I mean, you know, whites were in a minority in that school, or in that college. And that was an absolute eye opener for me to be educated, where I wasn't in a minority. And it was a very happy, you know, I had a very happy year there and did quite well, and I had no real thoughts about university, but one of my lecturers at South Thames College said to me, why don't you apply to Oxford to do PPE?

And I was like, it's never crossed my mind to do such a thing, actually. And he said to me, well, if you're going to piss about, you might as well piss about there. And, in fact, I had rather poor A level results; I got an A, a B and a C, which was much lower than the standard (1 word, 16:10) for Oxbridge entrance.

But in those days, you could do a special entrance exam after your A levels, which I did, and I think I did very well in that, in the entrance exam, and so I got in. I mean, despite rather poor A level grades, I think they thought the entrance exam was more revealing than A levels.

So, I have this weird trajectory, starting off from the Agha Khan School and Mombasa, through multiple twists and turns and ended up doing PPE and Oxford, quite bizarre.

INT: I mean, that's a very impressive disappointment that you had there. Okay, and I mean, I believe you went to Oxford, when did that idea first come to you? And did you have any encouragement in the application process?

RES Yes, as the school had no experience of sending people to Oxbridge at all, but I had an English teacher who had gone to Oxford, and obviously, my politics teacher had been to Oxford as well. And I had history teachers who've been, had read history at Cambridge.

And so, I was kind of identified as someone with potential. My English teacher, really loved (2 words, 12:00) at Oxford. We went on a school trip, which he organised and I really liked, I don't know why, I was really anti-college [?]; I really liked it. So, I was encouraged to try for Oxbridge, and I liked the look of Oxford because there was a particular course called Ancient and Modern History, which allowed me to use my Latin, which I did to A level.

And so, I applied for that. There was only one place in each college, roughly, to do that. And so, I was encouraged to apply, as at a time when there were still entrance exams for Oxbridge, so I had no tutoring for that; my teachers helped, but they didn't really have much experience of it, I sat the entrance exams, put (1 word, 12:52) as my first choice, and luckily got in. And I loved, I loved the course.

RES: So yeah I think the academic standards were pretty high. We did the Cambridge O and A Levels. And did reasonably well, you know. At the period that we were there. It’s now, it’s much tougher now, I think.

RES: You know, I do sometimes find out what’s happening with the old girls and stuff, and yeah, it’s much tougher. But then we were, we were pretty lucky.

# Ability

Well, I have to admit what you gather, that I was no great scholar, and I didn't know really

later what I wanted to do in life.

I've no idea why I didn't, I just wanted to get on with something. And, you have to remember that academically it was all medioc...they were very kind, the masters at Rugby, and my reports were not too awful, but there was no question, I mean I never got above the lower fifth or something pretty awful like that.

And I said, "Well, I was never any good at latin and not much good at Greek and no good at Greek verse, so I don't think I am really much good at doing Greats", which of course was latin and Greek at that time. He said, "Well, if you don't want to read Greek and latin, you had better do Modern Greats." So I said, "All right." That of course is PPE as it is generally known. I think it is still the same.

I really wasn't quite bright at all, I just was good average in most subjects, and therefore, that's, I purely cheated in that fashion, not like being incisive and clever at all.

RES: The school very much directed me in that, towards Oxford. And it very much directed me towards Somerville because my mother had gone to Somerville and some of the teachers had gone to Somerville and somehow there was the feeling that Somerville would welcome me, which it did, with open arms, and I got a scholarship to Somerville. And then when I got this scholarship to Somerville - and I remember working really hard for that exam, enjoying that exam, 'cause I was a kid who enjoyed exams. Because I knew how to perform in an exam setting. I knew how to do it. I could memorize whole essays by heart. I mean I would also come up with original ideas, but I could, you know, a lot of my education was thanks to my ability to memorize huge chunks of text. I got a scholarship, but then when I got a scholarship to Oxford I thought, I don't even want to go to Oxford. I've lived around Oxford all my life. Why would I want to go to Oxford? And I actually threw quite a wobbly at that point, and this was before A level. So I got in for fourth term Oxbridge. What was it called when you take your Oxbridge exam before you take you’re A levels? In those days – I mean this was in the 70s – you could take your Oxbridge exam before you took your A levels. So I got a scholarship to Oxford before I’d even taken a single A level. And I mean talk about disgraceful, that meant, believe it or not, that no matter how badly I did in my A levels, I would still get in as long as had two Es, they'd still let me in on the basis of that scholarship exam.

RES: Both. Obviously I had a natural aptitude. I don’t think that the level I reached in maths you could get there without some degree of natural aptitude

INT: And then just more generally, what were their expectations for you? Do you remember having a sense of that?

RES Oh, university, no doubt about that. My sister got the national scholarship at 11 plus, I didn’t and they were very disappointed. We were expected to get eight or nine O Levels and we were expected to get all three A Levels. I won what they called the Jamaica scholarship for my A Levels, so that put me on a scholarship to go to university.

# University experiences

## Working culture

### Hard

What are your memories of Oxford, as an undergraduate?

Oh, just heaven. It was lovely. I mean, they were just a wonderful. I had lots of

friends, and a lot of freedom. One worked jolly hard. Of course, the trouble with

medicine is that, you're always taking examinations. So one had to work, one had

friends, and it was just wonderful. I played hockey, which I did enjoy very much.

What was that like?

Well, it was again lonely actually, in a way. I had friends and I was fortunate when I’d been there for a short time, somebody I didn’t know very well invited me to their tennis school which actually gave me tennis every Sunday morning and meeting other people who became subsequently good friends. But again, I was very much isolated, I didn’t have many friends, I was frightened of girls. So the first three years of university, of my BCom were as I say, I had nothing better to do so I worked hard and did quite well.

**INT:** Key interests, yeah. Okay, so I suppose I'll take it back to university. What was your experience? You were at Oxford; you were at Keble college? Yeah, how was that?

**RES** I found it, I found it pretty terrifying. I mean, again, it was the problem of being, being in a small minority. And Keble was a very kind of sporty college with a very active rugby team and active rowers, not a particularly academic college.

And it didn't, it didn't feel to me like a particularly, like a very welcoming or comfortable environment. And I basically just laid low, was how I dealt with it. And, you know, just tried to make myself invisible. And I did that by spending as much time as possible, either in the college library, or in the Bodleian.

And I've kind of figured that the only way I could deal with being in Oxford and survive this place was to just work incredibly hard and be academically successful, and sort of cut myself off from everything else. So, I didn't do any of the usual extracurricular things that students do.

And I didn't do any of that stuff, either. I mean, you know, the drugs and all that stuff. I just never, I never did, and I just worked and worked and worked. But it was entirely in the interests of sort of disappearing, and making myself invisible, so as not to have to cross the path of any of the disagreeable characters who were around.

…

And then, my year of PPE was a very, very, very talented year. I mean, we were only a year of 8, but four of us ended up getting first and the other four got high 2:1, so it was an amazing year, really. So, sort of within my year group and within the sort of academic community of the college, including the left caucus, which is a sort of highly intellectual, you know, sort of reading group where we'd sit around and have earnest conversations about (1 word, 24:28) and Gramsci and stuff like that.

I mean it was very good and I, you know, I sort of flourished intellectually; I certainly didn't, I didn’t flourish socially, was a bit of a loner, I think.

I think I found the coursework quite absorbing, I really enjoyed the science and being taught at Cambridge is a… It’s a life experience in that they teach you how to think, rather than to memorise by rote, so I learned ways of, effectively structures for information such that you’ve got rapid access to it because you think through algorithms really, that’s how they taught us.

RES: Particularly at vet school, so it wasn’t enough to just learn the pages of the science, you had to be able to think well, “is that relevant to this question?” and it’s how I do law. You know, it’s problem solving, so, “here’s my problem, what do I need, go back to basics, is it this, can I work it through that, does this apply”, and you go through a question list in your head of course, that happens in seconds by the time you get quite experienced, but that way of being taught I loved, I mean the course is incredibly demanding in the sense of the number of hours. It’s a six-day week.

RES: And you have four to five essays a week for an eight week term with no break, there’s no reading week in the middle, so you have a really intense eight weeks and then you have holiday, but usually by the time you get to holiday, you’ve got at least a third of a term where you know you’ve not really taken anything in, because you’re just barely making it to the lectures and to the tutorials. Loads of science experiments, there was about two, four, six… There was about ten to twelve hours a week in a laboratory doing experiments, and they had to be written up afterwards.

RES: And then around that you would have a lecture… I mean, our day was nine to six during the week, and on the weekend it was nine to one on a Saturday, as it got closer to the exams the lectures started at eight, and you would have clinics afterwards, sometimes you were working overnight.

RES: I mean I would, I called them essay crisis, I would have an essay crisis pretty much once a week, or once every other week, where I would be up all night, writing essays.

INT: Yeah. Just incredibly hard work, yeah.

RES Yes, incredibly intense, but you know, never really felt… I never really felt overwhelmed by it, it was more kind of, “oh God there’s just loads, it’s just loads! [indecipherable 0:22:58.1], stop!” But you know, occasionally I’d come across a subject which, things like pharmacokinetics in pharmacology, I can remember thinking “I do not understand this”, and just thinking at the time, “OK, I don’t understand it, I’m gonna have to really work hard at this and you know, double the amount of time I give to it”, which works, you know.

RES: It’s always been like that for me, anything I find hard, it’s that kind of, right, I’m gonna have to give more time to this thing, and of course because it’s hard I don’t particularly like it, but you get – I know now from experience that doing that means you do end up quite liking the subject because it’s hard, but you’ve worked it out, so it’s a bit like you’ve got a badge.

RES: That’s your badge, you can do that area, and that is something I learned at Cambridge, and probably learned doing my A-Levels. The things that were hard were worthwhile getting good at, because everybody else found them hard and ran away from them.

### Not so hard

I regret now not having worked harder at Oxford very much, very much. I feel - I mean I had a wonderful time, absolutely marvellous time. Enjoyed myself like fun. And then worked like a black my last - year to get a degree. But I mean I hadn't done any work at all. I didn't do any work. We didn't you know, we were awful. I mean some people of course did. But a lot of us didn't. Who didn't have to you see. That was the trouble.

In the sense that you would get your degree in any case?

No, no, not that. Not that at all. But the answer was that one probably would get a job you see and that sort of thing. And it wasn't dependent on that.

…

Before we go into your wartime experiences and career, can we just finish at Oxford, which was of course taking your degree. A lot of work involved presumably because you had been playing hard up to that point?

Awful. Oh yes, midnight oil, that sort of stuff. And I didn't do very well, I got a pretty ropey Third.

Was this a characteristic approach to Oxford of the Eton boys or the more affluent young men?

I don't know that it was necessarily Eton. I don't think so. Most of us were rather a bit like it I think on the whole. I was as bad as any I think really. Very naughty. And as I say I regret it.

And how did you enjoy your time there?

I loved it. But I didn’t do much work, I just enjoyed Oxford.

So what did you enjoy most about it?

[pause] Well in my own college and in other colleges, there were kindred spirits. And some of them as clever as I.

Can I just ask you, why Trinity College, Cambridge? Again, was that your father's old College?

No, he hadn't gone to the University. I don't know the answer. I don't know why. It, actually, that wasn't really a success either! Because my father thought that I should try and make a career in the City, to earn some money, because he wasn't going to leave me much, and that I should prepare myself to work in the City, so he thought it would be a good idea to study law at Cambridge, but, unfortunately, he didn't read the small print, and I didn't either, in those days, I do now! And what neither of us realised, that the first two years of law at Cambridge, at that time, was Roman law, and mostly in Latin! And I found this very frustrating, because I never found Classics, I always preferred mathematics, being a mathematical specialist at Eton, not a Classical one, so at the end of my first year at Cambridge, I went to my tutor, I passed the exams for the year, and said, "Do you think I could possibly learn some economics, or something like that, because I'm not very interested in how Justinian freed the slaves in Rome, it doesn't seem to be of very practical value to me." And he said, "No, you can't change. You can't change. You must go on with it." So I said, "Well, in that case, I'm leaving." So he said, "Have you told your father?" So I said "Yes, I have." So he got up, he said, "Well, goodbye. It's been nice knowing you." And so we parted company. And I left Cambridge after a year. And, actually, I went to work in the City as an office boy at the family bank, which was much more useful. But just to round off the story, this is a perfectly true story. Some years later, when I found myself Governor of the Bank of England, I had a message from my old tutor at Cambridge, was still there, invited me down to dinner one night, and so I accepted, and I went down and had dinner with him. He was a very nice man. And he'd invited all the leading Cambridge economists that he could gather around, to come and dine with him, and the new Governor to the Bank of England. So I couldn't resist saying to him, "Well, you may find that the economic policies of the Bank of England are rather unconventional, because you will remember, you wouldn't let me study any economics." And anyway, he, he crowned that again. I remember very well, and he said, "It's the one thing that gives me some hope that the future may be bright, because had you studied under any of these gentlemen here, I'd be terrified!" It was rather nice.

So you didn't get your degree, or complete your degree?

No, I didn't, no.

You must be one of the few Governors then, that ...

No, I, no, funnily enough, nobody had, no Governor had a degree until, until Richardson.

Really?

None of us had.

Really.

Cobbold didn't, Norman didn't, and no, none of them had. No, I was in the tradition, actually.

What did your father think about you not getting your degree, and leaving?

He was rather relieved, because, I think he, he thought, the sooner I started to earn my living, the better it would be for him.

What I can say is that I went back to Cambridge after the War for two terms and got a bogus War degree.

Are you being overly modest here?

I don’t think so. I was only five terms at Cambridge, three before the War and two after the War and I enjoyed my two terms after the War much more than my three terms before the War, I think.

Why?

I don’t know really. It was... I enjoyed the year at Cambridge, and I took Part I Tripos in French and German and I think I told you, I got a first in French and a 2.1 in German, and I played games for the College. It was quite civilised way of life because I had two rooms, bedroom and sitting room, looking on to Kings Parade, and you could have meals in your rooms if you wanted. You just ordered from the Buttery and it would be brought up and you could have a whole private dinner party if you wanted to.

…

Did you?

I don’t think I worked terribly hard [laughs].

Did you get a gentlemanly fourth?

No, I only stayed there a year.

Oh I see, right. Why?

Well after my...at the end of my second term I failed my prelims, and at the end of my third

term I decided that there was probably little point in taking my prelims again, so I left.

Were you sorry, or were you anxious and get out and do other things?

Yes I think I was sad, I think I was sad. I think that...I regretted the decision which I had

taken automatically, to...I had taken the decision absolutely automatically to read classics,

which I shouldn't have done, after two years in the Army. As I said earlier I wasn't a scholar,

and two years of military training, and a pretty energetic but unintellectual activity in the

Rhine Army in Germany as a young cavalry officer, had really gotten me right out of the

habit of any intellectual application, and I shouldn't have gone back to classics. I should have

started a different subject.

What might you have, in retrospect what should you have read do you think?

Well if I had been at Cambridge rather than Oxford I would have read English, and I sort of

temporarily thought about it, but at Oxford it involved learning Anglo-Saxon and I really...I

really couldn't face that. And I didn't have anything like the interest in history then that I do

now, and that I suppose would have been the alternative. But to actually complete the

university, my university career I should have gone to another university and I should have

read English.

Did you go to any lectures, any university lectures?

No, I don't think...I didn't...there was...I think the university, I'm right in saying, it appeared to

me just to be ticking over during the war years, and I remember eating out, that everything

was pretty austere, that if you were lucky enough to get an omelette in the evening it was

always dried eggs, but that was still considered a treat. But Lyons thrived; when I used to get

my 4s.6d. and was let out of the Ashmolean, I would go along for breakfast at Lyons. That

always seemed to be adequate, what they seemed to serve up. I had never a feeling of being

hungry.

And I who had, well, having a Second Class History Degree, was no big deal really. I'd had a decent Scholarship, but, because I hadn't worked very hard, which was all right, but today, it would be a middling 2:l, that's about, what, in those happy days at Oxford, of course, the Second Class was not divided, and the, to the relief of many of us, who would have virtually not benefited by a division. And so I secured this Fellowship, and was ... am I going into too much detail?

…

I mean, we haven't talked about your social life at Oxford.

No.

I presume you didn't spend your time in libraries or rapt in your books.

No. No. No. I'm, I'm sorry you asked me that question, and I'll answer it. In, no, quite. That's the trouble.

…

But there we are. So I was very, that, I think, tells you, it brings you, as it were, up to my going into the Army. And then, as I say, perhaps regretfully, both, perhaps, unregretfully, true words, I think probably I turned to a rather more hedonist phase of life, and though as you rightly say I didn't spend all the time in libraries, in fact, I probably spent, probably certainly spent, far too much of it in the boozer, and on the golf course, and on the river. And to my, to my shame, I have to tell you, I had this marvellous scholarship, and as near as a whisker, it was taken away from me, for failure to work hard.

As, as I was saying, I really didn't, didn't, by any means, work hard enough. And, in fact, I got my, my comeuppance, because, at the end, towards the end of my career at Oxford, my eyes suddenly went on me, and rather, rather dramatically, and I couldn't, in fact, it was ... studying too much close, very close print of American documents, American special history documents, and they started to go, and I was very careless and lax, and didn't take any advice or go to an oculist. In the end went to an optician, usual child story, and, of course, he prescribed, quite right. And, so in the end, it was, I was in, I was actually in a dangerous position, with Finals coming up. So very few people believed this, and I suppose I must have some low cunning, because I managed to get a degree on, in effect, on Pelican Histories of England. But, more realistic, I, I didn't learn anything at Oxford that I hadn't learnt at Winchester before! Except, of course, in the school of life, which is entirely another subject!

…

Coming from, as we practically did, privileged backgrounds, with, anyway, enough money, and having been in Winchester and, and an officer in the brigade of Guards, you had, everything was open to you, in what was then a still a very male world, so I'll come back on to the girls, which actually was a very important feature. The ... and everything was open to you. We'd, we'd been, seen something of the world. Those of us who had had, as good a training as you had at Winchester, frankly could do, could get by on a minimum of work. If you hadn't been to as good a school, then you probably had to work harder.

…

And I say this without any, you know, without any pride. Actually, very much the opposite. I mean, in great measure, I would have to say I wasted a lot of my time at Oxford. I did not work hard enough. A lot of that. If I'm to have any excuse at all, it was, I had led a very intellectual sort of academic life, as I say. I also had, had lived in a, in an academic environment, which was immensely stimulating, and the Oxford academic environment was not. I mean, it was a, as you, you recall, I mean, a, a tutorial system which is as good as the tutor, and in many respects, is very arid. A lot of the lectures were arid, I mean, we'd all go to David Cecil's lectures, ...(INAUDIBLE) ... and not get spat on. And we'd go, I'd go to lectures on architecture. But then, titles like Tolkien at Oxford, and, well, I was really quite oblivious of work, which was very disgraceful, looking back. So, I had a marvellous time.

…

[Absolutely crucial quote]. And the only, I can only sort of, well, while I say I'm not, not proud of it, I can salvage it by saying a lot of those people who, who were considered to be, and actually were sort of quite frivolous people, now, actually, have, have done big jobs.

…

But you're absolutely right, things did change, because I, my brother went to, to Trinity. Now, of course, it is partly coincidental, because you will recall, my teetotal brother, had a rather different set of friends, anyway, from mine. And I remember going back to, to Trinity and speaking to one of the scouts, and I said, "How, how is everything, Basil?" Nowadays, Basil Bridgewater, says to me, he says, "Ah", so he said, "It's all changed. It's all changed." I said, I said, "What do you mean?" I said to Basil, "No, no bottles about?" "Sir, there are hundreds of bottles, but they're all milk bottles!"

Did you enjoy a social life at Oxford?

Yes, up to a point. I had some very good friends there. I shared rooms with Richard Wilding, who's now the Senior Civil Servant in the Ministry of Arts, and lifelong friend, had a lot of other good friends there. I didn't play much sport. I virtually gave up sport at Oxford and noted that it had no damaging effect on my health. I've been very lucky with health, I've not yet been into a hospital, except to visit other people! And so I noted that I was able to make a transition, which I knew I would have to make later, and so I gave up things like squash and so on, I probably played a bit of tennis, and I kept up with golf all my life. I didn't have girlfriends or anything like that. My sister was up at the same time as me, because she was 2½ years younger, and you know, I met quite a lot of both male and female, but I didn't, like some others, have a steady girlfriend or anything. And I was very consumingly interested in the work, I adored the work.

Can you tell me a little about your year in Cambridge?

It was absolutely unmitigated pleasure (laughs). I didn't work that hard.

And my second year, I really did very little work. So much so that I, I got a grant from, I think it was a Tuition Grant from Kent University, that's the Kent County Council, and they would write, or they did in those days, and I remember they wrote to my father saying, "You've had, your son's had a pretty bad report from your tutor in Oxford", you know, "unless he pulls his socks up", you know, "you might lose your grant."

INT: Yeah, that – I suppose perhaps I'll ask more – Did you find that you focused on academic studies at university? Or were you interested in extracurricular activities again? 'Cause you say –

RES:: Extracurricular activities? A great deal. I didn't work at all hard. Many of us didn't, many of my friends didn't prepare.

## Culture

And of course there was always so much going on in Oxford, in the way of music, outside lectures, theatre,there was good theatre in Oxford.

What about the cost of social life in Oxford at that time. Did you need a lot of money to enjoy yourself?

Well, one had - a - an allowance. At least I did. And I think we all did. From our parents. And - I can remember mine and I think it was £300 a year. And I was very happy on that. You had to pay your - your - what we called 'your battels'. Which is this sort of food and stuff you had in college. And you had certain fees and things to pay. Otherwise it was merely paid on really what you were doing, you know. And one probably joined a golf club and things like that and - And certainly - a social club. I mean, you know, one was a member of a club, dining and - Well like a London club, there were clubs in Oxford like that.

…

If I'd worked harder, I would have, you know. But it didn't.

And I was rather - you know, I used to do an essay and he used to say it was bloody awful and - do it

again. I'm ashamed of my academic side at Oxford, I really am. As I said before, very ashamed of it.

Yes, cricket, I played cricket, I played for the university. I didn't get a Blue but I played for the university. I enjoyed also my rugger; we won the college, you know, cuppers, the...two years out of the three years I was there.

Now, I presume you would take your rowing on with you to Cambridge?

I, I then went on to Cambridge, and, well, in 1928,

And then, were you still rowing?

Yes, I, I rowed for the College and for the University while I was at Cambridge.

Were you ever in a winning team on the Boat Race?

Yes.

That's something of an achievement these days! So, you switched horses, as it were,

at Cambridge.

Yes, a lot of people do, and it was, well, it was a help to me in getting qualified later on, and I enjoyed it.

And presumably earn some money?

Yes, a little bit of money, yes, but I was still receiving £240 a year from Anthony, and that was quite a lot to live on really.

Well I suppose playing golf and socialising, and playing tennis, things like that.

Did you go to any lectures, any university lectures?

No, I don't think...I didn't...there was...I think the university, I'm right in saying, it appeared to

me just to be ticking over during the war years, and I remember eating out, that everything

was pretty austere, that if you were lucky enough to get an omelette in the evening it was

always dried eggs, but that was still considered a treat. But Lyons thrived; when I used to get

my 4s.6d. and was let out of the Ashmolean, I would go along for breakfast at Lyons. That

always seemed to be adequate, what they seemed to serve up. I had never a feeling of being

hungry.

RES: It was a bitter disappointment to me, that, because I was not a great one for Arts clubs

and that sort of thing, being a bit of a Philistine myself. I was very

keen on rugby football and we had done very well in the league

competition in the Michaelmas term of 1946. We were anxious, very

anxious, particularly keen to win the cup (as it was called) of the Youth

College Knockout Competition; we had made great preparations to play in

the cup against our first-round opponents. As it happened there was snow

and ice on .the ground throughout Hilary Term 1947 and there was no rugger

played at all, much to our despondency.

INT: I didn't ask you - you said you played rugby at Oxford and

you have said you played squash - were there any other activities,

hobbies, socialising, clubs you belonged to, or that sort of thing?

RES: Yes. I told you I was a bit of a Philistine, and I

think I was, but I was very keen on music as a listener. I couldn't

afford it but I used to go to quite a fINT: there were umpteen music

activities going on - I used to go to concerts, chamber music concerts.

There was one marvellous occasion when one of the Oxford University

musical organisations - I don't know which one it was - staged a

performance of Mozart's Idomeneo, which had never been staged on a scale

so grand. That was a shattering experience for me. I had always liked

Mozart and was an immense devotee of his music.

RES: What else was there? Very little, really. I played a certain amount of tennis in the summer and the usual things - just going on the river. But being engaged already, before I went back to College, I had no girl-friends to speak of. In fact my experience with girls generally is ve"ry limited because I didn't have much chance in the Air Force. And when I finally got home I met my future wife. So I was quitlimited in that experience bracket. Now what else did I do? I got vaguely interested in politics. I went to Oxford Union a few times but never spoke.

Did you enjoy a social life at Oxford?

Yes, up to a point. I had some very good friends there. I shared rooms with Richard Wilding, who's now the Senior Civil Servant in the Ministry of Arts, and lifelong friend, had a lot of other good friends there. I didn't play much sport. I virtually gave up sport at Oxford and noted that it had no damaging effect on my health. I've been very lucky with health, I've not yet been into a hospital, except to visit other people! And so I noted that I was able to make a transition, which I knew I would have to make later, and so I gave up things like squash and so on, I probably played a bit of tennis, and I kept up with golf all my life. I didn't have girlfriends or anything like that. My sister was up at the same time as me, because she was 2½ years younger, and you know, I met quite a lot of both male and female, but I didn't, like some others, have a steady girlfriend or anything. And I was very consumingly interested in the work, I adored the work.

Can you tell me a little about your year in Cambridge?

It was absolutely unmitigated pleasure (laughs). I didn't work that hard. I played football for Cambridge and the freedom was absolutely marvellous. Absolutely marvellous. And one of the nice things that ever happened to me, my son went to Cambridge, to Pembroke and - he's much cleverer than me - but he, when he was graduating or going to the graduation ceremony, he said 'you know I know life will never be so good as it has been in the last three years' and I thought then that the place doesn't change that much. No I enjoyed it enormously. The freedom of it all and that's where I learnt about music and books and pleasure.

And at Cambridge were you going through a choral [blurred speech]

Yes and a lot of concerts of course there were. Pianists and I remember seeing 'Solomon' there I mean a lot of concerts were [blurred speech].

*Apart from being, developing interests in the academic enterprise, did you have a good social time?*

Yes, quite wide, quite pleasant. A lot of it around games, by this time I was running, I gave up rugby, because I was too small, I was a hooker, and you can't be a hooker if you're my size. I played a little at Oxford, but basically, I was running, and running well, and I got two Blues for running, so that gave me a lot of social life. I had a girlfriend who was a secretary there, who was an absolute sweetie, who sang like a lark, beautiful voice. I did quite a lot of talking in the Union, not an enormous amount, but some. There were lovely things about Oxford life. There were also disappointmens in that there were, known as now, perhaps, cults. And the cult then, was to have seen the latest film. Well, I've never been very interested in going and seeing films, a lot of other people were, so I missed out on that cult, and began to like music a lot, wine a lot.

…

*Yes, the wine has a long history doesn't it. When had the music begun to develop?*

In my later years at Public School, Glyndebourne was something which my family had been connected with, my mother went to the first performance at Glyndebourne in l934, and she'd got a lot of the Glyndebourne records, and used to listen to Glyndebourne a lot, and so I began to learn a bit about, particularly Mozartian opera, and when I was in Paris I went to the Opera House there. Indeed, it was once told me, that that's how I got into Lincoln College, on the viva, when they asked me what else had I done. And I said, other than these games. "Oh", I said, "I like opera." What had I heard? I said, "Oh, I heard the Marriage of Figaro, I think, at the Opera in Paris." What did I think of it? Do you know that moment when you get the rush of blood to the head, when you actually tell the truth. I said, "Well, actually, Sir", to the Don who was asking me at the viva, for entry into Lincoln, I said, "Sir, I thought it was absolutely appalling." And there was a moment of silence, and a burst of applause, because I was dead right, you know, and you'd said what you'd thought. One was beginning to develop a critical faculty for it.

I was a very keen rugger player and I'd had a trial as a Welsh youth player, I played for university and I was playing for London-Welsh at the time I had this medical, and I was turned down on the rather unglamorous grounds of flat feet.

*How often do you see people from the City?*

Well, a lot of my friends in the City do also have an interest in the worlds that I’m also interested in, music and the arts and so on, so I see those that are interested in those fields still quite regularly. But a number of people who were really only contacts because they worked in the City, you tend to lose contact with them. That’s partly one’s own fault, but it’s also they’re very preoccupied in their businesses and you can no longer be useful to them in their businesses. And I shan’t lose touch, for example, with Peter Ellwood who was my Chief Executive at TSB. He’s about to retire, he – I always thought he was a young man, but he’s suddenly got to sixty. I won’t lose touch with him because he’s very interested in music and so’s his wife and I hope he’s going to take on a bit of responsibility for the Royal Parks, which of course I’m very passionate about, and we will keep in touch. Mervyn King, I can’t conceive of losing touch with Mervyn King, not because he’s becoming Governor, but I’ve known him a very long time. I knew him when he was at the LSE. We share a common background; we were both at Kings College Cambridge, although very different ages. I’ve always admired his work, but most important of all, he’s passionate about music so there’s a basis of common friendship outside the business as well as in the business. I shall remain interested in what happens to the Bank of England because I always have been. So there’s a commonality of interest between us.

INT: And did you carry on with the kind of extracurricular activities at Oxford, so the kind of drama and things that you were doing in America?

RES Yes, I actually had an audition at RADA when I was 17. I think that must have just been just before I went off to America, and the (pause) director, you know, the head of RADA said to me, “you've got a place at Oxford, I think the best thing to do is to go to Oxford, do lots of drama, and then come back afterwards.” So, I went to Oxford, did lots of drama, and then somehow ended up in the City, mainly because I met Tim, who I then married when I was 23, at Oxford, I met him at Oxford, and he didn't want me to be an actress. And he decided he was going to go and work in the City and he said “you should do that too.” And it's very, very unlike me to go and follow someone else's needs like that, but I did. And so, we both applied to all of the merchant banks, and I got into Warburg, and Tim didn't get into any of them. So, he then went to PWC and got an accountancy qualification and then went to Robert Flemming after that.

**…**

INT: I think it's quite telling that a lot of people, a lot of students, at Oxford and Cambridge, do acting as well alongside it and I think that's part of that whole like developing, yeah, self-assuredness and confidence.

RES But it is, it is a very big thing at Oxford and Cambridge, isn’t it? And it always has been.

RES: It was. I mean. So it was the reverse. I think that's the right way to think about it. So, it wasn't quite the same. Cambridge was a very exciting place to be and interesting and I did all sorts of things I shouldn't do, and I did far too much acting and all of that kind of stuff, often under a pseudonym, because [hesitates].

INT:How did you find London as the university like and what was the kind of gender mix on a kind of course like geography and archaeology, was it quite male dominated or?

RES: Yes, pretty much. I suppose so, I had never even thought about it, actually. Yeah, but in those days, um. I was interested in Welsh rugby more than anything else. [laughs] …well in those days Wales in the 1960s was the rugby nation. It was just great following them everywhere they went because we always used to win all of the games and I probably spent more time actually on the road. Things like Cardiff Arms Park and going to Murry? Field? than I did actually in the classroom.

…

INT:And while you're at University, did you carry on doing some of the kind of extracurricular stuff you done, like sport or music?

RES: Yeah, um, I played in the varsity match in 19 something. 60 it would have been, 1966 when I was actually at Cambridge, and we beat Oxford 7-6 [laughs].

INT: Okay. And is that sports again?

RES:: Yes. What it was, it was by chance. When all the freshmen were there, there were meetings for different sports. And I didn't want to play football in the winter. I want to play cricket in the summer. And there was a meeting of the boat club. And there was a chap there who was in the boat club, very senior. And he said, "Come on in." And I said I didn't know anything about it. So I did go in. And I enjoyed it. I liked the people. So I joined the boat club, and eventually I found myself in the first boat.

INT: Wow, impressive. Not an easy thing to do.

RES:: Sorry?

INT: Not an easy thing to do, I imagine that it would have been competitive.

RES:: That's right. Yes, so I remained there and they became my friends. In my life afterwards, after university, I was still involved in the rowing and so forth.

RES: And no link with anybody I knew or got to know at Cambridge actually. I can’t recall. So, my close friends were all medics like me. I did a little bit of sport, but nothing very special and that was quite in fun. I was extremely keen on wildlife, mainly birds and got involved with that. At public school you have the problem that there are no girls [s/l at it. 00:26:53]

**INT: Did you get involved in Oxford beyond the academic work? Were there any extracurricular stuff that you did and were there important friendship networks that you established there?**

RES: I did quite a bit of rowing and some tennis I played for the college as well. Otherwise there was the odd knockabout football match, which was not because I was any good at it but just people kicking a ball around in the park; it wasn’t my sport anyway and yes there were people I met there who I am still in touch with today.

RES: And I was walking down the street in second day, Trinity Street and bumped into a friend I had met when I was travelling in my gap year and, called Roger Michell who died last year but at the very end, theatre and film director, lovely man, a good friend and he said, “Oh, I’ve already got myself appointed assistance director on the big production at the amateur dramatic club you know, where we, they’ve got their own theatre and everything.” He said “Come along and I’ll put in a word for you,” and I got some walk on part.

**INT: Yes.**

RES: But it got my foot in the door.

**INT: Yes, yes.**

RES: And a year and a half I was running the shop. They didn’t have, anyone would be actors or directors, they didn’t have many people who just wanted to run things. And so you ran your own theatre as a student it was absolutely amazing.

**INT: Wow.**

RES: You were in charge. You know you programmed it and you marketed it and-

**INT: Where do, where do you think that ambition, you know you mentioned if anything your family had a kind of medical bend to it. Where did the theatre, sort of, the interest-**

RES: Well I think in Liverpool in the 60s was quite good in that respect.

**INT: Yes.**

RES: And we went to a lot of cultural stuff.

…

RES: And of course Cambridge you can do what you want and you know, I still did my rowing and all the other shit you do for a while, but actually it was, and then of course you meet, you know at school you can’t choose your friends, they’re imposed on you, it’s just whoever’s there at the same time.

**INT:** And what kind of societies did you join?

**RES** So I joined the French film society and the Islamic society and the Pakistani society, parachuting society, the hockey club and the law society and the debating society. But obviously, I didn’t, you couldn’t keep up with all of that because it was a bit too much, so with the parachuting society I did a couple of parachute jumps then did we had a couple of events with the Pakistani society and I was on the organising committee and we did a couple of shows and went and got sponsorship from local community and shops and businesses and had a musical held a musical extravaganza which was good fun and I played badminton and squash and a bit of hockey, but not for too long but it was mainly badminton and squash that I played.

Because one of the issues at university is, because I don’t drink, because I’m Muslim and I don’t drink, and obviously the culture amongst my friends there was very much the drinking culture, so I really enjoyed myself because I met people in other you know other groups and so with the Pakistani society and the Islamic society and other students from other religions who didn’t drink either or other cultures so that was quite good actually, I mean I lived with in my second year I lived with two of my friends who were on the same, I did live with students who were of different backgrounds in my second year but no, just I enjoyed going into the centre of Birmingham as well got to know that fairly well [0:41:59.3] and had quite a big group of friends actually both from the course and just from some of the other societies as well. So that was yep, very enjoyable.

RES: So I did that for one year, I also in my second year, I tried out for the university rugby team and got in, and played in my second and third year for the university. At that time it was pre-blues, so it was called the colours sport, because we started it, so I was in the team for the first two years, and then I think it was in my fourth year, I was gonna carry on, and then I was doing some training and I just felt like I was going to tear a crucial ligament and it just felt like I’d gone over on my knee, and I really did not want to have a weakness on my knees because I was an open side flanker, so my life was tackling and being tackled.

RES: And I just thought I.. really enjoy rugby but I don’t want to be injured and crippled for the rest of my life by… and also being a vet, you know a lot about the structure of joints, and knee joints are rubbish, they’re a terrible design, so I just thought I’m not going to go there, and end up with masses of surgery and arthritis, so I just quit after two years. I carried on playing—I played indoor cricket for the university and I carried on—I played some college sports, I did running and I can’t think what else I was doing.

INT: Yeah, you were still doing martial arts and survival training. And also, with these hobbies, did you continue anything from your time at Cambridge? I know you were involved in extracurricular activities; is that something that's continued?

RES: So yeah, I mean, I kind of did a bit of drama when I was at Oxford, and I still do the odd bit of acting in the very amateur level now, at the old stage thing, which is kind of fun. It's kind of interesting. I've got very bad memory; I can't really remember what else I did there that I still do now.

But that is definitely one thing that I can remember. And I think the whole culture of when you're there, just meeting of friends and drinking, and so on. Yeah, that has carried on.

## Friendship

To begin with. I think I was very lucky - in the fact of what college I went to at Oxford. I went to Trinity. Which was a very small college in those days. We were only l60 people. And we knew everybody. And the sort of annual intake used to be - I mean I'm talking in very general terms - sort of l0 Etonians, 8 Rugbyans, 8 Wykhamists, 5 from Marlborough, 4 from Tonbridge. The whole lot. And you got to know these other schools so well that you forgot that you'd been an Etonian and forgot that you were thought of as being toffee-nosed, which the others were all apt to do, and you made tremendous friends with everybody. Where if you went to the House, I'm talking only of Oxford, Christchurch. I mean a great friend of mine went there and he never knew anybody but Etonians the whole way through his Oxford career. And he - it was a much bigger college and there were a lot of Etonians there and they knew each other and they never spoke to anybody else hardly. I mean that's obviously an exaggeration, but it gives you the idea. And therefore I maintain that by going to Trinity when I did in those days, one got rid of that differentiation which a lot of people have had and been - "We were at Eton, I don't know where you were my boy", you know, that sort of thing.

When you went to Trinity you were telling me about the composition of your new friends there. You mentioned a whole string of well known public schools. What about non-public school boys. Were there any there?

Oh yes, there were. And one knew them and they were frightfully nice too. Awfully nice. Excellent. And relationships very good. Throughout the whole thing. I think we had a marvellous relationship. Because you knINT: being so small you knINT: And then we had a lot of Rhodes scholars too. People like that. Who were delightful. South Africans and Americans. Both.

Meeting these boys from State schools, I mean that must have been quite a new social experience for you?

Yes, up to a point. And of course slightly different accent and that sort of thing, affected one a bit. But - there weren't an awful lot of course. But the ones that were there were on the whole pretty brightindividuals and very nice ones you see. And I think on the whole they were rather carefully chosen. And they fitted in really well.

They would be clever, would they?

I don't say they'd have to be, but - more likely I think. I think more likely.

I certainly had occasionally meals with friends, I think, either in my rooms or in their rooms. What else can one say?

…

What sort of friends did you make at that period?

My two companions – we were all at Corpus – one was Robert – was it Robert - Marshall, certainly, who is now Sir Robert, and Hillary King who is in the diplomatic, and now is retired in Scotland.

Do you keep in touch?

No. No. I don’t know really of any of the other people of that year that I particularly keep in touch with.

Were they, on the whole, from fairly privileged backgrounds as compared perhaps to when you went back after the War?

I suppose most of that College were from public schools but there were quite a lot of grammar school boys too.

What was it like to be at the Academy at that time? I mean was it...when...you’d come down, you’d been in the Army, so you’d seen the world a bit. But you were coming back into the academic situation, and the school situation.

It was a very strange experience really, because, the Academy, out of all the postgraduate colleges, was like a...a school, a finishing school beyond finishing schools in a way. I mean there were a lot of the people there had been to Swiss private schools, to public schools here. Because of the reputation of the Royal Academy anyway, it tended to have quite a lot of portrait, people who had ambitions towards portrait painting, and, and so on. I mean we’re talking about the late Fifties. And, anyway, there’s nothing wrong with that, but... It was a class, there was a...one was very...one felt as if there was a, quite a division in lots of students in terms of class. It was very much the upper class. Certainly a strong middle class. And there was one or two working class students there. But we were in the minority I felt. There was a lot of people from the shires I think.

I thought I would like to go to Art School, at that stage, and would go to, the study of painting. And eventually, I was l7, I did myequivalent 'O's.

And you did art, presumably, did you?

I did art. And I went to Guildford Art School, just, I think, I'd turned l7, I think, and I had

two really hectic years there, when I was behaved very badly ... walked myself out of various classes, and found that I liked sculpture very much suddenly, because there was a very nice

man down there who taught it, very sympathetic, Trevor Tennant, he was a wonderful

teacher. There were two - Harry Phillips and Trevor Tennant - they're both dead now. And

they were just wonderful.

Coming from, as we practically did, privileged backgrounds, with, anyway, enough money

…

Absolutely marvellous time at Oxford. And I suppose I'd say this, certainly made friends, which were, and which is perhaps a general comment, made friends which were an extension of Winchester, and the Brigade of Guards at Oxford then, where everyone went, which really established the, the network by which I and people like me, had been able to, to live, to live our professional and social lives. I mean, extending ... all of which, of course, interestingly, is, is, is now totally dismantled. Totally dismantled. I mean, not just partly dismantled. At least I think so, looking at my children, where they've gone, and the friends they have. And, I mean, I, I, personally, I would say a good thing too. But that's entirely another point. I mean, not, not, this isn't really an essay in social comment, but, but as a matter of social history ....

No, but a social comment is interesting, actually.

Yes. I mean, I don't, I don't defend it at all. I certainly say this, that when people in America say "No, we have hidebound English traditions of hundreds of years, an old privilege", I am able to say, "Well, as far as I'm concerned", you know, "my father left school at l5", and so it's, if you like, it's rags to, I don't know about riches, but anyway, to comfort and position in, you know, the single generation. And that, actually, I personally think its, you can see, certainly you can see impression ...all, all round. And, of course, in the other direction, perfectly well. And, as you'll no doubt see in my family, the other direction. But that was, but anyway, that was, that was Oxford then.

But that, that, I really did digress from Oxford. And I would say that I had a, I really had a marvellous university career, with masses of, lots of friends, very good friends, who remain very close friends.

And did you make new friends at Cambridge who have stayed friends?

Yes. Yes, well again a relatively small number but still stayed on, you know, but still a lot of contemporaries of mine and played football of course you know you get to know that sort of, those people and you stay with them. I played football throughout the War.

And did any of those people crop up in your career later?

No, not, No. (pauses) Not really. Not very many.

**INT:** Good yeah, and you did get in, so could you talk to me a bit about your experience of university? Did you go straight there?

**RES:** Yeah, no, the concept of a gap year, if you're from a working-class background, you don't really think you've got time for a gap year. You're just on the process, obviously it was a time when it was grants as well. And university was one of those ones where, I mean there was a degree of racism when you got here, but you soon found a group of students that you could hang with. There was a Black Students group, Black Caucus group, which I'm still a part of now. Still in a WhatsApp group with the same people. And I think it's that kind of close-knit shared experience. I did lots at university which was sort of like... I just threw myself into things like organising things, being in the Student Union, I was the anti-racism officer. Singing. Joining bands and stuff like that, so yeah, it was quite good. Tried a bit of journalism, did a bit of acting, and just threw myself into lots of things, but I also then got into Cambridge as a city by making friends in Cambridge who were not in the university as well. Going out to events which weren't university events in the city, like the Cambridge One Jazz Club was a thing for me, I liked that club.

INT: And did you make … Did you keep kind of lifelong friends from Warwick? Or were your friends more from Saint Pauls? Like did you develop friendships around that time that you've kind of continued with?

AS - I did around Warwick, definitely, they were very formative years in that meeting people who had different perspectives, you know, a lot in terms of literature, I've read a huge amount and I actually connected with people outside the economics course more so and just got a different view on life. So yeah, Warwick more so than St. Pauls. Not to say that there weren't people there who were incredibly interesting, but somehow I just haven't. I mean this is all pre-Facebook and etc, and also I suppose with St. Pauls I was so busy doing all the others things to really have connected with people in the same place so but yeah, I've made lifelong friends through Warwick.

INT:And how did you find university when you went? Did you enjoy it, was a good experience?

ET: Thoroughly. I really enjoyed Oxford. It was great. I chose LMH because my grandmother had been there. I was doing a degree I enjoyed. I made good friends around the university. And, of course, one of the things by all the colleges being single sex - although five mixed colleges in those days - it meant that you had to get to know people from the other colleges, I think possibly more so than what I gather students do now, whereas you can get an entire social life within your college now. In those days, there wasn't a bar in LMH. **[00:28:12]** And I was that generation that, I graduated this summer, virtually all the colleges went mixed. So it was mildly entertaining because the women's colleges put in bars and the men's colleges put in mirrors and baths. It was just so funny, we were all having this sort of, what’s just appeared in your college for the upcoming year?!

**INT: Okay, okay. Tell me a bit about your experiences there? Again, was that an experience that, I don’t know, did you feel that there was a through line, a continuation culturally from St Paul’s or did it feel very different and how did you get on?**

RES: It covered a far wider band or type of people. Obviously there were those who were from a rather more, if not aristocratic certainly more upper class backgrounds. There were those who came from a variety of State grammar schools but it covered a wider social class. This is back in the time when I think only about 5% of the population went to university but everyone got their education free and no matter how rich you were you got at least a minimum £50 a year grant to live on which was quite a lot of money then. So it covered a pretty wide group of people. I suppose I tended to gravitate towards those who were again of a fairly similar background to me.

RES: And I was walking down the street in second day, Trinity Street and bumped into a friend I had met when I was travelling in my gap year and, called Roger Michell who died last year but at the very end, theatre and film director, lovely man, a good friend and he said, “Oh, I’ve already got myself appointed assistance director on the big production at the amateur dramatic club you know, where we, they’ve got their own theatre and everything.” He said “Come along and I’ll put in a word for you,” and I got some walk on part.

…

RES: Where at university you can seek out kindred spirits. I got many more friends from that era than I do from school.

INT: Thank you, this has been so rich, I suppose I’ll take us to university now, and what was it like when you arrived at Cambridge, how did you find that experience?

RES I think because I’d taken my year off, I was quite confident when I went into university, I scheduled my return to the UK from Australia so that I had maybe 36 hours from landing to being in Cambridge, and not all of my stuff had come with me because I’d just gathered so much stuff—I was there for five months and I just gathered loads of things, so a lot of it was shipped and I remember it arriving during term.

RES: I was very tanned, I was very confident and relaxed, people told me afterwards that they found me quite intimidating because of that, I was just very confident

…

INT: And have you found that – I mean it sounds like you’re very sociable, very involved, have you found that you’ve kept friends from that time at university and has that been useful to you in your future life?

RES Oh, I definitely kept friends. I always used to say to myself, because I obviously changed careers, and so after six years of Cambridge I did a bit of vet work and then eventually I graduated in ’92 and by ’95 I was sitting the CPE exam to become a barrister, it wasn’t long in practice. But I always said that the best thing that I got out of Cambridge was my friends, and I’m very close friends with a number of people from Cambridge, some of whom are now professors and still there, in fact next weekend I’m back at Cambridge for the 30 years vet school reunion where everyone’s flying in from around the world and I have some very good friends from university, as in college.

RES: Then there’s university, the wider college, so other colleges that I got to know, and then also vet school, so, and then a couple of those people are amongst my best friends who I know from playing rugby with them, so there was quite a lot of friendship interaction groups from there. And even now to be honest there’s a strong network that you can call upon.

RES: I’m friends now with a couple of people that I was at college with or university with who I didn’t know at all really when I was there, I knew them by name and sight, but I wouldn’t have counted them as friends. One of them was in a college next door, I ended up being a lodger at his house for a year when I came to London as a lawyer and became very good friends, still very good friends with him, people who did other subjects.

RES: College was a very again cohesive group of people; I’m still involved with my college in that they have a group of alumni who are called the- I think we’re called the Late ‘80s Club, and quite a lot of the late ‘80s group have made very significant fortunes and they gather us together as a group to donate money back. In fact, I got notified today that my name is going to be engraved in some room in college, whichever one I want, so that college, there’s college, and then there’s the wider university, so people in other colleges and people I met through friends who were in other colleges.

RES: One of those is a professor there now, again I will see her next weekend. I still have friends from home, in fact the person I just let in is a friend from home, so all of those connections, yeah, definitely carry on, particularly I think my brother and I are both very aware that we’ve left our home life, we’ve left a lot of friends who are still there.

RES: I would, you know, I would be mortified if anyone thought I was too snobbish to still be friends with my friends from then. And to be honest it would be just so so bad, I mean, I can’t imagine doing it, I can’t imagine my brother doing it, that’s so strongly looked down upon in Wales, you know, that’s not how you act, that’s not how you behave.

RES: And you would be viewed as ridiculous to be like that, it’s… I mean I saw people at Cambridge who struggled because they came from a different socioeconomic group, and it was a bit like watching insects’ behaviour, it triggered nothing in me.

RES: I just don’t understand why you have a difficulty with this, you know, just swap between the two, you know, if people in your family life don’t like you speaking using certain words, then don’t use them! You know, adapt! I could never really understand that, and I still can’t really understand it, and I come across it sometimes now, where people struggle with that idea and I think well, if you make a mountain of it, it will be a problem for you, if you decide it’s not a problem then, most people take their cues from you.

INT: That ability to code-switch feels natural and easy enough.

RES Very, very natural, I think that’s possibly, thinking about it now, I’ve never really thought about it before, but my dad must have been like that, code switching between his family and my mum’s family, and obviously he was settled in Wales with my mum’s family, very much involved, my grandmother babysat for me when I was at nursery school and…

RES: So I had a very strong connection with my mother’s parents [0:32:43.1] and my mother’s family in Wales were the only family present, and my dad was considered to be, in that family, they all adored him, you know really really—again, you know, in Wales you get welcomed into the fold and then you're part of the family.

RES: They don’t really care what country you come from, anything about you, they take you as you are, and if the way you behave is good then you’re absorbed in, if you came along and you were snobbish then that wouldn’t happen.

INT: Absolutely, yeah, that's interesting. It's kind of a shorthand for intelligence that you can then use. Were you academically focused at university? Did you take on extracurricular activities?

RES Yes. So actually, a university was a bit of real culture shock for me, because I was from a kind of, you know, comprehensive school, very down to earth background, not academic, as in my school was not academic, my friends were not academic, there was no serious culture of studying or anything like that, but it was totally different, Oxford.

So, it really came as a shock. And I didn't like it at first, because people were studying all the time, they were very mature, the other students, even they're only 18 or 19, they seemed like kind of 40-year-olds, you know, the way they were acting.

And also, there were a lot posher, they were kind of, generally from, but at least half, probably more were from independent schools, and I just had never come across people like that before. So, it was a real culture shock, then when I got used it, then it was fine, it was really good, it was really good fun, and so on.

## Clubs

Did you join any clubs or debating society or...?

I became a member of the Cambridge Union. I did not speak but I attended a few of the debates. Um(pauses) I think I became a member at that stage of the Labour Club which was the only decent, um, political club in Cambridge at that stage. Um (pauses) I became obviously I became a member of the various, um,college and university law societies. I became a member of the Cambridge Film Society because they showed the best foreign films anywhere in Cambridge. Um, and I used to go the Cosmo[ph] which was the other foreign film showing cinema. Oh yes a lot a lot of cinema, theatre, music too in those days inCambridge and I just enjoyed myself.

What clubs did you join?

The Grid it was called. The Grid Iron. Was a club I belonged to. Which was very nice.

You were invited to join it, were you?

Well I suppose so, I can't really remember that. I think the answer was "oh come on old boy, you must join the Grid", you know, and that sort of thing. The rather - the nice one to be able to join - which I wasn't good enough at games - was Vincents. Which is the one which everybody - you had to be – well not a blue and that sort of thing, but you had to be a goodish games player. And then you joined Vincents. But I don't think you got near as good food probably as you did at ours. It was a nice club. Very pleasant.

Vincents Club, I was a member of the Vincent Club, but I mean that merely comes with being a sportsman. But at the college, I mean the only sort of politics would have been college JCR stuff, not, nothing outside or national. But as you can gather, yes, I didn't show any particular bent; I had no great, and I haven't had, any great hobby except for gardening later on, but at that's...I didn't have anything that immediately made me rush off and bury myself in doing something different to a normal life

We were, we all joined a, a club called the, when I say we all, a lot of us were in the Bullingden Club, which used to have, have dinners round Oxford. Police, police leave used to be cancelled on those evenings. We, we didn't think much of it. I mean, I remember, I remember once, after one of these dinners, there was a, there was a, a finishing school, called Cuffleys, in those days, in Oxford, in Merton Street. And we, we, once after one of these dinners, we went and threw coins against the girls' windows, you see, and the windows came up, and of course they looked out, night-dresses and sort of chatting with these girls, you see, and then Cuffley was woken up, of course, Mrs. Cuffley, and she shouted down. Of course, Cuffley was furious about the whole thing! And, and so rang up the Proctors, and so the, the next morning, I was an officer of this Club, I was summoned to the, to the Proctor's, and I turned up (INAUDIBLE), and it was, "Oh, Mr. Peppiatt ..." I was there with William, William Stormont, William Mansfield who he now is, and ... "Lord Stormont, you, you ... officers of Bullingden Club?" "Yes, sir, we are." "Well, is it true that after this dinner, you went and threw coins into Mrs. Cuffley's establishment, at the girls' windows?" "Yes, sir. I regret to say it is true." "Then that is very reprehensible. And, of course, we can, this must sound in a, in a very heavy fine." "Oh yes, sir." So he said, "Right", he said, "You're both fined £100 each." £100! We'd never heard of a hundred pounds. We absolutely reeled back, you see. Went to the (INAUDIBLE). Then, of course, he said, "It was very ... Come back." Came back and he said, "Did you go in and fetch the coins?" "Well, no sir, we certainly did not." "Ah, well", he said, "that makes it rather different", he said. "It will remain as £100 in the book, so I could report you were fined a hundred pounds, but I'm remitting £9O of it!" (LAUGHS) So, Cuffley was told, to her great gratification, that these awful young men had been fined a hundred quid! We paid a tenner each! But it was a, ... a ... but it was, really, that, Oxford then was, really was, a, a ... I hadn't read Brideshead at the time, but it really was a sort of Brideshead for, for people, people like me.

**INT:** Good yeah, and you did get in, so could you talk to me a bit about your experience of university? Did you go straight there?

**RES::** Yeah, no, the concept of a gap year, if you're from a working-class background, you don't really think you've got time for a gap year. You're just on the process, obviously it was a time when it was grants as well. And university was one of those ones where, I mean there was a degree of racism when you got here, but you soon found a group of students that you could hang with. There was a Black Students group, Black Caucus group, which I'm still a part of now. Still in a WhatsApp group with the same people. And I think it's that kind of close-knit shared experience. I did lots at university which was sort of like... I just threw myself into things like organising things, being in the Student Union, I was the anti-racism officer. Singing. Joining bands and stuff like that, so yeah, it was quite good. Tried a bit of journalism, did a bit of acting, and just threw myself into lots of things, but I also then got into Cambridge as a city by making friends in Cambridge who were not in the university as well. Going out to events which weren't university events in the city, like the Cambridge One Jazz Club was a thing for me, I liked that club.

**INT: Brilliant. And I mean tell me-- I mean, did you-- so, I mean culturally did it feel-- I mean, so you said there was this sort of strong cultural differentiation. You know, did you feel that you sort of fitted in and you understood Oxford in terms of you know, the way things worked? And did you sort of mix outside of you know, people of your sort of background and schooling? Or not so much?**

RES: Well, you mixed with those who were there to mix with

RES: --in college certainly. I mean I wasn’t a particularly social creature. And sort of got on with people. Again, tended to get involved in running things. And I was still-- thought I was heading for education and teaching. Education society, and I chaired that for a while.

RES: That sort of thing. I was identified as one of the two people in my year who had rowed before. I was grabbed by the rowing club. [unclear 00:29:25 over talking] thing and did it for one year and then said, no, no, I’ve got better things to do with my time.

RES: But I mean I avoided things like the union.

**INT:** And what kind of societies did you join?

**RES** So I joined the French film society and the Islamic society and the Pakistani society, parachuting society, the hockey club and the law society and the debating society. But obviously, I didn’t, you couldn’t keep up with all of that because it was a bit too much, so with the parachuting society I did a couple of parachute jumps then did we had a couple of events with the Pakistani society and I was on the organising committee and we did a couple of shows and went and got sponsorship from local community and shops and businesses and had a musical held a musical extravaganza which was good fun and I played badminton and squash and a bit of hockey, but not for too long but it was mainly badminton and squash that I played.

Because one of the issues at university is, because I don’t drink, because I’m Muslim and I don’t drink, and obviously the culture amongst my friends there was very much the drinking culture, so I really enjoyed myself because I met people in other you know other groups and so with the Pakistani society and the Islamic society and other students from other religions who didn’t drink either or other cultures so that was quite good actually, I mean I lived with in my second year I lived with two of my friends who were on the same, I did live with students who were of different backgrounds in my second year but no, just I enjoyed going into the centre of Birmingham as well got to know that fairly well [0:41:59.3] and had quite a big group of friends actually both from the course and just from some of the other societies as well. So that was yep, very enjoyable.

INT: So I suppose I was going to ask, did you continue your interest in extracurricular activities, did you have time for that when you were at university, or was it purely academic?

RES I did, I mean I have to say I partied quite hard you know there were so many social events and I, we had a very active college bar, I took over acting as the entertainment rep in my college so for a year I was setting up the ents [sic], which I frankly would never do again, it’s the hardest work. Just in terms of you know setting up, organising, finding—tracking down bands to play, getting them organised, getting the stage sorted, getting the lights, it was just, ugh, I learned that I didn’t want to do that anymore.