**Coding framework for Universities**

# Getting into University

**Helen Jackson:** (White, Woman, Father = Civil Servant, Educational Admin, Berkhamsted School for Girls, St Hilda’s Oxford, No clubs, Politics)

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?

HJ - 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.

HJ - 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?

HJ - 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?

HJ - 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?

HJ - 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?

HJ - I suppose I was, yes … It was what I was expecting to do.

**Beatrice Nancy Seear (Woman, White, Father = Mining engineer, Croydon High Sch.; Newnham College., Cambridge, Clubs = Royal Commonwealth Society, National Liberal, Politics)**

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.

**Josephine Barnes (White, Female, Father = Methodist Minister, Oxford High Sch, LMH Oxford, No clubs, Doctor).**

Tell me about how you got into Oxford?

Oh, I applied to Lady Margaret Hall. I did the examination, and I did rather badly. I

was then accepted by the Home Students, which is now St. Anne's, and then there was

an unexpected vacancy at Lady Margaret Hall, so I was allowed to go there.

To read?

Medicine, of course. Physiology, we had to read physiology. But, you see, that was

193O, when there was a quota for women students in Oxford. I forget what the quota was, 5OO, I think, something like that, between the five Colleges.

There must have

been more than that.

How many were we at LMH?

We were about 200, no, l5O.

There was a quota of women students, in other words, the Colleges were only allowed

to take, I mean, Lady Margaret Hall was only allowed to take, I think it's 56 students a

year, and some of whom, the others, the other three were equally restricted. But, in

addition to that, there was a quota for women medical students, so that out of 43

medical students, which was a large class, I think there were five women. So, I mean, I

just applied, and I got in.

**Peter Daniell (White, Male, Father = , Eton Coll.; Trinity Coll., Oxford (MA), Clubs = Brooks’s, Alpine, Government Broker)**

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.

**David Steel (White, Man, Father = Business, Rugby School; University Coll., Oxford, Clubs = Cavalry and Guards, MCC, Hurlingham; Royal and Ancient (St Andrews), Finance)**

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...

**Chad Varah (White, Man, Father = Canon, Worksop Coll., Notts; Keble Coll., Oxford, Clubs = Athenæum; Oxford Union, Religion)**

And what were your father’s hopes for you in terms of a career?

…He hoped I would follow in his footsteps, but I was a scientist and had no intention of doing so, so that was hard for him to bear. But at school, I was only interested in science and mathematics and won a scholarship to Oxford.

**Hugh Casson (White, Man, Father = Civil Service, Eastbourne Coll.; St John’s Coll., Cambridge, No clubs = Architect).**

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.

**Michael Strachan (White, male, Father = Soldier, Rugby School, Cambridge(Corpus Christi), Clubs = New (Edinburgh), Chairman)**

Did you... Why did you go back to Britain? Did you feel you had learnt enough German or was it...?

Well, yes. I was going up to Cambridge with an exhibition in September 1938, so I was making use of what is now called a gap year, I think, to improve my language capability, and when I left Berlin I went back to Germany before War broke out.

**Tom Johnson Gilbert (White, Man, Father = MP(St Andrews Sq), Edinburgh Academcy.; Trinity College (Oxford), Clubs = Rugby; Solicitor.**

Well there was a Class B release system for people to get back to university, and so that, it was expected that that would...that we would get back quite quickly under that scheme. It sort of draggedon, and I think, I did write to A.P. Herbert, I mean who was the MP for Oxford, you know, could hedo something, and he was quite good, I mean he did do something I think.

**David Price (White, Male, Father = ?, Eton, Trinity College, Cambridge, Yale, Clubs = Beefsteak and Sloane, Politics).**

Is this 46/47?

DP - Yeah. And that was through 45, the summer of 46. And my place at Cambridge had been kept open, because I got a scholarship from school to Cambridge, which lay cool until one took it up.

Was going to war, was the experience of the Italian campaign what you thought it would be before, if you can remember?

**Alan Carr** *(Male, White, Father = Retail Draper, Gresham, Cambridge, No clubs, and Law).*

But what really counted in getting into Cambridge

actually was the scholarship and being interviewed by Lord Annan as he had become

And, we had, as I recall, about the most stimulating sort of intellectual conversation I've ever had in my life, although I saw Annan long afterwards when I was at Cambridge, in the sense that I thought he got something out of me. And of course I suppose you will say, what came out was, you know, that I was Jewish. It seems that as soon as anybody asks me anything I'm telling them that all the time, but it didn't come up directly in that way, it came up on the question of poverty and riches, nothing to do at that stage of the conversation with religion as such at all. And, he was going down the path, you know, I remember him saying quite tersely... I said, `I don't think poverty is a virtue.' `Do you think it's a vice?' And I said, `No, I don't think that either, and I think that's where Christians get it so wrong.' And then we really opened it up, because of course he was very responsive to that kind of discussion, and we had a very very good conversation after that, and I've been into it with other people as well, because that I think is what an interview should be about.

**Anthony Mallinson (White, Man, Father = Timber Merchant, Cheam, Gonville Cambridge, Clubs = Royal Commonwealth Society, MCC, and Finance).**

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.

**David Scholey** (White, Man, Father = Finance, Wellington Coll., Berks; Christ Church, Oxford, No Clubs, Finance)

Oh right. And presumably your parents then assumed you would go to university, or was that

a decision you made at school?

I don't know if they...I don't know if they assumed I would. I suppose the general progress I

made at school made it likely that I would have the option to go to university, and in the end I

did have the option to go to university, and I didn't sit a scholarship but I took an entrance

exam which didn't seem to me to be particularly difficult.

**Edward du Cann (White, Man, Father = Lawyer, Woodbridge Sch.; St John’s Coll., Oxford, Clubs = Army and Navy, Carlton (Hon. Mem.); Royal Western Yacht, Business)**

You were growing up in the 1930s, when war was on the horizon, and in fact, you went on to serve in the war. Perhaps you could just describe a little bit about your experiences in that period.

EC - Well, I was very lucky. I was lucky in the sense that I was accepted for Oxford at a young age, I was only 16.

**Ferrier Charlton (White, Man, Father = Accountant, Rugby Sch.; Wadham Coll., Oxford, No clubs, Lawyer)**

FERRIER CHARLTON: Hovever that is getting rather sort of outside the

point of this vhole story. Anyway, Roberts vas a tremendous influence on

me. And I think it was mainly due to Roberts that I did veIl enough to

get a good entrance to Oxford.

I shared rooms with him later at Oxford,

which I will come to in due course. But that made an impression - I

don't know why - I suppose one is conscious of one's shortcomings and not

too aware of the advantages one had. One was too impressed with what one

couldn't do. But, as I say, Roberts helped me very much to get a decent

entry into my College at Oxford, which was Wadham.

FERRIER CHARLTON: Well he wasn't very clever, you see. So he wasn't

thrust into the classics' side. You see, if you were very clever you

were thrust into the classics' side because that's ",here the school made

its reputation - gaining Oxford or Cambridge scholarships, you see, which

were (by a vast majority) open to people who read classics. It has long

been part of our history, this business - unfortunately. There ver e of

course very fine faculties in Universities in mathematics and physics and all sorts of other things. But you couldn't get in to those from school

very easily at all. Generally speaking the way in, if you were clever,

was to read classics. And of course most clever classics pupils didn't

have any particular mission to change into another school when they went

to University, and ven t on reading classics and you finished up with a

First in Greats or whatever. Then maybe you became a top civil servant

or you might then change - quite a lot of people changed to medicine

after that, if they could afford to, the time and money.

FERRIER CHARLTON: But generally speaking the opportunities were not so

great if you hadn't read classics.

JUDY SLINN: I was going to say, had you discussed going to Oxford with

your parents and what you were going to read?

FERRIER CHARLTON: I discussed it mostly with my teachers, but my father

had a very big interest because he decided quite early on that I would

make a good lawyer. I suppose lowe him a great deal for having that

perception. And he wanted me therefore to go to University. And the

teachers of course know all the ins and outs about where to put you, as

it were - where to send you. They regarded me as being the best bet to

go to one of the smaller colleges. Why Oxford was chosen I don't know.

I think probably because the Masters had a better - they were probably

more Oxford than Cambridge people who were doing me. I don't know. I

don't remember discussing it at all: it was just, as it were, 'That is

what is going to happen'. And so I went to two College groups: one

with, as I remember - or was it one? I can't remember whether I did one

or two Oxford exams. I remember very well, though, in 1941 being in

Christ Church, living there in one of the rooms, you know – freezing cold: oh, it was cold - and I had to go in every day and take these

papers. Why it was cold in the summer-time I don't know - but it was.

Was it the previous Michaelmas, perhaps? It may have been that the exam

actually was before the summer term: I think it must have been.

JUDY SLINN: Unless they changed it for war-time, the exam was usually

either just before Christmas, I would have thought, or just after.

FERRIER CHARLTON: I think that must be right because I remember being

freezing cold in Christ Church and not very warm in the examination room

either. But Bowra gave me (once again) an unofficial exhibition: I

didn't get an awarded scholarship or exhibition but he gave me a grant to

let me in. And the idea was that I should read law. So I suspect Bowra

was probably rather annoyed because he was a great classicist himself and probably thought it a shame that I wasn't reading classics. However, law

it was I had to do - first Law Mods vas Justinian's Institutes and

constitutional lave Well of course Justinian's Institutes vas great

because that was all latin - relatively easy latin compared vith Virgil

and things like that. So I did quite veIl at Justinian's Institutes but

I didn't enjoy the legal studies very much.

My law tutor was a man called Davidge who was, I suspect looking back,

probably really retired. I think one of the effects of war-time of

course was that many of the dons were away at the war. So older dons had

to be, as it vere, recalled back into harness.

**Hugh Peppiatt (White, Man, Father = Solicitor, Winchester College; Trinity College, Oxford, Clubs = City of London; Royal Wimbledon Golf; Larchmont Yacht (New York), Finance).**

Well, then I went to Oxford, which, of course, was, in those days, all of us, from what was really a privileged background, and we'd all assumed that if we wanted to, we'd go to Oxford or Cambridge. In those days, there weren't many other universities, well, not ones that we counted in, no doubt, a somewhat snobbish way. And so I went to, I got a Scholarship ... I got a major Open Scholarship to Trinity College, Oxford, which I don't ascribe to, being precisely clever. I proscribed to, to, to excellence, education, and exam training at Winchester. So I left Winchester in '48, with this Scholarship, and then, of course, went into the Army. Up to this point, it was a very orthodox passage… But anyway, I had the place at Oxford. And I can't say that my judgement would have been as good if I had not had the place at Oxford. But I did have a place at Oxford.

**Jeremy Morse (White, Man, Father = Solicitor, Winchester; New Coll., Oxford, Clubs = Athenæum, Finance).**

So, then, of course, it wasn't to University, having got my place at New College, it was into the Army for National Service.

**William Roger - (White, Man, Father = Muncipal worker (Liverpool), Quarry Bank High School Liverpool.; Madgalen Coll (Oxford.; Clubs = Labour Club; Secretary of State**

And my economic masters said, “why don’t you think of taking a scholarship to Oxford?” And I said, “oh, I suppose so”, I mean I hadn't really thought about it and had never been to Oxford or Cambridge or anywhere. They had what was the book room, which was just stocks of books, just that, and no light, no natural light, and so forth, and I worked there and read papers and wrote essays and so forth. So then, eventually, I took examinations and to my great surprise one day I remember getting a letter saying-, no, I saw the letter coming and I thought it was coming by post but I didn't, I kept my eyes closed and pretended that I didn’t know what it said. So after a while, I opened my eyes and opened up the envelope and to my surprise I was going to Oxford. So then I went to national service for two years, nearly two years.

**Robert Clark (White, Male, Father = mechanical engineer, Highgate Sch.; King’s Coll., Cambridge, Clubs = special forces, Pratt's, Chairman of RP & C International)**

And how was it, how was Cambridge chosen?

I think the truth of the matter is that my modern language master went to Cambridge himself and recommended me to Kings, Cambridge, Kings College Cambridge and I got in (hesitates) and I went for a year and never went back.

**Peter Miller - (White, Male, Father = Lawyer, Rugby, Lincoln Coll. (Oxford), Clubs = Rugby, Chairman.**

*Presumably, as you got towards the end of your school years, you began to put your mind to what happened next?*

Yes, National Service then, I wanted to go to Oxford, Oxford or Cambridge, and I was arrogant enough not to consider it possible that I wouldn't get in if I wanted to go, and I was in the, what was called the Scholarship Form, the Upper Sixth, which meant that you were potentially capable of getting a Scholarship to Oxford or Cambridge, and I took the Scholarship Exam to a bunch of the Cambridge Colleges, and to a bunch of the Oxford Colleges, and I failed to get a Scholarship, but on the strength of the Scholarship Exams I was offered a place at Lincoln College in Oxford, which was my first choice College, actually, which I was very pleased about.

*These Scholarship exams, did you have to take several, or was it just one?*

In those days, the Oxford and Cambridge Colleges grouped together, five or six Colleges at a time, and you'd go up to Oxford, or up to Cambridge, and take a series of papers, and your first choice college would be the one at the top, or you could, or rather, you could choose your own first choice College, and the others would see you if necessary, and I was seen by two of the Oxford Colleges, both of them offered me places, very kindly, Lincoln and Jesus, I went to Lincoln, because it was my first choice.

*What was it about Lincoln that attracted you, did you know anybody there?*

No. It was advice from my Headmaster, Percy Lyon. He said he thought it was the right College, and he, if I may say so, he was dead right. He said, "Peter, you don't want to go to one of the big, smart Colleges. You're slightly anti-Establishment", which I have always been, and I remain, I don't like the Establishment terribly. I don't like the sort of having to conform, because of the set of values set down by the people. He said, "Lincoln College has got a very good Rector", who was Keith Murray, who became the Chairman of the University Grants Commission afterwards, he became a great man, became a Lord, and died eventually. And he knew Keith Murray well, and he thought he'd be a very good Head of College, and he was right, I enjoyed Lincoln a lot.

**Michael Jenkins 1936. White, Male, Father = sales manager, t Christopher Sch., Letchworth; privately; King’s Coll., Cambridge (Exhibr, BA), clubs = Brooks’s, Pilgrims, MCC (Treas., 1999–2000; Chm., 2000–01; Trustee 2001–07), Chairman)**

And did you start thinking about what you wanted to do thereafter? Did you take university for granted?

I suppose so. I mean, most people did. You assumed, I mean, I had a, I suppose, a reasonably successful career at Tonbridge in that I played games for most of the first teams, I was Head of the House, one of the Houses, and I didn't get a scholarship to Oxford, but I sat a scholarship for Oxford, so, and on the strength of what I did, I got a place at Oxford.

…

Why did you choose Merton?

For the same reason that I went to Tonbridge. Because the same man, friend of my father's, was a Mertonian, and he suggested Merton. In fact, when I went and sat for university, I actually sat for scholarship at Trinity, and Merton wasn't in that group, you know, they have groups of ... so, but Merton agreed if Trinity didn't give me a scholarship, to look at my papers, and to give me an interview, and if they thought I was good enough, they would offer me a place, which they did.

**John Maxwell Kennedy: (white, male, father = tobacco-importer, Fettes School, University College London, Clubs = City Law + royal wimbledon club, solicitor)**

There then came the question of university. I had good enough grades at what was then called Higher School Certificate, now A levels, to get a place in Cambridge, and I had a place in Trinity Hall, but it wasn't for a year until after I left school

*Did you have to pay a premium for your articles?*

Money had always been a little tight throughout my education. When I was at University, a means tested grant system operated and my father's earnings were sufficient to mean I got a virtually nil grant at University so he had to keep me at University.

**Nicola Horlick 1960 -- (White Woman, Father = Sales Manager, Cheltenham, Oxford, No clubs, Business)**

EW - 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?

NH - 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.

**Jill May (White Woman, Father = Senior Engineer, Beneden, Durham, Hurlingham 5 Hertford St, Finance)**

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

JM - 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!

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| **Margaret McCabe (White, Woman, Father = Academics, Oxford High School, Cambridge, No clubs, Academic)** |

EW: Did you kind of always know that you wanted to go on to university when you were at school? You would stay till A-levels and then you went?

MM: Yeah, but you were supposed not to do it like that those days, you were supposed to stay and do university entrance after A-level. And I didn't wanna to do that, and they said, oh, but you're a classicist, you're supposed to do a third year sixth[?], then you’re supposed to, you know, get a scholarship, and I said I don't want a scholarship, I just want to leave. And I wanted to go to Oxford and I didn't get into Oxford so I went and, but I did get into Cambridge, and when I came here, I realized that I was much better off coming here, um because I was away from home and all of that kind of stuff.

**Juliette Williams 1943 (White Woman, Father = Headmaster, Cheltenham Ladies College, Bedford College, Cambridge, No clubs, Business)**

JW: Yeah, I went on… interestingly enough, I took Oxbridge entrance, and got the Cambridge, and decided not to go, I thought I'd go to London.

**Viviette Glover, 1942 (White Woman, Father = Economist, St Pauls, Oxford, London, No clubs, Academic)**

EW: 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?

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

EW: Can you remember the interview process or?

VG: 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.

**Jane Roberts 1952 -- (White Woman, Father = Medics, Oxford High School, Cambridge, No clubs, Novelist)**

EW - Yeah. And do you think Oxford High School *was* good academically? I mean, even if you found it, you didn't enjoy it, was it a good teaching environment or do you not think it was very kind of good at that, in the academic sense, either?

JR - Look. Basically, you know, it was a machine for getting girls into Oxbridge. And it got me to Cambridge. I didn't, I mean, I enjoyed (pause) I enjoyed history, that was very well taught. I mean, I had some good teachers, but it was very, very conventional in a very particular way. And, you know, my experience of education had been really different. I mean (long pause) okay, I can tell you a story that will illustrate it completely. I was just thinking, ‘can I actually say this? Is it going to cause any problems?’ (pause). But it's the truth, so I don't see why it should cause any problems. When it came to (pause) going to university, the main passion in my life when I was in my, you know, sort of 16 onwards, was acting. I *loved* acting and I wanted to be an actor. And my parents said, “no, you can't go to drama school you’ve got to get a degree. I mean, do what you want afterwards, but we want you to have a proper degree. You know, you're clever enough, get a degree and then act.” So, I thought, okay, I can get a degree in drama and that was actually *quite* trendy at the time, and a number of newer universities were running drama degrees, and in fact there were six universities in the entire country that ran drama degrees. So, I applied to those six in order of, you know, preference. And my parents agreed to that and then I applied, you know, the year before you take your A-levels as one does, and I got rejections from my first five choices and an offer from Hull, which was my sixth. And my predicted grades were 2 A's and a B. So, my parents and I went to see the head who was Mary Warnock, and said “what's going wrong? Surely Jane should have better offers than this given her predicament?” and she said, “oh yes, that was the, I put that in my report, Jane’s Oxbridge material, she’d be wasted going to these universities. She can stay on and do Oxbridge next term.”

…

JR - No. I think my parents were (pause), I think my parents were a bit dazzled and confused, because (pause) again, it's interesting how history repeats. My father had had a place at Cambridge to do English, which was his great love, his great reader, and he wanted to be a writer. And then he had been called up for National Service and he was a Conscientious Objector. So, he went with the Friends Ambulance Unit to France, and what he saw there made him decide to change from English to medicine. So, the notion that someone in the family would be a writer and go to Cambridge. That was like, okay, well, you know that will get passed on to Jane. And that you know, I mean, that's a nice story and I could see that, too. You know, it's nice when you think, you know, that there's a, there's a story that runs down the generations that make sense of life. And I don't know, I mean, I guess (pause) my one rebellion (laughter) after she’d done this, my one rebellion was to say, well, I'm *certainly* not applying to Oxford (laughter). Because we were all, all of us girls at the high were convinced she had connections within Oxford and that people got in partly through, you know, because they were all Oxford people, and far fewer girls went to Cambridge. So, I only applied to Cambridge (laughter).

**Liz Jensen 1959 (White Woman, Father = Violin maker, Oxford, Oxford, No clubs, Novelist)**

L: 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.

**1137 (1037) - (White woman, Father = Doctor, Moreton Hall, Shropshire, Univ of Essex,No clubs, Academic)**

**INT: That’s interesting. I’m interested in the ex-communicated thing for a second, so tell me why you didn’t want to go to Oxbridge. Can you remember any interactions with people in the school about that decision?**

RES: I can remember, because in those days you had to fill in an UCAS form, and I think I put Cambridge second and Oxford fifth, or the other way round, I can’t remember. There was a bit of sociology at Cambridge, but not very much and I can always remember my headmistress, who was an absolute character and she said, “Oh, PPE darling, it’s the same thing.” I knew it wasn’t, just from having read Tom Bottomore on sociology. I think I’ve got the book somewhere, I’m sure I have. I can’t remember the- but somehow I found out, I’ve no idea how because there wasn’t internet in those days and things, but I found that Essex was the place to do sociology because Townsend had gone there. How I knew that, I honestly- I sometimes wonder how I knew that. Anyway, so once I got into Essex, which I did without any trouble, I couldn’t care less about the others.

**[00:20:00]**

We had to do Latin as part of our Oxbridge entrance- I had to stay on an extra term, it was all a complete farce because I knew I wanted to go to Essex. I can remember basically, just not really revising for the Latin exam, and making up the Latin translation. Surprisingly, I think I did get an interview at one of them, I think it was Oxford, or was it Cambridge? I can’t remember now. Yes, I got into the university I wanted to get into, and they were furious because you know, they- and also, I think it was, I’d been a bit of a goody goody really, I think and suddenly I made this decision for myself [unclear 00:20:54] what they wanted, and they certainly hadn’t paid a scholarship in order for me to go to a new university like Essex.

**INT: That’s funny, that’s funny.**

RES: I was just really kind of cut off then. They were so angry with me.

**INT: That’s interesting. So, you went to Essex and you studied sociology. I’m sure if we go through your career, we’ll be here for many hours in terms of how long and-**

RES: I didn’t move that often, so actually going through it will be quite quick.

**1150 (1050) - (White man, Father = surgeon, Harrow, Cambridge, No clubs, Medical scientist)**

RES: [overtalking 00:20:59] and I did work. So I got a scholarship to Harrow, at the end of that I got the scholarship to Cambridge. I came out of Cambridge with first class degree. Went to medical school, did well at medical school and so on and so on, and so forth. So none of that was to my mind – not at Cambridge either – affected by my class or the way I spoke or how much money I had or anything like that. Yes.

**1151 (1051) -- (White man, Father = anaesthetist, St Paul's School, London, Oxford, No clubs, Consultant)**

**INT: Yes. So, tell me a bit about Oxford then. You know, was it as-- was there a fairly-- did it feel like a fairly straightforward transition? Were you sort of-- there was almost an expectation that you would and how did you choose a college? And take me through that process if you will.**

RES: That is interesting. I mean, the support you received and the expectation educationally in that sort of school, even [unclear 00:24:32] liberated one like St Pauls’ was Oxbridge. And there was a regular [unclear 00:24:38] usually of major and minor awards like [unclear 00:24:42] places. I ended up, I think at the fourth attempt, having turned down two places as it being regarded as premature because I was too young. But I got a place at Hertford College which was one of the smallest and poorest colleges in Oxford at the time. I mean now, it’s brilliant now. Totally transformed but then it was beautifully situated, obviously at [unclear 00:25:08]. But in all other respects pretty down beat. The two history dons had been appointed in the 30s and were well past their sell by date. They used to take options that got you out to other colleges and other dynamic individuals. No, Oxford was very interesting and I think you might find it interesting for your studies because my-- which was matriculation 1960, was-- let me think, only about five percent were ex-national service.

**1155 (1055) - (White man, Father = shopkeeper, St Paul's School, Cambridge, Clubs = Hurlingham, Athenaeum (for a while), Barrister)**

**INT: You were?**

RES: I was. To get into Cambridge in those days you had to pass an exam called ‘Use of English’ and I was the only person in St Paul’s over three years who failed ‘Use of English’.

**INT: How interesting.**

RES: The Head Master was - the High Master as he was called was not pleased with me. So it was the niche of finding a subject I was very good at and I was very good at it.

**INT: That’s an interesting thing. What was the ethos around that? Some people have said to us that those schools were very good at was finding what you were good at and supporting you in it.**

RES: Yes and I think that’s true. I’m not supporting you very well in the things you weren’t good at.

**INT: Yes, yes. How did that play out? Was that about people, particular teachers, was it about an ability that you had, a natural aptitude in maths and then, I don’t know, putting you forward for things or- ?**

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 but I also had teachers who inspired is too a big word but certainly motivated me and interested me in the subject and there were a group of four mathematicians at St Paul’s who were all very good who he basically got to Oxbridge by nurturing us and etc., etc. Two of them got scholarships to Oxbridge.

**INT: Interesting, interesting. That thing about use of English and art that’s very interesting to us as well. If you catch my drift, what was the axis of value among the boys, not necessarily what the school was? What was valued? What were the boys that were seen as the most popular or the most prestigious?**

RES: Not the academics, the sporty ones?

**INT: The sporty ones, yes.**

RES: Yes and those who ran the clubs who were captains of the houses. Those sorts of guys tended to extrovert. Those were the ones that the boys in general looked up to and us four mathematicians were regarded as slightly oddball because we were a bit anorak and all those sorts of things.

[00:10:00]

**INT: So you were seen at the swats or something?**

RES: No, swats is too hard because I participated in sports and clubs and things so I wasn’t a swat in that sense. Maths is a strange subject in that people who can’t do it really can’t do it, can’t get it and therefore regarded as strange in that respect.

**INT: I’m just interested in whether you would draw a link at all between your background and this arts orientated, well you put it as a weakness, that there is a sense in which that was the bit where perhaps coming from a cultured upper middle-class or upper class background was – would you in any way locate that as why those were areas where you may have been less strong or seen as less strong?**

RES: That’s a good question. I hadn’t thought of it but you’ve put the doubt in my mind. If you asked me, instinctly I’d say no but there may be a grain of truth in what you’ve just asked.

**INT: No, no that’s fine. No, no it’s interesting.**

RES: I still struggle because I’ve married somebody who’s very arty and she’s astounded at my lack of comprehension, understanding, sophistication, everything else etc., etc. When I say I’ve never heard of X, whoever X is, she looks at me as if I’ve come from planet zog. [Laughs]

**1058 (1158) -- (White man, Father = physician, Winchester College, Cambridge, Clubs = Oxford and Cambridge, Groucho, Soho House, Film producer)**

**INT: Yes. And, and then tell me a bit about Cambridge. So you went to Cambridge. Did you, you know was there a connection between the college and the, and Winchester or was it a random -**

RES: No, they said go and have a look around and see where you fancy, you know.

**INT: Yes.**

RES: And it was, you know it was undoubtedly cosy in those days.

**INT: Yes.**

RES: Yes, I remember going to if you had chosen [unclear: 00:14:19] and our house master said it’s a very good choice. You know, I had a brother there already at Keys doing medicine and then well if I owe anything to Winchester it is, in a way, getting me to Cambridge-

**INT: Yes.**

RES: Which I don’t necessarily think I would have done from elsewhere I might have done.

**INT: Yes.**

RES: But I, it was a, educated you in a way where they supplied Cambridge with sort of pupils they were looking for, to a degree and it was very male orientated then anyway, but I remember feeling as I got, I got really screwed without having been interviewed yes changing chatting about what books I was reading and what travel I had done and, and the guy just said, and he’d been public school headmaster or something, was a tutor’s admission you know, and he said “Don’t mess up your exams and you’ll be fine.”

**INT: Brilliant.**

RES: And, so I didn’t, I didn’t and it was fine and that was a much more formative place.

**Mehmuda Mian -- (South Asian (ethnicity) man, Father = GP, Forest School, London, Cambridge, No clubs, Solicitor**

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

**PARTICIPANT**: 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.

…

**PARTICIPANT**: 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...

**P:** 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?

[0:35:58.9]

**P:** 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.”

**1207 – (South Asian Man, Father = business manager, Ewart School, Madras, Christian Med. Coll., Vellore, Clubs = Athenæum, MCC; Leander (Henley-on-Thames); Hawks (Hon. Mem.) (Cambridge), Consultant)**

INTERVIEWER: Right. Okay, keep going until it works. And did you always have an idea you wanted to go to university and to study medicine, I suppose?

PARTICIPANT 1: Medicine? Yes, I [missed] [00:06:57] to go to university to study medicine, not necessarily. It's a bit of [?] a family disease, right? I would have liked to have perhaps done other things.

[00:07:08]

INTERVIEWER: Okay. Did your parents encourage you in particular then to study medicine?

PARTICIPANT 1: Encouraged it is one word. Pushed hard.

**1209 – (Kenyan Man, Fther = dentist, South Thames College of Further Education, South London, Oxford, Academic)**

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?

(15:44)

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.

(16:11)

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.

(16:32)

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.

**1214 -- (Indian (ethicity) man, father = legal advisor, Owen’s School, Herts, Oxford, Clubs = Athenæum, Royal Automobile, Barrister)**

INTERVIEWER: 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?

(11:30)

PARTICIPANT: 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.

(11:52)

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.

(12:26)

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.

**1217 – (South Asia woman, Father = GP, Olchfa Comprehensive School, Cambridge, Cambridge, Clubs = House of St Barnabas, Barrister)**

INTERVIEWER: Oh OK yeah, and so you ended up at Cambridge, do you remember when the idea came about that, I mean both you and your brother attended Oxbridge, do you remember that idea coming about and whether you got encouragement or mentorship?

PARTICIPANT: No specific mentorship in that sense, the school I was at was a comprehensive, but it had a particular teacher who set about having Oxbridge entrance as a group, so the sixth form was very large, it was 500 in the sixth form, and there was a class of about 25 who would try for Oxbridge by the time I came through. Because my brother had been singled out when he was at junior school.

[0:13:46.9]

P: In effect, at the junior school, he was so far ahead of his year group that they suggested he skipped the fourth year of junior school, and did basically third and fourth year in one go, and then he went straight up to senior school. He was analysed by MENSA, and I think because of that, my parents were much more alive to the idea that we might be thinking of those kind of universities.

[0:14:16.8]

P: Even though all of that was centred on my brother, my father was very much, “it’s the same for both”, so my brother would never have been sent to a different school to me, if he was going to go away to school and fees were going to be paid then so would be the same for me, and there was a point where it was considered as to whether we should go away to a boarding school that did sports, because my brother also played county tennis.

[0:14:47.2]

P: But it just never happened, my dad died when I was 12, so that kind of cut across doing anything like that, but my brother and I, we wouldn’t have wanted to go, we were perfectly happy at home, for us going to boarding school was some form of punishment. Why would you do that? [laughs] So yeah.

[0:15:04.7]

P: And in terms of encouragement to go to Oxford, I just had a strong sense as I was going through school that I was quite academic, I tended to get good results, I also was quite sporty but also quite active socially, there was definitely a segregated group of people who were only academic.

[0:15:25.]

P: And my brother and I were not only academic. And there was just a sense that, I always thought I would go to university, I wanted to be a vet so my mother, in fact, contacted all the vet schools to find out where they were and about entrance requirements, just, this is what I mean about her facilitating us. She would work out what was needed, do all the writing of letters in getting that, and then just present with a pile of… You know, she would ask us, if she, if we wanted that, and then she would do it.

[0:15:59.4]

P: So we learned very quickly where the vet schools were and one of them was Cambridge and so it was kind of automatically assumed that I would try for Cambridge. It came as a bit of a shock that I wasn’t able to go to Oxford at that time because I had assumed I’d go to the same university as my brother.

[0:16:16.9]

P: And they didn’t do the subject, and I thought for about half an hour about changing subject, because it just seemed so sort of.. I don’t really know why I’d go somewhere else. And in fact, for half an hour I thought about doing Law, but I was successfully put off by it by my brother [laughs] at that time, but yeah, my, it’s difficult to describe and I can’t really imagine it now, but I just always thought that I would try for Oxbridge.

[0:16:49.2]

P: And as it turned out, I tried and I got in.

**1222 -- (South Asian Man, Father = newsagent shop owner, Stanground Coll., Peterborough, Oxford, No Clubs, Barrister)**

INTERVIEWER: Yeah, okay. They wanted you to thrive and you were doing okay, they didn't feel like they had to intervene, that wasn't part of it. Okay. And you mentioned it wasn't particularly academic at school, but then I believe you went to Oxford. So, what was that experience like of applying?

(07:40)

PARTICIPANT: So, my school didn't really know very much about it. So, they were, it wasn't like, they weren't against me applying, but they just didn't know much. They were neither kind of for or against. It wasn't something that any real experience of.

(07:53)

So, I was applying kind of blind, didn't really know what I was doing. Kind of didn't know the difference between the colleges or anything. So, it was all a bit random, you know, so then I applied but then didn’t get in. So, then went there for a few days, and then got in.

**1227 – (Carribean woman, Father = academic, Queen's High School, Cambridge, No clubs, Playwright)**

P: 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.

[0:13:08.3]

P: 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.

# Family attended Oxbridge (before and after)

**Helen Jackson:** (White, Woman, Father = Civil Servant, Educational Admin, Berkhamsted School for Girls, St Hilda’s Oxford, No clubs, Politics)

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?

HJ - 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.

HJ - 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?

HJ - 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?

HJ - 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?

HJ - 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?

HJ - I suppose I was, yes … It was what I was expecting to do.

**David Steel (White, Man, Father = Business, Rugby School; University Coll., Oxford, Clubs = Cavalry and Guards, MCC, Hurlingham; Royal and Ancient (St Andrews), Finance)**

So Oxford beckoned, Univ., and again did you have the same family tradition at Univ.?

Yes, my grandfather and father, then my brother, and then myself. I went up in 1935, and my

brother had gone down the end of the term before, so that he was not up at Univ. with me,

although he had had three very happy years there, and I had got to know one or two...in fact

all his friends I think had gone down too, but I did go up.

**Peter Daniell (White, Male, Father = , Eton Coll.; Trinity Coll., Oxford (MA), Clubs = Brooks’s, Alpine, Government Broker)**

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.

**Michael Strachan (White, male, Father = Soldier, Rugby School, Cambridge(Corpus Christi), Clubs = New (Edinburgh), Chairman)**

*Did you succeed in your own eyes?*

[laughs] To some extent, yes. Yes, he was President of the Cambridge Union in due course and I followed him to Rugby and then to Cambridge. Not the same College. I went to Corpus Christi and he went to Magdalen which was regarded as rather a rich man’s college in those days. Corpus Christi was the ... the Master of Corpus was Sir Will Spens [ph]who was a Governor of Rugby and was encouraging Rugbians to come to Corpus, and that’s what I did.

**…**

**Jane Roberts 1952 -- (White Woman, Father = Medics, Oxford High School, Cambridge, No clubs, Novelist)**

JR - No. I think my parents were (pause), I think my parents were a bit dazzled and confused, because (pause) again, it's interesting how history repeats. My father had had a place at Cambridge to do English, which was his great love, his great reader, and he wanted to be a writer. And then he had been called up for National Service and he was a Conscientious Objector. So, he went with the Friends Ambulance Unit to France, and what he saw there made him decide to change from English to medicine. So, the notion that someone in the family would be a writer and go to Cambridge. That was like, okay, well, you know that will get passed on to Jane. And that you know, I mean, that's a nice story and I could see that, too. You know, it's nice when you think, you know, that there's a, there's a story that runs down the generations that make sense of life. And I don't know, I mean, I guess (pause) my one rebellion (laughter) after she’d done this, my one rebellion was to say, well, I'm *certainly* not applying to Oxford (laughter). Because we were all, all of us girls at the high were convinced she had connections within Oxford and that people got in partly through, you know, because they were all Oxford people, and far fewer girls went to Cambridge. So, I only applied to Cambridge (laughter).

**Elizabeth Tanner, 1957 (White Woman, Father = Accountant, Wycombe Abbey, Oxford, No clubs, academic)**

**[OXFORD + GENDER]**

EW: 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?!

**Liz Jensen 1959 (White Woman, Father = Violin maker, Oxford, Oxford, No clubs, Novelist)**

L: 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.

**1154 (1054) -- (Dual (mother British, father was ethnically Lebanese & born in Trinidad), Father = small business owner, St Paul’s School, Oxford, Clubs = The Rag, Army and Navy, Circuit Judge)**

**INT: Interesting, Tell me a little bit about the next move? So you went to read Law. Where did you study?**

RES: Oxford.

**INT: Which college did you go to Guy?**

[00:10:00]

RES: I was at Maudlin

**INT: How did you select that college?**

RES: To some extent at random, to some extent because my mother’s brother had been there.

**Mehmuda Mian -- (South Asian (ethnicity) man, Father = GP, Forest School, London, Cambridge, No clubs, Solicitor**

Particularly now because I’ve got two nephews, one’s currently Oxford and the other one graduated a couple of years ago from Oxford and their whole schools their... One minute I’m just gonna switch off the volume, one minute.

**1217 – (South Asia woman, Father = GP, Olchfa Comprehensive School, Cambridge, Cambridge, Clubs = House of St Barnabas, Barrister)**

P: So we learned very quickly where the vet schools were and one of them was Cambridge and so it was kind of automatically assumed that I would try for Cambridge. It came as a bit of a shock that I wasn’t able to go to Oxford at that time because I had assumed I’d go to the same university as my brother.

**1227 – (Carribean woman, Father = academic, Queen's High School, Cambridge, No clubs, Playwright)**

My parents met at Cambridge at the start of the War

# Ability

**David Steel (White, Man, Father = Business, Rugby School; University Coll., Oxford, Clubs = Cavalry and Guards, MCC, Hurlingham; Royal and Ancient (St Andrews), Finance)**

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.

**Denys Lasdun (White, man, Father = Business, Rugby School, No Clubs, Architecture)**

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.

**Ferrier Charlton (White, Man, Father = Accountant, Rugby Sch.; Wadham Coll., Oxford, No clubs, Lawyer)**

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.

**Hugh Peppiatt (White, Man, Father = Solicitor, Winchester College; Trinity College, Oxford, Clubs = City of London; Royal Wimbledon Golf; Larchmont Yacht (New York), Finance).**

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.

**Max Williams, 1926 -- (White, Male, Father = admiral , Nautical Coll., Pangbourne, clubs = Garrick, senior partner)**

So you got, I mean you got very rapid promotion in the Army. We haven't talked

about your, the scholastic side of your schooling at all but you were obviously...

Well that was a pretty low ebb generally. [LAUGHS] I mean I got a credit in

navigation, a credit in seamanship, a credit in French and the School Certificate, and

the rest were passes, so it was not a very high academic standard.

Is that because you were not applying yourself?

No, I just...well I don't know, but I wasn't very good at it. [LAUGHS] It didn't really

interest me.

I'm trying to winkle out of you that I think you were very, you have a very able brain

but obviously you weren't using it perhaps at that time.

I don't know that I've got an able brain. And fortunately if I write something down I

can visualise it, and so I think probably the only reason I got through the Law Society

exam was that I had written out my Gibson & Weldon notes in the classes, and so

when the exam paper came up, and fortunately the exam papers matched pretty well the

Gibson & Weldon courses, I could visualise my page, or nearly, and that's I think

how I made it. But as for the theory of law or anything like that, no. Not very academic.

**Liz Jensen 1959 (White Woman, Father = Violin maker, Oxford, Oxford, No clubs, Novelist)**

L: 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.

**1155 (1055) - (White man, Father = shopkeeper, St Paul's School, Cambridge, Clubs = Hurlingham, Athenaeum (for a while), Barrister)**

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

**1058 (1158) -- (White man, Father = physician, Winchester College, Cambridge, Clubs = Oxford and Cambridge, Groucho, Soho House, Film producer)**

RES: “Get there, because the world’s your oyster and you can reinvent yourself.” I felt slightly I don’t think underachieving is the right word, you know I was head of house and that sort of thing, but I didn’t achieve much at Winchester, I was at the top of classes you know but-

**1214 -- (Indian (ethicity) man, father = legal advisor, Owen’s School, Herts, Oxford, Clubs = Athenæum, Royal Automobile, Barrister)**

I think I really liked Oxford after about, towards the kind of final bit of the first year. And also, I started to find my feet academically because the tutors were starting to say I was good. I think I won the history prize for college at the end of the first year, and that was a real confidence boost.

So, I thought, actually, I don't exude the self-confidence that the kind of public school contingent had. It gave me a kind of belief that I could do it, and wasn’t out of place in Oxford. So yeah, I enjoyed the rest of the degree course a lot.

**1227 – (Carribean woman, Father = academic, Queen's High School, Cambridge, No clubs, Playwright)**

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

PARTICIPANT: 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

**Josephine Barnes (White, Female, Father = Methodist Minister, Oxford High Sch, LMH Oxford, No clubs, Doctor).**

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.

**Margaret McCabe (White, Woman, Father = Academics, Oxford High School, Cambridge, No clubs, Academic)**

that I wouldn’t have been at a scholarship, I had been able not to be. But then probably I wouldn't have done any work at all, ever.

**Joel Joffe (White, Man, Father = Buiness, Marist Brothers’ Coll., Johannesburg; Univ. of Witwatersrand (BCom, LLB), Clubs = No, Lawyer)**

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.

**Jane Roberts 1952 -- (White Woman, Father = Medics, Oxford High School, Cambridge, No clubs, Novelist)**

EW - And were you mostly taught in college or were you taught in any kind of mixed tutorials and things outside of college?

JR - Uhm, okay, the Oxbridge system basically is that there are lectures which are open to everybody and which most people, especially the cool people, don't go to. So, I quickly learnt not to go to them. And tutorials, and the tutorials are usually one to one. So, I was taught (pause), I was taught by a range of people, a couple of people in New Hall, a couple of people at Kings, someone at Corpus, I mean yeah, different, tutored by different people around the university. And also, you were allowed to ask for specific tutors for specific topics, so again, quite quickly, the word got around about who was, you know, who was good, who was really-. I mean, like I went to Tony Tanner for American literature because he was, he was obviously the best and it's like you would find out who was good and then you would ask for them. But you didn't really get, so you didn't get taught in mixed groups really, I mean, I suppose lectures were mixed but I didn't go to them.

EW - Yeah, increasingly tutorials now are like two or three to one, so I suppose that's quite a change from one to one at Oxford anyway, I'm not sure about Cambridge. And did you think the teaching was generally of good quality? Because I've heard some horror stories about vastly varying qualities of teaching at Oxbridge at that time.

JR - Yeah, it was very, very varied. It was very varied, and you know, it was really interesting about the lectures because *personally,* I think lectures are a dreadful way to teach people anyway, I don’t think they work. And you know, some lectures you would peer in, and it would be a really pitiful sight. It would be an academic literally reading the latest chapter in their book, you know, to four people who were asleep (laughter). On the other hand, you know, the tutorials that I had were brilliant. I mean, people really made me think, really made me excited about (pause), I mean, I always was excited by literature, but, you know, even more and, you know, making connections and, you know the great thing I think that people learn through the Oxbridge system is to work on their own and to know how to work on their own and to be excited by that. And for that it was fantastic. I mean, I *absolutely* loved it.

**1058 (1158) -- (White man, Father = physician, Winchester College, Cambridge, Clubs = Oxford and Cambridge, Groucho, Soho House, Film producer)**

RES: Yes, I suppose it’s a values thing really, I’m very conscientious.

…

RES: And I learned a lot, you know I was very engaged. You know I didn’t, I studied Law which was very useful to me.

**Mehmuda Mian -- (South Asian (ethnicity) man, Father = GP, Forest School, London, Cambridge, No clubs, Solicitor**

**INTERVIEWER**: I’m getting that impression of that eager student who raises their hand getting involved, enthusiasm.

[0:42:22.8]

**PARTICIPANT**: Actually yes, but you know what really shocked me is I was used to being quite good at school and in the top set and then coming to university was a bit of a shock because there were people who were much better, brighter and also the system of marking as well in the Law faculty I remember getting my first essay back and I was so shocked because I didn’t get an A I didn’t get a B I think I got a C plus and I’d never had a C plus in all my life and I thought I had put in the work and everything and it was a real shock [laughs].

It was a real shock to the system, but yeah that was very interesting to find that no matter how hard I worked I wasn’t going to be getting As that easily at er and also there were people there who were very bright particularly in Law because you had to do a lot of arguing your case or whatever so yeah that was a revelation [laughs].

**1209 – (Kenyan Man, Fther = dentist, South Thames College of Further Education, South London, Oxford, Academic)**

**INTERVIEWER:** 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?

**PARTICIPANT:** 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.

(21:47)

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.

(22:10)

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.

(22:34)

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.

(24:30)

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.

**1214 -- (Indian (ethicity) man, father = legal advisor, Owen’s School, Herts, Oxford, Clubs = Athenæum, Royal Automobile, Barrister)**

I think I really liked Oxford after about, towards the kind of final bit of the first year. And also, I started to find my feet academically because the tutors were starting to say I was good. I think I won the history prize for college at the end of the first year, and that was a real confidence boost.

So, I thought, actually, I don't exude the self-confidence that the kind of public school contingent had. It gave me a kind of belief that I could do it, and wasn’t out of place in Oxford. So yeah, I enjoyed the rest of the degree course a lot.

**1217 – (South Asia woman, Father = GP, Olchfa Comprehensive School, Cambridge, Cambridge, Clubs = House of St Barnabas, Barrister)**

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.

[0:20:50.9]

P: 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.

[0:21:32.0]

P: 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.

[0:22:11.6]

P: 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.

[0:22:33.8]

P: 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.

INTERVIEWER: Yeah. Just incredibly hard work, yeah.

PARTICIPANT: 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.

[0:23:24.8]

P: 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.

[0:23:44.8]

P: 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

**Peter Daniell (White, Male, Father = , Eton Coll.; Trinity Coll., Oxford (MA), Clubs = Brooks’s, Alpine, Government Broker)**

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.

**Chad Varah (White, Man, Father = Canon, Worksop Coll., Notts; Keble Coll., Oxford, Clubs = Athenæum; Oxford Union, Religion)**

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.

**George Baring (White, Man, Father = Aristocrat, Eton Coll.; Trinity Coll., Cambridge, Clubs = White’s, Brooks’s, Beefsteak; United (Jersey); Brook (NY); Metropolitan (Washington), Aristocrat).**

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.

**Michael Strachan (White, male, Father = Soldier, Rugby School, Cambridge(Corpus Christi), Clubs = New (Edinburgh), Chairman)**

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].

**David Scholey (White, Man, Father = Finance, Wellington Coll., Berks; Christ Church, Oxford, No Clubs, Finance)**

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.

**Eduardo Paolozzi (White, Man, Father = Shop owner, Edinburgh School of Art; Slade Sch, Clubs = Athenæum, Chelsea Arts, Sculptor)**

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.

**Hugh Peppiatt (White, Man, Father = Solicitor, Winchester College; Trinity College, Oxford, Clubs = City of London; Royal Wimbledon Golf; Larchmont Yacht (New York), Finance).**

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!"**

**Jeremy Morse (White, Man, Father = Solicitor, Winchester; New Coll., Oxford, Clubs = Athenæum, Finance).**

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.

**Sydney Kentridge (1922):**  (White, Male, Father = MP (South Africa), King Edward School; Exeter Coll (Oxford), Clubs=No, Barristerr)

*[00:16]Work hadn’t... the love of hard work is not what had inspired you at school.*

[00:22]No. And one of the problems about being sixteen when I started was that I found so much to enjoy that I didn’t really work as much as I should have. You know, looking back on it, one thinks “Gosh this was the time when one could have read so much and, you know really had time to sit down and read everything that should have been read”. Well, I didn’t, because I took a lot of interest in university politics and university societies and so on

**Robert Clark (White, Male, Father = mechanical engineer, Highgate Sch.; King’s Coll., Cambridge, Clubs = special forces, Pratt's, Chairman of RP & C International)**

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

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

**Michael Jenkins 1936. White, Male, Father = sales manager, t Christopher Sch., Letchworth; privately; King’s Coll., Cambridge (Exhibr, BA), clubs = Brooks’s, Pilgrims, MCC (Treas., 1999–2000; Chm., 2000–01; Trustee 2001–07), Chairman)**

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."

**1207 – (South Asian Man, Father = business manager, Ewart School, Madras, Christian Med. Coll., Vellore, Clubs = Athenæum, MCC; Leander (Henley-on-Thames); Hawks (Hon. Mem.) (Cambridge), Consultant)**

INTERVIEWER: 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 –

PARTICIPANT 1: Extracurricular activities? A great deal. I didn't work at all hard. Many of us didn't, many of my friends didn't prepare.

**1222 -- (South Asian Man, Father = newsagent shop owner, Stanground Coll., Peterborough, Oxford, No Clubs, Barrister)**

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.

…

But I wouldn't say I was very academic there, because I felt that I'd studied enough to do my A levels, as in there used to be kind of a lot of study.

(11:06)

So, we wouldn't really study at school very much, because then you'd be with all your friends, so we tend to, the ones that, those of us who did study would tend to do it at home. So, school was just kind of a way of seeing your friends, but then we'd do our essays at home. So, I kind of saw university as this is, now I’m going to have a bit of a break from studying. So, I did try to do lots of other things, you know, I kind of joined various societies, made lots of friends.

(11:32)

So, didn't take studying too seriously. And also, the nature of the law degree there is very conducive to that because the only thing that counts is how you do at the end of your three years, because you will know, how you do at the end of your three years. So, nothing you do before then counts towards your degree; all you have to do is have partial mods in the second term of the first year, and then you stay at the university.

(11:56)

And then, they just have these kind of random odd internal college exams. But that nowhere really places any weight on them. And then, you don't have to go to lectures, you just have a tutorial once a week. And once, I think there's once or twice a week, and then we just learned then that how you get by is you just don't do any work, but then you cram in the day before.

(12:22)

So, you end up working in a way where you don't do anything, you have quite an easy life, but then you work solidly to meet the deadline, and that has translated into my job now. So, that's also how I work in my job that I don't really do much until I absolutely have to, and then I cram everything in. So, I would say that I wasn't that academic at university, because I kind of had enough of it. And I just wanted to look at, see what else was out there. You know, see what other opportunities were there.

(12:49)

INTERVIEWER: Oh, that's interesting, yeah. And actually, that work ethic stood you in good stead for your future career. But yeah, that kind of work towards deadlines.

(12:59)

PARTICIPANT: Definitely, yeah. And also, the tutorial system helped a lot, because it was just me and one other student with a tutor. So, I said they will be, it will be an interrogation, they'd be barraging me, so you had to really know how to handle that situation. And you'd have to know kind of, you'd have to know at least a certain amount to be able to persuade the tutor that you knew what you're doing.

(13:22)

And that comes in really useful as a barrister, because judges behave in exactly the same way. So, you could have 1, 2, 3, judges, 5 judges, who are all interrogating you and you can, once you've been in the tutorial system, I think it sets you up quite well; it gives you a bit of an advantage when it comes to that, because you've already had someone who's kind of smarter than you, who has more experience, who's in more of an authority position, interrogating you, and then you can, once you've got that experience in the tutorial system, you can then take that into court as well.

(13:54)

So, that's really useful. I thought Oxford taught me a lot, not in terms of the content, but in terms of how to work. So, working to deadlines, and as in not working until you get the deadline, which may not be a good thing, actually; it may be better to pace the work.

(14:11)

But I learned from there, and I think it suits my personality anyway, just to not do anything until the deadline is approaching. There's only then when the pressures on that I can really work. That was very much picked up, or developed at least, at Oxford, and then the tutorial system, I think that was really useful for my career. So, I think it did help a lot.

## Culture

**Sydney Kentridge (White, Male, Father = MP (South Africa), King Edward School; Exeter Coll (Oxford), Clubs=No, Barrister)**

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.

**Peter Daniell (White, Male, Father = , Eton Coll.; Trinity Coll., Oxford (MA), Clubs = Brooks’s, Alpine, Government Broker)**

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.

**David Steel (White, Man, Father = Business, Rugby School; University Coll., Oxford, Clubs = Cavalry and Guards, MCC, Hurlingham; Royal and Ancient (St Andrews), Finance)**

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.

**Walter Pridaux – (White, Male, Father = Clerk (Goldsmiths), Eton; Trinity Coll (Cambridge; Clubs = Rowing; ) Clerk.**

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.

**Michael Strachan (White, male, Father = Soldier, Rugby School, Cambridge(Corpus Christi), Clubs = New (Edinburgh), Chairman)**

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.

**David Scholey (White, Man, Father = Finance, Wellington Coll., Berks; Christ Church, Oxford, No Clubs, Finance)**

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

**Eduardo Paolozzi (White, Man, Father = Shop owner, Edinburgh School of Art; Slade Sch, Clubs = Athenæum, Chelsea Arts, Sculptor)**

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.

**Ferrier Charlton (White, Man, Father = Accountant, Rugby Sch.; Wadham Coll., Oxford, No clubs, Lawyer)**

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.

JUDY SLINN: 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?

FERRIER CHARLTON: 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 few - 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.

FERRIER CHARLTON: 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 quite

limited 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.

**Jeremy Morse (White, Man, Father = Solicitor, Winchester; New Coll., Oxford, Clubs = Athenæum, Finance).**

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.

**Robert Clark (White, Male, Father = mechanical engineer, Highgate Sch.; King’s Coll., Cambridge, Clubs = special forces, Pratt's, Chairman of RP & C International)**

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].

**Peter Miller - (White, Male, Father = Lawyer, Rugby, Lincoln Coll. (Oxford), Clubs = Rugby, Chairman.**

*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.

**John Maxwell Kennedy: (white, male, father = tobacco-importer, Fettes School, University College London, Clubs = City Law + royal wimbledon club, solicitor)**

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.

**Nicholas Goodison -- (White, male, Father =Proctor, Kings College, Cambridge, Chairman of Stock Exchange)**

*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.

**Nicola Horlick 1960 -- (White Woman, Father = Sales Manager, Cheltenham, Oxford, No clubs, Business)**

EW - 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?

NH - 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.

**…**

EW - 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.

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

**Margaret McCabe (White, Woman, Father = Academics, Oxford High School, Cambridge, No clubs, Academic)**

MM: 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].

**Juliette Williams 1943 (White Woman, Father = Headmaster, Cheltenham Ladies College, Bedford College, Cambridge, No clubs, Business)**

EW: 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?

JW: 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.

…

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

JW: 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].

**1207 – (South Asian Man, Father = business manager, Ewart School, Madras, Christian Med. Coll., Vellore, Clubs = Athenæum, MCC; Leander (Henley-on-Thames); Hawks (Hon. Mem.) (Cambridge), Consultant)**

INTERVIEWER: Okay. And is that sports again?

PARTICIPANT 1: 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.

[00:08:43]

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

PARTICIPANT 1: Sorry?

[00:08:48]

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

PARTICIPANT 1: 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.

**1150 (1050) - (White man, Father = surgeon, Harrow, Cambridge, No clubs, Medical scientist)**

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]

**1154 (1054) -- (Dual (mother British, father was ethnically Lebanese & born in Trinidad), Father = small business owner, St Paul’s School, Oxford, Clubs = The Rag, Army and Navy, Circuit Judge)**

**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.

**1058 (1158) -- (White man, Father = physician, Winchester College, Cambridge, Clubs = Oxford and Cambridge, Groucho, Soho House, Film producer)**

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.

**Mehmuda Mian -- (South Asian (ethnicity) man, Father = GP, Forest School, London, Cambridge, No clubs, Solicitor**

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

**PARTICIPANT**: 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.

[0:40:58.3]

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.

**1217 – (South Asia woman, Father = GP, Olchfa Comprehensive School, Cambridge, Cambridge, Clubs = House of St Barnabas, Barrister)**

P: 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.

[0:26:34.3]

P: 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.

**1222 -- (South Asian Man, Father = newsagent shop owner, Stanground Coll., Peterborough, Oxford, No Clubs, Barrister)**

INTERVIEWER: 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?

(55:06)

PARTICIPANT: 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.

(55:28)

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.

**1227 – (Carribean woman, Father = academic, Queen's High School, Cambridge, No clubs, Playwright)**

I was ladies’ captain of Cambridge University swim team, so that was my thing, I swam.

## University and politics

**Jean Graham Hall, (White, Woman, Father = Business, Inverkeithing Sch., Fife; St Anne’s Coll., Sanderstead; London Sch. of Economics, Clubs = University Women’s, Judge).**

But was politics something you were aware of as a child?

Not as a child. You see, I went, as you know, to a convent school, just opposite to where I live now. Though the convent isn't there. And we learnt all kinds of interesting things. By the time Ileft at l8 I had an inter-BSc in Economics and Statistics. I had a Higher Schools, which I think is the equivalent... What's the one after....? Two years after matriculation then. Had all of those. And I wasn't interested in politics as such, I was interested in new ideas that I thought should happen, should be done. But once you get to the London School of Economics, it was in those days very hard not to become embroiled. And I loved it-the political situation

For instance, when I was at the university, he [father] wasn't keen for me to go at all, specially not to the London School of Economics. But I was determined, and my mother persuaded him to pay for one term. And she having persuaded him,saying, "The girl deserves as much a chance in life as the boys. And she works hard and she's quite clever", he walked with me to the door. And I'm not sure he even kissed me, but he certainly made it quite clear to me he wanted me to do well. And any night that I was late, he would walk the dog down and meet me. And I think in fact my younger brother and his wife found more companionship with my father. But you see he had to turn his whole ideas round to accommodate me and my views(laughs). He had to accommodate the fact that the girl was the one who had not only ability, which the boys had, but some determination and stickability. And had ideas that he didn't always want to accept.

**Sydney Kentridge (White, Male, Father = MP (South Africa), King Edward School; Exeter Coll (Oxford), Clubs=No, Barrister)**

And going back to university, you were talking about getting interested in politics and things there, at school noticeably there aren’t clubs and societies which you could join…

Well I did, I did join the Debating Society at school, yes.

Can you tell us about that.

Well it wasn’t a very active society, it had a few debates a year, and, they were on the sort of subjects that... I can’t even remember what they were, the sort of subjects thatwere debated at school debating societies. Nothing too overtly political. I can’t really remember what they were.

But you enjoyed, it wasn’t compulsory, it was something you volunteered to do.

No. Yes, I liked, I liked debating. But, you know, there was a debating society at university but I took a lot of interest in student politics, and also there was a student newspaper, a student weekly newspaper, and I got to work on that.

Can you remember what it was called?

Yes it was called WU’s Views–“W U”for Witwatersrand University ‘s Views. And,and I used to, well I worked on it, I think, for at least two years when I was at university and it meant going down to the printers’, and seeing how the printers did it and so on, and I was, I was very interested then in journalism, I thought I might become a journalist, and–when was it?–I think it was in my second year at university, I got a part-time job on Saturdays working for the Johannesburg Sunday Times with the, with the news editor. I would be the University Correspondent, which didn’t mean much, because there wasn’t much news; but he would sometimes give me something to do, to write a piece on this or that, or go and interview somebody.

…

So, that’s quite a significant political time then, because World War Two’s going on,and you’ve got this political struggle at the university. Just because you were discussing earlier about the split in the country with the war, would that have been something you’d have discussed at home with your father?

Oh yes. Because, I mean he was with Smuts, and of course, I mean those in parliament and out of it who were against the war effort, well, they were against it,they were pro-German in fact. They weren’t, I wouldn’t say they were Nazis, and certainly, I mean there were some who committed treason, but that was a small minority who were actually, were sabotaging. But, certainly I would say those on theNationalist Party side were hoping for aGerman victory, and were very cock-a-hoop when the Germans were winning. So, I mean the, Smuts’ government had a difficult time because they had a split country, and they somehow had to run the war effort,and so they did. But for that reason, because the country was so split, there was never conscription in South Africa.

Just couldn’t be imposed.

Couldn’t be imposed, no, no.

And, would you have been discussing this with your fellow students?

Oh yes, all the time

And, at that time, amongst your friends, who were the kind of people you were making friends with at university?

Well, they were, I suppose most of them were people like me who were doing a BA;some medical students; I think mostly those who were engaged in student politics or student journalism; I think for the most part, that’s where my friends were. In the middle of 1940, when the, you know which was the critical period in the war, andItaly came into the war, and from its Ethiopian base was threatening Kenya and places to the south, that’s when a great many people joined the South African forces, and some of my friends who were older than I was, they left university in the middle of the year in order to join the South African forces.

…

And it was at that time,simultaneously with that, that the colour question really arose at universities. When I was at university at that time, there was no law against blacks or Asians coming to the university, but there were only a handful, I mean, doing a BA–in the whole BA course there might have been half a dozen, and similarly at Medical School there were probably half a dozen. And the question arose of whether these, the black students should be segregated. And I was on the Student Representative Council, eventually,and there we voted that there should be no race segregation in university matters.

**Beatrice Nancy Seear (Woman, White, Father = Mining engineer, Croydon High Sch.; Newnham College., Cambridge, Clubs = Royal Commonwealth Society, National Liberal, Politics)**

Sorry, you want to say some more about university.

Yes, I started being political. I was on the university Liberal Club committee. I was on the League of Nations committee. And I will confess to you, which I've always been very ashamed of since, I was asked to stand to be chairman, or whatever it was, of the University League of Nations Union. And I said I thought it wouldn't be a good idea to have a woman. I can't believe it. But I do remember I did this terrible thing. (Laughs).

**David Steel (White, Man, Father = Business, Rugby School; University Coll., Oxford, Clubs = Cavalry and Guards, MCC, Hurlingham; Royal and Ancient (St Andrews), Finance)**

So you had quite a sort of little socialist group?

With Beveridge I did, because College Univ., it hasn't got that reputation quite now, but at

that stage had a reputation as being `the pub in the high', and it was pretty tough.

**David Price (White, Male, Father = ?, Eton, Trinity College, Cambridge, Yale, Clubs = Beefsteak and Sloane, Politics).**

Was going to war, was the experience of the Italian campaign what you thought it would be before, if you can remember?

DP - Well, the thing was that the vast majority of undergraduates were ex-service, particularly in the humanities. So, having got a scholarship in history, I read history, it seemed the easy answer. I was in quite a hurry to get through, because we'd been 4 years in the Army, and then one was looking beyond. I new really what I was going to do, and a thing I think settled it, I got involved heavily in politics at Cambridge, and was eventually president of the Union. It's interesting that the three presidents in my time at the top of the Union all became members of parliament, it was interesting.

What kind of debates did you have?

DP - We had lots of debates. And we were the first to appear in the press in a big way, they took lots of photographs of us, which was rather fun. We enjoyed it, I must admit. Anyway, that was that, I then proceeded to get a Henry fellowship to go to Yale, which I never banked on, it was pure good fortune, so I went off to Yale for a year.

How did you feel about the war, I guess, at a time when you were coming of age, if you like, period in your life?

DP - Yes, I didn't have a vote in 45, one wasn’t yet-, one was three months before one was 21. And then one couldn't have got registered. No, it's when I got to Cambridge, that I started getting involved. And, amongst other things, one went to the Conservative Party Conference, which was at Brighton at that occasion. And I was involved with an organisation called The Conservative Students Union Society, or something like that, and I was one of the vice presidents.

And did you go to the conference in that capacity?

DP - I was involved, obviously, with conservative politics in Cambridge.

Do you remember anyone that impressed you?

DP - No. It was a scale, it was just so large. Churchill came at the build up. But one was a little overwhelmed by the scale, one wasn't used to 5, 6000 people. Then when I came back and decided to go for politics, I wanted to get industrial experience and got a job in ICI working on a new area called Work Study, which involved on very much in the whole idea of improving productivity.

How did you get your job at ICI?

DP - I just advertised in The Economist.

**David Owen** (White, Male, Father = ?, Bradfield College; Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge, No clubs, Politics).

But I mean, what happened is, I went to-, I joined the Labour Party in 1959, having voted labour when I first came up from being at preclinical medical school for three years at Cambridge, at Sidney Sussex, and then I heard Hugh Gaitskell on Radio, say, he was having a problem in the immediate aftermath of a defeat in the 1959 election where most people thought he would win, and indeed I had. But I wasn't very involved but I voted for him, my first vote, and Hugh Gaitskell was an important part of reason for voting labour. And then I heard radio broadcasts, and somebody had said, you know, what are you going to do with all these reforms, the party doesn't want them, clause 4 was coming up and things. And he said, Oh, well, the problem is that there are too many armchair specialists. I thought, that's me. I want him to do well, I've done absolutely nothing other than vote. So eventually joined the Labour party, it was very difficult, Joe Straus was the Labour MP in Vauxhall, which was where St Thomas's was, and I think after a number of visits to the Labour Party headquarters, I eventually found them and joined, that must have I think been in late December 1959, or early 60. And then I didn't think very much of it and then I started to go to actually Victory For Socialism, which was very rather left wing organisation in those days, I didn't really realise that, but they used to give lectures at Red Lion square, and I remember actually going and hearing Ralph Miliband speak on one occasion. And all along I’d been a very idle medical student. I mean, I did the minimum necessary to work, and I was very interested in everything. You name it, I was interested in it. At Cambridge too. I didn't join any political party at Cambridge. I joined the Union and then found the debates very mannered.

Did you speak?

I don't think I ever spoke, no.

You didn't stand for office either?

DO - I certainly didn’t stand for office, I found the whole thing just awful, and they used to dress up in dinner jackets and they were very mannered in their debating thing. And I had no interest in it whatsoever.

For many letter politicians, that was a central training ground for them, wasn't it?

DO - Yes. Well, my training ground was a person called Mervyn (unclear), later became the bishop of Suffolk, but was brought from Bristol, where he'd known Walter Monkton and Stafford Cripps very well. And he came with a reputation of being the red bishop, the red vicar, to St Mary's Church, and I became a great friend of him … he used to come and have cheese lunches with us. And we also did a sort of investigation of mediums, Mrs. Twig and a variety of things, so I knew him really quite well. And that was the first time I heard, apart from childhood, Aneurin Bevan speak. I mean, the first political meeting I ever went to in my life, was Aneurin Bevan speaking on behalf of Michael foot in the 1950 general election, and I went with my blind grandfather, who was a clergyman in the Church of Wales. And he had switched from the Methodism, you know, … the day that Lloyd George passed the disestablishment of the West church. And so he was a pillar of the Welsh church, canon of Lambeth cathedral, had two parishes, I absolutely adored him.

**William Roger - (White, Man, Father = Muncipal worker (Liverpool), Quarry Bank High School Liverpool.; Madgalen Coll (Oxford.; Clubs = Labour Club; Secretary of State**

*So was that a conscious move to move into the Oxford University Labour Club when you arrived?*

WR - Oh, I joined the labour club straightaway. I had no doubt at all about that, I joined that. I only had eight terms instead of nine because as a result of the awkward dates, I’d been in national service for just up to two years and so I missed a term and this was great pity really. Because the first term called the Michaelmas term, the autumn term, you get to know a lot of people and I missed that. And so I sort of had to pick up in the second term in a way, so it took rather long to settle down and to study and for that matter-, well I must have gotten involved in politics quite quickly, and I was in the Labour Club and we had a a core group. The Labour clubs in those days … were very big in. In 1948 or the beginning of 1949 when I started, you would have something like 1800 members of the Torys, 1600 of Labour 1400 Liberal. Now that was the first term … it didn't mean there were and that dropped away quite quickly. But when we had meetings with cabinet ministers who had 300/400/ 500 people there, it was a big business. And in the labour club, I was very active in that, I became the editor of the magazine, and we had a core group called the Labour Party

**Ronald Murray, 1922 (White, Male, Father = telephone engineer, George Watson’s Coll., Edinburgh; Univ. of Edinburgh (MA (1st cl. hons Phil) 1948; LLB 1952); Jesus Coll., Oxford (Hon. Fellow, 1999), clubs = No, politician and judge)**

the war came, I was a bit doubtful about everything, except I wanted rid of Hitler, and at university, I joined the Communist type socialist society, and they seemed the only ones that were really doing anything about opposing Hitler, although when, of course, the Molotov Pact was, you know, the Ribbontrop Molotov? That was pretty shattering.

…

AC - So when was it you joined the Labour Party?

RM - Well, I did philosophy as you know, and there was one philosophical professor who had stood for parliament as a Labour member, yes, as a Labour member, and I liked his approach so joined the Labour Party, I think, probably just before the 1951 general election, I would say 1950. And I was a faithful member of the Labour Party after that, right up to the time I became a judge.

**Kenneth Baker, 1934 -- White, Male, Father = civil servant, St Paul's, Oxford University (Magdalen college), clubs = Athenæum, Garrick, Old Pauline (Pres., 2007–09), politician)**

… And so, after the army, I went on to Oxford University where I read history.

*Had you at this point started to develop ambitions for a career in politics, or were you just simply interested in-?*

KB - No, I think that my father was still saying to me, well, you must apply for the civil service when you leave Oxford. Because we weren't a business oriented family, my parents had no friends-, or their friends were not people who came from the business world. So we had no contacts, there was no networking of that sort of thing. And so, I didn’t know what I was going to do when I left Oxford quite frankly. I felt probably the civil service wasn't for me, I wanted to do something different as it were. And so at Oxford, I then became much more politically committed. I became a member of the Conservative Association, ended up the president of the conservative Association at Oxford, I was secretary of the Union. I enjoyed debating, I enjoyed speaking and arguing with people, which is a lot of what university life is about. And I was very lucky to have great tutors Oxford, AJP Taylor was one of my tutors at Maugdalen, and the great medievalist Bruce MacFarlane, another great medievalist he was (unclear). And one of my tutors is still alive, John Stoy, who taught the 18th centuries, he’s in 90s now, and I just loved history and I also loved literature. So, I took a degree in history as it were.

**Sonita Alleyne 1967 - (Carribean woman, father = civil servant, Leyton Senior High School, Cambridge, Clubs? Master Jesus College cambridge)**

**INTERVIEWER 1:** Yeah, absolutely, and were you involved in politics at the time in the extracurricular groups?

**PARTICIPANT 1:** Only as anti-racism officer. I didn't join any of the political party groups which other students were gravitating towards, you know, Conservatives, Lib Dems or Labour. Strong, those groups.

**INTERVIEWER 1:** And what kind of work was involved in your role as an anti-racism officer?

**PARTICIPANT 1:** Yeah, events. Sort of organising a few demonstrations, events, or organising people to go on marches. It was the... people were picketing outside South Africa House, so going to that, liaising with other students as well, the Jewish Students group. Yeah, it was quite a bit of work.

**1137 (1037) - (White woman, Father = Doctor, Moreton Hall, Shropshire, Univ of Essex,No clubs, Academic)**

**INT: Well, tell me a little bit about how you found Essex and how you transitioned into the labour market.**

RES: Before I went to Essex- I left school at Christmas because of doing the Oxbridge exams. They actually wanted me to go back because I’d failed my A level French, or only got O level, or something. I was absolutely convinced it was because I’d argued something was a tragedy when the convention was it was a comedy, or something like that. Originally, I was also thinking of doing languages, so I did French, German and Russian at school, and for a few months lived with a French family in Paris, went to the Amiens Française. Then I had a bit of time at home when I learnt to type and then I went and was a chambermaid in the Schwarzvald, the Black Forest, to improve my German. One of my big regrets is I’ve let my languages go, so- that gave me I think, a bit more independence for when I went to university because it can be quite difficult to go straight from a girls’ boarding school to- especially a university. Probably easier going to Oxbridge, but that was another reason I didn’t want to go Oxbridge. I didn’t want to be around the kind of people I’d been at school with.

**INT: Yes, I was going to ask about that. Is that about- again, is that politics, or is that culture for you? Was that, “I don’t fit in,” or was that this is bound up in a notion of British conservatism, status quo that you were wanting to challenge politically?**

RES: It’s easy in retrospect to say it was the latter, I’m not sure it was that thought out, to be honest. I guess, by the time you to Essex, it already had a reputation of being a radical place, so I guess there must have been an element of that in wanting to go to Essex.

**1151 (1051) -- (White man, Father = anaesthetist, St Paul's School, London, Oxford, No clubs, Consultant)**

RES: There was if you like, this very interesting cultural differentiation. The ex-national service types being more inclined to go round and beat opponents up and so forth. This was also the time when the original new left was starting to emerge.

**INT: Yes.**

RES: Politically that is. And it happened that-- and this might be relevant too, that at the end of my second year, the question of the elections [unclear 00:26:43] presidency came up and pressure was put on me to stand. I hadn’t any particular thoughts about the matter. But it was quite clearly in the context of rivalry between what we tended to describe as, the cavalry tour brigade on the one hand and the rising new left on the other, which was getting quite [unclear 00:27:05] And there were a lot of people who wanted something safe and steady and moderate in the middle. So, I thought, well, hell, why not.

RES: Didn’t campaign at all and got elected.

**INT: How interesting.**

RES: So, I was [unclear 00:27:23] president for a year. At the time interesting social change.

**INT: Yes, yes, fascinating.**

RES: Within the college. And my own achievements again, very significant were one, to institute a ladies dining evening in the great hall. It was a total shock to the Dean and we had to get his permission to do it. And he was [unclear 00:27:49]. [Unclear 00:27:50] college is now safely co-ed, [unclear 00:27:53] one of the first. And the other one was to get a television installed. On the [unclear 00:28:00] in a rather damp basement, on which we could all watch [unclear 00:28:04] that was the week that was.

**1155 (1055) - (White man, Father = shopkeeper, St Paul's School, Cambridge, Clubs = Hurlingham, Athenaeum (for a while), Barrister)**

RES: So I turned to student politics at that time. I worked for may be one term may be two and then decided this isn’t going to get me anywhere. So I’m going to enjoy this experience and moved into student politics where in those days it was the Liberal Party and started campaigning locally. There were two of us and we were first students elected to a faculty board at Cambridge because the maths faculty opened up students to their board and we won an election. [Unclear 00:13:37] to my students.

…

**INT: Class can often play a big role in things like interviews I think.**

RES: Yes indeed and possibly my lack of general socialness because I was an introverted kid from a particular background and who’d stayed in that mass little group at school. At university I’d moved into not very left wing but slightly left wing politics etc., etc. Maybe I just didn’t have a wide enough background.

**1209 – (Kenyan Man, Fther = dentist, South Thames College of Further Education, South London, Oxford, Academic)**

So, that was one thing. And then the other thing that I was very interested in was politics. I mean, I became, I think I saw myself as a sort of Marxist when I was a teenager, and used to go to demos and political, kind of political events.

(20:56)

And in Oxford, I was a member of something called the Keble Left Caucus, the Keble was my college. So, I used to participate in kind of, in that. So, that was, so football and left-wing politics are my two main forms of curricular activity.

**1214 -- (Indian (ethicity) man, father = legal advisor, Owen’s School, Herts, Oxford, Clubs = Athenæum, Royal Automobile, Barrister)**

INTERVIEWER: Fantastic. And did you continue involvement in debating society or any other club?

(15:48)

PARTICIPANT: No, because I hated the Oxford Union with passion. I realised I was good at public speaking but I didn't carry on with any public speaking at university. I wasn't interested in politics, and the Oxford Union, I went to a couple of debates, but I couldn't stand the politics around that and the other university societies.

(16:12)

So no, I didn't carry on public speaking at all. I mean, I did things that required public speaking, like the history society in college, which I took over, and we had guest speakers, and that involved introducing them and talking about, around the subject. So, I was reasonably confident speaking in public, but I didn't do any of the formal things that were a natural platform for that.

(16:41)

INTERVIEWER: And you mentioned that your college was very left-wing, and there was, perhaps you meant it differently, but there was a lot of politics around societies at that time. Were you involved in that at all?

(16:49)

PARTICIPANT: No, I found that a bit, it was very, I recognised it for what it was at the time, which was a lot of posturing. And I felt a lot of it was insincere. So, I mean, I think I was fairly left-wing myself in those days, but I felt a lot of the politics was really for show.

(17:15)

I remember the, this is a really small example, but I was at university during the miners’ strike in the 80s, and there was a lot of posturing around that. I remember the kind of firebrand student ringleader on the left caucus at the time, the public school boy from a very privileged background, and I just felt that all the kind of support for the miners and so on, it was really skin deep.

(17:49)

It wasn't particularly profound. I felt vindicated in that suspicion I had at the time because his first major job after leaving university was working for the national coal board. I just thought there was something really contrived and artificial about a lot of student politics and I hated it. You know, it's kind of the endless motions supporting, nuclear disarmament in the college, it was just totally pointless.

(18:14)

And identity politics aside, I just didn't really want to get involved. I was a member of Labour Party from my late teens, steadily move rightwards to my shame over the years, but it was a kind of quiet, quiet political position, rather than something which is particularly (1 word, 18:40).

## Friendship

**Peter Daniell** (White, Male, Father = , Eton Coll.; Trinity Coll., Oxford (MA), Clubs = Brooks’s, Alpine, Government Broker)

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 knew - being so small you knew -

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 bright

individuals 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.

**Michael Strachan (White, male, Father = Soldier, Rugby School, Cambridge(Corpus Christi), Clubs = New (Edinburgh), Chairman)**

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.

**Alan Carr** *(Male, White, Father = Retail Draper, Gresham, Cambridge, No clubs, and Law).*

Looking back on the people that you met at Cambridge, how significant was it as a place where you, you know, made friends and contacts which were helpful later in life do you think?

I didn't make any contacts. I did make some friends,

**Basil Beattie** (White, Man, Father = Working class, W Hartlepool Coll. of Art; Royal Acad. Schs, No clubs, Art).

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.

**David Scholey (White, Man, Father = Finance, Wellington Coll., Berks; Christ Church, Oxford, No Clubs, Finance)**

Did you enjoy your time at Oxford?

Oh yes, I had a wonderful time.

Friends still from there?

Oh yes, yes.

**Elisabeth Frink (White, Woman, Father = Captain, Convent of The Holy Family, Exmouth, No clubs, Artist)**

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 my

equivalent '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.

**Hugh Peppiatt (White, Man, Father = Solicitor, Winchester College; Trinity College, Oxford, Clubs = City of London; Royal Wimbledon Golf; Larchmont Yacht (New York), Finance).**

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.

**Joel Joffe (White, Man, Father = Buiness, Marist Brothers’ Coll., Johannesburg; Univ. of Witwatersrand (BCom, LLB), Clubs = No, Lawyer)**

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.

**William Roger - (White, Man, Father = Muncipal worker (Liverpool), Quarry Bank High School Liverpool.; Madgalen Coll (Oxford.; Clubs = Labour Club; Secretary of State**

*How big a culture shock was that when you arrived at Oxford? Were you conscious of being different? Or were you part of a new intake, Postwar intake that reflected a more diverse constituency of students?*

WR - Well, yes and no. I mean, the overwhelming percentage of students were independent school, public school as we used to call it at that time. It varied in percentages, and I once knew all record, but I can't tell you, probably in my college it was probably about 85 to 90% were mainly Eton and Winchester. But I didn't find that any-, … I think I knew which way to hold a glass of sherry the right way. I mean, there was a further generation on the left that said it was hard to go to these schools because they were so badly treated because we came from grammar schools or working class backgrounds. And I didn't really find that, and I think that there was an overwhelming feeling about Oxford that if you got there, you were all equal. And I behaved that way. I mean, I didn't think that I was less. And not long afterwards, for the first time ever, I managed to recruit of 100 members of Magdalen college to the Labour Club, which was the biggest ever achieved then or since I think, and I had to knock at the door of the old Etonian’s or-, and neither here nor there as far as I wanted to recruit them, I would try and recruit them.

**Roger Gibbs, 1934 (White, Male, Father = chairman of bank, Eton College, financier)**

*Right. And did you meet up with people you knew from school or wherever in other parts of the City? Were you meeting other people socially?*

Well my friends, most of them went into the services, then they, some of them went to university, the more intelligent ones. But I was two years really ahead of my contemporaries, because having failed my Army medical, you know, I went straight in the City.

**Robert Clark (White, Male, Father = mechanical engineer, Highgate Sch.; King’s Coll., Cambridge, Clubs = special forces, Pratt's, Chairman of RP & C International)**

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.

**Nicholas Goodison -- (White, male, Father =Proctor, Kings College, Cambridge, Chairman of Stock Exchange)**

*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.

**Sonita Alleyne 1967 - (Carribean woman, father = civil servant, Leyton Senior High School, Cambridge, Clubs? Master Jesus College cambridge)**

**INTERVIEWER 1:** 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?

**PARTICIPANT 1:** 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.

**Annika Small (White Woman, Father = Journalist, St Pauls, Warwick, No clubs, Business)**

EW - 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.

**Jill May (White Woman, Father = Senior Engineer, Beneden, Durham, Hurlingham 5 Hertford St, Finance)**

EW - Yeah. And do you have lifelong friends from Durham? Is that where you made, you know, more of those kinds of early life friends?

JM - Yeah, lots of lifelong friends from Durham.

**Elizabeth Tanner, 1957 (White Woman, Father = Accountant, Wycombe Abbey, Oxford, No clubs, academic)**

**[OXFORD + GENDER]**

EW: 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?!

**1150 (1050) - (White man, Father = surgeon, Harrow, Cambridge, No clubs, Medical scientist)**

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]

**1151 (1051) -- (White man, Father = anaesthetist, St Paul's School, London, Oxford, No clubs, Consultant)**

RES: A very interesting anecdote which I frequently recount was, towards the end of the—the dip end of the year, what happened of course was that the students were looking round for their first posts and seeing what they could get. And it happened that a man called Charles [unclear 00:19:52] Adams, who was two before me in the junior common and the president, apart from [unclear 00:19:58] Oxford whom I knew, was teaching history at school and he was about to leave because he was about to start his local history lecturing career.

RES: And he tipped me off, there’s a jolly good job at this school [unclear 00:20:15] school which I realised was one of the more traditional schools. But at that time, I was deeply committed to comprehensives, intellectually.

**1151 (1051) -- (White man, Father = anaesthetist, St Paul's School, London, Oxford, No clubs, Consultant)**

**INT: Okay. And in terms of sort of both schooling actually but also Oxbridge, I mean, did you meet people there that have been influential in terms of your later life, either as friends or colleagues?**

RES: Not really kept in touch with many people.

**1154 (1054) -- (Dual (mother British, father was ethnically Lebanese & born in Trinidad), Father = small business owner, St Paul’s School, Oxford, Clubs = The Rag, Army and Navy, Circuit Judge)**

**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.

**1058 (1158) -- (White man, Father = physician, Winchester College, Cambridge, Clubs = Oxford and Cambridge, Groucho, Soho House, Film producer)**

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.

**Mehmuda Mian -- (South Asian (ethnicity) man, Father = GP, Forest School, London, Cambridge, No clubs, Solicitor**

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

**PARTICIPANT**: 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.

[0:40:58.3]

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.

…

**INTERVIEWER**: Have you held onto those networks? The friends that you made whether at school or university are they still?

**PARTICIPANT**: Sadly my friends at school, actually there are two friends who we have intermittent contact and I really need, there’s one who did reach out to me awhile back and she sent me her new address because she found me because of my various careers and that’s how she could find me and she sent me her address on a card and I put that card somewhere safe and I can’t find it for the life of me because she [0:44:17.0] got married so her maiden name had changed, but I'm hoping to contact her, there are two girls who I’m still in contact with but then my university friends it was my 60th birthday this year so I invited a lot of those university friends not only from my course but friends I’ve met in some of the societies we’ve stayed in touch ever since.

In fact for the Law/French group we have a WhatsApp group for everybody, and we’ve been to a couple of reunions back at the university, because the university holds like 25th anniversary or 10th anniversary whatever, so we’d done that and a couple of people are abroad there’s a couple of people in the states one guy in Australia and whenever they’re over we try and meet up and we are hoping in 2024 because we graduated in ‘84 to have a reunion and I said I’d organise it or try to organise it.

[0:45:27.5]

We’re hoping to go to France, so hopefully, so those who live in London or come to London for work, we try to meet once a year either pre-Christmas or post-Christmas get-together but I had I’m just trying to think how many friends from university not including partners but just the individuals, there were about eight people.

**1207 – (South Asian Man, Father = business manager, Ewart School, Madras, Christian Med. Coll., Vellore, Clubs = Athenæum, MCC; Leander (Henley-on-Thames); Hawks (Hon. Mem.) (Cambridge), Consultant)**

PARTICIPANT 1: Yes, I did. I enjoyed it thoroughly. I had a marvellous time. And the great thing about Oxbridge, then and probably now is that you meet so many people, so many fellow students working in different disciplines, who became your firm friends.

…

INTERVIEWER: That's interesting. Yeah. Yeah. And I suppose my question would be – you mentioned – it seemed like you know, you were very happy in school and very happy at university. Have you maintained – did you maintain those friendships from both school and from university going forward in your life?

PARTICIPANT 1: Yes, I did. Well, for university, less from school, but one or two, yes.

[00:09:52]

INTERVIEWER: And how did you maintain them? Was that social, was that professionally? How did that –

PARTICIPANT 1: Sorry, I missed the first part of this. How did I need–?

[00:09:59]

INTERVIEWER: How did you maintain those relationships? Was it social, or –?

PARTICIPANT 1: Various ways. First of all, you kept in touch, informally, but also both the school and particularly universities have functions, whereby you do meet people of your generation, and those a little bit above you. I mean, the college I went to has been a very, how can I put it? It's friendly, but it has many functions for the alumni. And also the [missed] [00:10:29] other colleges.

[00:10:32]

INTERVIEWER: That's interesting. So you had a lot of opportunity through the University alumni networks to spend time with –

PARTICIPANT 1: Yes. And also, remember that having gone to school, university, and having been in medicine, of course, there are many connections there which one maintained, right. That medical school I went to, or I finished up in, rather, I would say, for 34, 35 years, has a number of different functions, whereby you continue to meet people, the college I was at has annual gatherings when you're over age 70 [?], I go every every year.

[00:11:12]

While I don't always go every year, but they have in fact, other functions. For example, they have – the college has got the keys, they have a club, which meets twice a year, once in London, once in Cambridge, those are worth going to and they have for those who have [missed] [00:09:31] benefactors at the college, they have an annual feast.

[00:11:39]

The various professional relations, they have meetings, which are often accompanied by social events.

**1214 -- (Indian (ethicity) man, father = legal advisor, Owen’s School, Herts, Oxford, Clubs = Athenæum, Royal Automobile, Barrister)**

INTERVIEWER: Yeah, okay. And yeah, I suppose I’ll ask, what was your wider experience of university like?

(13:07)

PARTICIPANT: So, I found the first, the first few months quite a culture shock, because although (1 word, 13:15) was a very, very left-wing college, it was also very public school-y. I think it had the second highest (1 word, 13:23) to public school pupils in the university after Christchurch. So, although the politics and the college were very left-wing, it was socially quite exclusive and quite cliquey.

(13:37)

And so, it took a bit of time to kind of find my feet. And also, coming from a state school background that didn't have that kind of natural confidence, which I think a lot of the public school applicants kind of had naturally. And so, I kind of felt a bit overwhelmed, but I didn't feel that confident.

(13:59)

I think towards the end of the first year, I started making more friends, including friends from public schools, which got me into kind of wider friend circle within Oxford, particularly St. Paul’s; I made a very good friend from St. Paul's who kind of introduced me to his friend circle who were, because St. Paul's has such a big Oxbridge entry, he had mates in every college and they're a nice group of people.

(14:31)

And within the college, I'm sure you know what it's like within your first few weeks, you make friends with people who you're going to (2 words, 14:41); you're just not going to, you're not going to be friendly with them by the second year. And so, I think by midway through the first year, I was making more permanent friends, amongst the kind of arts, the arts undergraduates, within college and outside.

**1217 – (South Asia woman, Father = GP, Olchfa Comprehensive School, Cambridge, Cambridge, Clubs = House of St Barnabas, Barrister)**

INTERVIEWER: 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?

PARTICIPANT: 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.

[0:20:01.3]

P: 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

…

INTERVIEWER: 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?

PARTICIPANT: 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.

[0:28:26.4]

P: 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.

[0:28:57.7]

P: 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.

[0:29:26.2]

P: 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.

[0:30:10.8]

P: 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.

[0:30:47.7]

P: 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.

P: 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.

[0:31:33.2]

P: 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.

[0:32:11.0].

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

PARTICIPANT: 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…

P: 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.

P: 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.

**1222 -- (South Asian Man, Father = newsagent shop owner, Stanground Coll., Peterborough, Oxford, No Clubs, Barrister)**

INTERVIEWER: 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?

(10:04)

PARTICIPANT: 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.

(10:23)

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.

## Marriage

**Peter Daniell (White, Male, Father = , Eton Coll.; Trinity Coll., Oxford (MA), Clubs = Brooks’s, Alpine, Government Broker)**

Until - I met my future wife who I again met at Oxford. Who was the

sister of one of my greatest friends. And I fell hook line and. And I never varied once. Ever again.

How old were you then?

I must have been 20 I suppose. And I married her when I was 25. So it took quite a time. Or perhaps I

was 2l when I met her, I don't know. Something like that.

…

Before we get into the war. A significant event I believe is that you got married?

Very significant. Yes. In l935, yes.

Can you tell me a bit about that. It was the sister of a friend of yours at Oxford?

Yes, that is correct.

And how did this blossom into marriage?

Well - I had a lot of hard work to do. I was absolutely certain - that I was absolutely right and I never

wanted to marry anybody else. And - I think she was - thought she was a bit young and that sort of

thing. And -

How old was she?

Well, when she married she was 23. So when I started she was about 20 I suppose. Must have been.

Or perhaps l9.

You were quite young yourself though?

Oh yes I was, I was 2 years older than her. Yes.

Was that considered particularly young for a young man in those days?

I don't think particularly. I was - I got married before most of my friends I think on the whole. I think

so. So perhaps it was a little bit, but nothing very exceptional. And -

Who was she?

She was called Miss Harrison. And her father was a land agent. And her mother was a daughter of - a

parson. And they were a delightful couple. Who I was very fond of. And they were very nice to me.

They had a lovely house in Berkshire. And the son, as I say, he was a year older than me, but I'd

known him quite well at Eton and then we went to Trinity and he was a year senior to me at Trinity.

And we became great friends. And that's how it all happened. And then we had a lovely wedding at

her home in Berkshire. And - I had a whacking great honeymoon.

**Eduardo Paolozzi (White, Man, Father = Shop owner, Edinburgh School of Art; Slade Sch, Clubs = Athenæum, Chelsea Arts, Sculptor)**

Yes, well my first wife, while I was at the Slade I think that I met Freda, who later became

my wife.

I see, I didn't realise you had met her that early.

Absolutely, and I think I was even, I think with Peter Lascaux, I think Peter Lascaux had a

cottage. Peter Lascaux was involved with a girl in Oxford who was at the Slade, and we

became friends from that time.

What was Peter Lascaux doing in Oxford?

Peter Lascaux used to visit, he was working for his father, his father was a distinguished

scholar, but in order to make money he invented a new formula for hair dyes, which women

wanted at that time, and they had a house which was part cottage/factory making these things,

and Peter Lascaux...Peter Lascaux could drive a car, which was rare among our

contemporaries, and it was in this car that we went down, his parents had a five-shilling-aweek

cottage in Thaxted and I spent a Christmas there with my wife-to-be.

**Hugh Peppiatt (White, Man, Father = Solicitor, Winchester College; Trinity College, Oxford, Clubs = City of London; Royal Wimbledon Golf; Larchmont Yacht (New York), Finance).**

So ... and then it was, actually it was a very happy time for, for ... the whole argument about women in, in Oxford, was a, now when were you up at, Judy?

I was up from '62-'65.

In what College, Judy?

St. Anne's.

You were St ... well, they, well, they were doing it, of course, I take it then you will recall, of course, a long time, a good bit after I was up, but, but very much, we had very close friends among the girls, in the girls college, who I suppose, St. Anne's was strictly a Society then, wasn't it. But it was ...

It was a College by the time I was there, yes.

**Nicola Horlick 1960 -- (White Woman, Father = Sales Manager, Cheltenham, Oxford, No clubs, Business)**

EW - 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?

NH - 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.

## Clubs

**Anthony Mallinson (White, Man, Father = Timber Merchant, Cheam, Gonville Cambridge, Clubs = Royal Commonwealth Society, MCC, and Finance).**

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.

**Peter Daniell (White, Male, Father = , Eton Coll.; Trinity Coll., Oxford (MA), Clubs = Brooks’s, Alpine, Government Broker)**

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.

**David Steel (White, Man, Father = Business, Rugby School; University Coll., Oxford, Clubs = Cavalry and Guards, MCC, Hurlingham; Royal and Ancient (St Andrews), Finance)**

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

**Hugh Peppiatt (White, Man, Father = Solicitor, Winchester College; Trinity College, Oxford, Clubs = City of London; Royal Wimbledon Golf; Larchmont Yacht (New York), Finance).**

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.

**Sonita Alleyne 1967 - (Carribean woman, father = civil servant, Leyton Senior High School, Cambridge, Clubs? Master Jesus College cambridge)**

**INTERVIEWER 1:** 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?

**PARTICIPANT 1:** 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.

**1151 (1051) -- (White man, Father = anaesthetist, St Paul's School, London, Oxford, No clubs, Consultant)**

**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.

**Mehmuda Mian -- (South Asian (ethnicity) man, Father = GP, Forest School, London, Cambridge, No clubs, Solicitor**

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

**PARTICIPANT**: 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.

[0:40:58.3]

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.

**1217 – (South Asia woman, Father = GP, Olchfa Comprehensive School, Cambridge, Cambridge, Clubs = House of St Barnabas, Barrister)**

INTERVIEWER: 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?

PARTICIPANT: 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.

# Oxford and Cambridge club

**Peter Daniell (White, Male, Father = , Eton Coll.; Trinity Coll., Oxford (MA), Clubs = Brooks’s, Alpine, Government Broker)**

And was Mullens a comfortable place to work. Did it look after itself. A good dining room and this

sort of thing?

Oh, We had none of that. No, no, nothing. Absolutely nothing at all. You went out and you -

eventually I became a member of a - it was a very nice club called The City University Club. Which

was only Oxford and Cambridge. And one had a lot of friends there. And it was quite cheap. It was quite close. And I used to lunch there every day I think. Unless somebody asked you to lunch

somewhere else.

Was there much in-house entertainment though, generally in the City?

Hardly any before the war. I would have said hardly any. Not in the Stock Exchange. Nobody had

dining rooms and things like that. That all came after the war.

**1207 – (South Asian Man, Father = business manager, Ewart School, Madras, Christian Med. Coll., Vellore, Clubs = Athenæum, MCC; Leander (Henley-on-Thames); Hawks (Hon. Mem.) (Cambridge), Consultant)**

While I don't always go every year, but they have in fact, other functions. For example, they have – the college has got the keys, they have a club, which meets twice a year, once in London, once in Cambridge, those are worth going to and they have for those who have [missed] [00:09:31] benefactors at the college, they have an annual feast.

# Luck

**1150 (1050) - (White man, Father = surgeon, Harrow, Cambridge, No clubs, Medical scientist)**

**INT: What is it that you have?**

RES: I had some lucky breaks in my research. And they came at just the right time that- So my PhD showed something quite new, I then did a short post doc and then went to Kenya for four years. And in Kenya there was- Yes, I mean it’s in a very restricted and isolated field, it was something quite useful. And I then went to Harvard Medical School to follow it up. And that turned out well as well. And that allowed me to get a position – this is now 1980 so back with the Medical Research Council in Britain, which was an incredibly lucky position because it gave me total flexibility to do what I liked provided I raised the money to do it. So, no, I’m not particularly imaginative. I don’t often have a good research idea. When I do have one, I follow it through to the bitter end, sort of thing.

# People talking about change

[there is someone else who does this]

1034 / 1134 -- (White man, father = poltician, Winchester College, Oxford, Clubs = Dining Club, Academic)

RES: But I think that Ox- If I think about the Fellows, so that was the first interview I had okay, very nice. Then you do two other things, you have dinner in college, all of the shortlisted candidates together have dinner in college with the Fellows, so that’s absolutely knowing-

**INT: Social performance.**

RES: Yes. I mean they’re thinking, well he’ll be doing this for the next 30 years so we’d better make sure he does it well. I would say that there are a lot of us, quite snobbish. And a lot of Dons, I think actually felt, came to Oxford as feeling outsiders and either because- Even if they came up through the system, it’s a very, very insider outsider system that a lot of the Dons felt as though they’d come from a lower level background but they desperately want to be part of the system. I actually think, and it sounds really bad but I’d be very fascinated to- I mean as we said all the business about choosing Dons nowadays happily is done, I was going to say with raw objective, I have no idea whether it is or not. But it definitely, yes, I’m sure it’s not quite done so crassly as it was in those days.

**INT: That’s interesting so you think it’s changed, you know, those sort of systems have changed a lot?**

RES: Yes, yes, I think so. First of all of course you get really good young people and what are they interested in doing, they’re interested in the publishing world and getting the next move up.

# End