

Time to Think

Open University Journeys in British and Irish prisons during the years of conflict, 1972-2000

Oral History interview clip transcript

Name of Interviewee: **Anthony McIntyre**

Interviewed by: **Joanna McMinn**

Date of interview: **25/10/2011**

Important

Every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of this transcript, however no transcript is an exact translation of the spoken word, and this document is intended to be a guide to the original recording, not replace it.

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Clip title: You take yourself out of the cell by reading and studying

Duration: 00:01:17

Clip start point in full interview: 00:25:56

Clip end point in full interview: 00:27:13

Interview identifier: 001_S_01

Description: Anthony McIntyre studied for his degree in Social Sciences with The Open University in the Republican Wings of the H Blocks (the Maze and Long Kesh Prison). He recalls studying as a way of taking himself out of his cell and remembers the pleasure of reading a novel for relaxation at the end of the day his Open University exams finished.

Transcript:

What do you do, when locked in a cell, you take yourself out of the cell by reading and studying and become absorbed and I found it very, very, beneficial and I will always have that sense of gratitude to The Open University, you know, I don't look back on prison as if it was some sort of warm experience even though many things happened, there were many bonds in there but one of the positives, one of the warm experiences I have of looking back is The Open University and strangely enough my happiest memories of the prison are linked with The Open University but not directly. It was the day the exam ended and when we finished that exam, that night, it was October, it was starting to get cold, the pipes [heating pipes in the cell] were on. I was going to the cell and I would begin reading a novel, I would pick a novel and initially it was a William Tyron, I think was the author and in 1984 and then for a few years up until about '88, '89, I read Stephen King, horror novels, simply, that night, I picked a novel and I have always a very, this looking back on it, I reminisce that it was a sort of warm glowing, comfortable period, those nights reading those novels and particularly that night that the exam finished