

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: **Gary Smyth**
Interviewed by: **Pat Jess**
Date of interview: **06/07/2012**

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: I think what the Open University was, was a fountain.

Duration: 00:01:01

Clip start point in full interview: 00:19:50

Clip end point in full interview: 00:20:51

Interview identifier: 011_S_02

Description: Gary Smyth recalls how much he loved studying a wide range of courses with The Open University. He singles out a Level One Arts course and how reading authors such as Charlotte Bronte and Shakespeare, and studying the Industrial Revolution from an Arts perspective, had a huge impact on him.

Transcript:

I think what the Open University was, was a fountain. It gave you what you needed and if it couldn't give you everything you needed it gave you the abilities to go and search it out for yourself and to keep learning. Loved the OU, loved the courses, I read things like Jane Eyre, I would never, I wouldn't have picked up Jane Eyre or A Midsummer Night's Dream or you know anything like that on the outside. My choices of books prior to prison would have been very, very different, and also the understanding, even things today when I would be looking up and understanding through the A101 [An Arts Foundation Course], things like the Industrial Revolution, how that has an impact on people's lives and the way in which the Industrial Revolution from a sort of arty perspective but the Industrial Revolution was also what developed the economy, the politics of the world that we live in today. So all these things all tied together, all the Open University courses all melded and tied into each other so I am just going on like I am trying to sell the OU but as I say it was sold to me and it was good.