

## 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: **Frank Forsythe**  
Interviewed by: **Philip O'Sullivan**  
Date of interview: **26/02/2013**

#### **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.

In some cases, interviewees may have made changes to the transcript.

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**Clip title:** You forgot about your surroundings

**Duration:** 00:01:26

**Clip start point in full interview:** 00:05:37

**Clip end point in full interview:** 00:07:03

**Interview identifier:** 058\_T\_01

**Description:** Frank Forsythe recalls his first tutorial visit to a student in the UDA Compound (the Maze and Long Kesh Prison) in the 1980s, the study conditions in the hut and, while initially feeling uneasy as he was not from a Loyalist background, how after a while it felt just like any other tutorial session and he forgot about the surroundings.

**Transcript:**

In his own sort of, the UDA, their hut, it was like a recreation hut. I just remember this long, I think it was, I don't know if it was a Nissen pre-fab hut or a long wooden one, but there were all these tables across and there were different groups. I remember my first reaction was, because I am not from the Loyalist tradition, I am not really from any tradition but I am certainly not, you know, that sort of Loyalist tradition. So I was a bit apprehensive in going, without any effort here was someone they could have a nice chat with. The first thing you see is the big motif for the UDA et cetera, and there was a lot of bantering going on between the student that I was visiting, he was shouting, "Keep quiet we are doing some important work here". But they gave us lots of space and they were all down at the other end of the Hut and then after five, ten minutes, then it all just settled down and as usual with the OU prison teaching, the actual teaching side became mundane, ordinary, no different from an A level [Advanced level exams] student or a degree student or whatever. It was just an ordinary session and you forgot about your surroundings.