

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: **Martin Collins**

Interviewed by: **Pat Jess**

Date of interview: **22/03/2013**

Important

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Clip title: The security risk of holly leaves

Duration: 00:01:31

Clip start point in full interview: 00:14:30

Clip end point in full interview: 00:16:00

Interview identifier: 072_T_01

Description:

Martin Collins, Open University Associate Lecturer in Science, describes the challenge of taking holly leaves into the H Blocks for a science course experiment and some quick thinking on his part.

Transcript:

Well time moved on slightly. It was in S102 that the moth experiment had obviously got enough data and it now moved on to another type of survey, which was looking at holly leaves and a little insect which mined its way into these. But by looking at the leaves you could tell what had happened; whether the insect had just mined its way in or whether the insect was eaten by a bird which had taken it out of the leaf, or some hyper-parasite had got to it and killed off the original mining insect. The source of holly leaves was a very old tree in my garden and so I duly took two hundred holly leaves along and was going through security and they said, "You can't take those in, they are offensive weapons" And I thought quickly and said, "Have you a pair of scissors" And they said, "Yes" so I stood in security and cut the spikes off two hundred holly leaves into the bin and then re-presented the leaves to a cheer from the staff who said, "Well after that, yes you definitely can go in" and so we were able to get that experiment done for the students.