

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: **William**
Interviewed by: **Jenny Meegan**
Date of interview: **29/04/2015**

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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William Clip

Clip title: It has been a privilege to have been involved
Duration: 00:02:36
Clip start point in full interview: 00:00:19
Clip end point in full interview: 00:02:55
Interview identifier: 084_T_01

Description:

William has worked in The Open University office in Belfast since 1985 and has been a member of the 'Time to Think' Project, since 2011 as the Audio Editor. In this clip he describes how, despite being personally affected by the Troubles, he was still happy to help working on the project and enjoyed engaging with the subject material on the Maze and Long Kesh, the wider conflict and education.

Transcript:

I have worked for The Open University for the guts of thirty years almost coming and in that time I have been a student, subsequently graduate and a tutor and all sorts in between, how is that?

When we were talking about this we thought we would perhaps begin by saying how you first heard about the interview project [Time to think Project] that you have been involved in. Do you want to talk a bit about what the first contact was, when you first heard about it?

The first I heard was from Naomi, who was a former member of staff who was involved in the interviews. And she had approached me initially to ask for my help, I think for the most part with editing and what have you, but she had also mentioned to me that she was concerned, or the people who were doing the interviewing, including yourself, were concerned that my family history, in terms of my father having being murdered in the Troubles, might be some kind of a problem. And it was nice to be approached and for that to be mentioned and considered and I basically said that it wasn't a problem for me, I was happy enough to help in whatever way I could and subsequently that is what happened. I have been involved in, well mostly editing, but other bits and bobs with the historical project and it has been great.

It has been pretty extensive work on, because you actually edited all the audios haven't you? That is a hundred audios you have edited.

I know, that is right, I mean I haven't listened to every single word that has been uttered, that would have been nigh on impossible really but I have listened to quite a bit. I have heard quite a few of the stories and it has been brilliant. As I have said to you, it has been a privilege to have been involved and to hear people's stories and to get a sense of what went on and just to be in a

William Clip

position to have a better understanding I think of not just the Maze, [Maze and Long Kesh Prison] but the wider conflict and I think just life in Northern Ireland generally. So I mean it has been great.