

Open Forum 01(1972)

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Welcome to Walton Hall for the first Open Forum television programme of 1972. In this programme we're going to spend most of our time here on the campus but in future programmes we hope not only to return here, but to go out to the Regions and to involve a lot of people – students and part-time and full-time members of staff.

But first let's look at some of the buildings of the University. Behind me, here, is Walton Hall itself, while down over on the right we've got the faculty blocks, or at least some of them. There are some new buildings down there but also some that we've had up for a year or more now. And there that houses Maths, the Arts and also the Social Sciences where I work and, temporarily, also the Library. Over here on the left we've got a building which always reminds me of a Cunard liner because of its brick funnels and that houses Correspondent Services, and it also has Media Production in it, and you'll be visiting those areas later. But now you can go round and see some of the other buildings of the University.

These are the science preparation laboratories in which I'm assured they undertake experiments related to the courses. The members of the Science Faculty are housed in these temporary buildings. It's here that Professor Pentz and his colleagues plan their courses and devise their ingenious home experiment kits. This is the lawn at the side of Walton Hall. There's a formal garden on the right there but there seems to be some uncertainty about whether it's going to grow herbs or roses. The building at the back is the catering block with a self-service restaurant. To the right of it they're now building the new staff common room, and behind it is our new show piece, the Lecture Theatre. This is for lectures and very large gatherings.

This fine little church moves us back in time. It was one of the few buildings on site when the University arrived. Another original building was of course Walton Hall itself which is under a preservation order. This part of the building which we can see now, dates from the 1830s. Here we see it a couple of years ago in the first stages of restoration. This involved, among other things, putting on a completely new roof. The first of the new buildings that we put up was a faculty block which as I said earlier, has temporarily housed the Library and has in it three of the faculties. The campus was more like a building site at that time than a university, a training ground for Flanders Field. But out of all the mud and rubble came the restored Hall.