

Interviewee: David Payne
UoS Dates: 1985 - 1989
Role(s): Undergraduate, English Studies and Film and Media



Interview summary:

Start 00:29 – Student of English Studies and Film and Media at Stirling University from 1985 to 1989. DP wished to do Journalism and discovered the University at Stirling from a prospectus. Film and Media was a very new subject at the time. He was the first member of his family to go to University and had never been to Scotland.

02:01 – DP's first experience of Stirling was on an open day in January 1985. He had a cynical tour guide who was possibly a final year student. DP had a session in Pathfoot with Richard Kilborn who was a lecturer of Film and Media.

04:04 – First year accommodation located in Andrew Stewart Hall. DP recalls that the University's flexibility on course choices led to many people he knew having weird and wonderful combinations of subjects. The Film and Media course was fantastic, DP majored in English.

05:27 – The Film and Media authorship course on Orson Welles and Nicolas Roeg taught by Grahame Smith was exceptionally good. DP felt it was made better by a lecturer who was passionate about the subject. He recalls the lecturer seeming truly saddened by death of the director Orson Welles. DP also found that the English course on Katherine Mansfield and other writers introduced him to new authors and made his reading far more diverse than it previously had been.

06:41 – DP's dissertation was based on Realism. He then went on to do a postgraduate course in Journalism at Cardiff University.

09:34 – There was some regret at not getting involved in student journalism whilst at Stirling. DP also wishes that he had joined societies such as the Dramatic Society, Radio Airthrey and the student newspaper. He was a member of the Film Society. He regretted not having tried for the American exchange programme.

11:00 – DP can recall feeling rather homesick in the first semester of his time at university. He did eventually make good friends he stays in touch with. DP also dealt with the issue of being a gay teenager at the time and was not sure how people would view him due to this. He discovered there were likeminded people and DP eventually joined the gay-lesbian society in his last year of study. DP recalls that homosexuality had only been legal in Scotland for five years prior to him moving to Stirling.

14:36 – After his education DP got a job for local newspapers in Staffordshire. The Film and Media aspect of his degree opened his eyes to media ethics. Soon became homesick for Scotland and tried to get a job back in the country. After a period in the Civil Service he now heads the website of the *British Medical Journal*,

writing features and blogs.

18:53 – DP felt that the University of Stirling gave the confidence to express himself and grow as a person. It also broadened DP's way of political thinking. Also meeting people from different backgrounds left him as a more open-minded person who was able to see the good in people.

20:18 – Recollection of how beautiful the campus is and finds that often whenever he meets other ex-Stirling students they always talk about the beauty of the campus. DP can also remember the time in the eighties when the future of the University was unsure. He can also recall the 'Grange which was the original student union building which was gone after his semester. DP spent his third year in Geddes Court; at the time of the interview it was being demolished.

[Ends 23:56]

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