

Interviewee: Jonathan Shepherd (Dr C J Shepherd)  
UoS Dates: 1969 -1979  
Role(s): Postgraduate: MSc Tech Ec, PhD  
First Deputy Director of the Unit of Aquatic Pathobiology  
Warden of Andrew Stewart Hall



## Interview summary:

### *Summary of content; with time (min:secs)*

**Start 00:43** – Came as postgraduate student in 1969 having previously studied a Veterinary Science degree at Liverpool University when found allergic to some animal hairs. Medical family background. Pharmaceutical industry advised him to do business degree and he chose Stirling for its innovative MSc Technological Economics Degree established by Tom Cottrell and Frank Bradbury who had worked together in ICI. Probably only vet on course. Research topic for the Masters was pig effluent. Travelled round west coast of Scotland seeing wildlife in spare time. Aware aquaculture industry in Scotland and excellent biology department at Stirling led by Fred Holliday.

**07:13** – Paid PhD studentship on economics of fish farming in Scotland funded by Social Research Council and Science Research Council starting in September 1970. Became familiar with those involved in the fish farming industry in Scotland. Ron Roberts vet at Glasgow University interested in fish diseases and when awarded Nuffield Foundation Grant of £76,000 gave it to Stirling to establish the Unit of Aquatic Pathobiology and JS was first Research Fellow. Later became world famous Institute of Aquaculture in 1981

**13:11** – 1972 Running keepers' and fish farming courses. Unilever staff including Ted Needham and Chris Aldridge input to these courses. In collaboration with Ron Roberts, JS wrote the *Handbook of Salmon and Trout Diseases*. He hopes the input of colleagues Needham and Aldridge was sufficiently credited.

**16:00** – Became warden of Andrew Stewart Hall of Residence in 1973. Onerous responsibility 'keeping show on the road'. Domestic Bursar was Frank Logan with wife - ran the admin side. Social interaction and enforcing rules. JS ran a coffee bar in evenings. Problems included drug dealer on campus in one of the rooms. Residences Committee chaired by Professor Lockerbie of the French Department. Other wardens were Bob Clay and Peter Murray-Rust and wife. Fred Holliday very helpful. JS became member Academic Council as one of only two student representatives. Term time 09.00 – 17.00 teaching and researching with Ron Roberts, 19.00 – 22.00 running coffee bar then PhD work after that.

**20:40** – Research Fellow. Undertook a few experiments with Guy Mace and Roger Thwaite. Facilities were limited. MSc in Aquatic Veterinary Studies started 1972 – vets from Iceland, USA, New Zealand and UK and Turkey then Masters in Aquatic Pathobiology. Unit originally housed in Terrapin buildings near the castle before it moved to Pathfoot.

**23:39** – 1973 JS appointed Deputy Director. JS had been doing consultancy work in India and Malawi during holidays. Awarded PhD. Salmon farming being greatly developed at this time. Exciting times. JS stayed until 1976.

**26:47** – Influences on JS's career included those at Vet school and Mary Brancker, past President + John Mace, vet in Oxfordshire who studied fish diseases at Leetown in West Virginia. MD of Golden Sea Produce. + Chris Aldridge + staff at Marine Harvest for whom JS became Business Development Manager. JS collaborated with Neil Bromage who died young.

<p><b>31:45</b> – Director of Fish Farm Development International for 2 years based in Glasgow. Marine Harvest 1978-84; 1984-87 MD of PH Pharmaceuticals in London when introduced some fish medicines. Co-authored with Neil Bromage at Stirling University a book on Intensive Fish Farming. Went to North West Spain and established and ran turbot farm for 3 years. 1990 – 2004 onwards in the feed business. 2000 went to Denmark. 2004 last full time job as Director General of International Fish Meal Organisation in St Albans and Lima until 2011 when retired at 65.</p>
<p><b>38:00</b> – Stirling University legacy using knowledge related to the growth of the Scottish farming Industry. Influence of the Norwegians on its development. Highlands and Islands Board sponsored his PhD and other fish farmers to take degrees at the Stirling University Institute.</p>
<p><b>43.51</b> – Institute fostered network of vets dealing with fish farming. Fish Vet Group carrying out diagnostics. Stirling provided seed corn for industry to grow.</p>
<p><b>45.00</b> Keen birdwatcher and walking up Sherrifmuir. Loves Western Isles. Met his wife Maria, who was studying French and Spanish at Stirling, married in 2006. Enjoyed his trips to Malawi. John Proctor (biology) accompanied him on one occasion. Malawian fisheries officer Orton Msisi visited Scotland to study fish farming at Xmas time, saw snow for first time. Stirling fostered aquaculture in a global sense.</p>
<p><b>54.01</b> – Retained links with Stirling in advisory capacity and member of Independent Scientific Panel of Scottish Agriculture and Innovation Centre based at Stirling University</p>
<p><b>55.27</b> – Acknowledges the vision of those who set up the University and developed the beautiful campus (including Tom Cottrell, Frank Bradbury and Bob Bomont) and cites the example of Tom Cottrell who insisted on being consulted about any tree which might have to be cut down. Approaches and Methods course. Science and arts students understand about systematic inquiry however JS did not take part. Mention of Queen’s visit – he heard verbal abuse. Resulted in lost funding and JS believed led to Cottrell having a heart attack. JS postgraduate rep on CSA. 90% student body working hard and open-minded. Enjoyed his time at Stirling though worked very hard.</p>
<p><b>[Ends 1:01:38]</b></p>

<b>Interview No:</b>	SURSA OH / -	<p><b>SURSA</b>  <b>University of Stirling</b>  <b>Stirling</b>  <b>FK9 4LA</b></p> <p><a href="mailto:info@sursa.org.uk">info@sursa.org.uk</a>  <a href="http://www.sursa.org.uk">www.sursa.org.uk</a></p>	
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<b>Summary completed by:</b>	Penny Dade		
<b>Date:</b>	2 February 2017		