

Interviewees: Dale Rainford and Ian Poad  
UoS Dates: 1968-1972  
Role(s): Students of Biology (DR) † History (IP)



## Interview summary:

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

**00.00** Dale Rainford (DR) attracted by idea of attending one of the new universities. Also odd family link as both her parents worked for Cubitts whose Scottish subsidiary built Pathfoot and some of later buildings. First visit to Scotland and the university was May 1968 when visited with parents to look for digs. Found digs in house in Causewayhead bought by Corrieri who owned the fish and chip shop. House run by his nephew and his wife. Large house where quite a few stayed for 2 years.

**01.47** First impressions were of fabulous campus. Having grown up on outskirts of London, DR astounded by sectarianism in the area, not on campus, where subject treated more as joke. Similarly astounded when later staying in Bridge of Allan and landlady said she was surprised at DR sharing with two Catholic girls. Generally, found people very friendly and settled in well. No homesickness but did find campus very quiet at weekends when most Scottish students went home.

**03.59** Met Ian at Stirling, started going out Easter 1970. Both in 1968 intake who recently celebrated 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Ian Poad (IP) remarks that at bigger university they might not have met as Science and Arts often do not mix very often.

**04.39** DR studied Biology with, as subsidiaries, Chemistry and Psychology. DR found Psychology rather disorganised and did not really enjoy the poorly attended 8.30 lectures over the winter.

**06.24** Ian Poad (IP) chose Stirling to study History, attracted by Professor George Rudé a well-known expert on the French Revolution. Regrettably, George Rudé did not stay long and left after the first semester. He was a Marxist historian and IP not sure that went down well.

**07.00** IP first visited campus in early 1968 and was interviewed by Malcolm Thomas. Learned then that George Rudé was not staying, but IP attracted also by opportunities at Stirling for modern history, his main interest. Traditional universities did offer modern history, but also requirement to do Tudors and Stuarts as well which appealed less to IP. Further, Traditional universities required Latin O-Level which IP had failed twice, so would not qualify.

**08.05** The campus was also a very big hook for IP. Knew area from childhood holidays in Trossachs and could get direct train from Newcastle to Stirling in those days. Also contrast with Newcastle where university spread over city, whereas Stirling small with small number of students and appealing to spend 4 years there.

**09.28** As well as history, IP took a major in Economics and subsidiary in Sociology. IP recalls the library in

Pathfoot and using seminar rooms rather than lecture theatres as few students. Friendly atmosphere and people got to know each other pretty quickly. Also, something that would probably not have happened in larger universities, the 1968 intake got to know the 1967 intake quite well, and even 1969 intake.

**11.12** Lecturers IP recalls particularly are Malcolm Thomas, well-renowned in his field, Luddism, Bob McKean was newly appointed and did Russian history, which was not widely offered. Eric Richards did Economic history. IP recalls Brian Loasby and Andrew Bain was the Professor. IP has studied Economics at A-Level but appreciated studying with people of that quality. IP not tempted to change to Sociology as just a filler for him. Liked Economics but the mathematical requirements increased with further study and he felt he couldn't have handled that.

**13.04** The basis for a lot of Psychology taught was statistical but DR managed the statistics in Psychology quite well as had studied pure maths. This was before electronic computers and they used facet calculators. Later, their daughter came to Stirling and to do Psychology, but changed to Politics as maths element too challenging. DR really enjoyed the biology courses. Human Ecology Part 1 was particularly interesting as some non-biology students took that as well and they paired up. DR remembers dissecting a monkey. Also, differently to Arts subjects, they spent a lot of time with lecturers in the practicals, which took place every afternoon apart from Wednesday, which was for sports. Small classes meant got to know lecturers. DR recalls one lecturer, Dr Proctor, who had ambitions to own a Bentley and marry Princess Anne! He did get the Bentley as they got a ride in it to a celebration dinner they had after finished course. Dr Dix was her Director of Studies, then, later Peter Bannister. Recalls Donald McCluskey, Professor Holliday and Professor Hans Meidner who supervised her Honours project - ??? in cucumbers. Technical staff brilliant, could build almost anything for experiments, including a pressure system to put pressure on cucumbers. One had a relative who had been a glass blower, Terry Young. Shared Technical Services worked well.

**17.35** IP recalls History in Part 2 even better with staff who provided a very varied course, including subjects he had not covered before. For example, Japanese history with Sean Pierre Layman. John McCracken offered African history, Jimmy Young Scottish history. David Waddell did North and South American history. IP does not recall doing a final Honours project in History, but remembers his history dissertation on agricultural improvement and population movement in the parish of Lecropt, very close to the university. Data obtained from library associated to Dunblane Cathedral

**19.07** DR remembers education authorities in England had difficulties handling the grants for the semester system. Result meant one third distributed October as in traditional universities, next third after Christmas and final installment around Easter. The result was a hard first semester but able to live it up in the second! Some of the money was spent in Alangrange, the joint student and staff club, housed in a large stone house near the back entrance to Pathfoot. It was shared social space used by students and staff, especially younger staff members. Eventually, it became just student social space when the Cottrell Building was being finalized the University moved away from shared social space. There was a strike at the time. IP was on the management committee of Alangrange at the time. As far as he recalls, the University did not give a reason for the change. IP resigned over the issue. There was a picket at Airthrey Castle where the Court was sitting. There was also a strike about the quality and cost of the food in the canteen in J corridor.

**22.43** Before the residences were built IP lived in digs for two years in Forth Place and then Lower Bridge St. IP particularly enjoyed Forth Place where an elderly couple whose son had left home looked after the students very well – even washing his rugby strip. DR stayed in Causewayhead and then a shared flat in Bridge of Allan. Both moved on to campus, IP moved into Donnelly block, DR stayed in a flat for postgraduates in Donnelly block, then a six-person flat in Fraser of Allander with girls she had shared with in Corrieri's accommodation in Causewayhead.

**24.17** DR enjoyed life on campus. Occasional dramas like rampaging cows as there were still meadows. Also remembers skating on Airthrey Loch one winter. Then there was the opening of the Macrobert, also film club there. Also students went to the Allan Park cinema in Stirling. On campus, so few students that students could put a notice up advertising a party and not be inundated. Unlike today, official bars shut at 10pm so people got carry outs to go on to parties. IP very involved with sport on campus. Prior to university, main sport gymnastics, but also rugby. For a short period IP went to a well-respected gymnastics

club in Alloa, but this proved too difficult to get to so he then concentrated on rugby. They called themselves the Rainbow 15 as all played in their old school strips as they hadn't organized a strip or funding. Used a pitch in Bridge of Allan as campus pitch unfinished. IP also played volleyball in the Barracuda as it was called, the only sports hall the university had in its first 3 or 4 years. It was behind Allangrange and was a plastic, inflatable hut. You went through an airlock to enter. Had a volleyball pitch and basketball court and trampolines. University teams played competitively in volleyball and rugby, not very successful in volleyball, mixed results in rugby. Two of the rugby players went on to play at good level in England. John Short, then known as Sean Short and Ian Henry both played for a club called Gosforth, now Newcastle Falcons. Also, Charlie Bisset from Jordanhill and Arthur McCulloch were good players. There was also a future Scotland international player, Bill Gammell .

**30.28** DR helped form a riding club which went to a riding school in the Braco area. Recalls occasion during a bus strike when got lift back with tattie pickers on back of lorry with potatoes. Also pony trekking in Trossachs for a week in pouring rain. Time for lots of new clubs like biology and chemistry, many of which found reasons for visiting distilleries! IP involved in starting Folk Club with Lesley Ann Harris and Roddy Cowie. Club met in Alangrange and got good acts, such as Humblebums with Billy Connolly, Tam Harvey and Gerry Rafferty. Tam Harvey later left. Also other well-known Scottish folk singers, like Rab Noakes and Matt McGinn, Hamish Imlach ( of 'Cod Liver Oil and the Orange Juice') and The McCalmans. Had a barn dance on a farm on Sheriffmuir where the McCalmans played for next to nothing.

**33.51** Other activities for DR included skiing, never done before or since, but recalls sitting in the café at Glenshee with a friend who was also a good knitter, cheekily checking out faults in the Aran sweaters other skiers were wearing. A memorable occasion was when the student association had a lot of money left over and held a fish party in J Lounge. It was said the lobsters were brought down from Oban where the Biology Department had good contacts, and cooked in the autoclaves. Whether true or not, there was a good selection of fish and shellfish, lots to drink and very cheap ! Lot of sore heads next day.

**35.20** IP recalls Political Coordination Group, consisting of people with different political views, who, because of small size of student population, got together to get good speakers and provide a decent audience. Speakers included the South Vietnamese ambassador and Jo Grimond, leader of the Liberal Party. They agreed to support each other's events and not cause problems. IP not a member but went along to the events and recalls providing security with other rugby players on the visit of the South Vietnamese ambassador to prevent students from other universities getting in. Rugby Club players served as bouncers at some other events, such as gigs on campus, like when Elton John performed. Briefed by EJ's roadie to keep people off the stage, so positioned around stage. As part of his set EJ would stand up at some point, play the piano and kick his piano stool off the stage as part of the act. IP detailed to catch the piano stool! Other groups came perhaps because Paul Martin had the contacts.

**38.45** IP recalls another rugby incident. BBC filming a documentary at the end of the third year of the university, asked Rugby Club to play a game, men against women. Returned to the Gannochy which had opened after the game where BBC filmed rugby drinking game with forfeits where IP accepted forfeit to sing Blaydon Races in his Geordie accent. Asked to repeat the song for another take of filming and it was in the documentary – fortunately only shown in Scotland, so IP's parents never saw it! (Video sunk without trace in spite of attempts to locate it, probably taped over. Video also included student meetings, such as Paul Martin addressing a group in a lecture theatre. Some material on preparation for university opening, for example, in Garden Cottage.) IP recalls the documentary finished with first graduation, plus interviews with people in 1967.

**41.20** Other aspects recalled by IP include the Approaches and Methods course, a unique feature of the university, intended to develop study skills. His tutor was John Riddy, not an academic but Assistant Secretary of the university. IP did not find Approaches and Methods particularly useful.

**42.19** DR and IP got together near the end of their second year, at Easter 1970, going together to the Sports Union Charity Ball. It was an annual event at that time. Another thing Stirling took on from other universities was a Charities Week. There was a parade through the town with people dressed up. DR remembers one where she dressed as a rabbit and another where she and a friend wore saris her grandfather had brought back from his time in Indian Army. One year a Charities Ball was held in Stirling

Castle with different music styles in different rooms, from jazz to calypso to rock. There was a Charities Queen. DR remembers Sue Holland was Charities Queen one year.

**45.30** DR also found different in coming to a Scottish university was that the Scottish education system meant many students were very young. She feels some of those who failed Part 1 were perhaps not mature enough to handle university. However, Stirling was good in allowing students to change courses. IP mentions the Major, Subsidiary, Minor system meant there was flexibility. Regarding help with their career options, IP consulted Walter Abbott who was the Careers Advisor. IP was sure he did not want to use his history degree for teaching. Walter Abbott spoke to him about his own experience as a personnel manager, now human resources manager, and IP decided to pursue that career. IP much appreciated Walter's advice and returned to the university on several occasions over the year in the 'Milk Round' when recruiting staff for the organisations where he worked. He continued in that career for 37 years, doing various jobs and specialisms within that area. DR did a Masters in Information Science at City University in London, although didn't use this in her career till much later. She and Ian were getting married then and for practical reasons, DR worked for the Civil Service in Glasgow for 8 years, eventually as a systems analyst. As was common then, she gave up work on the birth of her first child and returned after 8 years. Then got a job with Overseas Development Agency, as it was then and started to work in the library there, using her information science background and also biology was useful as covered aquaculture. Eventually, due to government cutbacks, the library could not be kept going, in spite of being such a good resource to the department but also to institutions in developing countries. This work had brought DR to the Aquaculture Department at Stirling a few times. Latterly, DR moved to central research department where both biology and information science came into play as DR managed a website on which the research they funded was published for open access, quite a new concept at the time.

**51.50** When IP responsible for graduate training scheme, he organized some training courses at Stirling and they stayed in the residences, and later used the Management Centre as an off-site location, so visited quite often. Main change from their day is the huge number of people on the site and also the greater ethnic mix. Also, the maternity hospital was still on site during their time. Both of their children have studied at Stirling 30 years later. Their experience was different. For example, fewer friends from other courses, mainly own courses, clubs or residences. Asked to comment on any differences in Stirling in terms of attitudes, for example to women, between her own time and that of the children, DR feels little difference. Stirling, being new, perhaps didn't have the entrenched attitudes that possibly existed in some institutions. DR never felt disadvantaged as a woman at Stirling. Stirling was setting up its own traditions. A final special memory is that they got engaged on the day of their graduation ceremony, which took place in the MacRobert.

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