

Interviewee: Martin Everitt  
Dates: 14<sup>th</sup> July 2022  
Role(s): Student (1968 - 1973)



## Interview summary:

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

**Start – 0.23**

**0.24** - Describes how he came to Stirling; highlights opportunity of joint English and Education course that brought him from Surrey to study. Describes campus as a factor in choosing Stirling but lived in accommodation in Dunblane with 7 others.

**03.44** - Describes feelings on arrival, regarding accommodation and friends, and feeling homesick. Discusses attempt finding second year accommodation, which was scarce, in Glen Road, Bridge of Allan. Recalls Stirling Observer publishing his mother's letter regarding homeless students. Ended up living in a cottage at Sheriff Muir with 3 others. Claims parents visited at least once from Surrey, not happy with accommodation.

**08.21** - Discusses studying psychology and sociology alongside English and Education. Describes placement in Bridge of Allan primary in 1970. Highlights small numbers of students and lectures in English and Education classes, more seminars and tutorials.


**10.06** - Discusses lack of success in first half of the course before developing understanding of writing relating to literature. Cites lecturer Graham Smith as influential on improving writing skills, and states they remain vaguely in touch.

**12.13** - Suggests greater focus on education; infers interest sprang from experience with education system at grammar school he attended in Surrey and role as prefect.

**14.19** - Discussion of Stirling's education department in early days, especially micro-teaching, giving small sample classes that were filmed and critiqued. Describes studying primary and secondary level teaching. Recalls only 3 other joint-honours students in English and Education, so rare that a future interviewer thought it fabrication. Claims the format changed after only a few years.

**17.37** - Describes studying education, time split between tutorials and teaching practice; Everitt practiced at Dunblane Junior Secondary and Denny High School,

<b>18.26</b> - Cites no problems with University's resources. Describes small tutorial groups and classes as a privilege.
<b>19.23</b> - Discussion of career after Stirling; taught for 40 years and did a PhD in Education in Durham. Describes how studying at Stirling impacted his career; found small group teaching effective so used it in own teaching when qualified.
<b>21.08</b> - Discussion of extracurriculars and social life; claims third and fourth years and dissertations meant more focus on study. Suggests small number of students and poor transportation caused difficulty socialising. Describes students being unpopular in Stirling and more popular in Bridge of Allan, particularly Alangrange. Cites only visits to Stirling for folk music nights (e.g., Billy Connolly). Discusses sport and gym ('Barracuda'), membership of university cricket club, with students and teachers.
<b>26.25</b> - Discusses first year membership of the charity society and experience as 'convener'. Describes poor relationship with the CSA (disputes over money and donations); cites this as reason for an overall bad second year (1969 – 70). Michael Connarty and Paul Martin named as 'anti-charity'. Despite disputes, Everitt highlights success of 'Rag Mag' (student magazine) and earnings of £1000 in '69 - '70. Claims poor experience and incompetent co-workers in the society resulted in avoidance of leadership roles in teaching career.
<b>31.02</b> - Discusses lack of involvement with Stirling's administration whilst part of charity society and remoteness of key staff, e.g., Tom Cottrell.
<b>32.06</b> - Describes infamous Queen's Visit in 1972; CSA (et al) were angry about money spent on the visit instead of charity, so 'sit-in' protest took place in MacRobert Theatre. Claimed initially it was peaceful, but MacRobert's bar opened, causing more riotous behaviour. Claims had the bar not opened, the incident wouldn't have happened. Suggests Stirling gained bad reputation subsequently, prospective applicants told by schoolteachers, parents etc., not to apply to Stirling. Claims Stirling gained left-wing reputation for years following.
<b>36.01</b> - Suggests lack of prestige caused others to look down on Stirling, especially after 1972, but says overall personal pride in degrees was good.
<b>36.44</b> - Discusses impact of Stirling on career development; apart from meeting his wife and living and working locally since graduation (1972), claims Stirling had little impact on his career.
<b>37.54</b> - Highlights influential individuals, including Bill Inglis (?), Graham Smith and Ian Milligan. Suggests younger tutors and students had close, better working relationships. Highlights many relationships between young male tutors and female students. Claims Stirling was modern compared to traditional universities, e.g., Durham, where Everitt studied for PhD.
<b>40.15</b> - Summarises best and worst things about Stirling; worst being involvement with CSA in '69 and '70, best being living in independent, non-uni accommodation in Sherrifmuir (claims cottage was haunted). Also suggests growth of student population caused improvement of social opportunities.
<b>End - 47.31</b>

<b>Interview No:</b>	SURSA OH/ 127	<p><b>SURSA</b> University of Stirling Stirling FK9 4LA</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>	<p><b>SURSA</b></p>  <p>Oral History</p>
<b>Interviewed by:</b>	Christina Sommerville & Lindsay Ross		
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<b>Summary completed by:</b>	Violet Cooke		
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