

Interviewee: Christine Gannon (nee Lewis)
UoS Dates: 1967 - 1972
Role(s): Undergraduate (BA, Hons French)



Interview summary:

Summary of content; with time (min:secs)

Start 00:20 – CG came to Stirling from Falkirk. She remembers Professor Dunn coming to her school and giving such an inspiring talk that she decided to go to Stirling. CG studied French and German.

05:13 – The University lived up to her expectations. She recalls being enthralled and excited to walk to the classrooms in Pathfoot. She loved the French course. Professor Lockerbie was her advisor. She says she was immediately impressed by him. She recalls disliking the German course at Stirling. CG recalls they learned all about things that were happening in France, everything was up to date whereas in German they had to read Gothic script. It was a struggle and she feels it was too much to ask of an 18 year old. She says she did far better on her French course than German.

12:30 – There was a course on interpretation which CG says was her favourite course and made her want to be an interpreter. She recalls doing Education for a term towards the end of her time at Stirling. Education wasn't there at the beginning as a subject.

15:30 – In her first year CG had to choose another subject so she chose Sociology. French and German student numbers were small in comparison to Sociology. Sociology wasn't for her but she was curious. She found some stuff interesting - just found it quite difficult. It was a new subject finding its feet.

18:00 – She had to go to France for a year and says it was the best year of her life. She says the pupils were lovely and parents invited her in for dinners. Didn't speak a lot of English and felt completely immersed in France. The University put her forward for this trip. She was responsible for organising the classes and feels the pupils loved it. French teacher invited her for meals, showed her the area, still friends with her.

27:07 – CG says she didn't really take part in the social side of Stirling, due to being a bit serious minded and working the majority of the time. She can recall playing squash and joining the club and being taught how to play it. She joined the canoe group but felt that she could have joined more clubs. The football team was very good when she was there, they played against other universities.

32:30 – CG wasn't aware of staff student relations as she didn't have much interaction with staff. She was invited to

Tom Cottrell's house and remembers the white carpet. He invited them for coffee. It was a frightening experience. She also once went to Lockerbie's house as he did something similar to Tom Cottrell. Lockerbie founded the Cinema Club which started her interest in the cinema. She was an usher in the MacRobert.

39:20 – Whilst she was in France, Cottrell had been built. The first two years were different from how the university is now due to the smaller number of staff and students. There was a Dramatic group which she could have joined but it was a strong group of confident English students whom she didn't feel she would get on well with.

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