

Lindy Jones interviewing David Humphreys

50:53

Lindy Jones Today is Wednesday 23 October, my name is Lindy Jones and I have come to Canterbury to interview Mr David Humphreys for the Inner Temple Oral History Project. David joined Inner Temple in 1941 but shortly after this went on military service for World War II. David was called to the Bar at Inner Temple in January 1948, following which he worked as a barrister until he retired in 1986. During his career David also spent some time in Bahrain as a judicial advisor. Towards the latter part of his career and into the early part of his retirement, David worked as a deputy circuit judge and assistant recorder and was also part time chairman of the social security appeals tribunals. Welcome David.

LJ Could you tell us what made you choose Inner Temple out of the four inns?

DH Because my father was a member of the Inner Temple.

LJ So your father was a barrister?

DH Yes.

LJ OK, how long did your father practise for?

DH He was called in 1909 and he was joint top prize with another barrister called Gilbert Beyfus, who carried on making the bar his career. My father was not an advocate by nature. He went to the chancery side and then the war interrupted his career and after the war, he carried on a bit but it was very difficult to get work as a young man in particular in his particular part which wasn't the advocacy part.

02.00

But he still used to come to the Inn sometimes but he was also a very good sportsman. When there were – still existed in those days – what you might call gentlemen of independent means who were good at sport. I wanted a career at the bar and unlike my father I did like advocacy, so I made that my career. So instead in my father got what they called a certificate of honour when he was called. He told me he thinks he got that because he was so worried he was going to fail he overworked and got top prize. I didn't get top prize because I'm more, well I like the court work, that's why I became a barrister, not a solicitor.

LJ So was your dad still practising when you joined Inner Temple in 1941?

DH My father.

LJ Your father sorry.

DH No he gave up practice in the early 1920s. But his father was a successful business man who had acquired an estate in Knightsbridge through his having a big building business in Knightsbridge in London and it needed somebody to keep an eye on grandfather to see he didn't get involved in things he didn't know about. So my father found he needed to retire in order to help his father with the estate, which is what he did the rest of his life. So ... he had chambers in New Square, Lincoln's Inn and I've still got a piece of his notepaper.

LJ So when you joined Inner Temple had you had much to do with the Inn before due to the fact that your father was a member?

DH No I knew nothing about it at all. Remember it was wartime; there wasn't any social life in the inn then. I was...

04.00

I left school to go up to Oxford. Probably my father took me up there to sign on, to find the necessary papers to become a student and then I carried on with the war. I knew nothing about the Inner Temple or any other of the Inns. I didn't come because I want to be a lawyer, I really came to the bar because it's a stepping stone to what they call public life, in other words, politics, which it is for a lot of people, which is what I did for a while, but I found it too much together with a career in advocacy, too much strain.

LJ So you joined in 1941, which was the same year that the Inn was quite damaged isn't it, the bombs, had you already gone on military service before the Inn?

DH No I was at Oxford then, I was a member of the University Air Squadron which you could call military service but it was part time. I was still a student then and I didn't do any studying in the Inn until the end of the war. I couldn't because it hadn't go sufficient qualifications at the university at that stage. I'd started my degree and interrupted it to go into war service.

LJ So when you've come back from the war did you go back to Oxford for a while?

DH I went back in 1944 because I was wounded. I was shot through the neck in Normandy and fortunately somehow the bullet missed the spine. It did affect my handwriting, as anybody would know who's seen it. But I recovered fully back to full service but in order to help me use my hand again which I needed to do, they found a convalescent hospital in Oxford, which in those days was called the Radcliffe Infirmary and became the Radcliffe Hospital in Headington. Quite a different thing – in those days it was in the middle of Oxford and I used to have physiotherapy. Went back to my college, finished those exams I needed to do which were not very difficult in the war and that gave me sufficient qualification for after the war to obtain my degree and then start my bar studies.

06.36

So the one helped the other. And then I went back... I was still in the army, the army were paying me, I was technically on leave, convalescent leave; I simply worked my way back and ended up in Trieste back in the same battalion in which I was wounded in Normandy. I finished in October 1946 when I then started my proper bar studies.

LJ So your bar studies were at Inner Temple. How did that work?

DH Because I'd done so many exams. Not a great deal to be honest at Oxford because my tutor wrote a letter saying in his view I would have obtained second class honours if there had been an honours school at Oxford, which there wasn't. One thing called jurisprudence, which technically I was reading. You had sections and you didn't have to do the same sections, for example, you didn't have to do the contract and tort twice, once at Oxford and once at the bar providing your tutor wrote a letter saying you were sufficiently high standard which he very kindly did. So all I had to do was Law of Real Property which it took six months to do and then my finals

at the bar which said how did you do in two halves and I think they were very generous to young people to help us get back to post-war life.

08.12

I think it was probably why. In the long run [it's true you learn?] the subject properly, as I still find now I became a pupil.

LJ So at that stage, when you went back to do your bar studies, was there much social life at the inn?

DH Only what we made ourselves. Nothing remotely like what there is now, not in any of the Inns I shouldn't think. In fact there was no library in the Inner Temple, during the war, and then they turned 2 Kings Bench Walk into a temporary library whilst they were waiting to build the new library and a new hall which had been completely destroyed and sat surrounded by scaffolding for many years. Actually I did my studying in Lincoln's Inn library which had not been damaged at all. I had a tutor as well, a very good tutor which a lot of people who had bigger practices than me went to called Gerald Hard and he lived in a rather cold room at the top of Farrar's Building just near to the Temple Church. You went up there and he gave you topics to write about and what you did was you read a wonderful book which is still used by academics called Cheshire's Real Property, you read through that and then you wrote topics taken out of different sections. That was my grounding because the one exam I had not taken at Oxford was real property so I had to take that in order to proceed to the final.

10.02

That was all with Gerald Hard who was a very good tutor. He'd been in practice many years ago, he had one arm, he was a bit of a loner and a very good tutor. I didn't go to the – forgotten what they called it – the law schools in Gray's Inn, it was called something different then, because there were good lectures but they weren't really very useful for the practical side of the bar. And also I'd done quite a bit of the academic side. Gerald Hard was the man who got me to my sufficient standard to be called to the bar which had happened in January 48 because I'd already managed to take within a year I did six months to take real property then two quick succession two halves of the bar finals within about 3 months gap in each case. Finished the exams by Christmas 47; eventually called in January 48 and start my pupillage.

LJ So what was call night like in January 1948?

DH Oh it was quite different to now. There was no hall, what we were using by then was a place called the Niblett Hall which was at the back of Kings Bench Walk and is now something quite different – which had been used during the war, after hall was destroyed, as a dining hall and an extra room as well. You lunched there – there weren't that number of students because there was no legal aid at that stage and there weren't much money to be made. Social life as far as I can see was non-existent but at that age we made our own social life really, nothing at all like anything now. In fact it wasn't considered having anything to do with the Inn.

12.04

It's not like the old days, the 16th century when it really was part of the Inn. People hadn't got the money, there was nowhere to do it because the whole of the centre of the Inn had been destroyed so it wasn't until that was built again that we could start a social life again.

LJ So for call night did your family come along – was it a family event or was it low key?

DH Unfortunately my father wasn't well; my parents were separated when I was quite young. My father should have come, but it wasn't an event like now. What happened was we all went to Niblett Hall; the bencher who's calling us was Lord Tucker who'd been best man at my father's wedding, a very distinguished Law Lord, whom I met once and ... my father wasn't able to be there so I could see this very distinguished man looking around, I thought I'd better put him out of his misery; I went up and said I'm David Humphreys Lord Tucker; oh he said, good, very nice to meet you, I'm looking for you. All that happened was, we were called like now, the Treasurer calling out the names, or Sub-Treasurer and then we had a glass of sherry afterwards and that was it. I don't think there was anywhere for families to be, I suppose they could have come. My father being a member of the Inn he would have come anyhow, so it was really a bit of a damp squib. It's true, we didn't have ceremony. After the war, those of us who'd been in the war we wanted to get on with life, we weren't looking for ceremony. What we were looking for is to catching up with the lack of 5 years study by being away. It's quite a long time at that age. So that's the answer to that. [laughs]

LJ So you got pupillage straight away?

DH I was very lucky. It wasn't difficult. It was always difficult to get good pupillage but I was offered pupillage by a very nice man called Harold Maddocks who was I think on the Oxford or Midland circuit, had a good mixed practice.

14.28

Had probably been to war, I can't remember. Most of the people near their 40s had been away on war service if they were fit. Just as I was about to start pupillage with him, he was made a Stipendiary Magistrate but he had a great friend called George Baker who later became Sir George Baker President of the Family Division whose son is now Lord Justice Baker; I knew his son when he was about ten. He offered me pupillage in 3 Temple Gardens which was very good, what they used to call Common Law set and it would last a year but he did warn me that there wouldn't be any chance of staying there as a tenant because he already promised the tenancy to another barrister who he knew, a young barrister who preceded me as a pupil. He was called Kenneth Jones and became a judge at the Old Bailey eventually. Those chambers were very good training ground, they produced Lord Woolf for example a number of High Court Judges, Circuit Judges and it was down at the bottom of Temple Gardens overlooking the river. George was a wonderful pupil master, he taught me all the right things to do even if didn't always follow him, including such things as wearing a hat. Barristers wore hats in those days, a Homburg or a Bowler.

16.05

My family didn't wear hats. He said to me, "David you ought to wear a hat because you might meet a High Court Judge walking up to court and chambers and you take your hat off and he might remember you next time". So I therefore got myself a hat and did what he said. Once I'd finished my pupillage, I didn't think I looked very good in a hat, I gave it up again because I don't really think the High Court Judge will remember me for that reason. So those days was the real difference: once you were called you could appear in court immediately and technically you were under supervision but it wasn't really possible to supervise somebody in court and it was tradition for the clerk in chambers to find you some simple brief, defending a divorce or something like that, to start you off. In fact my father had a friend who was a

solicitor who did that very thing – he sent me an undefended divorce. I may say I was terrified because they were open courts in those days. Everybody was looking at you, of course the judge never knew who you were again. In those days undefended divorces didn't necessarily go through because the judge had the discretion to refuse them if the petitioner had misbehaved themselves – committed adultery meanwhile – and did occasionally happen. So the last thing the judge did before granting a decree, he'd open an envelope in which the petitioner had written down whether they had committed adultery or not before then and then, I never saw this happen but I think it had been known for a judge to refuse it; he'd then say, in my discretion I grant this decree.

18.05

It was all open court. And then I was very lucky to get some small work through the junior clerk in chambers, mostly in Magistrates' Courts and I got on well with the clerk, with the firm of solicitors in Brighton, who wanted young men and it wasn't young women in those days because there weren't many, to go down to Brighton on a small fee. The clerk and I got on well – wasn't too clever; somebody else sent down was a scholar at Winchester I think and he didn't really tone in with the clerk; clerk was rather frightened of him, so I was warned that the clerk liked being chatted to over coffee and I said don't worry about that, I'll enjoy that, I got a lot of work my first year as a pupil, of all kinds. Sometimes I got it through dock briefs in what was then Inner London Sessions, now the Inner London Crown Court in Newington Causeway, well you sat on the first day of sessions as they called it, every quarter they had a new sessions, when the defendants were all brought up and as they called it, and any barrister in the front of court could be chosen, the sum of a guinea, a pound to the barrister, a shilling to the clerk. You then did the case whatever it was. It wasn't very popular with experienced barristers because that's all you got and you might get stuck with a long defended case. So I started getting quite a lot of work and I got into the court of criminal appeal quite quickly because the client I represented wanted to appeal and they had the right to appear in court in those days, if there was an appeal, and he paid ten pounds or ten guineas for me to appear in front of Lord Goddard, which was a real baptism of fire in your first year.

20.04

LJ So was pupillage still a year, same as now?

DH Twelve months, you nearly always stayed with one person. As it happens my pupil master was a Middle Templar but it didn't really make any difference in those days. I won't say ... the Inner Temple was working alright professionally but ... we must have had a common room somewhere, it wasn't much. Middle Temple hall wasn't used either but they had a common room in the middle of Hare Court, right where the car park is, where I think any of us could go there and have a coffee but there weren't too many students because there wasn't much chance to make bar money, money at the bar. Legal aid came in effectively in 1948, 1949. 1949 criminal legal aid I think and that started the supply of small work for young barristers.

LJ So what were your first few years after you qualified like?

DH I was lucky. I got married in December 51, so I had a fairly lively social life but I was young then, capable I thought of doing both. I was in court certainly every week, probably several times a week but I'd be... my pupil master was on the Oxford circuit, which I was never going to be a member of, I knew that; but he'd need me sitting at his table unless there was something he thought I ought to come and listen

to in court outside London. But I'd sit at his table looking through his papers and having a crack at anything I thought I might cope with.

22.00

Fortunately he had a very nice corner of a nice room overlooking the Thames; I learned a lot listening to the other barristers. Not many barristers had their own rooms then. There were four of us in that room. I had my own pupil desk in a tiny room at the back which faced the wall so I got out of that quickly when George, we were soon on Christian name terms, he was a wonderful pupil master, probably the best you could have because he taught me all the things he should have taught me and also he's very human – he said, "David, you must enjoy yourself now, you won't be able to do that later," which is partly true.

LJ So where did you go after pupillage?

DH I was very lucky: in my social life I met a lady called Lady Doughty, who liked starting young men off. Her husband was Head of Chambers in 2 Paper Buildings and she... in those days, Heads of Chambers seemed to decide who came into the set, very few chambers would have chambers meetings to decide. Charles, a large man with a monocle, not a great lawyer but a good advocate, plenty of common sense; because there was another Charles Doughty, whose son, who probably had a bigger practice, he died some years ago, they had a connection with a legal family, with a solicitors family which helped a lot. But I got offered a pupillage there and I shared a room in the basement, and the chambers was spilt between Doughty's which was ground floor and the basement or whatever you call it, lower ground floor of which the tenant was E F Monier-Williams, a very distinguished common law pleader, and his son and I shared a room.

24.08

That got me started on the lower corner as you might say of work, because he introduced me to the Mary Ward Advice Centre where young barristers went to give free legal advice once a week and where you could do court work all over London and you even got paid a small sum – it wasn't that small in those days, 2 guineas, 2 pound went to the barrister and 2 shillings to the clerk and I went all over the County Court there. I started getting work from my pupillage chambers back in Brighton, so much so that the clerks suggested I went back there as a tenant but in fact I was a Londoner and better off in London chambers and anyhow I think he had too big expectations. So I stayed with Monier-Williams and E F Monier-Williams, known as Bill, who is my oldest friend at the bar, I'm glad to say he's still with us, I think probably a senior bencher in the Inn.

LJ In the Inner Temple as well?

DH So that got me all over the place. I even got to the High Court several times, and was in the law reports. Things were looking quite promising. I got married then. We hadn't got children. It was a good time really. I wasn't a good lawyer as I should have been but then during the war, I'm afraid I wasn't sitting down reading Cheshire's Real Property when I was in a trench in France, bit heavy for one thing – I soon found out though that you really need a good basis. George Bacon he was a wonderful draughtsman and he was a diplomat and a good advocate. There were a number rather like him who all went on circuit in those days where they didn't get paid very much but they get good civil in exchange for doing fairly poor paid criminal work.

26.12

So that lasted a year. Sorry, 1949, I then stayed for about seven years I suppose with those chambers and then Charles Doughty, whose chambers had taken me – he retired, and his son and I weren't really the same kind should we say, and he wasn't prepared to give me a seat; he took over as Head of Chambers and actually didn't worry me because I had a sufficient practice to take somewhere else so by that time for which I had something to offer. I got a seat in a small set behind the Temple Church where instead the Head of Chambers was another Inner Temple person. It didn't make a great deal of difference whether your Head of Chambers was Inner or Middle; Sir Charles Doughty was Inner, very much an Inner Temple man, but I should say while I was a tenant at Doughty's chambers he became Treasurer of the Inn and the Treasurer by custom would usually be able to ask for something of material interest which they might put on in the Inn during his year as Treasurer. He decided he'd like to have a ball in the Inn gardens, which had never happened before. He told me that Lord Goddard didn't agree to this, it seemed rather demeaning to the Inn. But we had the ball and instead Charles Doughty was well known in London social circles.

28.02

So we had the ball, I got married by then and a large marquee and of course as people will know who are listening to this, there has been many a ball since then. I think that was the first one, probably in about 1952 I think, if my memory's correct. So social life was beginning to start but we still hadn't got a building to have it in, nor the Temple Church, the whole of that was semi-devastated area. Anyhow when you're newly married you're getting on with getting to know your wife, in those days you didn't live with your future wife beforehand, not often, and having your own life, producing young children, and working because there wasn't really that much time for social life back then. Student social life had come and gone but I made good friends then, and they remained my friends for a long time. Practice was taking off then.

What next happened was that the little set I went into behind Goldsmith building, a man called Arthur **Beakoff** was the head, did commercial work mainly, but we were going to break up, it wasn't big enough, so I then got offered a seat in John Buzzard's chambers, who was an Inner Templar I think, in 4 Kings Bench Walk, what are known as Treasury Chambers, in other words the head of chambers was on the Treasury Counsel's list, criminal bar list, and they were the best of the Inn. But they specialised in exclusively criminal work. I'd done sufficient criminal work to be asked to get here but the only trouble was the clerk who was a wonderful clerk called Hector didn't know much about the civil courts and the lists were all there.

30.07

So perhaps it wasn't the best place. By that time I'd become adopted prospective parliamentary candidate for West Ham north where the Olympic Stadium was, a quite hopeless seat, but I knew that. I was doing a lot of talking mostly the young conservatives in Essex and doing my practice and I had a small income which kept me going. In those days wives didn't normally work, once they started having children which was my case. My wife was working for John Murray, a publisher when we married and she went on doing that part time for a while. I then went into chambers and was offered what they call the **Yard B**. The important thing in criminal chambers is to get what they call your Yard **[?]** and be on the Yard list, metropolitan police, and solicitors met the metropolitan police, to such extent is called the yard list. Once you're there then your home and you're fairly safe. I took time to get there, I think John Buzzard, the Head of Chambers, thought I was a bit unconventional. One thing I wore a bow tie, which he didn't think the solicitors clerks would think my job. There

still wasn't much in social life although we had the Pegasus which is the Inner Temple hunt ball society which used to have the races in the Chilterns – my wife and I always went there, that was a very important social side of the inn in those days, the days when quite a lot of barristers then had their own horses. There was still quite a lot of barristers, mostly men still, women gradually coming, who had private income because, well legal aid was going but I don't think they really got into giving people large numbers of grants for going to universities.

32.19

And also there weren't many universities so the bar was still a bit socially exclusive really. And it wasn't until I came back – well the next thing that happened, I was offered the post of Judicial Advisor to the Government of Bahrain – the only judicial advisor! And to help them with modern laws. So we went out there for three years and I ceased contact with the bar then but I came back after a few years, it wasn't a long term job and I didn't go back into job out of chambers, I was offered the possibility of various jobs: one was to go back to MI5, another was to go to the Deputy DPP's list but I had the money to be independent. My father then died so I could more or less choose what I wished to do – I was lucky to be offered a seat in Ian Percival's chambers who became Treasurer of the Inn in due course, in 3 Hare Court which I stayed in until I retired. I got back to practice starting again going back to the Magistrates' Court; by then Inn life was beginning to wake up. The new hall had been built just before I went to Bahrain, I remember lunching there with people like John Mortimer, who was a very active member of the Middle Temple and I remember when the Suez crisis happened in 1956, our table in hall which is the one next to where they have the buffet now, they didn't have buffets then, split into two, between those pros and those anti-Suez. I was a bit naïve then, I think I was a bit of a pro-Suez man.

34.20

Then I went to Bahrain, well just after the Middle East was beginning to blow up. Bahrain was quite a peaceful place and has been on the whole since. But then coming back again it didn't do our practice any good; people assume you're making a fortune if you go to the east but I was working for the government, my job was to keep them on the straight and narrow and you don't get a lot of money in the Middle East for that. But I got very lucky: Ian offering me a seat, in a good chambers, the kind suited me and I stayed there, I could have moved to places where there was more work but I got on well with the clerk and I'm not a great mover. People didn't move chambers so much in those days.

LJ So when the social life started to pick up at the Inn, what kind of things did you get involved with?

DH When the Inn social life picked up I was a married man with children, so I wouldn't be partaking in it much then. I mean dining came back, there was no dining terms – although there were dining term but there wasn't much to have dinner, in the early... in fact you didn't have to keep terms in those days, they would take you as if you had eaten them which we hadn't. That was coming back. Well I came back from Bahrain, hall was in full swing, we had quite soon a student officer and they were welcoming young people into the Inn, it was much more shall we say democratic – that's not the right word – but there were people coming into the bar from all walks of life. People mostly came to the Inner Temple who were going to go into practice.

36.17

Academics were more likely to go to Gray's Inn in those days. But though legal aid was there and then there was more competition – we still weren't getting that number, I don't think, of students from what are called grammar school background. They were mostly from people with private means, it went on for a long time. And it took quite a long time for women to be seen. You could judge it by who's having tea in the common room, what they call the Pegasus now, probably split half and half between women and men now, might even be more on the side of women. In my days this was very unlikely. For one thing, clerks didn't welcome women in chambers, because they were liable to have children just when the clerk had got them going and then they lost them again. It was said that Margaret Thatcher would have been a tenant in Checks chambers but I'm told on very good authority head of chambers wouldn't have her because he wouldn't have a woman in his chambers – so we lost her, some people might look at it another way! But I don't know if she was a member of the Inn but she certainly had a good career at the bar. There was the Bar Golfing Society, it wasn't very good golf, but I belonged to that. There was a Bar Lawn Tennis Society. There wasn't an Inner Temple Law Tennis Society, a Bar Law Tennis Society. The inns were active in that.

38.01

There was the Bar Musical Society of which eventually I became Concert's Officer. It didn't really make much difference in those days which Inn was running these societies, it's only fairly recent years that the Inns gone back to what they were doing in the 16th century, having their own entertainment, because we hadn't got anywhere to hold it really. The Middle Temple have got this wonderful hall and they probably started to run their own musical societies. I used to run a members' concert in the Parliament Chamber, well that went down very well but you couldn't have professional musicians there because the fee would be too big and you couldn't have more than at most 150 people there, if that, to pay for the cost. But the Inn was doing its best to wake up and certainly the students officers department grew and grew and of course Cumberland Lodge made a lot of difference too. That had begun; I went down there with my wife once, but I don't know if I was any use. So the social life would have been enjoyed more by the students than they would have been by somebody of my age but it was going on of course. There was nothing like the glossy magazine, forgotten what it's called now...

LJ Innerview.

DH Nothing like that at all. The Bar Liaison Committee didn't have the power it has now, was said to have – I was a member of that. I also became a member of the inn executive committee for a while, because I was voted onto the Senate, not on the circuit ticket but as an independent and for three years I was on the senate and sat on several committees and saw the big people in parliament chambers – Sir Melford Stevenson and Lord Goddard and a number of others.

40.23

A very nice person who died some years ago called Ted Laughton Scott who had become a bencher quite young and was very encouraging to me. In those days most of the older people, they didn't really talk to younger people still. They still lived a different world. There suddenly came a time when younger people became benchers and it moved, it's never stopped moving since. But I think it's fair to say in the early days the Inner was a fairly reclusive inn, not like back in Elizabethan days but probably similar to the Victorian period I think. I won't say any of the Inns had that much social life, it's difficult to know – now of course it's a different world really. It's very like probably what it was in the 16th century, with the moots and all that, and I

think it's rather like a working university. You've got the judges, the barristers and the students altogether; the only problem is of course it does cost quite a lot having dinner in Hall and I don't think you see that number normally, or lunch in Hall. I go to lunch in Hall. Hall is a centre of the Inn, it always has been, of all the Inns, particularly Inner and Middle because you can go across to the Royal Courts of Justice very easily from there and have lunch there.

42.07

You can't do that too easily from Gray's. So it's rather interesting in a way, the Inn's activities are not dissimilar from what they were except in Elizabethan times, a lot of the members wouldn't have been practising. It was considered part of the life of a young gentleman to become a member of the Inn of Court with all the festivities.

LJ So have you been involved with music and the Inns? Can you tell us about that...

DH Yes – I call myself a stock tenor. I love singing. It's I think a very good discipline; it takes you out of your daily problems, you make friends. I think music and education go together. It's always been the case with the Inns of Court, very much so, after all. I don't know what happened in the old Inner Temple hall. One always thinks of the Middle as where most of the moots went on, that probably wasn't quite true but it's the ones that were written about – Shakespeare having performed in his own play in the Middle Temple hall. We've always had that difference I suppose. A lot went on, there's no doubt about that, you can read in the records. Generally we had a hall, which had good acoustics. I have to say our inn, try as they do, is not the best place for acoustics, I think, as we all know, particularly for the spoken word. On the other hand it is said the food in the Inner Temple is better than the others [laughs] to make up for the other deficiencies I suppose. I enjoy going there, I always go to Hall if I can when I go to London from Kent and soon know the staff.

44.09

And also one of the big differences: there's hardly any class distinction now. That's my impression, it doesn't really matter whether you're a bencher or not. It's like a good regiment really, if you're commissioned, it doesn't matter whether you get beyond the rank of captain or do, because you're all part of the same family; it's very much a family Inn, no doubt about that. Peculiarly English, or British perhaps I should say.

LJ If my maths is correct, you've actually been a member of Inner Temple for 72 years, so it's a very long time. You must have seen a lot of change over that time. Can you think of some of the really good changes you think you've seen?

DH I think people blend in together, the older ones, the younger ones, that's the main thing. Also the positive steps to teach people from the inn to become a barrister or for that matter enjoy being a barrister, although you may be in an employed job. There wasn't really much of a positive effort made in my younger days to teach you, that was left to your pupil master and to the Inns of Court. It's probably a lot to do with the fact we didn't have our buildings in a way. Now, well the other big change of course is IT. I mean in my day we all had our secretaries, we didn't do our own typing, not much, now that's changed; I think life moves faster and there are far more women now, many of them struggling with children as they always did. I think that's difficult, it will always be a problem really.

46.18

But also I think young people are having much more part in running the Inn now, much more than they did in my day. It wasn't expected either side, the young or the old. There's a friendly atmosphere. I've never had any trouble, I suppose my father was a member of the Inn, I'd been at a typical English public school, university; my stint you always gone from one institution to another, ha! But I think somebody coming from what you might call the provinces in the early days would feel a bit lost. Perhaps even more so if they weren't fair skinned; that has changed I hope. Oh it changed a lot which is a good thing. But the Inn has always surprised people in some ways. Suddenly people become benchers who were well-liked people. Somebody who'd helped a lot in the Temple church or something like that, even though they hadn't got a big practice – another English quality I think. Suddenly defeat all ideas of what they're like by asking young people to become benchers and that's certainly happened. I'm not a bencher now so I don't quite know what it's like but my feeling is it's much more democratic. You're treated now for what you are not for what they expect you to be.

48.00

LJ What hopes have you got for the future with regards to the Inn?

DH The Inn, well carry on as now. It's amazing really in this day and age that you've still got the inns carrying on those separate lives inside the broader body of the bar, still very independent. I was a member of the senate for a while, and the bar council, and beginning to happen then but I think it's much more so now. A lot of work is done by busy barristers outside chambers and the other thing of course helping young people. The idea of pupils being paid was unheard of when I started. When I started you actually paid 100 guineas to your pupil master; my pupil master wouldn't take it. It was said that there were some chambers who would take a lot of pupils and get in quite a lot of 100 guineas, I won't say which ones! But that wouldn't happen today. It's more professional. It's a professional body. It was a little semi-amateur in those days I think because there were a lot of amateurs including me perhaps. But it's always been part of my life. I don't think I ever go and have lunch in another inn; it's very comfortable, Lincoln's particularly; of course Bar Musical concerts happened in all the Inns so I got to know them very well. But your own Inn is part of your family, that's how it feels to me and I'm sure that will go on and I hope so, who knows. The buildings have something to do with it. What are they going to do – they all historically belong to the societies; I don't see why it shouldn't carry on. The only problem is that specialisation coming in and legal aid going out, it's going to be more difficult for young people to make a living.

50.15

It's amazing how many people still are being called to the bar for that life in a modern age. But it still is happening. I don't think it would be for me to forecast, I shan't live long enough to know. I think it will be quite a while, I don't know, I hope it does, because it's fun too. You can enjoy life, you can work hard at the same time, that's what's happening now. I don't think I could say more than that.

LJ Lovely, thank you very much David.