

My name is Caroline Daly. I'm sitting in the top floor of 2 Paper Buildings with Master Cryan, on 12 July 2017, and this interview is for the Inner Temple Oral History Project.

CD: Now, Master Cryan, you've just been telling me about how it's 50 years since you joined the Inn, and I wondered if you could just explain a little bit about your first impressions of the Inn back in 1967.

00:29

MC: Well, I knew precious little about the Inn, or the Inns in general at that time. I didn't come from a legal family. My brother had been - had qualified as a solicitor just shortly beforehand and so he asked around for me. And eventually he heard what was then the very - almost cliché'd - response of "You joined the Inner Temple, because it had the best food and the best carpark." And in those days, carparks mattered. Because people could still drive around London. And young barristers drove round to the different courts.

01:19

When I arrived for pupillage, in 1970, my pupil master at 1 [Mitre?] Court said: "Right, straight after lunch you go down to the Treasurer's office and you put your name down for a carparking permit and you might get something in six or seven years." Today, so altered are things - at least for the last half-decade or so - you could have as many parking permits as you want to, you don't even have to be a member of the Inn to get a parking permit here nowadays. And the whole way of life has - has completely changed. But the parking - the carpark here was terribly important.

02:02

And it wasn't that I knew anybody - well, because that wasn't how - where I was coming from. The idea that the food was supposed to be better was also a good idea. But if it was better in the Inner Temple, God help us as to what it was like in the other places, because it was absolutely appalling! We had to - I had to take dinners - in those days we did 36. We had to dine on 36 occasions over three years, so it was important that I started in 1967, and I went - it was the end of my first year at UCL. So I could finish in time to be called at the end of the Bar course in 1970. And it all just about worked out. Apart from having to sit there through these interminable dinners.

02:56

CD: Why do you describe them as interminable?

MC: Well, unless you went along with a gang of mates and er - quite a lot of the time I contrived to go along with somebody who has become Master Scrivener, but who was at UCL with me at the time, which actually improved the quality of the evening no end. It was otherwise fairly boring. The company was reserved and shy, the food was awful, and the atmosphere was extremely stiff. So they normally weren't particularly fun events. And we didn't do much for the students. Occasionally people went to Cumberland Lodge, I think, even then, but it wasn't pushed. And I never -

I didn't go to Cumberland Lodge - which is one of the most [inaudible] places we go to now - until much later on.

04:05

And so - it wasn't much fun. And - but it was a very different event. Imagine the top table, processed in with great pomp. There was a Bar table down one side, two guys at the end of the Bar table who were the seniors, bowed in the Bench as they came in. And the Bench came in like people coming into the Art two by two, from the right-hand door from the lunch room where they'd been having a glass of sherry or something beforehand. And they walked in. We all stood. The Bar table all stood. And this bowing process went on and the ancients sat on the High Table and nobody - there was no intermingling of any sort. You never met them, you didn't know who they were, unless they were famous and their pictures were in the paper.

05:01

And you sat there eating this indifferent food until they'd finished. And then they got up and had dessert. And the Bar table got better food and better drink. And they carried on having quite a jolly time, and eventually we were allowed to go. Quite often, we would go out and have dinner somewhere. And there was far too much drink, as well, which - it's amazing how much alcohol was consumed in those days in comparison to nowadays. Even at lunchtime, you could see the Benchers were having sherry or wine.

CD: When did you see that changing?

MC: That is interesting. Very imperceptible. But I suspect during the - during the 80s. I imagine. I didn't have too much to do with the - with the Inn after I qualified. Apart from - I'd come in for lunch. I would have rowed back slightly about the food. Dinners were poor to the point of being actually quite awful. But actually the Inner has nearly always had the best lunch food. And it was ridiculously good value.

06:36

You could turn up and have smoked salmon or gulls' eggs, roast beef and a pudding, and it was 25p. And even for a student in London, 25p was actually quite affordable. So it was a pretty good place to come and have lunch, quite frankly. And if you had some work to do, if you had an essay to write or something like that, you'd go up to the library, which was quiet and well-stocked. Busier than it is now, but still quiet, and a beautiful environment to work. So it was quite an attractive thing to come to.

07:17

I'm not going to - I could linger a little bit if you ask me about the beginnings, about the interviews that one had with the Sub-Treasurer in those days, but I think that's been spoken of by so many people with such, um, shock, that I don't think I really need to - I did have the classic - try and sit next to some Muslims because they don't drink and you can have some wine and do, um, do be polite to them because [stammers] - what do you think about black people? Question, question to me.

CD: And who - ?

MC: This is the then Sub-Treasurer. And, er, be polite because they weren't polite to - I think it was Nkrumah. And I think he'd got it [wrong] - I think they weren't polite to Nkrumah at Grays, but I don't think Nkrumah was actually at Grays, but - the idea was that it could disaffect people very badly and you had to be careful and polite.

CD: How did you feel about that at the time?

MC: Oh, I was appalled! My generation was the 60s, the - we were open, opening out, you know, this was - Mandela was the hero, etc. So this sort of talk was alarming. He may have found some backwoodsmen, but I suspect by and large, all the young people he spoke to were appalled by it. And the women had even odder experiences. But I think Master Hallett dealt with that in her interview, so again I won't linger on that.

CD: In terms of the gender balance when you joined the Inn...

MC: [laughs] The gender balance reflected broadly what it was at UCL. And my wife was one of ten women out of a hundred. I think when I joined - I was trying to think - there may have been one woman bencher. I think that may have happened just before I joined. That was Elizabeth Lane, who was the first woman High Court Judge. And then we had, er... I may have missed somebody here, but there was a woman called Anita Ryan, who was a family silk, delightful, inclusive woman. And then a great friend of mine, who was a star of her generation, Shirley Richie, Master Richie. And, er - Shirley was young, and tremendously capable and confident and able. And they made her a Bencher very early on. I think it was Master [Pedigree?] was with the - the guy who put her forward.

10:36

He may have been Treasurer, I can't remember now. Forty or 50 years is a long time to go back. But women were an absolutely rarity. Oh and of course - Elizabeth Butler-Sloss! How could I forget Elizabeth? Who's been a great friend over many, many years. Since we're doing gossip and stories, when I arrived in my pupillage chambers... Elizabeth knows this story, so I'm not telling tales out of school. My pupil master said he had to organise a dinner for a former member of chambers who's er - who'd just been appointed as a Registrar at Somerset House, which is the equivalent of a District Judge. And he said, "It's not really much of a job, but she is a woman, and so she's done rather well." Well that woman was a woman called Elizabeth Havers. That's what she'd practised under, anyhow. And when she became Registrar at Somerset House in [inaudible] the Family Division, she went - she took her married name, and she was Registrar Butler-Sloss.

12:07

And so they had their dinner, and congratulated her on becoming a District Judge. I suspect they then had to have dinners when she was appointed to the High Court Bench, and dinners when she became Judge of the Court of Appeal, and another dinner when she became President, and another dinner when she was elevated to the House of Lords! But she was a woman who'd done quite well, I suppose! I hope the irony gets onto the tape in some way

there. I'm a huge, huge admirer of Elizabeth's, and she's never lost her touch with people. She's a lady of a certain generation, she sounds as if she comes from a certain generation, inevitably, but she has a way of talking to students and foreign ambassadors and heads of state, and I saw her talking, I think, to Margaret Thatcher. She would talk to - she has a wonderful egalitarian way of talking to people. She's very very good news.

13:13

So, the gender balance, to return to your question, was, um, not what it is now! And now, as you know, it is fractionally over 50%. And I'm enormously pleased, enormously proud of what's happened to our profession. Because we do rather better than most professions. Statistically, both in terms of the gender balance and in terms of the ethnic minorities. The bar does better than most of the major professions. And we put a huge amount of work into it. We have now for the last decade had Struan and then his predecessor, Struan Campbell, d'you know? And he and his predecessor did terrific work, working with the Sutton Trust and people like that to open up the Inn, to make the Inn someplace people felt they could come to, which was not the reserve of one gender, one class, one ethnic group, but was open to anybody of ability.

14:34

I think the only thing that slightly worries me is that we may not have stressed the necessity for ability quite as much as we should. And that's because of the unfairness of the outcome of people who are not of ability having spent time and money qualifying. And it is an enormously expensive business. And then to find that they haven't got a career at the Bar, and they've got a whole load of debt. But they're, sadly, I suppose, the casualties of the work that we're trying to do, to broaden the base.

15:19

And it's been, in relative terms at least, quite successful, and that's very good. One of the things I did in my year as Treasurer is - you've seen in Hall, there's a painting of the five lady Lord Justices. I unveiled that! And when I unveiled it, we were going to hang it in the anteroom, which is the small room at the back of Hall. The luncheon room goes into one side, the anteroom goes into the other side. And we were going to hang it there. And we'd taken down the, er, a couple of pictures in order to create the space for it. And Master Gloster has slightly forgotten what she said. But when we walked into Hall, she said: "I'm Treasurer, I'm going to put it down there". And it's a pity she's forgotten what she said, because it was actually a very very good idea. So good an idea was it that I cancelled hanging it in the ante-room, and got Henrietta, wonderful Henrietta, who runs the establishment, to next morning have it hung at the far end of Hall.

16:53

So we took down a very very dreary picture that we had there and put up this spectacular - and I'd increased the number of women whose portraits hang in Hall by - well, I think 100%! Because there were none previously, they were all old white men, and now we have this superb picture of these

confident [competent?], able, vibrant women. Looking out at you, without any sort of arrogance, but just quietly saying: “Here we are”.

17:32

CD: Yes, absolutely, and there are actually two things that have particularly struck me about that painting. One is that it’s not just one individual, it’s a group portrait. Which I think provides some sense of the collegiate nature of the Inn now. And the second thing is that the women are wearing their normal clothes. Clothes chosen by them. They’re not robed, they’re not wearing any sort of professional attire that’s specific to the Bar. So I think for two reasons it really emphasizes the open nature of the Inn as compared to perhaps the way it was in the past.

MC: Oh, absolutely. I don’t know whether you attended the - when I was Reader, I had to organise a thing - a series of lectures called the Reader’s lectures. And one of them Elizabeth Butler-Sloss very kindly agreed to deliver for me. I don’t know whether you’ve got [it there?]. No. Well, because she is unique, because she was the sort of capo di tutti capo of trailblazers, I really more or less persuaded her to talk about herself. But also, you know, where women were going, and the whole gender issue.

18:57

And of course her perspective is not the perspective of the younger women coming on. She had to really make it from the start. But she was talking about Elizabeth Lane. And a specialist part of her talk was about Elizabeth Lane, who was our first Bencher and the first woman High Court Judge, as I’ve said. And there’s a portrait of Elizabeth Lane, I don’t know if you’ve ever seen it? Elizabeth Butler-Sloss had it put in Hall for her talk. Because I forget now who it was who was Treasurer at the time. But the portrait - the Treasurer said - looking at it, he said: “Oh dear. I think, I think I should have a label put under it saying ‘Master Lane - brackets - A Lady’.”

19:53

Because this portrait - Elizabeth Lane was not a masculine-looking woman. She was a perfectly ordinary, reasonable-looking woman. You know, there was nothing odd about her. And, um, but wigs of course do create a sort of curious - have a curious androgynous effect. Particularly if your hair’s tied back. And which of course was very much the rule in those days. And I think she wore a wing collar and bands as opposed to, what are they called now...? The collars - the collarettes, collarettes - they were invented later. And it did look a remarkably masculine portrait. And as you rightly say, the drawing of the five Lady Justices of Appeal is that they are confidently just themselves.

21:10

They don’t have to pretend they’re men to move in a man’s world. They’re themselves moving in their own world, and we are all moving in the same world together. And that is, wow! Something to be proud of.

CD: And just the location of the portrait in the Hall...

MC: Yep! Well, that’s where I was putting it, yup!

CD: ...watching everyone in Hall, is really fantastic.

MC: Absolutely! Yup, yup.

CD: And I think it's important that students or anyone that visits the Inn can see - you know, that - we can talk about the fact that the Inn has greater gender diversity than it did.

MC: Yeah.

CD: To go into Hall and see, in terms of the aesthetics of the room that that is the case is quite powerful.

MC: Mmm. And actually, in terms of the aesthetics, I'm really very pleased with it because what I wanted to do last year - and this is to move on to an entirely different subject - was I wanted to have the frames of the Fire Judges re-gilded. Most people don't know much about the Fire Judges. But last year was the 350th anniversary of the Great Fire of London. At the end of the Great Fire of London, seven-eighths of the City of London was a smouldering desert. It is an extraordinary thought, that the only great city - there were one or two smaller cities, but really the only great, international city in England, was effectively wiped out.

22:57

And it had to be put back on its feet. And Parliament passed a piece of legislation which was - I think it was about a page or two long - which set up the Fire Courts, with Fire Judges who were 17 or 18 of the top lawyers and judges of their generation. And it gave them absolutely extraordinary powers to simply find just and practical solutions for the re-tenanting, rebuilding of the City. And whilst it's probably wrong - it's probably an urban myth that it was up and running in two years, but it was certainly by the end of seven or eight years functioning still - functioning again wonderfully well.

23:59

And the City was so pleased with this, and the work that these guys did, because they worked terribly hard. Can you imagine how slow 17th century law was? And these guys were doing three or four cases a day. And they were really rattling through it, and the City was so proud of them, because they did it so fairly and so well and so efficiently, that they had all their portraits painted. And for hundreds of years, literally, they hung in a thing called the Guildhall, which you may have visited. And after the - during the War the Guildhall was damaged by fire, and the portraits of the judges had a somewhat chequered career, in the 20th century anyhow. But they didn't put them back up when they reconstructed it. There were two in the lobby of the RCJ, and they gave us four of our own Fire Judges. And they're those chaps who were - whose portraits were above the gallery at the end of Hall.

25:12

Originally, the frames were gilded. And I discovered that simply by standing in a queue in the gallery in the City of London, in the Guildhall gallery, and I saw an old illustration of the Guildhall. And I thought, "There are our Fire Judges, but they're - they're gilded! So I, last year, I thought, "Well, I'd

like to see if I can get them regilded". The frames, incidentally, on gender politics, were made in the 17th century by women. There were a number of very famous women frame-makers in London.

26:11

You know, from time to time, you get things like, in London silver, I don't know if you know if you know about London silver, but there are a number of very famous women, particularly Hester Bateman, who were - made their real mark in the crafts and guilds of London. And these women frame-makers were, in their day, the hot thing. And they'd made these frames. So they're significant frames. The trouble is that they were regilded I think three times, and lacquered twice. Well, I think the Victorians are to be blamed for the lack of wisdom. The Victorians thought that they were Jacobean frames, and everything Jacobean was in black lacquer, so they thought. And it would cost us something like £17,000 a frame to strip off all the crud and regild them.

27:13

So we couldn't do that. But - and coming back full circle to the Lady Justices, one of the things that it seemed to me was rather good was that particular frame - simply from an internal decorative point of view - that black frame with a little gold line in it - and it's a heavy black frame, if you remember - actually creates a very very good ensemble as you look down Hall. Because you've got the line of black frames of the judges in the gallery coming down in almost a decorative triangle to the black frame of the women.

28:00

And it all draws one's eye in and creates a little historical allegory and all the rest of it. So not only is it aesthetically pleasing, but it's functionally pleasing as well.

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SECOND FILE

CD: So, Master Cryan, you've mentioned that there was a period of time during which you didn't have very much contact with the Inn. Could you explain why that was the case?

MC: Well, um, it's interesting trying to think of the timing of that. I was called to the bar when I was 22. I then did my pupillage, and I was always in Chambers in London, though my Chambers, certainly for the first 20-odd years of practice, was a set with a lot of Circuit, south-eastern Circuit connections. So I travelled out of London quite a bit. But there was nothing really that drew one in. The advocacy training was not a thing - any sort of training that you had in that respect really came from your pupil master, from watching others, and making your own awful mistakes.

01.11

But nowadays of course it's very different and the young Bar are called in to help the people still younger than them, and to learn more in continuing education, it's very important the work of the Education and Training Department is doing. There wasn't an Education and Training Department. What had happened historically was that there had been - the four Inns had set up the Inns of Court School of Law to qualify people for the Bar. After that there was pupillage, and after that there was nothing. It was a very unsatisfactory state of affairs and we grew to realise that in due course.

01:59

But, um, so young people would come in perhaps for lunch, because it was still good value, but, dare I say it, my Chambers which were in Pump Court tended to go to Middle, because the Head of Chambers - in fact the - a few of the senior members of Chambers were Middle Temple people, and so we had a regular table at Middle that we would tend to go to. I would go in to the Inner occasionally, found myself dining on a table which quite often had Master [Wallbrick?] and Master Ricks on. So three future Treasurers in fact.

02:52

If I'd been at Middle, I would probably have been with Master Hallett who was in my Chambers and was another future Treasurer. Makes it sound like a very small club, which it isn't really. But then what happened, how did I sort of find my way back? Well, it was really because a pupil of mine, man called Louis French, said: "Chambers don't do enough with the Inns, we should do more." Now I had been a sponsor of students for a time. So I hadn't really abandoned my feel for the Inn, there was a sponsorship scheme, I did that, and there were one or two other things that I did do.

03:50

I think I was invited by Patrick Sheehan, who was the Sub-Treasurer, to cover a lodge. I went down and did that. I did the odd thing, but I really really didn't do very much. But Louis French said: "You - there's this new thing called Bar Liaison Committee. You should stand for it." And I'm nervous of elections, and I suppose I didn't really know anybody, and I didn't really want to get involved. But I did happen to know the chairman of - was - I'm so sorry, I should explain. The Rawlinson Reforms made a huge change to the Inn.

04:49

And perhaps if I break off here and talk about those, because that's very important, it really really is, to the history of the Inn. In a year that I can't precisely remember but I would guess would be the end of the 70s, the Inn found that it had dry rot. And if you have a whole load of historic buildings with a whole load of old timber, and no money in the bank, and you get dry rot, that's a crisis. And we were pretty nearly bankrupt. Now I was so far out of contact with what was happening, the - the running of the place. Or the mis-running of the place, as many people will tell you, who were - Master Brodie was one of the heroes at the time who helped to sort things out.

05:53

And Master Nugee as well. But they really needed to reform. So they got in, or they asked Peter Rawlinson, who was a star of his generation. He was either Solicitor or Attorney General, I forget which. But a man of huge ability, great confidence, great charm, and he was Treasurer. And they invited him - whether before or after he was Treasurer I can't remember - to look into the governance of the Inn. And the governance of the Inn was in a, in a mess. To the extent that the Treasurer was not chosen on any sort of merit, but on seniority. The pool of people was very small. There were no age limits, so the senior person could be ancient and completely out of touch. Or hugely busy elsewhere.

07:00

And Rawlinson looked at all of these things and said: "Ah-ah! This isn't working. We haven't got proper financial controls, we don't have proper management structures, we don't have proper committee structures, we don't involve the members of Hall, we have no communication between Hall and the Bench. It is a non-functioning event, and we've paid the price for it. And he initiated a huge, huge raft of changes. Every committee that you see now - except one - I say "every committee" - all the major committees we've put in - I mean, I've put in, as Treasurer I put in an international committee, but they didn't need an international committee in those days.

07:59

And there are one or two other committees that have developed since then as we've - as things have evolved, but all the major committees - education and training, house, executive, finance - all of those committees were put in place in a proper form. There may have been shadow versions of them previously, but they didn't have proper people on them. And we didn't have a proper investment committee. And Rawlinson got the idea that we get in top people from the City and put them on - make them Honorary Benchers and put them on the Investment Committee. And our reserves are now 40 million. And we had nothing before.

08:42

It was a negative nothing. And admittedly that's over quite a long time. But we have done an awful lot of work to restore the estate, because we're guardians of such a precious estate, and it costs a fortune to run an estate of this sort. And we spend - the Education and Training Department is one of our great prides and joys and all the rest of it. So Rawlinson put all those in place. He also said we need to have Hall involved. We need to have a proper Bar Liaison Committee. And the Bar Liaison Committee were then to have members on each of the committees. So every committee of the Inn had a youngster, or at least a relative youngster on it. And he also said that the Executive had to have Bar Liaison Committee chairman and I think possibly one other, I can't remember.

10:02

And that completely changed the whole tenor of the place. And he said there needs to be an input of young Benchers. And so for five years? Maybe longer, probably longer - we had what was called "the Rawlinson five". And

again, they included people like Master Rix, Master [Wallbrick], and myself. And a number of other people who were young, enthusiastic about the Inn, and made a really, really positive contribution to what was going on. We've stopped that now, because we have brought the age down, and we also - not only have we brought the age down, because of what's happened, we look to younger people, and we look to having quite a vibrant bench as opposed to a load of undying stiff, you know, who would occupy the High Table until someone realises that they've stopped breathing!

11:17

So that works quite - worked well. And in addition to that, he said we need to have a Yearbook which communicates with the outside world and with our own members. Since then, of course, I think it was Patrick Sheehan who brought in, what's it called, Inner View. He called it something slightly different, but it was the same thing, effectively. Which was a slightly more regular, smaller, less prestigious publication than the Yearbook. And all those things made a massive difference to how we viewed ourselves, and how the place was run, and how professional it was, and how depart... - how the departments worked, etc.

12:12

Well, I came into the second election of the Bar Liaison Committee. And the chap who was chairman, lovely lovely man who died rather young called Andrew Pugh, who was senior to me by 10 or 15 years, but he decided that he - he was actually going out with a good friend of ours who's now Master [Willbord?] as a matter of fact. But he decided that the Inner Temple Yearbook needed me as the editor. So for about six or seven editions, I think, six editions I was the editor and then for a further one I was the consultant editor. And that was, that was quite - it was quite a good - it was quite demanding. Nowadays, Henrietta in the office, with a little assistance, does all of it. There's an editor who, I'm sure, makes a real contribution, but I just did it, I just did the whole of it, and it was er, took up quite a bit of my time.

13:45

My pupils tended to help a little bit, but...

CD: Did you write articles, or did you commission them?

MC: Both.

CD: Or did your pupils...?

MC: No! Actually, no, I am pleased it's been embargoed for 25 years, I am dys - fairly dyslexic. So I am absolutely awful at proofreading. I simply cannot proofread anything. And my marriage has been a complete mistake. We've been married for 44 years, have two children and three grandchildren, but it's a complete error, because my wife is pretty dyslexic as well. We can't correct our own work. She's better, much better at it than I am. And history needs to know that. But even so, she isn't great at it. And I can even correct some of her stuff, which is a pretty remarkable

thing, but that's really what I use my pupils for. Being school teachers, effectively.

14:49

So then I did that, and - I have to be careful about describing what I know about how I became a Bencher.

CD: Why do you say that?

MC: Because I was a - well, first of all, you didn't know anything about it, didn't stand for election. You didn't say: "I want to be a Bencher". You did nothing like that. You got a tap on the shoulder...

CD: It was something of a dark art.

MC: Oh, complete dark art, yeah. I mean, so much so - I learned about it - it was when we - I was on a beach on holiday and I bumped into Master Dobry [?]. And Master Dobry, who is still with us at a great age in his nineties, spoke with a honeyed Central European accent, and said: "Ooh, congratulations!" And I said, "Why?" "Ooh," he said, "Don't you know? I suppose I probably shouldn't have said anything." And then he DIDN'T say anything. But I sort of guessed because I wasn't up for anything in particular. It was about the only thing that could have happened to me at about that stage.

16:29

And then when I got home, eventually I was told. But I wasn't - now, we - I as Treasurer had every new Bencher in to lunch and etc., their sponsors take them in etc. Nothing happened apart from the fact that I was given a key and charged £200 or something. I mean, it got - it was so bad - or so odd - that I didn't go in, I didn't do anything. And eventually Pam said, "They made you a Bencher - you know, you're a Bencher - go in!" So one lunchtime I thought - OK, I'll work my way around this one, be a bit canny. And I went in at 12.30. Because I reckoned if I went in at 12.30 nobody would particularly notice, and I could work out what was going on.

17:34

So this wheeze was working quite well. And with any luck I'd have actually been in and out before anybody arrived. And then suddenly the door at the end of Hall opened, and Benchers don't - in those days - now they do more than they did, but in those days Benchers never came in though the end of Hall, they always came in from the back of Hall. And the door at the end of Hall opened, and there was the Lord Chief Justice of England walking up towards the High Table. My - my ploy had failed completely! Or at least that's what I thought, as the Lord Chief Justice approached me.

18:15

And, um, he sat down next to me, and it was the absolutely wonderful Peter Taylor. And he became a complete hero of mine. He was a northerner from Newcastle without the over-refinement of the south, and he was friendly, egalitarian, humorous, buzzily bright to talk to. Relaxed one within moments. Which is - Taylor was an amazing man. He was Lord Chief Justice

of England. He got a blue for rugby at university, and he played the piano to international concert standard. I know that because subsequently I was talking with a woman called Fanny Waterman, who founded the Leeds Piano Concert - Competition. And she had played with Peter, and said that he was one of the finest pianists in the country.

19:39

Some people just...

CD: Polymaths.

MC: Polymaths! They, they - on top of all of that, being enormously nice. I had a secretary for a time when I was in Chambers who actually did at one stage help me a bit with the Yearbook, and she came in and said, "You won't believe this, but I've just seen two old ladies stop the Lord Chief Justice going up Middle Temple Lane and ask for directions." And she said, "He was so lovely with them!" I would believe it entirely, because that's exactly what Peter Taylor would have been. He was - he would have been so lovely with them. He was such a nice man.

20:31

So I had this nice lunch with Peter Taylor, and after that I sort of felt that if I could have lunch with the Lord Chief Justice of England I could have lunch with anybody. It was nearly true until I met Lord Justice Hobhouse. Who was, er - I think he made making other people uncomfortable into an art form. And that, um - 25 years is a lovely time - for this not to be known, so I can really talk about it! He was a very difficult man. And er - a very sort of intellectually snobby sort of fellow.

21:12

I remember sitting at lunch once with another one of my genuine, genuine heroes. A man called Godfrey Le Quesne who became Treasurer at some point in my time. But Godfrey was superb then, brilliant, brilliant advocate whose practice was mostly in the House of Lords and the Privy Council. And he then went on to become the [inaudible] Commissioner. But he did - he turned down the High Court bench. And he - didn't want - he had a family, he didn't want to travel out of London. But Godfrey saw me being intellectually beaten up by Hobhouse - and came to my rescue. And it was so nicely done. Because it wasn't done - it was only done with amiability and charm and great power of intellect... He'd been a hero of mine before then, but I mean I was terribly grateful to him after that.

22:28

Anyhow, roll back, roll back. Where was I? Oh yes, the Rawlinson Reforms. And so, um, it wasn't the Rawlinson Reforms, it was when I became a Bencher. And so I became a Bencher, and I'd been on the Marshall Hall Trust Committee, and that's the Inn's own charity committee. And it did a huge amount of good work. I was the sort of representative on that, partly because I was also on the Bar Benevolent Society Committee at the time, because that was chaired by Master [inaudible], who tended to get dragged into these things. And I finished at the meeting of the Marshall Hall, and I

think - was he then President? Yes he was. Stephen Brown, who was President of the Family Division, who was also on this committee, said: "Could I have a word?"

23:43

And my first reaction was "Oh my God, what have I done wrong?" But what he wanted me to do is, he wanted me to take over as Master of the House, because he was going to become Treasurer. And so I agreed to become Master of the House. I HUGELY enjoyed being Master of the House.

CD: What did that job involve.

MC: Oh! It runs Hall! It runs all the dinners, it runs all the lunches, it runs the food, the catering. I'm a bit of a foodie. And so that was most terrific.

CD: Did you improve the quality of the dinners, then, during that period?

MC: Well, not as far as I should have done. To be honest, no. But what happened was - what really happened - they did improve, but it wasn't my doing. They improved because we got Martin Cheeseman, who is the present chef. And Martin's now been there for the last - ooh, must have been there for 30 years. I wonder if anyone's recorded the story of Martin?

24:54

Because they should do. The trouble is, I've read some of these transcripts of people's - what people have said, I don't know whether you have? I don't want to go over old ground, but it's quite a nice tale. There was a man called Robert Maxwell, who was a crook, entrepreneur, press baron and various things. And Maxwell's ill-deeds caught up with him, and he took a ride on his yacht, and went for a midnight swim and didn't come back. And normally when he went away on these things he would take his butler and take his chef. And on this occasion he stood the chef and the butler down, and they found themselves redundant, and looking for a job.

26:02

Well, that happened to be Martin Cheeseman. Just at that time, history repeated itself, because if you're familiar with Chaucer, there's a character called the Manciple in the Prologue. And the Manciple is described - this is 1380, approximately. The Manciple is described as "able to..." - he had two dozen masters, all of whom were capable of running the greatest estates in England, and in effect he ran circles round them. And he was the Manciple of an Inn. And people think it's probably the Inner Temple because there's some slight argument that Chaucer was a member of the Inn as opposed to the... and what he did was, he went into the market and bought at one price, and came back and sold to the Inn at another, whilst being agent for the Inn.

27:09

Well, plus ça change, plus c'est le meme chose, the chap at the Inner Temple before Martin was going out into the market buying at one price and selling to us at another! We found him out, found out about this and needed a chef again - a new chef in a hurry. So, this was a wonderful coming-

together. There was a very fine chef, and an Inn desperately in need of a very fine chef, we found each other, and 30 years later he's still there. Everyone says, still, that this Inn has by far the best food. It really really does. I've been round to the others, and it - it's much better than it ever was, and his lunch room is superb, his banquet food is outstanding. We're just enormously lucky to have Martin.

28:07

And he was employed - I think it was Stephen Brown's last act, virtually. So I started when Martin started, more or less. And I was Master of the House for seven or eight years. And by that time I was a judge. Or was becoming a judge - was I? - no, hang on, let me think. No, I became a judge during that time. But I was working much, much more in London, as my practice had changed. And then I had a little bit of a hiatus, because I became Master of one of the livery companies. Some people called the Fruiterers. And that involved - well, a certain amount of commitment. And so I resi- - just as I was becoming Master of the Fruiterers I resigned as Master of the House.

28:59

And then, just at that point I went down to Kent as the senior family judge for Kent. I think I was the designated [?] family judge for Kent. And that made life a little more difficult coming up and down to the Inn. And I finished that in 2008 because one does two terms of four years. And I came back up to London and started doing other things. Came back into the Inn. But I - in the last 25 years I've been on the executive for more years than I haven't. I've been constantly - for the whole 25 years I've been on the Archives Committee, I've been on Education and Training, I've - oh, and of course the Yearbook. So I've done all these... I've done all those various things.

29:52

CD: And then you became Treasurer recently.

MC: I was Treasurer last year.

CD: How did you find that experience?

MC: To summarise it, exhausting but unmissable, I suppose, is - it is almost too much to do if you've still got a job. The way we do it at the moment, at least. And I think that's what David Pittaway, Master Pittaway, is finding at the moment. And I think he's minded to reform the function - or put forward proposals for the reform of the function. Because David, even more than me, and I readily concede this, has done - coming up through - more for the Inn and more for the profession than I've done.

31:01

And I've done more than most other people around in terms of the Inn. But David has been a sort of superhero. I don't know how he's ever done it, he's - brilliant, brilliant things he's done. But he, even he thinks that it's got to change. There is just too much work to do, in many ways. We're very, very well backed by the staff. The staff are, um - it's an old-fashioned word. I'm a little bit reluctant to use it, but they are so ridiculously loyal. There is no

question of them watching a clock. They love the Inn, most of them, they will just go the extra ten miles all the time. They are amazingly supportive. And nice, and jolly, and bright, and clever, and able. There are one or two people I would particularly pick out.

32:16

But it's - we're very lucky the way we're supported by the staff. And our colleagues! Yet people give their time for nothing. There's no profit in this. There's interest, and a fair amount of enjoyment in the good company of the collegiate values of the Inn. But you're not making money out of it, at all. And, er - just pro bona publica, they're prepared to do all these things. And people will give days and days and days of their time. You go - I went down as Treasurer to these Cumberland Lodge training weekends. And it's one of the tensions we've got coming up if we're reforming education. What we have now, is we have the leading silks in the country giving their time over weekends to train young people.

33:22

Or the leading juniors who are making their way and coming up, doing exactly the same thing. And what other profession would find people doing that for absolutely nothing. That much time. To no benefit to themselves at all. Though I think in the old days, 30 or 40 years ago, when the tap on the shoulder worked for High Court appointments, and that sort of thing it probably wasn't a bad thing to be known by the Benchers of the Inn because they were the tappers on shoulders. But now that gets you nowhere. It's of no personal advantage. And yet we have huge rafts of people who [beg?] out of a sense of public responsibility to, to - and love of what they're doing, and belief in the administration of justice, and belief in the importance of education of the young and these things - just to - pass up on their free time and do that.

34:35

That's amazing. So, you know, the troub- - one of the things a Treasurer's got to do is to go along and say "thank you" all the time, and find different ways of saying "thank you" for a year!

CD: Not the worst job, I imagine!

MC: No, no, no, it isn't the worst job! Oh, no, absolutely not, no, no. No. And then there's a certain amount of international travel involved...

CD: Where did you go during your year as a Treasurer?

MC: I went to the States twice. Once with Master Hallett, and my wife and one other. I'm very lucky, because Pam is a relatively active Bencher, and she's been, um - and she's on the International Committee at the moment, but she's been on Education and Training, she's been on Scholarships, she - what else has she been - She was head of the Family Bar, so she was head of the Family Bar Asso- - well Bar Association, she was on the Bar Council, all that sort of stuff. So she, um - and she was also quite a major person in Ethics, she was the Vice-Chairman of the Bar Council, Ethics Committee, I think. Or it may have been Professional Conduct - can't remember.

35:56

But she came with us. And there was A.N. Other. We went to New York for the International Legal Ethics Conference and presented papers on behalf of the Inn there. Then later in the year I went to Washington to the American Inns of Court, but it also allowed me to go to the memorial meeting for Master Scalia, who had died last year. In fact, um, I knew Master Scalia better than any other Bencher, but - I just made friends with him, about 20 years or so ago, and he was a very interesting, very impressive man. I disagreed with him about virtually everything.

36:53

And he knew I disagreed with him about virtually everything. We had robust discussions about these things. And he treated it in this wonderful academic, collegiate spirit. I was - it was huge fun. It was very sad when he died. And when we went to Washington, what was interesting was, he had his clerks there who were so much the sort of, youngest and brightest and best of their generation, as they are in that world, as you probably know. And so many of them were saying almost exactly what I was saying. But he was very popular, he was essentially a very good man. And his wife's a lovely woman. So we were very pleased to be able to do those two things. American Inns of Court, and that. So that was the America trips.

37:41

And then we did a - what was in effect a round-the-world trip. But that was only because we had a private trip first, because my oldest son and granddaughter live in California. So we flew over to California. And then we had to start this trip on behalf of the Inn. So the question was, do you carry on going, or do you come back and go round? And it seemed to us just easier to carry on going. And so we flew across the Pacific. To KL. [Kuala Lumpur?] And that's enormously interesting. We had there a very very strong alumni association. But it's um - politics in - I may say are - tricky. And I'm afraid even amongst the lawyers. There were things which troubled one. And we're very lucky, because at the moment we have a woman who's just been appointed a High Court Judge, actually. Or else she's on a sort of temporary thing. And she's a woman of impeccable integrity. And really one of the things I needed to do when I was there was to bolster her position and encourage the right standards that we would want to see our alumni adopting, and there are some forces at work there which are questionable, and worrying.

39:44

And so I was pleased to be able to do what we could do there. Where it goes, we'll wait and see. It's difficult. It's difficult. In so many places now, people talk much more about ethics and standards but don't necessarily have the right reflex reaction.

CD: Do you see the Inn as having a role in sort of education in the wider world about ethics...?

MC: Well, I hope so, because I think we're the sort of, we're the - I think we're the guardians of ethical reflexes in terms of legal practice. And it's

more difficult as the Bar expands, because to keep up standards within a small homogenous community, when people have grown up with the same views and the rest of it is easier than maintaining those standards in a polyglot environment.

41:01

You're not going to be sharp with your friends. If you think you can get away with it, some people might, try and get away with it with people they don't know. Reputation doesn't spread, or isn't so easily damaged, in a large environment [where?] people don't know what's happening. That's why the Americans, for example, have developed these - the American Inns of Court. They think they're of tremendous value. I rather agree with them. Well, we started off being cynical about it, but there was a chap called Warren Berger who was a Chief Justice in the states, who came over here about 40 years ago and saw our Inns and said, "Hey, guys, you know, the standards you engender, of good manners, of ethical conduct, of respect for the court, respect for the colleagues, through the existence of the Inns of Court, is so valuable that I'm going to go back and try and recreate them in the States."

42:22

And it has worked. There are now about 100 separate Inns of Court across the States. They have national awards for high ethical standards, for pro bono work, for all the things that we take almost for granted, but they needed to engender in a larger society. And they're doing that, and much much to their credit. And we shouldn't have been snooty about it at the beginning. But I think we thought that these were a bunch of - slightly, um - I don't think we realised the height at which this had all been started. I mean, this was one of Berger's - project, with one or two others. And I think we thought that it was some sort of glorified Rotary Club.

43:22

And we were wrong. And fortunately, we have one or two people like Master Robinson, Viv Robinson, former Treasurer, who has really paid a lot of attention to it and encouraged them a lot. And I do think, yeah I do think we have a role. We've got a role in countries such as Malaysia. I don't think we've got a role we can play much in India. I tried to engage in India on this world trip, and that hasn't worked, um, hasn't worked well. That's too complicated a situation. There's an Indian Inns of Court Association who value their connection with us and I've tried to regenerate that as much as possible, but it's a very complicated situation and we go there with a conflicting legacy.

44:30

We've got a legacy of having Gandhi and Nehru and Jinnah as members of this Inn. Jinnah was only ad eundem, but he practised in the Inn and was ad eundem [inaudible]. And that's known and respected. But it's - I think there is a feeling that we are not in it for India's good but for our own. Which is maybe historically right. But it's a pity that it's seen that way, because nowadays it wouldn't be that, but that one's a bit difficult. So, but the trip!

45:24

After Malaysia, Singapore, where we met the Singapore Bar, the Chief Justice there, wonderful man who's done an awful lot to improve, um - You know a lot of the recent civil reforms were based on experiments they did in Singapore. And I think in both countries we have to row back and we think because - and remember that we were actually about justice, as opposed to procedure. But, that said, we needed, in both countries, to do something fairly radical, because it wasn't really working very well. And the Singaporeans deserve a lot of credit for pushing it forward when they did.

46:27

And then I went to Bhutan. As you know, the King of Bhutan is an Honorary Bencher, and that was my work. I had him made an Honorary Bencher. And that's a very long story, and we haven't got time for it this evening, but - so I went there, and that was very interesting. And then back to [actual?] India, where we had some interesting but difficult situations. But there was a little example of what was good about what the Inns could still do. Because the Inns, in modern jargon, are quite an interesting networking organisation. And I happened to know - I had made - one of the other Honorary Benchers I had made was a man called Sir Michael Arthur.

47:13

He's a friend of mine. It was slightly embarrassing, I had - people I put up for Honorary Benchers were all friends of mine, but they were very very much for the Inn's good. And this man is our former High Commissioner in New Delhi and our former Ambassador in Berlin, and he's now the Chairman of Boeing International. And he's on our International Committee. And I'm hoping also to get him involved in the Temple Music Foundation, because he's a wonderful musician. But um, oh yes, because of Michael I was able to contact a High Commissioner in New Delhi.

48:00

And because I was able to do that, when COMBAR went out there, I was able to organise that - [because?] it coincided with my trip, a big reception at the High Commission, at the Residence, rather, or the leading Indian commercial lawyers and COMBAR. So just as a sort of networking thing, it worked enormously well. And that's the sort of thing the Inn can do, and if we can advance the interests of the Bar, and advance sort of international amity in that way, it's a good thing to be able to do. And that was the end of my foreign trips.

48:48

Now, it's awfully late, it's a quarter past eight, and we _

CD: I've got, I think, two more questions for you, if you can bear it.

MC: OK.

CD: And one is about how you see the role of the Inns in terms of education, now and going forward, because you've mentioned that there are some education reforms proposed, and I wanted to ask you about those.

MC: Yeah, um... Well, I have always thought that if it wasn't for education, we might as well roll up our tents and go off into the night. Because there's very little point in being a sort of - well - to turn [it on its?] head, Master Deech, Baroness Deech, said that the Inns were in danger of becoming glorified livery companies. And, you know, I've been the Master of a Livery company - this is no Livery company.

50:00

Having said that, there is a danger if we lose our role in education and training, that we would become just a sort of charitable body distributing funds in some fairly well-informed but not important way. Anyone can distribute money, really. We have this unique ethos which I've described earlier of a profession which is prepared, for the good of itself and for the good of the country, and the administration of justice, to put in tremendous effort into training both as to the skills of advocacy, but also the ethics of advocacy, and the role of advocate in relation to the administration of justice generally. Because our system is not just one where you have a separate Bench and a separate Bar who are at each - who have opposite functions. In our system we have complementary functions. And justice is administered because we have not only a just and ethical bench, but an ethical and proper Bar that is properly trained, and sees its role, whilst fighting for its client, as nevertheless being part of the general administration of justice, and has a proper antipathy towards promoting anything that is improper or unjust.

51:40

And that is enormously important. We do not have shysters. Well we maybe have one or two shysters, but we by and - we have remarkably few shysters. And so education and training does that, and we need to somehow or other ensure we keep this role which justifies our existence. Now we have a system now, where there are a number of quango-type bodies almost - they probably are quangos - but, um, who are all wrestling for power and control, to control the legal profession. And it is this curious belief that if you have people who know nothing at all about it, they're likely to make a better job of it than those who know about it. And that has, I suppose it's an element of what has grown up in my lifetime, of the decline of respect. And so people don't respect doctors, they don't respect judges - [Just now?] this horrible business has happened this week with Master Moore-Bick. Master Moore-Bick was described to me by a colleague of his as, "The trouble with Martin is, he's a saint." And I think you'd have to be a saint to take on doing this terrible inquiry that he's doing. [Grenfell fire]

53:46

What they've got is one of the finest minds in England. They certainly have a man of tremendous integrity, tremendous tenacity, who will wrestle this thing to the ground to know what's actually happened, to find out the truth of what's happened and the causes and effects. He might not embark upon the criminal-type inquiry that some people seem to want, but that won't be within his remit, and it's very questionable whether this kind of inquiry

should be that sort of inquiry in the first place anyhow. But the tough time that they're giving poor old Martin, is most regrettable.

54:36

But, rolling back. We've now got these bodies trying to look at education and training. It's not all bad, because I accept that there - left to our own devices, actually we made a pretty bad job of it, in the 30s to the 70s. And with this biting at our heels, it does mean that we have done a lot to reform our own position to where we are. And so I'm not discounting the benefits of having that sort of ginger group, providing there is sufficient respect for the fact that we're the - we have the right values, and we can deliver the right things. But where now education and training is going is not entirely clear. Whether we should start training for Part One of the Bar course here, and take back in house, effectively, a function which we, with the other Inns, offloaded to the Council of Legal Education, in the - I think it was the 1890s. [1852, Wikipedia]

56:12

Whether we should actually take that back or not is an interesting point. I'm inclined to think that we probably had better do. And I think we - if we're going maintain a role that we can justify publicly, then I think we need to do that. And that takes us on a course to what I imagine is your second question. Which is Project Pegasus.

CD: I have a third question.

MC: Ha! [laughs]

CD: I did want to ask you about Project Pegasus, given that just last week the City of London approved [funding?] permission for a redevelopment project right in the heart of the Inn that will have a real impact on the library, and I wondered what your views were on that.

MC: I am deeply saddened by the fact that we lose the top floor of the library. It's - aesthetically the only building of any merit in the Treasury complex. And I think it's a lovely room. And it is under-used. Whether it will always be under-used... the life of the Inn is long. I remember when it was used very, very fully. It may come back to being used very, very fully. It's difficult to know how the Bar will develop, and to lose a lovely aesthetic space like that is sad. Against that - let me run down the balance sheet. Because losing that bit of the library would be sad. The other problems we have are the impact that it will have on the whole Treasury building, and therefore the life of the Inn. Because if Hall is going to close down for, the estimates are 20 months, and if you believe that you're more gullible than I am.

58:54

Any building project over-runs. And, um - so what we lose then, we lose the easy facilities, we lose something to showcase ourselves to students, and we will have real problems with staff. And not only just the staff who work in the library and places like that, and - There are solutions that people are working on. I don't want you to - But it - There are real problems. We will

also have great difficulty, it seems to me, maintaining a lot of those who bolster our collegiate life. So, er, the waiters, the waitresses, the cooks, the heads of this, that and the other. They won't have any place to go. There's talk of doing stuff around, but it won't happen that way.

59:59

And when we come back, it worries me what we'll come back to. Whether we will come back to a new institution that's lost the thread of our history, of people who have a feel for us and have our interests at heart as all these folk - so luckily for us - have. That worries me. Then the impact on the environment of the Inn during the building works worries me. Chambers next to work are going to have to really safeguard their position. Because it is not going to impress clients to have conferences on a building site. It is not going to be easy to work with pounding noise around the place. Or keeping windows closed in high summer with the dust around the place, because once it gets into the books of Chambers and the like it's - or just over your papers or your desks - it's a pain.

01:01:25

And it's not just your Chambers, it's all the Chambers within sight of, er - are going to be affected. And then there is the displacement element. Where do we put the staff? Nissen huts in the carpark? Temporary accommodation in the carpark? There is fanciful talk about great pavilions in the garden, and all the rest of it. Well, the City has made it pretty clear that they're concerned about - the garden is a listed - the garden is, rather oddly, a listed building. And so we have problems with getting listed buildings planning permission for its temporary use. The Inn had a - leading Counsel's opinion, who told us that because it was a temporary use for redevelopment we could use it.

01:02:40

He was an eminent silk. Only a very small part of my practice was planning, but if he'd looked at the primary legislation and the primary regulations I don't think he could have given that opinion. It - and the City have agreed with me. I mean, I say agreed with me, it wasn't - I kept quiet about this. But the City have taken the view that we need planning permission to use the garden for building, and they may very well not give it. But if you could imagine two or three years of temporary buildings in the garden, and the building noise, and the cranes, and the lorries and everything else passing through, it's going to be massively disruptive and unpleasant to do.

01:03:43

So that's the downside. The upside - there's an upside, there really is! If you go into the administration block now, and go to where the Sub-Treasurer works and all his team, and the education and training people are working elsewhere now in 1 KBW [Kings Bench Walk]. This is not a proper way to run a modern organisation. The offices were built in the 50s. They have - When they were built, they had a Sub-Treasurer and a secretary. And possibly one other. And the place is like a rabbit-warren. It is - They do a wonderful job, but it's a highly inefficient environment to work in. People

don't see each other, they can't easily communicate to each other, it is not what a modern office environment of a leading international educational institution should look like.

01:04:58

And part of Project Pegasus is to change all that, and to give us a state-of-the-art administrative centre for the Inn. And to build one for the next century going forward as opposed to struggling with something which is a post-war construction. And that is enormously important. It really is. And I'm - I feel quite strongly about that, in this weighing exercise. Then, the library and the damage to the library. Frankly, it's only really aesthetic? Because this Treasurer, when he was - When I was Treasurer - The Treasurer doesn't run the voluntary [inaudible] committee. The Reader runs it, because the Treasurer's got too much else to do.

01:06:07

This Treasurer did terrific things in rethinking the plans. And he has got it now. Though I think - again, I have to be careful - anybody who's really interested would have to check it, but I think he has moved to a position where there are - where something like 10% of the library places are lost? For sitting and working? And 90% of the books are going to remain on-site. Now that doesn't mean that 90% are going to remain on the library shelves that you see. Huge number will. And frankly, you know, any lawyer would tell you that the number of books you really are likely to look at are very very limited, and a world-class library has to keep the esoteric stuff.

01:07:21

But the esoteric stuff is consulted perhaps monthly, and the 90% of books that we're going to keep on-site will really retain virtually everything that anybody is ever going to need. The other 10% will contain quite a few of the books that are about the Inn's history, and very early history, of great interest to academic research I dare say. But they're not lost to academia, it just means, I'm afraid, the academics are going to have to give a little more notice.

01:08:10

And any book will be back here within a day. But I don't see that happening more than a few times, or not very many times at least, a year. Nothing like daily, nothing even like weekly. Maybe monthly. And so for the practical use of the library we don't actually lose a very great deal. And then on top of them we get the lecture theatre that seats 100-odd, I forget the exact figure, actually it's - I had it down here somewhere, it's - maybe it's 120? So we get a good lecture theatre with a proper acoustic, because you know Hall has an appalling acoustic. We've tried everything to try and get it right, and it seems to be an insoluble problem.

01:09:05

And then there's break-out rooms that will take 120 people. And so we can run all sorts of courses. We can adopt - it gives us the capacity to be a good working educational institution. Now here may be the rub, though. When we

passed the Project Pegasus plans, by a Brexit-thin majority, of something like 49 to 51, or something like that. It was very small. Or maybe it was 28 and a half - 48 and a half to 51. It was very small. It seemed to me not a great deal of attention was paid to the [inaudible] of education and training. Which was they thought that they would use it for 7.5% of the time. It's quite a price to pay for something that's only going to be used 7.5% of the time. There was then talk about it being let out for other purposes. And of course we do well from letting out stuff for other purposes. Because it allows us to pay for our scholarships, maintain the buildings, employ the staff and all the rest of it.

01:10:57

But it may be, I have yet to see, and when this goes public we'll know, the City is seeking to put an education-only planning restriction on it. And so there will be much idleness in it as well. Now, I've got a very expensive car. I'm lucky. It's a very nice car. I'm lucky. I hardly use it. But when I use it I love it. And it's enormously useful. And it seems to me worth paying quite a lot of money to have this very, very nice car because I need it and use it and get a lot of utility and pleasure out of it. And so there are in life objects which you don't use all the time, which you need, and you just have to say, "Well, I don't use it very much but I need it!"

01:12:03

And it may be an entire justification for having the education and training department like that. I don't know. And then the final downside of all of this, and again it worries me, but I don't... When we started, we had - This is about three or four years ago - we had reserves of about 25 million. Investment Committee has done wonderfully. The market, bless its heart, has been kind. And we now have reserves knocking on forty million. However, the price of Project Pegasus has gone up.

01:13:05

And I don't have my finger on the pulse of it. Because I'm not on any of these committees any more. But my feel is that it's gone up - it's rather tended to go up to - at any given time, whatever our reserves are at any given time. And the problem with that is that anybody who's had anything to do with any building project ever will know, that the cost of any building project is always more than even the most pessimistic estimates, and there is a risk, it seems to me, that at the end of the day we will simply run ourselves out of money. Which is a risky business. And whether that's prudent or not is difficult to know. And like all sorts of big decisions of course, you know, like the Channel Tunnel, or Brexit, or the new fast trains, it ends up as a sort of leap of faith.

01:14:30

And so far people have decided to leap in a particular way. And when I was Treasurer I took the view that there had been a vote, and I had a duty. And when I was Reader which was when the vote took place, the Reader-elect persuaded the Treasurer and I that we should adopt a neutral position. Which I think was probably right, because if one took a particular stance,

and the vote went another way, it was too late to change the captain, and it would be unfair on the Inn to expect them to get a new Treasurer, rather like changing the new government. The only really fair course was to act with - act as a servant of Bench Table, and one couldn't properly do that without having maintained neutrality.

01:15:52

If I had been there, voting - I think even 25 years on I'm not going to say.

CD: I did say I had one further question.

MC: Right.

CD: I wanted to end on a light note. You've mentioned that you were a foodie, and have also mentioned just how much you admire the chef.

MC: Yes!

CD: What I wondered was what your favourite dish is that's served in Hall?

MC: At lunch, or - yes, um, now that's a really good one. I think the one that I can never resist - or, no, there are the two things, really. One is - the one that I don't resist, which is my favourite therefore in some ways, is the fish and chips. But they do wonderful puddings! But I manage to resist them somehow or other, I don't know how. Their rice puddings, and their crême brûlées, and bread and butter puddings, and - they are - and the pie - the calorie stuff is great! I just have to keep clear of it. You know, terrible as Treasurer, you know, because you're out night after night after night with - people offer you alcohol and food and all the rest of it. It's a huge battle to stay a reasonable level of fitness. I mean you could eat and drink yourself into the grave in about three months as Treasurer.

CD: I said we'd end on a light note, but I think we've actually ended on a rather heavy calorie note...

MC: Thank you very much, I hope I haven't gone on for too long.

ENDS