

Transcript

Hilary Smith talks to Frank Steiner

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Presenter: The next episode of Deddington Discussions: Hilary Smith talks to Frank Steiner.

Frank Steiner: Compared with anything that came after it, they were remarkably secure and well adjusted days. Thinking back, I think of the regularity of the pattern of the household, as one would now think of Victorian times. Things happened at set times whether you were there or not. You were not late for supper because you got late from work, supper happened at a particular time and that was that.

Also, one tends to look backward through rose-tinted spectacles. In fact the 1920s and 30s in Austria were an appalling period of widespread poverty, civil strife, and the ever present threat from the totalitarian super-power next door, at least for the last five years. But there'd been two bouts of virtual civil war before then, but one didn't realise how awful it had been, and of course the world crisis sparked by 1929 on Wall Street, reverberated, certainly in Central Europe.

Hilary Smith: So even as a young boy you can remember...?

Frank Steiner: Yes, I can remember quite specifically that in 1929, when we went down from two maids to one, the one remaining maid was paid exactly half of what the wages had been before. Public finances were in such a state that even senior civil servants were paid fortnightly because there wasn't enough money to pay them monthly.

Hilary Smith: This was an amazing crisis.

Frank Steiner: Yes.

Hilary Smith: How long did this go on for?

Frank Steiner: Well, it started in 1929, and things really didn't recover all that much until the mid 1930s, by which of course, the elephant in the bedroom was Hitler's coming to power and the uncertainty that that created. And of course hindsight is a wonderful thing where the wilfully blind were thinking that things would return to normal.

Hilary Smith: Yes. And this must have been very hard for people. And you mentioned to me before that your family: your mother and father's parents came from all over Europe originally, and settled in Vienna and then this happened.

Frank Steiner: All the grandparents and the great-grandparents did (actually not all over Europe but from central and Eastern Europe. The last member of the family, who lives in Austria now aged 90, lives in a village in Eastern Austria near the Hungarian border, less than a hundred miles from the village from which the Steiner family originally sprang, at least as far as we can trace it backwards to 1757.

Hilary Smith: Goodness! So it's kind of gone full circle, settling back there.

Frank Steiner: Yes.

Hilary Smith: Were your parents very strict with you as a child?

Frank Steiner: By today's standards, certainly.

Hilary Smith: Yes, you talked about there being a regimen anyway.

Frank Steiner: Well, not only that. My father had lost a wife and child before the First World War in one go, and it rendered him absolutely ultra cautious that nothing should [be happening to the children . So we weren't allowed to join the Scouts when we were fourteen because that could be dangerous; we were walked to school at later ages than many other children, and this wasn't helped by the fact that my mother had lost her only sister in a mountaineering accident when she was twenty, so she was a bit like that too.

Hilary Smith: Yes. So both of them were very sensitive to....

Frank Steiner: To danger, yes, to perceived danger.

Hilary Smith: Yes. And how was school at that time?

Frank Steiner: Traditional.

Hilary Smith: Traditional: the Classics?

Frank Steiner: In my case, yes. My mother had been, before the First World War, to the only Girl's grammar school which did Classics only; most of the Girl's schools had a more mixed curriculum . Added to her natural gift for languages, it helped that many years after leaving school she could coach us in Latin and Greek in a way that few other parents could.

Hilary Smith: Yes, absolutely. That must have come in very handy...

Frank Steiner: It was.

Hilary Smith: ...because you'd studied Latin yourself.

Frank Steiner: Yes, I finished up doing Latin at Banbury Grammar School.

Hilary Smith: Oh did you? Teaching it?

Frank Steiner: No.

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Mrs Hubbard, who had been a senior classics mistress at Banbury Grammar School for] thirty years, known all over Banbury as Miss Ashbridge, a woman who taught generations of Banbury's shopkeepers, when she was forced into retirement against her will, when the school had gone comprehensive and they wanted to get rid of her and the Latin in the curriculum, organised a kind of workshop for adult and mature students, and for those students at Banbury school who wanted to take Latin for GCSE or A level when the school no longer taught it. So, Jean Hubbard organised this, and for five years I sat at her feet as an allegedly mature student in Banbury School.

Hilary Smith: Did you find that an exhilarating experience, taking up Latin after all that time?

Frank Steiner: Yes. The distressing thing is, that it's gone so quickly again. I mean, I know more Latin now than most educated teenagers, but...

Hilary Smith: Yes. It's the base of so much of our current language, but it's not the same as actual sentences in Latin.

Frank Steiner: Now, I went into the Bodleian Library the other day, for which I have a 'Reader's Ticket' which sadly I use very little, and I got out some books – without waiting, from open-shelf access...

Hilary Smith: Oh yes.

Frank Steiner: There were some Loeb translations of Latin Classics, and I was horrified to find how much I needed the crib, which is provided opposite the Latin. You may not know the Loeb Translations, they've got all the Latin on one page; and the English opposite. And in the school books the Latin text has been Bowdlerised to make it simpler. However...

Hilary Smith: I see; a mixed story.

Frank Steiner: My contempt for the mentally lazy youth knows no bounds but I can't say that while we're in here

Hilary Smith: [Laughter] Well, you have just said it. Let it stand, because you're up to sterner standards.

Frank Steiner: My father had been, by the standards of his day, a useless schoolboy. He failed one year's curriculum standard and had to spend nine years doing the eight year curriculum of the Viennese Classical Grammar School; but even so, thirty years after leaving school he was better briefed in some subjects than we were, and we were supposed to be relatively good.

Hilary Smith: Yes, it's interesting about the changes

Frank Steiner: That is not necessarily always desirable because in the Victorian schools of the day, which is what it was, my father left school in 1897, the moral pressure must have been immense. I mean, I my father still had nightmares forty years later.

Hilary Smith: Goodness, because of the pressure put on him?

Frank Steiner: Yes.

Hilary Smith: So children lived in fear?

Frank Steiner: Exactly.

Hilary Smith: And we believe that fear doesn't help you learn at all.

Frank Steiner: Well, certainly I think the achievement was there, but was produced, I suspect, by terror which in our days has disappeared, and of course, compared with now, our noses were kept to the grindstone.

Hilary Smith: Definitely.

Frank Steiner: But the other thing is, of course, where English secondary education, which can be very good, particularly if it's specialised, differs from Continental or Central European, is – it's less broad based and with my much quoted father leaving school in 1897, had to take the equivalent of A Levels in, I think, twelve subjects. And for instance, English History teaching produces great specialists, but it does not produce educated people, because people specialise in a particular period but they don't know the background. We, at the Grammar school in Vienna, had in our textbook – it was actually a book written by one of the Masters, curiously enough, because it's called 'Kleine Welt Geschichte': 'A Concise History of the World', and that was the textbook for thirteen to fourteen year olds. So you didn't specialise on a period, you specialised on History

Hilary Smith: Yes, which do you think is better; do you have a view on that?

Frank Steiner: I'm full of prejudice. Anything that has happened in education since the year 1850 is to be deplored.

Hilary Smith: [Laughter] Yes, okay.

Frank Steiner: And that of course applies to music and painting as well.

Hilary Smith: Yes, of course it does, yes.

Did you have a chance – I remember we talked about being from Vienna, you love music; do you remember that being part of your life while you were living in Vienna?

Frank Steiner: Yes, it was taken for granted that you'd learn an instrument. And many a time had I failed to do my violin practice and eventually I was allowed to give it up because I was no good at it. The positive thing is, and my English-in-laws are always surprised at this, I was taken to see 'Carmen' at the Vienna State Opera at the age of eight and 'Lohengrin' at the age of nine. Very few English schoolchildren would be taken to an opera as a matter of course.

Hilary Smith: Exactly.

Frank Steiner: It's interesting that my mother took us because she was almost monstrously unmusical.

Hilary Smith: And she wanted you to be different?

Frank Steiner: Well, I suppose so. It was a hilarious thing when I was – we had piano lessons from a very gifted aunt, who was a professional music teacher, and I was struggling with practice at some time and I couldn't do it, and my mother was looking at this and then she said, "Well, this is what..." and she sat down and played it. And I said, "But I didn't realise that you played the piano!" and she said, "Well I don't." She said, "I was so unhappy that for seven years running, my first birthday wish was to be able to be allowed to give up my piano lessons." And she said, "After seven years I was a butt," she said, "You can't go through seven years of piano without being able to read music." And so she played this thing as it should be played, having not touched a piano for thirty years and having hated every piano lesson.

Hilary Smith: I think that's very interesting isn't it? That her body knew how to do it anyway, whatever, but her attitude was...

Frank Steiner: Her father – I mean her mother's family were very musical indeed. One of her grandfathers, my great grandfather whom I knew well because he lived to be ninety-four, had been, though an amateur of course, a lyric tenor and so was one of his two sons, and I think my grandmother was very musical. But my mother's father, my maternal grandfather, it was said of him that he was as musical as a dining room table. It was also said of him that he wouldn't recognise the National Anthem if it was played next door to him; so no wonder my mother had a mixed heritage.

But I mean, actually, it's like in Italy, I mean, opera in this country is a bit of an elite sport; in Vienna it isn't.

Rosemary, my late sainted wife, was very surprised when on her first visit to Vienna, I took her to a shop where we had something to buy, which I had used regularly before. I introduced my new wife to Frau Steffi the manageress of the shop, and she said, "Is this Madam's first visit to Vienna?" and we both said, "Yes," and she said, "Well you must tell her that there's a new production of 'so and so'."

Hilary Smith: Oh, so that's the first thing, her welcome to the city, to go to the opera, yes.

So, you were brought up there, enjoying music and so on, but as you hinted, the political environment was getting more and more pressurised?

Frank Steiner: Yes, though mercifully we weren't aware of it, except that the Nazis started sabotaging in the early 30s with a thing called ['

Ein Papier Boeller' , 'A Paper Bomb' which explodes with clouds of steam but is not seriously explosive, except that it can blow in windows. But my mother would worry endlessly after my father had gone off to work at the Court, There had been, as I say, two bouts of civil strife. In 1934 there was the fighting between the State Forces and alleged socialist rebels, who in fact were not all that extreme; it's a sad story that it ever came to that, but it's the first time I've heard a gun fired in anger because artillery was used to reduce the blocks of council flats which had been fortified. – and in the same year, in the summer there was a Nazi attempt at a putsch, in the course of which the Prime Minister was murdered. And we were in the country, and there was fighting very near us where we were staying, and a group of unarmed volunteer police cadets, or something, were ambushed, and the bus in which they travelled was shot to bits. So at the age of twelve I saw my first casualties.

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Hilary Smith: .

Frank Steiner: Back in 1938, yes there was an attempt by Dr Schuschnigg, the Chancellor to call a referendum to insist on maintaining independence, which he would have won; there's no doubt of that. And that was too much for Hitler.

And the resistance was admittedly half hearted. But Dr. Miklas , the otherwise fairly traditional, rather powerless president, was told that the German air force, the Luftwaffe was prepared to bomb Vienna to smithereens if there was any attempt at resistance. And I dare say they would have done it.

What we didn't realise of course, was the German army was all against that and had the West attempted to resist as they almost did later that year over the Munich agreement, the whole Nazi nightmare would have collapsed, but I mean there we are.

Frank Steiner: Well, the curious thing was Nazi oppression, totalitarianism and persecution of the Jews had been building up gradually in Germany over five years. What happened in Germany over five years, happened in Austria in 24 hours. So much so that Jews in the course of 1938 went to Germany for holiday to escape the Nazis at home...

Hilary Smith: How ironic. So this bid for independence brought attention, basically, to the perceived threat as it was to the Nazi regime.

Frank Steiner: Yes.

Hilary Smith: So what happened with yourself and your family?

Frank Steiner: Well, to the four of us nothing much happened. My father was suspended from office and eventually retired – officially retired in July on pension.

Now the very curious thing was that throughout the Nazi period in Austria, state pensions were paid to Jews and non-Arians while all other pensions were stopped. And that was for many people a disaster, that all private pensions and private insurances were dishonoured from one day to another.

The vast number of suicides of elderly Jews in Vienna is put down at least partly to the fact that suddenly a lot of retired and elderly people lost their pension entitlement and were completely penniless.

The odd thing is that as I say my father's pension was paid until he left Austria in February of 1940. My two great aunts – I mean my grandmother's two younger sisters, who had founded a girls school, which had eventually been taken over by the state so they became senior ranking civil servants in effect, their pensions were paid until they left Vienna.

But anybody who had – my grandmother who had two life insurance pension schemes, her two pensions stopped immediately. Fortunately she had means of her own. But since the majority of Viennese Jews were miserably poor...

Hilary Smith: dramatic tone.

Frank Steiner: Yes.

Hilary Smith: So you left at that point.

Frank Steiner: I left – my brother left Vienna in September '38.

Hilary Smith: How much older was he than you?

Frank Steiner: Not quite four years. To become a bar student at Gray's Inn. Now that has its funny side. Why should distinguished institutions like that Inn of Court have let in this particular refugee as a student?

Because, before the war there were far fewer judges in England than there are now. And they had a different status. to be one of His Majesty's judges was to be somebody.

And so when in my brother's application where you are asked about parental background, he mentioned my father had been head of a division of one of the appeal courts. They thought he was something distinctly grander than he had been. because if you know your continent – in Switzerland where judges are elected it isn't the same thing anyway, but if you know your France, the judges are not uncontroversial beings floating above, but they're part of the fray.

So my brother – and fortunately some relatives in America guaranteed his upkeep so he got a British Student visa, and went to become a Bar student.

Two things happened, as far as I was concerned. My ... When the Nazis came, all schools were instructed to exclude Jewish and non-Arian pupils, or at least to separate them out further and eventually to concentrate them in other schools.

The one school in greater Germany which didn't do that was the Schottengymnasium in Vienna because, with a straight face they told the educational authorities "We have no Jewish..pupils."

Hilary Smith: This is the school that you were attending.

Frank Steiner: Yes. Now that was technically true. Because what had happened is that ten years earlier there'd been a major reform movement in the Benedictine order worldwide which affected Austrian Benedictine monasteries and made them much more of religious character– and one of the things monastic schools were told was to ensure to accept only catholic pupils.

And of course those who were there weren't affected by this. And the last Jewish and protestant boys in our school left in the summer of I think either '36 or '37. So when the Nazis said "You've got to do that with your Jewish pupils," the Schotten said "Well we haven't got any." They knew perfectly well who the non-Aryans were who were affected by this.

Hilary Smith: They went on the new rules, in fact.

Frank Steiner: Well, not strictly. And to the eternal credit of everybody at the school – teachers, pupils and even the local Nazis who were existent in the school – fell in with this fiction and didn't ask.

Hilary Smith: That is extraordinary.

Frank Steiner: And that is part of what you might call in German, the .Schottengeist , the spirit of the Schotten.

As I've said in this article which I'm trying to find for you, having been at that school is not only a social mixture – the last emperor of Austria, Charles I, and Dr. Victor Adler, the Jewish physician who founded the Socialist Party, were both old boys of the school.

And you can find old boys of the school in all the major political parties and also in all social settings. Most of the great aristocratic families sent their boys to that school as day boys; families like that of the reigning prince of Liechtenstein are still there at the moment.

Hilary Smith: Still exists ?

Frank Steiner: What?

Hilary Smith: The school.

Frank Steiner: Och aye! It's all because I couldn't find that thing which I was going to show you. The school was reorganised in 1807, more or less on its present basis,- well hardly. . It has now gone over to a five day week, oh horror, and it's got girls in the school.

Hilary Smith: Even more horror.

Frank Steiner: But it's still in the same premises, old fashioned as they are. It's run by the same abbey, which has been there since 1158. As I say, it has just celebrated its 200th anniversary, 2007.

Hilary Smith: So if you look back on it and try and encapsulate it, what was its legacy to you?

Frank Steiner: First of despite being a monastic school it had such a reputation for progressive and liberal education, that Jewish and protestant families were anxious to send their boys there while they could. Also, this is rather like in the study of history, it produced the background of general education which has not really ever quite left me.

But which was very marked in the '30s because when I went to Belmont Abbey with less than perfect English, and not knowing the syllabus, I was put into the fifth form and by the end of the summer term I was head of the form. Not what I'd learned in those two terms, but from what I'd brought with me.

Hilary Smith: Now this is the school you went to in England.

Frank Steiner: Yes. Also run by Benedictine monks. But even so, now I've really had all that confirmed a few weeks ago, because I've resumed contact with a chap with whom I was at school between 1930 and '38 who spent years as a consultant neurologist in Edinburgh where he now lives, aged 89.

And I was checking up on what had happened in the meantime. He'd served in the British Army and finished up as a major, losing an eye in Belgium. And he said "Oh, I was sent to a

very scruffy school." I said "Where?" "St. Edmund's College in Ware." I said "I thought that was a seminary for budding priests." He said "Yes, but it also had a fairly inferior secondary school attached to it into which I was dumped. But I got my London matric easily thanks to what we'd learnt at the Schotten."

Hilary Smith: There you are, yes. So it gave you a very good foundation for continuing education.

Frank Steiner: Yes. The events of March '38 in retrospect were even more horrible than I realised at the time. As I say, whatever had happened in Germany over five years gradually, happened in Vienna in 24 hours. People being arrested, taken to concentration camps, thrown out of their flats...

And then came – life was still liveable if you had means, and we were not devoid of means. But then came Kristallnacht, the night of broken glass, when persecution began to be really very unpleasant. I didn't realise, living a rather sheltered life among on the whole non-Jewish friends, how many little synagogues there were in Vienna.

10% of Vienna's population was Jewish, and there were synagogues all over the residential districts, particularly in those where Jews were concentrated. I didn't know that. I only knew of the great Stadttempel, which is still there. The historic, great synagogue.

And it's the only synagogue in Greater Germany which was not burnt down on that day because it's too far among other buildings and they were afraid that it would burn down the rest of the street.

Hilary Smith: All of them.

Frank Steiner: Yes, all the synagogues in Germany and Austria and Bohemia and so on were burnt on that night – were torched.

Hilary Smith: And you were sort of 17 at the time?

Frank Steiner: I had just turned 16. And the problem was what to do with me. Because I couldn't have stayed on at school even if the school hadn't been forcibly closed by the Nazis anyway.

And then I was rescued, and I still don't know quite how I was shoehorned into it, by the Kindertransport, which may or may not be a thing you've heard about.

Hilary Smith: Yes. Who ran that lifeboat?

Frank Steiner: It was run by an organisation I think called the Refugee Children's Movement, in which all the churches – I mean obviously Jewish organisations were very prominent given the numbers, but it was organised on a nondenominational basis by the Quakers.

And as I said before, the fact that the British government was the only government in the whole world that did something about letting in some refugees without formality, was the Kindertransport, and that was a very generous gesture for which the Tory government of the time has not had the credit that it deserves.

And I think it may have had something to do with the fact that the home secretary of the day was a Quaker.

Hilary Smith: Yes, and that was who?

Frank Steiner: Sir Samuel Hoare, later Lord Templewood.

Hilary Smith: So as a result of that you were transported to England

Frank Steiner: Yes, I landed here on 10th December – no, I left Vienna on 10th December '38 and arrived at Harwich with a large number tag around my neck on the 12th

Hilary Smith: With all sorts of “what to do with this boy” type of messages.

Frank Steiner: No. Just numbers. I think I was number 386. I think. I can't really remember.

Hilary Smith: But you managed, I think, once you were in England, to complete your education.

Frank Steiner: Yes, thanks to the generosity of the Benedictine monks of Belmont Abbey who had founded the school relatively recently, with a young and dynamic headmaster, Father Christopher McNulty, who offered what were in effect scholarship places to 2 boarders in that community.

Hilary Smith: One of the things if I may I'd like to move on to is we've got you matriculated, but following that you suddenly found yourself interned – was it the Isle of Man?

Frank Steiner: It was, the Isle of Man.

Hilary Smith: I mean, that sounds the most awful experience, but I gather that it had some good sides as well.

Frank Steiner: Well it was well reputed at one time. I think it was the Guardian who said that at one time it was the centre of European high intellect, because so many distinguished people were there. The idea of treating as enemy aliens, refugees from Hitler who had more reason to dislike him than the British.....

Hilary Smith: Yes, exactly.

Frank Steiner: But there was a tradition, of course – there's a book called 'Island of Barbed Wire'. Because the Isle of Man, not surprisingly, had been used for internment camps for enemy aliens during the First World War. And incredibly enough Bertram Sargeant, who under the title of Government Secretary, ran the Manx Administration, had been the Government Secretary of the First World War and was still there when I was sent there

Hilary Smith: Continuation of his office ?

Frank Steiner: Yes, it makes one smile because the Manx Administration in those days was the government secretary and his very small staff. Now they've got a fully fledged autonomous government with ministers and a chief minister.

Hilary Smith: Because they've been practicing for a long time.

Frank Steiner: Well I don't know about that.

Hilary Smith: But for yourself, Frank, when you think about that – was it a year you were..?

Frank Steiner: 15 months.

Hilary Smith: 15 months – you know exactly, 15 months.

Frank Steiner: 15 wasted months, let's face it.

Hilary Smith: Were they completely wasted? Was there anything-?

Frank Steiner: Well nothing that I learnt there has... I took Spanish lessons, alright. And a bit of that has remained. I took recorder lessons from the great musicologist of the recorder era, Dr. Walter Bergmann .

Hilary Smith: Did you?

Frank Steiner: And I passed grade 1 of the recorder fairly recently at Banbury!

Hilary Smith: So this is a wonderful follow on to your internment experience.

Frank Steiner: With 50 years – 60 years in between.

Hilary Smith: Brilliant. One pass

Frank Steiner: They'd never seen a 76 year old...

Hilary Smith: When you were doing that, did it bring back memories of the Isle of Man, of you learning the recorder there? Struggling with the instrument?

Frank Steiner: Well, not really...I mean the memories are there anyway. And I went to the Isle of Man two years ago, because a splendid chap – who's English of course and non-Manx. Alan Franklin... It'll come back to me in a bit. He's the librarian at the Manx National Heritage – I'll quote it in Manx in a minute, *Eiraght Ashoona Vannin*

There is now a thing called the Manx National Heritage, which is run at the Manx Museum in Douglas. And Alan Franklin's the librarian; he was a great collector of internment data and they've lost their records. They were anxious to retrieve the information and so they had to find fossils and survivors like me.

Hilary Smith: Oh I see. So you've contributed to their memoirs, as it were.

Frank Steiner: Oh, very much so. And then my nieces and nephews - I never realised what a hamster my brother was. When they went through their father's papers after his death, found that he had kept every letter which – he was released nine months before I was.

Hilary Smith: On the Isle of Man?

Frank Steiner: Yes.

Hilary Smith: Okay. So he was pretty experienced..?

Frank Steiner: No, the point was that he had kept every letter I wrote to him during those nine months.

Hilary Smith: Your letters.

Frank Steiner: And they're a complete collection which gives a fairly vivid illustration of life in the camps and who was who and so on. And I had great thanks from the Manx National Heritage for presenting this correspondence.

Hilary Smith: I bet. Have they published it? Or has it gone into a work of some sort – a collection of memoirs?

Frank Steiner: That, I don't know, but I think they've digitised it. And I do hope that the Bodleian has now digitised – they've got something like 45 volumes of my memoirs, handwritten, so far. Not memoirs, which I have never done, but I mean all together 45 volumes of diaries, handwritten, bound...

Hilary Smith: You've kept diaries all your life?

Frank Steiner: Well not all my life, properly only 1961 and '87.

Hilary Smith: Okay, so during, in a way, spanning your professional career.

Frank Steiner: Yes. And the terrible thing is that '63, which was a very important year in my life, because inside my employment with Grieveson Grant, I was steered onto what eventually became my main work there; and it's also when I met and married my wife. So it was an important year. And for that year, '63, my diary is lost.

So I've now got – it's one of the things which is on my agenda is to reconstruct it. So I've asked the librarian of the Reform – I don't know how relevant it is, I've been a member of the Reform Club in London for over 60 years. And the librarian, Simon Blundell, is something of a friend. He's given me a perpetual calendar for 1963 so that I can recall what day of the week is what

Hilary Smith: . Yes, okay. So just to look back on the Isle of Man experience...

Frank Steiner: A cultural melting pot at one time. Though of course as the nice people were released, it became less and less convivial. -

Hilary Smith: So, people were assimilated back into the population ?

Frank Steiner: Yes, and because – well if you want the details, it turned out a few weeks after the internment started that it had all been a mistake. But no government in wartime can afford to admit to egg on its face, so what they did was they cooked up a system of release for people in 13 categories of internees...

Hilary Smith: So they created a kind of bureaucratic system to hide what was originally a mistake.

Frank Steiner: Yes. And that included school boys, and students. But I'd fallen between the two stools. So I sat there for the next 15 months while my brother, who was a fulltime student, was released 9 months early.

Hilary Smith: You say 15 months with such feeling because it was extended beyond – because you were neither fish nor fowl really.

Frank Steiner: I was neither fish nor fowl. By which time the majority of the remaining internees were genuine enemy aliens and not friends.

Hilary Smith: Oh yes, so the population there had changed also.

Frank Steiner: Yes, and of course among the people, the idea of releasing people depending on how useful they are to the war effort is inherently illogical because you should intern people if they're a danger.

There were all sorts of jokes about a Nazi in uniform walking down Piccadilly and somebody said to him "Why haven't you been arrested?" He said "Because I employ 13 natives."

Anyway, but among the people who were released – fairly quickly too, some of them – there were very distinguished people. The people who founded the Amadeus Quartet met in the Isle of Man. I don't know how many professors from Oxford and Cambridge went back to their teaching posts on release.

Among people interned was the future Right Honourable Sir William Kerr, who having been released from the Isle of Man went into the air force, then read for the bar and eventually became a lord justice of appeal

Hilary Smith: So it was a melting pot, as you say, of intellect and ability.

Frank Steiner: Claus Moser, who is now a peer, who was head of the government's statistical office, hence his KCB, went straight from the Isle of Man into the air force.

Hilary Smith: So it turned out to be like a sort of exclusive club, in a way.

Frank Steiner: It was what you might call a folk university.

Hilary Smith: A folk university, yes.

Frank Steiner: Quite a number of distinguished artists, quite a bit of work was published, produced there.

Hilary Smith: So these are all people who have made their name in some way before being arrested.

Frank Steiner: Or who made their name afterwards.

Hilary Smith: Oh, okay, yes.

Frank Steiner: I mean Sir Michael Kerr was a student when he was interned; he then became a senior judge later. Claus Moser became Professor of Statistics at Oxford, then head of the government's statistical office, eventually Warden of Wadham, and a peer.

Hilary Smith: So does this mean that these people kept in touch with one another because of the shared internment?

Frank Steiner: I wonder. Certainly there was one woman who had been on the Kindertransport who 50 years later created sort of a reunion. And 10 years later still, when we were all older than we had a right to expect to live to, there was a further reunion. And out of that has grown an organisation called The Kinder, which is now a section of the Association of Jewish Refugees.

Hilary Smith: So it's evolved.

Frank Steiner: It's evolved. I don't think there's been anything like a regimental reunion of the ex-internees.

Male 1: And we'll rejoin Hilary Smith talking to Frank Steiner in the next episode of Deddington Discussions.

Presenter: The next episode of Deddington Discussions, Hilary Smith talks to Frank Steiner.

Respondent: . I got a part-time job with Cerebos because the food products they distributed were considered war work. And I was a clerk in their transport department. And at the same time worked for a BSc (Econ) as an external student.

Interviewer: Oh yes.

Respondent: I did virtually everything in London during those days, as everybody did, on a bicycle. Though of course in the blackout that was actually-

Interviewer: Dangerous.

Respondent: That was actually disconcerting if you had a bus behind you, which wasn't allowed to switch on its headlights.

Interviewer: "Has he seen me" you wonder.

Respondent: Yes. I was knocked off my bike only once.

Interviewer: Right, in all that time.

Respondent: So... And the surprising thing is how well things worked. Despite, the post was regular, the buses ran. The tubes ran but of course tube stations were full of people sheltering during the night. And I think, I don't think I've ever once spent a night in the shelter.

Interviewer: You didn't. Is that, why is that?

Respondent: Carelessness.

Interviewer: Oh okay, you were never there at the right time, to just take it seriously and go down.

Respondent: Insouciance.

Interviewer: Okay, of youth.

Respondent: Exactly. The other thing was that of course one had one's duties. I remember still being drilled, numbering as pump crew, though I can't remember what else we did with the pump. And I don't think it's ever been used in anger. But certainly where we were was not exempt from danger. Our GP who lived a quarter of a mile away in South Hampstead was killed I think by a very real one which came down. And jumping to 1944 when I took my degree finals, there was an air raid during the history paper and that cost me 11 marks.

Interviewer: So you had to break off?

Respondent: Yes, well everybody, both invigilators and students and examinees disappeared under desks.

Interviewer: Oh my goodness.

Respondent: And eventually we all trooped down into the basement, where some wily people had taken their exam papers with them, and I was not wily enough for that.

Interviewer: Ah, so they continued writing and you didn't.

Respondent: Well they'd taken their crib stuff with them.

Interviewer: Oh I see.

Respondent: To which, all I can say is I wish I had. Because if I'd had those 11 extra marks I would have had a 2nd class honours degree instead of a pass. And that in the end made quite a difference to my career. But after all...

Interviewer: There were other aspects.

Respondent: Exactly. Now the, by the autumn of 1944 when I'd got my degree, the atmosphere at Cerebos was no longer all that welcoming. And I decided to do something else. Now what oh what oh what. At one time I did a research job for the Fabian Colonial Bureau, which got me into the library of then Colonial Office. I can't imagine I was paid anything more than pocket money.

But my love of St James' Park goes back to then, working in the old Colonial Office. And I remember in January 45 eating sandwiches at lunchtime because it was warm enough, and how nice to be able to eat out in January.

And now that I wasn't under pressure, I decided to have another go at the army. And with a degree in which transport was allegedly a special subject, I put myself forward for the Transport section of the Royal Engineers. In which case if they had taken me on that, I would have had a Direct Commission no less.

So I was sent to OCTU, Officer Cadet Training Unit, no further away than Golders Green, for a long weekend for training assessment. Which included all sorts of physical jerks like a notional assault course.

Interviewer: [Laughter] [Oh it would

Respondent: I never knew what I could do. I mean I did actually get out of a basement, up a vertical concrete wall of about nine feet, and I still don't know how I did it.

Interviewer: You did it [Laughter].

Respondent: But I came unstuck over crossing a notionally crocodile infested river, by crossing from tree to tree or something. Anyway, I fell off a virtual bough and was notionally eaten by the crocodiles.

Interviewer: Which would have been the end of Frank, yes.

Respondent: So they said to me "I think you'd better fly a desk." So as I had a degree, it was going to be a graduate post. So they recommended me for what was then called the Ministry of War Transport. (Which on the first day after the war, crossed out the 'war') from its letterhead.

Interviewer: [Laughter] That must have been, sounds very powerful thing to do.

Respondent: Exactly. So the next thing was, gosh, forgotten how these things were. A Civil Service Selection Board presided over by Sir Percival Waterfield, the first Civil Service Commissioner. And I was accepted. And needless to say, things went wrong in the administration, and I ended up not in the Ministry of Transport but in the Board of Trade.

Interviewer: And so such lives are planned in odd ways. So there you are in Board of Trade.

Respondent: And because I didn't have an honours degree but only a pass degree, I couldn't sit for the establishment examination after the war. So I couldn't stay on the Board of Trade. So eventually when the OEEC, a thing which still exists but was different, cropped up, they seconded me on the grounds of I had good French and good German. So I went to Paris for 15 months. Which was an extremely interesting time because I made, among other things, the OEEC in those days was not bilingual as it is now, American, Japanese and a bit of French.

Interviewer: OEEC being...

Respondent: Organisation for European Economic Cooperation. It was the Marshall Plan secretariat.

Interviewer: Yes, right.

Respondent: And there we were, suddenly pitched into genuinely French life. Because the establishments were run by the French Civil Service. At one time I was quite proud of to be able to draft in a pompous way in French.

Interviewer: That must have been a fun interlude.

Respondent: It was a fun interlude. And because of my brother's pre-war connections, (very strange indeed). I resumed acquaintance with a French family. And that is how, unlike a lot of the other international Civil Servants who went on living in international ghetto, I came to know something of French life and French country house life. And Rosemary and I years later were still staying with these friends, I mean in those days.

Interviewer: In your very early career, yes.

Respondent: Yes.

Interviewer: So you got something very special there. Started off with your international. Career And this was in Paris?

Respondent: Yes.

Interviewer: Yes. And after that you joined Manchester Oil, after having gone round Spain on your, was it a moped?

Respondent: No no no, you're conflating two things. I went round Spain by bus and train. At the time when this was still Franco's Spain and still preCivil War Spain, it was not like Europe. As the French said, L'Espagne c'est déjà l'Orient.

Interviewer: Exotic ?

Respondent: Exactly. It was incredible how backward and poor it was. The only cars you saw were mid 1930s German imports. Because of course the Civil War had started at '36 and that was that.

Interviewer: Extraordinary. As you say, that was a kind of a time warp.

Respondent: Completely, yes. And one realised just how unpleasant Franco's government was, and how oppressive. And how incredibly old-fashioned. Because of difference in, I've forgotten what the technical term for the width of the wheelbase is, not being compatible (PS I now think it is `gauge`)

Interviewer: between countries ?.

Respondent: Yes. Of the French and European and Spanish trains. There were no through trains.

Interviewer: No, because that changed.

Respondent: Yes. So you had to get out at the border, walk across the bridge with your luggage. And on the Spanish side, believe it or not, it's incredible in the age of mass tourism, there was a civil guard sitting at a desk with pen and ink, and registered all the incoming visitors.

Interviewer: Amazing. So there must have been long queues of people sometimes.

Respondent: Yes, but there weren't all that many travellers.

Interviewer: No, true.

Respondent: And the foreigner was such a rare sight in Spain in those days. I was talking to a Swedish colleague who was in the same party speaking English, and a young Spaniard came up and asked if he could join in because he , he wanted to practice his English. Because there weren't any other foreigners around in the Prado Museum

Interviewer: So how long were you there? Was it just a few weeks

Respondent: Just a few, Spain was less than three weeks.

Interviewer: Okay, yes. So back to work in London again.

Respondent: Back to work, back to London looking for work. Being sheltered in this central European enclave which was Manchester Oil Refinery's Market Research department.

Interviewer: Yes. Very interesting time to be working there, what developments].

Respondent: Yes, with a two year interlude in Manchester. And then back to London.

Interviewer: Did you find yourself interested in the chemical development areas?

Respondent: Well I suppose, I liked the scientific basis for it.

Interviewer: Okay, , it wasn't,you weren't drawn to it particularly?

Respondent: No, I mean it was a job.

Interviewer: It was a job, yes. So, but at that time you joined the Reform Club did you?

Respondent: Yes the Reform Club. I took an interest in Liberal politics. And one of the chaps I met there, Michael Kaser, who eventually became a very great specialist on Russia and Eastern Europe, I think he's still alive, he's a year younger than I. He suggested I should join the Reform. I couldn't think of why, but it sounded prestigious. And it was cheap.

In the , in the quick luncheon bar,(not that I could then afford to go the Reform for a full meal ever), you could lunch, you could have a cold lunch for 1 and 9 pence. And it was within walking distance of my office. And all the cheap caffs would have cost as much and one would had to queue and so on. So lunch time was quite agreeable. Going down to the Reform, having one's lunch in 20 minutes, going to the morning room, which I still do 60 years later. Where there's good supplies of stationery and envelopes at a desk, and do one's personal correspondence.

Interviewer: So you were drawn by the catering, by the lunches, and then just this lovely place to relax and write.

Respondent: Exactly. I get there very rarely now, but I've got a date with some old friends for lunch there on the 27th of April. Also, the club is much less dull than it was in those days. It now has an active social programme. And there will be an interesting music recital that lunchtime. And the same evening there's a poetry reading which doesn't attract me at all. They don't

normally get two social engagements on one day. I was, I may say, for 20 years a member of the Social Committee of the Reform Club, which organised that sort of event

Interviewer: Oh I see, so you know behind the scenes stuff.

Respondent: Not necessarily.

Interviewer: So at that time also you were part,, a part-time stringer for the Kathpress .

Respondent: Yes.

Interviewer: What's that?

Respondent: The Kathpress, which still exists, and was much more of a bucket shop in those days than it is now, is the press agency owned and managed by the Austrian Bench of Bishops. The Austrian Bench of Bishops has one member responsible for media and communications. And in those days it was very much a tiny 0: thing because it was so small, it had just been started. It didn't have any full-time correspondents away, it still doesn't. But I mean in an age of telecommunications that doesn't really matter. But there weren't telecommunications.

The reason I got into the Kathpress is very peculiar indeed. My brother had a school friend with whom he'd been both at primary school and at the `Schotten`, who comes from the Western province of Carinthia. I think our fathers had been on the Italian Front at the same time. And his father had been killed in action in 1917, he'd been born posthumously in 1918. His mother as a war widow must have had a difficult time of it with this.

And anyway, the boy, both at primary school and the Schotten, he and my brother became firm friends. Which they still remained for the next 60 or 70 years. But anyway, this boy then was, not in the Federal, Civil Service but in that of his home county which is Carinthia, married, had at that time six children, there were eventually eight. (And his wife was so slight). And he had, for some peculiar reason, to visit London.

And my brother rang me up and said “, look Guggi

is coming to tea on Saturday, he's in London, would you like to come and join us?” And I said “Yes.” I went down, very pleased to see a man whom I hadn't seen for 20 years. And in the course of conversation he mentioned that he, one of his part-time amusements was to act as the Carinthian correspondent in Klagenfurt, the Carinthian capital, for the Kathpress. And I said “What on earth is that?” And he explained.

And he said “Look they haven't got any correspondents-... I mean I'm not a journalist” he said. “If they've got to rely on me for local news from Carinthia, you can imagine how badly represented they are in London. Why don't you offer to do, to send your stuff from here?” He then must have mentioned it to the editor, who invited me to submit-

Interviewer: Ah, so they took the initiative here?

Respondent: Or I may have written to the editor to say “Dr Guggenberger suggests...” I can’t honestly remember. But anyway, in those days I sent my reports, such as they were, very much slowly by snail mail the Bishops’ press agency interested in the Catholic scene in England, if there’s such a thing, and there is.

And I remember my first detailed report was on the election of I think, I’ve forgotten, anywhere in the late 50s, in which I explained the basic background, that Catholics in England were not a rustic peasantry but mainly urban industrial workers of Irish descent. And that, incredible by continental terms, the Catholic population, including the clergy and possibly the bishops, was mainly Labour.

Interviewer: Yes. So that provided them with a new perspective?

Respondent: Yes, so that was printed in full, much to my amusement, and that’s what started it.

Interviewer: That started it off. So what now would you write about? Do you still write or have you just-

Respondent: No, I took my leave in 2007.

Interviewer: Okay.

Respondent: After 52 years.

Interviewer: So are there particular issues that you wrote about

Respondent: Anything which I thought to be of relevance. The whole question of the changes in the church, the Vatican Council, changes in the liturgy, the change , from Latin to vernacular, all how that affects England.

Interviewer: I see.

Respondent: About the English Catholic community. Which of course has changed tremendously.

Interviewer: So how did you keep in touch with the Catholic community in order to represent what was happening?

Respondent: Well, there were the ordinary media, the news. There were Catholic papers, such as they were. Which I read assiduously. Which I would now find rather boring but... And of course I was in touch within because one of the social features of my life was a thing called the Newman Association, after John Henry Newman, This was the graduate section of the University Catholic Federation of Great Britain. Which was at that time very much the base of my social life, and where eventually I met my wife.

And the Kathpress has grown into quite a respectable, I mean I started sending reports in by mail and at least one or two occasions, because my typewriter was out of action, hand written [Laughter]. And eventually I, I mean obviously, what happened there, I’ve forgotten.

There was a Catholic Archbishop of Westminster called Bernard Griffin, Cardinal Griffin, who died relatively young. And I happened to be up, I don’t know why I was up at that ungodly

hour of the night, and on the 6 am morning news it said that Cardinal Griffin had died during the night.

So I picked up the telephone and actually sent a telegram, which one could do in those days, briefly saying what I felt. And I was asked not to go, to be so heavy-handed on expenses in future. But the Kathpress was under resourced and then a very minor organisation.

Interviewer: Why have you kept going over so many years with it?

Respondent: Because it has grown. And the people in the Kathpress, I've seen editors come and go but there was dozen core of people who are friends, who have become friends.

Interviewer: Yes, indeed.

Respondent: And also, oh yes, question of status. As a registered UK correspondent of an Austrian press agency, I became a part of the accredited Austrian press corps at the Austrian Embassy.

Interviewer: Ah, that sounds very prestigious.

Respondent: Since when I've drunk a good many glasses of federal wine at receptions and things.

Interviewer: So you feel well remunerated in a way through wine do you, for what you do?

Respondent: Yes. Certainly it wasn't, I mean it brought in, in fees, about £200 a year, if that. It also led to something else, which is that I was asked for two or three years during that period to broadcast in German on Radio Vaticana.

Interviewer: That was an interesting-

Respondent: Father Eberhard von Germmingen, the aristocratic German Jesuit who ran and perhaps still runs the German section of Radio Vatican, read one of my Kathpress articles. And wrote to me care of the Kathpress, please forward, and said he was interested in this. I was giving a running commentary on what was happening in Parliament about the decisions of the C of E Synod to what extent Parliament could still interfere with the State Church

And he wrote to me and said "We're very interested in that but we've got absolutely nobody in England following that sort of thing, would you be able to let us have your usual report on that?" So I rang him and I said "Well with pleasure, what do you want and how many words?" And he said "No, we don't want you to write, if you have something to report on that, offer it to us, and if we want it we'll ask you to broadcast it, to record it and broadcast it."

Interviewer: How did you feel about that?

Respondent: Amused. And that was extremely well paid.

Interviewer: Yes, in contrast.

Respondent:

Interviewer: And it must have been nice to use different medium actually And to use your German.

Respondent: Eventually I got a very good dinner out of it because-

Interviewer: [Laughter] Good.

Respondent: Some time in 1992 I went to Rome and I said, and I emailed Father von Gemmingen and said "I'd like to look at the office of Radio Vatican And he said "Well, come to the office, meet the staff and then we'll go out for a meal together. So he took me to a very nice Italian restaurant fairly near their offices. Do you know Rome?"

Interviewer: Yes.

Respondent: Well a lot of those things, which are not in the Vatican itself, are at least in the neighbourhood, in the Trastevere and that sort of thing. And I don't know, he was discussing with the waitress something. And because I was interested in the particular dish or something, I joined the conversation. And he then looked at me and said well he didn't realise I spoke Italian. I said "Well I write it badly but I speak it fluently."

Interviewer: So did you then get asked after that to do anything in Italian or-

Respondent: No.

Interviewer: Did you do any further broadcasts in German afterwards?

Respondent: It tailed off. Because another interesting experience, which could not have been foreseen when I was a child. Equally what I couldn't have foreseen is when eventually for my work with the Catholic Union in England, nothing to do with the Kathpress, I was made a knight of the Papal Order of Saint Gregory. Cardinal Schonborn in Vienna saw it in the Kathpress, and which I thought was very nice of him, wrote to me a letter of congratulation, which I've actually kept. Which is not only handwritten but even the envelope is handwritten. On which there hangs an anecdote.

When I told that particular story to Andrew Summerskill, who was Secretary of the Bishops' Conference, the Catholic Bishops' Conference in London but has now at long last been released from this and has gone back to his native Yorkshire to be a parish priest which he always wanted to be. When I told him this story he smiled and said "This is not to cap your story." He said "But there's something rather similar."

When the Queen, about two or three years ago, in her Christmas broadcast, made a very specifically Christian thing, I don't know if you'd noticed that, probably you haven't heard that broadcast. About the importance of Christmas as a religious feast. . Our Cardinal was so touched by this that he wrote to her to thank her for it.. And she wrote back to him to thank him for his letter. And then he was amused to see that not only was the letter handwritten but the envelope had been addressed in the Queen's own handwriting, which was a nice touch.

Interviewer: What a lovely touch, yes, very sensitive. Those little things mean a lot

Male: And we'll rejoin Hilary Smith talking to Frank Steiner in the next episode of Deddington Discussions.

Presenter: The next episode of Deddington Discussions: Hilary Smith talks to Frank Steiner.

Frank Steiner: I'll go into excessive detail. On the Tuesday before Christmas, I went to lunch at the London house of Mr and Mrs Roger Watson, of Knightsbridge, to deliver ... because Gocky Watson had asked me to call and pick up the Christmas present for her goddaughter—my eldest niece.

In the course of lunch she said "What's doing about the job hunt, then"? I said ... this was a Tuesday ... and I said "Miserably, not a sausage, and I shall be out of a job by the end of the year". So she said "Well, my husband, as you know, is at a broking firm in the City, you know nothing about stockbroking but he knows an awful lot of people in insurance and such like. I'll ask him if he could think

Of anybody, say in such a company, that might know of any jobs going for a chap with an economics degree"

She rang me back the next day at work, the Wednesday, to say that she'd tackled Roger about this after dinner last night and, curiously enough, there was a vacancy for a person with an economics degree in his firm. "Of course", she added, "He can't have anything to do with appointing somebody, but you'll get an interview". Which gave me an inkling that the said Roger, whom I'd only known as a husband of a friend, was an important cove in this firm

Hilary Smith: Quite significant, yes.

Frank Steiner: Yes. And if I rang a Mr Larcombe for an interview I would get one. Christopher [Larcombe] had, in those days, not yet succeeded to the baronetcy, so in the last week of December '59 I was interviewed by Christopher [Larcombe] and, possibly, I seem to remember another senior partner. And I was offered the job at a salary which was twice what I'd been getting in my oil company, not realising how grossly inflated City salaries were compared with everything else.

So on Monday the 18th of January 1960... (I think I decided I needed a holiday in between), I joined the research department of Grieveson & Grant, without knowing why there was such a thing in a broking firm

Last year, on the 18th of January, I reminded my ex-boss of that date fifty-year ago

Hilary Smith: Oh, really?

Frank Steiner: Yes. He's an equally interesting cross-cultural character, he's called Brian Knox, an Irish Ulsterman of originally Scots descent.

But his father had been a regular soldier so he'd been brought up in Aldershot like an Englishman, but he's the only Ulsterman I can think of who speaks Czech.

Hilary Smith: Oh, my goodness. How come he speaks Czech?

Frank Steiner: He is a brilliant intellect who is no more a vocational City financier than I am but he's very, very clever. So he went into the City in order to earn an honest living to finance his hobbies, which are architecture and the history of architecture.

Hilary Smith: What a wonderful *raison d'être*, to finance your hobbies (Laughter).

Frank Steiner: He's written a book on Bohemian architecture. ... he decided he needed to know a Slav language, and since Russian is rather difficult he decided to learn Czech. He's the only Englishman, or Ulsterman, that I can think of who not only speaks Czech fluently—(I'm told he does, I can't judge that)—but who's also an honorary member of the Czechoslovak Architectural Association, because he has written the standard work on the subject.

Hilary Smith: Architecture?

Frank Steiner: Yes. He has—as he said to me last year, proudly, 50 years after we first met—never lived in a house which he didn't build himself.

Hilary Smith: Goodness me. So he was originally trained as an architect?

Frank Steiner: No, he wasn't. He's completely untrained.

Hilary Smith: He did it himself?

Frank Steiner: He read what is called *Modern History* at Oxford, which finishes in the 14th century (Laughter).

Hilary Smith: Not much good for modern house building, then? Yes, I know, *Modern History* (Laughter).

Frank Steiner: He read *History* at Balliol, I suspect him of having a First. He never learned to type and did everything by hand with a ball pen. But he's had to compromise now because, on a computer, you do have to type. And so I joined Brian and his merry men.

Hilary Smith: Did he interview ... he interviewed you?

Frank Steiner: No, he didn't interview me.

Hilary Smith: He didn't interview you?

Frank Steiner: No, but he was landed with me—I was told to report to him.

Hilary Smith: Did you know about him before you met him?

Frank Steiner: No.

Hilary Smith: Oh, what was that first meeting like?

Frank Steiner: We went out to lunch together and I decided I liked him.

Hilary Smith: Yes.

Frank Steiner: And I've liked him ever since.

Hilary Smith: So is there accord between you? What does he think about you, obviously he likes you too?

Frank Steiner: I don't know, but we keep in touch.

Hilary Smith: Yes. Was he very much a present boss in work, or was he just somebody you saw from time to time?

Frank Steiner: No, no. In Grieveson Grant, - no waste of space, no waste of anything, we all lived in one large room—the dealing room. The senior partner didn't have a private office; the senior partner didn't have a private secretary. Compared with other firms we were efficient.

Hilary Smith: Yes. No hierarchies in offices?

Frank Steiner: Oh, the hierarchy ... considerable.

Hilary Smith: Okay, but an open plan environment?

Frank Steiner: An open plan environment. And, of course, the back office ... I mean it's all rather different now, was a very different atmosphere. The office manager, who eventually had 51 years in that firm, having joined it as an office boy at 14 because his father had worked for the predecessor of that firm. And when John Newman, who eventually became a partner, but when he was deputy office manager he would put on a jacket to go and see the manager in his office. But none of that in the dealing room.

Hilary Smith: No.

Frank Steiner: Where the senior partner sat in the middle of the mêlée and telephoned.

Hilary Smith: In shirt sleeves, presumably?

Frank Steiner: Well, I dare say.

Hilary Smith: I should think so. It's interesting, how the different sorts of work create a different kind of culture. Hmm. So, you were taken on, and what was your brief?

Frank Steiner: To join the research department. Eventually I discovered what 'investment research' means.

Hilary Smith: (Laughter) you got through an interview without knowing what it meant?

Frank Steiner: I said I had no idea what it ... I explained it to my brother in fairly basic terms. I said you want to know what the prospects for a toy company are, so what you do is you look at birth rates. That is how basic investment research ... I over-simplify but that's one -.

Hilary Smith: That makes the point beautifully. Hmm.

Frank Steiner: And that's why you needed a research department. And, of course, the thing eventually grew like Topsy . When I joined Grieveson Grant there were 12 partners and the firm was a little over 100 people, which was large by the standards of the day. When Grieveson Grant

eventually folded by being absorbed into Kleinwort Benson, the merchant bankers, there were 780 people and three overseas offices.

Hilary Smith: Amazing growth. Where were the overseas offices?

Frank Steiner: Boston, Tokyo ... I think there were only two overseas offices, but.....

Hilary Smith: That's incredible growth . Looking back, do you consider that a very positive part of your career?

Frank Steiner: (Laughter) lucrative.

Hilary Smith: Lucrative?

Frank Steiner: It's the only really decent career job that I've ever had.

Hilary Smith: Yes. Did you feel that you were making a contribution, because it sounds as if other people wouldn't have had your cultural experience?

Frank Steiner: Oh, originally, it wasn't relevant. But there was a curious interlude before I fell into the international section, and that is, stockbroking firms in those days had a banks department. Through immensely old-fashioned and a restrictive practice, in each of the major banks, each branch, had its own broker connection. And instead of centralising ... I mean

Hilary Smith: Amazing.

Frank Steiner: It beggars belief, but there it is. And this was considered a fairly drab and unnecessarily low-grade sort of work. You got a memorandum from the bank manager asking for investment advice on a particular transaction. And when I was landed with this particular job, I was, after all, 37, which was unusually senior and was allegedly responsible, and I still got this somewhat low grade assignment What launched my career in Grieveson Grant, as you might say, was a memo from a bank manager which says "Dear sirs, my valued customer, Mrs Snooks , or whatever, she's 92, she needs to raise £300 to pay for the repair to her roof. She owns the following securities. Please can you tell us what she should sell to raise the £300?"

Well, traditionally, the junior clerks left to deal with this sort of thing, would have looked at the list of what she had, would have picked up the lowest yielding and said "Least loss of income, sell this". But I looked at this portfolio and realised that, for centuries, nothing had been done to it. So I sat down and rearranged the portfolio in such a way that £300 could be raised without loss of income.

I then wrote a memorandum back to the bank manager and said that I'd taken the liberty of reviewing the portfolio and here was my suggestion that she could raise the money for the roof without The managing partner, Mr Geoffrey Marks, for whom I was working at the time, read this and then said "Well we can't do that because you're throwing in his face that he's neglected his customer by not reviewing her portfolio, but certainly your recommendations are right, let's re-write this". Which he did.

And the bank manager came back and said "Please proceed". Now the sequel was that it so happens, I think it was National Provincial, that the investment manager chappie, whoever it was ... it was not yet NatWest but National Provincial, came to lunch with the partners the following week. Sheer coincidence. And must have said something along the lines of "I'm told by my stock exchange people that somebody in your firm is unusually alive", or words to that effect.

Hilary Smith: (Laughter).

Frank Steiner: "Because they don't normally take that much trouble. We are very pleased with the advice we've had, which is valuable both for our customer and to us...." And he had the decency to say this, at lunch, to my senior partner who had the decency to pass this on to me.

Hilary Smith: How nice, yes.

Frank Steiner: And so, from that point on, I had a certain jester's licence, whenever there was a bank reference, to review the portfolio.

Hilary Smith: That was more interesting work, I would have thought, as well. Quite creative.

Frank Steiner: In a money-making sort of way, yes. And then came 1963, when Macmillan wanted to join the Common Market, and hence the idea of creating a continental department.

Hilary Smith: Yes. So you were riding the wave at that point? It just was developing in the direction that you could contribute.

Frank Steiner: Yes.

Hilary Smith: So does that mean that you enjoyed the work, at the end of the day?

Frank Steiner: I was not born to it.

Hilary Smith: No.

Frank Steiner: I enjoyed having things to do. I enjoyed feeling that I was doing something ... it's rather like the Deddington News, but I can't pretend to an inherent interest. Some people are just interested in the money.

Hilary Smith: I see what you're saying. Yes, they are. They're drawn to that -.

Frank Steiner: My emotional priorities are not in the direction of making money.

Hilary Smith: No, no. So what ... in that period when you, quite rightly, your instrumental approach, almost, to the job, where did you get your satisfactions in life at that time? You said earlier somebody who, took a job to finance his hobbies and ... is there an essence of truth for you too?

Frank Steiner: Oh, Lord, yes.

Hilary Smith: So the work was work but there were plenty of other things in your life to give you satisfaction and joy?

Frank Steiner: Yes. I had a fairly active social life. I travelled. I spent a month in Greece, to the horror of the firm, by joining up two years' holiday.

Hilary Smith: Oh yes. (Laughter) creative use of holiday but gave you a decent amount of time.

Frank Steiner: Hmm. As so often, if you pick up a language quickly it goes equally quickly. My Modern Greek is as if it had never been.

Hilary Smith: Talking of travel, I think you've told me that you've had a few episodes with a scooter.

Frank Steiner: Well, yes. In 1962 ... no, '52, when power-assisted bicycles were just coming in, and they were hybrid creatures in the sense that you actually took a bicycle and added an auxiliary engine to the frame. I bought one called Cycle Master, which fitted into the rear hub—it was not attached to the frame or anything—and was a monstrous size—25 cc.

Hilary Smith: (Laughter).

Frank Steiner: I fitted that to my sister-in-law's bicycle, which I bought for 30 shillings. And, for a wager, went to Italy on it. Had an interesting experience in Rome where I skidded over a wet tram rail with the said bicycle, looked a mess, and was picked up, in more senses than one, by two policemen—not Carabinieri but city policemen, Vigili Urbani.

Now in France they would have probably kicked you for that, but the Italians are a friendly crowd. These two chaps were very, very nice, steadied me ... put the bike upright and said—it's just as well that I speak Italian—and said "Well, really that bike needs attention". Marched me to a subterranean basement where there was a blacksmith and told the man that this visiting foreigner had done something to his bicycle and would he please put it right. Which the man did.

Hilary Smith: Oh, you obviously have friends in useful places. (Laughter). So you weren't marooned then?

Frank Steiner: No. I then said "Please can I buy you a drink or something"? And they said "Yes", they both wanted an espresso. And I thanked them very much and eventually I wrote to the Prefect of Police, in Rome, from home, in my best French—because my Italian does not stand up to writing—thanking him. But of course I didn't get their numbers or names or anything ... I think I may have got their names and mentioned them. Anyway, Italian bureaucracy being what it is, whoever got the letter I don't know, but they certainly didn't answer. Whether he did something about passing on the praise I don't know.

That was ... and coming back (Laughter) from Rome, in Rome I bumped into an old school friend from Belmont. Small world. A Benedictine monk called Robert Richardson, who was on a visit to Rome, equally with a bicycle.

Hilary Smith: Oh. There could be a story like this.

Frank Steiner: It's perfectly true. So we joined together and stayed at the youth hostel together. In Rome, in those days, before the Second Vatican Council, everything was prim and proper, priests were expected not only to wear their cassocks but to wear soup plate hats; whereas Robert had nothing of this kind. He had got a black cassock or monastic habit, in his bicycle luggage. But I think this left Italians rather scandalised ... when he was wearing this semi-uniform when we called at the Vatican to go to the museum, or something, together.

And it's the only time I've ever stayed at a youth hostel in my life—more's the pity. And that was not ideal so we then rented a room together. And we had a landlady that complained that I was using an electric razor because I used so much current.

Hilary Smith: (Laughter).

Frank Steiner: Anyway, Rome in those days was still a small town, not the monster that it has become since then. Both Milan and Naples had larger populations and there was a good tram system.

Hilary Smith: So you could quickly get round the city, or town as it was then, get to know the major spots?

Frank Steiner: Oh, I had been to Rome before.

Hilary Smith: Hmm.

Frank Steiner: One part of my childhood experiences not reported is that, in 1933, there was an Anno Santo and the Italian government of Mussolini, always eager to turn a dishonest penny, thought that it could encourage tourist pilgrimages and there were reduced fares provided you attended the Mostra Fascista—the exhibition of 10 years of fascist rule.

So we took our annual summer holiday in Italy that year, went to an Adriatic resort called Cesenatico, which is near Cesena, and then went down by train to Rome, where we spent three and a half days. But as we also wanted a papal audience ... for the [Anno Santo] things had gone all very informal—men did not have to wear tails and a white tie for a papal audience—about an ordinary suit would do. Not a thing which my father would normally have taken on holiday, but he did. And he had visiting cards printed with his rank and function.

So we went to Rome for the papal general audience and, I suppose, this blonde, light-skinned family stuck out like several sore thumbs in a mass audience with mainly Italian families. And, obviously now you just go to the general audience, but in those days it was still by name and things, so the secretariat knew who this family was. And the Pope stopped by me and—Pius XI that was—and addressed me in German.

Hilary Smith: And you were what ... how old were you then?

Frank Steiner: Ten and a half. And he said to me, in German,. It was a literal translation from the Italian because he didn't say "How old are you?" what he said was "How many years have you?" ". The equivalent of the Italian "quanti anni hai" But he said it in German. And I said, very seriously, "I shall be 11 in October, your Holiness". And he smiled and said "Very precisely

said, that", Blessed our family and departed on his way. But of course it created a certain amount of stir that the Pope had stopped to chat to only one family.

Hilary Smith: Oh. Why do you think he stopped to talk to you?

Frank Steiner: Because ... it was a major audience for mainly Italian families and we looked different.

Hilary Smith: Because you looked so different. I see, yes of course.

Frank Steiner: And I was wearing a blue sailor suit with long trousers, and August in Rome can be hot. But I'm very pleased to have been to Rome before they did all that damage by tearing down the Borgo Vecchio, when St Peter's Square was an intimate enclosure and you stepped out of this labyrinth of small streets into the open square. It was before they tore down what there was and built the Via della Conciliazione, which I think is an outrage, but there it is.

Hilary Smith: Maybe for people who haven't seen what was there before, to me it's quite an impressive entrance.

Frank Steiner: Yes, I agree. But like a lot of old people I mourn the past.

Hilary Smith: Yes, that's fair enough.

Frank Steiner: St Peter's Square, in those days, had an intimate atmosphere, no traffic jams. And it was dark in those side streets of the old Quarter. And I can remember every bit of it. And you stepped out into St Peter's Square and suddenly you were in the open, it was sunny.

Hilary Smith: Don't forget those things when you were a child.

Frank Steiner: No. It was at that time that I discovered if I listened in to what people said I would pick up a certain amount of Italian.

Hilary Smith: Hmm. Because you have an ear that can distinguish, quite easily, different sounds.

Frank Steiner: Hmm. I've never learned Italian properly but I speak it fairly fluently and

Hilary Smith: So you've only got to go somewhere, say Rome, and within half a day your ear is already picking up ...?

Frank Steiner: Yes, I'm one of the few people, who are non-Hungarian, who can pronounce Hungarian properly. Not that I know the language at all—I can ask for what time the bus goes in Hungarian—but I sound convincing. And the same thing I've been complimented by a Tehran taxi driver on my accent in Farsi.

Hilary Smith: Wonderful.

Frank Steiner: Now, sadly going to waste.

Presenter: And we'll re-join Hilary Smith talking to Frank Steiner in the next episode of Deddington Discussions).

Presenter: The next episode of 'Deddington Discussions', Hilary Smith talks to Frank Steiner.

Hilary Smith: So what is your impression, having come into Deddington, what was your impression of Deddington then and how it is, perhaps, today?

Frank Steiner: Oh, it's changed tremendously. I mean, 150 years ago, not only was it the centre of a thriving farming industry, but also it had local industries; they were – the local product was axles for – whether for farm wagons or whatever, I don't quite know, but it was a major industry and a big exporter.

Hilary Smith: Oh was that part of it being the centre for local agriculture?

Frank Steiner: I simply don't know but, in those days, it had 2,500 inhabitants, and we're just about scraping back to that but, of course, there were no weekenders and no commuters.

Hilary Smith: Right, so they all worked locally is what you're saying, and a mixture of agriculture, farming and some industry, and probably related industry.

Frank Steiner: I think so.

Hilary Smith: We still do have some – not heavy industry here, but we do still have some, kind of, businesses, don't we?

Frank Steiner: Oh, very much so. There are about 70 enterprises in the area

Hilary Smith: 70?

Frank Steiner: Yes.

Hilary Smith: Seven oh?

Frank Steiner: Seven oh.

Hilary Smith: In Deddington?

Frank Steiner: Yes.

Hilary Smith: This is incredible.

Frank Steiner: Well, I mean, think of all these offices – industrial sites – if you drive to Clifton, on the left you'll find a whole group

Hilary Smith: Oh that's right, yes. Yes, and I was forgetting about Clifton.

Frank Steiner: No, but I mean, this is on the Deddington end of the Clifton Road.

Hilary Smith: Yes.

Frank Steiner: So – and, of course, all these estates hadn't been built. The first one was the Daedings, called after a mythical Saxon chieftain called Daeda. What I have missed out on, because I didn't get here in all that time, is the strange structure of Deddington society as it was.

Hilary Smith: And we're talking now of when?

Frank Steiner: Of the 60s and 70s. The road north was the absolute barrier. The west – no wait a minute – where are we – north – yes – the west side, west of the main road was alien territory. It was a council estate, two council estates eventually, – there was a tremendous amount of snobbery from large farmers and their people. There was very much the atmosphere of the wrong side of the tracks.

Hilary Smith: Yes, indeed, so no integration possible?

Frank Steiner: No integration at all. That has gone, if only because of what was otherwise an undesirable element of Mrs Thatcher's policies, a Right to Buy for council tenants.

Hilary Smith: Okay, so people started to buy their own properties

Frank Steiner: Yes, and the other thing that has made a difference is the M40, because there's quite a bit of commuting to Birmingham.

Hilary Smith: Yes.

Frank Steiner: Which, if people had any sense, would be done more easily by rail because it's such a good connection, but a lot of fools drive both ways.

Hilary Smith: So that – well, it's a pathway to the north, in a sense, quite quickly get to the motorways heading north so it's very important.

Frank Steiner: What has also made a difference is the improvement of the service on the Chiltern Line, which was actually due for closure.

Hilary Smith: Was it?

Frank Steiner: Yes, there was a man called Gerald, I assume he had a surname, who was the ticket office chap at Bicester North Station and he organised opposition, he organised marches in and around Bicester. There was a time when it was thought that the Chiltern Line as a whole could be closed down and Marylebone Station could be converted into a bus depot.

Hilary Smith: Good heavens.

Frank Steiner: That was shot down, mercifully.

Hilary Smith: So the local population really joined...

Frank Steiner: I don't know whether Deddington joined, but certainly Bicester did.

Hilary Smith: Bicester, right. And Banbury? No?

Frank Steiner: Banbury is a sad case because the Banbury I knew, even 40-50 years ago, was a country town with the largest stockyard in Europe, a major market town and, as John Cheney was saying, it was magical between the wars because not only everybody knew everybody else, but everybody knew everybody else's business.

Hilary Smith: Yes.

Frank Steiner: I got the backwash – the tail end of that in a bit because, when Rosemary lived with her father as a child in Warwickshire, Banbury also was the local big town, so she was familiar with – you know Jones the wine merchants?

Hilary Smith: Yes, yes.

Frank Steiner: Well, she knew the Jones boys at dances and that sort of thing.

Hilary Smith: So you had kind of connections to this area long before you moved here?

Frank Steiner: Yes.

Hilary Smith: Given that, what do you think are the challenges that Deddington faces now?

Frank Steiner: What are they?

Hilary Smith: Yes, to keep – you know, to keep itself as a prospering – prosperous village?

Frank Steiner: I don't think any village can do it by itself, I mean we're being globalised.

Hilary Smith: Does that take away the identity of the village?

Frank Steiner: No, but I think with – the danger is, there is a point at which people buy new houses on the periphery then, because of the financial burden, you need both incomes, so they both commute, so since – I've seen this in Fenny Compton, which is the village very near where Rosemary came from. The shop hasn't survived and the butcher hasn't survived because people – the new people don't come into the centre of the village, they drive out, they drive back, the commute on the motorway, they do their shopping probably at a supermarket somewhere else, at which also they buy such wine as they might drink at home.

So they don't come into the pub, they don't come into the village shop. Here we're unusually fortunate with our shops.

Hilary Smith: We are.

Frank Steiner: Absolutely. I don't know if you – do you patronise the Co-op at all?

Hilary Smith: Oh yes.

Frank Steiner: Have you met my daughter?

Hilary Smith: Not in the Co-op, at least I'm not aware that I have, but usually I'm so busy looking at shelves, I don't...

Frank Steiner: She has a badge which says "Claire, Supervisor"

Hilary Smith: All right, I'll look out for her next time.

Frank Steiner: Actually she's at home because she's got Thursday and Friday off. Anyway, the difficulty is to stop commuters having only outside interests.

Hilary Smith: Yes, to get them involved.

Frank Steiner: In Deddington, the advantage is that there is a school.

Hilary Smith: I was just about to say that because, when you're like that, you're so busy, but at least if you've got a school with your children you are meeting local people.

Frank Steiner: Yes, and I'm told it's a good school.

Hilary Smith: Yes, and they seem to do a lot of activities all year round, don't they?

Frank Steiner: Yes.

Hilary Smith: Which, again, brings village life

Frank Steiner: The other thing which is peculiar is – I mean, Deddington retains a certain amount of rural – character of a rural village, not only because Park Farm in the High Street was the last building in Deddington to be thatched. That's gone now.

Hilary Smith: Park Farm?

Frank Steiner: Park Farm is no longer a farm because Peggy Pacey has moved to a bungalow behind what was her farm, but her horses and things are being looked after. But, anyway, what is relatively important in Deddington life, and you can get it in the Deddington News, is the importance of the parish church.

Hilary Smith: Yes.

Frank Steiner: Which may not be representative of 21st century England as a whole.

Hilary Smith: Indeed, no.

Frank Steiner: My late cleaner, the late Pat Bliss, of whom you may have heard before, who was the village mascot, a woman of 4'8", but she knew everybody and – something, when Mr Hannah, the vicar, retired, – she said something about Hannah's retirement, I said, "Oh yes, did you know...?" She said, "Of course," she said, "The vicar is the centre of the village." You wouldn't hear that from an urban working class woman in London, in an inner city or in a suburb.

Hilary Smith: You most certainly wouldn't. So do you think the church plays it right, and has in the whole?

Frank Steiner: As well as it can. Hugh White, who you may or may not know, works very hard in the primary school, and little thanks does he get for it. I mean, my heart bleeds for him if I go to Mass in Banbury, to the 10.45 and the church is full of young families and of teenagers serving and things. And eventually, at the beginning, "Will the children please come out for the children's liturgy," which is separate for part of the service and, at any given time, there could be anything between 20 and 30 children young enough to go to the children's liturgy. Well here there were never more than six, and I believe they've given it up.

Hilary Smith: And you're talking about – you're not talking about the Roman Catholic church at the moment, you're talking about, the Anglican parish church

Frank Steiner: Yes my point was that though the congregation at the Parish Church is lamentably small for a village (or small town ?) of this size, the building and its staff are more important than that and that this seems to me to be residue of the place's rural character

Frank Steiner: I'm talking about Hugh White's church. I was comparing the Roman Catholic church in Banbury.

Hilary Smith: Yes.

Frank Steiner: And the reason why it is so well-patronised is not merely because it's an excellent priest, but there are two Catholic schools in Banbury, there are by now quite a number of Poles.

Hilary Smith: Oh yes.

Frank Steiner: But, it's also that there are more young families and more teenagers and Hugh's difficulty is he has an elderly, and I suspect, dwindling congregation.

Hilary Smith: Yes. So, in fact, at the moment what's going on in the church, we have Deddington Online and Deddington On Air and so on, it's tried to rejuvenate or tried other ways to bring younger people in.

Frank Steiner: Well, yes, not only the younger people but, of course, older people, as I know to my cost, I'm not all that mobile and there are lot of people in Featherton House of that generation who would want to go to church but can't. So the idea of broadcasting the services at Featherton House was an inspiration of genius.

Hilary Smith: Absolutely, it's really playing an enormous role there. One last thing, we've got about 12 minutes left of tape, but just to – just thinking of the village and thinking of your own voluntary work, that you – obviously, you've mentioned working with police and being part of the police, do you see the role of the police here in Deddington has evolved since you've been here?

Frank Steiner: Negatively, in the sense that there aren't any.

Hilary Smith: Ah, yes.

Frank Steiner: I mean, there was a time when the police office in Deddington – note the word "office", it's not a police station, it's a police office.

Hilary Smith: Yes.

Frank Steiner: Had a complement of a sergeant and four constables.

Hilary Smith: Goodness.

Frank Steiner: We now have a sergeant responsible for this area who's based in Banbury. We have one constable in the shape of Richard Miller. I believe there's another woman constable but there are two PCSOs.

Hilary Smith: What's that?

Frank Steiner: A PCSO is a Police Community Support Officer, who wear the same kind of uniform but it's blue instead of check. If you see a girl called Angela with a police hat, she's got a blue bade here.

Hilary Smith: I think I saw her the other day because they were checking the speed of traffic going to – up the road there. So your role in the police, has it been

[Respondent plays answerphone tape.]

Frank Steiner: Sorry, where were we?

Hilary Smith: We were talking about the role of police and the fact that it used to be well-policed but now it's an office with two Community Service Officers.

Frank Steiner: Support Officers.

Hilary Smith: Support Officers.

Frank Steiner: Yes, it...

Hilary Smith: What has your role been then in this, and volunteering?

Frank Steiner: Ah, in order to keep the office open – the office has two functions, it has a front counter and behind that it serves as a base for the uniformed officers who do the rural beat. They have a kitchen there and things, so when they're in the course of their patrols which are, of course, 24 hours a day practically, that's a base, as well as a frontline office. Now the frontline office here – front office counter – front counter – is not particularly busy and it was getting rather boring sitting there reading the paper.

It does, if you – it has certain functions but, by and large, it's quiet. The volunteers come and quite often don't have much to do. That's one thing. So that's why Stephanie Higham, who you may know, who at 88 or 89 was a volunteer, gave up and said she was a waste of time, which from her point of view it was. When I – yes, there's a rule that, unless you are single and you are particularly young and virile, there's no single manning, you always have to have two volunteers in the office at the same time.

When my partner for the shift, John Neild gave up, I lost my other half and, anyway, it was – and I said, "Please could I have a reassignment?" and the reassignment was what t I was

asked to do for the local area Commander, wanted to see the local press and so instituted the press cutting service, which I took on. It means checking the LOCAL papers and their websites for references to local police matters.

It started with my going in when the office was busy because I couldn't be there by myself, understandably, taking in the local paper, such as the Guardian, the Bicester Advertiser, the Banbury Cake, clipping out of it what seemed to be – what I thought would be of relevance to Howard Stone, and sending it to his PA. Well that seemed to be a waste of time when it could be emailed with a scanner. I then expanded it a bit by taking in the correspondence columns, because he might as well know what the Great British Public think.

And so, that was my first assignment. And, eventually, I noticed on the office circular, or this circulating on the computer, that somebody at force headquarters – somehow the word press cuttings had got round – was interested in whatever and said – so gave the name of a chap in the press office so I told Rosie White, who's the coordinator, the volunteer coordinator, that I was interested in this and she got onto David Staines who then sent me an email saying he was grateful for the offer, would I come and talk, and so I now go down there and do a shift two or three times a month.

So it's a double assignment, which I can do so long as I can use the car, because from here to police headquarters by public transport really isn't on. For a start it would take me quarter of an hour to walk to the bus stop and then it's a good half a mile from the bus stop. Police force headquarters is a very large area. You've driven past it in Kidlington any number of times and it's quite – anyway, this is manageable only if I can drive myself. So, so long as I can, I'll keep it on. In the course of all these years, I've acquired the police long-service medal for volunteers.

Hilary Smith: Congratulations.

Frank Steiner: There are splendid pictures of me being presented by our Sara with the medal.

Hilary Smith: I think that's wonderful. A long career in the police.

Frank Steiner: Which I didn't start till I was over 80.

Hilary Smith: Yes, yes, so it's been a late burst of career.

Frank Steiner: A late vocation, yes.

Hilary Smith: A late vocation, yes. Frank, I think, on that note, I would like to thank you very much for contributing to our Deddington Online, the very first.

Frank Steiner: A pleasure.

Announcer: The final episode of Hilary Smith talks to Frank Steiner. Hilary will be back talking to another local resident in the near future. If you would like to be involved in 'Deddington Discussions', then please do get in touch. Drop us an email at studio@deddingtononair.org.