



The Leakey Foundation Oral History of Human Origins Research: Clifford Jolly

Interview conducted by
Bernard Wood
In 2026

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Interview: January 23, 2026

Bernard Wood (00:00:18):

... Cliff, thank you very much for doing this. We like to start, if you could let us know your... I believe you're retired, and so if you could let us know your last position, but before that, if you could let us know your full name.

Cliff Jolly (00:00:36):

Ah, okay. The name first, you say?

Bernard Wood (00:00:39):

Yes, please.

Cliff Jolly (00:00:40):

Clifford James Jolly.

Bernard Wood (00:00:43):

And your last position was?

Cliff Jolly (00:00:46):

Professor of Anthropology at NYU.

Bernard Wood (00:00:48):

Okay. Well, thank you, Cliff. Let me confess that I'm a bit of a groupie of yours, so it gives me enormous pleasure to do this. The Americans listening will understand that you and I share an accent or rather a lack of an accent. And I'm always amazed that you seem to have no sign of an American accent despite you having been in America for so long.

Cliff Jolly (00:01:18):

Well, you too. Yeah.

Bernard Wood (00:01:22):

So could you let us know, half of my family came from Essex, and I know you were born in Southend, and to let people know that Southend is on the north shore of the Thames Estuary, and it's about the closest seaside town where people can go and enjoy themselves

for people who live in North London. So could you tell us something about the Jolly family and your parents and whether you have any brothers and sisters?

Cliff Jolly (00:01:58):

Yeah, no, I don't have any brothers and sisters. My family is, I guess, what they would classify as lower middle class.

Bernard Wood (00:02:11):

What did your mom do? What did your dad do?

Cliff Jolly (00:02:15):

He was a stockbroker. I'm sorry, not a stockbroker. Stocktaker, I should say.

Bernard Wood (00:02:21):

Stocktaker.

Cliff Jolly (00:02:25):

And you are one of the few people who know exactly what that means because of your family's background in retail where taking stock is an important annual thing.

Bernard Wood (00:02:38):

Yes. And he did that for what sort of organizations or stores or?

Cliff Jolly (00:02:44):

Oh, it was hotels and pubs. Also, a couple of London clubs, which were kind of fancy.

Bernard Wood (00:02:59):

Yes.

Cliff Jolly (00:02:59):

Sometimes as a family we inherited cheese and such like things.

Bernard Wood (00:03:06):

I see. It just happened to come home.

Cliff Jolly (00:03:08):

Exactly.

Bernard Wood (00:03:11):

And so your mother, did she work?

Cliff Jolly (00:03:13):

She did until she was married and then gave it up. She was a clerical worker. But they were the first generation really... Or my mother anyway, first generation female to not work at home, not to...

Bernard Wood (00:03:32):

Right.

Cliff Jolly (00:03:33):

And the roots before that generation were in, as far as I can make out, in South London, in the docks.

Bernard Wood (00:03:44):

Oh, okay. So you were a family that moved from South to North London?

Cliff Jolly (00:03:51):

That's right. Yeah. Yeah.

Bernard Wood (00:03:52):

As a North Londoner, I was completely ignorant of South London. I had no idea.

Cliff Jolly (00:03:58):

No, exactly. Although my family was from immediately south of the river, so Southwark, in that area.

Bernard Wood (00:04:10):

Okay. Okay. So where did you go to school?

Cliff Jolly (00:04:11):

At a grammar school in Southend, Westcliffe High School, which was and is still sex segregated. And I think it was a pretty good school, actually.

Bernard Wood (00:04:29):

And were you a good scholar?

Cliff Jolly (00:04:34):

Yes, I'm afraid I was. I'm not one of those people who could say, "Oh, I never went to class." And I mean, I mostly... Yeah, in fact, I can't remember when I wasn't pretty good anyway.

Bernard Wood (00:04:48):

Okay. And so were you of the generation, you were in the fifth form and then in the sixth form. And in the sixth form, you had to decide which A levels you focused on?

Cliff Jolly (00:05:02):

Yeah. No, actually we decided in the fourth form.

Bernard Wood (00:05:05):

In the fourth form. Okay.

Cliff Jolly (00:05:06):

And I went straight from the fourth to the sixth for some reason that the headmaster knew and I didn't. But anyway, so I skipped O levels and went straight into A level classes. So I was a year younger than-

Bernard Wood (00:05:23):

But this begins to explain just how damn smart you were even at that stage, let alone now. And so what was going through your mind as to what you might do in life?

Cliff Jolly (00:05:41):

That's a very good question. I didn't really have a sort of lifetime program. I knew what I liked to do at that time, which was pretty much natural history in general, and that was from a very early age. So I just sort of thought I would take it as it comes, but steer myself towards that direction.

Bernard Wood (00:06:06):

And so when you were at school and when you were living in Southend, how did that interest in natural history express itself?

Cliff Jolly (00:06:13):

Well, it was much earlier than that. When my family was evacuated beginning of the war to Cambridge here, I used to be taken to the... I remember being taken to the market in March, Cambridge here, which-

Bernard Wood (00:06:29):

Oh, right. Yes, I know.

Cliff Jolly (00:06:31):

Seeing the pigs and the cattle and so on. So it was for some... I don't know what kindled it, but that was start of a fascination with animals. And I like to say, actually, which sounds a bit strange, but another major influence, I think, unconscious at the time was that I always read the Beatrix Potter books. And as you probably know, I'm sure you've got them as well. They have an extraordinary cast of characters which blends human with animal characteristics and is an excellent mind preparation for thinking about evolution because you've got rabbits that behave like local country people and a fox who behaves like a squire, but also like a fox, which I think is amazing that she was able to do that.

Bernard Wood (00:07:35):

Yes.

Cliff Jolly (00:07:36):

So that was amazing for us. Yeah.

Bernard Wood (00:07:38):

Okay. And so when you were thinking about, you were obviously smart enough to go to university. What universities did you and the school consider and why did you go to UCL?

Cliff Jolly (00:07:57):

Well, I guess I took an admission exam for Oxford and Cambridge and I got into Oxford, but that was for the law degree. So mercifully, I didn't go in that direction, but at that time-

Bernard Wood (00:08:18):

You u need to explain that! So you were interested in natural history, yet you applied to Oxford to do law.

Cliff Jolly (00:08:29):

I know. It's a strange and kind of naive story. We had very few visits from people when I was in the upper forms to talk about what they did, but one of them was a district officer who worked in Kenya. And when he explained what he did in his daily life, it seemed to me to involve a lot of animals and to be pretty exciting. So to join the Colonial Service, I thought I probably needed to learn some law. So that's how I went that way. Then it occurred to me later after I'd been admitted, actually, that I could short circuit the law part and go straight into looking at animals preferably in Africa. And anthropology would also combine my interest in prehistory, which was also developing at that time.

Bernard Wood (00:09:36):

And how were you developing that interest in prehistory? Because that's a pretty specialized interest for somebody in the sixth form.

Cliff Jolly (00:09:48):

Yes. It's not an A level subject in any sense. And I didn't actually... Well, I did history as an A level, but not prehistory. But I can attribute that to one history teacher who was a marvelous, marvelous character, Mr. H. Ivan Brown. He had been a... Well, I guess he also was interested in prehistory from an early age, but in the First World War, he was a prisoner of war with the Germans. When the war ended, he was released into France, and instead of going home to England immediately, he went off and excavated down in the Dordogne with a research group.

(00:10:34):

And so he brought that back to teaching in the '20s and '30s and '40s. And he had a marvelous collection of flint implements that he would allow the students to handle. He organized a trip for a few of us to go to a Roman villa up in North Essex and excavate for several weeks in the summer. So I was sort of familiar with what goes on in archeological dig long before I left high school.

Bernard Wood (00:11:13):

Okay. And so you decided not to take up Oxford's offer, but you went to UCL because of the anthropology?

Cliff Jolly (00:11:23):

Yeah, because of the anthropology. And it was sort of local in a sense.

Bernard Wood (00:11:29):

Yes, I know. I mean, it's your local university if you're in Nouth London. Well, I guess Queen Mary would also be local.

Cliff Jolly (00:11:38):

Yeah.

Bernard Wood (00:11:40):

And so you went to UCL, it was a three-year course.

Cliff Jolly (00:11:46):

Right. Yeah.

Bernard Wood (00:11:48):

You got a first class honors degree, which is no mean achievement. What was the most interesting part of the three years at UCL for you? And who was there? Who were your teachers?

Cliff Jolly (00:12:08):

Well, most of the degree was social anthropology, actually. John Middleton, Mary Douglas, Phyllis Cabery, Daryll Forde was chair of the department. And so it had a sort of African slant, West African. And on the physical side, John Middleton... I'm sorry, not John Middleton, Nigel Barnicot and Jim Garlick.

Bernard Wood (00:12:43):

Garlick went to Cambridge?

Cliff Jolly (00:12:44):

He did, yes. Yes.

Bernard Wood (00:12:45):

Okay.

Cliff Jolly (00:12:47):

I think it was just the two of them actually. And Don Brothwell came and gave...

Bernard Wood (00:12:52):

Some lectures.

Cliff Jolly (00:12:53):

... lectures. Yeah. Yeah. But most of the archeology we did in the Institute of Archeology, which I think was more independent then than it later became. The year I went Gordon Childe inconveniently and selfishly fell off a cliff or something in Australia. So I never got to have lectures from him, but...

Bernard Wood (00:13:19):

But Daryll Forde, you did?

Cliff Jolly (00:13:21):

Oh, yes.

Bernard Wood (00:13:21):

And Mary Douglas, who's a big figure in...

Cliff Jolly (00:13:25):

Yeah.

Bernard Wood (00:13:25):

And so-

Cliff Jolly (00:13:26):

And John Middleton too, I should mention because-

Bernard Wood (00:13:28):

Yes, you did. You did. And so when did you decide that instead of joining the Colonial Service, you would do a PhD? Or was the idea to do the PhD before you joined the Colonial Service?

Cliff Jolly (00:13:45):

No, the Colonial Service idea was sort of dropped before I decided to go to UCL. But unfortunately, I mean, that's fortunate for the people of Africa apart from anything else, because I would've been a terrible administrator. Terrible.

Bernard Wood (00:14:11):

Well, I'm only laughing because I'm not sure that's true, but I mean, that shows quite a lot of insight for a sort of 20-year-old or a 21-year-old.

Cliff Jolly (00:14:24):

Well, looking back on it anyway.

Bernard Wood (00:14:27):

And so when did you decide to do a PhD and when did you decide to stay at UCL to do that?

Cliff Jolly (00:14:36):

Right. Again, I was sort of drifting a bit. After the results came out, I got an offer to stay at UCL. Mary Douglas wanted me to work in cultural anthropology and Nigel Barnicot, whose field interested me a little more, argued for physical. So he took me on as his student, but at the same time, I was supervised by John Napier at the Royal Free, so had two-

Bernard Wood (00:15:12):

So you were jointly supervised by the two?

Cliff Jolly (00:15:15):

Yes. Okay.

Bernard Wood (00:15:16):

I didn't realize that. Can you paint a picture for people who never had the pleasure of knowing Nigel Barnicot? My memory of Nigel Barnicot was that he dressed like a lawyer or a barrister, and he was really kind and immensely... I mean, I did a BSC and he was around and he gave some lectures, but why don't you give us your version of Nigel Barnicot.

Cliff Jolly (00:15:48):

Yeah, so I think your picture is absolutely what I would say too. He always wore a three-piece suit, I never saw him without a tie. Well, I actually did see him without a tie when he came to Uganda to do some fieldwork while I was out there. But in London, he was always formally dressed. He was a very quiet, understated person, but with a fantastic sense of dry humor and immense patience with a graduate student who knew nothing about chemistry and was sort of fumbling through the lab procedures because-

Bernard Wood (00:16:34):

What was Nigel's background? What was his background?

Cliff Jolly (00:16:37):

It was genetics, human genetics and variation.

Bernard Wood (00:16:40):

And do you know who his mentor was?

Cliff Jolly (00:16:44):

Don't know. It slipped my mind.

Bernard Wood (00:16:46):

I was trying to think and I couldn't...

Cliff Jolly (00:16:49):

Yeah, it wasn't a figure in anthropology that-

Bernard Wood (00:16:52):

No. Okay. Okay.

Cliff Jolly (00:16:54):

Maybe Penrose maybe.

Bernard Wood (00:16:59):

Okay. Okay. And you got your BSc in the early '60s.

Cliff Jolly (00:17:13):

Something like that. No, maybe '60. [inaudible 00:17:15]. Yeah.

Bernard Wood (00:17:17):

Okay. And then my memory is that you were awarded your PhD in 1965, is that right?

Cliff Jolly (00:17:28):

That's right. Yeah, just into 1965.

Bernard Wood (00:17:31):

Okay. Yeah.

Bernard Wood (00:17:33):

Who was your external examiner?

Cliff Jolly (00:17:37):

Oh, Eric Ashton was one of them, and I'm not sure if... Oh, and Geoffrey Harrison.

Bernard Wood (00:17:51):

Right. From Oxford.

Cliff Jolly (00:17:51):

From Oxford, yes. I think it was-

Bernard Wood (00:17:52):

What was the title of the thesis? Can you remind us?

Cliff Jolly (00:17:55):

Yeah, it was too long. It was, what was it? Something like 'Adaptations and variation of the long-faced Cercopithecoidea', something like that. The evolution of the long-faced Cercopithecoidea.

Bernard Wood (00:18:12):

You were already into primates with muzzles.

Cliff Jolly (00:18:16):

Exactly. Yes. Yes.

Bernard Wood (00:18:18):

And what was the attraction? I mean, where did that idea come from? Was that your idea or John Napier's or...

Cliff Jolly (00:18:25):

It developed gradually. Nigel wanted me to work with him, but didn't have much support beyond the immediate studentship, which was, of course, what I lived on, which was fine. But that was going to run out, and I'm not sure I could have completed a PhD before it ran out. So I worked in the lab at UCL, but Nigel must have consulted with John Napier. And John Napier just received a whole bundle of Theropithecus fossils from [inaudible 00:19:04], with the hope that John would work on them, but he didn't like anything with tails really much.

(00:19:15):

So I mean, he did, but his focus was on Proconsul at that time and hominid origins and so on. So he said, "Well, I've got these drawers full of bones. See what you can make of them." So I mean, from the perspective of today, it was an amazing sort of-

Bernard Wood (00:19:39):

Just amazing.

Cliff Jolly (00:19:39):

... data to just wander through a whole fossil genus, one of the best known primate genera, actually. And so I had a wonderful time also dissecting monkeys at the Zoo.

Bernard Wood (00:19:57):

And who was at the Royal Free while you were there?

Cliff Jolly (00:20:05):

Well, Michael Day and John Napier were really the teaching [inaudible 00:20:14].

Bernard Wood (00:20:13):

What about other graduate students?

Cliff Jolly (00:20:16):

Well, it's a flexible group because I'm not sure who was actually registered there rather than at UCL, but just to list them all that I can remember, Karen Hiiemae. I'm trying to think. There weren't any other females, I don't think. Colin Groves, Alan Walker, Mike Rose.

Bernard Wood (00:20:44):

That was a pretty distinguished group of people.

Cliff Jolly (00:20:48):

Yeah. It was a very lively group.

Bernard Wood (00:20:51):

It was a lively group. And what sort of influence do you think Colin Groves had on you?

Cliff Jolly (00:20:59):

Oh, that's interesting. Well, I mean, he taught me that I didn't want to get [inaudible 00:21:10] only. And no, I mean, he was tremendous source of knowledge and scholarship on everything to do with mammals, really.

Bernard Wood (00:21:25):

I'm not sure I've ever met anybody who had as broad a knowledge as Colin.

Cliff Jolly (00:21:31):

Exactly. Yes, yes. And we sort of worked together because he was measuring antelopes down at the Powell-Cotton Museum down in Kent.

Bernard Wood (00:21:44):

I bet.

Cliff Jolly (00:21:45):

And we would go down when we had a day off together, drive down in his mother's car, go to Birchington, dig out the primates and also the antelopes, which he was, as I say, he was interested in, and do a lot of measuring. But you must be familiar with the collection and-

Bernard Wood (00:22:13):

Well, I was just going to try and persuade you to give us a pen picture of the museum because it was essentially Major Powell-Cotton's house.

Cliff Jolly (00:22:27):

Exactly. Exactly. There was a portrait of Major Powell-Cotton either rescuing one of the Natives or being rescued by one of them, I'm not sure, from a lion.

Bernard Wood (00:22:40):

I remember that well, yes.

Cliff Jolly (00:22:43):

And there were all these boxes full of specimens that had never been unwrapped since the 1930s. So that was wonderful, except that it was a constant temptation to start reading the newspapers.

Bernard Wood (00:22:58):

I know because they gave you copies of The Times to put onto the bench. These were copies of The Times. My understanding was they were delivered to Major Powell-Cotton and they were probably never opened.

Cliff Jolly (00:23:11):

Right. Yes.

Bernard Wood (00:23:12):

I remember perfectly well going down there and probably spending more time than I should have done reading the 1911, January the 14th, 1911 copy of The Times that you were-

Cliff Jolly (00:23:27):

Exactly. Yes. Yes.

Bernard Wood (00:23:29):

Oh, well, I've never met anybody else who's-

Cliff Jolly (00:23:32):

Really? Oh, okay.

Bernard Wood (00:23:33):

No.

Cliff Jolly (00:23:34):

And there was a wonderful character called Lester Barton who was-

Bernard Wood (00:23:38):

Yes. And he -

Cliff Jolly (00:23:39):

... a gamekeeper, I think, as well as a curator of the collection.

Bernard Wood (00:23:44):

Yes. And he wore a long white apron and...

Cliff Jolly (00:23:56):

Yeah, but it was a wonderful experience to be one step away from one of the old-time hunters and collectors.

Bernard Wood (00:24:05):

Yes. Yes. I mean, he brought all this stuff. I mean, I guess he shot almost everything that moved when he-

Cliff Jolly (00:24:16):

I think so.

Bernard Wood (00:24:16):

... journeyed from, I think, west to east across Africa, and he just bought everything home. In his favor, he was very careful to record wherever he shot these things.

Cliff Jolly (00:24:33):

Absolutely. Yes.

Bernard Wood (00:24:34):

And he caused them to be weighed and measured. He weighed them.

Cliff Jolly (00:24:39):

Yes.

Bernard Wood (00:24:40):

It's a wonderful record.

Cliff Jolly (00:24:42):

Oh, yes, it is. Yeah.

Bernard Wood (00:24:43):

Okay. Yeah.

Cliff Jolly (00:24:49):

So anyway, that was my interaction.

Bernard Wood (00:24:50):

So back to your colleague, Colin.

Cliff Jolly (00:24:53):

Yeah. Yeah. But also a wonderful colleague to have to run ideas by and so on.

Bernard Wood (00:25:01):

So 1965, the beginning of 1965, you defended your thesis, you had a PhD. My memory of your CV is that you worked as a research assistant or an assistant lecturer briefly. Was that right?

Cliff Jolly (00:25:19):

Yeah, both. Yeah. Yeah.

Bernard Wood (00:25:22):

Okay. And then you went to [inaudible 00:25:24].

Cliff Jolly (00:25:25):

Yeah, that was not an appointment. It was just a visit for research.

Bernard Wood (00:25:33):

And so tell us that story and tell us how you were putting food on the table if you didn't have a job.

Cliff Jolly (00:25:39):

Yeah. Well, Nigel, and... Mostly Nigel managed to get support for me from the MRC (Medical Research Council) to look at genetic variation in baboons. But if I can backpedal one step, I got interested in pbaboons because when I was working on the fossil *Theropithecus*, it occurred to Nigel and to me that you needed a living analogy, and I thought I could just go to the drawers, get all these baboons whose species was known and were well-documented and use them as an analogy to understand *Cercopithecus* or *Theropithecus*. And of course, as soon as I got into the baboons, I realized that there was no consensus about how many species there were, what the margins of the species were, what the comparative ecology of the species was, and so on.

So talking to Nigel, I'd wrote up what there was known about baboons. And then he suggested from his interest in genetics and genetic adaptation in humans that the baboons would also be interested as an analogy for human variation. So he put together this research project and said, "There's Makerere University on the map. Go there and work!"

Bernard Wood (00:27:23):

Go there. And presumably at that stage, Makerere was still very much a colonial-style university.

Cliff Jolly (00:27:32):

Yeah. David Allbrook was the head of the Anatomy Department,

Bernard Wood (00:27:38):

Yeah, that's right. Okay.

Cliff Jolly (00:27:41):

But unfortunately he left [inaudible 00:27:44]-

Bernard Wood (00:27:44):

To go to Australia.

Cliff Jolly (00:27:46):

He left for Australia the month before my family arrived and nobody knew who we were or what we were doing there and why we'd come there. He had omitted to mention to anybody that a new researcher was about to arrive. So anyway, the kindly acting chair of the department found us a very nice house just outside Kampala and a great base. And I had enough support to keep my family and myself, and a gardener and a nurse maid sort of...

Bernard Wood (00:28:41):

So were you darting these baboons?

Cliff Jolly (00:28:46):

No. The idea was that baboons were a pest and they were being shot, so I was going to go around and collect samples and skulls and so on from baboons that were being eliminated as pests. But that turned out to be too difficult to coordinate. They were not systematic culls. So although I collected a few skulls, it was clear. I tried to trap them, but I had no idea how to trap baboons and they didn't go into the traps.

But fortunately for me, for later, I met Bill Maples, who was working for the Southwest Foundation at the time, trapping great numbers of baboons around Amboseli and shipping

them back to America for medical research. So he showed me how you trapped baboons, and he also very kindly provided me with a lot of samples from the animals they were collecting. Then I also contacted someone who was catching vervet monkeys for medical research also. So that was another source of blood samples. So I got some samples, but I couldn't say the great primate genetics research program was a resounding success from that point of view.

Bernard Wood (00:30:25):

And so this was 1965, 19...

Cliff Jolly (00:30:30):

'65 to '66, yes.

Bernard Wood (00:30:31):

And then you came back?

Cliff Jolly (00:30:33):

I came back with one more child than I left with. Our son was born in Kampala during the revolution, which was kind of hairy.

Bernard Wood (00:30:48):

Yes, I can imagine. I mean, I went to Uganda after that, but the impression I got of Kampala was that it was a wonderful place. I mean, I'm not sure how many hills there are in Kampala. I think there are seven hills. I mean, it was just a wonderful place.

Cliff Jolly (00:31:10):

It was.

Bernard Wood (00:31:11):

Very productive and very verdant and you could grow anything.

Cliff Jolly (00:31:16):

Yeah. Yeah. And the anatomy department attached to Mulago was a good base. There was very interesting people doing some research that I found interesting and some that I found horrific, which some experimenters were doing things with monkeys that were really

horrible. But on the whole, the permanent staff e as opposed to visiting researchers were very collaborative and pleasant people to work with.

Bernard Wood (00:31:56):

And then you went back to UCL and my memory is that you went to New York University in 1967?

Cliff Jolly (00:32:06):

Yes.

Bernard Wood (00:32:07):

Okay. Why did you decide? I mean, that was a... Well, I guess you were already an international traveler.

Cliff Jolly (00:32:15):

Yes.

Bernard Wood (00:32:15):

You've been to Uganda. So why did you decide to go to NYU?

Cliff Jolly (00:32:26):

Well, the job situation was a little more fluid than in the UK where there just really weren't that many jobs.. I'd been at UCL in the same department as an undergraduate and a graduate student and a research assistant and an assistant professor, but the staff all saw me still as an undergraduate! So it was time to move somewhere. And it just happened at that time, John Middleton, who was now at NYU, was looking for a physical anthropologist. So he said, would I like to join us? He tried to get Jim Garlick at first, and luckily for me, perhaps when Jim didn't take him up on it. So no, I was his second choice.

Bernard Wood (00:33:31):

And so had you been to New York before you arrived prior-

Cliff Jolly (00:33:36):

Yes.

Bernard Wood (00:33:36):

... or did you just arrive with your family?

Cliff Jolly (00:33:39):

No, I just arrived, more or less. I had been through New York because the Southwest Foundation organized a conference in San Antonio a week after I arrived in Uganda. So I had a three-week boat ride to Mombasa and then a train up to Kampala. And then a week later, I flew out of Kampala, out of Entebbe, back through London to New York, and then down to San Antonio for this conference. So it was kind of strange to do, but it was an interesting conference and that colony at the Southwest Foundation for Medical Research is, of course, is still going.

Bernard Wood (00:34:24):

Yes. It's a very impressive organization. As you say, it's a longstanding organization. So who was at NYU apart from John Middleton?

Cliff Jolly (00:34:40):

Well, there was one physical anthropologist, a man whose area of interest was very different from mine. He was into modern human skeletal variation, and he didn't have a PhD. He was still teaching with an MA. So if they wanted a PhD program, they'd have to have somebody PhD. He moved on to the City University and I got the job. It was a much smaller department then, of course. It was just me. And then we hired Steve Zegura as a geneticist, which was very nice to have. But we didn't really increase in numbers immediately. I'm sure I'm forgetting somebody, but there were maybe four cultural anthropologists, two archeologists and me to begin with. Margaret Mead founded the department and kept her finger on the pulse, so to speak.

Bernard Wood (00:36:01):

I see. I see. Did she not only keep her finger on the pulse, but did she pull the strings?

Cliff Jolly (00:36:04):

Not really, no. John was successful in keeping her happy without actually doing anything he didn't want to do. So he introduced British type social anthropology really surreptitiously without calling it, without stirring up a... Because as you probably know, cultural anthropologists are very easily triggered by approaches on their turf. So it worked well. And John was expanding and building up the department at that time.

Bernard Wood (00:36:52):

Let me ask you, I mean, what intrigues me is that the paper that you published in Man in 1970 about the Seed Eating Hypothesis, if you read that... I mean, I've read that paper lots of times. It just astounds me how much information and just how you managed to weave all this information together. One is the amount of information, and the other is just how you managed to integrate it.

Cliff Jolly (00:37:38):

Well, thank you. I mean...

Bernard Wood (00:37:40):

Well, I mean, I still think it's one of the greatest papers.

Cliff Jolly (00:37:44):

Yeah.

Bernard Wood (00:37:45):

But if you read that paper carefully, it says that it's based on a talk that you gave at Yale, which I think was in 1969.

Cliff Jolly (00:38:01):

Yeah, '69.

Bernard Wood (00:38:02):

Yeah. And you thanked Colin Groves, David Pilbeam, who would've maybe invited you or did Elwyn Simons invite you? So Cliff, how did you have the chutzpah to put this enormous idea together?

Cliff Jolly (00:38:33):

I don't know. Too many bells were rung when I was working on these Theropithecus baboons. And also, I mean, my idea of fossil hominids was based on Le Gros Clark's little monograph.

Bernard Wood (00:38:53):

Yes, I think the first edition of the 'Fossil Evidence for Human Evolution' was '55, and the second edition was '64. So you and I were clearly brought up on the same...

Cliff Jolly (00:39:05):

Exactly. And the 'Antecedents of Man'.

Cliff Jolly (00:39:11):

Yeah. So it just sort of occurred to me that, well, first of all, that if the main difference between something vaguely chimpanzee-like as an ancestor and the earliest known hominids, which was the South African ones at that time, the difference between them is mostly in the jaws and teeth plus some sort of bipedalism. And if you want to know what it was that caused something vaguely chimpanzee-like to evolve into something basal hominid-like, you mostly look at teeth and jaws. And if you're looking at adaptation, teeth and jaws, the obvious place to look is diet, not tool using or... I mean, all that might be connected, but it's not what you think of first. I mean, you think of what they're eating and what did they change in their diet to cause this evolutionary change.

(00:40:16):

And with the monkeys, with the baboons, you don't have the complication of fully developed bipedalism or tool use, yet their jaws show all these parallels. And once you start thinking of it as a dietary adaptation, then other things begin to fall into place like the hand for fine manipulation and so on. So it just sort of more or less was a bolt from the blue, but stimulated by the fact that I looked at these fossil monkeys.

Bernard Wood (00:40:52):

Yes. And the fossil monkeys, as you were reminding us, got to John Napier from Louis Leakey, who'd been finding them at Olduvai and finding them at Olorgesailie. And they are much more common than hominins at these places.

Cliff Jolly (00:41:14):

Oh, yeah. Yes. Yeah.

Bernard Wood (00:41:15):

Okay. Okay. So the wisdom in that paper seems to me extraordinary for somebody who was still relatively young.

Cliff Jolly (00:41:26):

Well, maybe that was why I had the chutzpah to do it.

Bernard Wood (00:41:31):

Okay. Okay.

Cliff Jolly (00:41:32):

But it was really important that Elwyn Simons was convinced by it and he wanted to use it as support, ironically enough, for Ramapithecus.

Bernard Wood (00:41:44):

Yes. Yes, that's right.

Cliff Jolly (00:41:46):

Which wasn't really a major theme of my paper, but it's why-

Bernard Wood (00:41:50):

No, but you mentioned it.

Cliff Jolly (00:41:52):

I mentioned it. Yeah. And that's why he picked up on it and was interested in a talk about seed-eaters. Otherwise, it would've just sunk into the background, I'm sure.

Bernard Wood (00:42:03):

Right. And then in 1972, you wrote a paper for the yearbook of Physical Anthropology about human evolution.

Cliff Jolly (00:42:14):

Did I? Okay.

Bernard Wood (00:42:17):

I think it's called The Changing Views of [inaudible 00:42:22].

Cliff Jolly (00:42:21):

Oh, yes. Yes.

Bernard Wood (00:42:25):

Which was a follow-up in many ways to the 1970 paper. And then the other thing I wanted to ask you about was how you came to be the editor of the book that was based on the Wenner-Gren conference in 1974, that I think you organized.

Cliff Jolly (00:43:01):

Well, the Wenner-Gren did all the organizing.

Bernard Wood (00:43:01):

I know, but I mean, you must have been the one who gave them the idea.

Cliff Jolly (00:43:04):

Right.

Bernard Wood (00:43:05):

And did that conference, did that really emerge from the work that you'd done in the 1970 paper and in the 1972 review?

Cliff Jolly (00:43:17):

Well, I hoped that people would talk about it. I mean, there were all these people who knew a lot more about fossil hominids than I did. I hoped they would read it and at least incorporate it into the talks. That was a bit naive because everybody had their own ax to grind, and Don Johansen and Richard Leakey were grinding their axes pretty sharp at that point, so they had an argument to make. So it really didn't center on seed eating at all!

Bernard Wood (00:44:01):

A whole bunch of people must have been approaching the Wenner-Gren Foundation for support for meetings. Why do you think they supported your idea?

Cliff Jolly (00:44:20):

I don't know. Well, I know that she was convinced by the idea.

Bernard Wood (00:44:31):

The Wenner-Gren was based in New York. So had you developed links with the Wenner-Gren?

Cliff Jolly (00:44:41):

I think I'd probably reviewed a couple of proposals and yeah, I must have talked at the Wenner-Gren perhaps. I don't recall that now, but certainly I had met Lita and I knew she was sort of interested. And also her husband who was not an anthropologist, I think, but was intrigued by Africa and evolution and so on. I think he was also a factor.

Bernard Wood (00:45:19):

My memory of that meeting, I mean, I think it's the first time I'd been to a sort of 'grown-ups' meeting and God knows how I got there, but I did. That was a really important... It was an extraordinary meeting because it brought together people like Bill Bishop and Elwyn. I mean, it was a very eclectic-

Cliff Jolly (00:45:48):

It was. Yeah. Looking back on it was a remarkable group of people, certainly, to have pictures of Richard and Mary Leakey. He's sitting next to Don Johanson.

Bernard Wood (00:46:06):

Probably the only time!

Cliff Jolly (00:46:10):

Perhaps, yes.

Bernard Wood (00:46:14):

Okay. So that sort of takes us to the middle '70s. I forget when the book came out. I'm trying to-

Cliff Jolly (00:46:24):

It took a long time to get together.

Bernard Wood (00:46:26):

A long time. I've got a review here. It was reviewed in American Anthropologist by Henry McHenry in 1980, so I guess it came out in the late 1970s.

Cliff Jolly (00:46:33):

It certainly took a couple of years at least to get it in.

Bernard Wood (00:46:35):

So when did you start to focus on baboons in Africa in the Awash and why the Awash and how did your collaboration with Jane Phillips-Conroy begin? Could you tell us about that?

Cliff Jolly (00:47:08):

Well, I was interested in baboons, living baboons already from an early visit to Africa. And I knew from what Bill Maples had talked to me about that you could trap baboons, if you knew how to do it, fairly easily. And also, Hans Kummer had actually trapped some baboons in Awash and released them and then watched them later. So I knew that you could trap baboons, sample them and release them and not mess up a field site.

So Hans was happy to have... Well, he was happy, but he certainly was agreeable to having the baboons in Awash trapped, although he had people working on the behavior at the time. So I had a wonderful graduate student called Fred Brett, who was in Ethiopia for a year and organized the building of traps, transporting of traps, the trapping, the sampling, the labeling, the shipping of samples. So I mean, Fred was really the heart of that first operation in 1972, '73. But the project itself grew out of my meeting with Hans in... Was it Geneva? I guess it was. An early primate meeting anyway, either Geneva or Jurich maybe.

Anyway, it doesn't matter. But we met and he was happy to have his baboons trapped, so that was nice. Now, in 1973, I was teaching at NYU, there was quite a lot of interest in primates with the students. So I very foolishly agreed to organize a field school in Awash National Park where Fred was already working. So the students would see fieldwork in action and primates in action and so on. So I took 20 students to Awash camping in 1972 in the first of the horrible famine years that Ethiopia experienced at that time.

So everybody got sick, everybody recovered. They watched some baboons, they had an African experience, and two of the students, there was a mixture of graduates and undergraduates. Two of the graduate students were Jane Phillips-Conroy. And oh goodness, I must remember her name, otherwise I could be in trouble. Alan Walker's...

Bernard Wood (00:50:22):

Oh, Pat Shipman.

Cliff Jolly (00:50:23):

Pat Shipman. Yes.

Bernard Wood (00:50:24):

Oh, okay.

Cliff Jolly (00:50:28):

So the two of them were really the most serious graduate students there.

Bernard Wood (00:50:32):

And were they your graduate students or were they-

Cliff Jolly (00:50:36):

Yes.

Bernard Wood (00:50:36):

Okay. Okay.

Cliff Jolly (00:50:39):

Yeah. I mean, Pat was working on a project that was really Alan's project. So she worked with him, obviously.

Bernard Wood (00:50:47):

Brilliant. They were working at Fort Ternan then?

Cliff Jolly (00:50:52):

That's right. Okay. That's right. Yeah. So that was that connection. And then Jane was looking for a project too, and she'd worked on teeth before.

Bernard Wood (00:51:06):

Yes.

Cliff Jolly (00:51:07):

And so we suggested that she'd work on the tooth casts that Fred had made as part of the data collection from the baboons we trapped. So there are, I don't know, 300 or so tooth casts of Awash baboons, which were the basis of Jane's dissertation.

And then when... And the strange thing was, I think somebody, I don't know if they're at National Geographic or it must have been at Wild Kingdom, Mutual of Omaha's Wild Kingdom, approached Alison Richard about doing a field project in the field on the Awash Hybrid Zone because Hans Kummer had put out a documentary, so they thought they'd do something similar. Alison was busy in Pakistan with the Rhesus monkeys, didn't want to do it. They wanted a female protagonist. So Alison suggested Jane, who was then teaching as an adjunct at Yale, I think, or in Providence, that's right, at Brown.

So then Jane said she wasn't going to do it alone. She wasn't going to trap baboons by herself. So she suggested they asked me as well, so they did, and that's how the team was put together. So if Alison had been... Well, I mean, Alison was at the root of it, which is strange because at that time Alison and I were not in much contact because of things that were going on at NYU or about to go on at NYU.

Bernard Wood (00:53:22):

Okay.

Cliff Jolly (00:53:24):

The second wave of the baboon work started in about 1980. Meantime, I'd been going to Ethiopia anyway to look at the fossil monkeys, so working in the museum there.

Bernard Wood (00:53:55):

Before I ask you about Bodo, can I backtrack to the seed-eaters? Because somewhere in there, you talk about allometry and Zinjanthropus, and you say that there was going to be a paper that involved you and somebody called Chimene?

Cliff Jolly (00:54:29):

Yeah, Chimene. Yeah, she was a graduate student at NYU.

Bernard Wood (00:54:34):

Okay. Did that paper ever get written?

Cliff Jolly (00:54:36):

No, it was her MA thesis, and that's how it's stayed. It was really about dental proportions in the African apes.

Bernard Wood (00:54:48):

Yeah. Okay. Okay. Okay. I'm sorry. That's just...

Cliff Jolly (00:54:51):

No, you're not missing a publication.

Bernard Wood (00:54:53):

Okay. Okay.

Cliff Jolly (00:54:54):

It never made it, I'm afraid.

Bernard Wood (00:54:55):

Okay. Okay. So you've worked with Jane for decades?

Cliff Jolly (00:55:04):

For...

Bernard Wood (00:55:06):

For many decades.

Cliff Jolly (00:55:07):

Well, the field school was '82, is that right? No. No, the field school was '73, sorry. And then she was working on her dissertation stuff after that and teaching. And then the Wild Kingdom episode was '82, and so we set up the back to Awash scenario for '83, and then that's when it started, the continuous sampling there.

Bernard Wood (00:55:49):

So what's the secret of a collaboration that goes on for that long? I mean, were your roles complementary or...

Cliff Jolly (00:56:02):

Yeah, very much. I mean, well, Jane obviously, when I think about it, did more than I did because she was not only working in the field as tooth casting expert and authority on handling animals on the table. She's not afraid of handling animals up close. And also, she was bringing her expertise to dental metrics, but also ideas about physiology and anatomy and so on, derived from the fact that that's what she'd gone into, into anatomy, a teaching position. So that whole side of it, also the behavior, she had several graduate students who worked, excuse me, on the behavior of Awash baboons. So that was the side that I explicitly didn't get into directly. It was complementary, yes.

Bernard Wood (00:57:17):

Okay. Okay.

Cliff Jolly (00:57:19):

And also Jane was much more systematic in actually organizing the fact that we got to the Ethiopia, that we got our tickets and the right amount of baggage and the right number of tubes and things like that.

Bernard Wood (00:57:36):

Okay. Okay. I'm beginning to get a sense that maybe she was the organizing...

Cliff Jolly (00:57:45):

Yeah, most of it anyway.

Bernard Wood (00:57:46):

Yeah. Okay. Okay. Yeah.

Cliff Jolly (00:57:49):

Well, I mostly handled the traps and the trapping and the pre-baiting and the baiting and the tranquilizing, which nobody really liked to do very much with a pole, with a needle on the end and the baboon jumping around in the trap.

Bernard Wood (00:58:06):

No, I can understand.

Cliff Jolly (00:58:07):

Threatening to get out.

Bernard Wood (00:58:10):

Yes, yes.

Cliff Jolly (00:58:13):

So it was complementary.

Bernard Wood (00:58:16):

So you were sort of hinting when you were talking about Alison Richard about that the NYU anthropology department might've had some rather colorful episodes. Were you the Chair at the time?

Cliff Jolly (00:58:34):

No, no. No, I was never Chair.

{break}

Bernard Wood (01:00:10):

So I don't want to spend a lot of time talking about the various NYU sagas, but it can't have been easy to maintain a normal academic life while some of these dramas were going on around you.

Cliff Jolly (01:00:30):

No, it certainly was a complication, I must say. Yeah.

Bernard Wood (01:00:33):

Really?

Cliff Jolly (01:00:34):

Yeah. So I think it slowed me down quite a bit during the 19... Well, late 1970s, early '80s.

Bernard Wood (01:00:42):

Sure, sure. Because I remember, unless I'm confusing it, my memory is that John Buettner-Janush organized a reception for the conference in 1974.

Cliff Jolly (01:01:06):

Yes, that's right. That's right. Yeah.

Bernard Wood (01:01:09):

I remember being in his rather impressive apartment in Washington Square and having a view of the Empire State Building.

Cliff Jolly (01:01:27):

I mean, in a flamboyant kind of way, he was very generous with that sort of thing.

Bernard Wood (01:01:31):

Yes, yes, yes. And his books, I mean, certainly when I was a student, I think there was a two volume book about primates and what have you. I think I still have it in my library somewhere.

Cliff Jolly (01:01:49):

Yeah.

Bernard Wood (01:01:51):

So just to think back on your career, are there any regrets or are there... Well, let's just talk about Bodo for a moment. How did you get involved in Bodo?

Cliff Jolly (01:02:05):

Well, to go back to early days in Ethiopia, I guess it was the year of the field school. We had a visit from a young man who was driving through Awash National Park on his way to the fossil fields in the middle Awash called John Kalb. And John was interested in what we were doing with the monkeys, the baboons. And he said, "Oh, you know about monkeys. We've got a lot of fossil monkeys from the Middle Awash. Do you want to have a go at them?" So that's how I got involved with that.

Bernard Wood (01:02:58):

I see.

Cliff Jolly (01:02:58):

So I said, "Yes, I'd be pleased to look at them." So I spent some time in the museum and also got some support to go back other years to look at them. And I took along with me a young colleague called Glenn Conroy. I said, "I'm going to look at the monkeys. Do you want to look at any hominids or putative hominids that come out of it?" And of course, Glenn was keen to do that. And on that, it was that season that they found Bodo. Paul Whitehead actually I think was the discoverer of it, but it was John Kalb's expedition that found Bodo.

Bernard Wood (01:03:51):

And can I just interrupt? What was your relationship with Glenn? Was he a student?

Cliff Jolly (01:04:01):

No, he was a junior colleague.

Bernard Wood (01:04:04):

Oh, right. Okay.

Cliff Jolly (01:04:05):

He was teaching.

Bernard Wood (01:04:07):

Oh, yes, of course. I'm sorry. I'm sorry.

Cliff Jolly (01:04:09):

At NYU. Yeah.

Bernard Wood (01:04:10):

Yeah. I apologize to Glenn if he ever-

Cliff Jolly (01:04:12):

No. And then of course he moved to, well, to St. Louis eventually. That's where he and Jane ended up. They just celebrated their, goodness, 50th wedding anniversary, something like that. Is it? Yeah, it must be. 50.

Bernard Wood (01:04:38):

Yeah. So just to go back, thinking about careers, is there anything that you wish you had done that you didn't? And is there anything that you did do you wish you hadn't?

Cliff Jolly (01:04:53):

Not much of the second category, but no, I do wish I'd published more results of field expeditions and particularly the fossil monkeys. I sort of let that drop.

Bernard Wood (01:05:16):

Was that ever taken over by anybody else? Eric?

Cliff Jolly (01:05:19):

Yeah. Yeah. What's his name? Frost.

Bernard Wood (01:05:27):

Oh, Steve Frost. Yes.

Cliff Jolly (01:05:28):

Steve Frost. Yeah. And Eric Nelson's been involved with it too.

Bernard Wood (01:05:31):

Okay.

Cliff Jolly (01:05:34):

And Eric knows I'm still interested in fossil monkeys, so we always have a chat about the latest things from Europe and so on. So I wish I'd published that stuff when I first did it because I did a lot of drawings and analysis and measurements, and then it dropped.

Bernard Wood (01:05:56):

And it dropped because you were doing things in which you were even more interested or...

Cliff Jolly (01:06:05):

No, not really. Just who was asking more insistently that I produced things.

Bernard Wood (01:06:14):

Yeah. So I think people don't really understand that one's career is very much governed by the people who are persistent.

Cliff Jolly (01:06:22):

Yeah. Yeah, exactly. And particularly publishers of textbooks. I had several editions of my textbook that I wrote with a couple of archeologists.

Bernard Wood (01:06:38):

And what was the genesis of that? How did that come about?

Cliff Jolly (01:06:43):

Again, it illustrates how overpassive I've been in my career. Somebody asked me to do it from the publisher from Knopf at that time, and I said, "Sure, yes, I'll have a go at it." It was a time when there were a lot of big publishers moving into publishing academic books and books for college consumption, so everybody wanted one. And I suppose they probably went to someone who was in New York just for as much as anything convenience because their office was here.

Bernard Wood (01:07:25):

And so you were the organizer for that?

Cliff Jolly (01:07:31):

No, they had in house organizers.

Bernard Wood (01:07:34):

Yeah, but you were...

Cliff Jolly (01:07:36):

Getting the actual text together. Yeah. Yeah. Plus two different archeologists. The second one was Randy White, who I did the last two editions with, and then Fred Plog, the first edition. So it was quite successful in its day. And then lots of others came out and eventually everybody started all this web stuff, so I didn't get into that.

Bernard Wood (01:08:09):

All this web stuff is probably, you and I have... Well, you have more excuse to call it all this web stuff than me because you are a little older than I am. So did you find-

Cliff Jolly (01:08:24):

Really, it's the-

Bernard Wood (01:08:25):

... the writing of the textbook, was it something that came easily to you? Because it struck me rereading it just how well-written it was.

Cliff Jolly (01:08:36):

Oh, thank you. Yeah, no, the writing is something that I like to do, particularly if somebody else has produced a first draft and I can go through and pick at it. So no, I did find the writing fairly easy.

Bernard Wood (01:08:57):

And where did that come from? I mean, was writing always something that you enjoyed doing or?

Cliff Jolly (01:09:03):

Yeah. Yeah.

Bernard Wood (01:09:04):

Okay.

Cliff Jolly (01:09:05): Yes, it was. I remember when I was about 10, I think, or maybe a little earlier, I wrote a book on the care and feeding of the common newt.

Bernard Wood (01:09:22):

Sorry to laugh, but it sounds like a sort of Monty Python sketch.

Cliff Jolly (01:09:27):

Yes. I don't know if you ever kept newts, but they're certainly-

Bernard Wood (01:09:30):

I certainly did. And you wait for their little limbs to appear and...

Cliff Jolly (01:09:36):

Exactly. Yeah.

Bernard Wood (01:09:38):

Yeah.

Cliff Jolly (01:09:38):

So anyway, so I enjoyed... Well, I think it's from being exposed to a lot of books early in life, a lot of reading to me, and books that weren't oversimplified for the young, things like Beatrix Potter, which used normal adult words to describe things. I think that was really important.

Bernard Wood (01:10:06):

Right. What sort of influence did your parents have? I mean, you like me were an only child, and it seems to me it's a bit of a lottery. If your parents are good, then that's great. If your parents are not so good, it's maybe not so great. So what was the influence of your parents do you think, and what would they think now of this distinguished...

Cliff Jolly (01:10:34):

They would be very pleased. They were very supportive. Maybe some people would say too supportive in the sense that I tended to get everything I asked for. And always when you're a teenager or whatever, what you ask for is not reasonable or what you would ask for if

you're an adult. But no, my parents were both very supportive. My father was away in the army for four years, I suppose, of my early years, except for coming home on leave, which was always fun.

Bernard Wood (01:11:20):

And this is when you were in March?

Cliff Jolly (01:11:22):

Well, for there, because he was working for a searchlight group in Norfolk, so it was closer. And then we moved back to Southend in the latter part of the war. We were not in... I don't know why quite we were evacuated to Cambridge, which was not far from the front as wars go. But anyway, no, my parents, my father was always ready to construct a box, a home for newts or a pond in the garden or whatever and fed my tree frogs when I was away and generally was supportive and my mother too. So yeah, I mean, in fact, one of the things I did a lot of when I was just before college, sixth form and fifth form years was badger watching. I would spend late evening and early part of the night watching badgers or waiting for badgers to appear. So it was that kind of amateur natural history actually that was my most instructive thing.

Bernard Wood (01:12:52):

So by the time you got to university and natural history was something that you were familiar with and...

Cliff Jolly (01:13:02):

Absolutely, yes.

Bernard Wood (01:13:03):

... had taken part in. Right.

Cliff Jolly (01:13:06):

Yeah, because I remember my headmaster who was also generally supportive but a fairly formidable character was not happy that I didn't go to Oxford because he was an Oxford man himself. Turning down Oxford was not something that he approved of. And also he was a devout Anglican. We had not just the prescribed prayers every morning, but most of the things that Anglicans say in the morning, which I'm not sure, which he would recite. And so he wasn't all that pleased with me not going to church. He said, "That's where your social

life should lie." And I said, "Well, I do go to the Natural History Society, which I'm [inaudible 01:14:10]."

Bernard Wood (01:14:09):

I see. I see.

Cliff Jolly (01:14:09):

He says, "Oh, that's your church, is it?" So I said, "Yes, more or less." Yeah. But he was okay. I mean, he wasn't vindictive about it at all. He just wanted me to be an Oxford Anglican.

Bernard Wood (01:14:28):

I see. So yes, I can understand that. And also, I mean, I know Westcliffe Grammar was a good school, but there can't have been many people who got accepted into Oxford and then said no.

Cliff Jolly (01:14:43):

No, I don't think so. Yeah.

Bernard Wood (01:14:47):

So I remember because my grandparents used to take me to Westcliffe and to the cockle sheds at Leigh-on-Sea, which is always a great treat. I don't know. Were you a cockle and welk person?

Cliff Jolly (01:15:09):

Yes. I still like that kind of thing.

Bernard Wood (01:15:12):

Yes, I did.

Cliff Jolly (01:15:16):

But yeah, no, of course the seafront was an enormous draw right from about 10 or so onwards, puddling around in rock pools and looking at crabs. And also the marshes for birds was a great attraction. So for instance, when most people asked for a bicycle when they passed their 11 plus, I asked for binoculars.

Bernard Wood (01:15:55):

A pair of binoculars!

Cliff Jolly (01:15:56):

Yes, which I got. Yes. Yeah.

Bernard Wood (01:16:02):

So Cliff, is there anything that you would like to talk about that I haven't asked? I mean, there's lots of things about your career I haven't asked you about. Is there anything that you would like to talk about?

Cliff Jolly (01:16:17):

No, I don't think so. I would sort of emphasize, looking back, how important the supportive family was and how our family had... I mean, I'm sure they regarded us coming up in the world from dock workers through small entrepreneurs to white collar work and having... Myself and my cousins were the first to go to... Well, really to have any secondary education beyond 14 or so. So that's more impressive now to me, having gone through something of it.

Bernard Wood (01:17:14):

Right.

Cliff Jolly (01:17:18):

No, I think I hope I've conveyed my gratitude to everybody who I've worked with too, those who have been students and those have been colleagues and so on. It's tremendously important.

Bernard Wood (01:17:39):

Well, I think you have, and I think you have emphasized that, that how reliant one is on people who sort of help and not only help, but actually in many ways are the stimulus for things that-

Cliff Jolly (01:17:59):

Right. I should mention Vernon Reynolds, who I was an undergraduate with, a contemporary. We shared a room in Camden Town, which was in itself an education because the house we lived in, a multi-story Victorian house, had no running water except

a tap in the hall, no hot water at all except what you heated on your gas stove or your paraffin stove. We survived and it was a worthwhile experience, which I think a lot of undergraduates today should have. Especially those who complain about the second television set in their room not working properly or whatever.

Bernard Wood (01:19:06):

So we should explain to people that Camden Town is not that far from London Zoo, but is a very different-

Cliff Jolly (01:19:12):

Absolutely.

Bernard Wood (01:19:14):

There's a real difference between Regents Park and Camden Town!

Cliff Jolly (01:19:17):

Oh, yeah. Yeah. Camden Town was really developed by laborers who came over to work on, mostly from Ireland, to work on the railway within striking distance of Euston and Kings Cross. It was definitely a roughish area.

Bernard Wood (01:19:41):

Yes, yes. I mean, it's been gentrified since, but I can get a real sense of what you were saying about the accommodation. Really, I just want to emphasize how grateful I am that you've agreed to do this. You are sort of an academic hero of mine, so it's-

Cliff Jolly (01:20:05):

Oh, that's very nice of you.

Bernard Wood (01:20:09):

So it's a special pleasure. And I just want to say thank you, Cliff, and many more years of thinking about the baboons and what have you.

Cliff Jolly (01:20:22):

Well, thank you for organizing it all and thinking of the last survivor of my generation, which is a horrible thought, but...

Bernard Wood (01:20:33):

No, but it's good to catch you.

Cliff Jolly (01:20:35):

Yeah.

Bernard Wood (01:20:35):

Okay.

Cliff Jolly (01:20:39):

Well, thank you very much for everything.

Bernard Wood (01:20:42):

Okay. Thank you, Cliff.

Cliff Jolly (01:20:44):

Thanks for being a great colleague too, Bernard, over the years.

Bernard Wood (01:20:47):

Okay. Thank you.

Cliff Jolly (01:20:48):

Take care.