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**Oral History Project
Interview Transcript**

**Helen Goddard
Interviewed by Linda G. Arntzenius
February 2, 2016**

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Date: 2 February 2016

Linda Arntzenius: First of all, I'm going to say a few things for the record. I am here at the Institute for Advanced Study, on February 2, 2016, to record an interview with Helen Goddard. As you know, Helen, the focus of the interview is the Institute for Advanced Study and your experience of it, as the wife of Peter Goddard¹, who directed the Institute from 2004 until 2012, and subsequently as a faculty spouse, and before that, as a member spouse. So, given your long acquaintance with the Institute and having observed the scholarly endeavor from several different vantage points, I think we have a bit of ground to cover.

But first, if I may, I'd like to ask you a few questions about yourself, before you came to Princeton and to the Institute. So, would you begin by telling me a little bit about where you grew up, what your parents did for a living, and your own academic background and profession?

Helen Goddard: Okay. I grew up in England in a place called, Reigate, which was a market town at the foot of the North Downs, Downs being hills and not down. My father commuted into London. He was a chemical engineer and worked for the Electricity Board. My mother graduated from university in botany.

She worked as a secretary, as women did in those days. That's how she met my father. And when she had children, I think, perhaps as soon as she married, she stopped working and she was a housewife. She was concerned about this and did think about going back to work but found it a little bit too scary.

She was an artist, really. I mean, she could draw and paint nicely and loved flowers and gardening. So those are my parents. I had two older brothers. I went to the little school down the road, which was a private school, and kicked boys out when they reached the age of 8. And then I took, what was then known as the 11 plus, which is an examination to get you into a grammar school--which I passed, and went to the local grammar school, which is not private.

And from there, I took the exam, which you had to do in those days, in order to get into either Oxford or Cambridge. I went to Cambridge, and I studied geography for three years.

Linda Arntzenius: Why did you choose geography and not botany, because you obviously have a feel for it?

¹ Peter Goddard (1945-), Member in the School of Natural Sciences, 1972-1974; Member in the School of Mathematics, 1988; IAS Director, 2004-2012; Professor in the School of Natural Sciences, 2012-2016; Emeritus Professor, 2016-.

Helen Goddard: Oh, no. I have no scientific--I dropped--well, I never really did physics. I took biology, it was called. My father entered me for A levels--the advanced level exam, in zoology, botany, and I forget the third [science]. I had my first--I forget whether it was zoology or botany--lesson, and I said: this is not for me.

I went around to the teachers and said: what can I do? And I ended up doing French, geography, and history. I got my top grade in history, having failed it at the ordinary level exam. I think I was the only child to fail it, so I don't know what I did, and I got a grade A in the A level.

But geography was my love, probably because of the teachers. So I went on to read geography at university. And there, because of my lack of science, I couldn't do the physical geography side. The first year was general, and we all did everything, but after that, I had to drop that because I needed physics. I needed chemistry, and I didn't have it.

So there we are. Peter I met through a mutual friend. Well, no. It wasn't a *mutual* friend. It was someone I knew, and she knew a friend of Peter's. Peter was running War on Want lunches. So twice a week in his rooms, in Trinity College--the colleges were not mixed then, he was in an all male college and I was at Newnham, which is a female college--he ran these bread and cheese lunches to raise money for people in South Africa. South Africa was all a big thing [in the 1960s and] 1970s.

Linda Arntzenius: So the students would come to the lunch, pay so much, and that money would go to the War on Want?

Helen Goddard: Yes. That's right. And of course, we would not buy apples from South Africa or such things. That was what one did.

Linda Arntzenius: This must have been in the...

Helen Goddard: The late '60s.

Linda Arntzenius: The late '60s.

Helen Goddard: It was '65 to '68 I was up [at Cambridge]. And Peter was--he's a year older than me, but he was maybe three years in advance because he skipped a year and then he didn't take a gap year. I took a gap year. Maybe it was two years. Anyway, that's how we met.

He took me into lunch in Trinity College when Trinity opened its doors to allow women to cross the threshold and eat lunch. No more than that.

Linda Arntzenius: So this was a big thing.

Helen Goddard: It was a big thing. My friend, who introduced me, and Peter's friend, and Peter, and myself--we went in for lunch, and it progressed from there. We got married as soon as I graduated, in August of the year I graduated--it just kind of happened. It meant I had no life when I had to fend for myself, you know--find a place to live *by myself*.

Linda Arntzenius: But you had had a gap year or two gap years. What did you do in those years?

Helen Goddard: I came to the United States.

Linda Arntzenius: What did you do in the United States?

Helen Goddard: I went to Boston as a mother's help. And, interestingly, the people--it was Professor Stanley Deser²--he is a physicist, which is what Peter became. Peter was a mathematician when I met him at college. He was an applied mathematician that slid into physics. I can't tell the difference myself.

Anyway, it was a nice family with four little girls. They already had a home help who was Danish, and they had a background of Danish, and Swedish, and Polish I think. My father knew Herman Bondi, who was a famous physicist and had lived near us in Reigate. So he had the contact with Stanley Deser. And I said, I want to come over for six months. And he said, well yes, it would be good for the home help who was from Denmark and wasn't speaking much English, to have an English girl come over.

So I did that for six months. And then my father had enormous fun arranging a trip for me right across the States.

Linda Arntzenius: Not on your own?

Helen Goddard: Yes. On my own. So I went up via various places to Chicago. Then I went right across through to Yosemite National Park, onto San Francisco, and then to Los Angeles, and then to Houston, Texas, and then to the Tennessee Valley Authority, and then I came home on a big ship from Montreal.

² Stanley Deser (1931-), Member in the School of Mathematics and Natural Sciences, 1953-1955; Member in the School of Natural Sciences, 1993-1994.

Linda Arntzenius: How did you travel?

Helen Goddard: It varied--Greyhound Bus, plane, train across the Rockies.

Linda Arntzenius: So you really saw the continent.

Helen Goddard: I did, and I'm still using some of the photographs I took in my geography teaching. It was just a tremendous experience. So I had a nice feel about the United States, and we came several times as a family.

Linda Arntzenius: Right. So did you have children quite young?

Helen Goddard: No. I was the oldest person in the hospital. For those days it wasn't young. These days, it's young.

Linda Arntzenius: Was it early in your marriage?

Helen Goddard: After four years. Yes. I was about 28, 27, or 29.

Linda Arntzenius: That's quite young. *[Laughter]*

Helen Goddard: Yes. These days that is young but it wasn't then.

Linda Arntzenius: Isn't it amazing how things have changed?

Helen Goddard: Yes.

Linda Arntzenius: I wanted to ask you, again, it's something I wanted to ask you before I forgot. You mentioned to me before [at an earlier unrecorded interview] having a facial recognition problem, and I wondered how that had affected you throughout your career?

Helen Goddard: I don't know whether it has stopped me from doing anything, so it's not affected me that way. I don't stop meeting people as a result, but I do easily feel very confused by people, and it's the reason I don't often watch films. If you take *Downton Abbey*--people in the future won't know *Downton Abbey*--but at the moment, there are two of the main characters, Bates and the butler, I couldn't tell the difference. And they are totally different. I had to stop watching because I got so confused with the characters. So I don't tend to watch films because I don't recognize the people in them. But otherwise, it just makes me--I don't know--feel a bit awkward because I don't know who I'm talking to.

And sometimes I just admit that I've got no idea who it is. I mean it would be a problem if I was blind. It is, in a sense, a form of

blindness. Some people I do pick up straightaway. I don't have this condition very severely, not like some people do, who sometimes don't even recognize their own wife.

Linda Arntzenius: How did you discover it, if I may ask? Is it something you always knew you had?

Helen Goddard: Well, I think so, yes, because I don't recognize people. I don't know who people are. And it's not a question of not remembering the name. I'm as good or bad as anybody else with *names*. But if you don't know who the person is, you don't know which name to attach to this person, so. *[Laughter]*

Linda Arntzenius: Let's move on to the Institute. I want to bring you to your first visit, but first, what, if anything, did you know about the Institute before your first visit?

Helen Goddard: I don't recall knowing anything about it. We had come over to the States for a conference, or at least a summer school, in Aspen. And then we went to San Francisco, to the place that's next to San Francisco [U.C. Berkeley].

Anyway, it's the place that's next to/just across the bridge from San Francisco with a big university, and Peter was there³, I think, for six weeks. And then we came on to the Institute. I hadn't really thought about it because we were moving anyway.

Peter was in Durham as a full-time lecturer there. And he got a position at Cambridge, and so we were going to come to the Institute for a year. But Cambridge wouldn't let him, so we only had the one term. We were going to be moving from Durham to Cambridge anyway.

I don't recall having any conversations about it, it was just exciting. And we had a baby, so she came too.

Linda Arntzenius: Did you live in the member housing while you were here?

Helen Goddard: We did. And the member housing was wonderfully convenient. There were things going on. The craft group is the only one I actually remember. So I made the set of Winnie the Pooh animals, two of which I still have, Pooh Bear and Piglet, and so it was a nice, fun group.

Linda Arntzenius: Who was running that, may I ask?

³ U.C. Berkeley.

Helen Goddard: I have no idea.

Linda Arntzenius: I think it was Charlotte Langlands in those days.

Helen Goddard: You know, I don't remember. It could have been. She was very involved. Peter tells me – and I had forgotten this – that I also went to some cooking classes, Indian cooking, in which Lily Harish-Chandra might have been involved, or it might have been some other Indian lady. I have no recollection of that, but he says I did.

Linda Arntzenius: At that time, the time of your visit, Carl Kaysen⁴ was the director. Do you remember meeting him at all?

Helen Goddard: No. I'm sure I never went to the house⁵. I don't think we met. I don't think members and their spouses were invited up to the house, so I don't remember. I do remember Peter going off to some big house for a dinner, but spouses were not included.

Linda Arntzenius: Changed days.

Helen Goddard: Yes. I might have had difficulty going anyway because of [our daughter] Linda⁶, who had her first birthday at the Institute. I remember there was a--what do you call it--pumpkins.

Linda Arntzenius: Halloween?

Helen Goddard: There was a Halloween party. It was a fancy dress party, and I assumed I had to dress Linda in something. She wasn't walking at that stage. I couldn't think of anything original to do and I don't like buying costumes, I think that's a waste of money. So in the end, I dressed her as a pumpkin. I felt they'll all go as pumpkins. She'll be one amongst 10 or 20 pumpkins. So I had a little orange suit. And she was a pretty tubby baby who sat, so she was a nice round shape. And I had a little hat with a green stalk.

She was the only pumpkin. People didn't go dressed as pumpkins. They'd go dressed as fairies, or dragons, or characters, and princesses. I don't know that. So she won a prize for originality.
[Laughter]

Linda Arntzenius: How extraordinary. [Laughter]

⁴ Carl Kaysen (1920-2010), IAS Director, 1966-1976.

⁵ The Director's residence, Olden Farm.

⁶ Linda Jane Goddard, Member in the School of Historical Studies, 2014-2015; Visitor, 2016.

Helen Goddard: Yes. The thing is, I had nice memories. I remembered also the laundry room, which was a good place to meet people. And it's one of the reasons that it's kept. It's much more convenient to have the laundry in your house, going out to do the laundry is a nuisance but it gets you out of your house, randomly meeting other people. And there's all the notices in the laundry. Of course, it's also easier for the Institute to have all the machines [in one place] for repairing. That is a factor. But I think also, it is an important social activity, so I did that.

Linda Arntzenius: Yes, because people could be quite isolated.

Helen Goddard: Very isolated, especially with small children, yes. So that I thought was good--the activities. I just remembered the toy making with those activities. And the other thing I remember that I really liked, from Linda--the baby's point of view--the windows came right down to the ground, maybe a foot off the ground. But it meant a baby, a crawling baby could see out, so she could watch the squirrels. It was a very great experience, and I'm afraid that's all I remember of it.

Linda Arntzenius: Well, Peter was a member again in 1988. That's a good, long while later. I imagine Linda was much older then and perhaps had a brother?

Helen Goddard: Yes. That's right.

Linda Arntzenius: So did you come [with Peter to the Institute]?

Helen Goddard: No we didn't because it was only one term, and they were at a fairly crucial stage at school. When was that, '88?

Linda Arntzenius: '88, yes.

Helen Goddard: So '75 that's when my son was born and '88. So he was 13. Yes. They were doing things in school, Linda in particular, so I didn't come at that time.

Linda Arntzenius: Alright. And you were in Cambridge then?

Helen Goddard: Yes.

Linda Arntzenius: What was Peter's job, and what was your job – apart from raising children [*Laughter*]?

Helen Goddard: Well, Peter was a fellow in St. John's College. He was a Trinity man, but he got his fellowship at St. John's. And he fairly quickly got involved. He became senior tutor, and other activities in the administrative line. Otherwise, he was a lecturer. He was particularly involved with setting up the Newton Institute. He really spearheaded that. And it's built on land that came from St. John's College. So that was a wonderful experience and very exciting--and he was a tutor.

Linda Arntzenius: He had a lot to do. Were you working outside the home at this point?

Helen Goddard: Yes. Well, sort of outside of the home. When we got married, I hadn't really given my future any thought. I knew it was going to be with Peter, so I guess perhaps I didn't think too clearly about it, and you're concentrating on your exams, and the wedding. So really, the only thing I could think that I could do was to teach. It was one thing I said I'd never, ever do.

Linda Arntzenius: Why did you say you'd never teach?

Helen Goddard: I didn't like the kind of circular idea of it, you know. You go to school and you learn, and you continue at college, and then you regurgitate what you know. It didn't seem like any kind of adventure. But it was flexible, and the holidays fitted in with university life.

Linda Arntzenius: And having children.

Helen Goddard: And, indeed, having children. Although at that point, we weren't particularly thinking of having children. And it was something that I could do. In those days, if you taught in a secondary school, which is age 11 upwards, you didn't have to have the training to teach, if you were teaching an academic subject.

That was [*Laughter*] that was not a good idea because I went from having been to this girls' private school for young children, and then a grammar school for girls, a girls' college, admittedly in a mixed university, and I'd only ever mixed with children really from [a] middle-class background.

The grammar school was different, but they were bright children. And the university was different, but again, everybody's bright. I came across children I didn't even know existed in the school. The school had eight streams.

Linda Arntzenius: Could you just explain that a little bit before we go further?

Helen Goddard: Yes. There were eight classes of the same age group, and they were divided up according to ability. The lowest class, stream eight, really needed specialized help. I quickly discovered they really couldn't read and write. Class stream seven were bored. They weren't interested, and they played around, and I had them for a double period, on a Friday afternoon.

Linda Arntzenius: Probably the worst day of the week, they would be anxious to get away.

Helen Goddard: Yes. And I was young and not particularly tall with a fairly quiet voice. I didn't really have much control over these kids.

Linda Arntzenius: Gosh, so you were dropped in at the deep end.

Helen Goddard: Oh, yes, because when a new, young teacher comes, the staff there are not going to give up their best classes. So I didn't do much of the exam teaching.

Linda Arntzenius: And where was this.

Helen Goddard: It was in Saffron Walden which was a county town about a half an hour's drive south of Cambridge. So I did two years there and then, fortunately, Peter got a position at CERN⁷ for two years, in Geneva.

Linda Arntzenius: Ah, you went to Switzerland?

Helen Goddard: I went to Switzerland, yes.

Linda Arntzenius: What a relief.

Helen Goddard: That was, and we still didn't have children at that stage. So there, of course, I had to find stuff to occupy myself, yes.

Linda Arntzenius: So let's move to later on, in both of your careers. Peter gets an offer to take up a position as director of the Institute for Advanced Study. I have to backtrack a little bit again. Is it something you had ever imagined would happen?

Helen Goddard: No. Peter might have done, but I don't think he was thinking along those lines at all.

Linda Arntzenius: Right. Did it sort of come out of the blue?

⁷ CERN (*Conseil Européen pour la Recherche Nucléaire*), the European Organization for Nuclear Research.

Helen Goddard: Yes. It came at a very fortunate time because Peter felt that 10 years was enough in really any position with that kind of responsibility, and he had already decided on possibly giving in his notice as the Master of St. John's College, which is what he had become.

So we had been living in this beautiful, big house in St. John's College, and doing a lot of entertaining, for 10 years, or almost. Maybe it was nine or nine and a bit. Then he had the phone call from the Institute. And it seemed like something really quite refreshing, and something to do, and get him completely away from Cambridge University so he wouldn't be constantly being asked his advice, and so on.

So I think he, after some thought and consideration, was happy to consider it and, indeed, to take it up. I was a little bit less keen. I did have good memories of the Institute, and it was on the East Coast and not the West coast, which made it easier for getting back to the U.K. And I'm not a California type--the outside, and the sunshine, and lack of really marked seasons, and the dryness--it's not for me.

So all of that was in its favor, but you know, I was enjoying teaching at this stage. I was teaching in a small six form college, which means just the 16 to 18 year olds--small classes. I was the head of geography there in a small way, very small, with probably just one other person.

Linda Arntzenius: But a very nice niche?

Helen Goddard: Yes. It was a nice niche, so it took me a little while to adjust. But after a while, yes, I was growing used to the idea and was happy to come. We were invited over. I had to cut short a short holiday I was spending with a friend in the South of France during my half term, I think it was. So I had to cut it short to fly out to New York. I don't think we quite knew whether they were trying to persuade us to come, or whether they were trying to make up their minds whether they wanted us. It was that kind of position. But anyway, we were treated very well. I was looked after while Peter was being shown everything.

Linda Arntzenius: Tell me a little bit about that. Who did you meet and how did they woo you, so to speak?

Helen Goddard: Yes. Rachel Gray was delegated to look after me. She was the associate director at that point. I was actually running a temperature. I was beginning a nasty cold. So the first thing we did was to visit the pharmacy, which, looking back on it, I think it must

have been McCaffrey's but I'm not sure. But anyway, she took me to visit a couple of schools – the Stuart School, I think.

Linda Arntzenius: Why. Were you thinking of teaching?

Helen Goddard: Well because I'm just interested in that area. They knew I was a teacher, so they thought, what could they do to make me feel comfortable. So that was very interesting. I can't remember the schools, so let's not go into that – two schools. And then it was also the weekend of the mid-winter party. So we went to that. It was very dark, and we were sitting up in the coffee lounge area, at this big table. And I remember sitting next to Jim Barbour, a very dear man.

Linda Arntzenius: Oh yes. A very nice man.

Helen Goddard: I'm very, very fond of Jim. He's retired now, but he was the head of maintenance then.

Linda Arntzenius: Facilities.

Helen Goddard: Facilities, yes. Yes, I was well looked after. People were very friendly, so I felt encouraged that, if Peter was offered it, happy to accept, yes. Oh and we were shown--yes of course--the current director then was Phillip Griffiths⁸ and his wife.

Linda Arntzenius: Taffy.

Helen Goddard: Yes, Taffy. So we had Sunday lunch there.

Linda Arntzenius: Very nice. Where did you have Sunday lunch?

Helen Goddard: In the lodge. Not the lodge. That's what they called it in Cambridge. In the director's house at Olden Farm. So we saw Olden Farm as it was. It hadn't been redone and really, I mean, the oven door, apparently, Ralph, who is the gardener and the general handyman and everything--would sometimes have to prop the door of the oven with a stick, or stand there holding it shut. There was no doubt that it needed refurbishment.

Linda Arntzenius: Didn't that give you pause for thought?

Helen Goddard: No. I thought it was quite exciting. *[Laughter]*

Linda Arntzenius: So you knew what you were getting into with the accommodation at least.

⁸ Phillip Griffiths (1938-), Member in the School of Mathematics, 1968-1970; Visitor, 1981-1982; IAS Director, 1991-2003; Professor, 2004-2009; Emeritus Professor, 2009-.

- Helen Goddard:* Yes. But it was a beautiful house.
- Linda Arntzenius:* Yes. And a gorgeous location,
- Helen Goddard:* We were offered that we could, instead, go to...
- Linda Arntzenius:* Marquand?
- Helen Goddard:* Marquand House, yes. But we thought that-it was off campus-a bit far. We'd have been a bit isolated, difficult for people to come up to the house, so we thought Olden Farm was beautiful.
- Linda Arntzenius:* And charming?
- Helen Goddard:* Yes.
- Linda Arntzenius:* Such a wonderful position with respect to Fuld Hall.
- Helen Goddard:* Yes. Just that gentle amble down through the avenue of trees.
- Linda Arntzenius:* Actually, I half expected you to bring some sheep. *[Laughter]*
- Helen Goddard:* Yes. I certainly thought about that. It would have been a real meadow then. Yes, but they may have wandered onto the road.
- Linda Arntzenius:* Yes, indeed. Could you say--was there any particular *deciding* factor that tipped you towards coming?
- Helen Goddard:* No. Peter clearly wanted to go, and I'm happy to follow him around. I've not had my own conflicting career, so there really wasn't any doubt about it. And it began to be really quite exciting.
- Linda Arntzenius:* What did you expect would be your role as the director's wife?
- Helen Goddard:* Well I had had a similar role, you see, in the college. We did a lot of entertaining. We did quite a few new things. I got involved with some of the spouses, particularly the older ones, whom I called the Merry Widows, because several of these people, their husbands had died, but they were still invited to various functions. And I've kept up with them. So I still meet up with the Merry Widows when I go back in Cambridge.
- Linda Arntzenius:* That's wonderful.
- Helen Goddard:* I had a lot to do with the students, of course, which you don't get here because they don't have students at the Institute. They are all

older, post-docs. So I had had that experience. The difference was, in Cambridge, I was still teaching full-time; whereas, here I was jobless.

And the other difference was there was greater support in terms of---Peter had two secretaries in the Master's Lodge where we were living. They did all of the guest lists and so on. The kitchens did all of the catering. Now, here of course, Peter had help, and that was very good help. I didn't. But I was more involved with who was going to come to dinner, and where they were going to sit, and choosing a caterer to come in, and making sure that the table was right. I didn't have to make sure the table was right or any of those sort of duties at St. Johns. And I was doing it here in a place that was new to me. But, that's not to imply that the Institute wasn't helpful. They were exceedingly helpful.

Linda Arntzenius: As you were settling in, obviously, you had a lot to do with the renovation of Olden Farm. But what other needs did you find that you could fill/niches that you could fill? What did you observe that needed to be done, basically?

Helen Goddard: Mainly helping the spouses of members feel more integrated because I discovered, really by accident, that they didn't receive notices about what was going on. And some of them did feel really quite isolated. The way I found this was because I came across by chance – maybe Peter brought it home in his briefcase – that there was an excursion organized by the Institute for members and their families. It was to Longwood Gardens. And, I was a bit surprised, Peter wanted to come too. We both went on this. When it got a bit busier, he had less time, but we went on this and I thought how nice. But I assumed it was a one off. But it wasn't a one off.

Linda Arntzenius: Was this an AMIAS event?

Helen Goddard: Yes. But there were other ones and I had never heard about them. And why didn't I hear about them? Because there was no form of definite communication.

Linda Arntzenius: So the members were getting the information perhaps, but the spouses weren't. It wasn't getting through to the spouses.

Helen Goddard: They didn't hear about it. Yes. It's like children in school that have a thing in their satchel and never get it out to show mum.

Linda Arntzenius: That's a very good analogy.

Helen Goddard: And so I thought that it would be a good idea to start a newsletter, which we did. And it was called Times at the Institute. So I went to see Pamela Hughes to say this is what I thought would be useful, and it ought to be delivered into the member housing, not to the offices where it would sit.

Linda Arntzenius: Only a teacher would think this way. *[Laughter]*

Helen Goddard: And it just so happened that two weeks before I had gone to see Pamela, Brig Gebert--she's now called Brigitte Stark, yes. She had gone in to see whether she could be involved. I think they were Friends of the Institute and Brigitte had been bringing up four children, and she was beginning to have some free time on her hands, and wanted to make use of her skills.

Brig had done some newsletters for schools. She said "maybe I could do something in that line or help in publishing." There wasn't anything particularly that she could do at that stage, but the two came together. So we had this little team, Brig, myself – I'm not quite sure whether Pamela was on it initially or whether she immediately delegated.

Anyway, Kelly Devine Thomas was on it and Kamala. It changed a little bit, and we set it up. It developed over time. But the purpose was to have a calendar of events for the month. It came out once a month, and Institute notices. But also, I think what made it interesting--we talked about things that people could do: places to visit, how to get into New York, how to get to Philadelphia, local places you could walk to, places you could get to with a car.

And we made them little stories which were, I think, quite interesting to read. And, in fact, the staff at the Institute requested that they could also get copies because they found it and they learnt things, despite the fact that they were living here, that they were not familiar with. So we did that for the nine or so years that Peter was the director here.

Linda Arntzenius: And is it still ongoing?

Helen Goddard: No. Sadly, it continued for two years, but in a totally reduced form. It became just one sheet instead of the folded paper with four sides.

Linda Arntzenius: So when you and Peter left the administration, it changed subsequently?

Helen Goddard: Yes. They decided that. And I think what they've done instead is they've developed, I think, there's a Facebook [page] for Institute

people, and there's much more online. So I'm sure the same things are happening, but in a different way.

Linda Arntzenius: Yes. So the need is being satisfied, but in a different manner.

Helen Goddard: Yes. I think possibly that the little excursions of places to go, but I don't tend to access [this information]. It's not so easy for me to access things as I'm off campus. It's possible, but I have to make an effort.

Linda Arntzenius: So you're not as much in the loop as you used to be?

Helen Goddard: That's right. But that's probably my fault.

Linda Arntzenius: You probably could get right back in.

Helen Goddard: I could, yes.

Linda Arntzenius: So apart from communications, as it were, you also, I believe, organized English Conversation?

Helen Goddard: Yes.

Linda Arntzenius: Could you speak a little bit about some of the other things that you organized and what your purpose was in doing this?

Helen Goddard: Well, English Conversation. I had done something like that when we were in Switzerland in year three and four of our marriage, when we were in Switzerland for two years. And I didn't have anything to do, no children to look after, no job. I couldn't get a job because I didn't have a work permit. And I couldn't get a work permit because I didn't have a job. The second year I was there, I did get a job teaching at The International School, who kind of fixed up the work permit problem. But anyway, I said, what am I going to do with myself?

So I decided I would put notices up in the local supermarket, the Migros, saying "English Conversation." We lived in a little apartment in Geneva. That worked very well. I got quite a large number of groups going and met some very interesting people. I called it "Conversation" because I've got no qualifications for teaching English. I would leave grammar strictly alone or ask a German person. *[Laughter]*

So it was conversation. We were doing extracts from books, and talk about it and so on. So I had that background, and I thought this

would be a way to help particularly people from abroad integrate a little bit, and feel welcome, and to improve their English skills.

I started those I think in--we came [to the Institute] in January 2004, so these are up and running for the start of the new academic year in September 2004. I think I'm on group 12 now. We've got all of these contacts all over the world – some lovely people that we've met.

The size of the group that comes varies from eight to 12. I mean it varies not from year to year but within the year. People don't have to come regularly. They drop in and out as they want. It's very relaxed and casual, but I always structure it. I mean I don't just sit there and hope that someone comes up with something to say.

Linda Arntzenius: Right. It's not totally informal

Helen Goddard: No. And it has elevenses half way through. So there's now a whole group of people in the world who know what elevenses mean. Because Americans do not know what elevenses is. And in case anybody in the future doesn't, elevenses is the mid-morning coffee with a biscuit in England.

British people tend to start work at 9 a.m. They have lunch at 1 p.m. Eleven o'clock is halfway through the morning, and that's when – and if you're in an office situation – the tea lady comes around with her trolley or cart and offers tea or coffee and, if you're lucky – a bun, otherwise, a biscuit, otherwise known as a cookie.

My elevenses was more elaborate because it was part of the conversation. I had my housekeeper, Dottie, and I would tell her what I wanted, and she would just put out the display. The display could have any kind of a theme. It could be miscellaneous. It could be blue. It could be springtime, or Halloween, or something obvious.

Linda Arntzenius: Was this Dottie's choice?

Helen Goddard: No, no. It was based on what I was doing. But I would give her the instructions. I would give her some ideas, and then I would leave it to her.

Linda Arntzenius: Now, this is Dottie Bowman?

Helen Goddard: Dottie Bowman.

Linda Arntzenius: She was your full-time housekeeper?

Helen Goddard: Full-time housekeeper.

Linda Arntzenius: Did she live in Olden Farm?

Helen Goddard: No.

Linda Arntzenius: So she came in every day?

Helen Goddard: Yes. She came in every day. We inherited her. She had been with the Institute for I don't know how many years. But she had been with the Griffiths for most of their tenure.

Linda Arntzenius: But they didn't live in Olden Farm.

Helen Goddard: Oh, they did to start off with.

Linda Arntzenius: They did to start off with? I see.

Helen Goddard: Yes, absolutely they did. I think it was just the last year because Peter couldn't come quite as soon as they would have liked.

Linda Arntzenius: I did not know that.

Helen Goddard: So I think towards the end [of Phillip's tenure].

Linda Arntzenius: So she [Dottie] was attached to the house in some sense of the word.

Helen Goddard: Oh, yes. Of course the house had changed because it was refurbished, but it was basically the same structure. The kitchen was beautiful. *[Laughter]*

Linda Arntzenius: Yes. I want to ask you about that.

Helen Goddard: So I came, and Dottie knew everybody. She knew all of the maintenance guys, all of the grounds people. And, of course, I never really did learn the grounds people because I don't recognize the faces. So I always felt bad about that because I couldn't be quite as friendly as I wanted to be because I didn't know whether it was the same guy or not as the last time. So that kind of affected me a little bit.

But, anyway, we were on good terms. The maintenance guys I knew better because they came into the house, and there were four of them. But, again, there were two and two and I could never kind

of separate them out very easily. But they were all lovely, helpful people.

So, coming in from completely new to everything, having Dottie there who knew all the people and knew what to do, and was a very determined character--she would stand her ground with anybody, and she was great fun.

Linda Arntzenius: But did she have to? Stand her ground I mean, can you give me an instance?

Helen Goddard: Yes. She was prepared. The Institute was very good. If you rang up and said the light bulb needed changing or the oven is broken, more seriously, someone would come up straightaway and deal with it. But if they didn't, she'd be on that phone and make sure. But everybody, it seemed their only aim in life was to look after us.

Linda Arntzenius: How did you feel about that?

Helen Goddard: Oh, I thought that was rather nice. *[Laughter]* I mean, nothing was too much trouble. They wanted to make us happy. And if people want to make you happy, you want to reciprocate. You didn't feel that your requests were too much trouble. So it made you a little bit bolder perhaps in asking for things that you think would be good for the Institute.

Linda Arntzenius: So that must have given you the ability to do a lot of hosting?

Helen Goddard: Oh, yes. Because the maintenance guys would come up and move all the chairs, and then put them all back again, and so on and so forth. So it was very easy. Everybody was very helpful. The staff were wonderful.

Linda Arntzenius: Tell me about the renovation of the house. How much you had to do, how long it took, and that sort of thing?

Helen Goddard: Well, fortunately, we had met with the architect⁹. And I'm not going to draw up the name of that just at the moment I'm afraid. A very nice guy. We met with several architects and I get them a bit bit confused. We decided which of two plans we wanted to go ahead with and a lot of it was done before we even came. We arrived in January, and they had been working since September. They found a lot of things wrong with the house. One of the supporting jousts under the kitchen floor had been cut into to put a pipe across. You shouldn't do that. *[Laughter]* So there was a lot of basic stuff to put

⁹ Jerry Ford.

right. So when we arrived, we couldn't live in the house, which was good, because we lived in member housing for three months.

Linda Arntzenius: I did not know that. How interesting.

Helen Goddard: That gave me a real feel for, again, although, I had done it before, what it was like living there. And Jim Barbour's wife, Jo, she came and she took me shopping. And, of course, Dottie was around. Anyway, Peter and I decided that come March, we had to move in to Olden Farm because it still wasn't ready. If we moved in, perhaps they'd move a bit more quickly.

So we moved in. There wasn't a kitchen still. So we had a kettle in the hall, and we probably had a microwave. And we think that was a good idea. So I don't quite remember when it was finished. You forget about these things once they're done, and it's beautiful.

It was a lovely house. I remember we ordered some furniture, I think when we were actually in England, from one of the big stores. We made all of our choices, thought about it and then we put the order in. And then we got this notice saying there's going to be a five month wait for all of this stuff.

We thought, we can't wait five months. The place has got to be up and running. We are entertaining. We want to sleep. This was in January when we found this, when we had already arrived at the Institute. So we went out with this wonderful, wonderful person who was attached to the architect.

She was a designer – an Italian lady¹⁰. She had such an eye for color, you can't believe. Anyway, she took us out to the local shops. We went into this furniture store and we bought I think a sofa and chairs for three rooms, and chose the fabrics, and chose the cushions. I'm a hopeless shopper. I can't make up mind. I can't remember colors. To buy all of that stuff in one go, and of course it arrived in a couple of weeks or so. So it was quite exciting.

Linda Arntzenius: Could you say something--you've already begun to say something--of the enormous mix of people that you interacted with? You've talked about Dottie and the people who worked at Olden Farm, and member spouses--could you talk a little bit about the director's office staff perhaps that you came across, and about trustees, what involvement you had with the trustees?

¹⁰ Dina Marinelli

Helen Goddard: Yes. Well the trustees was less frequent. It was twice a year. But one of the first things we did was our first meeting in May in 2004. So we didn't do anything special with that one. We just kept it exactly as it was. And there's always a speaker for the trustee spouses to keep them entertained.

And other people were invited, perhaps a few of the member spouses, and local Friends of the Institute were invited. So there would be a talk in the living room of Olden Farm, on a Saturday morning, while the trustees--who were mostly men, but not entirely--were in their meetings.

We had this sort of mid-morning snack with a beautiful display on the table of excessive amounts to eat, coffee to drink, and after everybody just had a full breakfast, and were going to go on for a big lunch--crazy really. Anyway, we had that, and then we went into the living room, and there was a talk by somebody whom I, along with the help of people, eventually had to select. And we would choose someone connected with the Institute, a spouse--usually a woman but not necessarily a woman, or some local person of interest.

Linda Arntzenius: What about children. I guess the trustees wouldn't bring their children?

Helen Goddard: No. On the whole, these were trustees. The children – it wasn't an issue. There weren't very many members who came up for this because there wouldn't be room. It was mainly trustees and some local Friends because there weren't very many trustee spouses. It wasn't a big group. But the group, by the time you included everybody else--widows of faculty, faculty spouses--the group would be anything from 20 to 35. Thirty-five would be the absolute maximum, usually about 20 to 30 people.

And then we all went down for lunch at the Institute in the Coffee Lounge, again, separate from the trustees, who were still finishing off their business. Then that was the end of the event. But it did mean that on the Friday, the spouses were at a little bit of a loose end. So that's when we decided to do something for them. In May of 2004, there wasn't anything but every time after that, twice a year, we did organize a trip to somewhere.

Linda Arntzenius: That's a nice idea.

Helen Goddard: And I did bring a list of trips. So we went to the Grounds for Sculpture. We went to Morven House Museum and Garden. No one could remember what we did in October of 2005. And then we

went to the Princeton University of Art Museum and had a tour by one of the Friends.

We went for a tour of Einstein's¹¹ home with Eric Maskin¹² and Gayle Sawtelle [who] were in residence then. And we did the Princeton Art Museum again with the pre-Columbian collection

Linda Arntzenius: Oh, very good, with Gillette Griffin?

Helen Goddard: With Gillette Griffin, and he gave the actual talk on Saturday morning. We did a walking tour which was really fascinating, by the Historical Society, led by Shirley [Satterfield]. Shirley, a great character. Then we visited Duke Farms, in Hillsborough. We went to Walnford, and we had a period tea.

Warnford is a wonderful historic house with a mill. It's about a 35 minute drive. It's about as far as we had time to take everybody. We couldn't go further afield than that, to the east. A wonderful house. They had a curator there who did a replica there of the teas that people would have had in those days when the house was at its height. She made the recipes for cakes and biscuits exactly as it would have been, getting a hold of the correct flour. It was fascinating. Then we went to Rockingham, in Kingston--the little kitchen garden, where Washington stayed.

We went to the old barracks in Trenton, which was a lot of fun. And then I've got May 10th--I don't know. That's the end of my list. I didn't keep it up after that.

Linda Arntzenius: That's always a very nice thing to do. Elaine Wolfenson, I imagine, was she one of your guests?

Helen Goddard: Absolutely, yes. And she gave the most wonderful talk about Jim. I don't remember the details, but we really were laughing, and she spoke very well. Yes, that was good.

Linda Arntzenius: Have you made friends here that will go on throughout the rest of your life?

Helen Goddard: I have with member spouses and with some faculty people, yes. The trustee spouses, probably less so, because they tend to live further afield.

¹¹ Albert Einstein (1879-1955), Professor in the Schools of Mathematics and Natural Sciences, 1933-1946; Emeritus Professor, 1946-1955.

¹² Eric Maskin (1950-), Faculty in the School of Social Science, 2000-2011; Visitor, 2012.

Linda Arntzenius: Yes, and you don't see them that often.

Helen Goddard: You don't see them that often, no. They have certainly been some nice people to meet, but I don't really have any particular stories or insights about that group of people.

Linda Arntzenius: I have some general questions about the Institute.

Helen Goddard: Could we perhaps have a quick break before continuing?

Linda Arntzenius: A break, absolutely. I will pause, and we can pick it up again.

[Pause in recording]

Helen Goddard: I must remember to talk about member supper parties at some point.

Linda Arntzenius: Oh, good. We're on again [recording]. Yes, why don't you do that? Member supper parties. Again, what was the perceived need, and how did you go about addressing it?

Helen Goddard: Well, the perceived need was to basically make the members feel properly integrated and to make sure that Olden Farm was a place where people were welcome. We wanted to throw it open to members, to families--less to families because we didn't have small children ourselves, and we weren't quite as sensitive to that side of things, and to the community.

But starting with the members, we thought that we should basically get all of them, in groups, up into the Olden Farm. So we started member supper parties, which would be the member, and their spouse or partner, if they had one. And we asked them in mixed groups.

Linda Arntzenius: So you didn't have all the mathematicians, and then all the///

Helen Goddard: No.

Linda Arntzenius: That must have taken some thinking about?

Helen Goddard: Yes, which the staff at the Institute did. I was not involved with that at all. And we would put a buffet style meal on the table. Because if you're sitting down at a table, you only speak when there's people next to you; with a buffet, you get up and you move around.

Then we would encourage people when they got up, perhaps to go and sit down somewhere else. So at Olden Farm, they had four

main, what you might call, reception rooms. There's a large dining room, the library with a fireplace, the TV room which linked them, the hall, and then the large living room.

So people could sit anywhere. And we would have about, I think it was about 30 people coming out for that at a time. And if they replied and said they couldn't come, we'd try and fit them in later. We did our utmost to get everybody to come.

Linda Arntzenius: That's wonderful. Now did you do that at the beginning of the year, or did you do it throughout the year?

Helen Goddard: It had to go all the way throughout the year, yes. Throughout the year – the year really ends doesn't it, in April or something. So it was the first two terms. It did have the effect that the final one was really scooping up all of those people who hadn't come before. And I think I can say this, but it tended to be full of mathematicians.
[Laughter]

Linda Arntzenius: Oh, that's funny. [Laughter]

Helen Goddard: Anyway, they were nice experiences. It also helped mix the schools because the tradition is, at lunchtime, the schools sit at their own tables, which obviously has a lot of advantages. But it means there's less interaction between the schools.

Linda Arntzenius: Now I have heard the Institute described as an intellectual utopia. And I've also heard people say – well, yes, that's true but that can be very stressful for some members because here they're coming to this very prestigious place, and can they...

Helen Goddard: Perform. Rise to the occasion?

Linda Arntzenius: Now did you come across anyone who was having difficulties?

Helen Goddard: No, personally I didn't. But then I'm not sure that I would have done. I have really only heard from people who were just having a most wonderful time. They are free from the normal admin duties that they have to do and no real pressure. Okay, some people come planning to finish their book, and they don't finish it.

I think that's a sort of pressure, I guess, but it's your own pressure. It's not from the Institute itself. And sometimes they've done other things instead. I did not come across anybody who was feeling like that.

Linda Arntzenius: It seems to me, just from an outsider's perspective, that the Institute has really become even more international in recent years. Is that something you could comment on?

Helen Goddard: Well, no. I mean, I've always been told that about 60 percent of the members are from overseas. Are you talking about the faculty maybe or a bit more?

Linda Arntzenius: I think perhaps both the faculty and the membership too. I'm not basing it on any great study, I must add.

Helen Goddard: No. I don't have that sense. I wouldn't know.

Linda Arntzenius: Have you ever given thought to the reason why there aren't more women on the faculty?

Helen Goddard: Yes. Again, I'm not an academic and I'm not in that area. It *is* a great shame that there aren't more women on the faculty. I was talking about this just the other day. And I do think it's partly because to get on the faculty in the first place, you've got to be of a certain age. People are not terribly young when they get to that position. And, of course, it's changing. But certainly with the older people, it's far more likely that the man has got the main career and that the spouse, his wife, follows. And so it's quite easy for the man to move from where he was, and come to the Institute, and bring his wife with him. It's much harder the other way around, for the wife to move and drag a husband along. It's changing.

Linda Arntzenius: Do you think it will change?

Helen Goddard: Oh definitely it's changing. Yes. I think people who are now in their 40s – the women are working, and their jobs are just as important, and they share the child care. Perhaps. [*Laughs*] So it is changing. But I think it's a little bit harder for a woman to move, and possibly even there may be more in the way of women, perhaps, don't want to move away from their friends. They have perhaps a greater network of friendships, especially if they've got children. So it's a little bit harder to move, and there are not as many yet in the positions where they are able to be in a position to get appointed to the Institute. It will change.

Linda Arntzenius: Do you think it will change? Yes?

Helen Goddard: I think it will, yes. They are trying.

Linda Arntzenius: It's sort of an evolutionary change?

Helen Goddard: Yes.

Linda Arntzenius: Having observed the Institute again, I would say there's a most definite Institute ethos, but I find it hard to put it into words. And I wondered if this is something that you recognize and can make a stab at characterizing?

Helen Goddard: Well, I think the really important thing is that you do research for the sake of research. You're not doing it in order to get a grant from somebody. You don't have to fulfill anything with preconceived notions. You're here because you really love what you're doing and want to find out more about it.

And you're not under any obligation to stick to that if, actually, your research takes you off to somewhere else. And I think the role of the staff here is to make everything as smooth and well-running as it's possible to do, and they do an excellent job. You can arrive at the Institute--if you arrive in the morning or by lunch time--and by the afternoon, you can be attached to the Internet, your office is up and running, you can actually be working the day you arrive, if you wish. It's very supportive.

Linda Arntzenius: And you've heard members say this, presumably? Yes?

Helen Goddard: Oh, yes. But most of my contact is with spouses. But then again, you pick up from them.

Linda Arntzenius: And you have a sort of Merry Widows group here too? I'm thinking of Louise Morse, of course, who's been so well cared for. She's going to be 105 this year, I believe?

Helen Goddard: Yes. That's right. A great character, and everybody – they still go and visit her, and she still recognizes people. And Gaby Borel, married also to a famous mathematician. She gets out, in fact, she comes to my English Conversation group, and Lily Harish-Chandra – a great lady. Have you interviewed her?

Linda Arntzenius: Yes, and she's beautiful, yes.

Helen Goddard: And so knowledgeable. And there are a lot of people who are returning. There are some people who seem to come to the Institute regularly. Most members just come here once. Peter came twice because the first time was in the School of Mathematics and the second time in the Natural Sciences, or the other way around.

Whereas, with other people, I don't quite know how it works.

Linda Arntzenius: What were the highlights of your year when living in Olden Farm?

Helen Goddard: I liked the trustees meetings. I liked everything. The thing I really liked was my tea parties.

Linda Arntzenius: And those brought not just members but also people from the broader community?

Helen Goddard: Oh, the community, yes.

Linda Arntzenius: And how did you get to those people? And why was it important to include them and bring them into that?

Helen Goddard: Well, the way it started was to say thank you to mainly Friends, with a capital F, of the Institute¹³. Because when we first arrived, at least two of the Friends invited me out to lunch, in their homes, and introduced me to several other Friends.

Linda Arntzenius: Who was that, may I ask?

Helen Goddard: Rosanna Jaffin and maybe it was Rachel Gray – well she wasn't a Friend, of course, she was the associate director. But I remember there were two Friends, and I can't remember the other one now. So I felt that people had made a big effort to make me feel welcome, and to introduce me to people.

Because that was what I was most worried about when I came, that I wouldn't meet people because, you know, I didn't have children anymore. They were still in England and adult. I didn't have a job. I didn't have a dog. I didn't play a musical instrument. How was I going to meet people?

And it wasn't a problem because people reached out to me and invited me. And I thought – well if I have all of these people back separately, it's going to take too long. So I thought, well let's do an English Afternoon Tea. So my first English Afternoon Tea was just one occasion in March, and I think about 30 people came.

And these grew because I asked people when they came. I asked the person I knew, and in most cases, that was a woman. But if it was a man, I asked the man. I didn't ask partners, specifically because it was Afternoon Tea, and the partners would probably be working. But I asked them, if they wished, to bring a spouse, a friend, a guest, or whatever, if they wanted. So this way, it sort of

¹³ Members of the Friends of the Institute support the advancement of the Institute's research and scholarship and are encouraged to participate in its intellectual and cultural life by interacting with faculty and members and through various events, including lectures, concerts and film screenings.

expanded quite quickly. And a lot of people would come to the Institute who hadn't been before. People told me that the Institute was a very mysterious place. No one knew what went on there. But I wasn't aware of this feeling, so I just asked everybody, and they brought friends.

So these tea parties grew. I went up to about 40 people and twice – two tea parties in March or February. I did it in the winter when there wasn't any sort of competition for other things. And the last years, one party had 90 people, and I could sit 90 people *just*, at the same time, not that formally, sometimes perched on a windowsill, but everybody had a cup of tea and a tablecloth basically.

Linda Arntzenius: Golly. So this was indoors?

Helen Goddard: Oh, yes. These were indoors.

Linda Arntzenius: You said it was in March, so it would have to be.

Helen Goddard: And I had two of them. So it was 60 to one and 90 to the other. And I would always give people the choice of which one they came to, to give them a bit of option. And they grew and developed. And I always had a theme for them. Because there were people sitting at the same table who didn't know each other, sometimes it can be helpful if you just pick up this card. And I put quotations on it, or excerpts from a book about tea.

Linda Arntzenius: Conversation starters.

Helen Goddard: Yes. That's right. Conversation starters. So that was a lot of work but great fun. And they had to be English – I mean, not the people.

Linda Arntzenius: I know what you mean.

Helen Goddard: The party was English style. So we had to have a pot of tea which was warmed with proper tea inside, and milk, and English style recipes.

Linda Arntzenius: It's sort of odd to say this, but it's almost like a job, being a director's spouse.

Helen Goddard: Oh, it was a job, yes. But it doesn't have to be.

Linda Arntzenius: Right. It depends on the individual. I think your predecessor Taffy [Griffiths] had a full-time job as a doctor when she was at Olden Farm. I mean it's entirely up the individual.

Helen Goddard: Indeed.

Linda Arntzenius: I know that your successor, Pia, is a writer.

Helen Goddard: A writer, yes. And they [Robbert Dijkgraaf¹⁴ and Pia de Jong] have done much more to do with children. They've thrown it open and started some new events which involve children, because they've got three children.

Linda Arntzenius: They've got young children, yes?

Helen Goddard: Yes, well they're not so young now, but they were in their early teens, and now they're in their late teens. So it really depends on what you're able to do, and there certainly should not be any feeling that the spouse of the director has to do this. You could have two really committed academics or business people, you know.

But you do need to find a way, I think, that involves the spouses and indeed the members because of the sense of community. There is a sense of community here, and I think that does need to be fostered and helped along the way. And that's what I felt my role was, and I wanted a role like that *because* I didn't have a job.

And my only qualifications are to teach geography, and geography is not really taught in the U.S. The subject has not changed in the way it did in Europe. Here, you'd say – I teach geography, and people would respond by saying – oh, that's wonderful, nobody knows where anything is. But like history is not all dates, geography is not just where places are.

Linda Arntzenius: But you have found a niche teaching geography to some extent?

Helen Goddard: Oh, yes.

Linda Arntzenius: Can you say something about that?

Helen Goddard: Yes. It started because I think I joined the Historical Society, and they run coach trips. I went on a coach trip, and I happened to sit next to Norma Smith, who's lived in this country for a long time. She's from Norway originally. She was involved with the Princeton Senior Resource Center and within that, there is a group called, the Evergreen Forum.

¹⁴ Robbert Dijkgraaf (1960-), Member in the School of Natural Sciences, 1991-1992; Visitor, 2002; IAS Director and Leon Levy Professor, 2012-.

And that has people in the local community who give classes about whatever they want to do. And so Norma said – well, you're a teacher. You teach geography. Why don't you do something? So I thought about it, and I thought, well, I really didn't have any excuse not to say yes.

So I said yes. So I started teaching there. The people who come are my age or older. I'm usually the youngest – so 60 plus. And there's about 22 people. There's a maximum number you can squeeze into the room so they actually have a bit of table to rest on. And I do a course.

Initially it was once a year. So it's about an eight-week course, a two-hour session a week. And then I started also doing it in the springtime as well for a shorter course of six weeks. And I teach whatever I want. And I have quite a loyal following, and new people each time.

For a lot of these classes at Evergreen Forum, which is nothing to do with the Institute at all, it's open to the community, you have to have a lottery. It's not first come, you have to apply by a certain date, and then names are drawn out of a hat.

Linda Arntzenius: Because there are just so many people want to do it?

Helen Goddard: Yes. They need more space really. And then I've given geography talks to quite a few places – the Nassau Club, the Present Day Club, Community Without Walls – two of those. Some club for men.

Linda Arntzenius: The Old Guard?

Helen Goddard: The Old Guard. I think I talked to the Old Guard. I've talked in one of the schools – the Stuart School. So various places. That's been fun.

Linda Arntzenius: What do you think – I'm going to ask you to speculate here a little bit or give your opinion rather, about the Second Battle of Princeton, as it's been called – the Institute housing?

Helen Goddard: I'm very much in favor of the houses being built where they are. The Institute knows whether or not it has a need for housing, and it does have a need. I know several people who've been anxious to get into these houses. I mean, Lily [Harish-Chandra] is one, who had to move from her house because she could no longer cope, and wanted to move into one of those houses but they had not yet been built.

The location is ideal for the Institute because it's close by. The Institute sold some of its land to the Battlefield, which is now used as their car park, and has been very generous, generally, in supporting it. And, of course, the Institute has a School of Historical Studies. It is in favor of preservation of places of historic interest. The area chosen for the housing, they had permission to build on it back, I think, in the 1970s or something like that, but unfortunately they didn't build at the time. It would have been a good idea to get one building up, if nothing else, so it had all been done and dusted, and it was a good place.

The ground has been examined. There aren't any particular artifacts there beyond stray bullets, which can be found all over Princeton. There is no evidence that people who know can find that this was a place of particular importance for the Battlefield.

If you argue that that place is good for the Battlefield, you could argue that almost anyplace in Princeton should be preserved. The Battlefield today does not look like it used to. There were no trees. There was no road. If they want to restore it to how it used to be, they should close down...

Linda Arntzenius: Princeton Pike?

Helen Goddard: Princeton Pike, thank you. They should take down all the trees. I mean the whole thing, I think, is just totally ridiculous.

Linda Arntzenius: So you have no sympathy for that cause?

Helen Goddard: I have no sympathy for their cause. I do believe in preservation and encouraging people to come and look and learn. And they should put their energies into making what they've got more interesting. Just having more land would be of no benefit that I can see.

Linda Arntzenius: What do you think motivates them?

Helen Goddard: I find it very hard to understand, not having spoken to anybody from that viewpoint.

Linda Arntzenius: Have you attended any of the functions that they have on the Battlefield, when they have say July Fourth events? They have reenactments. Have you gone to any of those?

Helen Goddard: I've been past it. I've not actually attended. I've been to Clark House, which is very interesting. It would be nice if they could have it open a little bit more. There's just one person there, and it's shut

over lunch. And if he's not there, that place is closed. Why don't they put their money into making that?

It's a nice little place to go to. Some of these signs are somewhat dilapidated. There could be more signs. There are things that they could do to enhance the Battlefield, not just acquire more land which, despite their claims to the contrary, I think has got no significance, really, compared to other places. I think it's that guy, Afran.

Linda Arntzenius: Bruce Afran is their lawyer, yes. How do you feel about the new Commons Building?

Helen Goddard: We've long wanted to have a kind of a bigger social center. The Activity Center is very useful, but it's mainly the laundry. It's not where you gather.

Linda Arntzenius: So Fuld Hall or the Dining Hall is really the place where people gather.

Helen Goddard: The Dining Hall, yes, of course, but that's really just for lunch or tea. Afternoon tea [in Fuld Hall] is not really so much for spouses. [The new Commons Building would offer] something in the evening. Because the Institute is out-of-town, [for] people who are not stuck at home with families, younger people in particular, it's quite a trot into town, 25 minutes to a half an hour's walk, and in the dark.

And there's not always such a huge amount to do in town anyway. So some gathering place where you could perhaps have a drink, or a cup of coffee, or sit and play cards, sit and chat, read the paper would be good. And Fuld Hall doesn't fulfill that.

Linda Arntzenius: Have some dancing?

Helen Goddard: Some dancing, yes.

Linda Arntzenius: Because I know from the history of the Institute that the dances were very important in the '30s and '40s.

Helen Goddard: Where did they have them?

Linda Arntzenius: Fuld Hall. The dances are fondly remembered by those who are still around to remember them.

Helen Goddard: Yes. Well I look forward each year to the mid-winter party for the dancing, and that's once a year. Yes. That would be very good. So I think having a Commons Building. It seems that the project has

grown beyond just a social center to be a building where there are also going to be offices and a seminar room. But I think you need a place where, if you're feeling a little bit lonely, you can just go and feel comfortable with your book. And someone may pass by or they might not. Or you can arrange to meet people for a cup of tea or maybe in the evening for a drink.

I think it should work very well and the location is good. It's sort of on the housing side.

Linda Arntzenius: Yes. It's accessible.

Helen Goddard: Because Harry's Bar [located in the Dining Hall], from that point of view, has never taken off. I mean people have to walk some distance from the housing. It's not that far, but if when you get there, there's no one there, and it's only twice a week when people are having dinner. I think that [the new Commons Building] would be a wonderful benefit for the members.

Linda Arntzenius: Should the Institute, in your opinion, do more to promote the arts?

Helen Goddard: I think it does a pretty good job of promoting the arts. I'm not greatly into arts myself, but they have the concerts. There's a lot put into the music, and I do go to those – the evening ones and the Sunday afternoon ones.

Linda Arntzenius: And they do draw quite a lot of people from the community.

Helen Goddard: They do. Yes. And then there's the artist in residence. He has been doing--all of them have been encouraging a lot of activities there. I mean, I went to one recently where they have people who have been writing books, or who do film and so on. The one I went to was really pretty well attended. Sometimes the attendance is a bit low.

Linda Arntzenius: Did you have any input when Peter was choosing Director's Visitors?

Helen Goddard: No. My role has been much more reaching out into the community, getting more people coming into the Institute and not kind of thinking--what is that mysterious place? Because I wasn't aware when I arrived that it was thought to be a rather mysterious place. A lot of people hadn't visited. They didn't know what went on there. There were a lot of stories going around. What was it? What do they do? And also, not just that, but also the families – the member spouses I've been very involved with.

Linda Arntzenius: Yes. I'm going to go back a little bit again to Peter in the director's role. Peter stepped down early – not very early, but a little bit early. Was that a joint decision? And could you say something of what might have gone into that?

Helen Goddard: No, not really. He tends to think things through very carefully, for a long time, before expressing any kind of opinion. I am totally the opposite. I tend to think out loud and change my mind. I can be easily persuaded. So it's quite difficult, really, because he's already made his decision and he knows why.

He's a thinker. So we don't tend to discuss things. I discuss things with friends when it's a kind of a back and forth, but I can't really do that with Peter. His mind doesn't work like that.

Linda Arntzenius: What do you think is his legacy at the Institute as director? I shall tell you, I asked him this too. And he is so diffident. He doesn't think in those terms.

Helen Goddard: No. He doesn't. I think the Institute has become a more open place. I kind of assumed rather than knowing that the admin has become a bit more professional because he's a very, very good organizer. I mean, that's what everybody tells me. He's had a lot of experience in that line.

And people like him to chair meetings because he's in control of them. He allows people to say what they need to say but not to ramble on. Because the Institute began as a small thing and grew as a kind of family, without it having necessarily the correct procedures in place which, when you get to a certain size, you've got to have.

And I have the impression from really what people have told me, more than what Peter has said, he's very discreet, Peter. And also, I have a really poor memory, so he can really tell me anything, and I'll forget it, and I'm just left with an impression, you see. *[Laughter]*

So I have the impression that things have been tidied up. People know what they're supposed to do. The records have been kept. The archives have been developed – so all of those things. And, of course, he was hit by the financial crisis.

Linda Arntzenius: Yes. That was on my list to ask. He was in the midst of substantial fundraising against this financial market collapse. Was that stressful?

Helen Goddard: Well it was stressful. And it meant, for example, that the building – the Commons as it's now being called – that had to be put on hold completely, which would normally have been done in Peter's time. They hadn't gotten to the stage, I don't think, of actually getting specific plans drawn up because then this financial crisis came, and it was out of the question.

But the Friends stepped in and the trustees – the trustees particularly – and were enormously helpful, and tided the Institute through that time. And everything seems, as far as I know, back to normal. But I think what Peter did, his legacy really, would be getting the correct procedures into place, the upkeep of the buildings, the keeping or records, the archives.

And he did a lot to promote also the involvement with the members and so on, from what I hear, from other people, that's really what I think he's done.

Linda Arntzenius: I'm coming to the end of my questions, you'll be happy to hear. What do you miss from Olden Farm? You seem to have had a lot of fun there?

Helen Goddard: Yes. I miss the garden.

Linda Arntzenius: Now you introduced some Granny Smith – not Granny Smiths – English eating apples or cooking apples?

Helen Goddard: I tried. I put in two apple trees, and I'm not sure that either one has yet produced anything. I wanted a Bramley apple, which is an English cooking apple. There may be areas in the U.S. where they have cooking apples, but it is not known in New Jersey.

Dottie, who is a great cook – considers the Granny Smith to be the cooking apple. In England the Granny Smith is an eating apple. The cooking apple is sour, and the Bramley is a very big apple, on the margins of being able to eat it raw.

Linda Arntzenius: Yes. You want to put it in a pie.

Helen Goddard: You want to put it in a pie. So I wanted to grow one of those so I could show Dottie what a cooking apple was. Unfortunately, that didn't happen.

Linda Arntzenius: But it may yet?

Helen Goddard: It may yet. And the other one is the Cox apple which is, I think, a superior eating apple, but it's a difficult tree to grow. It's a bit fussy,

and it probably doesn't grow well here. It might produce apples eventually.

Linda Arntzenius: Did you put in two of each?

Helen Goddard: I put in one of each, but I've planted two other apple trees – I forget what they were called – for pollination, yes.

Linda Arntzenius: And what were you happy to let go? Because those are the things that you miss: the tea parties,...

Helen Goddard: I would have been happy to continue. There wasn't anything I disliked. It was rather wonderful having a housekeeper. I like meeting people. I like entertaining. Yes, I think I liked everything about it. But I was happy to move on. The only thing I miss are the tea parties, and the strawberry tea party in the summer.

Linda Arntzenius: That was wonderful.

Helen Goddard: Yes. And the garden I miss as well because the garden that we have now – it's mostly woodland and there aren't really any flower beds. And I'm not going to start making new flower beds now.

Linda Arntzenius: Crossroads. Is that something that was dear to your heart?

Helen Goddard: I'm very supportive of Crossroads. I was asked to be on the board simply because of my position as the spouse of the director. And I think the school is a wonderful school – a huge asset, members can leave their tiny child there, and walk past it on their way to the Institute.

Some of them, unfortunately, can't afford it. It's not that it's particularly expensive. It's slightly less expensive than other places, and it is subsidized, if you are a member. But it's still an expensive thing if just one person in the family is working. Quite a few people I know have not been able to afford to get their child in, which is a shame. Because then you're stuck with a small baby.

Linda Arntzenius: Are there any informal sort of groups?

Helen Goddard: It varies from year to year. There used to be a nice little group on a Wednesday morning in the Activity Center, where people would go with their babies and play. But that very much depends on someone having the initiative, and there being enough support, and the right number of people with babies, and children of the right age.

Linda Arntzenius: Now, you've bought a house in Princeton?

Helen Goddard: Yes.

Linda Arntzenius: And I want to ask you whether you intend to become a U.S. citizen, or whether you will stay in the States, or return to the U.K.? Have you made any plans?

Helen Goddard: We do not intend to become citizens. We have permanent residence, and we could become citizens if we wanted. But we have every intention of going back to the U.K., because all our family are there. There would be no reason to stay here. There is a lot to like about the U.S. but the politics do not make us very happy.

And we miss being close to Europe as well. So we will go back, but the time to go back is very hard to decide. While the Institute is very good – Peter will be retiring at the end of this year – there will be very little difference for him. He will still go in every day, still work on his physics.

And he's really enjoying not having to do all of the admin stuff and to be able to concentrate on physics. He is involved with various institutes around the world in an advisory way. So he's making use of that. So, yes, we will go back to the U.K., at some point in the future.

Linda Arntzenius: When people ask you about the Institute, how do you explain it and what it does?

Helen Goddard: Well, I start by saying, it has a role that is fairly rare these days, and that is, research purely for the sake of research. It doesn't have an ulterior motive. People are not confined into doing something that they said they're going to do, and they're not dependent on doing this research in order to get this money, and to get certain results.

I think that is *enormously* important. I rate it along with the value of having a free press. And there are very few independent newspapers these days. They're always owned by someone who has something they want to say. So truth and freedom is really important. And, of course, if you have truth, you have beauty¹⁵.
[Laughter]

Linda Arntzenius: Ah yes. Is there anything you would like to see change or improve at the Institute? Anything that you planned to get to and didn't?

¹⁵ Helen Goddard is referring to the fact that the Institute's seal bears two classical figures representing Truth and Beauty.

Helen Goddard: No. I don't think so. I'm sure it's not perfect. It seems to die down rather early in the year.

Linda Arntzenius: You mean by April, May?

Helen Goddard: Yes. A lot of people stay on, but there's not so many things going on for them; although, of course by that time, they are well established. I don't know why it doesn't go on at least until the end of May. That would probably take it. And of course, the Dining Hall, the dinners stop. I don't know why they can't go on a little bit longer. Saturday lunches have improved. That's one of Peter's achievements [*Laughter*] because they used to be very minimal, and now they have decent lunches. It's a very exciting place. I've enjoyed our time here enormously, yes.

Linda Arntzenius: I've come to the end of my questions and my prompts, but if you have anything to add, or if there's a question you expected me to ask, and I haven't? [*Laughter*] do let me know.

Helen Goddard: Yes. Well, I'm not sure at the moment whether there's anything. You've gone through all of your questions. We've talked about the staff, the member supper parties, the tea parties. English Conversation we've done pretty much in detail. The entertaining was the thing, getting other people. We had the Britannia Society that came for a pub party, which I did when Peter was away because he doesn't really like these themed parties. I remember, we put a dartboard up. So we basically got a lot of different people in the community. And I remember them saying – people have often said to me that they haven't met such a variety of people.

Because when you live in a place for some time, you know, you go to certain clubs – your golf club, or your bridge group - and you meet the same people. Whereas because I was coming in new from outside, I wasn't aware of any of these groups. So I asked anybody I met and asked them to bring people. And so I got a big mix of people together. I think that was probably my biggest contribution. And the newsletter – I think I was very pleased with that because that was really useful and got people together, and the Conversation group. Yes, I have had a good time.

Linda Arntzenius: Excellent. Well, thank you very much. I really appreciate your participation in this project.

Helen Goddard: Thank you. It's been fun talking about it.

Linda Arntzenius: Thank you very much.