

The Fig Leaf

Interviewer: Do you remember anything of the statues?

Pat: Oh I remember the one in Bank court (giggle) Cos when that was first... I can't remember exactly when it was first put there? But when it was first put there he was naked as the day he was born! And people... (giggle) and people complained about it, and eventually he was given a fig leaf! (giggle)

Deborah: So didn't he always have a fig leaf?

Pat: No, not when he was first put there!

Deborah: Oh right. So, did he take the place of that fountain that was in the centre of Bank Court?

Cos there used be a, like a three ... thingy? Fountain? Dish type fountain thing, didn't there?

Interviewer: He wasn't there. Well he, the fountain was on Waterhouse Street wasn't it?

Pat: He was sort of in the middle. We've got books on Hemel and.. various .. areas.. at home and I was looking at one the other day, and I was flicking through the pages and theres a picture of Bank Court in there, in... I've forgotten what the date was, but it wasin... in... it was early on, it was like early fifties. because knowing that we were going to come and do this for you, I was trying to remember things, and ...and this was a few days before I looked, and I remembered the statue. And, I was looking through this book a few days later, and there was this picture of Bank court in there, and there were flower beds, in that middle part of bank court, and I thought, "oh, the statue's not here, there's flower beds" and when I looked at the date, it was before... it was before the um the statue appeared.

Deborah: Oh, it's coming back to me now, oh yes, I rec.. I can remember the statue, yeh.

Pat: And when he was

Deborah: Under Stephyns Chambers

Pat: That's right.

Deborah: Not actually out in where the car parky area was, yeh.

Pat: Yeh, and he was, he was, like I just said

Deborah: Yeh

Pat: He was was like the day he was born. and people complained. That's how I know the fig leaf wasn't original because, people used..com "Oh, it was disgusting he was there with.. nothing on!" Blah blah blah blah blah. And eventually he was given a fig leaf. Mmm. But when he went, I don't know cos I don't go to bank court all that often these days.

Deborah: No

Pat: And, and it wasn't till a little while ago I realised he wasn't there any more (laugh)

Deborah: No, he's been on the.. in the water gardens on the other side for a long time

Pat: Oh, has he?

Deborah: at the back of the formal gardens, Yeh

Pat: Oh well I'd forgotten about that.

Interviewer: And they're going to move him to the Bury now

Deborah: Where nobody'll see him at all!

Interviewer: Where he'll be in everybody's wedding photos!

(Laughter)