



## 40 Interesting Facts about SCUTREA

#1 The 40th annual conference was actually in Cambridge in 2009; there was an inaugural conference in Edinburgh in 1970. This year is the 41st.

#2 Nine papers were given at the inaugural conference; a year later in 1971, at the first annual conference, four papers were delivered.

#3 The first three chairs and secretaries of SCUTREA held office for one year only, rotating from George Wedell (1970), Henry Arthur Jones (1971) and Bill Styer of Hull (1972).

#4 The first treasurer was Arthur Stock of the National Institute of Adult Education (now NIAEE); Arthur held this post for 15 years, from 1972 to 1986 inclusive.

#5 The first woman officer was Elizabeth Monkhouse of the University of London, who was Honorary Secretary from 1973 to 1977, serving with Norman Dees as Chair in 1973 and 1974, and then Michael Stephens of Nottingham, from 1975 to 1978.

#6 The SCUTREA Conference has been held in England 34 times [Bristol (1984); Cambridge (2009); Exeter (1998); Hull (1977, 1986, 1994); Kent (1992); Lancaster (1987); Leeds (1973, 1988, 1996, 2006); Leicester (1975); Liverpool (1972); London (1974, 1997, 2001); Manchester (1979, 1993); Nottingham (1971, 1982, 1989, and 2000); Oxford (1983); Sheffield (1976, 1985, 1990, 2004); Southampton (1978, 1995); Surrey (1980); Sussex (2005); Warwick (1999, 2010)]; in Scotland five times [Edinburgh (1970, 1991, 2008), Glasgow (1981); Stirling (2002)], in Wales once (2003) and in Northern Ireland once (2007). It was also a partner in the joint conference with AERC and CASAE in Vancouver in 2000.

#7 In 1975, the SCUTREA conference was held in July for the first time, on the first Tuesday to Thursday of the month. This has been its place in the conference calendar ever since.

#8 The 1977 Conference was held at The Lawns in Hull, and was organised by Teddy Thomas, who went on to become professor at Nottingham, to chair SCUTREA between 1982 and 1984, and co-founder of the *International Journal of Lifelong Education*, with Peter Jarvis.

#9 The 1978 Conference, held in Connaught Hall, Southampton was organised by Robin Usher who had attended his first SCUTREA Conference the year before, at The Lawns in Hull. This conference sought to challenge the accusation that SCUTREA was 'too incestuous, and had at least five participants from outside the UK, including Phyllis Cunningham from Northern Illinois University.

#10 The 1979 Conference held in Owens Park, Manchester was the first attended by Paul Armstrong, Nod Miller and Richard Hoggart. Whilst Paul and Nod continued to attend to the next 25 years or more, Richard Hoggart never attended again. His nomination for honorary membership of

SCUTREA was turned down on the basis that he had made very little contribution to *researching* adult education.

#11 The 10<sup>th</sup> Conference held at the University of Surrey in 1980 was one of the smallest in its history with 44 participants, and felt even smaller. Being in close proximity to London, there were a significant number who were non-residential. The conference theme – ‘The Next Ten Years’ was addressed by Professor Lewis Elton, father of Ben. Unfortunately his presentation was not included in the proceedings. The inclusion of the paper by Brian Nichol of the University of Manchester was unusual since Brian was not at the conference, but had – by invitation – delivered the paper at AERC in Vancouver in May 1980, as a representative of SCUTREA. This was an early indicator of a growing relationship between SCUTREA and its North American sister organisations. The purpose was not simply to improve the exchange of research reports, but ‘to encourage more co-operation in research and more cross-national studies’.

#12 The 1981 Conference picked up a challenge laid down at the 1980 conference by Gerald Bernbaum which was to ensure there were ‘adequate personnel’ to undertake educational research’, to develop ‘suitable analytical concepts and theories’, and to ensure the ‘cumulative basis of research’. The first two of these were addressed throughout the 1980s. The need for accumulation in research was taken seriously by SCUTREA in bringing together all the papers from the first 27 years of SCUTREA, and thereafter storing all its conference papers with the British Education Index (University of Leeds), which has made them not only accessible but searchable, so that all those submitting abstracts have no excuse for not checking what has already been researched in the field.

#13 At the 1982 Conference held in Nottingham had among the 66 delegates, participants from Canberra, Victoria and New South Wales in Australia; Syracuse, New York; Kyoto, Japan; and Winnipeg, Canada. The papers did not record that the Women’s Interest Group held its own alternative conference which was to encourage the development of strands within the conference, rather than a single conference theme. This shift was recognised by Miriam Zukas in her introduction to the 2006 proceedings: ‘One of the features of the SCUTREA Conference since the mid-1980s has been our aim to increase conference participation in a whole range of different ways to ensure that individuals have the chance both to present their ideas and to interact with others’.

#14 The 13<sup>th</sup> annual conference was held in Ruskin College, but organised by the University of Oxford; unusually the only person from the host city who attended the conference, was the organiser himself, Robert Elmore.

#15 The 1984 Conference was attended by the first of the Kellogg Exchange participants from North America. They were Marcie Boucouvalas, Stephen Brookfield, Ron Cervero, Gary Conti, Michael Day, and Linda Lewis.

#16 The 1985 Conference organised by Alan Wellings of Sheffield was attended by 13 participants from North America, including Stephen Brookfield making his second visit in as many years. Hal Beder brought with him some of his students, and three were there as part of the Kellogg Exchange - Paul Ilsley, dian marino and Boyd Rossing. Boyd Rossing’s paper was given a thorough critique by Nell Keddie and Sallie Westwood in particular, which was significant in moving forward and

strengthening the theoretical basis of subsequent papers. The late dian marino contributed a wonderfully creative session, which left a legacy to SCUTREA.

#17 The site for the 1986 and 16<sup>th</sup> annual conference was for the second time at The Lawns, University of Hull. The previous conference in Sheffield had been organised around three themes, including one on women's education, convened by Sallie Westwood and Miriam Zukas. The conference in Hull is remembered by some for the theme offered by Nod Miller and Jim Brown on participatory/action research, which lived up to its name by being ... participatory, for which Nod was to be associated with in subsequent conferences. At the end of the conference was another add-on session for the British-North American Exchange, with papers by Marcie Boucouvalas, Ian Haffenden, and Athalinda McIntosh. This was to be the last formal meeting of the group, and took the form of an evaluation. The impact of the Exchange was very significant for SCUTREA in how it organised conferences in future, learning much from the North American experience in terms of ensuring good quality papers and presentations, and taking account of cultural differences and diversity.

#18 The 1987 Conference held in Lancaster was the last time that there were conference proceedings. The programme took an unusual form this year, based on the theme of Theory and Practice in Adult and Continuing Education. The first part of the conference consisted of draft papers which would form the basis of an international dictionary for the European Centre for Leisure and Education, from Czechoslovakia, East Germany, USSR and Yugoslavia – all of which have been subject to significant changes to geographical boundaries. This brought into the SCUTREA conference a number of distinguished European scholars. The second part of the conference was a series of three thematic discussions: *andragogy* (led by Athalinda Macintosh), *praxis* (led by Paul Armstrong), and *performance* (led by Tom Schuller). The conference proceedings consisted of a single paper written for the performance strand; an annotated transcript of the praxis group, with a reply by Ian Haffenden. The andragogy group 'did not easily adapt to paper presentations'. There was also post-conference seminar on comparative adult education.

#19 Although the Kellogg-funded British-North American Exchange had finished, the legacy for SCUTREA began almost immediately. The 1988 SCUTREA Conference – *TransAtlantic Dialogue* – was a direct outcome of that exchange. It was a conference jointly sponsored with AERC and CASAE, and was by far the largest SCUTREA Conference to date. For the first time SCUTREA produced 'pre-proceedings', following the AERC and CASE model. These contained over 90 papers including six symposia. Some 169 conference delegates assembled at Bodington Hall, University of Leeds, for what was the first genuinely international SCUTREA conference. Miriam Zukas took the lead in organising the conference, which was remembered not only for its new dynamic of cross-cultural dialogue, but also for enhancing the quality of the conference as well as becoming a site for enjoyment and fun.

#20 The editor of the 1989 Conference Proceedings – John Morgan of Nottingham – was pleased to note that whilst the conference was not as large as the 1988 International Conference, the international dimension had been maintained 'with participants from each of the continents'. The 33 papers were organised under four headings: power, policy, enterprise and international. It was also recorded that the 1989 conference was held at Nottingham at fairly short notice after the original site proposed was unable to host the conference. A sign of the times.

#21 As the UK's entry in to Europe as a full member in 1992 approached, the 1990 Conference took the opportunity to consider the implications for the education of adults. The editor's preface to the proceedings states 'Political change at an extraordinary rate had already transformed our perception of the boundaries within Europe and the possibilities for new political, economic and cultural links'. The Eurovision Song Contest that year was won by Italy, with Toto Cutugno, singing "Insieme: 1992".

#22 **SCOOP** was first published in January 1991. It was the brainchild of the new chair and secretary of SCUTREA, Nod Miller (Manchester) and the late David Jones (Nottingham). It was published by David from Pilgrim College in Boston (Lincolnshire). Four issues were published during the calendar year, and included articles by Miriam Zukas telling us all we needed to know about the Transformative Research Network that had emerged from the British-North American TransAtlantic Dialogue. Ominously, the first issue carried the story about the changes taking place at the University of Hull, closing down the old Department of Adult Education, and replacing it as a new centre located within the School of Education, with a number of staff being relocated. The third issue was published at the annual conference in Edinburgh, and reported the closure of the Scottish Institute of Adult and Continuing Education, and also that with the proposal to give all polytechnics in the UK university-status in 1992, we could 'stop agonising about whether or not to discard the U in SCUTREA'. It is also worth noting that the 1990 Edinburgh conference was the first to offer delegates a choice of a badge with a clip or a chain. The other memory of the conference was the display of Scottish country dancing, which led to several objections as one of the dancers allowed her knickers to be seen, and this was alleged to be offensive. The theme of the conference was knowledge *and* performance.

#23 Linden West was responsible for organising the 1992 SCUTREA Conference at the University of Kent in Canterbury. The theme was focused on changing cultures: 'the planning group (Nod Miller, Miriam Zukas, Richard Edwards, Cathy Hull, David Jones and Linden West) felt a need ... to take stock during a period of upheaval and uncertainty within the field. We wanted to address some fundamental questions about the nature and meaning of current trends and the choices faced by individuals and institutions (Linden West 1992, Introduction, p. 6). The old discourses of conservatism and communitarianism had all but disappeared, but – Linden added – post-Fordism had generated more cultural capital, and from this emerged the notion of a 'learning society', which (new) Labour were to pick up and build a new political agenda in advance of the 1997 Election in the UK which was to see the end of Thatcherism. It was noted, with regret, however, that the conference did not include issues around race and ethnicity, which reflected the interests of the dominant white communities in SCUTREA. On a more positive note, the views of Al Thompson (Sussex) attending his first conference was very positive about this small, friendly, participative and stimulating conference (*SCOOP*, November 1992), and the Economic and Social Research Council began to show an interest in adult and continuing education – an interest which SCUTREA hoped would develop into 'an obsession verging on total dependency' (*SCOOP*, March 1992).

#24 John Wallis (Nottingham) and Nod Miller (Manchester) both were promoted to Senior Lectureships in their institutions in 1993. Both were sure that their voluntary work as SCUTREA Officers had made a positive contribution to their promotions. Alan Wellings (Conference Organiser, at three Sheffield Conferences, and Leni Oglesby (Honorary Secretary, 1979-82) were successful in gaining new posts. (It is an interesting act in itself that as far as we know the marriage of Leni and

Alan is the only one to come about after meeting at a SCUTREA conference, although Miriam Zukas and Paul Armstrong were once mistakenly thought to be a married couple on a flight to North America.) However, it was also reported that a candidate for a post in university adult education had the interview terminated after asking how the prospective employers would view the possibility of them standing for election to be chair of SCUTREA. It is a reminder that SCUTREA depends heavily on voluntary labour, and at a time when there was increasing emphasis on workload models in the institutions this can be an anomaly. In a citation count in the SCUTREA Papers delivered at Manchester in 1993, Robin Usher had nine mentions. Liz Stanley eight, Stephen Kemmis seven, Ian Bryant and David Boud both six mentions, Barry Bright four, C. Wright Mills, Howard Becker, Pierre Bourdieu, Glaser and Strauss all got three, with Peter Jarvis and David Kolb, each being mentioned two each, whereas Paolo Freire, Jack Mezirow and Stephen Brookfield were each mentioned just the once (*SCOOP*, July 1993).

#25 Different times? The Call for Papers for the 1994 conference reported that the Conservative Government in the UK had reached its target of expansion of higher education six years early. This was largely due to the creation the 'new' universities in 1992. The impact of rapid expansion was felt to be contradictory – was it a time of opportunity or despair? As we enter a period of retrenchment and cutbacks, we will probably think back fondly of this period from the mid-1990s into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The papers at the 1994 conference (held again in Hull) had definitely shifted its dominant theoretical position with many papers referring to postmodernism and identity including a paper by one of the editors – Miriam Zukas – that focused on SCUTREA's changing identity. She linked this to her own identity having been actively involved with SCUTREA for over 12 years. She recalls that her and other colleagues' complaints that SCUTREA was a 'male-dominated, patriarchal organisation – fell on sensitive ears ... judging by the changes in the organisation since then'. She produced an analysis of the conference proceedings between 1970 and 1994, which she argued provided 'an intriguing view of an organisation that is rapidly changing'.

Monday 1995 #26 SCUTREA gained its charitable status in 1995. As part of the process it had to produce a Constitution and a Code of Practice. Although minor amendments have been made to the Constitution, it has largely remained true to its original objects: 'To advance knowledge and understanding in all aspects of learning, education and training in adulthood in particular but not exclusively through the provision of conferences and seminars and to facilitate and enhance the contributions to that advancement by those teaching, researching and studying the education of adults'. SCUTREA is obliged to submit an annual report including financial statements and audited accounts. For each of the honorary posts it is made clear that there is no remuneration, as SCUTREA is a voluntary organisation. The main advantage was seen as tax relief on its investment account, though the job descriptions for the officer posts are also come in very useful very three years when there are officer elections at the AGM, especially as that year, the conference held in Southampton had two papers critiquing the notion of competence.

#27 The 1996 conference was held in Leeds and coincided with the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Leeds' Department of Adult Education. The conference focused on diversity and development, around the theme of 'futures'. With a degree of irony, there was to be no future for the Leeds' department. By the time of the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the Department had been closed, and as the Lifelong Learning Institute, had merged with the School of Education in the University of Leeds. By 2009 the Lifelong Learning Institute was closed. 1996 was the final year of office for Miriam Zukas as chair, and Paul

Armstrong as Secretary. Miriam was to leave Leeds in 2009 to join Birkbeck. Paul who left Birkbeck in 2000 to join the Leeds' Department took early retirement. In the 1996 Conference proceedings, Miriam in her editorial noted the reluctance of those submitting papers to make predictions or speculate about the future. 'Perhaps', wrote Miriam prophetically, 'this reflects our uncertainty about our collective future – indeed, we may not have one!'.

#28 The second international conference of SCUTREA was held at Royal Holloway, University of London. It was- and remains - the largest SCUTREA Conference with around 250 participants, and with 99 conference papers and five symposia, based on the theme of 'Crossing borders, breaking boundaries'. Whilst there was a good representation of papers from outside the UK, from North America, Australia and New Zealand, we were aware of the absence of others from non-English-speaking countries, and the South. We were challenged at the end of conference evaluation to find ways to be more truly international. The conference is remembered not just for the Victorian site, for the conference reception in Royal Holloway's art gallery, and definitely not for the reformation of the Kelloggs Cornflakes group, so successful in Leeds 1988, but for the ice breaker, creatively and carefully designed by Rod Allen and Nod Miller a murder mystery appropriate for the venue. The Conference also saw the launch of the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary CD-Rom that included the first 27 years' of SCUTREA conference papers. And David Jones undertook to produce a daily newsletter during the conference, which initiated the tradition of having a conference issue of *SCOOP* that would be produced during the conference.

#29 The 1998 Conference was held in Exeter and was organised by Roseanne Benn (then Chair of SCUTREA) and supported by Cheryl Hunt of Sheffield, who was then the Secretary of SCUTREA, and by Roger Fieldhouse. Being a historian, Roger contributed a brief history of the host site through the conference issue of *SCOOP*, revealing it was a distant descendent of the School of Art which opened in Exeter in 1855. It took until 1886 for a University Extension Committee under the auspices of Cambridge University to begin running classes in economics. History tells us it has been much quicker to dismantle adult education departments than it did to build them. The conference itself offered 43 papers. Ten of those who gave papers are also offering papers at the 2010 conference (Paul Armstrong, David Boud, Jim Crowther, Anne-Marie Houghton, Cheryl Hunt, Christine Jarvis, Rob Lawy, Barbara Merrill, Lynn Tett and Linden West). The cost for ensuite accommodation for the full conference was £190.00 for members, which is about half of the cost for the 2010 conference. Virman Man of NIACE was in attendance with his book stall.

#30 The 1999 conference was held at Warwick. The theme was 'exploring spaces in the education of adults'. The conference title was 'The Final Frontier'. We are pleased that eleven years later we are back in Warwick, which was not after all the final frontier. The conference had many and diverse papers, but was notable for the first one that had a paper on autoethnography, delivered by the late Valerie-Lee Chapman: 'A woman's life remembered: autoethnographic reflections of an adult/educator'. The abstract reads: 'I discuss the increasing use of lifewriting/narrative by educational researchers, and then provide a genealogy of one such methodology, autoethnography. I argue that a postcolonial autoethnographic approach to enquiry can augment our critical understanding of adult education as a reflexive practice'. It was one of four papers Valerie-Lee delivered at SCUTREA between 1997 and 2003.

#31 The 30<sup>th</sup> annual conference was held in Nottingham, organised by the late David Jones and his graduate student, Ann Jackson from the East Riding of Yorkshire. For someone not located in a university post, Ann was remarkably active in SCUTREA, first as an individual member undertaking to represent individual members, and then as the elected honorary secretary working with David who was elected chair in 2000. It was appropriate that their conference theme was focused on researching inclusion, because Ann was a significant example of how open and welcoming SCUREA has been, and not as much as a closed community as some people believe. No one who was at the 39<sup>th</sup> annual conference at Downing College in 2009 will forget Ann's moving tribute to David. Ann contributed eleven papers (four of which were co-written with John Wallis) to conferences between 1998 and 2008. Ann decided that this year – 2010 - was an appropriate time to break her connection with SCUTREA, having retired from her post in the East Riding of Yorkshire. She is already being missed.

#32 The 2001 Conference held at the University of East London, was the 4<sup>th</sup> international conference (the third was organised in Vancouver with CASAE and AERC in 2000). The organisation had co-ordinators representing AERC (Amy Rose), Adult Learning Association – Research Network (Australia) (David Boud), the Canadian Association for the Study of Adult Education (Tara Fenwick), and the European Society for Research in the Education of Adults (Henning Salling Oleson). The conference was organised by Professor Nod Miller, assistant vice chancellor at UEL. Nod had built the conference into a large festival of lifelong learning in East London, which ran through 2000-2001. The SCUTREA Conference focused around the metaphor of 'travellers' tales'. The proceedings were edited by Nod, her partner Rod Allen, Linden West and the late Dave O'Reilly who fell ill during the planning of the conference, and sadly died soon after. The conference itself was preceded by a global symposium – a workshop organised on behalf of the Open University in which invited participants presented commissioned papers: 'Unravelling the story of a milestone text: tales from the Handbook of Adult and Continuing Education'. Papers by Paul Armstrong, Ron Cervero, Richard Edwards, David Gosling, Elizabeth Hayes, Juanita Johnson-Bailey, Linden West, Arthur (Butch) Wilson and Miriam Zukas were co-ordinated by Nod Miller. The papers were subsequently added to by others for use by the Open University Masters module E845 *Supporting Lifelong Learning*. The papers are still accessible:

<http://www.open.ac.uk/lifelong-learning/biogs/index.html>

#33 Stirling was the scenic setting for SCUTREA in 2002 for its 'altered states' theme. Altered states referred to both the changing condition of adult education in terms of both the way it works, and the way it is framed. Globalisation and lifelong learning had become common currency, so the challenge for those giving papers was to find a way of inserting those two concepts into their papers. It was also time to have altered states in SCUTREA, with an election of new officers. Barbara Merrill of Warwick was elected as chair, with Pam Coare of Sussex as secretary. In 2008, Pam was to go on to be chair, with Linda Morrice, also of Sussex to be secretary. Peter Gray became membership secretary, who then was succeeded by Rob Mark of The Queens University Belfast in 2007 and 2008. The minutes of the AGM at the Stirling conference recorded congratulations to the conference planning team because they had made access to the internet available. Two years later when the conference was held at Halifax Hall, in Sheffield, David Boud could be heard climbing up Eccleshall Road looking for an internet cafe, complaining all the way up and all the way back down again. Thereafter, access to the internet was an essential feature of the conference site. At least it when it rained in Sheffield, delegates who had been to Stirling had umbrellas thoughtfully issued by the

Stirling planning group . That's the advantage of having critical and postmodern theorists on conference planning groups – they never took anything for granted.

#34 'Speaking tongues: languages and lifelong learning ' was the fascinating focus of the 2003 SCUTREA Conference. Perhaps the two most unusual papers were those by Sioned Huws, entitled 'Llafur cariad, llafur' ('Labour of love, cheap labour). The purpose of the paper is explained by Sioned: 'Mae'r papur hwn yn edrych ar sefyllfa menywod a'r iaith Gymraeg gan ganolbwyntio ar brofiadau'r menywod rheini sy'n ei dysgu fel ail iaith i oedolion', which roughly translates as 'This paper looks at the situation of women and the Welsh language, concentrating on the experiences of those women who teach it as a second language to adults'. The other unusual paper was that by Mae Shaw and Ian Martin, whose paper 'Songs for learning: learning from song' was a radical departure for the conference. The focus of the paper reflected the songs Mae Shaw performed on the album she produced with Tony Mitchell – *Heart, Mind and Soul* – a collection of 12 songs for social purpose, together with lyrics and notes (including questions for discussion) that is marketed by NIACE. Mae was one of the team that organised the 2008 Conference in Edinburgh. In each of the twelve weeks leading up to the conference, the SCUTREA website linked access to one of the songs. You can still buy the CD for £10.95: <http://shop.niace.org.uk/heart-mind-soul.html>

The other unusual feature of the conference organised by University of Wales in Bangor was the fact that delegates had to take a coach to the conference dinner which was held in Penrhyn Castle, which in itself was okay, but the evening meal was preceded by an hour's lecture, and it was not only the Castle's catering staff that was getting restless, but so were the conference participants, not used to having to wait for their conference dinner. It was a strong reminder as to why – typically – SCUTREA does not have speeches at its annual conference dinner. And thanks to Brec'hed Piette – the conference organiser – we were able for the first time, to produce the conference *SCOOP* in colour.

#35 Complaints about SCUTREA Conferences are legendary – because there are never that many. Already mentioned in this series of interesting facts was the lack of internet facilities at Halifax Hall in Sheffield. Now the organiser - Cheryl Hunt - could not be blamed for this, especially as she was organising the conference from her new position in Exeter – over 250 miles away. Different technological problems this time - none of the keycards issued seemed to open the doors, so many times delegates had to wait for someone to open the door from the other side. And against advice they conference planning group decided to go for a barbecue. The first and only previous time the conference dinner was offered as barbecue had been Hull in 1994. That was a washout too. More successful was the opening icebreaker based on speed-dating. This was used to get delegates new to SCUTREA to integrate with those who had been coming for years. It was so successful that it was used again in Edinburgh in 2008, but this time as the first evening entertainment.

#36 This was the last of five consecutive years that Tilda Gaskell delivered papers at SCUTREA. Her papers had focused on older age and learning, Her paper in 2003 was called 'The Meaning of Life', and her final paper, 'You learn all your life – and then you die still stupid'. A few months later, Tilda sadly died. Having been a recipient of the Michael Stephens Best Student Paper Award, and being in the process of taking on the role of SCUTREA Treasurer, it was agreed to rename the student award after Tilda, and the Michael Stephens Award would then be used to support a small-scale research project each year. The 2005 Conference in Brighton, organised by Pam Coare of Sussex, was touched by more tragedy as the conference itself ended prematurely due to the 7/7 bombings

targeted at public transport in central London on the final morning of the conference, killing over 50 people and injuring nearly 800 more.

#37 Every four years the SCUTREA conference manages to clash with the World Cup for soccer. In 1986 Stephen Brookfield and Barry Bright, used to playing their music in front of large appreciative crowds were disappointed, as all those interested in football crossed the road from Cleminson Hall to watch the world cup in The Cross Keys. In 2006, Paul Armstrong the Conference Organiser - sensibly ensured that the students union at Leeds Trinity & All Saints (now Leeds Trinity University College) would have facilities to watch the semi-finals that were showing during the conference. Going one step further, Paul also designed a 'Top Trumps' card game based on the world cup that could be played collectively. However, no one seemed to have heard of Top Trumps, and decided to make their own rules up, which led to Togo, represented by Richard Heslop and Michael Newman *defiantly* winning the world cup.

#38 Apart from co-sponsoring the CASAE and AERC conference Vancouver in 2000, the 2007 Conference at The Queens University, Belfast was the first time SCUTREA had held its conference across the sea (in this case, the Irish Sea). It was also the first time since Bangor in 2003 that there was a significant distance between the residences and the campus where the conference was being held, and the only other time when a coach has been required to transport delegates to the conference dinner. But at least on this occasion, there were no speeches before the meal. We were all grateful to the conference organiser, Rob Mark, for making sure that did not happen.

#39 Edinburgh was the site for the 2008 conference, organised by Jim Crowther, Mae Shaw and others. Some delegates could still remember the last time SCUTREA was in Edinburgh in 1991, and the fuss caused by the entertainment – Scottish Country dancing. This time responsibility for entertainment was delegated to an academic colleague, who organised speed-dating on the first night, with no hint of controversy, and then Scottish Country dancing the second evening, which seemed to be enjoyed by all. Also very much enjoyed was Ian Martin's opening plenary. As this was to be Ian's last conference before he retired, he was invited to address the conference. He noted in passing that this was the first time he had ever used Powerpoint. Now that *is* an interesting fact.

#40 The most unusual feature about the 2009 Conference was that it was held in Downing College, University of Cambridge; yet none of the delegates represented the University of Cambridge, although the Institute of Education, based at Madingley Hall did organise a successful one-day pre-conference on the significance of taking a historical perspective. The only pity was that the three keynote speakers – Gary McCulloch ('Towards a social history of learners and learning'), John Field ('Able bodies: work camps and the training of the unemployed in Britain before 1939') and Tom Steele ('Popular Education in Europe: was there any such thing?') - as well as the chair - Dick Taylor - were all white men. By coincidence, the conference officer at Downing College is Jacqui Cressey, who previously worked at Leeds Trinity, and also provided most of the host site support for the 2006 Conference, organised by the University of Leeds. And finally the new SCUTREA website was launched by Paul Armstrong at the final plenary of the Cambridge Conference.