



The newsletter of the
Standing Conference on University
Teaching and Research in the
Education of Adults
Conference Edition, July 2010

SENT TO COVENTRY

At the 2009 SCUTREA AGM, held at the end of the SCUTREA Conference, in Cambridge, the new SCUTREA Communications Officer, Paul Armstrong, announced that the new SCUTREA website was almost ready for launching. The web design was carried out by PDP of Leeds. The designer, Richard Francis, works in the Lifelong Learning Centre at the University of Leeds, and so has empathy with the aims and objects of the organisation. The original welcome page looked like this:

The screenshot shows the SCUTREA website homepage. At the top left, a box contains the text: "Next conference: University of Warwick 6th-8th July 2010. For more details please click [here](#)." The top right features the "scutrea" logo and the full name: "Standing Conference on University Teaching and Research in the Education of Adults". A navigation bar below the logo includes links for Home, About SCUTREA, Contacts, Events, Library, Links, and News. The main content area is titled "Welcome" and contains two paragraphs of text about the organization's history and mission. To the right of this text is a "Join SCUTREA" box with a link to details. Below the welcome text is a "Conferences" section with a photo of a group of people and text describing the annual conference, including a "REMINDER" about the closing date for the 40th Annual Conference on 11 January 2010. At the bottom right of the page are two small icons for W3C HTML 4.01 and W3C CSS. The footer contains the copyright notice: "© SCUTREA 2009 | Page updated: 12/10/2009 | Site design by PDSupport".

The site is accessible from the same website address as before: <http://www.scutrea.ac.uk>. Visit it often, check for errors and suggest new ideas that will make the site useful to you. Send suggestions to the SCUTREA Communications Officer (paradet@gmail.com). For details of the usage of the website see p. 5

View from the Chair

It's been great to meet up with both UK colleagues (a special mention to Christine Jarvis who gave the first ever paper I attended at a SCUTREA conference in Hull 1994 (ah Mills and Boon where are you when I need you?), and those from over the pond and from other points (mainly) south. I really did miss Peter Willis last year: who else to regale me about priests and sheds in the same conversation? Start saving now for Lancaster, Peter.

It's been a smaller conference (73 delegates on the list) this year with less papers, but I'm for quality over quantity (and the proceedings are easier to carry too), and all the sessions I've attended have been engaging and lively – even when the chair of the session used the tactic of cutting me short in an attempt not to be selected for a similar duty next year. You failed.

I was also heartened by the number of people who joined the officers for lunch a tour round SCUTREA Council: I can sleep in the full hope and expectation that we will have elected a new team of officers next year. As you can see from the picture, we always have a ball at Council, so there should be no holding them back. Finally, I hope we see you all in Lancaster in 2011, and if you can bring a few friends and colleagues, so much the better. I wish you a safe journey home.

Editor's note:

Here is a photograph taken at the SCUTREA Council meeting held in April 2010 in London. At next year's conference, there will be elections for a new set of officers. Whilst not very time consuming, these are important roles for enabling SCUTREA to continue to provide high quality conferences. As an officer, you would normally attend four SCUTREA Council meetings – one in the Autumn, one in January (at which abstracts for that year's Conference are considered), then in May to check that the conference preparations are going



Council members from left to right: Janet Coles, Pam Coare, Linda Morrice, Barbara Merrill, Christine Vickerman and Alastair Thompson (NIACE). Paul Armstrong took the photograph.

according to plan, and one at the Conference itself, followed by the AGM. The constitution includes the job description and this can be accessed in the Library on the website. At the back of SCOOP are a list of the current officers, and if you are at all interested you are most welcome to contact any of them to discuss the roles. We will be seeking nominations just before next year's conference in Lancaster where the elections will take place. In the event there is no more than one candidate for any post, then that person is elected unopposed. The office is held for three years from the end of the conference July 2011 to the end of the conference in 2014. Encouragingly a number of colleagues joined the current officers for lunch at this year's conference, and it is hoped that some of them will all come forward, including those from far-flung parts of the globe to take responsibility of ensuring SCUTREA continues towards its 50th anniversary. If you are interested in standing for an officer post, please contact any of them for more information (details on the back page).

Advance notice:

University of Lancaster, 3-5 July 2011

Creating and Sustaining International Connections: exploring the learning opportunities for Studying Creative Understandings about Teaching and Research for Equity and Access (SCUTREA)

At the 40th SCUTREA conference we looked back and began to look forward from the perspective of time. Whilst we remembered designated international conferences we also recognised that over time the networks within adult education have become international and that the opportunities to explore adult education considerations do exist. The 41st conference will provide opportunities to both create new and sustain existing international connections.

The international context is one that is hard to escape. Universities are motivated to internationalise their reputations through research collaborations, their curriculum, student body, and staff. There are a myriad of drivers including institutional survival based on economic, political and legislative factors influenced by national and international contexts. For instance, the Bologna Process promoting student mobility and shaping to varying degrees the response to qualifications, the curriculum and shape of higher education. The economic imperatives influence the relationship between academic and vocational higher education and raise questions about the purpose of adult education. The response of adult educators working in both a national and international context to equality and human rights legislation also provides a basis for building on the social justice themes present within adult education.

The conference welcomes papers, symposia, roundtable discussions, and other forms of dissemination of research which contribute to theory, policy and practice in the education of adults. The international perspective is one that will provide opportunities for exploring:

- How **communities of practice** within and between universities and their partners help to create and sustain international connections?
- How local, regional, national and international educational, social, welfare and economic **policies** impact on adult educator's teaching and research for equity and access to learning?
- Who participates in the process of creating international connections and how does their **participation** shape the nature of the connections created?
- How do international connections / collaborations lead to more creative understandings about **teaching and research**?
- How **alternative learning technologies** support or stifle the creation of international connections between learners, educators and researchers?

The finalised Call for Papers will be distributed in September. The abstracts will need to be sent early January 2011, and the final paper late April 2011.

Creative writing

It has become traditional for Rebecca O'Rourke to run a creative writing workshop. This is a collective piece written by those attending the 2010 conference. Alex Withnall, Budd Hall, Hazel Wright, Ian Martin, Kate Thomas, Laura Cecil and Maria Gravani.

Some Other Wednesday

Hungry and full of woe, Wednesday sits in the middle of the week.

A fence day – keeping this half away from that.

And there she is, sitting on that fence, thinking:

What have I done?

Where has the time gone?

Panic Panic Panic

Friday is closing in on her.

He is sharing his troubles and a cup of tea with his friends.

She is standing outside the shop with its shutters down and closed sign up.

He had the whole delicious afternoon but come closer

See him awash with lesson plans and exercise books.

Look there, that flight of green and grey and gold!

Wednesday on the wing.

This time last year we were here but somewhere else.

Under a tree in Cambridge sunlight and privilege dappling well kept lawns

Forty years ago one of was not here; her mother a girl still, in another country.

This man stood in one continent and stepped out into another, half a world away.

This child won her egg and spoon race. That one could not know then

How all these years later Diane Townsend would be the first and last person ever to bully her.

That young woman, desperate in Sussex needs to know she will finish the Master's thesis and one day listen to the Guardian fall through her letterbox, lining up the day for its pleasure.

Wednesday settles into its space in the week.

Meaning something. Changing from grey to golden.

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Wednesday

Ian Martin

Time may have lost its shape,

But that does not mean it's empty.

It just means that there is not the familiar pattern of work and play.

There is still the grass to cut, the dog to walk, the clothes to wash, the food to cook.

But was that book I meant to write really more important than the picture I want to paint?

And when Wednesday comes,

I will use my free bus pass to go into town,

Sitting on the top deck, right at the front,

Watching all the people going to work.

And I will open my book and enter an imagined world

Where time still counts, but is no longer counted.

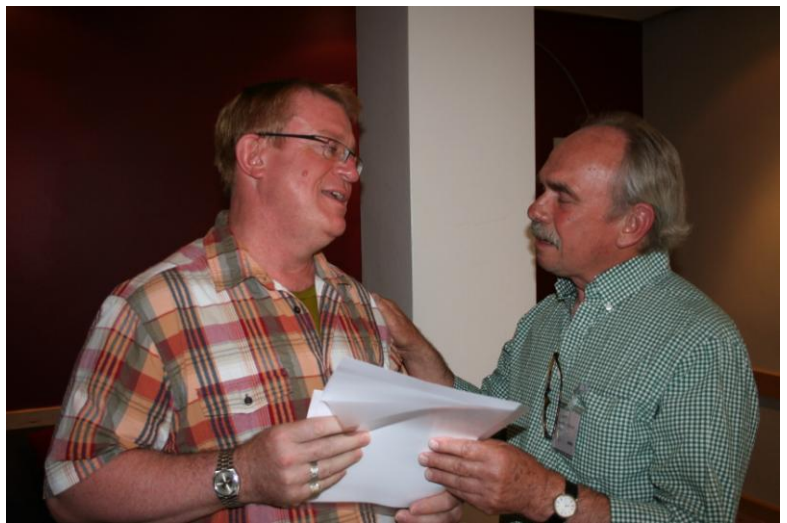
Website usage

Between November 2009 and July 2010 – the first months of the existence of the new SCUTREA website - there were 2,451 visits to the site, of which just over 1,300 were from the UK, followed by 284 from Canada, 187 from the USA and 133 from Australia. In total there were visits from 81 different countries. On average each visit viewed nearly 3.5 pages, spending just over one minute on the site.

SCUTREA awards

The Tilda Gaskell Award for the best SCUTREA paper was not made this year.

The Ian Martin Award for Social Justice was awarded to André Grace of the University of Alberta, Canada for his paper 'Space matters lifelong learning, sexual minorities, and realities of adult education as social education'.



*Ian Martin congratulates
André on his award-winning
paper*

Competition Corner

Who is this?

A prize for the person to correctly identify this well known adult educator (except the person himself) and who comes up with the most creative response to 'what is he thinking?' Answers to the editor (p.armstrong@leeds.ac.uk)



STOP PRESS

World Cup Football Semi-Final Results:

Holland 1 Uruguay Lost

Germany lost Spain 1

A new journal, *Journal for the Study of Spirituality*, was launched by Equinox Publishing in May 2011, in co-operation with the British Association for the Study of Spirituality (BASS). Submissions can be accepted from 1 July onwards. This is an interdisciplinary, inter-professional journal and will be international in scope. Cheryl Hunt will be the chief editor for at least its first three years. She would be most grateful if you could pass on this information to any colleagues or students who may be interested in writing for, or subscribing to, the journal. The journal will be available in print and online. In the online version they hope to carry abstracts of theses in the field of spirituality.

Membership of BASS is by application and will give access to a members' network where relevant conferences, courses etc can be advertised. The BASS website is currently nearing completion and will contain details of how to apply for membership; it will also contain information about the papers given at the highly successful international conference, *Spirituality in a Changing World*, hosted by BASS in London recently. There is a reduced membership fee for those who also wish to subscribe to the journal. Further details from Cheryl Hunt (c.hunt@exeter.ac.uk).

Cheryl was part of the prize-winning quiz team that answered the most questions in a hard fought encounter in Warwick on the first evening of the conference.



For the second year running there was controversy. This time there was dispute as to whether Bohemia is part of the European Union. Answers on a postcard to Linden West or Rob Evans. On a positive note, we all learned that Errol Flynn was from Tasmania and that Albert Camus was really an internationally renowned goalkeeper who played in the world cup.

Paul Armstrong provided the conference with forty more interesting facts - but these were all about SCUTREA, including the fact that we were all attending what was *in fact* the 41st annual conference. The first conference – it appears – was held in Edinburgh in 1970. He also provided the results of a survey undertaken with the SCUTREA membership which revealed that the key features of SCUTREA are networking (81%), friendly (76.7%), shared commitment to research (72.1%). Only two respondents thought SCUTREA was competitive! Maybe they would use a blackberry to answer the conference quiz questions?

Some more conference pictures taken at the SCUTREA Conference:



BACKPAGE

Rennie Johnston has now given up reading and writing about adult education and attending conferences, although he is still active in locally based community development work. In my new 'career', He was recently selected to play for Scotland in the Four Nations' Veterans tennis competition. He beat his opposite numbers from Ireland and Wales but just failed at the final post, losing 10-8 in the final tie-break to the English Number 1. Overall, Scotland came second to the 'auld enemy'. Plus ca change.....

Stephen Brookfield reports that *The 99ers* have had two albums released on the Spinout Records Label (Spinout re based in Nashville, Tennessee). Also, Freddy Cannon - an old rock and roller (Tallahassee lassie, Way Down Yonder in New Orleans, Palisades Park) has recorded a song I wrote! Finally, our song about Crystal Palace ("Eagles Forever") got played at half time at Selhurst Park in the season just ended

Here's The 99ers home page:

http://www.the99ersband.com/The_99ers/Home.html

Here's where people can hear them:

<http://www.myspace.com/the99ers>

We heard however that a valuable member of the band - daughter Molly - is about to leave the band at the end of the current tour to take up a Masters degree in heritage studies in London in September. Auditions to find a replacement are underway.

We are very happy that Chrissie Hibbert has returned from her secondment in Gibraltar. Here she is visiting Kenilworth Castle with some other SCUTREA delegates from overseas:



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