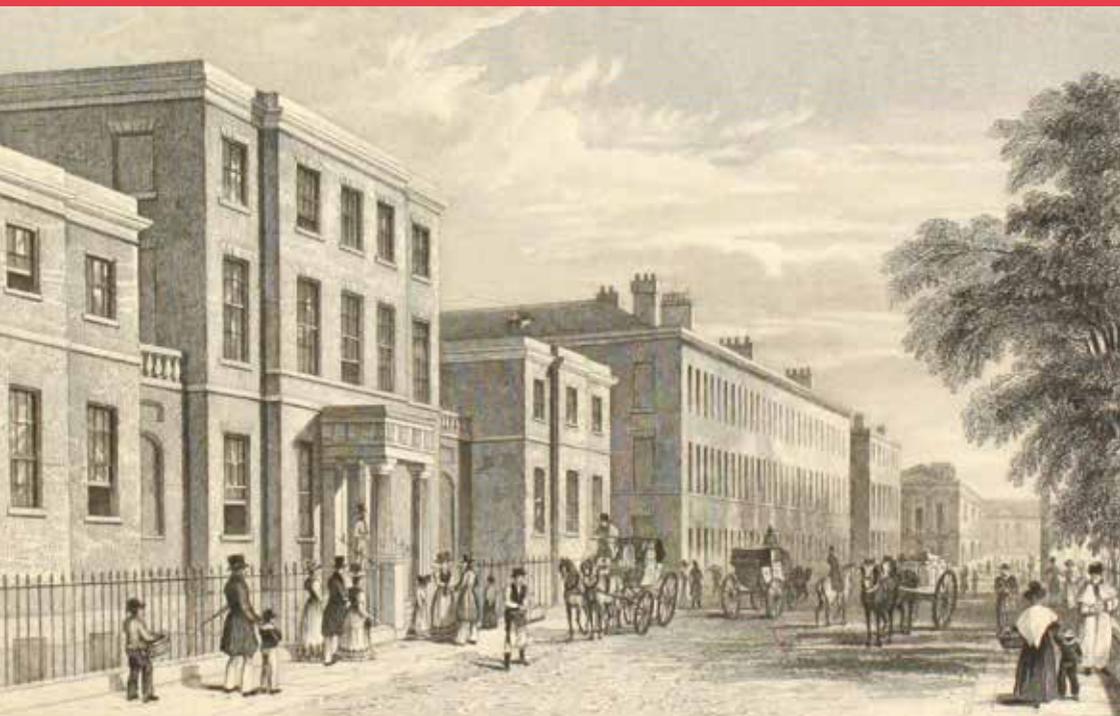




UNIVERSITY OF
LIVERPOOL

CONTINUING
EDUCATION



Continuing Education *at the* University of Liverpool

Dr. Anna Pilz

Introduction

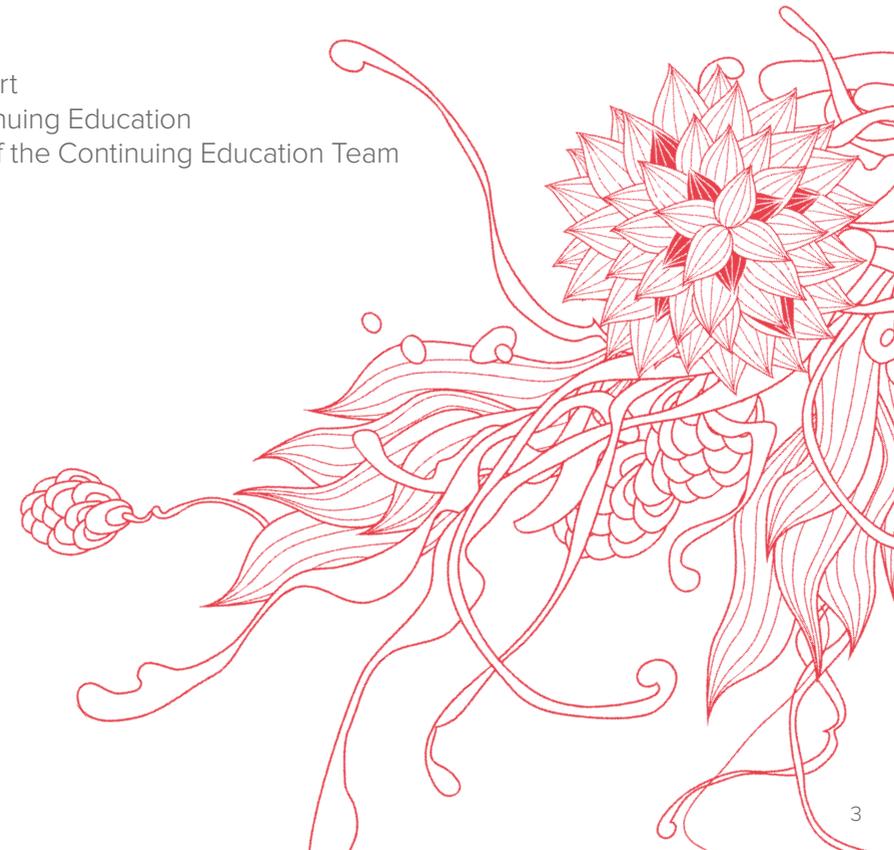
In 2014 126 Mount Pleasant, Continuing Education's current home, celebrates its 100th birthday. This significant milestone prompted us in the Centre for Lifelong Learning to look back at the University of Liverpool's long and illustrious history of providing courses for adults in Liverpool and the wider region. Although the Continuing Education team is made up of a dedicated and long serving group which has supported the CE programme over many years, we have all been surprised and impressed by the stories that this brief history reveals. Our thanks go to Dr. Anna Pilz, CE Lecturer in Irish Studies, for all her work in condensing a huge amount of information into such a readable format and to Wendy Wright for such thorough work on the CE archives.

We would also like to acknowledge the support of the J L Hamilton bequest to the Centre for Lifelong Learning in the production of this publication.

We hope you enjoy this short history and would be pleased to hear from you if you have any further information to add.

Carol Stewart
Head Continuing Education
On behalf of the Continuing Education Team

July 2014



Beginnings

‘Education is the proper employment, not only of our early years, but of our whole lives.’

William Roscoe, 1817

From the very beginning of the University in the city of Liverpool, it pioneered in the establishment and expansion of adult education. In line with William Roscoe’s motto with which he had opened the Royal Institution in 1817, the University promoted lifelong learning and made a significant contribution to the University Extension movement that aimed to provide educational opportunities to those who had been previously deprived. Since the first formal classes in 1900, the extra-mural work had to face the challenges of two world wars as well as social, political, economic and educational changes. Continuing Education grew with all these challenges and more often than not was at the forefront in experimenting with new schemes and initiatives to meet an increasing demand. The key emphasis on continuing education – whether for professional reasons or for pleasure – continues to be at the core of the University’s Centre for Lifelong Learning today.

Indeed, the idea for University Extension lectures originated in Liverpool in the latter half of the 19th century. The Liverpool woman Miss Anne J. Clough brought together a group of women from the North of England to form an association that would promote Higher Education for women. Among those approached to deliver public lectures was the Scottish scientist James Stuart, a Fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge. Stuart came to Liverpool in the autumn of 1867 and delivered lectures on the History of Science at the Royal Institution that would later become a key teaching centre for adult education in the early 20th century. Inspired by his experience in the northern port-city, Stuart returned to Cambridge with a proposal to inaugurate University Extension lectures and, thus, the new scheme was launched in 1873 at Cambridge, followed by London and Oxford. Liverpool, then, has a long-standing history of continuing education; initiative was taken by a local woman, the idea for a widespread scheme was launched in the city and the fruits of that exchange would return to the city with the founding of the University College Liverpool in 1881.

Early years

When the University College opened its doors to students in 1882, the provision of adult education was already on the agenda. For those ‘anxious to gain general culture or information upon the subjects treated’, the University College offered evening courses and classes for adult learners. In the 1880s, there was a regular programme of courses on the subjects of history, literature, physics, political philosophy and biology. Scholarships of £5 were offered to working men. The post office official and lecturer John Lee gave an inspiring lecture on ‘A Dream of a People’s University of Liverpool’ with the aim to establish ‘community centres’ in the suburbs of the city where regular courses of lectures would be run.

Such activities culminated in the establishment of the Society for University Extension in Liverpool and District in October 1899. Under the auspices of the University Extension Committee of the Victoria University and with the support from the College’s staff, the Society provided courses for a wider audience and with great public appeal. With a yearly grant from the Royal institution, the Society owed a large extent of its success to J.R. Bryce Muir who, between 1900 and 1909, ran no less than 36 extension courses. Not long after teaching had begun, courses under the auspices of the Society were run in Aintree, Ormskirk, Waterloo, Crosby, Wallasey, Port Sunlight and West Kirby. In many cases, there were as many as 100 attendees per course. At the time, admission charges for a course of six lectures ranged from 2s.6d. to 5s. The most popular subjects were – and still are – history, geography and literature.

Once Liverpool became an independent University in 1903, the Society applied successfully for a grant that retained its administrative and financial control for the provision of adult education as the University agreed to provide a subsidy of £150.

In the early years of the 20th century, the work of the Society expanded steadily and became an integrated part of the University. Amongst the extra-mural work undertaken was the instruction and examination of students from Training Colleges, lecturing courses for teachers and tutorial classes for the working class. With the introduction of such longer courses, running between 10 to 24 lectures, came the introduction of examinations that was supported by the University through the creation of a Board for the Examination of Students in Training Colleges.



School of Hygiene in 1914 - the original site of 126 Mount Pleasant.
Copyright granted by Liverpool Record Office, Liverpool Libraries

With the founding of the Workers' Educational Association in 1903, the Society had a long-lasting fruitful collaborator. Both sought to offer higher education opportunities to the un-privileged by means of offering University Extension lectures. The Society, in conjunction with the WEA, started to offer small group tutorial classes which ran over three years under guidance of a University teacher. The first tutorial class started in Birkenhead in 1909 on the theme of 'The Evolution of Modern Social Conditions'.

In 1906, the University opened its first extra-mural teaching centre. Miss Isabella Gregson financed the Gregson Memorial Institute in Garmoyle Road in memory of her parents and the running was initially placed under the direction of the Extension Society. However, despite the generous gift of £5000 from Miss Gregson, the funds were insufficient and the First World War brought an end to this first experiment of a permanent home for lifelong learning at Liverpool.

During these early years, the Society for University Extension worked mainly independently, but much work was carried out through the University and its committees. In 1910, the University assumed full responsibility in agreement with the Society and extension work became an integral part of the University with the establishment of the University Extension Board. From 1911, only one or two full-time tutors were employed to teach tutorial classes whilst the remaining work was undertaken by University staff on a part-time basis.

War time

Up until the 1930s, extension work was dominated by tutorial classes run in collaboration with the WEA. Despite temporary set-backs during the First World War and the subsequent depression, the numbers of classes rose steadily and by the eve of the Second World War, there is a record of 67 classes and 1056 enrolled students. A large number of these classes ran in Liverpool. In the beginning, tutorial classes exclusively covered the subjects of economics and industrial history. In later years, topics such as literature, music, philosophy and psychology also became popular. Opportune for the time, the 1930s saw numerous courses on 'International Affairs'. Among the participants we find workmen, clerical and professional workers, teachers and interestingly a 'growing army of housewives'. People were interested in education both for personal development and enhancing their career opportunities, with good uptake of both vocational and non-vocational courses.

With the outbreak of the First World War, the activities of the Extension committees were shattered and struggled to recover. Sadly, the courses for training college students and Sunday school teachers were discontinued as well. The University's Extension programme became ever more slender, even into the 1930s. Yet, despite this decline, the Department of Adult Education was formed in 1936, emphasising the importance of lifelong learning during such uncertain times. Two years later, it was renamed the Department of Extra-Mural Studies and Dr Allan McPhee took up office as Director in 1938.

With the outbreak of war in September 1939, continuing education was facing a variety of changes. The same year saw the foundation of the Liverpool Regional Committee for Adult Education in H.M. Forces with McPhee as Honorary Secretary and it brought together a number of bodies. But it was the Department of Extra-Mural Studies which carried out the work in the field of education for the armed forces. Records note that for the duration of the war, the Committee organised more than 40,000 lectures and educational meetings with members of the armed forces. In 1941, the Royal Institution was converted into a Services Quiet Club with a canteen, common room, studio for painting and a 'library' of magazines, books and records.

The Liverpool Blitz left the city in a devastated state with widespread and severe bomb damage in the city centre as well as across the Merseyside area. The resultant housing shortage posed a problem not only for the general population, but also for the provision of extra-mural activities.

The air-raids, black-outs, evacuations, transport difficulties, overtime work and national service all impacted on the Extension programme and execution of classes. Previous locations became unavailable or were put to emergency use. Across Merseyside, classes were transferred to Saturday and Sunday afternoons to finish teaching before air-raids.

Dr McPhee, facing the challenges of running the Department of Extension Studies during war time only a year after his appointment, recounts that 'tutorial classes continued to be conducted week-day evenings [in some locations], students creeping to classes in the pitch darkness with their torches like glow-worms, sitting often in very stuffy rooms on account of the black-out curtains, and even spending part of their class-time (carrying on their lecture and discussion) in air-raid shelters to the accompanying crash of bombs.'

However, the sustained bombing did not discourage lecturers or students. In a letter of appraisal for a class on literature at Wallasey, it is stated in November 1939 that **'this little bit of culture, which we can get in no other way, is very dear to all our hearts. [...] I may say that the evacuated people are in touch with us, and keenly interested in what is going on. They will only be too glad to rejoin us when circumstances permit.'** Indeed, even the worst years of the Blitz in Liverpool between 1940 and 1941 saw the delivery of 44 tutorial classes. In the 1943/44 session, there was already a marked revival in interest and activity with 67 recorded classes.

The tutor of a first year class on 'Appreciation of Music' in Formby wrote in a letter that 'Even on a "blitz" night seven people were present'. Attendance, however, was a challenge during war time, W.H. Whitehall continued: **'Overtime and various forms of civil defence work have been a deterrent, and in wartime, one cannot but accept such legitimate excuses. For example, when such a man as a naval architect comes straight to the class from his office and assures me that he has been working late every night, I cannot reasonably ask him for much homework'**. Whitehall also ran music classes in Liverpool where he noted: **'It is a melancholy thing to have to record the reduction by about two-thirds of the membership of this class'**. Although blackouts had been no deterrent to continue work, the rescheduling of the class to the weekend posed a problem not only for this class, but generally as many students had taken up part-time voluntary service. However, Whitehall remarks in a report, **'tribute must be paid to [those continuing] for supporting the class under difficult conditions. After an all-night raid there is an understandable temptation for the student to retire to bed instead of making his way through bad weather to a music class'**.

In the course report for English Literature classes in Fleetwood and Blackpool, the tutor noted: **'Despite exceptionally bad weather, the blackout and other**

war-time conditions [the classes] flourished greatly during the session 1940-41.' Indeed, the report emphasises that **'the war, if anything, seems to have stimulated the attendance as people apparently found some "outlet" or other mental activity essential.'** Another course on 'Embryology and Genetics' met on weekends, rather than the initially scheduled Wednesdays because of blackouts and air-raids. Attendance for the course was small and a few students were unable to attend **'because of circumstances arising out of the war. Two old students are in the army; two are wardens working Saturday afternoon.'** In Warrington, the tutor for 'Political Science' was pleased to report that 'Fourteen students qualified' for the course.

The accommodation problem was circumvented by relocating to lecturers' and students' homes in some cases. Dr Wood reports on a music class in Southport where Miss Beaumont, who lectured on songs, 'endured the risks and discomfort of the train journey from Blackpool under War conditions'. The class secretary, Mr John Rimmer, **'placed at our disposal a most comfortable room in his house ... his beautiful piano radio-gramophone, and Mrs Rimmer made us welcome and gave freely of her hospitality. Each night there was tea and refreshments for the lecturer before the Class began, and for the members after the Class was over.'**

Sometimes, classes were held in office rooms. A class in Morecambe on 'Principles and Problems of Reconstruction' consisted of students who **'were working long hours, and usually came to the meeting straight from their offices. These offices had been blacked out, and the atmosphere of them vitiated. The lecturer had therefore to struggle with a class which was not 100% alert at the beginning of the lecture.'** The report mentions that **'the room in which we met was used as an office in daytime – quite often up to the moment the class started.'** Students were sitting at office desks **'littered with the day's work'** and the lecturer **'had to hold forth over piles of despatch boxes and dossiers of government memoranda.'** Yet despite such difficulties, the class was praised for its 'loyalty and enthusiasm'. So much so that the **'discussions were sometimes so heated that the tutor had to spring in the middle to catch his train!'**

The tutor for a class on 'Public Administration' noted that **'Written work was at a minimum. I do not now ask for full essays as it is impossible to get them as before the war. The average citizen wants to talk to relieve his mind. He has no time or inclination to write. The same applies to the Library where I find the demand for books has generally fallen off and I believe for the same reason'**.

Tutors' reports make for fascinating reading and as the examples demonstrate, in Liverpool and around Merseyside, extra-mural activities



A typical Continuing Education class in the 1980's

continued with diligence and enthusiasm despite the challenges posed by the war. Although class attendance was problematic and in many cases low due to the fact that students had to be evacuated, moved because of bomb damage, joined the service or took up part-time voluntary service. Nevertheless, civil servants, teachers, engineers, electricians, librarians and housewives attended courses on literature, history, music, politics and other subjects. A course on 'Music Appreciation' was especially popular and recruited 42 students in the 1943/44 session.

Of particular mention are various courses under the theme of 'International Relations', 'World Affairs' or 'World Problems' that were run across Merseyside in locations including Whiston, Lytham St Annes, Skelmersdale, Upholland and Orrell, Southport, Bebington and Bromborough. Progress at one such course in Wallasey, the tutor noted, **'was handicapped in the early stages by the presence of an elderly student of pronounced Marxist views.'** Regarding the syllabus for such a course, it was stated that **'This will depend largely on the progress of the war in the next twelve months and the problems that will be revealed as urgent'**. Attendees were workers in the glass industry, iron moulders, cable-makers and agricultural labourers.

A glance over war-time syllabi reveals that the Extension Department was engaging with the changes of the time, running courses such as 'Economic

Aspects of the War', 'The Far East', 'The Second Jewish Commonwealth', 'The Mishna in the Making', 'Nuclear Physics' and a Geography course with sessions on Turkey and Balkan States, the Middle East, Arabia and Iraq. Toward the end of the war, a first year course on 'International Relations' included sessions on looking toward a post-war future and subjects included fratricide, exiled governments, Japan, fascism and 'Foundations for a new world order'. The course's second year addressed the end of war, the defeat of Germany and Japan, the disposal of the Japanese Empire and the United Nations' Charter. In its third year, the topics included problems for peace-making, Great Britain and the new world of atomic power as well as 'rehabilitation of the colonial empire'.

One such course on 'International Relations' also ran at the 'Parkgate experiment'. This was an attempt to relocate to locations outside of Liverpool to avoid enemy action. In the early 1940s, students travelled for this experimental residential course in groups to Parkgate on the Wirral peninsula for weekend-course meetings. They were housed at the Riverside Guest House where they stayed and enjoyed the pleasures of food and board as well as extended tuition. For this particular course, students were writing essays on the subjects of 'The German Problem', 'European Reconstruction' or 'The Future of Colonies'. The course tutor, B.M.C. Husain, considered the experiment 'very successful' and saw it as a template for future possibilities. **"Riverside" Parkgate is so pleasantly situated and the arrangements by Miss Jackson have been so admirable that everyone has appreciated and looked forward to these brief interludes, away from Merseyside.'** The course was repeated throughout the 1940s and the 1944/45 session had an attendance of 17 or 18 on average and, indeed, post-war Extension Studies saw the expansion of residential courses.

In Liverpool, some courses took place at the WEA Office on 62 Hope Street whilst others were run at the Royal Institution in Colquitt Street. Classes continued throughout the Liverpool Blitz, albeit on a larger and more disrupted scale. Dr McPhee, appointed as Director only a year before the war, successfully manoeuvred the Department through the war. The Extra-Mural office was not spared and had to be temporarily evacuated in the spring of 1941. Some members of part-time staff supported the war effort and kept in contact wherever possible with the department and students back at home. Staff-tutor J. Burr, for instance, left to join the national service in 1941 and returned to teaching around 1947. The continuing war-time work of the Extension Department owes its debt to the tutors and lecturers. Such work, as the reports indicate, was of vital importance in a time of war.

Post-war

In the immediate aftermath of the war, the University – despite the shortage of staff over the previous years - was looking ‘forward to being flooded out with a tremendous rush of students, mainly ex-servicemen and women’, as it was noted in a letter from 1946. Indeed, the 1947/48 session saw a programme of 113 tutorial classes, providing for 1631 students. 29 of the classes were held in Liverpool alone. Yet this revival was unfortunately only short-lived and the Department had to re-adjust its programme to the changing times.

Dr McPhee left his post in 1948 to take up office as Director of Extra-Mural Studies at the University of London. Dr Thomas Kelly took over the Directorship in 1948 and pursued his work with a clear vision and determination. He advocated better publicity, the establishment of summer courses and certificated courses. In office for the next 27 years, he significantly shaped the expansion and diversification of continuing education at Liverpool in the post-war era. In the years after the war, the immediate goal was the rebuilding of society and the education of returning servicemen. The problem of accommodation was solved when the Royal Institution had been transferred to the University in 1948 and the building was increasingly used for extra-mural courses.

The work begun during war-time in collaboration with the Armed Forces Regional Education Committee continued on a large scale. Director Kelly liaised, as did his predecessor, with units of the service based across the North-West area, including such remote locations as Nuneaton and the Isle of Man. The Department provided numerous lectures and a course ‘Return to Civvy Street’ as the war ended. Members of the forces were prepared and trained to take up civilian occupations. In light of this, the Department arranged for courses for nurses, teachers, and the rehabilitation of disabled ex-servicemen personnel. In the mid-1950s, courses were arranged at Burtonwood for US Air Force personnel and lectures were attended by as many as 800 to 1000 airmen. Catering such large-scale events caused a problem. The University Registrar had to apply to the Ministry for rations of food, tea, milk and sugar. In the late 1940s, Kelly liaised with the Food Executive Officer regarding the catering licence for courses. It appears that in 1949, there was a budget for 2d. per head for tea. From the late 1950s onwards, however, this area of work declined due to the changing character of the Services.

Kelly describes the war-time and post-war activities:

‘There were courses for intending policemen, social workers, nurses, teachers; refresher courses for undergraduates and prospective undergraduates; courses for the Forces Matriculation examination; and hundreds of day schools on problems of reconstruction in the new Britain. The Royal Institution was pressed into even more intensive service, and became a kind of Forces University. When all this was done there remained the task of teaching English to the Polish Resettlement Corps: this work alone at one time employed a dozen or more full-time teachers.’

In 1948, for instance, the course on ‘Britain and the British People’ at Liverpool was designed for Overseas Teachers of English. A one week course at Burton Manor was arranged for English and overseas students in the 1950s and day visits were planned to a day nursery and old people’s home in Liverpool city centre. A summer school in Swansea offered a fortnight’s course for German students on British Institutions.

Aspects of training and access to resources became ever more important and a conference was held for tutors in geography, history and international relations that included the discussion of books and book supplies in post-war conditions. The problem emerged that ‘supplies are by no means adequate at the present time.’ Appeals were made on behalf of Extra-Mural students to be granted access to the Harold Cohen Library, particularly with regard to very specialised courses such as Melville Richards’ class on Welsh literature. In the early 1950s, Mrs Nichols was appointed on a part-time basis to help with book loans and returns in the Library. She noted that **‘as book prices continue to rise it becomes all the more necessary to think twice about books costing more than £1’.**

Numbers for some of the tutorial classes were devastatingly low, however. In 1951, the tutor for one course register noted that **‘if there were 2 students [I] should be prepared to agree but one tutor per student is rather luxurious’.** A psychology course struggled with only three students and it was planned to close it down. The programme in the late 1940s and 1950s showed an increasing variety in subject matter. We find courses on ‘The Art of Graham Greene’, ‘The Literary Tradition of Ireland’, ‘History of Wales’, ‘Eighteenth-Century Music’, ‘The Growth of the Port of Liverpool’, ‘Merseyside in Medieval and Tudor Times’, ‘Child Psychology’ and ‘Physical Chemistry’ among the programmes. A Liverpool class on Astronomy resulted in the formation of the Merseyside Astronomical Society that arranged monthly meetings.

Of particular popularity in the extra-mural programme were courses on music. Although the musician and composer Dr. T.E. Teasdale Griffiths

failed to keep an attentive record of attendances to his course, it was estimated that between 160 to 200 students enrolled. He also taught a music class in collaboration with the Philharmonic club that attracted 174 students. Dr Teasdale Griffiths' complaints regarding the absence of a gramophone library would eventually be rectified by plans introduced in 1947. One of his courses met up at a Snack Bar and Beethoven's Emperor Concerto was interrupted by a swing number. Music classes continued to be popular and, in the late 1950s and 1960s, the Department ran a number of Serenade Concerts that attracted large audiences of over 200 attendees.

Summer schools became a regular feature in the Department's programme. In 1950, for instance, a school was held at Wilton Park Centre, in Beaconsfield. This was a former Prisoner of War camp where important German POWs had stayed in the UK. Fittingly, in contribution to the time of reconciliation, provision was made for German students to attend the University's summer schools at Swansea and Keswick. The first summer school had been arranged with the WEA in 1923 and took place in Chester. During the war, it was necessary to relocate. However, in the summer of 1958, it returned to Chester on a much larger scale. Indeed, this was the first time the Department ran not only one but three summer schools one of which was designed for European and Overseas Students. 105 students enrolled, representing 10 different countries. Soon, the international summer school was 'considerably oversubscribed' with 17 different countries represented.

Throughout the 1950s, the Department steadily progressed in expanding its programme, offering a broader range of courses, confirming a tradition of summer schools as well as new and exciting collaborations, including the Walker Art Gallery and the Bluecoat. Both courses and student numbers increased, so much so that the Director wondered whether the limit of staffing resources had been reached. Despite minor set-backs such as the re-introduction of petrol rationing in the winter of 1956/57 that resulted in the abandonment of projects in more isolated areas, continuing education in post-war Liverpool flourished. It offered postgraduate courses for teachers and industrial research workers, extension courses as well as lecture courses which came to dominate the work of the Department in the latter decades of the century. In addition, the Department inaugurated language courses.

It is noteworthy that art history classes became very popular at the Department and, in 1956, W.E.A. Locket was hired as staff tutor for the History of Art and Art Appreciation at £1000 pa. Locket proved a very valuable addition to the staff. His course on 'European Art in the Nineteenth Century' ran in two parts and recruited around 150 students. Another course on 'Twentieth Century Art' recruited over 200 students with an average

attendance of 170. 'Contemporary Art by Contemporary Artists' had as many as 197 regular attendees. These classes were run in collaboration with the Walker Art Gallery and continued to attract large audiences.

From the beginning, Locket organised study tours during Easter vacations and, in 1960, 25 students travelled on the third Italian Study Tour to Rome, Naples and Sicily. Throughout his time at the Department, he would organise study tours to Italy, Spain, France, Holland, and Greece. He regularly arranged for visits to exhibitions around the UK. For instance, in 1963/64, he went on a one-day excursion to the Goya Exhibition at Burlington House with his class. Locket became an elected Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts in 1964. The interest in history of the visual arts was so popular that 'the demand is quite impossible to satisfy'. Indeed, during the 1965/66 session, the Department offered as many as 42 courses in the visual arts.

The general public was also increasingly interested in history, archaeology and local history. Courses such as 'Britain in the 'Sixties', 'The Geography and Scenery of North Wales' and 'Background to Roman Chester' recruited close to 100 students each. There were also other study tours organised, including to Egypt and Iceland.

Apart from its dedication to teaching, the Department developed a deepening interest into researching adult education. To this end, a programme of research into adult education and social change was launched in the late 1950s. In 1958, the University appointed the first Research Worker in Extra-Mural Studies, Mr B.W. Pashley. He undertook research into the relation between adult education and social change in Great Britain in the 20th century. This was a tremendous step for the Department in its growing emphasis on and dedication to not only the delivery of continuing education, but also into the theory and practice of adult education in the UK as well as abroad. These developments were very much indebted to Kelly's own research interests who, only one year after his appointment, had run a course on the 'Theory and Practice of Adult Education'.

New Departures - Teaching Centre at the Royal Institution

During the 1958/59 session, the University announced that the Royal Institution will be available for the teaching of extra-mural courses. Kelly delightedly noted in the annual report:

‘No building could be better suited, by history and tradition, for such a purpose. The Royal Institution, opened by William Roscoe in 1817, was for many years a great cultural centre for the city. At one period it seemed as though it might even develop into a University, and although for various reasons this did not happen the Institution undoubtedly did much to create the conditions in which the University College later took shape. At a later stage, at the opening of this century, it was intimately associated with the beginnings of University Extension work in Liverpool, and since the building came into the possession of the University in 1948 it has been increasingly used as a centre for extra-mural courses.’

In 1960, the Royal Institution became the main University’s extra-mural teaching centre which marked a new beginning for continuing education at Liverpool.

The building was refurbished and housed a library, common room, refreshment room and 13 new classrooms. Access to books had hitherto been restricted, but in the new building the Department would accommodate an open access library under the care of the departmental librarian Mr Arthur Jones.

The opening of the Royal Institution in 1960 was apt:

‘For the Department of Extra-Mural Studies this was in a double sense a jubilee session. Sixty years ago, in the Autumn Term 1900, the Liverpool University Extension Society launched its first courses in collaboration with the University, and convincingly demonstrated the public demand for extra-mural courses. Fifty years ago, on 1 January 1911, the University assumed official responsibility for the work and established what ultimately became the Extra-Mural Department.’

In 1963, it was re-organised as the Department of Adult Education and Extra-Mural Studies. The programme of the Department now offered more

than 200 courses with more than 5000 student enrolments. Of those courses, an estimated 1/5 were arranged in collaboration with the WEA; tutorial classes were thus in decline, but continued to attract members. The largest expansion was in a tremendous increase in lecture courses and study courses for the general public. By 1969, such extension courses accounted for 70-75% of student enrolments. Significantly, the Department also offered courses for specialised professional groups such as teachers, youth leaders, police officers, industrial supervisors, nurses and health workers. In addition to providing courses for the professional interest of social workers, it furthermore responded to an increasing demand for refresher courses for teachers by providing postgraduate courses in science for school teachers as well as courses for teachers in Adult Education. The Department also offered a ‘Diploma of Liberal Studies’, ‘directed primarily to the needs of married women’. The diverse programme included afternoon and evening courses as well as residential courses. Rather than drawing on the University’s staff, the Department was now well-staffed with nine full-time members, in addition to administrative staff.

The pioneering research into adult education at the Department continued. The generous Nuffield Trust grant of £6,650 allowed the appointment of a Senior Research fellow for two years. Dr John Lowe took up the post and was invited to spend six weeks studying adult education in the States. Research activities were dependent on financial support. Throughout the 1960s, the Department’s ambitions struggled in light of financial restraints and staff shortages. As one Annual Report notes, **‘Owing to financial difficulties it has not been possible to make any substantial headway with the plans announced last session for the provision of facilities for research and training in adult education’**. Yet, the Department was able to host conferences on the theme of adult education and frequently dispatched its members of staff abroad to engage in the international and comparative debate.

Yet, despite such constraints and challenges, staff exchanges were possible and allowed for exciting guest speakers and courses run by visiting lecturers. In autumn 1964, Professor Milton Stern from NYU visited for a term to research adult education in Great Britain during the Industrial Revolution. Kelly himself visited Germany to observe extra-mural developments there. In June 1965, he presented the Universities Council for Adult Education at the first World Conference on University Adult Education in Copenhagen. Liverpool was at the forefront of teaching and research in continuing education. The same year saw the appointment of the Department’s first full-time Lecturer in Adult Education, Dr Michael

Stephens. In line with this new post, the Department planned to offer teachers' training for adult education. The full-time Diploma in Adult Education was launched in the session of 1969/70 with seven enrolled students.

With the establishment of a local radio station on Merseyside, the opportunity was seized to reach a larger audience. The Annual Report for 1966/67 notes: **'Radio Merseyside is just about to begin operations, and no one knows exactly how it will develop, but it may well have an important influence on the cultural life of the area. This is an enterprise in which the Department is willing and anxious to play its full part.'** Kelly served as a representative on the Educational Advisory Sub-Committee of the Radio Merseyside Council. From 1968, the Department offered a series of lectures on local studies including topics of history, geography and literature. The talks were delivered on Sundays by University staff and included topics such as 'A Yankee in Victorian Liverpool', 'Ancient Merseyside', 'Liverpool Men and Liverpool Ships' and 'Education on Merseyside'.

The continuous development and expansion of the Department resulted in further re-structuring and in 1970 the Institute of Extension Studies was born. In the previous year, the Department had moved to 1-2 Abercromby Square, 'less elegant' in looks, but 'more convenient' in providing accommodation for administration and staff. A specialised library with over 4000 volumes and pamphlets on adult education was housed in the premises as well. The work was now grouped in four divisions: the General Extension Division which provided cultural non-professional courses for the general public; the Social Studies Division which organised the full-/part-time courses for social and community workers; the Adult Education Division which was responsible for training and refresher courses; and the Special Course Division which ran the professional and diploma courses. Among the latter was the pioneering Diploma in Adult Education. Later, it would set up the Diploma in Women's Studies which was the first of its kind in the North-West region. The Institute was housed at 1-2 Abercromby Square; the Social Work Education unit was located in the Octagon on Grove Street; and the Royal Institution continued to be used as the main teaching centre in Liverpool.

Between 1970 and 1975, student enrolments rose to 8000 each year, indicating the increasing demand and significance of lifelong learning. Among the new developments was an increasing commitment to community development work which amalgamated teaching and research. Attracting national and international attention, this new interest resulted in funds from Gulbenkian Trust, John Moores Jr. Trust and the Home Office. Mr M. Yarnit was appointed as the Lecturer in Community Development and Mr Keith Jackson undertook research into working-class adult education.

Professor Kelly retired in 1975, bringing to an end an era of tremendous development. He was succeeded by the Ulsterman Edwin Rhodes. With the increasing expansion of continuing education work at Liverpool, the problem of accommodation was raised again and a new home had to be found.

No. 126 Mount Pleasant

In the mid-1980s, the Institute was reorganised twice. First, it became the School of Extension Studies and, finally, the Department of Continuing Education in 1984/85. The Annual Report remarks:

'And all this has happened at the same time as a sea-change in the funding and perhaps the direction of adult-education. [...] Despite all this our course provision has been sustained and its quality improved and we have recruited yet more students. [...] The crisis in higher education remains but the changes and consolidation of the last two years offer us the opportunity to survive into the future and develop a relevant and satisfying University adult education for the region.'

Taking over responsibility for teaching and research, the Department was endowed with the William Roscoe Chair for Continuing Education. With this re-organisation came the move to a new home to 'magnificent new premises at 126 Mount Pleasant'.

The building on the site – celebrating its 100th anniversary this year – was erected in 1914-1919 to house the former City Laboratories and School of Hygiene. Overlooking the city of Liverpool and placed at the entrance of the University Precinct, it was more than appropriate to give the ever-expanding Continuing Education Centre a new home. Appropriately also, in the early 19th century, the three storey brick dwelling that used to occupy the site – then No. 90 – was the home of Dr James Carson. Publishing his findings on the important role of lungs in the circulation of blood in 1815 in Liverpool, Carson proposed in 1837 the establishment of a University in Liverpool. In the aftermath of his death in 1843, the building was sold to the Liverpool Eye and Ear Infirmary which moved into 126 till 1881.



Our home - 126 Mount Pleasant today

The University had purchased No. 126 Mount Pleasant in 1981. The building was in a poor state and a funding scheme of £2.2 million allowed for a substantial refurbishment. In the early 1980s, the ground floor was almost entirely occupied by the Public Health Museum. Finally, on 30th April 1986 Mervyn Bragg officially opened No. 126 that from now housed the Faculty of Education and Extension Studies. With its prime spot on the University precinct, it overlooks the city. In large capitals, the City of Liverpool motto 'Deus nobis haec otia fecit' was written on the facade, announcing the link with the city and the purpose of the Centre for Lifelong Learning: 'God has provided for us this leisure'. The refurbishment offered new teaching rooms and staff offices, a lecture theatre and a spacious library in addition to an adjacent car park.

The ground floor housed the Department of Continuing Education Library **'with excellent new lighting, and with the best features of the Edwardian building, notably an imposing central dome and portico retained'**. The library held an impressive collection of 35,000 volumes. The Adult Education Library, previously held at Abercromby Square, was moved to the University Library.

Over the past century, then, continuing education at Liverpool was 'constantly changing and adapting itself to new needs'. It evolved constantly

and expanded its programme in ambitious ways, providing lecture courses for the general public, specialised courses for professionals, training courses, certificate and diploma courses as well as conducting pioneering research into all aspects of adult education. The 1990s were very much a decade of consolidation and continuance of the work done in the post-war period. The centre adapted rapidly to the social change in the post-war period, responding to the new demands placed upon it, expanding the range of courses to meet new needs such as modern language provision. In 1991, it once again underwent a restructuring when it became the Centre for Continuing Education.

In the summer of 2001, today's Centre for Lifelong Learning was re-formulated to focus on the key areas of educational development, personal development planning, learning technology, the disability employment network, evaluation, skills development, student representation, careers, widening participation and continuing education and professional development. In one form or another, these activities are building on the ethos of the work of the Centre's previous incarnations. As it is facing similar challenges as we've seen in previous decades with regards to finances, staff, changing funding schemes and ever-increasing competition, the history of continuing education in Liverpool should give assurance that it is in the best position to keep 'constantly changing and adapting itself to new needs'.

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