

# The History of the University Extension Movement and Southport University Extension Society (SUES)

## WELCOME



*Dr Alan Potter, Chair,  
Southport University Extension Society*

As Chair, I would like to take this opportunity to warmly welcome you to Southport University Extension Society (SUES), a long-standing organisation dedicated to providing university-level learning opportunities for everyone in the local area. However, curiosity and open-mindedness are much more important than previous knowledge and study. Our approach is summarised by, our Vision Statement:

**To improve the lives of people in the local community through quality learning that is accessible, inclusive and enjoyable.**



This exhibition celebrates 150 years since the University Extension Movement came to Southport and Birkdale. Back in Victorian times, many towns and cities had University Extension Societies, but Southport is now the only survivor. Although acting independently today, we have always had strong support from the University of Liverpool and a positive relationship with them. We have a healthy membership, an optimistic future and a past of which we are very proud.

***enjoying  
quality  
learning  
together***

Key events, that have enabled the society to survive and grow, are explained throughout the exhibition and the lives and contributions of many inspirational and forward-thinking people are celebrated. We trust that you will enjoy learning about how SUES developed and why we still continue to provide high-quality learning for local people.

This is summarised by our axiom here and on our website ([www.southportues.com](http://www.southportues.com)) where you will be able to find out more about who we are and what we provide.



This unique exhibition is supported by a grant from the National Lottery Heritage Fund and researched and produced by the SUES Committee. We hope it provides an opportunity for local adults and young people, as well as visitors to Southport, to better understand this important movement. This was created to enable people to experience university teaching that they had not been able to access before, simply because they were women or poor or uneducated.