

The Revd Professor Susan Hardman Moore

Alumna of The Rotary Foundation – District 1210

A Former Ambassadorial Scholar sponsored by the Rotary Club of Newcastle under Lyme

Contributed by PDG Ron Lucas

You may have watched a fascinating programme on BBC2 TV on Sunday 27 November 2016, at 8.00 pm entitled “The Mayflower Pilgrims: Behind the Myth”. The lead historian and the one who spoke first about the early settlers in The New World was one of our own District Alumni, the Revd Professor Susan Hardman-Moore. She is a world authority on the Pilgrim Fathers and author of one of the greatest books to be written on the subject of the Mayflower settlers, “Pilgrims: New World Settlers and the Call of Home” (2007). This book was joint runner-up for the 2008 Longmans-History Today Book of the Year Award. Susan is Professor of Early Modern Religion and Director of Postgraduate Studies, School of Divinity, The University of Edinburgh. She is a North Staffordshire girl, attended Newcastle under Lyme School in the 1970s (then the Orme Girls School) and after graduation in Theology from the University of Cambridge she obtained her Rotary Foundation Ambassadorial Scholarship to study at Yale in 1977-78, obtaining her MA in Religion, subsequently obtaining her PhD in History at the University of Kent. She is a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society.

Until she married John Moore (Professor of Political Economy at Edinburgh University) she was Susan Hardman. Susan was sponsored by our own club and I had the privilege of being her sponsor counsellor. Susan has held academic posts at the Universities of Durham and Edinburgh (from 1987 to 1991), then at Kings College, London. She returned to Edinburgh in 2000. She has twice held visiting appointments at Yale University. She has broadcast on the BBC Radio 4’s flagship ‘Today’ programme and also Melvyn Bragg’s “In Our Time”.

For many years, Susan was a lay preacher in the Methodist Church. She was ordained in the Church of Scotland in 2015. Her family lived in Priory Road, Newcastle, and worshipped at St Peter’s Methodist Church in the Westlands, well known to our current President Carol Reddish. Susan and John have two children.

In May 2005 District 1210 organised an Alumni Centenary Celebration which was hosted by fellow Rotary Foundation Alumnus, John Gifford, at Chillington Hall in South Staffordshire, John’s family home. Susan came down from Edinburgh to attend it and spoke to our club at the following Tuesday lunchtime. If you google her name, there is a host of information on her including a video of a prestigious academic lecture she gave at Edinburgh University in 2013 and the introduction by the university’s Vice-Principal gives an excellent CV of her career.

Another success story for the Foundation – I hope you can see the TV programme on ‘catch up’ at 8.pm Sunday evening, 27 November, BBC2. It’s well worth watching and I feel very proud of Susan’s achievements and the contribution our Rotary Foundation has made to her success.

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