

John and Jenny Hall - La Noslière de Bas

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Jean Abrams
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Date: 31 Oct 94

Dear Jean,

Jenny and I share your loss and grief at this time. Mark was a lovely man and we have many happy and cherished memories of him.

Michael Warren sent me copies of the obituary notices: they have definitely captured the spirit of the man we all knew and loved. I was unable to write anything at the time, but enclose some notes I prepared later, and copies of letters to Martin Bulmer, Roger Jowell and Michael Warren. Some of the more personal memories I shall eventually commit to paper, but they are for the moment far too outrageous and libellous for the public domain. Mark would appreciate that.

I myself owe him a great debt for taking the risk of offering me, a coarse and scruffy Northerner, and comparative research novice to boot, the first full time post in the SSRC Survey Unit all those years ago in 1970. Having left a cosy tenured lectureship at Birmingham and an acre of wooded garden in Worcestershire, only to be made redundant when the unit closed in 1976, I never once regretted the move and would do it all over again.

Working with Mark was exhilarating, if at times exasperating, and he opened up a whole new world for me. What little I was able to achieve in research and research training, especially after 1976, I did with and for Mark. He richly deserved his Honorary Fellowship of the Polytechnic of North London and I sincerely hope that the Mark Abrams Prize will prove both a lasting and a worthy memorial.

Yours very sincerely,