



IN MEMORIAM

This issue of 'The Manchester Teacher' carries obituaries of three members of Manchester Teachers' Association NUT who have died in recent weeks. **Joan Davenport, Alban Fay and John Watters** were at the forefront of Union activities in the last quarter of the twentieth century and beyond. Members who knew them and worked with them are stunned to lose them all so closely together and many have spoken of the 'end of an era'. They achieved so much for education in the City and for individual teachers and represented the best of NUT in its variety and quality. They will be missed as friends and colleagues but we can **honour their memories** by respecting our differences and working as they did for that which binds us as professional teachers, working for **education** and the **future of children** as our Union moves into uncharted waters and a new formation but with the same principles.

CONFERENCE 2018

This year's national conference held in Brighton, was notable as NUT's **last national conference** before the Union disappears into the new National Education Union. This year's ATL conference will also be the last one for that Union.

This situation was of course the unseen influence but members who attended report a **good** conference with a **good** atmosphere, **good** debate with **good** speeches and attended by a **good** mix of members by age, gender and sector.

Issues of central concern to all teachers were the subject of debates, including the ongoing problem of excess **workload** and pay levels. A substantial rise in salary for teachers is needed to make up for five years of pay restraint and not least to help to stem the alarming loss of teachers to the profession causing a shortage in so many schools.

Assessment was once again a key issue with **Baseline Testing** to the fore in lively consideration.

Some procedural issues were covered and on the last day it was realised that next years conference is scheduled to be in Holy Week which could make attendance difficult for several districts. The actual number of districts was uncertain so the issue will be considered

further but it is unlikely that dates can be changed. That conference will, of course, be the first of the new Union. The status of the **Retired Members** in the NEU was an issue which is not yet resolved and is causing concern in several Associations and many retired members. Full voting rights was not considered enough on its own to solve the question and so there will be ongoing consideration.

Thanks to those members who attended, the **last in a long line** of Manchester Teachers to serve the Union in this way.

RETIRED TEACHERS SECTION

The **May** meeting was the Section's **AGM** and formal business was carried out as required. A successful year was reviewed with varied activities and many highlights. The members present were **saddened but honoured** to mark the passing since Christmas of three pillars of MTA; **Joan Davenport, Alban Fay and John Watters**. We are all diminished without them.

Audited accounts were presented by the Treasurer **Eileen Flint** to whom goes thanks and also to **Liam Duffy** as Auditor and **Maureen Burslem** for her work in producing the paperwork.

As Programme Secretary **Tony Zajac** outlined an enthralling programme for the coming year which will be distributed to members of the group. The following were elected or re-elected as Officers of the Retired Section; Chair - **Raymond Flint**, Vice Chair - **Stephen Marciniak**, Treasurer - **Eileen Flint**, Secretary - **Laurien O'Brien**, Programme Secretary - **Tony Zajac**, Auditor - **Liam Duffy** as NEU Manchester Section Treasurer.

As AOB, correspondence from **Alan Cave** of **Bury Division** and one time Retired Teachers Executive Member was shared in which he spoke warmly of his links with the Manchester Retired Teachers Section and of Joan Davenport. He also outlined concerns felt about the status of Retired Teachers in NEU and the ongoing review of this was noted.

The June meeting of the Section will be on **Tuesday 5th June** at the **Hough End Centre**, Mauldeth Road, **10.15am**. **Michael O'Brien** will give a presentation intriguingly entitled '**Ladies of the Big House**'. New members welcome, the Section is a friendly group.

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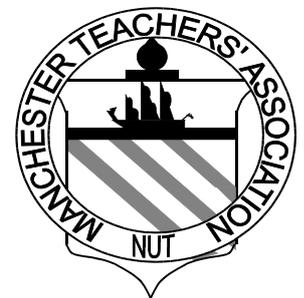
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GENERAL MEETING

The next General Meeting of the Manchester NUT Section of the National Education Union will take place on **Wednesday 23rd May at 5.00pm** at **Whalley Range High School**, Wilbraham Road. Please try to attend to reach a quorum which will enable nominations to be made for forthcoming national elections.

❧ OBITUARY ❧

Joan Davenport 1930—2018 died earlier this year as the February issue was in production. Joan had been ill for some time and was in Manchester Royal Infirmary for exploratory surgery which she did not survive. As she went to theatre she was chatting about education politics and Union matters. This typifies Joan who had been an NUT member since the start of her teaching career.

Joan served the Union **locally, regionally and nationally** throughout her professional life and in her retirement. The record of her service is second to none. Of the many roles Joan undertook for Manchester Teachers' Association, **President** must stand out but she was also **Minuting Secretary** for many years. She represented MTA at the **North West Regional Council** and was a regular representative from Manchester at the **NUT Annual Conference**. She was also a member of the **NUT National Executive** and gained recognition throughout the Union as an early years specialist to consult. On her retirement Joan led Manchester Retired Teacher Section for many years and also acted as scrutineer for MTA elections.

Joan taught at **Green End Primary, Newall Green Infants**, where she was Deputy Head, and then Headteacher at **Woodhouse Park Primary**. Well respected within Manchester LEA, Joan was chosen to join the City's party on a visit to **Leningrad**, a very interesting experience for all involved.

A long time resident of Levenshulme, Joan was a well loved member of her church community at St. Margaret's Burnage where her funeral was attended by many friends and associates, members of Manchester NUT and North West NUT colleagues, a sign of the **love and affection** in which she was held. She will be very much missed and long lamented.



Alban T Fay J.P M.B.E 1928—2018 died just before Easter after a long illness. Alban served Manchester Teachers' Association in several Officerships notably as **President** in 1984 and as **Teacher Member** on the Education Committee of Manchester City Council. He represented MTA on **North West Regional Council** and at **NUT Annual Conferences**. Alban's support for teachers and care for children in schools was a

hallmark of his work. A proud Mancunian, Alban was for many years Headteacher of **St. Augustine's RC Primary** which thrived on his leadership. Many are the children who have reason to remember him and his care; he was ensuring hungry pupils started the day well fed long before the era of breakfast clubs. On closure of 'his' school Alban was asked by **Manchester LEA** to be available to step in at short notice at a school which suddenly found itself without a Headteacher for one reason or another and **Baguley Hall Primary** greatly benefitted from his Headship there.

As a **J.P** in the Family Court Alban served children and families of his City and it was for services to education in Manchester that he was awarded the **M.B.E**. This was thoroughly deserved and reflected well on teachers in the City.

A devoted family man, thorough professional and committed Christian, Alban's funeral was at St. Catherine's RC Church in Didsbury. It was a pleasure to count Alban as a friend and an honour to have served with him in Manchester Teachers' Association in the service of fellow professional teachers. He will be long remembered.



John Y Watters 1935—2018 died in early April and was another Manchester teacher whose name became synonymous with NUT in the City. John served the Union with distinction locally and at **NUT Annual Conferences**. For Manchester Teachers' Association he was **President** in 1981 and also **Public Relations Officer** but it was his almost two decades as **General Secretary** which stand out in his record of service. John was born in **Belfast** but moved to **Manchester** as a child where he grew up to serve teachers and children in the City so well. However, he never forgot his Northern Ireland roots and always enjoyed a good sing and a story among his many friends. From those friends his name will always elicit a smile. John taught at **Yew Tree High** and **Poundswick High** and became full time **General Secretary of MTA** in which capacity he helped and supported many individual members in time of trouble as well as leading the Union in the City in high profile activities. John was committed to the **Labour Movement** and radical in his politics. This commitment was reflected in his unswerving support of disadvantaged teachers and teachers in general and in his work for NUT. John was a real family man and his love for his family was evident for all to see at his committal at Manchester Crematorium in the reciprocated affection so evidenced by his family and echoed by the many friends gathered in their respect and love. John made a real mark on Manchester Teachers' Association and he will be long remembered.



Together for Education