



NUT SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS CONFERENCE

“JOINING UP THE DOTS ”

MONDAY 24TH MAY 2004

NUT HEADQUARTERS, LONDON

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHICAL DETAILS

DOUG MCAVOY

Speaker

Doug McAvoy started teaching in September 1959. His early teaching was at secondary schools in Newcastle when, in addition to teaching physical education, he was responsible for teaching maths and science. He subsequently lectured in maths at Newcastle College of Art and Technology until becoming Deputy General Secretary of the NUT in 1974.

Doug took up his Union duties in February 1975. In the post of Deputy General Secretary he had special responsibility for developing the Union's conditions of service and health and safety policies and from 1984 was responsible for all negotiations with local authorities and the Government.

In 1989 Doug became the first elected General Secretary in the Union's 120 year history. He was re-elected in 1994 and again in 1999. As General Secretary, Mr McAvoy is the full time chief executive and spokesman for the Union. He is closely involved with Education International.

MARY COMPTON

Speaker

Mary Compton, a teacher of German at John Beddoes School in Powys, is the 132nd President of the National Union of Teachers.

Born and educated in Bristol, in her twenties Mary worked as a hospital administrator and was active in NALGO (one of the three unions which later became UNISON). At 28 she took her PGCE at Bath University and moved to mid-Wales, where she has taught ever since. Since 1988 she has had a job share at John Beddoes High School teaching German to all secondary ages and abilities. In 1993 she and her job share partner were promoted to head of modern foreign languages at the school.

As the mother of four daughters, Mary sees education from every angle, both as a parent and as a teacher and also for many years as one of the teacher governors at her school. She believes passionately in every child's right to a broad and creative curriculum.

MARTIN REED
Chair of morning session

Martin Reed is the Chair of the Union's Education and Equal Opportunities Committee. He is currently Head of History in Wolfreton School in Hull which is an 11 - 18 Comprehensive. Martin has been a classroom teacher for 22 years.

Martin has been active in the Union for a number of years. He was a Divisional Secretary for 12 years and has also been Chair of the Union's Membership and Communications Committee and the Soulbury Advisory Committee in recent years.

BARONESS CATHERINE ASHTON
Speaker

Baroness Ashton has responsibility for the Sure Start programme across the Department for Education and Skills and Department for Work and Pensions. She has been a Minister since 2001, initially taking responsibility for School Standards.

Prior to her Ministerial appointment, Catherine Ashton was the Chairperson of Hertfordshire Health Authority. She was created a Life Peer in 1999.

Baroness Ashton has enjoyed a long career in the public, private and voluntary sectors, most notably as a Director of Business in the Community where she specialised in economic regeneration. She established the Employers' Forum on Disability and established a number of initiatives focusing on race and gender equality.

Baroness Ashton is married with three stepchildren and two children at secondary school. She served as a Chair of Governors of the primary school that her children attended.

DAVID JONES

Speaker

David has been the headteacher of Riverside School in Hampshire for the last ten years. This is his second special school headship and for a five year period between these posts he was the SEN Inspector for the South East Division of Hampshire.

Riverside has always had an active role in its local community of schools and for the past 6 years has undertaken a resource, training and 'outreach' role for SEN in the locality funded, in the main, through the DfES Beacon schools initiative. The school is also part of a successful Education Action Zone of fourteen schools.

David was a member of the ministerial special schools working group whose report was published for consultation in summer 2003. Currently David is seconded to the LEA for two days a week leading a county project on the future role of Hampshire special schools.

HELEN DENTON

Speaker

Helen is currently Director for Learning with Education Walsall with a brief for rapid improvement in Walsall, focused on bringing together School Improvement and Inclusion.

A secondary school home economics teacher, in a time long, long ago, her teaching career spanned Moss Side in Manchester, to Hong Kong, and a return back to inner city Manchester which Helen sees as one of the most enlightening contrasts anyone could experience.

Helen was then recruited into the DfES as part of a pilot project of bringing staff with real educational knowledge directly into the educational policy making arena. A move into local authority work followed, with eight happy years in Oldham, onto Leeds after their OFSTED and latterly as Assistant Director in Sefton. During that time, Helen has been involved in national working groups on the introduction of educational maintenance allowances, extended schools and most recently the role of special schools.

JOHN BANGS

Speaker

John Bangs started his teaching career at Bow Boys' Secondary School in Tower Hamlets in 1972, having graduated in fine arts from Reading University and gaining his PGCE at Goldsmiths College, London. From 1975 to 1990 he taught at Templars special school for pupils with moderate learning difficulties where he was responsible for Art, Ceramics and Literacy. He was a teacher member of the ILEA

with responsibility for SEN and in particular played a key role in ILEA's review of SEN.

John joined the staff of the NUT as Principal Officer in the Union's Education and Equal Opportunities Department responsible for special needs and the National Curriculum in 1990 and became head of the National Curriculum Unit.

In 1993 John was appointed Assistant Secretary in the Union's Education and Equal Opportunities Department. This department covers a wide range of policy areas including school improvement and inspection, special education, gender and race equality, the funding mechanism for education and 14-19 education. The NUT's Privatisation in Education Unit is based in John's department.

KATHRYN STALLARD

Chair of afternoon session

Kathryn Stallard is the headteacher at Deerlands Secondary Special School for pupils with emotional and behavioural difficulties in Sheffield. She is a former President of the Union and has been the Chair of the Union's Advisory Committee for special education.

The third daughter of a steel worker and a school cleaner, Kathryn was educated at Grange Grammar School in Sheffield. She began her career as a supply teacher at Dinnington Comprehensive in Rotherham in 1978, moving to a temporary post at Athelstan Middle School in Sheffield six months later.

Kathryn's first permanent teaching post was at Glory Farm Primary School in Bicester where her interest in children with special educational needs developed and her involvement with the NUT began. Kathryn became local association secretary from 1982–1984.

Kathryn returned to Sheffield in 1984 as a temporary English/History teacher at Beaver Hill Comprehensive, moving to Deerlands Special School for emotionally and behaviourally disturbed children in January 1985 where she taught until 1988. In 1986 she became a teacher fellow at Sheffield Hallam University working on the National Writing Project, and produced a paper on "Encouraging Confidence in Writing – A Special Needs Perspective".

DR JOHN VISSER

Speaker

John Visser is a Senior Lecturer at the University of Birmingham where he is programme tutor for the professional development courses in the area of social, emotional and behavioural difficulties and Director for Continuing Professional Development. He has acted as a consultant to

schools, services and LEAs nationally and internationally in the area of special education and school improvement.

John is widely known for his professionally relevant staff development work on classroom management; pupils with emotional behavioural and social difficulties; teaching and learning, particularly differentiation and special educational needs. His research work with colleagues at the School of Education has been widely reported and applied by educators.

A founder of the National Association for Special Educational Needs, serving in a variety of national offices for ten years, John also served as treasurer to the Social Emotional and Behavioural Difficulties Association and the European Association of Special Education. John was the first non-American President of the Council for Exceptional Children's Division of International Special Educators.

A former foster parent, John enjoys canals, owls, reading, gardening and relaxing with his partner and two dogs.

RUTH PICKERSGILL

Workshop leader

Originally a mainstream primary teacher in London, Ruth says 'she became disabled well before the Disability Discrimination Act and the idea of "reasonable adjustments" for disabled teachers became a possibility'. The on-going requirement to include PE and games (including football) in her teaching load meant that she felt that she had to give up teaching. Ruth became a community worker in the play and childcare field, and after a number of years with OXFAM, became manager of a charity providing education, training and assessment for disabled adults in Brixton.

Ruth then spent many years running a number of disability equality organisations, and throughout that period of time maintained an interest in education issues such as being a Disability Advisor to Bristol LEA and its Inclusive Education Steering Group, and a school and college governor.

In 2000, Ruth took up the post of Inclusion Coordinator for Bristol LEA, a unique post with a specific disability equality brief relating to the whole school implementation of inclusion, and linking special and mainstream schools. In January 2004, Ruth became Equalities and Inclusion Manager for Bristol LEA overseeing a team working on raising the achievement and participation of all equalities groups in education and lifelong learning.

PHILLIPPA STOBBS

Workshop leader

Phillippa Stobbs is Principal Officer at the Council for Disabled Children. Her professional background is in teaching and inspection work. She has worked on SEN and disability issues with a wide range of people and organisations: with early years providers, with schools, with children and young people and their families, with local education authorities, with voluntary organisations, with Parliament, with the Department for Education and Skills and most recently with the Disability Rights Commission.

Phillippa was the principal drafter of the Disability Rights Commission Code of Practice for Schools, joint author of a pack of training materials to help schools and local education authorities implement the duties in Part 4 of the Disability Discrimination Act and author of a booklet explaining the disability discrimination duties to early years providers.

BARBARA MURRAY

Workshop leader

NICK PEACEY

Workshop leader

PETER GRAY

Speaker

Peter Gray worked as an LEA officer for 16 years, latterly as Principal Educational Psychologist and senior education officer for Nottinghamshire County Council. Since 1997, Peter has worked nationally as a consultant to local and national government on a range of issues relating to policy and provision for children with special educational needs.

During the last 4 years, Peter has undertaken projects for the DfES focusing on the developing role of LEA support services, on the quality of educational provision made for pupils who have been permanently excluded from school, and most recently on national progress indicators for inclusion.

Peter has written widely, editing two books on challenging behaviour in schools as well as chapters and articles on a broader range of SEN issues. Peter is currently Chair of the policy subcommittee for the National Association for Special Educational Needs and a senior consultant to New Directions in Behaviour Support.

