

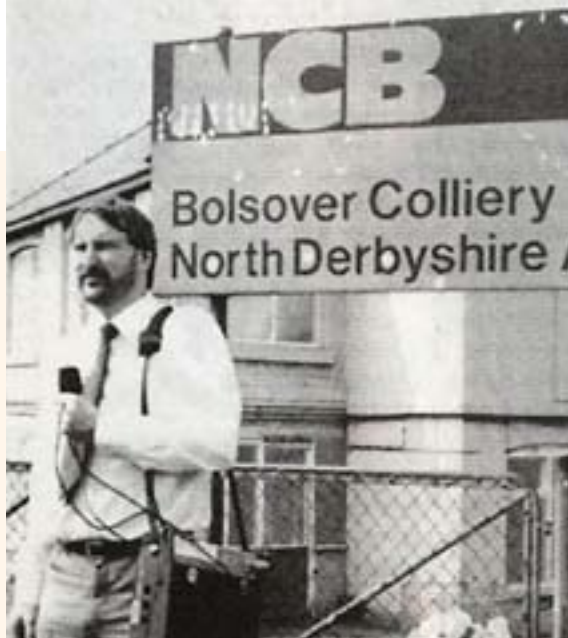
# Sheer zest for life

DAVE WATSON lived his life at high volume. Colleagues at BBC Radio Derby used to say that he didn't need a landline when he was reporting from Matlock. If he just opened the window, they could hear him in Derby 20 miles away.

Dave was an outstanding radio journalist who always brought that human dimension to his work. His coverage of the miners' strike in the mid-1980s gained him recognition throughout the BBC as an outstanding journalist "who got under the skin of the dispute."

After a brief stint at Radio One's News Beat, he joined the BBC Midlands Today and then Central TV News in Birmingham.

He had no time for the personality culture that too many in the profession get sucked into. His mission was to be



*Dave Watson covering the miners' strike in 1984*

a good journalist first and last, and the peripheral froth was of no interest to him.

He would bring a smile to everyone's face as he strode out of the gallery, holding his scripts aloft and proclaiming with mocking pride: "Another two minutes of television history."

His sheer zest for life equipped him to meet the toughest challenge imaginable when he contracted multiple sclerosis. It was a condition to which he refused to submit. Even when he could no longer speak, he somehow found the strength and the will to make himself understood. He inspired everyone around him, including the medical staff, who were devoted to him.

**Allister Craddock**

# Perfectionist photographer

I FIRST met the French-born freelance photographer Philippe Haÿs (pictured) while doorstepping Michael Barrymore's house shortly after the pool death in 2001. We gelled immediately having not only a passion for photography but also for good food and the music of Frank Zappa.

I covered many assignments with Philippe. He was a perfectionist, his light meter often seen swinging from



his neck, something few photographers bother with.

He provided photographs to Still Pictures and Rex Features and had pictures published in top periodicals. He read the Daily Telegraph but was liberal in his political outlook.

Last October he collapsed at his home and was diagnosed with pneumonia. He died the next day.

**Rob Welham**

# Master of news, TV and PR

FORMER News of the World journalist Nicholas Light has died aged 69. He worked on national and regional newspapers, in TV and finally as a senior information officer for Hampshire council.

His career began in 1958 when he joined the Hampshire Chronicle in Winchester, straight from National Service. He worked casual shifts at the Daily Mail, where his talents were spotted and he was invited to work on ATV's Braden's Beat along with Esther

Rantzen and her talented young team.

When the News of the World took him on he remained based in Winchester but travelled the world, often following his own leads.

In 1981 he joined Southern Television where he worked on the newsdesk until illness struck. He fought it with extraordinary courage and came back to work as a senior information officer for Hampshire County Council.

**Madeleine Warren**

# Career built on beer

A STAUNCH union member since 1959 when he joined the Huddersfield Examiner as a trainee, Michael Jackson has died of a heart attack aged 65.

Born in Wetherby, Michael remained a proud Yorkshireman of Lithuanian Jewish stock.

His grandfather, Chaim Jakowitz, had emigrated to Yorkshire but it was his father, Isaac, who anglicized the name to Jackson.

Michael made his name writing about beer. Early in his career on the Examiner he went to the editor with an idea to write a series called "This is your Pub". The editor liked the enterprise of a 16-year-old seeking to visit pubs on expenses.

Moving to London, Michael worked for the Daily Herald and then the trade weekly World Press News, which he helped transform into the Campaign, before becoming an investigative reporter with Granada's World In Action.

It was here, he said, his career shift came about as a result of lunch in a pub with his editor, who said, "a good reporter can find a good story under his nose" and under Michael's nose was a beer.

Working in Amsterdam in 1969 he became captivated by the Belgian beer culture which was to play a significant part in *The World Guide to Beer* (1977), his second book which made his name. His Channel 4 series *The Beer Hunter* was shown worldwide.

Last December he revealed he'd been suffering from Parkinson's for more than a decade. He was planning to write a book about it called "I am not drunk". Sadly it was not to be.

**Guy Thornton**

# ONE OF THE OLD CODGERS

PETER REED, for many years one of the Daily Mirror's famous Old Codgers, has died at 85 after 60 years of NUJ membership. Peter spent almost his entire career within the Mirror fold, starting before the war as office boy to William Connor, the great columnist Cassandra.

After war service he returned to Fleet Street, working successively on Junior Mirror and Woman's Sunday Mirror, where he became production editor. In 1964, he rejoined the Daily Mirror as editor of the Live Letters column dealing with a mailbag of thousands a day.

**Tony Hoskins**



*Sarah Olowe at the 1990 NUJ annual conference*

## Mind of a lawyer, pen of a journalist

SARAH OLOWE died in London in December after a sudden illness, aged 45. A philosophy graduate, she had the mind of a lawyer and the pen of a first class journalist. She was forthright, brave and feisty, as the BBC and others found out when she fought them in race and sex discrimination cases.

We quickly bonded as activists in the London Television branch and the union's Race Relations Working Party – before it became the Black Members Council. Sarah went on to Chair the BMC. Her commitment to the advancement of black journalists was unrivalled. She also chaired the Equality Council and was a member of the NEC, the Ethics Council and Broadcasting Industrial Council.

Sarah could have become the union's first black female Deputy General Secretary when she stood for the post in the 1990s, but was beaten.

She refused to fit the stereotype some white people have of black women. She wasn't "ghetto", she spoke crystal-clear BBC English, loved good champagne and also had a fondness for horse riding, classical music and fine wines.

She was a BBC Radio 4 reporter and presenter, on programmes including *Today in Parliament*, and wrote features for the *Financial Times*, *Sunday Times* and *Caribbean Times*. She edited two books.

**Marc Wadsworth**

## 77 years a union member

ONE OF THE union's longest-serving members has died at the age of 96. Noel Richley was born in Lancashire where his father was a church minister and started on the *Bury Times*, later working as a reporter on the *Daily Mirror* and *Daily Herald* in Manchester.

After war service in the navy he rejoined the *Herald* before moving to PA in London in 1947. Noel became defence correspondent and then chief news editor until his retirement in 1975. He was the PA chapel's welfare officer for many years and became an NUJ Life Member on retirement.



**Noel Richley:  
made an MBE**

As well as his 77 years in the NUJ – believed to be a record – he worked with the Newspaper Press Fund – now the Journalists' Charity – and was its treasurer until the age of 94. He was made an MBE for his services to the fund.

Noel's wife Sue was a journalist before they married and so are two of his children and one grandchild: daughter Samantha worked in newspapers and radio, and son Rob runs a corporate communications business after a career in newspapers. Granddaughter Emma Mason has her own PR business too.

**Rob Richley**

## Propagandist, publican and publisher

JIMMY BARNES was a socialist who mixed journalism, philosophy and trades unionism with extraordinary practical skill.

Apprenticed as an engineer in 1966, he worked for London Underground and the National Coal Board. From 1977 Jimmy studied philosophy and politics at Sunderland Polytechnic and was a Communist Party activist, but always his own man.

Jimmy's finances were precarious. Living on benefits and erratic freelance journalism he devoted his energies to



**Jimmy Barnes:  
revived the  
Cumbria branch**

his own publications, *Trade Union CND*, which tackled "arms conversion" – how nuclear arms industry workers could be persuaded to support nuclear disarmament – and *Trade Union Review*, which dished the dirt on the more unsavoury union leaders. Both projects generated intense hostility as well as stories that ended in the *Guardian*.

In 2000 Jimmy returned to Carlisle to care for his dying parents and helped revive the NUJ Cumbria Branch. For a few years he was a forceful if sometimes irascible delegate to union conferences.

Three years ago he bought a pub near Accrington, Lancashire, and set up a publishing company. He republished John Milton's classic tract on freedom of expression, *Areopagitica*, for which I wrote an introduction.

The pub made Jimmy financially stable and last December we were discussing his plans to reprint another classic, Ralph Korngold's *Citizen Toussaint*. But in January he died suddenly, aged 57. Friends intend to publish the book in his memory.

**Granville Williams**