

March 2021



# Extra help with Covid nightmare

**Covid-19, a novel variant of the corona virus, known as SARS-CoV-2, was first identified in December 2019 but took just a few weeks to spread to the rest of the world bring with it, death, sickness and misery.**

Despite several major speeches in February and several Cobra meetings to discuss the virus, Prime minister Boris Johnson was only finally persuaded to take the virus seriously in March, announcing the first lockdown towards the end of the month and only a week before he himself was diagnosed with that virus.

The first lockdown came in response a rapidly rising case load and the start of significant deaths – 103 by March 20th and a further 539 a week later. Johnson told the country: “The coronavirus is the biggest threat this country has faced for decades – and this country is not alone. All over the world we are seeing the devastating impact of this invisible killer.” Confirmed cumulative cases leapt from 3,983 on March 20 to 14,548 forcing the government into action. A lockdown was imposed to protect the NHS and prevent it being overwhelmed.

It became clear very early on to NUJ Extra that this instruction to prevent people leaving their homes would put a massive strain on many of our members, particularly freelancers. The NUJ immediately pressed for, and succeeded in getting, key worker status for journalists allowing them to continue to pursue stories, but many members were facing financial ruin. And that’s where NUJ Extra was able to step in and help. The NUJ Extra Trustees met on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2020 to discuss their approach to the Covid crisis. They sought to balance



Prime Minister Boris Johnson announces the first UK lockdown in March 2020

an awareness that falling markets had already hit their resources with doing their utmost to support the many members and their dependants who would need help during what would become a very difficult time continuing many months.

The Trustees announced that: “We will help those directly affected and who lose money as a result, those who contract the disease or

who have to self-isolate because of it. We will also consider applications from those who do not contract the disease but who lose significant income from the economic impact of Covid-19 and the response to it – this is a significant variation to our normal policy.”

Following this policy decision, the trustees decided that the charity should prioritise members:

- Who are the sole income earner and have dependants.
- Who have a caring role.
- Who have no other available support.

Grants were decided on the basis of need as identified in the application form. Retraining grants were also on offer. The scheme started making payments in April 2020 and was due to continue until the end of June, in line with the government scheme but was later extended until the end of August.



At the same time, the Trustees launched an appeal to branches and members seeking contributions to build up the funds to assist members. Members and branches did not fail. Money poured in from branches, some contributions running into thousands of pounds.

Individual members also contributed what they could afford at a time of considerable employment uncertainty.

## Diary of a global battle with a viral killer

**20/3/20** Chancellor of the Exchequer, Rishi Sunak, announced new grants to support businesses and prevent job losses during the COVID-19 pandemic. HMRC will pay up to 80% of wages for employees who are “furloughed”. Government grants will cover 80% of the salary of retained workers up to a total of £2,500 a month.

**23/3/20 NUJ Extra announces relief scheme.**

### Lockdown one announced

**24/3/20** Full lockdown announced by PM (pic 24/3/20).

**26/3/20** Self-employed and partnership scheme, the Self-Employment Income Support Scheme, announced. This provided help for some freelancers. Freelancers could claim if they could show a significant reduction in profits. The grant was worth 80% of a three-year average monthly trading profits, paid out in a single instalment covering 3 months’ worth of profits, and capped at £7,500 in total.

**27/3/20** Johnson announced he had been diagnosed with Covid-19. Mary Wakefield rings her husband, Dominic Cummings, at work to say she was feeling ill.

**30/3/20** Cummings starts suffering from Covid symptoms. He, his wife and son drive to Durham to stay with his parents. His son was taken to hospital in Durham on April 2 but tested negative for Covid.

**3/4/20** Cummings drove to the hospital to pick up his wife and child.

**12/4/20** Cummings made his infamous visit to Barnard Castle to “check his eyesight”. He later returned to London with his family.

**21/5/20 NUJ Extra extends relief scheme.**

**22/5/20** *Daily Mirror* and the *Guardian* published their allegations about the Cummings visit north and the issue became news.

**23/6/20** The Prime Minister announced easing of lockdown with two households able to meet with social distancing. Pubs, restaurants and hairdressers were allowed to open.

**4/7/20** Hospitality industry able to open.

**1/8/20** Eat out to help out launched throughout August. £849m claimed through the scheme by more than 52,000 businesses.

**24/9/20** The Chancellor announces the winter rescue plan – ends furlough and launches pay-as-you-grow loan scheme and Job support scheme.

**1/11/20** Job support scheme – replacement furlough supposed to come into effect. That was postponed for a month and the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme was extended for a month with employees receiving 80% of their current salary for hours not worked and further economic support announced.

### Lockdown two announced

**1/11/20** Lockdown two. Self Employment Income support scheme also extended.

**5/11/20** The Chancellor says the government’s intention was for new health restrictions to remain only until the start of December but because the economic recovery slowed and there was a need

to give businesses and people security through the winter the Government extended furlough at 80% to March 2021. He said the government would redeploy a retention incentive at the appropriate time. Self-Employment income support grant now runs from Nov – Jan and will cover 80% of average profit up to £7,500.

**19/11/20 Trustees agree to extend scheme for five months.**

**1/12/20** Job support scheme – a replacement for furlough – comes into effect.

**17/12/20** Christmas rules changed, reducing Christmas festivities from three days to one and the job support scheme was extended to end of April 2021.

### Lockdown three announced

**5/1/21** Johnson announced Lockdown three: “It’s clear we need to do more together to bring this new variant under control while our vaccines are rolled out.” Lockdown 3 meant the public could only leave home to shop for essentials, for work if work from home was impossible, exercise, to seek medical assistance or to escape domestic abuse. (pic 5/1/21)

**5/1/21** Chancellor announced £594m discretionary fund to support impacted businesses and one-off £9,000 grants for hospitality, retail and leisure businesses.

**29/1/21** Closing date for claiming under the Self-employed Income Support Scheme. Scheme, which was extended for a third time for those who had previously claimed.



# Bank errors led to mortgage nightmare

As a financial journalist since the age of 24, I never once imagined I'd run into monolithic problems with my mortgage company, nor that they would stretch over a decade, leaving me a financial and emotional mess. The steadfast support and industry know-how of NUJ Extra saved me.

In 2004, I moved out of London and bought a lovely house in the country, with a decent tracker mortgage. Rates rose over the next couple of years, so did my monthly payments. However, in 2009 when rates tumbled, the bank failed to pass on the savings. At the same time, I became ill with a delayed diagnosis of a tumor, and unable to work, so couldn't move to a new bank. I was therefore marooned on an exorbitantly high mortgage rate.

Over the next few years, the bank made a catalogue of errors and miscalculations, which left my head spinning. I contacted NUJ Extra for assistance in 2016. Leyla Yusuf contacted the bank on my behalf, and it was agreed we would make a formal complaint. The bank failed to resolve the issues, so in 2018 we took the complaint to the Financial Ombudsman.

The Ombudsman was slow to act, so in May 2018, the chair of NUJ intervened and commenced negotiations with the Chief Executive of the bank. He brokered an excellent repayment mortgage, by which I would have cleared the debt in 17 years' time. I have a recording of this conversation. However, a month later, the bank changed its story and said the deal was an interest-only one.

There followed a year of protracted negotiations with the Ombudsman. The Ombudsman refused to make the bank honour the repayment offer, but did backdate the new rate to 2016, and award compensation which reduced my debt by £25,000 in total.

I cannot thank NUJ Extra enough for its unwavering support and kindness during this traumatic time. Without the intervention of the Chair, I would still be trapped in a mortgage prison. As it is, I am now sitting on one of the best mortgage deals 'not on the market' and hoping to start making capital repayments soon.

The work that NUJ EXtra does is really appreciated by those it helps. Whilst NUJ Extra has been particularly busy during the Covid-19 emergency, our work supporting beneficiaries goes on all the time. Testimonials regularly come into the office and below is a small selection of messages from those helped by the generosity of other members. (names are anonymised):

'I'd like to thank NUJ Extra for making such a positive difference... who stepped in to save us from a very precarious financial situation' - Katy

'My application was handled with sensitivity and kindness... The help I received from NUJ Extra has contributed enormously to my recovery from the experience.' - E.W.

# Husband's drug addiction and debt left family homeless

"My two boys (aged 3&4) and I suddenly found ourselves homeless due to my husband's addiction. We lost our home and most of our belongings which he destroyed or sold for drugs and left with me a considerable amount of debt.

I had to flee to my mum's house which was a safe space for us and we spent almost a year living out of a plastic crate and suitcases. Whilst we were grateful, we had somewhere to stay it wasn't really our home. I was given help by my local council towards rent and deposit on a house for the children and I, but I needed some help to furnish it. This is where NUJ Extra stepped in. They asked me for a list of all the things I needed and helped me purchase most of it as well contributing to some of my initial rent, vouchers for a supermarket shop and buying me a tumble dryer.

I have been a member of the NUJ for years and this was the first time I had to use the help of NUJ Extra. I was quite ashamed and embarrassed that I had found myself in this position and never in a million years did I think I would need help in this way.

The generosity genuinely humbled me and made me cry as the help enabled me to give my children not just a house but a home."



# Thanks to Extra!

## Beneficiaries explain how NUJ Extra helped them to rebuild their lives after Covid 19 and other life disasters destroyed them

# Rebuilding lives with the help of that little Extra - members express their thanks

'We cannot thank you enough for all your generosity and hard work.' - John

'Having experienced one the worst years of my life, I shall be eternally grateful to the Trustees and administrators of our in-house Charitable Sector. Their Care, Compassion, and kindness was so humbling.'

'This shows how much our Brothers and Sister in our Union are prepared to rally round to help each other in a crisis. May God bless them in their work, and I hope all members, and Branches, can rally round in their yearly Fundraising events to help N.U.J Extra continue their most valuable work.' - J.S.

'It's difficult to imagine where I would be without NUJ Extra. As a freelance journalist hit hard during the Covid-19 pandemic, with commissions cancelled and future work drying up, being able to rely on my union and its charitable arm for financial

aid has been indispensable...I will always be proud to be a full member and participant of this wonderful union, and to give back when I can. My deepest thanks go out to the trustees and everyone who donates to the NUJ Extra fund.' - R.S.

'Thank you for the grant again this year. It's a vital support and allows my mother in law to live independently in an assisted living environment.' - Regular beneficiary' A.S.h

'Thank you very much for all your help. This will make a big difference to my financial situation, so I really appreciate all the help and support that NUJ Extra is giving me.' - New beneficiary H.O.

'Oh wow, that has brought happy tears to my eyes! Thank you so much, please tell the Trustees that I am so grateful and that I am deeply, humbly appreciative.' - K.H.

'I would like to sincerely thank the NUJ for their assistance,

particularly John Jones, the welfare officer at the East Yorkshire branch of the NUJ and regional organiser Chris Morley who has also spoken with me.

Both have been very helpful and supportive. A £200 welfare payment was made to me from my local branch almost immediately after I contacted them, which was a godsend. My sincere thanks to the trustees, yourself and to everyone at the NUJ who have assisted me.' - G.H.

'My family and I are extremely grateful to the NUJ Extra for their help to alleviate some of the costs involved with our son's treatment. It means a lot to us.' - M. G.

'Thank you so much. I am very grateful to NUJ Extra - this is a great help. I would be more than happy to speak to one of the Trustees. The speed with which this has been handled and the support coming from the union is incredible. I am very grateful.' - D.D.

'That's great news, thank you so much for your help, and please thank the Trustees for kindly agreeing to pay one month's mortgage. Please let them know I am very grateful, and it really does mean a lot to have this support at such a worrying time.' - L.M.

'This grant actually motivates me to keep going because I know that somebody cares. Most importantly, it relieves a huge amount of stress that has definitely dragged me down over these last two anxious inducing months.' - A. F.

'That's great news! I am so happy to hear this! Please send on my thanks to the trustees. The cash will be so useful to me. It has taken a huge weight off my mind and I am so grateful for their help. And thank you to you for helping with my application.' - B. M.

'Thanks, That's fantastic news, I'm very grateful and it will be a help with immediate costs. Please pass on my thanks to the NUJ Extra team. Thank you for your continued vital help and

support...' - M.M 2019

'Wow - that is so great of the trustees, I can't tell you what a relief this is for us. Thank you all, it means so much! I am stupidly tearful actually. One day soon, when the children are sorted, I would like to be able to contribute back to this fund. Even if it is only a small amount, as it really does all count. Thank you so much.' - V.M.

'That is incredible news thank you!! So unexpected...Thank you so, so much to you, the chair and the trustees, I feel such huge relief.' - D. W.

'The heater and air purifier purchased with the generous grants from the Journalists' Charity and NUJ Extra have been in place for some time now... The generosity of the charities is humbling and my thanks, though completely genuine, seem somewhat inadequate. Your support has enabled me to live a happier, healthier life, for which I am incredibly grateful.' - T. J.

# Survey shows our Lockdown approach was fast and effective

NUJ Extra helped many members through the difficult months of lockdown and earned praise and plaudits from those for whom that help was a lifeline.

Our processes were "very clear", "simple and straightforward" and our speed and efficiency of response was marked 10 out of 10 by 78% of respondents and 9 out of 10 by 17%. And 8 out of ten by all the others. The help given was considered a "literal lifesaver" said one and "I was impressed and grateful", commented another. A third thought that our communication "was brilliant and felt personal". We responded within a week to 89% of those seeking help and in the second week for the remainder and members genuinely felt there was nothing we could

have done to provide a better service. Our level of support was marked 9 out of 10 or 10 out of 10 by 89% of respondents 67% gave us ten out ten with the other third grading us at 8 or 9. The Extra secretary, Leyla Yusuf came in for special praise and thanks.

Several noted that it was branch representative who had put them in touch, emphasizing the importance of branch welfare officers.

Those helped by the charity commented: Work dropped off a cliff, all my upcoming assignments were cancelled or indefinitely postponed, due to COVID19, and without the financial assistance of NUJ Extra, I honestly don't know what would have happened to me over the past 4/5 months.

Thankfully, the NUJ rep who was supporting me with employment issues, mentioned NUJ Extra and I applied. I was delighted when I heard that help would be available to us. I can only describe it as a lifeline I will never forget and always be grateful for. I am now able to move forward on a new project using my prolific journalistic experience, and able to apply for new work.

The situation for myself and my small child has massively improved, with the very stressful pressure alleviated when we most needed it. I am very proud of my union. The support I received along the road which had become very rocky due to the series of events at this time demonstrated I'd made the right choice with the NUJ since I first became a journalist. Special thanks to Leyla and her team. You've done well.

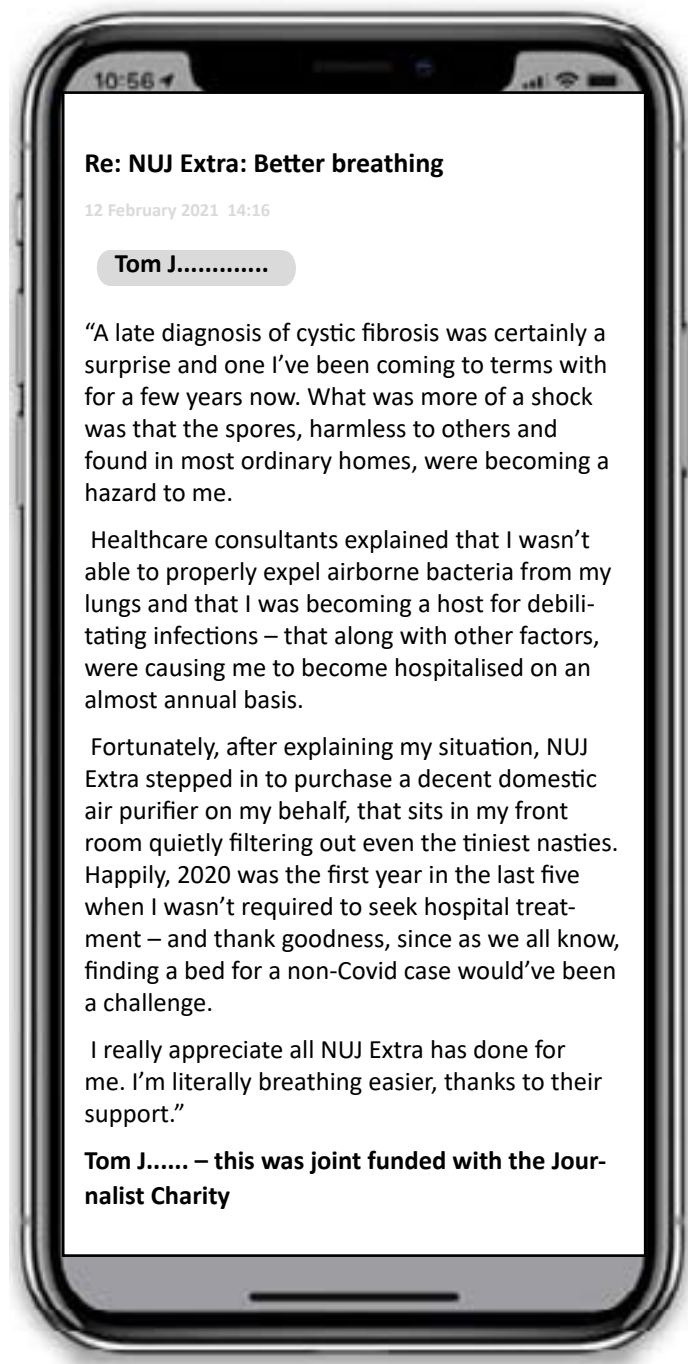
# The slow creep to a new life

There isn't a point of before and after I can recall, when things changed from good to not so good. It was a slow creep. But at some point the scales tipped, then went on sinking to bad then very bad.

Sixteen years on and it's March 2020 and the UK was about to be put into lockdown. It was a dramatic end to things: he nipped out to the shops, I made a quick phone call, and then my friend was at my door with an armful of giant Ikea bags and her ex and his white van in tow. We threw whatever we could grab into them, picked up my youngest from school and then I was on a train to my mum's.

Then came the hard part: starting from scratch on my own. That's when support from the NUJ came in. I had many traumatic things to face, but the financial support I got from NUJ Extra helped to allay one major problem - finding a new place to live. I had no savings; in fact, I was in debt - by a lot - because he'd not worked for the past ten or so years. NUJ Extra arranged to pay my deposit, freeing up the money I'd saved over lockdown and being at my mum's to pay for the first month's rent and furniture basics. Having some of that financial worry taken off my hands was a great psychological help as well as a practical one. On down days I was reminded that people care and that I mattered enough to be helped.

And it wasn't just the financial support I got that made a difference - the support and encouragement I got kept me going when I was close to giving up and going back. Things are still very shit sometimes but knowing that people rallied round to help me keeps me going during those times. And I have a lovely little flat of my own - it's called Victory House, I kid you not.



# Struggle to make Covid-19 ends meet

"I don't like writing anonymously, but the shame overtakes me. Sorry.

So many redundancies at the BBC and the knock on for freelancers like me has been terrible. I'm PAYE so Sunak's furlough scheme doesn't include me. I've gone from being a highly educated, experienced, well respected freelance Print/Broadcast Journalist to a nervous wreck, struggling to pay for school uniforms for my three children (I'm a single mother with no input from the father).

I joined the campaigning group Excluded, which has been amazing. I took a mortgage break. Asked for a Council Tax discount. Sold the car. Sold the table dryer. Still, I couldn't make ends meet.

I had paid in my subs for 20+ years and to be honest, I called NUJ to ask if I could take a break from my subscriptions.

David at NUJ Freelance was so kind, I actually cried (and I've worked in war zones with the usual dry eye we have all been taught to do).

He asked me why I needed the subs break and it all came tumbling out. NUJ picked me up, giving me financial respite and a listening ear.

I'm still working when I can, but am now on UC - It's not easy, but without the support of our Union, I'm not sure I'd be writing this to you today. "



# Meet the trustees - the NUJ members behind the charity

## EXTRA! EXTRA!

### The NUJ's charity - read all about it

NUJ Extra is the National Union of Journalist's charity, designed to help members, former members and their dependants who are in dire financial need.

Every year, we help NUJ members who have fallen on hard times by giving them one-off grants to help pay for urgent utility bills or to make adjustments to their home because of a sudden disability.

We've helped members meet the cost of removal expenses to get away from violent partners and given them financial support whilst they got on their feet again.

We've helped members pay the mortgage when they've had nowhere else to turn.

We've helped single parents with young children and children who have, sadly, lost their parents.

We've bought electric wheelchairs and repaired windows.

And we maintain regular monthly payments to dependants of deceased NUJ members.

Every year, we review the grants we make and it's very rare that we do not make an increase. Add our very welcome Christmas bonus into this mix and you can see we really do provide that bit extra.

We are funded by NUJ members through NUJ contributions, charity events and by personal donations.

We aim to assist those who have fallen on hard times and who need temporary financial help.

We may also help members or dependants who have

become disabled or seriously ill with one-off grants to cover unforeseen large bills.

We have bought mobile scooters, helped provide rent deposits for those who have become homeless, paid for property adaptations

for members who have been disabled, helped with removal expenses for a person fleeing domestic violence and paid countless utility bills.

We consider each case on its merit and work to guidelines that are reviewed every year by the trustees.

We work with other charities to assist members, including [Journalists' Charity](#) (formerly the Newspaper Press Fund). Members can also donate while they shop by using whichever online charity donation method they prefer. We are registered with:

- [TheGivingMachine](#)
- [Easyfundraising](#)
- [GoRaise](#)
- [Giveasyoulive Online](#)
- [Amazonsmile](#)

Members can also choose NUJ Extra when Facebook suggests setting up a fundraiser.

Just to give one example: Easyfundraising has 3,700 retailers, such as M&S, John Lewis and Argos, but also includes market places, such as eBay and the craft marketplace Etzy.

For the avoidance of doubt, NUJ Extra is not endorsing any of these retailers, shopping schemes or social media companies. We are simply making ourselves available on as many fundraising platforms as possible.



## A helping hand in need for more than a century

**The NUJ launched as a trade union in 1907. It was set up to bring together those who F J Mansfield, an early union pioneer, described as having "a fundamental identity of interest".**

They were all employees be they "all sorts of conditions of youths and men - not to mention the women who have entered the ranks in greatly increasing numbers, and who have been treated by the union a footing of complete equality with men."

The Newspaper Press Fund was an early charity for those in the trade set up in 1864. In 1910 the union wrote to the Press Fund seeking some kind of mutually beneficial arrangement. Members of the Press Fund had to pay a subscription to the fund - an early insurance policy in a time when there was no National Health Service and little in the way of support for those who fell on hard times - but many journalists were unable to afford this fee.

The General Secretary, William Newman Watts, wrote to the Press Fund pointing out that the union had no legal power to assist the widows of deceased members and praised the Press Fund for stepping in and assisting the widow of a recently deceased member with a grant of £10. The letter was friendly and offered to make an annual lump

sum payment to the fund for assistance to members.

The Press Fund (now called the Journalists' Charity) responded in a similar friendly vein but regretfully pointed out their own charter prevented such a plan. The General Secretary's letter had said that the union intended to raise the idea of a Widow's and Orphans fund at its Annual Delegate Meeting the very next month. The NEC duly proposed a motion calling for the union to create a new fund "by voluntary contributions from members, by grants from management fund balance of branches and collections at union gatherings". It was to be used for the relief of the widows, orphans and other dependants of members left in distressed circumstances. The final motion, after considerable debate, set up a fund by voluntary contribution from branches and collections at union gatherings.

Three years later the union was authorised to allocate two shillings per member to this fund. From 1911 to 1919, the fund granted a total of £416. By 1938, the figure had risen to £3,856. The original fund was augmented in 1912 by allocating 2s (10p) per member per year to the fund. In June 1920 a decision was taken to set up a separate Widows and Orphans Fund that would build up over the years to support members' dependants. By 1948, the fund had grown to £90,000.

The fund remained part of the NUJ accounts until 1970 when it was established as a separate charity.

In 1982, it changed its name and became the Provident Fund to reflect the wider diversity of beneficiaries. When the trustees began to help members in need, rather than dependants of deceased members, the Charity Commission did not approve. That led the trustees to establish the Members in Need Fund in 1992, with a supportive donation from the NUJ and from many of its branches. The first payment to a beneficiary was made in 1995. After the Charity Commission changed its rules, the trustees set about merging the two charities and this was approved by the Charity Commission in December 2005, with the name changed to NUJ Extra.

In December 2005, the combined funds were worth just over £2 million and grants for that year totalled more than £84,000. In anticipation of the merger, the trustees authorised the biggest-ever increase in the ceiling used to calculate weekly benefit for continuing beneficiaries.

The amount per person rose from £130 to £150 a week and the grant for each dependent rose from £50 to £75. In 2007 the trustees raised the ceiling to its highest level - £175 plus £90 for each dependant. One-off grants were also considerably increased.

NUJ Extra has nine trustees, five elected by members at the Delegate meeting and four appointed by the NEC. All serve for four years. The trustees are:

#### Chair of trustees: Chris Wheal

Chris is a freelance journalist and trainer who has been a member of the NUJ since he started work in 1987. He runs his own business, Wheal Associates, producing magazines, providing consultancy, writing articles and managing editorial teams.

He has edited three trade magazines and three websites, written for national newspapers and consumer magazines and has won awards for his journalism. He was chair of the NUJ's Members in Need Fund and steered through the creation of NUJ extra. "I first got involved with the charities after our car accident more than 20 years ago."



#### Vice chair of trustees: Francis Sedgemore

Originally from New Zealand, Francis, a former research physicist, is today a science and policy journalist and communications consultant based in the East of England. Since the early-noughties Francis has been active at all levels of the union from branch to industrial and other advisory councils, and is an accredited union negotiator.

Francis is currently chair of the NUJ's Freelance Industrial Council. He became a NUJ Extra trustee in order to serve union members in urgent need of financial support.

Francis has a thorough understanding of welfare and workplace issues, and knowledge of the moral and legal responsibilities of charity trustees.

#### John Barsby

John Barsby, an NUJ Member of Honour and former union president, is the NUJ's Hon General Treasurer.

John is one of the longest serving members of the National Executive and a former chair of the Finance Committee and Broadcasting Industrial Council.

With a long career in the BBC, John has represented and helped many union members facing both industrial and personal problems.

"It's so important and also rewarding to be able to assist those of our colleagues and their dependants when they need help."



#### Debbie Cavaldoro

Debbie has a long history of working with both Trade Unions and Communications. Before taking up her current role developing the strategy and campaigning arm of Nautilus, she worked extensively on the Nautilus Telegraph.

Prior to joining Nautilus in 2011, she has worked in various PR roles including for central government, a football club and the NUJ.

She has received various awards over the years for both journalism and campaigning, including the TUC Communications Awards, Transport Journalist of the year, European Association Awards and European Excellence Awards and UK Association Awards.

#### Ann Coltart

Ann is an old-timer transfer from Glasgow branch, ready to make way for a younger active person on our union's charity.

She joined the NUJ as an indentured sub reporter with the Birkenhead News in 1960. Moving to London, she spent time on the Chelsea Post and Kensington Post, then the Swindon Evening advertiser in Wiltshire.

For ten years as a single parent, she worked as a cook, barmaid, community theatre administrator and adult literacy lecturer in London.



#### Chris Frost



Chris is emeritus professor of Journalism at Liverpool John Moores University where he was head of department for many years. He has been a newspaper journalist, editor and journalism educator for more than 50 years. He is a member of honour of the union and sits on the National Executive Council of the National Union of Journalists and has been chair of the union's Ethics Council for many years.

He is a former President of the union and a former chair of the Association for Journalism Education. He

has written several books about Journalism including Journalism Ethics and Regulation (now in its fourth edition).

#### Anita Halpin

Anita Halpin has been a member of the NUJ for over 40 years. Now retired, she worked in pr and communications as both a staffer and, laterly, a freelance.

A member of the union's national executive council for 25 years, she served as president from 1994-1995. At the end of her term, she did a short stint as the administrator for the then NUJ Provident Fund (the forerunner of NUJ extra) and still remembers some of the long-time beneficiaries.

Anita has been an NUJ extra trustee for many years, first ex officio while union treasurer and then as an elected trustee.



#### Michelle Stanistreet



Michelle is the General Secretary of the National Union of Journalists. Michelle worked as a journalist for ten years at the *Sunday Express* newspaper as feature writer and books editor and was NUJ mother of chapel there, as well as the national representative for newspapers and agencies on the NUJ's ruling NEC. In 2006, she was elected vice president of the NUJ and in 2007-8 served as the union's President.

Michelle became the first woman in the NUJ's history to be elected as General Secretary in April 2011 and the first woman Deputy General Secretary elected in 2008. Michelle has been a Trustee of NUJ Extra for 11 years.

**Donate to NUJ Extra** - anyone can donate money to the charity. Members should log in to the website before making a donation to avoid filling in forms.

NUJ extra is registered under the Charities Act (in England and Wales) and is regulated by the Charity Commission. NUJ extra's registration number is 1112489