

OBITUARY

Nanette Whitbread

Nanette Whitbread, who died last May (2015) in a nursing home in Bray, Co. Wicklow, in Ireland, played a crucially important role in the story of *FORUM*, particularly in the thirty-year period from 1966 to 1996.

In the 1950s, Nanette was a history teacher at Archway County Secondary School for Boys in North London, which the late Edward Blishen (a *FORUM* Board member himself) had used as the inspiration for his acclaimed first novel about secondary school life: *Roaring Boys: a schoolmaster's agony*, published in 1955. This was based on his own experience of entering the teaching profession in a tough urban secondary modern school at the end of the 1940s, and Nanette used to say that, when she was there, you could still identify many of the teachers described in the novel.

Nanette was teaching at the City of Leicester School of Education (later Scraftoft College) in 1966 when she began helping Brian Simon with the task of editing *FORUM*. She and Brian then worked on the journal together, each being responsible for alternate numbers, until Brian stood down in 1989, to be replaced by Clyde Chitty. Nanette then continued in her role as Co-Editor until she, in turn, stood down in the summer of 1996.

Nanette was an outstanding editor and she cared passionately about the two main issues that *FORUM* came into existence to promote: the abolition of streaming in the primary school; and the move over to comprehensive education at the secondary stage. She was a great writer herself and her Editorials were always trenchant and well argued. It was a pleasure to work with her. *FORUM* owes her a great deal.

