

MANCHESTER
PUERTO
CABEZAS
DIRECT LINKS GROUP

MARGARET ROFF HONOURED IN PUERTO CABEZAS

Former Manchester City Councillor Margaret Roff who tragically died in 1987 in a hotel fire whilst on a fact finding visit to Manchester's sister-City of Puerto Cabezas in Nicaragua has had a new extension at The Bilwi Health Clinic there named in her honour.

Margaret Roff a Labour Member of Manchester City Council from 1982 to 1987, was well known in many communities in Manchester for her campaigning work especially on the issues of low pay and equal opportunities. She travelled to Nicaragua in the Autumn of 1987 in the company of another Manchester resident, Maggie Walker. Their final destination was Puerto Cabezas on the Atlantic Coast which has been twinned with Manchester since 1985. The purpose of their visit was to further develop the links between the two cities and in particular to visit the various projects supported by money raised at the Carnival Masquerade held annually in Manchester Town Hall.

During the course of their visit, a fire broke out in their hotel ~~resulting in the death of nine people including Margaret Roff. Since~~ then, Margaret has been commemorated in Puerto Cabezas every November 2nd - the Day of Remembrance in Nicaragua.

This year The Bilwi Clinic opened a new extension which has been built entirely with money raised at the Carnival Masquerade. The health authorities have named the new extension THE MARGARET ROFF BUILDING in honour of her memory and to thank the people of Manchester for their generous support over the past ten years. A commemorative plaque, commissioned by her friends in Manchester and made by the Chorlton Pottery, adorns the entrance hall.

The next Carnival Masquerade will be held in Manchester Town Hall on Saturday February 10th. All proceeds will be sent to the Bilwi Clinic to buy more equipment for THE MARGARET ROFF BUILDING.

