

ANN MAGUIRE

On 28th April 2014, Ann Maguire, a fellow teacher, was stabbed to death in her classroom, in front of her class, by a 15 year old pupil. The enormity of this event is still being absorbed by the profession.

Clearly the greatest loss is suffered by Ann Maguire's family and then by her school community of Corpus Christi RC College, Leeds, but the loss is also felt by the whole teaching profession.

Letters of condolence were sent by Manchester Teachers Association NUT to the family of Ann Maguire and to the school. The Retired Teachers Section AGM began with a period of silence as members stood in quiet contemplation in memory of a fellow teacher who gave her life in such tragic circumstances.



STAND UP FOR EDUCATION

The Union's campaign against the assault on public education by Mr Gove continues. The National Executive have decided that we will not be taking action in the week of 23rd June to allow time to see if progress is possible in the talks with the Government. If there is no progress we will be taking action on **10th July** and members should look carefully for further information on this. **Leafleting** has and will continue to take place in the City Centre and suburbs and parents are receiving the NUT's message. 10th June sees a **lobby of parliament** and all members are urged to **write to their MP** and/or attend his/her surgery to let them know the strength of teacher feeling. This campaign will continue in various forms right up to the **General Election in 2015**.

Increasingly there is a realisation that Mr Gove is pursuing a **privatisation agenda disguised as an education agenda** and it is teachers who have the real professional input. Perhaps this is why Mr Gove is trying to de-professionalise the teaching profession. Play your part, don't let opposition be characterised as from 'the usual Union militants', it is from the majority of professional teachers and it is spreading.

Stay close to your Union.

CONFERENCE 2014

This year's Annual Conference debated a variety of issues on **Ofsted, teacher qualification, free schools** and the **ongoing campaign of action** including strike action. An amendment that would have committed the Executive to an extended series of strikes later this year was defeated on a card vote by 2-1.

A motion **opposing free schools and forced conversions of maintained schools into academies** was resoundingly passed. **Christine Blower**, General Secretary, said:-

"The government is spending vast sums of money on free schools for small numbers of students, often in areas in which there is no need for new places. Meanwhile across the country, head teachers are crying out for funding to renovate and repair dilapidated buildings, recruit sufficient staff and provide enough places for local families."

Since then we have learned of Mr Gove's transfer of major funding to free schools away from other parts of the education budget. Meanwhile Local Authorities are forbidden from opening new schools in areas of great need.

ELECTION FOR GENERAL SECRETARY 2015 - 2020

The quinquennial election for **National General Secretary of NUT** is upon us. Ballet papers will be despatched on Wednesday 4th June 2014. Members who do not receive a ballot paper by 19th June should contact the election ballot hotline on **020 7380 4825** quoting their membership number. The **closing date** for receipt of completed ballot papers is **25th June**. Manchester Teachers' Association NUT chose by ballot to nominate the current National General Secretary **Christine Blower** and members are urged to support this decision in the ballot.

RETIRED TEACHERS SECTION

The AGM of the MTA Retired Teachers Section was held on **Tuesday 6th May**, business was conducted successfully and the years programme was reviewed. Existing office holders were re-elected and thanked for their work, the one

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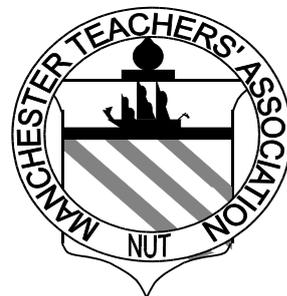
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exception was the **Treasurer, Brenda Lomas**, who twelve months ago had indicated her **desire to retire from her duties** at the next AGM. For sixteen years Brenda has served the Section well in re-organising the accounts and keeping them up to date and well presented as is evidenced by the Auditors comments. The best wishes go to Brenda for her work and we are pleased that she will still attend the Section's meetings.

Brenda's replacement as Treasurer is **Eileen Flint** and we wish her well for the future.

The next meeting will be on **Tuesday July 1st, Hough End Centre 10.15am**, when **Mrs Sharon Adamson** will give a presentation on **'Manchester Cathedral Country House, Mellor'**.

PROFESSIONAL STATUS

Increasingly it is being realised that the requirement for a teacher to be professionally qualified is **crucial for the future of teaching** and our children's education. Mr Gove's removal of the need for teachers to be qualified to teach in Academies and Free Schools is the **greatest threat** in his list of threats to the teaching profession. How long will it be before he tries to extend this to all schools? Without a professional qualification to teach we will become mere job holders with no greater input to education and no right to direct it

than any other group of workers. Unqualified job holders in a private sector 'industry'. Against this background a really important decision was made at this year's Conference to back a policy restricting the definition of a teacher to **'only those who have undertaken and**

completed training and statutory qualifications'. This is a move long since overdue and the Union will consider the best ways to achieve this aim.

MEMBERS PLEASE NOTE

Any member seeking **financial support** to attend a **national meeting** of the NUT or a **conference** of one of the Union's sections should first seek approval of the General Committee through the General Secretary before making a commitment. If you are supported financially to attend you will be asked to write a **brief report** on the meeting/conference and present this to **General Committee on your return**.

YEAR OF THE CURRICULUM

NUT has designated 2014 the Year of the Curriculum. The Union is working with the **Curriculum Foundation**, a not-for-profit social enterprise, to design a range of exciting and practical modules and professional development activities. This is the NUT as a professional association

providing **support and inspiration** to its **professionally qualified**

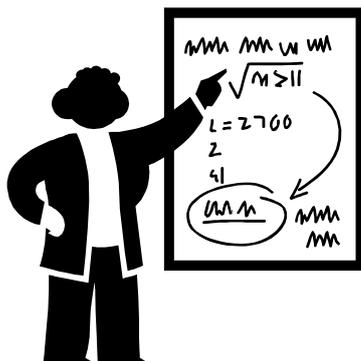
members. CPD events have been and are to be held in various parts of the country for members and CPD materials will be available on the NUT website at www.teachers.org.uk/campaigns/curriculum.

SUPPLY TEACHER CONFERENCE

NUT is holding a Supply Teacher Conference on **28th June at Hamilton House**. The Conference will consider strategies to tackle the issues affecting supply teacher employment. The Union is aware that supply teacher members face problems dealing with agencies, abuse of correct working conditions, differentials in remuneration and the lack of Local Authority involvement.

SCHOOL REPRESENTATIVES

School Reps. are a vital element in the work of the Union, All schools should have an **NUT Rep.** and if your school does not, please act now to correct this. **You are not on your own** and you are not expected to **act for the Union single handed**. **You will be a vital link** between members in your school and the Association. The General Secretary and the Manchester Office are only a phone call away. Please elect a Rep. from the members in your school. Further information from the Manchester office on **0161 945 5061**.



NUT

The professional and responsible union for all teachers