

SEASONS GREETINGS



Advent is with us again, yes twelve months have raced by and here we are sharing once more the traditional greeting:-

'A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year'.

May we continue to share many more.

MANIFESTO FOR EDUCATION

NUT's **'Manifesto for Education'** was launched to coincide with the Party Conference season and to keep our views on education before politicians and the electorate in the run up to the **General Election**.

The document has been well received and widely endorsed and copies are being distributed by leafleting and by house to house delivery. The consultative ballot showed that 98% of those who responded supported continuance of the **'Stand Up for Education'** campaign and 80% were prepared to support two more days of strike action before the General Election if the Executive thought it would help the ongoing negotiations.



NUT WORKLOAD SURVEY

The NUT Workload Survey was responded to by many members and resulted in some very disturbing findings. Teachers know about the unacceptable pressures they are under but the survey produced statistics to emphasise this knowledge.

- **90%** of teachers said they had considered giving up teaching during the last two years because of

workload.

- **87%** said they know one or more colleagues who had given up during the last two years because of workload.
- **96.5%** said their workload had negative consequences for their family or personal life.

The survey resulted in widespread comment and coverage in press and other media and even Deputy Prime Minister, Nick Clegg, launched his **Workload Challenge** inviting teachers across the country to have their say on the causes of unnecessary workload and what government should do about it.

We await Nick Clegg's considered response and news of what 'his government' is prepared to do about it.

EDUCATION QUESTION TIME

Manchester NUT's Education Question Time at the Mechanics Institute on Tuesday 18th November was a real success and the sizeable audience enjoyed the questions and discussion with the panel, chaired enthusiastically by Allan Beswick of BBC Radio Manchester, fielding a variety of questions on current education matters. It is to be hoped that this wider discussion will continue as a key element in NUT campaigning.

AND SO SAY ALL OF US!

"Education should be the most sought after ministerial appointment. Questions on education should be the most hotly debated during elections. **Teachers should be cherished by our society.** I was blessed with teachers who fired a love of learning in me from primary school all the way to university. It's a hard job; I don't know if I would have the stamina, intellect and humanity to be a good teacher. **Teachers and schools need all the support they can get**".

Dan Snow, historian,

- writing in 'Radio Times' 1- 7 November 2014

RETIRED TEACHERS SECTION

The annual **Christmas Lunch** was a very enjoyable occasion shared by members, representative Officers and friends old and new; a real highlight of the Section's year.

Published by:

The Manchester Teachers' Association. NUT

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Manchester Teachers' Association

FREEPOST (MR8526)

Manchester

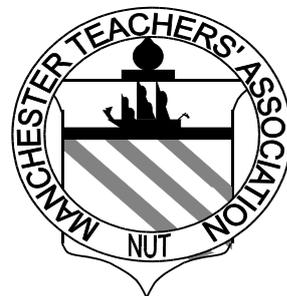
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The meeting on **Tuesday 6th January 2015** will be a **New Year Celebration** with 'wine, food and conversation. A bring and share occasion.

Tuesday **3rd February** sees a return to the talks programme when **Mr**

David Frith will present 'A Walk around Manchester'.



All events are at the Hough End Centre, 10.15am and new members are always welcome.

STOKE ROCHFORD HALL AT CHRISTMAS

The NUTs residential conference centre offers a variety of Christmas celebration options from seasonal lunch to a two day Christmas break or the traditional New Years Ball. Details at www.stokerochfordhall.co.uk

GENERAL MEETING

The next General Meeting of Manchester Teachers' Association NUT will be the AGM on Wednesday **14th January 2015**. The AGM is especially important as the forum for rule change in the Association and is also another chance to hear updates on NUT campaigns. Please look out for the Agenda with details of venue, which will be in schools at least a week before the meeting.

DISABLED TEACHERS CONFERENCE

The 2014 Disabled Teachers Conference of NUT had the theme '**Making Schools Inclusive for All**' and was attended as a Manchester Teachers' Association

Representative by General Committee member **Deborah Leigh** who submitted a very interesting and full written report.

Christine Blower spoke of 'pursuing a more equal world' and supporting NUTs 'Stand Up for Education' campaign as a means of opposing target/profit based approaches that threaten equality of opportunity and are destructive of inclusive education.

Others spoke of the threat to inclusive schools surrounded by academies, the destructive nature of 'one size fits all' policies and the need for education to reach all the worlds children.

Suggestions for activities and the need for disabled teachers to be involved in the Union in its widest

sense were stressed and Deborah was selected to attend the **TUC Disabled Workers Conference in 2015**.

OBITUARY

Eileen Watters, a long time active member and School Representative died recently. Eileen was also the wife of former General Secretary John Watters. At her committal at Manchester Crematorium the Union was represented by the General Secretary, other Officers and the Office Secretary to support John and to pay our respects to Eileen. Many members of her family and friends were present at this celebration of her life; she will be widely missed - May she Rest in Peace.



The professional and responsible union for all teachers