

## CAMPAIGN FOR EDUCATION

There is much talk on the air about this years' **General Election**; less than a hundred days to go. The Coalition Government's 'sagging Act' means that some of the Union's campaign activities in the run up period are subject to various constraints. Detailed guidance on



this will be available from NUT.

Members can and should still be **lobbying their MP** at surgeries or by letter or email about the mountain of teacher grievances arising from the government's assault on education. Our **professional pension** has been damaged by the ending of it as a final salary scheme and rise in contributions. **Pay restraint** has hit teacher salaries and the changes to **pay progression** have unleashed possibilities of victimisation, unreasonable denial, possible discrimination and the use of funding as a criterion.

In the long term, possibly the **most serious issue** will be the ending of the requirement for a **professional qualified teacher** to be allowed to 'teach'. This strikes at the very heart of our profession for if we are not to be **professionally qualified graduate teachers** we will be just another job holder in schools with no unique input into the education process. **Workload** is a major issue and the Union is currently highlighting this. Individual members will have their own wider political views but we are all **united as professional teachers** and as members we can actively support our Union's work to save education in general and the teaching profession in particular. If you have the time, how about doing some **leafleting** as well. Contact the MTA office for details.

## SAFEGUARDING: CHILDCARE DISQUALIFICATION DECLARATION

This concerns **advice** that the DfE have produced which

NUT believes will eventually become **statutory**. It involves legislation from 2006 and 2009 which would require members to declare information about people with whom they live who may have previous convictions and cautions. Failure to do so could lead to **suspension or dismissal**. Surprisingly, this only applies to those working with children under the age of eight.

NUT has launched a **legal challenge** and issued detailed advice to members. More information is available from the MTA Office.

## TEACHERS SUPPORT NETWORK

NUT is currently and has been in discussions with TSN about **proposed new governance arrangements for the charity**. The Union is **extremely concerned** about the proposals and will continue to seek resolution by discussion with TSN. Meanwhile members are asked to **defer donations** to TSN pending further advice from the national Union. This may mean suspending direct debits. If members seek a grant from TSN they should do so rather than disadvantage themselves.

NUT **deeply regrets** that it is necessary to issue this advice given that the Union established the Teachers Benevolent Fund (TBF) and has had a central relationship with its successor TSN.

## NEW MTA WEBSITE

Manchester Teachers Association NUT has a new website which you can access at **www.manchesternut.com**. The site includes links to meeting schedules, agendas and 'The Manchester Teacher' and the Association's Twitter and Facebook



### Published by:

The Manchester Teachers' Association. NUT

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feeds, all of which can be downloaded directly. As the banner says, Manchester Teachers Association NUT has been serving Manchester teachers since 1874 and this is another way that service continues. Members can use it regularly.

## RETIRED TEACHERS SECTION

After February's metaphorical 'Walk around Manchester', the next meeting of the section will be on **Tuesday 3rd March**. This March meeting will take the form of the much appreciated annual 'Silent Auction'. Come along, enjoy good conversation with friends and make your silent bids. It is the usual venue at the **Hough End Centre 10.15am** and new members are welcome.

## GENERAL MEETING

The next General Meeting of Manchester Teachers' Association NUT will take place on Wednesday **11th February 2015** commencing at **6.00pm**. The venue is **Abraham Moss Community School, Crescent Road, M8 5UF**. The meeting will close at 7.00pm and all NUT members are welcome.

## TEACHERS ASSURANCE

Teachers Assurance, which is endorsed by NUT, has entered into an agreement to **transfer the business** of Teachers Provident Society (TPS) to **Liverpool Victoria Friendly Society Limited (LV=)**. The terms have been unanimously approved by the TPS Board. The proposed transfer includes all the Teachers Assurance group of companies except Sovereign Unit Trust Managers Ltd which business will transfer to Threadneedle Investments, investment manager for LV=. Terms and conditions of home and contents insurance policies will remain unchanged and if renewal date is before the transfer, renewal with TA can take place, if after, policy holders will have the opportunity to take out a new policy with LV=. LV= is strongly committed to **mutuality**, has over 5.5 million members and customers and 170 years of history. TPS believes the transfer will bring economies of scale and a wider range of products and services and be of benefit to current members and policy holders.

More details will be available nearer the proposed transfer date and TPS will contact members and policy holders with further explanation in addition to the mailing already received, including the questions and answer booklet. The proposals will

need the support of members and approval of the Regulators. There will be a special General meeting for members, meanwhile there is a helpline number **0800 731 2436**. NUT will enter into an agreement with LV= until the end of 2017 to enable relationships to be built up before a review.

## MARIAN GADIAN

We are sad to lose our Minuting Secretary **Marian Gadian** who is moving to be nearer her family in Dorset. Marian has been a first rate officer and has always given excellent service to the membership. We will miss her and give her very best wishes for the future.

Welcome to **Deborah Leigh** who will take over her duties as Minuting Secretary.

## THE STEVE SINNOTT FOUNDATION

The Steve Sinnott Foundation honours the memory of our late General Secretary and has a number of initiatives which emphasise the **worldwide importance of education** for children and society. Currently the **Steve Sinnott International Solidarity Award** and the **Global Campaign for Education, Steve Sinnott Young Ambassador Competition** are being highlighted. Visit [www.teachers.org.uk](http://www.teachers.org.uk) for further details.

## ❧ OBITUARY ❧

Bernard Barry died in the pre-Christmas period aged 94. Bernard's teaching career began in Middleton in 1949 and he taught at Birley High School for many years until his retirement in 1980. Bernard was an active member of NUT and served on MTA General Committee and as Membership Secretary for many years. He was a regular attender at National Conference and as Membership Secretary worked tirelessly to keep a high number of members. Bernard's parents immigrated to Britain and Bernard was a lifelong socialist, anti-fascist and anti-racist campaigner. His funeral at Blackley Cemetery was attended by representatives of MTA. In January a Birthday Tribute Party was held at the Working Class Movement Library to share memories and reminiscences of Bernard. It was attended by family and friends and was a celebration of Bernard's life and work. The Association sends condolences and best wishes to Bernard's family and friends; he will be remembered, by those who knew him, with smiles.



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