

HISTORIC DECISION NUT and ATL vote to form new Union

The ballot is over, the voting completed and the result announced. The membership of both Unions NUT and ATL voted to disband their organisations and come together in a new **National Education Union**. The new Union will be the **largest Education Union in Europe** and the **fourth largest Union of all in Britain**. In what was a disappointing turnout the majorities in both Unions were decisive with a **97% 'Yes'** vote by NUT members and a **75% 'Yes'** vote by ATL members. The percentage of members who actually voted was **23% in NUT** and **25% in ATL**. Both Unions would have liked to see more of their members actually casting a vote but the majority 'Yes' in both Unions was emphatic.

There will not be change overnight as both Unions make the change gradually starting from **September 2017** with **September 2019** being the date set for completion of the move in its entirety. There will be much work to be done, locally and nationally, over the coming two years to implement the arrangements already agreed and news will come at the next MTA General Meeting on 24th May at the Hough End Centre.

This item will probably be a fixture in coming issues. **This development is momentous for both Unions.**

Watch this space!

ONGOING ISSUES

Important issues affecting members have greater emphasis from time to time but are constantly being pursued by NUT. The **Funding Crisis** facing schools across the country as a result of the government's new formula is becoming a burning issue as Local Authorities, MP's and Governing Bodies realise the extent of cuts in school budgets that are upon them. Even schools in shire counties that had sought a change in the formula are finding that any increase they may enjoy is not enough and funding will still fall short of need. Many eyes have been opened by the **NUT/ATL website** which has enabled all to see how individual schools will be affected.

Other issues such as **Workload** and the **Gender Pay Gap** are the subject of NUT activity in meetings, high profile media coverage, the Union's website and lobbying of politicians both locally and nationally. Individual members can and should **lobby their own MP** either by email, letter or surgery attendance keeping themselves and their representatives informed. **MP's do want to know** what voters think and are eager to listen. For too long we have been fed the poison by the populist press that all MPs are only in it for the money/power/position/personal gain; in general this is not true and we are in danger of it undermining our cherished representative democracy. **Be vigilant, be informed, be active.** It is a mistake only to value something when we no longer have it!



MANCHESTER PLEDGE

The **Manchester Pledge** introduced to members in the last issue, is a broad based coalition of City Council, Trade Unions, Churches and Community groups. A petition has been organised to support a **Minimum Service Provision for Manchester**. Have you signed it yet?

The inaugural event was a torch lit procession from Castlefield to Albert Square where the rally was addressed by speakers including **Kevin Courtney**, National General Secretary NUT, local MP's such as **Lucy Powell, Angela Raynor** and **Mike Kane** and leader of the City Council **Sir Richard Leese** among others.

NUT was prominent in organisation and a strong contingent from Manchester Teachers' Association was joined by representatives of other Greater Manchester Associations and Regional Office plus other Unions from the education sector and other bodies including Health and Social Care. This is a **promising community wide initiative**, look out for other events, lobby your Councillors and MP and make sure you sign the petition at www.manchesterpetition.com

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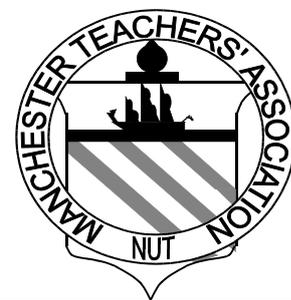
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RETIRED TEACHERS SECTION

March was the occasion of the very successful Silent Auction and April produced a very interesting and informative presentation on 'Fracking' by Mr Peter Webb.

The next meeting of the Retired Teachers Section will be on **Tuesday 2nd May** and will be the **AGM** of the Section.

As usual it will be at the **Hough End Centre** on Mauldeth Road West starting at **10.15am for 10.30am** and there will be **refreshments** available at the rise of the meeting.

The AGM is the final meeting of the current cycle and included in the business matters of the Agenda will be the announcement of the new round of monthly meetings which will start in **June**. **Lily Critten**, our meetings secretary, produces an excellent programme each year and we look forward to the list for the coming cycle of meetings. New members are always welcome.

PENSIONS P60—NEW ADVICE

Members will remember that the word from Teachers Pensions was that to receive a **paper P60** it was necessary to register afresh each year. Some members on telephoning Teachers Pensions to claim a paper P60 again this year have been told that they are already recorded as wanting a paper P60 and will automatically receive one. However, at least one member has been sent P60 online in spite of three separate requests for a paper version so if there is any doubt phone **Teachers Pensions Agency** on **0845 6066166** to confirm your entitlement to a paper P60. If you are happy to receive your P60 online and are doing so, then there should be no need for you to take any action. As in so many things you need to be vigilant to ensure you receive essential information in a form suitable to your needs.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

NUT's Annual Conference this year was held at Easter in **Cardiff**. A report on major issues covered will appear in the next issue of '**The Manchester Teacher**'. Manchester Teachers' Association Representatives this year were;

John Morgan, Stephen Marciniak, Joe Boden, Greg Fox, Maria Noone, Liam Duffy and Chris Ayton. Our Representatives had a busy time and took with them the best wishes of the Association.

GENERAL MEETING

The next General Meeting of **Manchester Teachers' Association NUT** will take place on **Wednesday 24th May** at the **Hough End Centre**, Mauldeth Road, starting at **5.00pm**. Hot and cold refreshments will be available and it will be an opportunity to hear the latest information on Union issues, including the new

Union, from the General Secretary. The agenda will be in schools prior to the meeting. All members are welcome.

SREBRENICA

11th July is the EU designated date to remember the infamous Srebrenica genocide and in partnership with the charity Remembering Srebrenica, NUT is hosting three events at NUT HQ, Hamilton House, as follows;

- **11th July 5.30pm** - 'Silenced Voices' - stories from Srebrenica and Sarajevo, a photographic exhibition.
- **11th July 6pm to 9pm**—Film screening 'Fog of Srebrenica'
- **15th July**—One-day conference 'Struggling in the Shadows—Lessons from Srebrenica'

NUT will also sponsor a delegation to Srebrenica **27th - 30th May**, as part of the Union's International Solidarity work. Details at **Remembering Srebrenica** and/or **Eventbrite**.

WCML

Another reminder of the excellent Working Class Movement Library in case you have still to make a visit. In April there is an exhibition on '**The Life and Work of Marx and Engels**'. Very interesting for the social or political historian and Friedrich Engels had close connections with 19th Century Manchester and Salford. Details at **www.wcml.org.uk** and **0161 736 3601**

GENERAL ELECTION

Members will know that NUT is **not affiliated** to any political party. The Union does have **distinct policies** on education and teaching and members will wish to promote these when assessing candidates. Above all exercise your **VOTE**.

🌹 OBITUARY 🌹

Sir Gerald Kaufmann was not a member of NUT but he was a **friend of education**. He had been a **Manchester MP** for many years and on his death represented Gorton and was **Father of the House**. His constituency represents not only Gorton in the North East of the City but also across to Fallowfield and neighbouring parts of South Manchester. In the House he was known for his **sharp wit, incisive mind and excellent debating style**. Many members, especially those resident in his constituency will remember his **prompt and courteous response** to letters followed, as necessary, by more **detailed and considered reply** and his help as needed. He will be sorely missed and the Associations' condolences go to his relatives, colleagues and friends.

The bye-election for the seat he left will take place on the same day as the General Election, **8th June** and whoever succeeds him will have an impressive act to follow.



The professional and responsible union for all teachers