

FINANCIAL ADVICE FOR MEMBERS

Attention school representatives

Are you aware that your local Teachers Assurance Consultant can provide a free 30 minute 'in School' Pension presentation? Have you booked yours? If not contact Paul Girdlestone on 07958000915 to arrange.

Teachers Assurance is the National Union of Teachers only endorsed and authorised provider of financial advice for members.

Originally established by the Union, Teachers Assurance has been advising members and their families for over 130 years.

The NUT and Teachers Assurance are dedicated to helping members make informal decisions in order to achieve their financial goals:

- Understand the current features of the Teachers Pension Scheme and making the right retirement choices.
- Providing for your family in the event of death and ill health.
- Saving for future events (e.g. supporting your children through university).

All teachers, regardless of age and career stage, can benefit from receiving up-to-date information and advice on their Teachers Pension Scheme benefits and options, as well as other financial planning areas they may need to consider.

Your local Teachers Assurance consultant is **Paul Girdlestone**. To arrange financial advice or find out more about the services offered by Teachers Assurance, please contact **Paul** on: Home Office: 01249655703 or Mobile: 07958000915 Email: Paul.Girdlestone@teachersassurance.co.uk

To find out more about Teachers Assurance visit

www.teachersassurance.co.uk/nut

Teachers Assurance Financial Consultants advise only on investments, savings, protection and pension products and services from the Teachers Assurance and selected third party providers.

Teachers Assurance

Tringham House, Deansleigh Road, Bournemouth BH7 7DT
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GLOUCESTERSHIRE ASSOCIATION

NUT CONTACTS

Members can make contact with all the Officers listed below through the Association's website.

Members requiring assistance should contact Gloucestershire Association Divisional Secretary:

John Pemberthy: 01594 560 105

Email: jpemberthy@glosnut.co.uk

or visit www.glosnut.co.uk and click on the help and advice tab for answers and details on how to send us details of your case or enquiry.

Deputy Divisional Secretary:

Andy Johnson: 07703 491 317

ajohnson@glosnut.co.uk

Cirencester District Secretary:

Dave Sutherland: 01285 654 416

Cheltenham District Secretary:

Ian Morgan: 01242 578 793

Forest of Dean District Secretary:

Geoff Davies: 01594 544 036

Gloucester District Secretary:

Garry Wheeler: 01452 531 342

Stroud District Secretary:

Mike Davis: 01453 883 995

Health and Safety Adviser:

Geoff Davies: 01594 544 036

Union Learning Representative:

Garry Wheeler: 01452 531 342

garrywheeler@blueyonder.co.uk

Supply Teachers' Secretary:

Claire Price: 01242 244 582

Retired Teachers' Secretary:

Pearl Harris-Clarke: 01452 616 620

Young Teachers' Secretary:

Dave Hampson: 01531 820 550

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National Executive member:

Max Hyde 01217 453 942

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Regional Office in Exeter: 01392 258 028

south.west@nut.org.uk

Update your membership: 0845 300 1666



Newsletter of the Gloucester Association of the National Union of Teachers

March 2010

Wednesday March 17th 7.15 pm

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Anthony Bowes, NUT principal officer for the South West will be addressing the meeting.

This is an opportunity to hear our regional pensions expert and casework specialist speak and to ask him questions.

A teachers assurance consultant will provide a short presentation following the meeting for those who wish to stay on.

Venue: Gloucester Farmers Club

Directions to the meeting can be found on the meetings page of our website.

Can't make the meeting? Then let us know your views via www.glosnut.co.uk



Dear Colleagues

I hope that many of you will be able to attend the AGM later this month. It will be of particular interest to those of you who wish to make plans for retirement or receive financial advice from our partners at Teachers Assurance. The NUT originally set up Teachers Assurance over a hundred years ago to provide specialist financial services to teachers.

Paul, our local consultant, will be at the AGM and available to make a brief presentation to any members wishing to stay on after the main meeting.

Financial planning has been on everyone's mind lately with swingeing cuts in budgets for the current year likely to be followed by even worse news over the next few years. I have been consulting with a number of schools about redundancies and I am sure that some of you have been examining what is on offer with interest or trepidation depending on your circumstances. Whoever wins the coming general election it will be a difficult time for public services and since teachers' salaries comprise the largest portion of school budgets we will not be immune. The gains we have made on reducing bureaucracy through greater clerical support will also be in jeopardy. Please be assured I will be arguing on your behalf at every opportunity.

The National Executive of the NUT met at the end of January and announced that we will again be joining with the NAHT to ballot for industrial action with a view to boycotting Key Stage 2 SATs for 2010. The outcome of SATs, and the league tables they create, adversely affect our members' terms and conditions. It has been necessary to take this decision because of a lack of positive response from

Government to the clear and positive alternatives to the SATs regime put forward by the NUT and NAHT. This action would be to frustrate the administration of SATs – it would categorically not be strike action.

Christine Blower, General Secretary said "The lack of positive response from government in the face of overwhelming opposition to SATs is extremely disappointing. We want to avoid industrial action and call upon the Government, even at this late stage, to enter into meaningful talks."

I mentioned last time that the NUT was mounting a press campaign against the new OFSTED regime and asked for examples of 'horror stories' in your schools. Thank you to those of you who responded as did hundreds of members around the country. This helped show that our complaints were not based on 'myths' as Christine Gilbert (Chief Inspector of Schools and Head of OFSTED) initially said but on actual cases faced by our members in schools. As a result, the NUT has been successful in gaining assurances from OFSTED on the new framework, particularly on the key issues of safeguarding and attainment and achievement.

On safeguarding, Christine Gilbert has confirmed that a school judged to be satisfactory in its safeguarding arrangements may still be judged to be outstanding. OFSTED are clear that schools that meet the statutory requirements for safeguarding cannot be downgraded to inadequate.

On attainment, Christine Gilbert has said: "all schools, whatever their circumstances, have the opportunity to be judged outstanding for their overall effectiveness. There is nothing in the evaluation schedule or the guidance we have issued to inspectors which suggests otherwise". Please contact me or the regional office if inspectors are not taking sufficient account of children's actual progress in their learning.

With best wishes

John Pemberthy - Divisional Secretary

Are you a new teacher struggling to manage on your main scale pay? The NUT is looking for stories to send home the message to the Government that below inflation pay increases is causing suffering for young teachers. Send in your story and it may be used in our national campaign materials. Entries may be anonymous but we would need to have details (not attributed) for verification.

The Gloucestershire Teacher is published by Gloucester NUT Association
Email: secretary@gloucestershire.nut.org.uk
Secretary: John Pemberthy Tel: 01594 560 105
Members' Articles and letters welcomed

Local Association website: www.glosnut.co.uk

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MAKE YOUR MARK IN THE GENERAL ELECTION

X

The outcome of the General Election will have consequences for all teachers and schools. Whilst there are similarities between the main parties and their education policies, the Conservatives seem to want to go further down the route of privatising education and reducing the power of local authorities. They also claim to want to give more independence to teachers and rely on teacher assessment more. On the other hand, announcing measures such as only allowing teachers with a 2:2 or better and fast-tracking people from the business sector is gesture politics and suggesting that teachers might band together to remove their senior managements sounds good in theory but is no substitute for adequately resourcing every school to make it a good school. Senior managements often become unpopular precisely because they are put under pressure by government to meet unrealistic or arbitrary targets.

Gloucestershire NUT recently held a general meeting for members to which a panel of local politicians were invited to make a short statement on their policies and answer questions from the floor (*see photo*).



(From left to right: Jeremy Hilton, Lib Dem Councillor and PPC for Gloucester City; Stephen McMillan, Con. County Councillor (CYPD); Dave Hampson, NUT President; Bruce Hogan, Labour PPC for West Gloucestershire; Richard Graham, Con. PP_C for Gloucester City)

Bruce Hogan, long-term NUT activist and Labour PPC for West Gloucestershire expressed his profound regret for the way education is seen as a commodity with consumers requiring choice and diversity to be provided. This cannot work where not all have true choice due to their circumstances, he said. Richard Graham, for the Conservatives, bravely defended the local Grammar Schools and fended off criticism that they cause problems for other schools in the area and do not provide genuine social mobility. Jeremy Hilton, for the Liberal Democrats, put forward a number of policy ideas that were sympathetic to NUT ears including fairer selection criteria, reduced class sizes and the scrapping of university fees.

Although the NUT is not affiliated to any political party, the union is campaigning nationally for a teaching profession that is:

- Properly trained and qualified
- Trusted to do its job
- Given the resources to unlock the potential of every child
- Allowed a work-life balance
- Well-paid with a high professional status

See the article in the latest issue of the Teacher for more information and make your mark in this important election, and urge your family, friends and colleagues to do so too.

Foundation schools, Federations, Trust Schools and Academies

A number of schools in Gloucestershire, as well as elsewhere around the country, are looking at some form of structural change to try and make their future more secure. Whilst the NUT deplores the failure of the government to provide a good local comprehensive school for every child, we are committed to working with all forms of school to support our members.

Foundation schools are maintained by the local authority but the governors are the legal employers of the staff and have other important powers and responsibilities. Trust schools are similar but have an external body of trustees to whom the school and its assets, including the school premises, are transferred. They are not allowed to be profit making but may comprise business interests as well as educational organisations. They have the power to appoint the majority of governors.

Governing bodies of Community or Voluntary Aided schools may propose that their schools move to Foundation status and must follow a regulated process to do so. This includes informing the LA and consulting with the community, including the unions, following which they must publish a statutory notice in a local newspaper outlining the proposals with a copy to the LA. There is then a further period of consultation which is a last chance for people to express their opinions.

In Gloucestershire, the LA have committed themselves to ensuring that potential sponsors or partners recognise the unions and adopt the LA selection process as well as the standard terms and conditions of employment for teachers. Whilst this provides some reassurance, the NUT continues to be concerned about the effect this will have on the LA. Please contact the Divisional Secretary if you have any concerns about your school.

Its The Law!

A new paragraph in the School Teachers' Pay & Conditions Document 2009 states:

"The Relevant Body (The Head / Chair of Governors or Local Authority) should ensure that, with effect from 1st September 2009, they consult with all staff and their union representatives on the teaching timetable and an annual calendar which includes staff meetings, parental consultations and other activities"
(STPCD 2009, Section 3, Paragraph 179 [page 195])

Part-time teachers:

Use the above with: Paragraph 187 of the STPCD, which also refers to part-time teachers and adds that: "Head teachers should try to minimise situations where part-time teachers are subject to directed time either side of a period when they are not required to be available for work on any given day by structuring timetables as far as possible to accommodate working patterns"
(STPCD 2009, Section 3, Paragraph 178, [page 195])

And: "Part-time teachers cannot be required to work or attend non-pupil days, or part days, on days they do not normally work"
(STPCD 2009, Section 3, Paragraph 176, [page 194])

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