



**NATIONAL UNION OF TEACHERS OXFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION**

**Annual General Meeting**  
**Tuesday 23rd February, 5.00 - 6.00 pm**  
**St Ebbes School, Whitehouse Road, OXFORD OX1 4NA**

## **AGENDA**

- 1) Apologies for absence
- 2) Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting
- 3) Correspondence
- 4) Reports and Statement of Account
- 5) Installation of New President
- 6) Declaration of the results of the election of Officers and Committee
- 7) President's address
- 8) Motions of which proper notice has been given to the Secretary  
    " Honoraria to be paid in accordance with the principles agreed at the 2007 Annual General Meeting"
- 9) Discussion of matters declared urgent by the meeting:

**All members are welcome**

*Refreshments will be available from 4.30 pm*

*vote for*

***Kevin Courtney***  
*in the Deputy General Secretary election*  
*Ballot papers are on their way to you*

*See back page for details*

## ULT Pulls Out of Academy Proposal

Parents and teachers at Oxford School were given some hope for the future at the end of December when the government announced that United Learning Trust was pulling out of a bid to close the school and re-open it as a private academy. However, this followed on the news that the County Council has made further progress in its attempt to remove the school governors and replace them with an Interim Executive Board which will back the proposal.

The Governing Body, which had expressed concerns about the plan, organised an open meeting for parents and members of the local community to discuss the school's future. However, the following week, they received notice that the DCSF had approved the proposal for an IEB. The decision was described by one governor as "unjustified, dictatorial and destructive" and a clear attempt to ensure local opposition to the academy was not heard.

However, following an inspection of a ULT academy in Sheffield which has been placed in special measures, the government has announced that ULT will be withdrawing from academy bids in Oxfordshire and Northamptonshire. The news has been welcomed by supporters of the school, although the County Council has declared its intention to try and find a new sponsor.

The NUT is calling for the whole proposal to be scrapped and a real discussion initiated with teachers, parents and local people about how the school can be supported as an effective local community school. We are asking people to write to their County Councillor and Michael Waine (cabinet member responsible for school improvement) expressing their opposition to the closure of the school and to copy these letters to the union ([oxnut.campaigns@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:oxnut.campaigns@yahoo.co.uk)). For more information about the campaign and some key points you may want to include in your letter, visit [www.saveoxfordschool.com](http://www.saveoxfordschool.com) and check out the Oxfordshire NUT website at [www.oxnut.org.uk](http://www.oxnut.org.uk).

Gawain Little (Campaigns Officer): 07967392229

[www.saveoxfordschool.com](http://www.saveoxfordschool.com)

Training days  
for  
School Representatives  
*and those interested in taking on the role,*  
*will be held on*  
**Wednesday 24th March 2010**  
**Wednesday 23rd June 2010**

The March meeting will concentrate on the problems faced by schools as a result of changes in the OFSTED framework.

Book a date with your school NOW, so as to ensure that supply/timetabling arrangements can be made. Our training days take place at Milletts Farm Centre, Near Abingdon. There is no charge, and lunch and refreshments are provided. The cost of supply cover can be provided.

**contact [oxon.nut@ntlworld.com](mailto:oxon.nut@ntlworld.com)**

For your diary:

## Oxfordshire NUT Annual General Meeting 23rd February 2010

St Ebbes Primary School

## NUT National Conference

Liverpool 2-6 April 2010

If you are interested in joining the Oxfordshire conference team please contact Brenda Williams. Travel and hotel costs for attendance at conference are met from Union funds.

### SATs in the Firing Line

Last term 95% of NUT primary teachers voted against SATs in a national ballot, with 75% in favour of taking action to ensure they are abolished. A poll of NAHT primary headteachers produced similar results, showing that primary teachers and headteachers are united in their determination to see SATs replaced with a positive form of assessment.

- | **SATs are INACCURATE** – according to research by the University of Durham, up to one quarter of students are given the wrong level;
- | **TEACHER ASSESSMENT has been proved to be MORE RELIABLE** – methods of moderated teacher assessment, without an increase in workload, are already available;
- | **SATs DISTORT the CURRICULUM** – the excessive preparation forced on schools leaves less time for creative subjects and sports;
- | **SATs are STRESSFUL for CHILDREN, TEACHERS and PARENTS** – they can also undermine the morale of children, turning them off school at an early age;
- | **SATs encourage TEACHING TO THE TEST** – this further distorts the curriculum taught and makes results even less reliable;
- | **Unreliable data is used to unfairly judge school performance, putting teachers' and school leaders' jobs at risk.**

Whilst reaffirming the government's commitment to SATs in 2010, the Secretary of State has stated that "nothing is set in stone" regarding assessment and claims to look favourably on teacher assessment. The science test has also been abolished and national sampling introduced as recommended by the NUT and NAHT for all three core subjects.

In order to take the campaign forward, the NUT, alongside parents, governors and others, will be organising stalls in Oxford town centre (at Bonn Square) in February and March to collect signatures for the national petition and discuss the campaign with the general public. If you would like to come along to discuss the campaign, or to help out with the stall, please feel free to join us between 12noon and 4pm on either day.

We also hope to organise other events, including a public meeting, so check the website regularly for details!

Gawain Little (Campaigns Officer): 07967392229

## NUT Deputy General Secretary Elections

The Oxfordshire NUT General Meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> November 2009 by a majority vote of those present decided to support the nomination of Kevin Courtney in the forthcoming Deputy General Secretary election. This is an important union election which will begin on the 6<sup>th</sup> January when you will receive your ballot paper.

There are serious challenges to be faced by the NUT. Whichever party wins the General Election in a few months time teachers pay, conditions and pensions will all be under attack. Workload reduction has not been achieved and schools continue to be obsessed with targets, SATs and league tables.

A Union leadership is needed that will tackle these issues. A Union leadership is needed that understands the difficulties of the present but isn't deterred by them. We believe that Kevin Courtney, working alongside recently elected General Secretary Christine Blower, is the best candidate to help steer the Union in the right direction to face these challenges.

Kevin has a long record of defending members' interests and of working for change. To hasten this change, please give Kevin your No.1 vote.

Yours

**Brenda Williams** - Oxfordshire NUT Association Secretary

**Chris Blakey** - National Executive Member, District 18.

**Vote Kevin Courtney 1**

Re-elect Oxfordshire Member

**Chris Blakey**

**National Executive Elections**

*Look out for your voting paper in March*

### **NUT OXFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION CONTACTS**

**SECRETARY Brenda Williams** 01865 841090 [brenda@themoors.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:brenda@themoors.fsnet.co.uk)

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**PRESIDENT Gawain Little** [gawainlittle@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:gawainlittle@yahoo.co.uk)

**EXECUTIVE MEMBER Chris Blakey** [nut2@molesend.demon.co.uk](mailto:nut2@molesend.demon.co.uk)

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**REGIONAL OFFICE** - 01444 894500

**national NUT website** [www.teachers.org.uk](http://www.teachers.org.uk)

**Joining hotline 0845 300 1669**

**website news**

**log on to:**

**[www.oxnut.org.uk](http://www.oxnut.org.uk)**

***and check out the new features!***