

www.islington.nasuwt.org.uk

To All Islington Teachers,
Welcome to the new enlarged Islington newsletter.

As a reminder, especially for those new to Islington, there are some local initiatives to help teachers find a place to live. For newly appointed teachers Islington makes 15 one bed flats available at an affordable price. Ring Sarah Rees on 7527 5502 for information. Also, "equity loans" of up to £50,000 are available to help teachers buy a property.. There are conditions attached, but Metropolitan Homes are sponsoring a cheese and wine event at Barnsbury on Tuesday 10th May, starting at 4:30pm to explain the scheme and answer any questions. Also see www.keyworkerliving.co.uk

An NASUWT snapshot opinion survey on pensions has revealed overwhelming support for action on the Government's proposed changes to the Teachers' Pension Scheme.

In just 72 hours, almost 7,500 teachers responded to the online poll.

A massive 96% of primary and secondary teachers of all ages across England and Wales indicated support for a campaign to safeguard teachers' pensions by:

- writing to their MPs (69%);
- writing to prospective parliamentary candidates (48%);
- participating in an e-mail campaign to MPs (82%);
- attending a regional weekend protest rally (30%);
- attending a national weekend protest rally in London (15%);
- taking a day of nationally organised strike action (58%).

Annual General Meeting

Time: 4:30-6pm

Date: Wednesday 25th May 2005

Venue: Greater London Regional Centre

65 St Johns Street, Farringdon

Light refreshments will of course be provided.

Please remember nominations deadline 4/5/05

Chris Keates, General Secretary of NASUWT, the largest union representing teachers and headteachers throughout the UK, said:

"The rapid and high level of response indicates the importance of this issue to teachers.

"The results show that teachers of all ages are equally concerned, demonstrating that the widely held view that young teachers are indifferent to the proposed changes is misguided.

"It is now evident that there is a real danger that dismay and disgruntlement over the pension proposals will overshadow the significant improvements this Government has made to teachers' working conditions.

Now that may be what Chris Keates has said, but locally there are many teachers who do not seem to have thought about the issues. Of those that have, most seem to fall into two camps: those who do not expect to stay in teaching - or maybe even the country - for long, and those who would expect to leave their classrooms in a coffin if expected to work teach until 65. Now you can make up your own minds which camp you fall into, but it is a big issue and you need to know whether or not you want to fight for a right to a retirement.

This year 3 of us went to Conference from Islington, joining a much larger delegation. (I hope I'm forgiven if the photos aren't flattering)

Now for those who have never been, Conference does not sound the most interesting way to spend half of Easter, but there is no other way to affect the policies of a national union with over 200,000 serving teachers as members.

I won't bore you with the details



of debates as all members will receive a



full write up in the "Career Teacher".

Milena Lee also completed a year as NEM and attended.

Clearly a big topic of discussion was the whole teaching and learning point scenario. Next term, **every school in the country** will have to review its structures in school in light of the remodeling agenda.

Where a headteacher indicates that s/he is intending to begin the staffing review in advance of receiving the full documentation, NASUWT Representatives should immediately contact their NASUWT Local Secretary, National Executive Member or Regional Centre. Contact details are on the NASUWT website: www.teachersunion.org.uk or in

the NASUWT diary. NASUWT is opposed to schools acting in advance of receipt of the full information.

Plans for the two academies are still proceeding, although any real ideas about plans for either are elusive - in the sense of being obscure. One has completed the feasibility consultation, the other is just beginning.

There are no redundancies as a result of remodeling, although two primaries are reorganising due to falling rolls.

Local Union Training

School reps (stage 1) Mon, Tues, 16,17 May 05
 H&S (stage 2) Thurs, Fri, 23, 24 June 05
 Dealing with Difficult Children Weds 18 May 05

LIFELONG LEARNING

Lifelong learning doesn't have to be all about Continuing Professional Development or INSET days. Through our UK wide Lifelong Learning project, NASUWT are trying to show members that there is a wide selection of learning opportunities that can be accessed to stimulate your brain.

London is one of those places where free activities go on under our noses and we don't always know that they happen. Here are just a few ideas of events that are taking place over the next couple of months at free public lectures and in the museums and galleries.

If you attend any of these events a quick, one line email to stuart.darke@mail.nasuwt.org.uk will mean that we can record how many of our members are accessing this type of learning opportunity. Alternatively, if you can think of something that isn't here then let Stuart know via email or 07752 668423.

Public Lectures at Gresham College

Gresham College is an independent institution offering free public lectures in the City of London. The College is situated at Barnard's Inn Hall close to Chancery Lane Tube station.

Evening Lectures in April and May:

Tues 19 April at 6pm - Under every leaf you will find an Englishman: the history of the Intelligence Division of the War Office 1854-1901.

Tues 3 May at 6pm - Cultural change and consumerism: contemporary churchgoing in perspective.

Wed 4 May at 6pm - Britain and Germany: from ally to enemy.

Tues 10 May at 6pm - Romancing Jesus: an anatomy of renewal.

Thurs 12 May at 6pm - Micro-credit.

Wed 18 May at 5.30pm - Why learn languages?

Thurs 19 May at 5.30pm - Mozart, Gluck and the reform of 18th century opera.

Tues 24 May at 6pm - Joking apart: comedy, irony and the limits of accommodation.

Wed 25 May at 6pm - The integration of Europe: Britain out, Britain in, Britain on the fence.

Tues 31 May at 6pm - Northern Ireland and the British-Irish relationship: the Gladstonian Settlement revisited.

or more details have a look at www.gresham.ac.uk.

Heritage of London Trust

The Heritage of London Trust is the only building preservation trust which covers all 33 London Boroughs. The Trust runs a series of lectures about The Secret Heritage of London.

Forthcoming lectures are:

Tues 26 April at 6pm - Secret History of Staple Inn (at Staple Inn near Chancery Lane Tube)

Tues 17 May at 6pm - Secrets of Bromley Hall, Bromley-by-Bow (at the English Heritage Lecture Theatre, 23 Savile Row, W1)

Wed 15 June at 6pm - The Stuart Royal Family's Secret visits to London. (at The Society of Antiquaries, Burlington House, Piccadilly)

All these lectures are free, if you would like to attend please send a stamped self-addressed envelope indicating the number of tickets you would like to the Heritage of London Trust at 23 Savile Row, London, W1S 2ET.

The British Museum

The museum offers a range of events for the adult general public who are interested in deepening their understanding of an area of the collections or the subject of an exhibition.

EyeOpener gallery tours

These are given by specially trained volunteer guides. There are eight daily introductory tours to a wide range of galleries, plus spotlights. Free, no booking required.

Gallery talks

These are given by Museum staff and visiting lecturers; they focus on specific topics. Free, no booking required, but they may be taking place in a charging exhibition.

Ask at the Information Desk at the Museum for more details

The Royal Society

Free public lectures are offered by the independent scientific academy of the UK dedicated to promoting excellence in science.

Forthcoming lectures are:

Tues 26 April at 6.30pm - Global warming in a chaotic climate - can we be sure?

Tues 3 May at 6.30pm - Why we cooperate

Thurs 2 June at 6.30pm - New views on human origins

These lectures are held at the Royal Society at Carlton House Terrace. For more information go to www.royalsoc.ac.uk/events.

The National Gallery

The National Gallery houses one of the greatest collections of European painting in the world. These pictures belong to the public and entrance to see them is free.

Free events include:

Guided tours - every day at 11.30am and 2.30pm, plus 6pm and 6.30pm on Wednesdays, 12.30pm and 3.30pm on Saturdays.

Ten-Minute Talks - a quick insight into one painting, Monday to Friday at 4pm.

Picture in Focus - 25-minute talk on one painting, every Wednesday evening at 6pm.

Lunchtime talks - Tuesday to Saturday each week at 1pm, plus special lectures and films on some Mondays.

Painting of the Month - a range of free talks at different times on one painting.

For more events go to <http://www.nationalgallery.org.uk>.

The Science Museum and Natural History Museum

Both museums have lots on offer both for adults to learn in their spare time and for teachers Continuing Professional Development (CPD)

The Natural History Museum offers a range of courses and trips in their adult education programme (see www.nhm.ac.uk/education/adult_education/index.html for more details)

The Dana Centre, part of the Science Museum, is a stylish, purpose-built venue, complete with a café-bar, appealing to adults.

They organise a range of lectures, debates and events blending the best from science, art, performance and multimedia to **provoke** discussion and real engagement with the key issues of the day. Go to

www.danacentre.org.uk/ and click on what's on to get some more information.

London School of Economics

For those of you who are political animals LSE offer free public lectures with high profile speakers. However, these events can be busy and may require reservation of tickets.

Mon 25 April at 6.30pm - What has Labour done for us? (Reservation necessary)

Tues 26 April at 6.30pm - Does inequality matter?

Tues 3 May at 6.30pm - What difference would the Conservatives make? (Reservation necessary)

Wed 11 May at 6pm - Torture: the ultimate abuse of human rights?

There are more lectures than this on other subjects go to the website for more information: <http://www.lse.ac.uk>

Union Learning Reps

Researching these events has been possible because of NASUWT's commitment to lifelong learning and the appointment of a Union Learning Rep in every school where there is an NASUWT member. A Learning Rep can help to organise all sorts of courses and activities to contribute to NASUWT members' personal and professional development.

If you would like to find out more about getting involved and becoming a Union Learning Rep contact Stuart Darke, the Learning Organiser for Greater London, on 07752 668423 or stuart.darke@mail.nasuwt.org.uk

Nominations for Offices within Islington NASUWT

Candidates for offices in the Islington Association should be eligible for membership of the association (that is, be a paid up full member of the NASUWT and have a connection with the borough, working in Islington or choosing Islington as the association which best serves his/her interests)

This is to nominate
of school / PRU / other
for the post of :

Secretary	<input type="checkbox"/>	Vice President	<input type="checkbox"/>
Treasurer	<input type="checkbox"/>	Health and Safety Officer	<input type="checkbox"/>
Equal Opportunities	<input type="checkbox"/>	Lifelong Learning Officer	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other Officer post	<input type="checkbox"/>		

This nomination is proposed by
of school / PRU / other
and seconded by
of school / PRU / other

Declaration to be signed by the candidate:

I, (print name) am a paid-up member of the NASUWT and am prepared to accept the nomination for the above post,
signed date

Nominations should be sent to Ian Tyrrell, Central Foundation School for Boys, Cowper Street, EC2 (fax: 7336 7295) to arrive by Wednesday 4th May.

If there is only one nomination for a post then that person will be elected unopposed. Postal ballots will be arranged in the event of a contested election.

Other Officer posts could be created by the officers or at the AGM if the meeting so desired. These posts could include, but would not be limited to:

Social Events Officer, Press Officer, London Liaison Officer, Benevolence Officer

This year when officers are elected, we hope to send a group on a weekend course at the national headquarters to really plan for the future. The course is called "towards a more effective association" (TAMEA) and is at the end of October. There may be places for other local activists. More information closer to the time. Anyone interested in standing for office, please feel free to ring me and chat about it. Training is available and your expenses will be paid.

Final Word: (well, three words)

Upper pay spine.

In most schools, almost all eligible teachers have moved up the spine without incident. Please contact me if there are any issues **at all** in your school about progression, especially if you are asked to complete any extra documentation (ie the Cambridge Education sheets). We can't police what we don't know about.

Regards,
Greg