

## NEWS FROM THE WIRRAL NASUWT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**The Wirral NASUWT AGM** was held on Thursday 6th February 2020. The formal business of the AGM is to hear reports from the Local Secretary, Anne Rycroft, and the Honorary Treasurer, Jackie Webb; to elect Local Officers and Executive Committee Members for the Academic Year 2020-21 and to make nominations for National Executive Committee Members and Delegates to the National Annual Conference 2020 to be held in Birmingham over the Easter weekend.



Anne Rycroft  
Wirral Secretary

We are a lay-led organisation and have to elect our Local Officers so early in order to give schools notice of the need for Facility Time which managers can build into their timetabling to release them from teaching to carry out their trade union duties from September. Facility Time for trade union duties is paid for by all schools each year to fulfil their legal requirement to facilitate labour relations in schools. The Local Authority controls the pot of money for Facility Time as the trade unions spend a great deal of time with LA Human Resources Officers in negotiations over School Staff pay and conditions of service policies which

Wirral schools then adopt. The other trade unions involved with school staff are the National Education Union (NEU), Unison and Unite.

Remember that from September 2017 the **NASUWT - The Teachers' Union** has been the only trade union that protects solely the interests of teachers in schools and colleges in the Wirral and throughout the UK. Other unions also recruit members from the administrative, clerical and support staff including caretakers, cleaners and lunchtime workers.

The current President, **Sandra Burrows** of West Kirby Primary School ends her term this summer and becomes Past-President on the Wirral NASUWT Local Executive Committee. The Vice-President, **Neil McDonald**, will become President of the Wirral Association from September 2020 and will host the Local Executive Committee and School Reps' meetings at his school, Bebington Cooperative Academy. Nominations for other Local Officer positions were called for by the 9<sup>th</sup> January 2020. The following nominations were received by National HQ and were all duly elected unopposed:

- Local Negotiating Secretary: **Anne Rycroft** - Mosslands School,
- Honorary Treasurer: **Jackie Webb** - Home School Centrally Attached Teacher,
- Vice-President: **Srirat Arthur** - St John Plessington RC College,
- Assistant Secretary: **Neil McDonald** - Bebington Cooperative Academy,
- Membership Secretary: **David Hepworth** - Mosslands School,
- Minuting Secretary: **Kirsten Jacques** - Supply Teacher.

After adopting recent rule changes made by the National Executive Committee the AGM could accept nominations for the following co-opted Local Executive positions which were all agreed by the meeting

- Equal Opportunities Representative: **Charlotte Willis** - St Mary's RC College,
- Health and Safety Representative: **Nancy Boyle** - Clare Mount Special School,
- Union Learning Representative: **Anne Rycroft** - Mosslands School and
- Benevolence Representative: **Peter Cull** - Retired Member.

The AGM went on to agree two nominations for the National Executive Committee. These positions on the NEC will be subject to election by all NASUWT members in District 6 and should an election be necessary members will be contacted in due course in accordance with Union rules.

All members working in Wirral schools and colleges are welcome to attend the meetings of the Local Executive Committee and School Reps' meetings and dates will be arranged for the next Academic Year and included in the Local Secretary's letter to members in August. Members are particularly invited to the termly General Meetings held in November, February and June when the important decisions about the running of the Association are made. The **NASUWT - The Teachers' Union** is owned by its members, run by its members and is working for its members. We hope that more members will come along to meetings and become more involved next year and in the future.

### Assistant Secretary Finally To Retire!

At the General Meeting last November Mick Robinson was awarded the 45 Years Long Service Award and he has finally decided to step down as Assistant Secretary. Mick was Assistant Secretary to Neville Reilly for many years and for the last three years with Anne Rycroft. Mick says it is time for the younger generation of teachers to take over and will step down this summer. Mick joined the old NAS back in 1973 when he started his teaching career in Kempston, Bedford and very soon became involved in the Bedfordshire NASUWT and attended his first NASUWT Conference in 1976. The 2020 Conference will be his 34<sup>th</sup>!

On moving to teach in the Wallasey School in 1989 he soon became involved in the Wirral Association and has held the positions of President and Honorary Treasurer and was one of our National Executive Members from 1999 to 2003 before becoming Assistant Secretary. Mick has been producing this Newsletter for the past twenty-four years and started the Local Association website ten years ago. He retired from teaching at the Wallasey School in 2010 but carried on as NASUWT Assistant Secretary and Local Case-worker while being employed as a Local Authority Centrally Attached Support Teacher. Mick would now like to spend more time with his six grandchildren.

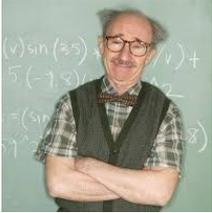


Sandra Burrows  
Wirral NASUWT  
President 2019-20



# TEACHERS' PENSIONS

As many teachers will be aware there were major changes to public sector pensions, including the Teachers' Pension Scheme in 2015. Transitional protection allowed some older workers to stay in the old pension schemes, instead of being moved to the new career average schemes with higher pension ages in 2015. Those within ten years of their Normal Pension Age as at 1 April 2012 remained in their pre-2015 scheme, the majority of which were final salary schemes. This change was successfully challenged on the grounds of age discrimination by the Judicial and Firefighters Unions and on 15 July 2019 the Government announced that they accepted that the judgment applies to all the main public service pension schemes, including the Teachers' Pension Scheme.



When can I have my Pension?

Some local members have been contacting us to see what this means for them. At this time, we are unable to give any specific information. The Department for Education is soon to begin technical discussions with unions, employer organisations and other key stakeholders with public consultation later in the year. Any resulting changes to pension arrangements will apply to all members with relevant service, whether or not they have lodged legal claims.

For more information members should refer to the Teachers' Pensions website:

<https://www.teacherspensions.co.uk/news/public-news/2020/02/mccloud-update.aspx>

## MEMBERS' RIGHTS

All teachers have Employment Rights and whether in an Academy, Private or Local Authority school there will be policies and procedures in place. These include Capability, Code of Conduct, Dignity at Work, Disciplinary, Flexible Working, Grievance,



Leave of Absence, Management of Attendance, Maternity, Use of IT, and Whole School Pay Policies amongst others. Any member who is faced with a situation that may result in a procedure being triggered should contact the NASUWT advice line as a matter of urgency. In many cases you will have the right to be accompanied to meetings and casework or legal assistance will be arranged.

Please be aware that your membership must be current in order to access such representation. It is worth checking on the membership section of the NASUWT website that your place of work, contact and payment details are up to date. Contact the NASUWT Membership Team on 03330 145550 (option 2). You should also be aware that NASUWT members can also take advantage of a 30-minute free telephone service staffed by experienced advisors who are able to access the latest information and are equipped to advise on any non-employment-related legal issue.

## SPRING TERM MEETINGS

- **Thursday 5th March**  
Local Executive Committee and School Reps Meeting  
4.15-5.30 p.m.  
Gilbrook Special School,  
Glebe Hey Road, Woodchurch,  
CH49 8HE
- **Friday 10th-Monday 13th April**  
Annual Conference 2020  
Birmingham ICC
- **Thursday 14th May**  
Local Executive Committee and School Reps Meeting  
4.15-5.30 p.m.  
Gilbrook Special School,  
Glebe Hey Road, Woodchurch,  
CH49 8HE

## NASUWT Benevolence Assistance

Financial assistance and other help are available from the NASUWT Benevolence Fund. The Fund is a registered charity and is run at a local level by a small team of trained volunteers. Its purpose is to help reduce financial hardship for members, former members, dependents of members and former members and dependents of deceased members.

Applicants can apply for help via the North West Regional Centre or the NASUWT Local Secretary. A Benevolence Visitor will then make contact to assess whether help can be provided. All applications are made in total confidence with only the Visitor and the Case Manager at NASUWT HQ aware of the personal details an applicant provides. The Visitor can provide a range of financial assistance and guidance and they also have access to other agencies that may be of help in a given case.



School Reps and members are urged to make themselves familiar with this service and to be confident enough to advise colleagues who are eligible for help to go ahead and seek it. Often many of us who are in difficulty delay seeking such help until matters reach a critical stage. In our experience early intervention is more often successful than last minute solutions. If you think a colleague may need help be confident enough to make an initial approach, you may save them from a pile of problems later on.

Peter Cull is the Wirral NASUWT Representative on the Merseyside Benevolence Fund.

## NASUWT

The Teachers' Union

**MEMBER SUPPORT  
ADVICE TEAM**

The dedicated number for all members to access help and advice. Calls are free from all landlines and mobile phone networks:

**03330 145550**

Members can also e-mail to:  
**advice@mail.nasuwt.org.uk**

**NASUWT**  
The Teachers' Union

If any member would like to contribute to the **Wirral Association NASUWT NEWSLETTER**, please contact Mick Robinson. Mob: 07739422181 or E-mail: [mickrobinson@nasuwt.net](mailto:mickrobinson@nasuwt.net). Members are asked to share the **NEWSLETTER** with colleagues on your NASUWT Noticeboard.

Visit the Wirral NASUWT website  
[www.wirralassociationnasuwt.org](http://www.wirralassociationnasuwt.org)