

# **Norfolk News**

**Newsletter of the Norfolk Division  
of the  
National Union of Teachers**

**Issue 23**

**Summer 2005**



## Editorial

In this issue Tony Mulgrew, Divisional Secretary, brings us up-to-date with the latest developments in matters which affect all teachers directly. He includes details of the new Teaching and Learning Responsibility payments which will replace Management allowances as well as information about the new Ofsted arrangements. For many teachers this change in the process of inspection will be very welcome, as will the introduction of an entitlement of 10% preparation and marking time from September for all primary teachers.

Pressure on space prevented the inclusion of the Opinion page this issue – apologies to Roy Malyon who has written a response to Ray Russell's article last time; we will include this in the next issue. Contributions of articles, reports of meetings, or classroom quips are always welcome and can be sent to me by fax, email or post (details on back cover).

*The views expressed in this Newsletter are those of the contributors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the NUT, whether locally or nationally.*

### **STOP PRESS -----TLRs**

The change to TLRs is not an assimilation exercise. It requires every school to completely restructure its management of the curriculum. There has to be consultation with the teachers and their professional associations. To help the school representatives to make the most of this consultation we will be arranging information and training sessions across the county in the second half of June. You will be informed of the dates and venues by your local association. This is such a major change that it is vital that at least one person from each school is well informed on the changes. (See page 4 for further details.)

If you learn that your school is planning to start before you have had a chance to attend training please let me know as soon as possible.

**Please do not underestimate the impact the change to TLRs could have on your job, your income and your pension**

***Tony Mulgrew***



## **Jim Taylor reports on Health and Safety Issues**

The Spring Meeting was held on 22<sup>nd</sup> February at County Hall.

### **Changes to Children's Services**

Peter Mann, Personnel Manager, outlined possible changes in the Department (including Health and Safety) following the new title Children's Services. Very little is likely to happen until the autumn. Members expressed their hope that the new structure would not be too complex or cumbersome.

### **Educational Visits Guidelines**

Tom Hanrahan gave the Committee an update on the Educational Visits Guidelines. NUT members who have not consulted this document are advised to do so for their own protection.

### **Statistics – Fire Safety, Tail lifts**

Departmental incident statistics were received and the Committee was informed that Fire Safety Guidance and Risk Assessment had been updated (MI Sheet 37/05). An item covering the use of tail lifts on minibuses was deferred to the next meeting.

### **Building Maintenance Partnership Pool (BMPP)**

MI Sheet 26/05 was explained to members. This covers the extension of the BMPP responsibility to include the maintenance and monitoring of all plant and equipment following a fair funding exercise. This will save schools time and effort.

### **Interactive Whiteboards**

In 'Any Other Business' Philippa Weightman (NASUWT) raised the issue of interactive whiteboards causing damage to eyesight. Paul Commins promised to investigate. (Since the meeting the NUT has taken on casework concerning Interactive Whiteboards and queries have been passed on to Paul Commins.)

### **Classroom Temperatures**

I emphasised the need to monitor classroom and working area temperatures during extremely cold weather.

### **Staff Safety**

Paul Commins reported that progress had been made on our casework matter concerning staff security.



## **Divisional Secretary's Update from Tony Mulgrew**

Well, we've had the election. Let's hope Tony Blair meant it when he said that he has listened to the people and will act on what they have said. Let's hope he now starts to talk to, and listen to, the voice of the largest teachers' union. Now that NAHT has withdrawn its signature from the 'Agreement' the Dfes cannot refuse to engage in discussions with both of us.

Unfortunately, the appointment of Andrew Adonis, as a Junior Education Minister, does not bode well for the future of comprehensive education.

### **Teaching and Learning Responsibility (TLRs)**

1. Management allowances are to be replaced by a new system of 'Teaching and Learning Responsibility' (TLR) payments. The NUT was not invited to participate in drawing up these proposals, even though the School Teachers' Review Body said that we should be fully involved.

These are far-reaching changes which will affect all schools, will affect teachers' pay and therefore teachers' pensions.

There will be two ranges of TLR payments – TLR1 (£6500 to £11000) and TLR2 (£2250 to £5500). The school will decide where they will pitch payments.

TLRs will 'only be made to a teacher who is accountable for a significant, specified responsibility focused on teaching and learning, that is not required of all classroom teachers'

To determine TLR payments four factors would be applied at school level:

- a) impact on educational progress beyond the teacher's assigned pupils
- b) leading, developing and enhancing the teaching practice of others
- c) having accountability for leading, managing and developing a subject or curriculum area or pupil development across the curriculum
- d) having line management responsibility for a significant number of people.

For a TLR2 payment, a teacher would have to meet factors a, **b, and** c. For a TLR1 payment a teacher would have to meet all 4 factors.

## **What does it mean for you?**

Every school has to draw up a new staffing structure by 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2005. There will then be a three year transition period, starting no later than 1<sup>st</sup> January, 2006 and ending on 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2008. Teachers on management points now will not automatically transfer to the new TLRs. The only guarantee for existing management allowance holders would be the three year **cash** safeguarding proposal.

In secondary schools many current management allowance holders might not qualify for the new TLR payments, e.g. roles such as examination officer and pastoral posts (such as head of year or careers and work experience) are not specifically included.

In primary schools most current management allowances are level 1 allowances. Since the minimum TLR payment will be much higher than the present level 1 management allowance, many teachers will lose out and suffer a drop in salary. If they are more than three years from retirement this will also affect their pension.

Further advice and guidance will be sent to schools. You can also get the latest information by visiting the NUT website – [www.teachers.org.uk](http://www.teachers.org.uk) .

## **Upper Pay Spine**

By now all schools should have informed teachers, who were eligible, of their progress or should have informed individuals about why they did not progress and about their right to appeal the decision. Most schools have followed the advice from the Local Authority Personnel, but a few have chosen to adopt their own criteria. The system is not a fair one and is biased in favour of those heads who want to find excuses to refuse progression. Please let me know of examples of unfair treatment.

## **Ofsted**

As from September, 2005 Ofsted will change.

How the new system will look:-

- 2 to 5 days notice
- small teams for no more than 2 days ( no more than 5 inspectors in the largest schools and only one in the smallest)
- max. 3 year interval between inspections

## **Tony Mulgrew's report (continued)**

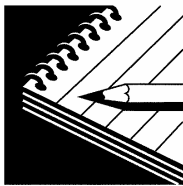
- reports to cover standards, quality of education, leadership and management, spiritual, moral, social and cultural education in context of the 5 outcomes set out in Every Child Matters - (Being Healthy, Staying Safe, Enjoying and Achieving, Making a Positive Contribution and Social and Economic Well-being)
- inspection starts from school self-evaluation
- focus on core systems and key outcomes; self-evaluation is at the centre
- HMI will lead most inspections and will be involved in all
- Chief Inspector of Schools ( David Bell) accountable for all inspection reports
- final report will be short and sharp, approx. 6 pages in length; it will focus on key outcomes and clearer recommendations
- feedback will be given at the end of day two and the report will be in school within 3 weeks
- there will be no pre-inspection parents' meeting, but a meeting of parents could happen during the inspection
- feedback on a four point scale – 1 = outstanding, 2 = good, 3 = satisfactory, 4 = inadequate – will be given to the school during the inspection
- the current category of 'Special Measures' will remain, but 'Serious Weaknesses/ Underachieving' will be replaced with the category 'A notice to Improve'
- there will be fewer full lesson observations; inspectors will visit for 15 – 20 minutes with a defined focus.

The National Union will be sending advice to schools. For the latest log on to [www.teachers.org.uk](http://www.teachers.org.uk) .

## **PPA**

September, 2005 also brings the start of PPA. By now all schools should have arranged how they are going to provide a minimum of 10% of teaching time for planning, preparation and assessment. PPA is your time. You decide what you are to do in your PPA time. It must be timetabled and must not be interfered with.

Heads and governors have a legal duty to provide PPA. While some schools have sufficient funding to provide PPA with qualified teachers, many others simply do not. This crisis was evident from the start. It is one of the main reasons the NUT could



not sign and why the NAHT has decided to withdraw its signature. Please keep me informed of any problems in your school.

### **Make Poverty History and Send My Friends to School**

I have copies of the Richard Curtis film, specially commissioned for Annual Conference to highlight the above campaigns. In the film we are reminded that every day 3000 children die as a result of extreme poverty and 100 million children don't go to school. As teachers and trade unionists, we must send a clear message to the G8 leaders that this is totally unacceptable to us.

I would urge all schools to participate in Make Poverty History and Send My Friend to School activities. Please visit the [www.makepovertyhistory.org](http://www.makepovertyhistory.org) and [www.sendmyfriend.org](http://www.sendmyfriend.org) websites for more information. All schools which **register** on [www.sendmyfriend.org](http://www.sendmyfriend.org) will receive a free DVD or video and can get involved in making 'buddies', cut-outs which represent children not in school.

Our children today care about what happens to less fortunate children in other countries. Please give them a chance to be involved.

### **Promoting Life-Long Learning**

I have been trained as a Union Learning Rep.(ULR) and as such I will be sending out a survey, in the autumn term, to try to find out what opportunities teachers would like for their personal and professional development. I would especially ask **supply teachers** to respond, as we (I am also a supply teacher) are the 'poor relations' when it come to access to continued professional development. For further information on the Union's CPD programme please read the May/ June issue of The Teacher or log on to [www.teachers.org.uk](http://www.teachers.org.uk) .

**Special note for teachers in the Kings Lynn area.** The NUT is planning to organise intermediate ICT courses in Kings Lynn for the autumn term, 2005. The courses cover Word, Desktop Publishing, PowerPoint, Internet and email and are aimed at teachers who want to improve their ICT skills. These courses are **FREE** and will run as twilights for an average of twelve weekly sessions, with a break for the school holidays. Members will be selected from the Union

## **Tony Mulgrew's report (continued)**

database and invited to participate. However, if you would like to be considered please let me know and I will send you an application form.

As the ULR for the Union in Norfolk I do work with the ULRs of other Unions, especially Unison and GMB, who represent our colleagues in school. To promote Life-Long Learning in the west of the county, a 'Learning Day' is planned for Thursday, 8<sup>th</sup> – from 6:30 till 8pm – and Saturday, 10<sup>th</sup> September 2005 – from 10am till 3pm. There will be a wide range of activities, from ICT to stress management and basic plumbing or car maintenance. These sessions are open to everyone in your school. Details of activities and how to book will be circulated to schools in the Kings Lynn area, before the end of the summer term.

### **Need help with buying or renting accommodation?**

Teachers in Norfolk are deemed to be Key Workers and as such may be eligible for a Key Worker Equity Loan, Shared Ownership or Subsidised Renting. If you have an Equity Loan, you do not make monthly repayments. The loan is repayable when the property is sold or when the key worker ceases to be employed in a job that qualifies for such a loan. So, moving to another teaching post in a qualifying area or even retirement do not trigger repayment. The repayment is based on the percentage of the original purchase price that the loan covered, for example

Purchase price   £200 000   Equity Loan £50 000 = 25% equity.

Sale price         £240 000   Repayment due = 25% = £60 000

However, if house prices were to fall we could have negative equity, so: Sale price   £160 000   Repayment due = 25% = £40 000

This initiative should help young teachers who are starting out, or more mature teachers who need help to purchase or rent a property closer to their school. Please read the Orbit advertisement in this issue and contact them for more details.

### **Young Teachers' Weekend**

Unfortunately we did not have sufficient responses from Norfolk to be viable this term. We are going to extend it to our neighbouring counties and plan a weekend in the autumn term. The date and venue will be set to suit the participants. So, if you are interested e-mail me.





## **Martin White reports from the JCC Teachers' Panel**

**The Structure of Children's Services** - Lisa Christiansen, the Director of Children's Services, met with the Panel to outline the proposals for the structure of the top tier of the Children's Services Department. All teachers should be able to see these proposals and have the opportunity to comment on them. Headteachers have a copy that they should be sharing with staff and it is also available on e-courier.

**Workforce Remodelling** – there are still concerns over how schools are to implement PPA continue. Now the NAHT has withdrawn from the 'agreement', the vast majority of primary headteachers are not members of associations supporting this initiative. The lack of credibility of options being put forward as advice from the National Remodelling Team continues to worry panel members.

**Consultation with PASS** - It is pleasing to report that the professional associations have established an encouraging and positive working relationship and dialogue with Ros Vahey and PASS in the best interests of the service and our members.

**Review of Special Needs Provision** - The Panel is represented by Joan Lea (NUT) on the Reference Group overseeing the various project groups that have been set up to take this review forward. The work by these groups is due to be completed over a very short period and Panel members will be monitor how any changes will affect members' conditions of service.

**Educational Visits** - Tom Hanrahan (Educational Visits Advisor) visited the Teachers' Panel. A number of issues were discussed but it was agreed by all present how necessary it was for training to take place to ensure quality risk assessments were being drawn up for activities outside school. It was also highlighted that there were still schools who are not complying with the guidance. Members should not be put off by the paperwork or aspects of the guidance and should discuss workload with their headteachers and EVCs. Mr Hanrahan and his assistants will be happy to advise on what documentation is necessary for the Local Authority to grant permission for residential visits, those involving outdoor and adventurous activities and those abroad to take place.



## The President's Address

### A selection of quotations from Hilary Bill's address to Conference

I'm proud that the Nation Union of Teachers is the largest union for qualified teachers in England and Wales.

The National Union of Teachers actually campaigned for a National Curriculum because we wanted equality of opportunity for all pupils and students and to remove gender and ethnic stereotyping.

What we got wasn't what we thought we'd get. Instead we have a prescriptive curriculum, which has to be taught in a prescribed way. We are told that pupils are arriving in secondary schools not wanting to read. Well wouldn't you if in the previous six years you had always been taught English through the literacy hour?

The Primary Strategy publication *Excellence and Enjoyment* **encouraged** schools to go for a more creative, topic-led curriculum. Only one problem: those of us who remember teaching that way are fast approaching retirement or have already gone, and those who are left weren't encouraged in their training to teach that way!

We want our professionalism back and the freedom to teach the curriculum matched to the needs of the pupils we teach. The pressure of teaching under the threat of a school's position in a league table must be removed.

Children have ceased to be children but are described as Levels. He's a Level 3 but she's a Level 4.

A Level 4 is just an artificial level thought up by the exam writers and the pass mark changes every year. There never will be a 100% pass rate because children come into schools with a whole range of abilities and for some reaching a Level 4 will never happen but that doesn't mean to say that they haven't made progress and that, against their own ability, they haven't achieved.

And now to the gold standards of GCSE and A Level. By ignoring the major recommendations of the Tomlinson Report, Ruth Kelly and the Labour Government have missed a once-in-a-life-time

opportunity to reduce the number of examinations students have to sit, to give them more time for extra-curricular activities and, more importantly, give equal worth to vocational and academic studies.

So often schools are blamed for the ills of society but if society did reflect what happens in schools then there would be little crime and society would be very orderly. Unfortunately, it is the reverse that is true: schools are a reflection of society and have to deal with the issues that children bring into school.

It isn't teachers who sell knives to children, it isn't teachers who give children the impression that swearing and being abusive is acceptable, leave that to the Daily Star, and it isn't teachers who supply the drugs to our children. I don't believe it is a coincidence that the level of disruption in schools has risen at the same time as the curriculum has been narrowed and testing has increased.

But I've left until last the real burning issue of the day, the highest prioritised motion for this conference — teachers' pensions. A recent TUC survey showed that teachers work the most unpaid overtime.

But there were two things about being a teacher, other than the joy of watching our pupils achieve, that made it all worthwhile. One was the long summer break when you could recuperate and recharge your batteries and the other was a decent pension.

We work in one of the richest countries in the world and I say shame on a government that can't value and reward its hard working and loyal public sector employees. I urge every member of the public sector unions, including the NUT, to use the one weapon we have to get this message across to the government and that is to withdraw our labour.

Politicians have taken advantage of the goodwill of teachers for too long. We have been the punch-bags that have taken on all their reforms, initiatives and gimmicks but this is one punch too far.

Theresa May described the NUT as the last bastion of unreconstructed trade unionism. Well I'm proud to be a member of an unreconstructed trade union if it means we are going to fight for teachers' pensions.

When Conference is united we are unstoppable.

***Peter Ayers***

## **Calling all young teachers... the NUT needs you! (Yes we really really need you!)**

Have you ever been to a local association meeting? Your answer is more than likely 'no'. Busy timetables, stressful NQT years and trying to establish a work-life balance are all good reasons to think twice about going to another meeting... but this is why we need you.

Have you read the statistics about life-span if we can't retire at 60? Is PPA time a real issue in your school? How do *you* want to change teaching for the better? My first experience at my local NUT meeting was a real eye opener! I was the youngest person there by a good 30 years and most teachers there were retired! We need young teachers to make their opinions and voices heard! So you see, we need you! Please spare a moment to think ahead and play a part in helping to shape the policies for the future!

We (Kendra and Nic) decided it was time to support and represent young teachers and so we headed north for the NUT Annual Conference in Gateshead. Feeling apprehensive and, well, to be frank, a tad bit geeky (!) we braved the Good Friday traffic on the M1, armed with an alarming amount of paperwork and some bad photo ID cards, to find out what 'politically active' teachers got up to over the Easter weekend.

Our main aim was to support the motion to set up a young teachers' section so that our views are heard and represented fairly. After all, decisions made now will affect us and not the "old gits"! (*quote from Conference*) who, although very supportive, won't be here to see all the consequences!

At Conference we quickly discovered it was not scary, boring or full of old nerds! In fact the paperwork that originally seemed like a mountain of meaningless words became interesting and relevant to our future as teachers. The Norfolk Young Teachers even managed to make a name for ourselves as we were active in arranging lunch and evenings out with other young teachers. It was a wholly enjoyable and worthwhile experience.

We're pleased to report that the Young Teachers' Section motion was passed, so keep your eyes peeled for a conference especially for younger teachers that is due to be held in November! More details to follow! It should be a great social event! Don't miss out!

There is a place for all young teachers to play an active role in the NUT. If you want more information about how to get involved, or just fancy meeting up with other young teachers (purely social!) get in touch with us! [thesocialnuts@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:thesocialnuts@yahoo.co.uk) .

We look forward to hearing from you!

***Kendra and Nic***

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### **Highlights from The General Secretary's Address**

"One of our best debates was on pupil behaviour, which is a root cause of teachers leaving the profession. We know some of the causes are the overloaded curriculum, testing and overcrowded classes. An enquiry is needed on pupil behaviour. Proper provision for those behaving badly is needed."

"The Government is mistaken in its fascination for the private sector. We are against the damages that Academies cause to other schools. Nearly half of secondary schools are specialist because it is a way to top up their budgets. The Prime Minister's advisers are telling him that selection is needed to satisfy middle class parents. The policy of choice will reinforce the disadvantage some pupils suffer from."

"We have been portrayed as having selfish ambitions. This is untrue. We care about the lives of the children we teach and we try to compensate for their disadvantages."

"There have been promises of funding for PPA, but doubts about its achievement. The Government's announcements on funding are often more spin than reality. We don't even have the average spending in education as other European countries."

"We must continue to work together and struggle to move forward, not backwards. We are a free and independent union and not afraid to talk to anyone about education."

***Peter Ayers***



**Glenys Shepherd**  
**reports**  
**from the**  
**National Executive**

Following the General Election the General Secretary, senior staff and Executive are reflecting on the changes at Westminster. Ruth Kelly remains as Secretary of State. Stephen Twigg lost his seat and his former position of Minister for Schools has gone to Jacqui Smith, an NUT member. Also of relevance to the Union in its campaigns, David Blunkett has returned to Cabinet, as Secretary of State for Work and Pensions.

Work is being done to implement Conference decisions. The committee I chair, Membership and Communications, is responsible for realising the decision to establish a “young teachers sections” in the NUT. The department is already drawing up proposals for the structure of this new section and making plans for the Conference to be held in the autumn term at Stoke Rochford. 11<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> November is the probable date and I hope that Norfolk will be represented in both planning and participating in the conference. Let Tony Mulgrew know if you are interested.

A big issue for the autumn term will be the restructuring of pay following the decision of the School Teachers’ Review Body, supported by the other teaching unions to replace management allowances with new Teaching and Learning Responsibility. Reps should await guidance from the Union before engaging in any school discussions on this matter.

Also on pay, if you were in the first cohort to go through the threshold you would have been eligible to receive UPS3 backdated to last September. If this is not the case, please let the NUT know.



**Key worker living**  
a government-led initiative

If you're a **KEY WORKER** in Education,  
we could help you make your move.



Key Worker Living is a new housing initiative that's designed to make home ownership more affordable. The scheme assists certain groups of Key Workers to help buy or rent a home.

In the Norfolk area, Orbit First Step has been appointed as the Zone Agent to market affordable housing to Key Workers.

If you're a Key Worker in Education, you may be eligible for various types of assistance including equity loans of up to £50,000, shared ownership schemes and 'intermediate renting'.

To see whether you qualify for assistance as a Key Worker, call now on

**08458 50 20 50**

(Key workers in Healthcare, Local Government and the Probation service may also be eligible)

**Orbit**  
FIRST STEP

**Garden Court, Harry Weston Road, Binley Business Park, Binley, Coventry CV3 2SU**  
Tel: 08458 50 20 50 [www.orbit.org.uk/ofs](http://www.orbit.org.uk/ofs)

## **Local Association events from around the County**

### **Norwich and District Association**

<b>5<sup>th</sup> July, 7.30pm</b>	Social Meeting. Earle Arms, Heydon.
<b>12<sup>th</sup> Oct, 7.30pm</b>	Social and NQT Meeting, Holiday Inn, Norwich

### **West Norfolk and Downham & District Association**

<b>25<sup>th</sup> May, 4.15pm</b>	Ethyl Tipple
<b>21<sup>st</sup> Sept</b>	Downham Market High School

### **West Norfolk Retired Teachers' Club**

Meetings are held at the West Norfolk Professional Development Centre, Kelham Way, King's Lynn, unless otherwise indicated. Meetings start with coffee from 10.00am; talks start at 10.30 and we are usually finished by noon. Membership fee is £12 per year, or you can just come along to your first meeting free to see how you like it.

<b>Tues, 21<sup>st</sup> June</b>	James Roffey - World War II Evacuation
<b>Tues, 19<sup>th</sup> July</b>	Summer Supper
<b>Tues, 20<sup>th</sup> Sept</b>	Ray Russell - Grey Power

For further details contact Mary Cook (see back page).

### **Dereham and Fakenham Association**

Contact Tony Mulgrew for further details

<b>Thurs, 14<sup>th</sup> July</b>	7.30pm, BBQ at Burchett House School Representatives Meeting
<b>Tues, 11<sup>th</sup> Oct</b>	Provisional date for NQ function in Dereham
<b>Tues, 22<sup>nd</sup> Nov</b>	General Meeting in Dereham



## **South Norfolk and Breckland**

Details from Pete Eldridge (back cover).

## **Broadland Association**

- Tues, 21<sup>st</sup> June** 8pm at The Ship Inn, Tan Lane,  
Caister-on-Sea.
- Fri, 30<sup>th</sup> Sept** Welcoming Function, The Star Hotel,  
24, Hall Quay, Great Yarmouth
- Tues, 8<sup>th</sup> Nov** Ship Inn, Caister-on-Sea
- Tues, 24<sup>th</sup> Jan '06** AGM - Ship Inn, Caister-on-Sea

## **Norwich Retired Teachers' Association**

Meetings at 10.00am at the Christchurch Centre, New Catton.  
For further details ring Janis Tyrer 01603 451636.

- Wed, 8<sup>th</sup> June** Esme Wilson  
Story Telling - Tales of Mystery
- Thurs, 7<sup>th</sup> July** Summer Outing - Lunch followed by Flower  
and Craft Show at Sheringham
- Wed, 12<sup>th</sup> Oct** Trevor Burlingham-A Victorian Slide Show

## **Norfolk Division Education Meetings**

- Wed, 8<sup>th</sup> June,** King's Head, Dereham  
**7.30pm** Speaker: John Bills, Chair of TSN  
'TSN - Where Now?'

## **DOWNHAM & DISTRICT ANNUAL DINNER**

### **THE BELL, DENVER**

**20th JUNE, 7.00pm for 7.30pm**

**£15 including wine or soft drink**

**Special Guest: Hilary Bills, NUT National President**

Please contact Ian Rix 01366 382011 to reserve your place

## **Children's Health and Their Eating Habits**

In November, 2003 the NUT welcomed Debra Shipley's Bill to ban fast food advertising from children's television.

Broadland Association discussed the issue at a General Meeting and asked Great Yarmouth MP, Tony Wright, for his views on the matter. He was in favour of the Bill and signed the Early Day Motion aimed at banning the advertising of high fat, high sugar and high salt content food and drink during pre-school children's television.

More recently Debra Shipley introduced another Early Day Motion which "notes that there is a crisis in children's diet-related health, demonstrated by alarming increases in childhood obesity and the appearance of adult-onset diseases, such as type II diabetes, in schoolchildren, which the Food Standards Agency has described as a time-bomb which needs to be defused."

In September, 2004 Steve Sinnott, NUT General Secretary welcomed the Government's healthy living blueprint for schools. "It is a good first step in tackling the pernicious influence of the fast food manufacturers' dominance over young children's lives. I call on the Government to ban junk food advertising aimed at young children. The Government needs to understand the overwhelming influence of rampant commercialisation. Obesity and poor nutrition affects learning. Nutritional standards need to be re-introduced. Making sure that school meals are healthy may need additional resources. Schools need the staff, playing fields and equipment to meet the Government's physical activity objectives. The Government must take these factors into account in future funding allocations."

Broadland Association had already written to Norfolk MPs Tony Wright and Keith Simpson (Mid Norfolk). Tony Wright supports the Government's proposals. Keith Simpson did not sign the Early Day Motion nor did he support the Government's proposals. Although he said he was concerned with the disturbing increase in the number of children suffering from obesity he thought the Government should stop passing new laws and instead introduce a comprehensive programme to educate the public to the danger of obesity. He invited me to contact him again if I had further questions. I did put a number of questions to him concerning legislation on food advertising and labelling in a letter sent over two months ago. I am still waiting for his reply.

***Written by Peter Ayers before the General Election***

## **Classroom Quips**

On playground duty just before one Easter I was enquiring of a 9 year old girl how her mother was (as she was in hospital). Her reply was "She's find thanks. Coming home on Friday. She only had an Easter egg tummy." (She meant hysterectomy of course!)

***Mollie Gooch***

I asked my year 10 granddaughter which Shakespeare play she would be studying for her GCSE.

"Oh," she replied, "I think it's called 'A Fellow'!"

***Anna English***

This September I began a Primary GTP course at a school in Norfolk. During my first break duty a small brunette girl was brought to me almost in tears. Apparently somebody was calling her names and not letting her join in a game. I carefully explained that name-calling made me think less of the person who was doing it, and not less of the person it was about. I advised her to ignore it and found her some kind year six girls to play with, while I went looking for the alleged name-caller.

I had just worked out which small blonde girl was the one whose name I had been given, when she came running towards me, telling me that the brunette girl kept poking her. She was closely followed by the year six girls. "Miss, we *told* her that you said to ignore her, not to annoy her."

***Caroline Poulton***

***Mollie wins a bottle of wine or a box of chocolates this issue. Thanks to the other contributors. Keep the quips coming - everyone enjoys a laugh!***

## **Contact Numbers around the County**

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