

# NASUWT *in* Essex

[www.essex.nasuwt.org.uk](http://www.essex.nasuwt.org.uk) **EARLY SPRING 2009**

## Are You Asbestos Aware?

### Check your school's Asbestos Register for the location of asbestos in your school

At the end of January Chris Keates, General Secretary of the NASUWT issued a Press Release in response to the government's announcement of its asbestos survey for local authorities.

"Asbestos is the biggest workplace killer in the UK. In ageing schools it can be a hidden but deadly threat to the health and safety of staff and pupils.

"Asbestos was frequently mixed with other materials during manufacture and it is often painted. Vinyl floors, doors and ceiling panels are just some of the areas where asbestos can lurk, unknown to anyone in the vicinity.

"An NASUWT survey of teachers and school leaders, to which 5,000 responses were received revealed that almost one in five knew of asbestos in their schools and of these almost half reported that the asbestos is not clearly marked.

"This confirms that some schools and colleges are not taking health and safety issues like this seriously and are failing to comply with their statutory responsibilities.

"There are no safe levels of exposure to asbestos and a long-term strategy of the complete removal of asbestos from all buildings used for educational purposes should be the goal. (n.b. just putting a drawing pin into a wall could have detrimental effects)

Schools most likely to be affected by asbestos are those built or renovated between 1945 and 2000.

**Go to the Essex Federation web-site for the NASUWT guide to asbestos**

### Meetings in Essex

#### NORTH-WEST

Thursday 26th February 5.15 for 5.30 p.m. Ordinary and Annual General Meeting, at The Miami Restaurant, Princes Road, Chelmsford. A joint meeting with the Mid Essex local association.

#### MID

A welcome meeting for the new Mid Essex secretary, Rose Carabine. At The Miami in Chelmsford on 26th February from 5.15 p.m.

#### SOUTH

Wednesday, 25th February, 5.00 to 6.30 pm. Refreshments from 4.45. Ordinary and Annual Meeting at The Haywain, Fobbing High Road (off the A13 at Pitsea).

#### OPEN MEETING

**Note the change of venue and date**

All members are welcome to attend the Essex Federation Ordinary General Meeting at the Premier Travel Inn, Boreham on Saturday morning 7th March.

Please let your Local Secretary know you are interested in attending.

#### Where you can find us:

##### Essex Federation Secretary:

Norman Warren 0771 266 9536.

E: [norm.warren@nasuwt.net](mailto:norm.warren@nasuwt.net)

##### Local Association Secretaries:

**Mid:** Rose Carabine E: [r.carabine@btinternet.com](mailto:r.carabine@btinternet.com) 07833 091278

**North-East:** Pat Mitchell E: [patmitchell@nasuwt.net](mailto:patmitchell@nasuwt.net)

**North-West:** (acting) Barbara Allen E: [bmallen@mypostoffice.co.uk](mailto:bmallen@mypostoffice.co.uk)

**South:** Dan McCarthy 01702 546215

E: [dmcbarstable@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:dmcbarstable@yahoo.co.uk)

**West:** Gaye Ellington 01279 813933. E: [GayeEllington@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:GayeEllington@hotmail.co.uk)

**National Executive Member:** Keith Anderson. 01440 705653

E: [keithanderson@nasuwt.net](mailto:keithanderson@nasuwt.net)

#### Eastern Counties Regional Centre:

01284 772300

E: [rc-eastern@mail.nasuwt.org.uk](mailto:rc-eastern@mail.nasuwt.org.uk)

for urgent support.

##### Who's Who:

Regional Organiser: Tim Beech

Regional Official: Jon Harben

Professional Assistant: Rosanna Hammond

Casework Admin Assistant: Joe Laking

Organising Secretary: Donna Plummer

Casework Secretary: Alexis Bianchi/Katie Green

Life-long Learning: John Jones

Branch Support Assistant: Sharon Dudley/Angie Lines

# NASUWT *in Essex* – *Early Spring 2009*

## ***The Best*** ... and now the biggest

Those of us who have been helped by NASUWT in the past know we are in the best union.

Knowing that most local officials are practicing teachers who spend the majority of their working week in school gives them an understanding of other teachers' problems.

Also, the fact that they are backed up by the professional team at the Regional Centre in Bury St. Edmunds and at National Headquarters in Birmingham ensures an exceptional service.

NASUWT is now not only the largest teachers' union in the UK, but also the largest in England and Wales.

### ***How much cover should I be doing?***

From 1 September 2009, teachers should “rarely cover”. This marks another Standards and Workload Agreement milestone ... the end of regular cover for absent colleagues by classroom teachers.

Cover will only happen in an absolute emergency, where the school can demonstrate that all other options have been exhausted.

We are working with the DCSF to agree what “rarely cover” should mean in practice, and that work will be finalised shortly.

School leaders need to have a cover strategy in readiness for next school year.

### **As far as this year is concerned:**

The current benchmark is no more than an average of 8 hours per year per teacher.

If your school exceeds the benchmark, NASUWT policy is to ballot to refuse to cover. Seek advice from your Local Secretary.

Remember, in a primary school, any doubling up or splitting of classes counts as cover.

### ***HAVE ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT THE GTC (ENGLAND)?***

WHAT DOES IT DO WITH YOUR SUBSCRIPTION?

WHY DOES IT NEED AN EXTRA £4 FROM EVERY TEACHER WHEN IT HAS RESERVES OF £8.9m?  
(The proposed increase in the fee brings the total fee to £37, a rise of 12%.)

The guest speaker at the Essex Federation Ordinary General Meeting to be held on 7th March will be Colin Surrey, an NASUWT representative on the GTC(E) council.

If you have a question for him e-mail it to me at [fed-e500a@nasuwt.net](mailto:fed-e500a@nasuwt.net) prior to the meeting so that you can receive a personal response.

Greg Edland (Admin. Secretary, Essex Federation)

### ***FORTHCOMING CONFERENCES FOR MEMBERS***

**Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Members' Consultation Conference (Birmingham)**

21st February 2009

Tackling Heterosexism within the Union

**Disabled Members' Consultation Conference**

13th June 2009

If you are interested in either of these conferences, call headquarters on 0121 453 6150

**National Association of Schoolmasters Union of Women Teachers**  
*the largest union representing teachers and headteachers throughout the UK*