

### Hackney teacher visits Occupied Palestine

In February half term 2011 I joined a group of other teachers on a visit to the West Bank. I have been a political activist all my life and thought I knew what I thought ..... but this visit was life changing.

Teachers across the towns we visited told us of the constant disruption that the illegal Separation Wall makes to their students, and their, lives. Kids as young as 13 are routinely arrested – often in the middle of the night – and slung into Israeli Jails.

Checkpoints, some of them arbitrary, but others large 'containers' with nasty gates and endlessly rude Israeli soldiers, often make kids and teachers late for School. Every family you speak to has someone in prison. Human rights are not respected. There is much, much more.

There is resistance. In February people were watching the events in Egypt and preparing for their day. There is a united call from Palestine for Boycott Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) and many think that this series of high profile publicity campaigns will make Israel the pariah state that some of us remember South Africa was in the 1980s. There are daily acts of resistance.

There are things that you can do to support Palestine.

- Go on one of CADFA's visits. Camden Abu Dis Friendship Association 's visits run several times a year and are tailored to group members' interests. You are sure to enjoy the experience.
- Help the Students and Staff at BSix set up a twinning project with Beit Surik on the West bank. The principal at BSix has already signed a twinning agreement with one school there and we are hoping to organise staff and student visits. Like Abu Dis, Beit Surik is close to Jerusalem but its inhabitants are barred from visiting their city. The Separation wall looms over both towns. Ask your NUT group to affiliate.
- Take a look at the BSix Palestine Solidarity Facebook group
- Sign CADFA's online petition about child prisoners or download the paper version

For more information contact me sybilcock@hotmail.co.uk or CADFA on camdenabudis@btinternet.com

### Cardinal Pole members to strike over victimisation of NUT Rep

Members at Cardinal Pole secondary school have voted in favour of taking strike action in support of their NUT Rep, Peter Domokos. Peter was suspended from the school allegedly as a result of community work he does in his own time.

Members are to strike on Thursday 21 July.

The NUT has concerns over the way Peter was suspended and how the current 'investigation' has been conducted. Management have raked up issues going back months to try and bolster an already weak case against him. At the time of his suspension, Peter, on behalf of members at the school, was pursuing very serious allegations made against the management.

The NUT believes that management want to get rid of him as he has been an effective union rep. There has been a surge in membership at the school following a long period of there being no NUT rep. Previous reps have complained that they were bullied and harassed by management.

NUT Officers and the National Union Action Committee

have looked at the case and believe it is a classic case of victimisation of a trade union rep.

At the same time, over 50 staff representing all unions and non-union staff have signed a vote of no-confidence in the head-teacher. At the recent governors' meeting where this item was on the agenda, the chair barred the teacher governor from discussing this vote of no confidence.

The Hackney NUT have asked the Learning Trust to carry out an urgent and thorough investigation of the allegations which Peter was seeking to pursue when he was suspended.

Messages of support to the Cardinal Pole NUT members can be sent to: office@hackney.nut.org.uk

#### Ballot result

Are you prepared to take sustained and discontinuous strike action in protest against the victimisation and suspension of the NUT Representative?

YES 30 (88.2%)  
NO 4 (11.8%)

### Clapton strike called off

NUT staff at Clapton Girls Technology College were set to strike on Tuesday 12th July over concerns about continuation of national pay and conditions, union representation and the school admissions policy when the school becomes an academy in Sept 2010. After nego-

tiations between the NUT and the school the strike was adverted and the membership won all their demands.

Congratulations to all the NUT members at Clapton Girls who stood together to defend their rights and inclusive education.

Welcome to Hackney Social

**MERCADO**  
bar & cantina

Thursday 15 Sept  
4.30pm  
Stoke Newington High St,  
More information next term

Leaving your school? Tell us why

Hackney NUT has produced its own 'Exit form' for teachers leaving their schools. Tell us why you are leaving. Ring 0208 985 2056

**Hackney NUT Exit Form**  
Why are you leaving your school?

Hackney NUT is asking members leaving teaching post on Hackney to complete the form below. This will help Hackney NUT to identify patterns and common concerns that lead to turnover of teachers. Any information will be confidential.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Sex:  Male  Female

Type of contract:  All year round  Seasonal  Part-time

Main School:  UPE1  UPE2  UPE3  Leadership School  Other

TLR 2a:  TLR2  TLR3  TLR4

Start date: \_\_\_\_\_

Contacting Hackney NUT

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### 30 June strike

# Magnificent!

The national strike against pension cuts that took place on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> June was one of the most successful in recent years. The National Union of Teachers was joined by the ATL teacher's union, taking their first strike ever, as well as the PCS civil servant's union and UCU university union.

In the run up to the strike the government tried desperately to undermine the action by claiming it was poorly supported or that it was unfair on workers in the private sector. Michael Gove, the Education Secretary, even went as far as saying parents should come into school to help break the strike. However on the day of the strike the media found it impossible to find a government spokesperson to interview.

The Strike in London Last Thursday's strike was a huge success. Thousands of teachers took part in the action, with many getting involved in NUT activity for the first time. Over 20,000 striking trade unionists from right across London packed Lincoln's Inn Fields for the June 30 march. Many had already come



from local rallies and pickets in their own boroughs.

The march was good-humoured but determined, whistling and chanting as it made its way through Central London. Marchers chanted "What do we want – a decent pension - When do we want it - Before we die!"

There was an electric atmosphere at the packed rally in Central Hall which was addressed by the General Secretaries of all four striking unions who launched a Fair Pensions for All Petition demanding that all workers & pensioners have decent living standards in retirement. Mary Bousted, General Secretary of the ATL, won the biggest cheer when she lambasted Ed Milliband for criticising our strike: "He should be ashamed of himself... If the Opposition will not defend our pensions, then we will."

Across the Country Right across England and Wales, teachers thronged to large than expected local rallies and demonstrations, ATL and NUT members marching with striking public-sector colleagues from PCS and UCU as well. 5,000 marched in Bristol, Manchester and Birmingham, 4,000 in Brighton, thousands more in Liverpool and Leeds. Even rural Llandrindod Wells held its own march and rally!

In Hackney In Hackney there was a large protest outside the Learning Trust. There was also a protest outside of the sixth form centre, B6. Members also picketed a school where members had been cowed into work by a bullying head teacher. All Hackney academies saw members walk out and take part in the demonstration.



Hackney NUT would like to take this opportunity to say a big thank you for all of your efforts leading up to 30 June. We simply couldn't have done it without you!

We would also like to hear from any of our members who were involved in the action. Tell us what happened. What did you do? Send your stories and photos in!



Picketing The Learning Trust



Picketing Stoke Newington

More pictures and list of schools that closed or part closed on the Hackney NUT website



Hackney NUT recruited 120 members in the period before the strike



Picketing Clapton

*"As for my first time striking experience. I think I'd have to mention something about how good it was to experience feeling part of a much larger movement, and how important it is to feel united with colleagues. Giving me confidence that taking action together is the only way that our voices can be heard."*

Hackney Secondary member



Supporters of the strike brought cakes, biscuits and drinks to picket lines.



Sebright members on the demo



Outside The Learning Trust

**In figures:**

- Overall 600,000 of 750,000 members walked out.
- PCS said 250,000 of their members were on strike.
- 11,000 schools were closed.
- There were 70 rallies around the country.
- Police support officers were on strike as well as border controls agencies personnel.

**The Lessons of the Strike**

- Young teachers were to the fore - spurred into action by the pension robbery - but also by workload. They'll be returning to school more confident to stand firm on that too!!
- The strike itself also reached further and deeper than our last national action in 2008. The NUT says that 85% of schools were closed or partially closed to pupils.
- Yet support on the school gates and even in opinion polls showed that many parents understood why we had to strike. The public have seen trade unions standing up to Government cuts at last.
- Successful action like this helps build the union. At one point in the run up to the strike membership was increasing by 700 a day.
- PCS and UCU also had a very successful strike day.

**The Future**

- Ministers need to be warned – if they don't back down, they'll be even more public sector workers on strike together in the Autumn!
- Unfortunately the NASUWT didn't take action but their leader has warned of "...the inevitability..." of action next term.
- Members of the National Association of teachers who will also be balloting next term.

Head

If we act together, we can win together!

