

Annual Report to Members 2017/ March 2018

I am pleased to present my third annual report to Council and NAPE members.

Last year I announced that Council had decided to make an annual award to a newly qualified teacher for an article to be included in Primary First, talking about their experience in the classroom in their first year or 2 of teaching. We felt this would encourage those starting out in our profession and be a fitting award in the name of Rosemary Evens who left NAPE financial bequest. We included an illuminating and interesting article by Tara Paxman from East Oxford Primary school in the summer 2017 journal.

NAPE Council has seen some changes this year. We said goodbye to Anne Nelson and Joan Norris both of whom did a welcome and much needed job in keeping us abreast of early years issues. Anne worked for many years on council and her good sense and clear thinking on a range of issues are already missed. Joan has, for the second year worked on the development of new child care qualifications on our behalf which is a significant achievement. Wendy Scott has recently joined council and will take over as our source of early years information. We welcome Wendy to the team.

We also welcomed Robert Morgan and David Kirtlan to council who are already making valuable contributions.

I wish to thank all Council members for their valued and valuable contributions and involvement in and dedication to NAPE activities. We still have vacancies on Council and in particular would welcome a representative from a parent group, a school governor, and a secondary school representative. NAPE has always been open to anyone interested in and concerned about Primary Education.

Sonia Blandford, founder and CEO of Achievement for All, came to talk to council and to lead a discussion. Mark Taylor, a council member, also gave a presentation and led a discussion about the state of the arts, particularly music, in schools at present. We thank them both warmly for their contributions.

Duncan Bathgate gave the Schiller lecture 2017 at Bannockburn school. His talk about his own school was stimulating and gave the audience much to think about and consider in their own practice.

We continue to look at ways in which we can improve communication with our members and increase our membership and reach. We have, thanks to Mark Taylor and Stuart Swann, a much higher profile on social media. David Kirtlan will be joining their team to look at creative ways forward, including a possible blog and other ideas. They will also be grappling with the setting up of the members only area which we are yet to complete.

Sally Swallow, our office administrator, continues her hard work for NAPE with patience and forbearance, whatever is thrown her way and I thank her for it.

The event at Leeds Trinity University on 25th January 2017 when Ruth Merttens from the Hamilton Trust spoke to students in the afternoon and to teachers and headteachers at an after school session on maths mastery, was a great success. I thank Ruth for an interesting and stimulating day and Amanda for doing an amazing job on the organisation. Several attendees showed interest in the setting up of NAPE North and Amanda Nuttall and David Kirtlan will continue to pursue this idea.

NAPE expertise continues to be sort by individuals and organisations and enquiries are dealt with by whichever council member is most appropriate. We have been very active in PUG and MTAS this year with a focus on fighting baseline testing and trying to refocus assessments away from external high stake testing, and onto teacher observations and internal assessments by those who best know the children. Our links with other associations are important to us and strengthen our position on a range of issues.

NAPE has been represented at a number of events this year. I thank Stuart for his work towards the Edutech conference in London and Robert and Joan for running a NAPE stall - although the conference was poorly attended it must be recognised that our council members worked hard for this event. Robert and I also ran stalls at two career events at the University of East London. It was interesting to meet enthusiastic students at the start of their teaching journey. Robert and I ran a further stall at the annual Chartered College of Teachers conference in London which was a highly successful event.

I thank Pip Marples for his work in bringing NAPE together with Dame Alison Peacock and the Chartered College of Teachers and hopefully we can look forward to greater collaboration in the future.

I further thank Pip for his work in attracting a group of patrons to NAPE to support our work and spread the word about the needs of primary aged children.

John Coe has continued to take a lead in the UK on behalf of NAPE as part of a European Research Project: KEYKOLAB; funded by Erasmus. The research looked at ways in which children's progress can be assessed and evaluated against the European Key Competencies for learning and what CPD is needed for teachers to enable them to effectively evaluate progress against the competencies. In the UK we chose to look at how outdoor learning can be evaluated and Lynne Knapp, from Windmill school in Oxford lead a group of schools and headteachers to consider the process with regard to educational visits. I was lucky enough to work on this project and to represent NAPE at all the European meetings and to lead and organise the meeting in the UK in December 2016, along with Stuart Swann, our vice chair. The research has now been completed and the reports written. We have produced an additional report on the UK project which shows clearly the work of the schools involved and the outcomes for the UK. NAPE will be developing an area of the website on which to showcase the research and related articles and responding to media and other enquiries about the research. I thank John Coe for coordinating the UK element of this project and the writing of the UK report. I thank Stuart Swann for accompanying me to the European meetings and his much needed IT expertise which has been welcomed throughout.

Our financial position, although more stable, remains a priority and there is a need to further explore avenues of income to ensure our work continues. I thank Angelo Pinto, our treasurer for his tireless work in keeping us on track and his continued work regarding our investments which ensures we are now gaining a modest annual income.

NAPE Oxfordshire again put on a very successful series of FOV concerts which was very much enjoyed by participants and audience. They won a much deserved prestigious award for FOV this year for which we congratulate them. I thank Lesley, Sue, Kevin and their team for their continuing hard work and dedication to this event and to keeping NAPE Oxfordshire up and running.

John Coe, as our information officer, has written or edited further position papers and media releases as well as regularly responding to press enquiries on our behalf. AGM 2018 sees John handing this mantle over to Peter Cansell. We owe John an tremendous debt of gratitude for his sterling and tireless work as our information officer over the years. Many, many thanks John.

The Editorial Board has made further progress with the production of Primary First which is now available in a format which allows it to be emailed to all

primary schools. The print version remains strong and continues to be sent to our members who value it in this format. Synergy, our publisher, was granted the contract again this year and works closely with the editor, John Coe and his team to continue to develop Primary First and relevant advertising. The contributions from ASPE enhance the journal and are most welcome.

My third year in office has been busy, challenging, and varied. Although there are changes to the constitution being recommended to this AGM to enable the Chair and vice chair to remain in place, I have decided it is time for me to hang up my hat as Chair of NAPE and as a member of NAPE council. As I do so, I reflect on what has been important to me in this role. Collaboration with a group of committed educators whom I respect and who return that favour has been extremely rewarding. Working to bring more financial security to NAPE, bringing more stability to Council, overseeing moving NAPE forward into an online community along with working on the Keycolab research have all been highlights for me. As I pass the Chair on I wish NAPE a successful future and those who work with council vision and energy as NAPE has never been needed more as a voice for primary children and their specific needs.

I commend my report to the Council and Membership.

LYNN HANNAY
CHAIR
March 2018