

## **Annual Report to Members 2015/2016**

I am pleased to present my second annual report to Council and NAPE members. Last year I began by thanking John Gawthorpe, the previous chair, for the work he did in relation to the bequest from Rosemary Evans and promising as John suggested that we find a way to mark such generosity. I am delighted to report that Council have agreed upon a suggestion from Robert Young, our secretary, to make an annual award to a 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 be a fitting recognition and encourage those starting out in our profession.

NAPE Council has remained stable this year. 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.

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. The National office finally has a new database of members installed which will enable easier and smoother communication. I thank Sally Swallow, our office administrator, for her hard work, patience and forbearance in getting this installed and up and running. In addition we have grown our website to include a designated area for conferences and other events and we are in the process of setting up a members only area with an email database to enable members to contact each other, and it will include information and offers of benefit to our members.

We have been saddened by the cancellation of our proposed conference at Leeds Trinity University in June of this year due to a

lack of delegates and the a further event planned at Oxford Brookes University for May 2016 had to be cancelled due to industrial action. The IT expo/trade fare at the Kassam Stadium in Oxfordshire went ahead successfully in October 2016. This was well received by those who attended who enjoyed a range of high quality speakers and exhibits.

I thank Pip Marples and Peter Cansell for their hard work regarding the conferences, Amanda Nuttall for her work in trying to get the Leeds conference off the ground and Stuart Swann for his work in the lead up to the Edutech conference and his exciting LEGO workshop at the Kassam Stadium.

There is an event planned at Leeds Trinity University on 25th January 2017 when we will welcome Ruth Merttens from the Hamilton Trust to speak to students in the afternoon and to teachers and headteachers at a twilight session. This will be a joint Hamilton Trust/NAPE venture but will also be used by Amanda Nuttall to launch a new local group: NAPE North.

NAPE expertise continues to be sort by individuals and organisations and enquiries are dealt with by whichever Council member is most appropriate. As a result of this we are launching an exciting new initiative to organise and provide CPD to individual schools and groups of schools which we will tailor-make to their requirements. This will deploy skills we have amongst our Council and members, as well as using those outside of NAPE who we know to have valuable skills which will enable schools to develop.

John Coe has taken a lead in the UK on behalf of NAPE as part of a European Research Project: KEYKOLAB; funded by Erasmus. The research is looking at ways in which children's progress can be assessed and evaluated against the European Competencies for learning and what CPD is needed for teachers to evaluate progress against the competencies. In the UK we have chosen to look at how outdoor learning can be evaluated and Lynne Knapp, from Windmill school in Oxford is leading a group of schools and headteachers to

consider the process with regard to educational visits. I have been lucky enough to work on this project and to represent NAPE at meetings in Belgium and Finland earlier this year, along with Stuart Swann, our vice Chair. In December, this year we will be welcoming our European partners to Oxford to continue the work. We are pleased that the Oxford schools involved have invited the delegates to visit and to take lunch with them.

Consolidating and improving our financial position remains a priority. I thank Angelo Pinto, our treasurer for his tireless work in keeping us to our “break even or better” mantra, his negotiations regarding investments which have ensured we are now gaining a modest annual income from the Rosemary Evens legacy, for the general reorganisation of our finances ensuring all runs smoothly and lastly for his recent successful negotiations regarding our office rent increase, his work on the above conferences and so much more.

NAPE Oxfordshire again put on a very successful series of FOV concerts which was very much enjoyed by participants and audience. 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.

Council have continued to keep our policies under review, in line with requirements of the Charity Commission. In addition, Ann Nelson, with the executive, has been reviewing the work of the association against The Hallmarks of a Good Charity document.

Our campaigning, often in collaboration with other associations has continued and has had a particular focus on the assessment of children. We took part in the Summit on Primary Assessment in June hosted by the NUT and we are continuing to contribute to this inter-union and association steering group and their work looking at an alternative evaluation system.

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. Our media releases include: a better way to check children's progress; too much for the test too little for children; forced primary academies and a statement about the proposed expansion of grammar schools. Our position papers can be found on the website and include: acadamisation; governance; assessment without levels; Initial Teacher Training; and effective marking. John continues to be in demand for public comment and annually represents the association to give interviews for the Kellogg Breakfast club and was recently invited to be a judge for the breakfast club awards.

John, also continues to host and provide seminars for education visitors from China.

Ann Nelson, with support from Joan Norris, keeps us up to date with issues relevant to the Early Years. Joan represented the association earlier in the year in the development of a new Child development qualification aimed at those doing GCSE. Anne and Joan are looking at relaunching Outstanding Nursery visits and including an element of CPD alongside the visits. This revamping of the programme follows a cancellation this year due to lack of delegates.

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, works closely with the editor, John Coe and his team to continue to develop Primary First and relevant advertising. John Coe has recently concluded negotiations with ASPE who will be contributing articles to Primary First in future.

We continue to have close links with a range of other associations — PUG, NATE etc. These links are important to us and our opinion and views are much sought after in the meetings.

NAPE has always been open to anyone interested in and concerned about Primary Education. We remain increasingly interested in the area of parents and grandparents, their concerns and the roles they play. We have welcomed a number of representatives from parent groups to speak to Council this year and have become actively involved with the Parents defending Education group.

My second year in office has been busy, challenging, varied and ultimately rewarding.

I commend my report to the Council and Membership.

LYNN HANNAY  
CHAIR 2015-2016