



Andrew Rudge
President 2011
Wrekin NUT



THE WREKIN DIVISION OF THE NUT

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
TUESDAY 15TH FEBRUARY 2011
THE COCK HOTEL WELLINGTON AT 7.00pm**

Installation of President Speech

We are told that government cuts, the resulting job losses and the general misery faced by anyone working in the public sector is the result of the ongoing economic crisis. Call me naive, but what crisis?

On Friday the FTSE 100 share index closed at 6070. In the city 6000 is the magic figure that is often quoted as where the markets would like to be. At the time of 9/11 and during the crash of 2008 the city saw regaining 6000 as an impossible dream. The FTSE 100 is now stable around this mark. For ordinary workers this means investments and in particular pensions are now making a profit. So why does the government now look to limit public sector pensions and remove their alleged gold plating? If the government held true to its '*let the market rule*' philosophy we could all look forward to a long and well paid retirement.

In order to draw our pension we first need a job. To get a job that pays anything above minimum wage means further education or training and perhaps university. Education is no longer about getting the best people to the top, it is becoming a barrier that may only allow the children of the economic elite to gain an elite education and enter elite jobs. This keeps the ruling class in top jobs and a position of unthreatened power.

The government is looking to go beyond a return to Thatcher's Britain of the 1980s and take us nearer to the dark days of the 1930s. An era when those with money and influence lived in a glamorous Art Deco world, while those without longed to have a job that paid. The budget cuts, closures and job losses are not a result of the economy; they are an ideology that wants to ensure low wages and a ready supply of a compliant workforce – known to economists as a flexible labour market.

As part of this ideology the Tories – ably assisted by their liberal lap dogs are out to destroy the unions. **This is why every member of every union needs to be in London on the 26th March.** The ConDems are out to destroy our union, profession and any future for our families.

ConDem policies are not good for teachers, pupils or Britain. Their policies are in place to line their own pockets - they aim to destroy society and carve up the best bits among their friends, leaving us, the members of the 'Big Society,' to pick up the pieces while working as volunteers.

The academies programme is a full fronted attack on the rights of teachers. We all know too well what we will lose as more schools become academies. If teachers lose their professional recognition, national pay and conditions and representation by a professional association, they cannot maintain any level of professional standing within a modern global economy.

In order to achieve this destruction of the teaching profession Gove – the arch assassin - has granted himself 50 new powers that will allow him to by-pass elected bodies and tell children what subjects they should study, teachers what and how they should teach and local communities what kind of schools they must have. **We should not sit back and allow him to do this.** Write, email, even get on the phone and tell what him you think about his policies. With enough pressure we

may see not only a u-turn, but a resignation. Don't worry about Gove signing on, in addition to his parliamentary income he receives £60-£65 000 for a "Contract with Times Newspapers Limited to supply a set number of articles." (Source: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/politics/person/9378/michael-gove>). He has other sources of income that are too numerous to list and would represent a very well-paid full time job to many people.

The impact of the ConDems locally is already being felt. Telford and Wrekin is already facing mass re-organisation and this will involve job losses. Unlike Gove and his career of many jobs, staff in Telford will be given three choices:

- Voluntary Redundancy
- Re-deployment – a potential for setting post holder against post holder
- Or Compulsory Redundancy.

Our colleagues will not be able to fall back on their £65000 for supplying newspaper articles like Mr. Gove. The impact will also reach much further than the staff facing job losses. Local schools, children and parents will also see the impact as many of the job losses will directly affect services for the most vulnerable. The government believes many of these children only hold statements of need in order for parents to claim extra benefits. Anyone who has ever taught an ADHD pupil will know they deserve every penny and we teachers need every bit of the support our colleagues in central services can deliver.

Finally! Our biggest fight is not with the ConDem Tories, privatisation or job losses; it's with apathy! We need people to stop thinking everything will be alright, it won't affect them and the usual suspects will fight if we put a quid in their bucket. Firstly we need people in London on the 26th, so get on the bus and help make the event loud, angry and a history defining moment. Until then – write, email, phone and make life hard for those who choose to hold power; remember they don't have to be there! Then if you've enough energy left, get out and drag anyone who you hear moaning to a meeting and hopefully our next president can sit here and tell the next generation of teachers how we changed the world.

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To book places on coaches (London Saturday 26th March) contact Andrew, Aly (contact details above) or Jonathan Sedgebeer Branch Secretary Telford UNISON 01952 567111 unison@telford.gov.uk

March together for the Alternative info ~ www.tuc.org.uk