

NEU Retired Section Meeting

Worth Matravers, Wednesday 11th June 2025

The meeting started at 10.40 am.

Present: Ali Chown, Geoff Cooke, Karen Lindsay, Mark Oliver, Peter Parsons

1 The meeting discussed future meetings for members who have retired.

September - Blandford Forum Museum Triangle (the local museum, fashion museum and church) followed by a cream tea.

Xmas Mince Pies - Wimborne, including Chain Library.

June 2026 - walk, possibly on heath in Ferndown/Wimborne area

An event for March 2026 remains to be decided. Ideas discussed included indoor skittles or crazy golf.

There was also discussion on targeting towns or areas where numbers of members who have retired live. Information on this would help us to target some activities.

The meeting also considered Silver Screen events as a possible option, not just for the tea and biscuits included in such events but also for a lunch and a catch up after the film showing.

The new Dorset NEU website will be a great benefit for advertising Retired Section events in advance.

2 Report from conference for members who have retired.

The conference included presentations on pensions, WASPI women and Grenfell.

There was ample NEU merchandise available, but mugs were limited to one per person.

3 Fund Fair Pay

The NEU was seeking a pay rise above the rate of inflation and that this increase should be fully funded.

The government has responded to the School Teachers' Review Body (STRB) report. The government has increased its offer of 2.8% to 4%. Although the government is putting more money into school budgets, the offer will not be fully funded. The Secretary of State for Education has suggested the shortfall can be funded from "improved productivity".

The NEU Executive is meeting on 12th June to consider the offer.

4 Free School Meals

The extension of Free School Meals to all pupils in families receiving Universal Credit has been welcomed by the NEU. This will mean approximately 500,000 extra children receiving free school meals. The NEU acknowledges the part played by pressure from the NEU and NEU members in the campaign for Free School Meals for All.

Reports in some newspapers suggest that schools will not receive Pupil Premium Funding for this new group of pupils eligible for free school meals and that the Pupil Premium policy will be reviewed by the government to ensure that it targets those that most need it. Watch this space.

5 NEU Conference Decision

The NEU conference agreed that retired members should be referred to as "members who have retired".

Meeting closed at 11.30 am for a walk around Worth Matravers.