



## Music Education Council Member News 2018 Issue Eight

### Remember:

- If you are a membership organisation please share these news e-mails with your members.
- If you have news you want to share with the whole music education sector contact [admin@mec.org.uk](mailto:admin@mec.org.uk) with MEC News Update Item as the title of your e-mail.
- Don't hesitate to contact Richard J Hallam MBE, Chair to make sure matters that concern or interest you are on his agenda when he meets with key people about music education. ([hallaj@globalnet.co.uk](mailto:hallaj@globalnet.co.uk); 07850 634239). Upcoming meetings with ACE 24/10; DfE 30/10.

### MEC News

1. **Message from the Chair.** MEC continues to be **proactive, reactive** and, above all, **representative**, as well as **celebrating** and **sharing** practice across our diverse sector. But we can only do this if you engage. Wherever you are in the UK MEC has a voice for music education. **Make your voice heard** by feeding in your views and arguing for what you believe in through your MEC member organisation or by joining MEC as an individual member. Our seminars (see 2 and 3 below); consultations (see 5 below); Special Interest Groups (see 6 below); Task and Finish Groups (see 7 below) and National Groups (see 8 below) are all ways in which you can be involved as little or as much as you wish. And share what you are doing through these news updates and by applying for the Music Education Awards (see 4 below). And don't forget, if you want to be included in mailings regarding specific nations, let Angela know at [admin@mec.org.uk](mailto:admin@mec.org.uk) so that you can be included in line with GDPR requirements. A MEC position paper will be circulated early in the New Year for comment prior to a major seminar in March. Dates and venues will be announced in next month's update.
2. Make sure you note the date for our **final seminar** of the year **Dec 12th, Bristol**, which is focussing on inclusion. Further details will be available and booking will open on October 12<sup>th</sup>.
3. The 13th September seminar on Building a Sustainable Workforce produced interesting discussions on the questions of How can training and CPD support career progression; How the voice of music educators can be represented within hubs and music services; and Opening a meaningful dialogue around quality. The notes of the discussions can be found [here](#). Helen Mason's powerpoint on IR35 and Bridget Whyte's presentation are included.

#### 4. **MUSIC EDUCATION AWARDS AND WILL MICHAEL JAZZ AWARD 2018 – APPLICATIONS**

**CLOSE 15<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER** See more details [here](#).

You are invited to apply for a Music Education Award on behalf of your hub / music service / organisation.

For 2018 you have options:

- Apply for the Major Award – have your whole offer judged and be held up as a beacon of excellence;
- Apply for the Will Michael Jazz Award – have your jazz offer recognised for its excellence,
- Apply for a specific Commendation – by completing as few questions as you wish – even just one! – have a specific area of your work recognised – Commendations will be given to applicants who demonstrate excellent work in any one aspect of work or special project.

5. **MEC Priorities 2019** The MEC Forum will be meeting on Oct 18<sup>th</sup> to consider priorities for MEC for 2019. The 2018 programme of events took into account your responses to a questionnaire last year. You are invited to complete this questionnaire [https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/Future\\_of\\_Music\\_Education2019](https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/Future_of_Music_Education2019) **before October 15<sup>th</sup>** so that your views can be fully taken into account. Watch out for key dates and further information in the November news update.

#### 6. **SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS.**

**Relevant to ALL the SIGs** – A group of organisations (Creative United, OHMI, Drake Music and OpenUp Music) are working together to bring more adapted and specialist musical instruments into the mainstream. One of the first things they are doing is capturing a detailed picture of the current experiences of disabled people and music making.

<https://www.takeitaway.org.uk/accesstomusicsurvey/>

#### **Curriculum**

The Music Curriculum group has continued to work on its principles of a music curriculum document, a summary of which can be found below. The group is planning to hold its next meeting during the Music Mark conference and to complete the document ahead of the next MEC seminar on 12<sup>th</sup> December. Please contact the SIG's chair, Judith Robinson if you wish to be included in the group emails; [Judith.robinson@soundandmusic.org](mailto:Judith.robinson@soundandmusic.org)

The group's second meeting took place on 13<sup>th</sup> September. The group continued work on a set of principles for the music curriculum that are intended to be ones that all music educators can sign up to. The following is a summary of the document, which is still work in progress. The group is aiming to have the paper finished by the MEC seminar in December.

- Inclusion and entitlement are key concepts.
- There are no 'should' or 'ought' statements; these are principles that all music educators can sign up to.
- Music education happens within and outside of school.,
- Drawing on Swanwick's 'good-enough' education.
- Focusing on 0-25 age group (which can lay the foundations for a wider lifelong learning application).
- Musical knowledge is demonstrated through composing, performing, improvising, responding.
- Creativity and the making of new music (through composing, creating, improvising) is key to demonstrating musical knowledge, and to engagement, agency and learning.

- The paper includes a number of models for agency, curriculum and learning which can be shared once the document is completed.
- Quality and progress are related issues.
- The final section is on how the group would like MEC to make a difference and includes a set of principles that everyone can sign up to and advocate for e.g. Knowledge can be demonstrated through applied practice and creativity; need to join up policies from arts, education, industrial strategy; practice – good enough or not, and what the effect of those is.

### **CPD**

The CPD SIG met before the recent MEC seminar on 13th September. One of the first things agreed was that Åsa Malmsten would jointly co-ordinate the group with Chris Dalladay and this was warmly welcomed.

We reviewed the action points from the previous meeting and one point, just recently actioned, was the setting up of a CPD SIG Blog (<https://meccpd.home.blog>) which we hope members, and other interested parties from the wider MEC membership, might wish to use as an online discussion forum. The meeting agreed that one of our priorities was to gather a 'knowledge-bank' or directory of what's 'out there' in terms of CPD, though we are also rather daunted by the size of this task and that it may prove rather challenging at present. We also need to carry out a 'mapping' exercise (this could be tied-in to the setting up of the directory) in order to analyse where the gaps are in CPD provision. Action points which came out of the meeting included that we could use the new blog to gather ideas on how CPD information might be gathered and to look for areas of 'good practice' - perhaps through the vehicle of the MEC newsletter. Perhaps I could take the opportunity now of asking for any thoughts on this from the MEC membership - these can initially be channelled through Chris Dalladay at [c.dalladay@uel.ac.uk](mailto:c.dalladay@uel.ac.uk).

We were fortunate to have a further opportunity to discuss CPD provision as part of the main MEC seminar and a brief summary of thoughts aired are...

- That CPD is so often seen as 'training days' but it might be more effectively seen as conversations, reflections, mentoring, and so on;
- That some organisations had a scheme by which members were given a financial sum which they could use on their own development;
- Creative Scotland have a CPD Fund but there's no such thing in England - is this something to campaign for?
- Do people know what CPD they need, or even admit that they might need it?
- Technically, some of the CPD budget allocated to Hubs can be used in a wider context than for schools or its own members - for example, for private teachers who work as part of a Hub's provision.

**Early Years** The next EY SIG meeting will be held on Friday 12th October, 1230-3.00 in Birmingham at the Centre for Research in Early Childhood (CREC), Birmingham. This group is active between meetings via a closed Facebook page and wider views are sought through a Google hangout.

### **Additional / Special Needs**

The ASN/SEND SIG met at the recent MEC Seminar in London and discussed, amongst many other things (see the minutes [here](#)), the need to move beyond the almost comprehensive agreement upon the importance of inclusion (whilst still acknowledging that this is a significant achievement in itself), to a focus on the actual implementing inclusive practice (AKA actually doing it). A number of members put themselves forward to begin to pull together existing documentation designed to

support the implementation of inclusive practice in hubs and make their relevance to each other more clear and useful for hubs looking to do inclusion more/better. The intention is to present the work of this small task and finish group at the seminar on the **12<sup>th</sup> December in Bristol**. The group consists of Siggie Patchitt (Bristol Music Trust), Carol Reid (Youth Music), Douglas Noble (Drake Music), Emma Lines (Drake Music Scotland), and Barry Farrimond (OpenUp Music). Siggie will provide an update at the **chairs of SIGs' meeting on November 16<sup>th</sup>**.

The SIG group will also be meeting in the morning, before the **12<sup>th</sup> December MEC Seminar, at Colston Hall**.

**Music Technology** The MT SIG supports the MEC member JAMES's discussion paper (latest version available [here](#)) and is seeking wider input. Comments should be fed back to Angela and David at [admin@mec.org.uk](mailto:admin@mec.org.uk) and [david.ward@jamesonline.org.uk](mailto:david.ward@jamesonline.org.uk). MEC's position on this and papers from other SIGs will be discussed at the chairs of SIGs' meeting on November 16<sup>th</sup> with further discussions continuing up to Dec 12<sup>th</sup>.

#### 7. **Task and Finish Groups**

The **Licencing Group** continues to monitor the situation. Contact Angela [admin@mec.org.uk](mailto:admin@mec.org.uk) and Bridget Whyte [bridget.whyte@musicmark.org.uk](mailto:bridget.whyte@musicmark.org.uk) if you have any issues relating to licencing.

Lincoln has contacted all members of the **Music Commission TFG**. Contact Angela [admin@mec.org.uk](mailto:admin@mec.org.uk) and Lincoln Abbotts [labbotts@abrsm.ac.uk](mailto:labbotts@abrsm.ac.uk) if you wish to know more – but see MEC Member News para 9 (below) for an update from the Commission.

8. **Nations** This year the MEC Forum established Strategy Groups for each nation. All MEC members can be kept informed of more detailed developments for each nation by contacting Angela ([admin@mec.org.uk](mailto:admin@mec.org.uk)) to have your email added to the circulation list.

**England:** A major part of the **MEC Forum agenda on October 18<sup>th</sup>** will be devoted to English issues. These will be discussed further at the **SIG Chairs' meeting on November 16<sup>th</sup>** and the **MEC Seminar on Dec 12<sup>th</sup>**. A **MEC position paper** will be shared for comment in the New Year and there will be a major seminar in **March 2019**.

**Northern Ireland:** All is reported to be well! MEC is in contact with key colleagues in Northern Ireland and will be holding a MEC Forum Strategy Group (NI) meeting in January 2019 as part of the ABO conference.

**Scotland:** An article in the [Edinburgh](#) news about potential cuts to music funding serves as a reminder that we all need to stay alert to threats and be ready to challenge decisions. And questions are still being asked in the Scottish parliament [Programme for Government](#) (6 Sep 2018) MEC member Making Music is represented along with Ralph Riddiough at [this hearing](#) in relation to his petition. The clip lasts just over an hour but if you don't have time to listen to it all, spend 3 minutes listening to what the committee proposes (10.13.43) and spend 2 minutes watching Jack Ma's contribution at the World Economic Forum 2016 [here](#) particularly the last 30 seconds! MEC will continue to work closely with John Wallace and MEPG. The MEC Strategy Group (Scotland) meets on 9<sup>th</sup> November.

And if you are particularly interested in well-being, the Scottish Parliament: [Mental Health Strategy: 2018 Annual Report](#) (25 Sep 2018) is worth a look. Clare Haughey mentions the 'See me' national campaign, which was launched on 18 September. "It is the biggest conversation that we have ever had with young people in Scotland about what mental wellbeing means to them. It harnesses the power of music to help people across the country to talk about how they feel." (See also Policy news item 3 below).

**Wales:** Emma Archer attended a 'get together' meeting hosted by Michael Garvey at the BBC on Sept 17<sup>th</sup>. The BBC's letter to the Welsh Government can be seen [here](#). The MEC Strategy Group (Wales) meets again on October 4<sup>th</sup>. Dick and Fiona Pendreigh (Chair Elect) are also meeting with a civil servant from the Education Department on the same day. Colleagues will also find the above clip of the Scottish petition meeting interesting.

## International Society for Music Education (ISME) News

1. ISME's new President Susan O'Neill [talks for the first time](#) about the 2020 World Conference which will take place in Helsinki, Finland. The conference theme is Visions of Equity and Diversity. Watch out for the call for papers due to open in February 2019. And, even if you have already looked, pay another visit to the [Conference Showcase](#). You can find all the abstracts and conference proceedings; pictures and videos; and the transcripts of all the keynotes.

2. From the **International Music Council**, a [blog post](#) **More Than An Elective: Why Music Education Is Essential** – "With budget cuts, a changing curriculum and myriad other factors playing into the modern school day, it may come as no surprise that courses in music, art, vocational trades and more are often on the chopping block, considered as electives that are not paramount to student success."

## MEC Member News

*MEC does not endorse any particular products or services, but is happy to provide details to members of other members' activity and products. Anything featured below has not, therefore, been evaluated by and is not endorsed by MEC.*

1. MEC member and composer, **Lydia Kakabadse**, has been commissioned by The Hellenic Institute at Royal Holloway University of London to write a choral work for SATB with harp (entitled *Odyssey*) to mark the closing of The Hellenic Institute's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations. *Odyssey* will be premiered by The Choir of Royal Holloway at the College Chapel at 7 p.m. on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> October 2018.

If you would like to book tickets for the concert, please click [here](#). Admittance is free. Drinks will be served afterwards in the Picture Gallery. Royal Holloway is situated on the A30 on Egham Hill, Egham, Surrey. Lydia's website: [www.lydiakakabadse.com](http://www.lydiakakabadse.com)

2. **Bacc for the Future, CLA and What Next? launch *Arts in Schools***

In September the Bacc for the Future campaign, the [Cultural Learning Alliance](#) and [What Next?](#) launched *Arts in Schools*, an advocacy toolkit designed to inform, help and inspire advocates to take action against the downward trend of the arts in schools. It will be available at [www.baccforthefuture.com/campaign-resources.html](http://www.baccforthefuture.com/campaign-resources.html).

*Arts in Schools* is a useful toolkit for arts activists to refer to and use when advocating and championing arts education. The toolkit includes vital information and advice to help make the case to keep arts in schools, including how to write letters to local MPs and Councillors, the National Schools Commissioner and members of the Education Select Committee.

3. At **Sound Connection's** last Music and Social Justice Network meeting they focused on co-design and collaboration with communities. They questioned what these buzzwords actually mean, who our communities are, how we go about making appropriate relationships with them, making sure we take the time to establish these relationships, as well as questioning the sort of language we use. We were delighted to have Toby Laurent Belson, a community organiser and professional artist/designer, come in and share some of his experiences with us. Click [here](#) to see the resource created from the session summarising the key takeaways.

If you are interested in joining the Music and Social Network and want to receive regular updates and information about the network meetings please contact [info@sound-connections.org.uk](mailto:info@sound-connections.org.uk)

4. **Training the Community Musician Symposium Save the date! 18-19 February 2019**

**Sound Sense**, in partnership with Aberdeen University and Edinburgh Youth Music Forum, is pleased to invite you to take part in the first of a series of symposiums, bringing together practitioners who teach or facilitate community music in formal, informal and non-formal settings. The symposium will focus on the sharing of practices and approaches in the training of community musicians whilst developing a shared understanding of the issues facing those teaching this emerging field and how, as a network, we can support them.

The event is open to practitioners in community music practice from across the UK and abroad, who has an interest in engaging with the discussion and becoming part of a growing network of practitioners in community music settings. You can find full details on the symposium [here](#).

**Venue:** The University of Aberdeen

**Cost:** £45

Bookings will open in October 2018

5. **Feversham Primary Academy** was [back in the news](#) during September explaining its journey from special measures to the top 10% of schools in England when it comes to progressing children's learning in core subjects like maths and English. Jimmy Rotheram, music coordinator, has been invited to join Ofsted's expert advisory group.

6. **Sing Up** announces its partnership with the School Musicals Company. Read about it [here](#).

7. **The Singing School Handbook**, to be published on 7 November, is a how-to guide to help teachers and singing leaders harness the power of singing and turn their school into a Singing School. With universally transferable principles, suggestions and strategies, the book provides a framework that applies to any educational setting or school structure from the ages of 4-11, and beyond. A Singing School is a place where singing is right at the heart of school life and where the

whole school community knows and can describe what difference singing makes to their school. Becoming a Singing School motivates everyone to work together towards a common goal while taking part in an activity they can all do and enjoy – singing.

With fewer hours being allocated to arts subjects and less provision for music in school life, **The Singing School Handbook** gives teachers a way of incorporating music into everyday learning. It shows teachers that singing is not something they necessarily need to set extra time aside for, but that it can be used to enhance the teaching of core subjects and, at the same time, improve pupil engagement, self-esteem, teamwork and school morale.

**The Singing School Handbook** is a joint publication from Sing Up and Faber Music, written by Michelle James, and will be released on 7 November 2018. The book will be available to pre-order from 8 October at [www.fabermusicstore.com](http://www.fabermusicstore.com).

8. **Sound and Music** is delighted to announce that Minute of Listening is celebrating Black History Month with a [new collection of minutes and related resources](#). With 20 minutes of music and sound that explore and celebrate the work of black musicians, artists and cultures from around the world, you can listen to one minute every school day during the month of October.

Each Minute is supported by a specially-created "Talking Point" and there are bespoke lesson plans available for EYFS, KS1 and KS2.

This content is free to schools who already have a paid for account (including all schools in Bristol and Hull), and to those who take out a paid for subscription before the end of October.

If you don't have a Minute of Listening account, you can download one free lesson plan [here](#), or visit the [website](#) to find out more!

9. **The Music Commission**, an independent enquiry looking at the educational, social and economic factors that influence how people progress in their music learning, is continuing its work with a view to publishing its report and recommendations later this year.

In recent weeks, the final meeting of the Research Reference Group has taken place. This group, chaired by Professor Pat Thomson from Nottingham University, has brought together various aspects of the research programme, including an analysis of the Commission's own findings completed by Dr Jennie Henley and David Barton.

Thank you to all colleagues who have contributed to the research programme through completing the online survey, running focus groups and MEC's own Task and Finish Group. Over the next few weeks Lincoln will be making contact again with these colleagues and will give an overview of The Music Commission's work as part of the MEC Forum on October 18.

As a reminder, The Music Commission Panel is chaired by Sir Nick Kenyon and has met four times between September 2017 and July 2018. For further background and updates, keep an eye on the website [www.musiccommission.org.uk](http://www.musiccommission.org.uk)

10. **Drake Music** is looking for a Project Co-ordinator for its Think 22 programme. Full details [here](#). Closing date is 28<sup>th</sup> October.

11. **Sound Sense** is looking for new board members. Sound Sense is run for its members by its members - people like you who form the board of the organisation. As a board, *writes chair Siggy Patchitt*, we control the overall strategy of the organisation, make sure it is financially sound and steer the activities of its staff. You could join us!

It is particularly important that Sound Sense is as broadly representative as possible and we particularly welcome nominations from people who are typically under-represented in our sector. To find out more about being a board member, the duties involved, and how to nominate yourself visit our [website](#). You can also contact us via email. To contact Siggy, email [siggy.patchitt@bristolplaysmusic.org](mailto:siggy.patchitt@bristolplaysmusic.org) or Åsa on [asa.malmsten@soundsense.org](mailto:asa.malmsten@soundsense.org). Nominations for board elections close on Friday 19 October 2018.

## Policy News

*Don't forget to share with MEC ([admin@mec.org.uk](mailto:admin@mec.org.uk)) any policy-related news that you pick up. Through its members sharing news with other members MEC is uniquely placed to make sure that everyone across the music education sector is as well informed as possible.*

1. In response to a written question from Baroness Bonham Carter the Government provided the number of qualified music teachers since 2010, which has fallen for the sixth year in a row. The figures are:

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Number of qualified teachers (thousands)								
Music	7.5	8.0	7.4	7.3	7.1	6.9	6.7	6.5
Percentage change in number of qualified teachers from previous year:								
Music	-	5.3	-7.9	-0.8	-2.4	-3.2	0.0	-1.7

2. At 3pm on 17<sup>th</sup> October Lord Black of Brentwood will pose the oral question:  
Number of pupils taking GCSE \*Music\* in the last academic year.

3. In a [statement](#) to the Scottish Parliament by [Clare Haughey](#), the [Minister](#) for Mental Health, on the mental health strategy 2018 annual report the minister said:

“Fourthly, there is the see me national campaign, which was launched on 18 September. It is the biggest conversation that we have ever had with young people in Scotland about what mental wellbeing means to them. It harnesses the power of music to help people across the country to talk about how they feel. I am sure that the results will be especially valuable to Dame Denise Coia’s task force.”

4. Arts Council England recently invited people to join a workshop and be a part of shaping its strategy for culture and creativity over the next ten years. There's still time to [register for your place](#) to join the discussion and have your say. ACE has now launched the [online consultation](#), but it is suggested you **join a workshop before taking part**. The online consultation gives you the opportunity to further develop your response to the proposed outcomes, after taking part in the discussions at a workshop. It also ensures that **everybody can take part** and offer their different perspectives.

As the strategy ACE produces will drive the focus of its investment, development programmes and advocacy over the next ten years, they are seeking the **widest range of voices across the country** to test their thinking on the ideas they've developed so far. What ACE hears through this consultation will be used to develop the outcomes they are proposing, and that work will be turned into a draft strategy.

## Other News of interest

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1. The first edition of **OCR Policy Briefing: Spotlight on T Levels** is now available on the [OCR website](#). This first edition includes:
  - T Levels: what are they? We provide a brief overview of the context and structure
  - Ofqual decisions: a chance to look at the outcomes of the latest T Levels consultation
  - The Last Word: Paul Steer sets out some principles for T Level success.
2. **The Music Teacher Awards for Excellence are back!**

Know an outstanding education product? An exceptional music department? An inspirational individual? Then nominate them for a **Music Teacher Award for Excellence** and make sure they get the recognition they deserve!

Nominations are invited across the following categories:

### **(DEADLINE 12 OCTOBER)**

- Outstanding Musical Initiative
- Outstanding Rock, Pop or Production Initiative
- Outstanding Print Resource
- Outstanding Digital/Technological Resource
- Outstanding SEND Resource
- Outstanding Music Education Product
- Outstanding Musical Theatre/Drama Education Resource
- Excellence in Primary/Early Years Music
- Outstanding School Music Department
- Francesca Hanley Inspiration Award sponsored by the Musicians' Union
- Music Education Council Major Award
- Music Teacher Magazine Editor's Award
- Outstanding Classical Music Education Initiative
- Lifetime Achievement Award

[View category criteria and nominate](#)

3. Evidence in research suggests there is an overall decline in music in education. According to a recent **UK Music survey** 17 per cent of music creators were educated at fee paying schools, compared with 7 per cent across the population as a whole. This matters because 50 per cent of children at independent schools receive sustained music tuition, while the figure for state schools is a mere 15 per cent.

Report - [https://www.ukmusic.org/assets/general/Talent\\_Pipeline\\_2018.pdf](https://www.ukmusic.org/assets/general/Talent_Pipeline_2018.pdf)

Press - The decline of music education threatens to deprive Britain of future talent - <https://www.newstatesman.com/politics/education/2018/09/decline-music-education-threatens-deprive-britain-future-talent>

Press - Music industry warns on decline in state school teaching -

<https://www.ft.com/content/bb914bfe-b82f-11e8-b3ef-799c8613f4a1>

However, UK Music, an industry lobby, said that new acts were increasingly dependent on private school teaching and funding from their parents, “putting our talent pipeline and the future success of our industry at risk”.

“Unless this decline is reversed, the talent pipeline that we hope will produce the next generation of stars to follow Adele, Ed Sheeran and Stormzy will suffer a major blow,” said UK Music, in a report timed to coincide with the Liberal Democrat annual conference in Brighton. “Cultural subjects like music must not be allowed to be squeezed out of our state schools.”

The lobby group said that a £98m government programme for talented music, drama and dance pupils was likely to “benefit those who have already been identified as exceptionally gifted”.

<https://twitter.com/MichaelDugher/status/1041293963628617728>

[cid:image006.jpg@01D44E70.03999ED0]

4. A new report details the “**Active Ingredients**” that make arts interventions successful in improving health and wellbeing. It aims to help shape future intervention projects.

**And finally** – several people have said that they value this news update as a source of information but would welcome it being re-formatted to make it easier to read. If you have any suggestions as to how to improve the layout and accessibility of the news update please e-mail Angela at [admin@mec.org.uk](mailto:admin@mec.org.uk)

New data protection regulations came into force on May 25<sup>th</sup> 2018, giving you greater control over how organisations like ours can process your personal data.

At MEC we respect your right to privacy and want to be as transparent as possible about what data we collect and how we use it. Our updated [Privacy Policy](#) provides extra detail on where and why we collect your personal data, how it will be processed and the safeguards we have in place to protect it. As a recipient of our email updates you can ask to be removed from the mailing list at any time by e-mailing [admin@mec.org.uk](mailto:admin@mec.org.uk) and stating that you no longer wish to receive the news updates.