

Pupils say farewell as teachers leave school

School loses 150 years' teaching at end of term

The end of term at Staindrop Comprehensive School saw the departure of eight popular teachers with 150 years of service between them.

Among those leaving were deputy head Mr Barrie Hutchinson and head of art Mr Ben Johnson. They are pictured with Mr Phil Hodgson, Mr Frank Holmes, Mrs Barbara Buckle, Mrs Kay Crossling, Mr Kevin Buckle and Mrs Doris MacMillan.

Mr Hutchinson, who taught at the school for 30 years, was deputy head for the last nine. He had been acting head since Mr Ian Weare retired at Easter. He told the Mercury he was looking forward to spending more time with his wife Evelyn at their caravan in the

Lake District. He also hopes to have more time to devote to gardening, walking and some of the other things he enjoys.

His fondest memories are of his earliest teaching days when there was less emphasis on paperwork. "It was much better when we were in the classrooms instead of attending to all the administrative duties," he said.

Mr Ben Johnson, who lives in Staindrop with his wife Lynda, said he looked forward to recuperating from 29 years of teaching art. He will still be at the school for a half day of photography lessons each week.

Information technology teacher Mr Frank Holmes has taken early retirement after 26 years teaching while head of English Mr Phil Hodgson has moved to a new post at Park View School in Chester-le-Street after four years at



Staindrop.

Mr Kevin Buckle and his wife Barbara have 44 years service between them. Mr Buckle taught maths and was head of the junior school. He has been appointed to an advisory post in personal and social development for the

Suffolk education authority. Mrs Buckle has a new job at a school in Ipswich.

Mrs Kay Crossling taught maths and geography for three years at Staindrop and is moving to a new job at Branksome School in Darlington.

Science teacher and special

needs co-ordinator Mrs Doris MacMillan is giving up the classroom after 14 years at Staindrop for acroft in the Hebrides. She is planning to join her husband Dougald, a former head of maths, on the islands when their daughter Elspeth has finished school.



Mrs Gill Shea was given an emotional send-off by pupils, parents and teachers at Staindrop Primary School at the end of term. She was presented with numerous gifts to mark her early retirement from teaching after 17 years.

She is pictured with head teacher Mrs Jennie Brown, vice chairman of governors Mrs Ann Graham and some of the members of staff who wished her well. Her husband Alan is also in the photograph along with Miss Sarah Teasdale, Mrs Dorothy Jones, Mrs Wendy Wood, Mrs Heather Maughan, Mrs Jean Wright, Mrs Carol Dougherty, Mrs Ma-

Gill Shea enjoys a warm send-off and RAF flypast right on time

vis Tarn, Mrs Jackie Kellett, Mrs Pam Denman, Mr Martin Wood and Mr Harry Richards.

Mrs Shea, who first met head teacher Mrs Brown when they were at school together as pupils, was given a framed item of embroidery made by Pauline Wood. She also received a suitcase for her planned travels. She is looking forward to taking it easy in the Canaries while her former col-

leagues receive a visit from an Ofsted inspection team.

Her gifts were presented at the end of the school sports day. She was even given the honour of an RAF flypast, although the pilots of two jets which flew overhead at just the right moment will have had little idea of what was going on below.

Mrs Shea is a keen gardener and plans to spend more time in an allotment her husband bought for her last Christmas. She won't be allowed to forget her former pupils though. The school staff are putting together a photograph album to remember them by.



Jane Katsambis looks back on many happy school memories

Mrs Jane Katsambis looked back on almost eight years as head of Ingleton School with many fond memories as she prepared for a new post in Durham.

Her career spans 26 years since leaving Coventry College with her teaching qualifications. She lived in Cyprus for several years with her Greek-Cypriot husband Christos but they moved to England after the Turkish invasion of the northern part of the island.

She is pictured, holding flowers, on her last day at Ingleton with, from the left, school secretary Mrs Pat Nattress, teachers Mrs Judith Pressley, Mrs Christine Bainbridge, Mrs Marilyn Edwards, and pupils Amy Slack and Alex Matson.

Among the many gifts she received was a framed collage of drawings of all the pupils to remember them by. Alex is holding it in the picture. She was also presented with a stone bird bath for her garden.

She told the Mercury that she was looking forward to her new job at St Hilda's School in Durham but was sad to be leaving Ingleton. "I love this school but I felt it was time to hand over to someone else," she said.

Her fondest memory will be of the warmth and support of people in the village. "There

are so many smiling faces here," she said. "The pupils get a wonderful start in life. This really is a special school in every way. I might not realise just how special it is until after I leave."

She enjoyed a hectic end of term, during which she met Prince Charles at Highgrove House in Gloucestershire. An outstanding Ofsted report has been noticed in high places and she joined other head teachers from top schools in the region to explain their success. Education minister David Blunkett was also there. The group was taken on a tour of the Highgrove gardens. "They were absolutely gorgeous," said Mrs Katsambis.

She also attended an event in Eaglescliffe with pupils Robert Watson, Claire Parker and Arisara Quinn. They were presented with a plaque by the government minister for standards in education, Steven Byers. A number of North East MPs were there to hear about the good work at Ingleton.

Mrs Katsambis has left a more lasting reminder of her days at Ingleton than the Highgrove fudge which parents were treated to at a special assembly. She has given a cup to be awarded each year to the pupil with the best record of academic achievement, behaviour and attitude. Its first winner, Arisara Quinn, was presented with it by Mrs Katsambis on her final day.

Pupils in Year 6 were each given a wildlife book by the Friends of Ingleton School as a leaving gift and memento of their time there.

Pat Craddock is given a balloon outing for two

Popular teacher Mrs Pat Craddock had a tear in her eye on the last day of term at Middleton School - as it marked her early retirement after 10 years of teaching there.

She is pictured being presented with a number of gifts at an assembly. With her are head teacher Mr Michael Harris and a few of the pupils who wished her good luck. Mr Harris was delighted to receive a display cabinet from Mrs Craddock as her going away gift.

Mrs Craddock told the Mercury she would miss her school colleagues and the children in her reception class. She is not



planning to take it easy in her retirement and has booked advance driving lessons to keep her busy.

One date she is looking for-

ward to is a champagne trip for two in a balloon, which was her present from the staff and pupils. Her husband Peter will enjoy the day with her.

Surprise party held to mark John Jackson's retirement

Mr John Jackson is pictured with some of the staff and pupils who wished him well on his retirement as head teacher of Evenwood School.

With him are Mrs Emma Morgan, nursery teachers Judith Booth and Gill Swinbank, and pupils Kurt Bailey, Lee Pearson, Donna Raine, Dale Forster, Tony McMahon, Lee Blackmore, Kayleigh Garthwaite, Ashleigh Cotterell, Julianne Todd, Amy Dunn, Michael Teasdale, Lisa Hutchinson and Christopher Hughes.

Mr Jackson was head teacher at Evenwood for 18 years after a spell as deputy head at a school in Willington. He was presented with several gifts to mark his retirement. They

included a miniature 1970 Triumph Herald Vanguard. It was a model of a real one he has at home in Toft Hill.

The former territorial army soldier told the Mercury he was sad to be stepping down after many happy years. He was delighted to be given a surprise farewell party. Former members of staff, governors and friends of the school were waiting to welcome him when he walked through the door with his wife Margaret.

The Rev George Liddle, chairman of the governors, and his predecessor Coun Raymond Gibson, gave short speeches before a buffet meal, a glass of wine or two and a toast, given by Mr Liddle. Mr



Jackson said he looked forward to spending more time in his garden and greenhouse, playing golf and pursuing his

artistic interests. He and his wife were presented with memberships for the National Trust and a cheque.

Mr John Hunt, head teacher at Bowes School, is to take over his post until a new appointment is made.

A flavour of Italy for guild ladies

Mr Roger Peat gave an interesting demonstration of pasta making at the latest meeting of Barnard Castle Townswomen's Guild. He made delicious looking tagliatelle, shells, twists and lasagne sheets.

Members were enthusiastic in their comments regarding a previous speaker on the subject of computers. Thanks were expressed to Joan Bowron and Margaret Hodgson for playing in a bowls match at Bishop Auckland on a wet day.

Marie Down, a delegate at an NCM meeting at the Albert Hall in London, gave a good report. Evelyn Jenkinson, who went along as an observer, gave an account of the social side of the visit.

Mary Chapman will hold a coffee morning at 2 Albert Close on 14th August 10am-noon. Admission is 50p. There will be a cake stall, raffle and competitions. Money raised will go to Guild funds. Marie Down gave a report on the Barnard Castle Inner Wheel birthday meeting.

Postponed show

A concert by popular group Manson Grant and the Dynamos at Bowes Village Hall, postponed from the spring bank holiday to August bank holiday will not now take place until next year, due to unforeseen circumstances, said organiser Mrs Marjorie Hill. Publicity for the show, which raises money for research into multiple sclerosis, will be announced nearer the date.

Trial adjourned

Gary Marshall Kelly, 28, of Crook, had his trial adjourned by Teesdale magistrates. He is accused of handling stolen goods. A new date was to be set for his trial at Bishop Auckland Court.

Site for bollard

Following a decision to replace two damaged bollards on the village green at Staindrop, members of the parish council agreed to site a spare one near the Wheatsheaf Inn.

Conservatory Yes

Mr P. Lowe has been given planning permission by Teesdale Council to erect a conservatory at 10 Lilac Way, Southfield Park, Toft Hill.

Castle trip is enjoyed by history group

Members of Barnard Castle and District History Society enjoyed a trip to Raby Castle as part of their latest meeting. Raby has a long and interesting history going back to Cnut the Dane - Viking king of England, Denmark and Norway.

Raby Castle and the lands around Staindrop were returned to the Northumbrian Bishops of Durham by Cnut in the 11th century as a gesture of goodwill to the Angles of the north. Raby later passed into the hands of the influential Norman family, the Nevilles. They were the most important barons in the Bishopric from the 12th century onwards.

The famous rising of the north was plotted by the Nevilles in 1569, with the help of the equally powerful Percy family of Northumberland. Unfortunately the rising failed and Raby was confiscated by the crown.

In 1626 Raby became the seat of the Vanes, Earls of Darlington and Dukes of Cleveland. The present Lord Barnard is a member of this family. The castle contains fine paintings, furnishings and an important collection of Meissen porcelain. The gardens were lovely and it was a pleasure for members to see so much wildlife.

Members enjoyed their visit and many came away with fresh raspberries from the well stocked shop. The group's next meeting is a town walkabout with Alan Wilkinson, a favourite speaker. Members should wait by the fountain in Galgate at 6.30pm next Monday.

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