



Integrated education
Opening minds

Learning Together

Issue 26 Autumn/Winter

2015

News from the Integrated
Education Movement in
Northern Ireland

Welcome, Mallusk IPS!

The latest integrated school has opened in Newtownabbey as Mallusk Integrated Primary School embarks on its journey of transformation.



The Department of Education earlier this year approved Mallusk Primary School's development proposal to become integrated, to the delight of Governors, staff, pupils and parents. The transformation process began with a campaign which opened in April 2014 in response to the widespread wish to see integrated education in the area.

This brings the number of integrated schools in Northern Ireland to 63 with, in addition, Loughries Primary near Newtownards due to transform next September.

Acting Principal of Mallusk IPS Susan Kinsella said "We are delighted that we can now build on our caring and inclusive ethos and commitment to welcoming pupils from all backgrounds. Our school has been at the heart of the local community for almost 80 years and we believe strongly that we can provide a quality, inclusive education for the children of this area."

Mallusk IPS is inviting all local parents of primary-aged children to find out more about the integrated ethos and the school's

commitment to nurturing children of all backgrounds and cultures. For more information you can go to www.malluskintegratedprimary.co.uk or contact Mrs Kinsella at Mallusk IPS on 028 9034 2038.

The autumn term has seen a significant increase in places in integrated education with double enrolment beginning at Forge Integrated Primary School and 20 additional places at Ulidia Integrated College, which will grow to an enrolment of 620 students in response to local demand.

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Dolly brings her library to Cliftonville IPS

Young people take a message to Stormont

Area based planning process under fire

Newcomer families welcomed at integrated schools



Killyleagh Primary School in County Down held a fun day to spread awareness of its bid to become integrated. After a ballot of parents found a majority in favour of transformation, a steering group has been established which has submitted a development proposal to the South Eastern region of the Education Authority for a change of status to 'Controlled Integrated.'

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EDUCATION FUND

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Figures show demand continues

Lagan College in Belfast has been revealed as the most over-subscribed school in Northern Ireland. Whilst there are still hundreds of thousands of empty desks in schools of all types across Northern Ireland, recent figures show that in contrast Lagan College had 423 first preference applications for 200 places for September this year.

Two of the ten most over-subscribed primary schools in Northern Ireland are Portadown Integrated Primary School and Loughview Integrated Primary School. Portadown IPS had 29 more first-preference applications than there are places in Year 1 – it was over-subscribed by 100%. A development proposal to double the enrolment at Portadown IPS was turned down in 2014, with the pledge that the Department of Education would work with the Northern Ireland Council for Integrated Education (NICIE) to consider other ways of meeting the demand for integrated school places in the area. The school has re-submitted their development proposal.

The figures were published in response to a question in the Assembly from Samuel Gardner MLA.

Commenting on the statistics, IEF Chief Executive Tina Merron said:



Lagan College

“The surplus first-preference applications in the three highlighted schools alone would start another large college and two additional primary schools. We have been celebrating some growth in integrated

school places this year but we still have a long way to go to meet public demand for education which sees children of all backgrounds learn, play and grow together as a matter of course.”

Integrated nursery a first for Phoenix IPS

The IEF is proud to have made a contribution to the development of the new nursery unit at Phoenix IPS in Cookstown. Supporters from the American Ireland Fund, together with a loan from the IEF, helped to provide essential play equipment and furniture to accompany the new state-of-the-art building. Phoenix is the first ever integrated nursery unit to have been established with capital funding from day one from the Department of Education. Previously, the IEF had to step in to fund initial capital costs for a playgroup in advance of applying for nursery status with the support of NICIE Development Officers.



Kate Keys (Governors' Chair) Lord Dubs, Baroness Blood and Principal Heather Watson at Phoenix IPS

This was an extra special achievement for Phoenix in its 10th Anniversary year. Lord Alf Dubs, who spent two years in Cookstown as a young boy after being evacuated during the war, and Baroness May Blood joined the celebrations back in June.



Education Minister John O'Dowd visited Acorn Integrated Primary School in Carrickfergus in May as a £1million refurbishment project got underway. Funding through the DE School Enhancement Programme will provide a three-classroom extension and develop a new play area.



Dolly Parton shares her love of reading with Cliftonville IPS

Country and Western legend Dolly Parton sent a special message to children at Cliftonville Integrated Primary School in North Belfast as it officially launched the first Dolly Parton's Imagination Library (DPIIL) in Northern Ireland.

The school was in party mood as the community gathered to mark the occasion with music and, of course, a story. A pupil read out a personal letter from Dolly who wrote: "For years I have wanted my Imagination Library to be a part of your children's lives and now my dream has come true - all because of you."

The DPIIL provides every child under the age of five at Cliftonville IPS with a book each month, sent to their home.

The scheme has been running successfully across the globe for several years and, following an introduction from local TV and radio producer Ian Dougan, the IEF's Carson Awards Programme was keen to sponsor the scheme for Cliftonville IPS.

The school was delighted to welcome Tony and Majella Carson, Baroness May Blood of the IEF and Kirsteen Watson from the Dollywood Foundation UK. Entertainer and IEF supporter May McFettridge read the story of "Peter Rabbit" to the assembled children before joining the P4 class on stage for a special rendition of the Dolly classic "9 to 5"!

Cliftonville IPS Principal Brenda McMullen thanked the Carson family for supporting the school and said:

"Reading and imparting a love of books are some of the most important things we can do for our children. I know our pupils will benefit enormously from the scheme and it's a privilege to be part of the first DPIIL in Northern Ireland."



Baroness May Blood, May McFettridge and pupil Georgia Gawley welcome "Dolly Parton" to Cliftonville IPS

Carson Awards showcase celebrates talented pupils



Parkhall IC students with their winning work and (l-r) Dan Gordon, Majella Carson, Tony Carson and teacher Cathy McIvor



Fort Hill IC pupils with the winning project they completed at Fort Hill IPS. Also pictured (l-r) Amelia Deehan and Roy Snodden of Crumlin Road Gaol, Baroness May Blood, Fort Hill IPS Principal Clive Anderson, Noreen Kavanagh from Crumlin Road Gaol, Susan Jones from Fort Hill IPS and Tony Carson

Talented students from around Northern Ireland gathered at Hazelwood Integrated College in September to celebrate creativity in integrated schools. The annual showcase of the Carson Awards Programme was, as ever, a display of excellent music, art and film-making with 14 integrated primary schools and colleges represented.

Guests were welcomed to the school to the sound of the New-Bridge Integrated College African Djembe Drum group. Then singers from Hazelwood IC were joined by friends from St Malachy's College Belfast in the "Voices in Unity" choir whose performance was a great example of harmony in every sense.

The IEF's Carson Awards Programme offers prizes and bursaries for projects on the theme of "What integration means to me". The Awards are named after the great Northern Ireland comedian, the late Frank Carson, and his son Tony who financially supports the programme, alongside friends of the Carson family.

The audience at the showcase enjoyed presentations by integrated schools from all over Northern Ireland before

trophies and certificates were presented by actor and director Dan Gordon and Majella Carson, Frank's daughter. Guests also heard from Baroness May Blood, IEF Campaign Chair.

Thanks go to everyone at Hazelwood IC for hosting the event and providing a truly warm welcome to the visitors.

At the Carson Awards showcase, Tony Carson announced that he would continue his support for the IEF with further funding of a hugely significant gift of £100,000. The Fund is delighted and grateful for this fantastic donation to help our work to grow integrated education in Northern Ireland.



Pupils from Hazelwood IC and Enniskillen IPS join Baroness Blood as she thanks Tony Carson for his additional donation to the IEF

Politicians should hear young voices



IEF Campaign Chair, Baroness May Blood MBE

How are we supposed to feel when we hear a huge majority of young people – all born after the Good Friday Agreement – say they are growing up in a divided society?

The ARK Young Life and Times survey, involving more than a thousand 16 year-olds, revealed that 81% believe that the people in Northern Ireland are divided by religion. The survey also highlights that over 75% of those questioned want to see more integration in terms of religion, whilst 61% say there should be more integration in terms of the schools people attend.

And the IEF also found, through surveys and face-to-face engagement with youth

organisations, that only a minority are growing up in a 'mixed' area.

These young people have grown up since that historic document was signed by leaders and endorsed by voters in 1998. Their views are a shaming indictment of our collective failure to build cohesion and to meet the challenges involved in bringing all sides of the community together.

The message from the IEF's "Young People's Voices" project is that young people are willing to mix and learn from each other, an attitude which is not reflected adequately in policy or practice in the Northern Ireland education system.

A majority thinks there should be more integration in education and

most say they would hope to send any future children they have to a school which is mixed religion. Yet current integrated education provision is inadequate: in spite of the 1989 Education Order and the Good Friday Agreement, which endorsed the role of integrated education in building a united community, we have only 63 integrated schools in Northern Ireland, none created by government policy but each one a product of a grassroots campaign.

There is clear disconnection between the aspirations of young people and the discourse of "them and us" politics that we've been served up since the signing of the Agreement. As the next generation of voters grows up, politicians would do well to listen to them.



To a student of Erne Integrated College, Wednesday 16th September was a momentous and special day in the history of our school, as we had the honour of welcoming President Michael Higgins and his wife Sabina.

Michael D. Higgins, diminutive in stature, is a giant of common-sense and passionate faith in a better future, a future we can all achieve if only we have the courage to work tirelessly towards it.

Listening to President Higgins speak – and he spoke with such articulation and benevolence – it is clear that his main focus is not political gain, he is a true visionary who has in his heart the welfare of each and every citizen on this island. He spoke of the history of our town and the loss in our community in the time of the Troubles; however his focus on the past served only to contextualise the present process of reconciliation within our society.

I found myself captivated by President Higgins' sense of connection and insight into the residue of such a complex and often sensitive issue as peace-making. Whilst of course, there are many physical manifestations of the progress we are currently making towards an equitable and healed society, such as a fair and just parliament and political system, integrated housing estates and education, what struck me was his focus on human interaction as the main determinant in shaping a more tolerant, outward-looking and truly reconciled Northern Ireland.

As a friend of mine has commented, it was interesting to note that unlike many politicians who speak of reconciliation, President Higgins also spoke of forgiveness. It is important for us to recognise that both are vital for the progression of our society and one can only ever truly exist and thrive with the other.

After quoting Gordon Wilson here in Enniskillen almost thirty years ago – "I will bear no grudge. I will bear no ill-will" – the President concluded his speech stating "these words ensured that Enniskillen would become a place associated, not just with great tragedy, but also with an extraordinary and generous spirit of forgiveness."

For me it was a truly enlightening experience to hear first-hand a national leader speak – or plead even – with candour, humility and wisdom about the perilous pathway to peace.

Maeve Gallagher (Erne Integrated College)



Join us online for daily discussions, polls and debates on the latest education topics that matter to you. Have your say on the big issues by joining up on www.facebook.com/IntegratedEducationFund or by following us at www.twitter.com/iefni Please help us to spread the word by encouraging your friends to join too!

Young voices speak at Stormont

Young people growing up since the Belfast/Good Friday Agreement are still acutely aware of divisions in everyday life in Northern Ireland - and they want those divisions broken down.

An IEF engagement project with 16-24 year olds in Northern Ireland found that the majority see themselves as living in a divided society and want political leaders to do more to address that situation. The Fund sought the views of thousands of young people through independent surveys and face-to-face meetings over two years. The result, the 'Young People's Voices' report, was presented at Stormont in September at an event sponsored by MLAs Stephen Agnew, Michael McGimpsey and Fra McCann and hosted by radio presenter Pete Snodden.

The Fund's work with independent researchers, community groups and individuals has found a generation growing up divided. Many young people feel that they are affected negatively by segregation in housing and education, and also feel let down by the education system when it comes to the jobs market.

In her foreword to the report, NI Children's Commissioner Koulla Yiasouma says the document sends a strong message to politicians:

"This report provides an important contribution to the debate we must have in Northern Ireland about the type of education system we need going forward. The young people have clearly stated that "doing nothing" is not an option; they are calling for a more integrated community and an education system that does not divide them on the basis of religion, gender or class and which gives them the best opportunities to



The panel at the Stormont launch of the IEF Young People's Voices report: (l-r) Fergal McFerran, Reece Carlin, Georgia Grainger and Jake Proctor

realise their potential...We, as a society, ignore their voices at our peril."

Jake Proctor, 18, a past pupil of Strangford Integrated College, presented the findings on behalf of the IEF and was joined by Reece Carlin of Youth Action, Georgia Grainger of the Young Greens NI and Fergal McFerran, President of NUS-USI to discuss the report.

The full report can be seen at www.ief.org.uk



The ARK YLT survey asked 16 year-olds for the first three words which came to mind regarding politics in NI

Move faster on integration, NI Executive told

There have been strong messages from several quarters that the pace of education reform in Northern Ireland is too slow.

The Stormont government has been criticised for its lack of progress on integrated education in a report to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC).

The report was compiled by the Children's Law Centre and Save the Children and endorsed by 58 groups working for and with young people across Northern Ireland. It points out that "The failure of the Government to plan for and resource the establishment of integrated schools has meant that the status quo of segregated education has been preserved."

The report was published at an event at Stormont on 01 October and presented in Geneva the following week.

In June, the Auditor General said the schools system is operating with tens of thousands of empty desks, despite the over-capacity having been identified years ago. The NI Audit Office "Sustainability of Schools" report goes on to identify the structure of the education system, with multiple sectors running schools, as one of the factors working against a sustainable schools network.

The Area Based Planning process has also come in for criticism – both in the Auditor's report and from Stormont's own Education Committee. The Committee presented a position paper on education planning in June. Recognising that the model used promotes de facto segregation in the system, the position paper says that the model should be revised "...so as to recognise the increasingly diverse school population and ...so as to promote increased mixing in schools."



Best wishes to Noreen Campbell on her retirement

as chief executive of NICIE. Noreen was a founder parent and teacher of Hazelwood Integrated College and became principal in 1996. Having joined NICIE in 2009, Noreen has led NICIE's contributions to a number of consultations and to Education Committee Inquiries, most notably the recent Inquiry into Shared and Integrated Education. Noreen has also worked to spread the integrated ethos in schools throughout Northern Ireland and maintained links with international partners.



Integrated education: an international movement

Paula McIlwaine and Paul Caskey from the IEF were pleased to facilitate a visit in September by a 13-strong delegation from Croatia.

The aim was to learn about the education system in Northern Ireland, with the focus on integrated schools. The tour built on relationships first forged at the international conference on integrated education organised by NICIE, the IEF and Queen's University in Belfast in 2012.

Representatives of national and local government and of Nansen Centre Dialogue (a non-governmental organisation supporting cross-community initiatives) travelled to Northern Ireland along with educationalists and Croatian journalists. They met key figures in NI government and education including Baroness May Blood, DEL Minister Stephen Farry and Colette Fitzgerald, head of the EC office in Belfast. The visitors also travelled to Hazelwood, Oakgrove and Roe Valley Integrated Primary Schools and Lagan College. The group was especially interested to meet a number of the founding parents of integrated schools.

Birthday celebrations at integrated schools

Cedar Integrated Primary School in Crossgar has been marking its 20th birthday with a series of celebrations. Founders and past pupils, staff and governors gathered on 24 September to hear a series of reminiscences on how the school was founded. Guests also enjoyed music and drama from current pupils, a photo exhibition and an address by Baroness May Blood, IEF Campaign Chair.

The school was opened to everyone the following afternoon when pupils performed a play, "Building Bridges" and on Saturday 27 September the school was in party mood with a fun day involving food, games, stalls and music.



Young actors at Cedar IPS browse the 20th anniversary exhibition



Anna Caskey and Elsa Van Stratten of Challoos Roast at Forge Integrated Primary School's summer barbecue, which launched a series of events to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the school's opening in South Belfast. Forge IPS was one of the first two integrated primaries in Northern Ireland, opening the same year as Hazelwood IPS.



Baroness Blood with current and founder governors at Cedar IPS

To celebrate their 20th Anniversary, New-Bridge Integrated College held an open week from Monday 28 September. Members of the New-Bridge community were joined by special guests and members of the public in a series of events.

Thanks to the determination and vision of parents from Banbridge and Newry, New-Bridge Integrated College opened in 1995 with founding Principal Peter Agnew, seven teaching staff, a caretaker, College secretary and 75 pupils. Twenty years on, the College enrolment has grown to 600 pupils and more than 70 teaching and non-teaching staff and this year the school welcomed the children of two of the original students from 1995.



Some of the founder pupils return to celebrate New-bridge IC's 20th birthday

Founding Principal Peter Agnew and Founding Chair Norah Connolly as New-bridge IC takes shape in 1995



A present from birthday boy Gerald

Massive thanks (and congratulations) go to long-standing IEF supporter Gerald Steinberg after his recent birthday celebrations raised money for the Fund.

Gerald was marking a special birthday and asked guests at his party to donate to the IEF in lieu of gifts. This resulted in a substantial sum to help the Fund in our work supporting integrated schools and campaigning to grow integrated education in Northern Ireland.

Gerald is pictured with pupils at Glenraig IPS.

Taking the campaign to Dublin

Representatives of the IEF and NICIE travelled to Dublin in July to present to the Oireachtas Joint Committee on the Implementation of the Good Friday Agreement. That Agreement stated: *“An essential aspect of the reconciliation process ... includes initiatives to facilitate and encourage integrated education and mixed housing.”*

Tina Merron, Chief Executive of the IEF, and the Fund’s Campaign Director Paul Caskey accompanied Clíodhna Scott-Wills of NICIE, Nigel Frith (NICIE Director and Principal of Drumragh Integrated College) and Jake Proctor, a former pupil at Strangford Integrated College.



Top marks for Mr Scott

Cranmore Integrated Primary School children have been learning with a winning teacher. Andrew Scott’s work with P3 earned him the Ni4Kids “Primary School Teacher of the Year” title in June.

Mr Scott arrived at Cranmore IPS last September to cover a maternity leave and quickly proved a hit. He was nominated for the award by parents who described him as ‘a breath of fresh air’. The young teacher set up a science lab, a weather station and a Zumba class for pupils and their families.

The Primary School Teacher award is run by Ni4Kids magazine and sponsored by Forestside Centre.

Welcoming the guests, Chairman of the Committee Frank Feighan TD said:

“On our frequent visits to Northern Ireland ... this Committee is acutely aware of how deeply divided much of society remains. Integrated education provides a vehicle to break that cycle.”

The witnesses pointed out the lack of progress on integrated education and Tina Merron outlined IEF projects to engage communities in discussions about the future structure of education for their area. The NICIE representatives pointed out that building for the future is as important as dealing with the past. The delegates expressed the hope that the Committee would join them in calling for an independent commission to examine and reform the education system in Northern Ireland.

Committee members accepted an invitation to see integrated education in action and will visit Strangford Integrated College and Hazelwood Integrated Primary School in December.

Make your voice heard!

The impact of the Shared Education Bill and the forthcoming review of integrated education will shape the focus of education policy for the foreseeable future. It’s critical that your voice is heard loud and clear in the debate on education reform in Northern Ireland. The Education Committee will consider the Shared Education Bill this month and will invite contributions from stakeholders. In addition, a review of the DE policy on integrated education is planned and the Minister is currently considering the membership of an independent panel to carry out the review.

In both cases integrated education campaigners are urged to get involved, through formal submissions, letters in the press or by contacting your local politicians.

Make your voice heard! See www.ief.org.uk for updates.

Not enough integrated education in Stormont report

There was widespread disappointment within the Integrated Education Movement when the Education Committee published the report of its inquiry into shared and integrated education.

The report follows several months of taking evidence, including a substantial portion relating to integrated education, but integrated education is not reflected proportionately in the recommendations made by the Committee.

The Committee recognises the good practice in integrated schools but its only recommendation relating directly to integrated education is to establish a review of the Department’s own strategy regarding the development of integrated education.

The Education Minister John O’Dowd responded

“I have agreed to commission a review of the future planning and development of integrated education. It will examine how to support the effective growth and development of the integrated education sector into the 21st Century...” The review will be carried out by an independent panel of experts.

Chief Executive of NICIE Noreen Campbell said the Education Committee report was a missed opportunity:

“The report focuses on Shared Education with only passing and inaccurate reference to integrated education and with one associated recommendation. Shared Education proposes a method for ensuring children spend some time learning together during their school career. A simpler and more direct approach would have been to recommend active support and incentivisation of integrated education, where children are educated together on a daily basis as the norm.”



Nancy Eaton and Connor Caskey from Lagan College mingled with dignitaries and celebrities as they rounded off a week’s work experience with the IEF by attending the US Consul General’s Fourth of July Garden Party. Throughout the week Nancy worked alongside the advocacy team at the IEF whilst Connor was busy researching potential donors for the fundraising campaign. The last thing they expected was to end the week by meeting Frank Lampard and Christine Bleakley! Special thanks to the staff at the Consulate for inviting the students to the celebration.

US support helps the youngest pupils



Glengormley IPS pre-school, set up with help from the American Ireland Fund

The IEF is very grateful to the American Ireland Fund (AIF), which has made a generous gift of \$100,000 to support our work. The donation, supported by the Eithne and Paddy Fitzpatrick Memorial Fund, was announced at the AIF 40th Anniversary Gala in New York in May, and the new playgroup facility at Glengormley Integrated Primary School has been one of the chief beneficiaries.

Baroness May Blood and Paul Caskey of the IEF were in New York for the gala, which is the largest of the 100 global events hosted annually by The Worldwide Ireland Funds. The gala raised a staggering \$4.3 million for the Promising Ireland Campaign.

Special guest was Senator George Mitchell, who spoke of the significance of integrated education in developing a united future for Northern Ireland, and paid tribute specifically to Baroness Blood for her role in peace-building.

John Fitzpatrick OBE, Chairman of the American Ireland Fund and a long-standing supporter of integrated education, also held a special reception in honour of Baroness Blood during her visit.

Cranmore IPS celebrates with Irish-American friend

Irish American philanthropist Kevin Curley flew into Northern Ireland in June to celebrate the development of a new £200,000 Children's Centre at Cranmore Integrated Primary School.

Kevin Curley, an entrepreneur who lives in Dallas, Texas, will be providing £100,000 towards the cost of the new Children's Centre through the American Ireland Fund. Further contributions from the IEF and from the school itself helped open the new facility which will enable Cranmore IPS to offer day-long care to children of all backgrounds and traditions.

Kevin has been a long-standing supporter of integrated education. Each year he hosts a charity golf tournament- the 'Shamrock Shootout' - which raises money for the Integrated Education Fund. Speaking about his relationship with Cranmore, which spans more than 12 years, he said:

"I love visiting this school whenever I get the opportunity to come to Belfast. I can see it going from strength to strength. Integrated education has such an important part to play in building a more reconciled and peaceful society where children can grow, learn and play together. Every time I come to Cranmore I get such a warm welcome; I am proud to be associated with such a successful and caring school."



Principal William Doherty (l) and pupils welcome Kevin Curley to Cranmore IPS

US Ambassador talks politics and policy

Young people at Lagan College in Belfast welcomed Matthew W Barzun, Ambassador of the United States of America to the UK, to their school in May.

Ambassador Barzun was greeted by senior students and the principal, Amanda McNamee, and went on to meet Year 11 pupils. The Ambassador engaged his audience in a fascinating discussion of perceptions of US politics and policy. He was also able to hear something of the development of the college and the history and progress of integrated education.

Previously an internet pioneer, Ambassador Barzun has served on the boards of many non-profit organisations with a focus on education, public policy and interfaith relations.

The Integrated Education Movement very much appreciates the continued support of the United States for our work.



Ambassador Barzun addresses students at Lagan College

Young singers unite in North Belfast

The IEF is delighted to be associated with a new project in North Belfast, which is building a musical partnership of young people from all sections of the community alongside top arts professionals.

Musician Barry Douglas and Camerata Ireland are supporting the project, which will develop local choral talent whilst projecting a positive image of the area. Funding to date has come from the IEF (through the Trust Programme) and the Turnaround Foundation.

With 11 post-primary schools in North Belfast, Harmony North has the potential to unite thousands of young people as well as associated staff, parents and the wider community.

The choir will be led by renowned choral director Donal Doherty and acclaimed poet Michael Longley CBE will write a

“Harmony North” anthem. There are already performances planned including

an appearance at the Kennedy Center in Washington DC next year.



Barry Douglas launches “Harmony North”

Showcase of harmony as singers celebrate integrated education

Hundreds of music lovers enjoyed two concerts in Belfast in early May staged in support of the Integrated Education Fund.

Continuing their treasured relationship with the IEF, Donaghadee Male Voice Choir (DMVC) invited special friends from Yorkshire - the Barnburgh Male Voice Choir and Thurnscoe Village Singers - to join them at the Crumlin Road Gaol on Friday 01 May for a fundraising performance.

The following evening the three groups appeared at the Ulster Hall, this time adding “Voices in Unison” – a choir formed by young singers from Hazelwood Integrated College and St Malachy’s College in Belfast - to the bill. Special guest was BBC’s The Voice 2013 winner, Andrea Begley.

The Ulster Hall show united choristers with an age range of 12 to 90 and offered an equally broad range of music.

Shortly afterwards the Fund received the sad news that choir leader and conductor Robert Wilson had died suddenly. We were grateful and touched to receive a donation in August at the choir rehearsal room in Donaghadee which has been named in Robert’s honour.

The Integrated Education Fund thanks all performers for their support and their fine demonstration of collaboration and harmony.



Belfast punk legends’ generosity continues

Stiff Little Fingers will be marking 25 years of St Patrick’s Day gigs in Glasgow next year and, thanks to the band’s continuing support, the IEF will be part of the celebrations.

The rock legends have developed a tradition of playing at Glasgow’s Barrowland Ballroom on 17 March and will produce a DVD of the 2016 live show – the 25th at this venue. To get the project off the ground, SLF has been inviting pledges of interest from fans. They can pre-order the forthcoming album or DVD and also choose from a range of special commemorative merchandise and treats. The great news for the Fund is that 5% of all money raised above the target will go to help our work.

Last year the IEF benefitted to the tune of £5,000 from a similar pledge campaign for the band’s album, “No Going Back”. The IEF is very grateful to Stiff Little Fingers and their fans for their contribution to growing integrated education in Northern Ireland.



Congratulations to Kathryn Glover, P3 teacher at Cedar Integrated Primary School, who won three gold and two silver medals in different swimming events at the World Transplant Games in Argentina in August.



Chloe McArthur of Ulidia Integrated College has proved her aim is true by winning three separate NI Field Archery Association championships this year. After only three years in the sport, Chloe is NIFAA 3D champion, Indoor Champion and Hunter/Field Champion 2015.

Better playtimes thanks to Newman's Own

The generosity of the Newman's Own Foundation means children with special educational needs at three integrated primary schools will benefit from new specialised play equipment.

The Foundation recognises that supporting children with a range of special needs and learning difficulties is an integral part of an inclusive and integrated learning environment.

Roe Valley, Carhill and Maine Integrated Primary Schools will all benefit from a Newman's Own Foundation grant. These schools have significant numbers of pupils with additional needs and their resources are under pressure as enrolments grow.

At Roe Valley IPS and Maine IPS, the grant will help the development of Learning Support Rooms by providing resources to assist pupils with multi-sensory, physical and emotional needs. At Carhill IPS, outdoor play space will be adapted and improved to be more suitable for children with special educational needs/behavioural difficulties.

Special thanks go to our great friends Burgess and Patricia Winter who kindly recommended the IEF for support from the Foundation.

Tom is new QUB Chancellor

The IEF extends its warmest congratulations to Thomas J Moran on becoming the 10th Chancellor of Queen's University Belfast.

An Irish-American businessman, Tom has been a great supporter of the work of the IEF and a friend to the peace process, as one of several unofficial peace envoys to Northern Ireland during the 1990s. Baroness Blood and Paul Caskey were honoured to attend his inauguration ceremony where Vice-Chancellor Professor Patrick Johnston described Tom as 'someone who recognises the transformative effect education has on the world around us.'

Integrated schools all at sea with Stena Line day trip

Ten schools took to the seas on a series of special Stena Line educational trips during June. The ferry company invited integrated schools around Northern Ireland to come on board and sample their services as an end-of-term treat.

Each of the trips involved a non-landing cruise with a private visit to the captain on the control deck and a learning session in the vessel's interactive pods. The children also enjoyed a treasure hunt on board and a guided tour explaining the various jobs and roles involved in making the journey as smooth as possible.



Pupils from Saints and Scholars Integrated Primary School enjoy their educational day aboard with Stena Line

The community at the thriving Glencraig Integrated Primary School in Holywood was joined by integrated education supporters at a special day to celebrate the completion of extensive building work and new facilities.

Guests included Baroness May Blood, Campaign Chair of the Integrated Education Fund, and IEF supporters Gerard Steinberg and Terry Cross, whose generosity has helped integrated schools grow and develop. The P7 House Captains guided visitors around the smart new learning spaces and P1 children told how they benefit from the school's buddy system for the younger pupils.



IEF supporters Paddy and Rose Donnelly took time out during a family holiday earlier this year to visit Carhill and Roe Valley Integrated Primary Schools. The Donnellys are long-standing supporters of the IEF and as well as sponsoring IEF events and the Carson Awards Programme the family has helped develop the Integrated Education Alumni Association. The Donnellys are pictured at Carhill IPS.



Thousands enjoy a stroll down Scarecrow Avenue

Twenty-three carefully crafted characters braved the mixed weather in early May as children at integrated primary schools created 'Scarecrow Avenue' at the Allianz Garden Show Ireland.

Thousands of visitors admired the handiwork from 17 integrated primary schools at the festival of flowers and food at Antrim Castle Gardens. The scarecrows were entries in a competition sponsored by Allianz for integrated primary schools and co-ordinated by the IEF.

The winners were:

Best overall: **Lough View IPS** - 'Mr Scare Grow'

Most Colourful & Fun: **Maine IPS** - 'The Joker'

Best Traditional: **Forge IPS** - 'Gone with the wind'

Scariest: **Six Mile IPS** - 'Jeepers Creepers'

Most Eco-Friendly: **Maine IPS** - 'Maiden Maine'

Highly Commended: **Kilbroney IPS** - 'Sally Seaweed';

Ballycastle IPS - 'Mr Rusty Pipe'; **Six Mile IPS** - 'Beetle Juice'; **Ballycastle IPS** - 'Miss Rayne-Bo'

It was a fantastic display and each scarecrow made a major contribution to the event. The IEF is grateful to Damien O'Neill and Nick Crawford at Allianz for sponsoring the competition and to everyone at Garden Show Ireland for their continuing support.

Prizes of trees and flower boxes will be awarded to the winners at a special ceremony at the CAFRE Greenmount campus in November and thanks go to Martin Wooster of CAFRE for his generosity in donating the prizes.



Lough View IPS's star scarecrow

IEF hosts Google's PR expert

Peter Barron, IEF supporter and Director of Communications and Public Affairs for Google, was our special guest at a business breakfast held at the Ulster Bank Headquarters in Belfast in May. Peter, a native of Belfast, discussed the opportunities which technology offers and the importance of education in today's world.

Peter was welcomed to the IEF's business breakfast by Ellvena Graham, the outgoing Head of Ulster Bank NI, and was introduced by IEF Campaign President David Montgomery who travelled from London especially to attend the event.

Jake goes to Dallas

IEF supporters and donors in Texas have heard first-hand about the benefits of integrated education as alumnus Jake Proctor joined an IEF visit to Dallas. Jake, a past Head Boy at Strangford IC, has recently embarked on a course at Queen's University Belfast but he took time out to accompany IEF Fundraising Manager Brian Small on his annual trip to meet some of the IEF's generous friends in Texas.

The IEF pair took the opportunity to thank donors at the annual "Shamrock Shootout" charity golf tournament in Dallas, hosted by valued supporter Kevin Curley to raise money for causes close to his heart.

Past pupils promote integrated education around the UK

The Integrated Education Alumni Association marked the end of a successful academic year with a barbecue in Belfast. It was a chance to relax with old and new friends after a busy period promoting integrated education. The Association also brings former pupils together socially, with groups now in London, Belfast, Liverpool and Edinburgh. The network is continually expanding and any past pupils interested in joining can contact Ronan McCay Ronan@ief.org.uk

Eton summer school opportunity for Northern Ireland pupils

Students at integrated colleges have earned places at a prestigious summer school designed to give an insight into university life and further study.

The Eton College 'Universities Summer School' (ECUSS) began in 1982 to offer an 11-day residential course to state school pupils after their first year of sixth form. The costs are significantly subsidised by Eton College and, as well as classes and private study, students also attend evening seminars and lectures exploring ethical and cultural issues and use the school's extensive sports facilities.

Scott McIvor, from Drumragh Integrated College, says he would recommend the experience to anyone aspiring to further education:

"I really benefited from the team of undergraduates throughout the course. They provided plenty of support; whether on the work we were doing or telling us about university life, they were keen to give as much insight and encouragement as possible. The

teachers were enthusiastic and had prepared a range of engaging, inspiring lessons...they made me think about topics in ways I would not have done before."

Applications for the 2016 session of the ECUSS must be in by 01 March next year. A-level students at integrated schools are particularly encouraged to apply and the co-ordinator in Northern Ireland, John Young, will be happy to provide further information: john.young8@ntlworld.com



Scott McIvor with Eton College Vice Provost Dr Andrew Gailey outside the college's chapel

Children's Commissioner meets newcomer families at Malone College

Koulla Yiasouma, Commissioner for Children and Young People, saw integration in action at Malone College when she visited their Saturday School for newcomer and minority ethnic families.

The Saturday School is a response to the increasing diversity within both the community and the college. Lessons use role play and conversation to practice spoken English and the aim is to increase parents' confidence so that they are better prepared to engage with their children's education and more able to socialise and work in Northern Ireland. Families benefit from a bus service which picks participants up at key stops in South Belfast and there is a crèche facility where younger children enjoy structured play whilst parents attend classes.

The Saturday School is a pilot scheme supported by the IEF through funding from the Open Society Foundations and runs until the end of the autumn term. It is hoped that the programme may then be continued and extended.

Speaking during her visit to Malone College, Koulla Yiasouma said:



Koulla Yiasouma (seated, centre) with children and parents at Malone IC Saturday school

"I am delighted to see an inclusive focus developing in practice in the support Malone College is demonstrating. I hope the school receives further funding in

order to complete this commitment to extend educational access to families from diverse backgrounds."

Young people gather to challenge hate

As PSNI figures showed an increase in hate crimes in Belfast, pupils from five integrated schools gathered at Hazelwood Integrated Primary School in April to discuss ways of combatting racism and welcoming newcomers.

The school hosted a 'Communities in Dialogue' day with support from the Integrated Education Fund and the Open Society Foundations. This was one of a series of such events around Northern Ireland, and the first to be held at a primary school.

Guests included community representatives and Councillor John Blair, Deputy Mayor of Antrim and Newtownabbey. The pupils came from Hazelwood, Glengormley and Glencraig Integrated Primary Schools, and Lagan and Hazelwood Integrated Colleges.

The audience heard from children who had arrived from Poland and Romania. Their stories were hard-hitting but also inspiring as they told of how they had found friends and felt at home, often after initial difficulties. Staff from Hazelwood IPS talked about developing a school environment which is truly inclusive and welcoming to families from all cultures and backgrounds.

Participants then put questions to a panel including a PSNI Inspector, a representative of the Youth Justice Service and a researcher from Barnardo's. Everyone was asked to make a personal pledge to take action against discrimination and hate crime.



Hazelwood IPS children celebrate diversity