

## New Chair for the Fund

*The Integrated Education Fund is pleased to announce a new Chair of the Board of Trustees. Geraldine Tigchelaar OBE takes over from David Heyworth who steps down after two years in the position.*

Geraldine Tigchelaar is a former principal of Fort Hill Integrated College, served on the South Eastern Education Library Board and was a member of the Department of Education Working Party, Towards a Culture of Tolerance in Education.

On being appointed, Geraldine said "I am honoured to be the new Chair of the Fund: honoured as our former Chair's shoes are big ones to fill. David Heyworth oversaw many exciting developments and I hope that my term will be as successful as his was. I'm looking forward to working with all our educational partners in helping to build a world class education system in Northern Ireland."

Tina Merron, Director of the IEF, said "I am delighted Geraldine is taking on the role of the new Chair of the Fund. Her wealth of experience and expertise, gained through an extensive career in education, will prove invaluable as we work towards developing and growing Integrated Education in the future.



David Heyworth handing over the Chair to Geraldine Tigchelaar

"I would also like to pay tribute to David Heyworth for his work in delivering real improvements in Integrated Education during his tenure as chair. He has been at the helm of the IEF during a period of unprecedented change in education in Northern Ireland and has helped the Fund steer a steady course through a combination of greater partnership working and skilled management."

## Oakwood Begins Work on AIF Pre-school and After school



Pupils from Oakwood IPS keeping a watchful eye on the construction of the new AIF pre-school

This winter has been an exciting time for Oakwood Integrated Primary School. Late November 2006 saw the completion of the school's Mo Mowlam Centre – a dedicated space with advanced facilities for the school's pupils with Special Educational Needs. The centre was funded by the Department of Education, the Irish Department of Foreign Affairs, the Durkan Group and Jack and Jackie McDonnell of the American Ireland Fund and has been named in recognition of Mo Mowlam's important contribution to Integrated Education.

In other news at Oakwood IPS construction has begun on a new pre and after school facility, generously backed by our friends the American Ireland Fund. This exciting development will allow Oakwood IPS to give its parents the greatest flexibility in their children's education by providing wrap around care. We look forward to celebrating the completion and official opening of this significant new facility for the whole school community.

## Schools Make PACT



Since the Promoting a Culture of Tolerance (PACT) programme was set up in 1999, with support from the Northern Ireland Fund for Reconciliation, which was established by Senator George Mitchell and the pro-Good Friday Agreement parties, over 250 schools and organisations have benefited directly and indirectly from a grants programme budget of over £335,000.

The recent allocation of money for the PACT VII programme will continue to support the work of schools actively working to contribute to a society where people of different cultures and traditions understand and respect their differences whilst

recognising and appreciating what they hold in common. The PACT programme is open to all schools in Northern Ireland, as well as organisations and groups working within schools.

Geraldine Tigchelaar OBE said "We are committed to making the funding accessible to as many people as possible. The success of PACT and the growing interest in the programme is testimony to the determination that exists in schools across Northern Ireland to contribute to peace building and to undertake vital cross-community work."

## Upcoming events

 **NICIE Conference:**  
Thursday 26th – Friday 27th April,  
Plaza Park Hotel, Antrim

 **Integrated Education Week:**  
Mon 5th – Fri 9th March

 **Integrated Education Short Film Competition Closing Date:**  
Fri 30th March

## Thanksgiving at Glengormley IPS

US Consul General, Dean Pittman, made a special visit to Glengormley Integrated Primary School to celebrate Thanksgiving Day. A special school assembly was held to mark the occasion. IEF Campaign Chair, Baroness May Blood MBE also attended the celebration.

Mr. Derek Greer, principal of Glengormley IPS, said "We were honoured that the US Consul General Dean Pittman and Baroness Blood MBE took the time to visit our school. The pupils, parents, staff and teachers were all thrilled to be given the chance to meet them."

Appointed to the post three years ago by President Bush, Dean Pittman has figured prominently in the US administration's role in peace and reconciliation in Northern Ireland. During his visit to the school he reiterated the long standing support of Integrated Education by the US administration.

Baroness May Blood MBE, Chairman of the Integrated Education Campaign, said "The ongoing support we have received from this and consecutive US administrations has made a huge difference to the growth of Integrated Education in Northern Ireland."



Baroness May Blood MBE and US Consul General Dean Pittman hit the high note with a pupil from Glengormley IPS

## Young Gardeners Get Planting!



Winning pupils from Hazelwood IPS at the planting ceremony with Paul Mooney, Claire Faulkner and Terry Cross

Finnoula McDaid from Hazelwood Integrated Primary was joined by classmates as she planted the trees she won courtesy of Garden Show Ireland's Young Gardener's Corner competition. The Garden Show Ireland initiative was sponsored by Delta Packaging and

supported by the College of Agriculture, Food and Rural Enterprises. The Young Gardener's Corner competition was held in June last year, challenging children from Integrated primary schools to create a miniature garden display. The tray gardens, which were all exhibited at Garden Show Ireland and judged by the show judges, form part of a continuous outreach education programme which Garden Show Ireland introduced in 2005 to encourage children to be creative in garden design and to put their imagination to work in the garden.

Terry Cross from Delta Packaging, sponsor of this Garden Show Ireland initiative, was present at the planting of the trees and shared his enthusiasm for the project. He said

"Young Gardener's Corner gives children the opportunity to express their creative ideas and relate this to a garden. Who knows, we may even have the next top gardening designer amongst us!"

## Building a Future on Friendship



David Heyworth, Chair of the IEF Board of Governors cutting the first sod for the new Friendship Garden

Cedar Integrated Primary School in Crossgar hosted a delegation of teachers from schools in Poland, Hungary and Turkey as part of the 'Comenius' European Schools Partnership Programme.

The programme will enable the teachers and pupils of the four schools to work in partnership over the next three years on a joint educational project entitled 'The Friendship Garden'. This will involve each school designing and building a small garden, which becomes a hub for sharing and learning about the environments, ecology, habitats and climates of each country as well as inspiring artwork, poetry and prose. ICT learning will be promoted by the creation of a joint project website and the use of digital multimedia to record the progress of the project.

The project will enable staff from Cedar IPS to make reciprocal visits to the partner schools over the next three years.

The schools involved in the project are: Szola Podstawowa from Lodz in Poland, Gorece Sehit School from Izmir in Turkey and Iskola Palanta from Pilisvorasvar in Hungary.

## Christmas Cheer at Delta



Students from Ulidia IC performing at the joint Christmas Social

Thanks to the kind sponsorship and support of Delta Packaging the Integrated Education movement and their supporters enjoyed some festive cheer at the first joint NICIE and IEF Christmas reception. Guests were entertained by the wonderful Ulidia Integrated College Chamber Choir who performed magnificently throughout the evening.

The evening also provided an opportunity for supporters to welcome the Fund's new Chair of the Board of Trustees, Geraldine Tigchelaar, OBE and also to say an emotional farewell to David Heyworth who stood down as chair after two years in the post and 3 years as a Board member.

Ray Mullan, former Chair of NICIE, brought guests up to date with some of the challenges that faced the movement during 2006. Colm Bradley, managing director of Delta Packaging was the perfect host as he warmly welcomed the guests.



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## Minister Decides on Twelve Schools

There was bitter sweet news for Integrated Education in Northern Ireland after the eagerly awaited announcements on the future of new integrated school developments from Maria Eagle, Minister for Education in Northern Ireland.

Rowandale IPS (Moirá) and Clogher Valley IPS (Fivemiletown) were granted ministerial approval to develop new integrated schools in their respective areas and Tyrella PS (near Newcastle) was given the go ahead to transform to integrated status. There was also welcome news that Omagh IPS was given approval to increase their numbers and a new integrated nursery would be located at Ballycastle CIPS.

However, Rowallane Integrated College, which has been independently funded by the Integrated Education Fund (IEF) for the past year, Antrim, Strabane, and Ballymoney parent groups plus three transformations, Collone Primary School, (Armagh); Knockbreda Primary School, (Belfast); and Conlig Primary School, (near Newtownards), were turned down.

'We are delighted that the Minister has approved the development of three integrated schools and increased provision at Omagh and Ballycastle', said Michael Wardlow, Chief Executive of the Northern Ireland Council for Integrated Education (NICIE). 'However, the refusal to approve seven proposals to develop new integrated provision in Northern Ireland is a difficult pill to swallow for parents who want an Integrated Education for their children'.

He went on to say, 'Not only do these refusals appear to be at odds with the government's commitment to a Shared Future but also appear to contradict the core recommendations



Two children of parents from the Rowandale IPS steering group

of the recent Independent Strategic Review of Education by Sir George Bain'.

However, all is not lost for Rowallane! The announcement by the IEF to pledge £1,000,000, which includes a generous grant from the American Ireland Fund of \$500,000, to the school is a vote of confidence to the many parents who are determined to provide an Integrated Education for their children in the mid-Down area.

Geraldine Tigchelaar OBE, the new Chair of the Board of Trustees of the IEF said, "This was extremely disappointing news for Rowallane parents, staff and pupils. However, we are pursuing Maria Eagle's recommendations that we engage with the South Eastern Education and Library Board to discuss an appropriate proposal which 'would meet parental preference for an integrated school in the area'".

The rollercoaster fortunes of Integrated Education continue. But as long as parents demonstrate their demand for Integrated Education, NICIE and the IEF will continue to support their desire to realise their dream – an Integrated Education for every child who wants one.

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If you have any stories that you would like included in future Integrated Education newsletters then please contact Philip O'Sullivan at NICIE or Sam Fitzsimmons at IEF

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## News in Brief

### Integrated Education Addresses Jewish Film Festival on Resolving Conflict

On 5th November 2006, Mary Roulston, Principal of Millennium Integrated Primary School, spoke on the issue of Integrated Education as a means for conflict resolution at the UK premier of 'First Lesson in Peace' at the Jewish Film Festival which exhibits international films with relevance to Jewish history, sensibilities and areas of concern.

Every year the festival dedicates a part of its programme to challenging work that engages with the Israeli-Palestinian conflict aiming to provide a stage for debate while introducing common perspectives through film.

Gali Gold, from the Jewish Film Festival, said 'After the screening of First Lesson in Peace a discussion was held about the issue the film raised - the idea of shared education as a means for conflict resolution. This issue was then explored through the experience of Integrated Education and we were delighted that Mary Roulston agreed to take part in this event and share her experiences from Northern Ireland'.



Jack Stewart and Saul Kearney from Mill Strand IPS, Portrush

### Mill Strand IPS Pupil Wins BBC Competition

Jack Stewart has recently won the 8-11 category of a BBC Wildlife poetry competition.

The poem which compared Ireland to a rainforest was described by the judges as 'a fascinating and imaginative way of looking at his local environment. The reader's view of contemporary European life is transformed by comparison with somewhere more exotic.'

Saul Kearney, also a pupil at Mill Strand IPS was specially commended in the 8-11 category for his poem entitled 'The Basalt'.

## Adrian Dunbar Opens New Integrated Primary



Clogher Valley Integrated Primary School, which welcomed its first pupils in September 2006 with independent funding from the IEF, was officially opened on Wednesday 8th November by actor and director Adrian Dunbar

## Service for Christian Unity

A Service of Prayers for Christian Unity was held on Sunday 21st January 2007 in Lagan College, Castlereagh, organised by the Board of Directors of NICIE.

Speaking on behalf of NICIE, Terry McMackin said: 'We are particularly pleased that the Service was held in Lagan College in this 25th anniversary year of both the College and Integrated Education. This annual service is always held at an integrated school on the Sunday of the Christian Unity Octave (18th- 25th January) and is an ideal occasion to show support for the Christian Unity movement in a positive and prayerful manner.'

The Service was based on one drawn up by the Irish Council of Churches and the Catholic Church in Ireland.

## NICIE Criticises Union 'Closure' Claims

NICIE criticised the recent claims by the GMB Union, widely covered by the media, that over a third of Northern Ireland's schools are to close.

"The details published are in many cases factually wrong and in addition do not reflect the recommendations of the Bain review", said Michael Wardlow, NICIE Chief Executive Officer.

"We open new schools every year and as these schools have not yet grown to full 7 year complement they are not yet at their full enrolment. To include them in the figures completely misrepresents the facts.

For example, Maine Integrated Primary School in Randalstown was opened in 2003 with 17 pupils and has grown year on year to 70 where it now stands. It has not reached its long term enrolment and there is simply no question of closing a school which is growing! Also, Drumragh Integrated College in Omagh is listed as having 492 pupils, yet actually has 536 and rising.

Sir George Bain's recommendations require that, for example, all rural schools in Northern Ireland of 105 or under will be reviewed, not closed. Review does not equate to closure. To inaccurately list thriving and growing schools as set to close in the week before families chose their second level school was irresponsible."

## A 'Baker Day' in Belfast as Westminster Politicians Visit Integrated Schools



*The former Conservative Secretary of State for Education and Science, Kenneth Baker (Lord Baker of Dorking), joined members of the Westminster All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on an Integrated Education fact finding visit to Integrated schools on Friday 17 November 2006.*

Baker, who was Education Secretary 1986 – 1989, introduced the "Baker Days" for teachers' training during Margaret Thatcher's era, recently introduced an amendment to the Education and Inspection Bill proposing a legal quota on schools of a religious character to allocate 25% of places to pupils who do not follow the same religion.

Lord Alf Dubs, chairman of the APPG, said "Our visit is very timely. The current faith school debate in England has raised many issues for education practitioners, churches and government. I feel that there are lessons to be learnt from the pioneering work of parents in Northern Ireland who have contributed greatly to the growth of shared education."

The first port of call on Friday 17th November was Rowallane IC which is based in temporary

accommodation in the former administrative head quarters of the Belvoir Park Hospital in South Belfast. Despite being turned down for government funding, the new school was opened in September 2006 with independent funding raised by the Integrated Education Fund (IEF).

In the afternoon, the group moved on to visit Priory Integrated College, Holywood, which transformed to Integrated status in September 1998. Peter McCreadie, acting principal of Priory IC said 'We are delighted that our governors, members of staff and pupils had the opportunity to talk to this important parliamentary group.

The visit gave the parliamentarians some understanding of the impact that becoming Integrated has upon the ethos and curriculum of a transformed school and the challenges facing a school community that has made the decision to transform to Integrated status.'

Other parliamentarians travelling with the group included Baroness Nora David, Alan Reid MP, Emily Thornberry MP, Baroness Angela Harris and Baroness May Blood MBE.

## Erne Integrated College contributes to Niall Mellon Township Challenge

Miss Orla Caldwell, a member of the teaching staff at Erne IC, ran the 27th Dublin marathon on the 30th October 2006. She completed just over 26 miles in 5 hours 20 minutes. The school raised an amazing £2526 for the Niall Mellon Township Challenge. This is a fantastic achievement for Miss Caldwell and all those who supported her. Stephen McAloon thanked everyone who contributed, and stated "This will go a long way in helping to build a home for the disadvantaged in Cape Town."



*Stephen McAloon receiving the cheque on behalf of the Niall Mellon Township Challenge from Orla Caldwell, Tom Noble, Gemma Noble and Emma Arnold. (Yr 8 Pupils)*

## Policy Update

The *Independent Strategic Review of Education* (Bain Report) was published in December 2006. The education sectors and political parties have broadly welcomed its content and the Secretary of State, Peter Bain, has endorsed the 61 recommendations.

The Bain report is comprehensive and acknowledges that *A Shared Future* provides 'the unmistakable features of the backcloth' of its recommendations. There are three main issues dealt with by the report: school funding, strategic planning of the schools' estate and promoting sharing and collaboration.

The report is supportive of Integrated Education and makes a number of recommendations that may impact on future growth. In particular, it suggests an area based approach to planning. Whether this impact will be positive or negative is not clear. One implication, however, is that the viability of future development proposals may be evaluated against projected pupil enrolment figures.

The report supports Integrated Education, but it does not advocate a single approach to integration. Rather, a more inclusive strategy, focused on the dynamic process of integrating education across the Northern Ireland school system is suggested. The belief is that all schools, of all types, have their part to play in sharing. The review has outlined the difference between integrating education and integrated schools which are a particular model for delivering integrating education.

## Media Initiative Launch

A new play resource called the 'Media Initiative for children – Respecting Difference' was launched recently at Holy Rosary Nursery School in South Belfast.

A programme developed by NICIE, NIPPA and the five Education and Library Boards, this resource encourages children from three to five years of age to respect difference through play and is being piloted by 15 nurseries across Northern Ireland. Pictured at the launch are Dean Lee of NICIE, Holy Rosary Principal Mrs Christine McGrenaghan and pupils Michelle Min Xuan Yang and Arman Hossian.



## Forge Integrated Primary School launches new website

Forge IPS has recently launched a brand new website packed with information about the school. This information has been designed to be particularly useful for prospective parents.

Don't forget to check out 'The Biz' section to find out what Forge pupils have been up to over the last couple of weeks!

View the website at [www.forgeips.co.uk](http://www.forgeips.co.uk)

# Integrated Students Speak to top Audiences



*Ambassador Foley, Baroness Blood MBE, Rosie Smyth, David Heyworth*

Two accomplished students with Integrated Education in common have helped the IEF deliver its message of inclusion at recent high profile events.

Georgina Whiteside, a sixth form student at North Coast Integrated College, Coleraine was a special guest at the glittering IEF reception hosted by Campaign President, David Montgomery, at his home in London. Georgina shared her experiences of Integrated Education with many of the IEF's friends and supporters attending the reception.

Tina Merron, Director of the Fund said "Georgina is an outstanding ambassador for the Integrated Education movement. Although she must have been a bundle of nerves getting up to speak to so many high profile guests, she delivered her speech with humour, integrity and dignity."

Soon after, Rosie Smyth, a former pupil of Lagan Integrated College, Belfast, took centre stage at an important reception hosted by US Ambassador to Ireland, Thomas. C Foley, at his private residence in Dublin. Rosie, now studying at Trinity College Dublin, spoke warmly of her schooling through Integrated Education with the distinguished guests.

The reception built on the continued endorsement of the US Administration for Integrated Education in Northern Ireland. In recent times, campaigners, students and teachers from the Integrated sector have met with President Bush in the White House. The movement has also gained vocal support through former US Special Envoy to Northern Ireland, Ambassador Mitchell Reiss.

Joining Ambassador Foley at the reception was Baroness May Blood MBE, Campaign Chair of the Integrated Education Fund. Baroness Blood MBE said that the important reception was "A further endorsement for all the parents, pupils, teachers and supporters who have demonstrated immense courage, dedication and commitment in establishing Integrated schools across Northern Ireland."



*Cynthia Currie, Lawrie Sanchez, Georgina Whiteside*



*David Montgomery, Baroness May Blood MBE, Lord Dubs, David Heyworth*

## Top 20 Hit for Slemish IC!

Slemish Integrated College, Ballymena has made the top 20 in a Northern Ireland schools' league table for the first time.

The league table, which was released last week, is collated on the basis of A Level results. The school, which has a mixed ability intake, is ranked alongside established grammar schools. Principal of Slemish, Dr Robert Jennings said 'Slemish is a school where children, regardless

of gender, ability or religion work together. We are committed to excellence in the provision of educational opportunity. We offer a quality learning experience to all our students. Our students have a varied and interesting programme with a wide range of enhancement activities.'

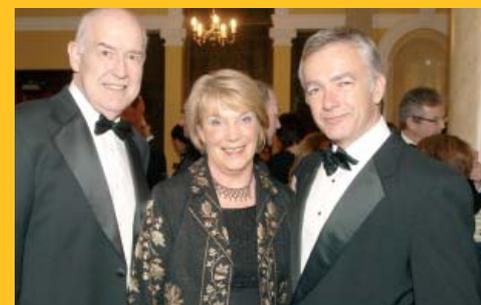
Chief Executive of NICIE, Michael Wardlow, is delighted with the results: 'This is an important first for Integrated schools in Northern Ireland.

## 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner at the Belfast Harbour Commission

As part of the 25th Anniversary celebrations of Integrated Education, an exclusive dinner was held at one of Northern Ireland's most prestigious and impressive settings – the offices of the Belfast Harbour Commission. Guests included many of Northern Ireland's leading community, civic and business figures who enjoyed an evening of music and drama performed by students from Integrated colleges. Speakers at the event included the Integrated Education Fund's Campaign President, David Montgomery, who flew in from Germany to attend, Campaign Chair, Baroness Blood MBE and former Lagan College student Rosie Smyth.

Our thanks to Grace Taylor from Hazelwood Integrated College, Jennifer and Heather Todd from Ulidia Integrated College, Victoria Munn from Priory Integrated College, and the students from New Bridge Integrated College's Twiglet Theatre company who all performed so magnificently on the evening.

We are indebted to the Chairman of the Belfast Harbour Commission, Mr Frank Cushnahan CBE, and his staff for providing us with this unique opportunity.



*John McConnell, Lady Stella Empey and US Consul General Dean Pittman*



*Adele Cross, John Carmichael, Baroness May Blood MBE, Bunny Parsons and Claire Faulkner*

The class of 2005/2006, whose results the table is based on, are a completely mixed ability group; this highlights the fact that mixed ability teaching is beneficial and does not impinge on academic success. We congratulate Slemish pupils and teachers on their significant achievements and wish them continued success in the future.'