

## Mr G - an officer and a gentleman

After 15 years at Castleside Primary School, the much-loved Mr Gilbert has sadly decided to retire from teaching. Three of Mr G's impish Class 3 proteges, LEWIS, ELIZA AND KATIE, subjected our intrepid former Royal Navy officer, international canoeist and ace photographer to a farewell grilling...

*Did you have any hair when you first came to Castleside Primary School?*

No, not really.

*What will you miss most about Class 3 ?*

That's a really hard question. Well, all the children. You, Katie, and Eliza and Lewis. I will miss all the children. I'll miss how you have made progress and grown. I'll miss the fun that we've had and I'll miss the hard work that you do. And I'll miss those weekends of marking all your lovely work.

*When you were at school were you a dipstick?*

I was, yeah. I got myself into bother quite a lot when I was a young boy at school. I think I had a sense of humour that sometimes got me into a little bit of trouble.

*When Mrs Gilbert's working hard at school, what kind of tea will you be getting ready for her?*

When Mrs Gilbert's working at school and I'm doing no work at all, I will probably make her curries to come home to, because she loves her curries.

*Have you ever been in a boat or a ship?*

I spent 28 years of my life going off in ships, all war-ships. I used to like small boats, like canoes as well. I spent eight months at a time away at sea. In the Falklands War I spent 100 days at sea without touching land. I was on battleships, like frigates, destroyers and cruisers. I took care of refitting aircraft carriers as well.

*\* Continued on page 3...*



Class 3 try to persuade Mr G to stay at Castleside!

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:



#### CORNISH PASTICHE

Class 4 get a special visit from Norman Cornish's son and daughter-in-law.



#### BIG SING FUN

Key Stage 2 have a grand day out at the annual Big Sing festival at The Sage. .



#### YEAR 6 ROCK LONDON

Mrs Hart's class enjoy three action-packed days in England's capital city.

# A message from the Head Teacher

We are fast approaching the end of another school year and our children are ready to move on to the next step of their journey. As well as moving up to new classes, we have children leaving to go to a number of different secondary schools this year. I'm sure they're both excited and nervous. We wish them good luck.

We have had very industrious year and the children have had some wonderful experiences, some of which you can read about in the following articles. Thank you to our skilled junior journalists who have carried out research and interviews before working with Mr Turnbull to put together our wonderful newspaper.

Our fundraising events have been very successful. The recent Summer Fair raised an impressive £1200 and the Goal Shooting sponsored event raised £675 towards school funds. What an impressive total!

As we come to the end of the year, we bid a fond farewell to Mr Gilbert. Mr Gilbert has been part of Castleside for many years and has added so much to the life of the school. His amazing photography, technical expertise, musical talents and great sense of humour will be a great miss. I'm sure he'll be back to see us often. We would like to say a huge thank you for his contributions over the years and good luck in his retirement.

We will be welcoming new staff into school in September. Miss Moat will be in Class 3 and Mrs Lightley in Class 4. We're looking forward to them joining the team and adding to the life of the school.

We would also like to thank you for the tremendous support given on a daily basis. We may be a small school but with your help and support, we are able to do mighty things.

Finally, I would like to thank every member of staff at Castleside for their dedication and hard work throughout the year.

I wish you a wonderful holiday and look forward to welcoming you back, safe and sound, in September.

Best wishes.

Mrs Spence



## KEY DATES

**Wednesday 17th July:** End of year assembly, 1.30pm.

**Friday 19th July:** Break up for summer.

**Wednesday 4th September:** School re-opens.

**Friday 25th September:** Break up for half-term.

**Monday 4th November:** School re-opens.



**Congratulations to Mrs Walton for giving birth to a beautiful bouncing baby girl. We can't wait to get the chance to see both of them in school. Best wishes and congratulations to Mr and Mrs Walton from all staff, children, parents, carers and families!**

# Mr Gilbert's farewell grilling continued...

***Do you have any money left for your retirement after buying a Fab ice lolly for everyone at the Big Sing?***

The truth is I don't have any money at all. It's all Mrs Gilbert's. I'll be alright. I'll be able to live on beans on toast.

***Who's your favourite child?***

I don't have a favourite child. It would be wrong to have a favourite child. Every child in Class 3 is different and they all give me different things to think about but I enjoy every child in that class just the same. I think you're all really great, every one of you.

***Will you miss our faces?***

Yeah, definitely. One of the nicest things about being a teacher is coming into class in the morning and all of you sitting down, talking away and me telling you to shut up. It's great to see you come in. I love it.

***Will you still be with Mr Mojo when you leave? [Mr Mojo is the invisible man at the back of Class 3]***

Well, I was thinking of taking Mr Mojo with me and leaving Mrs Gilbert behind but Mr Mojo likes the class so much he wants to stay. But he's promised to come and see me from time to time—to let me know how all you lot are getting on.



**Mr G with the nameplate of his former Royal Navy destroyer on Newcastle Quayside.**

***Can you come in to teach me [Katie] and thingy [Eliza] how to play guitar ?***

Well, that's a possibility. There might be things I'd come into school for if Mrs Spence wanted me to come in.

***Will you still be smart when you leave Class 3?***

When I'm at home, retired, I will just wander around in my flip-flops, shorts and tee-shirts even in winter, because I won't need to get dressed up for anything, will I? I'll do lots of cycling, play guitar and I'll go out and do lots of photographs.. Those are the three things I'll do.

***Will you still know nouns, adjectives, verbs, conjunctions and adverbs?***

It's a great question...I think I will. I've been doing it for so long, I probably won't forget it now.

***Will you be dumber because you won't have us?***

That's a good point. I will be dumber because I won't have kids like you to keep me right!



**Mrs G. with Class 3...wondering what Mr G. will be making her for tea?**

# Mrs Hart's class rock London

From 18th-20th June, Year 6 enjoyed three action-packed days in London. Mrs Hart's amazing programme featured visits to The Shard (thank you so much to Mr Thompson and Sage!), the Rainforest Café, the Harry Potter Studios, Bloomsbury Lanes bowling alley and the National Portrait Gallery. We were also treated to row three tickets at the Gillian Lynne Theatre to watch the excellent School of Rock. Here is a review of the show by GABBY...

The amazing Andrew Lloyd Webber is here with a new head-banging hit. School of Rock is a pick by the New York Times Critics. Entertainment Weekly said, "It's an inspiring jolt of energy, joy and skill!"

Based on the hit film, this heart-stirring, hilarious musical follows a failed wannabe rock star: Dewey Finn. He decides to earn a few extra bucks by pretending to be a substitute teacher at a prestigious prep school (Horace Green). There, he turns a class of brain boxes into a bunch of rock in' rebels.

Featuring 14 new songs from Andrew Lloyd Webber, and all the original songs from the movie, this guitar-shredding show gives ear-ringing guitar riffs and equally awesome doses of rock and romance!

A quote from the Daily News says that Andrew Lloyd Webber "Awakens the empowering message of rock!". Time Out New York cheers, "School's in—forever!"





# A grand day out at the Big Sing



# Class 4's Norman Cornish treat



**By Emma, Year 4**

On Wednesday 12th June, Dorothy and John Cornish came into Class 4 and told us about the life and art of Norman Cornish, John's Dad. Norman Cornish was a Pitman Painter, but he didn't like to be called that. He was a miner and he painted a 9m-long, 2m-high mural of the Durham Miners Gala.

He was awarded an MBE by the Queen and won his first art prize when he drew a boot when he was only four. The centenary of his birth is this year on 18th November, the same date as my cousin's second birthday.

Dorothy and Norman meant to stay for one hour after lunch but they stayed until home time because we asked lots of questions. I asked, "Why did Norman not like to be called a Pitman Painter?" Lexi asked, "Was it sad when he died?" John said, "It's always sad when people die. It's not a nice thing to face, but before my father died he must have been able to reflect on the fact that he'd left a mark behind."

Dorothy and John gave us a quiz about Norman Cornish and showed us his MBE and his Day Lamp from the pit. Alf won a prize for asking lots of questions (the prize was a picture card of a pit pony that Norman Cornish had painted). After Dorothy and John had been in, they wrote a lovely letter back to us.



**A big thank you to Mr and Mrs Cornish for taking the time to visit us—and well done to Amelka for her brilliant portrait shading and Alf for his excellent painting !**

# Hitting the Gold Standard for our Educating and Celebrating



We are now a GOLD certified Educate and Celebrate School! All year we have been promoting equality and teaching our children how being different is ok, introducing this teaching across our whole curriculum.

We celebrate each other and champion each other's differences, whilst treating everyone with respect and giving equal opportunities to all. This award is a testament to the hard work, kindness and acceptance all of the children in our school show every day.

The great news came after the school had taken part in the Educate and Celebrate Showcase at the Gala Theatre in Durham. Thank you to everyone!

**Mr Robson and Mrs Hart**



## Fair play to Mr Robson, our jolly green giant!



Thank you to Mr Robson, Miss Kilty and the Friends of Castleside School for organising such a wonderful Summer Fair. A whopping £1,232 was raised and Mr Robson won the vote to be dunked with lovely green gunk. A big thank you to our generous sponsors (see opposite) !

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**A BIG  
THANKS**



# Well done, Aunty Bev!

Congratulations to former pupil Bev Priestman, aunty of Marshall and sister of Mrs Bowns, for helping to guide the England women's football team to the semi-finals of the Women's World Cup in France—as assistant coach to Phil Neville.

'Aunty Bev' was suitably chuffed with the excellent video that Mr Robson shot on the morning of the semi-final against the USA—featuring all of the children, and Mr Davison, the former head teacher, who put Bev into the school team at Castleside!



## Fun and games for all on Sports Day



## Dance Festival delight at Consett Empire



## In tune for The Big Play...

