

Buzz

Couple led astray by daughter

A COUPLE who had completed 45 years service between them working at Chilwell School were led blindfold into the school theatre as they officially retired together at the end of the pre-Christmas term.

Daughter Jackie Pole had driven to collect her parents, Barbara and Geoff Pole, from home in Chilwell on December 20. They thought they were being taken out for a Christmas luncheon as a treat and didn't question the wearing of blindfolds, assuming it was all part of the surprise.

It was indeed a surprise, but slightly different to what the couple had anticipated.

Instead of driving to a restaurant, Jackie drove her parents to Chilwell School. She led them, still blindfolded, by the hand into the school theatre through fire escape doors at ground level. All was silent. As they were asked to remove their blindfolds, the school theatre erupted into a cacophony of applause and laughter as staff and school

acquaintances both past and present stood and cheered to welcome the retiring couple.

Everyone who had ever worked with the couple had been invited to a massive 'farewell and thank you' party discretely arranged at the school during the preceding weeks.

Barbara, aged 73, had worked at Chilwell School for 35 years, mainly in the reprographics department.

Husband Geoff, a comparative newcomer with 10 years service at Chilwell under his belt and aged 78, was employed as an Art/Design Technology Technician.

Head teacher Ian Brierly welcomed the couple to their own retirement party. He thanked them for their open and 'can do' approach over the years, saying: "Support staff such as Barbara and Geoff are the glue that keep a school together. There was always a smile, always a 'can do' approach from both of them, and we thank them for their dedication and commitment to the school.

"They put me in mind of the Buggy Malone song: "Give a little love and it all comes back to you."

Staff had compiled a video for the couple as a memento of their time at the school, producing a unique film which incorporated humour, anecdotes and 'thank you's. Shown at the start of the retirement party for the first time, the audience of around 130 in the school theatre laughed out loud at a number of hilarious sequences the film contained.

Mr Brierly also presented a framed cartoon-style pencil collage prepared by Stuart Abbott, a technician in the Art & Design Technology Department and a work colleague of Geoff's, depicting the couple's time at the school.

Geoff Pole said afterwards: "My daughter collected us for what we thought was going to be a pre-Christmas lunch treat, so we went along with the blindfolds she gave us.

"We were completely overwhelmed, and emotional too, when we took the blindfolds off and found ourselves in the school theatre facing both current and a number of older retired members of staff who had returned especially for this party."

After the presentations in the theatre, the staff and guests made their way to the school dining room to enjoy party refreshments – and to catch up on some of those memories with their colleagues.

Snippets

Field Farm, Stapleford

AN outline planning application for residential development of up to 450 dwellings to be built at Field Farm, Ilkeston Road, Stapleford, with all matters reserved except for access has been submitted to Broxtowe Borough Council by W Westerman Ltd.

Prince of Wales public house

BROXTOWE Borough Council has also received an application from Paley Space Management for a Change of Use from pubic house to amusement arcade and ancillary café at the Prince of Wales, 106 High Road, Beeston.

Lead thieves caught

FURTHER to the news that lead had been stolen from the roofs of Newstead Abbey and Beeston parish Church in the last issue of *The Beeston Express*, two people have been arrested on suspicion of stealing £2,000 of lead from the roof of Newstead Abbey, a Grade I Listed building. The lead was stolen between 5pm on Monday, December 5 and 8.30am on Tuesday, December 6, 2011.

The man and woman, both aged 23, were arrested on Friday, December 16, following the discovery of lead in the back garden of a house in Kirkby-in-Ashfield and in a Vauxhall Vectra, which is believed to be from the Abbey.

During an assessment by police at a scrap yard in Mansfield, more lead from the Abbey was located.

As police continue to make enquiries in the surrounding area, witnesses or anyone with information about the thefts are still asked to contact Nottinghamshire Police on 101 or call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Christmas dinner on Tesco

THE winner of a £50 voucher to spend on groceries for Christmas dinner was delighted to receive the good news via a phone call from Tesco Beeston.

Mary Barnes, of Clifford Avenue, Beeston, won the free 'Win Christmas Dinner on Tesco' draw promoted in *The Beeston Express* of December 2. The unexpected phone call announcing her win arrived not long after the entry deadline had passed – but like most people, Mrs Barnes hadn't considered herself likely to win and didn't give the draw another thought once she'd posted her entry. She said: "I'd entered the prize draw some time ago and it took me a second or two to register what the call was about. It was such a nice surprise. I was invited to the store to collect the £50 voucher, where I had my photograph taken with the deputy store manager, who presented the voucher. I then went to spend some of the unexpected boost to my Christmas finances straight away, with a bottle or two of wine finding its way into my shopping trolley as a special treat for me!"

Mrs Barnes originally hails from Battle in Sussex, moving to this area to be nearer to her son after her husband died in 2001.

The Big Tree Plant – update

THE Big Tree Plant campaign to get missing 'street' trees replaced seems to have gone a little quiet during the Christmas break, but more replies have come in from Chilwell, Bramcote and Toton.

If you would like to get involved with this project to replace missing trees along streets or plant new ones, you are asked to act now. The project is being run by Beeston and District Civic Society in conjunction with Broxtowe Borough Council, and proposals for all sites under consideration should be submitted to the councils by mid-January, leaving enough time to prepare and submit a grant application before the deadline.

The Civic Society would particularly like to hear from people in: Beeston Rylands, By-Pass Road, Queens Road West, areas in Chilwell between Inham Road and Field Lane – the grassy areas in between the courts and closes; Bramcote Avenue; West End and anywhere else that you think would benefit from street trees.

For further information contact Barbara Selwood (for the Beeston and District Civic Society), tel: (0115) 917 8488.

Dinosaurs in Stapleford

THE Mayor of Stapleford, Cllr Ray Darby, helped Dylan Saville, a pupil at William Lilley School in Stapleford, cut the ribbon to officially open a mural that Dylan had designed for the playground wall.

Dylan won a competition held in the school and two of the school's teachers, Mrs Wheatley and Mrs Wright, painted Dylan's design onto the wall, ready for the official opening in November 2011.

Mrs Sue Robinson, also a teacher at the school, said: "Dylan, aged 5, was thrilled to see his design on the wall and thought that his dinosaurs looked great!"