

Ex Chair of Governors sadly passes away

Whilst most of you reading this will not remember Phil Munson, you may recognise the name of the school hall which was named after him.

It is with sadness that I heard that he passed away two weeks ago. Phil was St Stephens Junior School Chair of Governors (and also for the Infants School) from 1992 - 2006. During some of this period I was his Vice Chair. My memory of Phil was as a cool pair of hands. In fact, he never made a drama out of a crisis. He could also give an excellent demonstration of handling a disagreement without escalating a situation. He was very committed to SSJS children studying a broad curriculum, rather than simply focussing on a narrow range of subjects, to encourage all children to participate in school life.

I occasionally visited him at home after he retired as Chair of Governors and found he still retained an interest in the school. I remember him fondly as one of those quiet, modest people who nevertheless make a strong and lasting contribution to the local community.

Chris Barton
Member (St Stephen's Junior School)

The following is written by Stuart Pywell acknowledging the service Phil Munson gave to St. Stephen's Junior School and the debt he is owed for the development of the school as forward looking and playing an active part in the local community. This focus continued successfully under the leadership of Stuart Pywell and goes on with our new joint Heads Laura Cutts and Sarah Heaney.

Phil Munson was a science teacher at the Chaucer School in Canterbury before becoming the schools' science inspector for Kent County Council where he worked for almost 20 years.

When he retired, he continued his interest in education joining the governing body at St Stephen's Infant and Junior school in 1990, later becoming chair of governors in June 1992. His interest and vision was responsible for establishing the schools in the community. He very much felt that as teachers and educationalists we should work closely with parents and offer a broad creative, sporting and scientific curriculum. During his tenure he was responsible for guiding many of the initial building programs: the Year 3 and Year 5 extension as well as the ICT suite and library.

Phil Munson championed teachers and their individuality, supporting and challenging them to adapt the new National curriculum, especially science, to suit the needs of all our children. During his retirement he studied for a higher degree in local history and was a guide at the cathedral. Phil's involvement with the local community led to our establishing the community lunch programme.

Phil Munson was a terrific support for all of the senior leadership team, building a bridge between parents, governors, the local community and staff. His love of sport especially cricket, table tennis and hockey, led to the new Phil Munson Sports Hall being commissioned in his name.

His gentle, calm and perceptive insight gave the school the opportunity to develop into the institution

it has become today. His support, challenge and friendship during my years as Headteacher at St. Stephen's Junior enabled me not only to develop my career but also to enjoy my role as headteacher.

He will be remembered and missed by many.

Stuart Pywell