

Two Davids leave David's in capable hands



Change: David Humpston and David Wilson, left, are handing over David's Restaurant in Carlisle to Emily and Chris Austin. JONATHAN BECKER

THE new owners of Carlisle restaurant David's have talked about their future plans.

Head chef Chris Austin and his wife Emily, who is front-of-house supervisor, aim to continue the restaurant's concept of providing quality home-cooked food, locally sourced where possible, with Mediterranean and Asian influences.

The restaurant on Warwick Road was the brainchild of David Wilson and David Humpston, who are bowing out after 10 years to spend more time pursuing artistic passions.

Mr Wilson, 61, who is originally from west Cumbria, said: "Running David's has been very hard

BY PHIL COLEMAN
Chief reporter

work with very long hours but also very rewarding. We feel that we've achieved something of value, always setting ourselves the highest standards.

"I don't believe there's such a thing as the perfect restaurant but we have a lot of very faithful customers, who keep coming back. The restaurant has gone from strength to strength. Customers come here week after week and we see them as friends - we'll miss them."

Mr Humpston, 60, is well known locally as a violinist, and he plays in a number of Cumbrian orches-

tras, including the Solway Sinfonia. He hopes to devote more time to his music, while Mr Wilson aims to spend more time pursuing his passion for painting.

The retirement of the two Davids draws a line under their 20-year career in the food business in Carlisle, as they previously ran a bistro in Cecil Street and before that a snack bar in the city.

Emily, 29, and Chris, 32, will take over the restaurant on Tuesday. She said: "Chris has been head chef for eight years and I have been front of house for six years. We've always really enjoyed working here. There's a

good regular client base and we get a lot of positive feedback. Chris will continue as chef and I'll continue working front of house.

"It will be satisfying working for ourselves after helping the two Davids to grow the business."

Emily paid tribute to the two Davids' approach to the business, saying that their and her husband's passion for cooking had helped make the business what is today.

The couple, who have a four-year-old daughter, aim to continue the restaurant's present ethos, but create an after dinner drinks area in the restaurant's downstairs lounge.

Help us trace teacher who became Oz hit

Australian teacher's 80s appeal

BY MAURICE CHESWORTH

A TEACHER in Australia has appealed to *The Cumberland News* to help trace a teacher from Carlisle from 27 years ago.

In 1983 Chris West went to live and teach in the small town of Katherine in the Northern Territory of Australia at the same time as a teacher from Katherine, Colin Balfour, arrived in Carlisle to teach there.

Now Australian teacher Denis Murrell is hoping to trace Chris.

He said: "Chris West was enormously popular with pupils and staff at Katherine High School and she managed to fit into the tropical Australian lifestyle very easily.

"Sadly, she returned to the UK at the end of 1984 and we lost contact with her.

"In 1998, and again eight years later, the town of Katherine suffered two major floods, during which almost two thirds of the homes were flooded. Residents lost everything they owned, particularly documents and treasured family photographs.

"I was a teacher at Katherine roughly at the same time that Chris was there and I was responsible for producing the annual school mag-



Chris West; Went to live and teach in the Northern Territory of Australia in 1983

azine. I took many photographs of the staff and students at the high school and, lately, I have been uploading these onto my Facebook pages for the benefit of those who lost their family photographs in the floods.

"The result has been amazing. Residents of Katherine who had lost touch completely during the past 25 years or so have renewed friendships and reunions have been

organised and, of course, the photos are available for people to keep, either in albums or on discs.

"Can you help us to find Chris West and let her know about the photographs and that many people in still in Katherine and those that now live elsewhere, would love to hear from her?"

"We feel that there will surely be someone, family or friends, who will know where Chris is currently living."

Homes go ahead despite protests

BY JULIAN WHITTLE

HOUSING association Riverside Carlisle has been given the go-ahead for 30 new homes in Etterby Road, despite 28 objections and a petition from residents.

It plans to build two, three- and four-bedroom houses and bungalows in a field to the west of the West Coast Main Line.

Twenty properties will be for rent and the rest will be sale to locals on a shared-ownership basis.

The city council's development control committee granted planning permission last week but opinions were divided - six councillors voted for and four against.

They heard from objectors including Mike Battersby, formerly the council's community services director, who lives in Stainton Road.

He said: "Etterby is a village on the edge of the urban area. This planning application is on a green-field site that isn't allocated for housing in the council's local plan.

"The scale is such that it would double the size of the village and have a massive detrimental effect on the character of the area. There are other sites that more effectively meet the criteria for affordable housing."

Road safety was a big concern for the objectors. Etterby Road is narrow with no pavement. Nine homes will have drives directly off the road.

Cumbria County Council, as highways authority, raised no objection. But some councillors were worried that cars would reverse into the road, posing a safety hazard.

Belah Conservative David Morton said: "It's quite clear in the Highway Code that you don't reverse into the road. Just because people do it elsewhere, it doesn't mean that we should accept it."

Riverside is applying for £4m of funding from the Homes and Communities Agency. It expects to receive a decision by the end of September. If it gets the funding, the homes will be built by Story Group.

Locals pitch in to help estate tidy-up



Clean-up act: Taking part in the Big Community Clean-Up in Harraby, are Michael Smith, Darren Rowe and Simon Simmons. LOUISE PORTER

A MAJOR attempt to give a Carlisle estate a tidy-up has seen dozens of members of the community pitching in to help clean up the area.

Organised by several agencies, including the city council, the police, and Riverside housing association, a day of community action to clean up Harraby was held last week. And while council workers and PCSOs helped arrange the event, local residents were keen to chip in too, with around 20 adults and 50 children taking part.

Keith Forrester, neighbourhood supervisor for Riverside's estates management team said: "The idea was to do an exercise in trying simply to tidy the estate on a collective basis, rather than one agency doing one thing and one doing another. "The estate looks a lot tidier, we removed a lot of rubbish, now we have to build on

BY THOM KENNEDY

what we have done, carrying on the good work.

"The chances of the residents respecting the estate are far higher than if you have litter in the roads and weeds growing. It looks better, it feels better, and residents respect it."

The day's action included removing rubbish from streets and gardens, and six industrial skips of rubbish were removed. Overgrown areas of weeds were removed, and the community centre was opened to provide refreshments for hungry workers.

Police also held a biking event for youngsters to combine the work with fun.

Mr Forrester added: "A lot of it was about the community involvement and the kids' attitude was so positive. They were good fun all day."

Hannah given ideas for Historic Quarter

BY PAMELA MCGOWAN

THE artist appointed to transform Carlisle's Historic Quarter has been given a helping hand by city residents.

Hannah Stewart, of Armathwaite, has been commissioned to design nine stone benches as part of the £840,000 revamp of the Castle Street area. She will base her work on Hadrian's Wall, the River Eden and railway.

To inspire her designs and give local people a chance to influence them, she held two public workshops in the city centre last Saturday.

The morning session was held at Carlisle Railway Station, followed by an afternoon event at Tullie House.

Hannah, who beat off stiff competition to win the commission from Carlisle City Council, said: "The work will strongly contribute to the Historic Quarter - mapping the lines and telling the stories at the heart of Carlisle's unique cultural heritage.

"And since art is all about leaving an impression on the world, we're keen that members of the public - who will ultimately be the ones to enjoy the artwork - have a chance to work with me and influence the mark we make."

The workshops were open to all ages. Participants were invited to use a



Project: Artist Hannah Stewart is designing stone benches with help from Carlisle residents

range of relevant objects to make unusual marks and patterns in Plasticine.

For those who didn't make it, there is still time to get involved.

Carlisle residents are invited to send postcards with their anecdotes, experiences and sketches to Hannah Stewart, Westwalls Studios, Carlisle Enterprise Centre, James Street, Carlisle, CA2 5BB.

Completed benches will be installed by October, adding the finishing touch to the new pedestrian-friendly scheme.

Wind turbine given green light

A 48FT WIND turbine can be erected on a farm at Lingy Close, between Carlisle and Dalston.

City councillors approved the scheme in principle, although planning officers still have to agree a condition limiting the maximum noise level. Twenty-four people signed a petition against

the turbine and the council received a handful of written objections from residents of Lingy Close and Peter Lane, worried about noise and visual impact. Cummersdale parish council also expressed concern that the turbine would be seen from the road.

But planning officer David Cartmell said: "There is a

similar wind turbine at Stoneraise School, which is three metres taller although the blades are marginally smaller. The site is 200m from the nearest noise-sensitive properties. It is not envisaged there will be an issue."

Farmers Messrs Little applied for planning consent for the turbine.

Thank you

We're happy to announce that the hosepipe ban has now ended.

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