

Graduates of the out of hours club

PHOTOS
Christine Jones



GRADUATES from Neroche Primary School.

SOMERSET Children's University is thrilled with the boundless enthusiasm youngsters from the Chard and Ilminster area have shown over the past year. Nearly 200 children from Manor Court Primary School, Redstart Primary School and Avishayes Primary School in Chard, Winsham Primary School, Tatworth Primary School, Ashill Primary School, Shepton Beauchamp Primary School, the St Mary and St Peter's Primary School bases at Barrington and Ilton, Combe St Nicholas Primary School and Nerche Primary School in Broadway packed into the Guildhall in Chard last week for their 'graduation' ceremony.

The children, dressed in gowns and mortarboards, received certificates and medals from Somerset County Council chairman Cllr John Edney and High Sheriff of Somerset Sylvana Chandler. The Mayor of Chard, Cllr Cathie Morrison, also attended.

The children's university is a national organisation which recognises the achievements of youngsters aged five to 14 who take part in activities outside school hours.

Children are given their own passport to learning and get certificates for 30, 65 and 100 hours when they take part in activities.

Children's University manager Eileen Coombes said: "We're absolutely thrilled

By Steve Sowden

with the boundless enthusiasm the children of the Chard and Ilminster area have shown and very pleased to help them celebrate their magnificent achievements in reaching the out-of-school learning goals.

"We are delighted that the scheme is now firmly established in the area and look forward to further success and achievements in the future as more and more children become involved in these very positive activities."

Ashill Primary School head teacher David Soutney said: "The scheme has benefited all pupils but particularly those who might have been reluctant for one reason or another to extend their learning."

Suzanne Plack, head teacher of Redstart Primary School in Chard, said pupils and parents thoroughly enjoyed the event.

Winsham Primary School head teacher Sarah Barlow added: "Being a part of the Children's University has encouraged some pupils to extend their learning out of school. The staff are all very proud of the pupils who graduated."

Martin Smith, of Martin Smith Photography, took pupils' official graduation photos in a makeshift studio in the Guildhall foyer area.



A VERY proud and happy graduate from the Children's University scheme.



PUPIL Barnaby Willis, of Winsham Primary School, received a special round of applause as he was the final youngster to receive his medal and certificate at the presentation ceremony. He is pictured with the High Sheriff of Somerset, Sylvana Chandler, centre, Somerset County Council chairman Cllr John Edney and Chard Mayor Cllr Cathie Morrison.



GRADUATES from Manor Court Primary School.



GRADUATES from Shepton Beauchamp Primary School and the Barrington and Ilton bases of St Mary's and St Peter's Primary School.



MEMBERS of the All Star Swing Band from Tatworth Primary School perform at the graduation ceremony at the Guildhall in Chard.



GRADUATES from Ashill Primary School with the High Sheriff of Somerset, Sylvana Chandler, and Somerset County Council chairman Cllr John Edney.



GRADUATES from Winsham Primary School with the Mayor of Chard, Cllr Cathie Morrison, left, Somerset County Council chairman Cllr John Edney and High Sheriff of Somerset Sylvana Chandler.



GRADUATES from Avishayes Primary School with the chairman of Somerset County Council, Cllr John Edney, and High Sheriff of Somerset, Sylvana Chandler.



Big smiles from one graduate from Redstart Primary School.

This graduate from Redstart Primary School waits patiently for the official school group photo.



GRADUATES from Tatworth Primary School.



GRADUATES from Combe St Nicholas Primary School along with High Sheriff of Somerset Sylvana Chandler, centre, Somerset County Council chairman Cllr John Edney and Chard Mayor Cllr Cathie Morrison.



GRADUATES from Redstart Primary School.