

Darwin sculpture presented to Academy in memory of Mr Frank Noble

by Shaun O'Neill

A BRONZE sculpture of naturalist and geologist, Charles Darwin, has been presented to Ballymena Academy in memory of former vice-principal and Head of Biology, Frank Noble.

The bronze, by award winning painter, scul-

tor and former pupil, Elizabeth O'Kane, was presented to the school by Mrs. Joan Noble to celebrate the life and work of her husband.

The sculpture is of Charles Darwin (1809-1882), Naturalist and Geologist.

In receiving the gift on behalf of the school,

Mr Joseph Black, Principal, expressed his gratitude to the Noble family for their generosity in presenting such a beautiful work of art, which is a fitting tribute to Frank.

Mr Black said that Mr Noble had given many years of considerable service as a highly respected member of the school community, both in his capacity as a

Vice-Principal and also as a teacher, inspired to so many pupils and colleagues through his tremendous subject knowledge, his energy, enthusiasm and innovative style.

Mrs Noble described how "like Darwin, Frank took a great interest in geology.

"He also enjoyed philosophy and loved classical music - he greatly valued literature and art in general.

"This sculpture of Darwin as a young man will help to bridge the gap between the Arts and the Sciences, which Frank was always very keen to do."

When handing over the sculpture, Mrs Noble said, as a former pupil, she would like to thank of this gift as a celebration of the work of all Academy teachers, past and present, as well as a celebration of Frank's work.

Mr Black said the

school is equally delighted that the sculpture is the work of a former pupil, Elizabeth O'Kane, whose work is exhibited both nationally and internationally.

This includes public commissions such as a

sculpture of the world famous Irish Traveller, Goggin.

John McCannock, displayed in Dublin's Foyagh Gardens, a bronze of rugby legend Dr. Noel Miller, purchased by the IRFU for their art collection in world Head

Quarters, Dublin, the champion Irish Greyhound, Mick the Miller, and a sculpture of Dr Garret FitzGerald commis-

sioned by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade in Ireland.

The sculpture of Darwin now resides in the

Biology Department of the Academy and will be appreciated by all members of the school community for many years to come.



Mrs Joan Noble and Alice Emmott unveil the sculpture of Darwin watched by Mrs Emmott and Miss Elizabeth O'Kane



Mr James McKeever, Head of Governors chairman, Heather Bellwell, Laura Noble, Mrs Joan Noble, Frances Emmott, Alice Emmott, Jane Emmott, Grandchildren and Mr Stephen Black, Principal, at the unveiling of the bronze at Ballymena Academy.