



● Headteacher Glenice Robinson (left) enjoying afternoon tea with West Kirby Grammar School's VIP visitors from Germany Code NA

Celebrating 30 years of exchanges

School played host to German visitors **By LORNA HUGHES**

A COLLECTION of photographs spanning three decades of student exchange trips between West Kirby Grammar School and the Freiherr-vom-Stein Schule in Germany, formed part of a special anniversary celebration.

More than 30 German students and teachers, including headteacher Herr Michael Protzel, made the trip from Gladenbach, near Frankfurt, to the Wirral for the 30th birthday celebration on Saturday.

VIPs including German consul Dr Ulrich Pfeiffer and Wirral's Deputy Mayor Councillor Alan Jennings also attended along with former pupils and teachers from West Kirby who had taken part in the cultural and educational exchanges since 1980.

Gertrude Wright, who was West Kirby Grammar's German teacher when the exchange programme began, returned to the school for the celebration.

She was also joined by former West Kirby student Noelyn Leyland, who took part in the trips as a teenager and later returned to teach German at West Kirby School.

Headteacher Glenice Robinson said: "Without doubt all those students who have taken part in the yearly exchanges have benefited and been changed by their experiences. "We hope the relationship will continue through future decades."

Guests were able to see a collage of photographs taken by students capturing some of the most memorable moments from the exchange visits.

A traditional English afternoon tea was also served to complete the anniversary party.

The German students are staying with host families across West Kirby for 10 days.

During their exchange they will also visit some of Merseyside's tourist attractions.

West Kirby students will fly to Gladenbach in March.