

Maybole Memories

MANY people from Maybole have moved away from the town for lots of different reasons over the years.

However, you can take the man out of Maybole but you can't take Maybole out of the man, as Bobby Paterson explains.

"I usually arrive in Maybole when it is dark after my 7 hour drive from London.

"You can see the lights twinkle in the distance as you come in the Ayr road and the hair on the back of my neck stands on end - never fails.

"I drive to Roderick Lawson Terrace to my parents' house and think 'who came up with that street name?' I used to get cramp at school writing my address you see.

"I was born at 8 Red Brae - now that's what I call an address - on 9/9/52. A fine year, God is it that long? 53 this year.

"As soon as we walk in the door handshakes, kisses and cuddles, good to be home. Strange that I left in 1972 but still call it home.

"You must be hungry," says my mum and so begins a week of eating all that lovely Scottish food unrivalled any where on the planet, sit up late talking about the old days crying with laughter.

"Next day dad picks 6 bunches of flowers and we head for the graveyard to see my mates no longer here; pass Wullie Meek's shop (bought many a sweetie in there) and then down Crosshill Road.

"We wander round and lay our flowers, a tear comes easily. I can see and hear them as if it was yesterday. So many characters and many so young, you could write a book. It was a joy to have known them all.

"We head back past the Glebe Park and I said to my dad, 'Where is everybody?' He said, 'Nobody plays football now, like your day.'

"We used to play on a Sunday - two hour each way halves, 25 a side, no quarter asked for and none given and scores of 42-39 not unusual.

"On we go up the Cairnfield, where my grandparents lived. I remember him yet,

coming in from work so dirty and so tired my grannie had to fill the big steel bath help him in it and wash him. We don't know we are born these days.

"On past the Cairn school, it is so small, as a wee boy there I thought it was at least 10 times that size.

"What memories of the Cairn school in Bobby Elder's Gang, charging round the school like maniacs, my first love Jan, my first game of football in a proper team. How much I owe Mr Rosamond the Head Master and football daft.

"On we go down Kirkland Street, number 61 gone - now a 3 storey tenement The Parrs, The Wilsons, The Browns, The Whitefields, The Brydens and us the Patersons.

"We kids had the time of our lives but looking back it must have been awful for our parents. Up the High Street and it hits you; crumbling, once proud buildings, many closed and lorries thundering down the street - a disaster waiting to happen. It is sad.

"No Joe Capaldi's café, no King's Arm's, no Morton Wallace where everyone in the town had the same haircut, no Jackie Dent's, no Bruce and Stella arguing with each other in the chip shop.

"Then down the Croft and home.

"It is time to go home, a week has past and I have enjoyed meeting a lot of my many friends and going out to the shore. It was deserted, the National Trust has seen to that.

"No fires, no camping, no dogs, no laughing, nobody goes now except Tootie and his hardy lads. National Trust - more like national disgrace.

"We head back to London, my wife never speaks to me until we get to New Cumnock.

"She spots the lump in my throat and the misty eyes; parents getting older; will I see them again and Maybole, my kind of town.

"My wife does not understand - she was not born in Maybole."

'Maybole shoes' end up in the Gambia

TWO or three times a year Maybole Charity Shop's committee donates surplus clothing and shoes to a charity in the Gambia, the smallest country on the continent of Africa.

Workers from the Edinburgh branch of fundraisers for the Yiriwa Nursery School Fund travel to Maybole and then take the donations to the Gambia.

Recently photographs of the children wearing the clothes and shoes were sent back to the committee and with



this one they had written "Maybole Shoes!" We wonder if they

know Maybole used to be world famous for producing shoes - around 1,000,000

pairs of boots and shoes were produced annually by the town's ten factories.

Councils launch A&E petitions

A PETITION aimed at keeping the A&E unit at Ayr open has been launched by the Association of South Ayrshire Community Councils.

Community councils from all over South Ayrshire had met in Girvan recently to hear representatives from NHS Ayrshire & Arran present their proposals which arose from a review of the service in the county.

Afterwards, the community council delegates decided to form a small group to draw up a petition in protest to one of the proposals which would mean the A&E unit at Ayr being moved to Crosshouse.

A public meeting was held in Ayr and was attended by about 400 people. The meeting was chaired by Ayr solicitor Graeme McKinstry and speakers included John Scott MSP, Adam Ingram MSP, Ian Taylor, Consultant anaesthetist in charge of

Ayr Hospital's Critical Care Unit, David Ryan, Consultant anaesthetist, Douglas Brown, former chairman NHS Hospital Trust, Archie Monkhouse, chairman of the Association of South Ayrshire Community Councils, and David Kiltie, chairman of Maybole Community Council.

Mr Kiltie explained that community councils were set up by statute to ascertain, co-ordinate and express public opinion so they were ideally placed to carry out a petition.

The petition reads: "The Board of NHS Ayrshire & Arran is to consult the public on proposals which, in the view of this Association, will lead to the closure of the A & E Unit at Ayr Hospital.

This action could be catastrophic for the people of Ayrshire and we are confident that the general public will wish to oppose it.

If you wish to support the retention of the full accident and emergency facility at Ayr Hospital please sign this petition."

Mr Kiltie said that each community council would be responsible for making it available in their own area.

In Maybole they will be in various places and are to be returned to Maybole Resource Centre where they will be collated by the community council.

He also urged everyone to email, write or phone the Health Board as well as signing the petition.

A public meeting has been arranged by the Health Board in Maybole Town Hall on Thursday September 29 at 7pm.

Maybole Community Council is urging everyone to attend that meeting to find out what is being proposed and to make their views known.

Any interesting news stories?
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