

Honours for Maybole

FOR a town the size of Maybole, to have three local people receive prestigious awards for their community work over the last six months is quite an achievement.

First off was David Kiltie, who was stunned to discover last summer that he had been awarded an MBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours for services to the community of Maybole.

Surrounded by his wife Margaret, six daughters and nine grandchildren, the Lord Lieutenant of Ayrshire and Arran, Major Richard Henderson, invested on behalf of her Majesty the Queen, David Kiltie as a Member of the Order of the British Empire last December in Maybole Town Hall.

Major Henderson described David as an "excellent example to others of active citizenship".

David was delighted that permission was granted for him to receive his award in the Town Hall. He said: "Because I was receiving the MBE for services to the community of Maybole, the Town Hall was the only place that made sense to me."

"It's an honour. It came totally out of the blue but I see it as recognition for the town."

By a very strange coincidence, David hasn't been the only local recipient of the MBE recently.

Even more cannily, David's fellow MBE was also educated at Cairn Primary and Carrick Academy.

Former Maybole woman Ann Coleman, nee Clark, now lives on a small farm in Greengairs, Lanarkshire with her

husband, having left the town in 1971, although her mum still lives in Maybole.

Ann was awarded the MBE in the Queen's New Years Honours for her work in the community, which started when a public notice appeared in the local paper to extract coal by opencast on two farms about half a mile along the road from her.

Recalling her upbringing in the rural idyll of Maybole, Ann fought the application right through a Public Inquiry, but unfortunately lost out.

However, Ann's fight led her to be among the first students in Europe to gain a Certificate of Higher Education in Environmental Justice through Friends of the Earth and Queen Margaret University College in Edinburgh and also resulted in changes to a Planning Policy.

Of her MBE Ann said: "It's a good feeling to have David Kiltie, a fellow Mayboleite as an MBE. I am still trying to get my head round it!"

Last, but by no means least, Pearl Barton was named as the 'Carrick Gazette Citizen of the Year' in January and was thrilled at the honour.

Rutherglen born Pearl received a string of nominations for her devotion and unstinting work with a number of organisations in the area, and her nominees thought it would be "lovely to see her getting something nice in return for her hard work and dedication".

Presently Pearl is a member of Maybole Community Council, Chair of the OIR and OAP committees, on the committee of Ayrshire Housing, The Diamond Club, Maybole Charity shop, Maybole Community Association and was recently instrumental in reforming the Maybole Senior Forum.

As well as this, Pearl takes locals who don't drive to hospital appointments and for their shopping, always willing to lend a hand whenever she can.

One of the people who nominated her said: "Pearl does so much to help people in so many ways. She is so good with everyone she meets."

However, the 74 year-old typically credits others for the work she does: "I know everybody says it, but I honestly wouldn't have got this award without the hard work of the other volunteers on the committees."

"If I can do anything to help someone out, I will", she said.



PEARL, front centre, goes through the paces with the Diamond Club girls.



MAYBOLE'S David Kiltie with his grandchildren after being presented with the MBE.



FORMER Maybole woman, then Ann Clark (second row from front, far right), in her school days at Maybole.

Any interesting news stories?

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