

*Gone but not forgotten*

# Mr MayBOLE

Maybole and Carrick have lost one of the finest gentlemen in the sad passing of **David Kiltie M.B.E.** a person who had a vision, truly lived to do whatever he could to help anyone in any way he could and make his beloved Maybole a better place to live.

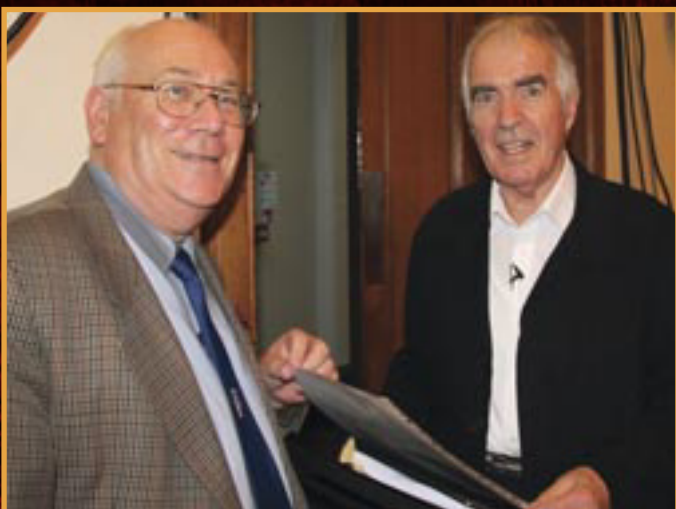
Eight page pullout on the life and works of David Kiltie.

*Please remove this should you wish to keep it.*

David was born just after the end of WW2 to Sam and Betty Kiltie and had one sister Eileen. The familiar saying "it takes a whole village to raise a child" could not describe David's experience of growing up any better and was later embodied in his public service. From an early age David was a leader becoming school captain at Carrick Academy, an exemplary student and with encouragement from the head teacher, Leonard White to give service to his community. Little did he know that this would be a path which David would follow throughout his life. Sadly David's father broke his back in 1961 and things were very difficult at home. He was given the opportunity to go on a school trip to France but his family were not in a position to allow this to happen. When the neighbours heard about this situation everyone gave what they could afford to ensure that David would get to France. David never forgot this generosity. Perhaps it was this trip that encouraged David to link the towns of Maybole and Crosne together over 40 years ago. Margaret Davidson one of the town's longest serving Twinners said 'Maybole Town Twinning Association was set up in 1982 and due to David's driving force he took it to great success over the years. The first visit was made by David, Don Raby, Allan Murray and Jim Sym to Crosne on the outskirts of Paris. Crosne was also linked with Shotten in Germany, Beleoil in Belgium



and Arco in Italy and over the years strong friendships of these towns grew to include Maybole. Real friendships were formed and visits to these towns resulted in reciprocal visits to Maybole. Like many organisations numbers have declined over the years but Maybole still continues in smaller ways to keep Twinning alive. Like all good friendships when they meet after a separation they pick up where they left off. It says so much about the man that a representative from Crosne Twinning Association came to his funeral and many messages of condolences were received from all the twin towns. David has to be thanked for all his hard work as he opened up the world to many residents in Maybole. David once said "Town Twinning was one of my most proud achievements of what was a very busy fruitful life".



# David Kiltie

1945 ~ 2023

On leaving school David trained as a chartered accountant and worked with computers for publisher Collins in Glasgow before taking a job with Ayr County Council in 1970. David always had an interest in politics and worked in local government for a couple of years. When he was elected to Maybole Town Council in May 1969 it encouraged him to work with many groups in the town over the coming years.

David topped the poll in the local elections in May 1969 and was elected to the Town Council on his 24th birthday. He often recalled that time fondly by saying the elections were a lot livelier in those days and after hearing that he had been elected to the Council, he came out onto the balcony at the Town Hall to be greeted by the crowd, who started singing happy birthday to him'. David was the first SNP councillor and was joined later by two other SNP councillors. Within a couple of years he was appointed as Honorary Treasurer, the chairman of the Finance Committee and held that position until local government reorganisation in 1975.



David married his sweetheart Margaret in 1966 and had six daughters which prior to his marriage he told Margaret that this would be his ideal family.

They later had nine grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

David was never happier than when they were all together and was extremely proud of all their achievements.



*Gone but not forgotten*

# Mr MayBOLE



David's community involvement at that time was Chair of the Attraction Committee which was run by the Council and involved organising dances, concerts and galas. He later created Maybole Community Association in 1975.

David was the first chairperson of Maybole Community Council in 1977 and served on it for 36 years and instigated many things which happened in Maybole during that time.

When David retired in 1996 he threw himself into many new projects and as one project completed he would have another idea ready to start something else.

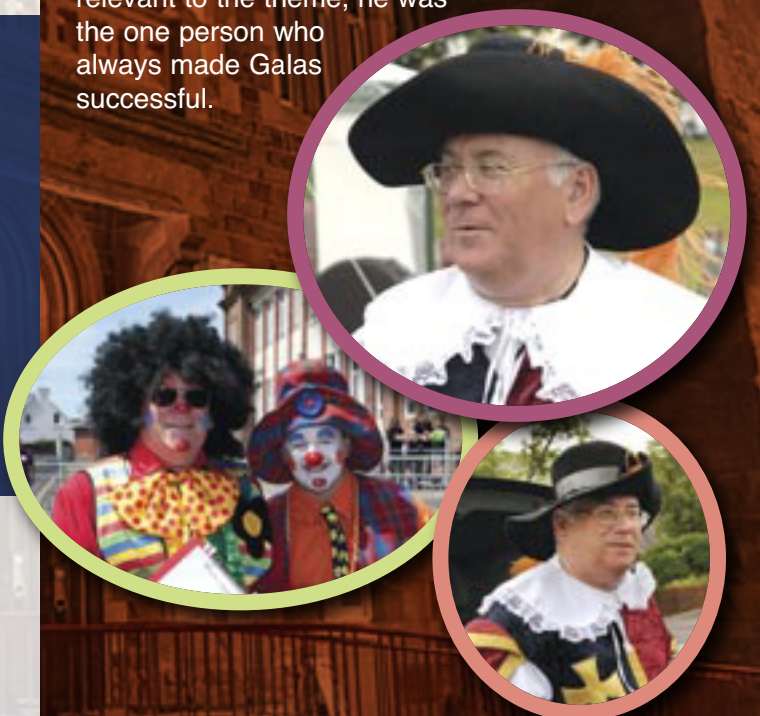
Over the years David was involved with Maybole Community Development Group, Maybole Resource Centre, Maybole Charity Shop, Jean Falconer Literary Competition, Maybole Sick Nursing Association, Carrick Housing Association, Carrick Community Transport Group, Carrick 800, Maybole Historical Society, Maybole Youth Club, Ayrshire Leader, North Carrick Community Benefit Company, Chairman of the pastoral council of Our Lady and St Cuthbert Church, Maybole's longest serving Justice of the Peace on the Lord Lieutenant's committee which appoints new JP's and Maybole news correspondent for local papers for over 25 years.

David was also instrumental in setting up the Maybole.org website with Rich Pettit. Rich paid homage to David via this webpage when he learned of David's passing. Rich said 'David was my good friend and partner in creating this website for Maybole. In the early days of the Internet there were few

Scottish towns with a website. I was interested in finding out more about my Scottish family history and David wanted the world to know about the vibrant community life and rich history of Maybole. Over many years David and I exchanged messages and images to document all that was Maybole, past and present. I live in the US and made several wonderful trips to my ancestral town with my family, where David, his family and friends greeted and treated us with the legendary Scottish hospitality'. Words cannot express my gratitude for the years of friendship and collaboration that I enjoyed with this notable of notables, David Kiltie, M.B.E., JP.

David's love of music started in the early 70's when a group of friends set up a mobile disco as they thought it would be a much cheaper alternative for people rather than hiring bands. In later years he became the resident D.J. in the Speakers Club in Maybole and became better known as D.J.D.K.. David loved being part of the entertainment every weekend and had lots of memories of happy times celebrating special events with many local people.

Gala Days at the Glebe field always found David with a microphone in his hand carrying out the Master of Ceremonies role in fancy dress of course whether it was a Town Crier, a clown or whatever was relevant to the theme, he was the one person who always made Galas successful.



# David Kiltie

1945 ~ 2023



David was always a step ahead of wondering what to do next for the Town and when it was the 250th anniversary of the meeting of Robert Burns' parents at the market fair in Maybole this was exactly the type of event he wanted to organise. 'Burns and Aw That' was a year long event starting on Robert Burns' birthday and finishing with his parents' marriage in the December. Always keen to record such events David then set about producing a book about all the events that year. To commemorate this Anniversary he finished it off by having a bust of Robert Burns commissioned for display in Maybole Town Hall.



David's knowledge of local history was amazing and he could not let the opportunity pass him by to celebrate Maybole being a Burgh for 500 years and so Maybole 500 was celebrated with many events that year.

A historic exhibition in Maybole Town Hall with Mary Queen of Scots necklace on display, a lantern parade, a timeline of Maybole history was produced, local youngsters were filmed re-enacting some historical events and jousting to name but a few of what was a very busy year.



It goes without saying that one of David's greatest achievements was the setting up of Maytag, a training scheme for local people which provided them with many skills. Over a period of 20 years David attracted funding of over £5 million to the scheme which helped train many people and ultimately found them work. The most prestigious accolade anyone could receive would be a M.B.E. David received his Investiture from Major Richard Henderson Lord- Lieutenant of Ayrshire and Arran on behalf of her Majesty the Queen on the 19th December 2005. Typical of David always thinking of others, expressed such a wish so that members of his family, friends and colleagues might be present instead of the one or two who are permitted if the investiture takes place in one of the royal palaces.



*No-one deserved  
this more  
than him for  
everything he has  
done for his town  
and community.*

*Gone but not forgotten*

Mr MayBOLE

Here are just some of the MANY kind words that people had to say about David.

I was extremely fortunate and grateful to have David as a member of the Ayrshire LEADER Local Action Group over a number of years.

As a Community Champion he could always be relied upon to initiate and contribute to vociferous debate and discussion. David always made valuable and relevant contributions.

David has left many legacies in North Carrick and Rural Ayrshire and his contribution to the betterment of fragile communities and their people is there for all to see and benefit from.

He is sadly missed.

**Chris Savage**  
*Former Chair of Ayrshire  
LEADER LAG*



David Kiltie was held in very high regard here at Carrick Academy. A former pupil and a true friend of the school community it was a pleasure to work with David on various projects over the years – Maybole Young Roots, the town's 500th Anniversary, helping our pupils redesign the school's house badges when launching our inter-house competition and of course our town twinning and school exchanges with Crosne in France.

David's passion for local history was clear to all who ever met him. He accepted our request to work with young people and inform them of their local history as we relaunched our former house system. David's depth of knowledge and ability to relate to our young people helped inspire them to design striking new house badges which depicted the stories behind their old names of Crossraguel, Culzean and Cargill.

David looked beyond Maybole as well and through his work with the Town Twinning Committee, cherished the links formed with a range of towns and communities across Europe. With David's connections and encouragement, Carrick Academy was able to establish a brief school exchange with Collège Bellevue in Crosne near Paris. For me personally, it was a pleasure to accompany a group of local students to France and receive a very warm welcome from our hosts. In return, David and his team joined us in welcoming them back to Maybole the following summer. I know for a fact that some of these connections live on within the school community to this day and David would be delighted to know that we are rekindling links once again. The school's Modern Languages Department is planning to meet with our French friends during a school trip to Paris in June.

On behalf of Carrick Academy, I would like to pay tribute to David for the many opportunities he offered our young people and the life-changing experiences these brought to so many.

**Jonathan Rusk**  
*Depute Head Teacher*

# David Kiltie

1945 ~ 2023

I was always struck by David's sheer enthusiasm for the town and people of Maybole and Carrick. His organisational abilities were always at the fore and he was never happier than when he was making things happen for the town he loved.

He was involved in almost everything from the Queen of Carrick Dance to the Summer Gala. Later after his Council days, his activities only increased and during his lifetime his contribution to the wellbeing of Maybole has been legendary.

Our friendship continued after our time together on Town Council until 1977 and he was always there with an opinion, help or advice during that long time. I will miss him greatly.

**Bill McCubbin**



I didn't know David for as long as others but David was one of the first people I met in Maybole when we moved to the town. He was quick to introduce himself and welcome me to the town and sing the praises of his beloved home.

A few months went by and I showed interest in the Community Council and was re-acquainted with David. His encouragement to get involved and his enthusiasm for all things Maybole and Carrick was inspiring.

The skills that David had when it came to people and project management were second to none and following in his footsteps as Chair of Maybole Community Council was always going to be a difficult task but knowing David was close by and always available to offer guidance and knowledge made things easier.

Maybole has lost a true champion and a friend to many and he was and always will be Mr Maybole. My thoughts, prayers and best wishes go out to David's family. An inspiration to us all.

**Mark Fletcher**

*Chairperson Maybole Community Council*



*Gone but not forgotten*



# Mr MayBOLE

## Remembering David Kiltie MBE

I first met David not long after I started my new job with South Ayrshire Council in March 2009. I attended a Maybole Community Council meeting in the historic setting of the Town Hall chambers. This was the beginning of what I felt turned out to be a productive and positive working relationship between myself, David, and the other key community leaders of Maybole.

My first impression of David was that he was clearly passionate about Maybole, and everything associated with the town and its communities. He was already the holder of an MBE by the time I got to know him, and this only added to his aura.

Campaigning for better services from the Council for Maybole, be that better quality roads and footpath surfaces, improved gritting provision in winter months, improved playparks for Maybole's young people, a new flagpole for the Greenside, and of course the small matter of a bypass to relieve Maybole's medieval High Street of the constant flow of HGVs travelling to and from the ferry port at Cairnryan, David led the way in seeking improvements.

I was impressed by the way in which David chaired the Maybole Community Council, delegating key functions to other Maybole Community Leaders like Peter Mason, Alan Murray Mark Fletcher and Senga, to name but a few, and through David's encouragement many significant achievements were delivered for the town.

David also had robust working relationships with the flow of South Ayrshire Councillors who crossed his path. But he treated all the same, and no one was left in any doubt what David was looking for, be they Ward Councillors or Council officers – action, and now!

I respected David's in-depth knowledge of Maybole and its communities, its rich history, and his constant desire to make things better for today's residents and for tomorrow's.

David struck me as an intelligent man, a caring and compassionate man, and everyone was treated the same. I also formed an extraordinarily strong view that he did not suffer fools gladly and he also had the ability to 'show-off' his sharp tongue when he felt there was a need to do so!

David enjoyed many special moments with the Maybole community, and as well as the procession of the Olympic Torch through the town in 2012, David had the honour of carrying the Commonwealth Baton along Maybole's High Street in 2014 in recognition of his many years' service to the community.

The eventual opening of the Maybole Bypass was clearly a welcome and emotional time for David, as he and Peter Mason and others had campaigned and worked so hard for such a long time, when Senga cut the ribbon to officially open the road, it was like a lifetime's work had been realised and all the frustrating set-backs over the years had been worth it.

His commitment and dedication to Maybole has left a lasting legacy for David, but none more so than the continuing commitment of those following in his footsteps who want to continue to see Maybole and its people get the best services the Council and others can provide.

It was an honour and a privilege to know and work with David for a period of time, and his lasting memory for me will be the passion, dignity, and perseverance he showed in making things happen in Maybole, and improving the lives of so many people who live there. He has and will be missed.

**Mike**

Mr MayBOLE

David Kiltie

1945 ~ 2023

David Kiltie was at the heart of the community all of his adult life and his love of his town could not be questioned, he was a proud Miniboler! He was creating a nurturing environment for the youth of the town 50 years ago, supervising at the Maybole Youth Club, and usually beating all at table-tennis. This was the start of a long and interesting journey and David showed his natural enthusiasm and dedication to his Community. His victory as a young local Councillor has been well documented, followed by his long and continuous service on the Community Council.

David did things right, expecting the highest standard from himself and all those he was involved with. Any suggestion of doing a job half-hearted or cutting corners, was met with a withering look and ne verbal response was required.

He was involved in everything positive in Maybole

from Gala days to Historic re-enactments and a he held a particular pride in the town's twinning, in particular the relationship with Crosne.

David was a man of the highest integrity, religious but never forcing his personal views on the company and was a stalwart of the local RC community. An indication of this was his lengthy service as a Justice of the Peace.

David was proud resident, born and bred within Maybole. A man the town can be rightly proud of!

**Brian Connolly**



David was always very proud of Maybole Pipe Band and it was most fitting that they led the funeral procession to Maybole cemetery which passed where he started married life with Margaret, his Mum and Dad's homes and also the family home in Crosshill Road.

There will never be anyone who could fill his shoes, David will be remembered for generations to come as people reminisce about the wonderful person he was, always thinking about and helping others and making Maybole a town he was so proud of.

David was Mr MayBOLE