

By Michael Allen
NEWS REPORTER

A FORMER apprentice from Coventry has been made a Freeman of the City almost 60 years to the day that her father received the same honour.

Linda Prebble, 49, an automotive engineer from Wolston, was eligible to become a Freeman because of the apprenticeship she completed with Peugeot between 1980 and 1984.

Linda's most recent work has been with Jaguar Land Rover at Whitley.

Her proud father, Colin Bromfield, 82, was there to see his daughter receive the same honour he did 60 years ago.

"She didn't giggle like on her wedding day!" he said.

Colin received his award in 1953 after completing an apprenticeship with Daimler at Radford between the ages of 17 to 21. The factory site is now gone and has been replaced by Daimler Green housing estate.

"Normally, you'd go in the army at 17," he said, "but if you were an apprentice you didn't have to. But the day after you finished your apprenticeship you'd be called in for national service."

Linda was delighted that her father could witness her receiving the honour.

"I wanted my father to see me get it," she said. "It's a thing I've been meaning to do for a long time."

She had originally planned to become a dress designer



PROUD: Linda Prebble and dad Colin Bromfield

LINDA BECOMES FREEMAN OF CITY – 60 YEARS AFTER DAD

and work as a wardrobe mistress, but after someone at school suggested she take up technical drawing she ended up becoming an engineer. Her father's career was also influential for her.

"Dad's always had old cars around and I was always out there learning things look-

ing at cars, so I guess that's how I got into it really," she said.

In total, 20 people received the honour at a ceremony in the Council House on Thursday, including an IT system testing engineer, a hairdresser, a bricklayer, a journalist and a solicitor.

Recipients of the honour were required to say the Oath of the Freeman, pledging their allegiance to the Queen and their obedience to the Lord Mayor and the magistrates of the city.

Lord Mayor Tim Sawdon joked afterwards that the modern application of the

Oath was to get people to pay their Council Tax.

Coventry is the only city in the UK where someone can become a Freeman through having completed an apprenticeship.

In other parts of the country, it can be obtained by birth or payment.

Spring fete in memory of Daniel

A SPRING fete has been organised by a family in memory of their son.

Daniel Singh died in 2011 at the age of 20 after suffering from a life-limiting illness called mucopolysaccharide.

His father, Rafhal Singh, is now arranging the fete at the Highway Club in Fletchamstead Highway to raise money for three organisations which helped Daniel in his short life.

As well as a host of stalls, the fete on Sunday May 19 will include a charity football match and a display by Shaolin warrior monks.

Money raised from the fete will go to Baginton Fields Special School, the Cross Roads charity which provides respite for carers and the Hillfields-based Gurudwara Guru Nanak Parkash temple's football team, for which Daniel was mascot.

Rafhal said: "These are the three places he enjoyed.

"We aim to do it every year.

"Now we just want to get people along to spend some money."

The fete will run from 1pm to 6pm and will include a barbecue, bouncy castle, face painting and a tombola.

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