

Queen's birthday honour for Ian



He's the musical director of Taverham Band, chairman of Taverham Scouts and Ringland Parish Council, founder of IC Travel and has served as chair of governors at Drayton Community Infant School and been a governor at Taverham High School. Ian Colman couldn't be a bigger part of the community!

And it seems we're not the only ones who think so, as Ian was selected for a Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE) award in the Queen's Birthday Honours 2016.

Ian received a very official looking letter back in April to inform him, but had to keep it a secret for six weeks until the list was officially released.

"It was quite a day," said Ian. "I'd just been to see Glenn Close in Sunset Boulevard in the West End, which was on my bucket list and would be quite hard to top, but then I came home to find the letter on my doormat.

"It was difficult to keep it quiet – it's amazing how much it comes up in conversation when it's something you can't talk about.

"I had to tell my wife Lisa. I couldn't believe it so I had to pass the letter to her to check!"

Ian has three children: Emily, 14, Matthew, 12, and Samuel, 10. And received quite different responses from them.

"They didn't really know how to take it at first," said Ian. "I explained to my youngest that I would have letters after my name, and he asked if he would have to call me dad MBE!

"The older ones said it was so embarrassing, as teenagers do!"

The honour was bestowed on Ian for "services to the community in Norwich" and the nomination was made around two



COMMUNITY FOCUS: (top) Ian Colman at one of the Exploding Brass! concerts; (above left) an IC Travel trip to see Mamma Mia in the West End; (above right) it won't be the first time Ian has met one of the Royals when he attends the Royal Investiture later this year – he was introduced to HRH The Prince Of Wales by Sandringham Flower Show chairman David Reeve after the band performed there in 2013.

years ago by a group of people from the various organisations that Ian is involved with. Colleagues from RBS where he works were also involved in providing letters of recommendation.

"It was all done behind closed doors without my knowing, but I'm now beginning to piece it together.

"I've always done these things so I never really think about it, but it is lovely that people really appreciate what I do."

Ian is probably best known for his position at the front of Taverham Band. He's been involved with the band since he joined as a cornet player aged 11, became the youth representative on the committee aged 13, and has been the conductor for 25 years.

It's a similar story with the Scouts. He joined aged 11 and became an adult leader when he turned 18.

Many people don't realise that he's also behind IC Travel, which provides a locally-based travel service to take people

door-to-door from Taverham or Drayton to London and other places of interest. It's a highly valued service which enables people to meet new friends and embark on a trip that they would never have the confidence to do themselves.

As such a well-known member of the community, Ian has been inundated with congratulations.

"It's been amazing. I was at Taverham Fayre and I had people I don't even know coming up to me and saying that I deserved the award."

Ian will be invited to a Royal Investiture at Buckingham Palace in the next six months, where he will be presented with his medal by the Queen or another member of the Royal Family, to which he hopes to be able to take his wife and children.

"I'd like to thank everyone who played a part in putting me forward and have supported me in various organisations," said Ian. "I couldn't do it without them."