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And the two winners are...

By Niamh Mullen

AFTER two months of hairdressing articles, hundreds of nominations from the public, 12 hair spies and four judges, the winners of the 'Golden Scissors Awards' have been chosen.

The *Sligo Weekender* is pleased to announce that the winner of the **BEST COMMUNITY SALON AWARD** is Flair Hair Salon in Coolaney, owned by Annette Davey. The winner of the **BEST HAIRDRESSER AWARD** is Anthony Kilcoyne, proprietor of Salon 2 in Sligo.

Stylist and judge Martha Galvin gave feedback on behalf of the judging panel. She said the overall standard was very high.

"It was very difficult to sit down and shortlist them. Everyone was deserving of an award in their own right. But from a community award point of view we had to pick someone who ticked all the boxes. Everything from phone manner and the atmosphere in the salon, to how the stylist interacted with clients and staff was important. There was a lot of work in picking the winners. We really sat down and deliberated. I think we have done good work. I know in my heart and soul that I would send anyone into those salons and know that they would get a very good service."

Martha explained why Flair Hair Salon won the **COMMUNITY SALON AWARD**. "We picked Flair as the winner because the spy that went in was delighted with the service and the hair style she got. The staff mixed very well, dressed neatly, and had good knowledge of products.

"In the middle of our spy's visit some tourists came in. She (the hairdresser) went out to help them. She was very polite in the way she excused herself from the client. The client was her main priority. There wasn't a bad word said (about the salon). It got a lot of nominations and is a very good community salon. She (the hairdresser) seemed to help everybody and was not just focused on the one person that she was doing.

"She was so friendly on the phone before we went into the salon. It would encourage you to go in. In the salon she was very friendly to the clients. She was very polite to clients and she excused herself. I think the fact that she didn't just breeze off the tourists was important. She went outside. That makes it a very community orientated salon."

Martha also explained why Anthony Kilcoyne won the **BEST HAIRDRESSER AWARD**. "We were looking for someone who got a lot of nominations. We looked at the quality of their work, their interaction in the salon they work in, and how long their clients are going to them. We considered how long they

BEST HAIRDRESSER



WINNER: Anthony Kilcoyne, of Salon 2 in Sligo.

have been hairdressing, the response from people, and what they have given to the industry. What they do in the industry, their level of professionalism, how much they update themselves, and whether they train other people was also important. We looked for someone whose service is consistent all the time.

"Anthony trained some of the other nominees who have gone on to open their own salons. He also inspires his own staff.

"He goes away to the likes of Vidal Sassoon to train. He takes that time out

of his own salon and brings knowledge back to teach others. Other hairdressers in the area are inspired by him to rise up the industry. Anthony brings new things back and then it filters to other salons and keeps them on their toes.

"For our young generation we also wanted a role model of a hairdresser that people can aspire to be. I think Anthony does that. He encourages people into the industry. Even if you are not in his salon you are aware of his work," said Martha.

BEST COMMUNITY SALON



WINNER: Flair Hair Salon in Coolaney.

The *Sligo Weekender* and the Radisson SAS Hotel and Spa has invited all the nominees to a special Golden Scissors Awards presentation evening in the Radisson. The event takes place tonight (Tuesday, May 22) at 8pm in the Radisson Hotel, Ballinac. All salon staff, family and friends are welcome.

Each salon/stylist will receive copies of the customer submissions made to the paper. Each shortlisted salon will receive a Golden Scissors 'Certificate of Excellence'.

The **BEST HAIRDRESSER** will receive a stylish Golden Scissors wall plaque and a holiday to a plush Marbella apartment for four, courtesy of the *Sligo Weekender*. The **BEST SALON** will receive a Golden Scissors best community salon wall plaque and a half-day rejuvenating treatment at the Radisson SAS Spa for four people. The wall plaques were designed by Breeogue Pottery.

Check out the Golden Scissors website at www.sligoweekender.ie/goldenscissors.



Judge MARTHA GALVIN on ANTHONY KILCOYNE

"Other hairdressers in the area are inspired by him to rise up the industry. Anthony brings new things back and then it filters to other salons and keeps them on their toes... even if you are not in his salon you are aware of his work."



Judge MARTHA GALVIN on FLAIR HAIR SALON

"We picked Flair as the winner because the spy that went in was delighted with the service and the hair style she got. The staff mixed very well, dressed neatly, and had good knowledge of products... it got a lot of nominations and is a very good community salon."

NEXT WEEK: Full coverage of the awards night (make sure you're not having a bad hair day!)