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Irish dancing helps to boost charity collection

ST PATRICK'S Day celebrations in Bexley brought not only entertainment but also a big boost to the coffers of two charities.

Bexley's deputy mayor, Councillor Ray Sams, was among the guests who enjoyed an evening of traditional Irish entertainment featuring dancers from the Courtney Mahon School of Irish Dance.

A packed civic suite enjoyed a display of Irish step dancing, reels, jigs and hornpipes as well as show-style rhythmic ensembles.

The youngest dancer to perform was Niamh McGlynn who, at the age of five, has already amassed an impressive array of trophies.

During the evening Cllr Sams also accepted cheques totalling £1,000 raised for the British Red Cross and this year's Bexley mayor's charity, Bexley Alzheimer's Society.

The traditional entertainment was followed by a disco, where Irish fancy dress was the costume of the day.

The dance school plans to run a talent identification programme at Townley Grammar School, Bexleyheath, in the summer, as part of its ongoing support for the British Red Cross.

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Five-year-old dancer Niamh McGlynn with some of her trophies

Councillors want better bus service

A COMMUNITY fed up with being isolated by poor public transport has launched a petition for a better bus service.

The attempt to improve the 492 route, which serves North Cray, the Bedensfield estate and people living in North Cray Road, is being supported by a variety of groups.

Buses only run every 30 minutes and follow, it is claimed, a meandering route through the back

and Dartford on their way from Sidcup to Bluewater.

Criticisms of the service include it being frequently delayed at peak times, it being curtailed to make up missing time and it being one of the borough's least reliable routes.

Transport for London (TfL) reviewed the service last year, but has announced it will not be making any changes.

Now Cray Meadows ward councillors Don Massey, Cheryl Bacon

Zoom out

and support from London Assembly member for Bexley James Cleverly, prospective Tory Parliamentary candidate for Old Bexley and Sidcup, James Brokenshire, Cray Meadows Forum and North Cray and Bedensfield Estate residents' associations.

Cllr Massey said: "People are extremely fed up."

What do you think? Have your

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