



Greystones People of the Year Awards

The 2017 Greystones People of the Year Awards sponsored by Wicklow Times were held last Thursday evening in Greystones Golf Club. Eight awards were presented on the night. The awards celebrate the people that make the Greystones community so special.

"I want to thank all involved in organising the awards including the Wicklow Times, and Greystones Municipal District. Greystones has a wealth of talented and dedicated people and it is so important that we recognise their achievements," said Minister Simon Harris.

"I want to congratulate the winners: Andrew Kealy, Kathleen McCarthy, Declan McLoughlin, Rosmary Raughter, Brian McKeary, Sadbh Durston, Tony Rennix and Rachel Casey. I want to give a special mention to Rachel Casey who has received a special award for her incredible community achievements. Rachel completed her work experience with me in my Leinster House office this year and I have met her at many occasions since including the Greystones Cancer Support fundraising event on Daffodil day. Well done to Rachel and all the winners."

Sports Award - Andrew Kealy

This Year's Sports Person of the Year is Andrew Kealy of Greystones RFC, who defied the medical experts to come back after a severe injury. Andrew, 26, was nominated by Cllr Gerry Walsh, and the nomination was seconded by Greystones RFC Chairman Gary Nolan.

Three years ago, Andrew, an out-half, suffered a horrific ankle injury (He dislocated his right ankle, broke his fibula and suffered a syndesmotom tear from his ankle half way up his shin in the same leg). It was a devastating blow for Andrew and also his team as they had to make do without such a giant player in their ranks. The next 2.5 years were a very difficult time when, even after 4 operations, Andrew was unable to walk any great distance without a great deal of pain.

Throughout this period Andrew made every effort to improve himself physically. The 5th operation carried out in April 2016 by Professor Robert Flavin, where an artificial "deltoid ligament" was

inserted in his ankle, finally made a significant improvement - although not pain free. To this day, as well as the artificial deltoid ligament, Andrew has two metal bolts, two three-inch metal plates and nine metal screws in his ankle.

While everyone in the club had resigned themselves that he would never play rugby again, in July 2016, against the advice of his 3 consultants who recommended retirement, and to the horror of his mother, Andrew made a decision to try and return to rugby.

The culmination of all the effort (and pain) is that, with the continued assistance of Cameron McKeever and Olan Savage (the Club's Strength and Conditioning Coach) he played a significant role in helping his team deliver the Ulster Bank All Ireland League Division 2B title to Greystones this season. Incredibly Andrew played in 16 of Greystones' 18 games contributing a total of 144 points from the boot with a conversion ratio Ronan O'Gara or Jonny Sexton would be envious of - All of this from a kicking leg

many medical experts suggested he would have difficulty walking on never mind helping to kick his team to a league title. "Greystones Rugby Club are absolutely delighted with the awarding of Greystones Sportsperson of the year to our first team player Andrew Kealy," said club president Jerome O'Brien. "Andrew is a tremendous role model for all aspiring young sports people in the town, whether young Rugby players, GAA, Soccer or whatever their chosen sport, Andrew has demonstrated that with the right attitude and determination you can overcome whatever adversity is placed in your way."

Lifetime Achievement Award - Kathleen McCarthy

Kathleen McCarthy is this year's recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award. Kathleen was nominated by Billy Coyle, Manager of Greystones Credit Union, where she has been a weekly volunteer for the last 30 years. A native of Greystones

for the last 85 years, Kathleen is the longest serving member of the Greystones and District Credit Union. Kathleen's husband Jerpome McCarthy was a founding member of GCU in 1969 where Kathleen joined the front office team. Kathleen joined the Board of Directors when Jerome passed away in 1982, and she then served as a full-time Board member in many roles.

Kathleen has played an instrumental role in the numerous office moves of the Credit Union over the years, from its original office location in La Touche Place to the Main Street.

Kathleen is still an active volunteer in GCU, where she meets, greets, and services a wide number of local members twice a week on Mondays and Fridays. Anyone who knows Kathleen knows how much she enjoys volunteering in GCU as she has often commented that it is a great way to meet people.

Kathleen has devoted her time to serving members of GCU. She is meticulous in her handling of monies and people's financial affairs, and pro-



Shay Fitzmaurice presents Declan McLoughlin of Bochelli's with the Commercial Award at the Greystones People of the Year Awards which was held at Greystones Golf Club.

vides a friendly and familiar face to the members each week.

Not alone has Kathleen tirelessly worked in the Credit Union, she has also served on numerous other community committees including St. Brigid's and St. David's school committees.

Over the last 48 years, Kathleen has enthusiastically and continuously served Greystones Credit Union. She actively

inspires others who may like to volunteer and she demonstrates that age is really irrelevant when it comes to volunteering.

Commerical Award - Declan McLoughlin

Declan McLoughlin of Bochelli's Restaurant is the winner of the Commerical award for his role in organising a Christmas Dinner for the homeless.

Declan selflessly gave up his Christmas Day and the use of his premises to organise a meal for over 90 people in need from the North Wicklow area. The Dinner brought Greystones together in a real community effort. Declan had a catering company to help with the eatery supplies, and Greystones Cancer Support lent their Burco boiler. Holy Rosary Church lent the teapots

and Declan provided the food and did the cooking. The Rathdown Park Resident's Association nominated Declan for the award saying, "Last Christmas Declan was moved to do something practical about the homeless crisis. He opened his kitchen to everyone in need. He galvanised the selfless spirit of giving in the town and served up a wonderful Christmas dinner to many homeless and



Councillor Gerry Walsh presents Andrew Kealy from Greystones RFC with the Sports Award



Greystones Municipal District Cathaoirleach Jennifer Whitmore the Lifetime Achievement Award to Kathleen McCarthy.



Councillor Grainne McLoughlin presents historian and writer Rosemary Raughter with the Cultural Award



Greystones People of the Year Awards



Wicklow County Council Cathaoirleach Pat Fitzgerald presents Professor Barry McCleary and Eibhlin Power with the Special Recognition Award at the Greystones People of the Year Awards which was held at Greystones Golf Club.



Minister Andrew Doyle presents Sadhbh Durston with the Young Entrepreneur Award.



Greystones Municipal District Cathaoirleach Jennifer Whitmore presents Tony Rennix with the Civic Award

needy people. "With the help of many friends, volunteers and Wicklow Homeless Five Loaves he co-ordinated a huge operation; from transporting, feeding and cleaning up after those deserving folk who are often alone and lonely at Christmas.

"This was a huge achievement, undertaken on a day when most people would be tucked up beside the fire, and it is extremely worthy of recognition.

"It is for these reasons, both business and charitable, that Rathdown Park Residents Association wishes to nominate Declan McLoughlin."

Cultural Award - Rosemary Raughter

Local historian, writer and editor Rosemary Raughter is the winner of this year's Cultural Person of the Year. Rosemary is described as the 'driving force' behind the Greystones Archaeological and Historical Society. The Society actively promotes interest in and awareness of, the North Wicklow historical and archaeological heritage. It also publishes occasional journals.

Rosemary has written many papers and research articles on names from the area, in particular on the women's rights and their successes. Selected titles include Religious Women and their History and The Journal of Elizabeth Bennis, a fascinating journal of a woman in the 18th century.

Rosemary was also very involved in the production of Greystones Guides to Houses. The Trails of Greystones - its buildings and History was a publication of a series of walks which was jointly produced by the La Touche Legacy committee and Greystones

Archaeological and Historical Society. The brochure was free and available in libraries and commercial businesses.

In recent years Rosemary has been central to the organisation of the Festival of History with the La Touche Legacy. She is described by George Jones who nominated her, a 'woman of action'.

Special Recognition Award - Barry McCleary

Greystones resident Professor Barry McCleary of Megazyme is the winner of the Special Recognition Award for both his business and charitable contributions.

Megazyme was founded by Prof McCleary in 1988 and is located in nearby Bray. The company is a global leader in the development, manufacture and supply of analytical reagents, enzymes and assay kits for the food, feed, dairy and wine industries. Barry has received awards globally for his contributions to analytical chemistry including the Guthrie Medal from the Royal Australian Chemical Institute, the Harvey W. Wiley award from the AOAC International, the Clyde H Bailey Medal from the ICC and the Edith A. Christensen award and the Applied Research Medal from AACC International. In 2010 he received the inaugural International Achievement Award from the University of Sydney. McCleary served as President Elect, president and Chair of the Board of AACC International from 2009-2011. In 2014 he was awarded the University of Sydney Alumni Award for International Achievement in recognition of his contribution to

the enrichment of society through his commitment to improving food quality throughout the world.

Some of Barry's achievements have been less public and visible. As a member of the Parish Pastoral Council in the parish of Holy Rosary Barry undertook his duties as Chairperson with 'dedication and love' say his fellow members.

He personally donated funds to buy life saving and changing equipment for famine and drought risk regions of Kenya. Closer to home Barry donated generously to a family in need in Greystones and provided prizes for the local Justice Group table quiz.

"There are many causes that I am personally aware of, but over the grapevine I hear of many other needy appeals that Barry has saved without the slightest touch of personal pride or publicity. In fact, he always gives without it being known, except to those like me who ask him, and several times he has asked me to let him know about projects in Africa he can support," said Ann McGovern, who was one of several people to nominate Professor McCleary.

Young Entrepreneur Award - Sadhbh Durston

Twelve year old Sadhbh Durston, a 1st year student at Colaiste Chraobh Abhann in Kilcoole, is this year's Young Entrepreneur of the Year. Sadhbh was nominated by her year head Mr Ruairi Farrell for setting up her own business called 'Yum Yum' as part of the 'Enterprise in Action' component of her business studies junior cycle curriculum.

"I have been overwhelmed by the drive and hard work that Sadhbh has put into her business," said Mr

Farrell. "It is very unusual for a 12 year old to be the driving force behind a business venture such as Yum Yum."

Yum Yum is a business which is based on a life lesson which Sadhbh's parents instilled in her - to dream big and work hard. Yum Yum started out as a business that produced homemade baking and confectionary items. However, the young entrepreneur realised that the profit margins and shelf life of the products were not substantial enough to make it a viable business in the long term. Showing the makings of a savvy businesswoman, Sadhbh diversified Yum Yum into a business that produces homemade artisan chutney (which provided a low risk and higher potential return). Yum Yum products are made to a secret recipe

and come in three flavours (Apple & Plum, Sweet Chili, and Apple & Chili). The chutneys are presented in an attractive kilner jar and sold on a wooden presentation board which Sadhbh made herself with the help of her grandfather.

Yum Yum products have been sold at many farmers markets in the area and there have been many repeat orders. Sadhbh has represented her school at the Wicklow Student Enterprise Awards, where she was the youngest participant, and won the overall award in the Junior category.

Yum Yum has delivered a healthy profit since the company's inception and continues to expand the product line. She big plans to continue to develop Yum Yum and hopes to get her product onto the shelves of local retailers.

Civic Award - Tony Rennix

This year's very worthy Civic Award winner is Tony Rennix. Tony, who is now in his 81st year, is well known in the Kilcoole area for his involvement with the the Kilcoole Senior Citizens Association. Tony is also well known in Delgany where he's lived for the last 50 years, as well as in Greystones where he used to work in The Beach House.

Tony has been the main organiser for the Senior Citizens for the last two and a half decades, organising all of the the trips away and days out throughout the year. These include the main trip at Easter each year. He has done this despite his sometimes ill-health. The trip includes organised tours and daily

entertainment for those who attend. Tony also collects the weekly church envelope contributions in his area and is also involved with the weekly bingo sessions held in the hall in Kilcoole.

At Tony's 80th birthday celebrations in the Parkview Hotel last year, there large turnout of family and friends was testament to the high regard in which he is held in the community and how popular he is. Tony is always ready and happy to help out in any situation and fully deserves to be recognised with this Civic Award.

Special Award - Rachel Casey

The recipient of this year's Special Award is 16 year old Rachel Casey, who was nominated by Greystones Cancer Support for her record of commitment to helping people in her community.

Rachel has achieved a great deal in her young life, and seems destined to achieve much more. Having overcome childhood leukaemia, Rachel is a truly inspirational person. She has become a shining example to us all, and has a strong track record of community involvement and a strong social conscience.

"Greystones cancer Support feels that Rachel has achieved a great deal in her young life, and that she is a role model and for all young people," said GCS.

"Rachel strongly overcame any difficulties she may have had with her leukemia treatment. But she did not stop there. She grew into an extraordinarily well developed person, both

mentally and physically. She turned her life around and began to give back to the community.

"Over the years, Rachel has participated and assisted in many of our activities. At all time, she has been extraordinarily cooperative and resourceful/ She is diligent and pro-active, often making suggestions to improve our events. She is warm and friendly in dealing with people, and shows leadership skills and can work on her own initiative."

Rachel's list of activities and achievements to date includes; volunteering with activities at Greystones Cancer Support and Lakers five hours a week; winning a 2016 Garda Youth Award; spending four years studying Mandarin Chinese; band being one of four people chosen to represent Team Ireland at the International Bridge of Cultures competition in China.

As a member of Greystones Athletics Club for the last 7 years, Rachel has won many competitions and is the reigning Leinster Junior Race Walk Champion. This year she represented Greystones Athletics Club at the European Club Championships in Portugal.

Rachel is also a medal winner for Greystones rowing Club, having won a Bronze East Coast Rowing Council Medal for the last two years, and she has completed lifesaving training to Rescue 3 standard. She recently competed work experience with Minister for Health Simon Harris, and hopes to complete her lifesaving training later this year.



Councillor Tom Fortune presents Rachel Casey with the Special Award at the Greystones People of the Year Awards.

