



**Top accolade:** Best early years provider went to Kiddlywinks, Penrith – Natalie Metcalfe, left, and Rachel James, right, with host Julie Clayton



**Leading light:** Clare Render collects the award for best education and learning leader from Stephen McCullough of sponsors Armstrong Watson



**Special influence:** Sandra Allen from Belle Vue Primary, Carlisle, collects the best teaching assistant award from Neil Doherty of sponsors BAE Systems



**Healthy outlook:** Cockermouth School's Steve Milledge, Mollie Robinson and Billy Robinson collect the health and wellbeing award from Julie Clayton

# Marvellous Margaret wins

## Founder of Carlisle nursery commended by judges at this year's Golden Apple awards

BY SAM SMEDLEY & KRIS TATUM

A DEDICATED woman who set up a Carlisle nursery and ran it for more than 50 years has been honoured at this year's Golden Apple awards.

Margaret Bravo founded St Peter's Church Pre-School on Kingstown Road, and has been at its helm ever since.

After decades of tireless work, the 82-year-old was recognised by the judges for her care, kindness and consideration.

Lee Taylor-Craddock, sales director at Newsquest Cumbria – publishers of *The Cumberland News* – introduced Margaret to the stage to collect her award.

He said: "She remains youthful by caring for the young. She says people often ask her why she's still working but says that if she didn't work, she would be stuck in the house."

"The little boys and girls Margaret looks after love her and look up to her."

"Each day is filled with fun and surprised at the preschool she runs. She loves following children on their learning journey and often keeps scrapbooks about what they are up to now when she spots them in the newspaper."

In a former life, Margaret studied at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art with Sir An-



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thony Hopkins (they starred together in *Cat On A Hot Tin Roof* in London's West End in 1955).

A standing ovation met Margaret as she stepped onto the stage to collect her award.

She said: "I couldn't do it without the help of the amazing people who work with me. 'I'd like to say a huge thank you to all those who voted for me."

"To all those who were nominated, my message would be to keep going."

"Whoever you are and wherever you are, follow the example of this marvellous young lady Greta Thunberg, who is standing up to Trump and against all of them."

Speaking afterwards, a delighted Margaret added: "It's so exciting, you do all of these things and don't think of the years."

"Being 82, or being 52, or even 22, you can't talk to chil-



**Lifetime achievement:** Margaret Bravo, from Carlisle, received a standing ovation as she stepped onto the stage to collect her prestigious award. She was presented it by Lee Taylor-Craddock, left, from Newsquest Cumbria, and former BBC Radio Cumbria presenter Julie Clayton

Pictures: Jonathan Becker



**Golden Apple Awards 2019:** Guests mingle ahead of the award presentations



**One for the album:** Guests capture the magic of the awards evening



**Industry engagement:** Ian Russell, Claire Morfoot, Gillian Johnston with Mike Smith

dren on the street now, you can't talk to children in the park.

"But I can, because I know these children. I'll meet them in Asda, parents meet me or if I'm ill they come send flowers, and they just care for me."

"It's like one big happy family."

Margaret also described how the smallest things she does at the nursery can make the biggest difference.

"To see a child coming in early because either their mum or dad may be working, and they've had to get up very early and come out not having a full breakfast, I'd make them a piece of toast."

"I'd just have a chat, and

find out what the child wants to do."

"We'd go to the allotment, pick apples, plant things, or sit and do nothing and just look at books – and sometimes a child just wants to be quiet and look all around and talk."

There was also lots of celebrate elsewhere in the county too.

Cockermouth School took home the health and wellbeing award.

Steve Milledge, safeguarding lead at Cockermouth School,

said: "It is just recognition for the students. They have led this project – they have told us at school what to do."

"They have been absolutely outstanding, the way they have worked together and helped each other to develop and be more healthy. All the credit is for the students."

"It has been massively important to work alongside the students. They're inspirational – they're the ones with the ideas and they're the ones with the energy, we're just hanging on following them. They're brilliant."

Molly Robinson, 16, a student at the school, added: "We've been working with teachers to combat mental health problems in the school, and having the teacher allow the input from the students has helped massively. We're helping the teachers help us."

**THE 2019 GOLDEN APPLE AWARDS**

RECOGNISING AND REWARDING EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION AND LEARNING



**Best Primary School:** Kuldip McMullan receives the award for Stanwix Primary School from Cherry Tingle



**Host:** Julie Clayton at the podium for the ceremony



**Best inclusion initiative:** People First's Rohhss Chapman and Ricardo Mendes with Julie Clayton

## Help to find routes into employment

AWARD after award was handed out to organisations that want to create better routes into employment and offer better opportunities to young people.

Winning the Golden Apple for Best Learning, Development and Training Provider was System People, who are based on Botchergate, Carlisle.

Commercial director Lyndsey Fitheridge said: "It is fantastic to win this Golden Apple – we're so delighted. We just want to thank all learners we have and our employers who have given us an opportunity. "We have been going 18 months and we're excited to see the Level Two learners progress."

Sarah Taylor, chief executive of System People, said: "We like to encourage the learners to be part of the community and to be heavily involved with schools in the area so it's not just a case of going to work nine-to-five. "We have worked so hard and we just want the best for



**System People:** The team with Neil Doherty from sponsors BAE Systems

our learners. We want to get them the best possible place to learn in and the best start in their working careers and then pass on the knowledge and skills we've got."

Dr Rohhss Chapman of People First, Carlisle, has been focusing on developing the skill of people with learning difficulties and has help change employers' attitudes over the last 18 months and the team won the Golden Apple for Best Inclusion Initiative.

"It is brilliant," she said. "We love what we do at People First and we want to give everybody an opportunity."



THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR 2019 SPONSORS



# Pupils travel back

## LIME HOUSE SCHOOL, DALSTON

■ **Army Day:** The Army Outreach team recently visited Lime House School to work with the students in Year 9 and above, putting them through their paces with some drills designed to improve their Communication, Leadership and Teamwork skills.

The drills varied in physical and mental agility and tested the students on a number of levels. The students had six problems to solve which encouraged them all to work together to complete them. One of the challenges had the students trying to get a pile of items from one side of an area to the other without touching the floor. They had access to some ropes and a stretcher and had a time limit in which to solve the problem. It was interesting to see

all of the different ways that the students worked together to find a way to get the items across the area.

The students really enjoyed the experience and approached the challenges with enthusiasm and determination. They were able to complete all of the challenges that were set and worked really well within their different groups.

■ **Drama at Lime House School:** As well as the very successful music department, Lime House School is now offering a BTEC performing arts course. This is not only an opportunity for pupils who are interested in performing arts to extend their knowledge, but an opportunity for pupils to gain confidence through drama.

■ **Careers Education:** Year 11 pupils recently attended the 'Blue Light' Careers

fair at the University of Cumbria and saw a variety of stalls offering information on careers in medicine, police and biomedical sciences.

Year 12 pupils also attended the Skills North East careers event at the Newcastle Arena recently where they gained information from a huge amount of colleges, universities and companies.

■ **Sport:** The U14 Boys Football team recently travelled to Alston for their first game of the season against Samuel Kings School. It was a close game with both teams playing some very nice football. It was SKS who took charge in the first half leading by three goals at the half time break, but with true LHS fighting spirit, the boys came back and put pressure on the home team, but time ran out losing the game 7-6.

Then it was the U18s team to host the first home game of the season against Austin Friars. Another great game played in brilliant spirit by both sides in very wet conditions. The new additions to the U18 squad made immediate positive impacts and it was clear to see that confidence as growing throughout the game. At half time with the scores at 4-1 it was still a close game however in the second half, fitness prevailed, and the game finished 15-2.

■ **Ecology** without a textbook in sight: On Monday, September 23, 18 sixth form biologists entered the outdoor classroom for three days of ecological studies based on the side of the iconic Blencathra mountain in the Lake District.

Students carried out a number of exciting activities which will not



**Entertainment:** Children from Carlisle stage school Razzamataz sang for the audience at the 2019 Golden Apple Awards on Friday evening



**Shaping futures:** Craig Ivison from Cumbria LEP Careers Hub, one of the sponsors of the Golden Apple Awards, spoke to the audience at Energus, Lillyhall



**Educational excellence:** Rob Trimble, pro vice-chancellor (academic) of event sponsors University of Cumbria, highlighted pride in academic achievements



**Best student:** The award went to Harrison Savage of Netherhall School, Maryport. He was presented with the prize by Craig Ivison, left, of Cumbria LEP

# Lifetime achievement award



**Tech-savvy:** North Allerdale Development Trust wins the Best Use of Technology Award. Left to right: Clare Stabler, Sue McAllister, Stephen McCullough from sponsors Armstrong Watson, and Sandra Keaveney

## Creating stability for children who need that extra support

DEDICATED youth worker Clare Stabler admitted she will always be there for the young people she helps and was honoured to have success at the Golden Apple Awards.

The night was a chance to celebrate and reward the superb achievements and endless dedication to those in classrooms, nurseries and universities and all manner of workplaces.

And among those showing the dedication that led to her being nominated Best Support Worker was Clare, who gave up her family time over Christmas so that she could be there for a child in need.

Clare has been a youth worker for six years and is part of the North Allerdale Development Trust. She loves what she does and hopes she will be a source of stability for all the young people she works with.

After winning the Golden Apple she said: "It was a privilege to win it and I'm really proud to win."

"I have been doing youth work for about six years now and it's nice that I'm now at that point where I have seen children from the beginning of their journey to the end. They've finished school and they're going on to be brilliant young people."

"It has been a real privilege."

The modest support worker added: "We're a small, dedicated and caring team and I couldn't do it without them."

"We really care about the children and I think that is what is at the heart of it."

Loving her role means she wants to be there for as many young people as she can and hopes that giving youngsters the ability to contact them via social media will open another door for communication.

She added: "I think when you get that chance to build a relationship with a young person then it's not just



**Best Support:** Clare Stabler from NADT (centre) with Cherry Tingle of sponsor Energy Coast UTC and Chris Burleigh, husband of the late Jo Burleigh

a nine-to-five job, where you clock off at 5pm then don't think about them until the next morning. That's just not how it works."

"There have been many nights, especially a Sunday night, when I'm going into work on a Monday and think: what is going to happen today?"

"We do a lot of out-of-hours care and it's a simple way, just through social media. We don't force it on the young people."

"It's a case of them knowing where we're at if they want us, and when you get phone calls like that or whatever comes through you can only do as much as you can."

"Just being there gives them that stability that some of them don't have."

"At least they know there is some-

one out there that is going to answer the call and help them when they need it.

"I just love doing my job." Teamwork has paid off for the diverse group that Clare is part of as the whole team took an award for best use of technology.

North Allerdale Development Trust team member Sue McAllister said: "It's brilliant to win, it's amazing."

Leader Sandra Keaveney said: "The win has been absolutely amazing because of the hard work the team has put in and all the work we have done with the schools and the young people."

"It has been a labour of love. We weren't expecting it."

"It's the first year we have done this and it works."

The trust's media tutor Lyndsey Walker explained how they have been helping the young people learn the different aspects of film-making.

"We have a cycle where we mix different students from different schools and the groups will make a film on a subject of their choice," she said.

"By doing this, the children learn about film-making, having the chance to work with green screen and other media-related items."

"It's a lot of different things put together to help get them interested in media and give them the skills to make a final project."

"The young people seem to really engage with media and we're there to guide them and show them things, but it's amazing to see how they guide us."

"Nowadays they're so tech-savvy it's amazing."

After taking the win for the best use of technology an excited Ms Walker added: "Winning the Golden Apple is amazing - it's our first full year and to get here is unbelievable."

## Girls gang comes out on top

FLYING the flag for girls was the Girls Gang, who took the win in the Best Community Initiative.

The community youth council for disadvantaged girls, based in Kells and Woodhouse in Whitehaven, has been working tirelessly to help empower girls and give them opportunities they wouldn't normally have.

County councillor Emma Williamson is a driving force behind the group and said: "Our girls are our inspiration, they're our future."

"We took a group of amazing girls from a deprived community and they shone. They saw issues and they wanted to tackle them."

"The girls are an inspiration. They want to change the world and we want to do it with them."

Girls Gang have been flexing their muscles helping the environment... and were so enthused have even recorded a song about it.

Suzanne Wilson from the University of Lancaster credits the girls for everything that has been achieved.

"All we have done is enabled them to realise their dreams," she said.

"This award is in recognition of them and all the hard work they have put in."



**Taking over:** Emma Williamson wants to help the Girls Gang take over the world with their community work

## Golden roll of honour 2019

■ **Best Teaching Assistant:** Sandra Allen, Belle Vue Primary School, Carlisle

■ **Best Support Staff:** Clare Stabler, North Allerdale Development Trust, Wigton

■ **Best Student:** Harrison Savage, Netherhall School, Maryport

■ **Best Secondary School:** Energy Coast University Technical College, Workington

■ **Best Primary School:** Stanwix, Carlisle. Highly commended: North Walney.

■ **Best Learning, Development and Training Provider:** System People and Cumbria Learning and Improvement Collaborative

■ **Best Industry Engagement Initiative:** University Technical College / Morgan Sindall

■ **Best Inclusion Initiative:** People First, Carlisle

■ **Best Newcomer:** Jamie Lee Robinson, Lakes College, Workington

■ **Best Education and Learning Leader:** Clare Render, Good Shepherd Multi-Academy Trust. Highly commended: Andrew Beattie, Pennine Way School, Carlisle

■ **Best Use of Technology:** North Allerdale Development Trust, Wigton

■ **Best Teaching Professional:** Mark Bailey, Netherhall School, Maryport



**Gold standard:** The Golden Apple Awards 2019 were presented at Energus by Newsquest Cumbria, publishers of The Cumberland News, in association with the University of Cumbria and Cumbria Local Enterprise Partnership  
Pictures: Jonathan Becker

■ **Best Early Years Provider:** Kiddywinks, Penrith

■ **Best Community Initiative:** Girls Gang - Cumbria County Council and University of Central Lancashire. Highly commended: Energy Coast University

■ **Best Apprenticeship:** Benjamin McKenna, Glaxo Smith Kline

■ **Against All Odds:** Omer Jawdat, student, Lakes College, Lillyhall

■ **Lifetime Achievement:** Margaret Bravo, St Peter's Pre-School, Carlisle

■ **Health and Wellbeing:** Cockermouth School

# in time to learn about Victorians

only help them pass their A-Level biology exam, tick of a number of required practical activities, but also give them a real taste of what it means to be an ecologist!

Students went on a hike in the Glenderaterra valley to look at management and conservation techniques in action. They carried out an investigation on how the abundance of bracken changes with altitude, population estimations using pond snails, humanely catching (and releasing) small wild mammals). They also had the opportunity to understand how sand dunes are formed and carried out an in depth study comparing the different environments in a river and how this may affect the organisms which live there.

### MORTON ACADEMY, CARLISLE

■ **Animal Care Workshops:**

The academy's GCSE animal care students recently had the pleasure of being visited by Richard Cooper from Silverband Falconry. Richard brought along Gonza the buzzard, Tassle the barn owl, Gladstone the eagle owl, Cadge the raven and even a baby barn owl. The students got the chance to handle the birds as well as fly them while learning different behaviour traits, welfare needs and handling techniques. The students are looking forward to the next session which will be minibeasts.

■ **Macmillan Cancer Support:** The academy took part in the World's Biggest Coffee Morning on September 27. This was a huge success with all cakes selling out during the first break. £250 was raised for the charity.

■ **Performing Arts Workshops:** The academy's performing arts students welcomed Phil McKay from Lakeside Casting Agency



**Museum:** Year 6 pupils from Stanwix School visited Beamish

last week who delivered a fantastic acting workshop. Phil has worked with actors such as Renee Zellweger, Ewan McGregor and Johnny Vegas and is currently working on a feature film Supernova.

■ **A Celebration of Success:** The academy held its

annual awards evening last Wednesday evening. Special awards were presented to: Millie Hadden for enthusiasm, Noah Purdham for confidence, Katie Richmond for respect, Jake Bisset-Minton for ambition, Amy Creevy for creativity and Josh Kirkpatrick and

Reece Wright for education with character. The Paul Hill award was presented to Olivia Morrison. This award is in memory of a talented young artist who attend the old Morton School. It recognises creative talent, along with true commitment, enthusiasm and a thirst for art. A well done to all the students who won awards for their outstanding work.

### STANWIX SCHOOL, CARLISLE

■ **Mathletics:** The pupils seem to be fully embracing the use of mathletics and we have had lots of positive feedback from both children and parents. So far, as a whole school, the children have completed 55,878 online maths activities. Wow! The classes who have the largest number of pupils earning certificates so far are: 5CJ: 24 certificates, 1A: 19 certificates, 1RT: 18 certificates and 5PS: 16

certificates.

■ **Large schools seven a-side:** Last week it was the boys that played in the City Football Tournament. There were eight out of our squad of 15 that were chosen for this event and they performed with skill and determination throughout. We were drawn in a very tough group; all matches were fiercely contested and there were three teams that stood out during the group stage. We played six games, winning four and drawing one, in our final game we came up against Belle Vue who were unbeaten, our boys applied themselves very well, narrowly being beaten 1-0. The league fixtures will start in October and the season looks very positive for this group of players, well done!

■ **Beamish:** Year 6 travelled back in time as we entered Beamish and transformed into Victorian school children. First, we had a

Victorian school lesson with an extremely strict teacher. Then we visited the mine to experience what it was like working in dark, wet and cold conditions. After walking in the rain, we reached the pit cottages and enjoyed the warmth of their inviting fires. We concluded our fun-packed morning with a ride on the steam train. The afternoon was spent visiting the Victorian town. We explored the dentists, the bank and the pharmacy before visiting the bakery and the glorious sweet shop, where everyone got a massive bag of gummy sweets with their money. Beamish was a wonderful experience, and even though it rained - we had a really memorable time!

■ **Cycle and scooter to school week:** Last week children have enjoyed cycling or scootering to school as part of cycle to school week. Well done to all those who gave it a go.