



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-



IN ASSOCIATION WITH University of Cumbria



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 celebration 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."

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