

# YOUNG ACHIEVER OF THE YEAR

Young people  
who have  
achieved  
through work,  
hobbies,  
school, talent

A TRIP to Yunnan province in China beckons for Young Achiever of the Year George Garnett.

The 17-year-old's passion for botany, along with being 'utterly reliable', won over the judges and saw him scoop the award, leaving him very happy.

'I am just really pleased, I was not expecting to win at all,' he said. 'It is really nice to have been recognised. I suppose botany is just one of those things, I really like it and just want to find out as much about it as I can.'

'I would say to people who have niche interests just to keep at it, there are always jobs in it.'

'My dream prize will be going to Yunnan province, where there is plant diversity beyond imagination. I will also be wearing my medal with pride.'

George has completed a survey of trees at Government House, been a guest speaker at La Societe Guernesiaise's AGM and went on a five-week botanical expedition to the Peruvian Amazon in 2015, a trip he financed himself.

Assistant curator at the Guernsey Herbarium, he has been awarded a certificate with distinction in field botany by the Royal Botanic Garden in Edinburgh, along with being a committee member for Guernsey Trees for Life and a volunteer tree warden.

Jack McGrath, 9, was nominated for supporting and fundraising for his friend Anthony McMahon - who was himself nominated for the Overcoming Adversity award.

Family friend Gill Ogier submitted the nomination and said Jack had baked cakes, had PJ days and did the Santa



Young Achiever of the Year George Garnett, with parents Kate and Mike.

(Picture by Peter Frankland, 16323063)

Fun Run, staying with Anthony for the duration. When Anthony was in the USA for his operation, the two frequently spoke over video call service FaceTime. 'Jack is a heart-warming young man who deserves credit for his

caring, thoughtful nature,' she said. Guernsey Rugby Academy player Elliot Clarke was the third nominee. The 11-year-old gives up his Saturdays to be ball boy for rugby team Guernsey Raiders, who nominated him for

the award. 'This may seem like an easy task, but it takes a great deal of confidence to stand in front of a crowd making sure the ball gets to the players on the pitch with minimal delay.'

## From the sponsor...

BUTTERFIELD'S chief financial officer Alan Bain said the team at Butterfield were delighted to be involved in the Pride of Guernsey Awards.

'Butterfield is incredibly lucky to have some very talented people within its team, many of whom achieve great things professionally and personally.

'For that reason, we chose to support the Young Achiever category to recognise those



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youngsters who dedicate considerable time to something they are passionate about. 'All of the nominees were outstanding, so thank you to each and every one for the contribution you make

to island life. 'The three finalists chosen by the public displayed energy and commitment, and Elliot, Jack and George are a credit to themselves and to Guernsey. 'Selecting the eventual winner was a difficult decision for all the judges but this young man's passion for botany could be seen through all the activities he is involved in and his commitment to further his knowledge in this field.'



The Young Achiever of the Year award was sponsored by Butterfield and its chief financial officer, Alan Bain, presented the winner's medal to 17-year-old George Garnett. (Picture by Tom Tardif, 16324517)