

For immediate release

Monday 17th December 2007

Westmorland Staff Shine

On Tuesday 11th December 2007, Westmorland Ltd's staff Christmas Party took on a whole new meaning, when the usual dinner and dancing was accompanied by a glittering awards ceremony in recognition of the many staff who do a great job there. Nominations for the aptly named Shine Awards have been flooding in since June, from work colleagues. On Tuesday the winners of the seven categories were announced and each winner received £500 in prize money, a certificate and bottle of champagne to celebrate.

The Shine Awards consisted of the seven categories which represent the qualities needed to run a successful business. Westmorland Ltd, who own and operate Rheged, Tebay Services, the Farm Shops, Westmorland Hotel and Caravan Park, plus Junction 38, invited staff from each part of the business to secretly nominate the people they thought had Shone over the last 12 months. A staggering 272 nominations were received, which were passed to the judging panel who then had the difficult task of choosing the finalists.

Sarah Dunning, Chief Executive of Westmorland Ltd commented "I found it incredibly touching reading through the nominations, there are so many people at Westmorland who evidently think such a lot of each other. The 22 finalists we chose all go well beyond the call of duty of what is expected of them, but it was very difficult to shortlist 22, as we have so many amazing staff working at Westmorland."

The overall winner of the evening, was Dan Pearson from Kirkby Stephen who won Employee of Year. Dan started working at Tebay Services as a catering student and has worked his way up to Restaurant Manager. He is positive, energetic, quick to learn, and is a team player through and through. In a company that offers lots of opportunities, Dan at only 20 years old is a good example of someone who is working their way up in the company and has the opportunity to go a long way.

The remaining six awards included 'Company Values' which was won by Shirley Silvester from Shap a lady who is meticulous in her role as a housekeeper at Tebay Services.

'Creative Ideas' was won by Paul Mills who lives in Penrith and is Front of House supervisor at Rheged. The award was in recognition of Paul's design for the new children's outdoor play area, Turrets and Tunnels which opened at Rheged this Summer and has already been enjoyed by over 12,000 children.

The Best Customer Service award went to Jill Franklin, who lives in Tebay and has worked at the AA 3 star Westmorland Hotel for over 10 years. As a receptionist her skill for remembering guest names, their favourite food, how many pets they have and which room they like, epitomizes the phrase 'know your customer'.

The Award for Team Spirit went to the staff who make the Farm Shops at Tebay Services so successful. With their strong product knowledge and fantastic customer service they have helped the Farm Shops win awards such as the BBC Radio 4 Food and Farming Award for Best Local Retailer.

Margaret Carr from the payroll department who lives at Shap won the Beyond the Call of Duty Award for her dedication and the extra time she takes to ensure new starters are made to feel welcome.

Last but certainly not least, the Leadership Award went to Becky Brown of Tebay who is a Restaurant Manager at Tebay East. At only 21 years of age, Becky was described as being a fair but firm leader, she is someone who shows a great deal of maturity for her age and has gained the respect of staff and managers alike.

ENDS

***For free professional images of each winner or for further information
please contact Beverley Tunstall
on 01539 711305 or at b.tunstall@westmorland.com***

Notes to the Editor

- Westmorland Ltd was established in 1972 when two families, the Dunning's and the Birkett's opened Tebay Services north bound.
- John and Barbara Dunning's daughter Sarah became Chief Executive of Westmorland Ltd in 2005 and will continue to ensure that Westmorland Ltd remains committed to the promotion of their local roots, products and the landscape that surrounds them
- Westmorland Ltd employs 500 staff.