

Carer Of The Year Awards 2005

On return from holiday in St. Ives, I was summoned to Matron, Dora Gurnett's office, at the Old Prebendal House where I work as a senior carer. She had nominated me for a Carer 2005 award and told me that I needed to sign some forms. Little did I know! I was handed a folder with assorted paperwork which I put in my bag to read later at home.



I'm now in the last five out of 220. I will be interviewed by a panel of judges at the Hilton Hotel in London. I am terrified but have been told to "just be myself". Family and friends are all supporting and encouraging me. The

Award Ceremony will take place at a dinner at the Hilton on the 26th November. Twelve of us are going - all posh frocks and dinner jackets!

Five Letters and in The Last Five!

After the end of my shift I put on the kettle and started to read. Quite honestly I was stunned at the lovely things that had been written about me. There were five letters in all, one from Dora, one from our Director, Mr. Brian Kelly, one from a resident Professor Ivan Johnston, one from Dr. Scott and the last from Liza Coelho, a young South African girl who I am helping with her NVQ2 award in care. I thanked all concerned but never told anyone else as I was slightly embarrassed and didn't think anything would come of it.

On Behalf of The Team

I've worked at Prebendal since it opened. Things have changed, as you can imagine, and we've seen some wonderful characters come and go; both staff and residents.

I am only one carer at Prebendal and it takes a good team to make a good care home where residents are happy and well looked after. We have that good team from chefs and kitchen staff, gardeners, maintenance, office, domestics, nurses and carers and if I win I will be proud to accept on behalf of all of us.

Wish me luck and thank you to everyone.

Margaret Mix (nee Kimber)

"Margaret is an outstanding care assistant who deserves recognition for her contribution to the elderly residents in her care. She started work at The Old Prebendal House in 1989, with no experience but plenty of enthusiasm and the ability to learn and apply herself. She has worked her way through the NVQ awards and is now a qualified Assessor, enabling her to train carers and help with their NVQ work. She has gained a reputation for her kindness, hard work and reliability. She has an innate sense of fair play, is assertive but never aggressive and is calm in a crisis. She is loved and respected by residents, relatives and staff.

If you were a resident in a nursing home you would want Margaret as your carer."

Dora Gurnett, RGN. SCM, Home Manager