

Jean honoured for raising awareness of disease

BY SAFIRA ALI

A MARYPORT woman has been honoured as the awareness-raising champion of the year.

Jean Foster was presented with the award by Coeliac UK at the charity's annual conference and AGM in Derby.

Coeliac is a disease caused by intolerance to gluten. Coeliac UK, the national charity for people with the disease, presents a series of awards to recognise the hard work and extraordinary commitment of people across the UK who provide outstanding assistance to those with the disease.

The winners of all the awards are chosen following nominations by members of the charity. Jean was nominated by Michelle Fisher, from Maryport Health Services, who said: "Jean is an inspiration to all those with coeliac disease who she encounters and I can say without doubt that Jean always goes the extra mile to help anyone with coeliac disease."

Mrs Foster is the group organiser for the charity's West Cumbria Voluntary Support Group and has recently taken on the position of coeliac lifestyle advisor in Allerdale, west Cumbria region. As part of this role, she visits people in their own home as soon as they are diagnosed, often



Accolade:
Jean Foster is presented with the awareness-raising champion of the year award by Wilfred Emmanuel-Jones, founder of The Black Farmer, and Tony Grace, chair of Coeliac UK governors

within a week of their diagnoses. She travels to the most rural of locations to offer support and advice to sufferers.

She said: "I had not expected my achievements to be recognised in this way but I am delighted. Since I was diagnosed with coeliac

disease around 12 years ago I understand the importance of providing support for those more recently diagnosed."

The Award for Awareness Raising Champion was sponsored by gluten-free food supplier The Black Farmer.

Wilfred Emmanuel-Jones, founder of The Black Farmer, said: "It was heart-warming to meet so many people doing so much to raise awareness for coeliac disease, none more so than Jean, who is clearly a deserving winner of this award. I look forward to

seeing this scheme develop in future years and for everyone to get behind raising awareness of coeliac disease."

For more information about coeliac disease please go to www.coeliac.org.uk.

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