A record audience saw Yorkshire’s Young Achievers of 2014 revealed at an Awards ceremony at Leeds United’s Centenary Pavilion.

Personality of the Year went to a 16-year-old Doncaster boy, Jack Marshall, who has raised tens of thousands of pounds for charity, despite his own severe disabilities, while there were also awards for Emmerdale actors Verity Rushworth, Amelia Flanagan and Kelvin Fletcher and Premier League footballer James Milner.

The Awards, sponsored by McCormicks Solicitors, mark the achievements of people aged 35 and under in seven categories, from the Arts to Management and Enterprise, and are organised by the Yorkshire Young Achievers Foundation.

The Chairman of the Awards, Peter McCormick OBE, said: “Our 22nd year proved another night to remember. The Awards are a celebration of all that is good about young people in Yorkshire and we had some tremendous examples in our winners. I must also underline that none of this would be possible without the unstinting support of our sponsors and from guests at the Awards.”
THE WINNERS
THE 2014 YORKSHIRE YOUNG ACHIEVERS AWARD WINNERS

Jack Marshall
Pictured with Simon Mackaness and Peter McCormick

Jack has Moebius Syndrome, a rare condition which affects his life in many ways. He is blind in one eye and has reduced hearing; his condition drastically affects his co-ordination and balance and his legs are severely disabled. He has undergone numerous operations on his legs, eyes, ears and mouth.

Despite the fact that he is at school and college full time, he has raised tens of thousands of pounds for other people, including Leukaemia and Lymphoma Research.

He did his first sponsored walk across the Humber Bridge seven years ago and since then has taken part in runs as far afield as Ethiopia and in the last year alone, he has done three runs, climbed Snowdon and is well on his way to planning a parachute jump.

He is now setting up an advocacy service for young people with disabilities aged from 16 to 25.

Jack this year was named Radio 1’s Stephen Sutton Teen Award winner.

Harry Phillips
Pictured with Caroline Gascoigne

Fighting leukaemia is a tough challenge for any nine-year-old but Harry Phillips has used the experience to bring cheer to other youngsters.

Harry was diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukaemia in 2012. He spent months and months in Leeds General Infirmary and has inspired more than £45,000 worth of fundraising for Candlelighters, the Yorkshire charity for children with cancer.

He used his time on the Candlelighters ward to teach himself magic and has spent his time there entertaining children and parents on the ward, developing great skill.

Despite his illness, he recently won a place at Merlins Magic Academy to hone his skills yet further.

He has also taken part in a new charity initiative, the “Runsie”, where competitors run in a onesie, to raise money for Candlelighters. Harry had to be pushed round in his wheelchair but was the star of the day.

Verity Rushworth & Amelia Flanagan
Pictured with Jeremy Clifford

The Achievement in the Arts Award was shared between two Emmerdale actresses, Verity Rushworth and six-year-old Amelia Flanagan, who played mother and daughter Donna and April Windsor in a strong storyline for the soap last summer.

Verity, 29, grew up in Rawdon and Adel and attended St Mary’s School in Menston, Intake High at Bramley, and then SLP College in Garforth.

She appeared in Emmerdale from 1998 to 2008 and then returned last year for a dramatic storyline which kept viewers on the edge of their seats.

She has also starred in Hairspray, The Sound of Music, taking over the lead role from Connie Fisher, and Annie.

Her on-screen daughter Amelia comes from Calderdale and Emmerdale is her first acting job.

She recently won Best Young Actor at the inside Soap awards.

Andrew Hudson
Pictured with Phillip and Janine Murphy

Andrew is the founder and Managing Director of a Leeds-based business, G&H Sustainability, specialising in sustainable and low carbon solutions for construction projects in the commercial, industrial and education sectors.

After leaving Leeds Building College with diplomas in engineering, Andrew graduated with a degree in Building Services Engineering from Northumbria University in 2010. A year later he approached G&H Building Services with the idea of setting up a separate sustainability division which would specialise in low carbon building services installations, such as solar thermal, wind turbines, ground source heat pumps and biomass heating systems.

In 2012 he won a place on the Goldman Sachs 10,000 Small Businesses programme of special education and business support.

He is the Yorkshire Region Chairman of the Chartered Institution of Building Service Engineers Young Engineers and this year has gained a Masters degree, studying hard alongside his day-to-day work and his role as regional chairman.

To find out more about nominating a Yorkshire Young Achiever please visit www.yorkshireyoungachievers.co.uk
James Milner is a midfielder for Manchester City and was part of the England World Cup squad in both 2010 and this year.

He was born in Leeds and his talent for sport was recognised at a very young age. He was signed by the Leeds United Academy at the age of ten, making his full debut for the club in 2002 at the age of just 16. Just a month later he became the youngest player to score in the Premier League, scoring in Leeds' 2-1 win against Sunderland.

James went on to play for both Newcastle United and Aston Villa and in 2010 was named PFA Young Player of the Year and featured in the PFA Team of the Year. That summer, his talent and consistency on the pitch earned him a move to Manchester City where his career has continued to go from strength to strength. He has won the Premier League twice, the FA Cup, the Football League Cup and the Community Shield.

In addition to winning every domestic honour available to him, James has shone on the international stage playing for England at Under 15, Under 17, Under 20 and Under 21 level. He earned his 50th England Cap this year.

Charlotte Newman was studying law at Leeds University when she was diagnosed with Ewing's sarcoma, a cancer of the soft tissue around her abdomen. She had to put her studies on hold while she underwent grueling surgery, intensive chemotherapy and radiotherapy. She also needed a stem cell transplant as the cancer had spread to her lymph nodes, followed by more than 30 more sessions of radiotherapy. Charlotte returned to her studies and achieved a first-class law degree. She started her first job as a trainee solicitor last month.

During Charlotte’s illness, her sister, Emma, ran a marathon to raise funds for the Teenage Cancer Trust. The Trust made contact and asked Charlotte to become its “Face of 2013” and she appeared on posters all over the country. She was asked to speak at the Royal Albert Hall for seven nights running, with a video with Noel Gallagher telling her story. Since then Charlotte has given talks at many charity events and in schools; talked to businesses about how their sponsorship money is spent; given numerous radio interviews and presented trophies at the Children of Courage awards.

When Jessica was 19 her mum, Carol, was diagnosed with terminal cancer. Jess was working as an administrator for a law firm in Leeds but as her mum’s illness became debilitating, she made the decision to put her career on hold and become a full-time carer.

Over the next ten months, Jess and Carol were able to spend time together, visiting places neither of them had been before. In July 2012, Jess ran Cancer Research’s Race for Life for the first time and her mum was at the finishing line cheering her on.

Carol’s health deteriorated and she died in October 2012. Jess ran the Race for Life again the following year, in memory of her mum, and again last year when she was asked to tell her story to the crowds of runners at Temple Newsam before performing the official start of the Race.

Her step-mother, Joanne Hartley, said: “Youngsters like Jessica are our unsung heroes because they have the courage and strength to step up to the mark when called upon to do so, and, by doing so, they inspire us all.”

Jess has now launched her own business, Simply Bella by Jessica, as a mobile beautician.

To find out more about nominating a Yorkshire Young Achiever please visit www.yorkshireyoungachievers.co.uk
THANK YOU!

Thanks to everyone who came along to help celebrate the 2014 Yorkshire Young Achievers. We’ve included some of the pictures below but please visit the website for the full coverage of the event. We are delighted to announce that the 2015 Awards will take place on 19 November 2015 at the Leeds United Centenary Pavilion. Prices are the same as last year, £600 for a table of ten or £65 per ticket. As always there will be a three-course meal and an opportunity to hear about some of Yorkshire’s brightest and best young people and what they have achieved. All the proceeds from the evening help the Foundation to make grants to some really worthy causes so your support, as always, is much appreciated.

Tickets are available from Sonia Jones at info@yorkshireyoungachievers.co.uk or by calling 01423 530630

We look forward to seeing you there!

To view more pictures from the evening please visit www.yorkshireyoungachievers.co.uk
THANKS FROM SUPPORT DOGS

We were delighted to hear from seven-year-old Cohen Hadfield from Rotherham. In 2014 the Yorkshire Young Achievers Foundation provided funding to train a support dog named Azerley to help Cohen overcome the difficulties of living with autism. Four months in and the benefit has been huge, Cohen is now willing to leave the house and no longer uses his wheelchair, he is often seen happily walking out and about and in December he spoke his first ever sentence.

Danny the fundraising manager at Support Dogs has asked us to pass on his thanks to the supporters of The Foundation, he said ‘this work is only possible thanks to wonderful organisations and people like you, so thank you so much. We look forward to sharing more of their story next year’.

AWARD WINNER HONOURED

Our heartiest congratulations to one of our previous Yorkshire Young Achievers Award winners, Dr Kate Granger, who was awarded an MBE in the New Year’s Honours for services to the NHS and improving care.

Winner of the Unsung Hero Award in 2012, she has terminal cancer but continues to work as a consultant in elderly medicine and has written two books about dealing with cancer, from both the patient’s and professionals’ viewpoints, as well as raising more than £150,000 for the Yorkshire Cancer Centre.

She has recently won nationwide recognition for her “Hello my name is” campaign which urges health professionals to go back to basics and ensure they help to make patients more comfortable by introducing themselves.

ON YOUR BIKE!

Triathlete Suzie Richards has had a stunning season. Suzie received a grant towards a new bike in 2013 and last year she won five races, three triathlons and two duathlons.

She achieved her first Great Britain elite call up to race in Austria and won the Always Aim High race series, comprising of the Slateman, Snowman and Sandman triathlon races televised on Channel 4, Sky Sports and Eurosport. Her prize was a well-deserved holiday to the Caribbean Island of Nevis.

Her biggest win came in the Spain, where she became World age group Duathlon Champion.

To find out more about applying for a grant please visit www.yorkshireyoungachievers.co.uk
TREADING THE BOARDS

Back in 2013 the Yorkshire Young Achievers Foundation made a grant to an aspiring young actress, Shannon Rewcroft. The Grant’s Committee was particularly impressed with Shannon’s drive and commitment and her determination to fundraise to finance a place at drama school. The Foundation decided to make a contribution towards her course fees and materials and we were delighted to hear from her just before she made her stage debut back in November.

In a recent letter Shannon said “I am very happy to announce that I will be appearing in The Accrington Pals, playing the role of Bertha alongside actor Steven Arnold (aka Ashley from Coronation Street). The Accrington Pals is a fantastic play set in Northern England during World War One. We will be performing at the Ashcroft Theatre in London and then we take the play to The Pomegranate Theatre in Chesterfield. We start rehearsals in a couple of weeks, I really can’t wait to get going on my first professional acting job. I love the character and the play and the theatres we get to perform are great.

“I wouldn’t have got to this point without the support you showed me, I really can’t thank you enough. I am getting to pursue the career I have always wanted to and I am very excited about the future. Thanks again and I will keep in touch.”

HELPING YOUNG ACHIEVER TO HELP OTHERS

A previous winner of the Yorkshire Young Achievers Awards, sponsored by Harrogate-based law firm McCormicks Solicitors, has been given a grant by the Foundation that organises the Awards to help him further his own work with young people across the region and beyond.

Jono Lancaster of Normanton, who won the Unsung Hero Award in 2011, works with young people with a whole range of issues, talking to them about his own achievements and how he has overcome a rare congenital disorder to build a successful and fulfilling life and career.

Jono was born with Treacher Collins Syndrome, which leads to skull and facial deformities and hearing problems, and was put up for adoption just 36 hours after his birth.

His condition means that he has no cheekbones so his eyes droop and he has a bone-anchored hearing aid. He was bullied at school and taunted in public and rejected for a second time by his biological parents when he managed to track them down.

As well as helping to run a care home for people with autism, Jono now travels the world to share his experiences with other young people with Treacher Collins Syndrome and their families and with those facing other challenging issues.

The grant from the Yorkshire Young Achievers Foundation will help him to continue his work with young people in Yorkshire. Events have included joining young offenders in Hull at an orienteering event and speaking to students at the University of Sheffield.

Jono said: “Although my mum is amazing, I didn’t feel that I could talk to her about my own problems when I was growing up as I didn’t want to upset her. I find that many of the youngsters I talk to also feel isolated and they are very pleased to have an opportunity to talk to someone.”
YORKSHIRE YOUNG ACHIEVERS FOUNDATION HELPS GOLFER MAKE THE LEAP

A young Leeds golfer has been helped to turn professional, thanks to a grant from the Yorkshire Young Achievers Foundation.

Cameron Hutchinson, 22, of Bramhope, has been a golfer for ten years and has had the additional challenge of battling against the symptoms of Cystic Fibrosis.

Now he has set his sights on life as a professional sportsman with the aim of reaching the top ten in the order of merit at the Europro Tour. The PGA EuroPro Tour is Europe’s leading development tour, and the European Tour’s satellite in the UK and Ireland.

Cameron said: “Turning professional is an exciting new challenge but also quite daunting. I have a great support network and have recently become a member at Moortown Golf Club in Leeds where I practice most days.”

The grant to Cameron will help him meet the costs of training and competing, such as entry fees and equipment. He has also secured sponsorship from Insolvency Practitioners and Young Achiever’s sponsor; Walsh Taylor, which has offices in Leeds, Bradford, Harrogate and Middlesbrough.

Cameron said he was very grateful to the Yorkshire Young Achievers Foundation and to his sponsors for helping him towards achieving his goal.

TAKING ON THE BULLIES

A project set up by a Wakefield woman to help disabled youngsters beat the bullies has received a grant from the Yorkshire Young Achievers Foundation.

Kidz Aware was founded by Sabrina Archbold to support disabled children and their families to overcome the emotional distress caused by bullying and discrimination.

Sabrina, who has Cerebral Palsy and uses a wheelchair, said: “While society has made significant strides in recent years, discrimination and bullying still occurs all too frequently, both across our education system and at a community level.

“Our ambitions are simple: we want families with disabled children to have a voice and to be part of a wider solution that supports disability at every level of society.”

Kidz Aware was founded in 2006 and provide direct support for parents and carers and works with the organisations that support their children’s development.

A significant proportion of their work with local authorities in West Yorkshire is with schools and partner organisations to raise awareness of bullying and harassment. It delivers practical support to help provide a safe and supportive environment for children with disabilities.

Sabrina said: “The grant from the Yorkshire Young Achievers Foundation has enabled us to reach disabled and vulnerable young people and give them opportunities to have a voice that can be heard and opportunities to make positive changes for the future.”

To find out more about applying for a grant please visit www.yorkshireyoungachievers.co.uk
A young disabled sportsman has upgraded his wheelchair, thanks to a grant from the Yorkshire Young Achievers Foundation.

Joshua Gardner, plays wheelchair basketball and rugby and needed a stronger, lighter and more reliable chair to progress. Josh, who lives in Halton, Leeds, has seen great success in both sports.

He plays for the Leeds Rhinos WRL team, scoring around 20 points last season, and was also part of the Irish World Cup rugby team last year.

His Four Nations role comes hot on the heels as player/coach for England North at basketball in the UK School Games, where he helped the team win Silver.

He said: “My new chair is brilliant and arrived at the right time as I played in the National Basketball Championships just after it came. I wish I had had it in time for the Four Nations trials as it has also helped a lot with my rugby!”

Josh had little interest in sport as an able-bodied youngster but at the age of nine he contracted transverse myelitis, a neurological disorder caused by inflammation of the spinal cord, and began to use a wheelchair. His interest in sport grew, as did his success, and he hopes to make even greater progress with his new chair, aiming at making the team for the European Rugby Championships this year.

Grant recipient Zac Berrill of Harrogate has been selected for the North of England U16 Rugby Union Squad, following a season which saw him become the most prolific try scorer in an outstanding season for Yorkshire U16s. Well done Zac!