

True-life stories, lifestyle and fashion news for every woman

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Pink army: Race for Life is recruiting

The Cherie on top of a great career

This Blackpool nurse is one of the best in the country – and that's official.

Making a difference to people's lives by making a difference to their appearance, and working to the highest standards, earned Cherie Scanlan a place in the grand final of the British Journal Of Nursing Awards.

She made it to the short-list of three and finished in second place in the Aesthetic Nurse Of The Year category, beating competition from nurses all over the UK.

Cherie, who runs Total Aesthetics, based in Waterloo Road, South Shore, which offers cosmetic treatments such as fillers and Botox, said she was delighted.

The grandmother says it is her mission to help drive up standards in the aesthetics industry. As a former health visitor and community nurse she knows first-hand about the importance of safety, experience and professionalism.

She said: "It was hard to believe I was on the shortlist and to come second in the whole

of the country was such a surprise.

"I was really pleased. The ceremony itself at the Shakespeare Globe in London was fantastic – it was a very prestigious event.

"It really means a lot to me, as an aesthetics nurse, to get this sort of recognition from a professional body in the industry."

Cherie, who lives in Ansdell, had been working in a community nursing team in Bradford, when she was struck down with meningitis.

She started working in aesthetics five

years ago.

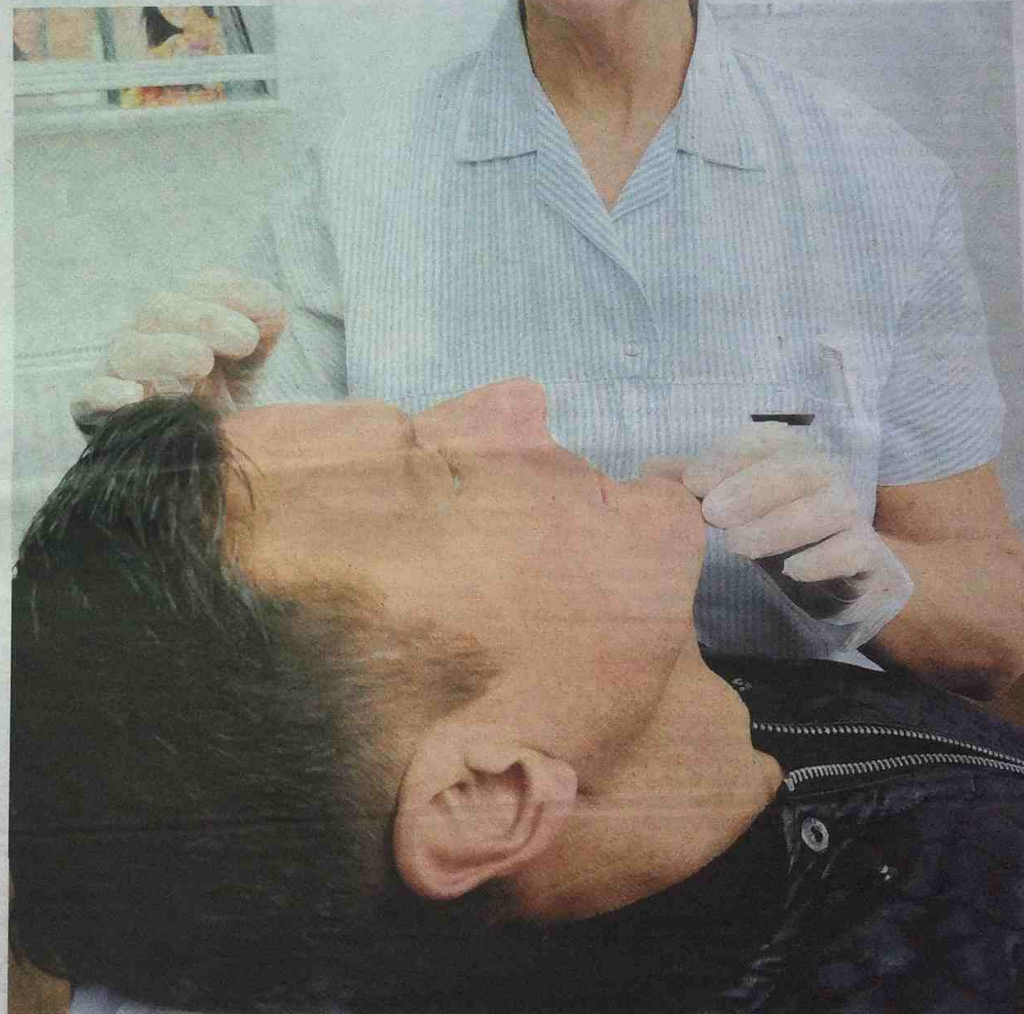
She said: "After I recovered, I didn't feel able to go back to the same role, with that level of responsibility.

"My daughter works as a beautician and I knew friends who were having Botox and fillers.

"I realised it was a way I could use my nursing skills and experience."

After undergoing training at the University of Cumbria and gaining a prescription qualification, Cherie started work in aesthetics.

She said: "Some people



Cherie Scanlan with a patient and (left) with her certificate from the British Journal Of Nursing Awards

come in for treatment because they feel low in self-confidence and self-esteem.

"It might be because they're not happy with their appearance in general, or it might be in the sense of ageing.

"There are also people who come for treatment because they have some sort of disfigurement.

"The treatments can improve appearance and make a

real difference for people, giving them more confidence. It's really rewarding. That's what I enjoy about it – seeing them more confident and happier.

"For me, it's about clinical excellence.

"It shouldn't be a one-size-fits-all approach.

"It's about treating each client as an individual person. It's my passion to try to promote clinical excellence in the industry.

"I've set up a peer-to-peer support group online for aesthetic nurses.

"There's more than 320 members, and it gives nurses chance to ask questions and get information.

"It's an industry which can involve quite a lot of lone working, so that support can be really useful."

Cherie has also written research papers and articles for national industry journals.

She was among just a handful of UK nurses to be chosen to go to Sweden and visit a laboratory where some of the beauty products are made.

She said: "I think it's so important to educate the public about the products and their safety.

"And to have a real level of expertise and professionalism, so the public can have confidence."