

Three top attractions win Tourism Excellence Awards

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AS if there weren't plenty of great reasons to visit this corner of Somerset, there are now three, official, awards to encourage a visit.

Three local stars of the tourism scene have just won medals at the South West Tourism Excellence Awards.

Wells Cathedral won a Silver while Tor View Shepherds Huts and Cheddar cafe, Lion Rock Tea Rooms both picked up Bronze.

The huts, which were the first glamping spot to be awarded the VisitEngland Gold Award in 2016, are run by Phil and Amanda Russell. The couple set up the glamping location in 2012 and it now features two shepherds' huts, Len and Ted.

Phil Russell said, "We are absolutely delighted and honoured that Tor View Shepherds Huts has won Bronze in the South West Tourism Excellence Awards.

"These types of recognition make all our hard work in bringing a superior glamping spot to the Mendip Hills worthwhile."

Head of Marketing and Communications for Wells Cathedral Lindsay Mann, said: "We were absolutely thrilled to win Silver in the Large Attraction category and to do it in such good company. It follows our recent Gold win in the Bristol, Bath and Somerset Tourism Awards and reflects the first-class welcome we provide to all of our visitors and supporters as well as the hard work of our staff and volunteers – our doors are open to all!"

Lion Rock Tea Rooms in Cheddar, which has been owned for the last 10 years by husband and wife team Simon and Dawn, said: "We are



From left, Jack Holmes, Sean Allen, Simon Cooze, Bonnie Cooze, Tamsin Mansfield, Emily Linter and Lauren Male from Lion Rock Tea Rooms.

including Gold at the Bristol Bath & Somerset Awards, we could not ask for a better start to the year than attending the South West Tourism Awards in Torquay with all the Team and being awarded a Bronze Award for Best Tea/Coffee Shop in the whole of the West Country. This is not only a massive achievement for us but also

Awards Best Tea/Coffee Shop 2017.

The awards were the biggest annual regional gathering of South West tourism businesses, with 123 different awards presented. All 647 entrants were first shortlisted and then 416 of them were visited by a team of 45 mystery shoppers.

Cornwall to Wiltshire, Devon and up to Gloucestershire.

Director of Title Sponsors, Richard Stanbrook, said: "As headline sponsors for the South West Tourism Awards, South West Water Business continues to be fully committed to the prosperity of this important and thriving industry – helping businesses

