

Holiday businesses take

The best of the region's visitor economy businesses were celebrating last night at the South West Tourism Excellence Awards, held amid a stunning light show in Exeter Cathedral

BUSINESSES devoted to creating special times enjoyed their own occasion in the spotlight last night at a record-breaking South West Tourism Excellence Awards.

The gathering in Exeter Cathedral – itself one of the region's leading attractions – saw 107 awards presented after judges pored over a record 773 entries from the Isles of Scilly to Gloucestershire.

The audience was treated to a Haka from the children of Ilsington CofE Primary School near Bovey Tracey in Devon. The rugby theme continued with a conversation on 'winning' from Kai Horstmann and Greg Holmes, Exeter Chiefs players and former internationals.

An outstanding contribution award went to Martin Cox, director of West Dorset Leisure Holidays, in recognition of his decades of support and innovation for the holiday park sector, Dorset and South West.

Jeremy Mitchell, the marketing and communications director, of St Austell Brewery – headline sponsor of this year's awards – said: "There are so many businesses and individuals in our region that deserve to be recognised for their outstanding contribution and world-class hospitality."

"We'd like to congratulate those who were awarded for their best practice, hard work and excellent service. It was a fantastic night of celebration and all of the winners should feel extremely proud of all that they continue to achieve."

The awards organiser, Robin Barker of Services for Tourism, said: "I never cease to be amazed by the innovation, dedication and imagination of our tourism businesses – not to mention their sheer hard work."

"It's humbling to be part of this and I'd like to add my congratulations to all the winners."

All entrants underwent a rigorous short-listing process with 559 visited by a team of 50 mystery shoppers. Entry was free, and all entrants received feedback, valued by entrants as a top reason for taking part. Top performers in matching categories will now go on to the VisitEngland Awards, with the potential to become national winners.

2019/20 WINNERS & COMMENDED

Sponsored by St Austell Brewery, staustellbrewery.co.uk

ACCESSIBLE AND INCLUSIVE TOURISM AWARD

Gold

■ The Roman Baths & Pump Room, Bath romanbaths.co.uk @RomanBathsBath

Silver

■ Mylor Sailing and Powerboat School, Cornwall, mylorsailing-school.co.uk, @mylorsailing
■ North Hayne Farm Cottages, Devon northhaynefarmcottages.co.uk @NorthHayne

Bronze

■ Durlston Country Park National Nature Reserve, Dorset, durlston.co.uk @DurlstonCP

Commended

■ Gloucester Cathedral, Gloucestershire, gloucestercathedral.org.uk @ProjectPilgrim1
■ Noah's Ark Zoo Farm, Wraxall noahsarkzooofarm.co.uk @noahs_ark_zoo

ACTIVE AND SPORTING EXPERIENCE AWARD

Gold

■ Wild Wookey, Somerset wildwookey.co.uk, @wildwookey

Silver

■ Go Skydive, Wiltshire goskydive.com @GoSkydiveUK

Bronze

■ Mill on the Brue Outdoor Activity Centre, Somerset millonthebrue.co.uk @millonthebrue

■ Mylor Sailing and Powerboat School, Cornwall, mylorsailing-school.co.uk, @mylorsailing

Commended

■ Adventure Okehampton, Devon adventureokehampton.com @adventureOke

■ Bude Canoe Experience, Cornwall, budecanoe.co.uk, @budecanoe

■ Calvert Trust Exmoor, Devon calvertexmoor.org.uk @CalvertExmoor

■ Reach Outdoors, Devon, reach-outdoors.com @reach_outdoors

B&B AND GUESTHOUSE OF THE YEAR

Gold

■ The 25 Boutique B&B, Devon the25.uk @The25Torquay

Silver

■ Trevoise Harbour House, Cornwall trevoisehouse.co.uk, @TREVOISEHOUSE

Bronze

■ Pentillie Castle & Estate, Cornwall, pentillie.co.uk, @PentillieCastle
■ Yarner House, Devon yarners.com @Yarnerhouse

Commended

■ Driftwood B&B, Devon driftwoodbandb.co.uk @brixham_b
The Old Stables Bed & Breakfast, Somerset theoldstablesbandb.com @oldstablesbandb

BUSINESS EVENT VENUE OF THE YEAR

Gold

■ Assembly Rooms, Bath bathvenues.com @assembly-rooms @bathvenues

Silver

■ Event Exeter, Devon event.exeter.ac.uk @eventexeter

■ The Headland Cornwall, Cornwall headlandhotel.co.uk, @HeadlandHotel

Bronze

■ Marsham Court Hotel, Dorset marshamcourthotel.co.uk @MarshamCourt

CAFÉ/TEAROOM OF THE YEAR

Gold

■ Yellow Bicycle Café, Dorset facebook.com/yellowbicyclecafe



@yellowbicycle1

Silver

■ Boscastle Farmshop & Café, Cornwall boscastlefarmshop.co.uk, @BFS2K18

Bronze

■ St Mawgan Tea Room and Garden, Cornwall stmawganvil-lagestores.co.uk

■ The Gallery Café, Dorset gallery-cafe.uk

Commended

■ Teacup Tearoom, Cornwall, teacuptearoom.com, @teacup_tearoom

■ The Blitz Tearoom, Somerset theblitz.uk @TheBlitzWSM

CUSTOMER SERVICE SUPERSTAR AWARD

■ Mark Jackson, The Park Cornwall, Cornwall, theparkcornwall.com, @theparkcornwall

DOG FRIENDLY BUSINESS OF THE YEAR

Gold

■ Woodland Cottages, Devon woodlandcottages.org.uk @woodlands_devon

Silver

■ Holi Moli Beach Hut, Somerset dunsterbeachhut.com @Dunster-BeachHut

■ Teacup Tearoom, Cornwall teacuptearoom.com, @teacup_tearoom

Bronze

■ Wyelets, Gloucestershire wyelets.co.uk

Commended

■ The Park Cornwall, Cornwall, theparkcornwall.com/, @thepark-cornwall

ETHICAL, RESPONSIBLE & SUSTAINABLE TOURISM AWARD

Gold

■ Mill on the Brue Outdoor Activity Centre, Somerset millonthebrue.co.uk @millonthebrue

Silver

■ River Dart Country Park, Devon riverdart.co.uk @RiverDartCP

Bronze

■ Bagwell Farm Touring Park, Dorset bagwellfarm.co.uk, @bagwellfarm

■ Wheatland Farm, Devon wheatlandfarm.co.uk @WheatlandFarm

Commended

■ Noah's Ark Zoo Farm, Bristol noahsarkzooofarm.co.uk @noahs_ark_zoo

■ Pentillie Castle & Estate, Cornwall pentillie.co.uk, @PentillieCastle

FORTHGLADE DOG FRIENDLY PUB OF THE YEAR

Gold

■ The Grove Arms, Dorset grove-arms-ludwell.co.uk @TheGroveArms

Silver

■ The Halzephron Inn, Cornwall halzephron-inn.co.uk, @InnHalzephron

■ The Wheatsheaf, Bath wheatsheafcombehay.com @Wheatsheaf_Bath

Bronze

■ The Cadeleigh Arms, Devon thecadeleigharms.com @CadeleighArms

GLAMPING BUSINESS & ALTERNATIVE ACCOMMODATION OF THE YEAR

Gold

■ The Treehouses, Somerset treehouseholidays.co.uk

Silver

■ Devon Yurt, Devon devonyurt.co.uk @devonyurt

Bronze

■ Devon Dens, Devon devondens.co.uk @woodlanddens

■ Esme's Escape – Luxury Shepherd's Hut, Somerset esmes-escape.co.uk

■ Stocklinch Shepherds Hut, Somerset stocklinchshepherdshut.co.uk

Commended

■ Blackdown Yurts, Devon blackdownyurts.co.uk @BlackdownYurts

■ Middle Stone Farm Glamping, Somerset middlestonefarm.com

■ Penbugle Organic Farm, Cornwall, penbuglefarm.co.uk, @penbugle

HOLIDAY PARK OF THE YEAR

Gold

■ The Park Cornwall, Cornwall theparkcornwall.com, @thepark-cornwall

Silver

■ Highlands End Holiday Park, Dorset highlandsendholidaypark.co.uk, @wdlh

■ Ladram Bay Holiday Park, Devon ladrambay.co.uk @LadramBay

Bronze

■ Hendra Holiday Park, Cornwall hendra-holidays.com, @Hendra-Holidays

Commended

■ Cofton Holidays, Devon, cofton-holidays.co.uk @cofton_Holidays

INTERNATIONAL TOURISM AWARD

Gold

■ The Roman Baths & Pump Room, Bath romanbaths.co.uk @Roman-BathsBath



Silver

■ Marlborough College School of English & Culture, Wiltshire mcsec.co.uk @MCol_Summer

Bronze

■ Kents Cavern Prehistoric Caves, Devon kents-cavern.co.uk @Kents_Cavern

■ Select South West Tours, Devon & Cornwall selectsouthwesttours.com, @selectSWtours

Commended

■ Dartington International Summer School & Festival, Devon dartington.org/summer-school @DartingtonArts

■ Jurassic Coast Guides, Dorset jurassiccoastguides.co.uk, @jurassicguides

■ The Babbacombe Hotel, Devon thebabbacombehotel.co.uk

■ Travel England Tours Ltd, travellingtours.com, @TetTours

LARGE HOTEL OF THE YEAR

Gold

■ Lucknam Park Hotel & Spa, Wiltshire lucknampark.co.uk @LucknamPark

Silver

■ St Michaels Resort, Cornwall stmichaelsresort.com, @StMichael-Hotel

Bronze

■ Christchurch Harbour Hotel & Spa, Dorset harbourhotels.co.uk, @Harbour_Hotels

■ Salcombe Harbour Hotel & Spa, Devon salcombe-harbour-hotel.co.uk, @SalcombeHotel

Commended

■ Ellenborough Park, Gloucestershire ellenboroughpark.com @EllenboroughPk