

**NEWS****Plans backed for 'premier market town'**

TRANSFORMATIVE plans that aim to regenerate Newton Abbot town centre to make it Devon's premier market town have been backed - despite fears it would do more harm than good and it would destroy the historic theatre.

Teignbridge District Council's executive earlier this month had unanimously agreed to accept the £9.2m of Government funding from the Future High Streets Fund for plans which would transform the Market and Food Hall, Alexandra Cinema and Market Square.

Thursday's full council meeting saw members agree to the budget

for the specific projects within the bid, which include pedestrian and cycling improvements for better links to shopping facilities, a new cinema built on the site of the existing New Look store, and the reduction of the dominance of the car park in Queen Street.

The current Alexandra cinema will be converted into a bar/restaurant and events venue, with a high quality market space provided in the existing market area, but to do so would require knocking down the dividing internal wall, leaving some councillors feeling the magic of the building would

be lost, but also that it wouldn't provide a suitable performance space for entertainment.

Backing the proposals, Cllr Nina Jeffries, executive member for economy and jobs, said: "This will help long held ambitions for Newton Abbot to be the premier market town and will help create a vibrant town centre for everyone, in particular future generations."

Cllr Jackie Hook added: "This is an opportunity for Newton Abbot.

"It will enable businesses to prosper, and quality of life for all the town's residents to be enhanced."

**Stars of tourist industry are honoured in South West**

**T**HE cream of South West Tourism businesses have been honoured at a special online ceremony, with many winners marked out for their quality, sustainability and resilience in the face of an unprecedented year operating in the coronavirus crisis.

In all 76 winners from across the Westcountry, from Gloucestershire to the tip of Cornwall, were announced in the 2020/21 South West Tourism Excellence Tourism Awards in what turned out to be an emotional online event.

Sponsored by South West Water, the awards programme opened for entry in March 2020 and, with plenty of adaptations and extensions along the way, it concluded this week.

Just as hospitality businesses have had to change and innovate during this extraordinary period, so too have the awards, with judging taking account of business entries, digital presence and feedback along with evidence of Covid-secure measures, prior to decisions taken by an independent panel.

**WMN REPORTER**

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Every winner at the online ceremony on Thursday night was given the chance to react to their award during one of three hour-long sessions. Emotions were running high, with many winners expressing huge thanks to their staff, customers - and the judges - for being recognised.

Winners came from Dorset, Somerset, Wiltshire, Gloucestershire, Bristol, Bath, Devon and Cornwall. Accommodation, food and drink, attractions, events and experiences all had their winners, along with those recognised for innovation, new businesses, sustainable tourism and accessibility.

Twenty five winners took the top gold accolade, including a special outstanding contribution award to the members of the Great South West Tourism Partnership, who have dedicated so much of their time over the last year to lobbying for and supporting the industry dur-

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**2020/2021 SOUTH WEST TOURISM**

**ACCESSIBLE AND INCLUSIVE TOURISM AWARD**, sponsored by South West Tourism Alliance, swtourismalliance.org.uk

**GOLD**

■ Noah's Ark Zoo Farm, Bristol noahsarkzoo.com @noahs\_ark\_zoo

**SILVER**

■ Sara's Cottage, Cornwall, sarascottage.co.uk @SarasCottage

**BRONZE**

■ Leafy Fields Glamping, Devon, leafyfieldsglamping.com @LeafyFields

**COMMENDED**

■ HolidayInDorset - Birchcroft, Dorset, birchcroft-hideaway.co.uk

■ Landal Gwel an Mor Resort, Cornwall, gwelanmor.com @LandalGwelanMor

**B&B AND GUESTHOUSE OF THE YEAR** sponsored by Lovegrove Essentials, lovegroveessentials.com

**GOLD**

■ Dorset House, Dorset, dorsethouseyme.com @DorsetHouseyme

**SILVER**

■ St John's Guest House, Dorset, stjohnguesthouse.co.uk @Fishersdream

**COMMENDED**

■ Barnabas House B&B, Devon, barnabas-house.co.uk @BarnabasHouse

■ Brightham House Boutique Bed and Breakfast, Devon, brighthamhouse.co.uk @BrighthamHouse

■ The Old Stables Bed & Breakfast, Somerset, theoldstablesbandb.com @oldstablesbandb

**BUSINESS EVENTS & WEDDING VENUE OF THE YEAR** sponsored by Clockwork Marketing, clock-work.co.uk

**GOLD**

■ Treseren, Cornwall, treseren.co.uk @treseren Cornwall

**SILVER**

■ Paschoe House, Devon, paschoehouse.co.uk @paschoehouse

**BRONZE**

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

**COMMENDED**

■ Landal Gwel an Mor Resort, Cornwall, gwelanmor.com @LandalGwelanMor

■ Upton Country Park, Dorset, uptoncountrypark.com @UptonCPark

**CAFÉ/TEAROOM OF THE YEAR**, sponsored Owens Coffee, owenscoffee.com

**GOLD**

■ Picnic Park Deli, Dorset, picnicparkdeli.com @picnicparkdeli

**SILVER**

■ Teacup Tearoom, Cornwall, teacup-tearoom.com @teacup\_tearoom

**BRONZE**

■ Fishcombe Cove Café, Devon, facebook.com/fishcombecovecafe

**CAMPING AND CARAVANNING PARK OF THE YEAR**, sponsored by Vickery Holman, vickeryholman.com

**GOLD**

■ South Lytchett Manor Caravan and Camping Park, Dorset, southlytchettmanor.co.uk, @campsite Dorset

**SILVER**

■ Polmanter Touring Park, Cornwall, polmanter.com @PolmanterStlves

**BRONZE**

■ Mena Farm: Touring, Camping, Glamping, Cornwall, menafarm.co.uk @MenaFarmCamping

**CASUAL DINING AWARD**, sponsored by Plymouth Business School, plymouth.ac.uk/schools
**GOLD**

■ The Pig at Combe, Devon, thepighotel.com/at-combe @The\_Pig\_Hotel

**SILVER**

■ Cary Arms & Spa, Devon, caryarms.co.uk @CaryArms

**BRONZE**

■ Fish 'n' Fritz, Dorset, fishnfriz.co.uk @fishnfrizweymouth

**COMMENDED**

■ Bango Kitchen, Cornwall, theshellfishpig.co.uk

■ On the Waterfront, Devon, waterfrontexeter.co.uk @OTWexeter

**DOG FRIENDLY BUSINESS OF THE YEAR**, sponsored by Forthglade, forthglade.com
**GOLD**

■ The Cornish Seal Sanctuary, Cornwall, sealsanctuary.sealifetrust.org, @Seal\_Sanctuary

**SILVER**

■ Bolberry Farm Cottages, Devon, bolberryfarmcottages.co.uk @BolberryFarmCot

**BRONZE**

■ Kernock Cottages, Cornwall, kernockcottages.com @KernockCottages

**COMMENDED**

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

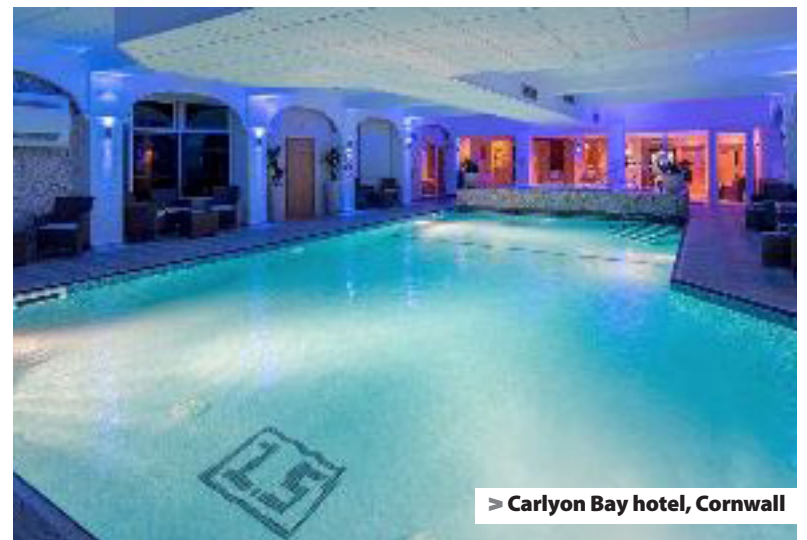
■ Saunton Beach Villas, Devon, sauntonbeachvillas.co.uk @SauntonVillas

**ETHICAL, RESPONSIBLE & SUSTAINABLE TOURISM AWARD**, sponsored by South West Water, southwestwater.co.uk





> The Pig at Combe, Gittisham



> Carlyon Bay hotel, Cornwall

ing the most difficult of times. There was also a special award for water efficiency, recognised as being of increasing importance both to business operations and the climate.

Jo Ecroyd, customer service director of headline sponsors South West Water, said: "As a top FTSE business in the South West, we see it as our responsibility to promote and contribute to the regional economy, in which tourism plays such an important role. It has certainly been a challenging year for businesses, and we applaud all our winners for their perseverance in the face of the challenges from the pandemic over the past year."

Rob Scarrott, head of water resources and planning at South West Water, said: "Special congratulations to The Sanctuary for winning the Extraordinary Water Efficiency Award at this year's South West Tourism Awards. The economy and well-being of our region is reliant on the environment we live in. That's why we're keen to continue our work

with the tourism sector to enhance and protect our natural environment and to ensure that the South West is a sustainable and beautiful place to live and visit for many years to come."

Robin Barker, director of services for Tourism Ltd, who has managed the Awards over the past decade, said: "Of all the years, this has been the one that has generated the most challenges as well as the most emotions, and we are so gratified to have played our part in giving our outstanding businesses something to celebrate. They are all so deserving! We can't wait to get out and visit as many of them as possible."

Co-organiser Nell Barrington added: "I have been really humbled to hear stories from these amazing tourism and hospitality businesses about how they have overcome adversity in these terrible times. It has been great to be able to celebrate their success today and I hope they have a fantastic season. Congratulations to them all."

## EXCELLENCE AWARDS

### GOLD

■ The Sanctuary Cornwall, thesanctuarycornwall.co.uk @SanctuaryCornwl

### SILVER

■ Camp Kernow, Cornwall, campkernow.org.uk @CampKernow

### BRONZE

■ Noah's Ark Zoo Farm, Bristol noahsarkzoo.com @noahs\_ark\_zoo

### COMMENDED

■ Little Comfort Farm, Devon, littlecomfortfarm.co.uk @LittleComfortFm

■ Mother Ivey's Bay Holiday Park, Cornwall, motheriveysbay.com @MotheriveysBay

■ Pause Cat Café, Dorset, pausecatcafe.co.uk @PauseCatCafe

### EXPERIENCE OF THE YEAR (ACTIVE OR LEARNING)

sponsored by VisitBath, visitbath.co.uk

### GOLD

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

### SILVER

■ Shore Campers – Campervan Hire, Dorset, shorecampers.co.uk @ShoreCampers

### BRONZE

■ Savouring Bath, Bath, savouringbath.com @SavouringBath

### COMMENDED

■ Fore / Adventure, Dorset, foreadventure.co.uk @foreadventure

■ Paradise Park – Red Panda Experience, Cornwall, paradisepark.org.uk @CornishParadise

sponsored by Anytime Booking, anytimebooking.co.uk

### GOLD

■ Brownscombe Luxury Glamping, Devon, brownscombe.co.uk @BrownscombeUK

### SILVER

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

### BRONZE

■ Ekopod, Cornwall, ekopod.co.uk

■ Farmstead Glamping, Dorset, farmsteadglamping.com @FarmsteadGlamp

### COMMENDED

■ Dorset Forest Garden Glamping, Dorset, dorsetforestgardenglamping.co.uk

■ Leafy Field Glamping, Devon, leafyfieldsglamping.com @LeafyFields

HOLIDAY PARK OF THE YEAR, sponsored by Stephens Scown

solicitors, stephens-scown.co.uk

### GOLD

■ Andrewshayes Holiday Park, Devon, andrewshayes.co.uk @andrewshayesA35

### SILVER

■ Landal Gwel an Mor Resort, Cornwall, gwelanmor.com @LandalGwelanMor

### BRONZE

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

### COMMENDED

■ Lady's Mile Holiday Park, Devon, ladysmile.co.uk @Ladys\_Mile

■ Martha's Orchard, Cornwall, marthasorchard.co.uk @MarthasOrchard

LARGE HOTEL OF THE YEAR, sponsored by Hotel Perfect, hotelperfect.co.uk

### GOLD

■ Carlyon Bay Hotel, Cornwall, carlyonbay.com @CarlyonBayHotel

### SILVER

■ Budock Vean Hotel, Cornwall, budockvean.co.uk @BudockVeanHotel

### BRONZE

■ The Royal Crescent Hotel and Spa, Bath, royalcrescent.co.uk @royalcrest

### COMMENDED

■ Fowey Hall Hotel, Cornwall, foweyhallhotel.co.uk @foweyhall

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

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

LARGE VISITOR ATTRACTION OF THE YEAR, sponsored by Worldpay, fsiglobal.com/en-gb/merchant-solutions-worldpay

### GOLD

■ Wild Place Project, Bristol, wildplace.org.uk @wild\_place

### SILVER

■ The Tank Museum, Dorset, tankmuseum.org @TankMuseum

### BRONZE

■ Brunel's SS Great Britain, Bristol ssgreatbritain.org

■ Noah's Ark Zoo Farm, Bristol noahsarkzoo.com @noahs\_ark\_zoo

■ Paradise Park and JungleBarn Indoor Play Centre, Cornwall, paradisepark.org.uk, @Cornishparadise

NEW TOURISM BUSINESS AWARD sponsored by Soundview, soundviewmedia.co.uk

### GOLD

■ The Roost Luxury Glamping, Glos, theeroostglamping.co.uk

### SILVER

■ The Hudnalls Hideout Treehouse, Glos, hudnallshideout.co.uk

### BRONZE

■ Cross Lane House, Somerset, crosslanehouse.com @CrossLaneHouse

■ The Cross Keys, Dorset, thecrosskeyssherborne.com @crosskeyssherb

### COMMENDED

■ The Cottages at Blackadon Farm, Devon, cottagesatblackadonfarm.co.uk

### OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION TO SOUTH WEST TOURISM, sponsored by Bristol Airport, bristolairport.co.uk

■ The Great South West Tourism Partnership Group (Spokespeople: Amanda Lumley, VisitPlymouth, and Alistair Handyside, South West Tourism Alliance)

### PUB OF THE YEAR, sponsored by Plymouth Gin, plymouthgin.com

### GOLD

■ The Pandora Inn, Cornwall, pandorainn.com, @PandoraInn

### SILVER

■ Three Crowns, Devon, threecrowns-chagford.co.uk @ThreeCrownsChag

### BRONZE

■ The Boathouse, Cornwall, theboathousefalmouth.co.uk, @theboathousefal

RESTAURANT OF THE YEAR, sponsored by St Austell Brewery, staustellbrewery.co.uk

### GOLD

■ Al Molo, Dorset, almolo.co.uk, @AlMoloWeymouth

### SILVER

■ The Angel – Taste of Devon, theangeldartmouth.co.uk @theangeldevon

### BRONZE

■ Cove24 Restaurant and Bar, Cornwall, cove24.uk @Cove24ny

■ Moose Kitchen, Dorset, moosekitchen.co.uk

SELF CATERING ACCOMMODATION OF THE YEAR, sponsored by PKF Francis Clark, pkf-francisclark.co.uk

### GOLD

■ Higher Wiscombe, Devon, higherwiscombe.com @HigherWiscombe

### SILVER

■ Sara's Cottage, Cornwall, sarascottage.co.uk @SarasCottage

SPONSORED BY SOUTH WEST WATER, SOUTHWESTWATER.CO.UK

### BRONZE

■ Nethway Farm Holiday Cottages, Devon, nethwayfarm.co.uk

### COMMENDED

■ Lower Campscott Farm Cottages, Devon, lowercampscott.co.uk @LowerCampscott

■ The Apartment, Bath, apartmentbath.com @apartmentbath\_

SMALL HOTEL OF THE YEAR, sponsored by Buckleigh Linen Services, buckleigh.co.uk

### GOLD

■ Whatley Manor Hotel and Spa, Wiltshire whatleymanor.com @Whatley\_Manor

### SILVER

■ The Horn of Plenty Country House Hotel & Restaurant, Devon, thehornofplenty.co.uk @hornofplenty1

### BRONZE

■ Cary Arms & Spa, Devon, caryarms.co.uk @CaryArms

### COMMENDED

■ Gara Rock Hotel, Devon, gararock.com @GaraRockHotel

■ Mullion Cove Hotel & Spa, Cornwall, mullion-cove.co.uk @mullioncove

■ The Pig at Harlyn Bay, Cornwall, thepighotel.com @The\_Pig\_Hotel

SMALL VISITOR ATTRACTION OF THE YEAR, sponsored by Pear Communications, pearcommunications.org

### GOLD

■ Nothe Fort, Dorset, nothefort.org.uk @NotheFort

### SILVER

■ Sculpture by the Lakes, Dorset, sculpturebythelakes.co.uk @SculptureLakes

### BRONZE

■ Shipwreck Treasure Museum, Cornwall, shipwreckcharlestown.co.uk @Shipwreck

### COMMENDED

■ Dean Forest Railway, Glos, deanforestrailway.co.uk @DeanForRailway

SPA & WELLBEING EXPERIENCE OF THE YEAR, sponsored by Jarrang, jarrang.com

### GOLD

■ Landal Gwel an Mor Resort, Cornwall, gwelanmor.com @LandalGwelanMor

### SILVER

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

### BRONZE

■ St Michaels Resort, Cornwall, stmichaelsresort.com/spa, @stmichaelsresort

■ Lincombe Hall Hotel, Devon, lincombehallhotel.co.uk @

lincombe\_hall  
COMMENDED

■ Mullion Cove Spa, Cornwall, mullion-cove.co.uk @mullioncove

TOURISM EVENT/FESTIVAL OF THE YEAR, sponsored by Met Office, metoffice.gov.uk

### GOLD

■ White Star Running – Run Jurassic 2019, Dorset, runjuristic.co.uk

### SILVER

■ Sculpture by the Lakes – Dorset Arts Festival 2020 sculpturebythelakes.co.uk @SculptureLakes

### BRONZE

■ eat:Portishead, Somerset eatfestivals.org @EatFestivals

### COMMENDED

■ Falmouth Oyster Festival 2019, Cornwall, falmouthoysterfestival.co.uk @FalOysterFest

TOURISM INNOVATION AWARD, sponsored by Quality in Tourism, qualityintourism.com

### GOLD

■ Quince Honey Farm, Devon, quincehoneyfarm.co.uk @quincehoneyfarm

### SILVER

■ St Moritz Hotel, Cornwall, stmoritzhotel.co.uk @stmoritzhotel

### BRONZE

■ Savouring Bath, Bath, savouringbath.com @SavouringBath

### COMMENDED

■ The Grange at Osborne, Dorset, thegrangeatborne.co.uk, @grangeatborne

VISITOR INFORMATION SERVICE OF THE YEAR, in association with South West Coast Path Association, southwestcoastpath.org.uk

### GOLD

■ Lynmouth Pavilion Exmoor National Park Centre, Devon, exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk @ExmoorNP

### SILVER

■ South Somerset Visitor Information Centre / South Somerset District Council, Somerset visitsouthsomerset.com @VisitSomerset

### BRONZE

■ Visit Newquay Tourist Information Centre, Cornwall, visitnewquay.org @Tourism\_Newquay

WATER CONSERVATION AWARD, sponsored by South West Water, southwestwater.co.uk

■ The Sanctuary Cornwall, thesanctuarycornwall.co.uk @SanctuaryCornwl