

Devon Tourism Awards show sector's resilience

THE finalists have been announced for the 2020 Devon Tourism Awards, after an extended ten-month programme.

A total of 124 entries were received, with 66 selected as finalists. They are now in suspense until the awards day scheduled for March 11, when they will learn whether they have won Gold, Silver, Bronze or a Special award. A further 13 receive Commended status.

The 11th year of the competition has been run in unprecedented times for tourism, but the focus on excellence and feedback for entrants has remained as relevant as ever.

Deborah Heather, of headline

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sponsors Quality in Tourism, said: "The resilience and quality of the Devon Tourism industry is particularly impressive in the current climate; we've seen some remarkable businesses worthy of the highest accolades.

"Quality in Tourism is proud to be headline sponsor of the Devon Tourism awards and to work with such an amazing group of businesses."

Simon Fishwick, company secretary of VisitDevon, said: "It really is amazing how many of our wonderful businesses entered the Devon Tour-

ism awards this year. The past year has been difficult for so many businesses; however, to see the high standard of the entries and the innovative approach being shown by many is really heart-warming. Well done to all of the finalists and good luck on the day!

"For those not listed, keep trying - just remember that there has to be a winner and it could be you next time! Overall, the industry is looking well placed for the recovery - plenty of wonderful accommodation, delicious food and drink and a great variety of first-class attractions."

Awards organiser Robin Barker, of Services for Tourism, said: "The past

ten months have been a challenge for everyone - to survive, let alone prosper. We have heard so many stories from entrants - of innovation, adaptation, and reinvention, and, of course for some, of desperation.

"Having considered abandoning the awards for the year, I'm so glad we persevered, adapting and changing along the way to reflect the ever-changing situation. The delight we're witnessing amongst finalists on being told of their success makes it all so worthwhile!"

■ For a full list of finalists, see below, or visit devontourismawards.org.uk. Twitter: @DevonTourAward (Hash Tag #DevonTA)

2020 DEVON TOURISM AWARDS *Sponsored by Quality in Tourism, qualityintourism.com*

ACCESSIBLE AND INCLUSIVE TOURISM AWARD

Finalists

- Leafy Field Glamping, Ashill, leafyfieldsglamping.com @LeafyFields
- Stover Country Park & Local Nature Reserve, Newton Abbot, devon.gov.uk/stovercountrypark @StoverPark

B&B AND GUESTHOUSE OF THE YEAR

Finalists

- Barnabas House B&B, Yelverton, barnabas-house.co.uk @BarnabasHouse
 - Brightham House Boutique Bed and Breakfast, Salcombe, brighthamhouse.co.uk @BrighthamHouse
 - Highcliffe House, Lynton, highcliffhouse.co.uk @HighcliffExmoor
- Commended**
- Fernside Bed and Breakfast, Tiverton, fernsidecottage-bed-and-breakfast.co.uk

BUSINESS LEADER OF THE YEAR

sponsored by Be the Business, bethebusiness.com

Finalists

- Chris Murray, Pennywell Farm,

[Buckfastleigh, pennywellfarm.co.uk](http://Buckfastleigh,pennywellfarm.co.uk) @PennywellFarm

- Dick Wood, DATA and South Devon Railway, [Buckfastleigh, southdevonrailway.co.uk](http://Buckfastleigh,southdevonrailway.co.uk) @southdevonrly
- Kerry Dawson, National Trust, nationaltrust.org.uk @nationaltrust

CAFÉ/TEAROOM OF THE YEAR

sponsored by Owens Coffee, owenscoffee.com

Finalists

- Fishcombe Cove Café, Brixham, facebook.com/fishcombecovecafe
 - The Curious Kitchen, Brixham, thecuriouskitchen.co.uk
- Commended**
- Driftwood Coffee Shop, Barnstaple, driftwoodcoffeeshop.co.uk @Driftwoodcoffee

CASUAL DINING AWARD

sponsored by Worldpay, fisglobal.com/en-gb/merchant-solutions-worldpay

Finalists

- Cary Arms & Spa, Babbacombe, caryarms.co.uk @CaryArms
 - On the Waterfront, Exeter, waterfrontexeter.co.uk @OTWexeter
 - The PIG at Combe, Gittisham, thepighotel.com/at-combe @The_Pig_Hotel
- Commended**
- Pig and Olive, Westward Ho!,

pigandolive.co.uk @PizzaPebbles

DOG FRIENDLY BUSINESS OF THE YEAR

sponsored by Forthglade, forthglade.com

Finalists

- Bolberry Farm Cottages, Salcombe, bolberryfarmcottages.co.uk @BolberryFarmCot
- Saunton Beach Villas, Saunton, sauntonbeachvillas.co.uk @SauntonVillas
- Shoreline, Paignton, paigntonbeach.com @shorelinedevon
- The Cadeleigh Arms, Tiverton, thecadeleigharms.com @CadeleighArms

ETHICAL, RESPONSIBLE & SUSTAINABLE TOURISM AWARD

sponsored by South West Water, southwestwater.co.uk

Finalists

- Harford Bridge Holiday Park, Tavistock, harfordbridge.co.uk @HarfordBridge
- Little Comfort Farm, Braunton, littlecomfortfarm.co.uk @LittleComfortfm
- The Cottages at Blackadon Farm, Ivybridge, cottagesatblackadonfarm.co.uk

EXPERIENCE OF THE YEAR

(ACTIVE OR LEARNING)

sponsored by PKF Francis Clark, pkf-francisclark.co.uk

Finalists

- Exewake Ltd, Exmouth, exewake.co.uk @exewake
- Surfside Kayak Hire & Tours, Combe Martin, surfsidekayakhire.co.uk @surfsidekayaks

GLAMPING BUSINESS OF THE YEAR

Finalists

- Blackdown Yurts, Blackborough, blackdownyurts.co.uk @BlackdownYurts
 - Brownscombe Luxury Glamping, Compton, brownscombe.co.uk @BrownscombeUK
 - Devon Yurt, Lifton, devonyurt.co.uk @devonyurt
 - Leafy Field Glamping, Ashill, leafyfieldsglamping.com @LeafyFields
- Commended**
- Valleyside Escapes, Bickleigh, www.valleysideescapes.co.uk @ValleysideEscap

HOLIDAY PARK OF THE YEAR

sponsored by Stephens Scown solicitors, stephens-scown.co.uk

Finalists

- Andrewshayes Holiday Park, Axminster, andrewshayes.co.uk

@andrewshayesA35

- Ladram Bay Holiday Park, Budleigh Salterton, ladrambay.co.uk @LadramBay
- Lady's Mile Holiday Park, Dawlish, ladysmile.co.uk @Ladys_Mile

Commended

- Hoburne Devon Bay, Paignton, hoburne.com @hoburneholidays
- Sandaway Beach Holiday Park, Combe Martin, sandawaybeach.co.uk @JohnFowlerHols
- South Bay Holiday Park, Brixham, southbayholidaypark.co.uk @JohnFowlerHols

LARGE HOTEL OF THE YEAR

sponsored by Hotel Perfect, hotelperfect.co.uk

Finalists

- Crowne Plaza Plymouth, ihg.com/crowneplaza @CrownePPlymouth
 - Lincombe Hall Hotel & Spa, Torquay, lincombehallhotel.co.uk @lincombe_hall
- Commended**
- Headland Hotel & Spa, Torquay, headlandtorquay.com

NEW TOURISM BUSINESS AWARD

sponsored by Soundview, soundviewmedia.co.uk

Finalists

- Brasserie at the Bay, Torquay, brasserieatthebay.com
- Nethway Farm Holiday Cottages,



► Salcombe's Gara Rock Hotel is an entrant in the 2020 Devon Tourism Awards

Kingswear, nethwayfarm.co.uk
 ■ The Cottages at Blackadon Farm, Ivybridge, cottagesatblackadonfarm.co.uk

Commended
 ■ Brackenhill Glamping, Ugborough, brackenhillglamping.com

OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION TO DEVON TOURISM
 sponsored by VisitDevon, visitdevon.co.uk

■ To be announced on Awards day

PUB OF THE YEAR
 sponsored by Bays Brewery, baysbrewery.co.uk

Finalists
 ■ The Black River, Black Torrington, blackriverinn.co.uk @Blackriverinn
 ■ The Cadeleigh Arms, Tiverton, thecadeleigharms.com @CadeleighArms
 ■ The Royal George, Appledore, trgpub.co.uk @trg_appledore
 ■ The Waterfront, Plymouth, waterfront-plymouth.co.uk @Waterfront_Plym
 ■ Three Crowns, Chagford, threecrowns-chagford.co.uk @ThreeCrownsChag

RESTAURANT OF THE YEAR
 sponsored by Plymouth Gin, plymouthgin.com

Finalists
 ■ Gara Rock Hotel, Salcombe,

gararock.com @gararockhotel
 ■ Harry's Restaurant, Exeter, harrysrestaurants.co.uk @HarrysExeter
 ■ The Angel – Taste of Devon, Dartmouth, theangeldartmouth.co.uk @theangeldevon
Commended
 ■ The Cosy Club, Exeter, cosyclub.co.uk @TheCosyClub

SELF CATERING ACCOMMODATION OF THE YEAR
 sponsored by Anytime Booking, anytimebooking.co.uk

Finalists
 ■ Higher Wiscombe, Colyton, higherwiscombe.com @HigherWiscombe
 ■ Lower Campscott Farm Cottages, Woolacombe, lowercampscott.co.uk @LowerCampscott
 ■ Nethway Farm Holiday Cottages, Kingswear, nethwayfarm.co.uk

SMALL HOTEL OF THE YEAR
 sponsored by Clockwork Marketing, clock-work.co.uk

Finalists
 ■ Cary Arms & Spa, Babbacombe, caryarms.co.uk @CaryArms
 ■ Gara Rock Hotel, Salcombe, gararock.com @gararockhotel
 ■ The Horn of Plenty Country House Hotel & Restaurant, Gulworthy, thehornofplenty.co.uk

@hornofplenty1
 ■ The Old Rectory Hotel, Exmoor, oldrectoryhotel.co.uk @HuwOldRectory
Commended
 ■ Haytor Hotel, Torquay, haytorhotel.com
 ■ Kentisbury Grange, Barnstaple, kentisburygrange.com @KentisburyG

SPA & WELLBEING EXPERIENCE OF THE YEAR
 sponsored by Lovegrove Essentials, lovegroveessentials.com

Finalists
 ■ Life is Good Nutrition – The Retreat, life-is-good.co.uk
 ■ Lincombe Hall Hotel, Torquay, lincombehallhotel.co.uk @lincombe_hall

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

Finalists
 ■ Stowford Farm Meadows, Combe Martin, stowford.co.uk @StowfordMeadows
 ■ Westland Farm, Barnstaple, westlandfarm.co.uk

TOURISM INNOVATION AWARD
Finalists
 ■ Quince Honey Farm, South

Molton, quincehoneyfarm.co.uk @quincehoneyfarm
 ■ The BIG Sheep, Abbotsham, thebigsheep.co.uk @bigsheepdayout
Commended
 ■ Lynton and Lynmouth Cliff Railway, Lynmouth, cliffrailwaylynton.co.uk @LLCliffRailway

UNSUNG HERO AWARD

■ Clive Simmons, Palace Theatre, Paignton, palacetheatrepaignton.co.uk @Theatrepaignton
 ■ Hannah Pattie, Pennywell Farm, Buckfastleigh, pennywellfarm.co.uk @PennywellFarm
 ■ Ian Stuart – RIP, Stuart Line Cruises, Exmouth stuartlinecruises.co.uk @stuartlineexm
 ■ Naomi Hunt, Powderham Castle, Powderham, powderham.co.uk @powderhamcastle
 ■ Sereny Damon, Dartmouth Steam Railway, Dartmouth, dartmouthrailriver.co.uk @DartmouthRR

VISITOR ATTRACTION OF THE YEAR
 sponsored by Westward Marketing, westwardmarketing.co.uk

Finalists
 ■ Lynton and Lynmouth Cliff Railway, Lynmouth, cliffrailwaylynton.co.uk @LLCliffRailway

■ Pennywell Farm, Buckfastleigh, pennywellfarm.co.uk @PennywellFarm
 ■ Quince Honey Farm, South Molton, quincehoneyfarm.co.uk @quincehoneyfarm
 ■ The Royal Albert Memorial Museum & Art Gallery, Exeter, rammuseum.org.uk @RAMMuseum

VISITOR INFORMATION SERVICE OF THE YEAR
 sponsored by Ignyte, ignyte.co.uk

Finalists
 ■ Lynmouth Pavilion Exmoor National Park Centre, exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk @ExmoorNP
 ■ Tiverton Tourist Information Service, tivertonmuseum.org.uk/museum/tourist-information-service @Visit_Mid_Devon

WEDDING VENUE OF THE YEAR

Finalists
 ■ Gara Rock Hotel, Salcombe, gararock.com @gararockhotel
 ■ Paschoe House, Bow, paschoehouse.co.uk @paschoehouse