

# Cornwall tourism businesses honoured

**T**HE winners of the 2020-21 Cornwall Tourism Awards have been announced at a special online ceremony.

Hosted over five sessions by the BBC's Daphne Skinnard and Robin Barker of Services for Tourism, the online event saw 74 awards presented in 27 categories, with a final surprise 'Outstanding Contribution to Tourism' award going to Martin Barlow, owner of the Budock Vean Hotel in Cornwall.

It was the culmination of an 11-month programme that started in March 2020 with entrants judged on a combination of their entry submissions, digital presence, reviews and external evidence - against a backdrop of coronavirus-imposed lockdowns which have had a devastating impact on the hospitality and tourism industries.

Top awards included the prize for business leader, which went to Watergate Bay's Ben Harper. Among the other top winners was Landal Gwel an Mor, winning gold for Holiday Park of the Year as well as awards for Access, Small Attraction, Spa and Wellbeing, and Wedding Venue.

Sara's Cottage was another multiple winner picking up golds for Access and Self Catering, while Mullion Cove Hotel and Spa took gold for Small Hotel and Carlyon Bay Hotel the gold for Large Hotel. The Old Embassy House took the gold for

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B&B and Guesthouse of the Year with Polmanter Touring Park and Ekopod taking the final two accommodation golds for touring park and glamping.

The Cornish Seal Sanctuary showed its further improvements taking gold in both the Wildlife Friendly and Dog Friendly categories, with Paradise Park also taking two golds for Large Visitor Attraction and Experience of the Year. The Shipwreck Treasure Museum took the Small Attraction gold, with Treseren winning gold for Wedding Venue and St Moritz Hotel gold for Tourism Innovation. Falmouth Oyster Festival 2019 took the gold for Tourism Event of the Year and Visit Newquay Tourist Information the gold for Visitor Information.

Food and drink businesses were also recognised with Teacup Tearoom winning gold for Café/Tearoom of the Year, The Pandora Inn for Pub of the Year, for the fourth year running, and Bango Kitchen the gold for Restaurant and Casual Dining.

Prestigious golds also went to The Sanctuary Cornwall for Ethical, Responsible and Sustainable Tourism, and to Cove24 Restaurant and Bar in the New Tourism Business category.



➤ Landal Gwel an Mor, a multiple winner. Right: Gary Zammit, an unsung hero



sponsor of the Cornwall Tourism Awards. I am humbled by and optimistic because of these industry leaders."

Malcolm Bell, head of VisitCornwall, said it was "refreshing" to have something to celebrate in what has been an extraordinary year for Cornwall. "Many congratulations to everyone for your ongoing investments in excellence," he added.

All of the winners will be automatically considered for the regional South West Tourism Excellence Awards later in the year as well as receiving feedback from the judging process. The 2021/22 awards are planned to be launched in April.

A full list of gold, silver and bronze award-winners in every category can be viewed at: [cornwalltourismawards.org.uk](http://cornwalltourismawards.org.uk)

The awards also recognised five 'Unsung Heroes' who had gone above and beyond during 2020. These were Gary Zammit of Feadon Wildlife Centre, Kim Spencer of SECTA, Patrick Trembath of PK Porthcurno, Robert Hawkins of Martha's Orchard and Sally Pickles from The Bowgie Inn.

Awards organiser, Robin Barker, of Services for Tourism, said: "It would have been very easy to cancel the awards this year - we did think long

and hard about it - but the level of early entries we received in spite of everything, and the creativity and determination shown by entrants, inspired us to find a way to make this happen."

Deborah Heather, of headline sponsors Quality in Tourism, said: "I've just spent an amazing day with the awe-inspiring tourism industry of Cornwall. They go from strength to strength each year. We are so proud at Quality in Tourism to be headline

## DEVONPORT DOCKYARD FORMER ELECTRICIAN SEEKS HELP FROM FORMER COLLEAGUES to raise awareness of dangers from chemicals and carcinogenic substances used in Dockyard

Former Devonport Dockyard electrician Graham Bacon was diagnosed with bladder cancer in February 2018. He worked at the Dockyard from 1970 to 1986.

As an electrician Graham, along with many others, would be working all over the yard but especially in the pickling yard, galvanising shop and pipe shop where he would be working above pickling baths, which he believes contained either hydrofluoric acid or nitric acid which would have been used to strip the metal down. He notes that the pickling yard, galvanising shop and pipe shop were all located within one area of the yard and were not sealed off in any way from each other, with employees being required to walk through the pickling yard and galvanising shop to access the large pipe shop where many people worked. When the metal would be dipped in Graham saw bubbles rising, like those seen coming from a crab when you remove it from the water. These bubbles would pop at the surface and release a highly flammable gas into the air.

In the galvanising shop Graham would be working above the pickling baths that contained lead and other chemicals used in the process of galvanising the clean pipework for the use back on ships. In the pipe shop he would be working above active welders who would be fabricating pipework releasing fumes which would rise up to where he was working on the cranes above them. He would be working above them for whole days at a time maintaining the cranes and replacing the lighting. The welders were provided with masks and breathing apparatus, but Graham was simply told that as an electrician he didn't need a mask.

Graham's last role in the Dockyard was working in the pre-heating department on board submarines where he would be fitting heating pads to the metal to prepare it for when the welders started their shift. He would be working the night shift in this job alongside painters using industrial paints. The painters would be spraying the paint whilst Graham

would have to walk through the compartments to check on the heating pads. He describes how the air would be thick with the paint fumes. Again, the painters were provided with masks to wear but Graham and others in his role; although working in the same area were not provided with a mask.

Graham instructed Dean Cruickshanks, Head of the Industrial Disease department at Wolferstans Solicitors, to bring a claim. He explained how his working environment was toxic with the air around him full of fumes from the chemicals being used. He recalled whilst working in the nuclear reactor department he was told after only 3 weeks that he had reached his limit of exposure to radiation and just deployed to work in a different area.

Graham was never provided with any protective equipment, training or information as to what chemicals he was being exposed to by the Ministry of Defence. At the time Graham and his colleagues laughed about possibly getting a third ear but now looking back he is saddened that this lack of information and lack of protection is the likely cause of him getting bladder cancer.

Graham and Dean would love to hear from anyone who would have worked as either a painter or welder in this period or indeed anyone who remembers working alongside Graham during his time at the dockyard as they are likely to have information that can help Graham support his recollection.

**Please call Dean Cruickshanks on 01752 292235 if you might be able to help, or if you or a family member has been affected by chemical exposure.** [f](#) [t](#) [in](#)

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