

Sustainable Sidmouth Champions Awards



Ian Gregory

Chair of the Vision Group for Sidmouth writes for the Herald

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The award ceremony for the Sustainable Sidmouth Champion Awards organised by the Vision Group for Sidmouth was held last Thursday at Kennaway House. Over 40 nominations were received and around 90 representatives from most attended the evening.

There were four categories of award: Schools & Educational Organisations, Businesses, Groups & Organisations, and Citizens.

The Schools and Educational Organisations award was won by Newton Poppleford Primary School for their bug hotel which children in years 3 and 4 had created. Eleanor Carr the judge presenting the award said she was impressed by the initiative and engagement of the school in the project. The runner up for the award was Sidmouth College who had utilised a disused allotment in the grounds to produce vegetables and other produce which would ultimately be supplied to the local food bank.

The Business award was won by Ganesha Wholefoods. Chris Lockyear in presenting the award noted that the business had adopted sustainable practices for many years and was a leader in the field. The runner up was Ebb-Tides at The Dairy Shop who have developed a range of products using seaweed as a sustainable source.

Sidmouth Repair Café won the Groups and Organisations Award. They were commended by judge Denise Bickley who presented the award for the commitment they show to ensuring items are repaired rather than disposed of. There were two joint runners up as the judging panel felt that both deserved recognition for their work. Bitesized Gardening who produce a website with tips for small gardens and Sidmouth Community Food Forest who had turned an area of waste ground into an area that produced crops.

The Citizens Awards presented by Sylvia Brownlee was given to Stefan Drew for his work in so many areas and to Tess Bisson for her work in developing an underused allotment to become productive.

In addition to the four categories of award the VGS Chair presented Heather Spratt with an award in recognition of her many years of volunteering at the grounds of the Norman Lockyer Observatory. Heather devotes significant time each week to tending the land around the observatory to maintain a wildlife habitat and garden.

In his opening remarks the chair noted that it had been difficult for the judges to select the winners and runners up as so many strong entries had been received. It was pleasing to note the progress being made to achieve a more sustainable lifestyle in so many different areas and that there were opportunities to learn from others.

The chair also expressed thanks to the judging panel and to Simon Jupp the local MP who gave the main address, where he commented on the importance of sustainability and congratulated the VGS on instigating the awards.

To see the full list of nominations for the awards, go to the Sustainable Sidmouth Champion Awards website: <https://sidmouth-champions.vgsidmouth.co.uk/>