

WILTSHIRE

AWARDS 2018

Celebrating excellence
across the county

23 March 2018, STEAM, Swindon

Contents and introduction



Pictured left is former chair of judges Lady Ruth Hawley with current chair of judges Helen Birchenough

Introduction Helen Birchenough

It is a great honour and delight to be the chair of judges for the illustrious Wiltshire Life Awards 2018, for they play such an important role in our community, drawing together people from across Wiltshire.

We live in a large and diverse county and the south and the north can seem a distance apart, separated as they are by a plain the size of the Isle of Wight. Our awards shine a light on the wonderful things that are happening in the furthest corners, often hidden and little known about.

It is appropriate that our ceremony moves around, popping up in a different but always splendid place each year and it's wonderful to be at STEAM Museum in Swindon this time.

This extraordinary listed building has so much to tell us about the history and heritage of the north of Wiltshire. It was at the very heart of railway engineering, employing 12,000 people in its day; a place of excellence and a precursor to the vibrant centre of industry that Swindon is today. The museum promises a 'First Class Day Out' and is a fitting space for our First Class Awards Ceremony.

These awards gather together the 'great and the good' of the county. I include all our sponsors and nominees in this group. Thank you to the 15 great organisations that support this event as corporate sponsors. Between them they deliver a huge variety of goods and services and while they vary in size and the nature of their business, they all have in common that they care very much about this county and the people in it.

Thank you also to our wonderful nominees, who are an inspiration to us all. In their different ways they bring skill, creativity, commitment and energy to this place. The judging process is often a humbling one, as we read about extraordinary feats of commitment and devotion. The world is a better place for these people and we are very fortunate to be able to meet and celebrate them at our awards ceremony.

It is an occasion that reminds us that sponsors are people too, and I would like to pick out one sponsor who illustrates this point very well. Last year the Young Entrepreneur of the Year award went to Monty George with his company Furniture Box. It is fabulous to welcome him back as the sponsor of the Farm/Village Shop of the Year and we thank Monty and his business partner Daniel Beckles for their support.

Lastly, I want to thank my marvellous fellow judges for all the time and care that they give.

Contents

4	Meet the Judges
5	More about STEAM Museum
7	Community Group of the Year
9	Carer of the Year
11	Teacher/Coach of the Year
13	Business of the Year
14	Past winner: Buttle Farm
15	Independent Food/Drink Producer
17	Conservation Group of the Year
19	Philanthropist of the Year
20	Past winner: The Swan at Enford
21	Pub of the Year
23	Young Entrepreneur of the Year
25	Farm/Village Shop of the Year
27	Young Sports Personality of the Year
29	Local Hero of the Year
30	Past winner: Wiltshire Music Centre
31	The Arts and Culture Award
33	Countryside Champion of the Year
35	Lifetime Achievement Award
37	Services to the Community Award
39	Pride of Wiltshire Award
40	About BBC Wiltshire
42	Interview with Cadan Murley
43	Wiltshire Life Awards 2019

Meet the Judges

The Wiltshire Life Awards 2018 has been brought to you by a panel of experienced judges. Here, we find out more about them.



Chair Helen Birchenough has lived in Wiltshire for 20 years. Through her work as a trustee and chair of various organisations, and as a Deputy Lieutenant of Wiltshire, she has built a good understanding of the county, especially of the arts and education.



Lady Ruth Hawley spent many years with the diplomatic service, but came to live in Wiltshire in 1980. She has come to know many aspects of the county: health, education, the law, the church and the voluntary sector and has been High Sheriff and a Deputy Lieutenant.



Nicholas Fogg is a fellow of Queen's University; advisor to the Council of ex-Heads of State and Government; founder of Marlborough Jazz and Lit Fests, and the Open Studios; and has had nine books published, including *Hidden Shakespeare*.



Rose Eva is an award-winning sculptor and writer. She has exhibited all over the world, and her work can be found in both private collections and public spaces. She works both in bronze and in exotic and colourful stone, sourced from all over the world.



Ian Larrard is director of Business West in Swindon and Wiltshire and ensures their voice is heard by decision makers. Previously he was a senior corporate manager with HSBC. He is a governor at Swindon College and president of the Rotary Club of Swindon.



Charles Spencer is a second generation dairy, arable, poultry and sheep farmer, with interests in small businesses. He is a National Trust tenant, supporter of the arts, particularly jazz, and a tennis, rugby and cricket player.



Lynsey Docherty is an opera singer, producer and vocal animateur. She is the founder of Celebrate Voice, a festival of singing based in Salisbury, staging world-class opera, jazz, music theatre and folk events, alongside a celebrated community programme.



Mark Allen is the owner, publisher and editor-in-chief of *Wiltshire Life*. The Mark Allen Group is a dynamic media company which delivers high-quality content through market-leading journals, magazines, books, events, exhibitions and websites.



Claire Waring is editor of *Wiltshire Life*. She has wide-ranging knowledge of the county developed over 13 years with the magazine, and has a particular affinity for the county's vibrant arts scene, its remarkable heritage and mouth-watering food and drink.

Find out more about STEAM Museum



Our venue for the Wiltshire Life Awards 2018, STEAM – Museum of the Great Western Railway is housed in a beautifully restored grade II-listed railway building in the heart of the former Swindon railway works.

Situated opposite the Swindon Designer Outlet, the museum tells the story of the men and women who built, operated and travelled on the Great Western Railway, often referred to by historians and railway fans as God's Wonderful Railway. The pioneering vision and engineering genius of Isambard Kingdom Brunel led to the Great Western Railway network becoming regarded as the most advanced in the world.

STEAM is in the heart of what was once one of the largest railway engineering complexes anywhere. Swindon Railway Works opened in January 1843 as a repair and maintenance facility for the new GWR. By 1900 the works had expanded dramatically and employed more than 12,000 people. At its peak in the 1930s, the works covered more than 300 acres and was capable of producing three locomotives a week.

The railway dominated the fortunes of Swindon until after the Second World War, when new industries moved to the area. The completion of the last steam locomotive for British Railways, *Evening Star*, at Swindon in 1960, marked a watershed in the history of the works, and in 1963 a large part of the old carriage and wagon works on the eastern side of the Gloucester branch line was closed and sold for redevelopment.

Despite a brief renaissance in the 1970s, the works finally closed in 1986. The purchase of the works site in 1986 by Tarmac Properties offered the opportunity to redevelop a large part of Swindon that was largely unknown to its population. Surrounded by high walls for most of its history, few Swindonians, apart from those who worked there, had

much opportunity to view the heritage which had played such an important part in the development of their town. What also became apparent was the significance of the architectural heritage which had survived the 150-year occupation of the site by the GWR and its successors.

It was within this context that the building now housing STEAM was renovated. The structure consists of a number of buildings built over a long period. The earliest is the 1846 machine and fitting shop, part of Brunel's original works complex. Known as the 'scragger', this area is now occupied by the entrance hall and public facilities for the museum (when nuts and bolts were renovated for re-use, the process was known as 'scragging'). The building still retains its queen-post roof and some original windows.

To the south is the much modified blacksmith's shop, which also dates from 1846, although its conversion to a substation early in the 20th century dramatically altered the character of this building.

The main body of the museum was a machine and turning shop. Despite all the alterations to the building fabric, it retains many original features, some of which re-emerged in the process of refurbishment.



Striking railway posters feature in The Art of Publicity, an exhibition at STEAM, which focuses on the artwork used to publicise tourist destinations along the GWR's routes, and runs until December 31.

Discover how the GWR employed some of the finest graphic designers of the time, and see both posters and carriage prints from the STEAM collection.

GWR's publicity department is the theme for two further exhibitions at STEAM this year, which you can read more about below.

You are also invited to join STEAM on a virtual journey. Each month, their social media channels will share a picture of a location along the GWR route, beginning at Paddington Station and ending in Penzance.

Cllr Garry Perkins, Swindon Borough Council's cabinet member responsible for STEAM, says: "Some of the posters and carriage prints are marvellous."

Get connected

Facebook: @SteamMuseum

Twitter: @Steam_Museum

www.steam-museum.org.uk

What's on

*The GWR Publicity Machine**

March 30-December 31

An exhibition exploring GWR merchandise, such as jigsaws and games, which helped make the company part of everyday life.

*GWR with Everything**

July 27-December 31

An exhibition of GWR-branded items made or sold by the company, from the obvious to the unexpected.

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see through my eyes,
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Community Group of the Year



Winner Sidmouth Street Day Club

This welcoming day club for people living with dementia is housed in the Alzheimer's Support office in Sidmouth Street, Devizes and has its own award-winning walled garden. People with dementia often lose confidence and social skills as cognitive ability declines, leading to isolation and loneliness. Staff and volunteers provide a lively, stimulating and friendly environment where up to eight members each day are supported. Activities are tailored to people's interests and experiences, and while members are encouraged to join in group activities, everyone is welcome to 'do their own thing'. Young people are encouraged to visit the club, which has forged links with St Joseph's Pre-School, a local childminder and Southbroom Infants' School.

Second place Splash Wiltshire

Splash Wiltshire provides free, highly-structured out-of-school activities for vulnerable young people at risk of social exclusion. School holidays can be difficult times, but attending a Splash activity gives young people something to look forward to. Activities run with 12 young people and four adults, which enables young people who might otherwise fall under the radar of larger groups to shine. In 2016/2017, Splash delivered 97 activity days for 331 young people.

(Joint) Third place Engage

Since 2011, Engage has been making a significant impact on the emotional wellbeing of older adult patients at Salisbury District Hospital who feel stressed and anxious. Funded by Salisbury District Hospital's Stars Appeal, trained volunteers support patients and alleviate boredom through patient-led conversations; discussion groups; memory games and puzzles.

(Joint) Third place Richard Jefferies Museum

The Richard Jefferies Museum at Coate Water, near Swindon, celebrates the life of this author through community events, including hosting an artist in residence for Swindon Open Studios, affordable writing events, hosting Swindon Poetry Festival and children's events. One nomination praised the leadership of Mike Pringle, Hilda Sheehan and the amazing volunteers.

“People with dementia often lose confidence and social skills as cognitive ability declines, leading to isolation and loneliness”

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Carer of the Year



Winner Danielle Hewer

Danielle is only 26 years old but those 26 years have been a rollercoaster. She became a carer for her brother, who sadly died of cancer, and now looks after her mum, who suffers from chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and has to have an oxygen tank with her at all times.

When Danielle was 22, her father left the family home and Danielle had to give up work to be her mum's main carer. The physical difficulties (mum is in a wheelchair) and mental stress of being a carer took their toll on Danielle, but she continued putting her mum first. That's what young carers do, day in, day out.

Now, Danielle is learning to put herself first sometimes, with the help of the young adult carer team at Carer Support Wiltshire. Described as clever, warm and witty, she has been involved in a project to develop an online support platform for young carers.

There are thousands like Danielle who don't get the support they need, but Danielle winning this award can help shine the spotlight on a hidden army of young people who need our help.

“Danielle's win can help shine the spotlight on a hidden army of young people who need our help”

Second place Rosie Eliot

Rosie has been nominated for her hard work and kindness in running the Wessex MS Therapy Centre in Warminster. The charity has 300 members, mostly local people with multiple sclerosis, their families and carers. It seems like Rosie knows everyone's first name, despite being kept busy raising £200,000 each year for running costs. Her innovations include the MS Travel Fund, which pays 50% of patients' travelling costs from rural areas; the MS Buddy Scheme, offering companionship in the home; and a tranquil therapy garden.

Third place Walter Ogilvie

Walter Ogilvie has been a support worker for Alzheimer's Support for more than 10 years, visiting people with dementia in their own homes for two to three hours at a time, offering emotional support, companionship and stimulating activities. He is an experienced and highly empathetic carer who goes the extra mile for his clients, getting to know their past lives, families and pastimes. His work with one client, Gordon, involved visiting his previous home where Gordon was able to regale the current owners with stories about the house.

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Teacher/Coach of the Year



(Joint) Winner Dr Tom Horler-Underwood

Tom is the head of Sixth Form at Warminster School and has an upbeat disposition. He's a steadying influence, offering great advice over a cup of coffee. He spends his day teaching history, helping with university applications, dealing with academic and pastoral matters and meeting prospective pupils. When former pupils return they make a beeline for Tom.

The nomination from Warminster School said: "We believe that Tom is the perfect head of Sixth Form at Warminster. The pupils, parents and alumni continually tell us so. He is highly regarded among the staff members too."

Pupils showed great respect for their mentor when they made a film for a Sixth Form information evening, which can be viewed at <https://vimeo.com/237669564>

(Joint) Winner Catherine Bernard

Catherine's speciality is helping children with learning difficulties in English; she can also work in French. Children can be reluctant to give up free time for extra lessons, but it doesn't take long for Catherine to break down the barriers. She tailors her teaching to each individual by finding a hobby or passion to discuss, and using that as the basics for the lesson. Her pupils always come out of lessons with a smile on their face.

Catherine taught Julian Sebag-Montefiore until the age of 13 (he is now 26). He recalls how, at the age of eight, Catherine told him about her passion for miniature goats. She did this knowing he loved animals. From that moment on, lessons seemed as much play as work, but at the same time dramatic progress had been made in reading and writing skills.

Third place Liam Abram

Liam is the founder, choreographer and teacher at Showoff Dance in Tidworth. He was dismayed by the lack of arts facilities in Tidworth when he moved there, so set up free dance classes for friends. His venture grew and with a small grant from O2, he began teaching both military and civilian residents of all ages and abilities, covering everything from contemporary, street and lyrical jazz to tap dance. Liam's much-needed service has successfully integrated military and civilian families, and he has since won many awards and changed many lives.

“As head of Sixth Form at Warminster School, Tom is a steadying influence, offering great advice over a cup of coffee”

“Catherine tailors her teaching to each child by finding a passion to discuss and using that as the basics for the lesson”

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Business of the Year



Winner Arctic Direct

Arctic Direct is a specialist luxury Arctic and Lapland travel specialist, founded in 2004 in Cricklade. Their mission is “to provide bucket list memories via the best quality Arctic holidays, educational trips and expeditions which give the customer a great experience from start to finish.”

Last year was an exceptional one, with an increase in turnover of 79%, which saw them take on two extra staff in January to cope with extraordinary growth, and an apprentice.

In March, thanks to an export grant, they signed a contract with a multi-billion pound travel group in Dubai, while the launch of their schools education programme brought in high sales in under six months. In April, Arctic Direct was named the Federation of Small Businesses’ Micro Business of the Year for the south west region in 2017. In September, they signed a large deal with a Singapore travel agency for their Lapland product. What an incredible year.

Domestic sales show significant growth too, and by 2020, the goal is that Arctic Direct will be a market leader for their destinations.

Second place Wiltshire Chilli Farm

The Wiltshire Chilli Farm is an award-winning artisan food producer based in Melksham. Founded in 2010 as a hobby, the company has doubled in size year-on-year, but is still a family concern with no outside investment. Their ethos is simple: produce delicious chilli products, using natural ingredients. Selling direct to consumers through events such as village fetes and agricultural shows is a vital part of their success. They also sell through 100 outlets, have a sister company in the US and last year saw an increase in exports to the EU.

Third place Three Trees Farm Shop & Café

Located on a farm, Three Trees Farm Shop & Café in Chiseldon is a family-run business in its fifth year. Produce from the farm includes free range eggs, beef, pork and seasonal lamb, with other products sourced locally where possible. As fans of “old-fashioned customer service” the business has grown. Another key to success is investing in their nine full-time and 17 part-time staff, and they currently employ two apprentices: one in retail and one in butchery. Plans include an extension to the shop and a delicatessen.

“Their mission is to provide bucket list memories via the best quality Arctic holidays, educational trips and expeditions”

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What winning an award did for us: Buttle Farm

**Independent
Food/Drink
Producer of the
Year 2014**



“Starting a business and getting it known is tough, but here was recognition that what we were doing was good”

Robert and Sara Buttle, rare breed pig farmers from Compton Bassett, were nominated for Independent Food/Drink Producer of the Year in the Wiltshire Life Awards 2014, and ended up winners on the night. “Being shortlisted for an award was amazing; winning it was a wonderful surprise,” says Sara.

Robert explains that winning was a huge boost to their morale. “Starting a business and getting it known is tough, but here was recognition that what we were doing was good. Our existing customers heard the news and sent us congratulations, and new prospects found us because of the publicity we gained. Even at the awards ceremony, we made some excellent contacts with some nominees in other categories. You’re mixing with the best in the county.”

He adds: “Being featured in a prestigious magazine which works so hard supporting the county was great and, particularly as farmers, the coverage they give the rural economy is really important. We also had some coverage on the radio with BBC Wiltshire sending a reporter to hear our story. The piece they broadcast

had some rather noisy Tamworth pigs in the background which made for an usual challenge for the sound engineer.”

Robert and Sara started their business in 2010, running six different pedigree native breed pigs on the farm in a high-welfare, extensive outdoor free-range system, producing quality pork and charcuterie made on the farm for sale to local restaurants and direct to the public. They were also in the process of converting two barns into a luxury holiday cottage and preparing to run events on the farm terrace, which has a wood-fired oven, spit roast and barbecue area. Life was busy.

Since then, Robert and Sara have continued to grow the business. The party terrace is up and running and they have hosted a wide variety of events, ranging from a wedding with 80 guests, to a Rotary Club summer fundraiser and a Women’s Institute outing.

People are always looking for a venue with a difference, and there is a barn available as back-up should the weather be uncooperative.

Their holiday cottage has brought visitors to Wiltshire from all parts of the world and has been awarded 5* Gold by Visit England, their highest rating; ‘Superhost’ by Airbnb; and reviews on TripAdvisor are five-star.

“All these awards are good, but they have come more recently; receiving that early recognition by *Wiltshire Life* was a very special day for us,” concludes Robert.

• For details of accommodation in the Chalk Barn, pork, charcuterie and guinea fowl produce visit www.buttlefarm.co.uk



Independent Food/Drink Producer of the Year



Winner Sumbler Bros

Sumbler Brothers butchers in Marlborough sources its meat from local producers with an emphasis on promoting traditional breeds, helping to sustain their future. They make their own sausages, using special ingredients from a local mushroom producer and brewer, and also prepare burgers, pies and the famous 'Marlborough Pasty'. They offer free local delivery, and their products can be found in village shops where there is no village butcher.

The excellence of their produce and outstanding customer service shines through. One nomination said: "You are guaranteed friendly and helpful service, from advice on which cuts of meat, to how to cook it. *Nothing* is too much trouble and if what you want isn't on display, it can be made or cut to order."

Sumbler also supplies meat to a local caterer which produces high-quality cooked lunches for about 1,000 local children at nurseries and primary schools. They are involved in community events too, providing a barbecue service to help raise funds for charities.

Second place Marshfield Farm Ice Cream

Organic farming is a way of life at Marshfield Farm, near Chippenham, from the 6am start in the milking parlour, to creating new recipes in the ice-creamery. The owners say: "We are devoted to making sure each hand-filled tub, cone and scoop is as good as the very best ice cream should be." All products are made on the farm and can go from cow to cone in 24 hours. The farm is run in accordance with Soil Association standards, meaning self-sufficiency and sustainability are key. Throughout the year they run educational community tours.

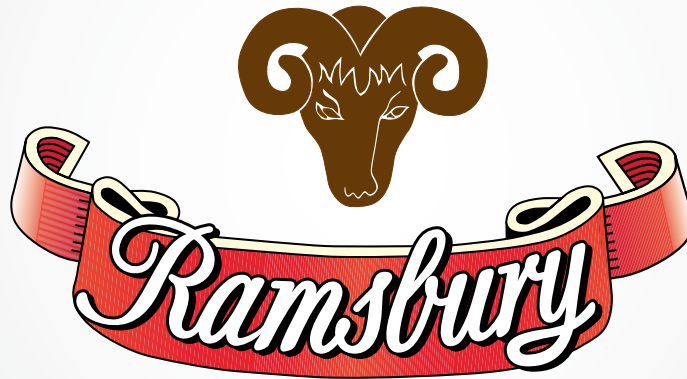
Third place Twisted Brewing

Twisted Brewing is a rapidly expanding micro-brewery, set-up in 2014. It produces six core ales and nine event/seasonal beers, supplied to pubs, bars and restaurants on a weekly basis. Secondary wholesalers are used to showcase this Wiltshire product on the national scene. They use wholly natural ingredients, and as members of the Society of Independent Brewers have achieved a full quality mark. The business was started with private investment and a rural economy grant, with the support of Wiltshire Council.

"You are guaranteed friendly and helpful service and nothing is too much trouble for the team at Sumbler Brothers butchers"

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Conservation Group of the Year



Winner Marlborough Downs Space for Nature

This group of farmers, volunteers, wildlife specialists and community members are passionate about the landscape and wildlife of the Marlborough Downs. Their project delivers activities to enhance and connect the habitats and wildlife on the downs, and to promote the health and well-being benefits of the great outdoors.

Together they have created 70 hectares (175 acres) of flower-rich grassland with bees, butterflies and other invertebrates, and they also manage 75 hectares (185 acres) of rough grassland to provide habitat for small mammals, in turn supporting owls and birds of prey.

The farmland bird programme provides special crops which are left unharvested for birds to help themselves to seeds; nectar-rich plots to attract insects; and hundreds of nest boxes. They have also created or restored 15 dewponds to conjure up a necklace of water sources.

They share their knowledge with the public through a programme of workshops, community events and volunteering opportunities, for all age groups and abilities.

Second place Baydons Meadow Wildlife Group

Baydons Meadow is a wildlife haven on the banks of the River Avon in Chippenham. It was bought by Chippenham Borough Lands Charity in 2000 and is maintained by the volunteers of the Baydons Meadow Wildlife Group. You'll find this dedicated group hedge-laying, hay-raking, coppicing, mowing and weeding, hosting visits and leading a moth and bat evening for the community. Each year, they plant more than 1,000 wild flower plugs, plus bulbs including bluebells and snake's-head fritillaries.

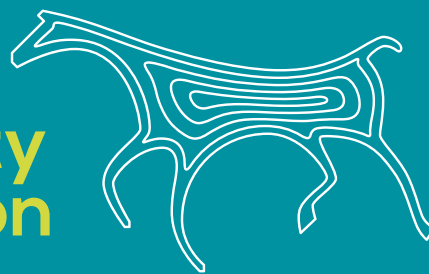
Third place The Secret Garden Salisbury – Bee City

Becky Twigg believes in networking for nature: the idea that one person can do good but many can do more. In 2017, she launched a project called Bee City, its central focus being the Salisbury Bee Trail. The trail features 12 beautifully illustrated signposts around the city. When you point your phone at the illustration an app is triggered revealing a bee image that flies, together with information about each pollinator. Many organisations have taken up the Bee City challenge and have created their own inspiring ways to promote bees.

“Farmers provide special crops which are left unharvested so birds can help themselves to the seed over winter”

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Images by Lis McDermott

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Philanthropist of the Year



Winner Michael Hill

Chief executive of the Hills Group, Mike Hill manages a business that has become a major force for social responsibility and good. The Hills Group is involved in waste management, recycling, aggregates, concrete and building new homes and pledges a responsible approach to service to the community and environmental awareness.

Mike has established a charity committee to oversee giving to the community and takes these responsibilities very seriously. The committee often awards funds to smaller organisations. At Christmas, for example, the company supports Christmas Care, which operates a shelter for the homeless in Swindon; the Swindon branch of Women's Aid; plus Doorway, a charity based in Chippenham which provides support to the homeless.

The Hills Group encourages employees to get involved in local projects and supports them with funding. They also distribute money from the Landfill Communities Fund, which enables them to contribute to environmental organisations within the vicinity of landfill sites.

Second place John Rendell

A successful businessman, John gives back to the community where his roots lie. He is a long-term supporter of the Wiltshire Community Foundation. As well as giving his time to the organisation, he has established two funds: the John and Valerie Rendell Fund, created with his first wife, who died of a brain illness, and the John and Sue Rendell Fund, set up with his second wife, Sue, who passed away from cancer. The funds generate money awarded as grants to groups and individuals. John also makes significant donations to causes close to his heart.

Third place James Phipps

James has a tremendous commitment to the town and people of Swindon. His company, Excalibur Communications, is at the heart of the community, and he and his staff give time, money and opportunities to local causes. He has a passion for helping young people and spends his personal time visiting schools to talk to pupils about fulfilling their goals. In 2014, he and his staff donated £50,000 to the RUH Cancer Centre. In 2016, James and his wife Emma set up The Younite Foundation, helping young people in Swindon, Wiltshire and Kenya.

“Mike has established a charity committee to oversee giving to the community and takes these responsibilities very seriously”

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What winning an award did for us: The Swan at Enford



“Custom has increased hugely and people have been generous with their comments and recommending us to friends, and so we continue to thrive”

It can take years of hard work, dedication and passion to become a success, whether in business, sports or the arts, so being recognised for your endeavours is a wonderful achievement, and as we discovered when we spoke to the winners of Pub of the Year 2017, it can bring many rewards.

The Swan at Enford was praised by the judges for being community-focused. Last year, we spoke to landlady Emma Jefferies to find out what has happened since they won.

Emma said: “What a six months it’s been. We were the noisiest table at the awards ceremony; we brought along staff who’d been with us at the very start of our journey, the ladies who run the ‘hub in the pub’ café and good friends who supported us in the very challenging early days, who had faith in us even when we doubted ourselves.

We were all ecstatic with the recognition of our ‘special place’.

“We’re passionate about community and a pub should be the beating heart. Since we won, it’s been positively thumping. We knew the award would change the volume of custom but we have been determined that it won’t change us and what we do here.

It’s what won us the Wiltshire Life Pub of the Year award, after all.

“Winning was the culmination of three challenging years of bringing a building, garden and community together. It is a massive step into the unknown when you take on a business. All you can do is work really hard and hope people like what you do. We love Wiltshire and our village, and the award proved we were on the right track.

“Winning the award has changed what people expect of us. We struggled with this to begin with; people came expecting Michelin-star food, tablecloths and more, but we stayed true to who we are and turned people’s expectations around. It’s given our staff pride in the place they work and has been a great benchmark to make sure what we do is never less than our best.

“Custom has increased hugely and people have been generous with their comments and recommending us to friends, and so we continue to thrive.”

“I would wholeheartedly recommend the award to anyone who has been committed to their business, who’s put in a huge amount of time and energy and love. We continue to grow, and are now in Sawday’s good pub guide. We also won Wiltshire Pub of the Year from trade magazine Pub & Bar.

“Our beer and music festival on August bank holiday last year was the most popular ever. We have introduced gin club, which runs from April to September, and feature nights for port, whisky, vodka and rum throughout the winter.”



Pub of the Year



Winner The George Inn

Manager Chris Bryett describes The George Inn at Lacock as a “well-oiled and well-drilled machine”, which increased turnover by 12% in 2017. They call their customers ‘guests’ and market themselves creatively with open mic nights, wine and dine evenings, quizzes, gin masterclasses, live music, festivals and fundraisers. They support the local cricket and soccer teams and have darts and skittles teams too. Food and drink is of the highest quality and there’s a vast array of boutique gins on offer, an extensive wine list and award-winning cask ales.

Chris Bryett says: “To ensure our guests have an amazing experience every time they walk through the door, we have to think on our feet and think outside of the box, as well as delivering the best service and providing the very best quality product. We like to think of ourselves as creative, always marketing the next event to entice our locale and those even further afield.

“I am proudest when our guests say, ‘I had a wonderful time, I will be back,’ and my team says, ‘Really enjoyed today, see you tomorrow.’”

Second place The Greyhound

The Greyhound in Bromham used to rely on its restaurant, but new landlords Danny and Tara Adams set about creating a ‘village pub’, with a contemporary refurbishment where dogs are welcome. To promote conviviality a bar table has been reserved where you can sit with others. You’ll find a 25ft well in the restaurant, where Danny presents locally sourced food using top quality ingredients, including fresh fish delivered from Cornwall. They support community events such as the summer carnival and sponsor the ‘pudding run’ at Christmas.

Third place The Woolpack

In 2006, The Woolpack in Sutton Veny closed its doors for what villagers thought was the last “time”, so when chefs Tim and Abbie Smith purchased the freehold and reopened in 2009, they received “amazing support”. Tim cooks locally sourced produce, with fresh fish six days a week and game from local shoots when in season. You’ll find the pub in foodie guides such as Sawday’s and *The Michelin Guide*. Warm and welcoming with polite staff, the pub is also a meeting place for single elderly people.

“To ensure our guests have an amazing experience every time they walk through the door, we have to think outside of the box”

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Young Entrepreneur of the Year



Winner Nicola Davis

This young entrepreneur set up Nicola Davis Crafts at the age of 17 and has won multiple awards. Nicola designs and makes bright, colourful and uplifting silk paintings and scarves. The inspiration for her designs comes from her difficult past. She has battled and beaten both anorexia and depression. "My designs reflect positivity and happiness, two qualities which I could not value more," comments Nicola.

This rising young star has sold her designs at the Bath Christmas Market and has also appeared on Kirstie Allsopp's Channel Four TV show, *Handmade Christmas*. Nicola has rapidly taught herself how to manage and run all aspects of a business, and has also set up and developed Corsham Creative Market, a monthly craft fair that promotes all things handmade, supports local artisans and has more than 40 stallholders and 300 visitors each month.

In 2016, Nicola launched *My Super Sweet Recovery Cookbook*, drawing on her experiences of having an eating disorder.

Second Place Luke Wareham

Luke has achieved a lot in his short career. He started out working at St Luke's School in Swindon, with some of the most vulnerable and disengaged young people. He excelled, opening his own Swindon Tuition Centre to help those with behavioural, social and emotional difficulties. Some may have given up on their education if were not for Luke.

With friend Paul Farrow, Luke has expanded to open up two Funky Tutors sites in Swindon and Bristol, to develop a brand that has the potential to be franchised on a national scale.

Third place Jodie Francis

Jodie set up The Gourmet Brownie Kitchen in 2013, but it was not until 2016 that she attended her first event to market the business. She has now been to 50 markets and fairs, selling her indulgent chocolate brownies in a huge variety of flavours, alongside making up personal orders. Jodie still works full-time as a team leader for CAPITA, but says there has been great interest in her business, leading to rapid growth. It was featured by Cosmopolitan UK and she reached the final stages of the Muddy Stilettos awards in 2017.

“Nicola has won many awards, appeared on Kirstie Allsopp's TV show, *Handmade Christmas*, and has set up a monthly craft fair in Corsham”

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Farm/Village Shop of the Year



(Joint) Winner Ansty Farm Shop

Ansty Pick Your Own and Farm shop, *pictured above left*, is known as much for the friendly family who run it as for producing fresh, quality wholesome food. You can pick soft fruit in summer and rhubarb in spring. One nomination recommends their puddings, cakes and biscuits, homemade jams, fresh honey and homemade breads.

Pekin hens wander around in Walt Disney-fashion providing eggs that are full of free range goodness. In summer, a maze entertains children; in the autumn there are 'Halloween sports'; and at Christmas you'll find trees, decorations and wreaths.

One nomination said: "If you have a problem [they] will sort it out, whether you need puddings for 20, or cakes for great-granny which have to be extra lemony as she is 91."

(Joint) Winner Three Trees Farm Shop & Café

Located on a farm, Three Trees Farm Shop & Café in Chiseldon is a family-run business in its fifth year. Produce from the farm includes free range eggs, beef, pork and seasonal lamb, with other products sourced locally where possible. As fans of "old-fashioned customer service" the business has grown, and they love to invest in their nine full-time and 17 part-time staff.

Elizabeth McMurray says: "We have grown a lot in five years, but we aren't finished yet." Plans to extend the shop will allow them to sell a wider variety of fruit and vegetables and establish a delicatessen. A new building will incorporate a commercial kitchen, children's play area and an educational facility. Some of the animals, currently kept at the opposite end of the farm, will be housed nearby so children can learn of their farm to plate ethos.

Third place Allington Farm Shop

Supporting British farming is key for the owners of Allington Farm Shop, near Chippenham, which stocks local and home-grown produce. A mixed arable farm sits behind the shop and feeds the butchery counter with traditional British breeds. There is a fantastic selection of veg and fruit grown on the farm or sourced locally, from Bromham or Lackham Campus (where students grow very large lemons). The shop, farm and café employ 50 local people and each year, the owners donate £1,000 in goodies, vouchers and hampers to charities and causes.

“Ansty PYO and Farm Shop is known as much for the friendly family who run it as for producing fresh food”

“Three Trees Farm Shop & Café has grown a lot in five years, but we aren't finished yet”

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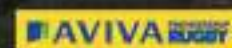
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Young Sports Personality of the Year



Winner Dan Bethell

Dan Bethell from Chippenham is a member of Team GB Para Badminton Podium Performance Squad, the elite athletes who are training for the 2020 Tokyo Paralympics. Dan is the singles Men's SL3 European Champion and also won bronze in the doubles at a hotly contested European Championships in Holland at the end of 2017.

Dan is an accomplished young man who is in full-time education, has a BA degree in international law and is studying for a masters.

Dan has also given back to the community by supporting the Fit and Fed programme held last summer, a national programme developed by the sports charity StreetGames to help alleviate the issues of isolation and improve fitness levels during the school holidays. Six sessions were delivered in Salisbury and Trowbridge, supporting families on lower incomes.

Dan spent the day cooking and taking part in activities with the children and their parents, ensuring that everyone involved in the project had a fun day.

Second place Tom Gale

Tom Gale from Trowbridge excels in athletics in high jump. He has been selected for Team England for the 2018 Commonwealth Games and has won many competitions. He is a member of the British Athletics Future Programme, which identifies athletes who have outstanding potential to achieve at the highest levels in their sport. Tom is already demonstrating a hard work ethic and is very focused. He is keen to be a role model for a younger generation of athletes, but is also a lovely, modest and unassuming young man.

Third place Hannah West

Hannah West from Melksham won a gold medal at the Adult Gymnastics British Championships in 2017 in the over-18s intermediate category. It's a wonderful achievement made all the more remarkable because Hannah didn't compete for 10 years after she suffered a knee injury. She started competing again in 2017 and was supported by Chippenham Moonraker Gymnastics Club, where she is a director, squad head coach and role model for more than 300 members, from pre-school to adult.

“Dan is part of an elite squad who are training for the 2020 Tokyo Paralympics”

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CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FINALISTS OF THE WILTSHIRE LIFE AWARDS 2018

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We are fortunate that we have many dedicated individuals at Warminster to make our community thrive and flourish, putting others and charities first before themselves.

“ ”

One of the great privileges of being the Headmaster of Warminster School is the regularity with which I have the chance to meet inspirational and incredible members of the local community. I am often amazed by their stories and their selfless sense of service to others. I believe that this is a real strength of the local area. I am delighted that, in a small way, the School is able to help recognise them.

MARK MORTIMER
HEADMASTER

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Local Hero of the Year



Winner George Gordon

George Gordon is the hero of the Burbage Christmas Tree Sale and Market. George has been running the sale for many years, together with a team of volunteers and is said to think of Christmas all year. He holds the organisational meetings for the event at his home, sources the trees from the local area where possible, stores equipment and recruits volunteers. He is the last to leave after everything has been packed away.

About 2,500 people visit over the weekend to buy a tree, browse the market of 50 stallholders or meet friends and family. It's a wonderful social occasion: if people have moved away from the village, they very often return for the weekend to meet up with old friends and neighbours.

More than 700 Christmas trees were sold in 2016, with one being sold every 30 seconds at times. The event raised £20,000 for the village, with every penny going back into the community, to provide funding for the church, school and village hall. Under George's management, the event has grown and so, too, have the funds raised.

Second place Marilyn Adcock

Marilyn Adcock is the heart and soul of the Stanley/Bremhill community. A great supporter of the local church, Marilyn is the towering force behind Bremhill Village Show. In 2017, there were 416 entries from 61 people and the show raised £1,000 for the village hall. She provides a friendly welcome when people move into the area, and is a linchpin of the community, letting everyone know what's on and when. Marilyn makes recordings for the blind; helps with the annual litter pick; and is a leading light in bringing touring companies to the village hall.

Third place Mike Carter

Known as Wise Mike, Mike Carter is a volunteer working with young people, some vulnerable, at Wiltshire Wildlife Trust. He supports the Water Team, the schools team and the Milestones team, which focuses on youth well-being. A volunteer for many years, last summer he helped deliver holiday activities to young carers, giving them a chance to enjoy their childhood. Through working with schools, and the Milestones project, he has helped vulnerable young people grow in confidence. He's positive, pro-active and "a good person to have around".

“George has been running the Burbage Christmas Tree Sale and Market for many years and is said to think of Christmas all year”

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Warminster School

What winning an award did for us: Wiltshire Music Centre



**The Arts
and Culture
Award 2017**



“The award meant a lot to everyone who works behind the scenes and brought additional visibility to the organisation as a whole”



Last year we were honoured to receive The Arts and Culture Award at the Wiltshire Life Awards 2017, as recognition of our commitment and continued devotion to providing the highest quality live music experience to people of all ages and abilities.

At Wiltshire Music Centre we constantly strive to offer an engaging artistic programme of live music across the classical, world, contemporary, jazz and folk genres, as well as to deliver an increasingly extensive creative learning programme, both at the centre and across the county. The award meant a lot to everyone involved in making this happen behind the scenes, and brought additional visibility to the organisation as a whole. This is particularly important as we operate in an increasingly pressured funding environment and we need everyone's support to keep maximising the opportunities for live music to inspire, enrich and transform people's lives.

Wiltshire Music Centre now stands as a venue of national significance. The centre welcomes more than 60,000 visitors every year to enjoy more than 160 events and activities, and engages with 5,000 young people across the region as part of its Creative Learning projects. World-renowned performers are attracted to the venue, including trumpeter Alison Balsom, the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment, folk artist Kathryn Tickell and jazz legend Courtney Pine.

Wiltshire Music Centre also works strategically with key local and national partners to deliver an exemplary programme of concerts, education and community work which encompasses all ages, abilities and backgrounds. Just two examples of large-scale community events are the annual Bradford Roots Festival in January and My Science Fair in March.

This year, Wiltshire Music Centre celebrates its 20th anniversary with a host of special projects and events, including a Big Family Music Day on June 23, a new String Quartet Fellowship, a production of West Side Story at the Forum in Bath in partnership with Bath Festival on May 19, pre-concert supper clubs, The Big Live Music Quiz on May 4 and a fantastic disability arts festival in the autumn. We also plan to take 80 of our brilliant West of England Youth Orchestra and Wiltshire Youth Jazz Orchestra young musicians on tour to France in the summer.

We have launched an ambitious £100,000 appeal to support the centre's future which has three key priorities:

- Music-making for all: our Creative Learning programme in the community
- Artistic excellence: bringing the UK and world's best musicians to Wiltshire
- A greener future: new auditorium lighting (LEDs)

We look forward to celebrating this anniversary with everyone in Wiltshire.

By chief executive of Wiltshire Music Centre, Maud Saint-Sardos

The Arts and Culture Award



Winner LeaMosaics

Lea is a mosaic artist based in Ludgershall. Her passion comes from nature and beauty, allowing a unique and dynamic style of mosaic application.

Last year she worked on a mosaic more than 17 metres long and 90cm high, with Wellington Academy pupils. The design came from pupils' thoughts and ideas about what the school means to them. Lea enjoyed seeing how the pupils flourished within the class and how they took ownership of the project, helping each other and the younger pupils. She also worked closely with staff on their input.

Lea was devoted to the project, from design to delivery. Pupils were thoroughly engaged; this was more than just an art class. The mosaic took seven months to complete and is now proudly displayed in the Academy's entrance hall.

Lea is involved in delivering mosaic classes for dementia sufferers in Tidworth and Ludgershall. She teaches the classes in her own time and provides free materials.

“Lea was devoted to the project, from design to delivery and pupils were thoroughly engaged; this was more than just an art class”

Second place Gemma Brunton

Gemma Brunton is a photographer based near Salisbury who specialises in portraiture of babies and children, and in 'boudoir' photography, an often misunderstood genre that seeks to allow women to celebrate themselves through stylish and intimate personal portraits. She also helps women who have been through breast cancer treatment by creating sensitive portraits to help them on the road to emotional recovery. Gemma has a love of photographing children too. One of her projects looks at the concept of girls on the cusp of adulthood.

Third place Ann Cardew and Helen Look

Ann Cardew and Helen Look have an unusual way of working, creating all their mosaics and works on paper together. An absence of ego means decisions are made for the good of the pieces, which start as a visual record of daily events. For example, *Twickenham Boys* references the achievement of Bishop Wordsworth's School's 1st XV in reaching the final of the Nat West Cup in 2017. Helen and Ann started working together at art school but studiously avoided an exhibition until 2017: a crowning achievement that raised funds for Salisbury Hospice Charity.

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what can we do for you?

Countryside Champion of the Year



Winner David Waters

Given their huge size and impressive appearance, it's hardly surprising that in the past Great Bustards were hunted as trophies and, as they became more and more scarce, had their eggs taken by collectors. As a result, by 1832, just before Queen Victoria came to the throne, the Great Bustard died out as a British breeding bird. For well over a century, the species remained a very rare visitor to our shores. From time to time, people tried to breed bustards in captivity with the intention of releasing them back into the wild, but with little or no success. Then, in 1998, David Waters set up a reintroduction scheme...the rest is history.

David Waters has seen his dream of reintroducing the Great Bustard to Salisbury Plain become a reality. Described in one nomination as "the sort of guy who sits in the background and gets on with the task in hand", as director of the Great Bustard Group his determination to bring back the world's heaviest flying bird to Wiltshire has been nothing if not monumental. The population of Great Bustards on Salisbury Plain is now self-sustaining.

Second place Vince Povey

Vince Povey is dedicated to the Wiltshire Wildlife Trust Blakehill reserve, where he takes care of security, together with his wife. His dedication to remembering Blakehill as a Second World War airfield is outstanding. In 2016 he organised a War to Wildlife Walk using pictures and props he had hidden in the hedgerows to bring his theme alive. In 2015, Vince and his wife donated an interpretation board that transformed Blakehill. Vince is described in one nomination as a "general all-round brilliant human being."

Third place Dominic Price

Dominic's aim is to remove 50 species of plants from the edge of extinction in the UK by the year 2050. He works hard to find sites around the UK where it may be suitable to re-establish these plants and then sets about conserving them. He is passionate, a real 'plant person', and relates his passion well through courses and educational links.

One nomination said: "Dom is one of those people who works tirelessly behind the scenes and does not shout about his achievements."

“David has seen his dream of reintroducing the Great Bustard to Salisbury Plain become a reality and the population is now self-sustaining”

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Lifetime Achievement Award



Winner Nigel North

Consultant clinical psychologist, neuropsychologist, professor and doctor are all appropriate titles to address this nominee, although he most often uses just Nigel North. Over 25 years, Nigel North has developed a nationally recognised clinical psychology department, from one staff member to a team of five, at Salisbury District Hospital.

Widely published, he is also an exceptional teacher and mentor. He enjoys seeing individuals flourish and develop their skills in order to be effective clinicians and is always happy to provide opportunities for both professional and personal growth and learning. He has a real knack of making people feel important as an individual.

Nigel spearheaded a £400,000 charity grant for a Wessex Cancer Trust project at the hospital and generates significant income into the Trust.

Nigel also played a pivotal role in establishing Engage, a volunteer-run scheme aimed at supporting the emotional needs of older adults during their hospital stay. In 2016, Engage was awarded the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service.

His reputation goes before him and he is requested to teach or present at numerous events. His modest nature, great sense of humour and insight into human behaviour are always remarked on by those who hear him speak. "He is endlessly inspirational," said one nomination.

Second place Claire Bradford

Claire quickly became an important part of the family when she joined Ashgrove House Nursing Home in Purton as a Registered General Nurse in 1986. Today she is deputy manager and her caring, calm, supportive approach toward clients, families and staff make her the 'go to' person for all of them. Her amazing personal knowledge of clients is never more evident than in her passion for end-of-life care.

Claire has also introduced 'memory moments', which allow staff to share their memories of a client who has died and to remember the person they were. Each December she organises a remembrance event, inviting family and friends, or anyone who has suffered a loss during the year. The event has been well received and has helped people as part of their grieving process.

Claire also volunteers for a charity that supports older people who are at risk of isolation and raises money for a variety of charities each year.

“Nigel's modest nature, great sense of humour and insight into human behaviour are always remarked on. He is endlessly inspirational”

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finalists of the Wiltshire
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Pride of Wiltshire Award



Winner Lady Ruth Hawley

Lady Ruth Hawley was born and brought up in the West Country, the daughter of a vicar. She joined Her Majesty's Diplomatic Service at the age of 18 and was posted to Vietnam and Egypt, where she met her husband, Donald. They were posted with the HM Diplomatic Service to Nigeria, Iraq, Oman and Malaysia.

When they were in Oman, Ruth became interested in traditional Omani silversmithing and wrote a book about it, published in 2000. She was also the first woman to climb Jabal Akhdar, the highest mountain in Oman (3,000ft).

Ruth and her husband moved to Wiltshire when her husband retired in 2012. Ruth became involved in many aspects of local Wiltshire life, serving on the Wiltshire health trust, as regional representative for Wiltshire St John's Ambulance and many other charities, including Ask (a charity providing support to carers of children with special needs) and the Wiltshire and Bath Independent Living Trust.

In 1998 she was appointed High Sheriff of Wiltshire, and in 1999 became a Deputy Lieutenant. She is a Lay Canon of Salisbury Cathedral and a governor of Godolphin School.

Ruth was a patron of the Well Woman Clinic and a trustee of Medical Support in Romania, in which role she took van loads of medical supplies to desperately under-resourced health centres in Romania. She has been a trustee and patron of Futures for Women, a charity that helps support women in their careers.

Ruth is president of Salisbury Mencap, a trustee of the Harnham Water Meadows Trust, and an ambassador for Alabare, a Wiltshire-based charity that supports vulnerable, homeless and marginalised people, helping them transform their lives by providing accommodation and helping them gain skills, confidence and opportunities to live a fulfilled life.

Ruth is someone who gets things done, a 'doer', but in a capable, thoughtful and diplomatic way. She encourages others and gives constructive, helpful and wise advice when asked. The people and communities of Wiltshire have hugely benefitted from her presence in our county.

Ruth loves to travel and has visited in recent years Kurdistan, Uzbekistan, Ethiopia and Costa Rica, as well as many places closer to home.

In 2014, Ruth was one of the first patients to receive radical new proton beam therapy for eye cancer. She has four children and eight grandchildren.

By The High Sheriff of Wiltshire, Lady Marland

“Ruth is someone who gets things done, a ‘doer’, but in a capable, thoughtful and diplomatic way”

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Services to the Community Award



In memory of Tony Martin

Many people in the voluntary and community sector in Swindon will have heard of, or known Tony Martin. He was an irrepressible force for good with a passion for helping the disadvantaged. Tony died in September last year and more than 300 people attended his funeral, a true testament to his impact on the local community. He will certainly be missed.

Working as the volunteering development manager at Zurich Community Trust, he had the perfect platform to share his passion for the community and to encourage colleagues into volunteering their time to help local organisations and beneficiaries.

Since its inception in 1973, the Zurich Community Trust has donated more than £65 million. The Trust works in partnership with a wide range of charitable organisations and engages more than 40% of the Zurich UK workforce in volunteering.

Countless organisations have benefitted from Tony's support, advice and guidance, including Swindon Carers Centre, Swindon Women's Aid, Swindon Therapy Centre for MS, The Open Door Centre and Uplands Educational Trust. Tony found skilled business volunteers to help these organisations with business planning, strategic advice, marketing and branding. He encouraged groups of employee volunteers to support them with the delivery of their service, and organised collections of food, clothing, toiletries and other goodies which were then distributed to disadvantaged people.

Tony was a huge believer in collaboration. One of his favourite sayings was: "Teamwork makes the dream work". He used his experience at Zurich Community Trust to set up Involve Swindon, a network of companies, statutory bodies and voluntary organisations working together to encourage employees to give their time and develop their skills through volunteering in the local community. Each year through Involve Swindon, more than 600 employees from about 20 businesses get involved in volunteering opportunities, ranging from one-day team challenges to the more regular commitment of becoming a charity trustee.

One of Tony's greatest achievements at Involve Swindon was a twice-yearly conference providing charities and businesses with the opportunity to network. These conferences were attended by up to 80 people and many business/charity relationships started at these events.

Helping others, along with devotion to his family, was Tony's *raison d'être*. One nomination said: "A big hole has been left that will be very difficult to fill, but those who knew Tony are determined to carry on his work as he would have wanted."

“A big hole has been left that will be very difficult to fill, but those who knew Tony are determined to carry on his work as he would have wanted”

About BBC Wiltshire



BBC Wiltshire is proud to support and host the Wiltshire Life Awards 2018

BBC Wiltshire has been broadcasting live across our stunning county for nearly 30 years. We are very passionate about Wiltshire and love telling your stories, celebrating our county and discussing the issues that matter to you.

The past 12 months have been a very exciting time for the radio station, which really has placed us right at the heart of our community. Thousands of people got involved in our Step Into Summer Campaign, which aimed to get us all walking and moving a bit more. We handed out hundreds of pedometers across the county, you donated your miles and collectively we walked more than 70,000 miles; that's nearly three times around the world. We're looking forward to you joining us for that challenge again this year.

We love uncovering and sharing surprising stories about our county; just before Christmas James Thomas took his afternoon programme to the town of Bad Hersfeld in Germany. The town was founded by the Wiltshire monk Saint Lullus back in the 8th century, when he went on a pilgrimage from Malmesbury Abbey to spread Christianity in Europe. Although people in Germany celebrate Saint Lullus every year, we discovered that very little was known about him here in Wiltshire. James decided to broadcast live from Lullus Fest, Germany's oldest folk festival. His story of *Lullus: The Wiltshire Monk You've Never Heard Of* was told across the BBC, including on Radio 4 and the World Service, as well as here on BBC Wiltshire.

We've enjoyed fantastic partnerships this year. We were honoured to work with Horrible Histories author Terry Deary who wrote a series of mysterious radio dramas for BBC Wiltshire. We've also been working with Salisbury Cathedral and BBC Radio 4 on The Listening Project. We are always humbled by the amazing stories and conversations you share with us.

We were blown away by the support of the communities of Swindon and Wiltshire for Children In Need. Breakfast presenter Ben Prater and his team cycled a bright yellow Pudsey Pedal Bus 100 miles to raise money for the charity. It was a rollercoaster of a week, with broken steering columns, sore legs and steep hills, but it was a fantastic achievement and you helped us raised more than £5,000 for good causes.



Meet the host:

Sue Davies

BBC Wiltshire Weekend Show presenter Sue Davies brings the county together with news of events, star guests and the chance to test your little grey cells too.

Born in Trowbridge, Sue began her tentative steps in the public limelight by winning a local talent contest aged seven. For the next four years she toured Wiltshire social clubs with her sister in their group The Folk Duo, often on the same bill as her parents' ventriloquist and miming act. She also played clarinet in Wiltshire Youth Concert Band and joined many Wiltshire amateur dramatic groups.

After getting her honours degree in North Yorkshire, Sue returned to Wiltshire where she worked as a radio jingles producer, while singing in a wide range of bands. After working as a volunteer at hospital radio stations, Sue joined what was then BBC Wiltshire Sound in 1990.

Her hobbies include music, films, collecting old radios, supporting Manchester United and eating chocolate, but not necessarily in that order.

• You can hear Sue Davies on BBC Wiltshire on Saturday and Sunday mornings from 9am to 12pm.

At BBC Wiltshire we love telling your stories on the radio, but we are living in a digital age and our online news pages and social media feeds are accessed by thousands of people. Whether it's bringing you the summer solstice sunrise live on Facebook or celebrating the achievements of incredible Wiltshire people, digital services mean we can share videos and photos with a much wider audience.

BBC Wiltshire won gold, silver and bronze at the Local Radio Gillard Awards, including Best Presenter for James Thomas, BBC Local Radio Station of the Year and Best Breakfast Show for Ben Prater. We're incredibly proud to have won these awards, but we know the best radio comes from you. Your stories, opinions and experiences mean BBC Wiltshire is rooted in our county, so thank you for supporting what we do. Please do continue to get in contact with us, whether it's an issue you think we should be discussing or something you want us to celebrate.

We are really pleased to be hosting the Wiltshire Life Awards again this year. It's a

really special event for BBC Wiltshire to be involved in. It's a fantastic opportunity to meet the people who make our county what it is, and we love to celebrate and share the fantastic achievements of people living and working here.

By editor of BBC Wiltshire,
Mary Sanders

• You can hear BBC Wiltshire on 103.5, 103.6, 104.3 and 104.9 FM on DAB Radio and online at bbc.co.uk/bbcwiltshire. You can contact us on Facebook at [facebook.com/bbcwiltshire](https://www.facebook.com/bbcwiltshire), on Twitter @BBCWiltshire or email us at Wiltshire@bbc.co.uk

From far left: BBC Wiltshire's Ben Prater presenting the Breakfast Show; BBC Wiltshire's new state of the art studios in Swindon; BBC Wiltshire's latest outside broadcast vehicle uses satellite technology to connect to the studios



Interview with Cadan Murley

We caught up with Cadan fresh from a training session to discuss what has been a breakthrough year following his award for Young Sports Personality of the Year in 2017.

How did it feel to be nominated?

To be honest it came as quite a surprise. I looked up some of the previous winners and saw that Brian Ashton [former Ireland and England men's senior rugby coach] had won it, and so obviously, it was an honour. I am doing what I love and enjoying it, so to be nominated was a complete a surprise, let alone winning it.

Did you think that this could be the start of something bigger?

I hoped so. I had played for England U18s, but I hadn't heard from Harlequins, so I was hoping to push on and stay as positive as I could, no matter what happened. I was in my last year at Bishop Wordsworth's School and we had the NatWest Cup final at Twickenham the following week to look forward to.

Tell us about your progress at Harlequins?

I had joined the development programme when I was 16, and played in the academy league until I was 18, and it was in the June that I was offered my first professional contract. Ultimately, the end goal is to play week in, week out for the club. As a member of the academy it was all about personal development and individual skillsets – improving the basics of your game, and using the older players and internationals, to help you make improvements. My first training session with the men's team was a bit daunting, but you get used to it and you start asking questions and learning from them. The back three are all really helpful, they take you under their wing, but everyone at the club is really friendly. You're going in there straight out of school, and you are with players who have been professionals for over 10 years, but they are all looking to the future of the club.

How did you prepare for your senior debut?

Training is all about preparation for your debut, so if you are called upon, you are ready. When the team sheet went up and I saw my name on it...



you switch into the 'zone' and you start to prepare mentally to step out in front of 10,000 fans at The Stoop. It is quite daunting, but then to do it for the first time was awesome. I don't think that feeling ever changes.

How do you cope with nerves?

I just think to myself, you have been selected for a reason, the coaches back you and think you are good enough. I want to go out there and express myself, show what I can do and leave everything out there, because that is all you can do.

You recently made your England U20s debut. What was it like?

Yes, I had played for the U18s in South Africa, so that is what I was pushing for, but unfortunately, I was out for a while with an injury. So, I was trying to put in performances for my loan club, Esher, putting my hand up for selection, and fortunately I got an email a couple of weeks before the Scotland game asking me to come up and train with the team, which led to my debut.

How do you cope with setbacks, for example, being out injured?

You are told from the start that injuries are going to happen, that it is part and parcel of the modern game. As the club told me, you have to look at an injury in a positive light, seeing it as a chance to improve other aspects of your game,

working in the gym or on static skills, analysing other games. Everyone encourages you and you get through it and become a better player because of it.

What are your ambitions moving forward?

You have the long-term goal of wanting to play for your country at the highest level, but you also have short-term goals in order to achieve that, such as performance goals (skills, reading of the game), and outcome goals (national age groups and winning A league games). I've achieved one of my goals in making my debut for the U20s, and I would like to go to the U20 World Cup in May.

Who do you look to for inspiration?

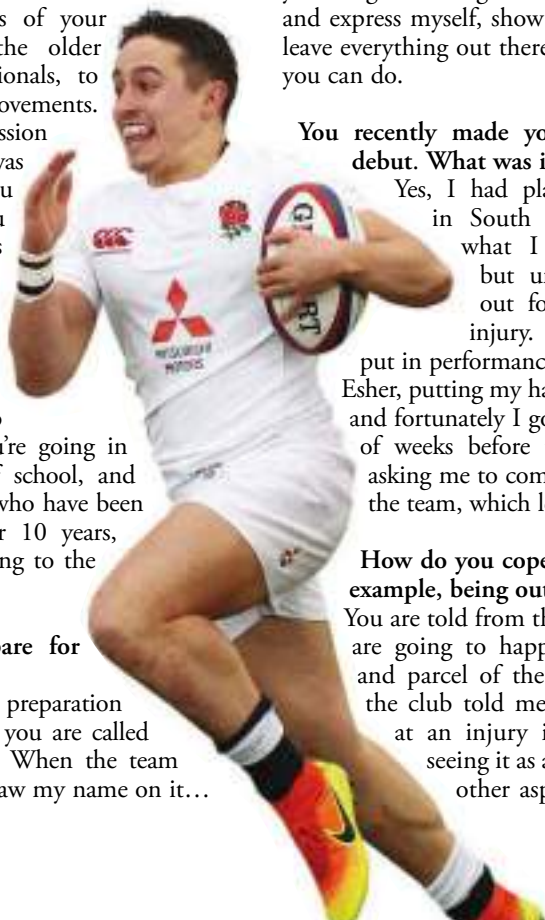
Like many other young rugby players, Jonny Wilkinson – he encapsulated all that a young rugby player aspires to be. He was physical on the pitch but he was always respectful and well-mannered off the pitch. Muhammad Ali was another, he would always bring an element of humour and would always talk sense. My mum and dad, without them I wouldn't have got to where I am.

What about life post-rugby?

Definitely, there is a big focus on education to get set for life after rugby because it is only a career for maybe 10 years. Next year, I hope to start an Open University course on sports science and business management.

Any advice for this year's winner?

Keep striving to be the best you can be, keep setting goals and trying to fulfil them and hopefully you can inspire others as well.



WILTSHIRE

AWARDS 2019

Entries open
7 May 2018

Celebrating excellence
across the county

29 March 2019, Salisbury City Hall

Another year of accolades: Wiltshire Life Awards 2019

The Wiltshire Life Awards make a welcome return in 2019, as we once again scour the county for the best stories of bravery, passion, talent and multifaceted ability, and sheer hard work. The people worthy of our awards are working in ways that can only promote Wiltshire as the wonderful county we know it to be.

We'll be bringing you news of the finalised categories for 2019 in a forthcoming issue of *Wiltshire Life*. We hope you will help spread the word, so that we can put this magnificent county even more firmly on the map. You can enter your nominations from 7 May at www.wiltshirelifeawards.com.

Opportunities for sponsorship are open now, so we call on the business community to support our endeavours to promote Wiltshire and its residents to all.

New venue for 2019: Salisbury City Hall

Wiltshire Life aims to keep people in all areas of the county connected with stories from around Wiltshire. Similarly, we want our awards to reach out to everyone. Having previously held our ceremony in Wilton, Marlborough, Devizes and Swindon, on 29 March 2019 we are moving to Salisbury City Hall, which since 1937 has been the location for live entertainment in Salisbury. Wiltshire's largest entertainment venue presents a wide-ranging programme, from large pop and rock concerts to Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra. As a multifunctional venue, private events and even the BBC's *Question Time* have been held there. We look forward to seeing you next year.

To enter your nomination visit:

www.wiltshirelifeawards.com

WILTSHIRE 

AWARDS 2018

www.wiltshirelifeawards.com