Celebrating the finest in the Tourism Industry:

VisitEngland Reveals Finalists for 2015 VisitEngland Awards for Excellence

7 April 2015: VisitEngland is proud to announce the finalists for the VisitEngland Awards for Excellence 2015. The Awards celebrate the very best England has to offer and the winners of this prestigious accolade will be announced at the Award Ceremony on Monday 11 May at the Sage Gateshead conference centre.

Entrant’s for the VisitEngland Awards for Excellence are rigorously assessed by independent assessors and judged by a board of tourism industry experts. The finalists represent the finest in the industry and include a wealth of attractions, accommodation providers, tourism experiences, Tourist Information Centres and businesses that have shown complete dedication to developing the excellent standards of English tourism. We guarantee each finalist a Gold, Silver, Bronze or Highly Commended in their category.

VisitEngland’s Chief Executive James Berresford said: “I would like to congratulate all those nominated as VisitEngland Awards for Excellence finalists this year. We receive hundreds of applications each year of an extremely high standard, so it is a fantastic achievement for any tourism business to become a finalist. Each finalist is already a winner and can take justifiable pride and credit in earning a coveted place in the top five in their category in England, and in the contribution they make to an industry worth £106 billion to the economy, supporting 2.6 million jobs. I wish all our finalists the very best of luck for the awards ceremony in May in Gateshead”.

This year’s Award ceremony will also include the official presentation of the Tourism Superstar 2015 Award. As part of English Tourism Week, VisitEngland teamed up with the Daily Mirror for an online public vote to find England’s unsung tourism hero – someone who goes above and beyond the call of duty to make visitors feel extra special, and is a real ambassador for the local area. The 2015 winner is Matthew Henderson, an engagement and events officer at Beamish Museum in County Durham who received 21,400 public votes via the Daily Mirror’s website.

To find out more and to book tickets visit www.visitenglandawards.org.

2015 Finalists

Below are the finalists in each category for this year’s awards (listed alphabetically).

Tourism Event of the Year

Bournemouth Air Festival 2014
Bournemouth, Dorset
www.bournemouthair.co.uk
The Cotswold Show  
Cirencester, Gloucestershire  
www.cotswoldshow.co.uk

Mallard 75, National Railway Museum  
York, North Yorkshire  
www.nrm.org.uk

Northumbrian Water – Kielder Winter Wonderland  
Hexham, Northumberland  
www.visitkielder.com

Vintage by the Sea - The Midland  
Morecambe, Lancashire  
www.englishlakes.co.uk

**Self-Catering Holiday Provider of the Year**

Bosinver Farm Cottages  
St Austell, Cornwall  
www.bosinver.co.uk

The Dandelion Hideaway  
Market Bosworth, Leicestershire  
www.thedandelionhideaway.co.uk

The Dovecote Barns York  
York, North Yorkshire  
www.dovecotebarnsyork.co.uk

High Barn Cottages  
Nr. Bridlington, East Yorkshire  
www.highbarncottages.co.uk

Millbrook Cottages  
High Bickington, Devon  
www.millbrookcottages.co.uk

**Visitor Information Provider of the Year**

Chesterfield Visitor Information Centre  
Chesterfield, Derbyshire  
www.visitchesterfield.info

City of London Information Centre  
London  
www.visitthecity.co.uk

Durham Visitor Information Network  
Durham, County Durham  
www.thisisdurham.com
**Simply Staffordshire**

Uttoxeter, Staffordshire  
www.simplystaffordshire.co.uk

The Welcome People  
London  
www.thewelcomepeople.com

**Large Visitor Attraction of the Year**

Chatsworth  
Bakewell, Derbyshire  
www.chatsworth.org

Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust  
Telford, Shropshire  
www.ironbridge.org.uk

Liverpool Cathedral  
Liverpool, Merseyside  
www.liverpoolcathedral.org.uk

The Lost Gardens of Heligan  
St Austell, Cornwall  
www.heligan.com

The Roman Baths & Pump Room  
Bath, Somerset  
www.romanbaths.co.uk

**Small Hotel of the Year**

Brockencote Hall Hotel  
Kidderminster, Worcestershire  
www.brockencotehall.com

Cedar Manor Hotel & Restaurant  
Windermere, Cumbria  
www.cedarmanor.co.uk

Hell Bay Hotel  
Isles of Scilly, Cornwall  
www.hellbay.co.uk

The Horn of Plenty  
Tavistock, Devon  
www.thehornofplenty.co.uk

Mallory Court  
Royal Leamington Spa, Warwickshire  
www.mallory.co.uk
The Talbot Hotel
Malton, North Yorkshire  www.talbotmalton.co.uk

Business Tourism Award

Barnett Hill
Guildford, Surrey
www.sundialgroup.com/barnetthill

Event Durham, Durham University
Durham, County Durham
www.durham.ac.uk/event.durham

National Space Centre
Leicester, Leicestershire
www.venuehire.spacecentre.co.uk

The University of Manchester Conferences and Venues
Manchester, Greater Manchester
www.conference.manchester.ac.uk

Woodland Grange Conference Centre
Leamington Spa, Warwickshire
www.eefvenues.co.uk/conference-venues/warwickshire/

Taste of England Award

Delifonseca Dockside
Liverpool, Merseyside
www.delifonseca.co.uk

Hotel Maiyango
Leicester, Leicestershire
www.maiyango.com

The Parkers Arms
Newton in Bowland, Lancashire
www.parkersarms.co.uk

Stokes Tea & Coffee
Lincoln, Lincolnshire
www.stokes-coffee.co.uk

Yorebridge House
Leyburn, North Yorkshire
www.yorebridgehouse.co.uk

Holiday Park/Holiday Village of the Year

Cofton Country Holidays
Dawlish, Devon
www.coftonholidays.co.uk

Poston Mill Park
Hereford, Herefordshire
Seafield Caravan Park
Seahouses, Northumberland
www.seafieldpark.co.uk

Searles Leisure Resort in Hunstanton
Hunstanton, Norfolk
www.searles.co.uk

Trethem Mill Touring Park
Truro, Cornwall
www.trethem.com

Tourism Pub of the Year

The Exchange
Leicester, Leicestershire
www.exchangeleicester.com

Freemasons at Wiswell
Clitheroe, Lancashire
www.freemasonsatwiswell.com

The Pandora Inn
Falmouth, Cornwall
www.pandorainn.com

Wild Boar Inn, Grill & Smokehouse
Nr Windermere, Cumbria
www.englishlakes.co.uk/hotels/lake-district-hotels/windermere-hotels/wild-boar-inn/

The Wro Bar, Lounge & Loft
West Kirby, Merseyside
www.the-wro.co.uk

Tourism Experience of the Year

The Cycle Hub
Newcastle upon Tyne, Tyne & Wear
www.thecyclehub.org

Farm Stay UK Ltd
Kenilworth, Warwickshire
www.farmstay.co.uk

Livingstone Lodge Overnight Safari Experience, Port Lympne Reserve
Ashford, Kent
www.aspinallfoundation.org/portlympne

St Annes Beach Huts
Lytham, Lancashire
www.stannesbeachhuts.co.uk

Treetop Trek Ltd
Windermere, Cumbria
www.treetoptrek.co.uk

Bed & Breakfast/Guest Accommodation of the Year

Colton House
Rugeley, Staffordshire
www.coltonhouse.com

Lower Barns Boutique B&B
St Austell, Cornwall
www.lowerbarns.co.uk

Mere Brook House
Wirral, Merseyside
www.merebrookhouse.co.uk

The Old Rectory of St James
Telford, Shropshire
www.theoldrectoryofstjames.co.uk

Swan House
Hastings, East Sussex
www.swanhousehastings.co.uk

Small Visitor Attraction of the Year

Gladstone Pottery Museum
Stoke on Trent, Staffordshire
www.stokemuseums.org.uk

Owl & Monkey Haven
Newport, Isle of Wight
www.owlandmonkeyhaven.co.uk

Stott Park Bobbin Mill
Ulverston, Cumbria
www.english-heritage.org.uk/stottpark

Topsail Charters Ltd
Maldon, Essex
www.topsailcharters.co.uk

The World of James Herriot
Thirsk, North Yorkshire
www.worldofjamesherriot.com

Large Hotel of the Year

Chewton Glen Hotel & Spa
New Milton, Hampshire
www.chewtonglen.com
Ellenborough Park
Cheltenham, Gloucestershire  www.ellenboroughpark.com
The Manor House Hotel
Moreton-on-the-Marsh, Gloucestershire  www.cotswold-inns-hotels.co.uk

Matfen Hall Hotel
Newcastle upon Tyne, Northumberland  www.matfenhall.com

Peckforton Castle
Tarporley, Cheshire  www.peckfortoncastle.co.uk

**Sustainable Tourism Award**

At Bristol Science Centre
Bristol  www.at-brisol.org.uk/

Colton House
Rugeley, Staffordshire  www.coltonhouse.com

The Green House Hotel
Bournemouth, Dorset  www.thegreenhousehotel.com

St Cuthbert’s House
Seahouses, Northumberland  www.stcuthbertshouse.com

Wheatland Farm Eco Lodges
Winkleigh, Devon  www.wheatlandfarm.co.uk

**Access for All Tourism Award**

The Bristol Hippodrome
Bristol  www.atgtickets.com/venues/bristol-hippodrome

Eureka! The National Children’s Museum
Halifax, West Yorkshire  www.eureka.org.uk

Kernock Cottages
Saltash, Cornwall  www.kernockcottages.com

Sandcastle Waterpark
Blackpool, Lancashire  www.sandcastle-waterpark.co.uk
Press contacts

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About VisitEngland

- VisitEngland is the country’s national tourist board. We work in partnership with the industry to develop the visitor experience across England, plan national tourism strategy, grow the value of tourism in England and provide advocacy for the industry and our visitors. Our work is underpinned by robust research and customer insights. You can access the latest in-depth market intelligence and statistics on www.visitengland.org/insight-statistics.
- England is a unique destination and a real powerhouse in global tourism. It represents 84 per cent of the total UK visitor economy, is worth £106 billion, and supports 2.6 million jobs.
- For corporate information see www.visitengland.org and for consumer information see www.visitengland.com.

About the VisitEngland Awards for Excellence 2015

- The 17 categories for the 2015 awards include: Access for All Tourism Award, Bed & Breakfast / Guest Accommodation of the Year, Business Tourism Award, Holiday Park / Holiday Village of the Year, Large Hotel of the Year, Large Visitor Attraction of the Year, Self-Catering Holiday Provider of the Year, Small Hotel of the Year, Small Visitor Attraction of the Year, Sustainable Tourism Award, Taste of England Award, Tourism Event of the Year, Tourism Experience of the Year, Tourism Pub of the Year, Visitor Information Provider of the Year.
- Included in the 17 categories are the additional Awards of Tourism Superstar and Outstanding Contribution to Tourism. The Outstanding Contribution to Tourism Award will be announced on the night. Previous winners of this award have included The Great English Pub, Michael Eavis CBE, HM The Queen, the Harry Potter films, Sir Cameron Mackintosh, Sir Paul McCartney, Liverpool, The National Trust, the English Garden, the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games Makers and last year The Travel Agent.