



IN THE PRESS

This is a collection of all the moments of glory Ventro have had. All of the press clippings, articles, blogs, you will find them all in here.



Glittering ceremony for Plymouth's businesses



LEGAL eagle Paul Woods, school meals provider CATERed and a hotel which has become the first in Devon and Cornwall to gain five AA stars were big winners at a glitz and glamour Herald Business Awards ceremony.

Mr Woods, former senior partner of Wolferstans Solicitors and ex-chairman of the Chamber of Commerce, received the prestigious Lifetime Achievement award in front of a galaxy of Plymouth business stars.

And the firm he worked for, Wolferstans, was named Medium-sized Business of the Year.

CATERed was named as Large Business of the Year, with the rapidly growing iOutlet as Small Businesses of the Year.

The Boringdon Hall Hotel and Spa walked away with the Tourism and Hospitality award after a year in which it opened a multi-million pound spa and earned a five-star rating from the AA.

And individuals honoured included Sponge UK boss Louise Pasterfield, as Entrepreneur of the Year, and Harvey and Ross Melvin, of the Vestro Group safety consultancy, who landed the Young Business Person of the Year going.

And no winner was more popular than Paul Bushell, better known as Sir Fix a Lock, who walked off with the Corporate Social Responsibility Award after tireless work to support

by Plymouth City Council and 67 schools, to provide school meals.

■ **Medium Business of the Year:** Wolferstans Solicitors

With a head office on North Hill, this law firm can trace its history back to 1812.

■ **Small Business of the Year:** The iOutlet

Mobile phone repair business was named among nation's best start-ups in 2016.

■ **Apprenticeship Development Award:** SWH Group

Highway service and construction business operating in Plymouth.

■ **Start-up Business of the Year:** Tru Vision VR

Leading virtual reality technology company working in the construction industry. Based in the Marine Building.

■ **Family Business of the Year:** Plymouth Chiropractic Clinic

Mannamead-based this firm has been treating patients since 1972.

■ **Building Plymouth Award:** Beaumont Drylling Ltd

Internal fit-out specialist with more than 15 years of experience. Based in Plympton.

■ **Corporate Social Responsibility Award:** Sir Fix a Lock Ltd

Hoe-based locksmith and safe spe-



GUEST SPEAKER: Plymouth adventurer Anthony Jinman takes to the stage

■ **Innovation Award:** Portcullis Legals Ltd

Plymstock headquartered law firm.

■ **Young Business Person of the Year:** Harvey and Ross Melvin, Vestro Group

Founded the fire safety consultancy in 2013.

■ **Social Enterprise of the Year:** Bikespace

Bicycle maintenance training workshop based in Devonport

■ **Tourism/Hospitality Business of the Year:** Boringdon Hall Hotel and Spa





charities.

But it was, as usual, generally accepted that all present at the black-tie extravaganza, once again held at the Plymouth Pavilions, were winners.

Each of the 500 attendees has helped shape the city's success during the past 12 months.

And if The Herald Business Awards are any sort of barometer for Plymouth's economy, then the city remains in good shape.

Paul Burton, editor of The Herald, said: "This annual event is testament to the city as a place to do business."

"In the past few years I've been delighted at how The Herald has supported the economic growth and drive Plymouth is celebrating."

"As an editor it's been a privilege to promote and celebrate Plymouth on that journey."

The awards were again sponsored by City College Plymouth and Plymouth University.

Guest speaker was Plymouth-based arctic explorer Antony Jimman, only the 12th Briton to have skied to the North and South Poles.

The awards, in 17 categories, were presented by Mr Burton and Sarah Pullen, regional managing director for The Herald's parent South West Trinity Mirror plc.

Entertainment was provided by Plymouth pianist Kiara Catherine White.

The Herald Business Awards 2017 winners were as follows:

■ **Large Business of the Year:** CATERed

Co-operative trading company owned

cialist.

■ **Green Business of the Year:** City College Plymouth

Tertiary institution and further education college offering a range of technical, professional and vocational qualifications. Main campus at Kings Road.

■ **International Trade Award:** Biovault Technical Ltd

The UK's largest private tissue bank. Based in Derriford.

■ **Manufacturing Business of the Year:** Burts Potato Chips Ltd

Roborough-based crisp producer.

A luxury five-star manor house hotel with an adjoining multi-million pound spa.

■ **Entrepreneur of the Year:** Sponge UK - Louise Pasterfield

■ **Lifetime Achievement:** Paul Woods



WINNERS: Harvey and Ross Melvin


Young Business Person of the Year

sponsored by Tamar Telecommunications

THERE wasn't one Young Business Person of the Year - there were two, and they are brothers.

Harvey and Ross Melvin founded the fire safety consultancy Vento Group in 2013 and, still in their early 20s, have been honoured at The Herald Business Awards.

Harvey said: "We are going for £7million in turnover this year. We have offices in Gillingham and Nottingham as well as our head office in Plymouth."

"To win at such a high-level event is incredible. We are all about getting known in Ply-

mouth." Ross added: "Winning this award shows how much the team has got behind the company's vision."

"You don't build a company on your own, it's the young team behind it."

Highly Commended for the award were: Matt Bloomfield, Imagination Ltd - managing director who started the design and marketing business as a teenager.

Katie Smith, Plymouth Party Princesses - Has grown the company during the past two years to include superhero costumes too.

Harry Solomon, Wombat Cricket - Master bat maker has worked for the firm for four years.

THE HERALD BUSINESS AWARDS 2017 WINNERS

Young Business Person of the Year
Harvey and Ross Melvin, Ventro Group - Founded the fire safety consultancy in 2013.

Large Business of the Year
CATERed - Co-operative trading company owned by Plymouth City Council and 67 schools, to provide school meals.

Medium Business of the Year:
Wolferstone Solicitors - With a head office on North Hill, this law firm can trace its history back to 1812.

Small Business of the Year:
The iOutlet - Mobile phone repair business was named among nation's best start-ups in 2016.

Apprenticeship Development Award
SWH Group - Highway service and construction business operating in Plymouth.

Start-up Business of the Year
Tru Vision VR - Leading virtual reality technology company working in the construction industry. Based in the Marine Building.

Family Business of the Year
Plymouth Chiropractic Clinic - Marnham-based this firm has been treating patients since 1972.

Building Plymouth Award
Beaumont Dryling Ltd - Internal fit-out specialist with more than 15 years of experience. Based in Plympton.

Corporate Social Responsibility Award

Sir Fix a Lock Ltd - Hee-based locksmith and safe specialist.

Green Business of the Year
City College Plymouth - tertiary institution and further education college and offering a range of technical, professional and vocational qualifications. Main campus at Kings Road.

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Portcullis Legals Ltd - Plymstock headquartered law firm.

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Manufacturing Business of the Year

Burts Potato Chips Ltd - Rotherham-based crisp producer.

Social Enterprise of the Year
Bikespace - Bicycle maintenance training workshop based in Devonport.

Tourism/Hospitality Business of the Year

Boringdon Hall Hotel and Spa - A luxury five-star manor house hotel with an adjoining multi-million pound spa.

Entrepreneur of the Year:
Sponge UK - Louise Pasterfield

Lifetime Achievement:
Paul Woods

Young Business Person

Of the Year



Sponsored by

This award will go to a business person under the age of 30 who best demonstrates ambition, energy, skill and vision, and business success.

Matt Bloomfield, Imagination Ltd

Managing director who started the design and marketing business as a teenager.



Katie Smith, Plymouth Party Princesses

Has grown the company during the past two years to include superhero costumes too.



Harvey and Ross Melvin, Ventro Group

The duo founded the fire safety consultancy in 2013, which now works with organisations across the UK to help them meet their legal obligations.



Harry Solomon, Wombat Cricket

Master bat maker has worked for the firm for four years.





Family Business of the Year

sponsored by Michael Spiers

FOR Plymouth Chiropractic Clinic being a family business is what it is all about – it's now on to its third generation and dedicated its Herald Business Award to its founder.

Dr Wayne Whittingham, and his wife and business partner Tracey, picked up the Family Business of the Year Award at the Pavilions and said it was special for two reasons.

"We lost Wayne's mother five years ago this year," said Mrs Whittingham. "And she set up the company in 1972 – 45 years ago."

"She would have been so proud," Elisabeth Whittingham founded Man-named-based Plymouth Chiropractic Clinic with her husband Dr Ken Whittingham.

All three of their children became chiro-

practors, with Wayne's sister Yvonne practising in Sweden and his brother Bruce in Australia.

"And the next generation, our children, are going into the business too," Dr Whittingham said.

Highly Commended for the award were:

Drakes Jewellers – Independent jewellery business set up in 1960 and now based in Drake Circus Shopping Centre.

Stonehaven Care Group – Offers a wide range of services for residents in its specialist care homes.

Ventre Group – Surveys, installs and maintains fire safety equipment in public buildings. Based in Cattewater Road.

WINNER: Plymouth Chiropractic Clinic

Family Business

Of the Year

Sponsored by



This award will go to a business, established by a family and still run by members, and operating for at least five years.



Drakes Jewellers

Independent jewellery business set up in 1950 and now based in Drake Circus.



Plymouth Chiropractic Clinic

Mannamead-based this firm has been treating patients since 1972.



Stonehaven Care Group

Founded in 1996, Stonehaven Care Group is one of the largest independent family-owned and managed residential and specialist care home providers in the South West.



Ventro Group

Surveys, installs and maintains fire safety equipment in public buildings. Based in Cattewater Road.

Helping you
to close
the door
on danger.

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