



EAST DEVON AONB PARTNERSHIP

ACLAND AWARD 2017

Recognising the efforts,
actions and success of
individuals, groups,
organisations and businesses



CELEBRATING WILDLIFE, ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE PROJECTS CONNECTED TO THE AONB

Since 2013, the Acland Award has been presented annually by the East Devon AONB Partnership in recognition of examples of excellence taking place within and around the East Devon AONB

The Acland Award is named in recognition of Brigadier Acland, who was influential in the designation of East Devon AONB in the early 1960's.

The bronze buzzard award was designed by local artist, Emma MacFadyen. It is presented every year at the East Devon AONB Annual Meeting in September. We award it to an organisation, business or individual that has demonstrated outstanding examples of excellence or exemplar activity connected to the AONB.





AXEWOODS COOPERATIVE

STATUS: COMMUNITY WOODLAND GROUP

DATE ESTABLISHED/OPERATING IN AONB: 2010

KEY PURPOSE/ROLE/ACTIVITY: Enables co-op members in East Devon to secure woodfuel, improve understanding of woodland ecology and work together for collective community benefits.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS: Helping address local woodfuel needs, developing woodland craft skills, team working skills and training. Managing less economic local woodlands, addressing carbon emissions, fuel poverty. The group is providing outdoor physical activity helping manage local woodland sites, encouraging volunteer involvement and wider social activities.



BEER VILLAGE HERITAGE

STATUS: COMMUNITY GROUP

DATE ESTABLISHED/OPERATING IN AONB: 1999

KEY PURPOSE/ROLE/ACTIVITY: Beer Village Heritage remit is to excite, educate and enthuse people about the village, its heritage and culture, including local wildlife, environment and ecology.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS: Operation of the Fine Foundation Centre on Beer beach which houses interpretation material on a wide range of topics including three saltwater fish tanks exhibiting local marine species. Delivering fun activities specifically for young children, schools and other groups (rock pooling/bug hunts/local history/geology walks, talks, etc). Beach Cleans and instigating and promoting "Bat Friendly Beer" as part of the Devon Greater Horseshoe Bat Project.



BLACKBURY HONEY FARM

STATUS: BUSINESS

DATE ESTABLISHED/OPERATING IN AONB: 2007

KEY PURPOSE/ROLE/ACTIVITY: Honey production, pollinator provision, bee-keeper training and visitor facility.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS: Providing adapted honey bee strains and pollination for farms within a 10 mile radius. Enhancing the farmed and natural environment for honey/bumble/bees, hover flies, moths and butterflies. 50 acres of wild flower meadows, demonstration gardens, orchards, managed hedgerows and flowering crops for public enjoyment, promotion and volunteer involvement. Extensive laboratory and classroom facilities for education, training and insect disease diagnosis. Rainwater harvested water supply, Solar PV, ground source heat pump, and waste oil bioDiesel.



DOUG AND JOAN CULLEN

STATUS: VOLUNTEERS

DATE ESTABLISHED/OPERATING IN AONB: OVER TEN YEARS

KEY PURPOSE/ROLE/ACTIVITY: Volunteer wardens on the Otter Estuary Site of Special Scientific Interest.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS: Over a decade of near daily visits monitoring wildlife; engaging with visitors using the SW Coast path; leading bird walks; removing litter; looking after the bird hide; undertaking habitat management (including of reedbeds) with volunteer groups; leading on the expansion and development of scrapes in the grazing marshes for the benefit of wading birds. Securing funding for site interpretation. Monitoring silver-studded blue butterfly/Nightjars on the East Devon Pebblebed Heaths/Mutters Moor.



EAST DEVON COUNTRYSIDE SERVICES (SEATON MARSHES)

STATUS: LOCAL AUTHORITY

DATE ESTABLISHED/OPERATING IN AONB: 2002

KEY PURPOSE/ROLE/ACTIVITY: Creation and management of Seaton Marshes

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS: Creation of valuable wildlife habitat at Black Hole Marsh, construction of five hides and provision of all-weather access. Enhancing the marshes wildlife value through flood control, grazing, cutting often with the involvement of volunteers. Organising numerous events that involve the public as well as providing a much valued and well used local facility which now attracts not only local people but those from far and wide who come to see the birds attracted to the site.



GILLIE GRAHAM AND GRAHAM BELL (EXMOUTH ART CLUB)

STATUS: COMMUNITY GROUP

DATE ESTABLISHED/OPERATING IN AONB: PROJECT STARTED 2017

KEY PURPOSE/ROLE/ACTIVITY: Jurassic Coast mural at Queens Drive, Exmouth

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS: Jurassic Coast Ambassador/Exmouth Art Club initiative to paint a 50m mural on Queens Drive. The project was inspired by former councillor Alison Greenhalgh and is a fitting memory to her. The project inspired a wide range of support from Leisure East Devon, Ocean, local councillors, EDDC Streetscene and planning officers, Wilsons Paints, Exmouth Town Council, Exmouth Rotary Club and the Jurassic Coast Trust. A book about the mural is helping support the Art Group and Jurassic Coast Trust.



THE BRANSCOMBE PROJECT

STATUS: COMMUNITY GROUP

DATE ESTABLISHED/OPERATING IN AONB: 1997

KEY PURPOSE/ROLE/ACTIVITY: Research and promote the social and cultural history of Branscombe Community.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS: The Branscombe Project is a very active group led by Barbara Farquharson, John Torrance and a wide range of community members. Their annual programme of events regularly packs the village hall and has undertaken archive transcription, map analysis, publications, walks and volunteer activity. Whether it be the Napoli, village history, fixed point photography, art, or mapping favourite places in the parish, the nominees have always found the appropriate communication tool from post notes, drama, IT, video photography.



MILL WATER SCHOOL – A BAT FRIENDLY SCHOOL

STATUS: SPECIAL SCHOOL

DATE ESTABLISHED/OPERATING IN AONB: PROJECT STARTED IN 2016

KEY PURPOSE/ROLE/ACTIVITY: Bat Friendly School status in partnership with the Devon Greater Horseshoe Bat project.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS: Mill Water have reached the 'Silver' level award as a Bat Friendly School through the Devon Greater Horseshoe Bat project. Thom Neusinger, the outdoor education teacher has enabled pupils to create and sell bat boxes, build insect hotels, plant bat-friendly plants, design displays and learn about the international importance of bats. Pupils have visited Beer Quarry Caves and held a Bat Week with bat art, maths, cookery, stories and science lessons. The greater Horseshoe bat has been detected at the school.



SHUTE COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

STATUS: PRIMARY SCHOOL

DATE ESTABLISHED/OPERATING IN AONB: PROJECT STARTED IN 2015

KEY PURPOSE/ROLE/ACTIVITY: Re-landscaping of the school grounds

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS: This project aims to encourage uptake of gardening and outdoor skills by children, use of space by community, and creating greater plant and insect diversity in the grounds. Work includes new rabbit proof vegetable beds, extensive planting, a tiered seating area for outdoor theatre for school and community use and improvements to outdoor classrooms to enhance outdoor learning. The school provides a weekly garden club through a parent volunteer which is full and very popular and promotes organic gardening. Through the Legacy to Landscape project pupils have visited Shute woods and King Johns Oak and learnt to identify plants and trees and create a Botanicum.



SIDMOUTH COASTAL COMMUNITY HUB – ‘WORKING THE SEA’

STATUS: COMMUNITY INTEREST GROUP

DATE ESTABLISHED/OPERATING IN AONB: 2016

KEY PURPOSE/ROLE/ACTIVITY: Celebrating fishing and coastal heritage through film

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS: A film for the Sidmouth community, telling a story to raise awareness about Sidmouth's fishing and coastal heritage and the changes over the years. The film incorporates archive footage depicting Sidmouth as a fishing town, showing the landing of herring catches and how important the hard work of fisher folk was to the local community. The film highlights the fishing heritage to a wide audience and screened at Sidmouth Sea Fest annual coastal community celebration in May 2017 to an audience of 400 people.



TALE VALLEY TRUST – HIMALAYAN BALSAM CLEARANCE

STATUS: CHARITY

DATE ESTABLISHED/OPERATING IN AONB: ACTIVE SINCE 2005

KEY PURPOSE/ROLE/ACTIVITY: Himalayan Balsam removal programme

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS: Himalayan balsam is an invasive plant introduced to Britain in the mid 19th Century by Victorian gardeners. It is the tallest annual plant in the UK, growing to a height of 22ft and evident in many rivers, ditches and verges. The Trust's annual cleanup sessions is an excellent good news story because of their persistence over the last 12 years in eradicating Himalayan Balsam. The River Tale was as prolific as any other river with Balsam. You would be defied to find any today.



TALE VALLEY TRUST (TVT)

STATUS: CHARITY

DATE ESTABLISHED/OPERATING IN AONB: ACTIVE SINCE 2015

KEY PURPOSE/ROLE/ACTIVITY: Rural regeneration and conservation

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS: TVT has commissioned 24 riparian farm plans, fenced 7 kilometres of river corridor, increased fish life tenfold, reintroduced water voles in 2004 and restored a large part of a demonstration water meadow system 2015/16 saw a collaboration with West Country Rivers Trust to monitor water quality and highlight areas of concern in the catchment. TVT engages volunteers to eradicate Himalayan Balsam. Parish Councils recognise the value of the Trust's work in the valley and nominally support it financially.



THELMA HULBERT GALLERY (THG)

STATUS: ART GALLERY

DATE ESTABLISHED/OPERATING IN AONB: PROJECT STARTED 2016

KEY PURPOSE/ROLE/ACTIVITY: THG garden regeneration

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS: THG's overgrown and unused garden in Honiton was transformed to create an accessible and interactive Pocket Park with sensory planting and a biodiverse environment. The community have supported and engaged with the project on multiple levels, helping designer, Anna Wardrop, and providing over £2k in private donations. 5 new garden volunteers regularly work in the garden which was launched to over 350 people in May 2016. 15 schools workshops and 6 family drop-in sessions with local primary schools, artists, gardeners and rangers helped to create bird boxes, planting, camera obscura, bug hotels, bird feeders etc.



LOUISE WOOLEY (IN ASSOCIATION WITH SIDMOUTH SCIENCE FESTIVAL)

STATUS: VOLUNTEER

DATE ESTABLISHED/OPERATING IN AONB: ACTIVE SINCE 2015

KEY PURPOSE/ROLE/ACTIVITY: Sid Valley Bat Project

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS: Ecologist Louise Wooley worked with the organisers of the Sidmouth Science Festival to obtain a grant in 2015 for the Sid Valley Bat Project to purchase specialised equipment to trap and survey bats across the valley. The project will go some way to discovering more about bat populations and behaviour in the valley and Louise has a project licence from Natural England to catch bats to provide biometric data on those individuals caught. Her passion is to 'Share the Wonders of Science and Nature' to a broad audience and Louise collaborates with the Science Festival supporting themed walks around the Norman Lockyer Observatory to provide information and education on the flora and fauna on the routes.



WOODBURY COMMUNITY ORCHARD

STATUS: COMMUNITY GROUP

DATE ESTABLISHED/OPERATING IN AONB: ORCHARD FOUNDED 2013

KEY PURPOSE/ROLE/ACTIVITY: Community Orchard

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS: Woodbury Community Orchard was founded in 2013 on land adjacent to the village cricket pitch. Over 66 locally sourced apples, pears, plums and a cherry trees have been planted with total community involvement. Local primary school children designed posters and created a logo and the Rainbows and Guides helped subsequent planting and wild flower planting sessions. Grants, fundraising, business donations and community tree sponsors made the project possible. The project has revived the village wassail and runs apple juicing days. A retired orchard man leads pruning classes and workshops for us every spring. Groups use the area for picnics and the local wildlife expert has built a bug house, bat and bird nest boxes.

SHORTLISTED NOMINATIONS:

- Beer Village Heritage
- Shute Community Primary School
- Thelma Hulbert Gallery
- Woodbury Community Orchard