

## Transcript. County Durham Environment Awards Online Ceremony. 2021.

Bird song opens the video followed by mild uplifting music which is heard throughout.

00:00: Environment Awards logo.

Councillor Mark Wilkes appears on screen and looks into the camera. He is on a balcony and there is a white railing behind him.

Hello my name is Mark Wilkes and I'm here as the council's portfolio holder for neighbourhoods and climate change and as the council representative on the County Durham Environmental Partnership and I'm here today to welcome you to our second online ceremony of the County Durham Environment Awards.

The different circumstances that we've had to deal with again over the past year don't need much explanation except to say and this has been another very different year to our usual awards, so once more we haven't had the opportunity to celebrate the winning entries in person...

00:40: Councillor Wilkes looks off to the right of the screen

but that doesn't mean that the quality of the application has been any less impressive than we would have expected at anytime over the last 33 years. Really apparent from this year's entries is the continuation of really strong communities across County Durham. We've had organisations doing their bit to tackle climate change, we've had individuals working across their local environments showing us how the people of the county continue to be very much placing a real importance on the environment.

00:10: Councillor Wilkes looks to the left of the camera. He has a presentation clicker in his left hand.

01:11: Environment Awards logo.

I'm Justine Matchett- Planning Director at Lichfields.

01:15: [Text: Justine Matchett, Planning Director at Lichfields.

Justine appears on screen and is on the same balcony in front of white railings. She looks into the camera.

01:17: Justine looks off to left of camera.

Having been born and bred in Durham I'm very proud to be supporting the County Durham Environment Awards this year.

01:22: Justine looks into the camera.

Despite it being another difficult year we received almost 50 entries and had a tough job choosing our winners as all the entries were of a very high quality.

01:34: Environment Awards logo.

[Text: Greener Business Award, Highly Commended]

01:36: Justine looks into camera.

Highly commended this year in the Greener Business category is Lickety Split creamery in Seaham...

01:40: A neon sign Lickety Split in red.

who set out to reduce their carbon footprint by making their business operation greener.

01:45: An image of the front of the creamery. A stone building with neon signs in the windows.

Amongst the initiatives they introduced...

01:49: Image of the interior comprising of red seating and chequered flooring.

was switching to more environmentally friendly packaging on the products they sell.

01:54: Justine appears on screen and looks off to the left of camera.

Including compostible spoons, straws and ice cream serving tubs. To further reduce plastic waste they offer their wholesale customers a money back scheme to encourage them to return their empty tubs so they can be sanitised and used again.

01:34: Environment Awards logo.

[Text: Greener Business Award, Winner]

02:15: Justine looks into camera.

the winner of the Greener Business category this year is Greenkeepers eco home store. This business in Consett, has the aim of helping its customers reduce everyday plastic waste by offering zero plastic packaging...

02:25 Image of glass bottles and containers in store.

and helping customers generally need more sustainable lives shop also has a refill station stocking refills for a wide variety cleaning...

02:34: Image of different glass containers in store on a shelf under soaps

laundry and hair and body care products as well as many other items. They urge customers to bring containers from home for all products and even...

02:43: Justine appears on screen looking to left of camera.

offer discount on food products for those that do.

02:51: Justine looks directly at camera.

This is a wonderful example of a business which is helping to educate and support local people who want to set out on their own waste free journey.

02:57: Environment Awards logo.

[Text: Waste Management Award, Highly Commended]

02:15: Justine looks into camera.

A highly commended award in the waste management category goes to the small electrical project.

The partners involved include Durham County Council, Valpak, AO.com and County Durham...

03:11: An image of a flyer about the project

[Text: Switch o to small recycling and enter our free competition.]

Furniture Scheme as well as various community groups and in schools initiatives. The idea was to promote small electrical recycling collection points in community buildings across County Durham and create the recycling of small waste...

03:25: Image of competition winners stood in doorways of their homes as they are presented with prizes.

electrical and electronic equipment such as hairdryers, toasters and kettles.

03:31: Justine appears on screen looking to left of camera.

The project only officially launched in June 2021 but has already installed 41 collection points

[Text: Now increased to more than 70] across County Durham and collected over three tonnes of small waste equipment.

03:44: Justine looks into camera

this project is innovative for County Durham as there were no kerbside or community collections for this type of waste.

02:57: Environment Awards logo.

[Text: Waste Management Award, Winner.]

02:15: Justine looks into camera.

The winner of the waste management category this year is Recyc Your Bike.

03:58: Image of a bicycle shop interior.

This is a recycling charity that refurbishes donated bikes these bicycles...

04:03: Image of a boy on a blue bike and a girl on a pink bike in a field with wooden fencing behind.

are then sold to the public at a reasonable cost as a way of encouraging cycling across Durham, this helps provide exercise for local residents...

04:14: Image of four cyclists from behind riding up a wooded track area.

reduces the number of bikes being sent to landfill as well as helping to fund other community based activities related to cycling in the county.

04:22: Environment Awards logo.

Rich Hurst appears on screen looking into camera.

[Text: Rich Hurst, Sustainability Education Development Advisor]

I'm rich Hurst, County Council Education Adviser for Sustainability. I'm delighted to be one of the judges involved in this year's awards and asked to lead on the schools and colleges section. The environmental and climate change related projects schools and organisations across the county get involved with each year is fantastic and this enables our young people to become more aware of not only the challenges we face environmentally, but also as importantly what power they have to bring positive change and become active citizens with local and potentially global benefits. The fact that

this work has been undertaken during a pandemic is even more impressive. I'm here to tell you about three really good projects that have all been highly commended by the judges.

05:05: Environment Awards logo.

[Text: Schools and colleges, Highly Commended.]

Rich appears on screen again looking into the camera.

The first, North Park Primary School in Spennymoor and their activities through their garden club, learning about vegetables...

05:14: Image of children on grass.

and also wild flowers to benefit pollinators. They also collect rainwater to use on their garden.

05:20: Different image of children carrying a water butt.

The second is Silver Tree Primary School and Nursery...

05:23: Image of a whale made out of wire.

In Ushaw Moor and their initiative Rocky the Recycling Whale.

05:25: Image of children filling the whale sculpture with single use plastics.

A recycling arts project learning about and building a large whale made of a single use plastics.

And thirdly, West Rainton School and their environmental champions.

06:35: Image of children in cold weather with coats and bobble hats.

Their project called My School, My Planet...

05:40: Image of female pupil next to a tree in school uniform.

aimed at the connection with the outdoors after lockdown, through planting trees...

05:44: Image of pupils around a plant pot.

flowers and herbs working with the national charity Learning Through Landscapes...

05:48: Image of three children with a wheelbarrow containing soil.

and local charity Oases.

05:51: Rich appears on camera looking at screen.

Well done to everyone involved in these highly commended schemes.

05:55: Environment Awards logo.

[Text: Lewis Stokes, Community Relations Manager, BANKS Group.]

Lewis Stokes appears on screen looking into the camera.

Hello, my name is Lewis Stokes- I'm Community Manager with County Durham headquarters BANKS Group. I'm a long term sponsor, supporting these awards...

06:08: Lewis looks to the left of the screen

and I've been on the judging panel for nearly ten years.

It's an honour and a privilege to be involved with these fantastic awards. County Durham is such a beautiful part of the world with breath taking countryside, unrivalled architecture, buildings and history but what really makes it special is the people and that's why we're so proud to be involved.

I'm here today to discuss both the Community Partnership and also the Places and Spaces categories.

05:06:31: Environment Awards logo.

[Text: Community Partnership, Highly Recommended.]

Lewis Stokes appears on screen looking into the camera.

There are two highly commended awards in the community partnership group to share. These are: Operation Flanders, which is a fantastic group in Seaham...

06:40: Operation Flanders logo appears on screen.

Run by Andrew Harrison comprising armed forces veterans and members of the community...

06:47: Lewis appears on screen looking into the camera.

to provide food deliveries and groceries all throughout the pandemic. The second highly commended group in this category is Trimdon Grange Community Association.

06:51: Lewis looks to the left of the screen

06:53: Image of a litter pick

They run the community centre in Trimdon Grange. They've been incredibly active over the last few...

06:59: Lewis appears on screen again looking over to the left.

years hosting events and running the centre for the community all throughout the pandemic, supplying frozen meals to residents in the Trimdons.

07:09: Lewis looks into camera.

I'd like to congratulate both groups in this category.

07:01: Environment Awards logo.

[Text: Community Partnership, Winner.]

Lewis Stokes appears on screen looking into the camera.

The winner of the Community Partnership category is the Bishop Auckland People's Museum.

07:19: Image of the museum interior.

This is a community volunteer not for profit group who have established a museum in the town in the former Hippodrome building during the pandemic. The project brought together other organisations such as Bishop Auckland Football Club...

07:30: A further interior shot followed by a shot of some of those involved in the museum.

Durham Amateur Football Trust, RAF Leeming, The Four Clocks Centre, Etherley Incline Group and many individuals who donated items to display...

07:36: An image of the ribbon cutting ceremony. The ribbon is blue and a man uses scissors.

as well as a place for volunteers to run the museum.

07:15: Lewis appears on screen looking into camera.

The group have now incorporated Bishop Auckland Remembrance Garden and have had exhibitions in The Four Clocks Centre. I congratulate that group on winning this category.

07:48: Environment Awards logo.

[Text: Places and Spaces, Highly Commended]

Another difficult category to judge -due to the high number of excellent applications this year is the places and spaces awarded. Highly commended awards this year has been awarded to Haswell parish council and Haswell in Bloom

08:04: Image of people with a hay bail quickly followed by the image of the people's museum interior.

Bishop Auckland people's Museum and Langley Park Community association who have developed Langley Park Community Garden

08:09: Two images of Langley Park Community Garden

and Witton Park Cemetery who have undertaken works at their local cemetery.

08:15: Environment Awards logo

[Text: Places and Spaces, Winner]

08:20: Lewis appears looking into camera

08:23: Image of Witton Park Book Library.

We have two category winners this year in the Places and Spaces category. First is the bookstore. The group from Witton Park outside of Bishop Auckland have turned their local bus shelter into a free community lending library for books.

08:30: Image of books on shelves.

The book stop has become very popular, not only with villages but with people visiting the local area.

08:36: Two people browse the books.

Since opening they have already expanded their range of books and other items.

08:42: Lewis appears again looking into camera.

Secondly Hunwick Community and Social Environment Group. Over the pandemic, beautifully...

08:46: Image of decorated stones embedded into stone wall with greenery behind.

coloured painted stones, painted by school children and other members of the community...

08:51: Image of children next to wall with painted stones.

were left across the village to cheer people up. The Hunwick Rocks Wall Project have now embedded these into a stone wall along with a time capsule...

08:59: Two images of time capsules. Latter image, a man in a hi-vis vest lowers it into the ground with another man.

located next to a children's play area in the village. Through this project the group have produced a lasting tribute for the Hunwick residents and their community.

09:08: Lewis looks into camera.

I congratulate both category winners today.

09:11: Environment Awards logo

Jim Cokill appears on screen.

[Text: Jim Cokill, Chair, County Durham Partnership]

Hello My name is Jim Cokill and I'm the Director of Durham Wildlife Trust And I'm also the chair of the County Durham Environment and Climate Change Partnership. Also one of the judges on the Environment Awards. I'm very pleased this year to be announcing the volunteers category.

09:30: Environment Awards logo

[Text: Volunteers, Highly Commended]

Jim Cokill appears on screen.

Highly commended awards this year go to the Bishop Auckland People's Museum, the Spennymoor Litter Pickers, Supporting change in Shotton Colliery, The Seaham Wombles, The Trimdon Wombles and the Wombles of Willington.

09:51: Environment Awards logo

[Text: Volunteers, winner]

Jim Cokill appears on screen.

This year's winner of the Volunteer Group category is The Friends of Riverside Park at Chester-le-Street.

Image of men in hi-vis vests gardening.

This group has worked on a number of projects through the park such as The Sands Memorial Garden, a maze and sculptures. They worked on creating a memory garden, full of sustainable and sensory planting. This is now maintained by the group. they also raised funds for the numerous benches which you will find around the park.

10:23: Environment Awards logo

[Text: Volunteers, Over 18, Highly Commended]

Jim Cokill appears on screen.

I'm now going to announce the volunteer of the year in the over 18 category. Highly commended awards this year have been awarded to Alan Wilkinson, Billy Mcaloon, Bobby Workman, Michael O'Neill, Robin Auld, Tom Drummond and Claire Summers.

10:44: One by one, pictures of the volunteers appear on screen.

10.46: Environment Awards logo

[Text: Volunteers, Over 18, Winner]

Jim Cokill appears on screen.

This year we have two joint winners in the volunteer of the year over 18 category. Firstly we have Dave woods.

10.54: Image of Dave Woods outside of Ludworth Community Centre.

He has been chairman for seven years of Ludworth Community Centre. He organises a village fayre with stalls and supporters.

11.01: Image of Dave Woods being recognised for work on Northumbria in Bloom.

He has worked on transforming the village environment across the past seven years with planting and environmental improvements.

11.07: Image of Dave Woods carrying a hamper with a red bow.

All assisted through his fundraising effort.

11.10: Jim Cokill appears on screen.

Throughout the pandemic he was volunteering to deliver essentials across the community. Dave works tirelessly and has a real passion for volunteering and supporting people in his local community.

11.25: Shot of Jim Cokill looking to the right of the screen.

Our second winner is Claire Todd.

11: 27: Image of Claire Todd holding a roundel at a litter pick.

Can I have been active in various roles across Chester-le-Street. Including Chester- le-Street In Bloom, Chester's Best and is secretary of the Friends of Riverside Park group.

11:31: Image of Claire planting.

She recently founded the Cestrian Volunteers.

11:35: Image of Claire painting black railings.

Claire has become one of the organisers of the Isolation Family which reaches out to people affected by the pandemic.

11:43: Image of Claire kneeling down and planting.

Claire is also a parish councillor, sits on the AAP local environment task group and is a community champion. Sits on the Chester-le-Street Business Association and, amongst other groups, member of the Friends of Chester-le-Street Railway Station.

11:58: Environment Awards logo

[Text: Volunteers, Under 18, Winner]

Jim Cokill appears on screen.

Winner of the volunteer of the under eighteens award is: Beau Stewart.

12:04: Image of a small boy litter picking next to a red pull along trolley.

Beau is part of a litter picking group called Lets Clean up Bishop Auckland and goes on litter picks with his mum around their local streets and playgrounds.

12:12 Jim Cokill appears on screen.

Congratulations to Beau.

12: 13: Jim looks to the right of the screen.

And that is all of our winners this year, congratulations go to everyone who has won an award and also to everyone who entered. And let's not forget everybody else who volunteers.

12:24: Jim Cokill looks directly at camera.

Please do keep volunteering it makes County Durham a better place for us all.

12:30: Environment Awards logo

12:33: Councillor Wilkes appears on screen and looks in to camera.

Can I once more say a heartfelt thank you to everybody who has taken the time to apply with their projects this year. And made a real effort to submit an application.

12:44: Councillor Wilkes looks to the right of the camera.

Without you there definitely wouldn't have been any awards. And we also need to say thank you to all of our judges across different environmental interests.

12:53: Councillor Wilkes looks into the camera. He is holding a presentation clicker in his right hand.

Those who have given up their time freely to help review the awards from our applicants. On behalf of the Environment Partnership I would like to pass on our congratulations to all of our winners, we really ...

13:06: Councillor Wilkes looks off to the right of the screen.

Value the care that you, in your communities, put into the area around you, making the county a better place....

13:16: Councillor Wilkes looks into the camera. He is holding a presentation clicker in his right hand.

Somewhere we can all be proud to live and to work.

Thank you so much.

13:20: Environment Awards logo