

Welcome to Yorkshire

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Yorkshire Business Tourism Winner Crowned

The Spa Bridlington has been crowned the best in the business at the UK's biggest tourism awards in Yorkshire.

The East Yorkshire venue was among 16 winners from across the county at the prestigious White Rose Awards 2013, held by Welcome to Yorkshire.

Around 1,000 people attended the royalty-themed event alongside guests including stars from TV's Emmerdale, pro cyclists Dean and Russell Downing and singer/songwriter Alistair Griffin.

The Spa Bridlington was crowned winner in the Business Tourism category, with judges impressed with the level and range of business facilities on offer, the active staff training programme and the commitment to on-going investment.

Andrew Aldis, General Manager said: "This award recognises the people who have made The Spa Bridlington so successful. From those who had the foresight to refurbish it seven years ago to those who put their hearts and souls into making it outstanding every day. "We billed ourselves as the Yorkshire coast's premier venue - now we can deservedly say that we are Yorkshire's finest conference venue - an amazing tagline and such a great boost for Great Bridlington."

The Spa Bridlington can cater for anything from a meeting for two to an event for 3,800. Owned by East Riding of Yorkshire Council, the building boasts an Art Deco Royal Hall which has existed since July 1932. The building underwent a complete refurbishment, costing £20.5 million from 2006 to 2008.

Councillor Stephen Parnaby OBE, Leader, East Riding of Yorkshire Council, said: "Winning the Business Tourism Award at the White Rose Awards confirms my belief that The Spa Bridlington is a world-class conference venue. I am immensely proud of all of the hard-working staff who, along with the superb building, make for such great success."

The National Railway Museum, York was highly commended in Business Tourism and judges commented that it makes a major contribution to business tourism in the region.

Overall almost 100 businesses were shortlisted and winners were announced across 16 categories at New Dock Hall, Leeds, near the Royal Armouries.

Independent Chair of Judges, Professor Colin Mellors, said: "Every year Yorkshire tourism goes from strength to strength and the White Rose Awards are a great way of recognising this. From customer service to innovative events, every winner should be proud of their achievement."

Gary Verity, chief executive of Welcome to Yorkshire, said: "The world is now waking up to Yorkshire and our awards recognise the amazing achievements of our fantastic tourism businesses that make the county what it is today."

The full list of White Rose Awards winners and images can be seen via the link www.whiteroseawards.com

WINNERS:

Small Visitor Attraction - Ryedale Folk Museum, Kirkbymoorside
Large Visitor Attraction - Castle Howard, York
Taste of Yorkshire - Yorkshire Provender, Ripon
Self-Catering - Brompton Lakes, Richmond
Pub - House of the Trembling Madness, York
Restaurant - 1884 Dock Street Kitchen, Hull
Restaurant with Rooms - Yorebridge House, Bainbridge
Tourism Event - York Mystery Plays 2012
Caravan & Camping Park - Bivouac at Druid's Temple, Masham
Bed & Breakfast - Low Mill Guest House, Bainbridge
Large Hotel - Wentbridge House Hotel, Pontefract
Small Hotel - Swinton Park, Masham
Business Tourism - The Spa Bridlington
Outstanding Customer Service - Web Adventure Park (Julie Brookes), York
Visitor Information - Doncaster Tourist Information Centre
Arts & Culture - Northern Ballet, Leeds

HIGHLY COMMENDED:

Visitor Information - Humber Bridge TIC, Hessle
Arts & Culture - Theatre Royal Wakefield
Small Visitor Attraction - The World Of James Herriot, Thirsk
Taste - York Cocoa House
Tourism Event - Jorvik Viking Festival, York
Caravan & Camping Park - Faweather Grange Holiday Lodges, Ilkley
Bed & Breakfast - All Seasons Guest House, Filey
Large Hotel - Coniston Hotel & Country Estate, Skipton
Outstanding Customer Service - The Inn At Hawnby (Jason Reeves & Jane Medd), nr Helmsley
Business Tourism - National Railway Museum, York
Highly Commended Small Hotel - The Cliffemount Hotel, Runswick Bay

- ENDS -

Images available from www.whiteroseawards.com or contact the press office

Editors' Notes:

- **Welcome to Yorkshire** is the official destination management organisation for Yorkshire, working to grow the county's visitor economy.
- **Welcome to Yorkshire** is a not-for-profit membership organisation, funded in part by grants, sponsorship and Welcome to Yorkshire members. All money raised is reinvested directly back into promoting Yorkshire.
- Key facts include:
 - Tourism in Yorkshire is worth £7 billion annually
 - The county's industry employs almost a quarter of a million people
 - There are 216 million visits to Yorkshire each year

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