

West Norfolk celebrates the best of business



Civic and enterprise leaders have come together to celebrate the best of West Norfolk at the annual Mayor's Business Awards.

Around 200 people attended the ceremony, organised by West Norfolk Council in association with the Lynn News, at Lynn Corn Exchange on Friday night.

A total of nine awards were handed out, with the main Mayor's Business of the Year prize going to Omex Agrifluids, who are based on the Saddlebow industrial estate.

Regional director Alan Lowes accepted the award on behalf of the workers there, of whom he said: "They'll be chuffed to bits."

Andrew Wilson, the boss of Lynn fashion retailer Ikon, was named Business Person of the Year and paid tribute to his wife, Sarah, on stage.

He said: "I'm really honoured. The best support is my wife and I've got to give a lot of

credit to her for standing behind me. She's awesome."

And Bridge for Heroes chief executive, Mike Taylor, said he appreciated all the support given by West Norfolk's public as he accepted the Contribution to the Community trophy.

He said the charity's Lynn centre had placed the town on the national and international map, attracting government support and bookings from as far afield as Australia and Canada.

But he added: "It's not me. You have made it a reality. It's not thank you to me. It's thank you to you."

Docking-based Tidal Transit claimed the Small Growing Business prize, in which Lynn-based Booklife were also highly commended, while Lynn's Cooper and Elms scooped the Independent Retailer award in their 30th anniversary year.

Director Ian Cooper said: "It's a great honour. There's a great team behind us who continue to keep us successful in a cut-throat market."

Lynn estate agents Russen and Turner won the Customer Care award, while Briarfields Hotel manager, Bradley Williams, admitted he couldn't believe his establishment had won the Leisure and Tourism award.

He said: "It just goes to show all the effort by the staff has paid off"

Karen Malkan, restaurant manager at the Congham Hall Hotel, collected the Service With A Smile prize, as voted for by Lynn News readers, while Livvi Hodges, a plumber with Freebridge Community Housing, won the apprentice award.

She thanked her colleagues for "putting up with her."

Lynn News 11-Mar-2014

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