

erless tor leaves l of damage

or driver had an amaz-
scape when he was
from his £120,000
during a terrifying in-
on a Devon farm.
Devon Air Ambulance
led after farm manager
Hutchings was thrown
the cab of the machine at
on Ferrers, near Brix-

suffered bruising and
sion as he was hurled
h the window of the
. He instinctively
d at the tractor's hand
e as he was thrown clear,
with the throttle jammed
heavy vehicle sped away
at him, leaving a £150,000
f damage behind.

r Mr Hutchings was
n clear, the full-throttle
r:
eered up and down high

s.
shed through the wall of
e shed.

ashed its way over a
silage feeder.

acked a pile of machinery,
ended up on top of a flat-
trailer with its spinning
s high in the air.

mer Richard Haddock
Jason definitely had a
lucky escape. He is badly
ed and concussed, but he
ery lucky lad."

Haddock explained that
Hutchings had been re-
ing to the farmyard to
up another load of fer-
r when the heavy block
ce weight came off the
of his tractor.

e weight jammed under
front wheels, pitching the
or up into the air and
wing Mr Hutchings clear.
th the hand throttle
med in the "on" position,
tractor sped off on its own.
Haddock said it was lucky
d not go into busy Copy-
me Road nearby, and that it
missed cattle as it crashed
their shed.

ree ambulances were sent
e scene just after 1pm on
day along with a fire crew.
air ambulance was also
mblended but it was not
ded.



South West wins big at tourism awards

The South West was the biggest winner for the sixth year running in the VisitEngland tourism awards.

Businesses picked up 16 awards, confirming the peninsula as the country's top region for quality.

Half of those prizes went to concerns in Devon and Cornwall.

Landal Gwel an Mor, a five-star resort at Portreath on the North Cornish coast, took gold in the holiday park/village category.

In Devon, silvers went to The 25 Boutique B&B, Torquay, in the B&B section; The Milkshed, near Honiton in the self catering category; and Bulleigh Barton Manor, Ipplepen, near Newton Abbot in the dog friendly category. In Cornwall, Mylor Sailing and Powerboat School, near Falmouth, took home a silver in the inclusive tourism section.

Bronze awards were won by the Cary Arms & Spa, Torquay, in the boutique guest accommodation category; Screech Owl and Wildlife Park, St Columb in Cornwall in the small visitor attraction section; and Polmanter Touring

The latest national tourism awards brought a precious haul for the South West, as **Martin Freeman** reports

Park, near St Ives, in the holiday park and village section. In Somerset, Salad Days Beach Hut, Dunster Beach, won a bronze in the dog friendly category.

All went through to the VisitEngland competition as winners in the South West Tourism Excellence Awards.

Robin Barker, of Services for Tourism, which organised the regional awards, was delighted to see so many from the South West enjoying success at national level.

"These awards mean so much to those taking part and it's wonderful to share in their celebrations at the national event. It's also great to see the continued success of the South West and the region 'heading the quality charts' once again," he said.

This is a second top-prize success for Landal Gwel an Mor, which won a gold in the same competition in 2012.

"This underpins our position as the best holiday resort in England," said Matt Way, director. "It is quite an accolade for us. It's a treble for us after winning in Cornwall and the South West awards."

Gwel an Mor - Cornish for "view of the sea" - has developed over the years since opening in 2005 after an initial £5 million investment. The resort's attractions include a nine-hole golf course, spa, heated indoor swimming pool, tennis court, fitness suite, and fishing lake, climbing walls and a soft-play centre. There are foxes, reindeer and badgers in Feadon Farm, believed to be the only wildlife centre of its kind in Europe.

"Investment continues with one-bed lodges around the fishing lake. "We are dipping our toe into the couples market," said Mr Way. "That helps make us a completely year-round resort."

While the Cornish landscape "shaped by the weather" was a key attraction, tourism businesses needed to be able to offer plenty for when that weather was not at its best, said Mr Way. >>



TODAY'S FORECAST
CLOUDY WITH A CHANCE OF

WAGYU





Studio School to close after Ofsted censure

The troubled £4.2million Plymouth Studio School is to close following criticism from the watchdog Ofsted – just three years after opening.

School leaders said that following discussions with the Regional Schools Commissioner's office and the Department for Education, a "decision in principle" has been made to shut the school.

It was set up on land neighbouring Plymouth Marjon University with one aim being to train the sports stars of tomorrow. It is anticipated the school will close in September.

The Regional Schools Commissioner's team will hold a "listening period" for parents of students. Parents attended a meeting at the school yesterday for a briefing from the headteacher, and to hear more from the local authority about the next steps in the process.

A second meeting will take place today for parents unable to attend the first meeting. Staff were also notified of the decision and a special assembly for pupils held.

Headteacher Mark Cahill said: "We are extremely sorry to be announcing this news, which we recognise will come as a disappointment to parents and pupils. Our primary concern now is the future well-being and best outcomes for our pupils.

"We are assured by the local authority that there are sufficient places in the city's secondary schools to accommodate all Studio School pupils, and my staff will be working closely with the local authority, the Regional Schools Commissioner and others to ensure a smooth transition for all of our pupils to their new schools. Our focus for the rest of the year will continue to be on providing the very best teaching, learning and assessment we can for our pupils."

Studio schools across the country, have faced significant challenges. Plymouth will be 19th studio school to close since the model's inception.



Luxury tops the bill at The Milkshed, a single holiday cottage sleeping four, that bagged a silver in the self-catering category, against competition from much larger operations.

Converted from a barn four years ago, there is under-floor heating and a hot tub. Heating and hot water come from an eco-friendly biomass boiler.

"We converted this ourselves and quite a lot of blood, sweat and tears went into it," said Katie Hollyer who runs the business with her husband, Mark. "It is amazing to win a silver, and lovely to be representing Devon."

They also run a catering business and Mark's skills as a chef – he has worked in Michelin-starred restaurants in France and the UK, including Gordon Ramsay at Claridge's in London – are in demand. "Parents like that we can offer catering so they can have a real luxury meal without having to go out," said Mrs Hollyer.

The 25 Boutique, owned by Andy and Julian Banner-Price, was listed among the top ten B and Bs in the world by Trip Advisor earlier this year. "We're really pleased to have this latest recognition for our hard work," said Andy Banner-Price.

"I don't think there is a secret to success. We care about what we do and making sure every single guest has a

fantastic time. You have to make sure all the basic are right, like comfortable beds and fantastic breakfasts, then it's the details like homemade chocolate brownies, the daily treats, the little extras."

Sally Balcombe, the chief executive of VisitEngland, said the national prizes were a "celebration of our thriving tourism industry".

"They highlight the people and the organisations that deliver amazing experiences for visitors, raising the profile of England as a world-class destination.

"The finalists have shown themselves to be of the highest calibre, using their talent and innovation to deliver excellence.

"The hundreds of applications this year reflect the quality products across our tourism landscape and I warmly congratulate all the finalists."

The awards were given out at a ceremony in the Assembly Rooms, Bath, by Kirstie Allsopp, the co-presenter of Channel 4's property programme Location, Location, Location who has a home in Devon.

There was a bonus for the region as Richard Mellor of *The Guardian* took a special award for travel article of the year for his coverage of the Isles of Scilly Low Tide event.

COMMENT PAGE 10 >

Gwel an Mor (main picture) and, top, from left: The Milkshed, The 25 Boutique B&B, the Cary Arms and Spa, and Tom and Carolyn Screech with Charlie the European owl at Screech Owl Sanctuary

THE SUN (MAY) COME OUT TOMORROW
FILL UP YOUR FREEZER NOW AND
BE BBQ READY