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Tourism winners celebrate their success

THE great and the good of the South Devon tourism industry were honoured at a winners reception hosted by the Herald Express.

Winners of the English Riviera and South Devon Tourism and Hospitality Awards 2016 were invited to the reception at Pier Point in Torquay.

Chris Hart, from headline partners of the awards, Wollen Michelmore, said: "Primarily, it provides great PR for businesses through success and winning awards. It's a fantastic way to recognise the contribution of all of the workers in the business.

"We had a greater number of applicants than ever before last year, but also there was a noticeable increase in quality across categories, which is a real sign of investment in tourism businesses.

"A lot of the winners have gone on to achieve success in the Devon and South West awards, which is an endorsement of their quality, and of these awards."

Andy Wilkins, owner and head of training at the Virtual Jet Centre, which won the award for Tourism Experience Activity at the awards in 2016,



PRIZE GUYS: English Riviera and South Devon Tourism and Hospitality award winners from 2016 celebrating their success

PHOTO: ANDY STYLES

move forward as a tourism business. We don't see ourselves primarily as a tourism business, but that is a big part of it."

Cllr Jeremy Christophers, leader of Teignbridge Council, was asked to be one of the judges for 2017 at the reception.

He said: "I judged last year,

said the award was a nice surprise for his business.

He said: "It's been amazing, and such a surprise for us to win an award. We're trying to

and it really is a tough job. There are so many things that go on under your nose, and sometimes you don't realise quite how good they are, and how different they are.

"I'm really looking forward to it. It's a great opportunity to discover things you didn't know about on your doorstep."