Major Achievements and Awards in Wiltshire

2017

- VisitWiltshire has been awarded £1m Discover England Fund to create The Great West Way – one of the world’s premier touring routes between London and Bristol - [www.visitwiltshire.co.uk/greatwestway](http://www.visitwiltshire.co.uk/greatwestway)
- The Kennet & Avon Canal, cared for by the Canal and River Trust, has been given a Green Flag Award, which recognises and rewards well managed parks and green spaces.
- The Kennet & Avon Canal (£559,300), Wiltshire Wildlife Trust (£814,100) and Trowbridge Museum (£1,172,500) have been successful in their Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) applications, which will benefit natural, industrial, archival and architectural heritage across the county.
- VisitWiltshire launches new online shop at [www.visitwiltshire.co.uk/shop](http://www.visitwiltshire.co.uk/shop) enabling visitors to purchase tickets for a variety of Wiltshire attractions, events and activities.
- Arts:
  - Arts Council England funding for the next four years (2018 – 2022) will benefit Wiltshire Music Centre (£406,700), Salisbury Arts Theatre (£5,111,776), The Pound Arts Trust (£301,740) and Wessex Museum’s Partnership including Wiltshire and Salisbury Museums (£1.24 million).
  - Swindon’s Wyvern Theatre has been named the most welcoming theatre in the South West according to the public who voted at the UK Theatre Awards.
- Accommodation:
  - Manor Farm B&B in Collingborune Kingston won Outstanding Host Award 2017 at the Evio awards who celebrate the best of independent hosts and hoteliers.
  - Lucknam Park have won Best for Families UK & Ireland for the Conde Nast Johansens Awards for Excellence 2018.
  - Sue Williams from Whatley Manor, Cotswolds, has been named ‘Hotelier of the Year 2017’ by The Caterer.
- Food & Drink:
  - The Cosy Club, Salisbury has won Best Vegan Menu at the PETA Vegan Food Awards.
  - The Red Lion Freehouse in East Chisenbury won ‘Inn of the Year’ according to The Independent’s good Hotel Guide 2018.
  - The Bell at Ramsbury won the ‘Pub of the Year 2017/18’ from the AA Hospitality Awards.
  - Less than a year after joining Whatley Manor Hotel & Spa, near Malmesbury, executive chef Niall Keating has been awarded a Michelin star for the Dining Room, in the Michelin UK & Ireland Guide 2018.
  - Lucknam Park’s chef Joshua Murphy won Young Professional Chef of the Year in the South West Chef competition (sponsored by Michael Caines and Lympstone Manor).
  - Vaughan’s Cookery School is now the only independent cookery school in Wiltshire and one of only 7 in the country to be an approved teaching centre for Confederation of Tourism.

2016
VisitWiltshire secures Discover England phase 1 funding to develop a new long distance touring route - The Great West Way.
VisitWiltshire win TravelMole Best Tourist Board Website Award (Jan 2016)
VisitWiltshire launches new drone videos which to date has reached around 800,000 people
Salisbury Reds introduce brand new Stonehenge Tour buses with commentary in 10 different languages.
Salisbury Cathedral were nominated in the 3rd annual LandLove Magazine Awards for Britain's favourite cathedral!
Koh Thai Tapas, Asian restaurant in Salisbury voted as finalists for the Asian Curry Awards’ Restaurant of the Year
The Merchant’s House awarded Coach Friendly Visitor Attraction status by CPT
The Royal Oak at Swallowcliffe has been voted Newcomer of the Year Good Hotel Guide (for 2017)
Salisbury’s application successful to join the England’s Heritage Cities consortium

2015
VisitWiltshire puts South West England firmly on the map for international visitors, whilst leading on the travel trade strand of VisitEngland’s South West Tourism Growth Fund.
Lonely Planet’s Best in Travel 2015 recognised Salisbury as one of the Top 10 Cities in the World to visit.
New Tourism website for Salisbury launched – www.visitsalisbury.co.uk
VisitWiltshire wins English Tourism Social Media Index
STEAM Museum of Great Western Railway’s Kevin, shortlisted for VisitEngland’s Tourism Superstar Award 2015.
The International Magna Carta Press event run by VisitWiltshire with support from Salisbury BID, Salisbury City Council and Salisbury Cathedral secured in excess of £560k AVE and reached over 68 million people.
VisitWiltshire develops its new Timeless brand positioning
VisitWiltshire developed its new Wiltshire Association of Visitor Attractions (WAVA) group

2014
VisitWiltshire hosted the GTOA annual conference in Swindon
VisitWiltshire developed its Travel Trade group and expanded its activity
Devizes and Salisbury secured coach friendly status with CPT
The new Stonehenge Visitor Centre opened for its full visitor season (opened Dec 2013)

For further information or to arrange a press visit please contact Florence Wallace, Travel Trade & PR Manager, flowallace@visitwiltshire.co.uk Tel: 01722 341309 or 07436 588860