

NEWS

Winners of the Derby Telegraph Business Awards 2019 set to be crowned

Hundreds will attend awards ceremony at the Roundhouse tonight



By **Robin Johnson** Business Editor

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The wait is almost over. Tonight all eyes will be on **[Derby College's Roundhouse](#)** as Derbyshire's business elite gather for the **[Derby Telegraph Business Awards 2019](#)**.

Since this year's awards were launched in January, everything has been building towards the grand ceremony when the winners of the 16 categories will be revealed.

The awards, now in their sixth year, are organised by the Derby Telegraph in partnership with Champions (UK) Plc and backed by headline sponsors ITV, Derby College Group, Thomas International and Stirland Paterson Group.

Each award has been judged by the category sponsor. They have rounded down the entries to a shortlist of finalists for each category, who will tonight find out if they have been successful.

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This year's awards will once again be hosted by Olympian Gail Emms and comedian and television presenter Mark Dolan (Image: Alex Cantrill Jones / ACJ Media)

Hosted by comedian, writer and television presenter Mark Dolan and Olympic badminton star Gail Emms, the awards cover all sectors.

Prizes are awarded in categories as diverse as SME Business of the Year, Manufacturing Excellence, Contribution to the Community and Not-For-Profit.

Once again, this year the categories have had a makeover in order to give more opportunities for businesses to put themselves forward.

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The winners will be announced in front of hundreds of Derbyshire's business elite (Image: Alex Cantrill-Jones / ACJ Media)

Entries closed in March and after a rigorous judging process, the finalists were announced in early May.

Now, in front of hundreds of members of Derbyshire's business elite, the winners will finally be crowned.

Perhaps the award that everyone wants to win is the much-coveted Derby Company of the Year title, sponsored by Derby College.

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Project Better Energy was named Company of the Year at last year's awards - who will win the coveted title this year? (Image: Derby Telegraph /Alex Cantrill-J)

Last year, this award went to Project Better Energy. This year, three businesses will be vying for the top award. They are The Gin & Rum Festival, Ward and YMD Boon.

Both The Gin & Rum Festival and Ward are nominated in other categories.

The Gin & Rum Festival is also a finalist for the Start-up Business of the Year Award, alongside fellow nominees Bear and White Peak Distillery.

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Ward is a finalist in two categories, including Company of the Year (Image: Ward Recycling)

Meanwhile, recycling firm Ward will also contest the Employer of the Year title, along with Air IT and Midland Lead.

It is also contesting the Leadership Team of the Year Award - but it will face competition from Silver X and Xpertise Recruitment.

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Midland Lead is also up for two awards (Image: Midland Lead)

As well as contesting the Leadership category, logistics firm Silver X also lines up as a finalist for the Customer Service Excellence Award.

It will be up against Oviso Financial Services and Morley Hayes, the latter of which is out to defend its title after winning the same category last year.

Another company that will be hoping to replicate its success from last year is TidyCo. Last year, the company won the Excellence in Manufacturing Award. It is once again a finalist in the same category, alongside EPM Composites, HL Plastics and Stirland Paterson Group.

The team at TidyCo are once again in the running for the Excellence in Manufacturing Award (Image: Derby Telegraph /Alex Cantrill-J)

HL Plastics is another company that could potentially be celebrating a double success on the night because it is also up for the Apprentice Employer of the Year Award, alongside Derby Homes and Imperial Commercials.

The Derby Telegraph Business Awards do not just celebrate the achievements of companies, but also the individuals who run them.

The Business Entrepreneur of the Year aims to recognise those individuals and the finalists for the award this year are Steve Haseldine (Alerter Group), Leah McLaren (Hotpod Yoga), Amanda Strong (Mercia Image Print), and Robert Carlin (Superior Spas).

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Leah McLaren, who runs Hotpod Yoga in Derby, is in the running for Entrepreneur of the Year (Image: Derby Telegraph)

Innovation and creativity are crucial to the future economic success of both the city and county - and the awards recognise this.

Three excellent companies have been shortlisted for the Excellence in Innovation Award. They are: Gowercroft Joinery, Nowcomm and Xuper.

And in the Creative Communications and Digital Business of the Year category, Bloc Digital, Busy Things and Future Proof Films have been shortlisted.

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The team at Future Proof Films is up for the Creative Communications and Digital Business of the Year Award (Image: Future Proof Films)

Bloc Digital is also up for the SME Business of the Year title, along with Hackwood Farm and ThreeGuru.

Smith Partnership is also a finalist for the Sales and Marketing Award, alongside Anchor & Crew and Tecquipment.

There is one new category for this year’s awards - the Education Sector: Business Engagement and Employability Award. This will be contested by Derby College Group, Chameleon School of Construction and the University of Derby.

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The contribution companies make to the wider community will also be recognised. To this end, the shortlisted companies for the Contribution to the Community Award are Cosy Direct, Gift Wellness and RDS Global.

And finally, sometimes it is not just about the profit you make but what you do with that profit.

Three worthy organisations have been named as finalists for the Not-for-profit Organisation Award - Derventio Housing Trust, Treetops Hospice Care and Headway.

Derby Telegraph Business Awards 2019 - The shortlists in full

The Gin & Rum Festival

Ward

YMD Boon

SME BUSINESS OF THE YEAR

Sponsored by the University of Derby

Bloc Digital

Hackwood Farm

ThreeGuru

EMPLOYER OF THE YEAR

Sponsored by Smith Partnership

Air IT

Midland Lead

Ward

START-UP BUSINESS OF THE YEAR

Sponsored by Wheeldon Brothers

Bear

White Peak Distillery

The Gin & Rum Festival

BUSINESS ENTREPRENEUR OF THE YEAR