



PRESS RELEASE

16 SEPTEMBER 2011

OPEN 4 BUSINESS AWARD FINALISTS ARE ANNOUNCED

The finalists of the South & West Dorset Open 4 Business Awards have been chosen at a closely contested judging session which was held on Thursday 15th September at the Ocean Room, Weymouth

Award entries were up 10% on 2010 entry levels and over 75% of the award entrants entered the 04B awards for the very first time. Almost half of the entries came from outside the Weymouth & Portland area. The Award entry deadline was extended by 36 hours to allow business owners time to carefully submit their entries online at the Open 4 Business website. Entries closed at midday on Tuesday 13th September.

Julie Cleaver, Managing Director said *"I would like to thank our Award Sponsors and the judging panel who had to make extremely hard decisions when choosing between the numerous entries, all of the entries were of a very high standard and contained lots of exciting information. Open 4 Business continues to bring out the best in business and everyone who is involved in the judging process learns something new about what is happening in local business"*

THE OPEN 4 BUSINESS FINALISTS :

1.Small Business sponsored by Hive Beach Café

Jalopy Pizza, Bridport

Wessex Echoheat Ltd, Bridport

2.Learning in the Workplace sponsored by Weymouth College

Swift Signs, Weymouth

Extra Mile Chauffeur Travel, Chickerell

3.Business Engagement in the Community sponsored by Basepoint Business Centres

Battens Solicitors, Weymouth

Weymouth & Portland National Sailing Academy, Portland

4.New Business sponsored by Humphries Kirk, Solicitors

Alison Moore Counselling, Poundbury

Filberts Fine Foods,

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5.Export sponsored by Old Mill Financial Planners

SALT , Portland (Winners 04B Business of Year 2010)

Global Marine Systems Subsea Training, Portland

6.Tourism & Hospitality sponsored by Resort 2012

Weymouth Harbour Traders Association

Getaway Digital, Weymouth

7.Technology & Innovation sponsored by DJ Property

Moving Content, Portland

SALT, Portland (Winners of Technology Award 2010)

8.Retailer & Customer Service Award sponsored by Lloyds TSB

Ocean Spa, Portland

Heavenly Bump , Weymouth

9.Entrepreneur sponsored by Equation Accounting

Freefly Multimedia

Sharp Events

All Finalists will be invited to attend the 04B Awards Dinner on 6th October at Weymouth College, where the Winners will be announced. The Dinner is sponsored by Enterprising Women Dorset.

The 04B Flame Awards for the male and female who have made an *outstanding contribution* to local business will be announced at the Ceremony together with the overall Business of the Year 2011 which is sponsored by David Upshall Insurance. The Flame Awards are sponsored by Sunflowers Floral Design and Pineapple Business Support. Additional Dinner tickets are available at £55 each from Kieren Hasler at Weymouth College on 01305 208819.

The Open 4 Business festival of events will launch on 3 October and run until 20 October with over 25 events taking place during the period. Full details regarding all 27 events and booking details can be found at www.o4business.co.uk

For more information please call Julie Cleaver, Popcorn Marketing 01305 774629 or 07831 696167. Email : Julie@popcornmarketing.co.uk Or visit www.o4business.co.uk

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Photo : 04B Sponsors and supporters