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## **Derbyshire pub owned by community wins national award from Plunkett Foundation**

**The Anglers Rest co-operative pub in Bamford, Derbyshire, has won a national award from the Plunkett Foundation.**

The 2015 winners of the Rural Community Co-operative Awards were announced at the Plunkett Foundation's national networking event on Thursday 25 June in Dunchurch, near Rugby.

The Anglers Rest co-operative pub in Bamford, Derbyshire won the Pioneer Award, sponsored by WBC. This award recognises the flagship community co-operatives that have done something new or different, have gone above and beyond to inspire others to do something similar and/or have helped the sector to develop. Judges commended the Society for the wide variety of services they offer, including a Post Office, cafe, pub, retail, IT facilities, WIFI, book swap, dry cleaning, tourist information point, art gallery, secure cycle racks and tools, and even a farmers' market which supports local producers, integrates a wider part of the community and provides the community with another new service. They also recognised the support the Society gives to help the co-operative pub sector to develop, including providing support and encouragement to 10 co-operative pub projects and 3 community projects and hosting a national networking event in April.

Judges from the Award sponsors Hastoe Housing Association, WBC, Suma, Co-operative College, Triodos Bank and Ecology selected the final winners from a shortlist and presented them with their prize money of £500 at the ceremony.

The Awards were hosted by Karen Lowthrop of trailblazing woodland social enterprise Hill Holt Wood. Every year, Plunkett Foundation celebrates the most outstanding examples of the rural community co-operative sector. Now in their third year, the Awards showcase the co-operatives that have made a real difference to individuals within their communities, from helping to overcome social isolation and loneliness to addressing specific health issues. They also recognise innovative business practices from both established rural co-operatives and newer enterprises.

Other winners were:

**Oldbury on Severn Community Shop** in Gloucestershire won the One to Watch – The Newcomer Award, sponsored by The Co-operative College. This award sought applications from new community co-operatives established on or after January 2013 that could demonstrate a commitment to community engagement and support alongside a sound financial performance.

**Ide Hill Community Shop** in Kent won the Business Innovation Award, sponsored by Triodos Bank. This award sought applications from established community co-operatives, established before January 2013, that could demonstrate a commitment to community engagement and support alongside a sound financial performance.

**Lyme Regis Development Trust** in Dorset won the Capture your Co-operative – The Film Award, sponsored by Ecology. This award celebrated submissions that used short films to demonstrate the positive impact that community co-operatives make to the lives of individuals and groups within the community.

**Chittlehamholt Community Shop** in Devon won the People’s Choice Award, sponsored by Hastoe Housing Association. This award saw over 500 votes being cast to determine which exemplary enterprise should be honoured for making a difference to a vulnerable individual or group of people, with particularly reference to helping them overcome social exclusion, physical isolation, health issues or financial hardship.

**Marian Osborne from Wellow Village Shop Association** in Somerset won the Unsung Hero Award, sponsored by Suma. For this award we asked co-operatives to nominate an individual who has made an outstanding contribution to their enterprise and therefore their wider community.

More information on the judges’ commendations can be found [here](#).

**James Alcock**, Head of Frontline at the Plunkett Foundation, said: “We are delighted with the response we have had to the Rural Community Co-operative Awards. Entries came from across the UK and from a wide variety of community co-operative types. The judges’ votes were often split due to the calibre of the entries and we’re absolutely delighted to recognise everyone for their fantastic achievements.

He continued: “The awards celebrate all that makes community co-operatives great – their co-operative ethos, their community engagement and their approach to overcoming the problems rural communities face together. We would like to thank everyone who applied as well as overall sponsor Hastoe Housing Association and individual award sponsors for all of their support.”

**-ENDS-**

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## **NOTES TO EDITORS:**

**Plunkett Foundation** ([www.plunkett.co.uk](http://www.plunkett.co.uk)) helps communities to take control of their challenges and overcome them together. It supports people, predominantly in rural areas, to set up and run life-changing community co-operatives; enterprises that are owned and run democratically by large numbers of people in their community. These help people to tackle a range of issues, from isolation and loneliness to poverty, and come in many forms including shops, cafes, pubs and land-based initiatives, and everything in between.

There are 35 co-operative pubs trading across the UK. Co-operative pubs are owned and controlled by a large number of people from within the community. They are governed democratically on the basis that each member gets one vote, regardless of how much money they invested. This is important because most communities are made up of people with very mixed

incomes, and the co-operative model makes sure that everybody has an opportunity to have a say about what's important to them.

**The Rural Community Co-operative Awards** celebrate the most inspirational examples of what can be achieved when rural communities work together. They showcase the co-operatives that have made a real difference to individuals within their community, from helping to overcome social isolation and loneliness to addressing specific health issues. They also recognise innovative business practices from both established rural co-operatives, as well as newer enterprises.

We invited enterprises from across England, Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland and Ireland to apply and help to inspire other communities to improve rural lives and livelihoods through co-operation.

Applicants had to be:

- A community co-operative enterprise such as a shop, bakery, café, garage, pub, bookshop, gym etc.
- An incorporated body – suitable structures: IPS Ben Com, CIC (large membership) and CLG (with appropriate articles)
- Open and trading
- Located within the UK or Ireland
- Rural

**The Judging Panel** comprised: **James Haywood**, Marketing Director at WBC - sponsors of the Pioneer Award – specialist suppliers of retail display, bags for life and gift packaging to the UK's buoyant independent retail sector; **Jon Knight**, Customer Development at Suma – sponsors of the Unsung Hero Award - a workers' cooperative, a radical business managed and owned by its workers; **Angela Colebrook**, Co-operative Education and Research Team at The Co-operative College – sponsors of the One to Watch – The Newcomer Award; **Mark Ogden**, Relationship Manager at Triodos Bank – sponsors of the Business Innovation Award; **Martin Craddock**, Director of Hastoe Housing Association – sponsors of the People's Choice Award; **Jon Lee**, Ecology Building Society – sponsors of the Capture your Community – Film Award and **Laurence Scott**, Grant Manager of the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation – sponsors of the National Networking and Training Event.