



NEWS RELEASE

BLUEBELL RAILWAY A WINNER AT SUSSEX BUSINESS AWARDS

On Thursday 30th November over 400 hundred people attended an event held at The Grand Hotel in Brighton for the 29th Annual Sussex Business Awards. Amongst those present were the Lord Lieutenant of East Sussex, the Mayor of Brighton and Hove and local MP for Brighton Kemptown Lloyd Russell- Moyle.

Hundreds of applicants had been whittled down to a shortlist of just 40 finalists covering 17 categories which included Small Business of the Year, International Business of the Year, Best Customer Service and Innovation in Business. Compare for the evening was comedian and author Ian Moore.

The Bluebell Railway was one of three applicants short listed in the Leisure and Tourism category, sponsored by Heart FM, the other two being Sea Life Brighton and Newhaven Fort. The Bluebell Railway were voted winners.

A team from the Railway attended the event - the award was received by Gordon Owen - General Manager, who gave a small acceptance speech acknowledging the commitment and hard work of the volunteers and staff. He was joined on stage by Steve Bigg, Vice Chairman – Bluebell Railway Preservation Society and James Funnell, a working volunteer and member of the Commercial Team.

Mike Herd – Executive Director of the Sussex Innovation Centre and Chairman of the judges commented ‘*This year was a record year and with the amount of entries received, the judging process*

proved a difficult task. The exceptional quality of the entries really shined through and many worthy winners were chosen'

Roger Garman – Communications Director at the Bluebell Railway added 'we are both honoured and privileged to receive this recognition of the effort and commitment that our staff and volunteers put in to making our Railway a key tourist attraction in Sussex and one of which we can all be proud. Our thanks are extended to all involved with the Sussex Business Awards and in particular Heart FM as sponsor of the Leisure and Tourism award.

Roger Garman

Communications Director – Bluebell Railway Plc

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