



## **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 Eviio 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 be named ‘Hotelier of the Year 2017’ by The Caterer,
- Food & Drink:
  - Fisherton Mill, Salisbury won ‘Best Cheap Eats in the West’ from the Observer Food Monthly Awards 2017.
  - 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](http://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](mailto:flowallace@visitwiltshire.co.uk) Tel: 01722 341309 or 07436 588860**