

## PENDENNIS SHIPYARD WINS NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP AWARD

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Falmouth based Pendennis Shipyard was awarded the title of 'Large Employer of the Year' on July 10 at the Learning and Skills Council's (LSC) National Apprenticeship Awards.

The company beat off stiff competition from British Gas and BT to be crowned as one of the best employers of apprentices in England. Training Manager Jill Carr and Managing Director Mike Carr collected their award from TV star Amanda Holden at the ceremony.

Pendennis Shipyard is a world-renowned Superyacht manufacturer. The company is committed to its Apprenticeship programme with apprentices making up a fifth of its workforce.

The company, which employs 45 apprentices, qualified for the national awards after winning the 'South West Large Employer of the Year' award at the South West Skills Awards held earlier this year in Exeter.

Jill Carr from Pendennis Shipyard commented: "One of the main benefits of our Apprenticeship programme is that the apprentices inject skills, youth, longevity, and flexibility into our niche business. Apprenticeships help us mould employees, through training and on the job experience, thus providing us with the right level of skills and discipline."

Malcolm Gillespie, Regional Director of LSC South West, said: "We are delighted that Pendennis Shipyard has been crowned as one of England's top apprentice employers. This is testament to the outstanding contribution businesses, apprentices and their

training providers are making to raise the region's skills levels and improve productivity and competitiveness.

"Pendennis Shipyard has succeeded in raising the skills levels of their apprentices and we hope they prove to be positive role models to others who are considering employing apprentices."

The awards are designed to recognise those employers who are successfully using Apprenticeships to improve business performance, and the commitment of individuals currently on, or who have recently completed, an Apprenticeship. This year there was a 40 per cent increase in entries for the national Apprenticeship Awards from 1,000 to 1,400.

Finalists from the South West were also successful in other award categories. Mark Wilkinson Furniture from Chippenham won the 'Medium Employer of the Year' award, and there were three highly commended awards - Jacob Stimpson from Plymouth in the 'Advanced Apprentice of the Year', Josh Pickering from Poole in the 'Young Apprentice of the Year' and Defence Support Group from Warminster in the 'Medium Employer of the Year' categories.

The Apprenticeship Awards were held at the Royal Horticultural Hall in Central London.

**To find out more about Apprenticeships, visit [apprenticeships.org.uk](http://apprenticeships.org.uk) or call 08000 150 400**

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Notes to editors:

Learning and Skills Council:

The LSC exists to make England better skilled and more competitive. We are responsible for ensuring the availability of high-quality education and training for everyone. We have a single goal: to improve the skills of England's young people and adults to world class standards. Our vision is that young people and adults in England have knowledge and skills matching the best in the world

and are part of a truly competitive workforce. We work nationally, regionally and locally to deliver this ambition on behalf of learners and employers. For further information on the LSC in the South West please visit their website at [www.lsc.gov.uk/regions/southwest/](http://www.lsc.gov.uk/regions/southwest/)

**The National finalists in the Large Employer of the Year category (250 +employees) were:**

- British Gas, Energy, Staines, London
- Pendennis Shipyard, Super-Yacht, South West
- BT, ICT, London

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