

# Camping 'Oscar' for family-run wildlife haven

A Glastonbury touring park has been named the best in the South West in a recent competition.

Family and staff at The Old Oaks Touring Park in Wick beat off hundreds of competitors to take the South West prize in the AA Campsite of the Year 2010 awards.

The park is a family affair, and over the last 22 years, owners Jim and Sally White, with their son James, have developed it into a five-star touring park where both wildlife and human guests are given VIP treatment.

This week, Mr and Mrs White were officially presented with their accolade at a ceremony at the park, attended by the AA and local tourism officials.

Awards given by the AA

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are regarded as the Oscars of the camping parks industry, and will bring valuable publicity for the park both at home and overseas.

The Old Oaks was judged on the quality of the environment, the facilities, and the hospitality shown to guests.

Before being granted the award, the park was made subject to anonymous inspection visits from the motoring organisation during last year.

The park was also recently praised by botanist David Bellamy and presented with his special conservation award at its top

gold level, for the work that family have done.

This involved planting hundreds of indigenous trees and shrubs on the park, and carrying out conservation work around the Old Oaks' half-acre fishing lake which has become a magnet for wildfowl, kingfishers, dragonflies and an array of amphibians.

"We know how much people who go camping value the AA recommendations, and one reason is the emphasis their inspectors put on the friendliness and character of the park," said Mr White.

"For that reason, we were especially thrilled to win this award - and are looking forward to welcoming many new guests from Britain and mainland Europe this summer."



From left: Tara White from Old Oaks Touring Park, Colin Church from the AA, Jim White from Old Oaks Touring Park, Sally White from the park and James White, the park's manager