

January Herald Article

New Year – New Vision Group Resolution



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Chair of the Vision for Sidmouth Group writes for the Herald

A New Year provides a time of reflection and a time to plan. The Vision Group for Sidmouth was established by the Sidmouth Town Council in 2005 and is now a separate independent body with a focus on the sustainable development of the town and valley. As part of this endeavour the Vision Group have established the Sustainable Sidmouth Champion Awards for the second time. Like the successful Earthshot Awards devised by the Prince of Wales, our awards are designed to showcase endeavours to sustain our planet, albeit on a local scale.

Why not look at the award categories as part of your new year resolution to improve the sustainability of our world? The categories include a Citizen's Award, a Groups and Organisations Award, Schools and Educational Organisations Award and a Business Award. You can nominate yourself or someone else. It can be for a new initiative or something you have been working on for some time. The items entered for the award should be something that contributes to a sustainable lifestyle. For example, plans to make do and mend rather than buy something new. Or perhaps you have turned a piece of waste ground into a productive vegetable patch?

The entries will be judged by a local panel arranged by the Vision Group and the winners will be announced later in the year and presented with a certificate recording your contribution to the well-being of our planet. I am sure there are ways that we can all think of to live in a more sustainable manner. Make your New Year resolution one that will be of benefit to the environment and submit your entry to the Champions Award scheme now. Entry forms can be found on the website www.sidmouth-champions.vgsidmouth.co.uk

The Vision Group continues various other initiatives. These include the regeneration of Glen Goyle, an area that has been neglected in the past but is now in the process of being returned to its Victorian splendour with the help of a group of volunteers and in conjunction with East Devon District Council and the Town Council. If you have a spare couple of hours on a Thursday morning your assistance will be very welcome. The Vision Group have also relaunched its cycling group as the Sidmouth Cycling Campaign, which has conducted a recent cycling survey to identify ways in which the provision of cycle routes in the area could be enhanced and will be developing plans in this area in the coming months. The Vision Group is always willing to hear of proposals to further enhance the town and we look forward to receiving ideas from you via our website www.visionforsidmouth.org

photo: "Kyle Baker, winner of the Resilience award, receives his certificate from Cllr Chris Lockyear, one of the judging panel. – Credit: Tony Spooner ARPS" <https://sidmouth-champions.vgsidmouth.co.uk/the-champions-awards-2021-ceremony-photographs>