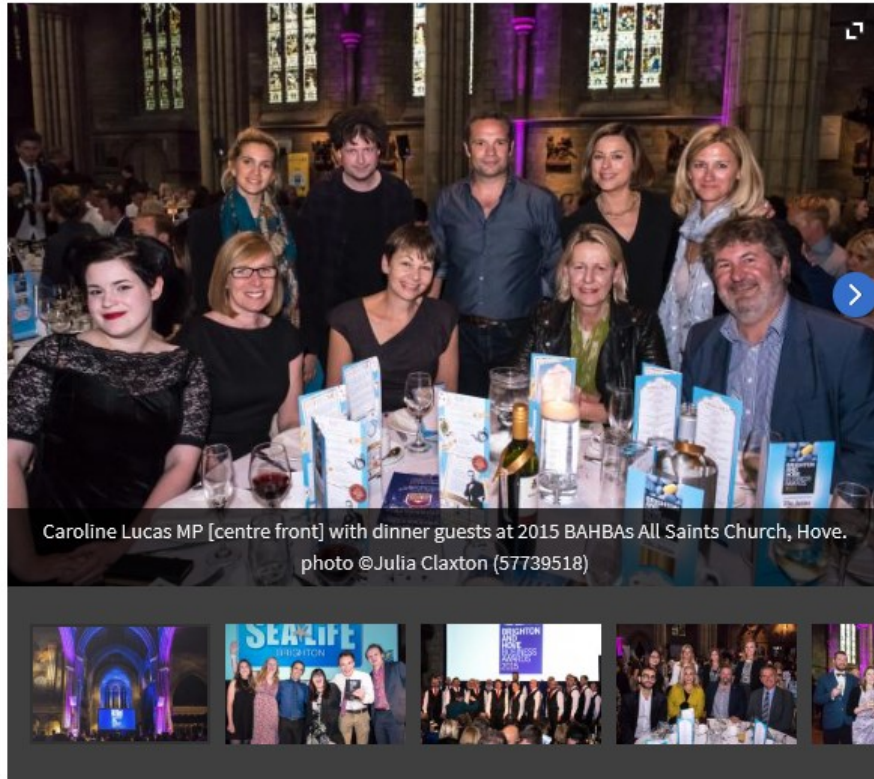


The Argus

The biggest and best business awards in Brighton are back



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THE Oscars may have just served up its typical cocktail of controversy, eager anticipation and wall to wall publicity.

But the only awards that really mean anything to businesses in Brighton and Hove today launch for their 11th edition.

Forget Leonardo DiCaprio, the past winners list of the Brighton and Hove Business Awards are who's who of the city's most cherished brands, with enduring appeal which goes well beyond the city boundaries.

World famous The Grand Brighton, the scene for some of the most high profile political events of the 20th century, is one past winner.

The business with the most fans - Brighton & Hove Albion FC – might be pushing for a spot in the Premiership, but it's already has a BAHBA to its name.

Tailor to the stars Gresham Blake, who supplies newsreaders Krishnan Guru Murthy and David Dimbleby with the colourful ties, has an award pride of place on his mantelpiece.

And Britain's oldest continuous cinema and one of its most famous, the Duke of York's is also a past winner.

The back catalogue of worthy winners does not stop there with Dockerills, Gingerman restaurants, Infinity Foods, Hotel du Vin, Dental Health Spa, Ambiental, Brighton & Hove Food and Drink Festival, The American Express Community Stadium, [Brighton Dome](#) and the [University of Sussex](#).

Mike Gilson, editor of The Argus and Chairman of the Awards: "The Brighton and Hove Business Awards have been celebrating the brightest, most successful and most unique businesses from across the City for the last decade.

“The leaders that drive these businesses demonstrate that combining passion and business nous with fun and individuality can be a real recipe for success. It is Brighton and Hove’s personality that puts it among the UK’s favourite cities, and that personality is reflected in our business community.”

While gongs have been handed to established names in the past, they are also a great way of seeking out up and coming talent.

A big winner of last year was rising star Posh Totty Designs, which took three awards, including the biggest of the night, The Judges Award for Business of the Year.

It was a remarkable ten-year business story, which has seen founder build up business from a one-woman band, to an operation employing 39 staff across three sites in the city.

Another prescient choice of 2015, this time for Best New Kid on the Block, went to Silo, the boundary pushing restaurant, coffee house and bakery, which has shown that a zero-waste kitchen based on a pre-industrial food system can also make for a successful business model.

While some business awards might tend towards the dry and stuffy, the BAHBAs has a hard-won reputation for showing off the city in its inimitable, quirky way.

Last year’s edition saw an afternoon tea party staged in the stunning All Saints Church and a performance from the Brighton Gay Men’s Chorus.

In 2014 the bash was staged at the [Palace Pier](#), with Elvis Presley and Marilyn Monroe impersonations followed by Karaoke.

One thing’s for sure, the awards are never boring.

But the fun and frivolous touches would be difficult without sponsors who provide vital support.

Three longstanding sponsors Cardens Accountants, City Cabs and Graves Jenkins return for 2016.

Sponsoring for the last three years, Phil Graves managing director of Graves Jenkins, said: “We are extremely proud to once again support and sponsor the BAHBAs. They are very Brighton - endorsing the success of the city, its diversity and entrepreneurial spirit – and at the same time recognising what makes the city stand out over many others.

“I’m a lifetime Brightonian and as a business we try to invest in the city through our business connections and the BAHBAs undertake the same. It’s an obvious partnership and an event which better itself year on year.”

Also back on board are Yelo Architects, with managing director Andy Parsons saying: “The BAHBAs were a real highlight for Yelo last year. Not only did we feel the benefit of being a sponsor but the awards night itself was brilliantly organised and huge fun.

“We enjoyed being involved in the judging and it provided a real insight into the amazing businesses that we have in this city. It was a delight to see so many prospering.”

New to the sponsor’s roll-call are RBS and Dental Health Spa – with organisers still hunting for more.

Christine Chatfield, clinical director at Dental Health Spa, added: “We came on board because these are the only business awards that really matter.”

Chris Langley, a Brighton based director with RBS, said: “At RBS we pride ourselves on understanding the needs of local businesses and in operating in our local markets. Our support for these Awards is just one way RBS reinforces its commitment to these businesses.

“We understand that strong businesses are created and developed through leadership, innovation and collaboration. That’s why we are particularly pleased to be sponsoring the Brighton & Hove Business Awards as they both recognise & celebrate the diversity of business in the City.”