

Council Offices

Woodgreen, Witney,
Oxfordshire, OX28 1NB

Tel: 01993 861000

enquiries@westoxon.gov.uk
www.westoxon.gov.uk



October 2008

Tourist attractions scoop awards

Three West Oxfordshire tourist attractions have been recognised as being among the best of their kind in South East England.

Blenheim Palace, Woodstock, scooped the Large Visitor Attraction of the Year award at the Tourism ExSEllence Awards run by Tourism South East, and was runner-up in the Best Tourism Experience category.

Family-run Caswell House, in Brize Norton, won first prize in the Self Catering Holiday of the Year category and Cogges Manor Farm Museum, Witney, was highly commended in the Small Visitor Attraction of the Year category.

The awards recognise excellence, quality and innovation. As regional winners, both Blenheim Palace and Caswell House will go on to compete in the national Enjoy England Awards for Excellence in 2009.

West Oxfordshire District Council's Tourism team encouraged Caswell House and Cogges Manor Farm Museum to enter the awards.

Caswell House is run by the Matthews family at their home of 26 years. The self-catering and bed and breakfast accommodation is situated within the grounds of their working farm and is part of a diversification project.

Kate Matthews, whose mother Amanda set up Caswell House almost three years ago, said: "We were absolutely thrilled to win, it's a very exciting time for us and it's fantastic that we will be in the national awards. My mother and family have put a huge deal of effort into building up this business and it is great for us to receive this accolade and gain the recognition that it brings."

Caswell House is one of many tourism businesses in West Oxfordshire that receive on-going support from the District Council's Tourism team.

Cllr Hilary Biles, Cabinet Member for Leisure, Tourism and Health, said: "Tourism plays an important role in West Oxfordshire and the Council is committed to continuing to encourage and support this industry. We are fortunate to have a diverse range of attractions and accommodation on our doorstep and it is wonderful that these three venues have been recognised in this way. We wish them all the best for the national awards next year."



Will Matthews, Kate Matthews and Simon Calder