

Farming estate wins Lincolnshire Environmental Award

Last night (Wednesday 13th July) the Lincolnshire Environmental Award 2011 was awarded to the Nevile Estate for the environmental improvements which permeate throughout the estate. The Lincolnshire Young Environmentalist Award 2011 was awarded to The John Fielding Community Special School.



The presentations by the finalists in the Lincolnshire Environmental Award and Lincolnshire Young Environmentalist Award 2011 took place throughout the day. At the evening Gala Dinner, the winning entries were announced. Chair of the judges Professor David Bellamy said that he was flabbergasted at the quality of the projects in the finals.

The Nevile Estate at Aubourn illustrates that commercial farm productivity can go hand in hand with environmental success. Over the past 30 years, the estate which had very few natural landscape features has been transformed. Improvements on what is a highly commercial arable farm include significant hedge restoration and woodland planting, restoration of grassland and introduction of grazing, a new 40 acre wetland scheme and extensive paths for walkers and those on horseback. Wildlife highlights include more than 30 pairs of wild grey partridge now breeding on the farm and, 100 years since they bred this far inland, two breeding pairs of avocets.

Philip Wynn from the Nevile Estate said: "I'm delighted for all of the team on the estate; it's been a team effort for a long time. The vision for all of this was from the late Sir Henry Nevile. He would have been very proud to win the award and to see the estate as it is today."

The Lincolnshire Young Environmentalist Award 2011 was presented to The John Fielding Community Special School. The judging panel were particularly impressed with their work in the community and the way in which all students are involved to the best of their abilities. Assistant Head Teacher Jonathan Bunster said that winning the award was the culmination of three years' work.

The students at the school have extended their environmental work and moved out into the community. They have been helping others, including Boston Borough Council, Boston College and Frieston Education Centre, by building recycled bottle greenhouses and bug palaces. The students have also built a 40foot polytunnel in which to grow organic vegetables.

Photo shows Lord Lieutenant of Lincolnshire, Tony Worth, and David Bellamy presenting the Lincolnshire Environmental Award 2011 to Philip Wynn from Nevile Estate.