

OAK AWARD



2018



Organic Trade Board (OTB)

Making organic an everyday choice. Forever.

The OTB was set up in 2009 with the aim of increasing organic sales. We do this by communicating the benefits of organic directly with consumers via our organic promotion campaign, Organic. Feed Your Happy.

We also work with our members, the press, government and other bodies to increase organic sales. Just under 10 years since our establishment, in 2018 we published our Strategic Plan. It builds on our successful marketing campaigns and work with members, with a clear vision



Organic Research Centre (ORC)

For better farming, food and health

Established in 1980, the Organic Research Centre (ORC) is one of the world's leading research organisations dedicated to research on organic farming, food and other agroecological approaches such as agroforestry.



We work to develop and promote practical and sustainable land management and food production systems. We foster knowledge exchange between current and future producers, food businesses and other professionals, and we work to influence policy and public debates on the future of food and farming.

The Oak Award

for outstanding contributions to the UK organic sector

The Oak Award is given annually by the Organic Trade Board to an individual who has made an outstanding contribution to the UK organic sector. The Award is a way for all of us to recognise their work and shine a light on excellence and innovation.



The five individuals shortlisted for the Oak Award 2018 have been selected for their pioneering work. Their endeavours have created a lasting positive impact on the organic landscape.

Peter Melchett 1948-2018

In Memoriam



Peter was one of the most authentic and committed proponents of the organic industry. He was always an approachable, likeable and convincing champion of the values that he held for the environment and the organic sector. Peter was engaged, genuinely interested and extremely well informed on matters relating to food

production and environmental conservation in a commercial world. His practical experience as a farmer, politician and environmental campaigner and his broad outlook and inquisitive character made him a formidable advocate for the organic sector.

We are proud to make this special award for his lifelong contribution.



The 2018 Oak Award Winner

Susie Hewson

Natracare



Susie Hewson has been a pioneering force in organic since 1989 when she created an organic feminine hygiene company after seeing a documentary about the growing danger to human health and the environment of Dioxin pollution from pulping industries. As a lifelong environmentalist, her aim was to develop an alternative that respected women's bodies and our planet.

Natracare is the world's first alternative to conventionally produced menstrual products – including the world's first certified organic cotton tampons and plastic-free sanitary pads and panty liners. Susie campaigned since 2000 to have organic personal care standards for feminine hygiene, eventually succeeding with GOTS v5. All of their menstrual, incontinence and baby care products use only organic and natural materials and they have a commitment to the highest ethical standards, including organic principles and compostability.

2018 Oak Award Shortlisted Nominees

Julie Brown

Growing Communities



Over the past 20 years Julie has been working tirelessly to support small-scale organic farmers through strategic work as well as practically through the Growing Communities fruit and veg box scheme and farmers' market – the only all-organic weekly farmers' market in the UK. She contributes towards the research and campaigning work of Sustain: the alliance for better food and farming, and the Landworkers' Alliance. As the head of a social enterprise, Julie leads on investing profits to further the larger sustainable food movement, such as the Ecological Land Co-operative to help them expand the land available to small-scale organic farmers.

Alex Smith

Alara Wholefoods

Alex Smith is the founder of Alara Wholefoods and a pioneer in the health and organic sector. In 1975 Alex set started his business with £2 and a commitment to sustainable food. On this journey he achieved many "firsts" for Alara, including the first cereal manufacturer to be certified organic in the world, the first company to be certified gluten free, the first to be certified fair trade and the UK's first zero waste food manufacturer. Now, many believe Alara to be the most sustainable food manufacturer in the world and Alex is on a new mission to inspire people to choose delicious and sustainable food; protecting the health of individuals as well as the planet.



Anthony Snell

Windmill Hill Farm



Anthony Snell and his wife Christine farm just under 500 acres at their Windmill Hill Farm, near Ross-on-Wye. Growing over 100 acres of Soil Association certified organic blackcurrants, the business is the UK's largest supplier to this specialised sector. With hedgerow and tree planting, over 120 bird next boxes, water recycling, solar PV and integrated pest management, Anthony is keen to manage the environment sustainably and regularly hosts visitors for LEAF Open

Farm Sunday as well as local schools. The business was awarded 'UK Soft Fruit Grower of the Year' for 2016 and overall 'Edible Grower of the Year'. Anthony is a member of the Soil Association Farmer and Grower Board and Chairman of the International Blackcurrant Association 2016-2018.

Andrew Wilkinson

Gilchesters

Andrew Wilkinson converted his farm business Gilchesters to organic production in 2002 and established the organic cereal research programme for Newcastle University's Nafferton Ecological Farming Group in 2003. Long term cereal variety and soil fertility trials continue to be conducted at Gilchesters in conjunction with many international research partners.



With construction of their own flour mill, Gilchesters Organics, established in 2003, provides stone-ground organic flour directly to artisan bakeries, chefs and home bakers throughout the UK. From his experiences in farming, milling and organic crop research, Andrew continues to promote sustainable, local production systems for UK producers through better cereal variety choice and short food chain networks.

Yeo Valley

Main Sponsor

We are very grateful to Yeo Valley for hosting the ORC Fundraising Event and the OTB's 2018 Oak Awards in their excellent organic restaurant overlooking the valley.



If you are returning, look for Yeo Valley Canteen

<https://www.yeovalley.co.uk/the-canteen>

Blagdon, Bristol BS40 7YE. Tel: 01761 461425



Silent Auction

Gift Sponsors



Very many thanks to the sponsors of the Silent Auction gifts, including:

Sasha Turnbull

Oil Painting

www.sashaturnbull.com

Riverford Organic

3 meal recipe box

www.riverford.co.uk



Her Grace the Duchess of Richmond and Gordon
Goodwood Farmer Butcher Chef Restaurant lunch voucher

www.goodwood.com



The companies overleaf
who contributed to the
OTB Members Organic
Hamper



Thank you also to all the other sponsors of the ORC Fundraising and OTB Oak Award Event

