

Previous Winners

In 2023 three awards were presented as follows:

Natural Dales Wool Products Sustainable products made with Swaledale wool used for peat restoration and geotextile purposes. Needled wool felt and wool logs made from a felt bag stuffed with scoured Swaledale wool. These products are manufactured from a sustainable fibre, returning carbon to the land whilst paying farmers a fair price.

“Receiving this Award means that I will now be able to develop the business’s infrastructure and pay for the processing of new types of felt. In addition, it means that I can further reach the farming community that provides the backbone to much of this country that has long been forgotten.” Ruth Lindsay



Twool sustainable garden and marine nets are manufactured from award-winning twine and provide a valuable route to market for Dartmoor farmers’ wool which is collected at source and processed in the North of the UK. Using a blend of rare breed Whiteface Dartmoor wool and a natural coloured wool, Twool has developed a robust and durable net that has a natural granite colour.

“Winning an industry award from Innovation in Wool is a tremendous honour and one of which we are extremely proud. The award will help us achieve our maximum potential in the product’s initial output and help us promote and market our nets not only to the industries we currently work with, but far beyond. We have already had an incredible response to our products across other sectors of industry and promoted our garden range of nets at a garden press event in London in February 2024.” Kim Stead www.twool.co.uk

Solidwool A unique, composite material made with wool – a natural, sustainable and beautiful fibre with bio-resin as the binder; think fibreglass but with wool. Made using either Herdwick or Welsh Mountain Wool, these two beautiful materials take British Wool fibres and re-engineer them using bio-resin into sheets that can be crafted into a various products, including chairs and tables. What were once coarse and wiry fibres are subsequently transformed into beautiful interior products that celebrate the unique characteristics of these British fibres.

“We are extremely honoured that Solidwool has been recognised for an Innovation In Wool Award. Since the inception of Solidwool over 10 years ago this unique material has been forging a path in which wool is considered in a new light. By taking undervalued wools and turning them into beautiful new materials and products, we have made it our mission to rejuvenate how consumers and the design community perceive wool.

Solidwool as a material has boundless potential, and this award will help us push our mission forward. Every stage of Solidwool development we reach opens up further questions and possibilities of the material. In the next 12 months, we intend to use the funds and support of this award to focus on the technical parameters and production of Solidwool sheet material in all its forms. This area has the greatest potential to reach the widest possible audience with many applications we are continually discovering for Solidwool. As we grow Solidwool we hope to inspire other designers, artists and companies to consider wool as an untapped resource when looking towards a more sustainable future.” Andy Guard www.solidwool.com

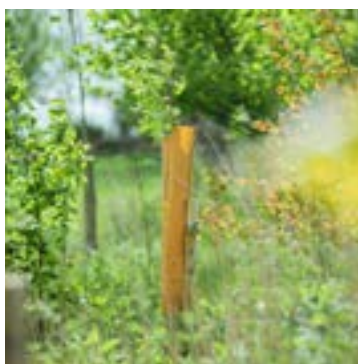


The **2022 Awards** saw two winners which included **Wool Pots** a very simple product which solves a very big problem - the use of plastics in horticulture. They create plant pots which are strong and durable and perfect for planting seeds and plants in. When the plants are ready to be planted out simply dig a hole and put the whole pot in. The Wool Pot will mulch down into bio-rich plant food. Wool is a natural slug and snail deterrent and also a water condenser sending moisture down towards the roots of the plants.

Initially Wool Pots has looked at plant pots of all sizes as this is where there seems to be most demand and also the most harm being done to the environment with half a billion plastic plant pots being sent to landfill in the UK every year because they can't be recycled. Wool Pots are now stocked in Blue Diamond, Hilliers, Longacres, Nottcuts Garden Centres, many independent garden centres and have a good online business. They have over 5,500 followers on their Instagram account and recently won the Best New Product award at the Garden Press Event. www.wool-pots.co.uk

Sustainable Rope is a 100% traceable British wool 3-strand twisted rope. Wool has been used in a rope form for many years, however this has been small scale production mainly for dog leads and not on a commercial basis. Seaweed farming is an emerging industry in the UK and new companies are looking for alternatives to plastics due to pollution concerns and carbon calculators. When not quite a year old, the company teamed up with academia, commercial companies and industry stakeholders to evaluate the product's role in providing, environmentally sustainable, natural fibre alternatives to plastic – a real nature-based solution.

Working with Green Sea Solutions in Scotland and SeaGrown in Scarborough Sustainable Rope have been able to prove the rope can be deployed, offering an alternative rope and still keep its critical strength and structure. Seaweed is being harvested off the rope for human consumption and fertiliser. www.sustainable-rope.com



In 2020 two awards were awarded firstly to **KAIAPOI**, Robert Hodgkins & Joanna Franklin, for their work focusing on improving the quality of Romney Marsh sheep wool using genomic markers. www.kaiapoi.co.uk

NEXGEN TREE SHELTERS were the second winner, developed by Gary Hurlstone, Founder of NexGen Tree Shelters, which is a company manufacturing totally biodegradable tree and shrub shelters and hedging guards from a mix of British wool combined with bio resins and an innovative custom polymer. Over time, protecting for up to 5 years, they break down and the wool adds nutrients back into the soil and supports the ecosystem. Two fully automated production lines were commissioned in the last quarter of 2023.

They had 152,000 square metres of British wool in stock before going into production, with forward ordering of a further 133,000 square meters of wool which took them through to the end of 2023. Their priority was to get the two production lines running at full tilt before looking at developing further projects using the NexGen technology.. www.nexgen-ts.com

In 2019 **Little Beau Sheep** won the award which was in support of British craft. Sarah's business really impressed the judging panel. The wool dryer balls combines the use of wool in every day products whilst allowing consumers

to be more eco-friendly, reduce utility costs, noise and the need for ironing.

"This marks the start of a very exciting journey. The prize will allow me to further the work I have begun using British Wools and to help me develop machinery to automate the production of my laundry products. This will allow me to develop and grow the business to keep up with increased demand for the products." Sarah Turner

A collaboration with Aardman was recently launched using Shaun the Sheep crafted wool dryer balls, adding to Sarah's range of growing products. You can learn more about Sarah, Little Beau Sheep and her range of products at www.littlebeausheep.com

Awarded in 2018 to Caroline Hodgson for a highly innovative approach to woven wool materials in the built environment. Caroline's collection of thermo-formable materials created using predominantly British wool, was praised by the judging panel for a very skilful combination of textile technology and interior design. Presented as wall panels and installations, the materials help to support health and well-being.

Accepting the award Caroline said, *"This prestigious prize will allow me to develop the work I have begun using British Wools in the built environment and to bring my skills in colour and design to an area of great potential growth for wool"*.



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