

NDJ

“

The award is in recognition of every department and all their hard work, as well as our hard-working partners

55

self-recovery ladders delivered by CQC's Fibrelight arm to the Dorset and East Devon Fisheries Local Action Group

DevonLive.com



» Staff at Turnstyle Designs toast the company's success in winning a Queen's Award for Enterprise

Royal approval for company opening doors to new trade

A company which specialises in manufacturing high-end door handles has won the UK's highest accolade for business success.

Turnstyle Designs, based in Roundswell Business Park, Barnstaple, has received a Queen's Award for Enterprise.

It came in the International Trade category in recognition of exceptional export sales.

As a Queen's Award winner, Turnstyle Designs can expect an invitation to a special reception at Buckingham Palace

with the Queen later in the year. It is also allowed to use the Queen's Award emblem in advertising, marketing and on packaging for five years as a symbol of its quality and success.

Managing director and founder Steve Roberts said: "I am extremely proud that Turnstyle Designs has been selected for such a prestigious award."

"The award is in recognition of the whole company in every department and all their hard work, as well as our hard-work-

ing partners and reps around the world who represent our line and look after our clients so well.

"I know how much this will mean to the staff and their families."

Despite concern over the impact of Brexit, Mr Roberts is bullish about further growth in the UK and export markets.

The business, which also has a showroom in London's Design Centre in Chelsea Harbour and a subsidiary in the United States, is expanding

both factory premises and offices this year.

The company has taken on a new export sales manager in the past year who has opened up new dealers in Germany, Russia, Ireland, Taiwan and Australia, with more expansion planned for the coming year.

Since being founded in 1992, Turnstyle Designs has grown into one of the foremost producers of design-led architectural hardware. It combines engineering with craftsmanship, including leatherwork, patinat-

ing and planishing. The company employs 35 staff at its factory and offices in Barnstaple and exports to more 40 countries.

The Queen's Awards are made annually by the Queen and are only given for the highest levels of excellence.

Turnstyle's rapid 17 per cent growth over three years, with overall sales growth of 41 per cent, and a clear strategy for further growth and development was recognised by the voting panel.

Stores may have to go in merger

» At least 11 supermarkets will have to be sold across the South West for Sainsbury's proposed merger with Asda to be given the go-ahead, according to a retail expert.

Stores across the region are the third most likely to be under threat, behind 17 in the South East and 13 in the North West, according to research by Maximise UK.

David Haywood, founder of Maximise UK, told the BBC: "The real focus will be on how Sainsbury's and Asda's main supermarkets operate at a local level and how they overlap."

"The CMA (Competition and Markets Authority) will be concerned about whether the deal reduces the number of competing brands within a 10 or 15-minute drive time."

It will be a concern in Torquay, Paignton and Newton Abbot where there are stores within a short drive of each other. Kevin Foster, MP for Torbay, asked for reassurances in the House of Commons last month. He said: "Four of the five major retail supermarket sites in Torbay are occupied by either Asda or Sainsbury's, and the two stores are right next to each other in Paignton."

The £15 billion deal is set to face intense scrutiny by the CMA. The new group would become the largest in the UK by market share.

Apartment is a top choice

» A holiday property in Ilfracombe has been named among TripAdvisor's 30 top-rated rental homes in the world.

The travel planning and booking site has announced the winners of the second annual Travellers' Choice awards for rentals, based on traveller ratings and reviews, as well as customer service throughout the booking process.

Crest Apartments in Ilfracombe won a place in the affordable category.

The top-floor apartment, two minutes from the harbour, has breathtaking sea views and is finished to a high standard.

Delivery could be a lifesaver for fishermen

Fibrelight, part of Barnstaple-based textiles manufacturer CQC, has delivered 55 lifesaving ladders to boat users.

The self-recovery ladders will be used by members of the Dorset and East Devon Fisheries Local Action Group (Flag).

A person who has fallen overboard pulls a cord which releases the ladder into the water, allowing them to climb back into the boat.

These ladders have been funded by local government for

use by the fishermen of the Dorset and East Devon Flag – an initiative by the Marine Management Organisation and part of the European Maritime Fisheries Fund.

Matt Adams, from Fibrelight, said: "I hope these ladders never need to be used but, in the event of a man overboard, these could save a life."

"The safety of people involved in commercial maritime has long been overlooked and now is the time for an industry change. Being given the chance to design and produce these

ladders for a local Flag has been an honour. If we can save just one life, it will have all been worth it."

Steve Postles, from the Dorset and East Devon Flag, said: "We are really pleased to receive the ladders. Each one of our vessels, from the smallest fishing boat to the harbourmaster's boat, will now have one of these ladders."

CQC's Fibrelight products are primarily produced for global maritime industries, the emergency services and special forces.



» Boat users in Lyme Regis receive new self-recovery ladders