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**ASTRID ARNOLD CROWNED SCREWFIX TOP TRADESPERSON 2023**

* **Astrid Arnold, a carpenter from Newton Abbot in Devon, is top of the trades!**
* **Astrid impressed the judges at the final, which took place at Screwfix LIVE in Farnborough, UK, with her technical skill and carpentry craft combined with her valuable work helping disadvantaged women improve their DIY skills and better their lives.**
* **Astrid will receive an ultimate £20,000 prize bundle including tools, technology, and training to help further her business.**

In one of the most hotly contested finals yet, Astrid Arnold, a Devon-based carpenter, was announced as the winner of Screwfix Top Tradesperson 2023, proving herself as an exceptionally skilled tradesperson with a passion for helping others.

Astrid, 48, was presented with the award - one of the industry’s most coveted titles - during Screwfix Live, held at Farnborough International Exhibition and Conference Centre, on Friday 22 September.

The carpenter walks away with the prestigious title and ultimate trade bundle worth £20,000, consisting of £10,000 worth of tools, £5,000 worth of technology and £5,000 towards future training. Astrid wants to use this to further existing training programmes that her company, TouchWood South West, currently runs for disadvantaged women in her local community.

Taking part in the final against nine other high-calibre tradespeople from across the UK, Astrid faced a panel of esteemed industry experts, including representatives from Screwfix, the Chartered Institute of Plumbing and Heating Engineering, the National Inspection Council for Electrical Installation Contracting, Screwfix Top Tradesperson 2022 winner, Toby Peacock, and renowned television presenter, journalist and tradesperson Roger Bisby – known for his popular YouTube channel Skill Builder.

Despite being up against the very best of the trade industry, Astrid was a stand-out winner, with her incredibly technical and stunning carpentry work, her focus on sustainability within her business, as well as her passion for supporting women with trade skills.

The judges noted Astrid’s technical carpentry skills, but also her unbeatable customer service – two key attributes for any top tradesperson. Astrid has completed a range of personal and professional development courses to support the growth of her business and improve customer service, as well as a course in the use of CAD to improve the work she can offer for her customers.

Outside of Astrid’s practical skills, the judges were particularly impressed by the broader contribution she has made to the trade industry. Astrid’s company, TouchWood, is a team of tradeswomen that teach a wide range of courses for up-and-coming tradespeople, as well as for DIY-ers, alongside its offering of traditional carpentry services. The firm has also been involved in several charitable initiatives, that particularly support women in the industry, including supporting women who are survivors of domestic violence, starting an initiative called ‘Women Build!’ alongside the probation service. ‘Women Build!’ helps women who are unemployed or on probation with their mental health through carpentry and woodworking, to support them in not only learning a new skill, but helping them develop a path forward for the future.

Astrid said: “I am still in complete shock. After meeting the other finalists and getting to know their stories, I knew the competition would be fierce. Since winning, they have all been so supportive and I just couldn’t be prouder of this recognition for me and my hard-working team.

“The construction industry is currently facing huge challenges from the skills gap to massive sustainability targets set by the government. With only 4% of women in manual trades, it’s clear to me that women have the potential to tackle these challenges with the right support. Winning this award provides visibility for every female tradesperson in the UK and Ireland, highlighting the contribution we are currently making and the potential we have to make in the future.

“I will be using the prize bundle to grow the current training courses we have. I also would like to invest in our work in secondary schools, as I’m passionate about integrating practical skills into the national curriculum and giving young people a chance to explore the incredible opportunities a career in the trade can provide. I’m so excited to upgrade the tools and training we currently offer; my students are going to be over the moon!”

Jack Wallace, Marketing Director at Screwfix, said: “It has been an absolute pleasure to meet the inspirational tradespeople, who are demonstrating excellence in the work they produce for customers and the support they are giving to the next generation of the trade. This year, we saw that our tradespeople are also giving back to their local communities in extraordinary ways – from free boiler installations to those in need, nurturing apprentices in their early careers, to the work Astrid is doing to help people develop these important skills to improve their lives.

“All ten of our Screwfix Top Tradesperson finalists were exceptional this year, but Astrid really blew the judges away with her passion for the industry, her strong work ethic and drive towards making the industry more sustainable, more diverse, and more visible. Astrid’s attention to detail in her carpentry, ability to use her skills and knowledge to do good, and aspirations for increasing awareness of trade skills with young people is reflective of our values as a business. I’m delighted to crown her as our 2023 winner, and I know she will be an incredible ambassador for us and the wider construction industry.”

To find out more about this competition, please visit [screwfix.com/stt](https://www.screwfix.com/landingpage/btt/).

**-ENDS-**

**To arrange an interview and/or photography please contact Tara Wilson and Charlotte Webb at** [**screwfix@mccann.com**](mailto:screwfix@mccann.com)**.**

**About Screwfix:**

As a multi-channel trade retailer, customers and colleagues sit at the heart of everything we do. With over 800 stores across the UK and Ireland our aim is to help busy tradespeople get their jobs done quickly, affordably, and right first time.

Screwfix is part of Kingfisher plc, the international home improvement company with around 1,490 stores, supported by a team of over 80,000 colleagues. Kingfisher operates in eight countries across Europe under retail banners including B&Q, Castorama, Brico Dépôt, Screwfix, TradePoint and Koçtaş. We offer home improvement products and services to consumers and trade professionals who shop in our stores and via our e-commerce channels.

Screwfix is convenient, straightforward, and affordably priced, helping its trade customers shop 34,000 products over the phone, online, via their mobile or in-person from their local store.

* From power tools and work wear to cables and pipe fittings, Screwfix offers over 10,000 products available to pick up from over 775 UK stores nationwide.
* Over 34,000 products can be ordered over the phone, online or from a local store, with orders taken up until 8pm (weekdays) for next day delivery to home or site.\*
* Screwfix is committed to minimising its environmental impact to help create a better future for its customers, colleagues, communities, and the planet. Our ambition is to offer sustainable choices and source products that are made to last. At Screwfix, we believe if a job’s worth doing, it’s worth doing well.
* Screwfix.com attracts over 7 million visits per week.
* We have over 11 million active customers a year.
* The Screwfix Click & Collect service enables customers to pick-up their goods in as little as one minute after ordering online or over the phone
* Screwfix Sprint – introduced in 2021 – allows customers to place an order on the Screwfix app and get it delivered straight to their location – either at home or on site – in less than an hour. Screwfix Sprint is currently available to around a third of the UK population, with the aim to reach even more tradespeople in future.
* UK-based Screwfix Contact Centre open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week (including bank holidays) on 03330 112 112.
* See [www.screwfix.com/stores](http://www.screwfix.com/stores) for store opening information.
* Next day delivery is available within store opening hours.\*
* World leading customer satisfaction levels.
* Screwfix won the Pennies Outstanding Achievement award in 2020
* The Wincanton for Screwfix team won the Operational Excellence Award at the Motor Transport Awards 2020.
* For more information, please visit the Screwfix Media Centre: [www.screwfixmedia.com](http://www.screwfixmedia.com)

\*Please see Screwfix.com for our latest service updates.

**PRESS INFORMATION:**

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