



## **Investment Week reveals winners of Investment Company Awards 2021**

*Congratulations to the winners*

19 November 2021

By Katrina Lloyd

Investment Week was pleased to honour the winners of the 23rd Investment Company of the Year Awards, in association with the AIC, at a special ceremony in London on 18 November.

The awards, which reward excellence in closed-ended fund management, highlight managers who have delivered consistently strong performance for investors and the judges believe can continue to perform well.

Our shortlist for the awards was constructed using scores provided by the AIC, using Morningstar data, looking at NAV returns over the three years to 30 June 2021.

Shortlisted companies were then contacted by Investment Week and asked to submit a questionnaire, which was used in the qualitative judging stage.

Winners were chosen by our judging panel, including some of the UK's leading researchers and investors in investment companies, and a number of qualitative factors were considered.

The judges also decided the winner of this year's Best New Issue category, with the award going to Home REIT. The judges said this worthy winner is doing good as well as doing well, as it is contributing to the alleviation of homelessness in the UK.

This year's Group of the Year Award went to Baillie Gifford, which also enjoyed a number of wins at category level.

Meanwhile, our Rising Star of the Year was Elmley de la Cour from the AIC, who the judges praised for his proactive approach and passion for promoting the benefits of investment companies.

Finally, the judges wanted to honour two individuals with the Jackie Beard Award for Outstanding Contribution to the Industry.

Firstly, the judges wanted to recognise Baillie Gifford's James Anderson for the success of his fund management career and the major impact he has had on the development of the investment trust sector and raising its profile with investors. They said the Scottish Mortgage trust has been the outstanding success of the past two decades.

The judges also wanted to honour Ian Sayers, former chief executive of the AIC, for his outstanding contribution over two decades. Notable achievements during his tenure included changing company law to allow investment companies to buy back their shares, while industry assets almost tripled from £85bn in 2010 to £237bn.

In particular, the judges highlighted his work in the past 12 months, saying the AIC has had to be particularly active to safeguard the interests of the investment company sector.

### **The winners**

#### **UK All Companies**

Winner: The Mercantile Investment Trust

Highly commended: Henderson Opportunities Trust

#### **UK Income**

Winner: Law Debenture Corporation

Highly commended: The Diverse Income Trust

#### **UK Smaller Companies**

Winner: JPMorgan Smaller Companies Investment Trust

#### **Asia Pacific**

Winner: Pacific Horizon Investment Trust

**Europe**

Winner: BlackRock Greater Europe Investment Trust

**Global**

Winner: Scottish Mortgage Investment Trust

**Overseas Income**

Winner: The Scottish American Investment Company

**Overseas Smaller Companies**

Winner: Herald Investment Trust

**Emerging Markets**

Winner: JPMorgan Emerging Markets Investment Trust

**Single Country**

Winner: Baillie Gifford US Growth Trust

**Flexible**

Winner: RIT Capital Partners

**Private Equity & Growth Capital**

Winner: HgCapital Trust

**Debt**

Winner: VPC Specialty Lending Investments

**Property**

Winner: Supermarket Income REIT

**Biotech and Healthcare**

Winner: The Biotech Growth Trust

**Commodities and Natural Resources**

Winner: Baker Steel Resources Trust

**Specialist**

Winner: Allianz Technology Trust

Highly commended: Polar Capital Global Financials Trust

**Infrastructure**

Winner: Ecofin Global Utilities and Infrastructure Trust

Highly commended: BBGI Global Infrastructure S.A.

**Renewable energy infrastructure**

Winner: The Renewables Infrastructure Group Limited

**Environmental**

Winner: Impax Environmental Markets

**VCT Generalist**

Winner: Mobeus Income & Growth VCT

**VCT Specialist**

Winner: Seneca Growth Capital VCT

**VCT AIM Quoted**

Winner: Amati AIM VCT

Highly commended: Unicorn AIM VCT

**Best New Issue**

Winner: Home REIT

**Group of the Year**

Baillie Gifford

**Rising Star of the Year**

Elmley de la Cour, AIC

**Jackie Beard Award for Outstanding Contribution to the Industry**

James Anderson, Baillie Gifford

Ian Sayers