

**Media release for the Garden Centre Association**

# **GCA North Thames award winners announced**

THE GARDEN Centre Association (GCA) yesterday (Thursday, July 27) unveiled its winners for the North Thames region during a presentation at Ayletts Nurseries in Hertfordshire.

Perrywood Garden Centre picked up the award for Garden Centre of the Year in the Destination Garden Centre (DGC) category while Sunshine Garden Centre picked up the accolade in the Garden Centre (GC) category.

Iain Wylie, Chief Executive of the GCA, said: “Our North Thames regional awards made for a very enjoyable evening for all in attendance and it was great to see the garden centre teams be rewarded for all of the hard work they have put in this year.

“Ayletts Nurseries was the perfect host for the evening and Inspector Gordon Emslie’s findings, which he presented on the night, were extremely interesting.”

The ifse Award for Catering Excellence for Best Garden Centre Restaurant went to Poplars Garden Centre (DGC) and Thurrock Garden Centre (GC).

The Dick Allen Award for Most Improved Centre was awarded to Marlows Home & Garden Centre.

Iain added: “We will now have a break before the final regional awards evening for Scotland and Northern Ireland, which takes place on September 7 at Klondyke Mayfield.”

The full results for the North Thames region GCA area awards are as follows for the GC and DGC categories:

**Garden Centre of the Year:** Sunshine Garden Centre (GC) and Perrywood Garden Centre (DGC)

**Customer Service Award for Best Customer Service:** Sunshine Garden Centre

**Environment and Community Award for Best Environmental Practice:** Squires Garden Centre – Twickenham joint winner with Squires Garden Centre – Windsor

**The Barton Grange Trophy for Innovation and Creativity:** Perrywood Garden Centre

**The Dick Allen Award for Most Improved Centre:** Marlows Home & Garden Centre

**The ifse Award for Catering Excellence for Best Garden Centre Restaurant:** Thurrock Garden Centre (GC) and Poplars Garden Centre (DGC)

**The GIMA Award for Best Garden Products Retailer:** Sunshine Garden Centre (GC) and Ayletts Nurseries (DGC)

**Best Indoor Lifestyle Retailer:** Squires Garden Centre – Shepperton (GC) and Perrywood Garden Centre (DGC)

**Best Outdoor Living Retailer:** Squires Garden Centre – Shepperton (GC) and Altons Garden Centre (DGC)

The GCA represents nearly 200 garden centres nationwide. Through sharing information and its inspection programme the GCA helps members to achieve high standards in customer service, plant quality and reliability.

For further information, please call 01244 952170. Alternatively, please visit [www.gca.org.uk](http://www.gca.org.uk), log on to [www.facebook.com/pages/GardenCentreAssociation](https://www.facebook.com/pages/GardenCentreAssociation) or follow the organisation on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/GC\\_Association](https://www.twitter.com/GC_Association).

**ENDS**

**For further media details, please call Porcupine PR on 01278 446801 or email [Cherry@porcupinepr.co.uk](mailto:Cherry@porcupinepr.co.uk). Alternatively, please contact Iain Wylie, GCA Chief Executive on 07843 633408 or email [Iain@gca.org.uk](mailto:Iain@gca.org.uk).**

**Photograph caption:** Perrywood Garden Centre, which picked up the award for Garden Centre of the Year at the GCA North Thames regional awards.

