



## **The GCA announces the winners of Best in Area for three regions**

THE GARDEN Centre Association (GCA) has this week (July 12, 2012) revealed the Best in Area garden centre winners at three awards presentation evenings for North Thames, South Thames and Wales and the West.

Results for the Wales and the West were announced on July 9, North Thames on July 10 and South Thames on July 11 at award events in the areas.

Peter Burks, Chairman of the GCA, said: "We are delighted to have announced our winners for the three areas this week and would like to congratulate all our members who picked up awards. It is a reflection of all their hard work and dedication to excellence, and they should all be very proud of the achievements.

"Winners of the Best Garden Centre were as follows for the Destination Garden Centre (DGC) and Garden Centre (GC) categories: Endsleigh Garden & Leisure (DGC) in Devon and The Old Railway Line Garden Centre (GC) in Powys for Wales and the West, Poplars Garden Centre (DGC) in Bedfordshire and Sunshine Garden Centre (GC) in London for North Thames.

"Haskins Roundstone Garden Centre (DGC) in West Sussex and Squires Shepperton Garden Centre (GC) in Middlesex picked up the prizes for South Thames."

The awards are decided by the results of the annual inspections, which take place at all GCA garden centres. Garden centres have no advance warning about when their inspection will take place and they do not have the option to turn away the inspector.

The Best Garden Centre awards went to the members that scored the highest overall mark in the area in their annual inspections.

The winners of Best Garden Centre will be put forward for national awards including Destination Garden Centre and Garden Centre of the Year, which will be announced at the GCA annual conference taking place from January 27 until 29, 2013.

Peter added: "The winners of the Best Plant Department were Trelawney at Wadebridge (DGC) in Cornwall and The Old Railway Line Garden Centre (GC) for Wales and the West, Burston Garden Centre (DGC) in Hertfordshire and Sunshine Garden Centre (GC) for North Thames and Haskins Roundstone Garden Centre (DGC) and Squires Hersham Garden Centre (GC) in Surrey for North Thames.

"There were many other awards given out during the events, including Best Restaurant, Most Improved Garden Centre and Best Service and Facilities.

**MF**



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“We are looking forward to our remaining area awards presentation evenings for the Midlands on July 17, the North East and North West on July 19 and Scotland and Northern Ireland on August 22 and to revealing the winners in those areas.”

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 details about the GCA, please call 01993 871456, visit [www.gca.org.uk](http://www.gca.org.uk), log on to [www.facebook.com/pages/Garden-Centre-Association](https://www.facebook.com/pages/Garden-Centre-Association) 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 [Ellie@porcupinepr.co.uk](mailto:Ellie@porcupinepr.co.uk). Alternatively, please contact Phil Slinger, GCA Chief Executive, on 01993 871456 or email [phil.slinger@gca.org.uk](mailto:phil.slinger@gca.org.uk).**

**Photograph caption one:** Katie Cleary, Shop Manager at The Old Railway Line Garden Centre (left) and her brother, Liam Cleary (right), Garden Centre Assistant, receive their awards, including Best Garden Centre, from Mike Burks (centre), Chair of the Garden Centre Association Wales and the West area.

**Photograph caption two:** Staff from Endsleigh Garden & Leisure collect their awards from Mike Burks (back, second from right), Chair of the Garden Centre Association Wales and the West area.

## Notes to editors:

For the full results from the three GCA area awards presentations evenings that took place on July 9, 10 and 11, please see attached.

The GCA area awards presentation evenings that took place this week were:

- Wales and West – Monday, July 9 at Trelawney Garden Centre at Wadebridge, Cornwall
- North Thames – Tuesday, July 10 at Scotsdales Garden Centre in Cambridge
- South Thames – Wednesday, July 11 at Betchworth Village Hall in Surrey.

The GCA area awards presentation evenings still to take place are as follows:

- Midlands – Tuesday, July 17 at Webbs of Wychbold in Worcester
- North East and North West – Thursday, July 19 at Barton Grange Garden Centre, Brock, in Preston



- Scotland and Northern Ireland – Wednesday, August 22 at Howdens Garden Centre in Inverness.