

Media release for the Garden Centre Association

Nation's top garden centres collect awards at annual GCA conference

THE WINNERS of the Garden Centre Association's (GCA) annual awards were announced at its conference this week (January 25-28, 2015).

The awards were presented to the winners during two separate ceremonies at the De Vere Carden Park in Chester on Monday, January 26 and Tuesday, January 27.

Iain Wylie, Chief Executive of the GCA, said: "I'd like to wish everyone who won an award at the conference this year a hearty well done. Our members have worked exceptionally hard during the past year to reach very high standards and I'd like to congratulate all our winners on their successes."

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.

Will Armitage, Chairman of the GCA, said: "We're a very passionate and hardworking industry and these awards recognise the very best of the best in the country. Well done and congratulations to everyone."

The full list of winners announced on Monday, January 26 were:

- Christmas Competition (Garden Centre category) – Castle Gardens
- Christmas Competition (Destination Garden Centre category) – Bents Garden & Home
- Environment and Community Award – won jointly by Poplars Nursery Garden Centre and Simpsons Garden Centre
- Ruxley Rose (Garden Centre category) – Cowell's Garden Centre
- Ruxley Rose (Destination Garden Centre category) – Bents Garden & Home
- Barton Grange Trophy for Creativity and Innovation – Planters, Tamworth
- Customer Service Award – Best Customer Service – Sunshine Garden Centre
- The Indoor Lifestyle Award – Best Indoor Lifestyle Retailer (Garden Centre category) – Fairways Garden Centre, Ashbourne
- The Indoor Lifestyle Award – Best Indoor Lifestyle Retailer (Destination Garden Centre category) – won jointly by Poplars Garden Centre and The Burford Garden Company
- The GIMA Award for Best Garden Products Retailer (Garden Centre category) – Cowell's Garden Centre
- The GIMA Award for Best Garden Products Retailer (Destination Garden Centre category) – Barton Grange Garden Centre

- Dick Allen Award (Most Improved Garden Centre) – Royal Horticultural Society Hyde Hall
- The IFSE Award for Catering Excellence – Best Garden Centre Restaurant (Garden Centre Category) Fron Goch Garden Centre
- The IFSE Award for Catering Excellence – Best Garden Centre Restaurant (Destination Garden Centre Category) – won jointly by Bents Garden & Home and Frosts, Woburn Sands
- Weber Outdoor Living Award – Best Outdoor Living Retailer (Garden Centre Category) – Sunshine Garden Centre
- Weber Outdoor Living Award – Best Outdoor Living Retailer (Destination Garden Centre Category) Van Hage Great Amwell

The full list of winners announced on Tuesday, January 27 were:

Garden Centres of Excellence:

- Aylett Nurseries Ltd
- Barton Grange Garden Centre
- Bents Garden & Home
- Burston Garden Centre
- Cowell's Garden Centre
- Garden Wise Plant & Garden Centre
- Perrywood Garden Centre
- Poplars Nursery Garden Centre
- Simpsons Garden Centre
- Squires Garden Centre, Twickenham.

The Worrall Cup:

- Armitage's Home & Garden

Associate of the Year:

- Cedar Associates

Garden Centre of the Year:

- Cowells Garden Centre

Destination Garden Centre of the Year:

- Barton Grange Garden Centre.

For further details about the GCA conference, please call 0118 930 8918. Alternatively, please visit www.gca.org.uk, log on to www.facebook.com/pages/Garden-Centre-Association or follow the organisation on Twitter at www.twitter.com/GC_Association.

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