

Media release for the Garden Centre Association

# N. East & N. West regional winners unveiled by GCA

THE GARDEN Centre Association (GCA) revealed its winners for the North East and North West regions at a presentation yesterday evening (Tuesday, July 15, 2014) at the Royal Horticultural Society's (RHS) garden Harlow Carr near Harrogate.

Cowell's was named Best Garden Centre and Armitage's Pennine Garden Centre Best Destination Garden Centre in the North East. Burleydam scooped Best Garden Centre and Barton Grange Best Destination Garden Centre in the North West.

Iain Wylie, Chief Executive of the GCA, said: "We are delighted to have announced our winners for these two regions last night 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 their achievements. Thank you also to the Harlow Carr team for your hospitality and to Langlands Garden Centre for providing a barbecue after the awards presentation, it was greatly appreciated.

"The awards included Best Customer Service, which in the North East went to Armitage's Pennine Garden Centre and in the North West to Barton Grange Garden Centre, and Best Garden Products Retailer, which in the North East went to Cowell's Garden Centre in the Garden Centre (GC) category and Langlands Garden Centre – Shiptonthorpe in the Destination Garden Centre (DGC) category.

"In the North West region these titles were awarded to the Klondyke Group – Lady Green Garden Centre and Barton Grange respectively. The Best Environment and Community award went to Barton Grange Garden Centre in the North West and Harlow Carr Plant Centre and Gift Shop in the North East, and the team at the RHS site also took the award for the Most Improved centre.

"There were lots of other awards presented on the night by our inspector, Liz Hutson, who attended the ceremony, and it was an inspiring and motivational event for everyone involved."

The full results for the North East and North West regions GCA area awards are as follows for the GC and DGC categories:

## North East

**Best Garden Centre:** Cowell's Garden Centre (GC) and Armitage's Pennine Garden Centre (DGC)

**Best Customer Service:** Armitage's Pennine Garden Centre

**Best Environment and Community:** Harlow Carr Plant Centre and Gift Shop

**Best Creativity and Innovation:** Cowell's Garden Centre

**Most Improved:** Harlow Carr Plant Centre and Gift Shop

**Best Plant Area:** Cowell's Garden Centre (GC) and Armitage's Pennine Garden Centre (DGC)

**Best Restaurant:** Armitage's Birchencliffe Garden Centre (GC) and Armitage's Pennine Garden Centre (DGC)

**Garden Products Retailer:** Cowell's Garden Centre (GC) and Langlands Garden Centre – Shiptonthorpe (DGC)

**Best Indoor Lifestyle:** Harlow Carr Plant Centre and Gift Shop (GC) and Armitage's Pennine Garden Centre (DGC)

**Best Outdoor Living:** The Klondyke Group – Beverley Garden Centre (GC) and Armitage's Pennine Garden Centre (DGC)

## **North West**

**Best Garden Centre:** Burleydam Garden Centre (GC) and Barton Grange Garden Centre (DGC)

**Best Customer Service:** Barton Grange Garden Centre

**Best Environment and Community:** Barton Grange Garden Centre

**Best Creativity and Innovation:** Barton Grange Garden Centre

**Most Improved:** Bridgemere Garden World

**Best Plant Area:** All-in-One Garden Centre (GC) and Bents Garden & Home (DGC)

**Best Restaurant:** Fron Goch Garden Centre and Bents Garden & Home (DGC)

**Garden Products Retailer:** Klondyke Group – Lady Green Garden Centre (GC) and Barton Grange Garden Centre (DGC)

**Best Indoor Lifestyle:** Fairways Garden Centre – Macclesfield (GC) and Barton Grange Garden Centre (DGC)

**Best Outdoor Living:** Moreton Park Garden Centre (GC) and Klondyke Group – Houghton Hall Garden Centre (DGC)

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

The top scoring centres overall, nationally, in both the Destination Garden Centre and Garden Centre categories will be re-inspected before the titles of Garden Centre of the Year and Destination Garden Centre of the Year are announced at the GCA annual conference taking place in January 2015.

Iain added: “There are more award events in other regions taking place this and next week and we’re really looking forward to these too and will be releasing winners’ details after the events.

“The next awards’ night is for the Wales & West region on Thursday, July 17 at Hilliers Garden Centre in Bath.”

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 0118 930 8918 or visit [www.gca.org.uk](http://www.gca.org.uk).

**ENDS**

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**Photograph caption one:** Iain Wylie, Chief Executive of the GCA.

**Photograph caption two:** A shopper browsing at a GCA member garden centre.

