

**Media release for the Garden Centre Association**

# **GCA conference heralded as biggest and best yet**

THE GARDEN Centre Association's (GCA) annual conference at the end of last month (January, 2015) saw a 15% increase in attendees this year and among them a greater number of garden centres.

The event, which took place at the De Vere Carden Park in Chester, was heralded as one of the biggest and best conferences so far in the GCA's 49 year history.

Iain Wylie, GCA Chief Executive, said: "It was a thoroughly brilliant event on all levels with lots of excellent speakers giving salient business advice for the coming year, plenty to celebrate as an industry with the various awards given out and a wonderful opportunity to network with other garden centres and suppliers.

"This year we had more and more bookings from members attending and the main hotel was oversubscribed. Fortunately, we were able to source additional rooms at two nearby hotels to fulfil demand. However, it does show the benefit of booking early! We had more than 90 garden centres represented this year too.

"During the event we welcomed some new members to the association. Pacific Nurseries, Thetford Garden Centre and Thirsk Garden Centres have all joined as full members. Millbrook Staplehurst and Creative Gardens Galgorm Castle became new subsidiary members.

"We also welcomed some new Associate Members, joining us Ellis Whittam, Ovation, Kärcher, Paroh, Pacific Lifestyle, G J Handy and Hug Rugs."

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. 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 [Rachel@porcupinepr.co.uk](mailto:Rachel@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 one:** Iain Wylie, GCA Chief Executive.

**Photograph caption two:** The delegates at the 2015 GCA conference.