

Local Gardener

Top garden centres get awards at GCA conference

THE FIRST batch of winners of the Garden Centre Association's (GCA) annual awards were announced yesterday at the organisation's 50th anniversary conference (January 25, 2016).

The awards were presented to the member garden centres during a ceremony at The Grand Hotel in Brighton on Monday, January 25.

Iain Wylie, Chief Executive of the GCA, said: "Each year the standards just get higher and higher and our inspectors are constantly impressed with the progress they see across the board.

"During the past year our members have worked incredibly hard to reach and maintain the very highest of standards in garden centre retail excellence and I'd like to take this opportunity to congratulate everyone 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.

The full list of winners announced on Monday, January 25 were:



Christmas Competition (Garden Centre category) sponsored by Gisela Graham – Castle Gardens



Christmas Competition (Destination Garden Centre category) sponsored by Gisela Graham – Barton Grange Garden Centre



Environment and Community Award – Planters, Tamworth



Ruxley Rose (Garden Centre category) – Cowell's Garden Centre



Ruxley Rose (Destination Garden Centre category) – Squires Garden Centre, Twickenham

Barton Grange Trophy for Creativity and Innovation – Webbs of Wychbold

Customer Service Award – Best Customer Service – Burston Garden Centre

The Indoor Lifestyle Award – Best Indoor Lifestyle Retailer (Garden Centre category) – Squires Garden Centre, Shepperton

The Indoor Lifestyle Award – Best Indoor Lifestyle Retailer (Destination Garden Centre category) – Raemoir Garden Centre



The GIMA Award for Best Garden Products Retailer (Garden Centre category) – Garden Wise Plant & Garden Centre



The GIMA Award for Best Garden Products Retailer (Destination Garden Centre category) – Barton Grange Garden Centre

Overall GIMA Award for Best Garden Products Retailer – Barton Grange Garden Centre

Dick Allen Award (Most Improved Garden Centre) – Hilltop Garden Centre



The IFSE Award for Catering Excellence – Best Garden Centre Restaurant (Garden Centre Category) – Creative Gardens Donaghadee in Northern Ireland

The IFSE Award for Catering Excellence – Best Garden Centre Restaurant (Destination Garden Centre Category) – 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

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.