

Media release for the Garden Centre Association

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.

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For further media details, please call Porcupine PR on 01278 446801 or email Cherry@porcupinepr.co.uk. Alternatively, please contact Iain Wylie, GCA Chief Executive on 07843 633408 or email Iain@gca.org.uk.

Photographs from the event are available via dropbox <https://goo.gl/RUr2mR> or from Porcupine PR.

Please note not all the winners attended the presentation ceremony so we do not have photographs of them all. Apologies.

