



Garden Centre Association

GCA Conference 2027 Programme

Monday 25th January

- 08:45** GCAAGM (Open to Garden Centre members only)
- 09:00** Welcome and introduction from our Chairman, Ben Harrison
- 09:15** Annual Inspection round up, showcasing the best practice and commerciality seen during the inspections of Spring 2026
- 10:30** **COFFEE BREAK**
- 11:00** Presentation of GCA Awards with Gordon Emslie
- 12:00** Catering Best Practice - Showcasing the top nine garden centre restaurants as awarded in our awards - with Costas Constantinou
- 12:15** Rising Stars and Hospitality Rising Stars
- 12:45** **LUNCH**
- 13:45** Sir Jason Kenny CBE: will share his elite blueprint for mental resilience, thriving under pressure, and driving high-performance teams
- 14:45** Kate Hardcastle MBE: will break down the psychological shifts driving modern shopper behaviour to help you future-proof your brick-and-mortar and e-commerce consumer journeys
- 15:45** **TEA BREAK**
- 16:15** Justin King CBE: will share actionable strategies on mastering transformational leadership and surviving fierce supermarket price wars
- 17:15** **CONFERENCE SESSION ENDS**
- 18:45** Drinks & Canapes
- 20:00** Dinner
- 21:30** Fancy Dress Competition
- 22:00** Caelidh

Tuesday 26th January

- 09:00** Good morning and welcome back
- 09:10** HTA
- 09:30** GCA Trust / IGCA Summary / Japan launch
- 09:45** Clive Humby OBE: As the retail data genius who masterminded the revolutionary Tesco Clubcard and famously proved that "data is the new oil," he will show you how to refine raw transaction data into predictive customer insights that maximize retail footprint and average basket value
- 10:45** **TEA BREAK**
- 11:15** Chris Hare followed by James Sawley - 'Big picture' macro economics and a deep dive into the UK retail economy
- 12:30** **LUNCH**
- 13:30** John Vincent MBE: Drawing from his dramatic turnaround of LEON - including executing a massive corporate restructuring and shifting back to core brand principles - he will provide raw, actionable strategies on navigating financial headwinds and rescuing endangered retail brands
- 14:30** The Rev. Richard Coles: As Britain's unique "pop star to parson" broadcaster - who went from topping the 1980s music charts with The Communards to serving as a trusted parish priest - he will deliver a deeply witty and captivating session on trust, ethics, and building authentic communities
- 15:30** **CONFERENCE SESSION ENDS**
- 15:45** **ASSOCIATE'S EXHIBITION AND AFTERNOON TEA**
- 19:00** Drinks & Canapes
- 20:00** Gala Dinner