

PRESS RELEASE

Wildlife Gardening Awards 2011



The second Wildlife Friendly Gardening competition, organised in partnership by The Gardens Group and Dorset Wildlife Trust, has once again been a huge success with even more gardens from all corners of Dorset entering the competition to be crowned winning wildlife friendly garden.



The top gardens will be announced and celebrated during an awards ceremony and charity fundraising evening in The Engine Room Restaurant at Poundbury Gardens, Dorchester on **Thursday 14th July from 6.00pm – 8.30pm (tickets are now available from Castle Gardens).**

Mike Burks, Managing Director of The Gardens Group comments; “Last year’s competition was a huge success and it was great to see so many of our customers encouraging wildlife into their gardens. This year we have seen new entries in the medium garden and community garden categories, and many improved gardens following tips given in last year’s competition. We will be judging and short-listing the finalists over the coming weeks and hope that everyone who entered, or is interested in wildlife, will be able to join us on 14th July to celebrate and hopefully raise lots of money for the Greenfingers Charity which is committed to helping children in hospices by creating magical gardens.”

During the evening on 14th July, guests will be able to hear from Pam Lewis, owner of wildlife haven Sticky Wicket and Joy Wallis from Dorset Wildlife Trust, who will be talking about how you can encourage and provide for bees in your garden. Awards will be presented by Pam during the ceremony, and each entrant will receive a Wildlife Friendly Gardening Plaque and Certificate with bigger prizes of Garden Centre vouchers and a year’s membership to Dorset



Wildlife Trust awarded to the top entries in each category. There will be more information about next year's competition and refreshments, music and a charity raffle.

Tickets are open to the public and can be purchased from Castle Gardens for £5 - all proceeds go to Greenfingers Charity.

For more information or to buy a ticket please contact Katie Burt at Positive PR on tel: 01935 389497 or email katie@positivepr.co.uk

For further information about The Gardens Group please contact Mike Burks at Castle Gardens, tel 01935 814633.

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Notes to Editor:

Greenfingers - Greenfingers is a small charity which is dedicated to creating magical gardens for children's hospices around the UK. Greenfingers is eleven years old, and during its life has created 32 special gardens. The benefits of these gardens are tremendous to children staying in hospices, and their families too.

A Greenfingers garden can be a place to play or to rest, a place to laugh or to cry, a special place for memories whilst experiencing the tranquil benefits and values of nature. Above all, every garden is special because every day is precious..... and that is why Greenfingers is committed to helping more children in hospices by creating special gardens for those hospices unable to provide that relief and outlet to the families and children they care for.

Dorset Wildlife Trust – was founded in 1961 to protect the wildlife and natural habitats of the county, and the Trust now has over 25,000 members and manages 45 nature reserves. Most are open daily and there are visitor centres providing a wealth of wildlife information at Brooklands Farm, Lorton Meadows, Kingcombe Meadows and Brownsea Island Nature Reserves, The Purbeck Marine Wildlife Reserve and the Urban Wildlife Centre at Upton Heath Nature Reserve.

The largest voluntary nature conservation organisation in Dorset, the Trust plays a key role in dealing with local environmental issues. It leads the way in establishing the practices of sustainable development and engaging new audiences in conservation, particularly in the urban areas. www.dorsetwildlifetrust.org.uk

The Gardens Group – is a group of three garden centres owned by husband and wife Mike and Louise Burks. The Garden Centres are based in Sherborne, Dorchester and Yeovil – one is based in a converted Victorian farm, one in

the Walled Garden of a Castle and one in a rural setting on the edge of town – but all three have gardening experts and plants-men and women on hand to help and guide new and experienced gardeners. Plants are at the heart of each Centre – so they could be described as delis for plants not supermarkets!