

**GUILDFORD LIFE WITH STYLE AWARDS 2008/2009
WINNERS ANNOUNCED**

The *Guildford Life with Style Awards 2008/2009* winners and runners-up were announced at a ceremony held on Wednesday 14 January at the Mandolay Hotel Guildford.

Devised as part of the 'Guildford Life with Style' marketing campaign, the awards highlight and recognise Guildford's finest people, places and businesses.

More than one hundred people gathered to watch the award winners receive their trophies and certificates. Guests included Councillor Jennifer Jordan - Mayor of Guildford, Anne Milton MP and Sue Sturgeon, Director, Guildford Borough Council and partners of the Guildford marketing campaign.

Nominations were received across the nine categories covering business and community areas. Sue Sturgeon, Director of Guildford Borough Council said: "2009 is set to be a challenging year for everyone and I can see no better way to start the year than by putting the spotlight on our outstanding residents and businesses. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the winners and to thank the judges and sponsors along with all those who put forward nominations."

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The results were:

- 1. Best Cultural or Community Event of the Year sponsored by The Mandolay Hotel, won by Junior Summer Fitness Challenge, Guildford Spectrum.** The runner-up was Discover Drama, Yvonne Arnaud Theatre. The Family Festival run by The Electric Theatre was highly commended.

The Junior Summer Fitness Challenge was an inspirational programme pioneered by the Guildford Spectrum, as a response to the country's childhood obesity epidemic. The scheme helps to motivate children to build exercise into their lives and improve their overall fitness and wellbeing. Supported by the Department of Health, it is endorsed by Roger Black, MBE who is now a patron. The judges felt that providing a free and accessible facility to improve the health for future generations of Guildford made it deserving of this year's award.

- 2. Best Restaurant, Bar or Entertainment Venue Award sponsored by The Surrey Advertiser was won by Carlo's Trattoria.** The runner-up was The YMCA Restaurant.

Carlo's Trattoria is a long standing family business with a welcoming and friendly atmosphere. It has wide appeal attracting customers from a wide area. Its aim is to provide a cost-effective, high quality dining experience. Following nomination by its customers, the judges felt that Carlo's Trattoria lived up to the Life with Style ethos.

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3. Customer Service Award sponsored by Guildford Borough Council, won by Terry Johnson, Ticket Office Clerk, South West Trains. The runner-up was Carebase Ltd. Lavleen Rehncy of Lloyds Pharmacy was also highly commended.

Terry received glowing nominations from a number of people - all of which prove him to be deserving of this award. The judges noted that someone in Terry's position could effectively make or break your day, especially for stressed or tired travellers. According to customers, Terry goes that extra mile and one person commented that 'he makes buying tickets a pleasure!' He is personable, efficient and could not be replaced by technology in ensuring great customer service.

4. Community Neighbour Award sponsored by Home was won by Janet Robins. The runner-up was Ron Chapman.

Those who nominated Janet Robins, feel that she exceeds neighbourly expectations at every level. Not only does she support the elderly community in Burpham by hosting events in her own garden and organising trips to the coast, she also extends her warmth to the new members of her community. Baking cakes for new mothers, watering lawns for those on holiday, collecting for well known charities, supporting her church with coffee mornings and tending their grounds are all things that Janet is recognised for. We have been told that Janet is totally unselfish, always cheerful and never makes you feel that she is doing you a favour.

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5. Entrepreneur of the Year, sponsored by The University of Surrey, won by Kate Craig-Wood, Memset. Runner-up was Paul Nathanson, P NPR. Kate Lester, Diamond Logistics was highly commended.

With an original business idea and no formal training in IT, Kate has forged ahead in a complex market place, launching the UK's first Miniserver Virtual Machines. She has effectively managed to sidestep barriers to both her personal success and the success of Memset. A true entrepreneur, Kate is an example to those who aspire to make their mark. Not only has she proven herself to be a successful businesswoman, her personal achievements make her stand out from the crowd.

6. Guildford Green Award sponsored by Surrey Research Park was won by Thomson Ecology. Runner-up for the award was the Allianz Insurance and the Birtley House Group was highly commended.

Thomson Ecology is a dynamic, professional consultancy specialising in ecology and covering a broad range of habitats and species. Its team of professional ecologists use their skills to influence the development of industry in order to reduce its impact on the natural world. Thomson Ecology won this award as they have added a new dimension to this category. As a company, it is their role to influence others in positive environmental practice but they also meet the exacting environmental standards within their own practices.

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7. Journalist of the Year Award is sponsored by Prowse & Company and was won by Matthew Williams, Surrey Life. Runner-up was Claire Mewse of The Eagle.

Surrey Life is a consumer publication which focuses upon the Surrey area. Matthew Williams has taken a great interest in Guildford as demonstrated by the features he has written. Matthew's writing is positive and warm, a style that allows the reader to view his subject in the best possible manner. As well as actively working with the Children's Charity CHASE to promote their activities, Matthew has also written about many of Guildford's cultural events including the Summer Festival.

8. Leisure Attraction of the Year sponsored by Surrey Life was won by Loseley Park. The runner-up was Guildford Town Guides. RHS Wisley was also highly commended.

Loseley Park, now 500 years old, has been as busy as ever and appears to be the attraction of choice for both event hosts and visitors. As well as preserving the heritage of what is a stunning family home, their events and charity work make them stand out from the crowd.

9. Sports Team of the Year Award sponsored by Charles Russell, was won by Simon Davies, Head Coach, Mini Guildfordians Rugby Club. The runner-up was Guildford Heat. Guildford Flames were highly commended.

Simon is truly committed to the local community, devoting his time to coaching the under 11's. The number of positive nominations received in favour of Simon for this award was astounding. Simon's passion for the game helped the under 11's win the Guildford festival last year. Simon is also a key organiser of Guildford's Rugby festival and summer camps. Best of all, he helps Guildford's children to find passion in keeping fit.



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Editor's Notes:

The Guildford Life with Style Awards is part of a broader campaign to promote Guildford to a wider audience and to recognise its top achievers from the business, residential and student communities. The Guildford Life with Style campaign aims to raise the profile of Guildford, not only as Surrey's premier shopping destination and County town, but also as a vibrant location for residents, visitors and businesses alike. For further information, please visit www.guildfordstyle.com

For further information, please contact Luisa Niven or Joanna Brown on email luisa@prowse.co.uk or Joanna@prowse.co.uk or call 01372 363386.

Notes on sponsors:

Charles Russell LLP is a top 40 UK law firm with offices in Guildford. It provides a full range of commercial legal services to UK and international companies and is a market leading private client practice. The Guildford office is ideally placed to meet the needs of companies based in the South East region.

Guildford Borough Council is an 'excellent and improving' local authority (as rated by the Audit Commission during its comprehensive performance assessment) which provides services including planning, housing, street cleaning and cultural and sporting facilities for its 130,000 residents and nearly 7,000 businesses.

Home Group is a housing association which invests in people and communities, offering high quality and customer focused landlord services. The organisation offers partnership for economic, social and community regeneration projects as well as homes for sale.

Mandolay Hotel is one of Guildford's premier hotels, offering a multitude of services & facilities including a conference centre, private & corporate events and wedding receptions. It offers 72 private bedrooms, apartments and penthouse accommodation. The hotel is ideally located in the centre of Guildford.

Prowse & Company, established in 1988, is a creative PR, marketing and economic development consultancy that helps public and private sector organisations communicate effectively with their stakeholders. Clients include local companies through to overseas governments.

Surrey Life Magazine is Surrey's premier lifestyle magazine covering, food and drink, fashion, sports, local events and celebrity news and is a voice for the Surrey community.

Surrey Research Park has facilitated the commercial success of many local companies and has created the scope for significant transfers of technology between the University and industry.

The Surrey Advertiser is Guildford's local newspaper, covering news, the community, arts, business, sport, property and motors. The newspaper is an integral part of the community; keeping readers informed of everything that is happening around them.

The University of Surrey is an international university with a worldwide reputation. It offers students a unique combination of high academic standards, employment success and a prime location in beautiful surroundings, yet with ease of access to London. Undergraduate and postgraduate students experience a first-rate working environment and a lively social life. It is a dynamic and innovative university and its course profile reflects the issues that are of real interest today to professionals and prospective employers and to students.