



*In association with the Prince's Foundation*

## **CHICHESTER COLLEGE CROWNED 'IDEAL YOUNG GARDENERS OF THE YEAR' FOR THE SECOND YEAR RUNNING**

### **-Capel Manor College in Middlesex also wins Gold Medal-**

A show garden designed by Chichester College exclusively for the Ideal Home Show 2013 has been awarded a Gold medal and crowned '**Best At Show**' by a panel of judges including TV gardener Alan Titchmarsh and organiser of the competition David Domoney. This is the second consecutive year that Chichester College students have been awarded the top accolade in the 'Ideal Young Gardeners of the Year' competition.

Capel Manor College in Middlesex (the 2011 champion) was also awarded a Gold medal in the competition which forms part of the 105<sup>th</sup> Ideal Home Show, currently at London's Earls Court until the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2013.

The annual competition is run in association with the Prince's Foundation celebrating young 'green' talent in the UK. Six horticultural colleges go head-to-head each year to create a show stopping garden for public display based on the organic and sustainable principles that the charity's President, HRH The Prince of Wales, has championed for so long.

Each college this year was given a 5.5m x 4m plot to both plan and design a unique and sustainable garden based on the theme of 'sustainable urban gardens.' This year, for the first time, the show gardens have been built inside the heart of the Earls Court show, which is sponsored by Anglian Home Improvements. The gardens will be viewed by hundreds of thousands of visitors at the iconic British show.

The winning 'Best at Show' Chichester show garden, titled 'Up Wood', incorporates a multi-dimensional design of up turned tree stumps creating eye catching natural sculptures formed by nature.

Specimen trees such as the *Prunus avium* 'Plena'; *Betula utilis jacquemontii* and *Amelanchier lamarckii* help to soften the lines of the raised seating area and create movement. A number of traditional skills taught at the college such as the Arboriculture (the steps); Access to Forging (sculpture), and traditional dry-stone walling have also been incorporated into the build.

***Chloe Springer, student of Chichester College*** comments: "It's been an amazing experience, it's the first time I've been involved in anything like this and it's been fantastic. The college has been so supportive and it's been a pleasure taking part."

**Ben Ireland, fellow student adds** "We want to express the natural woodland and features that would not be seen throughout a traditional urban landscape."

Last year HRH The Prince of Wales personally presented visited Chichester College's award winning 'Best at Show' garden.

Capel Manor's Gold medal winning garden, titled 'Reclaiming London', uses brick paving from a demolished outhouse, furniture from a local antiques market, scrap scaffold boards and iron steps from a reclamation yard. The only indulgence was a piece of bespoke ironwork reflecting the traditional craftsmanship in their area.

The Capel Manor garden was designed and built by two generations of students – the more mature students mentoring the younger ones to develop their abilities and pool their skills and knowledge.

Organiser of the Young Gardeners of the Year and TV presenter David Domoney comments: "This year's competition has been great, energetic, and exciting - it's great to see the students showing such passion. It's more than weeding and planting, there's science and further business opportunities amongst other great things. The Ideal Home Show is a great exhibition for championing young talent and fantastic timing as we end the winter season and welcome in the spring."

**Full award details for the 2013 'Ideal Young Gardeners of the Year' competition are as follows:**

- Chichester College, Sussex: Gold & Best in Show
- Capel Manor, Middlesex: Gold
- Shuttleworth College, Bedfordshire: Bronze
- Askham Byran College, North Yorkshire: Silver
- Bridgewater College, Somerset: Silver
- Writtle College, Essex: Silver

A People's Choice Award will also be announced after the show.

**The Ideal Home Show, London is open until 1<sup>st</sup> April 2013 at London's Earls Court.**

**Tickets can be either booked online or by calling the Ticket Hotline on 0844 858 6763. Group bookings can be made by calling the Groups Hotline on 0844 412 4650, or for further information about the show visit the website [www.idealhomeshow.co.uk](http://www.idealhomeshow.co.uk).**

**Notes to Editors:**

The six colleges in the 2013 'Ideal Young Gardeners of the Year' competition are as follows:

- Chichester College - Sussex, (2012 Champions)
- Capel Manor - Middlesex, (2011 Champions)
- Askham Byran College - North Yorkshire
- Bridgewater College - Somerset
- Shuttleworth College - Bedfordshire
- Writtle College – Essex

TV Gardener David Domoney organised the competition and the Judging panel consisted of TV gardener Alan Titchmarsh, Prince's Foundation Campaigns Programme Manager Michael Romero.