

## Richmond Business Awards 2016

### Centres give backing to local causes

SQUIRE'S Garden Centres in Shepperton and Twickenham are proud to announce that they have each chosen their dedicated 'Charity of the Year' for 2016/2017.

Squire's Shepperton will be supporting White Lodge Centre and Squire's Twickenham have chosen the charity SPEAR.

Squire's will support White Lodge Centre and SPEAR through to July next year, and will raise awareness of the charities in the garden centre and through their marketing materials, as well as providing ongoing fundraising from events and collection boxes.

All donations from the public will go directly to the charity.

Each charity will also be invited to a special preview of Squire's popular Christmas Grotto.

White Lodge Centre, which is based in Chertsey in north Surrey, provides a range of activities and opportunities for disabled people of all ages, as well as their families and carers.

It specialises in care for those with a diverse range of disabilities.

Operating in Surrey and the surrounding areas, it is recognised as a 'Centre of Excellence' by regulators.

The charity has stated that it costs more than £2.5m a year to run the centre and while some of this total is met by regular funding streams it relies upon donations from the general public in order to continue operating.

SPEAR provides help for anyone facing or experiencing homelessness in and around south and west London, including the borough of Richmond.

Their mission is to 'enable homeless people to find secure accommodation and work towards a positive future'.

As well as helping people find shelter, the charity also aims to offer support to its clients to help them live independently, teaching new skills and rebuilding their self-esteem to help them find employment.

Sarah Squire, deputy chairman of Squire's Garden Centres, said: "We are delighted to be supporting White Lodge Centre and SPEAR, who were chosen by our teams at Squire's in Shepperton and Twickenham to be their local 'Charity of the Year'.

"I know my colleagues are looking forward to working with the teams at White Lodge Centre and SPEAR and supporting their wonderful work in the local community."

# Extension to entries for business awards

DUE to "unprecedented popular demand" the deadline for entries to the Richmond Business Awards has been extended to September 26.

The 13-category annual awards bash, this year set to be held on November 4, is an opportunity to highlight the work done over the last 12 months by Richmond borough's businesses and enterprises.

Individual tables for the ceremony, hosted by the Richmond Chamber of Commerce, can be purchased online at [RichmondBusinessAwards.com](http://RichmondBusinessAwards.com).

Richmond Chamber of Commerce chief executive Anne Newton said: "Innovation is at the heart of every business and that's why we celebrate all that is niche, cutting-edge, new and added value at the Richmond Business Awards 2016.

"Last year Foehn – a UK high tech entry – impressed the independent

judging panel and indeed they have proved them right as their business continues to grow as a direct consequence of their innovative solutions.

"They were closely followed by highly commended IonStar and Mine-soft UK, and Prosell Learning Limited, who impressed the judges with their high tech and niche solutions."

Ms Newton also encouraged new entrants to the market to join the aforementioned companies in entering themselves for the Best Business for Innovation category.

The awards offer 39 opportunities for businesses to be recognised; with separate gongs handed out in "Highly Commended" and "Commended" categories, as well as overall category winners.

Last year Richmond Theatre won the innovation category, while Blitz Fitness and Stampstastic, which make

personal stamps for belongings, were awarded "Highly Commended" and "Commended" badges, respectively.

Ms Newton added: "Remember, too, you can also request your colleagues, customers and suppliers vote for your business or organisation as their favourite. The voting takes seconds, so why not go for it? You never know – your business could be a winner."

Last week a number of borough businesses and members of the chamber met to kick off the Bank Holiday weekend over Pimms and canapés.

The group visited at the beautifully manicured grounds of Old Deer Park, the home venue of Richmond Cricket Club and London Welsh rugby team and have now become available to hire by the general public.

Ms Newton said: "The grounds are stunning and the hospitality quite superb."



The Richmond business community meeting at Old Deer Park over the Bank Holiday weekend

### In brief

Tuesday, September 6 – Chamber Coffee Morning at The Dysart Petersham TW10 7AA.

Thursday, September 8 – Chamber Business Masterclass: Make Social Media Work for your Business.

Monday, September 12 – Exclusive Members-only Chamber Group Mentoring Programme.

Monday, September 12 Chamber Business Workshop.

Monday, September 13, 6pm – Exclusive Members only - Chamber Group Mentoring Programme, Richmond upon Thames College, Room E20A.

Thursday, September 15, 12.30pm – Chamber Business Lunch at The Crown St Margarets.

Tuesday, September 20, 2pm – Chamber Business Masterclass: Customer journey mapping and identifying magic moments, Morrisons Solicitors.

Thursday, September 22, 7.30am – Chamber Business Breakfast at The Plough, East Sheen.

Thursday, September 29, 6.30pm – Chamber Business Evening with unique wine tasting at Twickenham Experience, Twickenham Stadium.

Tuesday, October 4, 10am – Chamber Coffee Morning at St Mary's University, Twickenham.

Monday, October 10, 2pm – Chamber Business Workshop: The Dimensions of Successful Leadership, Harlequins Football Club.

Thursday, October 13, 6.30pm – Chamber Cocktail Party at Livin Kitchens TW9 2SE.

Thursday, October 20, 7.30pm – Chamber Business Breakfast with Dr Tania Mathias MP at The Lensbury.