



## NEWS

**Date issued:** 28 April 2009

### **A Tale of Two Cities – Top London and Edinburgh Hotels Named as First Ever Joint Winners of Coveted ‘Considerate Hotel of the Year’ Environmental Award 2008**

**Special Lifetime Achievement Awards for Professor John Forte OBE; and David Burner, Head Concierge, Crowne Plaza London - St. James & 51 Buckingham Gate**

The 2008 winners of the prestigious annual Considerate Hoteliers Association (CHA) ‘Hotel of the Year Awards’ – celebrating the best in environmental and Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) performance and open to all UK hotels and guest-houses – were announced yesterday (27 April 2009) by the CHA at a Gala Lunch and presentation ceremony, held at The Cavendish London in the heart of the capital’s West End.

For the first time in CHA’s 18 year history, two leading hotels shared the much coveted top accolade – **the overall ‘Considerate Hotel of the Year Award’: the privately owned contemporary luxury hotel – One Aldwych in London’s Covent Garden; and the Rezidor Hotel Group’s 4-star Radisson SAS Hotel Edinburgh, located in the heart of Scotland’s capital.** The recipients were presented with their CHA awards, of inscribed Dartington Crystal decanters, for being the best ‘all-rounders’ to have been considered by the judges as having succeeded in a wide range of environmental initiatives – ranging from energy and water conservation, waste reduction and support for sustainable food, to Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR).



**Left to right:** Gary Lohan, Chief Engineer at One Aldwych; Malcolm Rann, General Manager and Area District Director, the Radisson SAS Hotel Edinburgh; and Alexandra Hammond Responsible Business Manager – UK, The Rezidor Hotel Group

Commenting on the decision, CHA Association Secretary John Firrell said: “The fact that we have, for the first time ever, announced two joint winners is testimony to how closely fought the contest was this year. The judges (*see ‘Notes to Editors’*) deliberated hard and long –attempting to separate the top two. Both hotels had achieved their objectives and fulfilled the criterion of the award, albeit that they arrived there from different directions. The judges ultimately agreed that both hotels would be perfect ambassadors to carry the Considerate message to others, acting as role models and setting an example of how to achieve environmental and CSR aims – without necessarily the need for considerable financial investment in these straitened times.

“We are delighted with the outcome and congratulate One Aldwych and Radisson SAS Edinburgh for their green ambitions, tenacity and dedication, setting an incredibly high standard for others to match in the years to come.”

Highly commended in this category were two leading privately owned hotels in Cornwall: the Bedruthan Steps Hotel at Magwan Porth, between Newquay and

Padstow; and the Budock Vean Hotel at Helford Passage, near Falmouth – very much supporting Cornwall's claim to be in the vanguard of sustainable tourism.

Another 'first' for the CHA's 2008 annual awards are two new award categories: the '*Considerate Green Team of the Year*' and the '*Considerate Green Champion of 2008*'.

**The recipient of the '*Considerate Green Team of the Year 2008*' award – an inscribed Dartington Crystal pedestal bowl – was the deluxe Crowne Plaza Hotel London - The City, situated in New Bridge Street;** and Highly Commended was 5-star boutique hotel The Egerton House, representing Red Carnation Hotels, in the heart of London's Knightsbridge. The award is presented to the establishment or group that, in the opinion of the judges, has – by virtue of the work undertaken by their Green Team – made the most difference in 2008. Short-listed for the award were: the Best Western Monkbar Hotel in York; Langdale Hotel & Country Club, near Ambleside in Cumbria; and the Park Inn Heathrow, London.

**The winner of the '*Considerate Green Champion of 2008*' award – an inscribed Dartington Crystal pedestal bowl – was Vanessa Scott, Director and Head Chef of luxury boutique Strattons Hotel and Restaurant in Swaffham, Norfolk;** and '*The One to Watch*' runner-up was: Alexandra Hammond, Responsible Business Manager - UK, Rezidor Hotel Group. The award is presented to the individual, nominated by fellow hoteliers and colleagues, who by sheer dedication has inspired others to raise the green standard. Short-listed for the award were: Malcolm Lewis, Managing Director, Longueville Manor in Jersey; Rod Needs, Maintenance Manager, the Crowne Plaza Marlow in Buckinghamshire; and Fiona Smith, Risk Manager, The Gleneagles Hotel in Perthshire, Scotland.

**Rounding off the 2008 CHA awards ceremony, a Special Lifetime Achievement award – in the form of inscribed Dartington Crystal decanters – was presented to Professor John Forte OBE, Environment and Food Safety Consultant.**

Professor John Forte, who was awarded an OBE in the New Year's Honours List, was honoured yesterday for his tireless willingness to support and advise, much of it freely given, on the work of the hospitality industry and in particular CHA, over many years – with regard to food safety, sustainable tourism and care for the environment.

He has on many occasions provided infinite wisdom, common sense and expert judgment, regarding the Considerate Hotel of the Year awards.

**In addition at the presentation ceremony, it was announced that David Burner, Head Concierge, Crowne Plaza London - St. James & 51 Buckingham Gate – who unfortunately was unable to attend – had also been honoured with a Special Lifetime Achievement award.** David Burner was honoured for not just being a world-class concierge. In the early days of the CHA, the St James Court – as the Crowne Plaza London - St James was then called – was one of the first hotels to create a green team and set out an ambitious environmental agenda; and the inspirational leader of this green team was David Burner. During his term as leader, the hotel won many green awards, and was a pathfinder setting the environmental standard for other hotels to follow.

Finally, Rod Needs – Maintenance Manager at the Crowne Plaza Marlow in Buckinghamshire – was honoured by being publicly presented with **a CHA Certificate of Excellence and Dedication for being a ‘Green Hero’**. For the bulk of Rod’s six years at the Crowne Plaza Marlow, he has been the green team – the person who has flown the hotel’s green banner from the rooftops and motivated, cajoled and encouraged other staff members to adopt a more socially responsible attitude both in the hotel and the community. Rod retires this year and this honour is very timely and appropriate.

Summing up the success of the ‘Considerate Hotel of the Year Awards 2008’, Liam Lambert, President designate of Oberoi Hotels & Resorts, said: “As the outgoing Chairman of the Considerate Hoteliers Association, I am delighted that my tenure should end on such a high note. We have been blown away by not only the sheer number of entries for the 2008 Awards but, and more importantly, the high quality of those entries.

“The entrants for these awards have proved the point that you do not need to throw a great deal of money at an environmental project for it to produce stunning results. It is so gratifying to know that there are a tremendous number of responsible hoteliers out there, willing to put their efforts and dedication where their beliefs lie. To the winners, we offer our most heartfelt of congratulations.”

- **The CHA wish to publicly thank the 2008 CHA awards judges: Paulina Bohdanowicz, Sustainability Manager, Hilton Europe; Diana Mountain, Chair of the BAHA (British Association of Hospitality Accountants) Technical Committee; Manda Brookman, Director of CoaST (the Cornwall Sustainable Tourism Project); Andy Lowe of Carbon Clear; Jamie Ford from Sustain (London Food Link); Dr Rebecca Hawkins, Department of Hospitality, Leisure & Tourism, Oxford Brookes University; and Jane Carlton-Smith, Centre for Environmental Studies in the Hospitality Industry (CESHI) and Department of Hospitality, Leisure and Tourism Management, Oxford Brookes University.**
- **The CHA also wishes to publicly thank the sponsors of the awards presentation ceremony – Oxford Brookes University; The Pure Water Company; Deva; Gilchrist & Soames Ltd; and Carbon Clear.**