News Release

Chartered Institute of Horticulture Young Horticulturist of the Year 2018.

The Grand Final.

The Grand Final is to be held at the Harrogate Spring Flower Show on Saturday April 28\textsuperscript{th}, where we will see eight of the brightest young talent in the horticultural profession competing for the prestigious title of CIH Young Horticulturist of the Year 2018. The winner will receive the £2500 Travel Bursary provided by the Percy Thrower Trust and will be able to use it to further their horticultural career anywhere in the world.

Following the eight regional finals during March, we are now able to announce the eight winners who will be competing at the Grand Final:-


President of the Chartered Institute of Horticulture, Owen Doyle, said: ‘The Chartered Institute of Horticulture’s Young Horticulturist of the Year Competition is our flagship event which engages students and young horticulturists across both Great Britain and Ireland. This is an exciting and fantastic opportunity for them to display their plant knowledge and to meet fellow horticulturists during the local, regional and national parts of the competition. Thanks to our generous sponsors the winners at a local and regional level receive prizes and those that reach the Grand Final also receive great prizes. I wish the best of good fortune to all those taking part in the Grand Final.’

Simon Badrock from the Shropshire Horticultural Society said “The Shropshire Horticultural Society is very pleased to once again sponsor the Young Horticulturist of the Year Competition. The Society strongly believes in the promotion and support of horticultural education and the Competition achieves this in a positive way.”

The 2017 YHOY winner Lachlan Rae said: ‘YHOY is a fantastic opportunity for young people making their way into a career in horticulture. It’s a great chance to meet other young horticulturists and recognised industry professionals as well as providing an opportunity to visit some of the great venues hosting the competition. It has allowed me to boost my profile in the horticultural industry.’

To find out more about the competition and how to take part visit the Young Horticulturist of the Year pages at www.horticulture.org.uk .

Join in the discussions with past and present competitors on Facebook CIHort and Twitter @CIHort.

Anyone interested in taking part in, or sponsoring the 2019 competition should contact the Chartered Institute of Horticulture - Email: cih@horticulture.org.uk.

ENDS
1. The competition

- This annual competition is organised by the Chartered Institute of Horticulture, the only professional body representing all aspects of horticulture. The Institute founded the Young Horticulturist of the Year competition in 1990 as a way of encouraging and rewarding excellence among those starting out in a career in horticulture and today around 2000 young people under the age of 30 participate each year.

- The 2019 competition will be free to enter and is open to any horticulturist who is below the age of 30 on 31 July 2019.

- The competition is run in three phases: heats which take place in January and February, followed by eight Regional Finals held in March and the Grand Final in May.

- Heats are based on multi-choice questions covering a wide range of horticultural topics, run through a PowerPoint presentation. The heats are organised by eight CIH Regional Organisers and take place at colleges, garden centres and anywhere else where competitors may gather. To take part contact the Secretariat - email cih@horticulture.org.uk

- For more information, and to have a trial run at some previous heat questions, visit: http://www.horticulture.org.uk/page.php?pageid=562

- Heat winners go forward to one of eight Regional Finals held in March, when a Question Master asks a wide range of horticultural questions, some through a buzzer round, and some directed to individual contestants. In addition, there are two identification rounds to further test their depth and breadth of knowledge on a range of plants as well as pests, diseases, disorders and weeds.

- The winner of each Regional Final progresses to the Grand Final where the format is the same as for the Regional Finals with questions covering all sectors of horticulture.

- The winner of the Grand Final receives the £2,500 Percy Thrower Travel Bursary, provided by the Shropshire Horticultural Society, Percy Thrower Trust. This funds a horticultural trip anywhere in the world. Previous winners have visited Borneo, China, New Zealand, South Africa, the Himalayas, the Galapagos Islands, the United States of America, South America and Europe.

2. 2018 national competition sponsors

- Shropshire Horticultural Society/Percy Thrower Trust, they provide the £2,500 Travel Bursary and sponsorship of the Grand Final
- ICL
- The Horticultural Trades Association
- Bord Bia

3. The Chartered Institute of Horticulture is interested to hear from companies who would be willing to offer financial, or other sponsorship, at all levels of the 2019 competition. Email: cih@horticulture.org.uk

4. The Institute of Horticulture was established in 1984 with the aim of fostering a close relationship between all sectors of professional horticulture (advisory and research, amenity, commercial and education and training) throughout the UK and Ireland. It is the only professional body representing those who work in all aspects of horticulture. It founded the Young Horticulturist of the Year competition shortly after it was established as a way of encouraging and rewarding excellence among those starting out in a career in horticulture.

On 21 July 2014 the Institute was granted a Royal Charter by her Majesty the Queen and became the Chartered Institute of Horticulture (CIH), with many new plans and initiatives to enhance its standing and that of its members both inside and outside the horticultural industry.
The Chartered Institute of Horticulture is represented on, and works collaboratively with, other horticultural organisations throughout the industry to unite a growing profession.

The Chartered Institute of Horticulture has eight branches throughout the UK and Ireland, as well as overseas members. Members are linked to the branch where they live but are encouraged to attend meetings arranged in any other branch area.

5. Media enquiries and photos
Chartered Institute of Horticulture, C/O Horticultural Trades Association, Horticulture House, Chilton, Didcot, OX11 0RN.
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