

# Permaculture Magazine Goes To The Palace

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On Monday, 14 July, representatives of South East companies that have won The Queen's Awards for Enterprise 2008 are attending an evening reception hosted by The Queen and HRH The Duke of Edinburgh at Buckingham Palace.

The reception is a unique opportunity for two members of each winning company to meet The Queen and eight other Members of the Royal Family. These prestigious Awards are announced annually on 21st April, The Queen's birthday.

Her Majesty will also meet this year's recipients of The Queen's Award for Enterprise Promotion, which recognises and rewards a handful of individuals for their work, often above and beyond the normal call of duty, inspiring entrepreneurial skills and attitudes in others.

Also attending the event will be Lord Jones, Minister of State for Trade and Investment, who said:

"I am always impressed with the diversity, commitment, determination and enthusiasm of the many businesses and individuals recognised by The Queen's Awards for Enterprise. They have made a huge contribution to the economy, helping to create wealth, employment and enhancing the UK's reputation as an enterprising centre of excellence. They all deserve enormous credit."

In the South East, there were 25 Business Awards and two individual Awards. The Award winners covered a wide range of products and services including the disposal of unexploded ordnance and landmine clearance; blood glucose sampling equipment for people living with diabetes; the manufacture of metal detection screening equipment; and an Award for innovation in the manufacture and supply of frozen breads. In the individual category, Paul Barry-Walsh was one of 11 recipients across the country who received The Queen's Award for Enterprise Promotion. Mr Barry-Walsh set up the Reading-based Fredericks Foundation in 2001. The charity provides start-up support, loan finance and mentoring for those in financial hardship, including the unemployed, single parents, ex-offenders and disabled people.

John Jennens was also a South East winner in the individual category. The retired businessman has acted as a Business Counsellor for Oxfordshire Business Enterprise for the last 11 years, mainly on a voluntary basis. He has mentored, advised and assisted more than 1,000 clients, some from deprived communities around Oxford.

The winners, both large and small, come from almost every corner of the UK and represent the full range of industrial and commercial endeavour, products and services. This year, they include three firms each with just three employees, and an international giant employing more than 106,000 people. A century-old company that restores and exports the finest antique cellos and violins, stands alongside a manufacturer of specialist packaging for cooking convenience foods that recently completed its first three years of trading. An international design consultancy whose portfolio includes the world's tallest building (Burj Dubai Tower), rubs shoulders with a company providing music tracks and sound effects for the TV industry, and a business promoting sustainable development through re-using, recycling and re-manufacturing office furniture.

Award winners are already feeling the positive effects on their business. For example, Permanent Publications, publishers of environmental books and Permaculture Magazine, based at East Meon near Petersfield, was a 2008 winner in the Sustainable Development category. Chief Executive, Maddy Harland, said:

“Winning the Queen’s Award for Enterprise in Sustainable Development has brought Permanent Publications professional credibility and increased business. It has brought our approach to environmental solutions more prominently into the mainstream. Creating a lower carbon society has never been more urgent and we are delighted that our work is more accessible thanks to the Queen’s Award.”

The Queen’s Awards for Enterprise are the UK’s most prestigious corporate Award for business excellence. They recognise the achievement of the successful business unit as a whole – management and employees – working as a team. They are granted in three categories: International Trade (recognising an outstanding or continuous achievement in overseas earnings); Innovation (for commercially successful and innovative products or services); and Sustainable Development (covering commercially successful products and services and approaches to management that have major benefits for the environment, society and the UK economy).

Her Majesty will also meet recipients of The Queen’s Award for Enterprise Promotion 2008. This Award recognises the work of outstanding individuals from both the private and public sector who have promoted the growth of enterprise and entrepreneurial skills and attitudes in others. Eleven recipients of the Award, including a Lifetime Achievement recipient and ten Standard Award recipients, one of whom will receive an honorary Award, will be attending the reception to be formally presented with their Award by HRH The Princess Royal. The Award consists of an engraved crystal glass chalice and a Grant of Appointment. The Award recipients will be accompanied by a guest and their nominator.

The full list of winners is available from the website, [www.queensawards.org.uk](http://www.queensawards.org.uk) .

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