

Wood's crowned Best Medium Agency in South West at the 'Oscars' of the industry

Wood's Estate Agents and Auctioneers, with offices in Newton Abbot, Totnes, Chudleigh, Kingsteignton, Ashburton and Kingskerswell, South Devon, received the ultimate industry accolade on Friday 3rd December by being crowned as the Best Medium South West Estate Agency of the Year at the 'Oscars' of the industry – the 2010 Estate Agency of the Year Awards in association with The Sunday Times and The Times, held at the Lancaster London Hotel.



The event, now in its eighth year, is recognised as the most important event in the industry calendar and attracted agents from across the country representing over 4,000 branches. It was once again supported by The Sunday Times and The Times and for the first time, property website Zoopla.co.uk with the winners presented with their awards by one of Britain's most successful athletes, James Cracknell.

Following their initial submissions, each of the winners were subjected to rigorous scrutiny by a panel of independent industry experts and the whole judging process was once more overseen and supported by the Property Ombudsman Christopher Hamer with Peter Bolton King, Chief Executive of NFOPP acting as Arbiter.

Andy Pounsberry of Wood's commented: "We are absolutely thrilled and honoured to have won the award for the Best Medium Estate Agency in the South West. We do everything we can to ensure our clients get the very best service with excellent, dedicated staff members, comprehensive marketing activities to get our properties noticed and meticulous attention to detail to make sure every transaction goes through as smoothly as possible."

Nick Wood shared Andy's delight and saw the award as "Recognition of the hard work put in over the year by all the staff and Directors."

The Judges' Report highlighted the particular qualities of Wood's, stating, "Widely known and trusted locally, this agency has worked hard to support the community and local charities and has

been a challenging market. A strong, co-ordinated marketing campaign helped to raise its profile while fundraising and charitable ventures brought in favourable editorial content as well as driving business; a highly effective team effort, which has delivered great results.”

Peter Knight, Chairman of the event organisers Estate Agency Events comments, “I would like to congratulate all those who have won awards at this year’s event. There is no doubt that the market is still very tough, with record lows in the number of mortgages being lent, but these awards clearly demonstrate the absolute commitment to excellence within our industry. This will be vital to help the industry return to growth and thrive in the future. I would also like to add my grateful thanks particularly to the team at The Sunday Times and The Times whose continued support has helped make the 2010 Awards the biggest and best event yet.”

The chosen charity for the 2010 Awards was The Estate Agency Foundation which exists to unite the estate agency industry and their customers to work together to combat the causes of homelessness in the UK and help thousands of people at risk of losing their homes through poverty, mental illness, abuse, dependency issues and many other factors. Donations on the day raised £6,574 which will be donated to The Estate Agency Foundation to distribute to those in need via existing channels.

A full list of all the award winners can be viewed at www.estateagencyoftheyear.com. Members of the independent estate agency network, **team**, Wood’s provide a multi-listing service for a sole agency fee. For further information, a no-obligation market valuation or to view any property for sale with the award-winning Wood’s, contact your nearest office on Ashburton 01364 654006, Chudleigh 01626 853940, Kingskerswell 01803 875873, Totnes 01803 866336, Kingsteignton 01626 364900 or Newton Abbot on 01626 336633.

- ends -

In the photograph (L-R): Jason Baker with James Cracknell, Andy Pounsberry with the award and Malcolm McCallion of Zoopla

Digital images are available from bubblepr@mac.com

Notes to editors:

Westcountry **team** is part of **team** Association, the largest organisation for independent estate agents in the UK, with hundreds of members. Westcountry **team** covers Cornwall, Devon and West Dorset, and consists of 70+ members at this time, all of which work together to sell property for clients, and are actively committed to their nominated charity, Macmillan Cancer Support. **team**’s ‘blue sky’ image, with transparent team logo on a blue sky background reflects the association’s and each individual agent’s commitment to providing a clear, transparent service to their clients and conducting business in a straightforward, honest and professional way.

For further information, please contact:

Samantha Mason, Bubble Public Relations. Tel: 01869 248524. Email: bubblepr@mac.com
Wood’s Estate Agents & Auctioneers: Ashburton 01364 654006, Chudleigh 01626 853940, Kingskerswell 01803 875873, Totnes 01803 866336, Kingsteignton 01626 364900, Newton Abbot on 01626 336633