

Press release – 24th January 2012

Wood's among the 'best of the best' at The Estate Agency of the Year Awards 2011

- Second consecutive award for Wood's at 'Oscars' of the industry

Wood's Estate Agents & Auctioneers received one of the most highly-respected and prestigious national industry accolades last month, when it was presented with the Silver award for the Best Medium South West Agency of the Year 2011 at the 'Oscars' of the industry – the second such award for the six-office **team** estate agency in Devon, having won the Gold award of the category in 2010.



On Thursday 8th December, over 500 leading estate agents and conveyancing lawyers descended upon The Lancaster London Hotel opposite Hyde Park for the ceremony of The Estate Agency of the Year Awards 2011, held in association with The Sunday Times and The Times and sponsored by Zoopla.co.uk.

The awards are firmly established as the most sought-after and difficult to win in estate agency. For the past nine years, the awards have become increasingly competitive with the standard of entries rising ever higher. Over 5,000 offices were represented this year, but only the very best of the best were crowned as winners.

The awards ceremony was the culminating event of a rigorous and thorough judging process carried out over a four month period by a panel of industry experts who assessed initial entry submissions before conducting an extensive review of the entrants, which included hundreds of telephone interviews and mystery shopping exercises. The whole judging process was overseen by The Property Ombudsman; Christopher Hamer.

The winners received their awards from celebrity guest, Ben Fogle who charmed the audience with some inspiring tales of his adventures.



Wood's Estate Agents & Auctioneers was crowned as the winner of the Silver award for the Best Medium South West Estate Agency of the Year. Jason Baker and Nick Wood were delighted to receive the award and commented: "We are absolutely thrilled and honoured to have won our second Estate Agency of the Year Award. We take great care to ensure our clients get the very best service with extensive marketing activities to get properties noticed and a loyal team of dedicated, experienced and highly-trained staff members who pay meticulous attention to detail to ensure our clients' transactions complete as smoothly as possible. We are extremely pleased and very proud to display the two awards in our offices."

The judges' comments highlight the reasons for Wood's win: "Wood's is a great example of how sheer hard work can pay off. From the robust training to the investment in technology, the team hasn't forgotten the basics of customer care and the value of their brand perception in the local community; innovative initiatives have raised its profile and helped local charities. Investment in the marketing and PR materials has paid off and these quality materials reinforce the quality service."

This comment as well as that of Wood's Gold win in 2010, and a list of all the winning companies and the judges' comments on each, can be found at www.estateagencyoftheyear.com.

Peter Knight, Chairman of the event organisers Estate Agency Events commented "At a time when the property market throughout much of the UK continues to struggle, choosing the right estate agent has never been more pertinent. The winners of these awards represent the top 10% of an industry where standards are hugely variable. Consumers should have confidence that a firm displaying a winner's medal from these awards are a cut above the rest."

The main awards were sponsored by Zoopla.co.uk, the UK's most comprehensive property website whilst the specialist categories were sponsored by some of the industry's leading suppliers including Audio Agent, ARPM, Clear Conveyancing, FWBS, Key Agent, Law Firm Services, Money Penny, Mortgage Talk, MoveWithUs, MyHomeMove, Ravensworth, Reapit, Roomservice by CORT and WhatHouse.co.uk

The six Wood's offices also work together with over 100 other **team** agents across the Westcountry to sell more property for clients. For information on **team**, visit www.westcountryteam.com.



For further information, for a free no-obligation market valuation or just for some advice, pop into your local Wood's office or call Newton Abbot 01626 336633; Kingsteignton 01626 364900; Totnes 01803 866336; Kingskerswell 01803 875873; Chudleigh 01626 853940 or Ashburton 01364 654006.

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In the photographs:

- Jason Baker and Nick Wood accepting the Wood's award from Ben Fogle at the awards ceremony

And:

- Some of Wood's staff: L-R: Sam Pounsberry (Chudleigh sales negotiator); Kelly Breslan (Newton Abbot & Kingskerswell sales negotiator); Amy Paget (Newton Abbot and Kingskerswell administrator); Richard Copus (Ashburton managing director); Julie Copsey (Kingsteignton sales manager); Andy Pounsberry (Chudleigh managing director); Sarah Thomas (Newton Abbot and Kingskerswell office manager); Dexter Allsworth (Newton Abbot and Kingskerswell senior negotiator); and Nick Wood (Totnes principle).

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. Over 100 **team** offices in the Westcountry work together to sell property for clients. **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:

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