



1<sup>st</sup> October 2025

## **Fresh look and fresh flavours as new restaurant opens at Hitchin Garden Centre**

**Hitchin Garden Centre is delighted to announce the official opening of its brand new Gardener's Retreat restaurant, following a major redevelopment that has transformed the dining space into a modern, welcoming destination for local residents.**

The project, part of British Garden Centres' ongoing investment programme, has more than doubled the restaurant's capacity and created a bright, comfortable setting with stylish décor and the added comfort of air conditioning. With seating for up to 250 guests, the new restaurant has installed a new carvery and provides the perfect space for everything from family gatherings and coffee with friends to relaxed lunches and weekend treats.

As well as enhancing the customer experience, the expansion has delivered a boost to the local economy, with around 15 new jobs created. New roles recruited for span across the kitchen, front of house, and management, and the new team is already welcoming guests with freshly prepared meals and warm hospitality.

**Ricky Towers, Group Restaurant Director at British Garden Centres, said:** "We are thrilled to unveil the new restaurant at Hitchin Garden Centre. It has been designed to offer a brighter, more comfortable place for people to enjoy great food within the heart of the garden centre. The response from customers so far has been fantastic, and we're proud that this project has also created valuable new jobs here in Hitchin. We look forward to becoming a go-to spot for both regular visitors and those discovering us for the first time."

The restaurant is now open daily from 9 am – 5 pm, serving a full menu of freshly prepared dishes alongside snacks, cakes, and drinks. The new Gardeners Retreat restaurant will also be hosting several Christmas events for families, which can be booked online at <https://www.britishgardencentres.com/events/?location=hitchin-garden-centre>

**ENDS:**

**WORD COUNT: 290**

**Notes to Editors:** British Garden Centres (BGC) is the UK's largest family-owned garden centre group, with 73 centres around the country. The group is owned and led by the Stubbs family, who also own and operate Woodthorpe Leisure Park in Lincolnshire. BGC was launched in 1990 with the opening of Woodthorpe Garden Centre, funded by brothers Charles and Robert Stubbs. Since 2018, it has expanded rapidly with the acquisition of 50 garden centres, allowing it to grow from its heartland to the business it is now, with 73 garden centres spread from Carmarthen to Ramsgate, Wimborne to East Durham.



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The group has a team of 2,700 colleagues working across the garden centres, restaurants, three growing nurseries, 4 distribution centres and Woodthorpe Leisure Park and Woody's Restaurant & Bar.

**Social Media**

Facebook: British Garden Centres

Twitter: @BGCentres

Instagram: @BritishGardenCentres

Website: [www.britishgardencentres.com](http://www.britishgardencentres.com)

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