**PRESS RELEASE**

**Surrey apprentice takes national trade body title**

A Surrey-based apprentice who is learning valuable skills to protect buildings for the future, is celebrating after securing a national award from an industry trade body.

Danny Williams, who works for Shaw Preservations based in Epsom, won the Specialist Apprentice of the Year award at the Property Care Association’s annual Best Practice awards event.

The 29-year-old went along with representatives from his company to the black-tie event, held at The Slate, University of Warwick.

Speaking after receiving his award, Danny said: “I am over the moon. The competition was very tough and it is good to know my hard work is paying off.

“I know the training does not stop here and I am looking forward to continuing to develop my understanding and experience into the future.”

The PCA launched an apprenticeship programme in 2016 to train and develop a new generation of professionals with the skills necessary to preserve and protect properties across the UK.

Introduced with support and funding from CITB, apprentices from across the UK are taking part in the scheme, where they undertake a comprehensive programme which will give them an insight into subjects including wet and dry rot, wood boring insects, rising damp and timber treatments.

The award, sponsored by Elta Fans Residential, also represented a proud moment for Shaw Preservations, which has supported Danny throughout his training.

Managing Director Jacki Shaw, said: “We are absolutely delighted for Danny. The course was very thorough and he embraced the practical and theory training at every level.

“Thanks to the apprenticeship scheme, Danny’s future looks very bright.”

Stephen Hodgson, Chief Executive of the PCA, said: “It gives us great pleasure to award Danny for his commitment and enthusiasm to both his work and studies.

“Our apprenticeship scheme is hugely important to the association and the industry and it is great to see it shape the next generation of property professionals.”

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**NOTES TO EDITORS**

Noted for its training and technical expertise, the PCA incorporates the British Wood Preserving and Damp-proofing Association (BWPDA), and has been in been in formation for more than 85 years.

The trade body represents the UK’s structural repair sector, as well as the structural waterproofing, wood preservation, damp-proofing, flood remediation and invasive weed control industries.

Danny Williams won the apprenticeship title jointly with another trainee, Luke Hainsworth, of Leeds.

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