

HOULDEN MEMBER GATWARDS OF HITCHIN MARKS 265 YEARS AS UK'S OLDEST FAMILY JEWELLER WITH EXHIBITION

Founded in 1760, Houlden Member Gatwards of Hitchin has been continuously owned and managed by the same family for eight generations.

Gatwards of Hitchin is celebrating its 265th birthday this year as the UK's oldest family-run jeweller still trading from its original premises.

Through centuries of change, from Georgian craftsmanship to contemporary design, the business has demonstrated how heritage and adaptability can be powerful assets in maintaining relevance and trust across generations of clients.

To commemorate the anniversary, Gatwards of Hitchin unveiled an in-store exhibition that charts the company's journey through jewellery, timepieces, and historical records.



Early Georgian and Victorian Gatwards of Hitchin creations sat alongside heirloom pieces and bespoke commissions, illustrating the evolution of style and design through over two and a half centuries.

Archival documents and photography further highlighted how the business has continued to uphold the values of craftsmanship, quality and personal service while navigating the shifting landscape of retail.

The celebrations also included an exclusive client evening in collaboration with Lanson Champagne – itself founded in 1760. The partnership underscores the shared legacy of two enduring houses built on tradition, craftsmanship and longevity.

MD Charlotte McCrossin (pictured) and 8th generation family member, said:

“Celebrating 265 years is a truly special milestone – not only for our family, but for the wider jewellery industry.

“This exhibition goes beyond jewellery; it’s about stories, heritage and the enduring values that have carried Gatwards through centuries.

“We are proud to share this moment with our clients and to show that independent jewellers with deep roots can continue to thrive.”