



Steve Whitworth, Carl Lomas and John Scott with Marjorie Walsh, who received the Staff Award Shield.
Photo by Ian Cormack

Simply the best

By Diana Cormack

East Finchley based mini-cab company, Greater London Hire, held a dinner at Highgate Golf Club for the presentation of its annual staff awards. This is an important event in the GLH calendar, for it enables the firm to say thank you to staff and fleet and to welcome friends from both inside and outside the industry.

Drivers, motorbike couriers and office staff were presented with the awards by former employees Carl Lomas, now involved in training unemployed people to become motorbike couriers and Steve Whitworth, who played football for England, Leicester City and

Barnet as player/coach.

In his after dinner speech, managing director John Scott paid tribute to the staff and was pleased to announce the acquisition of the super bike Honda 500 for a new fleet. Tracy Worth, organiser of the National Courier Awards, included John

in her praise of the firm in her speech, which was entitled "Being the Best."

GLH has been presenting these staff awards for twenty-one years and it is notable that the firm has never closed since 1970, which is quite an achievement in itself.

Bin it for Barnet: the race is on!

By Ann Bronkhorst

The third annual Bin it for Barnet competition was launched on 18 June. No, it's not just another anti-litter campaign. Innovative projects to improve, clean up and maintain run-down places are invited; in six months' time five groups will win prize money to plough back into their projects.

The competition launch was hosted by McDonald's at their HQ in the High Road and attended by people from voluntary, community and faith groups, and schools. Bin it for Barnet is steered and funded by four organisations: LA21 Partnerships, Barnet Voluntary Service Council, Barnet Council and McDonald's Restaurants.

The new Mayor of Barnet, Cllr. Wendy Prentice, praised the high standard of entries for the previous competitions. An exhibition about earlier winners – which may tour schools and libraries later – showed what a few dynamic people can achieve. For example, Moss Hall Infant School has created a pond and wildlife garden from a barren patch of ground. The renovation of West Hendon Baptist Church, once almost derelict, has influenced other clean-up schemes in its neighbourhood.

Knock-on effect

Jean Ivatt, Chair of Bin it for Barnet, emphasised the value of this 'mushroom' effect: one improvement project influencing the area around it. Murals, she said, could reduce the incidence of graffiti nearby and school attendance had



The Waste Monster, drawn by Yaseer Choudhury. Reproduced by permission of Bin it for Barnet

improved markedly for a truant who'd become involved in a Bin it for Barnet project.

Children have always been targeted, from the first poster competition, which attracted over 1,400 entries. Boys at one local secondary school, Christ's College, have formed a Green Planet Club and may compete this year. It's not just schools: for instance, a Scout Camp site has been transformed in a previous project.

Competition entry packs, well designed and full of practical information, are available from Sheila Panayiodou at sheila@barnetvsc.org.uk or 0208 446 6624 but hurry, as entries must be in by 31 July. As one enthusiast said at the launch, "Don your welly boots and get out there!"

A friendly welcome awaits you

EAST FINCHLEY METHODIST CHURCH

197 High Road, London N2 (opp. Creighton Ave.)
www.eastfinchleymethodist.org.uk

*Family service and Junior Church
Every Sunday at 10.30 a.m.*

Worship Music Social events Kids' Club Wheelchair friendly
tel: 020 8349 9340 e-mail: info@eastfinchleymethodist.org.uk

In Contact

In Church Lane, East Finchley Neighbourhood Contact, sometimes just called Contact, is there to help all kinds of people to help others.

Never too old to be useful

Trans Age Action Project trains and assists older people for voluntary work as mentors and homework coaches in primary schools and family centres. The project is run by Age Concern. Anyone interested should ring Tracy Evans on 020 8346 0542.

Make contact – make a difference

You could make a difference to a lonely, elderly person's life in East Finchley by helping just once a month or once a year!

Contact the Elderly is a national charity that runs small, local teams of volunteers who take the same group of older people to an informal Sunday afternoon tea at a different host's house once a month.

There are isolated, elderly people living completely alone in East Finchley now – possibly even in your own street. Please help by driving just once a month or hosting (hosts need a downstairs loo) once a year so we can start an East Finchley group in conjunction with the East Finchley Neighbourhood Contact.

Please phone Sian Jones on

8444 1162 and mention Contact the Elderly.

For more information visit www.contact-the-elderly.org or freephone 0800 716 543

Over 70 and/or disabled and an arts lover?

Shape Ticket Scheme offers volunteer driver-escorts to arts venues, reduced ticket prices, and a specialised booking service to find seats that suit the needs of the disabled, as well as access to specialist equipment and sign interpreters.

Shape, which is an established organisation offering practical support to elderly and/or disabled arts lovers, also publishes a newsletter, and information on events and shows. THE ARCHER will be reporting more about its activities in the future.

Annual individual membership costs £15, but East Finchley Neighbourhood Contact could arrange a group membership, depending on demand. Contact will also help with filling in membership forms. To contact Shape direct, ring 020 7619 6166.

Contact is at 42, Church Lane, N2. Tel 020 8444 1162.

Calling all mums

Are you pregnant or have you just had a baby? If so Cathy Neale would like to hear about how it went.

She's the new representative on a local committee that covers all maternity care, from pregnancy through to weaning your six-month-old, and it's her job to make sure mums' views are heard.

"I'm really keen to hear from any mum or mum-to-be about their experiences, whatever birth they had, whether it's their first or fifth child," said Cathy. "And it's not just about the birth, but for example, how they were treated when they were pregnant or did they get the support and information they wanted when they were at home with their new baby?"

"At the moment I'm looking for mums who have had caesarean sections, or who've had a successful vaginal delivery after having had a previous caesarean section because at the next meeting we're looking at how caesarean sections are managed."

Every two months

"We meet every two months with health managers from all the local hospitals – the Whittington, the Royal Free, North Middlesex Hospital, Edgware Birth Centre, Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals – so it really is a good way of making sure that the people in charge of maternity care know what the women and families that use their services think. And that's why I need as many mums as possible to come forward and tell me their stories and experiences."

The next meeting of the Barnet, Enfield and Haringey Maternity Services Liaison Committee is on Thursday 15 July, when they will be discussing caesarean sections.

Comments can be emailed to Cathy at cathy_neale@hotmail.com or you can phone her on 020 8444 5058.

Cathy is the lay representative put forward by the National Childbirth Trust (NCT) – a charity that gives information and advice to new mums and dads. The NCT Helpline is 0870 444 8707; local contact is Sophie Spence 020 8444 1890.



ST. JOHNS CHRISTIAN SPIRITUALIST CHURCH

Tele: 020 8446 1725 ~ Web: www.stjohnsfinchley.co.uk

Services

Sunday 6.30 p.m. Thursday 7.30 p.m.

Holy Communion 1st Sunday of the month 6.30 p.m.

Healing every Tuesday between 1 p.m. & 3 p.m.

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by arrangement with the Minister

All are welcome

4 Woodberry Grove N12 (behind Homebase)