



Pupils, staff and parents planted for the future at Holy Trinity.

## Trees for the next generation

By Sally Aitio

Holy Trinity School was given 30 trees by the Woodland Trust to plant in the school grounds as part of a national scheme. Each class had the opportunity to put on their wellies and plant a tree.

By planting these trees the school hopes to create an area of biodiversity where wildlife will want to live. On a more global level, planting trees will also help combat climate change and improve the environment.

There are plans to grow vegetables for the school kitchen next spring, as well as to develop composting facilities in order to reduce, recycle and reuse organic waste.

In late November, Holy Trinity also held its second 'no power hour' when staff and pupils switched off all the energy consuming appliances in their classrooms, as part of a national initiative called 'Switch off Fortnight'.

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## Stationer wins national award

By Annie Raff

East Finchley's stationer has earned itself a national retail award. UOE, which has been trading on the High Road for more than 25 years, won the BOSS Industry Award for Retail Excellence. It was deemed "the best stationery shop in the UK" by the judges, beating off the likes of Tesco.

Manager Elliot Jacobs is delighted by the recognition, saying he was "stunned" when he heard his company's name called at the awards ceremony at the Lancaster Hotel.

When asked why they decided to submit an application for the award, Mr Jacobs said that, despite the economic downturn of the last two years, which has left many businesses struggling to survive, UOE has seen an increase in trade and custom.

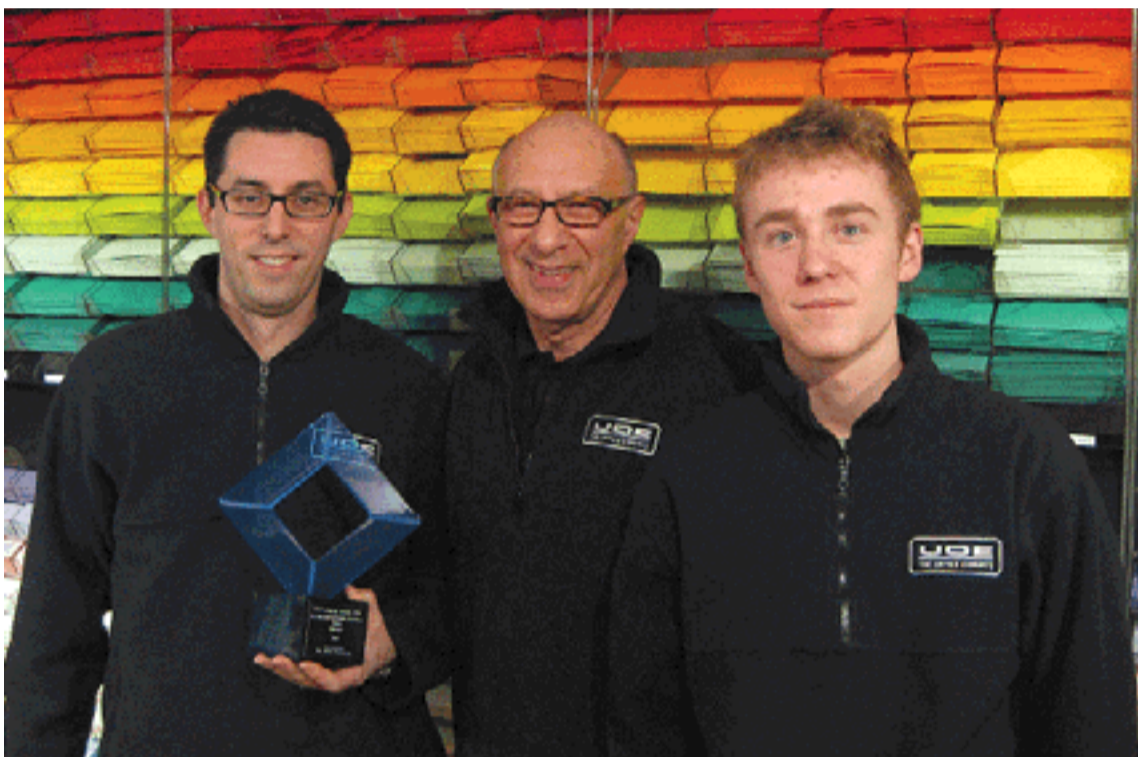
He puts this down to the fact that they maintain high standards as well as an element of tradition. Staff are well trained in product knowledge but, more importantly, are friendly and always willing to make the effort to enhance the customer experience.

### Local and loyal

But it's not only the staff who make UOE a success; nothing would be possible without the support of local loyal cus-

tomers. Mr Jacobs calls East Finchley a "fantastic community, in that everyone supports their local high street".

As well as sorting out any stationery needs for locals and passers-by, from whom they gain 85% of their retail trade, UOE also supply national companies across the UK and Ireland with all their stationery. Like Mr Jacobs' own rise to success from Saturday boy to managing director, it seems UOE is a real success story.



From left, Elliot Jacobs, Mike Jacobs & James Chowen. Photo by Annie Raff.

## Paying the price for "free" parking places

By Diana Cormack

On 2 December, Barnet Council announced in the press and on notices displayed locally that they proposed to make amendments to their Controlled Parking Zones (CPZs). Changes would be made "in order to ensure that the London Borough of Barnet's CPZs continue to work effectively".

This would entail converting all the free parking places to "Permit Holder Only" during the appropriate hours of restriction. Residents and visitors would have to display a valid permit or visitor voucher between either 10am-6.30pm or 2pm-3pm, in previously free places.

For East Finchley traders this could lead to a loss of business vital to their survival in the current climate. Some already feel that potential customers are put off by the High Road parking meters, particularly those that are not cash-only payments. They see this latest move as counter-productive at a time

when Barnet, instead of continuing to milk a captive cash cow, should be working to support local shopping centres.

At a particularly busy time of year with the run-up to Christmas, anyone wishing to inspect or object to the proposals had to do so within 21 days of the notice.

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