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THE FREE NEWSLETTER OF TAMESIDE MBC ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH & CONSUMER SERVICES

PROVIDING HELP AND ADVICE FOR CONSUMERS AND BUSINESSES OF TAMESIDE

ISSUE 20 December 2005

TAMESIDE FOOD AND DRINK AWARDS

As part of the second Food and Drink festival, 8 premises were rewarded for their high standards of Food Hygiene by Environmental Health Officers from the Environmental Safety & Hygiene section. These 8 were selected from the 103 premises that have been presented with the Council's Food Safety Award for achieving and maintaining a higher standard of food hygiene than the law requires.

The Winner was LL's Kitchen, Manchester Road, Mossley who not only passed a hygiene spot check with flying colours but also told us why their business should be chosen as one of the best Food Safety award holders in the borough with the following poem:

'Six months old,
new and keen.
We followed the rules
And clean, clean, clean.

Standards we follow
Just have to be done
We would love to be
NUMBER ONE!



From Left to Right: Business Partners LL's Kitchen, Simon Rimmer (Celebrity Chef), Kevin Greenwood, Gillian Turner (Environmental Health Staff), Ian Saxon (Head of Environmental Enforcement), Mike Thompson (Assistant Executive Director of Engineering & Environmental Services)

The other deserved winners were

2nd Place. Hyde Leisure Pool Walker Lane Hyde SK14 5PL

3rd Place. St. Mary's School Kitchen Church Street Droylsden M43 7BR

Highly Commended recipients -

Lymefield Garden Centre and Tea-Room Broadbottom Hyde SK14 6AG

Kerry Foods Limited Godley Hill Road Godley Hyde SK14 3BR

Fletchers Arms 445 Stockport Road Denton M34 6EG

Portland Bakery Tameside College Beaufort Road Ashton-under-Lyne OL6 6NX

Junction Inn Mossley Road Ashton-under-Lyne OL6 9BX

The Food Safety award has been running since 1993 and the number of successful applicants increases year on year. Visit the Tameside website for a full listing of all the premises at www.tameside.gov.uk

JINGLE BELLS!!

If you're on holiday over the festive season, try to ensure your neighbours have a peaceful time while you are away. Burglar alarms which ring for long periods of time can be very annoying especially at night. Register your keyholders and we will contact them if your alarm is causing a noise problem. Ring 0161 342 2697 for a form or complete online registration at www.tameside.gov.uk/corpgen1/burglar.htm.



 **Tameside**
Metropolitan Borough
"An excellent council"

PLEASE CONTACT US IF YOU HAVE ANY PROBLEMS OR REQUIRE ADVICE ON ANY OF THE ITEMS IN THIS ISSUE

Environmental Health & Consumer Services Division, Council Offices, Wellington Road, Ashton-under-Lyne. OL6 6DL Tel: 0161 342 3941

SAFETY TIPS



It's nearly that time of year again to dig out and dust off the Christmas decorations. Before you put them up here's a few tips to make sure Christmas is only memorable for the right reasons!

Make sure all step ladders and ladders are safe for use by following these easy tips:

- **Inspect the step ladder/ladder to make sure it isn't damaged and that the steps aren't slippery. Make sure the stabilisers (the devices on the sides that hold step ladders open) function properly and never climb on a ladder that is slippery or shaky.**
- **Plant the base of the ladder on a firm, level surface. Stabilisers should be open and locked before the ladder is used.**
- **When climbing up and down, face the ladder. Keep the body centered between the sides and have one hand and one foot on the rung at the same time. Don't carry equipment when climbing, instead have someone hand it to you.**
- **When on the ladder, keep weight evenly distributed. Never overextend your reach.**
- **Don't attempt to move a ladder while standing on it. Clear the ladder of people and equipment before moving it.**
- **Never stand on the ladder's top shelf – that is not designed to hold people.**

Follow manufacturer's guidelines and warning labels on the ladder itself.

Even Santa Claus follows these rules so make sure that you do too and that the only trips you have over the festive season are to parties and not Tameside A&E!

Mini Motor Bikes Off The Xmas List

Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council have banned the sale of petrol driven mini motor bikes within their authority because of the serious safety defects associated with their use and the constant anti social disruptive problems of noise, nuisance and danger to other people. We have been inundated with complaints says Dave Meakin, Head of Trading Standards and we have warned parents not to buy these dangerous mini-motorcycles as presents in the run up to Christmas.

Officers are concerned that some people may see the potentially dangerous bikes, which are illegal to use on roads and in other public areas, as toys. Some of these bikes can reach speeds in excess of 40mph.

We had one of the seized petrol operated bikes, examined by an independent engineer who found serious safety hazards with the steering, brakes, suspension, sharp edges and wiring mechanisms. He considered the machine to be extremely dangerous. It is only a matter of time before there is a serious accident involving a mini motorbike and we are determined to see an end to the problems caused by these inconsiderate individuals, who are risking not only their own safety but that of others.

A publicity event was held at the Council Offices where 20-30 of these mini motorbikes were crushed along with other bikes that had been seized by the police.

In the picture we see Dave Meakin, Head of Trading Standards, Cllr Allison Gwynne, and inspector Wayne Miller from GMPolice with one of the crushed mini motorbikes.



FOR ALL YOUR SHOPPING COMPLAINTS

When you have purchased something at Christmas or in the sales in the New Year, you need to know your rights in case there is something wrong with the goods or you want to take them back or exchange them.

You are entitled to your money back: -

- When there is a fault
- When the goods do not fit their description
- When the goods do not do what they are supposed to do

You are not entitled to your money back: -

- If you have changed your mind about the goods
- If the goods don't fit
- If the goods have been abused in use – e.g. wilfully damaged or incorrectly washed
- If the faults were shown to you before purchase
- If you were able to see the fault before purchase
- If you have already accepted a credit note



Load of rubbish!

EXTRA rubbish generated over Christmas throughout the country would fill 120 million wheelie bins.

With landfill sites space running out it is becoming increasingly important that residents look to recycle as much as they can over Christmas. Below is a list of handy tips to help with your recycling.

How can we help

Avoid buying products with lots of packaging
Use reusable shopping bags or reuse plastic bags.
Recycle any glass bottles and jars, plastic drinks bottles and plastic film (eg. carrier bags) in your green bin (plus red sack) or take them to your nearest recycling centre. If you do not have room for your own recycling bin talk to a neighbour about sharing.

Buying Presents

If possible avoid buying presents that rely on disposable parts- try to look for alternatives.
Buy gifts made from recyclables
Buy rechargeable batteries.
Treat someone to experience presents such as theatre tickets, flying lessons or, a trip to the cinema

Christmas Cards and trees

Send electronic Christmas cards on the internet. Tesco and WHSmith will collect Christmas cards for recycling. Old cards can be taken to stores from January 2 until January 31 2006. Any cards without glitter can be put into blue bins or taken to your nearest recycling site.

If your area is covered by the brown bin scheme you can put your old real tree out with your bin on collection day

If your area is not covered by the brown bin scheme, Christmas trees can be taken to either of the borough's two recycling centres. Willow wood hospice is also operating a Christmas tree recycling collection this year- all proceeds will go towards hospice.

Blue and Green Bin recycling collections continue throughout the Christmas period.

Please note that brown bin collections do not take place between 23rd December and 3rd January inclusive.

Please check your calendar to ensure you know when your bins will be emptied.

For more information contact the call centre 0161 342 8355 or visit <http://www.tameside.gov.uk/recycling/index.html>

Counterfeit goods and / unsafe toys

Con men try to make a killing at the expense of bargain hunters all the time, but this increases at Christmas. The Marketplace can become flooded with fake products which can, at the least be disappointing, or at the worst be lethal. Children may be disappointed on Christmas morning when their "bargain" play station game or music CD doesn't work. Fake clothes are usually of inferior quality and will not wash or wear the same. So although it may look like a bargain at first – after a few washes it may be a different story.

Fake toys are particularly worrying as the quality and safety controls that legally have to be complied with will not be carried out by the counterfeiters. For example high levels of lead in paint may be found in toys which can have harmful effects on children. Other items may contain small parts that may lead to a "choking hazard" on small children and babies. For your peace of mind make sure that you buy safe toys by only buying those that display a CE mark and look out for an age

warning.

Other fake goods which may be harmful to your health include perfume and cosmetics which may irritate or burn the skin, tablets which do nothing or may have harmful side effects. All of these have legal requirements to comply with to make them safe for people to use – the counterfeiters don't bother to comply with these safety rules.

If something costs less than half the normal price, it's almost certainly fake. Is it worth the risk?



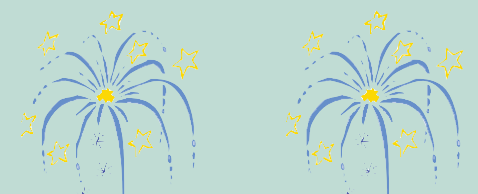
Party Season

It's nearing the festive season and once again several of us will be visiting the local pubs. Trading Standards Officers regularly inspect all licensed premises (pubs and clubs) within the Borough to check

for short measures, substitution and prices. All optics and beer meters are checked to make sure that what you pay for you get and most times this is the case. However, pubs are increasingly using bottle top pourers instead of the traditional optics, which when checked have shown to give an incorrect measure.

Another problem that arises is that of substitution, where cheaper spirits put in a bottle of a more expensive bottle so it looks as if you're getting Bells, Smirnoff etc. Fortunately Trading Standards have special checks to establish if the right spirit is in the bottle – if not then we'll prosecute the licensee. Trading Standards can also check if any of the spirits are watered down. But it's not only spirits – this also happens with wine and coke and other major brands of soft drinks.

All premises should display a price list so that you can check that you've been charged correctly. So always make sure that you can see the price and check your change.



RECYCLING & FLYTIPPING

The Fly Tipping Enforcement Unit is not just there to make life difficult for businesses.

Recent successes in the Courts have demonstrated how we can help.

An Ashton butcher (James Burrows) had been experiencing incidents of fly tipping of food waste on land at their Katherine Street premises. Investigation and subsequent prosecution by the FTEU lead to the conviction of Mr Wajid Din, formerly of Wise Price, Margaret Street, Ashton. Din had claimed a member of staff had fly tipped the waste although he had been given money to pay for proper disposal. He pleaded guilty to 2 counts. He was given a 12 month conditional discharge and ordered to pay £752.50 costs.

The managers of an Audenshaw industrial estate (Shepley North) had been trying to get Mr Kenneth Manton of Birch Grove, Audenshaw to remove a large pile of bulky household items that he had deposited on their service road. He was captured on the Estates' CCTV taking items from his rear garden and piling them behind his fence. He claimed to have paid someone to remove the items but when questioned could provide no contact details or receipt. The company had provided him with a number of chances over a period of about four weeks to remove the items, however he failed to do so and the Owners subsequently engaged their contractors to clear the waste. After investigation of the incident by the FTEU Mr Manton pleaded guilty to depositing the items and was given a 12 month conditional discharge, ordered to pay court costs of £437.50 and the cost of clearing the items £314.90.



Christmas and New Year Refuse Collections 2005

Monday Collections

- | | |
|---------------------------|---|
| Monday 19th December 2005 | - Normal Collections |
| Monday 26th December 2005 | - Collections will be done
Friday 23rd December 2005 |
| Monday 2nd January 2006 | - Collections will be done
Friday 30th December 2005 |
| Monday 9th January 2006 | - Normal Collections |



Your co-operation with the above arrangements would be greatly appreciated. Please place your bins in the normal collection position for 7am and ensure access is available for the refuse vehicle.

Please note there is no Bulky Household Collections between 26th December 2005 and 2nd January 2006

Environmental Health, Consumer and Bereavement Services would like to wish you all a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



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