

*In Partnership with*

**Runcorn and Widnes Tourism Business Network**

**NEWS RELEASE**

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## **Launch of Halton's search for business and tourism stars**

Have you experienced great customer service at Halton's tourist attractions or hotels? Or do you run a five star business or organisation?

If so, now is the time to make your nominations for the 2011 Halton Business and Tourism Awards, organised for the third successive year by the Runcorn and Widnes Tourism Business Network and Halton Chamber of Commerce and Enterprise.

Three new categories have been added to the Business Awards this year – Retailer of the Year, Best Contribution to the Environment and Third Sector Organisation of the Year. These are in addition to the established contests for Business of the Year and Entrepreneur of the Year (including new business start-ups). And the award for Networker of the Year will now be presented at the special Christmas 1stuesday event in December.

In the Tourism Awards there are five categories -Outstanding Customer Service, Tourism Support, Transport and Leisure Staff, Team of the Year, Outstanding Young Person' (age16-24) and Unseen Hero/Volunteer.

Tourism award nomination forms will be available at attractions and hotels throughout Halton or you can vote online at [www.halton.gov.uk/tourism](http://www.halton.gov.uk/tourism).

Businesses can be nominated via the Halton Chamber website at [www.haltonchamber.com](http://www.haltonchamber.com)

Nicola Holland, of Halton Chamber, said: "We hope the addition of the three new categories will better reflect Halton's diverse business mix. The borough contains some excellent shops which deserve recognition, as well as a wide range of organisations run by volunteers. And with all businesses being called on to cut carbon emissions and introduce greener working practices, we felt there should be an award for those who have gone that extra mile in protecting the environment."

Su Bullen, of the Tourism Business Network, added: "We are delighted to launch the Halton Business and Tourism Awards at one of the region's premier boating companies, Claymoore Narrowboats. Each year hundreds of holidaymakers set off on a boating adventure round the canal network from Preston Brook, attracting a constant flow of new tourists to Halton. The borough has much to be proud of, so if you have enjoyed a special experience at an attraction or hotel, or received excellent customer service, why not thank them with a nomination."

Deadline for entries is 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2010 and all short-listed finalists will be invited to a glittering awards ceremony at the Holiday Inn, Runcorn, on 25<sup>th</sup> February 2011.

### **Photo Caption**

Inviting nominations for the 2011 Halton Business and Tourism awards are: (left) Richard Prescott, a bus driver with Arriva (2010 Business of the Year winner) and John Wells, owner of Claymoore Narrowboats, a holiday hire boat company based at Preston Brook.

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