

Candies Cuisine is served up with top national award

ALLOA-BASED social firm Candies Cuisine has been Highly Commended at a national awards ceremony.

The firm, which is supported by Clackmannanshire Council's Adult Day Services, was short-listed in the Social Enterprise category at the Scottish Business Diversity Awards 2009.

Candies went forward to the national awards after winning the category at the Forth Valley Awards earlier this year.

Candies manager Hannah Todd and assistant supervisor Karin Kotlarz attended the glittering ceremony at Glasgow Science Centre.

Master of Ceremonies for the event was entertainer Andy Cameron and Hannah and Karin were presented with their award by Laurie Russell, chief execu-

five of The Wise Group. Hannah said, "We were absolutely delighted to be highly commended."

"While all the staff from Candies weren't able to attend, we accepted the award on their behalf, because the award really is for them."

Councillor Sam Owens, regeneration portfolio holder, added his congratulations to all at Candies Cuisine.

He said, "This national recognition is deserved for the contribution they make in Clackmannanshire to embracing diversity in the workplace."

The Scottish Business Diversity Awards recognise companies for supporting inclusion within business and the community. Candies, based at the Alloa Falcon Foodservice Equipment, a



HANNAH TODD and Karin Kotlarz are delighted to receive their Highly Commended award on behalf of Candies Cuisine from Laurie Russell, chief executive of the Wise Group.

Business Centre, was formed in 2003 with six volunteers. It now provides eight paid jobs and 25 trainee placements for people with various disabilities.

Candies training section provides catering for staff at Kilmcratrigs. It also has a contract with Falcon Foodservice Equipment, a Bookdoners.

Stirling-based kitchen equipment manufacturer, which involves lunch for 300 people every day, as well as corporate buffets for a number of local companies and council functions.

The Social Enterprise category was won by Borders firm Bookdoners.

Thursday 17 December 2009 15 Bingo duty cut does not go far enough

BINGO clubs in Alloa will benefit from the cut in bingo duty announced in the Chancellor's pre-budget report - but Ochil MSP Keith Brown says the reduction from 22 to 20 per cent doesn't go far enough.

He insisted bingo taxation should be brought into line with taxation of other gaming activities. Mr Brown said, "The Chancellor has made a step in the right direction, but it does not go far enough."

"Back in July, Labour MPs, including our local MP Gordon Banks, voted down an SNP amendment to the Finance Bill which would have ensured fairer taxation for the bingo industry and an end to the double standard currently lumbered on the sector.

"I saw first hand how the bingo industry has a great social role to contribute in our communities when I visited Alloa Bingo Hall in July, and we have to do as much as possible to support the sector through these tough times."

Other gambling activities are taxed at 15 per cent and Mr Brown said the bingo industry should not be singled out for harsh treatment.

Pharmacists can advise on ailments

PEOPLE in Clackmannanshire are being urged to seek advice from their local community pharmacist if they develop a cough or a cold in the run up to the festive holiday season.

The Scottish Pharmacy Board (SPB) says that it can be confusing for people with the range of medicines on offer, particularly from outlets where no professional advice is available.

SPB member Alistair Jack said, "It is easy to fear the worst when a cough develops and automatically think it could turn into seasonal flu or even swine flu."

"People shouldn't panic but should seek advice about common winter ailments, like coughs, colds and flu, from their local pharmacy."

"Pharmacists are experts in medicines and will advise on self help and over the counter treatments."

SSPEA plans to create £3.5m wildlife rescue centre