



**CHARITIES**

### Cabbies for charity

Last year's Taxi Charity Christmas lunch proved to be a huge success. After a year of fundraising to lose weight and get fit before climbing Kilimanjaro, three London cabbies, Daren Parr, John Dillane and Brian Heffernan (right), presented the charity with a cheque for £18,000.

At the same event, the Dutch Liberation Medal was presented to World War 2 veteran Tom Schaffer by Lieutenant Colonel Rob Arts, Military and Air Attaché and Deputy Defence Attaché, from the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands (above).



Tom was also presented with some of the four hundred Christmas cards that had been sent to the Taxi Charity to distribute to WWII veterans from Dutch school children.

### Zero tolerance for petrol and diesel

Petrol and diesel cars are no longer permitted to use Barbican Estate's Beech Street, as it becomes Britain's first zero emission street. Beech Street is one of the most polluted in the Capital and now only zero emission vehicles, cyclists and pedestrians are permitted to use it while petrol and diesel cars

are being rerouted using advance warnings and signage.

The restriction has been brought in with an 18-month experimental traffic order to see what people think and to allow air quality and traffic to be monitored. Emergency vehicles, refuse collection and deliveries are excepted from the order.

**THE KNOWLEDGE**

### Mr Thomas retires

After 30 years in the Metropolitan Police Service (including getting shot while in the Flying Squad) and 17 years as a Knowledge of London examiner, Mr (Steve) Thomas retired at the end of last year.

Being an ardent life-long Chelsea fan, his retirement/70th birthday bash was held at Stamford Bridge and tributes included video messages from Frank Lampard, John Terry and Anthea Turner. In attendance were current and ex-colleagues, representatives from the Knowledge of London schools (including candidates) and members of the taxi trade.

Graham Sarson, Driver Assessment Administration Manager, said: 'Steve always took immense pride in being a Knowledge of London examiner. He had the candidate's best interests at heart and a way with words. He was one of the only examiners who could tell someone they'd had an awful appearance and still have them walk out of the room smiling, laughing and saying how he was such a nice man and a true gentleman.'



Retired Knowledge of London examiner Steve Thomas