

## GREAT EASTERN HOTEL BECOMES ANDAZ LIVERPOOL STREET

On 1st November, this hotel will be changing its name. Drivers on the Liverpool Street rank have been enjoying complimentary bacon sandwiches and coffee, but now the hotel is offering taxi drivers the chance to enjoy a free stay in the hotel. To enter this promotion, all you have to do is call 020 7618 5284 and leave your mobile phone number and name. The many winners will be notified throughout November.



## LTFUC APOLOGISE!!

This year, as The London Taxidriers' Fund for Underprivileged Children approaches its 80th anniversary in 2008, the Public Carriage Office has NOT granted the permission it has given every year since the early 1970's, during which time over £100,000 has been collected, and given countless thousands of disadvantaged children an annual party to remember at the Grosvenor House, Park Lane.

The Fund apologise to all the licensed London taxi-drivers who are willing to carry a collecting box in their taxi during the few weeks before Christmas. The Fund trustees are unwilling to place any driver in a situation that could jeopardise his or her ability to work. Officials from the PCO have verbally stated that approval cannot be given, but they have refused to put it in writing. Apparently, licensed London taxi-drivers cannot act as an agent for an organisation collecting money.

However, if any responsible London taxi-driver, licensed as a fit and proper person and CRB checked every 3 years, would like to help the LTFUC and over 600 underprivileged children with this year's collection, please contact any committee member, or log on to [www.thelondontaxidrierschildrenscharity.co.uk](http://www.thelondontaxidrierschildrenscharity.co.uk)

## TRAFALGAR SQUARE CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING

This year's annual Christmas tree lighting ceremony will take place on Thursday 6 December in Trafalgar Square followed by a season of carol singing.

The tree is a gift to the people of London from Norway, which has been given by the Norwegian capital Oslo as a token of gratitude for Britain's support during World War II. Usually a Norwegian Spruce over 20 metres high, the tree is selected from forests surrounding Oslo, and felled in November. It is brought to the UK by sea and a specialist rigging team erects it in the square using a hydraulic crane. It is decorated in traditional Norwegian fashion, with vertical strings of lights - energy-efficient light bulbs are used.

The free carol singing season will run from Monday 10 to Sunday 23 December, and is open to all those who want to come along to listen or join in with the carols. Over forty groups sang last year, many of them collecting for their charity or cause. Visitors to the square will also be able to try out seasonal treats at the Café on the Square. The Mayor of London Ken Livingstone said: "Londoners and tourists look forward to the tree lighting ceremony and carol singing in Trafalgar Square each year, which for many marks the start of the festive period."

## LONDON'S TAXIS ARE SIMPLY THE BEST

TripAdvisor, the world's largest travel community, says that World Travellers have voted London's taxis as the best in the world. The recognition is yet another accolade for the true British icon that is instantly recognisable the world over. Matthew Cheyne, Sales and Marketing Director for LTI Vehicles said: "It's no surprise that once again, London taxis are internationally recognised as the best. The purpose-built vehicle offers superior quality and safety to passengers. It is also one of the most recognisable and universally loved vehicles in the world so it's not hard to see why our cabs remain a popular choice for millions of tourists each year."

TripAdvisor spokesperson Jane Owen stated: "This is the second year running that London's public transport system has been voted the best and safest by global travellers. In the category of Taxis, it was London's black cabs which scored highest, ahead of New York, Las Vegas, Washington and Hong Kong."



TripAdvisor.com is the largest travel community in the world, with more than 10 million unbiased reviews and opinions, covering more than 270,000 hotels and attractions. TripAdvisor is one of the most visited travel web domains worldwide, offering advice and featuring input from travellers across the globe.

## A CHAIN REACTION - CARNABY CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

Carnaby, famous for its extraordinary Christmas installations will hold its official 'switch-on' at 6pm on Wednesday 14 November 2007. This year brings another notable display with huge, oversized and brightly coloured, 'paper chain' installations made from metal, interlinking through the main thoroughfare of Carnaby Street and connecting all eleven streets of the Carnaby area.

Paul Dart, designer for James Glancy Design says: "Carnaby is always mindful of the 'green' issues associated to its Christmas decorations. This year we thought it would be fabulous to utilise the building up lighters to interact at night with the holographic finish of our Christmas 'paper chain' design, therefore using no extra electricity for this installation. Further to this, by using such a highly reflective material and extremely bright colours, the oversized 'paper chains' will react to sunlight too, which has allowed us to remove the use of electricity during daylight hours altogether."



The lights in Carnaby last year