

## ANDAZ HOTEL COMPETITION

As hotels in London get bought and change their names on a regular basis taxi drivers can sometimes find themselves unsure of which hotel a passenger has asked for. One such case is the Andaz, close to the busy Liverpool Street taxi rank. This hotel re-branded some months ago and held a driver breakfast for London's taxi drivers, but still some drivers and passengers get confused between the new name of Andaz and the old one, the Great Eastern Hotel.

Andaz Liverpool Street sits at the eastern edges of the City of London; its neighbours include Spitalfields, Hoxton and Shoreditch to the east. This means the hotel is in a great position to broker new relationships between art and commerce, business and leisure.

Back in 1874, when the Great Eastern Railway Company opened Liverpool Street station, work on the Hotel began immediately. The original building came to fruition several years later in 1884. The Barry family of architects, who were responsible for the Houses of Parliament, designed the building. In 1901 an extension was added in response to the demand for extra rooms. The craftsmanship and materials used were of the highest quality. Many of the features are from both the original building and the extension is now listed by English Heritage.

There is a Masonic temple at the hotel, which was built in 1884. It is rumoured that Jack the Ripper may have been a freemason and since this part of East London is renowned for such a rich history, he may well have been part of the meetings held here.

Later on during the war years, the hotel served as an office block for the army.

Over the decades, with train travel suffering as people switched to airplanes and automobiles, the Great Eastern's popularity waned and sadly it fell into disrepair. The Hotel eventually closed in 1996.

In Spring 2000, the Great Eastern Hotel reopened its doors to reveal a breathtaking Victorian restoration incorporating the bold



new spaces and designs you are surrounded by today. The Atrium Gallery and the Rotunda link the original building to the extension. Today, the Hotel has 267 bedrooms with 5 restaurants, 4 bars and 14 event spaces. Though huge, this is an individual hotel where no two bedrooms are the same, reflecting the diversity of its heritage and structure.

At the start of 2006 the property once more changed ownership. Hyatt Hotels & Resorts now operates the hotel under the new Andaz brand. Andaz is Urdu and translates as "Personal Style".

The Andaz brand is all about casual luxury, with attentive and uncomplicated service. The hotel is first in a series to launch globally under the new Andaz moniker, fusing the best of contemporary boutique culture, with that of a luxury five-star hotel experience.

At Andaz there have been a lot of big events held by people such as the famous fashion designers Viktor & Rolf who are exhibiting at the Barbican Art Gallery until September 2008. During Fashion Week Andaz hosted Roksanda Ilincic, the very famous Vogue Cover Star. Andaz is also where ITV filmed the series Diary of a Call Girl and where the BBC shot the drama series Hustle. It is also the place where music artists source their inspiration such as the famous English rock band Kasabian who have filmed their video clip. Girls Aloud also had one of their friends engagement party in the Masonic Temple. The City is now no longer only the destination of businessmen but also where a lot of fashion and cultural events take place.



### WIN A NIGHT AT ANDAZ

To help taxi drivers remember the change of name for the hotel, Andaz is running a competition. For your chance to win a night's stay at Andaz, a dinner at one of their five restaurants or a bottle of champagne simply answer this question: *Where is Andaz located?*

Send your answer on a postcard to  
Andaz Competition Taxi Globe  
12 Firs Close Hatfield AL10 8NP.

Don't forget to include your name, address and telephone number.  
Good luck!

Competition closes 31st August 2008. Terms and conditions apply.

## LTFUC 80TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION AT THE PALACE OF WESTMINSTER *by Mike Son*

It is with great pride that I, along with my other colleagues on the London Taxidriver's Fund for Underprivileged Children committee, can tell you that this year of 2008 sees us celebrate 80 years of helping special needs and disadvantaged children within the Central London and suburban areas.

With huge assistance from drivers, we run outings to the seaside in addition to various venues such as the circus, theatres and the annual party at the Grosvenor House Hotel. We also receive many appeals for financial help in the purchase of medical, recreational, educational and communicative equipment for special needs schools, children in residential homes and individual families.

At Christmas time, the committee send many thousands of pounds worth of vouchers to taxi drivers who have been unable to work due to illness or other unforeseen circumstances. The vouchers are specifically for the children, enabling the purchase of toys or other goodies at that special time of the year. It gives the opportunity for parents/guardians and the children to enjoy that magical time of the year, even if it is just for a short time.

Help is also given to many children who have been abused by adults, those that suffer from some dreadful illness and or are terminally ill. Without the financial help and support that organisations give to the charity, it would be extremely difficult for both past and present committee members to continue the work that began in 1928.

In celebration of those 80 years, we are delighted to announce that Mr Lee Scott MP will be hosting the London Taxidriver's Fund for Underprivileged Children 80th Anniversary Gala Dinner & Dance in the Palace of Westminster on Saturday 18th October 2008. We are also grateful to those who have considered sponsoring some of the events. Tickets are £135 per person. Due to limited availability, should you consider purchasing tickets, please let us know as soon as possible.

For further information or to book tickets please contact Mike Son LTFUC Event Organiser Michael Son, 28 Dulverton Avenue Westcliff on Sea, Essex, SS0 OHR. Tel: 01702 525776 Mobile: 07710 388588 Email: m.son@btclick.com