

SWEET TREES

Regular readers may recall that when Taxi Globe reported on the Taxi Driver of the Year Dinner Dance, the table centrepieces were Sweet Trees. Many of the guests commented on these at the time and as Valentine's Day is just around the corner, with Easter not far behind it, Barbara Poluck is now taking orders for them, at a discounted rate for taxi drivers. The trees make a great gift at any time of the year and can be themed to suit any occasion.

For more details telephone Barbara on 0771 4040862 or Carole on 0208 952 4007.



CURBING LATE-NIGHT NUISANCE IN SQUARE MILE

New measures by the City of London police, licensing officers, environmental services, street cleansing, parking teams and planners have started to cut crime, late-night-noise, mess and other problems brought to the "Square Mile" by a change in licensing and culture. City leaders are promising to keep up the pressure on night-time nuisances. "The Square Mile is now a popular venue for late-night events, parties and club nights, but things were getting out of hand. Our duty to the City's residents and general public means we've had to continue to crack down on the nuisance while still allowing people to have a good time. Progress has been made but there is more to do," said Stuart Fraser, Chairman of the Policy and Resources Committee. "We will make every effort to ensure the City, as it evolves, remains a safe place to live and work."

City Police officers changed their shift patterns to meet the needs of the new night-time economy, putting more officers on duty at night, with an additional seven sergeants moved to the ultra-local "ward policing" model. They have also established a four-strong dedicated licensing team to work inside the City of London Corporation's own Environmental Services team and placed an officer inside the Met Police's Clubs and Vice unit at Charing Cross police station. A new bye-law is also being passed making urination or defecation in public an offence with a £500 fine.

The Safer City Partnership (SCP) which includes City Police, City Corporation and London Fire Brigade further developed the work of all partners in this area. Taxi Marshals have been provided by the SCP at Liverpool Street station, with additional funding by the City of London Corporation. These have also been effective in helping late-night revellers make their way home peacefully and more safely.

Late-night illegal car-parking has also been targeted, with night patrols issuing 600 tickets since March. Already £130,000 has been approved for these patrols which include a towing-truck on the streets. Other measures include controlled drink zones and good-behaviour zones in key locations, giving police more powers to take immediate action.

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