



# Hands update

## “Highly commended” – that’s us

It’s official. With a *highly commended* from the judges, Heath Hands figure up there with the best of Camden’s volunteering organisations.

The competition to name the 2002 Volunteering Organisation of the Year culminated in an awards ceremony staged in November by the Camden Volunteer Bureau. The aim was to recognise the work of volunteer organisations in the borough.

With 32 organisations in the competition, Heath Hands was one of nine winners and walked off with a *highly commended* award, along with a cheque for £75. Heath Hands was nominated for the award by volunteers Jeremy Wright and Lesley Lander, both of whom received cheques for £25 for their efforts. Both immediately contributed their awards to Heath Hands.

In his nomination, Jeremy, who co-chairs the survey of ancient trees, wrote that Heath Hands’ “success is demonstrated by the support and encouragement of the Corporation of London and English Heritage, and by the team of over 200 volunteers,



Picture courtesy of Camden Volunteer Bureau

Alexei Sayle was on hand to congratulate volunteers Lesley Lander and Jeremy Wright at the Camden Volunteer Bureau’s Volunteering Organisation of the Year 2002 awards ceremony. Both volunteers nominated Heath Hands for the award. Heath Hands received a cheque for £75 and the nominators received £25 each. Both donated their awards to Heath Hands.

many present since the founding, who are so keen and enthusiastic.”

Lesley wrote: “Heath Hands...was in many ways a volunteer group waiting to be invented as it allows people to give something back to the Heath in a practical way. I joined the group as a volunteer shortly after its formation in 1999 and have watched it go from strength to strength since then. From the beginning I have been impressed by the quality of planning and management of the organisation and the attention to the health and safety during the work sessions...I am surprised how much I have learnt about the Heath, the wider environment and conservation in the last three years.”

Comedian Alexei Sayle joined Camden Mayor Judy Pattison and Alan Eagle of Abbey National, competition sponsors, to present the awards at the Royal National Hotel in Bloomsbury. The overall winner and the official Volunteering Organisation of the Year was the Coram Mentoring Project in West Hampstead which helps children leaving care.

What is  
Eileen Wilmott  
up to?  
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Picture courtesy of Corporation of London