



Working in Partnership
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ETCS CARETAKING & CLEANING NEWSLETTER

Spring 2003

CARETAKER OF THE YEAR 2002

In October last year we held our first School Caretaker of the Year Award Ceremony at Norwich Castle. This was the first of its kind to be held in Norfolk and was a great success with winners from right across the county.

The Castle was a beautiful venue and everyone had a wonderful evening. The awards were presented by Mrs Colleen Walker, the Chairman of Norfolk County Council assisted by Mr Peter Hawes, Managing Director of Norfolk County Services and Mrs Wendy Sturman, Operations Manager of Norfolk County Services.

The schools clearly thought that this award was a excellent idea and were very pleased to see their "unsung heroes" being rewarded for their efforts. We are already being asked about next year's competition.

The award was open to approximately 480 schools throughout Norfolk, ranging from small schools with just one caretaker/cleaner to large high schools with a number of caretaking staff. The whole process for this award took nearly a year to complete and a great deal of hard work and effort went into making it a success. After receiving nominations from headteachers a shortlist was compiled of eight schools in each of the three categories. Two independent judges, Tony Wilkins of Ecolab and Mike Floyd of Premiere Products then had the task of visiting these schools and talking to the headteachers and the caretakers before deciding on the winners.

The event captured the interest of the media; interviews were held on local radio and a number of articles were published in local newspapers and we hope to build on this for 2003.

The overall Caretaker of the Year was Michael Rowell, Caretaker of the Fred Nicholson Special School in Dereham who received the Premiere Shield

Small Schools	First	Fred Haystead, Swanton Morley Primary School
	Second	Barbara Woodrow, Rollesby First and Nursery School
	Third	Beryl Wright, Gayton First School
Junior Schools	First	Michael Rowell, Fred Nicholson School, Dereham
	Second	David Fisher, Drayton Middle School
	Third	Tony Johnston, Alderman Jackson Special School, King's Lynn
High Schools	First	Mark Wilkinson, Heartsease High School
	Second	Karl Strak, Diss High School
	Third	Mel Tuddenham, Reepham High School

A special Loyalty and Dedication Award was presented to Mr Jack Waters of The Clare School by Tony Wilkins of Ecolab.

Invitations for caretaker nominations 2003 will be sent out to all schools who purchase the service of the ETCS Technical Advisors and we look forward to receiving these. **Does your Caretaker deserve nomination?**

NORFOLK COUNTY SERVICES LTD IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE TRADE UNIONS

Calling all Caretakers!!!

Learning Lift Off has something to offer you and your Families

Basic Computer Skills – suitable for the terrified & for people with little experience.

Connect Up to Learning – brush up course for writing, spelling & study skills

Improve your English – improve your reading & writing, on a course or one to one

Launch Pad Day – one day course to help you decide on future learning & develop your full potential

All courses are free and run by specialised tutors. They are run locally in your area.

If you are interested or have any queries in any of the above courses, or in any other kind of basic learning, telephone one of the numbers below.

Jenny Forder 07876 038703 or Andy Wade 07876 038704

PATS Testing

Norfolk County Services now offers Portable (Electrical) Appliance Testing. This is carried out by fully qualified electrical engineers.

The Electricity at Work Act (1989) requires employers to operate & maintain a programme of inspection and testing of all electrical equipment. Norfolk County Council requires all portable electrical equipment to be tested and visually inspected annually by a competent engineer and that an approved test label be attached to each piece of equipment and a log kept of all pass/fail certificates.

If you are interested in this service please contact your Technical Advisor or N.C.S.
Telephone: 01603 222080 or 01603 222536
Fax: 01603 223106

SCHOOLS WASTE ACTION CLUB

At our last Caretakers Panel Meeting Martina Schneider of the School Waste Action Club made an interesting presentation on waste management in schools.

There are a number of options available throughout the county for recycling of waste, including collection of paper, cardboard, plastic and metal. Options include a trial paper collection scheme run by West Norfolk District Council, a clear bag scheme offered by North Norfolk District Council and a new kerbside collection scheme using recycling bins for schools in the Dereham area.

Great Yarmouth Borough Council are starting a green box scheme but schools cannot go on it at the moment.

Schools served by Norwich City Council can go on the domestic recycling scheme as school waste is now classified as domestic waste. Schools need to put the paper and cardboard out in bags or boxes, anything but black bin liners. The council also offer free compost bins to Schools.

Broadland District Council are happy to organise can banks, paper banks and textile banks.

For printer cartridge recycling and purchase of refilled cartridges contact Cartridge World, 119 Unthank Road, Norwich, NR2 2PE Tel. 01603 667025

Compost Bins can be purchased from Norfolk Waste Management Partnership at £10.95 and 14.95 for 220 Ltr and 280 Ltr sizes. Tel. 0845 1308686.

If you wish to purchase items from the Scrapbox there is an annual fee of £7.50 and items such as roll ends of paper, plastic & cardboard tubes, laces, ring binders, acetates, books and containers are available. Or pick up part used tins of paint for that mural on the corridor contact Mini-Scrapbox and Re>Paint, Collers Way, Wood Dalling Road, Reepham, NR10 4SW. Tel. 01603 873128.

Alternatively check out their websites:

www.geocities.com/mini_scrapbox/

www.communityrepaint.org.uk/

If you are interested in tackling waste or recycling, please contact Martina Schneider or Claire Baldry on 01603 620337 or Fax: 01603 760448. They can also give you the contact numbers for Borough or District Councils.

CAN WE HELP

You should all have received the “*Can we Help*” flyers from your representatives on the JCC Caretaker Panel. Please feel free to contact them, they are looking forward to hearing from you and are keen to promote greater communication between schools.

CARETAKER REGISTER

We would like to thank all the schools who have volunteered to be on our Caretaker Register. This is now up and running, but unfortunately we have only had a very limited response and this restricts the amount of cover that we are able to offer. We would still welcome any enquiries from anyone else who is interested, as we are very keen to keep this Register going and to expand on it.

It is only with your support that this idea can move forward.

ETCS Contact Names

For further information please contact the Technical Advisor for your area:

North & Central Carol Bowen 01603 222524 07796 305426
South Mick Meeson 01953 456545 07718 781989

CHEWING GUM REMOVAL

Is chewing gum a problem in YOUR school?

Perhaps the people who invented the stuff should have considered the problems that come with it!

One of the best products that we have found, which is effective in the removal of gum is Gum-B-Gone. This is a liquid which when applied to the gum and gently agitated will dissolve and remove it. This can be ordered through your ETCS Technical Advisor and costs £10.00.

The Site Manager at a local High School found that one of their biggest problems is the careless disposal of chewing gum, either under tables and chairs or on the ground internally and externally.

The school took remedial action in the form of a rolling programme of education of pupils about the hygienic disposal of chewing gum and why. The offenders, if caught, are punished by them having to scrape the chewing gum off tables, chairs and floors, but this relies heavily on the teaching staff enforcing and supervising, which is not always possible or practical. The cleaning staff removes as much gum from carpets on a daily basis as their time allows.

Their present method of removal would be with gloves and a scraper and, where required, freeze spray (expensive) or degreasing/chewing gum liquid (this can be messy and time consuming). Care is required when removing gum from carpets, as it is very easy to damage the carpet.

A faster way to remove gum was required, combining ease with flexibility, allowing staff to keep on top of the problem.

After trying several different chemicals and various gadgets the School has now purchased a steam cleaner and suitable dispersal agent which does the job with ease and little mess. The equipment is simple to use and not bulky, therefore easy to store. It is robust enough for the job and can be used on carpet, without the use of chemicals, to remove the gum and some stains. Can also be used on upholstery and in shower and kitchen areas making it very versatile and worth the purchase. The machine can also be used outside and is very effective in removing chewing gum from walkways and any hard surfaces around the school site.

The steam is applied to the gum from the end of a lance with an injection of a small quantity of chemical as required. Once the site is cleared of the gum it should only take a few hours per month to keep on top of the problem.

The School had considered getting in contractors to remove the chewing gum but found their charges ranged between £14 to £20 per hour and, because this is an ongoing problem, it would need to be done again and again. In the long run it was much more cost effective for the School to buy the equipment themselves.

Hugh Crane Ltd deal in cleaning equipment and came along to our Caretakers JCC Meeting a few months ago to give a demonstration of steam cleaners. They were asked to arrange a demonstration at the High school and the results have been very encouraging.

If you would like to know more about these machines or would like to arrange a free trial please contact your Technical Advisor

East Colin Makepeace 01493 336315 07798 668065
West Maureen Smith 01553 669206 07798 668063