

Want to make a charity single?

YOUNG singers still have time to take part in a competition to create a Christmas single.

Pupils will get the chance to make a recording of their version of I'm Gonna Be (500 miles).

Entries need to be sent in on CD or cassette by June 28. Eight groups will be invited to record two songs and these tracks will be available to download for £1, with money raised going to charity.

Entries must be sent in by an adult, with contact details, to KM Charity Team, Gazette House, 5-8 Estuary View Business Park, Boorman Way, Whitstable CT5 3SE.

■ Visit www.kmwalktoschool.co.uk

Surprise win at awards



Overall winners Whitecoat Design

by Trevor Sturgess
tsturgess@thekmggroup.co.uk

KEITH and Anne Wisdom went to an award ceremony just to support the occasion, but came away with the top prize.

No one was more surprised than the Wisdoms when the name Whitecode Design Associates was announced as the winner of the 2010 Dartford and Gravesham Business Awards.

It was the second triumph in five years for the Dartford building services firm helping



youngsters onto the career ladder.

Mr and Mrs Wisdom and their team were presented with an engraved trophy

and £1,000 at a gala dinner and dance in the Woodville Halls, Gravesend, on Thursday night.

Unexpected

Mr Wisdom said: "I'm very surprised. We were happy to come along and support the evening. This was most unexpected."

Matt Kear, of Lloyds TSB Bank, and chairman of the judging panel, praised Whitecode. "It's a really strong company that is expanding at a time when it's tough out

there," he said. The company specialises in high-rise building services. It employs 40 staff, several of whom joined as teenagers and were sponsored through university by the firm.

The awards were sponsored by Dartford and Gravesham councils, Barnes Roffe, Lloyds TSB Commercial, Computer-Tel, Vizards Wyeth, University of Greenwich, Thames Gateway (Kent) Chamber of Commerce, Adecco, Ward Security, John Lewis Bluewater and the KM Group.

The choice of
46 daily crossings
over the Channel.

Are you sailing with Britain's most popular ferry company?

dover to calais
any duration
web fare, each way from **£30***
includes a car
and up to 9 people

POferries.com
08712 22 01 22

P&O Ferries

Calls cost 10p per minute plus network extras. Calls from mobiles will be higher.

*Including all taxes and a £2.50 web discount. Fare applies to restricted space, sailings and dates. Full terms and conditions apply.

dover calais • hull zeebrugge / rotterdam • portsmouth bilbao • cairnryan / troon larne • liverpool dublin

Rewarding times for successful firms and their employees



People on low incomes have reason to thank Fast Trak Solutions, above, named Dartford Business of the Year. The insurance business now employs 22 people and is growing by two staff a month. It helps people on housing benefit through guarantees to property landlords. Damon Thomas, managing director, said: "It's great to win this award and great for giving us credibility in the local area."

"It's fantastic news," declared Avtar Sandhu after Mobile Bar Hire was named Best New Business of the Year. His firm runs bars in houses, marquees and other venues across the UK. "I want to promote Kent products," he said. "Business has been good - 30 per cent up - and we are enjoying the evening." He donated his £250 prize money to the Royal British Legion, this year's chosen charity, which was given a £600 cheque from the evening.



Claire Cooper, left, never expected to help her father Alan in the family firm AR Engineering Industries, Wilmington, but the mechanical engineer is now operations director.

Her efforts won her the Business Personality of the Year award. She said: "I'm enthusiastic and enjoy a challenge. I've been working really hard and it's great to get some recognition."



It was party time for the glamorous team from True Hair and Beauty after their salon was named Gravesham Business of the Year.

Philip and Jane Hales set up the High Street business eight years ago. In tough economic times, they took the gamble to double the size of the salon and now employ eight staff. "We saw the potential of the town," said Mr Hales.

Pictures: Mick Gell