

HELPED DOZENS: donates furniture to charities and groups



GENEROUS – Phil Green, owner and managing director of CBS Business Furniture, standing in the centre with his wife and company secretary Debbie and the rest of his workforce
Picture: MIKE ENGLEFIELD (Ref 082457)

The sponsors

Businessman giving back to home town

BY NATALIE SLATER

A BUSINESSMAN determined to give something back to his hometown has donated furniture to dozens of charities, schools and community groups.

Phil Green, who grew up in Caversham, took over running CBS Business Furniture just over a year ago after working for the company, which specialises in interior design, refurbishment, relocation and supplies office furniture to businesses, for 20 years.

In April this year CBS teamed up with business community partnership Connect Reading to find organisations the company could donate furniture to.

He now puts aside time in his staff's working day for them to go and fit furniture in charities' offices in Reading.

Mr Green's wife Debbie, who is the company secretary, believes he has made such an impact on his staff and the community since

taking over, she has nominated him for a *Pride of Reading* award.

She said: "He has organised this whole project himself and dedicated time for his staff to go out and do the work in their working hours.

"The staff really seem to enjoy it as it breaks up the week a little bit, and obviously it has a tremendous benefit for the charities in Reading who cannot buy their own office furniture. The company offers furniture to charities but also to nurseries and schools to help those that are unable to buy their own.

"Phil is really keen to put something back into the community and it is really satisfying for the staff to be able to do some voluntary work within their working day. So often, people want to put in time to help but when you have a full-time job and a family and a busy life, it can just fall by the wayside, this way, everyone benefits."

Mr Green, 54, who now lives with his wife in Temple Park, Binfield,

said: "It is fantastic to be nominated but I think this nomination is for everyone, it is a culmination of a lot of hard work from all my staff that this has been able to work so successfully.

"Connect Reading have been the ones who have put us in touch with all the charities and schools we work with and they really have been fantastic.

"Unfortunately, we cannot help everyone who comes to us because at the end of the day, it is still a business, but as a Reading man, having been born and bred in Caversham, it will always be important for me to put something back into the town I grew up in."

Mr Green, who has been nominated for the Business in Action award, added: "The staff we have at CBS are wonderful, without them, I would not have been able to put this into place.

"I just want to thank them for all their hard work and I hope that we can continue with the work in the community well into the future."

The categories

Child of Courage Malmaison
The town's bravest youngster. There are many times when youngsters' courage shines through. Some become heroic lifesavers, others demonstrate courage through battling illness or other difficult circumstances. We want to hear about these amazing under 16-year-olds.

Restaurant of the Year The Oracle
This award will be judged by celebrity chefs Antony Worrall Thompson and Daniel Galmiche on food and services.

Local Hero Waitrose
Someone who, through a special act of kindness or bravery, has

made a positive difference to their community.

Community Champion Broad St Mall
Someone who works tirelessly in their community as an individual, in the voluntary sector, as a carer, for a community group or in public service who devotes their time for others.

Cultural Contribution Chatham Place
Somebody who has enriched the cultural life of Reading. They may have set up or run an arts group, organised an event, or managed a vibrant venue.

Employee of the Year Novotel
An employee who goes the extra mile for their firm or for their customer.

Business in Action Kyocera
Companies, large or small, who get involved in community work. There are two awards for firms with

under 50 and over 50 employees.

Service Excellence Yell
To recognise a working individual who consistently over-delivers and is always keen to do whatever they can to help, no matter how demanding the request, who go the extra mile to deliver the best service and keep their focus for customers at the heart of what they do.

Young Person of the Year Reading 107fm
Recognising the contribution to the community of someone under 18.

Healthy Lifestyle GreenPark A
firm, organisation or school which promotes healthy living.

Environmental Project Clydesdale Bank
A school, organisation or charity which has started an innovative eco-friendly project.



Star returning

THIS year the glittering ceremony has moved to the luxurious Crowne Plaza hotel in Richfield Avenue but it will still be hosted by Reading boy and TV star Chris Tarrant, pictured left.

The awards lunch will happen on Wednesday, November 5, when shortlisted nominees will find out who's the winner in their category and it's sure to be a sparkler of a day!

Pride of Reading nomination form

Nominee's name _____

Nominee's address _____
Home _____

Nominee's email _____

Your name _____

Your address _____
Phone _____

Your email _____

CATEGORY (please tick box)

Child of Courage	<input type="checkbox"/>	Local Hero	<input type="checkbox"/>	Community Champion	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cultural Champion	<input type="checkbox"/>	Employee	<input type="checkbox"/>	Business in Action	<input type="checkbox"/>
Service Excellence	<input type="checkbox"/>	Young Person	<input type="checkbox"/>	Healthy Lifestyle	<input type="checkbox"/>
Environmental Project	<input type="checkbox"/>	Best Restaurant	<input type="checkbox"/>		

Reason for nomination (you can attach a sheet of paper with reason if you wish)

Send to: Pride of Reading awards, Evening Post, 8 Tessa Road, Reading RG1 8NS. Or you can nominate online - www.getreading.co.uk/pride_of_reading/

Organising committee

Evening Post, Reading Borough Council, Broad Street Mall, Connect Reading,

Waitrose, Reading Chamber of Commerce, Crowne Plaza Hotel. With thanks to Fericon, ITM.AV and Cherubs.