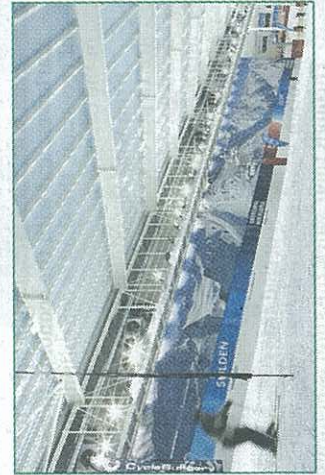
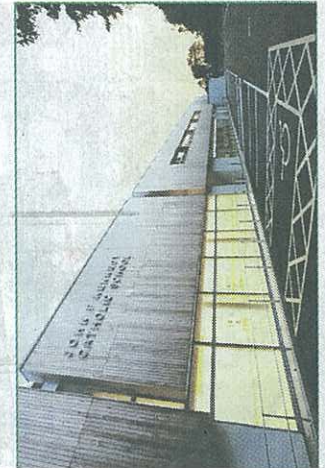


# Dacorum Excellence Awards

The Gazette 2009





Business

# DACORUM EXCELLENCE AWARDS 2009

Most Promising New Business

sponsored by Dacorum Borough Council



Walk the Dog, left to right, Louise Brooks, Emma Hughes, Roxy Ghajar, Justin Grice and Hanne Grice

## WINNER: Walk the Dog

Walk the Dog has put its best paw forward and achieved a 26 per cent increase in turnover in the space of a year. The pet care company, based in Berkhamsted, was set up in 2007 and now has almost 300 pets on its books. The business offers a wide range of services including dog walking, feeding, visits, behavioural advice and training. Among the animals the firm cares for are rodents, fish, rabbits and even chickens, while 159 canines have benefited from a 'dog listening' service to alter behaviour.

Owner Hanne Grice, pictured right, said: "When I set up the company there was no-one doing this sort of thing professionally. For many years I wanted to have a business that treated animals seriously. I wanted to offer an all-round business for pets." The five-strong team have all been trained in animal first aid while the company prides itself on its luxury approach, with dogs walked on their own rather than in packs and online diaries of what they have been up to. Walk the Dog has also received a merit award from the National Association of Registered Petsitters for the past three years.



## Runner-up: 4am

4am, which helps kids to realise their potential, has gone from strength to strength despite the recession.

Formed just over two years ago in September 2007, the company has seen more than 60 'troubled' youngsters pass through its doors at Boxmoor House School. "Even with the current economic



## Highly commended: Elizabeth Lee Blinds & Curtains

A COMMITMENT to customer service has brought blinding success for a curtain company. Elizabeth Lee Blinds & Curtains, based in Berkhamsted High Street, managed to turn over £50,000 in its first year of business and the number of orders keeps growing.

The business was started by husband and wife team Anne and Lee Wilberforce in June 2008. Mrs Wilberforce had worked in the soft

