

# High praise for Diane as she picks up her award

## Named prestigious In House Solicitor of the Year

by Shekha Vyas  
shekha.vyas@archant.co.uk

A solicitor who helps some of Hackney's most vulnerable residents has been named the best in her field at a high profile ceremony.

Diane Morrison, a solicitor at the Hackney Community Law Centre in Lower Clapton Road was bestowed the honour of In House Solicitor of the Year at The Law Society Excellence Awards on the most prominent night of the legal calendar.

### Impressed

The event, hosted by BBC journalist Mishal Husain, saw more than 600 turn up at the Park Plaza Hotel in Westminster to celebrate outstanding achievements of others in their profession.

From part-time typist to qualified solicitor, Diane impressed senior industry judges with her journey, exceptional work and client care skills.

Diane was also praised for spearheading the centre's employment service, running an advice telephone line, intern programme and library pop-up service where she has advised more than 700 residents.

Diane said: "I am really pleased to win this award. It still hasn't really sunk in. I feel that the award is a recognition of Hackney Community Law Centre's (HCLC) hard work over many years."

### Inspire

"At HCLC, we have to do so much with so little for so many. I am so grateful for the support I have received from my colleagues past and present. I'd particularly like to thank the judges for their decision."

"It will inspire me to continue working in social welfare law and inspire the whole HCLC team to continue to providing access to justice."

HCLC chairman and councillor Ian Rathbone said: "Diane has worked for the law centre nine years and in that time has quietly made a significant and important impact on all we do."

"Her story is very encouraging to anyone looking to become a lawyer but lacking confidence



■ Diane with her In House Solicitor of the Year award

or feeling they don't have the wherewithal.

"Diane has shown that dedicated lawyers of high calibre can work in such difficult environments because they passionately believe in access to justice for poor people, and as such can still compete at the highest level with other lawyers around the country – and be judged by their peers as worthy of the highest accolade."

Law Society president Andrew Caplen said: "Rarely do you get such a breadth of talent under one roof and it is heartening to see the continuous good work that makes our profession what it is. I am glad the Law Society, through the Excellence Awards, is able to formally recognise this good work, which usually takes place quietly, out of the spotlight and as a result of many long hours."

## Cycle app allows council to follow cycling trends

Hackney Council has been using data collected from its free cycle app to learn more about cyclist trends, habits and needs in the borough.

Since the app launched earlier in the year, almost 2,000 journeys have been recorded.

Cyclists can use their phones to track routes and report problems, taking pictures on their phone and sending them directly to the council with a 'report it' function.

The council uses this data to

help build improved bike routes, better contra-flow systems, repair potholes and tackle cycle parking issues.

Users of the app can also claim business mileage for work related trips.

Feryal Demirel, the council's cabinet member for neighbourhoods, said: "The ultimate aim of this app is to collect enough data to continue to make cycling in Hackney as easy and as

simple as possible. But we're also accumulating really interesting data about who is cycling in our borough and why."

"In the immediate-term, it also helps fix problems now – one user reported a pothole on Chatsworth Road, which is repaired, while 70 more reports have been added to our works programme."

"Although the app was designed for cyclists, it's helping to improve the roads for everyone in the borough."

# CHRISTMAS COMPETITION!

The Nag's Head Town Centre Management Group is running a competition again this year with the Islington Gazette to create Christmas designs. This year the entries will be displayed in the Nag's Head Shopping Centre as part of the lead-up to the Islington Christmas Extravaganza on 30th November.

We are looking for designs that are colourful, fun and capture the spirit of Christmas. There will be prizes courtesy of Selbys department store, and there are three age categories this year: 0-6 years old, 7-11 years old and 12-16 years old.

To take part you just need to download and print a template from our website or grab a blank piece of A4 paper and get creative! You can drop your Christmas creations off at any Islington library or post to Inara Khan, Islington Town Hall, Upper Street, N1 2UD. You should include your contact details on the back of your design – your name, age, address, email address and a contact number. The deadline for entries is Friday 14th November 2014.



Islington

## Clinical Commissioning Group

Members of the public and staff are invited to attend a meeting of the Governing Body of Islington Clinical Commissioning Group to be held in public on

5 November 2014 at 10.30am-12:30pm

Resource for London, 356 Holloway Road, N7 6PA

Copies of the agenda and meeting papers will be available at [www.islingtonccg.nhs.uk](http://www.islingtonccg.nhs.uk)

There will be an opportunity to ask questions relating to the agenda at the start of the meeting and also the chance to meet Governing Body members for an informal chat at the end of the meeting.

Tea and coffee will be provided.

Further information is available from

020 3688 2915 or email

[Heather.Allman@islingtonccg.nhs.uk](mailto:Heather.Allman@islingtonccg.nhs.uk)