

MP's Christmas Card Celebrates Town's Pier



■ John with winner Jessica and the runner-ups of his Christmas Card Competition and right, Jessica's winning design (Photos: The Weston and Somerset Mercury)

Over 200 local school children competed to design John Penrose's 2008 Christmas card celebrating Weston-super-Mare's pier. The winning design came from Jessica Monckton-Rickett, a pupil at Westhaven School, who had her design

on the front of the card and has been invited by Mr Penrose to a private tour of the House of Commons.

John said "I've been running the competition for the last three years and my office is always overwhelmed by the number of

entries. This year was no exception as I received hundreds of designs and pictures and it's clear that real heart and soul have gone into them.

"Of course, the difficult part was choosing a winner and runners up. I picked Jessica's

design as it was very Christmassy and how we'd like to remember the pier until it's rebuilt. The finished card really does look great and I want to thank all the schoolchildren for such fantastic designs and all their hard work."

Recycle Cards to save our Woods

Weston MP John Penrose has been supporting the Woodland Trust's Christmas Card Recycling Scheme by recycling his old cards at one of the four local stores participating in the scheme

John said: "This is a fantastic scheme which can really make a difference to our environment. I'd like to urge anyone who has any old Christmas cards to take them into one of the stores and put them in the bins provided. Not only will they be recycled, but the Woodland Trust will receive money for every single one and this will go towards planting new trees and help reduce our carbon footprint further".

Stores participating in Weston-super-Mare include Tesco, TK Maxx, WHSmith and Marks and Spencer.



■ John recycles his Christmas cards in one of the Woodland Trust's bins with manager of one of the participating stores Pete Ballam

Penrose advises on new drug care guidance

MP John Penrose has welcomed newly-published NHS guidance on treating drug addicts after the Government's original draft was amended to include some of his proposals. They include backing accreditation and inspection schemes and recommending that addict's care should be paid by their own agency rather than local tax payers.

The Weston MP said: "This guidance is a major step in the right direction. I'm delighted that Government Ministers are learning from our experience here in Weston and have altered the guidance to reflect them.

"We need tougher inspection schemes to weed out dodgy rehabs, so more addicts get the high-quality

help they need to break the cycle of drug addiction and committing crime to fund it. That's good for the addicts and good for local residents too.

"Equally, the cost of treating addicts who are sent to Weston from other parts of the country shouldn't fall on local tax payers. The bills should be paid by whichever organisation sent them here, rather than expecting local people to pick up the tab for everybody else's problems.

"But I'm not convinced that all the gaps have been plugged. Too many addicts are simply abandoned in places like Weston after they've finished their treatment, with nothing to prevent them relapsing and returning to crime, so there's still a lot more work to do".



To find out more about
John Penrose's
work for Weston and the villages
- visit his website at

www.johnpenrose.co.uk

Every week **John Penrose MP** holds a surgery
at different locations around the constituency.

For help, advice or to make an appointment,
please contact Grace Roper in
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John Penrose MP - Working for you all year round