

NEWS RELEASE

28/09/06

For immediate release

Hotel for blind people continues to have Midas touch

The Lauriston Hotel in Weston-super-Mare has once again won the Gold Commended Award from the Weston-super-Mare Hotels and Restaurants Association. This is the fourth year the hotel, run by national charity Action for Blind People, has won the Gold Commended Award.

The 38 bedroom Lauriston Hotel caters specifically for blind and partially sighted holiday makers. All bedrooms have talking alarm clocks and audio cassette players, there is a talking lift - wide enough to take a wheelchair - and guide rails in and around the hotel and gardens. There is also live entertainment including quizzes, music and dancing six nights a week. Research shows that 38% of blind and partially sighted people haven't had a holiday in the last five years.* The Lauriston is one of four hotels owned and run by Action for Blind People offering holidays catering especially for visually impaired people.

Val Watson, Assistant Manager Front of House said, "The inspections are said to get tougher and tougher each year, yet the hotel inspector was very impressed with the improvements made to the bedrooms and remarked on the quality of the furniture and the high standard of cleanliness maintained in the rooms."

Action for Blind People plans further refurbishment to the Lauriston next year. With yearly inspections by the Weston-super-Mare Hotels and Restaurants Association, staff at the hotel hope they continue to have the Midas touch.

14 - 16 Verney Road London SE16 3DZ Tel 020 7635 4800 Fax 020 7635 4899

Website www.actionforblindpeople.org.uk

Patron HRH Princess Alexandra, the Hon. Lady Ogilvy, GCVO

Registered Charity no: 205913

NEWS RELEASE

Visually impaired holiday makers interested in making a booking can contact the hotel on Tel: 01934 620758 or email: lauriston.hotel@actionforblindpeople.org.uk

-Ends-

For further media information please contact Zoë Patel, press office on 020 7635 4898 or email: zoe.patel@actionforblindpeople.org.uk or call the out-of-hours mobile on 07739819954

Notes to editors:

- Photos of the Lauriston Hotel are available on request from Action for Blind People's press office.
- Action for Blind People runs four hotels: The Cliffden, Teignmouth; The Russell Hotel, Bognor Regis; The Windermere Manor Hotel, Lake District; The Lauriston Hotel, Weston-super-Mere. For further information call Action for Blind People's National Freephone Helpline: 0800 915 4666.
- Action for Blind People supports over 20,000 blind and partially sighted people in the UK every year.
- Action works to inspire change and create opportunities to enable blind and partially sighted people to have equal voice and equal choice and to live a full and valuable life.
- Action provides visually impaired people with opportunities through employment, housing, leisure and information and support.
- If abbreviating "Action for Blind People", please use "Action" rather than AFBP or ABP.

*RNIB, 'Changing the way we think about Blindness', 2002

14 - 16 Verney Road London SE16 3DZ Tel 020 7635 4800 Fax 020 7635 4899

Website www.actionforblindpeople.org.uk

Patron HRH Princess Alexandra, the Hon. Lady Ogilvy, GCVO

Registered Charity no: 205913