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## **HRH Prince of Wales names John Neill his 2009 Responsible Business Ambassador for the South East**

HRH The Prince of Wales has announced today that John Neill is his 2009 Prince's Ambassador for his leadership and commitment to responsible business in the South East.

The Prince's Ambassador Award is part of Business in the Community's Awards for Excellence 2009, which recognise businesses for the positive impact they have on society.

Andy Finch Regional Director South East from BITC said: "In the current climate it's never been more important for businesses to show their leadership when it comes to responsible business issues. I am delighted that John has been recognised by HRH The Prince of Wales, for the positive social impact that businesses and their leaders can bring to their communities."

HRH The Prince of Wales said in a pre-recorded message that was shown at the South East awards event this afternoon: "As I reflect on the challenges and successes as President of Business in the Community, it strikes me that unlocking talent and potential is the underpinning theme of everything I've been committed to over the past 26 years.

"We are nearly always dependent on the talents of individual business leaders to find a way to make things happen. My Ambassador Award recognises the contribution of those individuals whose unwavering dedication and commitment has made a real difference in the organisations and communities in which they work."

HRH also said: "I am delighted that John Neill, Chief Executive Unipart Group is my Ambassador for the South East this year. Unipart, under John's stewardship, is a longstanding member of Business in the Community. John encourages his management team across the UK to participate in my Prince's Seeing is Believing programme and he encourages Unipart graduates to participate in the CARES programme to enhance their learning and skills.

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“John also frees his staff to work directly with local partners to enable economic development in schools and communities organisations. John joined my BITC Board in 1992 and has been enthusiastic in his advice to inspire business. He will always challenge established thinking and believes that there is no substitute for seeing for yourself rather than reading reports. ”

The Prince’s Ambassador Award is for individuals whose leadership and commitment to responsible business has resulted in changes and improvements inside their own company and who have also inspired other organisations to take action.

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#### **Notes to editors:**

##### **About Unipart Group**

The Unipart Group employs more than 8,000 personnel worldwide and has an annual turnover of more than £1billion. It is a leading third party logistics provider and consultant in operational excellence.

Operating across a range of market sectors, including automotive, leisure, marine, manufacturing, mobile telecoms, rail, retail and technology, Unipart offers a breadth of services from third party logistics to expert consultancy.

All Unipart sites operate according to the Group’s proprietary version of Lean known as The Unipart Way. This is a philosophy of working underpinned by tools and techniques that inspires efficiency, flexibility and outstanding customer service in any process.

Unipart also offers expert consultancy in implementing Lean principles and in supply chain management across a variety of industry sectors.

The Group’s clients include Sainsbury’s, Halfords, ASOS.com, Homebase, Vodafone, 3, BSkyB, Jaguar Land Rover, Severn Trent Water and HMRC.

##### **About Business in the Community**

We inspire, engage, support and challenge companies on responsible business, working through four areas: Marketplace, Workplace, Environment and Community. With more than 850 companies in membership, we represent 1 in 5 of the UK private sector workforce and convene a network of global partners. Our members commit to continually improve the way they operate with a specific focus on the need to manage resources wisely – be that people or our planet.

Business in the Community is proud to have The Co-operative Financial Services as its Company of the Year 2008.

[www.bitc.org.uk](http://www.bitc.org.uk)

##### **BitC Awards for Excellence**

These are the UK’s most influential, independent, peer assessed corporate responsibility awards. The awards recognise and celebrate those companies who have shown innovation, creativity and a sustained commitment to corporate responsibility.

[www.bitc.org.uk/awards](http://www.bitc.org.uk/awards)

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