

# Lingerie company is given bronze award

THREE Willenhall women who triumphed over adversity to set up their own lingerie business have won a bronze medal in a national competition.

Fiona Wright, Bernice Fletcher and Cath Stone, who started Lingerie Illusions earlier this year, were presented with a commemorative certificate in the 2008 Barclays Trading Places Awards.

The enterprising trio headed to the Marriott Hotel in Grosvenor Square, London, where they walked away with £1,100 of Microsoft desktop and server software and met TV presenter Lorraine Kelly. Fiona Wright was 44

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when she was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2005.

Her sister-in-law Cath Stone introduced her to fellow breast cancer survivor Bernice Fletcher, 49, that same year.

## Business

Spotting a gap in the market for bras with prosthetic inserts, the three ladies began their business in Gypsy Lane, Willenhall.

Cath Stone said: "We're really pleased. It's been nice to have got there. It's an indication that we're doing something right at least and we have had a lot of publicity from it which has been fantastic.

"It's been a very good experi-

ence for us and we've met some really nice people."

John Davis, Barclays Marketing Director for Local Business and a judge on the panel, said: "The calibre of this year's entries was exceptional but the judges unanimously agreed that Lingerie Illusions shone out as an outstanding business that has thrived despite what seemed like impossible odds."

He added: "All of us congratulate Fiona, Bernice and Cath on being named bronze winners in this year's Barclays Trading Places Awards and we hope their story will inspire other budding entrepreneurs, who face similar difficulties in their private lives to come forward and turn their own business dreams into reality."



**TV personality Lorraine Kelly, left, and, right, Barclay's marketing director for local business, John Davis, present Cath Stone, Fiona Wright and Bernice Fletcher with their Trading Places bronze award.**