



Hava Webster, Brian Hooper, Anita Brien, George Andrew and the pumpkin! Photo by pub customer Bill.

Pump up the fundraising

By Diana Cormack

This year the annual "Guess the weight of the Pumpkin" competition held at The Old White Lion was in aid of the North London Hospice. Organiser Brian Hooper, of Fortis Green, also ran a raffle for the cause and managed to sell some tickets to a member of boy band One Direction.

Supplied from his allotment by George Andrew, the pumpkin weighed 72lbs (32.7kg), which ten people managed to estimate. The winner, drawn out of a hat, received a £10 voucher to spend in the pub whilst the others either had a bottle of wine or donated this to the charity. On 9 November Anita Brien, community fundraiser for the North London Hospice, was presented with a cheque for the admirable amount of £1,565.00.

A week of carols

During December, Brian will be running a Christmas

raffle at The Old White Lion in aid of Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital. Also during December the pub welcomes any groups in the local area who would like to come in and sing carols. The proceeds from their collections would be split between the groups' own charities and GOS Hospital. Singing can take place at anytime during the afternoon or evening in the week Monday 12 to Friday 16 December. For details, contact manager Hava Webster on 020 8883 6459.

Parents step up battle for safer crossings

By Emily Burnham and Karen Saunders

Mothers troubled by daily experiences of danger when walking to and from Martin Primary and East Finchley library have launched a campaign called Walk Safe N2 to improve pedestrian safety at nearby roads. This follows Barnet's refusal to do this on the grounds that personal injury is necessary to justify action. "We are not prepared to wait for this," say Walk Safe N2's founding members.

On 8 November, over 40 people attended a meeting on the High Road with Themba Nleya from the Highways Department and School Travel Plan co-ordinator Alison Sharpe. They listened to parents from three schools, other residents (including the owners of Onur Food & Wine shop), and local councillors Andrew McNeil and Colin Rogers.

John Pickering, deputy headteacher of Martin Primary School, stated: "I have taught here for 20 years: these safety issues are of longstanding personal concern to me and to the school." Chair of Governors Catrin Dillon recalled an accident at Creighton Avenue and governor Cathy du Vergier said: "My husband is often late

for work so he can help take our son, who is on the autistic spectrum, to school. Creighton Avenue is a major hazard for us." Caroline Broome spoke on behalf of EFVRA members to support the campaign.

Barnet officers see for themselves

Outside Martin School, the group witnessed a car turning from Church Lane against the red light at the pedestrian crossing. Parents described other dangerous experiences at this junction and the narrow pavements and fast traffic on Church Lane. One had changed her route to school and others prevented children riding their bikes or scooters.

After school ended, the Barnet officers remained to

observe the danger points. The traffic was heavy and a huge HGV turning into Creighton Avenue mounted the pavement.

Our demands:

- pedestrian crossing and slower corner on Creighton Avenue;
- traffic camera to monitor the crossing outside Martin School;
- improved school signs;
- Council review of the junction layout at Church Lane/High road;
- 20mph speed limit on Church Lane.

To support us, please email personal accounts of "near misses". Contact us on walksafen2@yahoo.co.uk. See also Letters to the Editor, page 11.

Ital-o-philes wanted

For over 30 years, a little-known social group has been convening on a monthly basis to explore together different aspects of Italian culture. The group meets in members' homes in East Finchley and the surrounding area for several hours on the last Sunday of each month.

Led by David Ibry, who grew up in Italy and attended Milan University, the group spends the first half of the meeting listening to a guest lecture on subjects such as art, architecture, music, film or history. Knowledge of Italian is preferred but not essential as the speakers conduct their lectures in English. After (non-alcoholic) refreshments have been served the group engages in Italian conversation.

Members come from all walks of life and their abil-

ity with the Italian language varies immensely, but no one is turned away and new members are very welcome. The £15 annual membership fee entitles members to attend all monthly meetings. Alternatively, visitors are asked to pay £5 each visit.

David also offers Italian language classes, at his home in Colindale, on a bi-weekly basis for only £3 per lesson. Anyone interested in the Social Club or the Italian lessons should call him on 020 8205 5611.



Come and discuss all things Italian.

Human Resource Solutions Plus

Helping you to manage, train and develop your employees at a commercially sensible cost.

www.hrsp.net

Richard Pell: info@hrsp.net • PO Box 27013, London, N2 0WX

HRSP

This Christmas, please help us to make a real difference to the lives of children like Finn

BOBATH CENTRE
FOR CHILDREN WITH CEREBRAL PALSY

Visit our new website
www.bobathcentre.org.uk



"Too small for a big Accountant?"

"Then you are just right for us."

TaxAssist Accountants were set up specifically to support small businesses and individuals in all accountancy and tax matters.

For a FREE initial meeting, call us on 020 8883 5258 or visit us at 209 High Road, East Finchley



'The Small Business Champions'
TaxAssist Accountants is a national network of small business accountants

TELEPHONE FAULTS REPAIRED

50% CHEAPER THAN BT * the POST OFFICE * TALK TALK etc
HOME * OFFICE * FACTORY
LINES * EXTENSIONS * EQUIPMENT - TESTED & REPAIRED

Call RON COLLINS 0208 883 9325 * 07748 278728
email: roncallsaver@yahoo.co.uk

Midhurst Butchers

Certified organic meat at reasonable prices
Free-range poultry
Home-made sausages (including Boerwors)

2 Midhurst Parade,
Fortis Green, London N10
Tel. 020 8883 5303

Japanese Acupuncture & Shiatsu

Gentle, dynamic and effective

For more information please phone or visit my website
www.fionahurlock.com.

FREE 20min consultation

Ph 07795203107

Fiona Hurlock MACS MRSS D(AC)
UTOPIA 1a Leicester Mews, N2 9EJ



- Back Pain
- Neck Pain
- Whiplash Injury
- Sciatica
- Sports Injury
- Frozen Shoulder
- Arthritis
- Tennis Elbow
- Sprain or Strain
- Rehabilitation
- Neurological
- Stroke

Wendy Longworth & Associates physiotherapy practice offers a variety of treatments at the clinic, or off-site, in patients homes, nursing homes, private hospitals and other organisations.

www.eastfinchleyclinic.co.uk

020 8883 5888

2-3 Bedford Mews Bedford Road London N2 9DF