



Hopes for 20mph zone and safer crossings

Along-fought campaign to improve road safety on Church Lane and Creighton Avenue could soon see some positive changes. Organisers of the WALKSAFE N2 group say Barnet Council highways officers have indicated they will support most of their demands.

In particular, plans are being drawn up for a 20mph speed limit on Church Lane, assisted by two vehicle-activated signs that will flash at drivers approaching the speed limit. A redesign of the Church Lane junction with East End Road will slow down traffic as it enters Church Lane. There are also plans for a zebra crossing on Creighton Avenue, sited opposite the entrance to Creighton House. The plans include guard rails to guide pedestrians towards the crossing. The highways department is looking at a couple of options to slow down traffic coming in off the High Road and is asking formally for the hedge of Creighton House to be reduced. All these proposals will be put to the Area Environment Sub

Committee meeting in October.

Setback

However, the group's demand for a three-way signalised junction where Church Lane meets the High Road has been rejected. The campaign group has asked for a copy of the feasibility study and has asked the highways department to look at what other options there are to improve safety, both on the zebra crossing at the end of Church Lane and the pedestrian crossing on the High Road. "Despite this setback, we do not want to give up on increasing safety at this junction, especially with the expansion of Martin Primary," says Emily Burnham, of WALKSAFE N2. If you have ideas or want to join this campaign, contact WALKSAFE on walksafen2@yahoo.co.uk

Join in the Jamaica fun day

On Saturday 11 August a Jamaica Family Fun Day will be held on Martin School's playing field. The event is being organised by the Monday Club to raise awareness of this local youth club and to mark the 50th anniversary of Jamaica's independence.

There will be plenty on sale to eat and drink, including Caribbean food, a barbecue and a cake stall. Entertainment will be supplied by a DJ, live bands, dancers and a talent competition. A bouncy castle and skate park are also planned and nail art will be on hand!

The five hours of fun begin at 1pm. Come along and show your support as a community for the Monday Club. For further information call 07931 586 740 or 07984 200 918

Lamppost umbrellas

By Daphne Chamberlain
Down comes the rain. Again. You're dressed for summer, because you thought the sun might just stay out. No shelter, no trees, no shop awnings, and it's pelting heavens-hard. Here comes another soaking. But wait! All the lampposts are sprouting 2.2 metre (7ft) wide umbrellas. Are you dreaming?

Well, at the moment, yes. However, Russian designer Mikhail Belyaev has had the same dream, and he's presented it to the Moscow Department. So, who knows? Maybe the dream could become reality.

Belyaev's lampbrellas would be operated by sensor, sprouting at the first sign of rain, and closing after three minutes if nobody was sheltering under them. To see for yourself, just Google Lampbrella.



Pupils at Coldfall School learned about the healthiest ways to eat. Photo: Alain et Claire Bollack

An apple for the pupil

An apple for the teacher may have bought you good marks once but now primary schoolchildren are being encouraged to keep the fruit to themselves as part of a healthy eating campaign.

Children at Brookland, Tetherdown, Coldfall, Coleridge and Highgate Schools have learned about a better diet with the help of interactive talks from Muswell Hill nutritionist Claire Cantor.

Sainsbury's Muswell Hill has supported the project with an apple for every child at the end of each talk.

Claire says she wants to encourage children to begin taking some responsibility for their health from an early age.

"The aim is to awaken and develop the children's natural instinct for healthy eating in a totally different way," she says. "It is not about dieting, and good and bad foods, it's

about recognising our bodies' natural desire for healthy eating and encouraging healthy food choices."

Brooklands staff said the session was well-paced and introduced pupils to foods from a variety of cultures. For more information, visit www.clairecantor.co.uk

Sharing abundance

By Guy Bardoe

How much fruit grows in East Finchley? The answer will never be known, but a local group of volunteers called East Finchley Abundance wants to reduce the amount that gets wasted. We have therefore decided to run an Apple Day event on the High Road on Saturday 20 October, with the support of the East Finchley Community Trust.

Similar events are popping up all over the country, as more people realise the importance of celebrating locally grown food. As elsewhere, people can bring their garden fruit to our Apple Day stall for juicing and also try a range of tasty juices, pressed right there and then.

So do you have fruit trees, not just apples, in your garden that you cannot harvest or that over-produce? Perhaps you know of fruit trees and bushes in the area that never get picked? In the run-up to the harvest season the group

will be compiling an inventory and map of fruit trees in East Finchley. We would like to hear from local people who think this is a good idea.

Members of the group will arrange harvesting of the fruit leading up to the Apple Day; the project is free and voluntary, with all the produce being shared amongst local people.

Please email efabundance@btinternet.com or write to East Finchley Abundance, c/o 32 Park Hall Road London N2 9PU, with information, suggestions or to get involved.

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