



Trick or treat: Youngsters and staff at Cavendish House dental practice. Photo Mike Coles

Who said dentists were frightening?

By Ruth Anders

As the streets of East Finchley were bursting with small children in scary outfits and brightly lit pumpkin packed porches for Halloween, the staff of Cavendish House Dental Practice in East End Road held their own street party to prove there's nothing to fear at the dentist.

Visiting children were invited to exchange their sweets for sugar-free treats, and given party bags containing valuable dental health information, straws, stickers, balloons, tattoos and colourful toothbrushes.

Kevin Silver and Nick Rote have run the practice for nearly 30 years. Kevin cites sweets as the worst tooth decay culprits, especially if eaten throughout the day, along with fizzy drinks and convenience food.

He urges parents to take their children to a dentist as soon as they have teeth because prevention is always better than cure. Almost 60% of children aged one to four did not have a dental check-up in the year to March 2017 and the number of children aged up to four having to be hospitalized for tooth extractions has risen by almost 25% in the last decade.



Skeleton crew: N2 Gardener regulars Kate Brown and Charlotte Anne De Castellane with a boney friend on Halloween night

Look what we dug up!

The community garden outside East Finchley tube station spooked commuters on Halloween night with some splendid glowing pumpkins and a new gardener who looked in need of a good feed.

N2 Gardeners are scaling back their activity for the winter months but will be busy propagating some new plants. They also want to purchase a couple of new items to surprise us in 2018. Anyone wishing to make a donation towards the cost of new plants can make a bank transfer to: The Co-operative Bank, East Finchley Community Trust, sort code 08-92-99, account number 65444614. For your reference please put 'Station Bank'.



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Crunch time for shisha smoking in Church Lane

By Janet Maitland

The fate of the Oasis restaurant in Church Lane, N2, is hanging in the balance. Unless his appeal against a council enforcement notice is successful, the owner will have to demolish the shisha smoking canopy structure at the back of his restaurant or face prosecution.

Demolition too extreme

The enforcement notice was issued after Mr El Khalil Jelbauoi's application to turn the Old Alexandra pub on Church Lane into a restaurant with facilities for smoking shisha was turned down in May. The grounds for his appeal are that planning permission should be given and that demolishing the shisha area is an excessive way to overcome the objections to it.

The appeal will be heard by the Secretary of State before the end of the year. If it is unsuccessful, Mr Jelbauoi will have four months to comply.

Strong opinions

Local people are passionate about the Oasis, for and against. One Leopold Road resident felt so strongly about it operating for three years without planning permission that she posted letters to properties in nearby streets, imploring people to object against the appeal. But another resident, who lives opposite the Oasis, said: "There have never been any problems. It acts as a beacon to those who want a cultured evening out."

Application to and fro

In July, shortly after lodging his appeal against the enforcement notice, Mr Jelbauoi submitted another planning application to the council, this time simply

to change the use of the old pub into a restaurant. Eight of the 45 local people who objected to this proposal said they did not object to a restaurant, perhaps not realising that this was what the application was for.

Other objectors did realise, some claiming it was just a ruse, particularly as the plans still included the canopy structure where people smoke shisha. In any case the owner withdrew the application, which was supported by 20 local people.

We tried to ask Mr Jelbauoi why he withdrew an application which, if successful, would have enabled him to at least continue to run the restaurant without shisha smoking, if he lost his appeal to run it with shisha. We were told he was out of the country and unavailable for comment.

Winter fair

Nazareth House residential home at 162 East End Road, N2, will be hosting a winter bazaar on Saturday 9 December from 2-5pm.

It promises to be a fun event, with music, teas and cakes, games for children, a tombola and raffle with stalls selling bric-a-brac, good quality clothes, cakes and books. Entry is £1 for adults, children free.

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