



Brian Hooper, Bill Nicholson, Joanna Armamdias and George Andrew. Photo by pub manager Helena Desa

Brian's hard work helps the heroes

By Diana Cormack

Customers at The Old White Lion were invited to guess the weight of a huge pumpkin in order to raise money for the charity Help for Heroes. During the latter part of October organiser Brian Hooper went into the pub three times a day selling tickets at £1 a guess. The pumpkin was grown by Bill Nicholson at his Highgate allotment near North Hill from a seed provided by George Andrew.

When the pumpkin was weighed at 11pm on Hallowe'en, three people had guessed correctly at 75lbs/5 stone 15lbs/34.1 kg. They agreed to their names being drawn from a hat to choose a winner, who received £50 to spend in the White Lion, while the runners up were presented with bottles of wine. But the overall winner was the charity because the competition raised the magnificent total of £1,300.

A cheque was presented to Joanna Armamdias, London coordinator for Help for Heroes. The pumpkin has been donated to Coppets Wood Primary School for use as a learning aid.

This month Brian is running a raffle in aid of Great Ormond Street, to be drawn on 14 December. Why not pop into The Old White Lion and buy some tickets?

Donate food for people in need

A healthcare clinic is running a food drive during December in aid of the North London Hospice. Anyone is invited to bring items to Active Chiropractic Healthcare at 98 High Road and they will be passed on to patients and carers in need.

Donations of canned food, dried foods (pasta, dried fruit, rice), air-tight/vacuum-packed food and non-perishable food will be welcome but not fresh foods as these will not keep.

As an added incentive, the clinic is offering free consultations to new patients who drop in with an item. Existing patients will receive a voucher for a free consultation for a family member or friend to use.



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Landmark building threatened

By Daphne Chamberlain

A historic local building, 320 High Road, could be affected by what its owner calls "over-enthusiastic development next door". Number 320 is one of two Grade 2 listed gatehouses at the northern entrance to Camden and Islington Cemetery.

In February of this year an application was granted on appeal to build a three-storey block of six flats between the gatehouse and Lewis Gardens. Then the site was sold to another developer, who has submitted plans for a two-storey side extension, housing two more flats.

The owner of the gatehouse, Iggy Mascarenhas, is appealing against the new application, which would bring the new building to scarcely two metres from most of his windows.

He told *THE ARCHER* that his ground floor would be completely overshadowed, and the narrow courtyard entrance at the side of the house would become a dark alley.

Stewardship

Mr Mascarenhas says that the gatehouse has a 'Right to Light', shown by its 'Ancient Lights' sign, which has proved legally enforceable in other cases, but he wants the proposal stopped before considering legal action.

He told us, "I regard the ownership of the property as a stewardship. I do not want this development to take place on my watch. If Barnet Council allows this development, it will set a precedent for other planning cases in the borough."

Support from civic societies

The Finchley Society supports his objection. Their Planning Officer Mike Dawson called the application unacceptable, telling us, "What the inspector considered okay on appeal is quite different to that being proposed now". The Garden History Society, statutory consultee for

English Heritage, also backs Mr Mascarenhas. Planning authorities are required to consult the GHS on applications affecting all grades of registered landscapes; the cemetery is on that register so the GHS has asked for immediate consultation with Barnet.

Find out more at www.320HighRoad.co.uk or contact



320HighRoad@gmail.com.

The planning application F/03983/10 can be viewed at www.barnet.gov.uk. Barnet Council's case officer is David Campbell, tel: 020 8359 4669.

A new orchard for Cherry Tree Wood

By Charles Parkes

On Saturday 23 October, a large group of volunteers worked together on a number of amenity and biodiversity projects in Cherry Tree Wood. The event was organised by Friends of Cherry Tree Wood together with the Community Service Volunteers' GO London project. It was one of a number of Make a Difference Day events taking place across the capital.

The main project was planting a new community orchard in the picnic area. This was made up of eight trees including apple, pear, cherry, quince and medlar, sponsored by a number of local businesses and organisations and the Friends of Cherry Tree Wood.

The Friends also provided 700 daffodil and crocus bulbs which were planted along the main path. Additionally, 200 wildflower plants were added to the meadow area adjacent to the playing field, litter was cleared from around the Wood and the dead hedge next to the play area was spruced up.

Despite the showers, everyone worked enthusiastically and the results of all this activity should be apparent in the park next spring.

New yoga class

A new yoga class has just launched in East Finchley, specifically aimed at people over 50 and beginners.

The class is on a Wednesday at 9.45am at The Iyengar Yoga Studio in Leicester Road and is geared towards people who have never tried yoga before and people in their later years. Teacher Lisa Morris works to improve her students' strength, co-ordination, flexibility and stamina. Lisa is offering the first class for free along with discounts for seniors, students and the unemployed. Contact her on 07963 833188.

East Finchley Baptist Church

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Sundays at 10.30 am

Come & Celebrate Christmas with us!

Sunday 19th December

10.30am - 11.45am:

All Ages Together Carol Service

6pm - 7.15pm: Carols by Candlelight

Christmas Day (Sat. 25th Dec)

10.30am - 11.15am

Christmas Morning Family Service

Sunday 26th December

10.30am - 11.30am:

Communion Service



For more information please contact the Church Office, Tel: 8883 1544 or visit our web site: www.eastfinchleybc.org.uk

Minister: Simon Dyke

Visitors always welcome