



BE PART OF IT Volunteers wanted

Compiled by Lynn Winton of N2United

You will probably have seen the **N2 Food Project** in action, giving out healthy, delicious meals to those who need them outside the Phoenix Cinema on Tuesday mornings. Would you be able to help make these meals? They need volunteers who have a passion for cooking. No major skills are required, as you will be working with first-rate professional chefs. Cooking times are weekends from 11 am to 3pm in the kitchen at Martin School, East Finchley, and they ask you to commit to a minimum two-hour shift. Check their socials @N2foodproject or email efnsfoodproject@gmail.com

Driving Aid to Ukraine (see right) is a new non-profit organisation based in N2 started by local resident Michael Byrne, who personally delivers lorries of humanitarian aid to the Ukrainian conflict zones, via border transfer points. His team requires volunteers to help scale up in building and sustaining a social media campaign, fundraising and grant writing. This is a fantastic opportunity to use your skills to bring vital aid to utterly devastated people and learn about the international aid sector at a grass roots level. Find out more at drivingaidtoukraine.org and get in touch with Michael on 07791 912389.

Could you spare an hour or so a week to make a real difference to an older isolated person? **Age UK Barnet** is looking for befrienders to offer friendly chats, support and companionship. The charity also needs walking buddies to help older people to get out and about. Just a couple of hours a week of your time could make a big difference to an older person in East Finchley. As a thank you volunteers receive a free day pass from The Muswell Hill Club where you can spend a day using all the facilities. Please contact Age UK's volunteer manager Lisa on 020 8432 1422 or lisa.robins@ageukbarnet.org.uk

The Archer, your very own newspaper, needs YOU, ideally in the first part of each month, to help distribute the paper to readers. We are particularly looking for people to cover Trinity Road, Mansfield Heights, Manor Court, Doran Manor, and Linksvie, all in N2. Even if you can only manage half an hour most months, it will be a tremendous help. Please contact: news@the-archer.co.uk

East Finchley Festival CIC is looking to fill some key positions before planning begins for the 2023 festival, specifically: food stalls co-ordinator, volunteer co-ordinator and a bookkeeper/administrator. All roles are flexible and training can be given. Please visit eastfinchleyfestival.org/get-involved or email eastfinchleyfestival@gmail.com



N2United is East Finchley's Community and Business Network. If you wish to be included in this column please send details to N2United@ILoveN2.co.uk Max 60 words please.

Heartwarming response to Ukraine aid mission

By Lynn Winton

Driving Aid to Ukraine, the N2-based organisation delivering desperately needed goods into the most devastated communities of Ukraine, has seen support flooding in from local people and businesses.

The tube station newsagent's owner Harsha Raja was so moved reading last month's update in *The Archer* that she requested a donation tin to keep by the till. Additionally, she has pledged to help fill the truck leaving this month by donating extra supplies.

Another collection tin is now on the bar at The Bald Faced Stag, and the mission's co-ordinator Michael Byrne will be delighted to take one into any other business that wants to help him get aid to Ukraine.

Local offers of help have kept rolling in. Toiletries company Matrix donated 104 pallets of hand sanitiser. Local families contacted Michael offering piles of goods, including toys and clothes. All in all, 60 tons of goods were donated. But much more is needed for Michael to take regular supplies and fulfil his pledge to actively help Ukraine.

Additionally, Olga Stefanyshyna, a current Ukrainian MP and previous Ukrainian Deputy Minister of Healthcare, got in touch and has joined as an advisor. She is currently living nearby with her two children under the Home Office relocation scheme.

Winter campaign

Michael is starting his winter campaign to collect coats, sleep-



Collection tin: Tube station newsagent Harsha Raja and Driving Aid to Ukraine founder Michael Byrne. Photo Mike Coles

ing bags, tents and anything for warmth to people that have lost their homes and livelihoods.

"Ukrainians face a harsh winter, one of cold, hunger, darkness, thirst and a continuing war," he said. "Driving Aid to Ukraine aims to raise £30,000 to deliver humanitarian aid every two weeks to refugee centres and communities in the conflict zones throughout the winter. They are fighting for all of us. I promise I will not stop until they no longer need me."

As part of his developing winter appeal he will also be sponsoring a refugee centre in Poltava, Ukraine. The refugee centre acts as an aid coordination and distribution hub for 30,000 displaced children from the frontline regions of Ukraine.

If you would like to help Michael Byrne's organisation Driving Aid to Ukraine with donations or support, please contact him on 07791 912389 or find out more at drivingaidtoukraine.org

New life on the court

Vlad Kulykov, 22, is building a new life after coming to London a few months ago having left Ukraine at the beginning of the war. While some of his family are still in a safe village in Ukraine, and some are in Germany, Vlad has been adopted by The Avenue Tennis Club in Finchley Central.



Courting success: Vlad Kulykov

Sally Bentley, the club's head coach, said: "Vlad is a first-class tennis coach. Thanks to the members, the club found him a sponsor and a visa to stay here safely for three years." Sally is also helping him to obtain British Lawn Tennis Association coaching qualifications.

Anyone looking for a tennis

coach who is fluent in Ukrainian and Russian, can email Sally@avenuetennisclub.co.uk or phone her on 07958 758 580. The Avenue has three floodlit courts, fields five adult and 10 junior teams, and runs a comprehensive coaching and social programme for all ages and abilities. Find out more at www.avenuetennisclub.co.uk

Free concert to say thank you

Talented Ukrainian musician Yuliia Humeniuk, pictured right, is performing a free recital to say thank you to the community of East Finchley who have welcomed her so warmly.

Yuliia is a music graduate from Kharkiv University and is living in N2 with a host family. Her own family live in the Russian-occupied area of Kherson. She made the hazardous journey across Crimea in June, and will now be continuing her studies at the London Performing Academy of Music.

The Royal Academy of Music have very kindly lent her the accordion she will be using for the recital, as she had to leave her own instrument in Kharkiv when the war started in February.



Everyone is invited along to All Saints Church, Durham Road, N2, at 6pm on Friday 7 October to hear Yuliia play a short programme of tangos, waltzes and songs.

There is no charge for the recital, and Yuliia says she is most grateful to All Saints for generously allowing her to use the church.

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