

Children with rare blood disease have deadly virus

Aids fear for boys at hospital

TWO brothers and a third boy attending Charing Cross Hospital are carrying an Aids virus, hospital chiefs said this week.

The boys, aged eight, nine and ten, suffer from haemophilia — a disease which stops the blood from clotting.

The boys were given an infected dose of Factor VIII, a plasma needed by haemophiliacs to help their blood to clot.

The dose the boys received was imported from the United States. Britain is not self-sufficient in its production of plasma.

The boys were found to be carrying the virus during routine tests at Charing Cross Hospital.

The children do not necessarily have the killer disease Aids, but experts say that about one in ten people found with the virus later develop the disease.

Because of their low resistance to infections, haemophiliacs stand a higher than average chance of catching the disease.

The parents of the children — who are not being named by hospital staff because they want to remain anonymous — know of the risk to their children.

A spokesman for the North-West Thames Regional Health Authority said this week: "They have been informed about the positive tests. They are being counselled by senior doctors and the three boys are monitored very closely."

"At present the children appear to be well and are being treated as out-patients," he added.

The spokesman confirmed that the boys came from the West London area.

Heliport scheme opposed

COUNCILLORS want helicopter operators to quit hovering around.

They are fighting a plan, by Star Aviation to build a heliport at Rotherhithe, which would mean more than 40 per cent extra helicopter flights over the Thames.

Hammersmith councillors say the heliport would cause more noise and nuisance to homes.

If the Rotherhithe plan does go ahead, say councillors, they want helicopter flights banned at weekends.

Charity man's plaque

WAR veterans have presented champion fundraiser Patrick Murray with a special plaque.

The plaque was presented to Mr Murray by Mayor Kim Howe at a ceremony at Hammersmith Town Hall.

"It's my biggest honour in 20 years of charity work, I'm overwhelmed by the action of these men," said Mr Murray.

The plaque is to take pride of place in his travelling exhibition, which he plans to take to schools in West London.



Stepping out in style

MEMBERS of a dramatic society turned the clock back to promote their latest production.

Action Dramatic Society members dressed in 1920s and 1940s fashions and handed out publicity leaflets in Chiswick High Road on Saturday.

The fashion stunt was to publicise the musical floor show, which ends its run at Chiswick Town Hall tonight.

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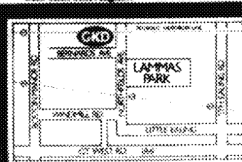
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