

Frightful fun around Reading



BY ANNA ROBERTS

GHOSTIES, ghouls, witches and wizards celebrated Hallowe'en in Reading in suitably spooky fashion.

Celebrations were held at local schools, Royal Berkshire Hospital and restaurants in the town. At the eye clinic of the hospital staff decided to make their patients' visits a bit more exciting by decorating the department and dressing up.

Orthoptists Vicki Sandford and Jane Bell dressed as witches – and looked a real eyesore.

Meanwhile patient Mary Ward, seven, had a fun time examining the clinic's florescent ghoullights.

Joe Wise, hospital spokesman, said: "During the day a lot of the clinic's patients are children so the staff thought it would be nice to do something.

"They decorated the area with cobwebs and lights and dressed up. They also dimmed the main lights. It made coming to the

Ghoulsh goings on for Hallowe'en

hospital more enjoyable for children."

London Street restaurant the Global Café, at Reading International Solidarity Centre, also celebrated Wednesday's spooky date with chef Tutu Melaku hosting a party in the venue.

The All Hallows' Eve festival also marked the anniversary of Ms Melaku's first year of serving food at Reading International Solidarity Centre.

She said: "I dressed as a witch. We had a party from 6pm to 9pm and it was good. We had a Hallowe'en quiz and an Ethiopian coffee ceremony – where I crush beans and everyone drinks coffee."

Meanwhile intrepid pupils at Reading Girls' School organised a party for Year Seven and Eight youngsters as a part of an enterprise project.

The highlight of the event, which was held in the

Northumberland Avenue secondary, was when the school's leadership team – including headteacher Emma Leigh-Bennett – dressed up as spooky characters and got on the stage.

School spokeswoman Cindy Wootton said: "The girls had a great time and had great fun. There was great music and everyone dressed up."

Judy Botherway, ages 14-to-19 coordinator at the school, said: "The event was organised by one of our Year 12 young enterprise companies to raise capital. They are going to set up a jewellery business with the profits.

"The school catering manager Chris Ward, dressed as someone from the Addams family and acted as DJ and the girls had fun dancing and playing games, and enjoyed a chocolate fountain.

"The hall was transformed into a spooky space for the evening."



HUBBLE-BUBBLE – Nenita Terry, left, and Kate Dixon, right, join owner Tutu Melaku at her first anniversary buffet in RISC's Global Café. Picture: (Ref 73669)