

# November

## PINNT meeting - East Anglian Region



About 30 PINNT members met up in Cambridge on a cold but sunny November day. We'd had 10 apologies from people unable to come due to ill health or prior engagements. However in compensation, six new members tried us out and were quickly absorbed into the 'family'; the two children who weren't brought along will hopefully feel welcomed next time by the warm atmosphere and the children's' play corner. After a drink and a snack we got onto PINNT business, discussing primarily other peoples' social attitudes and misconceptions about those who have difficulties with eating. We concluded that outsiders prefer to normalise the situation and would rather believe that there is nothing wrong, encouraging the person with the problem to pull themselves together and eat normally. This, even if it might result in the child or adult choking, vomiting, suffering or extreme discomfort.

An understandable reaction but somewhat tedious for sufferers having to respond frequently to such comments. Perhaps members should offer the Online publication to others to read in order to understand a little more.

The situation of eating out was raised, regarding those who sit at the table with friends/family but can't manage a full meal, or sometimes no food or drink at all, who are made to feel awkward when met with a refusal to their request rather than understanding and empathy. Several people endorsed use of the PINNT Restaurant card, which in their experience was sufficient to gain co-operation without having to explain the specific problem, and led to more friendly co-operation; however if it's taken away to show the manager, make sure you get it back.

It was agreed that PINNT can help individuals and families cope with so many aspects of artificial feeding, but that the charity is as yet unknown to many who could benefit. The group went on to agree that PINNT members should act as ambassadors by spreading the word; taking PINNT fliers and information ourselves to groups of those involved with tube or intravenous feeding. This could be to schools, healthcare professionals, respite care, stroke clubs, outpatient clinics, hospital wards etc.

Next the quiz and raffle gave us some fun and raised funds for PINNT. Tracy and Sylvia hope to meet you again in the spring to celebrate 25 years of PINNT.

**Keep the date free, next meeting:**

*Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2012*

*12.00-3.30 pm, Cambridge.*



# NOVEMBER

*See you in May  
Tracy & Sylvia*