



High Road charity shop ransacked in second raid

By Janet Maitland

The North London Hospice charity shop on the High Road has been burgled for the second time this year. When Eugenia the manager arrived at the shop at 7.45am on 4 October she found that the door had been smashed in and the shop ransacked.

"I can't tell you how distressed I was," said Eugenia. "They took everything of value. We had eight or nine watches that had been checked by a jeweller and they stole the lot. And we had some nice electrical goods on a shelf in the back office that were just waiting to be inspected by an electrician and they took all those as well.

"They'd overturned everything, even pulling out things from under the sink, from the fridge, from the place where we keep the tea towels, presumably looking for hiding places for money. They left by the back door. They'd stolen so much they couldn't get back through the broken glass on the front door. It's just so depressing.

"The volunteers often get here at seven in the morning

and don't leave until eight in the evening, so that we can make the shop look as nice as possible for customers, and the burglars just didn't care. But I've worked here for 21 years and I don't intend to stop now. We're going to keep going despite everything."

Evidence and information

The police are investigating the burglary and have taken forensic evidence. Three of the charity's shops were also broken into, in the same week, in March: the East Finchley, Muswell Hill and Wood Green branches.

If you have any information about any of these burglaries, please call the police on 101. If you want to remain anonymous, please call Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.



Fun with the firemen. Photo by Stephen Rangold

Weather emergency at street party

By Jacky Wood

With blazing days to choose from, Cherry Tree Road managed to schedule their street party on 15 September, the most miserable Sunday we've seen this summer. In defiance of the weather forecast, bunting and trestle tables were erected, only to thrash and drip in the wind and rain.

There was nothing for it but to move the whole lot indoors so "Saintly Sara" threw her house open to the burger bar, buffet, booze, face painting and talent show. It was a bit of a squeeze, and heaven knows what state her floor and furnishings were in afterwards, but it was a great opportunity to catch up with neighbours and past residents and everyone had a good time.

A fire engine made a good-will call which delighted the kids, and even had a couple of the older ladies eyeing up the firemen. Thank you, Sara, for turning a disaster into a celebration.



Organisers were keen to get the views of adults.

Photo by Cathy Young

The Grange: One big question

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The money is for local projects centred on the Grange but also for the wider area between Church Lane and Tarling Road and over to the Thomas More estate alongside East End Road.

Local feedback is vital to the project. "The next steps are to run a competition for young people... and to get young peo-

ple's views on what they think is needed to make the area an even better place to live in," explained Paul Bragman of the Grange Big Local Project.

So if you want a say in developing the Big Local plan for the area, or just want to find out more, visit

www.communityregen.net.

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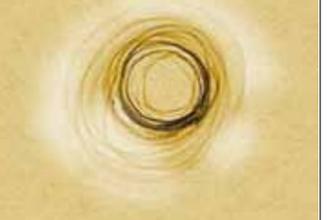
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