



Generous gift for charity shop

By Diana Cormack

When the North London Hospice charity shop was broken into for the second time in a year, manageress Eugenia von Piccardio was devastated (*THE ARCHER*, November 2013). "They took everything of value", she said sadly.

The thieves gained entry by smashing through the front door glass and ransacked the premises looking for things to steal, eventually taking so much that they had to make their getaway via the back door.

After reading about this several people came into the High Road shop to make special donations, for which Eugenia was extremely grateful. But one act of kindness has left her "grateful beyond belief".

Good deed

It all came about thanks to Dariush Hemkat of Securebase, the family security business which has been at 112 High Road since 1988. Local resident Dariush, who attended Martin

Primary School and Christ's College, offered to supply and fit the charity shop with an intruder alarm, all free of charge.

So, just a short time after the report about the break-in was published, work on installing the modern alarm system was completed. The bell box can be seen on the front of the shop.

Eugenia told *THE ARCHER*, "People in East Finchley are so kind. It really is a special place. I feel much safer now with this sophisticated alarm system which will deter burglars from the outside. The North London Hospice shop owes a really big thank you to Securebase!"

Soup kitchen

The Muswell Hill Soup Kitchen at Muswell Hill Church, Dukes Avenue, was in dire need recently of a restock of the food and dry goods they need to help the hungry and homeless from all round the area. Sainsbury's Muswell Hill asked customers for any spare cans of food or whatever could be spared to help and eight large boxes were filled with food, along with £245 in cash donations, all presented to the soup kitchen.

Lido closure

Finchley Lido was temporarily closed after the high winds on 23 December. Repairs were carried out and it reopened soon after Christmas.

Dementia cafe

Finchley Memorial Hospital in Granville Road, N12, runs a café for people with dementia and their carers every second Wednesday of the month from 2pm - 4pm. It's a relaxed social setting and there is free parking for three hours. Find out more at Barnet@alzheimers.org.uk or 020 8937 7171.



Stan Wolfe of All Saints Church retires after 30 years of organising the Christmas carols. Photo Mike Coles

Stan's farewell Christmas carols

By Stuart Allen

Picture the scene. It is cold and dark at 7.30pm and also Friday 13th! However, the residents of All Saints Parish in East Finchley are lucky, for a group of singers accompanied by a band will walk around the county roads stopping to perform a carol or two whilst rattling tins and collecting for the Children's Society.

Everything has been painstakingly planned, and for the past 30 years, this event has taken place annually, whatever the weather. Sadly this is the last time, owing to the age and infirmity of the man who has done the planning, made telephone calls and asked his friends from five different bands to take part. Who is this man? Step forward Stan Wolfe, of Woodhouse Road, N12.

Stan was 86 on Christmas Eve and sadly is suffering from

macular degeneration, which means that he sees very little, and he is also profoundly deaf, but his spirit is unbreakable and he is as enthusiastic about bands as anyone can be.

A band from scratch

It all started 35 years ago, when a new choirmaster was appointed, one John Kingston, whose idea it was to sing in the streets. Stan, keen choir member, Scout leader and PCC member, had the idea that a band was needed, so he gathered together a quintet without a bass instrument.

He decided to learn the euphonium for the occa-

sion: it took him a week! He enjoyed it so much that he joined Barnet band (from which he proudly accepted life membership recently) on tuba. He also joined Paddington Great Western Military Band, which still performs on the station concourse on Friday evenings.

The East Finchley players, 11 of them last year, were local and from as far away as Knebworth and Sutton. They all came in admiration and loyalty to the remarkable Stan Wolfe. Let us salute Stan and wish him a long, happy retirement.



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