



Double break-in leaves café team in despair

By Janet Maitland

Staff and customers at the popular New Local Café on the High Road were left shocked after the business was burgled twice by two different men in the space of just 24 hours.

Both men were filmed walking up and down the High Road outside the café by CCTV cameras next door. In both cases, once they were sure no one was watching, the men broke into the premises, one at 1am on Thursday 15 October and the other at 3am on the 16th.

Damage piled on damage

The first thief brought a heavy object with him in a bag and used it to smash the glass in the front door. Then he kicked the door in and ransacked the place. "He pulled out all the counters and broke our CCTV," said Julie, who has worked at the cafe for many years. "He stole wine,



Burgled twice: New Local Café

beer, chicken, burgers and our cash float, then he just walked out as if he'd done his shopping at Sainsbury's."

The second intruder unearthed one of the bricks keeping the cafe advertising sign outside upright, then used it to shatter the new pane of glass that had been fitted after the first burglary. "He stole our CCTV recording box and our Uber tablet, so now we can't even take delivery orders," said Julie.

Police enquiries are ongoing. Anyone with information is asked to contact police on

101 or tweet @MetCC and quote 861/16OCT. Alternatively, contact the independent charity Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 if you want to remain anonymous.

Extra pain for small businesses

The burglaries have been a huge blow to the café, which was already suffering because of the pandemic. Nine staff were

reduced to four earlier this year. In addition, they are worried about the effect of the new cycle lane outside the café. Because it is protected by fixed bollards and parking is no longer possible, they are especially concerned about access for their disabled customers.

Also in the High Road, nearby shop Everything Electrical and the Royalty Lounge, on the corner of Leicester Road, have been broken into. "As if small businesses weren't struggling enough," said Jan Lovell from the Safer Neighbourhood Team.

Artists mount outdoor sale up the alley

On the day before the rule of six was imposed in September, two East Finchley artists held an outdoor charity sale in one of the lanes that runs between their houses. Well-known to visitors of the East Finchley Open Houses, Mary Poulter is a basket-maker and Hazel Mason a potter.

"We missed seeing our friends and neighbours in the summer, when the Open House weekends had to be cancelled, so it was lovely to be able to catch up," said Hazel.

The event was held wearing masks, with markers to help observe social distancing, and hand sanitiser available for visitors. No money had to change hands, as visitors simply made their payment to their chosen charity when they got home.

In total the event raised the outstanding sum of £1,390. Visitors chose a host of differ-

ent charities, local ones being popular including the Phoenix Cinema, North London Hospice and the food bank at St Mary's Church. East Finchley printer J G Bryson printed off 500 leaflets for the pair of artists for free.

"Everyone was so supportive and so generous," said Mary, "and we had many messages of thanks afterwards." One happy customer emailed to say: "Thank you for putting on the sale, thereby spreading beautiful items and good deeds around the area!"



Playing outdoors: Kids enjoy a game of Swingball at the Monday Youth Club back in 2019. Photo Mike Coles

Youth club moves into new home for 15th birthday

By Diana Cormack

In October 2005 a new youth club was launched in the Methodist Church hall in the High Road, N2. Instigated by Strawberry Vale resident Maureen Clemetson aided by local mother Maureen Antoinette, it offered young people a range of activities organised by these two ladies and other volunteers.

Maureen Clemetson's passion for providing something for East Finchley youngsters to do, for which she received a Barnet Civic Award, has kept The Monday Club going for 15 years.

During that time the club has been housed in a variety of venues, including outdoor areas

to enable the popular football club to continue. It is now part of The Compton School N12 Powerleague, and Maureen ensures that the teenage players still get a tasty snack of jerk chicken and rice at their Monday night sessions.

She also provides food for The Friday Club, a spin-off from The Monday Club for younger boys and girls. They are unable to meet under present conditions but Maureen continues to prepare food bags for them (*The Archer*, July 2020).

Coming home to Tarling Road

Covid-19 has put paid to her plans for an event where members past and present could mark The Monday Club's 15th anniversary. However, still sad-

dened and angered by the lack of provision locally for young people, Maureen is looking to the future, and has managed to find a new home for them at the new Tarling Road Community Hub.

At the time of writing she was hoping meetings would start for teenagers on Thursday 29 October and for younger members on Friday 30 October. Whenever they are up and running, maybe then they will be able to hold an appropriate celebration.

Double award
Stephens House and Gardens in East End Road, N3, has been awarded a Green Flag for the second time to recognise it as a well-managed park and green space. The venue has also achieved the much-coveted Green Heritage Site Accreditation for management of its historic features.

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