



Costly clear-up after charity shop smash and grab

By Janet Maitland

A charity shop on the High Road was burgled in the early hours of Sunday 8 September. The thief shattered a section of the window of the North London Hospice shop, grabbed some jewellery from the window display and made off, making no attempt to climb into the shop.

Volunteers opening up the shop that Sunday morning were faced with broken glass everywhere and the dispiriting task of clearing up the mess.

"I'd like to put a great big sign in the window saying 'To whoever is doing this, next time just come into the shop and take what you want - then we wouldn't waste time clearing up after you and you might meet one of our volunteers, a 93-year-old woman who comes in three days a week to serve customers'," said the manager.

Within hours of the theft, the undaunted volunteers had created a new window display on either side of the black and yellow police tape stuck over the broken glass.

Peter Brook, Director of Retail at the North London Hospice, said: "Whenever this happens to one of our shops our

charity has to pick up the bill for repairs, which affects our ability to support more patients. We take great comfort from the messages of support we have received from our community and we will continue to do all we can to provide the best of life, at the end of life, for everyone."

Police are investigating the theft and have offered crime prevention advice. As far as we are aware, this was the first shop burglary on the High Road for over a year. Small businesses, including grocers, cafés, newsagents and pharmacies were targeted in 2021 and 2022 with a total of eight break-ins and three attempted burglaries. The following year wasn't much better with three burglaries and two failed break-ins, but no shops - until now - have been broken into since last October.



Snatched: The burglar smashed a large glass pane and reached in to grab items from the window display

Heritage skills

Heritage Community Crafts CIC runs craft workshops to teach traditional and modern craft skills to groups of teenagers and adults. They host creative events for under-represented groups of adults, seniors and teenagers, and those excluded from wider society.

HCC have so far run a beginners' crochet workshop and an earring-making workshop with their funding from the Grange Big Local in East Finchley. Follow 'heritagecommunitycrafts' on Instagram where you will find news of a planned workshop at Tarling Road Community Centre, N2.

Piano pairing

East Finchley Methodist Church continues its series of free concerts open to all with a visit by Brazilian piano duo André Bertoni and Alexander Ribeiro de Lara on Sunday 13 October at 7.30pm.

The pair will perform a programme of works by Mozart, Schumann and Schubert. Admission is free with a collection in aid of North London Hospice. The church, situated on the High Road, N2, opposite Creighton Avenue, is fully accessible.



Safety net: Brothers Sam and Jake Galson have developed an online program to protect people living with dementia

Software sends alerts to online shoppers living with dementia

By Diana Cormack

A social enterprise based in East Finchley is working with the Alzheimer's Society to develop software to help people living with dementia.

Brothers Sam and Jake Galson were inspired by the early-onset dementia of a young friend to investigate the possibilities of them staying online safely and independently for longer.

Many distressing symptoms are recognised as the disease develops but, especially for older people, living with dementia can cause particular problems in our internet-centric world.

So, with support and funding from the Society's Accelerator Programme and UnLtd's social entrepreneur fund, they have produced Phylax. It is aimed at those with cognitive decline who face financial risks in their online activities such as buying the same product multiple times, accidentally buying expensive items or falling for scams or financial abuse.

There are estimated to be more than 800,000 online shop-

pers over the age of 65 with cognitive impairment. Many of those could benefit from the brothers' creation of a software platform to track, analyse and prevent repeat or accidental purchasing.

When it is likely a user is about to purchase something they cannot afford, already own or do not need, Phylax will let them know and allow them to choose how to proceed. If necessary, control can be shared with a carer. When advice is not enough, a patient or carer can configure Phylax to prevent certain purchases or require approval.

Development is on-going with funding still needed and the co-founders need your help. Sam told The Archer: "We are seeking to make contact with local carers and people who are living with dementia, to talk to them about their experiences with using the internet and understand how we might best help them. If this issue has touched you, please contact us." You can contact him at sam@getphylax.com

Though not yet publicly available, there is an earlier version of Phylax currently free to try. For this and further details visit <https://getphylax.com>