

New Tiverton charity shop falls victim to burglary

Devon Air Ambulance's newest shop in Tiverton was the victim of a mindless act in the early hours of Saturday morning. The intruder gained access by kicking the front door open and shattering the glass to gain entry.

Clearly seen on CCTV, the adult male walked through the store to the till point where he attempted to open the collection box, initially he failed but after pulling the box clear of its secured location, he carried it through to the back area of the shop where he stabbed it repeatedly with a pair of scissors to cut into the outer plastic.

Eventually the coins were emptied, and the man then proceeded to the shop floor where he gathered a number of items of clothing and costume jewellery before leaving the shop.

His visit at 00:46 hrs lasted just under 30 minutes, exiting the shop at 01:13 am leaving the doors wide open. A group passing by the shop soon afterwards raised the alarm, contacting the police to report the incident.

This thoughtless attack on a local charity, welcomed to the town just 8 weeks ago, will cost hundreds of pounds to repair. The doors are irreparable and must now be replaced completely. This unexpected setback not only strains the charity's resources but has also deeply upset the staff, many of whom are volunteers who dedicate their time out of a genuine desire to help others. They are disheartened that an organisation focused on compassion and caring for others has been targeted in such a way.

If anyone has any information about the incident that they think might support the investigation, please email PC Arrowsmith at Tiverton Police Station at 19383@dc-police.uk quoting crime no. SO25 0179055.