



# Blown away by our Christmas Festival!

By Diana Cormack

Strong winds kept visitors and organisers on their toes at the East Finchley Christmas Festival on 5 December but everyone pulled together to keep the show on the road and make it another outstanding success. It was all put together by volunteers who gave freely of their time, effort and inspiration over many months.

For the festival's fourth year, there were even more local traders running stalls outside their premises and they were kept very busy, as were most of the eateries and shops and the impressive variety of stalls up and down the High Road.

The strength of the wind forced the information tent and Santa's Grotto to seek shelter in iSHA on the corner of Lincoln Road. Some crockery was broken and other items blown off stalls. In mid-afternoon, the very popular giant snow globe on Bedford Road had to be taken down as it was becoming too dangerous for children to play in.

However, none of this deflated anyone's spirits. The morning dog show went ahead as planned and there was a full afternoon of live entertainment on the community stage. This fourth Christmas festival attracted huge numbers and its growing reputation is testament to the hard work of the



organisers and the enthusiasm of everyone who entertained or came along to enjoy the day.

Our photo editor Mike Coles

was on hand all day and we hope this small selection of his photos captures some of the fun of the festival.

The festival finale featuring the London Metropolitan Brass Band and Martin School Choir



Left: Holy Trinity Choir and above: The Fixation Kids



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The Archer Academy choir



Above: Bubbles, winner of the dog show and, left, the winner of the Bake-off

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