



**FAREWELL GIFT:** John Tucker (left) and grandson Adam Peck hand over cash raised at the Beachcomber Cafe to Children's Hospice appeals co-ordinator Bill Griffin

Picture Lucy Blake EAA03837\_LAB\_002

# A parting gift to the Hospice



**THE** owners of Down Thomas's Beachcomber Cafe have bid farewell to the business with a £1,200 donation to the Children's Hospice South West.

Joy and John Tucker have transformed the Bovisand Bay business since taking over in 1989, winning the All-Seasons Millennium award for the restaurant and the quality of its customer service.

Now they are leaving the cafe to spend more time with their family.

They raised the money in the lead-up to Christmas by selling cards, mugs, calendars, pens, pencils and diaries.

They also held a raffle in which the top prize was a Christmas hamper put together by the couple.

The Children's Hospice South West was chosen by the couple as their grandson is at Little Bridge House.

## ■ by TOM PALMER

Joy explained that the final total had far exceeded their initial targets.

"We couldn't find a hamper that we liked, so we bought the produce instead and put one together ourselves," she said.

"Our initial target was £500, then £750, and after that we just decided anything above that was a bonus.

"People were very generous with donations as well, but mostly the money was raised from the Christmas cards and the raffle.

"And we delivered the hamper to the winner on Christmas Eve. She was delighted."

The hamper was packed with everything to make the festive period go with a swing including Christmas pudding, whiskey, Bailey's, sherry, chocolates and nuts.

The couple said they would be sad to leave the cafe which

they took over 13 years ago in November 1989.

"We have brought our family up here and we have made so many friends." Joy said.

"It is very sad that we are leaving but it is time to move on now.

"We have built the business from nothing. It was very small when we first bought it, only open for five or six months of the year. Now we are open 364 days a year and the restaurant is very busy."

One of the highlights for the couple over the years has been the relationships they have built up with their customers.

Joy said: "It's a real part of us. The customers have come in here when they are happy, sad or in trouble and we have built a big circle of people.

"It is a real wrench to leave and the decision was not taken lightly, but I want to spend more time with my grandchildren. It was time to move on and do something different."