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Local News Is Our Aim

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A community newspaper for East Finchley run entirely by volunteers.

A Reel Honour

By Femke van Iperen
Peter Bayley, the Phoenix's Chief Projectionist has been awarded an MBE. His investiture will be at Buckingham Palace on 27 February, followed by lunch at the Savoy. He will be accompanied by his wife and daughters.

Mr Bayley, who was planning to celebrate with "half East Finchley", told *THE ARCHER*, "I believe I am the first ever projectionist to be given this honour".

His time at the Phoenix goes back to 1960, when it was called the Rex. He became Chief Projectionist four years later, but started his career as tea-boy at North Finchley Odeon in 1953. "By next year, I will have been in the job for half a century!"

Film fan

Among his favourite films

are *Gone With the Wind*, and *Cinema Paradiso*, which reduced him "nearly to tears". A Madonna fan since *Desperately Seeking Susan*, he also admires Gerard Depardieu. "The way he projects his voice is absolutely first class".

About the future, he commented, "I don't think I'll retire when I turn 65. I will work until it gets beyond me, and I have to stop. But that will be a very hard thing to do."

See page 4 for how it all began.



Peter Bayley photo by Femke van Iperen

Met set to beat street crime

By Femke van Iperen
London is bracing itself as the Met recently recorded the third highest number of street crimes ever, but the police are planning to fight back. Radical new plans will combine forces and increase the numbers of patrolling officers. This change includes East Finchley.

Perhaps the best news for our area is that it is to have a mobile station from April, in joint partnership with Barnet Council. Barnet's Sector Inspector Maurice Hartnett explained, "This is about regeneration and social inclusion."

Community involvement
A mobile CCTV camera service is also planned. Colindale's Superintendent Colin O'Brien said, "We will park these as long as they are needed... we know the patterns, predominantly after school... The community can influence their councillors in [obtaining] these cameras." Community involvement is now high on the agenda. Superintendent O'Brien told *THE ARCHER*; "We have our crime investigators, problem-solvers for the community and the emergency response. But, realistically, we've been putting too much into the latter."

He explained how he wishes involvement to be extended into the health, education and

probation services. He has worked for 23 years throughout London, and spoke positively about Barnet Council: "It has a very engaged public and good councillors."

New Formula

Optimistic about co-operation with organisations like Neighbourhood Warden schemes, which now have around 19 wardens controlling 8 town centres, O'Brien commented, The aim is to get local intelligence involved, with cooperative patrols, information intelligence, briefing and debriefing people."

Referring to poor policeresponse, Superintendent O'Brien explained, "My officers are facing similar frustrations... more, better, resources are needed." The response section of the new Resource Allocation Formula of 535 plus December's arrival of 18 new officers, is spread over three shifts and allows for sickness, injury and time off. Superintendent O'Brien said: "I am happy with the new allocation, we should get another 40 officers."

Hopefully these latest developments will rebuild public confidence.

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