



Police appeal after fatal accident

By Janet Maitland

Police are appealing for witnesses to a fatal collision between a woman pedestrian and a motorcycle on the High Road on 2 November. Pedestrian Anita Cash, 86, was taken by air ambulance to the Royal London Hospital in Whitechapel with serious injuries to her head and chest. She died a week later.

The accident happened at about 5pm near the junction with Chandos Road, when the black Honda VT 750 motorcycle was travelling south. Its 64-year-old driver was treated for head and leg injuries and taken as a priority to the Royal Free Hospital. He was later discharged.

After the accident, the High Road was shut in both directions between Church Lane and Oak Lane until 9.40pm. Buses travelling to North Finchley were diverted along

East End Road to Finchley Central. Residents reported travel chaos in nearby roads.

"We need people to come forward so that we can fully understand what happened," said PC Don MacAlpine from the Metropolitan Police Service Road Death Investigation Unit. "I'm appealing for anyone who witnessed this accident to contact us on 020 8998 5319, or contact Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 if you want to remain anonymous."

Happy Birthday, Green Man Centre

By Daphne Chamberlain

The Green Man Centre celebrated its 10th anniversary last month. Its name came from the old Green Man pub, which stood very close to its site. There were other suggestions for the name at the time, though, and also a bit of a mystery about another building whose foundations had just been unearthed.

ARCHER readers were quick to offer interesting suggestions about both the new name and the old building. So we found out quite a lot about the history of Strawberry Vale and that part of the High Road.

Time travelling

You told us about what had been there before the estate and the flyover. The riding-stable, farmhouse, villas and cottages; the smithy, coal merchant, boarding kennels, tennis courts, and the Green Man's pleasure gardens. You remembered the shops fronting the High Road, on the corner of Chambers Gardens, the baker's, the printer's, and the sawmill and wood yard at the end of Lankaster Gardens.

What emerged very clearly from this was that Strawberry

Vale and the land on and around the present Green Man Centre were very much a part of historic East Finchley.

Integration

In an ARCHER interview in December 2000, the Centre's new manager, Martin O'Donnell, told us that a difficulty of the Strawberry Vale estate was that it was cut off geographically. He said: "People only come through the estate if they are visitors. I see it as part of my role to attract others from the wider community to join in our activities."

So the Green Man Centre was launched with a programme of activities and an offer to the rest of East Finchley to share its facilities. In THE ARCHER's next edition we will report on the Green Man Centre as it is today.

Lights go down on 50 years for projectionist Peter

By Sheila Armstrong

When Peter Bayley started as projectionist at the Phoenix in 1960 it was known as a bit of a 'fleapit'. That image couldn't be more different from our newly restored cinema: the intervening 50 years have seen many changes. Now Peter is saying farewell to the projection room where he has worked for five decades.



Peter Bayley photographed in 1994 by David Tupman

The Phoenix, or Rex as it was known in 1960, was not Peter's first job in cinema; now 73, he started out 58 years ago at the North Finchley Odeon.

He invited THE ARCHER into the projection room to reminisce about his life and times at the Phoenix. He fondly remembered visits from stars such as Kenneth More, once-local resident Peter Sellers, Graham Stark and Maureen Lipman and the many film

shoots at the cinema.

One of his favourite films is *Gone with the Wind*, not forgetting *The Glenn Miller Story*. He's a great fan of both Madonna and Marilyn Monroe, especially enjoying the former's *Desperately Seeking Susan* and the latter's classic *Some Like it Hot*.

'Smartened up'

Awarded the MBE in 2002, Peter says some of the most important changes he has seen in cinema were when Cinemascope came out in the 1950s, and more recently the digitisation of film. Because

of the new technology used in projection Peter feels it's a job for a young man. And though of course most films are now digital, he's glad to see that the huge 40-year-old projector has been kept.

"The cinema has smartened up very nicely," he says of the revamped Phoenix and he's pleased to see the two Art Deco panels that are on show again at the back of the auditorium.

Peter is due to retire on 13 December and looks forward to spending more time at home "getting under his wife's feet".

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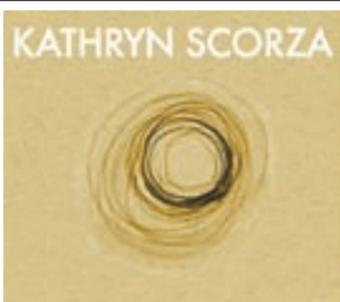
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