



A community newspaper for East Finchley run entirely by volunteers.



Tooled up: London's first all-female garage team Siobhan, Laura and Megan have opened for business in East Finchley. Read the full story on page 4.

Phoenix Cinema looks ahead to the future as an independent

By John Lawrence

Six months ago the Phoenix Cinema was in crisis. Audience numbers were falling, staff and management had fallen out, and the venue was facing a £30,000 black hole in its balance sheet. The cinema, independent since 1985, came close to being taken over by the Curzon Cinemas group.

Now the picture is looking brighter. A huge fundraising drive including a £20,000 crowdfunding target has steadied the finances and a programme of special events has been playing to full houses. At the same time, a new executive director has been brought in to lead the Phoenix team and ambitious plans are being considered, such as building a second screen.

That man is Neil Couzens, who was director of marketing at the JW3 arts centre in Hampstead and CEO of the Wandsworth Museum. He told *The Archer*: "The Phoenix is a positive challenge and it's a good time to be joining. I'm aware that it's not going to be plain sailing and we all have to get to grips with the situation. It's about making changes across a wide number of areas to bring in more revenue." Alison Gold, chair of the Phoenix trustees, said staff, supporters and volunteers had come together to face the crisis. "It's tight whether we can fully

close the financial gap this year but we are already looking ahead to next year," she said. "We want to prove that we can break even and then plan more solidly for the future."



Big plans: New executive director Neil Couzens at the Phoenix Cinema.

Neil and Alison agreed that a second screen on a small parking area behind the cinema would be transformational. "We'd need to call on people for support again because that would require a massive fundraising drive," said Alison.

Search for treasurer

The Phoenix Cinema Trust is looking for a qualified accountant who has a few hours available each week to act as the venue's treasurer. They will be responsible for overseeing the financial affairs of the Phoenix and working with staff, official accountants and auditors to make sure the cinema is well run financially, starting this summer. Anyone who is qualified and interested is asked to email: jobs@phoenixcinema.co.uk.

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New crossing on High Road days after pedestrian is killed

By David Melsome

A new pedestrian crossing is being built in the High Road, N2, near the spot where a 63-year-old woman was killed in a collision with a car.

Detectives continue to appeal for witnesses to the fatal collision which happened during heavy rain around 6.45pm on Saturday 16 March, between the junctions with Lincoln Road and Beresford Road.

The pedestrian's name has not been formally released but flowers and cards have appeared in tribute to her at the foot of a tree nearby. The driver stopped at the scene and there have been no arrests.

Anyone with any infor-

mation or dashcam footage is asked to call the Serious Collision Investigation Unit at Alperton on 020 8991 9555.

Just 10 days after the accident, Barnet Council began to install the new crossing close to the junction with Beresford Road, halfway between the two existing crossing points on this busy stretch of the High Road. It will not be a zebra crossing but will have dropped kerbs and a central refuge where pedestrians can wait.

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