

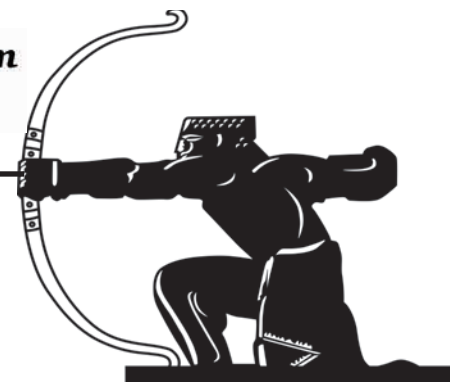


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The Archer



Local News is our Aim
30 years 1993-2023



ISSN 1361-3952

January 2024 No. 357

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Two arrests as detectives reopen unsolved murder case 40 years on

By Claire Biek

Police have arrested two men after reopening the unsolved murder case of Anthony Littler who died from head injuries sustained in a brutal attack on a footpath near East Finchley station 40 years ago.

The 45-year-old Customs and Excise executive had been on a night out and was on his way home to Leslie Road, N2, shortly after midnight on 1 May 1984, when he was set upon on the path that leads from the present-day station car park to East End Road. At the time, it was unlit and had trees and hedges on either side.

family. No piece of information will be considered too small.”

Public appeal

DCI John and two police officers handed out leaflets to the public at the station in early December appealing for information about what they believe was a random killing. The case was formally reopened following a review by senior officers, having been investigated twice since 1984 in 1993 and 2013.

With little surviving forensic evidence, the Met are heavily relying on reviewing the original statements and on new information coming to light. They are hoping to trace

29 April 1984 to report he had been assaulted by two young people with a baseball bat close to the station.

A statement from the store owner described that person as 6ft tall, of medium build with short brown hair, with severe facial injuries including a badly bruised black eye. The victim was never traced at the time.

DCI John told *The Archer*: “We can’t say at this stage whether that incident is linked to the murder of Anthony Littler but we have to keep it open as a possibility. The circumstances of another violent attack taking place in the same location within 24 hours I would suggest is significant.”

Shocked family

Mr Littler, who was single, was active in the East Finchley Neighbourhood Association where a colleague remembers him as “tall, smiley, friendly and pleasant”.

His cousin Tricia McClure told us her family had been shocked by the brutality of his murder and were still hoping for answers four decades on. She said: “After all this time, we hope this new investigation puts those responsible behind bars. It won’t bring Anthony back, but it will give us some closure.”

Anyone with information should contact police on 020 8358 0100 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Victim’s family: We need justice, page 6

Investigators: Someone must remember, page 6



Murdered: Anthony Littler, 45, was walking home to Leslie Road, N2, when he was attacked. Photo Met Police



Station path: The scene, on what is now Deanery Close, where Mr Littler was set upon. Photo Met Police

On Sunday 10 December, the Metropolitan Police arrested a 58-year-old man on suspicion of murder. Three days later, a 54-year-old man was also arrested on suspicion of murder. Both men were released on bail to dates later this month, pending further enquiries.

Detective Chief Inspector Neil John, who is leading the investigation, said: “These arrests come just days after our latest appeal, and I would like to thank everyone who has already come forward with information. However, we still need to speak with anyone who may have witnessed the events leading up to Anthony’s murder.

“The length of time passed has not diminished our efforts to get justice for Anthony and his

the anonymous caller who called 999 to report the fatal attack. Detectives know that the call was made from a public phone box near East Finchley station.

They also want to identify a man who came into the former Galleon Wine Stores on the High Road two days earlier on

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