

Big boy's toys

Civil servant quits job to create comic
See page 5



SQUARE BASH

Two injured on controversial high street feature



Danger zone: The Trinity Square drop-off SU52600

Sutton's new £3.2m High Street was at the centre of another health and safety controversy after two people were injured in separate accidents in just five days.

On Friday an elderly woman was taken to hospital after tripping up on the new raised "stage" in Trinity Square.

While on Tuesday, a cyclist was left covered in blood with a suspected broken nose in a

by MATT WATTS

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high speed crash, after failing to see the edge of the same raised section.

The council is currently conducting a review of the whole development, including health and safety concerns.

Councillor Peter Geiringer, who was alerted to the accident involving the elderly

woman at 2pm on Friday, said: "It's dangerous. The council should act to sort this out because there are only going to be more accidents like this."

At least five compensation claims have been lodged against Sutton Council relating to the High Street since last year's improvement works.

Continued on page 2

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Inventive: Nick Foulger's mystery adventure comic The Green Man tells the story of a time-traveller's quest, combining Mr Foulger's passion for photography and Playmobil

Writer brings toys to life in new comic

A Playmobil collector has brought dozens of his toys to life in his own comic book.

Nick Foulger, 44, from Carshalton, gave up his job as a Government finance administrator to pursue his dream of getting The Green Man published.

The project combined his passion for comics, storytelling, photography and the toys, of which he has at least 1,000.

He said: "I had always liked comics and I did an English degree so always wanted to write."

"It was after I had children and started buying Playmobil for them that I came up with the idea of doing a comic book and it all went from there."

He said he had been inspired by other images involving Playmobil figures published online.

The father-of-three made the incredible comic book through a painstaking process. He set his figures up for each scene, took a picture,

EXCLUSIVE by MATT WATTS

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then used photo editing software to place it on to a separate backdrop picture.

He would then further manipulate the images – with each image taking days to perfect.

Mr Foulger built up much of his vast array of characters and toys by buying them on eBay.

He struggled to get the comic published after Playmobil would not endorse it because it was aimed at an older audience and involved figures that were no longer for sale.

The book was picked up recently by French publisher Ave Comics, which is publishing it as an ebook and as an Apple iPhone and iPod application.

The whole book took some seven years from conception to its online publication and Mr Foulger hopes it could become enough of a success for paper books to be published – and for Playmobil to change



Collector: Mr Foulger began collecting the toys for his children, buying a vast array of them on eBay

SU55364

its mind and endorse the book.

He already has plans for Western-style sequel – partly so he can travel to the US to shoot the backdrops.

Mr Foulger described The Green Man, which is available in English, French, and German as "an adventure mystery involving

time travel."

It depicts the story of a university professor investigating the disappearance of a student.

To order the comic log on to avecomics.com.

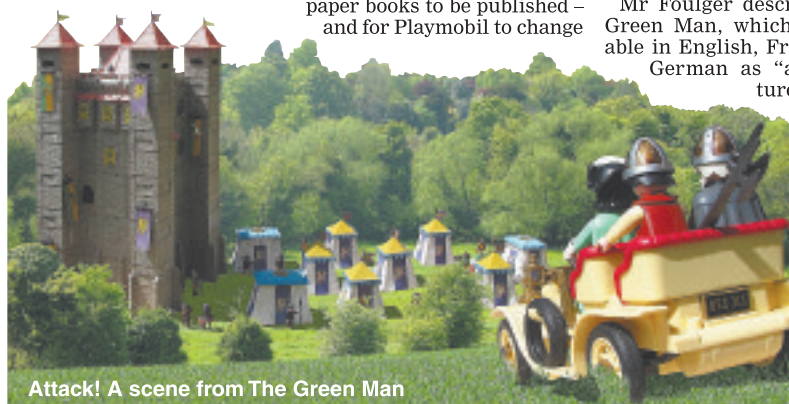
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Attack! A scene from The Green Man

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