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VIC COWLIN RIP

Vic Cowlin passed away on Wednesday 19th December aged 89. His funeral was on Monday 7th January 2008 at Streatham Crematorium. The family had asked that no flowers be sent but donations can be made to St Christopher's Hospice Sydenham.

It was just over a year ago that a lunch was given at the RAC club by the LMCPA celebrating Vic's many years in the trade and as a member of that organisation.

VADDERS EMISSION REDUCTION COMPANY IN ADMINISTRATION

The Tenon Group has been appointed as Administrators for Van Aaken, the company who produced the vADDERS emission reduction system.

Since the Mayor's Taxi Emission Strategy was first announced, the PCO has been responsible for deciding which products would be approved for fitting to taxis to comply with the strategy. In March 2006, the vADDERS system was approved.

This system was been independently tested by the Energy Saving Trust (EST) and underwent 6 months of 'in-service' durability testing on a number of licensed London taxis operated by prominent London fleet proprietors.

At the time of going to press Taxi Globe was waiting for a statement from the Administrators to tell taxi drivers the position of the Van Aaken company. A request has also been made to the PCO for a statement to advise any drivers who may already have the system fitted who need clarification about their rights in the event of a problem with the product. These two statements will be printed as soon as they are received but in the meantime, if you have any questions, please contact the Administrators on 0207 935 5566.



Van Aaken at the PCO Technology Fair in March 2006.

LEICESTER SQUARE TO BE REVAMPED

An £18.5m revamp will turn Leicester Square into a world class destination and ensure it retains its crown as the star-studded home of cinema. With an eye-catching 200-metre white granite "ribbon" seat as part of the revamp, visitors will have somewhere to sit and take in their surroundings. The square plays host to 50 film premieres a year from Harry Potter to James Bond and is a favourite with Hollywood stars, especially Tom Cruise who regularly goes on long walkabouts meeting fans. Many stars have had their handprints set in bronze and these adorn the pavement throughout the square.

The redesign will add significantly more seating areas to the square - in fact, there will be more seating than any other square of its size in the country. It already boasts 1,000 al fresco dining seats with a variety of eating outlets to suit many tastes and budgets. The new design will open up the square for more arts and cultural programmes and offer an eye-catching backdrop for glamorous film premieres.

The Leader of Westminster City Council, Sir Simon Milton, said: "Leicester Square has been the home of

popular entertainment for more than two centuries, and these plans will ensure it will continue to enthral the millions of visitors who visit it every year for generations to come. This is very much an area for the people, and we want visitors to be able to relax and enjoy the sites and the array of dining and entertainment on offer. Like the rest of the West End, a visit to Leicester Square is an exciting and unique experience, with a choice of attractions and activities like nowhere else."

The plans have gone out to public consultation showing how the central gardens will be transformed while retaining some of their original features, including the Grade II listed Shakespeare statue and fountain. The nine side streets that act as gateways into Leicester Square will also be revamped with some new and original decorative lighting features. Floral planters and trees will be encouraged to soften the streets' appearance. The consultation ends on February 29, with implementation planned to start two months later. It should be completed by the end of 2010 in time for the 2012 Olympics.

