



Red faces over blue movie filmed at the Phoenix

You never know what goes on behind closed doors and managers at the Phoenix Cinema certainly didn't when they hired out their auditorium to a film crew... who turned out to be filming a porn movie.

The clip, which was posted on a pornography website, features a clothed woman performing a sex act on an undressed man as she is watched by a group of cheering women, also clothed.



Phoenix executive director Elizabeth Taylor-Mead

Embarrassed Phoenix trustees have promised to review their hiring guidelines in the light of the incident. The cinema's new executive director Elizabeth Taylor-Mead told *THE ARCHER* it happened about seven years ago.

She said: "I suppose every business has disgruntled former

employees with an axe to grind. I expect it was a bad judgement call on someone's part but it was a long time ago, at least two management administrations back."

In the Ham and High newspaper, actress and trustee Maureen Lipman said the cinema had taken the film crew on trust and she predicted that East Finchley was unlikely to become the porn capital of Europe.

"I'm going to try to get the film actually," she joked. "I hope the Phoenix was looking majestic. Although I'd like to know which seat this went on in, because I don't want to sit there."

Charlie Johnson, the man behind the camera on the day, said there had been no subversive tactics and his crew always told people what they were.

"We don't go around lying to people," he said. "You have paid for a booking and people know what you are using it for. It is all legal."

Do front gardens matter?

The Finchley Society is staging a Do Front Gardens Matter? discussion evening with a panel of experts to field your questions and stimulate a lively debate. There'll be time for general discussion, too.

A recent survey of Finchley found that 65% of all our front gardens had disappeared under concrete or block paving. Front garden paving in the borough is now roughly 30 times the size of Victoria Park.

The hard standings cause many environmental problems including flooding, increased water and air pollution, more noise and dirt and so on.

There are now more than 150,000 cars in Barnet, more than 10 times the number we had in 1958. Where do we do put all these cars? Can front gardens and cars coexist? Do we care about the loss of greenery?

If you have any views or questions, do come along for what promises to be an interesting and stimulating discussion evening.

The discussion takes place at Stephens House (formerly

Avenue House) in East End Road on Thursday 27 March from 7.30pm. You can submit specific questions or queries in writing by 15 March to Mike Gee, 32 Long Lane, London N3 2PU, email: mikegee1968@gmail.com



An air ambulance lands in Taunton Drive to tend to the stabbing victim. Photo by Paul Dearing

Man stabbed outside corner shop

By Janet Maitland

Police are appealing for witnesses following the stabbing of a young man outside a corner shop in broad daylight on Saturday 1 February.

The victim was inside the shop on the corner of Long Lane and New Trinity Road at about 1.15pm when he got into an argument with another man. They both left the shop and the altercation continued on the pavement.

Two other men arrived and then one of the three men stabbed the victim in the stomach. He staggered to a nearby house for help while the men made off along Long Lane.

The ambulance service sent a helicopter, which landed in Taunton Drive at about 1.30pm. The 19-year-old victim was treated at the scene and then taken to hospital by road, accompanied by the doctor from the air ambulance. His injury was not life threatening and he has since been discharged.

Police cordoned off the shop and closed part of Long Lane for several hours. The manager of

the shop declined to make any comment to *THE ARCHER* about the assault.

The police would like to hear from anyone with information about this incident. If you can help, call 020 8358 0578. Alternatively, call 101. To remain anonymous, call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Seed and plant swap

Another great East Finchley community event is becoming established! Now in its third year, the Seed and Plant Swap Day sees people exchanging all sorts of flower and vegetable seeds and a diverse range of plants. The event also became a social hub with many residents staying last year for the full period to discuss gardening and gain expert advice from their neighbours.

The East Finchley Community Trust will be staging the event on Sunday 13 April at Martin Primary School, Plane Tree Walk, High Road N2 9JP (by the Library) from 2pm to 3.30pm. Bring all your surplus plants and seeds and swap them. No entrance charge. No money changes hands.

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