

ENGLAND

All photographs by Harry Rigby (Editor - CTA Bulletin)

Grade II*

Expressions of interest relating to the operation of cinema facilities within the **Dreamland** complex in Margate are likely to be sought officially in March. A new electricity sub-station will be required within the premises; this is scheduled for installation in May.

Following anticipated approval by the Charity Commission, the **Paignton Picture House** Trust Ltd. will become a Building Preservation Trust, which will own and run the cinema. The C.T.A. has pledged a contribution towards the composition of a business plan.



The Picture House, Paignton

Grade II



Wallaw, Blyth

Photographs of the conversion of the **Wallaw** at Blyth into a hostelry appear to reveal the absence of a considerable quantity of original features, removal of which was not included in listed building consent. The Association has contacted Northumberland County Council requesting that it insists upon their reinstatement.

Following expiration of planning permission to redevelop the **Astoria** in Brighton, a further application has been lodged, to which the C.T.A. will also object.

Subsequent to repeated rejections by local planners of non-cinematic schemes for adaptation of the **Whiteladies** in Bristol, the owner is now intending to restore film exhibition to the

building. Plans will be closely monitored in an attempt to ensure that any modifications to its fabric will be undertaken sensitively.

A meeting has been held with the architect of the proposed reconstruction of the **Odeon** at Chester, at which the planned unsympathetic treatment of the building was heavily adversely criticised, with exemplars of enlightened cinema conversions tabled for comparison. English Heritage is to be strongly urged to intervene in this case of utter disregard for the conservation of a listed building.

Concern has been raised at the deterioration of the **Ritz** at Nuneaton; however, the local conservation officer has given assurance that he is maintaining active observation of the structure, although he has been unable to secure internal access.

Unlisted

The managing director of the company redeveloping the site of the **Lonsdale** at Carlisle, sadly de-listed, has agreed to salvage certain important artefacts, including stained glass windows and lift doors.

The application for redevelopment of the **Regal** at Highams Park in London has been withdrawn. As previously reported, local campaigners wish to see the building retained for community use; the CTA will suggest that an attempt be made to register it as an Asset of Community Value under the Localism Act.

Despite public hostility, strong objections from English Heritage and opposition from numerous conservation groups including the Association, Westminster City Council has approved the demolition of the **Leicester Square Theatre** and surrounding structures. The loss of Mather's façade to the street-scape is to be deplored; a considerable quantity of the auditorium's original plaster-work currently survives above the ceilings of the later auditoria.



Odeon West End, former Leicester Square Theatre, London

The CTA's objections to the issuance of a Certificate Of Immunity From Listing for the **Point** at Milton Keynes have been refuted by English Heritage.