

## GRADE II LISTED



The Odeon, Chester in July 2007 after closure

The deliberations concerning the **Odeon** at Chester continue unabated; the Association is currently canvassing support for its stance from SAVE Britain's Heritage and The Twentieth Century Society, in addition to lobbying English Heritage.

The confabulations pertaining to another long running case, that of the **Regal** at Kingston-upon-Thames, also persist. The latest proposals were due to be discussed at a Town Planning Committee meeting in September; concurrently the question of reinstatement of deliberate damage to the fabric of the structure and payment there-for remains moot, with differing opinions from the involved parties.

## Unlisted

Prior to the recent demolition of the **Gaumont** in Cheltenham, the local council advised that it had been made incumbent upon the developers of the site to furnish it with a conservation statement relating to the methodology for safe removal of the façade reliefs by Newbury Trent. The practical outcome of this operation is not currently known.

A local campaigner in Guildford has submitted an application for listing of the **Astor** [etc.], in support of which the C.T.A. is to write, although, following its conversion to a nightclub, the extent to which internal features survive is unknown. This bid was unsuccessful and the cinema has since been demolished.



The **Electric/Astor/Studio/Cannon** Guildford in April 2006

Following cessation of bingo operation at the **Clifton** in Leominster, it is reported that the building will re-open as a live venue. Encouragingly, the removal of external signage has revealed the survival of meritorious stained glass in the fenestration of the façade.

As anticipated, the listing application relating to **Smart's Picture Palace** in London's Bethnal Green was rejected by English Heritage; thus the future for the building appears somewhat bleak.

The proposals for adaptive re-use of the **Regal** at Highams Park in London have been withdrawn; much support is commanded locally for the cinema to be utilised for community activities.

Permission for conversion of the **Ritz** at Wallsend into a hostelry has been granted by North Tyneside Council. The proposal appears to call for demolition of the foyer, an extremely unfortunate undertaking as loss of this area destroys not only the integrity of progression of related spaces but also an abundance of well designed and equally well executed plasterwork, much of which is currently hidden above a suspended ceiling yet entirely extant.

In similar fashion to the foregoing, the **Regent** at South Shields, currently under threat of demolition, was assessed as a candidate for a listing application; however, it was determined that the interior is not of sufficient distinction to warrant such action.

Although permission had been granted for the demolition of the **Ritz** at Warrington, which most recently served as a nightclub, a reprieve appears to have been granted, as it is now intended to operate the premises as a youth centre.

Enquiries have been made of the Association as to the possibility of gaining listed status for the **Odeon** at London's Marble Arch. Unfortunately it is considered that the extent of the subdivision within precludes any chance of success.



Load testing the circle at the **Odeon**, Marble Arch during construction