

CAMPAIGNING TO SAVE YOUR HISTORIC CINEMAS

By Tim Hatcher

Grade II* Listed

Proposals relating to alterations of the **Stanford Hall Theatre** near Loughborough have now been tabled; these include disabled access provision and demolition of an annexe. Reassuringly, the decoratively painted asbestos safety curtain has been rendered safe, yet concern remains over the possibility that the rare stencilled auditorium murals might be over-painted. See last Bulletin and also p29 this Bulletin.

Drawings appertaining to a listed building consent application, which detail the intended extensions to the **Avenue** in the Northfields area of London, have now been lodged with the local Council and are available to view on its website. See p6 Bulletin 49/4.

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It has been reported that developers wish to demolish the vacant **Royalty** at Harborne, which currently features upon Historic England's 'Heritage at Risk' register. See p18 Bulletin 48/2.

The operator of the **Regal** at Evesham is proceeding with a scheme to add a further storey to the cinema in order to house two additional screens. The Association responded by expressing its approval of the materials involved and its overall endorsement of the desideratum.

It is pleasing to report that the threat to the **Angel Picture Theatre** in Islington from the Crossrail 2 project has now been rescinded. See p7 last Bulletin.

Permission has been granted to the developer for archaeological and historic building surveys of the **Regal** at Kingston-upon-Thames to be executed. The CTA will closely monitor continuing progress on this development to ensure that strict adherence to all building consent conditions is observed.

Unlisted



The **Picture House [Palladium]** at Hockley [Birmingham] has apparently been unoccupied for a considerable period. Despite being situated in a somewhat undesirable locale, it does however abut a conservation area. The local Council will thus be contacted in order to request that this be extended to include the venue; it will also be suggested that the building be considered for local listing. *Photo above taken March 2008.*

In parallel with a request to the local Council to include the **Regent [Odeon]** and the **Westover [ABC]** at Bournemouth in the adjoining conservation area, the local press is to be contacted to support the stance of many local residents who oppose the current plans for redevelopment. Although little of merit survives internally in either cinema, the facund façade of the **Regent** is an unequivocal asset to the streetscape; it is also imperative to ascertain if the expressive original frontage of the **Westover** survives behind the latter-day cladding. See last Bulletin.

Regrettably, permission has now been granted for demolition of the **Rivoli** at Sandown, which is intended to be replaced with housing. As a 'rearguard action', the CTA is requesting retention of the distinguished façade. In similar vein, a scheme has been outlined to replace the **Picture House** in Southampton's Woolston district with residential flats, although in this development the frontage would be integrated into the new block. See Newsreel p26.



Given the recent spate of refusals for listing, it is encouraging, if somewhat surprising, to report that Historic England has consulted the Association concerning a third party bid to list the **Picture Palace** in Bradford's Dudley Hill district. A previous listing application for this building reportedly failed; however, information on the cinema and comparators with contemporaneous exemplars have been forwarded in support of the application. *Photo above taken August 2005.*

A resident of the Doncaster area has requested that The Theatres Trust support a bid for local listing of the **Picture House**, only the façade of which remains. In response, the Council responsible reported that it doesn't currently maintain a local list although it aspires to establish one!



The judicial review which Save Britain's Heritage (SAVE) initiated to scrutinise the proposed demolition of the **Futurist** in Liverpool has distressingly ruled in favour of the cinema's destruction. SAVE has now petitioned the Court of Appeal for permission to appeal against this decision. See back page. *Photo above taken 2016 by Mike Taylor.*



An application to demolish the **Empire** at Loftus has been submitted. Although not of a quality to justify a listing application, the building is not without its merits; thus Redcar and Cleveland Council is to be requested to incorporate a recording condition if permission is granted to redevelop the site. *Photo above taken January 2007.*