

CAMPAIGNING TO SAVE YOUR HISTORIC CINEMAS

By Tim Hatcher

Grade II* Listed

A briefing has been given by the project architect representing JD Wetherspoon Ltd on the proposed conversion of the **State** at Grays into one of its hostelries. It is encouraging to note that retention of the stage and proscenium and maintenance of the separation of foyers from the auditorium are intended; however, some foyer space is currently designated for conversion to lavatories. The understage organ chambers complicate adaptation and location of the kitchens is proving somewhat problematical.

The application to build the controversial 'pods' in the circle of the ex-Odeon at Muswell Hill was recently approved by the local Council under delegated powers, not by its planning committee. As this appears to be in breach of its own published procedures, consideration is being given to initiating a formal complaint. See p5 last Bulletin.



Considerable damage was caused to the **Palace** in Southall when it was converted to an indoor market; this included removal of the stage and mutilation of the proscenium. It is clear that this work was executed without listed building consent; therefore Ealing Council is to be requested to instigate an enforcement case for reinstatement of the affected areas. *Photo taken April 2006.*

Donations are currently being sought to finance emergency repairs to the **Picture House** at Paignton; the Association has been asked if it can contribute. See Newsreel p24.

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A constructive meeting has been held with Avery Architects, the practice currently overseeing the renovation of the **Regal** in Camberwell. The scheme includes as an objective the re-establishment of double-height space in the foyer, for which the Association has expressed its support. *Photo taken September 2004.*

It is reported that the basement of the **Rio** in Dalston is to be subdivided; hitherto no application or pre-application has been lodged with Hackney Council.

Plans have been unveiled for regeneration of the **Forum** in Liverpool, which exhibit extreme disrespect for the distinguished interior. The developer, Neptune, is directed by a City Council, which has recently shown complete disdain for its cinema heritage. See Newsreel p22.

In conjunction with The Twentieth Century Society, the CTA is requesting that the **Palm Court**, which survived the major fire at the **Majestic** in Leeds, be retained and incorporated in any development. Concurrently, attempts are being made to establish if other significant features resisted the flames. See p22 Bulletin 48/6.

Further investigation is underway following an assertion that the **Grand** in Southport is threatened with demolition. Previously Southport College had expressed interest in operating a teaching facility within the structure. See p19 Bulletin 50/4.

Unlisted

A further planning application for retirement housing to replace the **Odeon** in Aylesbury is in preparation. It is to be requested that retention of the foyer's terrazzo flooring be made a condition of planning permission.

Following August's major fire at the **Luxor** in Lancing, the building has been designated an Asset of Community Value [ACV].

Despite strong pressure from the CTA and local campaign groups, permission has been granted to demolish the **Towers** in Hornchurch. It is suspected that the local Council may have been fearful of refusing the application, noting the possible expenditure that it would incur were it to lose the inevitable appeal. See Newsreel p22.



Newham Council, which owns the **Picturehouse** in Stratford (East London), wishes to demolish the cinema and replace it with a block of residences. The building is relatively new, opening in 1997. *Photo taken April 2006.*

Despite its designation as an Asset of Community Value, permission has been granted for the conversion of the **Doric** in Newmarket to offices and dwellings. It is intended, however, to retain the impressive neo-Georgian façade. See p25 Bulletin 48/6.

The **Odeon** in Peterborough was converted into the **Broadway Theatre** in 2001, although its staging facilities remained somewhat limited with no flying height. It is now proposed to convert the building to residential accommodation. The Theatres Trust is opposing this outcome and the CTA is also to object. See p24 last Bulletin.

Scarborough Council has applied for a 'Certificate of Immunity from Listing' which would prevent the **Futurist** from being so designated for the following five years. The Association has objected to its issuance.

The **Savoy** at Burnt Oak is currently being advertised for sale at a price of five million pounds, with a church group purportedly expressing interest in its purchase. An unsuccessful approach was made to Historic England to include the property on its 'Heritage at Risk' register. See p20 Bulletin 50/4.

