

CAMPAIGNING TO SAVE YOUR HISTORIC CINEMAS

By Tim Hatcher

Grade II Listed

The owner of the *Royalty* in Harborne [Birmingham] has formulated a scheme that would replace the majority of the structure with sheltered housing. However, a trust formed with the objective of assuring retention of the cinema as an entertainment venue has now submitted its own scheme to the local Council; it reportedly has a commercial partner and additionally is applying to the National Lottery for funding.



Following revisions to the proposal to replace the Astoria in Brighton with a housing scheme, the Council has dropped its objections thereto. Demolition thus appears to be imminent, as local objections are unfortunately centred upon disruption during redevelopment, not upon loss of a local amenity. *Photo above taken March 2009.*

Despite representations from the Association, Leeds Council's Planning Panel enthusiastically passed plans for the proposed renovation of the *Majestic*, currently derelict following major damage from a conflagration.

Agreement has reportedly been reached between the cinema operator and the developer of the premises above London's Curzon apropos installation of sound insulation therein.

An enquiry has been received from a curator at the Black Country Museum concerning the private cinema at Wordsley Hall near Stourbridge. Information has been forwarded, including details of a local contact.

Unlisted



The custodian of panels from the frieze originally located on the façade of the *Gaumont Palace* in Doncaster has enquired if the CTA might express interest in their acquisition. Efforts are to be made to liaise with various parties in an attempt to secure a suitable position for their relocation and display on a site accessible to the public, in manner akin to the reliefs from the frontage of the *Gaumont Palace* in Cheltenham.

Photo above taken September 2009, just after the cladding was removed.

Despite extant planning permission for redevelopment of the derelict *Regal* at Lichfield for housing, which would entail retention only of the façade, a local group wishes to revive the building as a cinema. It is to be advised of several successful projects that it may find helpful to consider and compare.



Similarly, permission to demolish the *Regal* in Wakefield was given in 2014 but a local campaigner is now attempting to save the building, which boasts a highly creditable auditorium by William Glen.

Photo above taken July 2004; interior photo on p29 Bulletin 42/2.



A new planning application has been submitted for the site of *Pyke's Cinematograph Theatre* in London's Shepherd's Bush. Although the façade would be retained, the significant terracotta plaque [above] on the building's flank wall would, somewhat bizarrely, be replaced with a replica. The Association and The Victorian Society are amongst objectors.



It was understood that conversion of the *Odeon* at Redhill to a supermarket and residential accommodation would retain the frontage but this is not borne out by the plans. An objection is thus to be submitted.

Photo above taken April 2004.



A decision on the fate of the *Futurist* in Scarborough is set to be taken at the end of February during a meeting of the local Council, which body has previously expressed a desire to demolish the theatre and replace it with a theme park.

