

CAMPAIGNING TO SAVE YOUR HISTORIC CINEMAS

By Tim Hatcher

Grade II



A site visit has been undertaken to the Ritz at Nuneaton, which is currently offered for sale at the price of £650,000. It has now transpired that a major supermarket chain has been assembling a series of sites around the cinema; this has the potential of aiding regeneration of the area, yet alternatively could pose a threat to the building's future. {25909} *Photo above taken August 2004.*



The project to renovate the Globe at Stockton-On-Tees has now resumed and a letter of support has been requested of the Association; this has been duly forwarded. It is reported that asbestos removal is currently in progress. {1835} *Photo above taken June 2006.*

Unlisted

The application to demolish the Grand at Banbury has been re-submitted following modification; the CTA has renewed its objection. A local campaigner is also actively promoting the building's retention. {27592}

A second planning application for redevelopment of the Regent at Bournemouth has been rejected, again on grounds of adverse visual impact upon the surrounding conservation area. Unfortunately, the survival of the main structure rearward of the façade continues to remain unlikely and emphasis is now being directed toward salvage of consequential extant features, of which the murals attributed to Frank Barnes are notably significant. {20081}

An attempt is to be made to incorporate filmic references in the redeveloped (multi-named but latterly Cineworld) in Chelsea. {17033}

Revelation of many substantial original internal features during demolition of the Kensington Kinema has garnered significant national publicity. It has also once again laid bare the ineffectiveness of inspections for potential listing by Historic England. It is perhaps a vain hope that the loss of this building may prove a stimulus for increased emphasis upon the protection of the diminishing stock of traditional cinemas, comparable to the impact of the wanton destruction of the Granville Theatre in Walham Green in 1971 upon recognition of the architectural merit of theatres and music halls. {13801}

In similar vein, demolition of the Paramount in Manchester has commenced, despite a profundity of intact original features remaining. When contacted, an official of Historic England stated that his organisation was averse to intervening when planning permission is in place. Perhaps such permission would not have been granted if Historic England's original survey had proven sufficiently rigorous. {2430}



Excepting comment upon treatment of the façade of the People's Palace / Gaumont in Bristol, proposals regarding its redevelopment have been deemed acceptable. The Theatres Trust's recommendation for a detailed survey to be executed prior to commencement of operations has been endorsed. {20707} *Photo above taken February 2006.*

Recent interior photographs of Smart's Picture Palace [Essoldo] in Bethnal Green reveal that original features, which until recently had survived, have now been largely eliminated. {16512}

Regrettably an independent attempt by a local campaigner to secure listed status for the ABC/Reel in Plymouth has been rejected by Historic England. {24749}

Objection has been submitted to a revised planning application relating to the Odeon at Redhill. Retention of the noteworthy pylon, now possibly unique, will be discussed with the local conservation officer.



The possibility has been raised of three members of Ringwood Regal Committee purchasing the Corn Exchange Cinema in that locale; this organisation has proven itself to be a highly effective campaigning group. {28134} *Photo above taken March 2009.*

A local resident of Wath-upon-Dearne, near Rotherham, has contacted the Association concerning the possibility of listing the Grand cinema. Unfortunately it is not considered that this venue meets the requirements for such designation. See p8 last Bulletin. {25795}

In addition to the CTA, The Theatres Trust and Save Britain's Heritage are also opposing demolition of the Futurist in Scarborough. The local Council is due to reach a final decision in the summer of the current year. {1842}

The Association has decided against pursuit of the case of the King's Hall / Savoy in Newcastle-under-Lyme, although the Victorian Society is to outline the building's distinction to the local Council. {38923}