

CAMPAIGNING TO SAVE YOUR HISTORIC CINEMAS

By Tim Hatcher

Grade II* Listed



The Regal in Uxbridge, utilised as a nightclub for a considerable period, is likely to receive revisions to name and image, which may entail interior alteration and redecoration. The Association is pressing not only for reduction of the numerous floor level insertions installed during a previous adaptation but also for a more sympathetic colour scheme, which in tandem would render the atypical and noteworthy deco motifs more discernible. {13729} *Photo above taken March 2004.*

The exterior of the Dreamland Cinema at Margate has now been restored and resembles proximately its appearance upon opening, with only minor differences in signage. The local Council is to be contacted to ascertain the intended progression of the ongoing restoration. {15123}

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A meeting is to be arranged with the prospective purchaser of the Royalty at Harborne in order to discuss his projected strategy for its future. A car cleaning facility has now opened on an adjacent site, yet the building currently remains at risk of vandalism. {1836}

A watching brief is being maintained on the major scheme about to be undertaken at the Hyde Park Picture House in Leeds. Particular concern exists over the future of the extant foyer, which exhibits great charm with its multiplicity of original features including secondary lighting by gas. {1836} *Photo on p5 last Bulletin.*

It is reported that the insurance cover for the Regent in Lyme Regis, destroyed by fire, is insufficient to reproduce the original design. Therefore, with the probable resultant curtailment of construction of a true replica, unease arises that either a pastiche or a nondescript contemporary cinema may result. Contact is thus to be initiated with NBDA Architects, which company is leading the design and feasibility studies.



Various operators have recently considered a reversion of the Grand at Westbourne [Bournemouth] to cinematic operation following its protracted employment as a bingo hall. To date none has advanced a definitive proposal; however, all regrettably have indicated that they would intend to convert the auditorium to a triple cinema. *Photo above taken May 2006.*

The Odeon [now Reel] in York has become a unit in the Everyman Cinemas chain. Attention is to be drawn to the import of the significant frieze in the foyer. {2788} See Newsreel px.

Unlisted

The frieze from the façade of the Gaumont in Doncaster is under consideration for relocation to Carswell Hall Museum, should the latter body be successful in procuring a new building. See p5 Bulletin 51/1. {18617}

A planning application relating to the Embassy [Gaumont/Odeon] at Chadwell Heath has received comment from the Association, which includes a recommendation that the cinema should receive Asset of Community Value designation. The building spent an extensive period functioning as a bingo club, following which it has been operated without planning permission as a wedding and banqueting facility. {14646} Unfortunately a campaign to save the Odeon in South Hackney and designate it an Asset of Community Value was unsuccessful; Hackney council subsequently granted permission for demolition. {13886}

Support has been given to an application for a development encompassing the site of the Forum in Ealing, the frontage of which would be incorporated into the scheme in largely sympathetic manner. A desire has been expressed to move the preserved arched façade of the nearby Walpole into the development; however at present this remains merely an aspiration. {3772} {13836}

And in brief:



- ◆ The Odeon [now Empire] in Bromley is to be transferred to the Cineworld chain. The CTA Archive has been made available to the architect responsible for renovation work. {14116} *Photo above taken September 2006.*
- ◆ The religious organisation that owns the Rialto in Upper Norwood has placed the building on the market; a local group has expressed interest in its acquisition. {28989}
- ◆ The Royal in Plymouth has received Asset of Community Value status, which provides a somewhat more positive outlook for this notable cinema. {13836}
- ◆ The pylon of the Odeon in Redhill has been saved and remains in situ. {33941}
- ◆ Campaigners against demolition of Scarborough's Futurist Theatre were granted, yet subsequently lost, a judicial review into the Council's handling of the case. {1842}
- ◆ The new owner of the ABC in Stoke Newington wishes to restore the venue; he is to be furnished with original images of the interior.



Just to fill in a space – I took this photo whilst on holiday in August.
No prizes – but where is it and what was the cinema?
Answer next time. Editor.