

CAMPAIGNING TO SAVE YOUR HISTORIC CINEMAS

By Tim Hatcher

Grade II Listed

The trust campaigning to restore the **Royalty** at Harborne has assembled a management board that includes several high-profile members. It has been granted £5,000 by the local authority as an initial amount to finance consultancy studies. {33866}



The Ritz Nuneaton on bingo in June 2003

The local Council in Nuneaton is to be encouraged to serve an enforcement notice upon the owner of the Ritz in order to facilitate swift repair to the roof of the structure. See Newsreel px. {25909}



The Stephen Joseph Theatre Scarborough in August 2007

Objection has been forwarded to plans proposing yet more damaging alterations to the Odeon – now Stephen Joseph Theatre – in Scarborough, permission for which has been sought from the local Council. The scheme would involve drastic revision to the foyer areas, which currently comprise the only original internal elements not severely compromised previously. These works would also include insertion of new fenestration, which additionally would impact adversely upon the building's external appearance. {1843}

Overall the refurbishment project presented for the Odeon / Everyman in York is deemed acceptable, yet the intention of laying parquet flooring in the first-floor foyer has drawn forth objection from the Association, which regards this as an inappropriate intervention. {2788}

Unlisted

Numerous local residents of Peterborough objected to a planning application to convert the Odeon / Broadway into residential and business units; encouragingly this was refused subsequently by the local Council, which wishes to retain the venue for entertainment purposes. It is now anticipated that the building will reopen as a theatre expeditiously, despite the constraints imposed by its limited staging facilities. {19950}

A scheme to retain the **Regent** in Bournemouth has met predominantly with approval from local residents. The proponents are attempting to raise funds for a feasibility study into the viability of such an undertaking. The covenant preventing use of the building for film exhibition may prove a stumbling block, as may ownership by development company Libra Homes, which is likely to submit modified plans for housing. These will prove challenging for the local Council to reject if they fall within the strictures imposed for the cinema's redevelopment. See px.

The same developer owns the nearby **ABC / Westover**, for which site planning permission has also been sought. The new structure would not breach height restrictions for the locale and thus refusal may prove problematic; the Association has nevertheless objected. Particular concern arises over the suggestion that a replica may be substituted for the extant original façade.



The Danilo / Essoldo [etc] Hinckley in September 2005

As no strategy for the reuse of the **Danilo** at Hinckley has emerged and alternative employment of the site is likely to be sought, the Association has suggested retention of the significant elements of the façade, including the noteworthy corner entrance of Germanic influence. {14982}

The local Council has recently taken into storage the panels of the frieze from the frontage of the **Gaumont** in Doncaster until hopefully a new permanent location may be identified. {18617}

It is regrettable to report that during the demolition of the **Odeon** in Aylesbury the terrazzo floor in the lower foyer was also destroyed. The CTA had advocated its preservation. {24121}



The Embassy Chadwell Heath in July 2006

Following an application strongly supported by the CTA, the **Embassy** in Chadwell Heath has recently been granted Asset of Community Value status. {14646}

The **Gaumont** at Wednesbury is to return to film exhibition with an investment of two million pounds allotted to its renovation. The CTA was successful in gaining inclusion of this cinema in the local conservation area. See p30 last Bulletin. {32515}