

CAMPAIGNING TO SAVE YOUR HISTORIC CINEMAS

By Tim Hatcher

Grade I Listed



The façade of the Granada Tooting in March 2004; there is evidence of vegetation back then

The Conservation Officer of Wandsworth Council has been advised of vegetation growing from the exterior of the Granada in Tooting; this has resulted in an investigation by a freelance surveyor. {9424}

Grade II* Listed

The Council local to Dreamland at Margate has affirmed that the objective remains of refurbishing the interior in order to permit film exhibition to be reinstated. {15123}

Grade II Listed



The Hyde Park Picture House Leeds in June 2005

The architectural organisation responsible for the proposed alterations to The Hyde Park Picture House in Leeds has been extremely forthcoming in forwarding its initial plans to the Association for comment. Certain aspects thereof require clarification and response, which will be requested and presented respectively during a site visit, which has been suggested by the practice. {1836}

A partnership has been established between a new university appellation UA92 and the area Council into whose remit the Longford at Stretford falls. A plan has been published that reveals an aspiration to utilise the cinema building as a 'student hub' and to integrate a library within the venue. The auditorium currently retains its spatial integrity as a single volume entity; thus concern arises over possible proposals to destroy its unity by subdivision. Representations relating to this issue will therefore be advanced. See p28 Bulletin 51/5. {13796}

Listed building consent for refurbishment work at the Odeon in York has been granted, gratifyingly with conditions including reinstatement of the foyer mural and removal of a false ceiling. {2788}

Although it is reported that the Ritz at Nuneaton has been made watertight, new owners have expressed an interest in subdivision of the cinema. Unfortunately Historic England is taking no interest in its future status as it now involves itself with Grade II Listed Buildings only in cases of proposed total demolition or ownership by the planning authority. It also transpires that threatened Grade II Buildings appear on its 'Heritage at Risk Register' only if they are located within the London area. These two principles of practice by Historic England might be construed as an abject abrogation of its responsibilities. See p6&28 last Bulletin. {25909}

Despite lobbying of the local authority by campaigners to improve security at the Royalty in Harborne, the interior was recently affected by fire. This was, however, reported to be approximately the size of a bonfire and confined to the ground floor. {33866}

Unlisted

Encouragingly, the application for housing proposed for the site of the Westover/ABC in Bournemouth was rejected under officer delegation on grounds of its impact upon nearby heritage buildings. The possibility of appeal against this decision remains. See Newsreel px. {24207}

A planning application to restore the façade of the Odeon / Picturehouse in Bromley has been submitted, which also solicits permission for a fifth screen. The CTA has commented in largely positive tone. {14116}

It is reported that a cinema operator has expressed interest in the Rialto in Upper Norwood and has communicated with the campaign that is pressing for the building's return to its intended purpose. However, the venue is currently on the market at a price of five million pounds and thus may attract purchase by a housing developer. {28989}



The Carlton Haymarket as the UGC in March 2004

The foyer of the Carlton in London's Haymarket has received attention to its paintwork, alongside the installation of upgraded lighting fixtures. It is to be hoped that this augurs well for its current usage into the medium term. {1838}

A Freedom of Information Request has revealed that the photographic survey undertaken to record the Kensington Kinema prior to its demolition was thorough, although the supporting documentation reveals certain inaccuracies. Meanwhile, legal opinion has been sought by a third party to determine if any liability can be established on the part of the various agencies and entities involved in its demolition. Options for redress unfortunately appear somewhat limited. {13801}

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