

# CAMPAIGNING TO SAVE YOUR HISTORIC CINEMAS

By Tim Hatcher

## Listed Grade II\*

Planning and Listed Building Consent applications have been submitted relating to the proposed conversion of the **State** in Grays to a hostelry in the Wetherspoon chain of such establishments. These plans, largely similar to the pre-applications, are supported in general by the CTA, with some reservations, in order to assure a secure future for the cinema. Photographs recently taken from an unmanned aerial vehicle demonstrate that the roof of the building is currently in a parlous state of repair. {1837}

Detailed plans for refurbishment of the **Granada** at Walthamstow as a performing arts centre have now been prepared. Despite inculcating predictable unease about certain aspects of the scheme, these proposals appear to be largely sympathetic to the historic fabric of the venue. Various concerns are to be raised with the appointed architectural partnership, including advocacy of provision for restoration of the organ conjointly with its long-disused pit console and preservation of the surviving stage lighting control. {9397}

At the **Dreamland Cinema** in Margate, removal is proposed of the temporary structures introduced for bingo, of the safety curtain installed in the nineteen seventies and of the bingo seating, which latter will require listed building consent. Plasterwork is to be restored and a more sympathetic colour scheme introduced. It is to be hoped that the auditorium may have its latter day partitioning removed and that access to the organ chambers may be upgraded in compliance with current safety standards in order to permit restoration of the instrument. {15123}

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The **Picture House** in Chesterfield [above], operated for many years as the **Winding Wheel Theatre**, is to receive an upgrade funded by its local Council with an aim of securing subsidy-free operation by two thousand and twenty-one. An architectural practice is currently preparing a design, which may have an adverse impact upon the foyer areas, although the conservation officer responsible has asserted that an emphasis upon the import of heritage features will be maintained. {22413}

The **Grand** in Westbourne closed in January and has been sold to a development company, following approaches to various cinema operators, which failed to evoke interest in returning the building to film exhibition. {22430}

The **Dominion** in Acton [R] has been purchased by Arch Climbing Wall, a company specialising in centres catering for the aforesaid activity. Unfortunately, the operator commenced unauthorised work on the building, the cessation of which was compelled by Ealing Council's Conservation Officer. {13831}



The Gaumont Palace Taunton in August 2003

The **Gaumont Palace** at Taunton is currently marketed at a price of almost two million pounds. This is an extremely impressive cinema, both internally and externally, by WT Benslyn. {13953}

A planning condition relating to the recent renovation work at the **Odeon** in York required the restoration of the foyer murals. Sadly, it is stated that upon removal of wallpaper, which covered the area of interest, no trace of the murals remained. The colour palette introduced into the project, based upon a grey tone, is markedly prosaic. {2788}

The **Ritz** at Nuneaton is now offered for sale as a dance studio. {25909}

## Unlisted

Despite officer recommendation for acceptance of the redevelopment scheme that encompasses the **Coronet** in London's Elephant and Castle district, Southwark Council's Planning Committee rejected it; its further consideration has now been twice deferred. Delancey, the developer, is preparing revisions to its proposal. {27019}

It transpires that the Crown Estate wishes to redevelop the **Carlton** in London's Haymarket, in so doing demolishing all except the façade. Representations are to be made to Westminster City Council by the Association; it is also hoped that Save Britain's Heritage may involve itself in the case. {1838}

The **Odeon** in South Woodford has been offered for sale; however, an assurance has been given that a change of ownership will not affect the cinema's operation. {13743}

The **Royal** in Plymouth recently closed as a consequence of severe water penetration during a heavy rainstorm. Despite the survival of many architectural features of the distinguished auditorium by William Glen, this is one of a number of notable cinemas for which Historic England has recently refused listed status. {24749}

Following authorisation by Scarborough Council to demolish the **Futurist**, a submission was made by The Theatres Trust that the case for its retention be called in for determination by the Secretary of State; this request has been refused. {1842}