

# CAMPAIGNING TO SAVE YOUR HISTORIC CINEMAS

By Tim Hatcher

## Grade II\* Listed



The Granada Woolwich as a church in April 2015

Although the external impact of the proposed annexe to the Granada in Woolwich has been ameliorated, permission has been granted to convert the fly tower into offices and other ancillary spaces despite objection from the CTA. This intrusion is highly regrettable as it permanently precludes the cinema from reverting to full theatrical employment.

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In somewhat similar vein, the façade of the planned extension to the Hyde Park Picture House in Leeds has been modified, with a brown colour palette replacing the original cream tones. However, the alteration to the foyer has been approved, again despite opposition from the Association. This will destroy the charming intimacy and original atmosphere of the currently unaltered entrance hall. See Newsreel px.

## Unlisted



The Adelphi Slough in April 2015

Following presentation to Historic England by the CTA of an extremely cogent case for listing of the Adelphi in Slough, it is unreservedly disagreeable to report that a refusal has been received. Once again the determination contains certain inaccuracies and displays little knowledge of the building class. This cinema of 1930 by architect E Norman Bailey presents a dignified façade on an island site and boasts an auditorium retaining an intact original architectural scheme featuring illuminated capitals to its pilasters, alongside an equally impressive and commodious ballroom. Lamentably a Certificate of Immunity from Listing will be issued to the owner.

In reluctant recognition of the above rejection, it has been agreed that an application to list the Odeon in Ashford is unlikely to succeed because this cinema, although largely unaltered, is of no greater quality than the Adelphi. However, its retention is to be recommended to the local Council, which owns the property, although opinion has been expressed by a representative of that august body that it spoils the view towards a church nearby. See Newsreel px.

The frieze from the demolished Gaumont Palace in Doncaster has been temporarily accommodated in a loggia at Cusworth Hall Museum, where it awaits restoration and re-erection. Concurrently a local petition advocating the project has gained much support.



The Picturehouse/Adelphi/Roxy Bridlington in June 2006

Somewhat surprisingly, Historic England has sought the opinion of the Association upon the possible eligibility of the Picturehouse/Roxy in Bridlington for listing designation. A reply in the affirmative has been forwarded. This cinema constitutes a 1912 conversion of The Temperance Hall and perhaps underlines the apparent higher value placed by Historic England upon early Twentieth Century cinemas in comparison to those of later decades.



The Danilo/Essoldo Hinckley in September 2005

The Council in whose area the Danilo at Hinckley lies has now closed the planning application case relating thereto as no response to its enquiries has been forthcoming from the applicant. A principle has been established with the authority that salient features of the structure should be preserved in any future development of the site.

At the nearby Regent at Hinckley, it has been reported that leases of the foyer and shops, which survive following demolition of the auditorium block, have been sold. These remnants of the structure may therefore become threatened, so a watching brief will be kept upon possible adverse developments of this situation.

Planning permission has finally been granted for the redevelopment scheme encompassing a comprehensive swathe of the Elephant and Castle district in London, of which the Coronet forms part; it will thus be demolished as long foreseen.

An application for a variant to the planning permission conditions relating to Pyke's Cinematograph Theatre at Shepherd's Bush has been submitted. Investigation will be instigated to determine if this would prove of further detriment to the building.

The architect responsible for the renovation of the Savoy in Stoke Newington is proposing 'a light spruce-up' of its exterior, in the process creating a terrace enclosed by pseudo art deco railings for the convenience of the tobacco-smoking fraternity.

Hammerson, owner of the Point in Milton Keynes, intends to demolish the current structure and replace it with a retail and leisure development. Outline planning permission was granted four years ago and does not expire until January 1919. However, the replacement currently propounded is proving contentious with some local councillors.