

CAMPAIGNING TO SAVE YOUR HISTORIC CINEMAS

By Tim Hatcher

Listing Criteria

Historic England has commissioned a comprehensive consultation exercise in order to investigate the efficacy of its strategy for listing. This represents a singular opportunity for the CTA to express its concerns, amongst which are factual inaccuracies in assessment and the apparent bias against cinemas of the 1930s, in addition to disparities in appraisal criteria from case to case. A full submission has been presented.

Grade I Listed



The Granada Tooting in April 2004

Works additional to those required to remove vegetation from the exterior of the Granada at Tooting are apparently being undertaken. An official from the local Council is to inspect in order to assess if listed building consent should have been solicited.

Grade II* Listed

Objections have been submitted by the Association to a planning application to build a hotel adjacent to the Dreamland complex in Margate. The proposed structure would have a deleterious impact upon appreciation of the composition of the entertainment building's façade.



The Picture House Paignton in June 2008

The Trust responsible for the Picture House in Paignton is seeking to secure further finance in order to fund additional feasibility and business studies into its future operation.

The Conservation Officer of Adur and Worthing Councils has confirmed that alterations to the entrance passage of the Dome do not conform to the approved plans; this circumstance has therefore been referred to the Council's enforcement team.

Grade II Listed

The City Design Manager of Birmingham City Council's Planning and Regeneration Department has been assigned responsibility for overseeing the rebuilding of the *Royalty* in Harborne. Unfortunately the current aspiration is not based upon a full reinstatement of the cinema but instead upon acceptance of its damaged shell as a basis of reference. Objection to this approach is to be initiated.

The Picture House in Bridlington has been listed following an application from a third party. Whilst the listing of another cinema is to be welcomed, it seems somewhat anomalous that this conversion of a 1912 temperance hall, subsequently additionally altered, should receive statutory protection, whilst nearby the remarkably intact and architectonically accomplished *Regal* of 1938 has been denied this modicum of security. Once again a predilection by Historic England for cinemas constructed prior to the decade of the latter venue appears manifest.

Following a site visit to the *Granada* in Kingston-upon-Thames, it has been agreed that the integrity of the auditorium ceiling will be preserved in the forthcoming alterations to the night-club that currently occupies the premises. The original proposal would have destroyed the feature's unity of design: this outcome thus represents an undoubtedly positive result. See p6 last Bulletin.

Unlisted



The Grand Banbury in February 2004

Accounts from independent sources report that the interior of the Grand in Banbury has been obliterated. This 1935 remodelling of a 1911 theatre was executed by the prominent architectural practice of Drury and Gomersall; the auditorium represented a fine example of a small house, simultaneously elegant in proportion and embellishment. Its loss is thus extremely regrettable.

Ashford Borough Council has now launched a feasibility study into theatre provision in the town – however, the exercise excludes the Odeon from consideration, despite a petition in its support endorsed by an excess of three thousand signatories. In a token gesture perpetuated ad nauseam countrywide, the Council also wishes to demolish the auditorium and retain only the façade. See Newsreel px.

The Association is prevailing upon Historic England to incorporate Black's Regal [R] into its Sunderland Heritage Action Zone. Such inclusion would afford this distinguished cinema a degree of protection following the highly controversial refusal of its statutory listing.



Black's Regal Sunderland in September 2006