

CASEWORK REPORT: November 2013

ENGLAND

All photographs by Harry Rigby (Editor - CTA Bulletin)

Grade II*

English Heritage has approved an application from Haringey Council for listed building consent to clean and refurbish the sign of the **Gaumont Palace** at Wood Green in London, now a church, and to remove foliage from above its illuminated characters, which are to be returned to working condition.

Grade II

A campaign group has been formed with the objective of returning the **Regal** at Kingston-upon-Thames to its intended employment as an entertainment venue. Representatives of the Association attended a recent meeting of this newly-formed body, and will continue to liaise with it in order to proffer planning advice.

The property concern which has acquired the **Ritz** at Nuneaton is proposing a significant redevelopment of its immediate area, which will include the somewhat ubiquitous supermarket. The scheme, operating as a partnership with the local council, currently remains at a pre-application stage.

Unlisted

The management of a restaurant and sushi bar, presently operating within the **Futurist** at Birmingham, has applied for retrospective consent for change of use of the premises.

A 'Friends' Group' has been formed to attempt to return the **Regent** at Blackpool to film exhibition, which aspiration is endorsed by the C.T.A.



Gaumont Palace, Wood Green, London



Futurist, Birmingham

The Hart Centre project has expressed interest in renovating the **Granada** in Maidstone as a centre for 'arts, culture, education and enterprise', including cinema, performance and catering activities.



Alexandra Picturedrome, Coventry

A local preservationist is determined to prevent the demolition of the **Alexandra Picturedrome** in Coventry. This cinema does not possess sufficient extant features to justify a listing application, but archival images will be forwarded to support the community activist.

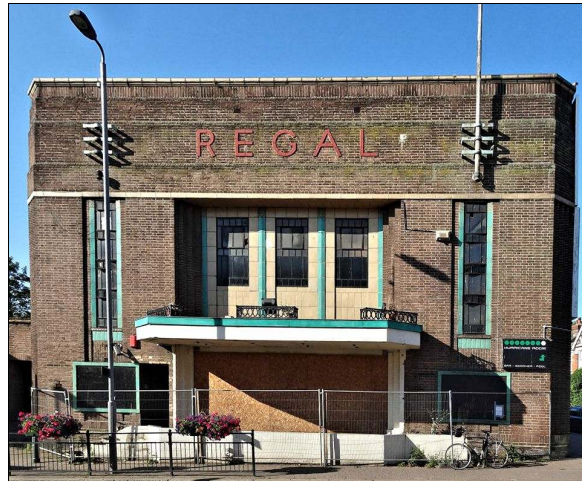
English Heritage has instructed Westminster City Council to refuse planning permission for the proposed replacement structure for the **Leicester Square Theatre** in London's West-End because its height would be detrimental to the visual impact of The National Gallery when viewed from Trafalgar Square or Whitehall.

Waltham Forest Council has consulted the C.T.A. upon a planning application for the **Regal** at Highams Park in London, which local residents wish to be employed as a community centre. This objective appears to provide the most appropriate attainable utilisation for the building, and has been advocated in the Association's response.

In addition to the retention of those features of the **Polytechnic Cinema** in London's Regent Street previously reported, the architect has now agreed to integrate the balcony front into the reconstructed seating area, and also to preserve the plasterwork of the soffit beneath. The projection room, however, will be resited.

The dual purpose theatre and cinema of the **Shell Centre** in London's Waterloo area is the subject of a planning application for demolition, which has been called in for review by the Secretary of State. This element of the office tower features a novel interior with décor by Cecil Beaton.

It is highly regrettable to report that the appeal against refusal of listed status for the **Regal** at Sunderland has itself been rejected, despite strong support from other conservation bodies for this cinema, which features a fine intact auditorium.



Regal, Highams Park, London