



CINEMA
THEATRE
ASSOCIATION

www.cta-uk.org

BULLETIN

Vol 49 No 4

July / August 2015



The grade II listed **Ritz** at Grays (Essex), where bingo is about to close, photographed in April 2004



Two views of just part of the Projected Picture Trust's collection in its new home in Halifax

FROM YOUR EDITOR

It doesn't seem two minutes since I was writing the last editorial; time seems to come around so quickly. We have just returned from the CTA visit to Winchester, where we had an enjoyable – if hectic – day; there will be a full report in the next Bulletin. We travelled down via Nuneaton and returned via Oxford. In both places I was able to photograph some former cinemas I had not seen before to add to my collection. There are still some I have missed in odd areas of the country and I aim to try to get these over the next few years.

On a recent visit to Hornsea (East Yorkshire) the car screeched to a halt when I saw the building pictured below. It looked to have cinematic features but I could only find references in the KYBs to the **Star** cinema in the town, which I knew this was not. I emailed the local library and got a very nice reply from a lady librarian, which said:

"The building to which you are referring was called the Independent Chapel (Bethesda Chapel) on Southgate, Hornsea, built in 1808. This cost £465 and it was later enlarged and a burial ground added in 1847. Independents built this building as their second chapel then moved to the United Reform Church when they became Congregationalists. A new chapel was built in New Road, so after 1874 this building was taken over by the Independent order of the Good Templars (a temperance organisation from Hull). It was converted into a lodge room and lecture hall. In the late nineteenth and early twentieth Century the building was used for dances and concerts. In 1911 the building become the parish hall for St Nicholas Church but is now unused. We have no record of it in cinematic use."



I must convey my thanks to this lady and other librarians I have similarly contacted, for taking the time to reply. I also recently emailed the Town Clerk at Market Weighton (also in East Yorkshire) and she confirmed where the former cinema once stood.

I have been clearing out my inbox and been able to include a couple of items I was sent earlier in the year, which I couldn't fit in before. If yours was one of them, I hope you didn't think I'd forgotten. I still have some holiday snaps I have had to hold over. However, I could always use a few more. I have also almost run out of articles. I know this good weather is not conducive to sitting indoors writing stuff for the Bulletin but if it turns inclement... Don't forget that photos and illustrations turn a page of plain black text into an interesting piece.

As I am constantly moaning about being sent photos that are too small to reproduce, someone asked me the best way to send large files to me. The size limit on attachments to emails appears to have grown bigger recently. It now seems a total attachment size of 15-20Mb will get through OK. If you are concerned as to whether I get them or not, please ask me to acknowledge. Alternatively you can post them to me on a memory stick, which I will return if requested. Another way is for me to create a private folder in my Dropbox account and send you a link so you can load photos up. If this method appeals to you, email me for details. Just to repeat, any picture below about 100kb in size is probably too small.

Harry Rigby, CTA Bulletin Editor

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE THURSDAY 20 AUGUST

CINEMA THEATRE ASSOCIATION

promoting serious interest in all aspects of cinema buildings

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BULLETIN: Members are invited to submit items for possible publication to the Bulletin Editor. However, it is stressed that the publication of an item does not necessarily imply that it reflects the views of the Cinema Theatre Association, its Committee or its Bulletin Editor. It is assumed that submissions are for publication, unless stated otherwise; items may be shortened or edited at the discretion of the Editor. Please enclose SAE and state if you require items to be returned, otherwise everything will be passed on to the CTA Archive.

VISITS: Members and non-members are reminded that they attend visits entirely at their own risk and no responsibility can be accepted by the Cinema Theatre Association or the owners of the buildings for any accidents or injury sustained during the course of any visit.

PRODUCTS: The Cinema Theatre Association does not necessarily recommend or endorse any products or services advertised in the Bulletin or in any flyer or document included in any mailings to members.

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VISITS AND EVENTS

South West London and Surrey tour by Routemaster Bus Saturday 29 August

Organised by Ray Ritmeester

This event is now fully booked but if you would like to be added to the waiting list please send an email to the organiser at [ray.ritmeester@thetube.com].

Assorted Bournemouth Cinemas Wednesday 30 September to Saturday 3 October

Organised by David Eve

This visit has had a lot of interest from members with the allocation being oversubscribed. Once the first bookings have been confirmed and those on the waiting listing are consulted, any spare places will be offered in the Sept/Oct Bulletin. Thanks once again for the interest.

CTA Film Nites

If you haven't already done so, do join the mailing list for future CTA Film Nites. It's a way to link up with other members to visit a traditional cinema and watch a film together – and, of course, there's an opportunity to socialise over a drink or a meal afterwards. We're fixing up dates about once a month, so far just in London, to see interesting films at a cinema that's just the kind of venue CTA members should be supporting.

All you have to do to find out what's coming up and when is to join the email list. Send an email (headed CTA FILM NITES) to David Vinnels at [deco77@btinternet.com] and your name will be added to the mailing list. About a week before each Film Nite, an email will be sent out to everyone on the list with all the details: selected film, venue and how to get there. We look forward to lots more members coming along to the shows – and, of course, do bring a friend if you wish.

Help Wanted

The CTA events committee would love to hear from members of any ideas for visits or events they may have. We can offer support and guidance for anyone who would like to organise a visit or event.

Please send your thoughts to the CTA events committee, c/o Ray Ritmeester, 66 Woodside Road, High Wycombe, HP13 7JB or drop me an email to [ray.ritmeester@thetube.com].

Other Events of Interest (not organised by the CTA)

Details of these events are given in good faith but the editor or the CTA cannot be responsible for any inaccuracies; please check before travelling.

THE ROYALTY (Bowness-on-Windermere, LA23 3BJ)

Silent film shows and events featuring the Wurlitzer Organ.

Tuesday 21 July	concert by Elizabeth Harrison at 12:30pm
Saturday 8 August	Buster Keaton in <i>Steamboat Bill Jr</i> (1928) accompanied by Mark Latimer at 5:00pm
Tuesday 18 August	concert by Mark Laflin at 12:30pm
Tuesday 15 September	concert by Len Rawle at 12:30pm
Saturday 26 September	Lillian & Dorothy Gish in <i>Orphans of the Storm</i> (1921) accompanied by Michael Holmes at 1:00pm

Admission: films £7 – £5.50; concerts £6, children £3.

In association with the Furness Theatre Organ Project.

[www.nm-cinemas.co.uk] [015394 43364] or [www.ftop.weebly.com]

More details of events
in the full Bulletin

ARCHIVE

IMPORTANT NOTICE

The CTA Archive has to move from its current home in Leyton, East London as the building we use is being redeveloped. The Archive will be packed up and either moved directly to a new home or into temporary storage, should new accommodation not be found by the time we must vacate in August. We will not be open for visitors or be able to deal with enquiries for the next few months while we arrange the move. We will update everyone in the next Bulletin.

ARCHIVE OPPORTUNITIES

The CTA Archive can offer members an excellent opportunity to contribute towards preserving our cinema heritage. Whether it be putting your particular skills to good use or just giving some of your spare time, there are plenty of opportunities within our friendly environment and you might learn something new along the way!

Please email [cta-archive@hotmail.co.uk].

HELP THE ARCHIVE IDENTIFY CINEMAS

Brian Hall posts regular weekly sets of unidentified cinema photographs on the CTA-UK Yahoo! Group. Please consider joining this group [movies.groups.yahoo.com/group/cta-uk] and help us to identify cinemas. It's great fun!

SENDING DONATIONS BY POST OR EMAIL

We are always keen to receive donated material and can accept this in different formats. Of course, we always prefer to have originals. If however you cannot part with the material, then we are happy to accept scanned material or copies of your digital photographs.

Please let me know before sending donations by post and do not send them directly to the archive as there is no facility to accept post securely. Please send items c/o 14 Ivychurch Gardens, Cliftonville, Margate, CT9 3YG. Small quantities of scanned material or digital photographs can be emailed to [cta-archive@hotmail.co.uk].

ONLINE ACCESS TO THE ARCHIVE COLLECTIONS

We are pleased to share with members the current work being done to make material from the Archive viewable via the Internet.

We have been digitising photographs and other items within the Archive for several years. It is our wish to make these items available to view on the CTA website and for a fee, the ability to download the images for personal and commercial use. This will be a vast improvement on the current access arrangements and mean those who cannot easily visit the Archive will have the ability to browse its contents. To this end, we are currently testing out a variety of digital asset management software to find the best way to deliver this service on the CTA's new website. We hope to have the service up and running with a limited amount of material by this summer. We will keep you all posted on progress through the website and the Bulletin.

Clive Polden, CTA Archivist

CIRCUIT HISTORIES AVAILABLE

by Allen Eyles – all fully illustrated with gazetteers

ODEON 1 – Oscar Deutsch Entertains Our Nation £19.99

ODEON 2 – From J Arthur Rank to the Multiplex £19.99

THE GRANADA THEATRES £18.99

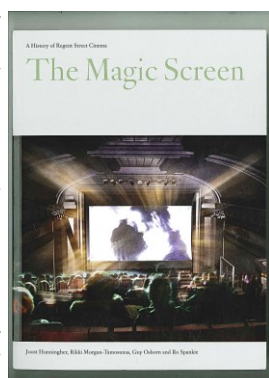
All available from the Sales Officer – address on p4.
please add £3.00 for postage.

PUBLICATIONS

New Publication

The Magic Screen – a history of Regent Street Cinema. Various authors. Large format paperback, 178 pages, fully illustrated. £20.00 plus postage.

To celebrate the renovation and re-opening of the **Regent Street Cinema** London, its long and fascinating history has been told for the first time. Built in 1848 for showcasing 'optical exhibitions', in 1896 the theatre was the site of the first UK public performance of the Lumière's Cinématographe. It evolved into a cinema specialising in travelogues and nature films in the 1920s, becoming the **Cameo-Poly** after the Second World War. Regularly hosting premières of continental films, the cinema achieved another first with its screening of *La Vie Commence Demain* in 1951, the first [X]-certificate film in the UK. After mixed fortunes in the 1970s, the cinema closed to the public in 1980. The cinema's recent renovation and re-birth is also featured. This multi-authored volume tells the cinema's history from architectural, educational, legal and cinematic perspectives and is richly illustrated throughout with images from the University of Westminster Archive. See article on p7.



Recently Published (Reviewed in previous issues)

How Belfast Saw the Light – £20.00 plus postage

Alpha to Odyssey (Odeon/Odyssey, St Albans) – £4.99 plus postage

The Auditorium (North Warwickshire) – £12.95 plus postage

Available Again

These two titles have been out of stock for a while but are now available again:

Suburban London Cinemas by Gary Wharton

Published 2008. A5 paperback, 128 pages. £12.99 plus postage

The author takes a journey around the London suburbs, noting the various cinemas he encounters, many in a derelict state. An interesting read, with a few errors along the way, notably the interior of the **Savoy** Stoke Newington wrongly captioned as the **Rio Dalston**.

SHAZAM! The History of a Regal Cinema by Rob Hemming

Published 2008. Hardback, 196 pages.

Special reduced price £14.99 plus postage (Previously £19.99)

A comprehensive history of the **Regal** Evesham, with many interesting items and pictures including a reproduction of the opening brochure. The volume was compiled before the recent renovation was completed.

Back Numbers Available

BULLETINS

We can supply back numbers of most Bulletins from Volume 21 (1987) to date. Prices for issues from 1987 to 2013 are £4.00 per year (6 issues); individual issues are £1.00 each. Prices for issues in 2014 and 2015 are £4.00 per copy. All prices include postage. There are some issues available from earlier years, 1970 to 1986 – please send enquiries to the Sales Officer.

PICTURE HOUSE MAGAZINE

Listed below are the back numbers of Picture House that are still available, along with the main articles the particular issue contains. There are also available a few second-hand copies of out-of-print issues 9, 10, 14/15, 16, 22, 23 & 24, priced £5.00 each, plus postage. We also have just 1 or 2 copies of the extremely rare issues 2, 4, 5, 7, 11, 12 and 13 at £5.00 each plus postage. (If there is more demand than supply, a ballot will be held.)

No 6	£1.50	Television in the Cinema; Atherley Southampton; Hippodrome , Blackpool.
No 8	£1.50	Sol Levy; Reginald Cooper; ABC in NW London.
No 17	£3.00	Special Issue featuring the Cinemas of George Coles with 26 original photographs reproduced in sepia.
No 18	£3.00	Sydney Colwyn Foulkes; United Picture Theatres; Tivoli Wimborne.
No 19	£3.50	Co-operative Cinemas; Ideal Lambeth; Dursley; Alister Macdonald; Granada Tooting.
No 21	£3.50	100 Years On; Travelling Shows; Reggie Rea; Albert Hall Sheffield; Regal Wells; West End Adverts; Scotland.
all issues below have colour cover and inside pages		
No 25	£4.50	Oldest Cinema (Brighton); FE Bromige; Gaumont Managers; Carlton Swansea; Committee's Choice.
No 26	£4.50	Paramount Newcastle; Edward Stone; Granada Men; E de Wilde Holding; Electric Portobello Road.
No 27	£4.50	New Victoria/Apollo ; Whiteladies Bristol; Clark & Fenn; Compton Organs; Tim Foster Associates.
No 28	£4.50	James McKissack; WJ King; Torbay Cinema ; Tabs.
No 29	£4.50	Cinerama in Britain; Braziers the Builders; John Fernée; Waller Jeffs; John Duffin's paintings.
No 30	£5.00	The Davis Family, Croydon; Apollo Hammersmith Organ; Norwich Roadshows.
No 31	£7.50	Special 84-page edition: Essoldo – A Family Business: Sol Sheckman and the Essoldo Circuit.
No 32	£5.00	Harry Myers Photographs; Cinemas at the Coalface; Shaws of Darwen; Edward A Stone.
No 33	£5.00	Theodore Komisarjevsky; Circuit & other releases of 1956; The case for saving the New Victoria Bradford.
No 34	£5.00	Beaufort Birmingham; Granada Tooting in 1934; J Braddon's cinema life.
No 35	£5.00	Holophane lighting; Imitations of Odeon ; Cradley Records; 1909 Cinematograph Act; Kingston Showmanship.
No 36	£6.00	Leslie Kemp; The Clifton Circuit; Jeremy Perkins on Brighton; Circuit Releases of 1960.
No 37	£8.50	Special 92-page issue; saving the Electric Palace Harwich.
No 38	£6.00	Northern Morris Associated; Palace Conwy; Cinema Murders; Point Milton Keynes; Carlton Haymarket; Military Cinemas.
No 39	£6.00	WWI and the Film Trade; Tale of Two Regals ; Odeon North Finchley; Majestic Oxford; Films at the Royal Albert Hall .

AND WHERE TO KEEP THOSE PICTURE HOUSE MAGAZINES?

'Cordex' binders, in red leather-look effect with the magazine name embossed on the spine, are available for £4.30 + £3.00 postage – they are sent in a special postal carton. Each binder holds twelve copies and will not harm or mark your magazines, which may be taken out later if desired.



Your copy of ABC could be valuable...

Your Sales Officer was amused recently to be offered a second-hand copy of the very rare CTA publication **ABC – The First Name in Entertainment** by a bookshop in the USA.. The price was £1,315.24 (plus £50.38 shipping)! He refused the offer. Copies of **Gaumont British Cinemas** are also regularly offered at prices around the £55 mark – so you'd better keep your copies safely stored!

Ordering

For books and other items except DVDs, please add £3.00 for post and packing for orders up to £20.00 in value, £6.00 for orders from £20.01 to £40.00 and £11.00 for orders above £40.01. For DVDs, please add £3.00 for up to 3 DVDs and £6.00 for more than 3 DVDs. Orders to Jeremy Buck, CTA Sales, 34, Pelham Road, London, N22 6LN. Cheques/POs payable to Cinema Theatre Association, or send credit/debit card number with expiry date and security code. A complete sales list is available by sending an SAE or can be seen on the CTA website [www.cta-uk.org] where you can also place your order using PayPal. A sales list is sent with every order.



CASEWORK

By Tim Hatcher

Everyman Group Purchase

It is reported that the **Everyman** Group is to acquire four major cinema sites: the **Odeon** at Muswell Hill (listed grade II*), the **Odeons** at Esher and Barnet (listed grade II) and the unlisted **Odeon** at Gerrards Cross. Concern arises over any change of style and/or location of external signage that may result from a consequent re-branding exercise; the relevant local authorities will be contacted to ensure compliance with applicable listed building classification.

Grade II* Listed



The Avenue/Odeon Northfields in April 2006

In addition to the Association, Historic England and The Theatres Trust have also objected to planning and listed building consent applications relating to the **Avenue/Odeon** in London's Northfields area. The drawings, which form part of the submission, are of poor quality and it seems likely that the proposal will be refused. A site meeting is planned. {11190}

Grade II Listed



The Regal Camberwell in September 2004

Avery Associates Architects have submitted planning and listed building consent applications relating to the **Regal** in Camberwell, now owned by a church. It is intended to remove the mezzanine (added for bingo) and build side and rear extensions, access to which would involve creation of new access ways through original walls in the foyer area. See also p34 last Bulletin. {18111}

**Much more casework
in the full Bulletin**

A NEW 'TRADITIONAL' CINEMA

By David Simpson

During a recent cinema trip to the West Country and South Wales, I was delighted to meet up with CTA member Mark Cunningham, whom I last encountered some years ago at the **Palace** Cinderford. He has since sold that and, much more recently, opened the **Sherborne** just to the north of Gloucester City centre.

Housed in the former Friends Sherborne Street Mission Hall, dating from 1880 and latterly a Christadelphian Hall, Mark spent two years transforming the building into a splendid single-screen neighbourhood cinema, with plenty of art deco fixtures and fittings – some original, others self-crafted – to provide a wonderfully traditional and welcoming 140-seat cinema.

In a lovely touch, tickets are dispensed from an Automaticket machine. Projection is, of course, digital but Mark couldn't resist installing a 35mm projector and he hopes to show classic films in that format in the future. Aside from Saturday and Sunday children's matinées, there are screenings at 5:30pm and 8:30pm each evening, often with two different films, thereby making the best use of the single screen.

The **Sherborne** opened its doors on 20 February this year. CTA members in the area are assured a warm welcome and I'm sure we wish Mark all the best for the future.

All photos by the author



REGENT STREET CINEMA OPENS

By Ian Meyrick

The **Regent Street Cinema** in London, which claims its place in film history as the *Birthplace of Cinema*, reopened as a full-time venue for film on 6 May. Originally part of the Royal Polytechnic Institution, the Lumière Brothers gave the first showing of moving pictures to a paying public in Britain here on 21 February 1896. The Cinématographe was an immediate success and transferred within weeks to the **Empire Theatre** Leicester Square.



The Great Hall at the time of the Lumière show [1]

The original Great Hall, surrounded by galleries with ornamental cast-iron balustrades, has undergone a number of major reconstructions since the historic Lumière presentations but has remained an important auditorium space. Developed as a full-time cinema with attractive neo-classical plasterwork and a curved-front gallery (1927, FJ Wills), a Compton organ was added in 1936.

Operating under a number of names, of which the best known is probably **Cameo-Poly**, it became well-known for art and continental films. The Compton Cinema Club, of which film censor John Trevelyan was a member, started there and one of the first batch of films to be awarded the new [X] certificate opened there in 1951. In its time it served as a live theatre and news theatre, before finally closing as a cinema, the **Classic Poly**, in April 1980 to become a lecture hall for the University of Westminster.



The auditorium as it was [2]

The University decided to re-open it as a full-time cinema, initially with a rather ill-conceived plan to return it to a version of its original Victorian appearance, losing the elegant 1927 interior in the process. Input from a number of bodies, notably the CTA, led to the abandonment of these plans and the eventual design (after a £5.8m fundraising campaign) retains the look and feel of the cinema. Stadium seating necessitated breaking through the balcony front in two places but the elegant end-curves have been retained. The former back stalls area has become a spacious bar and meeting area.



[L] the enlarged projection room & [R] the organ chambers [2]



The audience at the *Take Your Seat* preview on 29 April [1]

A proper-sized screen has replaced the small rear-projection one we had seen on our later visits and the enlarged projection room is equipped for 35mm (two FP30s), 16mm and digital. It is also intended to have facilities for 8mm. The Compton organ has been retained and is to be placed on a lift in the centre of the stage. The pipe chambers are behind the screen, situated on the vestiges of the Victorian balcony, where they always have been.



The proscenium [2]

The CTA was delighted to make a financial contribution to this restoration and a seat bears a plaque acknowledging this. Richard Gray, Chair of Casework and Ian Meyrick, CTA Vice-Chair, were invited to represent the Association at a special donors' evening a few days before the opening. A triumph indeed for all involved and a fitting restoration of one of the few remaining cinema interiors from the late 1920s. This and the neighbouring Fyvie Hall (also with a Compton organ from 1934) now have Grade II listed status. Thanks go to the CTA Casework Committee for their major input to this happy outcome.

Photos [1] University of Westminster & [2] the author



[L] the organ console & [R] the projection team [2]

Editor's Note: Thanks also to the dozens of members who sent in press cuttings about this reopening. See p23 last Bulletin.

THE RITZ WALLSEND

By David Williams

Those members who took part in the Tyneside Pilgrimage tour in October 2011* will recall the visit to the Mecca Bingo / former **Ritz** Cinema, Wallsend, which was closing that day. It was then rumoured to have been acquired by a supermarket chain. As subsequently reported it was eventually bought by Wetherspoons and reopened as a pub, The Ritz, last month after a £1.26 million rebuild.

I have visited it this week and was very disappointed at what I found but, having seen the plans on-line, I was prepared for most of the mutilation of the building but not all. The original building was designed by the renowned architect, Percy L Browne & Son and opened in May 1939 but unfortunately, unlike the nearby 1937 **Wallaw** Cinema in Blyth by the same architect and also reopened as a Wetherspoon's pub some two years ago, did not enjoy the protection of Grade II listing!



The retained original foyer ceiling

At Blyth, Wetherspoons retained the full auditorium, the foyers and staircases along with the plasterwork decoration throughout, including the proscenium. In contrast at Wallsend, whilst they have created an attractive well-fitted room, bar and servery, all traces of the cinema have been obscured, removed or even demolished, including one of the most attractive parts. The only two exceptions are the entrance foyer, behind the retained façade, with its high-domed square ceiling (which ironically on our visit was the only part obscured by a suspended ceiling but is now exposed) and the crush hall at the rear of the stalls, which retains its ceiling coving but has now acquired light oak panelled walls along with the rest of the remaining stalls walls.



View from the foyer to the site of the stalls passage and the circle staircase – compare with photo top next column

That is where the good news ends; the link between the foyer and the auditorium, which runs parallel to the street, has been completely demolished, leaving an open area between the street block and the auditorium. This area contained both the corridor leading to the stalls crush hall and the adjacent imposing staircase leading to the



A view from almost the same place as the previous photo. The staircase has now completely gone! *

circle. This demolition has, therefore, removed all public access to the circle. In keeping with this now 'rustic' space, all the plaster has been removed from the remaining front foyer walls, taking them back to the bare brick.



The retained crush hall ceiling

In the auditorium a ceiling has been inserted over the front stalls between the circle front and the proscenium. This covers the bar, food servery, cellar and kitchen, which have all been constructed in the front stalls area. The toilets occupy the stage with only a small section of the proscenium edge and adjoining wall decoration still visible next to the ladies' toilet door. To complete the distancing of the building from its original use, large windows have been inserted on both side walls and the rear wall of the auditorium.

All photos by the author, except * by Dave Profit; #see p9 Bulletin 46/1



Windows inserted in the North wall; the South wall has even more!

NEWSREEL

The items in this section are taken mainly from press cuttings from local newspapers. Although their factual accuracy has been checked by Allen Eyles, there may be minor errors in reporting dates or other detail. Photos by Harry Rigby within entry, except where stated. A number in curly brackets {nnnnn} is the reference for the Cinema Treasures website. Go to: [cinematreasures.org/theaters/nnnnn]

ABERDEEN

Further to the newsreel item on p18 of the last Bulletin, **Cineworld** has confirmed it will add an **IMAX** screen to its multiplex at Union Square as part of expansion plans for the Centre. {44719}

Press & Journal (Aberdeen) – 22 May

ABERFELDY (Perth & Kinross)

The **Birks** cinema celebrated the second anniversary of its reopening on 20 April with a visit from Scotland's Second Minister. In that time it has attracted over 90,000 visitors and seen a growth in sales of 13%. It had won national awards and widespread acclaim for its architecture and design. {39010}

Perthshire Advertiser – 21 April

BARGOED (Caerphilly)

Plans to build a Council-funded **Odeon** multiplex have been dropped because it would cost too much money. Initial plans, which originated in 2010, were revised last year when the scheme would have cost £8.4m.

Caerphilly Observer – 28 May; Western Mail – 5 June

BARNESLEY (South Yorks)

There could be a cinema war in Barnsley! There are proposals for a multiplex as part of a £50m town centre regeneration scheme and also plans for a nine-screen cinema on top of the Alhambra Centre. It is understood cinema operators have been consulted.

Barnsley Chronicle – 29 May

BASILDON (Essex)

The eighteen-screen **Empire** (ex **UCI**) was due to open its new **IMAX** screen on 11 June with *Jurassic World*. It is a conversion of the existing screen ①. {24133}

Basildon Recorder – 22 May

BELFAST

The four-screen **Strand** has announced plans to seek funding for a £2m renovation programme. The refurbishment plans are in their infancy but new screens and drama/dance studios are on the wish-list along with workshops, two theatre spaces and a cafe/bar fronting the Hollywood Road. The CTA visited the building, which celebrates its 80th birthday later this year, in September 2014 – see Bulletin 49/1. The cinema hosts monthly Saturday morning tours. The next one is on 15 August and costs £3.50. Only ten places are available on each tour so book at [strandartscentre.com] or 028 9065 5830. {24058}

Belfast Telegraph – 23 May, 19 June; sent in by Bob Bradshaw

BEXHILL (East Sussex)

Plans by JD Wetherspoon to convert the former **Curzon / Redstack Playhouse** into a pub have been approved by the Council. See Case-work p6. {27997}

Bexhill on Sea Observer – 29 May, 4, 5 June

BIRMINGHAM (Central)

Plans have been submitted to convert the ground floor of the former **ABC New Street** into an Italian restaurant. It was originally built as a Masonic Hall but became a full-time cinema in July 1910. In November 1930 it reopened as the **Forum** with a modern interior designed by WR Glen within the existing walls. It had 1,259 seats over three levels, unusual for a cinema. The last film was *ET* in April 1983, a year after it had been listed grade II. The foyer was converted into an amusement arcade, which closed in January 2013. Offices were created in upper parts of the building but the rest was just abandoned. There is a gallery of dozens of interior photos on the *Birmingham Post* website at [tinyurl.com/oshqckv]. {9313}

Birmingham Post – 4 June; photo [top next column] taken April 2007



The former **ABC New Street**, Birmingham

BISHOP AUCKLAND (Co Durham)

Planning permission has been given for a six-screen cinema at Auckland Retail Park, along with the usual attractions. An operator has been appointed but does not wish to be identified at present.

Wear Valley Advertiser – 15 April

BLETCHLEY (Bucks)

The 42-seat **Enigma Cinema** operated by the Projected Picture Trust at Bletchley Park has been shut down. The move is part of the regeneration of the park into a heritage site; all private collections that operated within it have been given notice. Some of the Trust's collection of projectors has been moved to Halifax (West Yorkshire).

MK News – 13 May; see photo on front cover

BORTH (Ceredigion)

Plans have been submitted to turn a former chapel into a boutique cinema, theatre and restaurant. The building has been empty for the last five years. Important architectural features will be retained.

Wales Online – 16 June

BRADFORD (West Yorks)

Proposals for a six-screen cinema together with restaurants and a café on the Broadway site have been put out for public consultation.

Telegraph & Argus (Bradford) – 23, 17 April; Yorkshire Post – 24 April

£1.32m Remedial work on the **Odeon** [detailed on p19 of the last Bulletin] has been completed. The building is now safe and sound and ready for conversion into a large performance venue. {3677}

Telegraph & Argus (Bradford) – 1 May



The **IMAX** cinema at the National Media Museum [above] has closed for more than two months for a £780,000 upgrade. A new screen and digital projection system will be fitted and there will be improved seats with more leg-room, reducing the capacity to 218. The attraction will reopen in September; the other two cinemas in the complex remain open. {3672}

Telegraph & Argus (Bradford) – 11 June

BRIGHTON

Proposals have been submitted to demolish the grade II listed former **Astoria** and replace it with a commercial development. {1844}

Argus (Brighton) – 12 May; Brighton & Hove Leader – 14 May

BROUGHTON (Flintshire)

The eleven-screen **Cineworld**, which opened on 8 May, is said to be doing good business. It has the only **IMAX** screen in North Wales. The business was relocated from nearby Chester. See p20 last Bulletin.

Western Mail (Cardiff) – 4 June

CAMBUSLANG (South Lanark)

The John Fairweather Wetherspoon pub (see Bulletin 49/3), once the former **Savoy** cinema, is becoming something of a mecca for old cinema workers and enthusiasts, with a vintage 35mm projector as one of the cinema-related items on display in the entrance foyer. Andrew Goodwin, from Specialist Cinema Services in Strathaven, contacted ex cinema managers and projectionists, with whom he had worked, inviting them to see the newly restored former cinema and this has gone so well he is organising other groups to see the restoration. {25853}

Sent in by Mike Whitcombe

CAMPBELTOWN (Argyll & Bute)

250 seats from the **Picture House** are being sold to raise money for the cinema's restoration. A single seat will cost £15; two or more cost £10 each: email [admin@weepictures.co.uk]

Campbeltown Courier – 10 April

CANTERBURY (Kent)

A redevelopment of the Kingsmead site is to include – yes, a multiplex cinema!

Kentish Gazette – 23 April, 14 May

CHESTER



An art deco building in Boughton that was created as a cinema is to become a wine merchants, with 10 loft apartments to the rear due for completion in October. It was built as a cinema in 1939 but never opened due to the outbreak of WWII. It was used as a store and has been occupied by a variety of businesses since, latterly by Bonhams Auction House.

Chester Chronicle – 19 June; photo taken July 2007

CORK (Ireland)

Plans have been put forward for the demolition of the former **Capitol** cinema. See p32 Bulletin 48/4.

Irish Examiner – 14 May

DERBY

Derby Civic Society has unveiled a “grand vision” for the City. Ideas include a new concert hall to replace the fire-damaged **Assembly Rooms** and a new commercial theatre in a resurrected **Hippodrome**. A cinema is also included. Campaigners have welcomed the report.

Derby Telegraph – 23, 26 May; sent in by Peter Good

DUDLEY

Campaigners are “appalled” after an £8m deal to save the **Hippodrome** fell through. Bosses claim the deal broke down after they failed to reach an agreement over shared use of the car park with Dudley Zoo and the removal of asbestos.

Express & Star – 28 April; sent in by Ivan Harris

DURHAM

Durham City Council has appointed **Picturehouse Cinemas** to take over film and event programming at the **Gala Cinema**. The existing two screens need modernising and further screens could be added. It opened in February 2002 with a giant screen on which was shown an 8/70 film about St Cuthbert; a 72-seat second screen was added in 2007. See p21 Bulletin 48/6. {24672}

Northern Echo – 30 May

A six or seven screen cinema is being proposed for the redevelopment of the Gates Shopping Centre. An [un-named] operator has shown an interest. A planning application has been submitted and, if approved, work could start next year with completion in 2017.

Northern Echo – 10 June; Durham Advertiser – 11 June; Durham Times – 12 June

ELLON (Aberdeen)

Ellon Cinema had reached its £41,000 funding target to buy a digital projector. A mobile cinema has been visiting the **Victoria Hall** once a month but now shows will be held there more regularly.

Ellon Times & East Gordon Advertiser – 21 May

FARNBOROUGH (Hants)

The new seven-screen **Vue** opened on 8 May on the ground floor of The Meads shopping centre. Seating is provided for 326, 154, 83, 95, 73, 95 and 95. {49042}

Aldershot News & Mail – 9 April

FLEETWOOD (Lancs)

The former **Victoria** has been bought by a local firm. They have plans to lease the building and create an arts and community centre. The vision includes transforming the main hall into a 400 or 600-seat theatre, which could also be used as a cinema for older films. It was built in 1929 and closed in 1967. Bingo took over but that closed about five years ago. See p6 Bulletin 48/6. {36672}

Fleetwood Weekly News, Blackpool Gazette – 6 May

GLASGOW (Shawlands)

Plans by the G1 Group to reopen the former **Waverley** (latterly Tusk nightclub) seem to have fallen through. {23093}

Extra (Glasgow) – 28 May

GLASGOW (Silverburn)

The fourteen-screen **Cineworld** at the Pollock Shopping Centre was due to open on 26 June. It will have a Superscreen – a wall-to-wall screen with dual projectors.

Extra (Glasgow) – 28 May

GRAYS (Essex)

Mecca Bingo in the grade II listed former **Ritz** looks set to close on 19 July. A spokeswoman didn't confirm the site was closing but said, “Grays has been underperforming for some time and we are considering the difficult decision of terminating our lease.” It opened in November 1940 and films ceased in February 1976. {22456}

Thurrock Gazette – 12 June; sent in by Margaret Burgoine; see photo front cover

HALSTEAD (Essex)

Campaigners aiming to reopen the **Empire** have raised hundreds of pounds by holding a successful quiz night. £60,000 is needed to fund a digital projector. See p25 Bulletin 49/1. {14560}

Halstead Gazette – 29 May

HEATON MOOR (Stockport)

The **Savoy** has been closed since last November but now has been taken over by the Mordin family. They have successfully reopened the **Ritz** in Belper (Derbys) and the **Regal** in Melton Mowbray (Leics). Renovation has already started and the cinema should be open by September. There will be a selection of 125 standard seats, luxury Pullman chairs and sofas. The latest digital and satellite equipment will be installed. Their website [www.savoycinemaheaton.com] has a blog with photos of the progress. {24761}

Stockport Express – 13 May; Manchester Weekly News – 13, 21 May; sent in by Carl Chesworth, Terry Rourke & Nick Taylor

**Much more newsreel
in the full Bulletin**

LETTERS

HOUSE LIGHT UP & CERTIFICATES

In reply to Jeremy Perkins' query on when and who decides on when the auditorium house lights should be raised at the end of a film, I can hopefully cast a little insight into this. All hard drives on which the feature is sent to the cinema have what is called a 'Credit Offset' on the label. This is usually a few minutes and so many seconds back from the end of the film. In other words if the complete running time of the film is two hours and the credits run for 3 minutes 30 seconds then the credit offset will be labelled 1 hour, 56 mins, 30 seconds to read 1.56.30. This enables the person building the programme to insert the 'Houselights Up' Macro into the programme at that particular point. Of course this can be ignored but unfortunately some major companies insist that the houselights are raised at the point when the first end credit hits the screen. This is solely due to Health and Safety issues and does not take into account any action that may appear during or after the final scenes. The Distributors accept this practice as a cinema chain does not want a claim for someone leaving the cinema and falling in the dark. In some sites this brings on lighting that also floods the screen and makes it impossible to even view the credits. In addition you may also get a poorly trained usher/usherette who will ram on the cleaners lights anyway.

Geoff Gill (Formerly Chief Technician Odeons Streatham and Brighton)

The letters regarding certificates in the current bulletin jogged my memory of an incident at the **Cannon (Savoy/ABC)** Swindon when we showed the first [12] rated film *Batman*. Although the BBFC certified the films, local Councils had to approve the ratings used by them. By the opening Friday the manager had not received a letter from the Council stating that we were permitted to show [12] rated films, so the film ran as a [15] certificate on the Friday. The letter arrived the next morning and from that day it was shown as a [12] certificate. I don't think this was uncommon, as the print was provided with both [12] & [15] certificates to attach to the beginning. Local Councils also had the power to refuse a BBFC certificate or impose their own if a film was refused a certificate by the BBFC. One film that comes to mind was *The Last Temptation of Christ*, which the local Council refused to be played at the **Cannon** Newbury but was granted a showing in nearby Reading.

In answer to Jeremy Perkins' letter on lighting cues, they are inserted by the cinemas themselves, much as were the foil cues on 35mm prints. Cues for lights, sound, projector functions etc are placed by time. They can be inserted at the start or end of a clip or at a dedicated time in a clip or point in the playlist. There is usually guidance on a letter from the distributor as to what point in time on the film

the credits start but experience has shown that this is not always 100% accurate. Most TMS systems (Theatre Management System) which are basically a central server that hold all the content and where playlists can be built and scheduled, will insert the standard cues (show start, feature start, show end) automatically, with just the lighting cue for the end credits needing to be inserted as appropriate. Some are even intelligent enough to insert the appropriate projector cue for flat, scope, 2K or 4K based on the naming convention of the feature.

On naming conventions and certificates, there is no indication in the naming convention of trailers to indicate their certificate. With the trailer certificate no longer shown on screen in most cases, it's no wonder that the occasional cinema slips up with inappropriate trailer ratings. Certificates can be ascertained by referring to the distributors' web sites.

Ben Doman

I can answer Jeremy Perkins's question that he asked in his letter on page 30 of the last Bulletin. Digital prints only contain data associated with the film. Everything else in a programme – ads, trailers, etc and the cueing of non-synch, house lights, screen lighting (if there is any) – is added at and by the cinema. How well this is done varies considerably from cinema to cinema and is determined by the skill and interest of the technical manager (if there is one) or another member of staff such as an assistant manager. Depending on the make and type of digital projector being used and the associated software, there can be limitations on what can be achieved. This is why presentation in a digital screen is invariably nothing like as good as it was with 35mm film when there were dedicated projectionists aiming to provide 'a good show'.

Tony Williams

EMPIRE EALING



The site of the former **Empire** cinema (ex-**Forum**, **ABC**, **Virgin**, **UGC**) opposite the Town Hall is the subject of a compulsory purchase order (CPO). The CPO was promoted by the Council but financed by Land Securities, their development partner for the wider development site incorporating the site of the former **Walpole Picture Theatre** (the arch of which survives forlornly [pictured above in April 2006] on the side of a house in nearby Mattock Lane). The CPO was opposed by Empire Cinemas and various other landowners affected, in particular the owners of Walpole House in nearby Bond Street, which would be demolished. The public inquiry hearing was held in mid-April, concluding in May. Empire argued strongly that they had fully intended to complete their 20-screen cinema but this intention was thwarted by the Council's CPO action, which had resulted in Empire's loan financing the development being called in by their bankers. Empire had lost control of the site for 12 months in 2013/2014 as a direct result. They indicated that if the CPO failed they would build their original scheme or an amended one, which incorporated a route into Bond Street. The result of the inquiry is not expected before the autumn.

Robert Gurd

Delivery Type:	Addonics EXT3 formatted hard disk
File Format:	JPEG 2000 Interop

This package includes the following DCP elements, which should be assembled to play in the order shown.

Name	Description/Type
SOUND_MUSIC_BBFC_HD-239_EN-XX_GB-XX_51	Sound of Music BBFC
PARKCIRCUS_LOGO_177_EN-XX_00	Park Circus Logo
SOUND-OF-MUSIC-R1_FTR_HD239_EN-XX_GB-XX_51AD	Sound of Music Feature, Part 1 ** optional intermission **
SOUND-OF-MUSIC-R2_FTR_HD239_EN-XX_GB-XX_51AD	Sound of Music Feature, Part 2

Main Film Details

CPL Name: SOUND-OF-MUSIC-R1_FTR_HD239_EN-XX_GB-XX_51AD			
Credit sequence offset:	n/a	Subtitle Language:	n/a
Audio Language:	English	Total file sizes:	119GB
Rating:	U	Sound Format:	5.1 with AD
Running Time:	01:42:36	Projector config:	DCI-HD239
Aspect Ratio:	HD-239		

CPL Name: SOUND-OF-MUSIC-R2_FTR_HD239_EN-XX_GB-XX_51AD

Credit sequence offset:	01:11:10	Subtitle Language:	n/a
Audio Language:	English	Total file sizes:	79GB
Rating:	U	Sound Format:	5.1 with AD
Running Time:	01:11:49	Projector config:	DCI-HD239
Aspect Ratio:	HD-239		

Part of a Digital Cinema Content Delivery Summary sheet for *The Sound of Music* showing the credit sequence offset in part 2.

**Many more letters
in the full Bulletin**

HOLIDAY SNAPS



The **Empire** at Paray-le-Monial in south-central France;
sent in by Trevor Haynes & Chris Godbold



The **Movies** at Dordrecht, Holland; sent in by Harry Rigby



The former **Ritz** at Rothesay, Isle of Bute; sent in by Martin Tapsell

A **MUST** for your collection

CINEMAS IN BRITAIN

A History of Cinema Architecture
by Richard Gray

First published in 1996 to celebrate the centenary of cinema in the UK. In this fully revised edition, the text has been completely rewritten and expanded and there are extra photographs, 10 in full colour. Of particular interest is the 24-page gazetteer of cinema buildings, telling the reader what there is to see in most places in the UK. There are useful appendices about listed cinemas, a glossary of architectural terms and a comprehensive bibliography.

Hardback, 180 pages, fully illustrated in b/w & colour.

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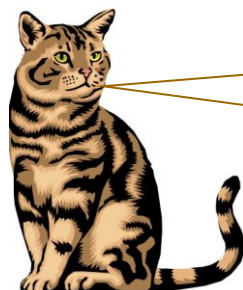
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(Publisher's price £45)

CINEMAS IN CUBA 2015

By Ned Williams

A recent trip to Cuba gave me an opportunity to observe several different branches of human activity while touring the country – mainly by train. Naturally I looked out for cinemas and I enclose a few photos of three buildings I saw. The **Arenal** which seems to have recently closed was in Havana and I spotted it while on the open-top bus tour of the City! Also while on that trip I took a photograph of the **Yara** a modern-looking multi-screen cinema in downtown Central Havana. By way of a contrast we visited a working sugar mill called Heriberto Dusquesne out in the countryside, near the city of Remedios. After visiting the mill and its railway we made our way back through the mill-worker's 'village' and came across the illustrated 'village hall' type cinema photographed here. As is so many situations, language problems made it difficult to find out more.



CINEMA CAT

Did you know that Cuba has over 300 cinemas but only two are digital?

HOLIDAY SNAPS

We have passed the derelict **Louxor** in Paris too many times over the past few years, including the CTA visit in 2008. So when we were in the City for a weekend in December 2014 we had to go and see how it looked now it is restored and showing films again. We queued to buy tickets for the film *Timbuktu* so that we could get in to the auditorium. When I spoke to the ticket seller in English, he was anxious to point out that the film dialogue was in Arabic with subtitles in French. When I explained that we simply wanted to see the auditorium now that it was restored, my proffered money was refused and we were waved through the barrier to have a look. I hope my pictures give you some idea of its new glory. The café bar on the top floor was doing great business too.

Rachel Woodforde



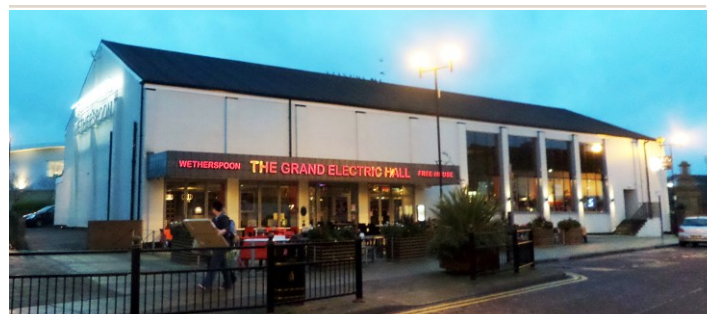
The **Theatro Leal** in La Laguna, Tenerife, now a conventional theatre, has an Ernemann Imperator projector on display in the foyer, suggesting some previous history as a cinema.

Bob Bradsaw



Above is a picture I took in May in Antequera, which is near Malaga in Andalusia in southern Spain, as the cinema has a striking exterior. It is no longer a working cinema and has been taken over by the Town Council. It is used intermittently as a theatre and for occasional film performances. At the time I was there these were family films clearly aimed at the children's matinee audience.

Tony Duggan



The former **Arcadia** in Spennymoor (Co Durham), a Wetherspoons pub since 2013.

Martin Tapsell