



CINEMA
THEATRE
ASSOCIATION

www.cta-uk.org

BULLETIN

LITE

Vol 49 No 3

May / June 2015



The Odeon Trowbridge and the Picture House Morley. 2015 photos by David Simpson

FROM YOUR EDITOR

It was good to meet some of you at the AGM and to put faces to names. Thank you for all your kind comments about the Bulletin, both in person at the AGM and also by letter and email.

On the front page of the last Bulletin there were two 'Cinema 100' plaques and I asked you where they were. The one for Sir David Lean is in pristine condition as it is indoors at the *Brief Encounter* exhibition at Carnforth Railway station in Lancashire. This was the easy one and I expect many of you knew it already. The weathered one was a little more difficult but an Internet search of the title *Turn of the Tide* [eg: imdb.com] should have told you that it was filmed at Robin Hood's Bay in North Yorkshire. This is a very picturesque location and well worth a visit if you are in the area. Park at the top and walk down the 1 in 3 hill to the beach!

I'm sorry I misfiled some items that arrived in early February and should have been included in the last edition. I have tried to put them in this time and I apologise if yours was one of them.

In the Casework report on p5 of the last issue, there was a request to contact the Casework Committee [details opposite] if you had any news on the fate of cinema buildings in your area. Please don't send them to your editor, as I only have to pass them on but if you send an email, by all means put me in the CC line.

If you are taking photographs indoors, such as in dark cinema auditoria, please steady your camera or use a tripod. Flash is probably of little use in such large spaces. I'm afraid I have had some photos submitted that I was unable to print because of the amount of camera shake. At the risk of repeating myself please don't embed photos in documents or reduce their size from the original as this also can make them unsuitable for reproduction in the Bulletin.

Can I please clarify the way I deal with attributions? When I took over the Bulletin in 1998, I had always wondered where the items came from so I decided to add the source of the information. For example, in the Newsreel you will see references to local and national newspapers after most items. If it then says "sent in by..." it does not mean that every contributor has sent in every item. If there is no publication reference, it means the item has come solely from the named contributor[s]. If additional information or a photograph has been submitted, that contributor is always mentioned specifically. Please accept my thanks for all your continued submissions.

A number in curly brackets, eg {nnnnn} is the reference for the Cinema Treasures website. Go to: [cinematreasures.org/theaters/nnnnn]. I am trying this to avoid repeating the full URL every time.

There seems to be no end to model cinemas. There is another one in the letters on p31. This one [below] turned up at a model railway exhibition in York over Easter. The owner said he got the inspiration several years ago from a book on art deco but he couldn't remember any details. Allen Eyles tells me it is based on the **Odeon** Shannon Corner (New Malden, then in Surrey) – see p174 of Allen's *Odeon Cinemas Vol 1* book. {31025}

Harry Rigby, CTA Bulletin Editor



**DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE
SATURDAY 20 JUNE**

CINEMA THEATRE ASSOCIATION

promoting serious interest in all aspects of cinema buildings

Company limited by guarantee. Reg. No. 04428776.
Registered address: 59 Harrowdene Gardens, Teddington, TW11 0DJ.
Registered Charity No. 1100702. Directors are marked ‡ in list below.

PATRONS: Carol Gibbons
Sir Gerald Kaufman MP
Glenda Jackson
Lucinda Lambton

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS

Full Membership (UK)£25 (£29)
Under 25s.....£15 (£15)
Associate Membership (UK).....£10 (£10)
Overseas (Europe Air Mail & World Surface Mail).....£32 (£37)
Overseas (World Air Mail).....£42 (£49)
Life Membership£375 (£450); seniors £280 (£350)
(figures in brackets will be the rates from 1 July)

All membership and subscription enquiries should be sent to
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY: Neville C Taylor [subs@cta-uk.org]

Flat One, 128 Gloucester Terrace, London, W2 6HP

Items for possible inclusion in the bulletin should be sent to

BULLETIN EDITOR: Harry Rigby [bulletin@cta-uk.org]
65 Tennyson Avenue, Harrogate, North Yorks, HG1 3LE

OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN: David Trevor-Jones ‡ [david.trevorjones@btinternet.com]

47 The Street, Old Basing, Basingstoke, RG24 7BX

VICE-CHAIRMAN: Ian Meyrick ‡ [ian@imeyrick.freemove.co.uk]

11 Tarrant Avenue, Witney, OX28 1EE

SECRETARY: Adam Unger ‡ [atunger@blueyonder.co.uk]

59 Harrowdene Gardens, Teddington, TW11 0DJ

TREASURER: Neville C Taylor ‡ (details as membership secretary above)

CASEWORK COMMITTEE – Chairman: Richard Gray ‡

45 Arnold Road, Bow, London, E3 4NU [richardjhgray@btinternet.com]

Members: as main committee plus Tim Hatcher,
Jane Jephcote, Mark Price, Vicky Simon, & Peter Wylde

ARCHIVIST: Clive Polden [cta-archive@hotmail.co.uk]

14 Ivychurch Gardens, Cliftonville, Margate, CT9 3YG

ASSISTANT ARCHIVIST: Rachel Marks

73 Cressy House, Hannibal Road, London, E1 3JF

PUBLIC RELATIONS: Gerald Glover [GeraldGloverCTA@aol.com]

228 Malpas Road, Brockley, London, SE4 1DH

PUBLICATIONS & SALES OFFICER: Jeremy Buck ‡

34 Pelham Road, London, N22 6LN [jbuck@connectfree.co.uk]

BOOK PUBLISHING MANAGER: Giles Woodforde ‡

69A Mill Street, Kidlington, Oxford, OX5 2EE [woodfordes@btinternet.com]

WEBMASTER: Rachel Woodforde

69A Mill Street, Kidlington, Oxford, OX5 2EE [web@cta-uk.org]

VISITS CO-ORDINATOR: Ray Ritmeester [ray.ritmeester@thetube.com]

66 Woodside Road, High Wycombe, HP13 7JB

PICTURE HOUSE EDITOR: Allen Eyles [allen@aeyles.plus.com]

13 Tennyson Court, Paddockhall Road, Haywards Heath, RH16 1EZ

CTA NORTH: David Eve, Gary Trinder [evcinema.t21@btinternet.com]

7 Shoreswood, Sharples, Bolton, BL1 7DD

CTA SCOTLAND: Gordon Barr, Gary Painter [info@ctascotland.org.uk]

Ground Rear, 4 Botanic Crescent, Glasgow, G20 8QQ

CTA CYMRU/WALES: John Skinner, Jon Williams [wales@cta-uk.org]

3 Swan Lane, Ystalyfera, Swansea, SA9 2JB

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Emma Beeston, Kevin Gooding, Lynda Hillman, Tim McCullen,
Sally McGrath, Laury Reynolds, Ken Roe, David Simpson

© CTA BULLETIN – published six times yearly by the
CINEMA THEATRE ASSOCIATION
ISSN 1479-0882

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.

Typeset in Franklin Gothic Book by Harry Rigby
Printed by The Ludo Press Ltd, 18 Wimbledon Stadium Business Centre,
Riverside Road, London, SW17 0BA [www.ludo.co.uk]

Wandering to Winchester

Saturday 20 June

Organised by David Trevor-Jones & Richard Norman



The **Everyman (Screen)** Winchester – photo by David Trevor-Jones

A CTA first-time visit to Winchester, the beautiful ancient capital of Wessex and Saxon England, beckons members for a summer's day out to discover the working and former buildings once used as cinemas and theatres. Our itinerary will include visits to the **Theatre Royal** and **Everyman (Screen)** [pictured above earlier this year] and a short walking tour (lasting about 30 minutes) of Winchester City centre to view the former **Ritz** and **Picture House**. A coach will transport us to the **Palace** Alton and the **Plaza** Romsey; internal visits will be arranged where this is possible. A buffet lunch is included and will be served in the historic concert room of St John's House, once the location of the **Palace**, Winchester's first venue to show films.

The visit is timed to allow travel between London Waterloo and Winchester – also easily accessible from the south coast and from the Midlands and Oxford by direct trains. We will meet at Winchester station at 10:15am and finish there at about 6:45pm.

South West London and Surrey tour by Routemaster Bus

Saturday 29 August

Organised by Ray Ritmeester

A long-awaited further mystery tour by vintage bus to Cinemas and Theatres. We shall visit venues in South West London and parts of North Surrey. The tour will pick up at a convenient railway station at about 10:00 and will include a stop for lunch, finishing late afternoon at another station in the south west suburbs of London. To reserve a place please send a cheque for £15 made payable to the Cinema Theatre Association and SAE to Ray Ritmeester, 66 Woodside Road High Wycombe, HP13 7JB. More precise times/pick up/set down arrangements will be in the next Bulletin and on the CTA website.



A Routemaster Bus on a previous CTA tour in 2006

By Tim Hatcher

Grade II*

A grant of £1.9m has been awarded by the Coastal Communities Fund to advance the renovation and partial restoration of the **Dreamland** Cinema and associated facilities in Margate. This disbursement will largely be expended on work to the façade and foyer block; the Sunshine Café therein will be stripped of its latter day Chinese motif and a lessee sought, who will be encouraged to replicate the original décor. It is proposed to let the ballroom as a separate entity. No work on the auditorium is currently scheduled to be undertaken. {15123}

A listed building consent application has not yet been made for the **Granada** at Walthamstow. It is understood that negotiations continue between owners Antic Ltd and Soho Theatre Company concerning the conflicting spatial requirements of dual hostelry and performing arts operation. { 9397}

The CTA Committee has bestowed a grant of £2,500 from legacy funds upon the **Paignton Picture House** Trust to further its progress towards re-opening the cinema. {22124}

Grade II

A West Dorset family has purchased the **Palace** at Bridport and is reported to be contemplating its refurbishment. {22418}

The Association has been successful in its endeavour to secure listed status for the auditorium, the Compton organ and the ancillary spaces of the **Polytechnic Cinema** in London's Regent Street.

Unlisted

The owner of **Pyke's Cinematograph Theatre** in Shepherd's Bush has now submitted a formal application for permission to demolish. It has also been claimed by this party that the significant surviving terra-cotta plaque is too 'crazed' to be salvaged and suggested that a mould be taken in order to manufacture a replica for incorporation into the replacement building. Although the cinema is unlikely to prove listable, the Association is to object to its demolition on the grounds of its value as an essential element of a neighbouring trio of entertainment halls and because of its association with prominent architect John Stanley Beard.



The **Palladium** Hockley (Birmingham) in March 2008

A local campaigner in Hockley (Birmingham) has reported that the **Picture House / Palladium** is under threat. Its frontage features an interesting Arts and Crafts style but, sadly, little of the original interior remains intact. The local Council will be contacted to ascertain its viewpoint on and intentions for the structure.

... Much more casework
in the full Bulletin

PUBLICATIONS

Back Numbers Available

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 .



Offers of contributions to this year's *Picture House* should be made to the editor by 31 May. We would like to feature a week-by-week record of programming at the **Paramount** Manchester from opening to take-over by Odeon, ie from 6 October 1930 to 27 November 1939. This would require some extensive research in a reference library. It would valuably supplement other, mostly pictorial material to hand on the cinema during this period. If anyone is interested in researching this and providing the information in an agreed format on a computer file, please contact me at [allen@aeyles.plus.com] or 01444 455 763. Name credit would, of course, be given.

Allen Eyles, Editor *Picture House*



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.

Recent Publications (reviewed in previous Bulletins)

How Belfast Saw the Light: A Cinematic History

by Tom Hughes. 720 pages, paperback, £20.00 + postage.

Alpha to Odyssey:

A Short History of a St Albans Cinema by Penny Dade.

A5 paperback, 62 pages, illustrated, £4.99 + postage.

The Auditorium: A historical look at cinemas in and around old North Warwickshire by Peter Lea.

A5 Paperback, 66 pages. £12.95 plus postage.

London's West End Cinemas by Allen Eyles.

Special price to CTA members, £20.00 plus postage.

Going to the Pictures (Nottingham): £4.99 + postage.

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.

Also Available (but not from the Sales Officer)

A Kinematograph Journey Through London 1907-8 By Tony Fletcher; 140 pages, A4 paperback, £15.00

This book is a snapshot of the venues in London that were showing films in London during 1907 and 1908. The title may not sound too promising – this was early days with very few purpose-built cinemas but with numerous halls and theatres showing moving pictures. The content draws primarily on records in the London Metropolitan Archives – plans, photographs, programmes, correspondence over safety issues, etc – but supplemented by material from trade magazines and private collections. Tony Fletcher does not step out of the period to explain what happened to these venues (this would have made the book impossibly lengthy and required a huge amount of additional research). The buildings are arranged not by area but in one long alphabetical list, which is sometimes just the address, and sometimes the name (all the venues with 'Royal' at the start of their names are grouped together although located widely apart). I thought this book might be unavoidably dull and heavy-going but it proves continually fascinating in its wide and plentiful range of illustrations and revealing in the huge amount of detail gathered on the state of the buildings, the films shown, some court cases etc. It adds up to a valuable guide to this very early period of cinema history and is highly recommended. You will have to make an effort to buy it as it is not receiving proper distribution through bookshops but can be ordered via the website of The Cinema Museum (adding post and packing) [www.cinemamuseum.org.uk] or post free on a visit to one of the many events there.

Allen Eyles



THE STATE / GRANADA DARTFORD

By Reg Larkman

Barely a mile from the Greater London boundary lies the first town in North West Kent, the one-time successful Dartford, with an abundance of big name stores, a beautiful park and swimming pool and the cinemas. Over the years the town has fallen into decline and is slowly becoming a ghost town with customers preferring to visit the nearby huge shopping mall at Bluewater, with its multiplex cinema and more than 300 shops.

The three Dartford cinemas [Rialto, Scala and State] were run by Medway Cinemas until 1949 when the Granada group took them over and eventually re-named them. The largest of the three [the State] became the Granada and had the pick of the releases as there was no opposition within barring reach. A chief projectionist was required under the new company and they sadly promoted an incompetent man from the existing team. So Dartford Granada was a dream cinema with the best films to show and a modest seating capacity, so keeping running costs at a minimum.

What's on in DARTFORD

STATE MONDAY, NOVEMBER 10th AND WEDNESDAY, 11th 12.30 & 7.30 p.m.

GRACIE FIELDS SHIPYARD SALLY With SYDNEY HOWARD

TOD SLAUGHTER MARJORIE TAYLOR THE FACE AT THE WINDOW REGINALD NEW

SCALA PHONE 3182

CONFESIONS OF A **NAZI SPY** EDWARD G. ROBINSON GEORGE SANDERS FRANCIS LEDICER PAUL LUCAS

MISS THIS FILM AT YOUR PERIL!

RIALTO PHONE 3372

THE RITZ BROTHERS ANITA LOUISE

THE GORILLA JOHN TRENT MARJORIE REYNOLDS

STUNT PILOT WITH BERT ROBERTS

FOR GUARANTEED ENTERTAINMENT FOLLOW THIS SIGN

Apart from a short break during the first few days of the War, the cinemas stayed open, providing a stable form of entertainment in uncertain times. Starring in Dartford and many other local cinemas in November 1939 was a timely film, "Confessions of a Nazi Spy" starring Edward G. Robinson.



Photos from CTA Archive; adverts supplied by the author



In those days I was training at an original Granada for over four years and succeeded completing an apprentice scheme and learned the Granada way to present a programme. On my day off I would occasionally drop by at the Granada Dartford to see their programme and I couldn't believe the appalling standard of projection, so much that I was embarrassed to be an employee of the company.

Dartford had a few sell-out one night stage shows, including Cliff Richard, Billy Fury, Adam Faith etc but with a small stage and no fly tower they were short-lived.

CinemaScope was installed in the early 1950s with a 4-track sound system. In the larger Granada Theatres with their wide prosceniums, the 2.55:1 screen fitted easily but with takeover locations like Dartford it was a 'botch-up' situation with bad cropping of the picture. CinemaScope pioneers 20th Century Fox would not have been amused.

In the 60s, following my experience at original Granadas I was transferred to Dartford. I was young, confident and enthusiastic for the Granada rules but I was filled with horror at this move, whereas the only similarity between this Granada and the others was the usherettes' uniforms.

GRANADA
DARTFORD 2101

NOW! Michael Keogrove **THE BROWNING VERSION (A)**
Lucan McShane **OLD MOTHER RILEY'S JUNGLE TREASURE (U)**

MONDAY, THREE DAYS MAY 7th WEEK THURSDAY, THREE DAYS

ARTHUR KENNEDY PEGGY DOW **CLAUDETTE COLBERT PATRIC KNOWLES**

LIGHTS OUT **THREE CAME HOME**
2.20, 5.30, 8.55 (A) 1.25, 5.0, 8.40 (A)

RONALD REGAN DIANA LYNN **LESLIE HOWARD WENDY HILLER**

BEDTIME for BONZO **PYGMALION**
12.50, 4.0, 7.20 (U) 3.10, 6.50 (A)

SUNDAY ● John Wayne, Marlene Dietrich **PITTSBURGH (A)**
MAY 6th Bruce Cabot, Jacqueline Wells **CRIME'S END (A)**

RIALTO . DARTFORD 3372

NOW! Richard Todd **FLESH and BLOOD (A)**
Michael Rennie **UNEASY TERMS (A)**

MONDAY, THREE DAYS MAY 7th WEEK THURSDAY, THREE DAYS

Open 12.45 Last Prog. 7.15 Open 1.15 Last Prog. 7.20

EDMOND O'BRIEN WANDA HENDRIX **JEAN SIMMONS DONALD HOUSTON**

ADMIRAL was a LADY **The BLUE LAGOON**
2.40, 5.45, 8.55 (U) 2.40, 5.40, 8.35 (A)

DENNIS PRICE JACK HAWKINS **TED RAY**

The ADVENTURERS **RAY OF SUNSHINE**
1.15, 4.20, 7.30 (A) 1.45, 4.40, 7.35 (U)

SUNDAY ● Open 3.0. Last Prog. 6.30—Gregory Peck, Joan Bennett
MAY 6th **MACOMBER AFFAIR (A)** **GAS HOUSE KIDS IN HOLLYWOOD (A)**

THE SERVICE WITH A SMILE THEATRES

THE FIRST ODEON ENTHUSIAST

By Allen Eyles

When writing the history of Oscar Deutsch's building of the **Odeon** cinema chain – *ODEON CINEMAS 1: Oscar Deutsch Entertains Our Nation* (CTA, 2002 – and still available!) – I occasionally wondered whether, had I been a youngster at the time these new **Odeons** were opening in the 1930s, I would have been keeping a record of them and visiting as many of them as possible. I'm encouraged to think I would have, after seeing a scrapbook compiled by former CTA member Kenneth Hester which his daughter has sent to me and which will go to the CTA Archive. Its opening page, written when Hester was aged 14, reads "This book is dedicated to **Odeon** Theatres. These cinemas are the most modern and comfortable in England... This book is composed entirely from cuttings of **Odeon** magazines, etc. K. Hester, 7.4.36."



It has drawings or photographs of Surbiton, Kenton, Kingsbury, South Harrow, Chingford, Southgate, Kingston, Sudbury (then called Sudbury Town), Barnet and many others. There are notes on the names of the resident organists where organs were installed. The drawings, of course, tend to show an enhanced view of the cinema that was actually built. There is also a composite page of new **Odeons**. And, at the back, there is a listing (on browning newsprint) of the programme at all the existing **Odeons** in the week when Barnet and Finchley were showing *The Last Days of Pompeii* – was this part of **Odeon**'s own publicity or did it appear in a national newspaper? Where the listing overran the size of the scrapbook page, the newsprint has crumbled into loose fragments, so is sadly no longer complete.

While this small book provides no new information about **Odeon** (and peters out early on in 1936), it does indicate that there was a least one young enthusiast for cinema buildings when they were new, long before the threat of their destruction brought about the creation of the CTA. In particular, the book highlights the distinctive series of AP Starkey **Odeons** – not one of which has been preserved by listing (although Colindale still stands in a very poor state).



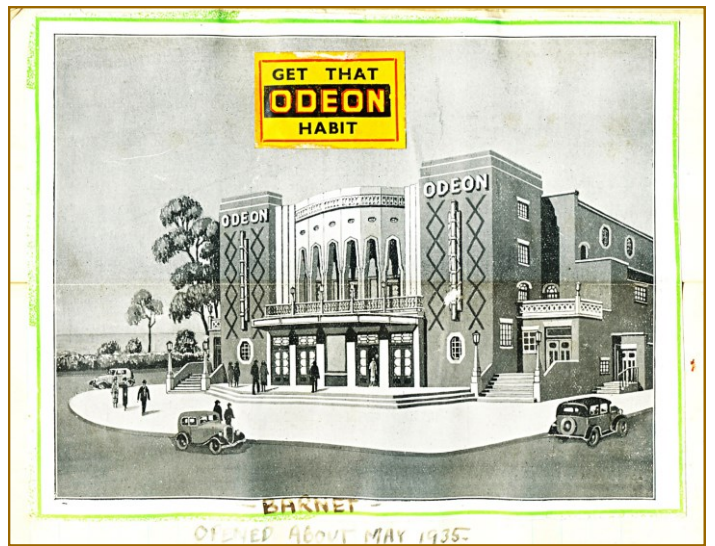
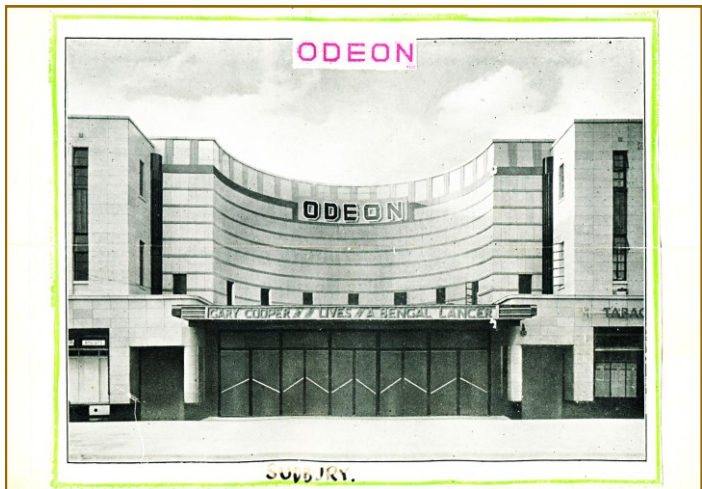
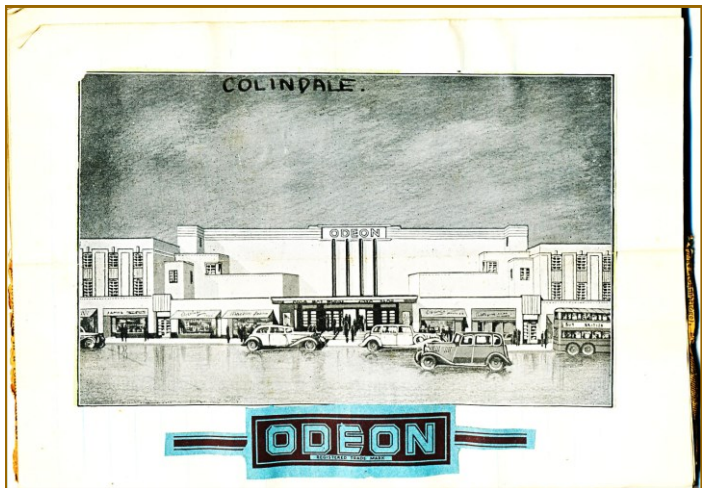
[L] Kenneth Hester (24 February 1922 – 13 November 2004)

[R] Front of the **Odeon** record book, size 193mm tall by 77mm wide

Kenneth Hester's daughter, Brenda Bugg, writes: "Dad was a long-time member of the CTA and in earlier years, before he became infirm, he went on many of the visits to cinemas up and down the country. He was also a cinema organ enthusiast and could name where all the restored **Odeon** Theatre organs were. He and Mum went to the post-war reopening of the **Odeon** Theatre at Haverstock Hill by special invitation, after he wrote a letter to **Odeon** management stating his long-time affection for **Odeon**. I clearly remember my mother getting very cross with him when they returned as he recalled at length his experiences about meeting and chatting with Diana Dors, who was on ceremonial duties that evening! Dad would have been so very pleased that the record book will be kept to be enjoyed by like-minded enthusiasts."



Your
ODEON
THEATRE
PRESENTS THE PICK
OF THE WEEK'S FILMS



ODEON

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]

ABERAVON (Neath Port Talbot)

The six-screen **Reel** (ex **Apollo**) at Hollywood Park is to be extended to include a new entrance and foyer together with a café, restaurants and a family entertainment centre.

South Wales Evening Post – 7 April; photo taken July 2008

ABERDEEN

Cineworld has begun talks with the landlords at both their Union Square and Queen's Links premises as they consider an **IMAX** screen.

Sent in by Carl Chesworth

ABINGDON (Oxon)

Four national cinema chains [un-named] are bidding to operate a 200-seat cinema in **The Guildhall**. Under current plans the venue will close in August for a £3.5m redevelopment. Work is set to begin in early 2016 for a 2017 opening.

Oxford Mail – 8 April; Oxford Times – 9 April

ARNOLD (Notts)

The **Bonington Theatre** (based in Arnold Leisure Centre and run by Gedling Borough Council) is to install a new purpose-made cinema screen, together with a digital projector and Dolby sound system.

Sent in by Terry Hanstock

ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE (Tameside, Greater Manchester)

An opening night of 19 August 2016 has been set for the **Tameside Hippodrome**. The grade II listed former cinema was closed by its Council owners in 2008 and has lain empty since. Now campaigners have earned permission to take over the lease and will pay a pepper-corn rent and foot the bills for repair with a mixture of fundraising and grants. See p 18 Bulletin 48/6. {2059}

Manchester Evening News – 26 February; sent in by Carl Chesworth & Nick Taylor

BASILDON (Essex)

Councillors told the developer of a new £20m cinema on top of the Eastgate Shopping Centre to submit a new design and delayed a decision on planning permission as a nearby business had objected to the plans. The revised plans were accepted a month later. The new reports mention ten screens, as opposed to the fifteen reported on p14 of the last Bulletin. Opening is expected by winter 2017; no operator has been mentioned.

Basildon Echo – 26 February, 27 March; sent in by Carl Chesworth

BELFAST

A cinema is amongst options being considered for the 1933 **Kings Hall**, owned by the Royal Ulster Agricultural Society. It closed as an exhibition and conference centre in June 2012.

Belfast Telegraph – 13 March

FROM PICTURES TO PINTS: Cinemas That Became Pubs

A 32-page Bulletin-style magazine featuring
over 100 buildings with colour photographs

£3.00 per copy plus £1.40 postage

Gavin McGrath, Flat E, 4 Meadow Close,
LONDON E9 5NZ

BERKHAMSTED (Herts)



Owner of the **Rex**, James Hannaway, has cancelled matinées for parents and infants after complaints from staff and other customers. Staff had collected 'still warm' nappies from the floor and suffered 'misery' as they put up with first-time mothers with armoured tanks [prams] and a not always helpful attitude as they spread everything from the tank everywhere. Other audience members had complained about infants being allowed into screenings and threatened to report the cinema to the authorities if little faces in tanks turn up for a [15] certificate film. {11677} *photo taken April 2005 at CTA AGM*

Daily Mail – 10 April; sent in by Carl Chesworth & Barry Quinton

BEXHILL (East Sussex)

Wetherspoons have put in a planning application to convert the former **Curzon/Redstack** into one of their pubs. {27997}

Sent in by Andrew J Crotty

BIRMINGHAM (Central)

The future of the **Electric** has been secured after plans to build apartments next door were scrapped following objections. We reported on p 22 of Bulletin 49/1 the possibility that residents of these flats might object to noise pollution from the cinema. {9559}

Birmingham Post – 5 March

BOGNOR REGIS (West Sussex)

The **Picturedrome** opened its third screen in its landmark octagonal tower on Friday 26 March with workmen still putting the finishing touches to the auditorium that very afternoon. Costing around £100,000 it seats 33 patrons in four rows and utilises the available space in an attractive and effective manner. It boasts stadium seating with spacious leg room – there is 1.5m between rows – and the sightlines are superb. A £25,000 laser digital projector gives an outstandingly clear picture and, although there are no screen curtains, there is blue LED lighting around the screen. The auditorium has the latest hearing impaired technology and it can also cater for Power-Point presentations, which could bring in extra revenue when the screen is available for private hire. The opening of the eagerly awaited screen ③ marks the first stage in further improvements to the **Picturedrome** (1885, Arthur Smith). Building work will begin soon on screen ④ (to be built at the rear of the building in the cinema car park) while screen ① will have a new silver screen fitted as well as sound upgrades during April and May. {14782}

Bognor Regis View – 27 March; sent in by Mike Whitcombe

BOLTON (Lancs)

Construction work on the new 1,200-seat nine screen **Light** cinema to be built on top of the Market Place Shopping Centre started on 1 March. A large crane has been brought in to erect the steel framework of the cinema. The auditoria will seat between 80 and 270. It is expected to open in December.

Bolton Journal – 26 February, 26 March; Bolton News – 20 March; sent in by Philip Crompton

BOURNEMOUTH

Plans to use the basement of the former **IMAX** cinema as an art gallery have been rejected by the Council. The upper part of the building was demolished in 2013. {40986}

Daily Echo (Bournemouth) – 27 March

BRADFORD (West Yorks)



Workers have removed 200 tonnes of material from the inside of the former **New Victoria / Gaumont / Odeon** at the start of the £1.3m repairs programme. The twin domes have been reinforced and stripped of their covering ahead of plans to put new copper in place. The 1960s alterations are being removed to reveal the original 1930s décor. Tests are being carried out on the timber, steel and concrete to determine the strength of the building. The next big step is the serious and difficult demolition work needed to open up the original auditorium space, which has yet to be priced up and funded. The plans are to create a 4,000 capacity venue for live music and theatre at a total cost of about £18m. Video and photos from the *Yorkshire Post* at [tinyurl.com/qjds5tu] and the BBC at [tinyurl.com/qjds5tu].

Yorkshire Post – 3 March; photo taken 5 March by John West

BRECHIN (Angus)

The Council has given permission for a community cinema in the **City Hall** to operate at a community rate. **Flicks** showed its first film on 11 April.

Evening Telegraph (Dundee) – 24 February

BRIGHTON

The grade II listed former **Astoria** has been sold to a student housing developer for £5.5m and is likely to be demolished. Attempts had been made to save it but all failed. It opened in December 1933 with 1,823 seats, full stage facilities and an organ. 70mm was installed in 1958 but it closed in May 1977. Bingo took over but the building has been disused since that closed around 1996. {1844}

The Argus (Brighton) – 8, 9 April; sent in by Barry Quinton

CAMBRIDGE



The former **Tivoli** was destroyed by fire on 14 March. It opened in March 1925 and films ceased in November 1956. It was used as a warehouse for many years and in 2004 was converted into a pub, known as *The Graduate*. It became a Wetherspoons pub in July 2010 under its original name, *The Tivoli*. Fire investigators were unable to access the building for several weeks as it was deemed unsafe to enter. {36849} photo taken July 2004

BBC News website – 14 March; *Cambridge News* – 18 March; sent in by David Alexander, Anthony Fulford-Brown & John West

CAMBUSLANG (South Lanark)



The former **Savoy**, designed by the Glasgow-born architect John Fairweather, reopened in January as a Wetherspoon pub. It's been called *The John Fairweather* in honour of its designer. His grandson was present at the opening. The original stage area has been retained as a feature dining area while the original decorative ceiling and balcony plasterwork have been restored. The balcony seating and one of the projectors have also been retained. The imposing four-storey building has been a local landmark on the south-eastern outskirts of Glasgow since 1929, when it opened as a cinema with facilities for theatrical use. It later became a bingo hall and was grade C listed in 2008. John Fairweather was one of Scotland's foremost cinema architects and is best known for designing the **Playhouse** Glasgow. When it opened in 1927, it was believed to be the largest cinema in Europe with seating for 4,400 patrons; it was demolished in 1987. It is thought that the **Playhouse** in Edinburgh is the only example of John Fairweather's work still in use as originally intended. {25853}

Wetherspoon News – spring 2015; photo taken July 2009 sent in by Jeremy Buck, John West & Mike Whitcombe.

CAMPBELTOWN (Argyll & Bute)

A further £300,000 has been awarded to the **Picture House** by Highlands and Island Enterprise, bringing the confirmed funding so far to £2.7m, just shy of the £2.8m target for the cinema's restoration. {16090}

Glasgow Herald, Press & Journal (Aberdeen) – 12 March

CANNOCK (Staffs)

A proposed multi-screen cinema has been cut from plans for a new designer shopping village at Mill Green. The news was welcomed by the proprietor of the independent three screen **Electric Palace Picture House**. The Council has indicated that if the proposed cinema does not go ahead, it will look at the possibility of a second cinema in the town centre.

Express & Star – 24 February, 2 March

CARDIFF

The five-screen 755-seat **Première** cinema was due to open on 10 April; tickets are only £4. It will have laser projection in four of the screens. It is housed in the former **Odeon** in the Capitol Centre, which closed in August 2001 after a life of only ten years. {6833}

South Wales Echo – 21 March; *Western Mail* – 9 April; sent in by Jon Williams

Planning permission has been granted to turn a grade II listed former tram shed in Grangetown into an Arts Centre with a 1,000-capacity performance space and a 40-seat cinema. See p16 last Bulletin.

Wales Online – 17 April

...Eight more pages of cinema news
and colour photos from the all over the
UK in the full Bulletin.

LETTERS

CERTIFICATION

A fascinating letter by Ian Patterson got me thinking about how film certification affected me as a teenager in the 1950s. Obviously I wanted to get around the problem and as a young boy would ask adults to “take me in” if it was an [A] film. I was never refused! But in teenage years I wanted to gain access to films that were daring and maybe salacious too. I managed to get in to see *Women of Twilight* [X] when I was 14. No big deal. It wasn't all that salacious! I remember coming out of the **Ritz/ABC** in Barnsley hugely disappointed! The [X] rating had been introduced in 1951 when the [H] certificate was felt to be too limiting to ‘horror’ only – which it was. Initially you had to be 16 to gain access to see an [X] film. In my home cinema here in Yorkshire I was showing the 1953 film *The Yellow Balloon* a wonderfully atmospheric and thrilling film with a good deal of ‘threat’ from William Sylvester chasing Andrew Ray in the Underground to ‘silence’ him as he had seen Sylvester’s character murdering another guy. Strong stuff I suppose. It was the second film to be given a [X] certificate (the first, I think, was *Cosh Boy*). But I remember seeing this film at my local cinema in 1954 and it had been rated [A], so I suppose it had been edited to gain a wider screening. Not sure if the version I’ve got from the *London Collection* is the edited version or the original but it’s a film I would recommend that’s way ahead of the normal for the fifties.

Terry Ladlow

I thought I saw *No Love for Johnnie* [not Jonnie] in 1960 before I started at the **Odeon** Torquay in 1961 but I saw it on television about May 1986. What a great cast: Peter Finch, Mary Peach, Stanley Holloway, Donald Pleasance, Billie Whitelaw and many others.

James E Tilmouth

In his letter in the last issue of the Bulletin (page 27), Ian Patterson said he had never seen *No Love for Johnnie* and did not know if it was for sale as a DVD. I have a copy so I can confirm that it is available. It has a [12] Certificate compared to the [X] Certificate it was given for cinema release in 1960. The rights to the film are now owned by ITV Studios along with all the other titles that were in the Rank film library. *No Love for Johnnie* is distributed by Strawberry Media Limited [www.strawberrymedia.net].

Tony Williams



PORT TALBOT AND NELSON

Good to see the **Plaza** Port Talbot in the ‘Happy Birthday’ column (Bulletin 49/2 p30). However, the architect is known. He was Howard Williams, a Cardiff architect, as mentioned in my article *Balcony Projection Rooms* (Bulletin 46/3 p12). It was also interesting to see the probably only extant image of the **Theatre De Luxe** in Nelson, Lancashire. It was variously nicknamed “the bug hut” and “the tin tabernacle” but had the unique distinction of being Nelson’s first purpose-built cinema. It opened on 29 August 1910, which is around the year of the image. It was of corrugated iron and wood; and accommodated 500 on benches with stoves for heating. After a succession of management changes and periods dark, it finally closed on 13 April 1940, having been refused a licence renewal because of the dangerous state of the building for use as a cinema. It was demolished and a nursery / primary school erected on the site. What it sounded like inside when it rained, can only be imagined.

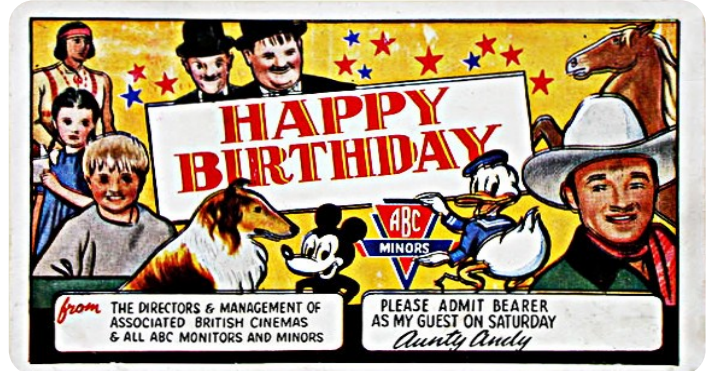
Hector Hill

JEAN PERKINS

I was sorry to read of the passing in November of former CTA and THSA member Jean Perkins. (Bulletin, March/April, page 31). She was the cheerful, friendly lady who recruited me into the CTA in Philadelphia in June 1985. During the 1980s Jean was a tireless tub-thumper for the CTA in the United States.

Ron Salters

KIDS CLUBS



I just happened to be listening to *The Film Programme* on BBC Radio 4 on 29 January. They had a segment on these clubs based on listeners memories so we heard about the **ABC Minors** and the **Odeon** equivalent and what went on at these shows. Tales of mayhem, prizes for various things, children going up on stage, the organ playing to accompany singing and what they all really wanted: the films. It was a fascinating segment that probably lasted no more than about 7 minutes but took us back to another time through the voices of people who had their memories. This is available as a downloadable podcast on BBC iPlayer for those who didn't hear the programme.

Peter Chester

MUSICAL MUSEUM

The concert hall in the **Musical Museum** in Brentford hosts a series of films, concerts and dances. It is home to the Wurlitzer organ from the **Regal** Kingston-on-Thames. It is very enjoyable and there are always good prints. [www.musicalmuseum.co.uk]

John Warner

21ST CENTURY FOX?

A fox was photographed looking out of the Scarborough **Futurist** bar window. Whether he'd been on a whisky or whatever is unsure but it was entirely appropriate for him to be in charge of the closed cinema; Fox films had been shown there many times. Maybe next there'll be a lion – a reminder of MGM days there. So, it's not surprising that a zoo company has put in a bid for the theatre, to demolish it and create a Flamingoland Zoo statement on Foreshore Road in Scarborough. The fox looked sad, just like the empty, forlorn cinema.

Terry Ladlow

ODEON LEICESTER SQUARE

I think somebody has their wires crossed. There was a quote in the last Bulletin saying that it was announced at the last organ concert that the cinema was closing for a refurbishment. In fact what I said was that it was a possibility but nothing was definite.

Donald McKenzie

EARLIEST CINEMA HISTORIAN?

Anyone who reads (or writes) histories of local cinemas may be interested in who wrote the first one. Surely nobody can beat the Huddersfield historian Stanley Chadwick who wrote *The Mighty Screen: the rise of the cinema in Huddersfield* in 1953. I can find nothing earlier than 1973 (which covered Gateshead), so this man was a real pioneer. Few cared about cinemas then or saw much significance in them and the CTA was 14 years ahead. So to cover dates, architects, opening films, seating capacity, who opened a cinema, what key films it showed and have a useful gazetteer was a good start all those years ago. Sadly the historian was killed in a house fire in June 1983 but the library has his book and press cuttings dating back a century.

Martin Tapsell

...Two more pages of letters from members in the full Bulletin.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

100 years

Kingsland Empire (Classic/Rio) 107 Kingsland High Road, Dalston. Originally opened May 1915. Architects: Percy C Adams / George Coles / Frank E Bromige. Listed Grade II.



Grosvenor 137 Grosvenor Street, All Saints, Manchester. Opened 19 May 1915. Architect unknown. Listed Grade II. [above]

Cinema De Luxe (News Theatre / Tatler / Classic) 15 Renfield Street, Glasgow. Opened 22 May 1915. Architect: James Miller. B listed (façade only). [Right]

80 years

Odeon Great North Road, Barnet. Opened 15 May 1935. Architect: Edgar Simmons. Listed Grade II.

Odeon 18 Walliscote Road, Weston-Super-Mare. Opened 25 May 1935. Architect T Cecil Howitt. Listed Grade II. See p23 last Bulletin.

75 years

Regal (ABC) 262 Camberwell Road, Camberwell, London. Opened 17 June 1940. Architect: Leslie H Kemp. Listed Grade II. [Below]



ARCHIVE

The archive is located at 226 Roxwell Studios, Leyton, London E10 7QY. It is open from 10am to 4pm on the following dates and at other times by special arrangement.

16 May 13 June 11 July

To make an enquiry, go to the Archive page on our website: [cta-uk.org/uk-cinemas/cinema-heritage-archive/].

To arrange to visit the archive on one of the dates above please email Clive Polden at [cta-archive@hotmail.co.uk].

Getting There: Take the Victoria Line or National Rail to Walthamstow Central then catch W19 bus to its terminus at Argall Avenue. Follow the road ahead of bus stop around the corner; the studios will be found on the left.

Archive Charges:

• Making enquiries to establish what material is held	Free
• Visiting the archive to undertake research	Free
• Each image/page copied	Members £1.50
• Each image/page copied	Non-Members £3.00

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

... The Archive is a very important part of the CTA's work. The full Bulletin usually contains more details –

THE NORTHERN LIGHT CINEMA, WIRKSWORTH

By Chris Smith

Wirksworth is a popular Derbyshire town, especially for those wish to visit the picturesque Peak District, situated as it is slightly more than twenty miles to the north west of Derby. However, since July 2013 it has also been home to the **Northern Light** cinema – the brainchild of Paul and Esther Carr. They acquired the site, a former Malthouse on North End, Wirksworth and for many years the site of Weston's electrical supplies shop, when it came on to the property market in April 2012.

The cinema was built without funds from the National Lottery and was only possible through Paul and Esther selling a plot of land at the side of their house to Paul's mother-in-law. Planning permission was eventually granted in January 2013. The licensing permissions were originally granted in April but were appealed against and permission was finally granted just 2 days before the opening night on 4 July 2013 – the first film to be screened was the 1954 version of *A Streetcar Named Desire* with Marlon Brando and Vivien Leigh.



The auditorium of the **Northern Light** cinema [1]

A quick browse through the January/February brochure is testament to a diverse range of screenings such as *The Cabinet of Dr Caligari* with a live original score, as well as recent hits such as *Mr Turner* and classic Hollywood fare like *It Happened One Night*. The cinema benefited from the efforts of the local community with people volunteering their services at weekends to renovate it. One of the great idiosyncratic charms of the auditorium is the seating. All 52 seats were part of the former Darlington **Civic Theatre**. Indeed, the cinema continues to benefit from volunteer support and, although the final say on the decision to screen a film rests with Paul, there is input from the working group, which consists of between 6 and 10 members of the local community who share a passion for film and what it can do for the community. Spanning the ages, members of the group range from their teens to their eighties and each brings their own passions as well as general advice and support to planning meetings.



The bar area of the **Northern Light** cinema [1]



The exterior of the **Northern Light** cinema [2]

Part of the licensing restrictions means that no tickets can be sold on the door – all tickets must be purchased in advance. Presumably, the licensing authorities envisaged long queues of cinema patrons cluttering up the street. In order to maintain good relationships with his neighbours, patrons are encouraged not to park on the street but to make use of local car parks. The projection box, at the moment, houses Blu-Ray projection equipment and, as a consequence, there can be a time lag of 12 to 16 weeks between national release dates and a new film appearing at the **Northern Light**. There is a thirteen and a half metre throw for projection. However, Paul and Esther are injecting a further £25K into the cinema for a new Barco 2K DCI compliant projector in February 2015, so will be entering the realms of mainstream distribution.

Towards the end of last year I attended a screening of an old favourite of mine, *Kind Hearts and Coronets* on a damp, cold Thursday evening. On entering the cinema from the street you find yourself in the bar area, which on film nights is usually packed. There were no trailers or advertisements, just straight on with the film, which seemed to add to the enjoyment of the film. The atmosphere was cosy and intimate, more akin to a meeting of old friends than a public screening, a feeling that was re-enforced in discussions with members of the audience after the screening. In conclusion, if you ever find yourself in this lovely part of Derbyshire why not make a point of visiting this charming and quirky cinema – you may never have visited anywhere quite like it! {41667}

Photos [1] by the author & [2] by Harry Rigby

Join the **CINEMA ORGAN SOCIETY**

for the best news and views about
the wonderful world of the theatre organ

* Bi-monthly Newsletter * Quarterly glossy magazine *

Concert news	Conventions	Private practice
Record reviews	Social events	Open console meetings
Organised visits	Workshops	Recorded music evenings

Full membership only £24 a year

For membership details and sample publications contact

David Shepherd, COS Membership Secretary
Dolby House, Barrington Gate, Holbeach, Spalding, PE12 7DA
or email membership@cinema-organs.org.uk

www.cinema-organs.org.uk