

CINEMA THEATRE ASSOCIATION

www.cta-uk.org Vol 49 No 2





The Empire Holyhead in May 2014 - see Newsreel p18; photo by Paul Bland





FROM YOUR EDITOR

Welcome to the 'Bulletin Lite'. This is a 12-page condensed version of the full CTA Bulletin, which is sent to all members. It normally consists of 36 or 32 pages of news, reports and articles so we hope this 'taster' will whet your appetite and encourage you to join – joining details are given opposite. As well as what you see here, there is always a report from the Casework committee, which campaigns to preserve historic cinemas, a membership report, a report from our Archive and full details of events open to members only. There is also news about the cinema business and many more pages of newsreel and letters. Members are encouraged to send in news and articles and 'holiday snaps' are often a feature.

I have printed photos of two 100 Years of Cinema plaques on the front cover, taken in their correct locations – but where? One is easy but the other is a bit more challenging. The condition of the plaques should give you a clue. No prizes – answers next time.

The Widescreen Weekend at the National Media Museum in Bradford will take place from 15-18 October this year and not in the spring, as previously. If the programme is published in time for the September/October Bulletin [deadline 20 August] we'll bring it to you, otherwise I'll print the link to the website.

Not far from Bradford is Leeds. The Town Hall has a free lunchtime organ concert every Monday in winter. On 13 April, Nigel Ogden will be playing the resplendent Town Hall organ – details on p3 and photo below [L]. I usually sit in one of the first few rows on the far side of the balcony so if you go to this concert, please come and say hello.





Finally, obviously not a cinema but the photo above [R] was sent to me by Hugh Sykes, along with the photos of his 'wanderings' . It was taken somewhere in Cornwall and the sign says, "Sorry, Sold Out!". Hugh adds, "At those prices [2/3d gallon] I'm not surprised!"

See you at the AGM.

Harry Rigby, CTA Bulletin Editor

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.

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE MONDAY 20 APRIL

CINEMA THEATRE ASSOCIATION

(founded 1967)

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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Riverside Road, London, SW17 OBA [www.ludo.co.uk]

VISITS AND EVENTS

Annual General Meeting 2015

Saturday 25 April at 2pm

The AGM will be held at 'The Gallery' at Alan Baxter's, Farringdon, London. Doors open 1:30pm. Light refreshments will be served. Following the official business and casework presentation it is hopeful that a short visit to a local venue might be possible. The CTA book stall will also be in attendance.

Nominations for committee members are invited and should be sent to the Secretary, Adam Unger [address on p2] to arrive seven days before the meeting.

Wandering to Winchester (Advance Notice)

Saturday 20 June

A summer's day out in Mid-Hampshire, starting and finishing in Winchester with visits to Alton and Romsey. Further details and booking arrangements will be published in the next Bulletin. Why not make a note in your diary now!

Coming Soon (July or August)

A tour of cinemas in South West London by 'Routemaster' bus. Details in the next Bulletin.

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 PLAZA, STOCKPORT

Friday 3 April Alfie (1966) [15]

Tuesday 14 April ‡ Sing-a-long Frozen at 11am, 3pm & 6:30pm

Friday 1 May Carry on Doctor (1967) [PG]

[with a Q+A session with star Anita Harris after the 7:30pm show]

Friday 22 May Hitchcock's Vertigo (1958) [PG]

At 2:30pm & 7:30pm (except ‡); all seats £6.50, concessions £5.50. Organ introductions commence 30 minutes before most films. Box Office: 0161 477 7779; website [www.stockportplaza.co.uk].

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

Silent film shows and events featuring the Wurlitzer Organ.

Monday 6 April Harold Lloyd in *The Freshman* (1925) at 5pm

accompanied by Paul Gregson **Tuesday 21 April** concert by Nicholas Mai

Tuesday 21 April concert by Nicholas Martin at 12:30pm
Monday 4 May Fritz Lang's Metropolis (1927) at 1pm

accompanied by David Ivory

Tuesday 19 May concert by Paul Roberts at 12:30pm 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]

NIGEL OGDEN AT LEEDS TOWN HALL ORGAN

The Organist Entertains - Monday 13 April at 1:05pm

Nigel Ogden will be playing the magnificent Abbot & Smith/ Wordsworth 1905/1972 III/100 pipe organ in Leeds Town Hall. This is part of the regular series of lunchtime organ recitals. Admission <u>free</u> (retiring collection). [www.leedsconcertseason.com]

...Many more events and complete details in the full Bulletin.

CASEWORK

By Tim Hatcher

REQUEST FOR MEMBERS' ASSISTANCE.

Following a cinema building's closure, an appreciable period of time may elapse prior to the Casework Committee becoming aware of its altered status. However, an intervention to secure a venue's future is more likely to succeed if it is made in timely fashion. It could thus prove helpful if any member who becomes aware of an imminent cessation of business, proposed change of ownership or usage, or even a rumour of such, in his or her locality would inform the Committee, either by contacting the Casework Chair (contact details on second page of Bulletin), or the Association's Caseworker; e-mail address: [peterwylde84@gmail.com].

Grade II*

The South Essex News has reported that the **State** at Grays is to become another unit in the chain of JD Wetherspoon hostelries. The Association is to contact the Company in an attempt to ensure that the fabric of the structure is treated sympathetically during any conversion works. It will be stressed that the fine upper and lower foyers are of major import and should be retained intact. See p5 last Bulletin.



The Astoria Brixton as The Academy in May 2003

The **Astoria** in Brixton is to be internally refurbished and redecorated; archival information has been forwarded, in addition to information relating to paint analysis.

The CTA is to object to a proposal to erect an electronic advertising sign on the façade of the **Gaumont Palace** in Hammersmith. It is understood that the purpose of the sign would be not for promotion of the theatre's productions but instead for display of advertisement sequences of a general nature directed towards traffic on the nearby flyover. See front page Bulletin 48/5.

Planning permission relating to the **Carlton** in Islington has been renewed; no indication has been made available regarding a time-scale for any proposed works. See p11 last Bulletin.

Grade II

It is reported that the licensed premises operated within the **Capitol** at Forest Hill are to close and that the building will revert to film exhibition. Satisfaction at such an outcome is tempered by the likely subdivision of the auditorium, currently largely intact. The CTA is to request details and drawings of the proposals.

...Much more from the Casework Committee in the full Bulletin, including a report on Casework in Wales.

PUBLICATIONS

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.)

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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.



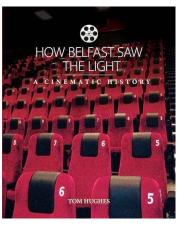


New Publications

How Belfast Saw the Light: A Cinematic History.

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

The culmination of years of research, Tom Hughes documents the arrival of films in Belfast in the mid 1890s and recreates the excitement of the first picture show at the Alhambra. From there the story details the spread of the picture-going habit, the growth of the Picture Palaces of the 1920s and 30s, their heyday in the 40s and 50s and decline and eventual recovery in the shape of the multiplexes. Along the way cinemas big and small are recalled and also the personalities who appeared in them and the show-

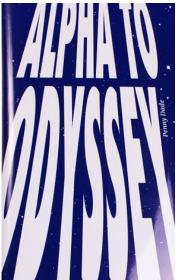


men who operated them. There is also study of major censorship conflicts which arose over the religious and political content of certain films, which the Corporation and its Police Committee attempted to control.

Alpha to Odyssey:

A Short History of a St Albans Cinema by Penny Dade. A5 paperback, 62 pages, illustrated, £4.99 + postage.

The Odeon in St Albans, Hertfordshire, closed in 1995 and lay derelict for the next 15 years. But now it has been refurbished and restored as the Odyssey, masterminded by James Hannaway, who has made such a success of the Rex Berkhamsted. This brief history takes us through the history of the building, starting with its predecessor on the site, the Alpha, through its rename as the Regent, then its rebuilding as the new Capitol of 1931, in which Robert Cromie had a hand and which became the Odeon in 1945. Although one would have liked a few more illustrations there are none of the recent restoration, as the book was pre-



pared before the opening last November – it is an interesting read and contains some fascinating advertisements and press reports.

Still Available (reviewed in previous issues)

London's West End Cinemas by Allen Eyles. Special price to CTA members, £20.00 + postage.

The Auditorium (North Warwickshire) – £12.95 + 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.

KINO CINEMA, RYE

By Wilf Watters

Rye, in East Sussex, has been without a proper cinema since the **Regent** closed in 1973. Its place has been taken by a now mostly unmanned Police station of three stories – grossly over-supplied for the small town. So it was with great interest that picture-goers in nearby Tenterden found out the news that the owners of the nearest cinema, the **Kino** in Hawkhurst, had chosen Rye for their next one, after trying to establish one in Tunbridge Wells. The **Kino** in Hawkhurst has proved to be a great success; it is open 7 days a week starting at 10:30am, even on Sundays. Hawkhurst is only a small place with one crossroads and traffic light. Talks had taken place with the Council at Tenterden to place their next cinema there but there seems to be hardly any hall suitable.



So it was a great occasion when I ventured forth to see the Rye theatre with its two screens and find out how things are going. I asked to see if the manager could find time to see me and the staff shook their heads saying he's far too busy but miracles do happen and a young man came bounding up clutching the last CTA Bulletin and sat down to see me It was indeed the top man, Matt Breckon. Yes, he said he is a member of the CTA and we had a chat. He explained the reason for coming to Rye and gave me a lot of detail. They had taken over two old buildings - one had been the Library and they had to spend half a million on building work, employing 20 builders. The original old tiles were reused and a restrained new entrance bolted on. The old library is now the refreshments, bar and ticket office and the two screens occupy the other similar vintage building. The two screens are labelled Red and Blue. The Blue screen has 48 seats and the Red 96; they are certainly very comfortable, with headrests. I decided to see The Imitation Game and at the 13:00 screening there were only two seats unfilled! The sound was good and there was only one advert - that was a trailer for a forthcoming film and a little featurette on a local painter who loved the surrounding scene and the many red roofs around. In all a rewarding experience and I hope one day to see the Kino also appearing in Tenterden.

All photos by the author

Editor's Note: [tinyurl.com/lwtdfx8] is a link to the *Architects' Journal* website with details and a video of the construction of the cinema.









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.

Special price for CTA members £29.50 + £6.00 postage from Jeremy Buck, CTA Sales Officer 34 Pelham Road, Wood Green, London, N22 6LN

(Publisher's price £45)

UXBRIDGE & HAYES

A report of the CTA Visit to Uxbridge and Hayes on 7 December 2014; organised by Ray Ritmeester, report by Ken Roe

It was almost 14 years since I organised my Hillingdon Highlights CTA visit to this outer northwest London area on 3 February 2001 (My! How time flies by!). This latest excursion to the area would repeat some of the buildings we saw on the previous visit but take in a couple of buildings which the CTA had never visited before. As the group gathered at our meeting place in the entrance to Uxbridge Tube Station at the end of the Piccadilly and Metropolitan Lines, it was an unusually warm (and sunny) December day.



The exterior and interior of the **Lecture Hall Cinema** RAF Uxbridge

A short walk to the end of Uxbridge High Street took us to our first ever visit to the former Camp Cinema (aka Lecture Hall Cinema), which opened just inside the gates of RAF Depot Uxbridge in 1919. As were about to enter what is now a building site and due to health and safety reasons, we were given a short talk on how we should conduct ourselves and things to be aware of, as we were about to enter a derelict building. The padlocks were undone and we entered the building, disturbing a flock of pigeons who have taken residence in the building (how they got inside is hard to fathom, as there were no broken windows to be seen). The building is an attractive structure and had a seating capacity for 700, all on a single level. Although it was on military property, the general public were allowed to attend the film shows until the outbreak of World War II in September 1939, with programmes advertised in the local newspaper. Due to wartime conditions it became a military only cinema. We saw the original decorative proscenium frame, which was superseded in later years when CinemaScope was installed and the stage and curtains were brought forward. The ceiling has a simple curved cove around its edges and once there would have been lighting in the cove. After WWII, it remained under military control and presented films, live performances and lectures. In more recent years it became a gymnasium but has been derelict for around 10 years. The RAF Depot Uxbridge is being redeveloped for housing and the only buildings to be spared demolition are the Lecture Hall Cinema, which will be repurposed as a museum and the Officer's living quarters close-by, which will become housing.





The façade and nightclub in the **Regal** Uxbridge

We left the pigeons to enjoy their temporary home while they can and headed a few hundred yards back up the High Street to the former **Regal** cinema, (Grade II*) which has been a nightclub for many years. It is now named Liquid/Envy and on our 2001 visit was Discotheque Royal, with an interior painted black. Today, the current owners have done a wonderful job of painting the auditorium in a light



The organ console and proscenium detail at the Regal Uxbridge

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
GAUMONT BRITISH CINEMAS

(good second-hand copies available) £25.00

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

grey and even replaced some of the cove lighting in the ceiling troughs. The Regal was opened on 26 December 1931 with 1,610 seats in a stadium plan, with a raised stepped section at the rear instead of a conventional overhanging balcony. There was a café and ballroom and it was equipped with a Compton 2 Manual 6 Ranks organ. The Regal was designed by architect E Norman Bailey for prominent cinema exhibitor AE Abrahams, who operated the Regals at Marble Arch, Edmonton and West Norwood. The exterior has touches of Egyptian motif in the decorative tiles on the façade, while the auditorium has deep, wavy plaster toughs in the ceiling and a unique proscenium shaped like a Chinese half-moon. All this can be seen to great advantage now the colour scheme has been lightened. The Regal was operated by Union Cinemas and then ABC until it closed in November 1977. It stood unused for seven years until it was converted into a nightclub. The Compton organ console has been cleaned up since our 2001 visit (where it was sat in the orchestra pit covered with empty beer bottles and crates) and is now located behind the DJ booth. Unfortunately it cannot be played as the connections to the organ chambers were cut when they divided the stage off from the auditorium and made that part of the cinema into a gymnasium in May 1984. A condition of the lease on the building, which dates back to October 1937 when ABC took over, is that "the name Regal be kept on the building and the Compton organ should not be removed from the building".

We then went back onto the High Street to take a look at the beautiful Art Deco style Randall's Department Store, built in 1938. There had been a mention on the local TV news a couple of weeks previously that it would be closing for good on 31 December 2014. Unfortunately on the day of our visit it was 'Closed' so we could not take a look inside. This closure seems to hark back to past years when shops closed for half a day or even a whole day during the week and I wonder if sticking to this outdated regime has not helped to keep it in business, as we saw many shoppers in the Chimes Shopping Centre, which was our next destination.

On our 3 February 2001 visit we paid our last respects to the **Odeon** Uxbridge (1990-2001) the second on that site, which was about to close due to the new nine-screen **Odeon** multiplex that opened on 9 March 2001. Located on the second floor of the Chimes Shopping Centre, we were shown the projection box and digital IMAX projectors and briefly one of the large auditoria (the cinema was up and



A screen in the **Odeon** multiplex Uxbridge

running during our visit, which precluded us visiting other auditoria). Our guide was the duty manager for the day and he related tales of working in other **Odeon** cinemas during his career, which began at the **Astoria** Old Kent Road.



The interior of the Savoy Hayes as Mecca Bingo

Departing the **Odeon**, we then caught a bus for the long (25 minutes) ride down the Uxbridge Road to our fourth and final visit of the day in Hayes. Darkness had fallen as our bus let us off at the bus stop outside the Mecca Bingo Club, which looked splendid, floodlit in purple. Built by A Glassman, who built a small chain of Savoy Cinemas around the outer North London suburbs at Burnt Oak, Gants Hill, Enfield and Barking (Rio Cinema), all designed by noted architect George Coles. The Savoy Hayes is a fine example of his work, this in an Italian Renaissance style on the exterior and Art Deco style interior. It was opened on 2 January 1939 with 2,252 seats (1,452 in the stalls and 800 in the circle). It was equipped with a Compton/ Christie 2 Manual, 8 Ranks organ and has a large stage, where once artists such as Max Miller, Josephine Baker, Will Hay Jr and even Adam Faith appeared. The Savoy was independently operated until it was taken over by the Essoldo chain on 14 October 1962 and renamed Essoldo. It closed as a cinema on 3 September 1967 with Goliath and the Vampires and Attack of the Crab Monsters - I wonder how many of the 2,252 seats were filled on that final night? It was converted into an Essoldo Bingo Club. A new purpose-built 400seat cinema was built next door, which was opened by Classic Cinemas in June 1972; this closed in January 1986 and was converted into a supermarket and has now been demolished. The Mecca Bingo Club gave us a warm welcome and we were impressed by the enormous volume of the auditorium. Sadly, for reasons unknown, a false ceiling covers the original decorative plaster ceiling, with its central lay-light fixture and false ceilings are evident in the entrance foyer. The circle fover/café has been converted into offices but all these modifications are reversible. It would be nice to see them, perhaps on a future visit.

Many thanks to Ray for organising this visit and to his contacts at the various buildings for making this a most memorable visit.

Photos by Kevin Gooding

... As well as this visit report, the full Bulletin also contains a report of the Members' slide show in January, and a three-page article on 'wanderings' around cinemas in South Wales and Cornwall.

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.

ACCRINGTON (Lancs)

The former **Ritz** was due to go up for auction on 26 February with a guide price of just £25,000. It opened in January 1922 as the **Picture House**. It was remodelled in 1934 and reopened as the **Ritz**. It closed in August 1958 and became a furniture store, which closed in 2005. The vacant building was damaged by an arson attack in 2011. See p17 Bulletin 48/3.

[cinematreasures.org/theaters/44964]

Accrington Observer - 6 February

AYR

A seven-screen 1,050-seat cinema is due to be incorporated in the Kyle Centre as part of a £10m revamp. If planning permission is granted, work could start in September. A major operator is close to being signed up.

Ayrshire Post - 19 December

BANGOR (Gwynedd)

A multiplex cinema is one suggestion put forward to breathe life into the Parc Bryn Cegin industrial park that has been empty for 14 years.

North Wales Chronicle - 5 February

Construction work on the **Pontio Arts Centre** has been delayed again. The 450-seat theatre was due to open last October but now no opening date has been predicted. When complete, as well as the main theatre, it will feature a 120-seat studio and a cinema.

Daily Post - 19 January; sent in by Jon Williams

BASILDON (Essex)

Further details have been released about the proposed new fifteenscreen cinema in the Eastgate Shopping Centre. The cinema will be built on two floors, replacing the existing second floor of gallery shops and including an extra level to be built on top. If the Council gives permission in March, work would start six months later with the cinema opening in September 2017.

Basildon Recorder - 12 December

The former **ABC/Robins** is to become a children's trampoline park; opening is scheduled for the end of March. The two-screen cinema opened in September 1971 and closed in December 1999 when a new multiplex opened. Previous schemes to turn it into a gym or hotel have failed. [cinematreasures.org/theaters/24134]

Basildon Recorder - 13 February

BATH (North Somerset)

The **Little Theatre Cinema** will celebrate its 80th birthday in January 2016. The manager is asking if anyone has any reminiscences, memorabilia or photographs, so that a display of the cinema's history can be mounted in the run-up to the anniversary. If you can help, please contact Martin Jennings-Wright at the cinema, St Michaels Place, Bath, BA1 1SF. [cinematreasures.org/theaters/6024]

Sent in by Michael Crowle

BIRMINGHAM (Bearwood)

Part of the former **Windsor** is being converted into a bar. Spread over two floors, it is planned to incorporate as many original features as possible, including the venue's grand staircase. It opened in September 1930 with 1,750 seats in stalls and circle. After WWII it became a full-time theatre but closed in February 1960. The building stood empty for several years before it was converted into an ice rink. This closed in 1973 and then it became unused again until 1980, when it became a nightclub. This closed in 1982 and in 1983 it became a snooker club, which continues today. There is a false ceiling above the snooker tables, hiding much of the original theatre, its stage and seating, which lie derelict. It is hoped eventually that this ceiling can be removed. [cinematreasures.org/theaters/41358]

Express & Star (Sandwell) – 2 February; sent in by Ivan Harris; photo [top next column] taken June 2008





BIRMINGHAM (Central)

The 385-seat Giant Screen at Millennium Point closed on 5 January. 108 people watched the final film *The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies*. The screen was 70ft 6in by 41ft; it opened as an **IMAX** in September 2001. [cinematreasures.org/theaters/24154]

Sent in by Carl Chesworth

BIRMINGHAM (Kings Heath)



The former **Kingsway** is to have its fire-damaged façade restored. The remainder of the building will be demolished and shops and flats built. See p18 Bulletin 48/6. *photo taken August 2004* [cinematreasures.org/theaters/19912]

Birmingham Mail – 22 December; Birmingham Post – 23 December;

BISHOP AUCKLAND (Co Durham)

A cinema operator is said to be interested in taking on the proposed seven-screen cinema to be built at St Helen Auckland. Planning permission was granted last year and construction is due to begin soon.

Wear Valley Advertiser - 31 December

BLACKBURN (Lancs)



The former **Apollo** is up for let. It is housed in the grade I listed former Cotton Exchange in the town centre. It became a full-time cinema in late-1918 and in 1953 became the first cinema in Lancashire to show CinemaScope. It was taken over by **Essoldo** in 1955 and **Classic** in 1967. It was tripled in 1976 and two more screens were added in 1992. The five cinemas closed in December 2005, unable to compete with the new twelve-screen **Vue**.

[cinematreasures.org/theaters/24035]

Lancashire Telegraph - 30 December; photo [bottom previous page] June 2005

BLACKPOOL (Lancs)



Planners have approved a scheme for part of the ground floor to be used as a hot food take-away at the former **Palladium** on South Shore. The applicant intends to install a new shop front in the premises, which was also approved. The **Palladium** opened as a cinema in April 1928 originally showing silent films. 70mm was installed in the 1960s. It was transformed into a bingo hall after the cinema closed in October 1976; that closed in September 2009. Plans to convert it into a live performance venue came to naught. The building is locally listed and a condition of the planning consent is the developer must consult with the Council on the materials to be used. [cinematreasures.org/theaters/6545]

Blackpool Gazette – 12 February; sent in by Ray Dolling; photo September 2003 Blairgowrie Advertiser – 6 February

London's West End Cinemas

by Allen Eyles with Keith Skone.

Large format paperback, 210 pages, fully illustrated with over 400 pictures, including 71 in colour. Special price to members – £20.00 + £3 postage.



This is a redesigned and much enlarged third edition of a book not available for more than 20 years, fully updated by its original author, Allen Eyles. It is a complete record of all the cinemas that have entertained picture-goers in the West End from 1906 to 2013. There are maps, appendices of club cinemas and theatres as temporary cinemas as well as a name index. Published in collaboration with English Heritage.

BLYTH (Northumberland)

The **Wallaw** celebrated its first birthday as a Wetherspoons pub in December. It recently hosted the launch of a book on local history, which has a chapter about Blyth pubs. The cinema opened in 1937 with 1,441 seats and was tripled in 1982; films ceased in 2004. The building is listed grade II. See p19 Bulletin 48/2.

[cinematreasures.org/theaters/1826]

Wetherspoon News - 1 January; sent in by Mike Whitcombe

BOGNOR REGIS (West Sussex)

A decision was due to be made on 23 February whether to go ahead with a £850,000 project to add a third 130-seat screen at the **Picturedrome**. The Council bought the grade II listed building in 2010.

Chichester Observer - 12 February

BOURNEMOUTH

Roger Marley, who ran the town's **ABC** cinema, is to run Bournemouth's first community cinema. The Henry Brown Centre was kitted out with a 14ft screen and a high quality Blu-ray projector with a digital sound system. A free sing-along screening of *Frozen* was one of the first events.

Daily Echo (Bournemouth) - 5 February; sent in by Philip Stevens

BRADFORD (West Yorks)

Plans for a 40-seat **Working Title** cinema in North Parade (reported on p23 of the last Bulletin) will not now be going ahead as the developer and building owner could not reach agreement.

Telegraph & Argus (Bradford) - 20 January

The **National Media Museum** has secured £780,000 in Government funding to install new digital **IMAX** system. Its 340-seat screen is the largest in Yorkshire. The theatre will be closed for about eight weeks whilst the work is taking place. It is hoped to have the system up and running by summer. [cinematreasures.org/theaters/3672]

Yorkshire Post, Telegraph & Argus (Bradford) - 17 February

Roof repairs and work on removing vegetation has started at the former **New Victoria** / **Gaumont** / **Odeon**. Work on the building's domes is due to start next. The cinema is having its subdivisions removed and converted into a music venue.

[cinematreasures.org/theaters/3677]

Yorkshire Post – 30 January; sent in by David Daykin

BRIDPORT (Dorset)

The Electric Palace has been sold to a West Dorset family, who promise even more events. All staff will be retained. They want to further refurbish and restore the venue over the next few years.

Blackmore Vale Magazine - 15 February; sent in by Philip Stevens

BRIGHTON

Campaigners are celebrating after **Vue** pulled out of a scheme to convert the **Hippodrome** into an eight-screen cinema. The chain said the site had been sold to another landlord who did not wish to proceed with the plans. The future of the grade II* listed building, last used for bingo, is now unknown. A petition has been started to urge the Council to back its restoration as a live performance space. [cinematreasures.org/theaters/36884]

BBC News website – 12 January; Brighton & Hove Leader – 15 January; The Argus (Brighton) – 14 February; sent in by Geoff Gill & Barry Quinton

BUCKLEY / BWCLE (Flint)

The music club currently operating in the former **Tivoli** has been named as a top five venue by Radiohead bassist Colin Greenwood. Described as "one of the finest quirky little venues of our time" it has features in the DVD re-issue of the Oasis album *Definitely Maybe*. The cinema opened in 1925 with 1,000 seats and films ceased in 1961. It became a bingo hall until the 1980s. Paranormal experts have been called in after staff refused to be left alone in the building following a series of eerie incidents. According to local legend, the building is haunted by the ghost of a former projectionist who died in a fire in the 1940s. [cinematreasures.org/theaters/33451]

Daily Post – 8 December, 4 February; sent in by Jon Williams; photo taken April 2010

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

LETTERS

SEEING THE LIGHT



The new **Light Cinema** chain really does create an interesting ambience within each of their sites. They are currently completing the purchase of the **Cineworld** in Cambridge [see p15] and new sites are planned elsewhere, including Thetford in South Norfolk where there has been no cinema for many years. I think all CTA members would appreciate the stylish and differentiated design of their auditoria – but just needing some stylish tabs for that final touch!

Capacities of their extant sites are as follows:

New Brighton: ① 112; ② 74; ③ 251; ④ 110; ⑤ 236; ⑥ 251; ⑦ 79; ⑥ 110; Total: 1,223

Wisbech: Screens ① and ② have not been opened due to construction issues. Both will house 60 seats each. The intention is to open these during 2015. ③ 281; ④ 85; ⑤ 183; ⑥ 288; ⑦ 109; ⑧ 20.

Thanks to Keith Pullinger of Light Cinemas for the above photo and for additional information. [www.lightcinemas.com/ourcinemas]

Edward Huggins

COMMENTS



Two comments from the last Bulletin. The former **Odeon** Corby [p24] I believe was never a Chicago Rock Café. It was later the **Rutland** cinema, then Rutland Bingo. The canopy and 'Odeon' doors were intact when I took the above photo in August 1981, with small windows either side. When I called by some years later, the bingo club had closed and the auditorium was full of pine furniture – but <u>no</u> alterations, except for the removal of the bingo paraphernalia. The **Savoy** Halstead [p25] was a Chinese takeaway on my last visit in August 2009. [It was in 2007 when I took the photo in the last Bulletin – Ed]. Mention has been made of Wetherspoons. Two openings I know of: *The Sawyers Arms* in the former **New Theatre** in Maesteg [South Wales] and *The Bloxwich Showman* in the former **Grosvenor/Odeon** in Bloxwich [Walsall]; the latter was named in honour of Alderman Pat Collins.

Hugh Sykes

Editor's Note: The Corby item was quoted from the local newspaper...

...Two <u>more</u> pages of letters from members in the full Bulletin.

MEMBERS' HELP WANTED



I am at present doing the history of the Radion Cinema at Newport, Lincoln, in connection with a book I am writing to be published in the near future on Lincolnshire Cinemas. I am trying to find out how it got its name of Radion and where did the name Radion come from. If anyone can help, then I would be most grateful in hearing from you. The Radion was designed by Architect Mr William J King (London) who was one of the three directors of its proprietors trading as Radion Cinemas (Lincoln) Ltd; the other directors included Frank William Allwood and Arthur Hill, with Robert Ascot as their general manager. Built with a seating capacity of 850 on a single raked floor, it was the last cinema in the City to be built before the start of World War Two. It held its grand opening on Monday 27 March 1939. The opening ceremony was carried out by the City's Mayor, Cllr Harlard Willcock. Like all cinemas in the country it closed in September 1939 and was requisitioned by the military until the end of the war, when it was acquired by the small Emery cinema circuit. They carried out a much needed refurbishment, which included decoration and fitting of new seating before reopening to the general public on Monday 4 August 1947. The Radion finally closed with Danny Kaye starring in The Five Pennies on Saturday 16 July 1960. After closing the former cinema building was first converted into a supermarket; later it became a dry cleaners shop for around two years. In 1980, it was taken over and converted into the BBC Radio Lincolnshire station, which it still remains at present. The proscenium arch and projection ports are both intact and can be seen above the auditorium's suspended ceiling. Photo above taken February 2008.

Maurice Brader [lawncinema@hotmail.co.uk]

GRANADA DARTFORD



Here is a picture of the former **Granada** Dartford, taken last December. As mentioned on p20 of Bulletin 48/6, bingo has moved out and the building was For Sale. It is thought it has been sold to a Church and they are renovating the building.

Reg Larkman

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

80 Years

Broadway, 80 Main Street, Prestwick, opened April 1935. Architect Alistair G McDonald. C(s) listed.



Odeon, Westborough, Scarborough. Opened 28 March 1935. Architects Robert Bullivant / J Cecil Clavering / Harry Weedon. Grade II listed. [above]



Dreamland, Marine Terrace, Margate. Opened 22 March 1935. Architects Julian R Leathart / WF Granger. Grade II* listed. [above]

75 Years



Plaza, Talbot Road, Port Talbot. Opened 25 March 1940. Unknown Architect. Grade II listed. [above]



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.

28 March 18 April 16 May

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].

<u>Getting There:</u> 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 lvychurch 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 the spring. We will keep you all posted on progress through the website and the Bulletin.

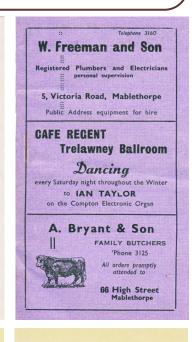
Clive Polden, CTA Archivist

... The Archive is a very important part of the CTA's work. The full Bulletin usually contains more details – this time there is a whole page devoted to large objects in the CTA's collection.

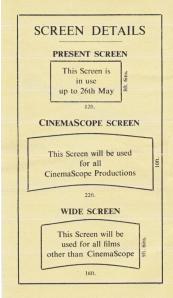
CINEMASCOPE AT THE LYRIC MABELTHORPE

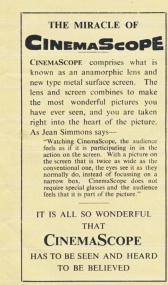












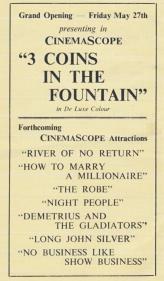






Photo [L] - the Lyric Mablethorpe in May 2004; I'm sorry, I forgot who sent in the Lyric 1955 programme - but thank you.