

CAMPAIGNING TO SAVE YOUR HISTORIC CINEMAS

By Tim Hatcher

Refusals for Listed Status

It is both disappointing and perturbing to report that three comprehensive listing applications submitted by the CTA to Historic England have been refused. In addition to the three cinemas concerned, which comprise the **Regal** at Bridlington, **Towers** at Hornchurch and **Carlton** in London's West End, the **Coronet** in London's Elephant and Castle district, proposed for listing by the Theatres Trust, has also been rejected.

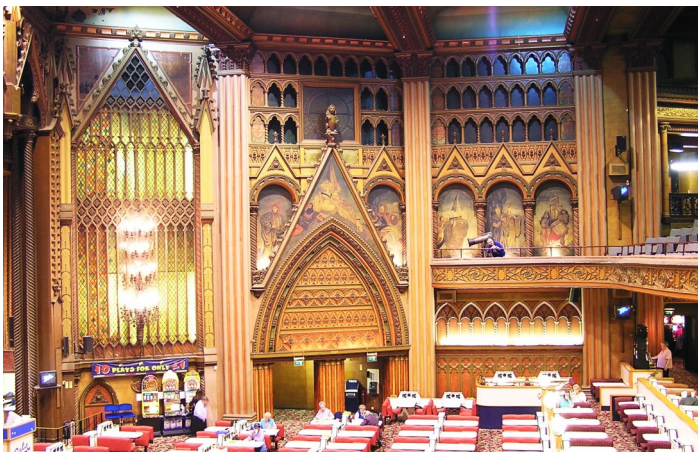


The interior of the **Regal/ABC** Bridlington

Both the **Regal** and the **Towers** survive with the majority of their impressive original features intact, as does the **Regal** in Sunderland, another recently rejected candidate for statutory protection. The subjective standard used to adjudge this building type appears both unclear and variable. Particularly concerning are factual errors in the written responses from Historic England's staff, which demonstrate either lack of attention to detail or of knowledge on the part of the assessor, neither of which is acceptable for such an office.

A meeting is due to be held with Historic England to discuss the issues involved.

Grade I Listed



The interior of the **Granada** Tooting in March 2004

On a more positive note, it is gratifying to report that the **Granada** in Tooting has been registered as an Asset of Community Value by Wandsworth Council; this is apparently the first arts-related building in the Borough to be so designated. Although it was a legal requirement for local residents to propose the application, the Association played a pivotal rôle in promoting and encouraging the scheme locally.

Grade II* Listed

The Cambridge office of Historic England has invited the CTA to become involved in the pre-application process relating to the proposed conversion of the **State** at Grays into a JD Wetherspoon's hostelry.



The **Himalaya Palace** Southall in April 2006

It is reported that the **Palace** at Southall has been sold and that the new owner wishes to make alterations to the structure. Ealing Council's conservation officer will be contacted to ascertain the nature and extent of the proposals.

A meeting has been held with a representative of **Everyman** Cinemas and Haringey Council's Conservation Officer concerning proposed alterations to the **Odeon** at Muswell Hill. Strong objection is being directed towards the concept of providing two additional screens by inserting so-called 'pods' at each side of the circle; these would destroy both the spatial integrity of the auditorium and the uninterrupted view of its superb ceiling, arguably its finest feature.

No objection is being made to plans to reverse the position of lavatorial and bar facilities in the **New Victoria** in London in order to accommodate increased provision of conveniences for female patrons.

Grade II Listed

It is reported that a pre-application relating to the **Ritz** at Grays had been received by the local Council from a church, although the cinema was subsequently sold to another party.

Listed Building Consent for alterations to the **Odeons** at Barnet and Esher, now **Everyman** venues, has been granted by their respective local authorities.

A second cinema, the **Angel Picture Theatre** in Islington, is under threat from the Crossrail 2 scheme. The auditorium was demolished in 1974 but the impressive tower feature and balcony entrance survive. (The **Curzon** in Shaftesbury Avenue is the other cinema endangered by the rail project, as previously detailed here).



The **Angel** in April 2006

Unlisted

Lambeth Council is promoting a major redevelopment scheme in the environs of the **Palladium** in Brixton, currently utilised as a nightclub. Although retention of the building is intended, concerns arise over the likelihood of noise complaints from residents in the new development as, somewhat counter-intuitively, prior exigencies and consequences of operation of extant properties hold little legal sway over the rights of occupants of newly built neighbouring properties.

The **Rivoli** in Sandown is threatened with demolition, although the local Council has identified it as a building of merit; the Association is to write in endorsement of this view.

The Kingsway International Christian Centre has appealed against the decision to refuse permission to use the **Rialto** in Crystal Palace as a church. The CTA's original letter of objection will be passed to the Planning Inspectorate as part of the appeal process.