



CINEMA
THEATRE
ASSOCIATION

www.cta-uk.org

BULLETIN

Vol 50 No 3

May / June 2016



The Forum in Bath, to be visited by the CTA in August; *photo taken August 2003*



The Regent in South Shields, which is the subject of a planning application for shops & flats; *photo taken March 2016*

FROM YOUR EDITOR

By the time you read this, I will probably have seen some of you at the AGM. I apologise therefore if you have heard what I am going to say before. As well as repeating my annual request for you to send items digitally where possible, I also said I have used nearly all of my backlog of material for the Bulletin. Please consider putting pen to paper and writing an article [or two] for the Bulletin; it can be anything cinema-related, although the relationship doesn't have to be all that strong. Illustrations help to relieve boring pages of black text. Get your camera out and take some holiday snaps. At the risk of being a repetitive pain, please send them at original resolution and don't re-size or doctor them in any way. It's commendable that you think you are helping me by formatting your submissions like I format articles in the Bulletin. I have automated this process so it will strip out any formatting anyway and let the machine do it as per the Bulletin 'house style'. If you have any questions on this, please don't hesitate to contact me.

You will probably have already seen that the back page is devoted to some sad photos of the fire devastation at the Regent in Lyme Regis. I do hope that it can be restored to its original art deco state — but it'll be a long job. There were photos of the glorious interior in the previous two Bulletins and I have given the references in the Newsreel.



We thoroughly enjoyed the London Palladium visit – I have written a report. We turned it into a mini-holiday and visited East Anglia on the way. Here is a *Holiday Snap* I don't think has been in the Bulletin before. It's the former Cinema at Upwell in Norfolk. It's now a private house and hairdressing salon. Does anyone know it's dates of operation or how many seats it had – or any other information? {28605} We also went to Thetford (Norfolk). I managed to photograph several cinema I hadn't found before across four Counties.

Harry Rigby, CTA Bulletin Editor



TIME PIECE

This clock is in the museum at Ringwood (Hants). It came from the Regent at Horley (Surrey) and it still works.

Philip Stevens



JUST THE TICKET

This ticket was for *Goodbye Mr Chips* starring Peter O'Toole at the Empire Leicester Square in December 1969. Only £1!

Les Bull

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE
MONDAY 20 JUNE

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(founded 1967)

promoting serious interest in all aspects of cinema buildings

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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.freesevice.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 [r.ritmeester@sky.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 [evecinema.t21@btinternet.com]
7 Shoreswood, Sharples, Bolton, BL1 7DD

CTA SCOTLAND: Gordon Barr, Gary Painter [info@ctascotland.org.uk]
87 Clerwood Park, Edinburgh, EH12 8PS

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, Ken Roe, David Simpson

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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.

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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 2014 are £4.00 per year (6 issues); individual issues are £1.00 each. Prices for issues in 2015 and 2016 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.

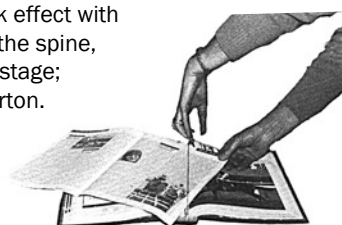
PICTURE HOUSE MAGAZINE

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, 20, 22, 23 & 24, priced £5.00 each, plus postage.

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.
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all issues below have colour cover and inside pages		
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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; Point Milton Keynes; Going to the Cinema in Birmingham; Palace Conwy; Carlton Haymarket; Military Cinemas; Cinema Murders.
No 39	£6.00	WWI and the Film Trade; Tale of Two Regals; Odeon North Finchley; Majestic Oxford; Films at the Royal Albert Hall.
No 40	£6.00	Tolmer Euston; Michael Stringer memories; West End in the 1950s; Stafford Entertainments; Will Onda & James Atroy; Stephen Waddingham – a Granada man.

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.



Recently Published (reviewed in previous issues)

From Celluloid to Cereal

Cinemas That Became Supermarkets

by Gavin McGrath, 28 pages paperback, fully illustrated. £4.00 plus postage.

STILL AVAILABLE BY THE SAME AUTHOR:

From Pictures to Pints – Cinemas That Became Pubs

£4.00 plus postage.

Cinemas and Theatres of Tower Hamlets £6.99 plus postage

Also still available

Cinemas & Theatres of Tower Hamlets – £6.99 plus postage.

The Cinemas of RA Thomas by Mick Collins £24.95 plus postage.

Picture Mad – Andover's Cinemas by Philip Ray £7.50 plus postage.

The Magic Screen – a history of the Regent Street Cinema

£20.00 plus postage.

The Auditorium – in and around old North Warwickshire

by Peter Lea £12.95 plus postage.

Alpha to Odyssey – St Albans by Penny Dade £4.99 plus postage

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The CTA sales stall will hopefully be at the Film Fair event at the Cinema Museum London on 4 June.

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.

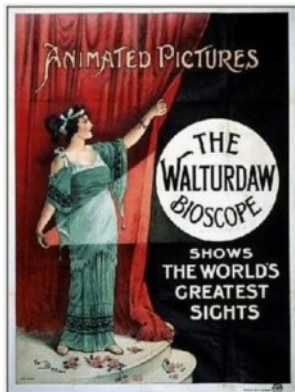
Published in collaboration with English Heritage.

VISITS AND EVENTS

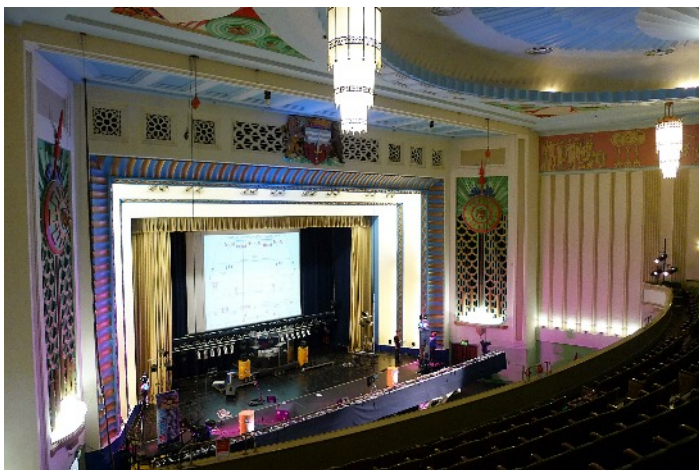
Flicker Alley – Cinema in WWI

Guided Walks – Organised by Richard Norman;
Saturday 4 and Tuesday 7 June at 10:30am

There are a few remaining places on both of the above visit dates. Briefly, this is a Guided Walk through the West End of London, highlighting the specialist businesses that established the UK's commercial film industry and the effect that WWI had on the public interest in seeing films. (via Cecil Court, Leicester Square to Soho Square). We will see their premises and locations and hear the background history. Each tour lasts for two hours and is conducted for the CTA by a qualified tour guide. This walk has been arranged for Members on alternative dates to give flexibility.



A Day in the City of Bath – Monday 8 August; Organised by Mike Wood



Since our last visit to the beautiful World Heritage city of Bath, the listed Forum has been sympathetically restored, the old Odeon has gone but a new one has replaced it; only the exterior remains of the Palace but the historic grade II* listed Theatre Royal has had a major restoration and has taken over the Gemini/Robins reconstructed as the egg; the Beau Nash has reopened as the Komedia and is now showing film again in partnership with the nearby Little, also listed. We plan to visit most of these venues on a walking tour as they are all close by, as well

2015 AGM Minutes

Unfortunately, the minutes for last year's AGM were not available in time for mailing out with the March/April Bulletin – apologies for this. They were issued to those who attended this year's AGM on 7 May. If you wish to have a copy of the minutes, which are available as a PDF (if you are online) or a paper copy, then please contact the Secretary, Adam Unger (address on p2). If you should opt for a paper copy, then please enclose SAE.

Coming Soon

South West London & Surrey tour by Routemaster Bus

There is some light at the end of the tunnel. It is proposed to get this event off the ground in the early autumn. Further details in the next edition of the Bulletin.

Most visits are for members only
Details in the full Bulletin

CASEWORK

By Tim Hatcher

Grade II* Listed



Horizontal signage **MIRTH** has been erected above the canopy of the Granada/EMD at Walthamstow in conjunction with the opening of the 'pop-up' hostelry operating in the foyer areas. It is hoped that this is envisaged as a temporary measure; it will be suggested to the owner that a vertical sign, preferably bearing the appellation **GRANADA**, be reinstalled. *Photo taken March 2016.*

It has been reported by a representative of Historic England that the restoration work to Stanford Hall near Loughborough has been executed in an exemplary manner. It is stated that the murals remain intact and items of original equipment are to be reinstated. There is currently neither plan nor budget to re-establish the original design of the ceiling's decorative scheme. See p29 last Bulletin and p14/15 Bulletin 50/1.

Grade II Listed

Concern has arisen regarding the deteriorating condition of the Theatre Royal in Manchester. This stately edifice served as a cinema from the early nineteen twenties to the early nineteen seventies, undergoing major internal structural changes during those years. Cognisant of its earlier theatrical history, The Theatres Trust has included it on its 'At Risk' register. A watching brief will be maintained and any developments monitored. *Photo taken October 2005.*

A site meeting has been held at the Regal in Kingston-upon-Thames with representatives of CNM Estates, their architect and other interested parties. It is encouraging to note that the architect is enthusiastic apropos the restoration of original historic detail. However, grave doubt remains pertaining to the practicalities of the spatial planning of the conference, performance and culinary-service areas.

More Casework in the full Bulletin

A MUST for your collection

CINEMAS IN BRITAIN

A History of Cinema Architecture
by Richard Gray

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

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

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THURSDAY MORNING AT THE LONDON PALLADIUM

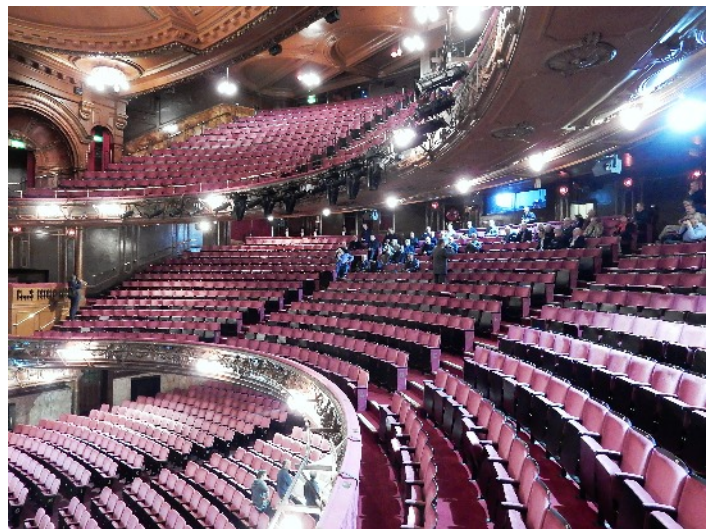
A report on the CTA visit to the **London Palladium** on 21 April; By Harry Rigby



The London Palladium opened on Boxing Day 1910 to compete with the Hippodrome and the Coliseum. It was built on the site of Argyll House, the London home of the Dukes of Argyll, which was demolished in the 1860s. It was designed by Frank Matcham and cost £250,000. In 1870 a temporary wooden building had been erected on the site, called the Corinthian Bazaar and this was rebuilt in 1871 by Fredrick Hengler as a circus. In 1895 it became a skating rink, which was eventually demolished for the current building.

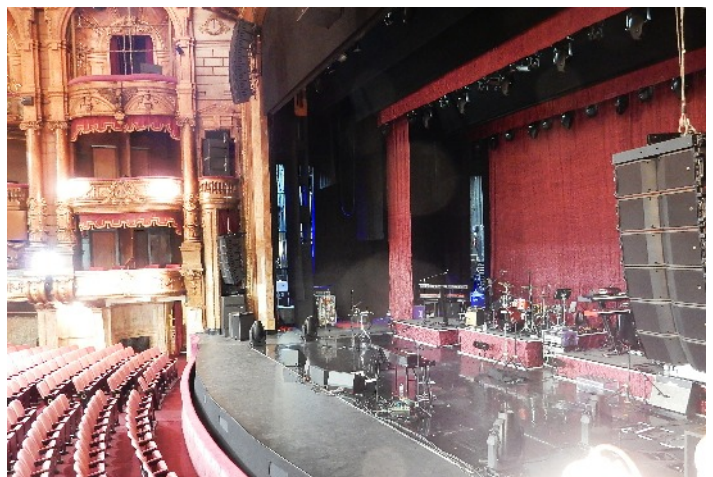


These were the first of many facts that our guide, Mark Fox, entertainingly expounded during our 2½ hour tour. It started on the grand staircase and we were accompanied by four Tiller Girls, who made sure we didn't get lost or venture into places we shouldn't. From there we went into the theatre's two bars for more facts about the theatre and some of the artists who have played there – Houdini, Judy Garland, Laurel & Hardy and Frank Sinatra, to name just a few; most of them have photos on the bar walls, together with original programmes and posters. Tommy Steele is the performer who has trod the Palladium stage more times than any other star. There is a bust to Bruce Forsythe, who compered *Sunday Night at the London Palladium*, first broadcast in 1955. The Palladium hosted its first *Royal Variety Performance* in 1930. Annual lavish pantomimes have been a regular feature. The stalls bar has been extended into the area once occupied by the box office and we were told about the regime of selling tickets, counting the stubs and submitting returns.



We eventually progressed into the auditorium in the Royal Circle. There are now about 2,300 seats on three levels, down from the original capacity of almost 3,500. Unlike other theatres of the time, the Upper Circle was fitted with tip-up seats instead of the usual wooden benches. Matcham's design ensured that every seat had a good view and was not too distant from the stage, which made the theatre seem intimate, despite its size. He patented a cantilever system of supporting the balconies, which means there are no pillars to obstruct the view in the wide auditorium. There was originally an internal telephone system so that patrons in the boxes could call each other. The theatre was equipped to show films and ran as a full-time cinema for three months in 1928.

Mark and the Tiller Girls led us down into the stalls and onto the stage, which was set for a concert by Bryan Ferry. The view from the stage into the auditorium is magnificent. The swag curtains, seen in *Sunday Night at the London Palladium* have unfortunately been removed as they were in poor condition and needed 8ft of valuable space in the flies. Also sadly removed is the famous three-tier revolve; we went under the stage and were shown where it used to be. It was replaced with a demountable steel deck structure; the huge space was used to make the car fly in *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*. This show holds the run record with 1,414 performances. A couple of productions, including *Sister Act* have built a temporary revolve in the space.



We returned via the Royal Box, from which the view of the stage is very restricted [above]. Back in the foyer we thanked our hosts, Mark Fox and the Tiller Girls and Adam Unger for organising such an interesting visit. The time just flew by and there was not a dull moment.

PS: The building was listed grade II* in September 1960. {30512}

Links for further information:

[tinyurl.com/zmx2zdk] – The Really Useful Company

[en.wikipedia.org/wiki/London_Palladium]

[www.arthurlloyd.co.uk/LondonPalladium.htm]

[www.londonboxoffice.co.uk/london-palladium/history]

See also p18-20 Bulletin 50/2.

YET MORE WANDERINGS – PART 2

By Hugh Sykes

... continued from last time

And now for somewhere completely different – Scotland! Ann and I had booked with a local coach company, Johnsons of Henley, to take us for a week based in Fort William from 26 July to 1 August last. One of the 'stops' en-route was Loch Lomond and Balloch. We saw the Sea Life centre in the IMAX Screen building was open.



A suspicious building in Fort William

Our hotel was in Fort William and very useful for shops and the station. The first building to catch our attention was an iron-framed structure with corrugated iron sheeting and a brick and plaster frontage. It was latterly the home to the Scottish Crafts and Whisky Centre but is now closed. A local gentleman told me it had closed for films before WWII. Does any member know of this?

Editor's Note: CTA Scotland have no record of it being a cinema – unless, of course...

With the 678-seat **Playhouse** cinema (c1930s-1978) demolished in favour of three retail shops, which remain open, there is no cinema open in the town.



The former Studio Cinemas Fort William

The **Studios** (1986-2006; screen ① 76 seats, screen ② 128 seats) were built on the rear of the (then) new Tourist Information Centre [TIC], to replace the Town Hall that was destroyed by fire in 1975. This latter building housed early cinema showings in the 1920s. The TIC has since moved into the High Street and DV8, a clothing store, has moved in. The **Studios** at the rear remain closed, having recently been a 'Floorshop'; this retailer has moved to another part of town, although the *Oban Times* says otherwise. Occasional film shows have been tried at the **Nevis Centre** behind Morrison's Supermarket. A stage show was booked for a September night. *Cinema Lane* [see p19 Bulletin 42/6] still exists although it is more of an alleyway.

Over the 28th we travelled via the Corren Ferry for a scenic tour by coach to Mallaig, later returning by service train to Fort William. Now I know (and stand to be corrected later) that Mallaig never had a purpose-built cinema but now has a purpose-built Community Centre. The hall has no windows but modern doors and exits. I wonder if an occasional film could be shown. The centre with roadways is in a former railway yard.

The next day we were treated to steam on the Aviemore to Strathspey Railway. Unfortunately I did not get to the complex in Aviemore where the modern cinema screens are located but the steam journey was lovely. On the way back we travelled through Kingussie, which had a cinema within the **Victoria Hall** on Spey Street – 309 seats in 1950. Regretfully I did not see the hall but it still stand. The next place was Newtonmore, which had a cinema for a while. The hall still stands, located at the south end of this hamlet and is notable for a clock set into the frontage above the entrance.

30 July: Thursday was the coach driver's day off so we spent the morning in Fort William. We watched and photographed *The Jacobite* steam train departing at 10:15 for Mallaig (loco K1-62005) very full of passengers. After a re-check of cinema (and some shopping) we caught the local bus to Glenfinnan Station and Museum to witness the two steam trains passing each other (second loco CL5-44871). I believe this is the only main line station in Great Britain where two timetabled steam trains pass. Before catching the service train back, we enjoyed a cream tea in the museum's buffet car; superb views and I can highly recommend it.



The Phoenix Oban

31 July: Friday was our last full day on holiday and a coach trip to Oban. As we came into the town, we passed the **Phoenix** cinema so, soon after the coach parked, we made our way up to this lovely community venture. The **Taigh-Dhealbh an Obain / Phoenix Cinema ① & ②** is a reopening of the former **Cinema House / Highland Theatre** in George Street. In 1950 it had 530 seats, proprietors **Oban Playhouse Ltd**, prices 9d to 2/6 and a proscenium width of 20ft. Now fully open, it has a spotless and welcoming entrance, very friendly staff and a lovely presentation. The small screen ② is off the foyer and was once part of it. I was allowed a short view inside screen ① and this was lovely too, décor in black with silver tabs and modern seating – a really comfortable cinema to see a film on the big screen. Down in Argyll Square once stood the **Playhouse**, now demolished; c1950 it had 1,100 seats, proprietors **Oban Playhouse Ltd**, prices 9d to 2/9, proscenium width 30ft, lunch and tea room attached. Modern shops and offices are now on the site. Across town near the newer Cathedral is the **Corran Halls (Tallaichean Chorrain)**, a modern building for live entertainment on stage, etc.

So, returning home on 1 August, our last stop was at the lovely Border town of Moffat. Having a delightful walk around, we came across the **Town Hall**, built sideways to the main street. It has a ground-floor hall currently used for community events and, upon looking through the side windows, a stage with tabs; c1950 with a population of 2,522 there was the 500-seat **Bath Halls**; no other details to hand – I'm not sure whether this venue was a full-time cinema.

5 August: Car journey to Nuneaton via Coventry and Bedworth. Noted extant whilst passing: In Coventry the **Roxy/Redesdale**, a Sikh Temple but now with an extension on the left-hand side; the **Regal/Grand** (frontage only) as an Asian food store; the **Ritz/Dovedale/Rivoli** is still there with its blue cladding but very derelict. In Bedworth the **Palace** is fully open for bingo; the **Plaza/Kings** is boarded-up and derelict, awaiting its fate. In Nuneaton the grade II listed **Ritz/ABC** is intact, partially boarded-up and looking in need of TLC.



The Redesdale/Roxy [top] & Longford [bottom] Coventry August 2004



The Palace Bedworth in August 2004



The Ritz Nuneaton in August 2004



The Little Theatre Sheringham in July 2007



The Granary Theatre Wells-next-the-Sea in September 2009



The Carlton Raunds in February 2004

27 August: 'End of Holiday' day out to Norfolk. In Downham Market we found the Regent still For Sale and shuttered [see p14 Bulletin 49/6]. In Sheringham the Little Theatre was fully open with films and stage shows. In Wells-next-the-Sea films are shown at the Granary Theatre in the Maltings Arts Centre, which is now having a refurbishment. On the way back we called at Raunds in Northamptonshire for fish and chips. This gave me the chance to have a look at the former Carlton. It has had quite a lot of uses since closure, including a carpet shop. It is currently open as 'Snooks' a snooker club venue.

*Photos on previous page by the author on day of visit;
photos on this page by Harry Rigby*

CIRCUIT HISTORIES AVAILABLE

by Allen Eyles – all fully illustrated with gazetteers
ODEON 1 – Oscar Deutsch Entertains Our Nation – £19.99
ODEON 2 – From J Arthur Rank to the Multiplex – £19.99
THE GRANADA THEATRES – £18.99

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

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. Allen has also provided additional comments, where indicated. 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: [\[cinematreasures.org/theaters/nnnnn\]](http://cinematreasures.org/theaters/nnnnn)

ABINGDON (Oxon)

The Council has pledged that no corners will be cut on a projection unit, full-size cinema screen and retractable seats when the Guildhall is revamped. It is hoped the scheme will be put out to tender in the summer. If planning permission is granted, the £2.1m project could be completed by May 2017.

Oxford Mail – 25 February

ANTRIM (Northern Ireland)

We reported on p21 of the last Bulletin about plans to turn two screens of the former Cineplex into a doctors' surgery. It has now come to light that the entire four-screen complex closed in 2013 – does anyone have the exact date? It opened in 1994 with seats for 317, 232, 136 & 118. {26668}

Antrim Guardian – 10 March

ASHFORD (Kent)

An outdoor cinema could be included in plans to renovate Victoria Park.

Ashford Herald – 10 March

AXBRIDGE (Somerset)

We reported on p21 of the last Bulletin about the 30-seat Roxy. We are now pleased to report that volunteers have raised the £5,000 towards refurbishment and new sound and projection equipment, thus assuring the future of the venue. {49373}

BBC News Website – 21 March; sent in by David Alexander

BANBRIDGE (Co Down, Northern Ireland)



The four-screen Iveagh Movie Studios has been sold to IMC Cinema Group. They have promised a £2.5m refurbishment with a possible increase in the number of screens. The cinema opened in May 2004 and was first put up for sale in 2013. The manager, who has been there since it opened, has chosen to leave his position following the transfer of ownership. The largest screen, seating 300, can double as a live theatre. The CTA visited in September 2014. {43730}

Banbridge Leader – 16 February; Banbridge Chronicle – 17 February; Outlook (Co Down) – 17 February, 2 March; photo taken September 2014 on CTA visit

Work is taking place on fitting out the new eight-screen Omniplex cinema at The Outlet centre. It will have a MAXX screen.

News Letter (Northern Ireland) – 6 April

BEESTON (Notts)

Four cinema chains have expressed an interest in running an eleven-screen cinema on the site of the former fire station. The operator will not be chosen until 2017.

Nottingham Post – 23 March; sent in by Carl Chesworth

BIRKENHEAD (Wirral)

The ABC Savoy on Argyle Street is up for sale. It has been a snooker hall for a number of years. Should it be demolished, then housing is likely to be erected on the site. The cinema opened in October 1938 and closed in March 1982. {32707}

Sent in by Mike Taylor; photo [top next column] taken July 2007



The Savoy/ABC Birkenhead

BIRMINGHAM (Central)

Plans have been unveiled to redevelop part of Smallbrook Queensway. This includes the former Scala Superama / Odeon Queensway an underground 'roadshow' [extended run] cinema, which opened in November 1964 and closed in September 1988. It has remained boarded-up and unused since. {22098}

Birmingham Mail – 9 March; sent in by Carl Chesworth

BOLTON (Lancs)

The opening of the new nine-screen 1,200-seat Light cinema has been delayed; it is now scheduled for the end of August. The largest auditorium (screen 5) will have the biggest screen and 450 seats.

Bolton News – 6 April

BOURNEMOUTH

Police were called to the Odeon (ex Regent) after a fight broke out between patrons during a screening of *Batman v Superman*. According to a fellow cinema-goer, a couple were chatting loudly. When asked to be quiet, it turned into a shouting match and eventually punches were thrown. Police said that no one was detained as no offences were reported. Meanwhile, there is still hope that the venue (along with the nearby ABC) can be saved after the businesses transfer to a new multiplex in 2017. Campaigners have pointed to such examples as the Cinerama Dome in Hollywood and the Seattle Cinerama theatre in the USA and the Regent in Hanley. {20081}

Daily Echo (Bournemouth) – 10, 14 April; Metro – 11 April; sent in by Carl Chesworth & Philip Stevens

BRADFORD (West Yorks)



The Big Lottery Fund has given £10,000 towards the development of a community cinema in the 1868 Mechanics' Institute in Eccleshill. The building was used as the Picture House from October 1911 to 1931. {48087}

Telegraph & Argus (Bradford) – 19, 22 February; photo taken June 2005

Work is about to begin on an extension to the Broadway Shopping Centre. It will include a six-screen 780-seat Light cinema.

Telegraph & Argus (Bradford) – 18 March

BRECHIN (Angus)



There are proposals to close the City Hall following the opening of the new £26m Brechin Community Campus. This would mean the end of the cinema group that uses the hall for regular shows. They say that moving to the new Campus is neither "suitable" nor "affordable". See p19 Bulletin 49/3.

Dundee Courier – 7 March; photo taken September 2006

BRIGHTON

Open-air cinema will be returning to Brighton beach this summer from 10 June. The 40m² screen, located just east of Palace Pier, will show 35 films, including *Star Wars: The Force Awakens*. Tickets will cost £3 for general admission and £7 for premium grandstand seating. The program will also include free live screenings of Euro 2016 football matches.

The Argus (Brighton) – 8 March; sent in by Barry Quinton

BRISTOL



The grade II listed former ABC Whiteladies will reopen as the three-screen Everyman in May. The screens will seat 240, 100 and 90. Five new flats have also been added to the upper floor.

Bristol Post – 6, 7, 8 April; sent in & photo by Graham Staples

BROADSTAIRS (Kent)

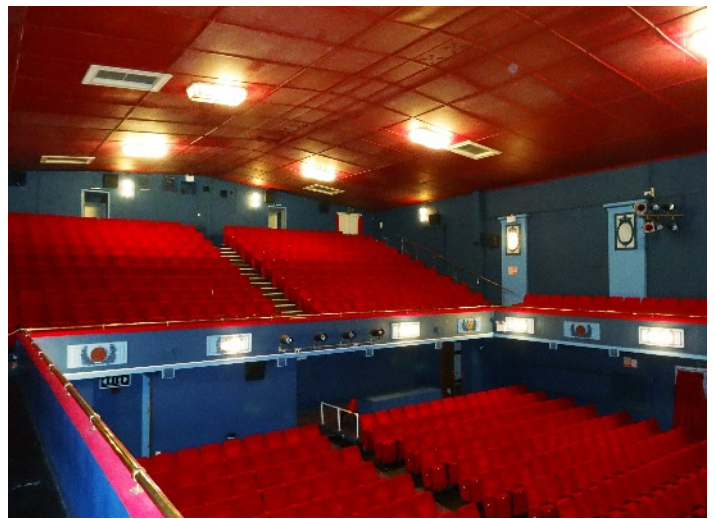
The grade II listed Palace has new owners, husband and wife team Simon Ward and Corrina Downing. They plan to expand the film programme and eventually refurbish the building. It was formerly known as the Windsor but the previous owners renamed it during their eleven-year tenure. {15017}

Isle of Thanet Gazette – 1 April; sent in by Margaret Burgoine

BRYNAMMAN (Carmarthen)

The Public Hall Cinema will be 90 years old on 26 May. It opened in 1926 as a Miners' Welfare Hall with 982 seats and stage facilities and became a cinema in the early 1930s. It continues to run as a successful two-screen cinema today. The CTA visited in April 2010. {26566}

Sent in & photo [top next column] by John Skinner



The interior of the Public Hall Brynamman

BURGESS HILL (West Sussex)

Plans for a ten-screen Cineworld as part of the Martlets Shopping Centre redevelopment have been approved by the Council. The town already has the two-screen Orion.

Mid Sussex Times – 10 March; *The Argus (Brighton)* – 12 March;
Mid Sussex Leader – 17 March; sent in by Barry Quinton

BURNLEY (Lancs)



A viability study is being carried out on whether it would be possible to develop the former Empire Theatre. It has appeared on the Theatres Trust 'buildings at risk' register for the last eight years. It opened in October 1894 with 1,500 seats on three levels. It was enlarged in 1911 and became a cinema in May 1930. It was a bingo club from the mid-1960s until 1995. In 1996 the building was listed grade II but has been empty since. A local photographer had some photos of it in an exhibition last year but we have only just found this out. {36755}

Burnley Express – 16 February; sent in by Joseph Roberts; photo taken January 2006

BURY (Lancs)



Seven more pages of newsreel
in the full Bulletin

LETTERS

MARTIN ENCOUNTERS NEWBIE PROBLEM



Staying at Travelodge, Chatham Maritime, I included a visit to the nine-screen Odeon this morning. It was very busy with seniors in for *Danish Girl* (seen) but also offered *My Fat Greek Wedding part 2*. My ticket said screen ⑨ and I found two mothers in there with babies, who said they would try and keep them quiet for me. More similar arrived and then the manager hurried in and said I was welcome to stay but full darkness is not created in Newbie shows and I might enjoy a full darkness show in screen ① with some adults. Due to usher's mistake, he offered a free coffee as a sweetener. The film was good but this was my Newbie debut. So was a walk right round St Mary's Island. [24449]

Martin Tapsell (photo)

MORE ABOUT MIDDLESEX CINEMAS

In response to a letter in your last issue headed *Middlesex Cinemas*. In 1953 I was working as a junior projectionist at the Rivoli Cinema in Ruislip. There was a period when we were without a manager. Mr Waterworth, the manager of the Astoria, would then run both cinemas. As stated, he was a lovely man, a perfect gentleman. A little later I went to work for ABC at the Dominion cinema in Harrow as third projectionist. After a few years I transferred to management and became Assistant Manager at Harrow. One of my duties was to relieve the manager of the Embassy North Harrow every Monday and Tuesday on his days off. As with most managers, most of his staff would also be off. One particular Monday I had to open up with myself in the cash desk and one usherette, when I had a phone call from Mr Westcott, the manager of the Granada Harrow, requesting to pay a visit with a young child. When he arrived, I had to refuse any sweets as the kiosk was closed, also I had to show him into the stalls as the circle was also closed. After the show he thanked me for letting him in but by his expression he was not very impressed. The Granada in Harrow was like a palace and run immaculately.

John Brierley

VISIT TO THE EMPIRE LEICESTER SQUARE ON 24 FEBRUARY

I thought it would be an idea to put down a few thoughts after today's visit. The notes we had were most interesting and reminded me of my visit to the old cinema when I first saw *Ben Hur*. What a shame that has disappeared! I must confess at being unimpressed by the new theatre, it being totally bland architecturally. The IMAX technology and the demonstration of the IMPACT sound system were impressive but as we were subjected to the 'trailers' I sat there wondering if it is all worth it. Yes, the current films show off the big picture and sound effectively but what are we actually watching in terms of quality of acting and cinematic expertise? I came away thinking of what the recently departed Douglas Slocombe might think of all this. Yes, I do enjoy seeing some of the IMAX films but many are merely an excuse for the special effects and sound systems to show off their product. Personally, I get more pleasure in visiting the National Film Theatre, seeing black and white films in old fashioned 4:3 ratio! As far as presentation was concerned, I thought the guide could have addressed us all using a microphone. There were a lot of us there and unless a small group was close enough to him, the rest of us were out of it. I could not make the Regent Street Cinema but will be visiting. It was good to see so many turning up for the visit and I thank the organisers for arranging it and look forward to future visits, having only recently joined CTA.

Tim Leman

ABC BOWLING



If you had told me half a century ago that I would feel nostalgia for ABC bowling alleys I would have found the suggestion highly amusing but two things have changed my view – John R Forster's most interesting letter *More Music From The Cinemas* in the last Bulletin and, coincidentally, the recent acquisition of a 35mm print of the Matt Munro voiced ABC Bowl advert, to which John refers in his letter. Just one very minor correction – according to the censor's certificate at the beginning of the advert the correct title is *Let's Make a Date to go Bowling*. Spliced onto the end of the advert would be a short length of film listing the bowling alleys nearest to the cinema where it was being screened. I have a couple of these, one of which includes the ABC Bowl at Stamford Hill, North London. Originally the *Stamford Hill Super Cinema*, designed by George Coles, it closed as a cinema in 1959, the month after I started at St Ignatius College (some 50 years after Alfred Hitchcock), which was a few hundred yards down the hill. I spent many happy hours with school friends at the Stamford Hill Bowl [above], sadly unaware of the building's past.

Kevin Wheelan

RESTROOM ETIQUETTE

Toilets at the recently opened Wetherspoon pub the John Fairweather in Cambuslang, Lanarkshire (formerly the *Savoy Cinema*) have won the 2015 regional Loo of the Year Awards – something they probably wouldn't have won when it was open as a cinema! Reading about this reminded me of a story my mum tells of her cinema-going in 1950s Somerset. My mum grew up in what was then the small village of Uphill. This meant that her local cinema was the Odeon in Weston-Super-Mare. As a teenager she would go the Odeon at least once a week. Because my mum and her friend could only afford the cheapest seats, they always sat in the stalls. If they wanted to visit the Ladies, they were meant to use the small, dark, windowless ones on the left hand side of the proscenium. My mum and her friend didn't like these so they would always use the larger ones in the circle. These were decorated in cream and green, had large windows, huge sinks and bars of sweet-smelling soap – the soap in the stalls toilets was a cheaper brand! The circle toilets also had better mirrors which according to my mum was very important in ensuring that their hair and make-up was just so!

Mike Whitcombe

Three more pages of letters
in the full Bulletin

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

A regular column celebrating our wonderful listed cinemas.
All the images come from the CTA Archive.

90 years

Govanhill Picture House 47 Bank Street, Govanhill, Glasgow [R].
Opened 2 May 1926. Architect: Eric A Sutherland. B listed.

Electric Palace 35 South Street, Bridport. Opened 14 June 1926.
Architect: Frederick Cooper & Sons. Grade II listed.



80 years



Savoy Abingdon Square, Northampton. Opened 4 May 1936.
Architect: WR Glen. Grade II listed.



Odeon Well Hall Road, Eltham. Opened 20 May 1936.
Architects: Andrew Mather & Horace Ward. Grade II listed.



Savoy 1 Burnt Oak Broadway, Burnt Oak. Opened 29 June 1936.
Architect: George Coles. Grade II listed.

ARCHIVE

ARCHIVE ENQUIRIES

The Archive is in temporary accommodation and this makes it hard to receive visitors and to deal with enquiries quickly. We cannot access all of the material as some remains boxed up. Please make enquiries in the normal way via the enquiry form on the website or by emailing [cta-archive@hotmail.co.uk] and we will do our best to deal with these as soon as we can.

To arrange to visit the Archive, first complete the enquiry form detailing your interest and why you would like to visit. If the material you want to see is accessible we will then book you a visit and help you find your way to us in Bow, East London. You will need to have a mobile phone to contact us on arrival, to be let into the building or agree a set time of arrival to then be collected from the reception area.

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].

Clive Polden, CTA Archivist

MISCELLANY

BLUE PLAQUES

A blue plaque in memory of actress Dora Bryan has been unveiled in Brighton. Roy Hudd OBE performed the ceremony at the grade II listed former Clarges hotel, where she lived in for more than 40 years. The curved façade of the building required a special curved plaque, believed to be the first of its kind. Dora died in July 2014, aged 91.

The Argus (Brighton) – 4, 10 March; sent in by Barry Quinton

Comedian Tommy Cooper has been immortalised with a blue plaque at his former home in Chiswick [West London]. Tommy died in April 1984 after collapsing on live TV.

Daily Express – 26 February; sent in by Barry Quinton

THEATRE SHOULD NOT BE WATCHED ON THE BIG SCREEN

It is billed as a way to make theatre more accessible: broadcast live performances to cinemas. However actress Gemma Arterton has hit out at this rising trend by saying that a theatre production is “something you were either there for or not”. She says that the two mediums require a “totally different style of acting”.

Daily Telegraph – 29 March; sent in by Carl Chesworth

Editor's Note: The only time I have ever experienced this was the National Theatre's *War Horse* beamed to the Odeon Harrogate. It felt like a cross between theatre and film and I wasn't happy with the experience. It wasn't helped by the sound bleed from a blockbuster in an adjacent auditorium. What do other members think?



DEVASTATION AT LYME REGIS



Images courtesy Scott Cinemas. Updates available at: [lymeregis.scottcinemas.co.uk/statement].
for additional images see [www.bridportnews.co.uk/resources/images/4879556] & [news.images.itv.com/image/file/940021/img.jpg]