

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 – see p3; *photo taken August 2003*



The Regent in South Shields, which is the subject of a planning application for shops & flats – see Newsreel p22; *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 on p8. 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) – see Newsreel entry on p22. 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

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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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.

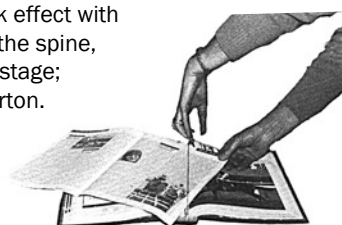
PICTURE HOUSE MAGAZINE

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.
No 19	£3.50	Co-operative Cinemas; Ideal Lambeth; Dursley; Alister Macdonald; Granada Tooting.
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all issues below have colour cover and inside pages		
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No 26	£4.50	Paramount Newcastle; Edward Stone; Granada Men; E de Wilde Holding; Electric Portobello Road.
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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.
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No 34	£5.00	Beaufort Birmingham; Granada Tooting in 1934; Rank in post-war Scotland; J Braddon's Cinema life.
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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

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.

The CTA sales stall will hopefully be at the Film Fair event at the Cinema Museum London on 4 June – see p6.

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

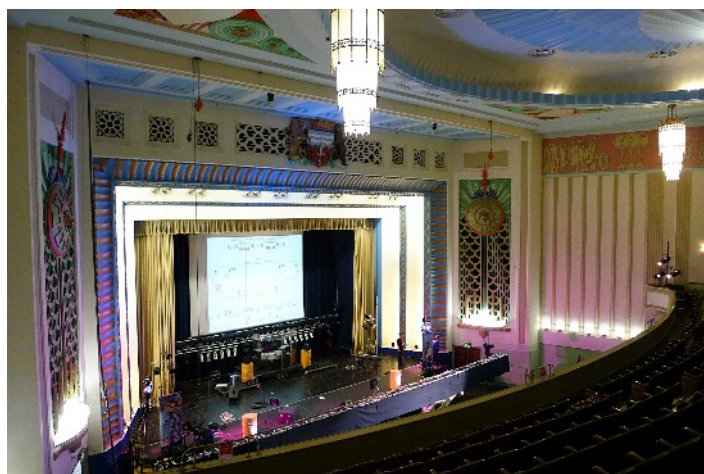
Guided Walks – Organised by Richard Norman;
Saturday 4 and Tuesday 7 June at 10:30am

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.

Meet at the Edith Cavell statue, opposite the National Portrait Gallery, Charing Cross Road. Full information is provided in last month's Bulletin (March/April 2016).

To reserve a place: please send a cheque for £10 per person (payable to 'Cinema Theatre Association'), stating which date you prefer. Applications with cheque and SAE should be sent to: Richard Norman, 4 Oakhill Lodge, Reedham Drive, PURLEY, CR8 4DT. Email: [RichardNormanCTA@aol.com] for further information.

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 as the Royal Crescent, Assembly Rooms and more if time permits.

Getting there: Bath Spa has frequent trains from London Paddington via Reading. We will meet the 09:00 departure from Paddington, calling at Reading 09:25, arriving Bath Spa station at 10:28, where you will be met by the visit organiser. It is expected that the visit will finish in time to catch the 17:13 back to London or to make connections at Reading. Arriving by car, all day parking is available at three Park & Ride locations for the cost of the bus fare; see [www.bathnes.gov.uk]. Long-stay parking in Bath City centre will cost at least £10; download map at [visitbath.co.uk/travel-and-maps/parking-in-bath].

There will be a small charge for the visit notes and donation to the venues on the day. Email me at [mike-wood@talktalk.net] for further information. My mobile number on the day will be 07950 302525.

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.

Wandering to Winchester – Rewind

Saturday 3 September 2016 (provisional)

CTA trips are rarely if ever repeated but a number of members who were unable to join the original *Wander to Winchester* in June last year have asked whether it might be run again. If the demand is there it will be! To judge the potential and size of coach needed it would be very helpful to have an indication of numbers now. Would all those interested in the possibility of a repeat (even if you came last year and enjoyed it so much you'd like to do it again!) let David Trevor-Jones know by email [david.trevorjones@btopenworld.com] If the demand is sufficient a booking notice will appear in the next Bulletin.

CTA Film Nites

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

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

Help Wanted

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

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

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

CAMPAIGNING TO SAVE YOUR HISTORIC CINEMAS

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.

Unlisted

In analogous manner another live theatre, the Grand in Banbury, commenced film exhibition in nineteen twenty-nine and was fully re-constructed internally six years later by noted northern cinema architect Joseph Gomersall. It is understood to be recorded as an Undesignated Heritage Asset, yet to date no application for registration as an Asset of Community Value has been submitted. It is believed that much of the Egyptian-deco interior survives; thus the Committee would be grateful if any member in possession of recent internal images could forward copies in order to facilitate further work on this case.

Churchill Homes has acquired the Odeon at Aylesbury with the intention of redeveloping the site as retirement housing. Permission to demolish the structure is in place; although retention of the frontage might have been desirable, it has unfortunately undergone drastic alteration.

As previously reported, the figurative sculptures from the façade of the Gaumont Palace in Cheltenham have been salvaged, restored and mounted for public display, yet no explanation stating their provenance appears to be provided. It is thus to be suggested to the local Council that a simple plaque be furnished; the Association would be happy to provide the text of the inscription.

Minerva has won its appeal against Kensington and Chelsea Council's decision in January 2015 to reject planning permission for its revised scheme for the Odeon at Kensington and the neighbouring site. An Asset of Community Value application has now been submitted, coincident with an attempt to secure funds to appeal against the Inspector's decision.



A letter advocating retention of the Ritz in Southgate's Bowes Road has been forwarded to Enfield Council, whose redevelopment plans for *Ritz Parade* include options that threaten destruction of the building. Its owners, the Jehovah's Witnesses, are also eager to retain the facility. *Photo taken April 2006.*

Following the rejection for listing of the Towers in Hornchurch, not only has the venue been nominated as an Asset of Community Value by local campaigners but the local Council has also extended its Article Four Direction indefinitely. At the least, this confers a gratifying stay of execution.

A local campaign group is endeavouring to re-open the Regal in Ringwood for film exhibition. The support of the Association for this venture has been sought: this has been readily proffered. See Newsreel p21. A similar aspiration is demonstrated in an enterprise that is attempting to return the Central Hall Picture Palace in Tooting to cinema operation. Its internal mutilation during long alternative usage prohibits application for statutory protection.

The operator of the Palladium in Brixton has reportedly resolved with the local Council the potential problems of noise nuisance to residents of the proposed neighbouring development. He is committed to the venue's future and has recently undertaken significant redecoration.

The CTA has pledged four hundred pounds to Save Britain's Heritage in support of its legal costs in continuing to oppose the demolition of the Futurist in Liverpool.

Threatened with the Wrecking Ball



- ⊗ An application to raze the Dominion in Walthamstow and replace it with residential units has been tabled. Unfortunately the structure is in an advanced state of dereliction and would prove unlistable. *Photo taken September 2004.*
- ⊗ A demolition permit has been issued for the Doric in Newmarket. This building, designed by Edgar Simmons, boasts a dignified neo-classical frontage featuring a curved portico.



- ⊗ The CTA has objected to an application to demolish the Belgrave in Plymouth; it has suggested that it might instead be utilised for community purposes. *Photo taken June 2008.*
- ⊗ Permission has been granted for demolition of the Cinema in Hoyland (South Yorks), which closed in nineteen sixty-nine. It is housed in a former chapel and would not qualify for listed status.

OTHER (NON-CTA) EVENTS OF INTEREST

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 27 May *Reach for the Sky* (1956) [U]
- Friday 3 June *Clockwork Orange* (1971) [18]
- Friday 17 June *The Dressmaker* (2015) [12A]

Special Event at the Plaza: Silent Film with Organ



- Friday 1 July *Shooting Stars* (1928 silent) [PG] 7:30pm only (BFI Restoration print). A fascinating drama set behind the scenes at a contemporary film studio. The Organist for this film is Michael Holmes.

- Saturday 2 July Organ Coffee Morning, 10am admission free
- Friday 8 July *Gracie Fields Double Bill* [PG]: [TBC] 7:30pm only
Keep Smiling (1938) & *This Week of Grace* (1933)
- Friday 22 July *Dad's Army* (2016) [PG]
- Saturday 23 July *Dad's Army* (1971) [U] at 2:30pm &
Dad's Army (2016) [PG] at 7:30pm

Films at 11am & 7:30pm unless otherwise stated.

Behind the Scenes tours at 11am on Mondays 23 May, 27 June & 25 July (*Dad's Army* themed tour). £6 – book or simply turn up.

Box Office: 0161 477 7779; website [www.stockportplaza.co.uk]

COS MUSIC & PICTURE EVENINGS [www.cinema-organs.org.uk]

- Friday 10 June COS Journal editor John Leeming
- Friday 15 July Southend Organist Victor Patterson presents a programme of some rare footage, including CTA visit to Lincolnshire in the 1980s plus *An acre of seats in a garden of dreams*, *Toccata at the Plaza* and a silent film with accompaniment by Gaylord Carter.

All at 6:45pm. Admission £4. Further info 07855 546823; refreshments available from 6:15pm and at the interval.

Venue: The Gallery at Alan Baxter's, 75 Cowcross Street, London EC1M 6EL. On leaving Farringdon Underground walk east 150 yards towards 'Snappy Snaps' shop. Entrance to The Gallery is opposite; walk through the large gates, cross the courtyard to the far end, turn right down steps.

THE CINEMA MUSEUM, LONDON

- Saturday 4 June 10:00-17:00 Film and Memorabilia Bazaar
Books, posters, equipment, stills, films (of all gauges), campaign books, DVDs and more. Refreshments available. Admission £5.
- Sunday 5 June 10:00-16:00 Vintage Technology Fair
The best British Vintage Wireless Society sellers and collectors of vintage radio technology will be selling surplus valve and vintage sound projection equipment. Refreshments available. Admission £5.

The Cinema Museum Bookstall will be open from 14:00 to 17:00 on Saturday 11 June. Admission Free. [www.cinemamuseum.org.uk]

The Master's House, 2 Duggard Way, London, SE11 4TH

THE REGAL EXPERIENCE, WYMONDHAM

- Sunday 22 May *The Quiet Man* (1952) [U] + *Cat's Concerto*
- Sunday 13 June *The Final Reel* The story of the Regal Wymondham
Shows at 2:30pm at the Wymondham Ex-Service's Club (former Regal cinema) NR18 OAT [tinyurl.com/zddvkq4]. Presented in 35mm. Further information from Michael Armstrong [01953 603246].

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.

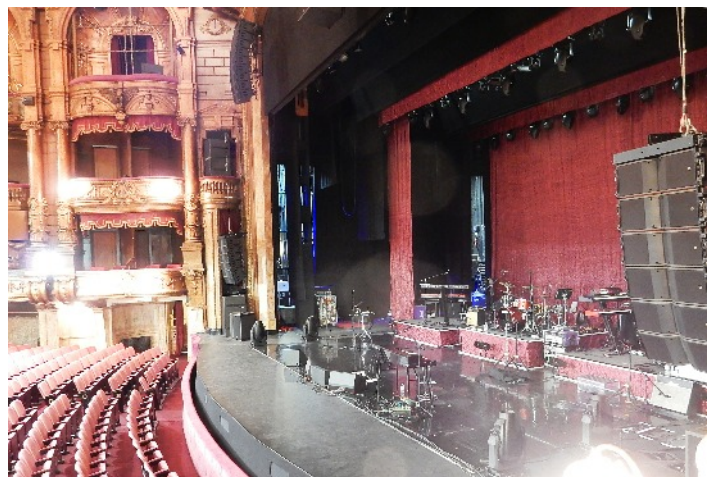


These were the first of many facts that our guide, Mark Fox, entertainingly expounded during our 2½ hour tour. It started on the grand staircase and we were accompanied by four Tiller Girls, who made sure we didn't get lost or venture into places we shouldn't. From there we went into the theatre's two 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.

WEST END WELCOME

A report of the CTA Visit to the **Empire Leicester Square** and the **Regent Street Cinema**; February 2016 by Mike Wood

Three years ago, the CTA visited what was almost certainly the best place to watch a film in London's West End at that time, the **Empire Leicester Square**. It's 1960s reconstruction resulted in a pinnacle of cinema design by George Coles, probably his last work. Two of his previous commissions, the **Gaumont State Kilburn** and the **Odeon Muswell Hill**, had acquired Grade II* listing but the **Empire** never achieved listed status.

Entertainment goes a long way back on this site, to the original **Thomas Verity Music Hall** of 1884. That was **Leicester Square** in those days, as **Dalys Music Hall** was a bit further along that side of the square on the site of the current **Warner/Vue** and joined later by **Matcham's Hippodrome**. The **Alhambra** was on the current **Odeon** site and the **Leicester Square Theatre** was on the South side of the square. All the theatres but the revived **Hippodrome** have gone. The **Leicester Square Theatre / Odeon West End** is now a hole in the ground and something bland will take its place; what's the betting that developers are eyeing up the **Odeon** (unlisted) side of the square? The façade of the **Warner** survives as the **Vue**.



The façade of the Empire Leicester Square [1]

The **Empire** has just emerged into its fourth incarnation (Thomas Lamb's movie theatre rebuild had replaced the **Verity** house) after a retrofit installation of an **IMAX** and **IMPACT** screen largely replacing the **George Coles** auditorium and the operator had kindly agreed to our visit to view the changes. So a large group of us arrived early on a Wednesday morning to have a look when we were welcomed by the friendly duty manager, who took time to show us around.



The IMAX screen at the Empire Leicester Square [2]

The entrance to the **IMAX** is through the pre-existing doors to Screen ① where a drop wall now separates the twinned main auditorium. The upper level stadium stepping remains, now re-seated. Although re-clad, the walls and ceiling appear to have kept part of the cove lighting

scheme, everywhere else now in black. We were given a demonstration of the upcoming *Kung Fu Panda 3* trailer in 2D, which, whilst impressive on the largest screen in the UK, purists might rate the digital **IMAX** picture and sound still not quite up to the preceding **IMAX 15/70** film quality, despite the **Laser** upgrade.



The IMPACT screen at the Empire Leicester Square [2]

The **IMPACT** screen is on the rear face of the substantial drop wall, soundproofed for the high volume levels that now accompany big screen presentation. Here, the projection equipment is where the original proscenium was located, now gone. A shelf-like balcony has also been installed and there is no hint of what had gone before. Curiously the demonstration clip here produced the much more impressive **Dolby Atmos** sound compared to the **IMAX**. We had been treated to a demonstration of this on our last visit and they have done well to retain it. But the picture is seriously compromised by the inability to fill the new screen using projection relocated from the old box. Maybe this is a temporary situation to get the place taking money again awaiting a next generation install. We should go back in another year or two and hope to see this screen with more impact. We probably all mourn the passing of **George Coles'** best but if it retains film on this site in **Leicester Square** in a style expected by today's patrons then so be it.



'First in the queue' at the Regent Street Cinema [1]

After a lunchtime intermission, we reassembled in Upper Regent Street for a visit to the **Regent Street Cinema**. Although part of the **University of Westminster**, it has been revived commercially to provide a dual-purpose auditorium. Thankfully, the original plan to replicate the Victorian hall where the **Lumière** brothers famously showed their moving pictures was abandoned in favour of restoration of the now rare in London 1927 (**FJ Wills**) cinema interior that became the **Cameo Poly** and similar **Cameo/Classic/Polytechnic** name variations.

This latest scheme has successfully inserted stadium-style seating with the aisles partially cut through the balcony front but retaining most of the structure. Underneath is an enlarged foyer and bar area in the rear stalls space. This also works well and provides a cup of tea and *matinée* presentation all for the price of £1.75 as mentioned here



The interior of the Regent Street Cinema [4]

before. Needless to say, this is very popular and many of us stayed to take advantage of it and the Compton organ prelude followed by *The Barkleys of Broadway*; Fred and Ginger in glorious Technicolor. The Regent Street Cinema remains the least altered cinema interior in London's West End and is now listed Grade II.

Our thanks go to our hosts for interrupting their busy schedules and to Richard Gray and Ken Roe for the organisation and Ray Ritmeester for the nicely illustrated visit notes.



Members photographing the box at the Regent Street Cinema [4]

Links for more photos and description:

[cinematreasures.org/theaters/912]

[en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Empire,_Leicester_Square]

[fleapits.wordpress.com/2014/05/17/impact-on-our-heritage]

[cinematreasures.org/theaters/21245]

Photos [1] by the author & [2] by Ian Grundy



VICTORIA VISIT

A report of the visit to the Victoria Palace Theatre April 2016 by Mike Wood

A few days before the end of the eleven-year run of the stage version of *Billy Elliot* an opportunity arose to visit the Victoria Palace Theatre (Frank Matcham 1911, Grade II*), which had been the show's London home all that time. This moment was also significant as a major restoration and upgrade was scheduled to follow before it reopens a year on.

This theatre, although a little distance from the West End where the other three earlier and remaining Matcham theatres are located, the Hippodrome (1900), Coliseum (1904) and Palladium (1910), the Victoria Palace has an enviable location almost immediately opposite the London Brighton & South Coast Railway's Victoria Station terminus and Grosvenor Hotel, both enlarged and rebuilt in 1908. Work is now at an advanced stage to rebuild the Underground interchange and major developments are nearing completion above ground, almost encircling the theatre but also providing an opportunity to extend the cramped stage house in a later phase of the theatre upgrade.



The façade of the Victoria Palace in 2007, before building work [2]

The Matcham theatre was built to replace the Royal Standard Music Hall, which dated back to at least 1848. It was commissioned by Alfred Butt to join the aforementioned palatial Matcham halls that belonged to the other big owners, Moss, Stoll and Gibbons. It has



The interior of the Victoria Palace Theatre [4]

always been a home for variety and populist musicals apart from a short spell as a drama house in the 1930s. Film has played there, probably as part of a variety programme, as evidenced by one of our CTA group spotting the emergency release for the projection port shutters in case of fire.

For twenty-five years, the theatre was owned by Sir Stephen Waley-Cohen who carried out several careful upgrades and initiated the plan to rebuild the stage-house. Delphont Mackintosh Theatres bought it in 2014 and Sir Cameron Mackintosh has carried the project forward. Our own Mark Price wrote the Heritage Statement as part of the planning process and this is available online at [goo.gl/gnAlmz] with a wealth of information and images to enjoy.

About fifteen CTA members gathered early on a Thursday morning for the visit organised by Ray Ritmeester and our genial host was Harry Dunbar, who has worked on *Billy Elliot* since its inception. Our thanks go to both and we wish Harry well. The nationwide tour has already started at Plymouth Theatre Royal with a new production company.

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



WILF GOES IN SEARCH OF A 'BIJOU'

By Wilf Watters

The nearby town of Rye in East Sussex always interests me in that it now has an up-to-date Kino, which shows the latest offerings and also opera performances. [See my article on p13 Bulletin 49/2.] The town itself is attractive. Cobbled streets and a railway station that has trains calling there. It did have a Shipman & King Regent, which was bombed in the second world war, which I pass on my way to a print shop. A three-story police station – unmanned of course – is on its site. But my attention was drawn to a local magazine *Rye's Own*, which told of the story of the Regent and also another cinema in town.



The former Electric Palace in Rye {38279}

With the help of Clive in the CTA archive, who also sent a disc with photos, I set forth to find out if there was any evidence of its former site. Surprise! I found the former auditorium still there – now a private house. I didn't think that the interior would be worth the hassle of trying to get inside so we have Clive's photo of the frontage of the former Electric Palace and I took a couple of stills of the auditorium block.

At the BFI National Film Theatre in London is a wonderful reference facility. I found British Kinematograph Year books from the year 1917, which lists the Electric Place and Cinque Ports Assembly Rooms. This I still have to find. It suggests films were shown at a public building sometime. In 1919 just the Electric Palace is shown, but in 1923 it's now the Bijou cinema. I estimate it was simply a change of name or



The former Regent in Rye, now demolished {38278}

owner because in 1925 it was still the Palace but now it quotes Shipman and King, seats 4d to 1/6d. It still there in 1932, but in 1933 the Regent appears from S&K, seats 7d to 2 shillings. The years go by; 1934-35 no mention of the Palace.

We now return to *Rye's Own* and I quote from an article by Mr Jim Hollands who tells the story when he was schoolboy in the Second World War "A devastating raid on Rye on 22 September 1942, destroyed the Regent cinema. A direct hit killed the relief Manager, who had been sent down from London to give him a break from the bombing in London. I have vivid memories of the attack as I was playing with a toy car nearby. From my low vantage point I saw five aeroplanes flying in the sky before Mother swept me aside to under-cover. The Regent Cinema was destroyed completely, except for the front of the building, which still stood proud except for the 'Shelf' above the entrance, which had crashed down on the pavement. There was water pouring down from the first floor toilets. Soldiers were up on the building throwing down loose brickwork to make what was left safe. I later heard that workmen had chalked *Gone With The Wind*". He continues: "The Regent had opened ten years before in 1932 with 671 seats and it replaced the Electric Palace. It was designed by architect Henry Coussens of Hastings and built for Shipman and King."

TWO NEW ZEALAND CINEMAS

By Mel Moratti

On 3 February 1931 the cities of Napier and Hastings on the East coast of New Zealand were devastated by a deadly earthquake with a magnitude of 7.8. 256 people died in the disaster and although many of the buildings in Hastings survived the quake, Napier was virtually completely destroyed – if not from the quake then from the fires that followed. The City was slowly rebuilt in the current style of the time. The result is a perfectly preserved Art Deco township, which now has become a worldwide tourist attraction. A few years ago I had the fortune to take some snaps of both the interior and exterior of the Napier Municipal Theatre [below], which was opened as a cinema in 1938 seating 1,154. The theatre was originally built in 1912 in the Italian Renaissance style by leading Australian architect William Pitt. The theatre is now used exclusively for stage shows and concerts and now has a seating capacity of 993. Adjacent is the Pan Pac Foyer [opposite] which is a smaller auditorium, conference centre and box-office.



The Hawke's Bay Opera House in Hastings [above] is one of the Southern Hemisphere's most impressive examples of Spanish Mission architecture with extravagant Art Nouveau interior decorations. Formally known as the Hastings Municipal Theatre this was built in 1915. Although it was rarely used as a cinema it has always been home to many touring theatrical companies. In fact many companies working their way up the islands would often by-pass Wellington completely, preferring to perform in Hastings before heading on to Auckland. Unfortunately as the theatre was undergoing renovations we were unable to visit the interior.

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 Bedford 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*

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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 Ecclehill. 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)



The former twelve-screen Vue at Park 66 has been demolished. It was opened by Liza Minelli as the Warner in June 1989 with seating capacities from 559 down to 166. It was rebranded Vue in 2004 and closed in July 2010 when they relocated to a ten-screen multiplex at The Rock in the town centre. {24292} photo taken May 2007

Manchester Evening News – 23 April; sent in by Richard Lyons & Nick Taylor

BURY ST EDMUNDS (Suffolk)

CTA member Pat Church has clocked up 50 years at the Abbeygate cinema. He started as a projectionist and ended up as manager. He has seen twelve different owners and had four brushes with permanent closure. He saw part of the building converted into bingo and spent 40 years trying to reverse it – he finally succeeded. The staff held a party for him. {24294}

Bury Mercury – 24 February

CAERNARFON (Gwynedd)

Plans have been submitted for a front extension at The Galeri, which will include two cinemas seating 120 and 70. This will free up the 394-seat main theatre to provide additional income. Construction is expected to start in January 2017 with the screens fully operational by January 2018. {31746}

Caernarfon & Denbigh Herald, Daily Post – 23 March

CHESTER

The new £37m cultural centre, which incorporates the grade II listed former Odeon has been renamed **Storyhouse**. Along with a 150-seat studio and a 100-seat cinema, it incorporates a flexible theatre, which can be converted from an 800-seat proscenium theatre into a 500-seat thrust space. It is due to open later this year.

[www.storyhouse.com]

Chester & District Standard – 17 March

CLYDEBANK (Dunbarton)



Demolition of the former La Scala/ABC began at the end of March and will take three months. It opened in February 1938 with 2,648 seats. It was one of the few buildings in Clydebank to survive the Blitz in March 1941. In the 1960s it was twinned with bingo in the stalls and a 776-seat cinema in the circle. That closed in February 1983 and later was used for snooker; the bingo kept going until the smoking ban in 2006. The building had been empty since. Housing will probably be built on the site. {41732}

Clydebank Post – 6 April; photo taken September 2008

COLCHESTER (Essex)

Plans for a change of use from restaurants to leisure for part of the Northern Gateway development have been withdrawn. However the developer is to submit a full planning application for the site, to include a cinema. The article makes difficult reading with political wrangling and back-biting. Your editor would welcome feedback as to whether members are interested in these matters.

East Anglian Daily Times – 15 February, 21 March; Daily Gazette – 22 February; Essex County Standard – 11 March

CRAWLEY (West Sussex)

Developers of the site of the former **Imperial** want to honour its history with a piece of public art, 1.8m high and 7m wide. The cinema opened in 1928 on the site of a previous cinema that was destroyed by fire. It remained in use until 1938 when the **Embassy** opened in the town. After WWII it became an auction room. Later the auditorium was gutted and it became a car showroom. The façade is all that now remains. {37325}

Crawley Observer – 16 March; photo [top next column] taken April 2007

CRIEFF (Perth & Kinross)

Work has started to turn a former library into a cultural venue. The plans include a cinema; £60,000 will be spent on cinema equipment. [www.strathearnartspace.co.uk]

Dundee Courier – 17 February



The former Imperial Crawley

DARLINGTON



The Civic Theatre is to close in May for an £11.7m refit and restoration. It will be dark for over a year and reopen in autumn 2017 as the **Darlington Hippodrome** (its original name). The seating capacity will be enlarged from 900 to 1,000 and existing seating will be modified to allow more legroom. Backstage facilities will be expanded to allow more touring shows to visit the venue. A grant of £4.5m has been received from the Heritage Lottery Fund. The building first opened in 1907 and was equipped as a cinema; programming in the 1950s was alternate weeks of films and variety. {26574}

The Stage – 14 April; sent in by Barry Quinton; photo taken on Heritage Open Day September 2006

DEAL (Kent)

The six-year conversion of the **Regent** back to a cinema continues. Dover District Council advises that Historic England must be consulted at the pre-planning stage. A 'soft consultation' with the public will then take place and the business partners then have 8-12 weeks to take on board these comments and modify their planning application. They face much impatience from local groups but claim only a local developer who wants to see their town thrive would put up with the hurdles they have to jump, whilst the big chains would shy away from small seaside towns.

East Kent Mercury – 10 March; sent in by Martin Tapsell

DERBY

The Council has released plans to replace the former **Assembly Rooms** of 1977, damaged by fire in March 2014. They propose a 1,600-seat theatre and a 3,000-seat second venue for concerts, comedy and conferences. Local reaction has been mixed. See p21 Bulletin 49/3.

Derby Telegraph – 17, 18 March, 13 April; sent in by Peter Good

There has been yet another fire at the derelict Hippodrome; it is believed to be arson. Eight fire crews attended the blaze on Sunday 3 March; people were evacuated from nearby homes. Structural engineers are to assess the condition of the building. A Trust had been hoping to buy the site from the current owner and restore the grade II listed building to a working theatre at an estimated cost of more than £15m. It opened in July 1914 as a theatre but was a cinema from

September 1930. It closed in January 1959 in favour of bingo, which finished in January 2007. In March 2008 "remedial works" being carried out by then then owner virtually destroyed the building. A video of the act can be seen at [youtu.be/pS5UOSz2dBg]. The *Derby Telegraph* has a timeline of the building at [tinyurl.com/hbfnfsc]. See also back page Bulletin 42/3.

BBC News Website – 7 March; Derby Telegraph – 9 March; sent in by David Alexander, Carl Chesworth, Peter Good, Chris Smith & Bob Taylor

AE writes: Rank had three cinemas in Derby and was happy to relinquish the Hippodrome in 1950, keeping the Gaumont and Odeon. The Hippodrome was sold to Stoll for live theatre use, which apparently ended in 1959 and bingo was introduced in 1962.

DONCASTER (South Yorks)

A construction firm has been appointed to build the new 984-seat Savoy cinema in the Civic and Cultural Quarter. Work is expected to start this spring.

Doncaster Free Press – 25 February

DUBLIN (Ireland)



The Screen cinema closed at the end of February due to falling attendances. It opened in 1964 as a single screen and was later tripled. {11607}

Irish Times – 19 February; photo taken November 2002

DUDLEY

Further talks are to be held on the future of the Hippodrome after a proposal to save it was said to "lack critical information". Meanwhile the Council will pursue plans to demolish it. {41631}

Express & Star – 10 March; sent in by Carl Chesworth, Ivan Harris & Chris Ingram

DUNDEE

Plans by Light cinemas to create an eight-screen 900-seat multiplex in the Wellgate Centre appear to have stalled. A spokesman for the chain said they were "100% committed" to a cinema in the City centre.

Dundee Courier – 17 March

DUNGANNON (Co Tyrone, Northern Ireland)

Omniplex has opened its new six-screen cinema at the Oaks Centre after a comprehensive £3m refurbishment. The building opened as the Global cinema in June 2000 but closed in November 2014. The largest auditorium now seats 237 and the smallest 83. {26717}

Tyrone Courier – 23 March

DURHAM

Contracts have been signed for a three-screen 383-seat Everyman cinema on the Milburngate development. It is expected to open in 2019. A six-screen Odeon is also planned for The Gates shopping centre, just yards away.

The Journal (Newcastle), Northern Echo – 8 April

EASTBOURNE (East Sussex)

The Towner Art Gallery has been given £450,000 to build a new cinema and auditorium. The grant is from the Arts Council England's Small Capital Grants fund and is boosted by a donation of £100,000 from the Eastbourne Arts Circle.

Eastbourne Herald – 19 February

The grade II* listed Congress Theatre and Winter Gardens will close in January 2017 for an 18 month refurbishment costing £44m. A new fully accessible entrance will be created and the auditorium restored to as it was at opening in 1963. The Devonshire Park Theatre will remain open during the works.

The Argus (Brighton) – 6 April; sent in by Geoff Gill & Barry Quinton

EDINBURGH

A new multi-screen arthouse cinema is to feature as part of the redevelopment of the St James Centre. It would provide competition for the Cameo and the Filmhouse and is expected to open in 2020. No operator has been named.

Edinburgh Evening News – 9 March

ELY (Cambs)

Work has started on the £16m leisure village in Downham Road, which includes a six-screen Cineworld multiplex. Completion is expected in early 2017.

Ely Standard – 7 April

EVESHAM (Worcs)

The grade II listed Regal has had a read-o-graph installed on the Port Street side of the cinema's frontage. The project signals the start of further investment – later this year a total of £825,000 will have been spent on the cinema as two smaller screens are added on a new fourth floor. An appeal has been launched for £50,000 towards the cost – donations can be sent to the cinema.

Evesham Journal – 24 March; sent in by John West

FARNHAM (Surrey)

Surrey County Council has stepped forward as the funder for a proposed development in East Street, which includes an Odeon cinema.

Farnham Herald – 1 April

FORT WILLIAM (Highland)

A community group has been set up with the aim of reopening the former two-screen Studio cinema. It is working on a business plan and will visit the cinema in Oban to learn more about the operation. See p23 last Bulletin. {43517}

Press & Journal (Aberdeen) – 18 March

GLOUCESTER

The former six-screen Cineworld at the Peel Centre is to become a Next fashion store. The cinema chain relocated to a ten-screen multiplex at Gloucester Quays in December 2013.

Cotswold Life – 1 March

The Sherborne Cinema in the suburb of Kingsholme has spent £30,000 on a Sony 4k digital projector, which gives four times the resolution of the previous 2k machine. CTA member Mark Cunningham opened the venue in February 2015. He has further plans for the venue, including air conditioning. {48260}

Gloucestershire Echo – 2 April

GRANTHAM (Lincs)



Plans to transform the current two-screen Reel cinema have been submitted. The adjacent Senior Citizens' Club will be demolished and a new one incorporated into the development, together with a multi-cuisine food hall. The cinema will be extended to have six screens and 1,037 seats. If permission is granted, work is expected to start later this year and take 45 weeks to complete. The cinema opened in April 1983 as the Paragon, a single screen with 450 seats. {24709}

Grantham Target – 23 March; photo taken July 2004

GRAYS (Essex)

Work has begun to transform the grade II* listed former State into a Wetherspoons pub. The project will cost £3m but no details have been announced. {1837}

Basildon Echo – 1 April; sent in by Margaret Burgoine & Ray Palmer

GUILDFORD (Surrey)

Proposals to transform the town centre were expected to be adopted in March. One recommendation is to increase the number of cinema screens in the town. Will this have any bearing on Curzon's bid to take over the Electric Theatre?

Surrey Advertiser – 18 March

HARLOW (Essex)

Construction of the six-screen Cineworld at the Harvey Centre is approaching its final stage. Opening is scheduled for later this year.

Harlow Star – 25 February

HARROGATE (North Yorks)

Building work on the new five-screen Everyman was expected to be completed in April. Fitting out is expected to take 22 weeks and the opening is scheduled for September. Restaurants in the building should open sooner.

Harrogate Advertiser – 3 March

HARWICH (Essex)



The Grade II* listed Electric Palace has launched an appeal for £350,000 towards its first refurbishment in 35 years. The trust that runs the cinema is also preparing applications for Lottery funding. It first opened in November 1911 with 380 seats on a single floor. It closed in 1956 and sat empty until volunteers rescued it in 1972. It was restored between 1975 and 1981 and re-opened on its 70th birthday in November of that year. {2597}

Harwich & Manningtree Standard – 11 March; photo taken July 2007

AE writes: The full story of the saving of the Electric Palace was featured in a special issue of *Picture House*: No37 in 2012.

HELENSBURGH (Argyll & Bute)

The Tower Digital Arts Centre opened a two-screen cinema on 15 April. It has a class 11 licence, allowing it to show the latest releases in its converted church building, which opened in 2014. Screen ① is in the main auditorium with 120 seats in the stalls and 80 in the balcony; there is also a second smaller screen. The town's last cinema, the La Scala closed in 1984 and is now a pub. [www.towercinema.org]

Helensburgh Advertiser – 14 April

HORNSEA (East Yorks)

The Floral Hall has been equipped with a commercial-sized drop-down screen, an overhead Blu-Ray projector and an improved surround sound system. Volunteers have rebranded the venue as the Hornsea Cinema; films are shown on the last Wednesday of the month. [www.floralhall.org.uk]

Hull Daily Mail – 22 February

HORSHAM (West Sussex)

A new multiplex could be part of the redevelopment of the Swan Walk shopping centre. Horsham already has three screens in the Capitol Arts Centre (ex Ritz).

West Sussex County Times – 17 March

HULL (East Yorks)

The seven-screen Reel cinema in the St Stevens shopping centre is to undergo a refurbishment. It opened in November 2007 on the site of the former ABC.

Hull Daily Mail – 22 March

The refurbishment of the New Theatre (reported on p22 of Bulletin 50/1) will take several months longer than planned. It was hoped to be ready for Easter 2017 but now the venue is not expected to reopen until August or September that year, Hull's year as UK City of Culture.

The stretched timetable is the result of uncertainty over funding coupled with a redesign to meet new planning requirements for flood alleviation measures.

Hull Daily Mail – 23 March; sent in by David Alexander



The Council has refused planning permission for owner Saleem Hakim to create an outdoor dining area in the bombed-out remains of the former National Picture Theatre. He has submitted a revised application. Concern is growing for the condition of the grade II listed ruins; a campaign group wants to create a WWII memorial on the site. Meanwhile, the group has hosted a screening of Charlie Chaplin's *The Great Dictator*, the film that was showing when the bomb hit in May 1941. The above photo has been released to the group showing the inside of the National just after the bombing.

Hull Daily Mail – 4 March; sent in by David Alexander

AE writes: See also my back cover story, *A Haven in Hull?*, in *Picture House* No38, 2013. It will be a disgrace if this memorial project isn't completed as part of Hull's year as 'City of Culture'.

KETTERING (Northants)

Plans have been submitted to convert a long-standing department store in Market Place into a restaurant with a cinema for diners.

Northamptonshire Telegraph – 7 April

LEVEN (Fife)



The former Troxy could become an indoor market. It opened in 1938 with 1,039 seats and closed at the end of 1983 with a reduced capacity of 844 seats. It became a snooker club, which closed in 2008 and the building has been empty since. Plans to turn it into a nightclub came to naught. {51299}

East Fife Mail – 9 March; photo taken September 2006

LICHFIELD (Staffs)

Fresh plans have been drawn up for the former Regal. The façade would be retained and flats built behind with shop units on the ground floor. Previous plans for a hotel on the site came to naught. The Regal opened on 18 July 1932. However it is in a very poor state following the previous occupiers Kwik Save moving out. Vegetation grows from the walls and the canopy dropped off back in November 2015 and the building had to be made structurally safe. Designed by Harold S Scott for an independent cinema chain, the Regal seated 1,300 with 300 in the balcony and 1,000 in the stalls. County cinemas operated the cinema from around 1932 and was then briefly operated by Odeon Theatres in 1939 but passed back to the independent owners in 1941. ABC took over in 1943 and it ran as this until 1969 when it was



sold to Star cinemas. The Regal screened its last film in 1974 with Bruce Lee in *The Big Boss* on 10 July. Part time bingo took place and also snooker in the former café area, however Kwik Save took over in 1980 and converted it into a supermarket, which closed some time in 2007 and the building has stood empty since. {35893}

Lichfield Live – 9 March; additional information & photo from Peter Lea

LITTLEHAMPTON (West Sussex)

The Council-owned Windmill is having a change of operator. Three large signs were removed, making it look like the facility was closed; a temporary sign was quickly put up.

Littlehampton Gazette – 25 February, 3 March

LIVERPOOL (Central)

On 15 April Lime Street was partially closed following concerns that the former Futurist was unsafe. According to the local press, the Council has been given five days to make the building safe. {6508}

BBC News Website, Liverpool Echo – 16 April; sent in by David Alexander, Philip Mayer & Mike Taylor

LIVERPOOL (Edge Hill)



The eight-screen Cineworld is to close on 14 July. The lease ends then and the landlord has served notice. It opened as the MGM in September 1991 with a total of 2,076 seats. A new eleven-screen Cineworld is due to open in Speke in 2018 [see below]. {24977}

Liverpool Echo – 12 April; photo taken July 2007

LIVERPOOL (Speke)

An eight-screen Cineworld is now under construction for opening in spring 2017. This could possibly see the demise of the independent Woolton Picture House. This would leave the Plaza Crosby as the last local picture house.

Sent in by Mike Taylor

LIVERPOOL (Tuebrook)

The former Carlton/ABC is to be demolished “imminently”. It opened in June 1932 with 1,280 seats in the stalls and 668 in the circle. In 1972 it was converted into a Painted Wagon pub in the rear stalls and the circle became a 636-seat cinema; the front stalls area was unused. It closed in July 1980 but reopened the following day under an independent operator. Final closure came in December 1982 and the cinema has been empty since, although the bar remained open until



about five years ago. The newspaper report says the projectors are still in situ. The next door building, which was an ABC Bowl and later became the Coconut Grove nightclub, is to be demolished also. {22279}

Liverpool Echo – 16 February; sent in by Mike Taylor; photo taken July 2007

LONDON (Barking)

Plans for a redevelopment of the Vicarage Field shopping centre include a six to eight screen cinema.

Barking & Dagenham Post – 16 March

LONDON (Bromley)

Vue is to be the operator of a proposed nine-screen cinema at the St Mark's Square development in Bromley South. A five-screen 220-seat boutique cinema is also proposed, to be built on the roof of the shopping centre at the northern end of Bromley High Street. Bromley already has a four-screen Empire (ex Odeon).

Meridian – 1 March

LONDON (Dalston)

A petition with 2,000 signatures claims that some staff at the Rio are paid as little as £6.91 an hour. Management called the campaign “disappointing” and said that wage rises would push the business into insolvency. {10557}

Daily Telegraph – 3 April; sent in by Carl Chesworth

LONDON (Homerton)



The team behind the Hot Tub Cinema has launched a crowd funding appeal for £45,000 to open a 60-seat cinema in the former Castle. They want to take over part of the first floor, currently used as a restaurant, Eat17; there is a shop on the ground floor. The original cinema opened in September 1913 and closed in May 1958. The building has had various uses since. {16613}

Hackney Citizen – 1 March; *Evening Standard* – 3 March; *Hackney Gazette* – 10 March; photo taken July 2006

LONDON (Kensington)

The demolition of the Odeon has become a step closer after the developer overturned the Council's rejection of its plans. There are now two alternative schemes with permission; in both the façade will be preserved.

Evening Standard – 19 February

LONDON (Tooting)

Smoke was seen coming out of the Gala bingo hall (ex Granada). The manager said that it was related to the heating system and was not a fire. He also said that it regularly causes confusion, with firefighters turning up. {9424}

Wandsworth Guardian – 16 April; sent in by Roger Fox

LONDON (Upper Norwood)

The Council has again refused permission for the former Rialto/Granada to be used as a place of worship. The Kingsway International Christian Centre [KICC] bought the building, which opened in October 1928 and closed on bingo in 2009. {28989}

[Picture Palace Campaign Website](#) – 6 March

LOUGHBOROUGH (Leics)

The new eight-screen 1,118-seat Cineworld is scheduled to open in late May.

[Leicester Mercury](#) – 2 March

LUDLOW (Shropshire)



The Assembly Rooms has been allocated £350,000 by the Arts Council of England to overhaul its facilities. The venue opened in May 1993, although the building dates back to 1840. It had previously seen cinema use, which ceased in the 1970s; films are currently screened several times a week. There are plans to reinstate the original Victorian staircase and install a lift. {24988}

[Shropshire Star](#) – 2 March; photo taken April 2010

LYME REGIS (Dorset)



The art deco auditorium of the grade II listed Regent was destroyed by a very serious fire on Tuesday 22 March. The fire started after an electrical fault in the roof space; no one was hurt. Operator Scott Cinemas said the building was insured and they will restore it to its former art deco glory; it had just had an extensive refurbishment. The auditorium was seen completed (with work in progress in the foyers) by the CTA on a visit last year. A planning application has been submitted to clear the debris and demolish the damaged part of the structure. Scott Cinemas is in talks with other parties around the town to provide some film entertainment whilst the Regent is closed. See back page this issue and p10 Bulletin 50/1 & p30 Bulletin 50/2. {22441}

[Bridport News](#) 27 March; [Dorset County Journal](#) – 24, 31 March; [BBC News Website](#) – 22, 23 March; sent in by David Alexander, Bob Bradshaw, Carl Chesworth, Richard Jones, Stewart Kidd & Philip Stevens; photo taken August 2003

MALDON (ESSEX)

A local lady has collected more than 1,500 signatures on a petition to get a new cinema in the town. The 1936 Embassy closed in 1982 and was demolished in 1985; the site is now flats called Embassy Court.

[Maldon Standard](#) – 16 February

MANCHESTER (Stretford)

Campaigners are calling on the Council to take over the Longford/Essoldo. The building is listed grade II but it has been empty since bingo finished over 15 years ago. It opened in October 1936 with 2,009 seats and films ceased in September 1965. See p6 Bulletin 48/3. {13796}

[Manchester Evening News](#) – 31 March; sent in by Carl Chesworth & Richard Lyons

MARGATE (Kent)

We reported on p25 of Bulletin 50/1 about plans to turn the former Parade into an indoor market. It opened on Good Friday 25 March. The renovation features a food mural and plasterwork has been restored. {32925}

[Isle of Thanet Gazette](#) – 25 March, 1 April; sent in by Margaret Burgoine

NEWMARKET (Suffolk)

Councillors have been recommended to approve plans to convert the former Doric into flats and offices. A campaign to reopen it as a cinema got it listed as an Asset of Community Value [ACV] but the Council said that was not material in planning terms. The campaign group said there was still an opportunity for a cinema [in the town] and it claimed that a national cinema chain was interested. {24935}

[Newmarket Journal](#) – 3 March

NEWTON ABBOT (Devon)

A multiplex cinema could be on the cards as Councillors are in discussions with Scott Cinemas about regeneration plans for the area around the cattle market. Scott cinemas already operate the two-screen Alexandra Cinema in the town.

[Herald Express \(Torquay\)](#) – 9 March

NORTHAMPTON

Arts Council England is to invest £100,000 in the project to add a second screen at the Errol Flynn Filmhouse at the Royal and Derngate. The money will be used to buy and install new digital projection and sound equipment. The construction costs will be funded by a loan of £566,000 from Northampton Borough Council. Work was due to start in March and the screen should be open by October 2016.

[Northampton Chronicle & Echo](#) – 18 February, 17 March; sent in by Paul Bland

NOTTINGHAM

Mecca is to open a new bingo hall in the empty Habitat store, near to the sites where the Odeon and ABC once stood. The ABC closed in 1999 and the Odeon in 2001; both have been demolished.

[Nottingham Post](#) – 15 March

OKEHAMPTON (Devon)



The New Carlton could get a third screen after Councillors agreed in principle to the addition [of the third screen] on the upper floor of the building. The cinema is located in the former Market Hall and opened in December 2006. Its two screens seat 160 and 60. {25228}

[Okehampton Times](#) – 22 February; photo taken September 2015

OXFORD

The six-screen Odeon in George Street (ex ABC) has had improvements to the exterior, foyer and toilets. The chain is also planning improvements to their grade II listed Magdalen Street cinema, which could take place later this year. {22679} {22676}

[Oxford Mail](#) – 15 March; photo [top next column] taken February 2004



The Odeon (ex ABC) George Street, Oxford

PLYMOUTH (Devon)

Cineworld is expecting to open a twelve-screen multiplex as part of the Bretonside development. It is due to open in 2017.

The Herald (Plymouth) – 16 March

PONTEFRAC (West Yorks)

The dance hall section of the former *Crescent* has been taken over by a local dance group. They have redecorated the area, retaining some of its original features. It is hoped the former cinema part of the building can also be redeveloped. See p19 Bulletin 49/6. {3786}

Pontefract & Castleford Express – 25 February

PORTHMADOG (Gwynedd)

The former *Coliseum* has been demolished. It opened in July 1931 with 630 seats in stalls and circle. It closed in September 1983 but was reopened by volunteers in July 1984. It finally closed in January 2011 and a campaign to save it failed. {26641}

Daily Post – 20, 27 February, 9 March; Caernarfon & Denbigh Herald – 9 March

PRESCOT (Merseyside)

A new cinema could be part of a redevelopment of the shopping centre. A Council spokeswoman confirmed they are “working with partners to explore the options for a new cinema in the town.”

Liverpool Echo – 5 April

PRESTON (Lancs)

Artists’ impressions of the proposed eleven-screen *Light Cinema* for the Markets Quarter have been released, along with the announcement of a public consultation on the project.

Lancashire Evening Post – 1 April; sent in by Philip Crompton

RAMSGATE (Kent)

We reported on p25 of the last Bulletin that it was believed the *Kings Hall* had been sold. It was bought for £145,000 by the owners of the Lido in Cliftonville and Primark in Margate but they have put it back on the market for offers in the region of £250,000. Many original features survive in the building, which was last used as a church. {32919}

Isle of Thanet Gazette – 26 February; sent in by Margaret Burgoine

On the same page we reported about Wetherspoon’s plans for the *Royal Victoria Pavilion*. They have now been granted an alcohol licence for the premises. No further details have been given of the project, which will make it the UK’s biggest pub. {43938}

Isle of Thanet Gazette – 25 March, 8 April; sent in by Margaret Burgoine

REDHILL (Surrey)

Plans for a new six-screen cinema as part of the Marketfield Way development went on public exhibition in early March. After the public has been invited to comment, a planning application will be submitted. If permission is granted, construction is expected to start in 2017 and be completed in 2019. No operator has been mentioned.

Surrey Mirror – 3, 10 March

RETFORD (Notts)

The *Screen* cinema has acquired a new Optima 5000 projector, thanks to a grant from the Rotary Club of Retford. It is based at the 159-seat Retford Little Theatre. A new screen was installed last year – see p20 Bulletin 49/6.

Retford Times – 28 February; sent in by Terry Hanstock

RHYL (Denbigh / Sŵr Dinbych)



The Apollo Bingo Club in the grade II listed former *Odeon* is having a £500,000 revamp. It will include a new entrance foyer and refurbished main hall; the building’s external appearance will also be improved. It opened in October 1937 with 862 seats in the stalls and 546 in the circle. It was taken over by the Hutchinson Leisure Group [see back page last Bulletin] and renamed *Astra* in October 1969. The cinema was tripled in April 1972 with 750 seats in the stalls and two screens in the circle, seating 250 and 255. Later the stalls screen was converted into a bingo club and the two cinemas continued in the circle. It was taken over by Apollo Leisure and renamed *Apollo* in the late 1980s. Films ceased in October 1995 and the building was de-tripled. {22968}

Rhyl, Prestayn & Abergel Journal – 17 February; photo taken June 2011

RINGWOOD (Hants)

A local group stood outside the former *Regal* to campaign for it to be reopened and they invited people to sign their petition. A display was mounted in a local shop window [R]. Developers want to demolish the auditorium for new shops, although the façade would be retained. The cinema opened around 1914 in the former *Corn Exchange*, which dates back to 1868. Films ceased in 1972. The campaign group video is at [youtu.be/rWFxvJZu-z0]. See p25 Bulletin 49/3.

New Forest Post – 3 March;

Stour & Avon Magazine – 4 March; sent in by Ian Patterson & Philip Stevens [photo]



RUSHDEN (Northants)

Plans (reported on p26 Bulletin 50/1) for a twelve-screen *Cineworld* at Rushden Lakes have been approved unanimously by the Council. Construction is due to start next year.

Northamptonshire Telegraph – 20 April

SAFFRON WALDEN (Essex)

The *Saffron Screen* is celebrating its tenth anniversary in May. It opened in May 2006 with 200 seats and a 35mm projection and sound system. Digital equipment was installed in 2011. The cinema is run by volunteers. {25285}

Essex Life – 1 April

SEVENOAKS (Kent)

The former *Carlton* has its façade covered in scaffolding and the canopy has been removed (it was going to fall off anyway). I’m not sure if demolition is imminent or what is going to happen – let’s hope they’re going to keep the façade. See p26 Bulletin 50/1.

Sent in by Tim McCullen

SHEFFIELD

The *Abbeyle* is to open a café every Friday and Saturday from 10am to 5pm. It will serve “delicious food and locally roasted coffee” with plans to open a bar serving alcohol in the future. The feature is part of a long-term plan to bring the cinema back into regular use; it currently hosts temporary film nights and festivals.

Star (Sheffield) – 18 February, 29 March; sent in by Stuart Smith

SOUTH SHIELDS (South Tyneside)

An application has been made to convert the former Regent at Westoe into 29 apartments, with a gym, hair salon, coffee shop and two retail units on the ground floor. I do not know whether this involves any demolition and I am surprised at the ground floor choices since the area is awash with such establishments and vacant shops. The Regent opened in October 1935 with 1,835 seats and went over to bingo in September 1966. Mecca closed it and put it up for sale in September 2014. {32774}

Shields Gazette – 29 February; sent in by Eddie McNamee; photo on front cover

STOCKTON-ON-TEES



Stockton Council is being encouraged to invest a further £2.1m in the restoration and reopening of the town's Globe Theatre. Organisations behind the project said having the Council in control would speed up the process with a view to it opening in the winter of 2018. The Heritage Lottery Fund has awarded £3.9m to the scheme, while the Council has already pledged £1.15m. The Grade II listed art-deco building opened in December 1935 with 2,429-seats and closed in June 1974; bingo took over from 1978 until about 1996; the building has been unused since then. {1835}

BBC News Website – 20 March; photo taken June 2006

STOURBRIDGE (Dudley)

We reported on p26 of the last Bulletin that the former Savoy/ABC was on the market for £600,000. It was sold for £350,000 to a property investor but a month later it was put on the market again for rent at £64,000 per year or purchase at £600,000.

Stourbridge Chronicle – 10 March, 8 April; sent in by Ivan Harris

SUDBURY (Suffolk)

Plans to move the bus station and redevelop the site with a cinema could be scuppered by a legally binding covenant. The 1960s document specifies that the site can only be used as a bus park.

East Anglian Daily Times – 19 February

SWINDON (Wilts)



The twelve-screen Empire (ex Cineworld) at Greenbridge has transformed one auditorium into an IMAX screen. It opened on 25 March with *Batman v Superman*. The capacity has been reduced from 320 to 260 in order to accommodate the huge curved screen. {25399}

Swindon Advertiser – 22 March; sent in by Carl Chesworth; photo taken March 2006

THETFORD (Norfolk)



Work is progressing on the new three-screen Light cinema being built on the site of the former bus station. It is scheduled to open in early 2017. Next to the site is a statue of Captain Mainwaring from *Dad's Army*. The BBC TV series was partly filmed in the town. We stayed in the Bell Hotel virtually opposite the new cinema site. Some of the cast stayed there during the filming of *Dad's Army* and the hotel features the *Walmington-on-Sea Restaurant*, the *Sergeant Wilson Room* and *Pike's Bar*.

Eastern Daily Press – 20 February; additional information & photos from Harry Rigby

TUNBRIDGE WELLS (Kent)

Plans by Curzon cinemas for a three-screen cinema at The Pantiles have been abandoned due to escalating costs. Planning permission was granted last year for the former *Day at the Wells* attraction in the Corn Exchange to be used as a cinema. Since then, the Royal Victoria Place shopping centre has announced expansion plans, which include an eight-screen cinema.

Kent & Sussex Courier – 4 March

WALSALL (West Midlands)



The Wetherspoon's pub in the former Imperial closed suddenly on 19 March. It was one of their better conversions. The cinema opened in January 1910 in the Agricultural Hall of 1868. The interior was remodelled and a balcony added in 1914, raising the capacity to 1,600. Films ceased in May 1968 and bingo took over; that ceased around 1996. The pub opened in March 1997.

Sent in by Louis Barfe; photo taken April 2007

WEST BROMWICH (Sandwell & Dudley)

We reported on p28 of Bulletin 50/1 that the former three-screen Kings was on the market for £2.2m. The landlord has now taken it off the market. {47864}

Express & Star – 13 April; sent in by Ivan Harris

YATE (Glos)

The six-screen Cineworld was due to open on 29 April in the Riverside complex. The largest auditorium (screen) will have 287 seats and a screen 12m wide. Three of the screens will have balconies for wheelchair users.

Bristol Post – 6 April

YORK

Plans for a new football stadium at Monks Cross have seen costs increase by £5.4m to £44.2m. A thirteen-screen cinema is included in the plans; its height will be increased and the number of seats increased from 2,000 to 2,400. If the extra costs are approved, construction could start soon with a view to opening in winter 2017.

The Press (York) – 29 February; Yorkshire Post – 10 March

HOLIDAY SNAPS



SONG OF NORWAY

Above is what is now screen ① of the SF Kino in Stavanger, Norway. It is immaculately clean (if a little bright!) and was obviously the town's original cinema. It is now part of a cultural complex, with a new library alongside and the rest of screens (10 more, I think) tucked in behind and below.

Rachel Woodforde



CANARY CINEMA

The Odeon [above] in Puerto del Rosario, Fuerteventura, Canary Islands, pictured in Feb 2016 has completion from the Yelmo six screen cinema complex in the nearby more tourist-oriented Caleta de Fuste.

Caleta also has a restaurant called Fado Rock, which contains three cinema projectors, without any optics, including this Philips machine. [right]

Bob Bradshaw

DUTCH TREATS

The Pathé cinema in Eindhoven, Holland. [far right]

Michelle Facey



OLD AND NEW LOOK EQUALLY GOOD

Above are two cinemas in Larnaca/Larnaka, Cyprus. One is a restored oldie, the other a decent six screen multiplex.

Martin Tapsell



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

THE LIGHT COMES TO WALSALL



Having written a book called *Black Country Cinemas* back in 2012, I knew immediately that I had produced a book that would soon be out of date. Inevitably new cinemas would open in the Black Country: history would go on being made! On Monday 21 March 2016 the latest local multi-screen cinema opened its doors to the public. This was The Light Cinema by the Waterfront in Walsall, the most recent addition to new buildings close to the town's famous art gallery, including a new Premier Inn Hotel and a number of restaurants and bars. Twelve hundred seats are spread through eight auditoria (or "screens" as they say today). The building itself is a large solid-looking block with restaurants and the cinema entrance on the ground floor with the "screens" up on the first floor – reached by an escalator. There is no suggestion of traditional cinema architecture in the building but the café is decorated with old film-posters and calls itself 'The Green Room' in the theatrical tradition. The whole development took fourteen months to build and was still being finished as the first customers arrived.

Managers and staff were welcoming and keen to tell us they were trying to make cinema-going "special" but really the experience was not very different from that in other local multi-screen cinemas. Presentation of sound and picture is of a high order but without any of the trimmings of old-time cinema-going. Rather quaintly, the usherette in charge of our screen made the request to switch off mobile phones orally. We sat in an audience of ten to watch *Spotlight* but apparently the cinema has already received healthy online bookings for the arrival of *Batman meets Superman* in week two. Seats were comfy and staff were friendly – about fifty people have been rapidly trained to run the cinema.

About four screens had been used on the previous day to provide the staff with a rehearsal, to which family and friends were invited and on the first afternoon there were owners, managers and supervisors galore all anxious to see the new cinema come to life. There had been no grand civic opening as in days of old but the whole place reeked of 'newness' and one could sense the pride and excitement of the staff.

We were shown the projection room – a long dark corridor in which eight Barco projectors automatically went about their work – with a technician on hand "just in case". A large number of films are shown during the course of a week and there are special screenings for special audience groups. We enjoyed our first visit to the new cinema and wish it every success. It is some time since Walsall has enjoyed the presence of a town-centre cinema and it now brings the total number of multiplexes operating in the Black Country up to six, along with the more traditional cinema experience provided by the Reel in Quinton (ex Danilo) – now with four screens and Wolverhampton's valuable art house cinema The Light House.

PS: The Light actually opened on Monday 21 March – not 18 March as anticipated in the last Bulletin.

Ned Williams (photo)

IN AMSTERDAM 70MM IS REBORN!

On 7 January, the 70mm screenings of *The Hateful Eight* started in the EYE Film museum in Amsterdam in their amphitheatre Cinema One with 315 seats with 3 performances a day. The slightly curved screen measures 14.25m x 5.15m. EYE Cinema One has a unique renovated Dutch Cinema organ, which is often used for screenings of restored silent films, like Charlie Chaplin's. It is equipped with digital Barco 32B [4K] and two unique Kintoon FP 75 ES (Electronic Shutter) Studio 35/70mm electronic projectors without Maltese Cross. There are only six of these in the whole world. When *The Hateful Eight* storm is over, they are thinking of a monthly program of regular 70mm classics, such as *West Side Story*; they have a new 70mm print from 2009.

The 70mm screenings are an unbelievable and an unexpected success. Since the screenings started in EYE, they have had in seven weeks up to 27 February, 104 public screenings of the 70mm print, with a total of 27,670 visitors and an occupancy of 85%. With pre-sales for forthcoming shows the number exceeds already the 30,000 admissions. Evening screenings are mostly sold out. They have announced screenings until 2 March but are still adding new ones. So 70mm in Amsterdam will probably set the record for the 70mm screenings of *The Hateful Eight*, maybe going to end as the most successful 70mm movie of this decade in Europe?

I collected 18 full pages with reviews about the film and interviews with Tarantino. Not a few lines but full pages. And mostly in favour of the film. I have never seen that with any previous movie in Amsterdam. An inquiry among the visitors, mostly Tarantino fans, before the first full-house screening, why they came to the EYE Cinema for Tarantino's movie (they have to take the ferry crossing the harbour) instead of the easier way to see it in the inner town of Amsterdam, resulted in the same answer from all: "We want to see it the way Tarantino has meant it: in 70mm!" So that is the reason, not the enormous publicity! And wait for the next 70mm movie by Christopher Nolan, who starts in July 2016 in France with his new epic *Dunkirk* completely filmed with 65mm cameras!

Johan CM Wolthuis, *International 70mm Publishers, The Netherlands*

PRESENTATION IN BARNSELY

If you wanted to experience presentation and a fantastic 70mm show, you would have to go to the Odeon Leicester Square. That's an untrue statement now, because it's even moved up to... wait for it... Barnsley! I used to live close to Barnsley many years ago and remembered the time when the building that was the Gaumont became the Odeons ① & ②. Very nice, spacious auditoria. Nowadays, it is called the Parkway Cinema and has not succumbed to subdividing the spacious auditoria it inherited. The 70mm print of *The Hateful Eight* was shown in London, then up in Edinburgh and managed to find its way to the Parkway in Barnsley. What a presentation it was! Rob the projectionist not only sorted out all the difficult elements of changing the screen size and finding the correct lenses for Ultra Panavision 70, he also became part of the experience. Huge screen tabs in this spacious auditorium [screen ②] on the ground floor were smothered in changing colours. There was a fascinating short video about how the cinema had prepared for the 70mm presentation. Then Rob actually came on stage and welcomed the audience and made it personal! And this was the matinée performance. Rob made sure that all patrons in the audience, whether they were cinema geeks like me, or those just wanting to see a Tarantino movie, were made welcome. To see a 70mm film again with its fine, sharp detail and dynamic sound, made this visit very special. The success of it being down to one man – Rob. We had things in common, in that Rob had been involved in the Futurist in Scarborough at the time when it was running as a cinema/theatre. I just feel fortunate to have been taken back in time, when cinema/film presentation was something special. The multiplexes have erased that. So, thanks Rob, for taking us back to a time when the cinema experience was indeed that, an experience and an event.

Terry Ladlow

EARLS COURT EXHIBITION CENTRE

In the letters on p27 Bulletin 49/2 I mentioned the above, pending demolition of this fine building; I believe this is now underway. Perhaps some London members could give an update of the progress via the Bulletin, including some photos taken recently. I am certain that other members who are unable to travel to London would be interested in the demise of this landmark. A book that charts the history of the building and might still be available second-hand is *Earls Court* by John Glanfield; Sutton Publishing (2003) ISBN 07509 29987; was £14.99.

RW Hawkins

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

ILKESTON CORRECTIONS

I wrote the article on Ilkeston cinemas in Bulletin 50/2. I was very pleased with how it looked with all the photos. However it made me realise that the Globe cinema was built further up Bath Street than I had been lead to believe. It was not on the Woolworth site at all. So I just wanted to set the record straight; sorry about that and thank you for your interest in it. Also at the end of the article thanks were given to the *Ilkeston Advertiser* for allowing it to be published. The *Ilkeston Advertiser* had nothing to do with my article. It was first published in the new *Ilkeston Life* newspaper, which is published once a month and run mostly by volunteers and we are all very proud of our product.

Patricia Spencer

WESTREX WANDERINGS

Clearing out my parents' house prior to sale was not much fun. A strange mixture of hard labour and nostalgia. Finding collections of long-paid electricity bills rewards forlorn hopes of coming across unknown cash deposits. One item emerged from a drawer; it was the service call schedule for Westrex engineers for the island of Ireland almost sixty years ago. Printed front and back on a single sheet, it charted the likely movements of the service men during January 1957. It was clearly designed for more general use, so that a cinema with an urgent problem could find the local service man in an era before mobile phones.

Westrex was descended from the non-telephone activities of the Bell family of telephone companies. Initially rather slow to see the potential of technology transfer for sound film uses, Western Electric (WE), a subsidiary of AT&T, established the innovative Electrical Products Research Inc (ERPI) in 1926 and was soon offering both sound on disc and sound on film options to both film producers and cinemas. One big attraction to cinema operators, faced with the huge cost of conversion during the worst of the depression, was that WE, later Westrex, would lease the equipment and would also provide ongoing service support. In time Westrex provided projectors also. As with the film studios, the Bell companies were pursued under anti-trust legislation and eventually Westrex was disposed of to aerospace conglomerate Litton Industries in 1956. It then had 35 overseas offices and 1,300 employees. The Westrex name still survives as a movie credit from that era.

Twelve Westrex service men covered the island of Ireland in 1957. Two were based in Northern Ireland, one in Derry and one in Belfast, nine others covered mainly the Republic from various locations, with one apparently full-time at the head office in Dublin. 142 cinemas and theatres were listed for service visits in January, 28 of them in Northern Ireland. A few additional locations were visited; two dance halls near Dublin, the Office of the Film Censor in Dublin, a large Mental Hospital and a religious institution. In a time before bypasses and motorways the planned movements of the service engineers frequently crossed the border, perhaps difficult enough with customs controls while carrying spares and tools. It often amazes foreigners to find that the most northerly place in Ireland is not in Northern Ireland at all, as might be imagined but in Donegal in the Irish Republic. The Derry-based man also covered Donegal. A Dublin-based man visited the three Armagh cinemas, the Ritz, the City and the Picture House as well as cinemas in Newry and Portadown.

Time has been very hard on the 142 houses. Only one, the *Opera House* in Belfast has survived (with a modern extension) and it is today still in business as a theatre. None of the cinemas remain in business, although names may have passed to later multiplexes. Most are long demolished. The ballrooms are gone too and the mental hospital is now largely empty. The Censor moved out also.

Why did this survive so long in my father's papers? Perhaps a clue is that scribbled on it, in unknown handwriting, are the times for a bus service. This odd Dublin City service ran to what is still today absolutely nowhere and it also ran so infrequently that it was of no real use to any of those on its route. It tended to belt along the route, flashing past, with no passengers on board, to offer a nice rest at a rural cross roads to the driver and conductor before the equally uneventful return journey. It too has gone and I doubt my father used it.

Bob Bradshaw

PICTUREDROME LUTON



Here is a photo taken this morning [20 April] of the former Picturedrome in Park Street with its new frontage. It looks as though it's been done on the cheap!

Margaret Burgoine

COME PLAY WITH ME

Press and television cameras were present on 7 April at the site of the Moulin cinema in London's Great Windmill Street for the commissioning of a blue plaque commemorating the 'sexploitation' film *Come Play With Me* starring Mary Millington. It played there for 201 weeks from 28 April 1977 to 4 March 1982 – a record for a British film. In fact *The Guardian* dubbed it



"The Mousetrap of the Movies". The plaque was unveiled by the film's executive producer David Sullivan, accompanied by assistant producer Willie Roe and two of the cast – Nicola Austine and Sue Longhurst. The ceremony was arranged by author and film historian Simon Sheridan, who has produced a feature-length documentary *Respectable – the Mary Millington Story* telling the story of the seventies porn star who died in 1979. It was premiered that evening at the Regent Street Cinema and has now been released on DVD.

Ray Dolling

Editor's Note: The building is currently shrouded in scaffolding and a restaurant notice has been hung up concealing part of the plaque.

JIGSAW IDENTIFIED

Reference your editorial in Bulletin 50/1. When I received this Bulletin I was delighted on turning to the first page to see the reproduction of the picture of Southend High Street from a jigsaw puzzle you found in a Charity Shop. I am very familiar with this picture and have known the artist for 40 years. He is Malcolm Root, a Fellow of the Guild of Railway Artists, who is an Essex Boy and lives in the County with his family. We met in the 1970s, both of us being members of the Stour Valley Railway Preservation Society (now the East Anglian Railway Museum) at Chappel and Wakes Colne near Colchester [www.earm.co.uk]. The picture is mid-1950s and, in common with all of this artist's work, accurate in detail. The locomotive on the London-bound train is No 42516, one of 37 built in the 1930s specifically for the Tilbury line of the LMS. The bus is one of the municipally-owned Southend Transport fleet. The original picture is in the home of a retired bank manager and I have a framed print in my hallway. Malcolm, now in his 60s, is still painting and his work commonly appears in two calendars published by a Colchester firm. As well as on jigsaws, his paintings can be seen as prints and on greeting cards, most on transport subjects covering buses, coaches, ships and aircraft as well as railways and even cars.

Ray Palmer

WORTHING WOW

Worthing WOW (World of Words) is a non-profit group that exists to promote arts, culture and heritage in Sussex. One of the main aims of their 2016 Festival (28 May to 12 June) is to help celebrate 120 years of cinema in Sussex. Several of the events might interest CTA members, particularly the silent film screenings and talks. The highlights include a free talk by Dave Norris in the Projectionist's Bar at the Dome Cinema entitled *My Life in Projection* on Friday 10 June at 8:30pm. Described by Mark Kermode as 'The Last Projectionist Standing', Dave worked as a projectionist for 35 years and has many fascinating tales to tell. Between 4-6pm on Saturday 11 June at Fraser's Bar in the Connaught Theatre, Sir Sydney Samuelson CBE will also be giving a free talk entitled *My Life in Cinema*. Sir Sydney began his cinema career as rewind boy at the Luxor Cinema in nearby Lancing before becoming the first British Film Commissioner. A day later on 12 June at 3:30pm in the Denton Lounge, honorary Academy Award winner Kevin Brownlow, the well-known documentary film maker and silent film expert, will talk about his career. He will also introduce the 1924 film *The Signal Tower*, directed by Clarence Brown. Tickets for this event cost £10. Another must-see is Worthing Museum's exhibition of film equipment from the early days of film-making and film screening. This will run from 14 May until 11 June. More details on these and many more events can be found at: [www.worthingwow.co.uk]

Mike Whitcombe

COUNTRY LIFE

In the current issue of *Country Life* magazine (13 April, pages 68-72) there is an excellent article by one of their long-time columnists Marcus Binney on 'Saving the Super Cinema' mentioning a number of good examples, also the CTA and myself as well. I think people might like to know about this as it is so positive and complementary.

Richard Gray

BOURNEMOUTH

Interesting to read the report of the Bournemouth visit in Bulletin 50/1. Looking at the photograph of screen ① at the ABC, it looks like additional house lights may have been added in the ceiling. On conversion to two screens in June 1970 the screen tabs and wall drapes were gold satin, lit from below with yellow florescent tubes controlled by an Atlas electronic dimmer. These were replaced in 1995 with new red drapes, the old ones going to the Cannon Romford. Red tubes replaced the yellow ones but the regional engineer was informed that this made the auditorium rather dark. The reply was to increase the wattage of the house lights in the ceiling. It was then pointed out that there were no house lights in the ceiling, just secondary and maintained lighting, with the light reflected of the wall drapes illuminating the auditorium. The red tubes were hastily swapped out for white ones, which did the trick. The lights running below the wall drapes could be turned off, which was done on the 'tabs swing' before the feature so that just the tabs were illuminated.

Whilst working at the Westover /ABC / Cannon / MGM in 1995 I, along with the trainee manager, were called to the office one lunch time. Without much comment and both wondering what we had done wrong, we were taken off into town and into the casino by the then manager, Roger Marley. With us both wondering if Mr Marley had taken leave of his senses we were escorted upstairs, through store rooms and up more stairs before finally entering a door to reveal a completely intact, though decaying, cinema auditorium! This was the Theatre Royal / Curzon / Tatler. It was as if the doors had just been locked on the final night in 1982 and been forgotten about, with screen, seats, tabs, projectors, mercury arc rectifier and foyer all intact. What a pleasant surprise and quite some relief that we hadn't been called into the office for some misdemeanour!

Ben Doman

SUPERMARKET CINEMAS



I notice that Gavin McGrath has just published his book *From Celluloid to Cereal, Cinemas That Became Supermarkets*. This prompted me to relate that the old Olympia Cinema [above] on Hyde Road, Gorton, Manchester has reverted to a supermarket after many years as a furniture sales outlet. It was converted to a supermarket after the cinema closed and now has taken a step back in time. Another step backwards and it will be a cinema again! You never know.

Terry Rourke ; photo taken October 2005

Gavin writes: A couple more have come to light, the Cinema in Jedburgh, now a Co-op (I've actually been in there without realising!) and the Odeon Southall, now Lidl on the ground floor with furniture upstairs.

BBC AND BEDFORD CAMDEN

The BBC *Floggit* programme on 24 March programme came from Norwich Cathedral. Part of the programme showed the Hippodrome in Great Yarmouth. Dating from the early years of the last Century, the building closed in 1977 and was due to be turned into a Bingo Hall. The present owner took it over and turned it into a circus. Good views were obtained for both the exterior and interior. BBC4 has started to repeat some of Good Old Days programmes. The series started in 1953 and continued into the 1980s. It came from the City Varieties in Leeds. The British Music Hall Society has launched an On-Line campaign for the BBC to show more of these programmes, commenting that they could be sitting on a gold mine if they released them on DVD.

I was recently in London and visited the BFI Bookshop. One DVD I acquired was *The London Nobody Knows*. The DVD shows a very smart James Mason walking around some places in London, which a lot of people have not seen; these include a jellied eel shop, lamplight-

ers, street entertainers, the Roundhouse (now a theatre), inmates of a Salvation Army hostel etc. At the beginning of the DVD, he walks around the derelict Bedford Camden Town. Dating from the 1860s, it was the painter Walter Sickert's favourite theatre. His paintings show the interior of the theatre. Many famous music hall artists appeared there over the years including Marie Lloyd. Belle Elmore, who was murdered by her husband Dr Crippen, also appeared there. It had been partly used as a cinema at one time but closed in 1950. The film *Tottie True* made in 1949 has the story of a girl who was inspired to go on the stage by a visit to the Bedford. It is some years since I saw the film and I do not know if any scenes were filmed in the theatre. At the time the DVD was made in 1967, the building was totally derelict, the home of tramps and pigeons. When the theatre was closed, the sliding roof had been left open and left the building open to the elements. As James Mason commented during the filming, it might have been better to have brought the demolition squad earlier. The building was finally demolished in 1969. The only theatre I have seen that was in a worse state was the Theatre Royal Chatham, which I think has been partly demolished. I had to wear a hard hat going around it!

Ian Patterson

NEARLY GONE WITH THE WIND

I am writing about the article entitled, *Gone With the Wind*, which appeared in the letters section on p29 Bulletin 48/2. I also recently saw the film at the cinema for the first time and agree with most of the points in Ian Patterson's letter.

However, I have to disagree with his final comments concerning the supporting evidence for the film's PG classification. Firstly, I think it is quite correct that British Board of Film Classification now provides supporting evidence in order to justify its classification of a film. It is helpful in assisting film-goers, particularly adults with children, even if a film has been screened previously on television. This is surely a great improvement on the days when a film was just given a certificate.

I also disagree with him when he states that "political correctness now appears to have reached film classification"; the phrase 'contains discriminatory dated language' (which appears together with the warning, 'contains mild violence') seems quite appropriate in describing the use of the word "darkie" by some of the white characters during the film. One should not be surprised that the word is used in a film set during the time of slavery. However, this word is now recognised, for example, by the Oxford English Dictionary as an "offensive term for a black person".

Clearly, *Gone With the Wind* remains one of the milestones of cinema history and I think it would make an intriguing double bill alongside the recent Oscar winner, *Twelve Years a Slave*.

Christopher Smith

Editor's Note: I am awfully sorry I mislaid this letter, which refers to something now two years old. I have flagellated myself with a wet lettuce leaf as retribution.

THE GRANADA THAT NEVER WAS



This is the entrance to the Granada Television Studio Tour site, which operated from 1988 to 1999. The whole Granada complex is closed and is to be redeveloped for shopping and commercial use.

Mike Taylor

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?

GONE WITH THE WIND STAR'S TREASURES

Some of actress Vivien Leigh's personal belongings will be on show at the National Trust property *Nymans* near Haywards Heath, the former family home of her favourite set and costume designer, Oliver Messel. The exhibition is open until from 1 June until 4 September.

The Argus (Brighton) – 22 March; sent in by Barry Quinton

POWER VACUUM AT DISNEY

Disney's chief operating officer Robert Iger [65] could be forced to postpone his retirement for a third time after the favourite candidate to take his place quit the firm. Speculation has arisen that Disney may be forced to recruit an external candidate – an unusual move for the company.

Daily Mail – 9 April; sent in by Barry Quinton

LAUREL & HARDY

Steve Coogan is to star as Stan Laurel alongside John C Reilly as Oliver Hardy in a new BBC film about the comedy duo. *Stan & Ollie*, written by Jeff Pope – who worked with Coogan on Oscar-nominated *Philomena* – tells the story of their final tour in 1953.

BBC News Website – 18 January; sent in by David Alexander

LIVERPOOL AND THE SILVER SCREEN

Reel Stories is an exhibition of more than 40 original film posters and memorabilia celebrating Liverpool's rôle in films over the last 60 years. It takes place until September at the Museum of Liverpool and admission is free.

[www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk/mol/exhibitions/reel-stories]

Sent in by Carl Chesworth

The Projected Picture Trust

Dean Clough Mills, HALIFAX, HX3 5AX

The Projected Picture Trust exists to locate and preserve projectors and related film equipment, both professional and domestic. Since 1978 enthusiastic volunteers have been happy to help restore these items and so preserve THE MAGIC OF CINEMA.

The Trust provides help and assistance to non-commercial community cinemas and museums exhibiting film related artefacts.

The Museum of Cinema Technology has perhaps the largest collection of all types of film equipment in the UK. The Data Archive holds over 3,000 items including press cuttings, manuals and film related technical documents. We are presently looking to strengthen our management team...

PLEASE CONTACT US IF YOU ARE ABLE TO HELP
or if you would like to become a member only.

contact@pptrust.org

www.pptrust.org

WETHERSPOON CINEMA PUBS

The March digital issue of *Wetherspoon News* contains a feature on some of their cinema conversions [tinyurl.com/z2mzbf7]. You can download an app to access all back issues to April 2014. It also says that several are mentioned in a new book *Art Deco Traveller – A Guide to Britain* by Genista Davidson at £9.99 [ISBN 0993414605]. It is available from [www.artdeco-traveller.co.uk] or Waterstones. Meanwhile, an art deco exhibition at the Royal Institute of British Architects included an item inspired by the Wetherspoons pub in the former Coronet in Holloway [North London].

Sent in by Alan Body

BRADFORD FILM FESTIVAL

The director of Bradford UNESCO City of Film is in talks with interested parties to revive the Bradford Film Festival. This comes after the National Media Museum abandoned it after 20 years.

WHAT WOULD YOU HAVE DONE?



The Enigma Cinema box in the PPT former HQ at Bletchley Park

It's sometime in 2000 and we're with a projectionist in London's Soho district, who's regaling us with a few of his more nerve-wracking moments in his career as a chief. He's in Wardour Street, preparing for a press-screening later the same evening and upon checking through the six film cans delivered earlier, proceeds to inspect the reels for completeness, condition and continuity – but... only five of the promised six 20-minute reels seem to be present, with reel #4 missing and just two hours before showtime. Should've looked at them earlier, of course... but what to do now – the journos have already started arriving to take their seats and drinks? It also looks like being a full-house.

So, with each increasingly-frantic call to the unresponsive distributor, it's maybe the 12th attempt that elicits a reply from a casual, roving, security guard at the since-closed renter's office. Turns out to be a stroke of luck while the security guy, understanding the very grimness of the situation, offers to make some connections. Soon, the film's on its first reel and – fag butt in mouth and phone pressed to his ear – our projie is now lacing up the second one, ready for changeover. Meanwhile, a courier's been despatched to trek over the errant reel but is of course helplessly stuck in the thick of Hammersmith's rush-hour, all putting the film's delivery precariously onto a knife-edge,

As minutes tick by and while lacing-up reel #3 and still with no sight or news of the courier, it's all but clear now that the film won't be here in time. He is physically sweating as the reel starts winding to a close... that is, until, with under four minutes to go, a beaming, but equally sweat-drenched and breathless courier arrives, clutching the film-can in his hot hand. The reel's duly threaded-up amid what must be the tightest of nicks-of-time. Panic over. No more touch-and-go. Big sighs all round and kettle now on to compound the relief. I then ask: "So, what would you have done had the film failed to materialise in time... what would you have said to the screening room's press members?" Somewhat non-plussed at the suggestion but appreciating my query, he turns to me and shrugs while declaring matter-of-factly: "Only one thing I could've done" dismissing it all like the solution was common-sense all along. "And, what's that?" I press. "Well, no option but to sound the fire-alarm, of course."

Sent in by Carl Chesworth

CINEMA BUSINESS

CINEMA FOUNDER GETS AWARDED

Sally Wilton, founder of the 80-seat Lexi cinema in Kensal Rise, North London, has received a Point of Light Award for her outstanding charitable work. She was inspired to create the cinema when the area was hit by a tornado in 2006 whilst she was visiting The Sustainability Institute, a project in South Africa with which the cinema is partnered and to which all profits are donated. The project provides school meals for children, supports a crèche and runs after-school clubs. Solar power and water management systems for the village are being developed. {25925}

Brent & Kilburn Times – 18 February; sent in by Simon Walker

SOHO ESTATES INJECTS £125K INTO SMALL THEATRES



London property company Soho Estates is ploughing £125,000 into the London Theatres Small Grants Scheme, enabling a further 25 venues to carry out repair works. This follows Cameron Macintosh's funding of £25,000 last year. The first grants have already been awarded – to the Bush Theatre and the Battersea Arts Centre [above]. The scheme was set up by the Theatres Trust in 2015.

The Stage – 10 March; sent in by Barry Quinton

ODEON

Odeon & UCI Cinemas saw revenues rise by 19.7% to £747.2m and profits rose 84% to £94.6m in 2015. The rise was primarily due to the success of the latest *Star Wars* film, which brought in £6m a day in its opening fortnight. Visitor numbers rose by 11m to 89.5m and the company's market share was up 0.6% to 19.4%. The figures look positive for a possible sale this year.

Evening Standard – 23 March; Daily Mail, Daily Telegraph – 24 March; sent in by Carl Chesworth & Barry Quinton

CINEWORLD

Cineworld has announced an annual pre-tax profit of £102.8m for the year 2015, an increase of 37.1% over 2014. Revenue in the UK and Ireland grew 12.7% to £706m. Net cash from its operating activities increased by 92.7% to £165.9m. Admissions increased by 13% to 93.6m. The group opened a record number of 18 sites during 2015, taking its portfolio to 2,011 screens.

The Times, Daily Telegraph, Daily Mail, Daily Mirror – 11 March; The Herald (Plymouth) – 16 March; sent in by Carl Chesworth & Barry Quinton

EVERYMAN

Everyman recorded a pre-tax loss of £734,000 in 2015, which was down from a profit of £266,000 the year before. Despite this, it posted a 44% jump in revenues to £20.3m. It opened six cinemas in 2015 and a further six are planned over the next 24 months, including a debut in King's Cross.

Evening Standard – 4 April; sent in by Carl Chesworth

IMAX IN EUROPE

IMAX Corporation has signed a deal with Pathé, the biggest cinema chain in France, the Netherlands and Switzerland, for five IMAX theatres. This brings to 17 Pathé's total IMAX commitment with seven theatres in France, six in the Netherlands and four in Switzerland. IMAX also plans to launch in about 30 new locations in the UK over the next five years.

Film Journal – 22 February; Daily Telegraph – 23 February; sent in by Carl Chesworth

STUDIO'S BIG SCREEN BID

Pinewood Studios has outlined aspirations to invest in boutique cinema chains to extend its reach to consumers. It is not yet in talks with cinema companies but possible targets could be Picturehouse or Curzon although neither is on the market.

Daily Mail – 8 April

USA ACQUISITION

AMC Entertainment has acquired Carmike Cinemas in a \$1.1bn deal that makes it the largest theatre chain in the USA and in the world. Carmike was the fourth largest exhibitor in the world with 2,954 screens to AMC's 5,426 screens. Together they have well over 600 locations in 45 US states. Chinese company Wanda bought a 75% stake in AMC in 2012.

Variety – 3, 10 March; sent in by Carl Chesworth

PICTUREHOUSE ENDS VIRTUAL PRINT FEE

Picturehouse Cinemas has become the first UK exhibitor to end the Virtual Print Fee [VPF]. VPF is the subsidy paid by distributors towards the digitisation of cinema. The idea is that a third party paid up front for the equipment and then recouped the cost over time through payments from distributors. Deals were struck for a period of ten years from the date of installation or until the cost was paid off.

Screen Daily – 25 February; sent in by Carl Chesworth

SCREENING AT HOME

The founder of Napster has proposed a new service that would make films available at home on the same day as they hit cinemas. The venture, known as The Screening Room would offer movies for \$50 [£35] in the US with as much as \$20 going to compensate theatrical exhibitors for their potential losses. *Variety* reports "serious interest" from studios Universal, Fox and Sony as well as cinema chain AMC. The move has been condemned by the UK Cinema Association.

The Guardian – 10 March; Screen Daily – 18 March; Daily Telegraph – 31 March; sent in by Carl Chesworth



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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

NECROLOGY



Ronnie Corbett [85]



Cliff Michelmores [96]

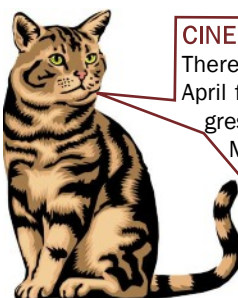


Barry Hines [76]



Paul Daniels [77]

Barry was the author of *A Kestrel for a Knave*, which inspired the film *Kes*.



CINEMA CAT

There was a full-page advert in *The Metro* on 29 April for [www.empowered21.com] – Europe Congress and Pentecostal Celebration from 11-13 May at the Gaumont State Theatre in Kilburn, North London. I wonder how long it is since it was called that? Tickets cost £40 each day or £99 for the three days!

Sent in by Peter Day

MEMBERSHIP

NEW MEMBERS

We are pleased to send a warm welcome to the following new members of the CTA: Zoe Norfolk, Andy Young, Duncan Short, William Brand, John Allen, John Beirne, Philip Mayer and Francis D Short.

LIFE MEMBER

Allen Eyles, one of the CTA's founder members and, for many years, the Editor of our annual *Picture House*, is now a Life Member.

DONATIONS

Sincere thanks and appreciation for their generosity are due to the following renewing members who added a donation to their subscription payment: D Aspinall, J Barber, DP Brown, ME Carte, T Chapman, PJ Chester, J Clarkson, P Cooper, GE Cranch, DG Daykin, MS Deriman, B Eckersley, ET Faulkner, PJA Ferrari, RJ Fox, GC Gibson, A Goodwin, E Griffiths, RP Hagon, P Hamer, BW Harries, CE Hide, A Hodson, SA Jarvis, K Johnston, SB Kay, M King, JM Knight, S Linwood, RC Lobb, RL Maudsley, AE McCann, RJ McDonald, TD Mills, RM Paddock, K Parkinson, JW Perkins, R Pilbeam, DE Popey, JE Prickett, SA Quick, DP Rees, B Rigg, HJ Ruben, JM Seligmann, BW Simpson, JM Sturdy, J & J Surtees, RJ Thompson, RJ Tite, MJ Vickers, B Wakefield, PJ Walters, DA Warner, AJ Weise, DR Williams, TK Williams, D Williamson, J Wootton, MJT Yallop and PG Yaxley.

DEATHS

Alan Bunting of Stirling has died at the age of 76; he joined the CTA in 1996. We have also only recently learned that Brian M Bailey of St Albans passed away in December 2015. Brian was 79 years old and joined the CTA in 1994. Sincere condolences are sent to their family and friends.

MEMBERSHIP

The paid-up membership total as at 30 April is 1058 – about 50 fewer than this time last year.

Neville C Taylor, Membership Secretary

SMALL ADS

The rate for small ads from members is £3 for 25 words with name and address free, plus 15p for each extra word. Non-members rates: £5 & 25p respectively.

Please send cheque or postal order (payable to the Cinema Theatre Association) to the Bulletin Editor, address on p2. Please quote membership number.

Advertisers are requested to reply to all respondents who supply SAE for that purpose.

Display rates: eighth page – £15; quarter page – £25;
half page (horizontal or vertical) – £45; full page – £80

FOR SALE: 14 Second-hand cinema books, including 4 KYBs: 1948, 1949 & 1959. For a complete list send A5 SAE to Maurice Brader, 55 Parthian Ave, WYBERTON, Lincs, PE21 7DH or Email: [lawncinema@hotmail.co.uk]

WANTED: *Play Boy*, Video Entertainment Group productions. DVD, Blu-Ray, VHS tape; USA, UK, worldwide edition. Comprehensive lists. PAL system Ⓢ; other formats considered, NTSC, SECAM. RW Hawkins, Fox Cottage, 19b Broderick Avenue, GOSPORT, PO12 2EN

INTERNET CORNER

- ★ [tinyurl.com/jorckpm] A page from the *Leicester Mercury* on the 40 old cinemas of Leicester.
- ★ [youtu.be/iySshjjujog] The inaugural trolleybus service on 16 May 1931 from Twickenham to Teddington. In the early minutes it has several views of the Luxor in Twickenham, which had been in business for 18 months. *Sent in by Hector Hill*
- ★ [youtu.be/Dnnbbw0koOg] An 11-minute documentary about the failed project to relocate the Compton organ from the Royal/ABC Plymouth into the Blackheath Halls. Has interior shots of several other cinemas too and features musician Rick Wakeman.
- ★ [tinyurl.com/zr8o2c2] Richard Nicholson captures the romance of the cinema projectionist in a new series of photographs. *Sent in by Carl Chesworth.*
- ★ [tinyurl.com/hn73v57] A link to the website of [AbeBooks.co.uk] and the page offering cinema lobby cards for sale. Some of the prices asked run into hundreds or thousands of pounds!
- ★ [tinyurl.com/hbbnfsc] A page on the [thefourohfive.com] website with photos of the new cinema in Ilkley (West Yorks).
- ★ A couple of pages from [wow247.co.uk] Ten things you (probably) didn't know about two Edinburgh venues: [tinyurl.com/hmvf2v7] *Cameo*; [tinyurl.com/h3bxc99] *Playhouse*.
- ★ [tinyurl.com/h7oeycz] Ismar and Louise of the *Abbeydale Picture House* (Sheffield) on a trip to the Projected Picture Trust [PPT] in Dean Clough Mills in Halifax. Don't miss the link at the bottom of the page to *Bringing the Abbeydale back to life*.
- ★ [www.youtube.com/user/ComptonLodgeStudios] A YouTube channel mainly devoted to cinema organs. There is a series of short videos here called *Movie Palaces*; click on *Videos*. *Sent in by David Kay*
- ★ [www.flickr.com/photos/60555514@N00/albums] A Flickr album from 'Excelsior' with photos of the Granadas Clapham Junction and Harrow also the Dominion Tottenham Court Road and the Essoldo Bethnal Green and others. *Sent in by Peter Towell*
- ★ [tinyurl.com/zdjbqqc] A page on the *Kentish Forum* website about the former Ritz Maidstone. Down the page is a 1954 picture of the burnt-out Ritz, which I have not seen before. *Sent in by Richard Jones*
- ★ [chestercinemas.co.uk] A website set up by Peter Davies, one of the other authors of a forthcoming book on Chester Cinemas, to be published by the CTA. *Sent in by David A Ellis*
- ★ [tinyurl.com/hrfngah] & [tinyurl.com/h696u3m] The 28dayslater website has some good pictures of the inside of the ABC/Forum Liverpool in March 2016 & March 2015. *Sent in by Richard Jones*
- ★ [www.monmouth-savoy.co.uk] The website of the Savoy Monmouth.

CARTOON CORNER



from the Joyce Braddon collection of *Film Weekly*, 1938-1939

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www.cinema-organs.org.uk

DEVASTATION AT LYME REGIS



Images courtesy Scott Cinemas. Updates available at: [lymeregis.scottcinemas.co.uk/statement]. See Newsreel p20; for additional images see [www.bridportnews.co.uk/resources/images/4879556] & [news.images.itv.com/image/file/940021/img.jpg]