

CINEMA
THEATRE
ASSOCIATION
www.cta-uk.org

BULLETIN

Vol 50 No 4

July / August 2016



The Picture Palace in Ponders End [Enfield] – one of the pubs for sale by JD Wetherspoon – see p25; photos taken March 2016

FROM YOUR EDITOR

Many thanks to all of you who responded to my requests in the last Bulletin and at the AGM for more articles and holiday snaps. I now have so many that I have only been able to print some in this edition; some I have held over for the next edition and maybe the one after that. I have tried to use them in the order I received them; rest assured I will print them all – eventually.

We had a suggestion that the CTA website address on the masthead was not prominent enough. It was in the same type as the full name of the CTA; I have now made it bigger and put it in the same colour as the logo – I hope this gives it the emphasis it deserves.

You will notice opposite that most of the Committee now have a CTA e-mail address. Please use [info@cta-uk.org] if uncertain to whom to address an e-mail enquiry; this address will be monitored and e-mail redirected if necessary. This is a new system so please allow time for a response.

Something went wrong in preparing the proofs for printing the last edition – pages 3 & 4 got swapped over. This meant that some of the cross references were wrong. I hope you managed to sort this out. I must get a new elastic band for my computer.

Harry Rigby, CTA Bulletin Editor

HOLIDAY SNAPS



This is a small modern cinema I snapped on holiday in Brittany, Cinema Le Rex. It was closed so couldn't get in to check it out. I can't remember the exact town but it was on the Crozon peninsular.

John Wojowski

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@ppttrust.org

www.ppttrust.org

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE SATURDAY 20 AUGUST

CINEMA THEATRE ASSOCIATION

(founded 1967)

promoting serious interest in all aspects of cinema buildings

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CINEMA THEATRE ASSOCIATION

BULLETIN: Members are invited to submit items for possible publication to the Bulletin Editor. However, it is stressed that the publication of an item does not necessarily imply that it reflects the views of the Cinema Theatre Association, its Committee or its Bulletin Editor.

It is assumed that submissions are for publication, unless stated otherwise; items may be shortened or edited at the discretion of the Editor.

Please enclose SAE and state if you require items to be returned, otherwise everything will be passed on to the CTA Archive.

VISITS: Members and non-members are reminded that they attend visits entirely at their own risk and no responsibility can be accepted by the Cinema Theatre Association or the owners of the buildings for any accidents or injury sustained during the course of any visit.

PRODUCTS: The Cinema Theatre Association does not necessarily recommend or endorse any products or services advertised in the Bulletin or in any flyer or document included in any mailings to members.

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Riverside Road, London, SW17 0BA [www.ludo.co.uk]

VISITS AND EVENTS

A Day in the City of Bath

Monday 8 August; Organised by Mike Wood

Our walking tour of the cinemas of Bath has attracted more interest than the organiser expected and regrettably no more bookings can be taken to ensure that the group is a manageable size.

Wandering to Winchester – Rewind

Saturday 3 September 2016 – **CANCELLED**

CTA trips are rarely if ever repeated and unfortunately our prospective rewind *Wander to Winchester* will not be taking place. Regrettably too few takers have expressed interest in doing it to be able economically to repeat the trip in its original form. If any members who did not express an interest after the announcement in the May/June Bulletin wishes they had done and would like to get in touch with David Trevor-Jones by email [david.trevorjones@btopenworld.com] he will keep the numbers under review and might try the idea again at a later date.

Coming Soon

Film Returns to the Tooting **Granada**

Friday 18 November



After a gap of 43 years as a bingo club, a very exciting event – the CTA in collaboration with the Tooting History Group are to present a film in the later evening of Friday 18 November by kind permission of Gala Bingo Clubs and the manager at Tooting. This is also to celebrate the award of the Asset of Community Value [ACV] status, which happened last December. At the moment, only the date can be announced but not the film, although it may well be *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* with its late night-theme and Gothic atmosphere, appropriate for Komisarjevsky's amazing interior. More information in the next Bulletin.

Richard Gray

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 [visits@cta-uk.com].

Other Events of Interest [not organised by the CTA]

Details of these events are given in good faith but the editor or the CTA cannot be responsible for any inaccuracies; please check before travelling.

ODEON, MUSWELL HILL: CELEBRATING 80 YEARS

An illustrated talk by Jeremy Buck, CTA Sales Officer and author of *Cinemas of Haringey*. Featuring the opening night newsreel.

Wednesday 14 September 7:45 for 8:00pm at Union Church Hall, Weston Park / Ferme Park Road, Hornsey, London, N8 9PX. (Nearest station Finsbury Park, then W3 bus to stop called 'Weston Park') Tea/coffee available before the meeting. Admission £2.00.

For security reasons, admission is not possible after 8pm.

More information: [www.hornseyhistorical.org.uk]

THE PLAZA, STOCKPORT

Friday 29 July *Jailhouse Rock* (1957) [U]

Saturday 6 August *Florence Foster Jenkins* (2016) [PG]

Friday 12 August *Hail Caesar!* (2016) [12A]

Saturday/Sunday 13/14 August

Absolutely Fabulous: The Movie (2016) [18 TBC]

Friday 19 August *Labyrinth* with David Bowie (1986) [U]

Sunday 21 August *Another Fine Mess* Family Fun Day

Laurel & Hardy films to be announced – starts 11am

Friday 26 August *Doctor Zhivago* (1965) [PG]

Friday 2 September *Barry Lyndon* (1975) [PG] BFI Restoration Print

Saturday 3 September *Johnny Guitar* (1954) [PG]

Friday 9 September *Diana Dors double bill* (1953/1955) [PG]

Miss Tulip Stays the Night & Is Your Honeymoon Really Necessary

Friday 16 September *Calamity Jane* sing-along (1953) [U]

Friday 23 September *Quartet* (2012) [12] at 11am &

Aliens (1986) [15] at 7:30pm

Saturday/Sunday films at 2:30pm & 7:30pm;

Friday films at 11am & 7:30pm – unless otherwise stated.

Behind the Scenes tours at 11am on Mondays 25 July (*Dad's Army* themed tour) & 22 August. £6 – book or simply turn up.

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

THE CINEMA MUSEUM, LONDON

The full programme of events can be found on their website at:

[www.cinemamuseum.org.uk]

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

THE REGAL EXPERIENCE, WYMONDHAM

Sunday 4 September *Foreign Correspondent* (1940) [A]

+ A Pathé wartime newsreel

Sunday 2 October *The Family Way* (1966) [X]

+ A Tribute to John Mills

Shows at 2:30pm at the Wymondham Ex-Service's Club (former Regal cinema) NR18 0AT [tinyurl.com/zddvkq4]. Presented in 35mm.

Further information from Michael Armstrong [01953 603246].

ROYALTY CINEMA BOWNESS

Lake Road, Bowness-on-Windermere, LA23 3BJ [015394 43364]

Lunchtime Concerts on The Wurlitzer Organ; 12:30 – 2:30

Tuesday 19 July Damon Willets

Tuesday 16 August David Shepherd

Saturday 3 September John Mann

Silent Film Presentations accompanied on the Wurlitzer Organ

Saturday 23 July at 6pm Buster Keaton in *The General* accompanied by Paul Gregson

Saturday 27 August at 3pm Alfred Hitchcock's *The Manxman* accompanied by David Ivory

Organ concerts: £6 for all.

Films: Circle – Adults £7.50, Children & Seniors £6.50 (all the time);

Stalls – Evening £7 & £6, Matinée £6.50 & £5.50



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.

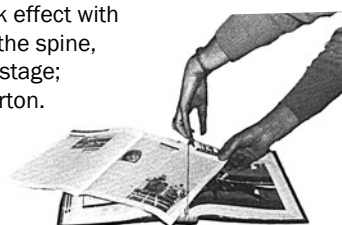
PICTURE HOUSE MAGAZINE

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.
No 21	£3.50	100 Years On; Travelling Shows; Reggie Rea; Albert Hall Sheffield; Regal Wells; West End Adverts; Scotland.
all issues below have colour cover and inside pages		
No 25	£4.50	Oldest Cinema (Brighton); FE Bromige; Gaumont Managers; Carlton Swansea; Committee's Choice.
No 26	£4.50	Paramount Newcastle; Edward Stone; Granada Men; E de Wilde Holding; Electric Portobello Road.
No 27	£4.50	New Victoria/Apollo; Whiteladies Bristol; Clark & Fenn; Compton Organs; Tim Foster Associates.
No 28	£4.50	James McKissack; WJ King; Torbay Cinema; Tabs.
No 29	£4.50	Cinerama in Britain; Braziers the Builders; John Fernée; Waller Jeffs; John Duffin's paintings.
No 30	£5.00	The Davis Family, Croydon; Apollo Hammersmith Organ; Norwich Roadshows.
No 31	£7.50	Special 84-page edition: Essoldo – A Family Business: Sol Sheckman and the Essoldo Circuit.
No 32	£5.00	Harry Myers Photographs; Cinemas at the Coalface; Shaws of Darwen: Edward A Stone.
No 33	£5.00	Theodore Komisarjevsky; Circuit & other releases of 1956; The case for saving the New Victoria Bradford.
No 34	£5.00	Beaufort Birmingham; Granada Tooting in 1934; Rank in post-war Scotland; J Braddon's Cinema life.
No 35	£5.00	Holophane lighting; Imitations of Odeon; Cradley Records; 1909 Cinematograph Act; Kingston Showmanship.
No 36	£6.00	Leslie Kemp; The Clifton Circuit; Jeremy Perkins on Brighton; Circuit Releases of 1960.
No 37	£8.50	Special 92-page issue; saving the Electric Palace Harwich.
No 38	£6.00	Northern Morris Associated; 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

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.

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

CINEMA CAT



BRING ME SUNSHINE?

The unpredictable British climate is no longer an obstacle to filming in this country. Computer graphics mean that sunshine, rain and clouds can be added in afterwards.

*Daily Telegraph – 19 May;
sent in by Carl Chesworth*

CAMPAIGNING TO SAVE YOUR HISTORIC CINEMAS

By Tim Hatcher

Grade II* Listed

The application for the mandatory permissions required prior to the commencement of work to convert the **State** at Grays into a JD Wetherspoon establishment has reportedly been delayed, although preliminary operations to remove asbestos have apparently begun. The Association is to press for the retention of the spatial identities of the distinguished foyers as separate and distinct from the auditorium. It will also suggest that the long-disused lighting troughs traversing the ceiling of the latter be relit; accomplishing this with LED lighting would prove cost effective in its installation, power consumption and maintenance. {1837}

The trust of the **Electric Palace** at Harwich has requested the support of the CTA for its plans to repair and refurbish the property. This will be proffered and the opportunity taken to comment on the suitability of such proposals to the historic fabric of the cinema. {2597}

The refurbishment of the lower foyer of the **Odeon** at Muswell Hill has reportedly been carried out in acceptably sympathetic manner, despite the colour palette differing somewhat from the original scheme. It seems likely, however, that planning approval will be received for the two mini-cinemas, colloquially termed 'pods', which are intended to be sited in the rear corners of the circle. Thus focus is changing from outright objection to endeavours aimed at ameliorating their visual impact, ensuring that they are removable without damage to the listed interior and limiting planning permission to encompass only such period during which the building remains in cinema usage. {13783}

Grade II Listed

A trust has been formed which aims to rehabilitate and run the **Royalty** at Harborne. However, there is no indication that the current owner is willing to relinquish ownership of the property and it is unlikely that the local Council will consider compulsory purchase of the building. {33866}



The **Dominion [Granada]** in Acton, owned by a church that had previously demonstrated interest in sympathetic restoration of the property, has been placed on the market at a purchase price of about three million pounds. A theatre production company has reportedly expressed interest in its acquisition. Bromige's fine façade survives; this masterfully integrates internal stair flights within its fenestrated extremes. Much of the original detailing of foyer and auditorium is also extant. It is thus imperative that the structure is treated sympathetically during any alterations for reuse; the Association will scrutinise closely plans for such work. {13831} *Photo taken April 2006.*

It appears from the planning and listed building consent applications relating to the **Ritz** at Grays that little more than re-painting and re-seating are proposed. The religious body involved in the scheme is that which owns the **Regal** at Camberwell. {22456}

A petition is currently circulating in the Stretford area of Manchester demanding that the **Longford** be restored, as its unique exterior by Henry Elder has deteriorated to such a degree that it is regarded locally as an eyesore. {13796}

An application has been made for permission to demolish the remains of the **Regent** at Lyme Regis with the intention of building a replica on the site. Concern arises that this replacement could constitute a mere pastiche of the original; the Association stands ready to offer all possible advice in order to prevent such an unfortunate outcome. {22441}



In a somewhat curious case, it was announced in 2013 that the **Elysium [Gaiety/Classic]** in Eastbourne was to have its listed status revoked, yet to date it retains its designation. {22753} *Photo taken April 2008.*

Unlisted

The **Regent** at Deal, sold to a private business by the local Council in 2011, is the subject of debate between the owners and a local lobby group: the former assert that they are proceeding as fast as possible with plans for its renovation whilst the latter is highly vocal in its adverse criticism, claiming that it sees little progress towards this goal. Independently of either faction, the CTA is to suggest to the local Council that the building, originally a typical seaside pavilion, is of community value and suitable for local listing. See Newsreel p15. {32928}

Save Britain's Heritage (SAVE) continues its campaign to retain the imposing frontage of the **Futurist** in Liverpool. Its petition to the Court of Appeal to hear its case was granted; thus the CTA's pledge of £400 was called in. The appeal to prevent unbridled demolition of the façade was successful, yet unfortunately SAVE was forced subsequently to compromise by agreeing to the removal of the pediment, deemed unstable by engineers. An agreement was secured for safe removal, labelling and storage of the component parts. Meanwhile, the overall case against the redevelopment of the area continues. See Newsreel p16. {6508} & {32281}

The appeal by the Kingsway International Christian Centre against refusal of planning permission for change of use of the **Rialto** at Crystal Palace has been dismissed. {28989}

At an extraordinary general meeting of its planning committee, councillors from the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea are to vote on an application to designate the **Odeon** an Asset of Community Value [ACV]. The group applying for this classification has released detailed proposals and plans of its bold and ambitious vision for the future of the building, which includes four cinemas, two theatres, a gallery and a recording studio. Extant original features would be incorporated wherever possible. See Newsreel p17. {13801}

Lidl has submitted a formal application to demolish the **Towers** in Hornchurch, which will be considered by the local Council's full planning committee. The CTA will object and request that a representative be allowed to speak at the meeting. It will also issue a press release to the local information media and continues to liaise with the local campaign group that is attempting to acquire ACV status for the building. {13777}

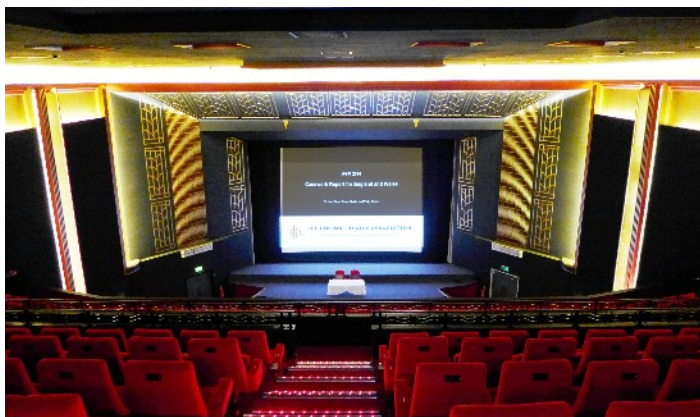
Despite the Association's suggestion that a new cinema be constructed behind the retained façade of the **Cinema** in Hoxton, the entire structure has unfortunately been demolished. See Newsreel p17. {13803}

ST ALBANS AGM AND ODYSSEY VISIT

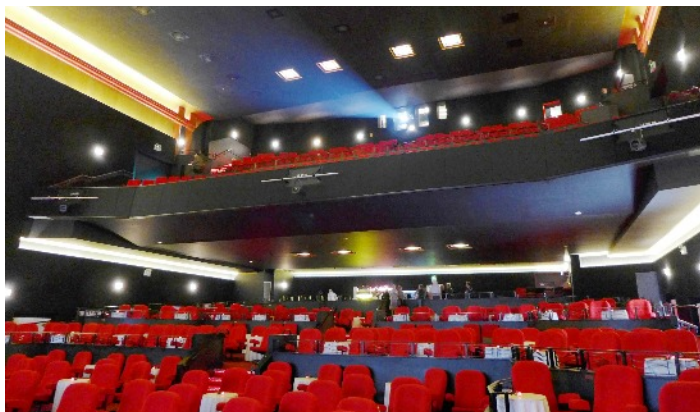
7 May 2016 – By Mike Wood & Ian Meyrick



It must be a tricky decision about where to go and what will entice the wider membership to turn out for the formal requirements of the Annual General Meeting, any hot controversies notwithstanding. This year your correspondent, instead of just doing the easy bit of turning up on the day and expecting to be entertained, was locked into a negotiating impasse over one option that stubbornly refused to run, when Ray Ritmeester suggested St Albans where the revived Odyssey (ex Odeon/Regent/Poly/Capitol) was settling down nicely after its re-opening in late 2014, with the additional draw of the St Albans Organ Theatre nearby.



The Odyssey is of course known to us for its connection with James Hannaway, who did such a splendid job of bringing the Rex Berkamstead back to life. The St Albans location was a bigger proposition and the project took five years and involved a number of setbacks for additional funding and other issues not unexpected for a major restoration. Some of us had already taken a look on the open day at around the time of the first strip-back of the sub-divisions. The first impression was deceptive since the site slopes steeply downhill at the rear and entry is at Circle level. There was clearly a lot of work to be done but the result is first class, as you would expect if you have been to Berkhamstead.



The Foyer is now a spacious café/bar and stairs down to the Stalls reveal another large bar under the balcony, with three lower levelled areas for tables and chairs facing a fairly deep forestage and screen with tabs. The ante-proscenium walls now feature replica gold grille

panels but it is unclear whether these are based on the original 1931 scheme, as speculation suggests it may have been deco patterned paint effect. The 1931 Capitol had itself replaced the Alpha Picture Palace of 1927, which had been destroyed by fire.

The Circle is very comfortably seated cinema-style and the auditorium has restored vertical cove lighting, as could be seen quite late in the main screen after Odeon tripling, although probably not working by then. In the projection box there are two Barco digital projectors with currently no film projection facility. For our visit, we had the run of the place, except back-stage and tea, coffee and biscuits from the friendly young staff certainly helped the business of the AGM along nicely.

and after lunch...

The afternoon visit was to the St Albans Organ Theatre. Now there are some for whom it seems that the cinema organ is not necessarily a thing of beauty and they were a little wary. They need not have worried, because this is the home of the fascinating Charles Hart Collection of mechanical musical instruments as well as home to two theatre pipe organs.



Our musical tour included demonstrations of dance organs by Decap of Antwerp; these large instruments – including real playing accordions, saxophones and drums on their elaborate carved frontages – provided the music for dancing in roadhouses, with patrons putting money into coin boxes to start the music. On a smaller scale, a café organ built by Arthur Bursens of Antwerp in 1947 would also play a tune for customers when a coin was put in. The largest instrument, a Mortier Organ from 1923, was travelled around towns and villages in Belgium together with a large tent, dance floor and bar with tables and chairs. A massive undertaking! *Photos opposite.*

Another 'penny-in-the-slot' machine was the Mills Violano-Virtuoso, combining an internal piano and a real violin in a glass case, played by mechanical fingers and small rotating wheels, which fell on the appropriate string. The result is an accurate albeit rather plaintive duet. Other instruments demonstrated included cylinder and disc music boxes of various sizes, an EMG gramophone with enormous acoustic horn, organettes and a singing bird in a cage. A Duo-Art reproducing piano (a sophisticated version of the familiar Pianola) not only reproduced the notes but also the touch and nuances of the performer.

And yes, not one but two theatre pipe organs, expertly played for us by CTA member David Warner. The three-manual ten-rank Wurlitzer Model 220 Special was originally installed in the Empire/Granada Edmonton and bought by Charles Hart in 1968. It has since been fully restored and is used regularly for concerts. Nearby is the very rare Rutt organ, originally built in 1935 for the Regal Higham's Park. Spurden-Rutt was a well-known maker of 'straight' pipe organs and decided to enter the theatre organ arena very late in the day. Only three were ever built, this being the only three-manual, with six ranks and a very smooth sound. The other two, both two-manual, were for the Palace Slough and the Super Oxford. The Slough organ was broken up but the Oxford organ survived in private hands in Woking and was recently put up for auction.

*with acknowledgement to Ian Grundy and his Cinema Treasures entries
Photos by the authors & Harry Rigby*

LINKS FOR MORE PHOTOS AND DESCRIPTION:

[odysseypictures.co.uk/history]

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SILVER SCREEN AT THE RITZ BELPER

By Dan Hayes [Belper News]

Film lovers who attend a Belper cinema that runs special Thursday morning screenings for older people say they wouldn't miss it for the world. The Ritz cinema on King Street has been running its 'Silver Screen' showings for ten years, during which time they have witnessed a significant increase in the number of films that are made with an older audience in mind. The films are all carefully selected by owner Amanda Mundin and local photographer Ashley Franklin, who also introduces the film to the eager audience.



The Ritz Belper

Amanda said, "We will have been open ten years in November and Silver Screen has been going on as long as we have – from day one. Ashley had just finished at Radio Derby and was doing film reviews for Saga Radio at the time. He had been interested in doing something for the over-50s for a while so we decided to start some special screenings. We look through the films that are coming up and pick out ones we think they might like but we always like to put on a range of things, not just ones specifically marketed to seniors. So we had *Hail Caesar* recently and we have *Jungle Book* coming up but also have all the Oscar films like *Spotlight* and we had *Star Wars* when it came out. It's not just exclusively older people though – we also have younger people coming in and mothers with babies."

The building itself dates from 1882 and was first made into a cinema in the 1930s. It was then closed in 1992 before Amanda reopened it as the Ritz in 2006. Her family now run three cinemas; The Ritz in Belper, The Regal in Melton Mowbray and The Savoy in Stockport with two of her sons taking the reins at the Regal and the Savoy.

"There has definitely been an increase in cinema-going for the over-45s in the last few years." Says Amanda. "There are figures from the BFI which show that and the fact that films like *Philomena*, *The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel*, *The King's Speech* and *The Queen* exist is testament to that."

The customers we spoke to certainly valued what Amanda and Ashley provide. Kevin Doar, 67, from West Hallam, said: "We love it. My wife and I go with another couple, making a party of four. We go pretty much every Thursday unless we are away and have been doing that for about six or seven years – you get to know people from all over so as well as the film it is a social thing – even if the film isn't that good it is a good experience – the people are so friendly. We've also been on trips to Amanda's cinema in Melton Mowbray and hope to go to her other one as well."

In terms of last week's offering, *Eddie the Eagle*, Kevin said it was much better than he thought it would be. Gill Hancock, from Stanley Common, is also full of praise for 'Silver Screen'. "We love the atmosphere and the friendliness of the people," she says. We have got to know people as we queue up and Amanda and all the staff are very welcoming to us. We get to see different films than we would do normally – some are really good and some not so good. Some of the bigger cinemas have started to do a similar thing but you wouldn't get the same atmosphere at a multiplex." Gill said that *Eddie the Eagle* was entertaining and light but that the previous week's film, *Room*, was excellent. She added, "Amanda picks a good range of films for us and Ashley's introductions tell us a bit about the film before it starts, which is really helpful."

Silver Screen takes place every Thursday morning at The Ritz on King Street, Belper from 10am. For more information visit: www.ritz-belper.co.uk or call 01773 822224.

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Organised by Christopher Smith



The audience waiting for a Silver Screen presentation at the Ritz and enjoying free tea and biscuits beforehand

LIGHTING THE ODEONS

By James Bettley

I have often heard it said, when black and white photographs of original Odeons have been admired, that the auditoria often appear to be somewhat plain. The same observation has also been made of other thirties-designed cinemas where the art deco style has been adopted. Simple, clean, angular and sweeping lines are, of course, the essence of the design style but one important element is often overlooked in such assessments and that is the lighting.



The Odeon York

Lighting, by its very nature, is transient and elusive, switch it off or fade it out and it's gone – it cannot be preserved. Monochrome photographs, such as those in the wonderful collection by John Maltby, whose practice was commissioned by Odeon Theatres to take what are now regarded as definitive internal and external pictures of the many original Odeons when new, cannot reproduce the contribution lighting made to the interior views – especially as floodlights were often used, temporarily, to emphasise the more intricate areas of auditorium detail. Floodlighting would 'blanche out' the more subtle lighting intended to enhance an interior scheme and, with the numberless permutations of different colours of lighting and fabrics/surfaces onto which the lighting is directed, even today's more sophisticated cameras can't always produce a 100% accurate idea of the effects of lighting.

As with all types of building, architects have always had their individual preferences for many design aspects and this is very true of cinema interiors where all lighting, when the public is present, is artificial. Certain features of an auditorium will act as a 'trade mark' for one of the better-known architects and we can often guess correctly who designed a particular example. In terms of the Odeons, concealed lighting predominated in the majority of schemes and, for me, the pendant lights in Odeons such as Blackpool and Bradford didn't sit well as components of an otherwise largely art deco inspired scheme. In most original Odeons, there was not a single light bulb or source visible to the seated audience. The ambient lighting, when the lights were 'up' was characteristically either diffused or reflected and at a time when lighting in most homes and businesses was decidedly utilitarian and neon a novelty, the effect of indirect lighting rising and fading in brilliance and even changing colour must have appeared magical to the patron. The best lighting of all in a cinema was and is, provided by theatre lighting equipment and almost all the 'super cinemas' of the twenties and thirties harnessed the magic very cleverly. Cinema architecture of the period evolved from live theatres and music halls and virtually all cinema designers took the principal elements of live theatre design as their template and therefore incorporated proscenium arches, stage curtains and stage lighting. The tendency was normally to include a balcony but otherwise the rest of the auditorium would be simpler than that of a theatre, according to the requirements of the medium and therefore boxes and more than one balcony would be omitted as the views of the screen from such positions would, potentially at least, be poor.

The Odeons I know and love best are those in Leicester Square, London and the example formerly in York. The two have many things

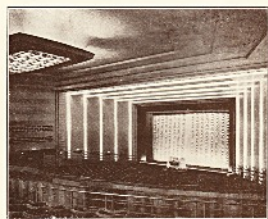
in common and, between them, perhaps exemplify most effectively the very spirit of Odeon style. I will use the York Odeon as an example of the best in both auditorium design and lighting of the remarkable circuit. The celebrated London cinema was, as the circuit's flagship, designed as a cinema/theatre and was grander and less typical of the average Odeon. I saw my first film at York's Odeon when I was five and years later spent the first part of a career with the Circuit learning to be a cinema manager in the same cinema. I am fortunate in possessing a photographic memory, at least of the things that have interested or impressed me the most and I hope this will enable me to describe that cinema in detail from a time when it had changed little since its opening some sixteen years earlier.

Like most original Odeons, York had both screen curtains and house curtains. The former were beautifully made, typically pictorial curtains, which were in silver satin onto which was appliquéd an intricate design that consisted of many differently coloured pieces of satin, finely stitched onto the curtains. The theme for York's screen tabs¹ was two enormous, mythical, dragon-like beasts with spiked heads and claws. The creatures were approaching centre stage while grinning mischievously at the audience. Along the bottom of these tabs was a border of rocks of varying size and shape. They were lit by three-colour circuit Strand Electric footlights and batten as well as 'dips' lighting them from the wings. The primary colours of red/blue/green were used in the stage lighting and the many different colours of the screen tabs would all react differently to whichever colour or combination of colours was being used at any one time. I recall that red seemed to be used predominantly and, bearing in mind that a green fabric appears black when lit by just red, the effect was very spectacular with the apparently black elements of the design against the vivid red background of the basic silver curtains and the other shades of satin appearing purple, magenta, pink, violet etc; it was a memorable apparition. York's house curtains were of maroon velvet with just two appliquéd horizontal, copper-coloured satin bands or stripes near the bottom. These curtains were, typically, on a track sited between the batten and the proscenium arch and therefore were only lit by the footlights. The red circuit would produce an altogether beautiful, rosy effect with the maroon of the velvet being near red in the spectrum and the satin glowing scarlet. Add blue and the curtains took on a magenta hue, red and green together produce a golden amber optically and so the stripes would appear gold against an orange velvet background. Green had the effect of the satin glowing a vivid, true green whilst the velvet became black and virtually disappeared! Green and blue together would pick out the pile of the velvet in turquoise and the satin in a rich cyan.

Forward of the proscenium was the only lighting cove involving both ceiling and wall troughs. The concealed lighting contained in the cove was green across the ceiling and red down the sides, or splay walls. This lighting relied on coloured bulbs and only red bulbs could accurately produce their colour, green and blue bulbs tending to give off a rather unsatisfactory, greyish light. The ceiling cove would throw a somewhat ethereal glow onto the upper section of the house tabs while the true red of the vertical sections at either side would pick out the velvet folds rather nicely. Moving away from the proscenium, two ceiling coves washed sections of the ceiling above the front stalls and front circle in white light, thereby producing a practical, diffused light for sales intermissions and patrons themselves. Further diffused, neutral lighting came from a rectangular feature above the rear circle featuring bulbs in an all-round trough (virtually replicated in the main foyer). In the rear stalls four rectangular openings in the low ceiling all contained white bulbs concealed at the rear and lighting the upper area, which sloped down towards the front of the aperture.

So the projectionists in this and many original Odeons, had much at hand to create amazing effects, none of which could be properly recorded. As a youngster, I would be taken by my mother or grandmother to see my earliest films from a few rows away from the stage. Imagine the end of a black and white film when the screen tabs would close, rippling over the image and gradually glowing increasingly brightly until they met in a majestic swish as the house curtains followed them in, their lower sections slowly turning from red to golden amber as they finally closed. As the house curtains settled, the first cove would slowly bathe the ante proscenium a faint green above and red down the sides before the rest of the auditorium lights came up. I can

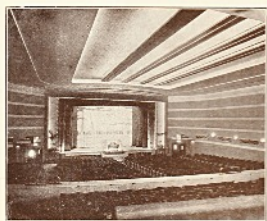
ODEON THEATRES—Some Interior Views



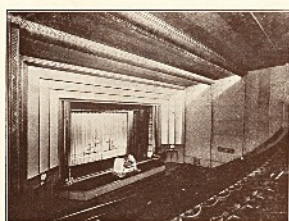
Odeon Theatre, Havering Hill



Odeon Theatre, Worthing



Odeon Theatre, Walsby



Odeon Theatre, Westonsuper-Mare



Odeon Theatre, Isleworth

close my eyes and see it now, such was the impression it made and how this little boy tried to work out how light could change colour!

Many other cinemas used lighting equipment to great effect of course but, to my eyes, perhaps Odeons demonstrated the use of colour and lighting most effectively of all. Preference is subjective and I acknowledge the numerous other very impressive cinemas, which used lighting most effectively. The Odeon company had subsidiaries to fit out their theatres, one of which was concerned with interior design and soft furnishings. It is said that Oscar Deutsch's wife, Lily, oversaw this aspect of their cinemas and took a close interest in the fabrics used for seating, carpets and curtains therein. Remarkably, the architects involved, together with this subsidiary, which I believe was called Decorative Crafts or something similar, managed to produce nearly three hundred Odeons (takeover schemes excluded) without any two being quite the same. Harrogate and Sutton Coldfield Odeons were nearly identical twins outside and inside but otherwise each Odeon was, to all intents and purposes, unique. The magnificent screen tabs were in many different designs, some even showing an Odeon in an alpine setting, others a much simpler, geometric design and certain designs cropped up in as many as three Odeons. This may have been because the particular design was considered very effective or because in the mid-thirties, Odeons were being constructed at an amazing rate.

Larger Odeons would also have 'pageant' lighting, ie a row of powerful spotlights contained within a box along the balcony front. This was to add an extra 'punch' where the more locally-positioned lighting left large swathes of the vast curtains unilluminated. It was also very useful in venues where live concerts or appearances occasionally took place. Over the years, the pageant type of lighting also replaced footlights and battens, especially in cinemas where interior schemes were modernised and simplified like York Odeon where, from 1964 onwards, new, plain silver satin tabs and nine 2K lanterns with Fresnel lenses combined to dramatic effect. The brighter, simpler lighting provided by pageants also enabled cove lighting to be eventually abandoned as replacing expired lamps in the ceiling troughs was both difficult and dangerous for projectionists working in the false roof on catwalks surrounded by non-weight-bearing fibrous plaster hung on wooden battens – one slip and the result could be a long and possibly fatal drop to the little red seats far below. Further from the stage, plain downlighters were also installed to compensate for the loss of the

neutral, concealed lighting. Originally, the primary colours of red, blue and green were the obvious choice for most cinemas' 'theatre' lighting as these colours can also produce the secondary colours of magenta, cyan and amber as well as a slightly opalescent 'white' and a myriad different shades in between, when used at varying levels of brightness. At some stage, many cinemas replaced the green circuit with either medium amber or pink and the result was more light in the auditorium when the 'new' colour was in use. This combination would also lend itself well to live appearances as, optically, green is the least complimentary to flesh! One projectionist, where green had been replaced by one of the brighter, less saturated colours told me they now used the 'sunset' colours. Of course, green never appears in a sunset.

The installation of larger screen frames in the early fifties in order to support the new, wide and curved CinemaScope screens sadly meant the end for most Odeons' screen curtains as the curvature of the screen at its outer edges would have been foul of the track used by the screen tabs. When, in the mid 'sixties, I described York Odeon's long lost screen tabs in detail to the cinema's veteran Chief Projectionist, who'd been an apprentice at the time it opened, not only was he amazed that an eighteen-year-old had remembered them so vividly but there were tears in his eyes when he related to me how he had come to work one day to find the beautiful curtains in a skip in the cinema's car park. He said they looked even more colourful in daylight and what a crime it was.

All these years later and it appears cinema design was at its zenith just before WWII and I'm very grateful for witnessing many wonderful cinemas as they first appeared and before the design process began to slide towards today's nadir of feeding factors such as seating capacity, exits, speaker positions and air conditioning into a computer model which then comes up with the design solution. Gone are the theatrical elements, the imagination of inspired architects and the overall desire to create a sense of occasion and atmosphere, which gave those of us over a certain age such wonderful experiences and memories. There are, mercifully, exceptions but today's cinemas have a depressing tendency to be bland and utilitarian – black boxes with a naked screen at one end and all the atmosphere of an airport lounge! Lighting courtesy of white spotlamps that double as cleaners' lights – ugh! Curtains, proscenium arches, theatre lighting and imaginatively conceived auditoriums are not essential to showing a film from whatever source but, for those of us whose memories facilitate comparison, what a difference they can make.

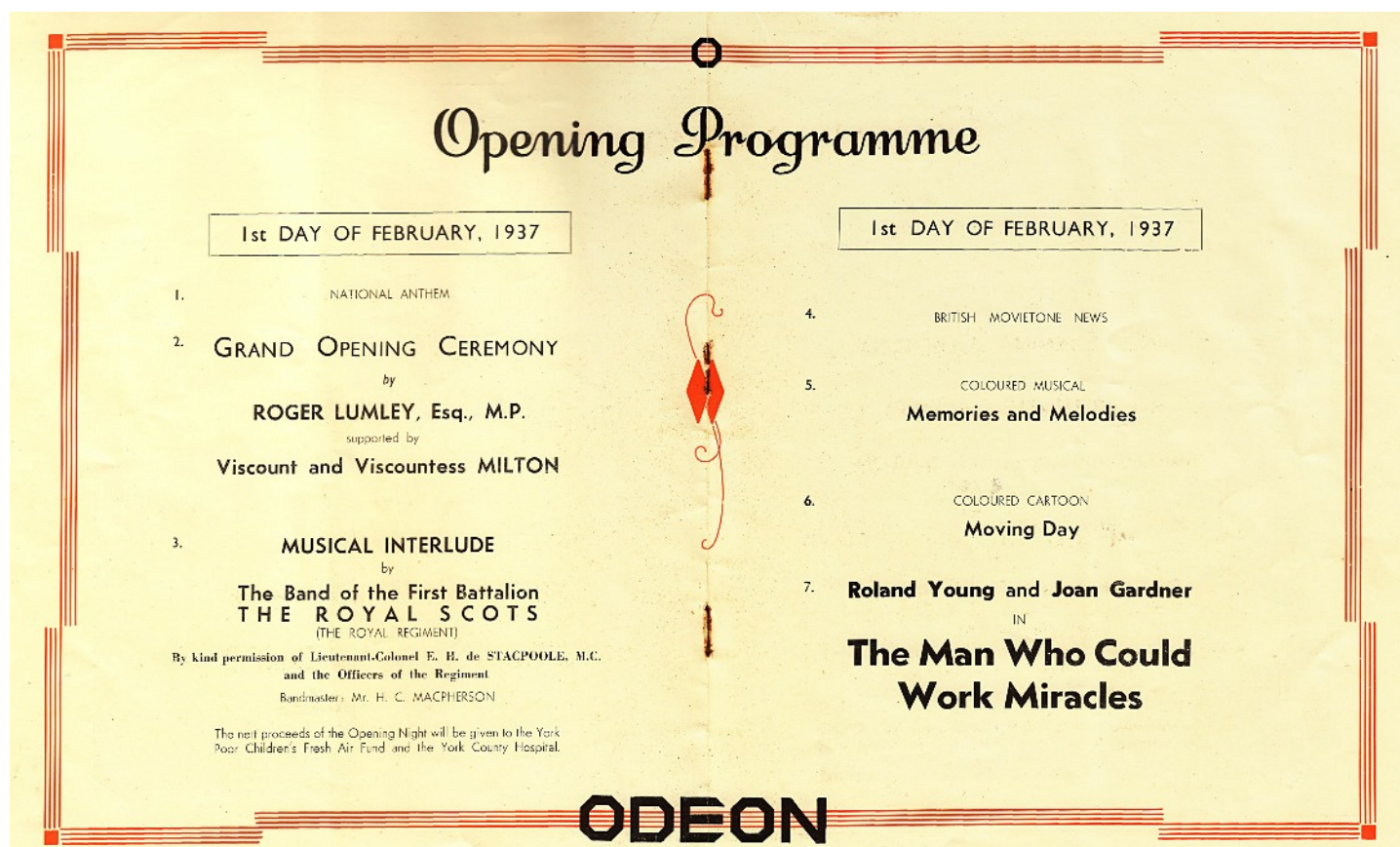
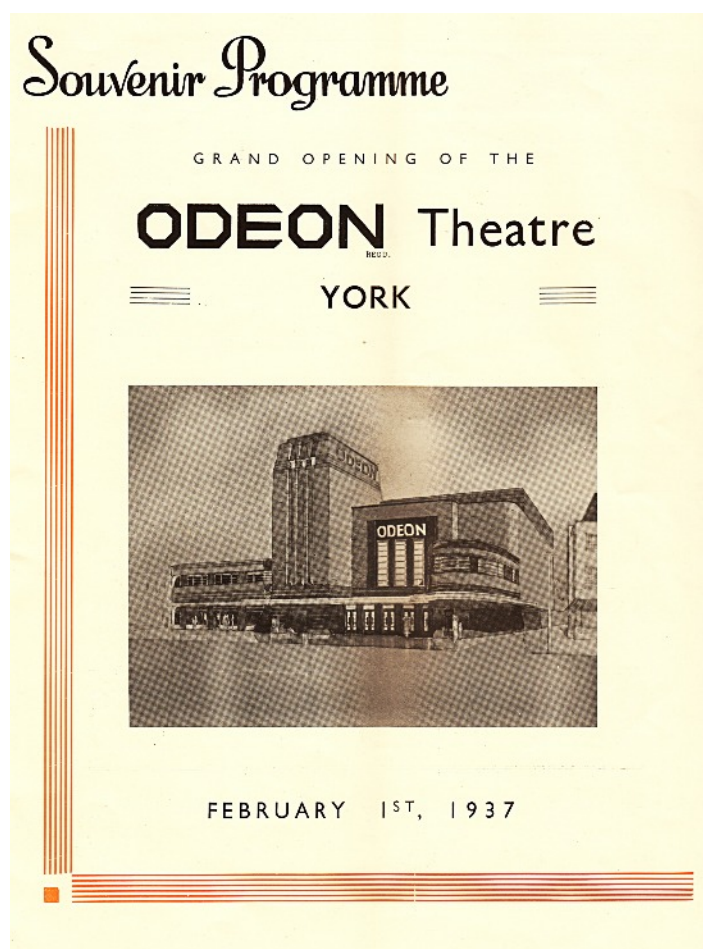
Those original Odeons and other art deco cinemas, which survive as large spaces for film, bingo, live entertainment etc. tend to survive well, perhaps thanks to their relative simplicity, whereas the generally more elaborate interiors of WR Glen's many ABCs, Verity and Beverley's palatial Paramounts and Komisarjevsky's cathedralic Granadas, for example, age less well with their dusty grilles, ledges and chandeliers. Atmospherics too like the semi-atmospheric Astoria Finsbury Park, where I was once the relief manager for two weeks to enable the manager to take his holidays, are all very remarkable with their ceilings resembling the night sky with twinkling stars and scenic villas, churches and balconies etc. but they demand regular lamp replacement and maintenance if they are not soon to appear grubby and dingy.

When I was a kid, all York's nine cinemas were wonderful places in their own way and on their own scale, the City no longer has any of the few surviving buildings with anything like their original internal appearance. I can't help thinking that, in an age when home entertainment has increased in quality and spectacle to the extent it has and films are so soon available for home viewing, ought not commercial cinemas to be offering something rather more special in the way of atmosphere and making a night out more special. Lighting kit these days is much more refined and versatile too so creating cinema that is magical as well as technically state-of-the-art is not asking the earth. We need people with vision to create cinemas – multiplexes very much included – not computer-assisted designers with accountants ever looking over their shoulders.

Most CTA members will have an inevitably esoteric love of cinemas, or an aspect of them, we probably all notice things in cinemas that the average patron wouldn't and I'd be very surprised to hear anyone say, on leaving the Odeon Leicester Square for example, "What beautiful curtains they have" or "That purple light on the screen was marvelous" but, at least subliminally, all these things, along with the standards of image definition, sound and comfort of the seats etc combine to give an overall impression of a "nice place to enjoy films".

Cinemas such as Odeon Leicester Square; Odyssey St. Albans; Plaza Stockport and, thankfully, many others who can still "put on a good show" are worth travelling many miles to support. What a shame their standards are no longer the norm as they were in a more enlightened age.

1 "Tabs" – a contraction of tableaux curtain/s, a term once used to describe a live theatre's own main or front curtain as opposed to one that belonged to a particular production. The unwieldy expression was shortened to "tabs" by theatre staff and duly inherited by the cinema industry.



Pages from the opening programme of the Odeon York

MEMORIES OF THE PYRAMID

The Pyramid / Odeon / Tatton Cinema in Sale, Greater Manchester

By Richard Hagon



The Pyramid as LA Fitness in January 2006

In 1973 I became involved with the North Cheshire Amateur Operatic Society (NCAOS) as their Sound Engineer. Their usual home was the Palace Theatre in Manchester. However in early 1980 the theatre closed for major refurbishment; as a result, the society had to find alternative venues. And so it was that I first entered the Pyramid (by then the Tatton Cinema) in November 1982 for our production of *Hello Dolly*. This was to be the first of several productions we would present at this venue over the next few years. The interior was completely untouched and a sight to behold. However the Christie Theatre Organ had long since been removed (see later in this article). The stage was raked, which created a few challenges for both the stage staff and performers. All the lighting and sound equipment had to be brought in especially for the show, which involved a great deal of climbing up vertical ladders backstage and negotiating the long narrow gantry above the auditorium ceiling. This was long before 'Health & Safety' took hold so there were no safety harnesses or hard hats!

The projection box, where two follow spots were installed, was accessed through a door at the end of the roof space, across a flat roof and then through another door and down a vertical ladder – a journey I became very familiar with! During one production a follow spot developed a fault. So gazing around the projection box our chief electrician spied a very old arc-type small follow spot, which must have been used in the early years. Despite its dusty state and dubious electrics, this was promptly powered up and, accompanied by a great deal of smoke and burning smell, there was light. In April 1984, 15 minutes before first night curtain-up for a production of *My Fair Lady*, my reel-to-reel tape machine developed a fault. So I hastily called home (a mile or two up the road) to ask my father to bring another machine. He arrived about half an hour later without getting a speeding ticket and all was well. But for me that was a very long half hour and I only missed one sound effect.

We enjoyed our time at the Tatton Cinema, it had a great atmosphere and audiences really enjoyed the Egyptian and Art Deco style interior.

ABOUT THE CINEMA

The following is an extract from the book *A History of Sale* by NV Swain, with additional material by David Alldred of the Lancastrian Theatre Organ Trust.

"... Undoubtedly the most splendid cinema in Sale was the Pyramid on Washway Road; this was designed by Drury and Gomersall in an 'Egyptian' style, hence the name. The Pyramid was built 1933-4 to seat 2,000 at a cost of £70,000. The building included a first-floor café advertised as the "rendezvous for discerning folk" and, flanking the cinema, two rows of shops were built in a style that harmonised with the nearby Post Office.

Once built, the Pyramid then needed a license to open; the magistrates refused this after opposition from, among others, the Palace and Savoy cinemas and the Regal Altrincham. A protest meeting was organised by a local committee, which included the vicar of St Paul's. The meeting was a success, as the Pyramid's 2,000 seating

capacity was filled and another 2,000 gathered outside; a petition had attracted 18,000 signatures.

The result was that a license was then granted and the Pyramid was opened for its first public performance on Monday 26 February 1934 with a film and stage show. It is a cinema typical of prosperous suburbia of the 1930s and was built with a spacious car park. The Pyramid was bought by Rank in 1941 and later became an Odeon cinema. The Odeon showed its last film in October 1981; the cinema was sold and later re-opened as the Tatton, finally closing in 1984."

The frontage, although not particularly Egyptian in overall design, does have various Egyptian-style mouldings and fluted pillars. Internally, the Egyptian theme was again largely mouldings and finishes, unlike Grauman's Egyptian. The theme was included in the specially designed Christie Organ [R]. This organ was purchased by The Lancastrian Theatre Organ Trust in the early 1980s and installed in the Blue Coat School in Oldham, where it was used for regular concerts until 2008. The organ is now in storage awaiting a new venue for installation.



In 1981, the Rank organisation closed 29 of its Odeon cinemas and the Tatton Cinemas group bought the lease for the Odeon Sale and it was renamed Tatton Cinema. Stage shows returned to the theatre; however the running costs caused the lease to revert to Rank in 1984 and the building was closed.



The Pyramid during its time as an Odeon

Trafford Borough Council purchased the cinema for £200,000 but by 1987 the costs to the Council were estimated at £1.5 million. A campaign was started to save it from demolition.



The interior of the Pyramid as LA Fitness in April 2003

In 1988 the theatre was advertised for sale by tender and by 1990 the cinema was converted into an American-themed nightclub, known as JFK's (quite how the Egyptian theme lent itself to this is anyone's guess!). The nightclub closed around 2001 and the auditorium has since been transformed into a franchised LA Fitness Centre, using a former front stalls exit as its entrance. The main entrance and foyers are currently unused.

The Pyramid Theatre was designated a Grade II Listed building in November 1987.



TO KENT AND BACK

By Mike Whitcombe

On the second weekend in May, my wife, Janice and I decided to celebrate our wedding anniversary by enjoying a couple of days in Kent, a County we had never previously visited. This mini break proved to be forty-eight hours of romance, shopping and, most importantly, discovering cinemas or former cinemas we hadn't seen before!



The Odeon (ex ABC) Canterbury in April 2004 [2]

Like many travellers before us, we began our first full day in Kent by visiting Canterbury. Pilgrims have flocked here for centuries. For cinema pilgrims, however, there are only sparse offerings. Although home to a three-screen Curzon, the only current cinema building of note is the two-screen Odeon that originally opened as the Regal in August 1933. It was designed for the County circuit by Robert Cromie but was taken over by ABC in 1935. In 1972 it was split into stalls bingo and a circle cinema. This lasted until 1988 when Cannon, who then owned it, converted the bingo area into another screen. Today, run by Odeon, it has 460 seats in the old circle and 328 in the former stalls area. Unfortunately, the cinema is separated from the main shopping centre by a major road that can only be safely crossed via a subway. From the outside, the building looks particularly tired although a Costa's franchise in the main entrance, similar to other Odeons, does give the impression of a certain vibrancy while also suggesting that the site is keeping up with the times. Peak hour ticket prices for this faded cathedral of dreams are around £9 – considerably cheaper than the shocking £12 admission charge that the other cathedral in town is shamefully charging!



The New Century (ex Odeon) Sittingbourne in April 2004 [2]

We were staying in a comfortable Premier Inn, west of Sittingbourne and on our way back to the hotel that evening we ventured into Sittingbourne to take a peek at the FG Mitchell-designed two-screen New Century cinema that opened as an Odeon in January 1937 with a 1,593 capacity. In 1967 the cinema was bought by the Classic chain. They converted the stalls area to bingo and in 1971 created the current two screens in the former circle and restaurant. Bingo has since played continuously in the stalls but cinema stopped in 2009. In January 2015 the cinema area reopened when the operator of the Rio

in Burnham-on-Crouch took charge. This corner-site cinema still retains its exterior art deco grace and even though it's at the eastern end of a High Street where there are many boarded-up shops, it still manages to give an area desperate for regeneration a beating heart, somewhere local people can escape from the reality of modern life. Tickets are reasonably priced at just £4 and £3.



The former Oxford Whitstable [1]

The next day, a beautifully sunny Sunday, we enjoyed a leisurely breakfast before driving to the coastal town of Whitstable. This is a delightful spot that boasts a vibrant High Street, quaint shutter-board houses, a working harbour and two former cinemas, the Oxford and the Regal. The former Oxford is a real treat and since December 2012 it's been a Wetherspoons pub, lavishly restored. It was designed by local architect WM Bishop and opened on 27 July 1936, with the film *Jack of All Trades* starring Jack Hulbert and Gina Malo. It seated 800 in circle and stalls and was built around the existing Oxford Picture Hall that had opened in December 1912. Previous to this, the original building had been called The Oxford Concert and Music Hall and had been entertaining the residents of Whitstable since 1892. In the late 1970s bingo was introduced to the Oxford but until 1984 films were still shown. The last show was on 4 October 1984, when four patrons watched *Blame it On Rio* starring Michael Caine and Demi Moore. The Oxford is now called The Peter Cushing, in honour of the great British actor, most famous for his Hammer films, who lived in Whitstable for over thirty years.



Inside Wetherspoon's The Peter Cushing Whitstable [1]

When walking up to the Oxford today you could almost be forgiven for thinking it's still a working cinema. After entering through one of six entrance doors, you're greeted by a 35mm projector (manufactured by London based company J Frank Brockliss Ltd), movie posters relating to Peter Cushing, film cans and other site memorabilia including the building's original battery racks. The former stalls area, cream and sage green throughout, is now the bar area. With an eye-catching

wooden art deco bar where the former screen would have been, along with further art deco touches such as light fittings and door handles, this area possesses an elegant atmosphere enhanced by the auditorium's full height being retained. The front of the circle has been bricked up but this doesn't lessen the grandeur. The only disappointment is the fact that the projection room portholes have been lost. An original fire exit to the right of the bar leads into a rear beer garden. The former circle foyer, accessible from the main entrance foyer via stairs lined with movie posters, is one of the most attractive features of this conversion from cinema to pub. Naturally lit by five original narrow vertical windows, which retain coloured panes of glass, the area is filled with comfortable chairs, making it the perfect spot for a cosy, secluded drink. The toilets are in what would have been the circle itself. Whitstable is rightly proud of its association with Peter Cushing, who would cycle into town most days for lunch or afternoon tea and this conversion of the Oxford would appear to be a fitting tribute. But one local, who met Peter Cushing when he wanted a bench commissioned in memory of his wife, told me that Cushing would, in fact, be horrified... as he was a strict teetotaler!



The former Regal Whitstable [1]

When we finally left the Oxford, we walked down the High Street towards the harbour and quickly came across the former **Regal**, which is now a Sainsbury's Local. I couldn't find out much about this site although according to a lady in the Tourist Information Centre, it opened as the Picture House, was known as the **Argosy** during the Second World War before finally being named the **Regal**. It closed in the 1960s when it became a Fine Fare Supermarket while hosting the town's first Chinese restaurant on the first floor. Somerfield and Budgens both ran the site before current occupiers Sainsbury's came onto the scene.

After a walk along the beach we returned to The Peter Cushing for a late lunch before driving east along the coast, through Herne Bay. It was a beautiful day and as we drove with the windows down and sunglasses on we were treated to a succession of wonderful sea views featuring elegant white-coloured wind turbines shimmering against the cobalt blue of the Thames Estuary. Our destination was Westgate-on-Sea and the charming grade II listed **Carlton Cinema**. Built as a town hall in 1890 (source: *Cinemas in Britain* by Richard Gray) or 1910 (source: the Carlton's own web site) it started showing films in 1912 under the name **Town Hall Cinema**. Renamed the **Carlton** in 1932, the exterior is in a Swiss-Gothic style and boasts an arched entrance that is topped by a clock tower. It's currently run by Adam Cunard's excellent Electric Theatre Company, which operates similar sites in Bognor, Clacton on Sea, Dorchester and Blackwood. All three screens are on the ground floor with the largest (screen ①) having a capacity of 297. The two smaller screens have 54 and 32 seats respectively. Admission charges are just £2.50 during the week and £3.50 on weekends. When we arrived screen ① had just finished so we were allowed to have a look around the spacious main auditorium. Westgate-on-Sea is a delicate oasis of old style gentility. The **Carlton** is as charming as its surroundings and deserves a visit from any CTA members in the area.



Screen ① at the Carlton [1]



The Carlton Westgate-on-Sea [1]

Margate, a couple of miles away and our next stop, has a faded, slightly down-at-heel feeling about it that could change if the legendary Dreamland restoration continues. Margate, once a famous holiday destination for Londoners, should rival Brighton for seaside chic yet since Dreamland closed in 2003 the town has struggled. But in June 2015, after an £18 million phase one restoration, the amusement site along with 17 vintage rides reopened, creating 200 jobs for local people. The iconic fin-fronted art deco cinema (Julian Leathart and William Frederick Granger) that opened in 1935 with a 2,200 capacity and closed in 2007 with two screens in the divided circle and bingo in the stalls, could reopen as early as 2017 if grants continue to roll in and visitor numbers, already encouraging, increase.

From Margate we continued our leisurely motor, passing through Broadstairs, Ramsgate and finally Dover before taking the M20 north, following the Euro rail line through the lush green Kent countryside. It was then home to Portsmouth, making plans as we drove for a return day trip in the near future. We will drive to Whitstable for a Wetherspoons lunch at the former Oxford before grabbing a movie at the **Carlton Westgate-on-Sea**... no wonder our marriage is a happy one!

Photos by [1] the author & [2] 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

ABERYSTWYTH (Ceredigion)



The grade II listed Coliseum is preparing to reinstall a full-size screen and projector. It opened in 1905 with 800 seats on three levels. It has two horseshoe-shaped balconies above the main level, which is on the first floor of the building with shops underneath. It was a full-time cinema from 1932 until 1976 and was converted to become the town's museum in 1982. See p9 Bulletin 44/4. {22905}

Western Mail – 23 April; photo taken September 2012

ASHFORD (Kent)

The proposed cinema complex development at Elwick Place has been taken over by the Council. No operator has been named.

Kentish Express – 21 April; *Ashford Herald* – 28 April

BALA (Gwynedd)



The Neuadd Buddug reopened in May after being closed more than a year when 35mm film became less available. £55,864 has been invested in a digital projector and sound system, a new disabled access ramp and an accessible toilet. It will remain open for a transitional period until a new cultural facility becomes ready in the new community school in 2018.

Cambrian News – 26 May; sent in by Hugh Sykes; photo taken June 2011

BANGOR (Gwynedd)

The developer behind the proposed multiplex at Parc Bryn Cegin says there is a strong interest from cinema operators and negotiations are going well with two of them.

Bangor Mail – 11 May

BARNESLEY (South Yorks)

Empire Cinemas has signed up to operate a ten-screen 1,244-seat cinema to be built on the roof of the Alhambra Centre. Planning permission was granted in November 2014. The Council has alternative plans for a multiplex on a site close to the new Market Square.

Barnsley Chronicle, Yorkshire Post – 6 May; sent in by Carl Chesworth

BLACKBURN (Lancs)

The Thwaites Empire Theatre cancelled all April shows after part of the ceiling collapsed on stage whilst 90 children were rehearsing. The venue was a cinema until the 1970s. {34995}

The Stage – 21 April; sent in by R David Simpson

BLACKPOOL (Lancs)

An 18-year-old man has been hospitalised after jumping from a balcony at the Grand Theatre during a performance of *Grease*. {36695}

The Stage – 9 June; sent in by Barry Quinton & R David Simpson

The refurbishment of the circle area of the Regent is nearly ready and is scheduled to open on 29 July for a planned series of weekend movies. A list of ten films has been published, from which fans can choose the first night attraction. The venue has a Facebook page – search for “Regent Blackpool”.

Sent in by Barry Band & Ray Dolling

BOURNEMOUTH

Readers have voted that the new West Central complex currently under construction is a “monstrosity worse than the IMAX”. The development will house a ten-screen cinema, a replacement for the Odeon and ABC in Westbourne Road. The IMAX was demolished a few years ago.

Daily Echo (Bournemouth) – 14 June; sent in by Philip Stevens

BRIERLEY HILL (Dudley)

The Danilo failed to sell at auction on 26 May but is still available at £300,000. There are full details and some good photos on Cotton's auctioneers' website at tinyurl.com/zsvkfsn. {37851}

Sent in by Ivan Harris & Norman Robins

BRISTOL

The grade II listed former ABC Whiteladies reopened as the Everyman on 20 May. It has three screens, seating 243 in the former circle and 110 & 85 in the former rear stalls. It had been closed for 15 years. {849}

Bristol Post – 6, 17, 26 May; *Western Daily Press* – 12 April, 21 May

CAERNARFON (Gwynedd)

Plans (reported on p16 of the last Bulletin) for two extra screens at the Galeri have been approved by the Council. The new screens are not expected to be fully operational until January 2018.

Daily Post (Wales) – 18 May; *Caernarfon & Denbigh Herald* – 25 May; sent in by Hugh Sykes

CAISTOR (Lincs)

The organiser of the ‘All About You’ youth scheme says an independent community cinema project is currently “under development”. The town once had the 200-seat Crown cinema – does anyone know when that closed?

Market Rasen Mail – 13 April

CANTERBURY (Kent)

The freehold of the two-screen Odeon (ex ABC) sold at auction on 19 May for £2,790,000, slightly less than the guide price of £2,850,000. The seller was an un-named major pension fund and the identity of the buyer has not been revealed. The operation of the cinema is unaffected as the lease runs until April 2032. The rent is £178,026 per annum. The particulars were still available on the auctioneers' [Acuitus] website at tinyurl.com/htbdj46 at the time of going to press.

Kentish Gazette – 12 May

CLACTON-ON-SEA (Essex)

Work has started on a £500,000 upgrade of the two-screen Century cinema. Screen ① capacity will drop slightly to 400 but the extra space will be used to install new high-backed leather seats and give more legroom. New luxury seats will be installed in screen ② and the sightlines improved. Both will be fitted with bigger screens and improved sound systems. The cinema will also be redecorated and new toilets fitted. {13442}

Clacton Gazette – 14 April

COLCHESTER (Essex)

Plans have been submitted for a three-screen boutique cinema in the former Keddies department store; it will be operated by Curzon. The scheme was first announced in 2013.

Daily Gazette – 28 April, 2 May; East Anglian Daily Times – 30 April

Fresh plans have been unveiled to convert the former Odeon in Crouch Street into shops and apartments. It was bought by BluMarble Properties in early 2015; previous owners had submitted several plans for the building and nothing had happened. The façade will be preserved but it has not yet been decided if the auditorium would be demolished. The cinema closed in 2002. {17575}

Daily Gazette – 5 May; Essex County Standard – 6 May

Odeon, the operator of the eight-screen cinema in Head Street, has lodged an official objection to plans to build a twelve-screen out-of-town multiplex.

Daily Gazette (Colchester) – 12 May; sent in by Carl Chesworth

CRAIGAVON (Co Armagh, Northern Ireland)

The eight-screen Omniplex has celebrated its first birthday.

Portadown Times – 1 April

DARLINGTON

Vue has insisted that progress of their new nine-screen cinema is on-track, despite the opening date being shifted several times; it is given as 23 June at the time your Bulletin went to press. Restaurants and a hotel on the Feetham site have already opened.

Northern Echo – 11 May, 11 June; sent in by Carl Chesworth

DARTFORD (Kent)

The thirteen-screen Showcase cinema at Bluewater will expand into the top floor and create four extra screens. No timescale has been given. {24663}

Dartford Messenger – 19 May

The proposed Paramount Theme Park on the Swanscombe Peninsula has had its launch date pushed back to 2021, two years later than planned. It could cost up to £2bn and be bigger than the London Olympic Park. It will include cinemas in addition to the usual theme park attractions. Planning permission will not be applied for until 2017. A local businessman has said he cannot find tenants for his properties because of the uncertainty.

The i – 26 April; The Reporter – 9 June; sent in by Margaret Burgoine & Reg Larkman

DEAL (Kent)

The Regent has been added to the CTA's list of Cinemas at Risk. The CTA website entry is quoted by the East Kent Mercury, who also report an online petition to the Dover District Council to reopen the cinema by the 'Reopen the Regent' campaign group. The owners have promised repairs to arrest the decay meantime, by ordering scaffolding.

East Kent Mercury – 2 June; sent in by Martin Tapsell

DERBY

Fires at the derelict Hippodrome have cost the taxpayer more than £12,000 this year, a freedom of information request has revealed. Meanwhile, it has been announced that the Cathedral will host concerts, following the fire at the Assembly Rooms in 2013.

Derby Telegraph – 3, 4, 5, 23 May; sent in by Peter Good

DOVER (Kent)

A contractor has been appointed for the new six-screen Cineworld at the St James development. A completion date has been set for autumn 2017.

Dover Express – 26 May

DUBLIN (Ireland)

A nine-screen 1,535-seat Odeon opened on 16 October 2015, restoring cinema services to the working-class Dublin suburb of Finglas after very many years. It features an ISENSE screen with Dolby Atmos. It is located in a shopping mall, beside the M50 orbital motorway and this shot taken in May 2016 shows that the passing motorist is not being neglected.

Sent in by Bob Bradshaw [photo]



DUDLEY

The demolition of the Hippodrome was delayed by the possible presence of bats. The Council wanted to flatten the theatre and replace it with a public open space. This could have been the last chance for campaigners to try to save it. However, the week after the bat announcement, local elections left a hung Council. UKIP says that saving the Hippodrome was one of the policies Labour agreed to consider in exchange for the purple party abstaining from the leadership vote. Now campaigners have been given a five-year lease on the building, giving them time to find the cash to reopen the theatre. They say it will be at least four years before it is open to the public again. The venue has stood empty since bingo ceased in 2009. {41631}

Express & Star – 6, 13, 19 May, 13 June; The Stage – 9 June; sent in by Carl Chesworth, Ivan Harris, Chris Ingram, Barry Quinton, Norman Robins & R David Simpson

DURHAM

The Gates shopping centre is to be renamed Riverwalk as part of a major overhaul. It will include a six-screen Odeon cinema. The news came the day after Everyman exchanged contracts for a three-screen cinema to open by 2019 in the nearby Millgate House development.

Northern Echo – 9 April; Durham Times – 15 April



The Gala Theatre is to expand from two screens to four in a £450,000 makeover. It was opened by the Council in 2002 with a 500-seat live performance theatre and a 114-seat cinema with a giant screen and an 8/70 projector. In 2007 a second 72-seat screen was added. Picturehouse has been programming the cinemas since April last year and the new complex will be renamed The Durham Picturehouse from the autumn; the Council will continue to run the theatre. The existing screens will be refurbished. {24672}

Northern Echo, The Journal (Newcastle) – 11 May; photo taken November 2006

EDINBURGH (Portobello)



An application has been submitted to demolish the Category C(s) listed former George cinema and replace it with flats. A campaign to save it has been started. The Council and the public have objected to the request. It opened as the County in March 1939 with 1,284 seats and films ceased in June 1974. It became a bingo hall, which still continues today. Only the stalls is in use and the circle has been blocked off with a false ceiling; the CTA viewed this area on their visit there in September 2008 – see colour supplement to Bulletin 42/6. {23292}

Edinburgh Evening News – 19 May; photo taken March 2004

EPPING (Essex)

Plans for a three-screen cinema on land close to the High Street have been approved.

Waltham Forest Independent – 27 May, 17 June

FORT WILLIAM (Highland)

The group hoping to reopen the two-screen Studio has been granted charitable status. The cinema only opened in 1986 and closed about ten years ago. The project is estimated to cost £500,000.

Press & Journal (Highland) – 11 May

FROME (Somerset)



The 304-seat Westway cinema closed on 25 March as the business went into liquidation. The landlords are optimistic that new operators can be found and have already had a number of enquiries. {24700}

Frome Standard – 31 March, 14 April; Frome Times – 7 April; photo taken August 2003

GALWAY (Ireland)

The unfinished three-screen Picture Palace may never open as public funding has dried up and an operator may never be found. It has already cost the taxpayer €4m.

Sunday Times (Ireland) – 8 May

GARSTANG (Lancs)

The Barton Grange Garden Centre near Preston is planning a development on the A6 at Brock to be called The Flower Bowl. It will incorporate a three-screen cinema. Work is scheduled to start this autumn with a view to opening in autumn 2017.

Blackpool Gazette, Lancashire Evening Post – 21 April

GLASGOW (Central)

The eighteen-screen Cineworld in Renfrew Street is undergoing major renovations. These are likely to include 4DX motion technology and a VIP area serving hot food. The seats in all screens will be upgraded. This is Britain's tallest cinema. {27079}

Glasgow Evening Times – 4 May

GRANTHAM (Lincs)

The development of the six-screen Reel could be revised, following Council plans to make the scheme more ambitious. The operator may not eventually be Reel. Site work is due to start in July and completion is now predicted for summer 2017. {24709}

Grantham Journal – 29 April; Grantham Target – 4 May

HARROGATE (North Yorks)

The grade II listed Odeon is making big improvements ahead of the opening of a five-screen Everyman just a few hundred yards away. Screen ④ is having new cloth seats installed as well as better soundproofing. Screen ③ also has better soundproofing and also new leather seats and greater legroom. All foyers and corridors have been repainted and there are new carpets on the main staircase and upper foyer. The Odeon will celebrate its 80th birthday in September; the new Everyman is scheduled to open the same month. The newspaper printed a picture – but it was of the Odeon (now Empire) Sutton Coldfield; the two buildings are almost identical. Oops! {1834}

Harrogate Advertiser, Ripon Gazette – 9 June; sent in by Derrick Armstrong

HOLYHEAD (Anglesey / Ynys Môn)

Progress is being made on adding a second 25-seat screen at the Empire. Funding has been secured to buy projection equipment and cover the cost of a planning application and the work of a structural

engineer. To facilitate the addition, an adjoining flat will have to be bought and knocked through. The cost of the work is estimated to be £250,000. {26593}

Bangor Mail – 13 April

HOVE (West Sussex)

The grade II listed Carnegie Building, which has hosted the town's library for 108 years is being sold, possibly to a cinema operator. The Council leader revealed he had been in discussions with a cinema chain [Curzon]. The Council is to vote on the issue.

Brighton & Hove Independent – 3 June; The Argus – 4 June; sent in by Geoff Gill

HULL (East Yorks)

A Compulsory Purchase Order [CPO] has been issued by the Council for the bomb-damaged National Picture Theatre. The campaign to turn it into a memorial will now prepare the paperwork in case the CPO is successful.

Hull Daily Mail – 16 May; sent in by David Alexander

IPSWICH (Suffolk)

The fit-out has commenced at the new Empire twelve-screen cinema in the Buttermarket Centre. It will include two IMPACT screens. The town already has an eleven-screen Cineworld.

Ipswich Star – 6 June

LEEDS (West Yorks)

Construction work is under way on an eleven-screen Cineworld in an extension to the White Rose Shopping Centre.

Morley Observer & Advertiser – 27 April; Yorkshire Post – 3 May

LEISTON (Suffolk)

The Film Theatre has opened new toilets and dressing rooms. The toilets are decorated on a film theme and have a live sound relay from the soundtrack so you don't miss the action when you go to the loo!

Framlingham Community News – 1 June

LICHFIELD (Staffs)

Plans have been approved for a new shopping centre and cinema at Friargate. Light has been confirmed as the operator.

Express & Star – 19 May, 22 June; Lichfield Mercury – 26 May; Lichfield Live – 20 June; sent in by Ivan Harris

LISKEARD (Cornwall)

A five-screen cinema is being proposed as part of a development at Tencreek Farm. Two operators are said to be interested.

Western Morning News – 29 April; Cornish Times – 13 May; sent in by Carl Chesworth

LIVERPOOL (Central)



A video of the sad state inside the Futurist is available on the *Liverpool Echo* website at [tinyurl.com/zcsba7d]. It was shot by a structural engineer compiling a report that concluded it was a danger to the public and required immediate attention. There are large holes in the roof. The frontage on Lime Street is currently cordoned off and some buses are being diverted. The cordon does not extend to the former Scala next door [on right of photo], which is also in a sad state. The SAVE Britain's Heritage Group, which is campaigning for much of Lime Street, has won a Court of Appeal victory against demolition of the façade claiming there are ways of salvaging the frontage. {6508} & {32281}

Liverpool Echo – 25 April, 6, 7, 19, 20, 25 May, 4 June; sent in by Carl Chesworth, Alan Hodson [photo], Phillip Mayer & Mike Taylor



The Paramount Distribution Office in Fraser Street has been demolished; a rehabilitation centre is to open on the site. This was the last direct link with Hollywood in the City. The Office came into being just before the Paramount Theatre (later Odeon) on London Road was completed in 1934. We have one other building due for demolition – the office of RKO Radio Pictures on Lime Street. Once these buildings have gone, the cinema industry in Merseyside will be over. The company redeveloping the Odeon site into student flats has gone broke.

Liverpool Echo – 4 June; sent in by Mike Taylor; photo taken July 2007

LIVERPOOL (Tuebrook)

Plans (reported on p19 of the last Bulletin) to demolish the former Carlton/ABC have been delayed as asbestos has been found in the building. There is also copious Japanese Knotweed. The work is now expected to take three months. {22279}

Liverpool Echo – 24 April

LONDON (Barking)

An application has been submitted to demolish the former Abbey sports centre in Axe Street and replace it with a development incorporating a three-screen cinema. No operator has been mentioned.

Barking & Dagenham Post – 11 May

LONDON (Catford)

A cinema could be included in the redevelopment of the Fellowship Inn in Bellingham.

South London Press – 6 May

LONDON (Croydon)

The Theatres Trust has called on the Council to rethink its “unfortunate” £30m redevelopment plan, which would see all three parts of the Fairfield Halls close on 15 July for two years. The Trust backs a phased refurbishment instead.

The Stage – 21 April; sent in by R David Simpson

LONDON (Dalston)

A pop-up cocktail bar has opened in the basement of the Rio – if you can get past the picket line, that is. It is not cheap at £39. Scroll down this web page for Dalston: [www.littlenans.co.uk]. The basement was also used for an immersive theatre performance last December: [thebighouse.uk.com/electric]. The Rio itself has plans to open a second screen in the basement and is trying to raise £300,000 to fund the project.

Hackney Gazette – 9 May; sent in and additional material by Gavin McGrath

Editor's Note: The picket line Gavin refers to was composed of workers who walked out on 25 May to protest about planned job cuts for ten of their number. They say that casual staff on zero hours contracts will take over many permanent workers' roles but the cinema insists this is untrue. Projectionists have also been axed in favour of automation.

Hackney Gazette – 25 May

LONDON (Elephant & Castle)

A 1,000-seat multiplex and a 500 capacity music venue are to be incorporated in the redevelopment of the area.

Evening Standard – 25 May; Southwark News – 26 May; sent in by Keith Bye

LONDON (Hackney)

A grade II listed 19th Century church in Shrubland Road, London Fields, was expected to fetch more than £2m at auction. The site could be used for a cinema, according to the auctioneers' particulars.

Hackney Gazette – 9 June

LONDON (Harrow)

The Gala Bingo Club operating in the stalls area of the Safari has moved out and the space has been taken over by the V2V (Victory 2 Victory) Church. Bollywood films continue in the former circle. {21135}

Sent in by Ken Roe

LONDON (Hoxton)



The derelict 866-seat former Cinema in Pitfield Street has had its façade demolished, despite promises it would be retained. Health and Safety issues were cited as the reason. It had been supported by scaffolding after the auditorium was demolished in 2009. There are plans for a four-screen Curzon cinema on the site behind a replica of the façade. See Casework p5. {13803}

Hackney Gazette – 9 June; sent in by Gavin McGrath; photo taken March 2016

Editor's Note: A statement from Curzon Cinemas reads – *Curzon is not the developer and therefore not the bad guy who has knocked the façade down. We are simply the end user who is renting the base-cinema when the developer has finished building his structure, apartments and all. Just thought you'd like this information in case anything else is put out there.*

LONDON (Kensington)

Kensington & Chelsea Council has refused to help the project to save the Odeon, which is backed by 28,000 residents. They want the Council to buy the building from the developers at an estimated cost of £120m but say they will fight on and they can find the money. There are plans to demolish most of the building and put up flats with a cinema in the basement. See Casework p5. {13801}

Kensington & Chelsea News – 31 May; Sunday Times – 1 June

LONDON (Kentish Town)

Two groups are in talks with the owners of the former North London Polytechnic building with a view to opening a new arts centre and cinema. The site is currently being renovated.

Camden New Journal – 12 May

LONDON (Marble Arch)

Demolition has started on the block incorporating the Odeon. A new cinema will be included in the redevelopment of the site. The Odeon opened in February 1967 with a huge curved D-150 screen. There were 1,360 seats in stalls and circle levels. In 1996 the auditorium was carved up into five screens. It closed in May 2016. {1830}

Construction Enquirer – May; sent in by Ken Roe & R David Simpson

LONDON (Shepherds Bush)

The top level of a multi-storey car park is to be turned into an outdoor dining area and cinema this summer. It will be under a temporary pergola on the roof of the former BBC staff car park next to Television Centre in Wood Lane. The 82-seat cinema will be operated by the Electric Cinema in Portobello Road with screenings from 22 June to 12 August.

Evening Standard – 19 April

LONDON (Thamesmead)

The brutalist 1960s concrete blocks will be demolished and replaced with new homes, a library, shops and a cinema. The estate featured in the films *Beautiful Thing* and *A Clockwork Orange*.

The i – 17 May; sent in by Keith Bye

LONDON (West End)

Two people have been injured in separate incidents after falling down stairs at the St James Theatre. An inspection has been conducted by Westminster City Council, who are satisfied that the theatre meets all health and safety requirements.

The Stage – 19 May; sent in by Barry Quinton



The Palace Theatre is seeking permission to give its façade a Harry Potter themed overhaul by hanging four large banners each in a colour from one of the four Hogwarts houses. The theatre is currently playing *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child*, which is expected to run for at least two years. {25854}

The Stage – 2 June; sent in by Barry Quinton; photo taken March 2004

LOUGHBOROUGH (Leics)

The new 1,087-seat eight-screen Cineworld opened on 18 May at Baxtergate, the site of the former General Hospital. The largest auditorium has 292 seats and a screen 14.4m wide by 6.1m high. There is also a small 39-seat screen, idea for private hire. The local newspaper has two galleries of photos at [tinyurl.com/z6dkeee] and [tinyurl.com/h3qsjcq]

Loughborough Echo – 13 April, 4, 11 May; sent in by Carl Chesworth

LUTON (Beds)

Plans have been unveiled for a new stadium for Luton FC at Power Court. Over 1,000 people viewed the plans at a public exhibition. A cinema is included in the proposals. There are also plans for a cinema as part of a development at M1 Junction 10A. Meanwhile, the former Union/Ritz in Gordon Street has a 'Sold' sign on it; it was last used as a nightclub.

Luton News – 25 May; sent in by Margaret Burgoine

LYME REGIS (Dorset)

The Marine Theatre has confirmed it is planning to show films this summer, following the fire that devastated the Regent – see last Bulletin. Work is underway to demolish the damaged part of the Regent. Scott Cinemas has said they will rebuild the cinema.

View from Lyme Regis – 4 May

MACCLESFIELD (Cheshire)

Plans for a new six-screen cinema development were presented at a public meeting in May. Discussions are ongoing with an un-named operator and the cinema could be open by 2018.

Macclesfield Express – 11, 25 May

MANCHESTER (Central)

A couple were caught having sex whilst watching *Batman v Superman* at the Odeon Printworks. Staff spotted them on CCTV and asked them to leave. They became verbally abusive and the man hit an usher in the face. Police were called and the couple went to court and were given a 12 month conditional discharge; they were fined £370, which will be deducted from their benefits. Other filmgoers did not realise they were doing anything untoward until staff told them.

Metro – 9 June; sent in by Carl Chesworth

MANCHESTER (Withington)

Plans have been approved for flats to be built on the site of the former Ciné City. The cinema opened as the Scala in 1912 and finally closed in 2001; it was demolished in 2008. {19594}

Manchester Evening News – 5 May; sent in by Carl Chesworth

MARGATE (KENT)

Bids are being invited for the second phase of the development of Dreamland. This includes restoration of the cinema foyer, new brass handrails and metal entrance doors, plastering walls and ceiling and restoration of the paydesk, lights and signs. Meanwhile, the operator of the amusement park has gone into administration. The Council has vowed that the park will remain open whilst a new operator is found.

Isle of Thanet Gazette – 20 May, 3 June; sent in by Margaret Burgoine & Martin Tapsell

MIDSOMER NORTON (NE Somerset)

JD Wetherspoon has dismissed rumours that it has pulled out of the scheme to develop the former Palladium into a pub and has confirmed that the project is on track. The building has been empty since the cinema closed in January 1993. {28883}

Somerset Guardian – 28 April

NORWICH (Norfolk)

Student accommodation is set to take the place of the recently demolished Gaumont. {6326}

Evening News (Norwich) – 6 June

OLDHAM (Greater Manchester)

Conversion of the Old Town Hall into a seven-screen 800-seat Odeon is underway. The Council website says it is likely to open in 2016 but no exact date is given. There is a 360° view inside and time lapse photos at [tinyurl.com/zthne9l]

Sent in by Carl Chesworth & Jeremy Perkins

PRESTATYN (Denbigh)



Merlin Cinemas has taken over the running of the two-screen Scala, making it the 15th cinema in the chain. The circuit took over the Cinema in Thurso (Highland) last November. {23237}

Daily Post (Wales) – 13, 20 April; photo taken June 2011;
Caithness Courier, Rhyl, Prestatyn & Abergelle Journal – 20 April

PRESTON (Lancs)

Light Cinemas is to be the operator of a new eleven-screen cinema in the Market Quarter development. It is hoped to be open by 2020. It has been revealed that the consultants who prepared the report recommending the scheme are directors of Light Cinemas but the Council insists the two processes were "separate and independent". Meanwhile, plans for a nine-screen cinema as part of the redevelopment of the Fishergate Centre have been recommended for refusal. It was seen as a replacement for the Vue at Walton-le-Dale but the chain insists it is staying put. Shopping Centre bosses have insisted the City could support three cinemas.

Lancashire Evening Post – 1, 20, 26 April, 23 May; sent in by Carl Chesworth

RAMSGATE (Kent)

Planning permission has been granted for JD Wetherspoon to convert the grade II listed Royal Victoria Pavilion into a pub. The scheme is expected to cost £4.5m and be open by summer 2017. The venue will be shared with other businesses as the pub will not occupy the whole building.

Isle of Thanet Gazette – 6 May; sent in by Margaret Burgoine

RAWTENSTALL (Lancs)

A new cinema is being considered as part of the town's regeneration plan.

Rossendale Free Press – 8 April

RINGWOOD (Hants)

The developers who own the former Regal agreed to meet campaigners who want to save the building. The owners had wanted to demolish the auditorium and retain the façade, allowing a link to a shopping arcade. However, the developers have not yet secured all the land they need for the project; one part adjacent to the cinema is owned by a brewery. They may now consider selling the building to the campaign group. See p21 last Bulletin. {28134}

Daily Echo (Bournemouth) – 12 April; New Milton Advertiser – 16 April, 28 May; Avon Advertiser – 25 May

ROCHDALE (Greater Manchester)

Reel is to operate a six-screen cinema to be built in the town centre. A detailed planning application will be submitted this summer and it is anticipated that work will commence later this year.

Manchester Evening News – 29 April; Rochdale Observer – 30 April; sent in by Richard Lysons

ROTHERHAM (South Yorks)

A public consultation has been held on plans for the development of Forge Island, which include a multiplex cinema. The Council first gave its backing for a cinema on the site in 20123 but failed to attract developers.

Rotherham Advertiser – 20 May

RUSHDEN (Northants)

Plans have been passed for a new twelve-screen Cineworld at Rushden Lakes. To find out more, search for application 15/02249/FUL at [www.eastnorthamptonshire.gov.uk].

Corby Evening Telegraph – 14 April

SCARBOROUGH (North Yorks)

A detailed planning application has been submitted for a development incorporating a multiplex cinema at North Bay. The local newspaper published artist's impressions of the scheme. Outline permission was granted last year. It is hoped to have the cinema open in 2017. There is a possibility that the operator could be Parkway Cinemas, who recently opened a new cinema in Beverley (East Yorks).

Scarborough News – 12 May; sent in by Terry Ladlow

The Spa Theatre had to close suddenly until further notice as asbestos has been discovered in the ceiling. Planned events have been moved to other areas of the complex.

The Stage – 9 June; sent in by Barry Quinton & R David Simpson

SHEFFIELD

A £60m refurbishment and expansion project for the Meadowhall complex is underway. Plans include a second cinema to replace the existing eleven-screen Vue, which opened in 1993 as the Warner.

Star (Sheffield) – 5, 12 May; sent in by Carl Chesworth

SKELMERSDALE (Lancs)

Light Cinemas has signed an agreement to operate a proposed eight-screen cinema in the Concourse Shopping Centre.

Wigan Evening Post – 31 March

SOUTHAMPTON



Leisure World, which incorporates the thirteen-screen Odeon could be demolished to make way for a conference centre. The complex opened in 1997 in a converted parcel handling depot. However, a later report suggests this might not happen. {25376}

Daily Echo – 15, 26 April, 4 May; sent in by Carl Chesworth & Ian Patterson photo taken May 2006

Staff working at the Mayflower Theatre (ex Gaumont) were evacuated when a rat was electrocuted at a nearby substation. Its burning body caused sparks and smoke and cut power to 50 homes. The theatre maintained power but staff were evacuated as a safety precaution. A show was not taking place at the time.

Daily Echo – 24 May; sent in by Ian Patterson

SOUTHPORT (Merseyside)



The Grand is reported to be empty and under threat of demolition. It was last seen in use as a casino. Does anyone have any more information? {22654}

Sent in by Philip Mayer; photo taken July 2007

STAFFORD

Odeon is to be the operator of the new six-screen 800-seat cinema to be built at the Riverside complex. The site has now been cleared and building work was expected to start in May.

Express & Star – 26 April; sent in by Carl Chesworth & Chris Ingram

TENBURY WELLS (Worcs)



The Regal been nominated for the 'Britain has Spirit' awards and has made the shortlist. You can vote at [www.britainhasspirit.com]. {22568}

South Shropshire Journal – 27 May; photo taken September 2101 during CTA visit

TODMORDEN (West Yorkshire)



The former Olympia has been demolished – including the façade, which had been promised would be retained. It is likely that a supermarket will be built on the site. {3347}

Courier (Halifax) – 22 April; sent in by Martin Tapsell & John Wojowski [photo]

TOTTON (Hants)



A £1.2m refurbishment has been completed on flats at the former Savoy; the building has been renamed *The Old Cinema*. The Savoy opened in March 1935 and closed in March 1961. After a time on bingo, it was converted to a factory. In 1994 the factory owner retired and the building was converted into 21 flats. The complex was evacuated in October 2015 after the premises were found to be unsafe. {50581} *Photo sent in by an unknown member.*

Daily Echo – 21 May; sent in by Ian Patterson & Philip Stevens

TUNBRIDGE WELLS (Kent)

The site of the former Ritz/Essoldo/ABC [etc] has been sold again – the fifth time since it closed in 2000. The building was demolished in 2010 and the new owner wants to put shops and restaurants on the plot. {25782}

So Tunbridge Wells – 1 June

WAREHAM (Dorset)



The 150-seat Rex has reopened after a £70,000 refurbishment. The seats have been reupholstered and the floor rake improved. President Edward Fox attended a special gala night. {15225}

Daily Echo (Bournemouth) – 15 May; Dorset Echo – 26 May; sent in by Philip Stevens; photo taken May 2006

WARRINGTON (Cheshire)

Proposals for a new Cineworld multiplex in Bridge Street were expected to be approved by the Council at its April meeting. Demolition work has already started at the site.

Warrington Midweek – 26 April; Warrington Guardian – 28 April

WELLINGBOROUGH (Northants)

The Castle Theatre faces an uncertain future after the operating company went bankrupt. The Council owners terminated the operator's contract due to "poor financial management" and it had been given six months to end its operation of the theatre. Performances will continue as normal. The venue had been planning a £12m refurbishment.

The Stage – 21 April; sent in by R David Simpson

WESTON-SUPER-MARE (NE Somerset)

The new Cineworld multiplex at Dolphin Square is currently under construction and expected to open in 2017. The development could be renamed and the public is being asked for suggestions.

Weston Mercury – 19 May

WOKINGHAM (Berks)

Everyman has signed up to be the operator of a new three-screen cinema at the Elms Field development. Planning permission has been granted and work is expected to start early in 2017.

Bracknell News – 27 April; sent in by John Kennett

WORTHING (West Sussex)

The three-week refurbishment of the Council-owned Connaught Studio is complete and the first floor auditorium is again showing films. The ground floor entrance foyer, staircase and first floor foyer and auditorium have been repainted in two shades of grey. The ceilings and skirting are dark grey, the walls light grey. Industrial style urban themed lighting has also been installed throughout along with illuminated quad frames. The seats were not replaced as the ones considered, which would have been removable to create a larger space for gigs, were too heavy for the floorboards. The proposed bar, which was going to be installed in the rear of the auditorium, wasn't realised either.

Sent in by Mike Whitcombe

YORK

The five-screen Reel (ex Odeon) in Blossom Street has threatened a legal challenge over plans (reported on p22 of the last Bulletin) for a multiplex besides the new Community Stadium at Monks Cross. The twelve-screen Vue at Clifton Moor has also objected to the proposals. However, The Council has passed the plans, including the height increase and the extra seats added.

The Press (York) – 2, 8, 9 June; sent in by Carl Chesworth

Late News

LONDON (Burnt Oak)



Passing the former Savoy yesterday, I noticed that a 'For Sale / To Let' sign had appeared on the building. The agents are Telsar and their website has full particulars and some good photos (including an aerial shot) at tinyurl.com/hqf6gnc. The venue opened in June 1936 with 2,084 seats and films ceased in October 1961 under the Essoldo Banner. It became the first bingo club in London, finally closing in October 2014. It is grade II listed. {16555}

Sent in & photo by John Pilblad

LONDON (Chiswick)

Picture House cinemas appears to still be committed to opening a cinema in Chiswick, despite some delays. People living near the proposed site, which used to house Ballet Rambert have received flyers informing them that the group intends to reapply for planning permission. The notice says that the cinema would remain the same size but there would also be three flats, "to make better use of the site." If permission is granted, the cinema could be open by Christmas 2017.

ChiswickW4.com - 21 June

PLYMOUTH

Work has begun on phase two of the restoration of the grade II* listed former Palace Theatre. It has been on English Heritage's 'At Risk' register for more than a decade. See p23 Bulletin 48/1. {39354}

The Herald (Plymouth) - 24 June; sent in by Richard Jones

LETTERS

RESPONSES

I would like to comment on the letter from Ian Patterson in Bulletin 50/3 'BBC and Bedford Camden'.

The Hippodrome Great Yarmouth did not close in 1977 although in 1978 it was offered for sale and was bought by local firm Jay's Entertainments Ltd. It was not turned into a circus – it always was a circus and still is, one of the very few circus buildings still being used as such anywhere in the world. I detailed the history of the Hippodrome and other Yarmouth buildings in Bulletin 47/3, page 25.

The London Nobody Knows is the best known of the dozen or so books written and illustrated by the distinguished artist and critic Geoffrey Fletcher. For 28 years his distinctive little drawings appeared in the 'Peterborough' column of the *Daily Telegraph* alongside items about people and places in London. In February 1967 a paragraph mentioning the formation of the CTA was accompanied by Geoffrey's sketch of the Biograph Victoria. Geoffrey Fletcher was one of the original patrons of the CTA but his death in 2004 aged 81 went unacknowledged even though the *Telegraph* carried his obituary.

The film of *The London Nobody Knows* was actually made in 1967 but not released until January 1969, when it was shown with *Till Death Do Us Part*. Remarkably both were the work of the same director, Norman Cohen, who later went on to make the first feature film of *Dad's Army* and *Adolf Hitler, My Part in his Downfall* as well as *Stand Up Virgin Soldiers* and three of the four *Confessions of...* sex comedies for his great friend, producer Greg Smith. They had been friends since meeting in Bernard Delfont's office where Greg was the junior assistant of agent Billy Marsh and Norman was a client, going on to collaborate on an award-winning documentary *Brendan Behan's Dublin*.

Norma Cohen's uncles were both cinema managers. Louis Freedman ran the Odeon New Street Birmingham while Percy Freedman ran the ABCs Coleshill Street, New Street and Bristol Road Birmingham.

The Bedford Camden Town was run as a cinema by ABC between 1933 and 1933 when it was taken over by Harry Goodson. He staged the last show there *Circus Revusical* in January 1951. After that it became the first of London's theatres to be used as a television studio. *Turn It Up* starring Jewell and Warriss was televised live from there later that year followed by editions of *Music Hall* until 1952.

Although Geoffrey Fletcher sketched several music halls after they had closed – the Star Bermondsey, Queens Poplar, Collins Islington, Metropolitan Edgware Road and Royal West London, the Bedford was the only one still in existence when the film was made, although by then it was a wreck. Although the stage house and auditorium were demolished in 1968, the entrance with offices above survived for quite a few more years. Incidentally Crippen used to meet his mistress Ethel le Neve, not far away in her apartment in Goldington Buildings.

The scenes of the Bedford in *Tottie True* were almost certainly studio mock-ups. Theatre interiors in films of the thirties and forties were invariably and quite obviously, specially-built sets, in *Champagne Charlie*, *Hoots Mon* and *Happidrome* among others. Even the dramatic finale of Hitchcock's *The 39 Steps* was filmed not at the Palladium but in the Gaumont British Studios, Shepherds Bush.

Ray Dolling

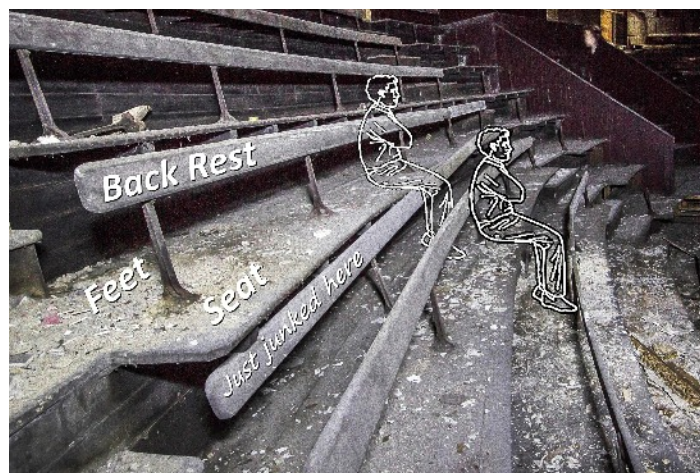
Re Ian Patterson's letter in Bulletin 50/3 (p27). At least one film has used the Bedford Camden Town as a location. A ballet sequence in *Secret People* (directed by Thorold Dickinson in 1951 and still available on DVD) was filmed there – Audrey Hepburn was one of the main dancers – although some of it didn't make the final cut. There's more information about the filming in Lindsay Anderson's book *Making a film: the story of 'Secret People'* (London: Allen and Unwin, 1952).

Terry Hanstock

I would just like to correct an error about the Empire Theatre Burnley. This was my favourite cinema and actually closed in July 1970. During the sixties it ran mainly the ABC release and other unusual programmes. Sometimes it ran a Sunday-only programme and then either a 3 or 6 day programme. The standard of projection and presentation were excellent. Continuous programmes were run from around 2pm Monday to Saturday with one show on Sundays at 6:30. At the time it was run by Star Cinemas and when the new Studios ① & ② were opened the business moved there. The Empire closed on a Sunday and the Studios opened the following day. This actually in-

creased the number of screens in Burnley with the single-screen Odeon being the only other town centre cinema remaining open. The Empire was then converted for use as a Bingo hall and then Bingo transferred from the Palace Theatre, which was demolished shortly afterwards. The Studio cinemas did not last long when in 1972 the larger Studio ② was split into two screens around the time that the Odeon finally closed. The cinema treasures website says this happened in 1982 but by then the Studios were coming to the end of their short life. They did reopen under new management but, having become very run down, did not last long. I did go to the Studio cinemas but found them lacking in atmosphere after the Empire.

Michael Harrison



Two items in the May/June Bulletin chimed for me. One was the mention of tip-up seats, not benches, in the 'gods' at the London Palladium. The other was about the derelict Burnley Empire. There are many photographs of the decaying interior of the Burnley Empire on websites such as [28dayslater.co.uk]. On the latter is a view of the boarded-off 'gods', apparently with bench seating; but closer inspection reveals that the hard-up patrons sat on a ledge extension to the step on which those behind had their feet. Widely-spaced cast iron brackets held a single-plank backrest; but there was no protection from the feet. I attach my crude attempt to illustrate the seating arrangement on the photograph and the advertisement for the cinema's opening on Monday 19 May 1930. The admission prices confirm that the gallery was in use when the cinema opened. Was even 4d cheap enough for those seating conditions and steep sightlines?

Hector Hill

With regards the Cinema at Upwell, mentioned in your editorial in the last Bulletin. I did some research on it back in 1992 after coming across it one day when I was a coach driver and paying a visit to the old mill a few doors from the cinema. Its proprietor was a Mr William Peek of 'Richmond House' St Ives, Huntingdonshire. As far I could find out it ran four shows weekly with admission prices at 6d to 1s/6d, seating some 170 patrons on a single floor. As near as I could find out it closed around 1930/31 with the coming of sound. Mr Peek also ran two other cinemas, the Cinema at Sutton in Cambridgeshire, which he closed in 1934 and the New Cinema at Warboys (Hunts) which he leased out to Mr C Symonds in 1935.

Maurice Brader

ARRGGGHHH! After correcting the name of the Matt Monroe Bowling advert on p25 of the last Bulletin, I see that I inadvertently got it wrong. It should be *Make A Date To Go Bowling*, not *Lets Make A Date To Go Bowling*. Is there anything worse than making a mistake when you are pointing out someone else's?

Kevin Wheelan

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MONICA CINEMA HULL

There's a photograph of the Monica Cinema in Hull taken by poet/librarian Philip Larkin on p205 of *The Importance of Elsewhere: Philip Larkin's photographs*, by Richard Bradford (London: Frances Lincoln, 2015). Taken after it had closed down in 1961, the photograph shows a 'For Sale - Vacant Possession' notice covering a banner poster advertising its final film screening - *Voyage to the Bottom of the Sea* (1961). One of Larkin's lady friends was Monica Jones, which probably explains why he took it. The photograph can also be viewed at [tinyurl.com/jr24bpb].

[Terry Hanstock](#)

ODEON CINEMA REDHILL



From my observations and relatives in the area: The development of the site of the Redhill Odeon has stalled, seemingly due to disagreements on the number of 'affordable' homes to be included. The auditorium has been demolished and foundations put in but all work has stopped and the advertising hoardings and flags have been removed. The growth of weeds round the foundations indicates there has been no work for some time.

[Brian Fretwell \[photo\]](#)

EARLS COURT

In reply to RW Hawkins' letter in the last Bulletin concerning the demolition of Earls Court Exhibition Centre. I am sad to report that this once iconic building has been reduced to a wasteland of rubble with some remnants of walls standing at ground level height. I do not know if the five bas reliefs on the Warwick Road frontage have been salvaged, which I photographed along with the rest of the building when it closed in December 2014.

[Adam Unger](#)

I think this might have now gone completely, which is a great shame as externally and, certainly the Warwick Road façade, had tremendous presence and should have been saved even if the rest of the building had to go. It was unlisted. Its architect was C Howard Crane, responsible for 'movie palaces' in the USA and what is now the Odeon Holloway (originally Gaumont) and the Granada Greenwich, now flats.

[Richard Gray](#)



Editor's Note: Above is a photo I took when I was in London for the AGM in May. Yes, it's virtually gone.

ODEON LEICESTER SQUARE

I enclose a copy of recent correspondence between myself and the Film Distributors' Association concerning the Odeon Leicester Square.

[Alan Body](#)

Dear Sirs, I am contacting you as a member of the Cinema Theatre Association, noting that you represent UK film distributors. I would like to seek your stance with regard to venue choices for the launch and screening of films, particularly in London's Leicester Square. The Odeon Leicester Square can be regarded as the flagship for our cinema heritage. Over many years the cinema's importance has been recognised in terms of pre-release screenings, the chosen venue for the Royal Film Performances, host venue for the BAFTA film awards - now sadly moved to the Royal Opera House and gala events as part of the London Film Festival. Also importantly servicing the film industry for the launch through premières of many important films, some subsequently generating significant worldwide box office returns.

The Odeon is handicapped commercially in not being able to offer a multiplex style film choice (although the Studios annexe accommodates this to a degree). The large auditorium seating capacity must still compromise box office receipts compared with a multiplex admissions level. It is argued that the Odeon warrants protective listed building status, notwithstanding English Heritage's negative stance when approached in March 2005. The auditorium essentially reflects the cinema's period features, through its decorative style and capacity. This will be lost if commercial viability dictates subdivision to allow screen choices, not least to incorporate an IMAX screen.

Recent changes in respect of première events and screening exclusivity within Leicester Square prompts further concern. The Odeon was the home of the James Bond series releases yet première launches for the last two films in the series have been at the Royal Albert Hall - this is not a cinema. A further development recently adopted is joint première screenings using both the Odeon and the Empire, no doubt the IMAX screen at the latter is the reason for this; which cinema is used for the official film launch platform? Commercially the Odeon may be further weakened in now having to share 'across the Square' screenings with blockbuster films - *Spectre*, *Star Wars: The Force Awakens* and currently *Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice* being competitively shown at the Empire cinema, no doubt to provide an alternative IMAX choice.

I suggest that the film industry, not least key producers / studios, also yourselves should be supportive to ensure that the Odeon Leicester Square is protected from any damaging alterations given its important historic status. The Cinema Theatre Association was founded to study and appreciate the important heritage of cinema buildings. A further approach to English Heritage advocating listing status for the Odeon would be strengthened through endorsement by yourselves.

[Alan Body](#)

Dear Mr Body, Thank you for your letter regarding films in Leicester Square - which, as you say, is the home of cinema in the UK and a global hub for première events.

The history and heritage of the Odeon Leicester Square is remarkable. Odeon has hired the venue out to film distributors and other bodies for some outstanding gala events over many years - and of course still does so. As you'll know, the Odeon now has two digital screens attached to its façade, which look good in situ, especially after dark.

The other two remaining cinemas in the Square - the Vue and the Empire - have both had substantial development and now attract much larger audiences. Both also host premières, as do other venues (London has about one première a week, on average, some being huge world-class undertakings).

The number of films released in UK cinemas has increased considerably - last year there were twice as many releases as ten years ago. More cinema screens are needed to accommodate them all and offer a reasonable choice to increasingly diverse public audiences. Like any cinema today, the owners of the Odeon Leicester Square will form their own view in due course as to its future and we're sure they'll take account of what audiences want and expect in today's world, as well as rightly respecting the wonderful heritage of that very special cinema itself.

[Mark Batey, Chief Executive, Film Distributors' Association](#)



CINEMA CLOCKS

The Regent clock picture on p2 of the last Bulletin reminds me of a cinema in Nottingham (perhaps a Jacey News Theatre?) in the early sixties. At either side of the screen – no doubt for architectural balance – was a similar square 'clock'. With subdued lighting the right-hand clock would show the current time and an identical 'clock' on the left had the letters FAN WORKING in place of the figures and fingers. I seem to recall a deep amber or red pigmy lamp arrangement was used for illumination, so as not to cause too much distraction during the film programme. Perhaps this was a feature in other News Theatres?

Carl Chesworth

SCOTLAND'S OLDEST CINEMA

The *Sunday Post* (Scotland) had an enquiry about which was the oldest cinema in Scotland. On 22 May the newspaper replied that it was the Picture House in Campbeltown, which opened in May 1913. However, I found on the Internet that the Hippodrome Bo'ness opened in March 1912 – who is right?

There was a reply the following week, which said that the Picture House in Campbeltown was only designed to show films, while the Hippodrome's name and circular form of the building suggest it was originally designed as a circus or theatre venue for travelling shows

Norman Coltham

Editor's Note: The A-listed Picture House has operated continuously, although it is currently being refurbished. The A-listed Hippodrome closed as a cinema in the early 1970s and was on bingo for about ten years. It then stood empty until it was restored and reopened in 2009; consequently it has not been in continuous cinema use. It therefore depends on which definition you use.

TODMORDEN & HEBDEN BRIDGE



The Hippodrome theatre is where films are shown now but the winter floods put a stop to everything – see their humorous response. I am told the New Olympia was demolished recently, together with the infamous doctor's surgery that nobody cares to mention. At Hebden Bridge the foyer of the Picture House is being renovated after their floods and customers enter around the back.

Martin Tapsell

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SHOP AROUND BEFORE GOING TO THE FLICKS!

This article appeared on AOL News on 12 May.

Anthony Wills

If you're planning a trip to the cinema and have just spent a fortune on tickets, then you may want to look away now, because a new study has revealed that depending on where you live, you may have over-spent by up to £12 on each ticket to see the film.

The research, from money-saving website [Voucherbox.co.uk], looked at prices across the Vue, Odeon and Cineworld chains and compared the cost of a standard ticket for upcoming blockbuster *X-Men: Apocalypse* on the same day and time in nine cities around the UK. This revealed a huge disparity in prices, often between cinemas in the same chain.

Price variations

The cheapest in the study was Vue Cardiff Stadium Plaza, where an adult ticket costs just £4. The most expensive was also a Vue cinema – as its London West End cinema on Leicester Square will charge you £15.99 for an adult ticket. Outside of London, Manchester comes out as the most expensive place to purchase an adult ticket at £12.

Out of the three big chains, all had some differences in prices between locations. Vue had the biggest disparity between the cheapest and most expensive cinemas (300%), while Odeon had a difference of 127% and Cineworld a 42% difference between its most expensive cinema in London (£13.60) and its cheapest in Birmingham (£9.60).

And different cinemas in the same cities can often have wildly different prices. Depending on which chain you go to, an adult ticket in Cardiff can see an increase of 143%, while you can expect a 63% increase within Bristol and 61% in Edinburgh. Of the cinemas compared in London, a five-minute walk (from Covent Garden to Leicester Square) can increase the cost of a ticket by 39%.

Discounts

If you are in a pricier part of the UK, then discounts will be particularly important. Unfortunately, they vary across the country too. A student ticket at the Cineworld in Cardiff, for example, is 62% cheaper than an adult ticket, whilst the Vue in Cardiff is the same price regardless of the type of ticket you purchase.

As a family, there are sometimes considerable cost savings to be made. However these can differ drastically within the same area. Calculating the collective admission cost of two adults and two children, the family ticket at Vue Leicester Square will save you £6.40, whereas the Odeon Leicester Square ticket will save you £17 – the total cost difference between them is £23.16.

How can you save money?

The first step is to investigate the cinemas in your area and find the one with the cheapest tickets (or combinations of tickets) for you. This should become the first place you check when you're planning a cinema trip. Don't forget to check local independents, which will often be keenly priced. Not only will you save money but you're supporting an independent local business too.

Shane Forster, [Voucherbox.co.uk] UK Country Manager also suggests: "Check before you head out of the door and see if there are any deals to be had by purchasing tickets beforehand online, bearing in mind booking fees and additional expense when you arrive, such as snacks, 3D viewings and seat upgrades."

One of the things worth looking at online is whether there are special deals at certain times of day or days of the week. Mondays and Tuesdays are often quiet, so many cinemas will offer discounts to get people through the door. You can get two tickets for the price of one at a number of cinemas on Tuesdays and Wednesdays if you buy qualifying insurance products through [Comparethemarket.com] or switch energy providers through the site. If you have children and are prepared to wait a few weeks before seeing a new release, then check your local cinemas for kids' clubs. The Odeon prices this at between £1 and £2.50, Cineworld charges between £1.60 and £1.75 and Vue costs £1.99.

You can even get a freebie, by using sites like [HotUKdeals.com] to track down free screenings. At the moment, for example, there are free tickets available to the Guardian screenings of *Sing Street* this Sunday – being shown everywhere from Glasgow to Bristol.





SOUTH WALES

MARCH 1970

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M 2	Pavilion X Cardigan 2856	Carlton Swansea 54596	Glanrhyd Hosp. Bridgend X 3391	Washington Penarth Cardiff. 707666	Olympia X Tredegar 2367	Ninian X Cardiff 29949	CardiffOffice Cardiff 38499
T 3	Pavilion Tenby 2017	ditto X	Odeon Port Talbot 3907	Odeon X Gloucester 23757	Coliseum Abergavenny 3033	Central X Porth 2635	TopRankSuite X Cardiff 26538
W 4	S.A. X Milford Haven 2868	TopRankSuite X Swansea 53142	TopRankSuite Swansea 53142	S.A. Newport 58265	Odeon X Hereford 2554	Monico Rhiwbina Cardiff 62426	CardiffOffice X Cardiff 38499
Th 5	Palace X Haverfordwest 2426	S.A. Skewen 3294	S.A. X Pencoed 398	Ocean Club X Cardiff 35600	S.A. X Ebbw Vale 3468 Abertillery 2503	Castle Caerphilly 3480	ditto
F 6	ditto	Classic X Llanelli 4057	WelfareHall Kenfig Hill 357	CardiffOffice Cardiff 38499	Palladium Aberdare 3125	S.A. X Taffs Well 442	ditto X
Sat 7	OFF DUTY X	S.A. Skewen 3294	OFF DUTY X	S.A. Newport 58265	OFF DUTY X	OFF DUTY X	S.A. Cardiff 78118
M 9	Coliseum Aberystwyth 2226	Lytic X Pontardawe 3132	Odeon Cardiff 27058	Coliseum X Cheltenham 23715	WorkmansHall X Tredegar 2302	CardiffOffice Cardiff 38499	Plaza X Cardiff 25824
T 10	S.A. X MilfordHaven 2868	Globe Clydach 3146	CardiffOffice Cardiff 38499	S.A. Newport 58265	PictureHse X Monmouth 3146	County X Pontypridd 2563	CardiffOffice Cardiff 38499
W 11	Grand Pembroke Dock 2025	S.A. Skewen 3294	Newport Arts Theatre	Newport Arts X Theatre	Park X Pontypool 2945	WelfareHall Tylorstown Ferndale 534	ditto
Th 12	County X Haverfordwest 2992	S.A. X Skewen 3294	S.A. Pencoed 398	S.A. X Newport 58265	S.A. Ebbw Vale 3468 Abertillery 2503	Coliseum Newport 58776	Capitol Cardiff X 31316
F 13	ditto X	Car Ferry Swansea 50406	Car Ferry X Swansea 50406	S.A. Newport 58265	State X Pontlottyn 221	OFF DUTY X	ditto
Sat 14	S.A. Milford Haven 2868	OFF DUTY X	S.A. Pencoed 398	OFF DUTY X	S.A. Ebbw Vale 3468 Abertillery 2503	OFF DUTY X	OFF DUTY X
M 16	Lytic X Carmarthen 6207	Albert Hall Swansea 54576	Odeon X Newport 58344	Odeon X Cheltenham 24081	Palace X Abertillery 2503	Olympia Cwmbran 3318	CardiffOffice Cardiff 38499
T 17	S.A. X MilfordHaven 2868	ditto X	CardiffOffice Cardiff 38499	TopRankDancing Cardiff 20299	Palace Bargoed 2172	WorkmansHall X Ferndale 308	ditto
W 18	Playhouse Tenby 2093	Capitol X Ystalyfera Glanfawc 3119	W.Hall Glyncoirwg Cymmer 374	County X Rumney Cardiff 77789	S.A. Ebbw Vale 3468 Abertillery 2503	OFF DUTY X	Park Hall X Cardiff 308871
Th 19	Astoria X Milford Haven 2036	S.A.Skewen 3294	S.A. X Pencoed 398	WorkmansHall Abertridwr Senghennydd 222	ditto X	S.A. TaffsWell 442	S.A. Cardiff 78118 T/R Suite Cardi Gensign Service
F 20	ditto	T/R SuiteSwansea W.Hall X Fforestfach Swansea 32888	WorkmansHall Blaengarw Pontycymmer 307	Classic X Stroud 4409	ditto	OFF DUTY X	
Sat 21	OFF DUTY X	S.A. Skewen 3294	OFF DUTY X	S.A. Newport 58265	OFF DUTY X	S.A. X Taffs Well 442	S.A. Cardiff 78118
M 23	W.Hall X Ammanford 2395	Windsor Neath 3133	Casino X Porthcawl 3444	Regent Ely Cardiff 73324	Maxine X Blackwood 2138	W.Hall Garndiffaith Talwain 232	Forum Jersey Central 32522
T 24	S.A. Milford Haven 2868	ditto X	Plaza Maesteg 3273	CardiffOffice Cardiff 38499	S.A. EbbwVale 3468 Abertillery 2503	WorkmansHall X Abercynon 323	ditto
W 25	S.A. X Milford Haven 2868	Castle Swansea 53433	S.A. X Pencoed 398	S.A. X Newport 58265	Castle Merthyr 2176	S.A. Taffs Well 442	West's Jersey Central 22487
Th 26	S.A. Milford Haven 2868	OFF DUTY X	S.A. Pencoed 398	OFF DUTY X	S.A. X EbbwVale 3468 Abertillery 2503	S.A. Taffs Well 442	OFF DUTY X
F 27	OFF DUTY X	S.A. Skewen 3294	OFF DUTY X	S.A. Newport 58265	OFF DUTY X	OFF DUTY X	S.A. Cardiff 78118
Sat 28	S.A. Milford Haven 2868	OFF DUTY X	S.A. Pencoed 398	OFF DUTY X	S.A. Ebbw Vale 3468 Abertillery 2503	S.A. Taffs Well 442	OFF DUTY
M 30	S.A. Milford Haven 2868	VACATION	S.A. Pencoed 398	OFF DUTY X	S.A. Ebbw Vale 3468 Abertillery 2503	S.A. Taffs Well 442	OFF DUTY
T 31	OFF DUTY X		OFF DUTY X	White Rose Pontnewydd Cwmbran 3094	OFF DUTY X	OFF DUTY X	CardiffOffice Cardiff 38499

NOTE: 'X' Indicates that the engineer is off duty after 5.30 p.m. Monday to Friday. Please ring nearest engineer.
* Evening Visits to Top Rank Suites. T/R Suite Swansea, 19th. T/R Suite Cardiff, 19th.

Remember these monthly sheets? Service engineers' visits schedule for South Wales in March 1970. Sent in by Carl Chesworth.

MISCELLANY

ROMAN CINEMA

A Roman Cinema has been discovered by workmen constructing the A21 between Tonbridge and Tunbridge Wells. Early suggestions from archaeologists are that it could have used a primitive way of showing moving pictures with light and a cylinder with cards. See [bit.ly/1ROQjSD].

Kent & Sussex Courier – 1 April

70MM IN EDINBURGH

The Edinburgh Film Festival took place from 15-26 June. To celebrate its 70th year, the programme included series of 70mm screenings – 2001: A Space Odyssey, Lawrence of Arabia, Jacques Tati's Playtime and Dersu Uzla. The Filmhouse is one of only two cinemas in Scotland still able to show 70mm; the other is the Glasgow Film Theatre [GFT].

Edinburgh Festival Website; sent in by Carl Chesworth

BFI'S NEW HOME

A mystery investor has offered £87m funding towards a new £130m home for the BFI. It will include a gallery, education centre and a three-screen cinema with 1,100 seats. It will be built on London's South Bank, SW of the Royal Festival Hall and near the London Eye. It is scheduled to open in 2022.

Evening Standard – 25 May; Daily Telegraph – 26 May; sent in by Keith Bye & Carl Chesworth

PER ARDUA AD ASTRA



Forces TV ran a brief news report on 19 June on the only RAF museum outside the UK, located at the former Laarbruch airbase. (Weeze Airport for Ryanair users). This currently uses a former church building but is also hoping to expand into the nearby former Astra base cinema. Shots showed the cinema in excellent condition, with an intact proscenium arch and projection portholes. It is still marked Astra but bringing a retired aircraft into this building may require some adaptation.

Sent in by Bob Bradshaw; photo courtesy Ruud Jacobs, creative commons licence

WETHERSPOON SELL-OFF



JD Wetherspoon has announced the sale of about 10% of its stock of pubs. The ones in former cinemas include the Capitol Forest Hill [South London – pictured above], the Picture Palace Ponders End [see front cover], the Capitol Dundee, Imperial Walsall (already closed) and the Sir Percy Florence Shelley in Boscombe (in foyer of former Carlton). No overall reason has been given for the disposal.

Various local newspapers; sent in by so many members

CINEMA BUSINESS

CINEWORLD

Cineworld sales have risen by 9.8%. Ticket sales were up 7.6% on year and retail sales were up by 12.1%.

The Sun – 20 May

ODEON

Oden and UCI Cinemas plan to open twenty cinemas across Europe over the next four years, including eight in the UK. Underlying earnings rose 22% to £30.7m in the first quarter – its best performance for six years. Paid admissions were up 8.4% (2 million more admissions) and revenues jumped by 10.1%.

Evening Standard – 25 May; The Journal (Newcastle) – 26 May; sent in by Keith Bye

Property Developers are eying a carve-up of the Odeon cinema chain as the £1bn auction by owners Terra Firma nears its climax. Rival cinema chain Vue is seen as the most likely buyer but the operator would be likely to face forced sales of as many as 50 UK sites to overcome competition concerns. Many Odeon sites are in town centres and difficult for cinemas due to lack of car parking but could still interest retail or residential developers. Sources said Mexican cinema operator Cinopolis could still be in the running as well as Chinese firm Dalian Wanda and Belgian operator Kineopolis.

Sunday Telegraph – 22 May, 19 June

FREE FOOTY

Showcase Cinemas has been screening all the home nations' matches from Euro 2016 in France – free. Tickets were issued on a first-come, first-served basis. Some cinemas in Germany are also showing their country's matches, again free. Operators hope to make money on concessions.

Yorkshire Evening Post – 2 June; sent in by Carl Chesworth

DISNEY IN GERMANY

The federation of small cinema owners in Germany has reached an agreement with Disney, whose films they have been boycotting for the past year over new rental terms. Under the new arrangement, films will be released in smaller cinemas a week after the official opening date but on the same financial terms as earlier.

Source unknown – sent in by Carl Chesworth

MALAYSIA

Two of Malaysia's strictest Islamic states do not have a single cinema between them, despite a population of 2 million. Now Paragon may open an eight-screen cinema in Kota Baru in the state of Kelantan. Among the conditions are that the cinemas should not operate during the Ramadan month and should not operate at prayer times at night. Men and women must sit separately and some of the lights must be switched on.

Source unknown – sent in by Carl Chesworth

HUNKY DORY!

Pixar's *Finding Dory* made a real splash at the US box office when it swam past the record for the biggest animated film opening. The follow-up to 2003's *Finding Nemo* made \$136.2m [£94.8m] beating *Shrek The Third's* \$121.6m in 2007. Its UK release is on 29 July.

Metro – 20 June

CARRY ON AGAIN

The first of the new *Carry On...* films is set to tackle the NHS funding crisis. *Carry on Doctors* will be released next year with the Hattie Jacques' matron character played by a "butch gay man". There has only been one gay character in the *Carry On...* films – in the 1972 movie *Carry On Abroad*. The second movie will be *Carry on Campus* but none of the original cast will return.

Daily Mirror – 19 May; sent in by Barry Quinton

HQ MOVE

Cineworld (which also owns Picturehouse) is to leave its headquarters in Chiswick to move to Vantage West at Brentford, between junctions 1 & 2 of the M4. The new offices will include a private cinema.

BrentfordTW8.com – 3 June



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

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

80 Years

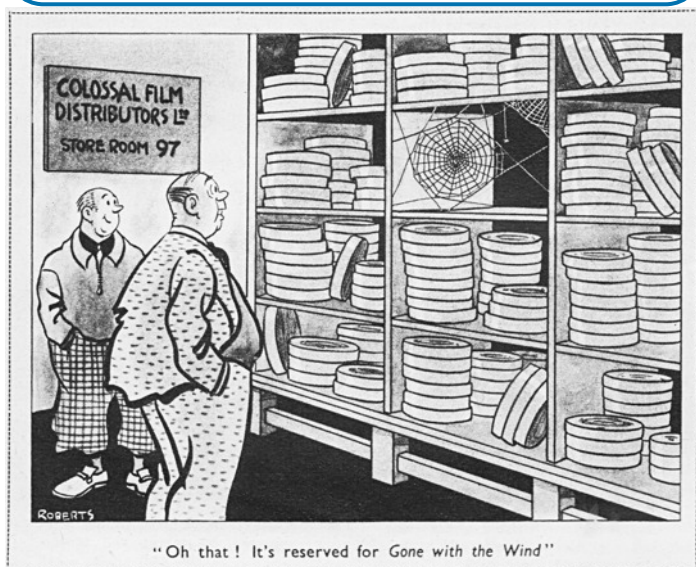


Majestic/Odeon 81 Raby Rd, Hartlepool. Opened 27 July 1936. Architects: Thomas Ridley Milburn / William Milburn. Grade II listed.



Regal 48 Bannatyne St, Lanark. Opened 31 August 1936. Architect: Lennox D Paterson. C(s) listed.

CARTOON CORNER



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

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 [archive@cta-uk.com] 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 [archive@cta-uk.com].

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 [archive@cta-uk.com].

Clive Polden, CTA Archivist

INTERNET CORNER

- ★ [www.asmera.nl/asmara-theaters.htm] Cinemas and theatres in Asmara, Eritrea. Also [www.bbc.co.uk/news/magazine-36540205] an article on the Impero cinema Asmara. *Sent in by Richard Jones*
- ★ [railwaymaniac.com/2016/05/cinemas] A page on a railway website but about Nottingham's cinemas. There are links at the bottom for other related pages. *Sent in by Terry Hanstock*
- ★ [www.jncohen.net/JaceyGroup/JaceyCinemasLtd.htm] The history of Jacey cinemas. It is run by the grandson of Joseph Cohen, who founded the Jacey Circuit. *Sent in by John Gibson*

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

Plymouth CTA member would like to contact other members living nearby. Has over 3,000 vintage films on DVD plus original John Ferneé tapes on ABC, Rank and Gaumont Cinemas.

Mr Peter Haymer, 50 Elburton Road, Plymouth, PL9 8JG
01752 405463



MEMBERSHIP

NEW MEMBERS

We are delighted to be able to send a warm welcome to the CTA to the following new members who are listed in order of joining: Diana Walkden, Mira Sidani, Robert Rider, Derek R Threadgall, and Daniel Tyler; also to Brea Galloway who joined as Associate Member of an existing member.

DONATIONS

In acknowledgment of their generosity in adding a donation to their subscription renewal, our sincere thanks go to: TE Benton, P Beresford, AL Body, A Brown, CM Bryan, ME Burgoine, RD Burke, NG Buxton, BR Chandler, M Childs, B Claussen, LV Culver, MR Cunningham, AR Davis, IJ Drummond, S Elliott, JD Elliott, DW Foster, SW Freeman, BJ Fretwell, RK Fuller, RJA Galloway, DJ Gammage, PH Garrick, P Good, IP Green, RE Grover, CD Harrison, RJ Hawley, PG Hennessey, MH Hester, RP Jefferies, PTL Johnson, TDC Laughlan, RA Lescaut, MJ Loughlin, AV Mabey, FWD Manders, PV Marie, RWG Marriott, JL May, PH Meiklerleid, P Mellor, PG Moules, B Palmer, L Pohani, JB Powell, I Riches, MJ Ryder, J Shevelan, RW Short, MP Shotton, BH Snowball, M Taylor, PE Thackeray, PF Thomas, WJB Thomson, MW Thornton, JE Tilmouth, RE Williams and DB Williams.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

WOULD ALL MEMBERS PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING
(although I am sure it does not apply to you!)

Members who are due to renew their subscription are sent a reminder notice in the issue of the *CTA Bulletin* for the month in which the anniversary of joining occurs – the due month is printed on the mailing label. It helps greatly if members renew promptly on receipt of the reminder. In a change of system, members due to renew, whose subscription is not to hand by the time the next *Bulletin* is mailed, will not receive a separate reminder. Instead a red final notice will be enclosed in a copy of the issue of the *Bulletin* that is being mailed and, if this is not then used, no further correspondence will be sent. The new system reduces the amount of work caused by late renewals and actually slightly reduces the costs involved. If you get a red notice and have sent a cheque already, please contact me as post does occasionally not arrive.

Neville C Taylor, Membership Secretary

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.

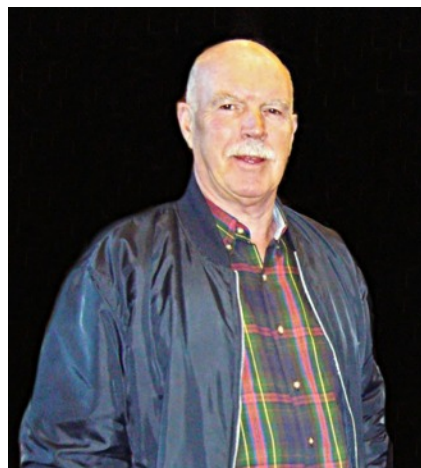


This is a redesigned and much enlarged third edition of a book not available for more than 20 years, fully updated by its original author, Allen Eyles. It is a complete record of all the cinemas that have entertained picture-goers in the West End from 1906 to 2013. There are maps, appendices of club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

Published in collaboration with English Heritage.

OBITUARY

GERRY KENNEDY 1943 – 2016



I am saddened to report that Gerry Kennedy passed away on 28 May 2016, aged 73. I first made contact with him in early 2005 when I was planning *The Cinemas and Theatres of Oz* visit for the CTA, which took place for three weeks in February/March 2006. Gerry was President of the Cinema and Theatre Historical Society of Australia (CATHS), a position he held until his untimely death. He had a great knowledge of cinemas in Australia, especially in Melbourne and New South Wales, where he was based. He was also in charge of the CATHS archive in the City and, as well as writing many articles for CATHS magazine *Cinema Record*, he also helped arrange visits for their members. He arranged the Melbourne part of the CTA visit (with Ian Hanson in Sydney doing an equally good job there). I could not imagine two more dedicated people to help set up the visit, which was an outstanding success, attended by 52 CTA members, including some international ones from Paris (France), Toronto (Canada) and Arlington (Virginia, USA)! Gerry arranged for us to visit 22 stunning cinemas in Melbourne and surrounding areas.

Since the CTA visit to Australia, I had remained friends with Gerry and he has hosted me on three later visits I made to Melbourne. On each one we would take 4 or 5 day road-trips together, when he would drive to far-flung places in New South Wales and even to Adelaide, to visit, photograph and view cinemas together. Future trips in mind were for us both to go to Tasmania and even New Zealand but sadly these will never take place. In October 2011, Gerry came over to the UK and I hosted him in London, a City he had previously visited once back in the 1960s. I showed him around the cinemas of the City and even took him on Eurostar on a day trip to Paris. Gerry was thrilled to be able to attend a CTA visit while he was here and we travelled 'up north' to attend *A Tyneside Pilgrimage* organised by David & Margaret Williams. It gave Gerry the opportunity to catch up with fellow CTA members he had shown around Melbourne and get to know more (Gerry was a peoples' man and loved to converse and make friends). While in the general area I took him to Manchester, where we saw a show at the Plaza Stockport and travelled on to Blackpool, where Gerry was totally blown over by the beauty of the Tower Ballroom and its Wurlitzer organ.

I was in regular contact with Gerry, discussing at length via Skype, CTA events (he received a copy of CTA Bulletins we sent over for CATHS to place in their archive) and he related the latest cinema news from Australia. It came as a shock to me in early-March this year when I received an e-mail from him, telling me he had been diagnosed with Pancreatic Cancer late last year and the prognosis was not looking good. He was about to go onto chemotherapy, which unfortunately was not successful and, after a short spell in hospital, he passed away. Gerry will be greatly missed by the many people who knew him, for his enormous generosity, his dedication to bringing the history of cinemas to a wider public and his wicked wit, where his jokes – good or bad – always made one happy and brought a smile to one's face. ☺ RIP.

Ken Roe

HOLIDAY SNAPS

By John & Marion Kennett

Photos from a trip to Maine, USA in 2014

MARTHA'S VINEYARD

1. Edgartown – Entertainment Cinemas, through shops
2. Strand Theatre, now bike store, pay desk
3. Oak Bluffs, Strand Theatre, now bike store
4. Oak Bluffs, Island Cinema possibly closed

BOSTON

5. Schubert Theatre
6. Wilbur Theatre

ROCKLAND

7. Strand Theatre

BRUNSWICK

8. Through shops to Evening Star Cinema

