



CINEMA
THEATRE
ASSOCIATION

www.cta-uk.org

BULLETIN

Vol 49 No 3

May / June 2015



The Odeon Trowbridge and the Picture House Morley – see Newsreel p27 & p24. 2015 photos by David Simpson

FROM YOUR EDITOR

It was good to meet some of you at the AGM and to put faces to names. Thank you for all your kind comments about the Bulletin, both in person at the AGM and also by letter and email.

On the front page of the last Bulletin there were two 'Cinema 100' plaques and I asked you where they were. The one for Sir David Lean is in pristine condition as it is indoors at the *Brief Encounter* exhibition at Carnforth Railway station in Lancashire. This was the easy one and I expect many of you knew it already. The weathered one was a little more difficult but an Internet search of the title *Turn of the Tide* [eg: imdb.com] should have told you that it was filmed at Robin Hood's Bay in North Yorkshire. This is a very picturesque location and well worth a visit if you are in the area. Park at the top and walk down the 1 in 3 hill to the beach!

I'm sorry I misfiled some items that arrived in early February and should have been included in the last edition. I have tried to put them in this time and I apologise if yours was one of them.

In the Casework report on p5 of the last issue, there was a request to contact the Casework Committee [details opposite] if you had any news on the fate of cinema buildings in your area. Please don't send them to your editor, as I only have to pass them on but if you send an email, by all means put me in the CC line.

If you are taking photographs indoors, such as in dark cinema auditoria, please steady your camera or use a tripod. Flash is probably of little use in such large spaces. I'm afraid I have had some photos submitted that I was unable to print because of the amount of camera shake. At the risk of repeating myself please don't embed photos in documents or reduce their size from the original as this also can make them unsuitable for reproduction in the Bulletin.

Can I please clarify the way I deal with attributions? When I took over the Bulletin in 1998, I had always wondered where the items came from so I decided to add the source of the information. For example, in the Newsreel you will see references to local and national newspapers after most items. If it then says "sent in by..." it does not mean that every contributor has sent in every item. If there is no publication reference, it means the item has come solely from the named contributor[s]. If additional information or a photograph has been submitted, that contributor is always mentioned specifically. Please accept my thanks for all your continued submissions.

A number in curly brackets, eg {nnnnn} is the reference for the Cinema Treasures website. Go to: [cinematreasures.org/theaters/nnnnn]. I am trying this to avoid repeating the full URL every time.

There seems to be no end to model cinemas. There is another one in the letters on p31. This one [below] turned up at a model railway exhibition in York over Easter. The owner said he got the inspiration several years ago from a book on art deco but he couldn't remember any details. Allen Eyles tells me it is based on the **Odeon** Shannon Corner (New Malden, then in Surrey) – see p174 of Allen's *Odeon Cinemas Vol 1* book. {31025}

Harry Rigby, CTA Bulletin Editor



**DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE
SATURDAY 20 JUNE**

CINEMA THEATRE ASSOCIATION

promoting serious interest in all aspects of cinema buildings

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MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY: Neville C Taylor [subs@cta-uk.org]

Flat One, 128 Gloucester Terrace, London, W2 6HP

Items for possible inclusion in the bulletin should be sent to

BULLETIN EDITOR: Harry Rigby [bulletin@cta-uk.org]
65 Tennyson Avenue, Harrogate, North Yorks, HG1 3LE

OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN: David Trevor-Jones ‡ [david.trevorjones@btinternet.com]

47 The Street, Old Basing, Basingstoke, RG24 7BX

VICE-CHAIRMAN: Ian Meyrick ‡ [ian@imeyrick.freemove.co.uk]

11 Tarrant Avenue, Witney, OX28 1EE

SECRETARY: Adam Unger ‡ [atunger@blueyonder.co.uk]

59 Harrowdene Gardens, Teddington, TW11 0DJ

TREASURER: Neville C Taylor ‡ (details as membership secretary above)

CASEWORK COMMITTEE – Chairman: Richard Gray ‡

45 Arnold Road, Bow, London, E3 4NU [richardjhgray@btinternet.com]

Members: as main committee plus Tim Hatcher,
Jane Jephcote, Mark Price, Vicky Simon, & Peter Wylde

ARCHIVIST: Clive Polden [cta-archive@hotmail.co.uk]

14 Ivychurch Gardens, Cliftonville, Margate, CT9 3YG

ASSISTANT ARCHIVIST: Rachel Marks

73 Cressy House, Hannibal Road, London, E1 3JF

PUBLIC RELATIONS: Gerald Glover [GeraldGloverCTA@aol.com]

228 Malpas Road, Brockley, London, SE4 1DH

PUBLICATIONS & SALES OFFICER: Jeremy Buck ‡

34 Pelham Road, London, N22 6LN [jbuck@connectfree.co.uk]

BOOK PUBLISHING MANAGER: Giles Woodforde ‡

69A Mill Street, Kidlington, Oxford, OX5 2EE [woodfordes@btinternet.com]

WEBMASTER: Rachel Woodforde

69A Mill Street, Kidlington, Oxford, OX5 2EE [web@cta-uk.org]

VISITS CO-ORDINATOR: Ray Ritmeester [ray.ritmeester@thetube.com]

66 Woodside Road, High Wycombe, HP13 7JB

PICTURE HOUSE EDITOR: Allen Eyles [allen@aeyles.plus.com]

13 Tennyson Court, Paddockhall Road, Haywards Heath, RH16 1EZ

CTA NORTH: David Eve, Gary Trinder [evecinema.t21@btinternet.com]

7 Shoreswood, Sharples, Bolton, BL1 7DD

CTA SCOTLAND: Gordon Barr, Gary Painter [info@ctascotland.org.uk]

Ground Rear, 4 Botanic Crescent, Glasgow, G20 8QQ

CTA CYMRU/WALES: John Skinner, Jon Williams [wales@cta-uk.org]

3 Swan Lane, Ystalyfera, Swansea, SA9 2JB

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Emma Beeston, Kevin Gooding, Lynda Hillman, Tim McCullen,
Sally McGrath, Laury Reynolds, Ken Roe, David Simpson

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

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

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

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

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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VISITS & EVENTS

Wandering to Winchester

Saturday 20 June

Organised by David Trevor-Jones & Richard Norman



The **Everyman (Screen)** Winchester – photo by David Trevor-Jones

A CTA first-time visit to Winchester, the beautiful ancient capital of Wessex and Saxon England, beckons members for a summer's day out to discover the working and former buildings once used as cinemas and theatres. Based in Winchester, we will also embrace Alton and Romsey.

Our itinerary will include visits to the **Theatre Royal** and **Everyman (Screen)** [pictured above earlier this year] and a short walking tour (lasting about 30 minutes) of Winchester City centre to view the former **Ritz** and **Picture House**. A coach will transport us to the **Palace** Alton and the **Plaza** Romsey; internal visits will be arranged where this is possible. A buffet lunch is included and will be served in the historic concert room of St John's House, once the location of the **Palace**, Winchester's first venue to show films.

{27612, 25850, 27607, 38493, 24101, 41645}

The visit is timed to allow travel between London Waterloo and Winchester – also easily accessible from the south coast and from the Midlands and Oxford by direct trains. We will meet at Winchester station at 10:15am and finish there at about 6:45pm.

To apply for tickets: The package price includes: coach, buffet lunch and visit notes. Please send a cheque for £24, made payable to the 'Cinema Theatre Association' enclosing SAE and stating your email address and phone number to: Richard Norman, 4 Oakhill Lodge, Reedham Drive, Purley, CR8 4DT. Closing date for applications is 8 June. Applications will be accepted on a first-come-first-served basis.

Queries to Richard Norman; email: [RichardNormanCTA@aol.com], tel: 020 8668 6077.

South West London and Surrey tour by Routemaster Bus



A Routemaster Bus on a previous CTA tour in 2006

Saturday 29 August

Organised by Ray Ritmeester

A long-awaited further mystery tour by vintage bus to Cinemas and Theatres. We shall visit venues in South West London and parts of North Surrey. The tour will pick up at a convenient railway station at about 10:00 and will include a stop for lunch, finishing late afternoon at another station in the south west suburbs of London. To reserve a place please send a cheque for £15 made payable to the Cinema Theatre Association and SAE to Ray Ritmeester, 66 Woodside Road High Wycombe, HP13 7JB. More precise times/pick up/set down arrangements will be in the next Bulletin and on the CTA website.

Assorted Bournemouth Cinemas

Wednesday 30 September

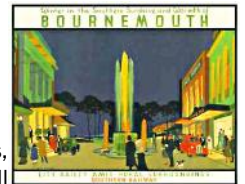
to Saturday 3 October

Organised by David Eve

"City Gaity amid Rural Surroundings"
(Courtesy of a Southern Railways poster)

With its mild climate and beautiful beaches, this event in the early stages of planning will be a nostalgic return to the Cinemas, Theatres and Entertainment buildings of beautiful Bournemouth and its surrounding areas. A timely ramble to a town that still retains (for the moment) its **ABC**, **Odeon** (former **Regent/ Gaumont**) and its original **Odeon** buildings, along with some delightful suburban architectural gems.

{24207, 20081, 20076}



The former **Odeon** Bournemouth in May 2006

To cater for members travelling to the south coast I have decided to plan activities over two half days and two full days, providing dinner, bed and breakfast for three nights. This number of days should provide a more relaxing schedule than some visits I have been associated with over the years. Accommodation will be reserved at a small family-run hotel with sea views and excellent food, which is fairly central for getting into town on foot. We will probably also hire a coach to take us around to some outlying venues on one of the days.

I expect to be able to offer places on this event for around £200 per person with a reasonable small supplement for single occupancy; the number of single rooms may be limited. For those who may want to extend their stay by a day before or after the event, this may also be possible. More information will be available in the next Bulletin; however a stamped, self-addressed envelope with your details and the number of places required can be sent to the following address, as an expression of interest in this event. If this visit is oversubscribed, places will be offered on a first-come, first-served basis. Please note that as this event is still very much in the planning stages, it may take a while to respond to your first enquiry but once the itinerary and price is confirmed a booking form will be mailed out to you.

David Eve, CTA North, 3 Barberry Bank, Egerton, Bolton, BL7 9UJ.

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 [ray.ritmeester@thetube.com].

Other Events of Interest (not organised by the CTA)

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

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

Silent film shows and events featuring the Wurlitzer Organ.

- | | |
|-------------------------|--|
| Tuesday 19 May | concert by Paul Roberts at 12:30pm |
| Tuesday 16 June | concert by Chris Powell at 12:30pm |
| Saturday 27 June | Rudolph Valentino in <i>Blood and Sand</i> (1922)
accompanied by Mark Latimer at 5:00pm |
| Tuesday 21 July | concert by Elizabeth Harrison at 12:30pm |

Admission: films £7 – £5.50; concerts £6, children £3.

In association with the Furness Theatre Organ Project. {18521}
[www.nm-cinemas.co.uk] [015394 43364] or [www.ftop.weebly.com]

TOUR THE ELECTRIC CINEMA BIRMINGHAM

Saturday 30 May at 10:30am – £9.50

Learn how a modern independent cinema works. Find out about the cinema's long history, from its beginnings in 1909 to its various incarnations, including **The Jacey** or **The Tatler**. Discover what part it played during the Second World War and take a look at the projection rooms and the building's basement, featuring all kinds of cinematic paraphernalia collected during the past Century. The price includes a midday matinée film. [www.theelectric.co.uk] {9559}

THE CINEMA MUSEUM, LONDON

See the website [www.cinemamuseum.org.uk] for full details of their programme of events. Tel: 020 7840 2200.

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

THE PLAZA, STOCKPORT

- | | |
|------------------------|--|
| Friday 22 May | Hitchcock's <i>Vertigo</i> (1958) [12A] |
| Friday 19 June | The Who <i>Quadrophenia</i> (1979) [18] |
| Friday 26 June | <i>Far From the Madding Crowd</i> (2015) [12A] |
| Friday 3 July | <i>Guys and Dolls</i> (1955) [U] |
| Saturday 4 July | <i>Jaws</i> (1975) [12A] |

All at 2:30pm and 7:30pm; all seats £6.50, concessions £5.50.

Organ introductions commence 30 minutes before most films.

Saturday 6 & Sunday 7 June: *Anything Goes – Putting on the 30s at the Plaza*. A weekend long celebration of the golden age of art deco. See website or contact box office for further details. {1896}

Saturday 4 July – Organ Coffee Morning at 10am; admission free.

Behind the Scenes Tours on Mondays 18 May, 29 June & 27 July at 11am; tickets £6, book or simply turn up.

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

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

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------|
| Friday 29 May | Bill Potts |
| Friday 26 June | Damon Cox |
| Friday 24 July | John Smallwood |
- At 6:45pm. Admission £4. Further info 07855 546823; refreshments available from 6:15pm and at the interval.

Venue: The Gallery at Alan Baxter's, 75 Cowcross Street, London EC1M 6EL. On leaving Farringdon Underground (old) station (not the Turnmill Street exit) turn left – or when leaving Farringdon Main Line (new) station, turn right – and walk east 150 yards towards the 'SnappySnaps' shop. The entrance to The Gallery is opposite; walk through the large gates and across the courtyard to the far end, turn right down the steps and you're there!

By bus: Take a #63 from the bus stop directly in front of Kings Cross Railway Station and alight at the Farringdon Station stop, which is in Farringdon Road at the corner of Cowcross Street, then follow the route as above.

VINTAGE TECHNOLOGY FAIR

Cinema Museum, London (details above) – 7 June, 10:00 - 16:00

The British Vintage Wireless Society and collectors of Vintage Radio Technology will be selling surplus valve and vintage sound projection equipment. Open to everyone. Six foot tables for hire at £20 (power available). Admission £5. All day café; DVDs and films projected. Lots of rare items on display. [www.bvws.org]



CAMPAIGNING TO SAVE YOUR HISTORIC CINEMAS

By Tim Hatcher

Grade II*

A grant of £1.9m has been awarded by the Coastal Communities Fund to advance the renovation and partial restoration of the **Dreamland** Cinema and associated facilities in Margate. This disbursement will largely be expended on work to the façade and foyer block; the Sunshine Café therein will be stripped of its latter day Chinese motif and a lessee sought, who will be encouraged to replicate the original décor. It is proposed to let the ballroom as a separate entity. No work on the auditorium is currently scheduled to be undertaken. {15123}

A listed building consent application has not yet been made for the **Granada** at Walthamstow. It is understood that negotiations continue between owners Antic Ltd and Soho Theatre Company concerning the conflicting spatial requirements of dual hostelry and performing arts operation. {9397}

The CTA Committee has bestowed a grant of £2,500 from legacy funds upon the **Paignton Picture House** Trust to further its progress towards re-opening the cinema. {22124}

Grade II

A West Dorset family has purchased the **Palace** at Bridport and is reported to be contemplating its refurbishment. {22418}

The Association has been successful in its endeavour to secure listed status for the auditorium, the Compton organ and the ancillary spaces of the **Polytechnic Cinema** in London's Regent Street. See Newsreel p23 & Miscellany p33. {21245}

Unlisted

The owner of **Pyke's Cinematograph Theatre** in Shepherd's Bush has now submitted a formal application for permission to demolish. It has also been claimed by this party that the significant surviving terra-cotta plaque is too 'crazed' to be salvaged and suggested that a mould be taken in order to manufacture a replica for incorporation into the replacement building. Although the cinema is unlikely to prove listable, the Association is to object to its demolition on the grounds of its value as an essential element of a neighbouring trio of entertainment halls and because of its association with prominent architect John Stanley Beard. See Newsreel p23. {3776}



The **Palladium** Hockley (Birmingham) in March 2008

A local campaigner in Hockley (Birmingham) has reported that the **Picture House** / **Palladium** is under threat. Its frontage features an interesting Arts and Crafts style but, sadly, little of the original interior remains intact. The local Council will be contacted to ascertain its viewpoint on and intentions for the structure. {34732}



The **New Victoria** Bradford at opening in 1930

A grant of £1m is currently being employed to implement restoration of the exterior of the **New Victoria** in Bradford. Further funds are being sought to further advance rehabilitation of the internal spaces. In Ealing, the local Council and English Heritage have rejected a proposal to move the previously relocated façade of the **Walpole Picture House** to a more suitable setting within or without the new structure, which will incorporate the frontage of the **Forum**. {13836, 3772}



The **Regal/Granada** Kettering in April 2007

It has been ascertained that the façade and foyer of the **Regal/Granada** at Kettering lie within a conservation area but, slightly bizarrely, the remainder of the edifice does not; a comment in the conservation area description states that the auditorium block impedes views of the local church. {35251}

Impressive in both scale and design, stained glass windows from the demolished **Lonsdale** in Carlisle have been saved. Although regrettably damaged during alterations to the building whilst still an operating cinema, they are to be restored and displayed in a local arts centre. See Newsreel p19. {3677}



The **Essoldo** Bethnal Green in April 2015

Subsequent to the rejection for listing of **Smart's Picture Palace** / **Essoldo** in Bethnal Green, Tower Hamlets Council has been advised that the Association considers this a building worthy of retention and objects to its demolition. The East End Preservation Society has also registered opposition to such an outcome. {16512}

The **Futurist** in Liverpool is currently threatened with demolition. It boasts a fine façade, which, it has been claimed, is in such poor condition that it cannot be saved; this is clearly disingenuous as, even if in danger of collapse, its component blocks could be disassembled, restored and re-erected. The Association is thus to comment that the frontage should be retained and the interior, of which little original remains, should be the subject of a full photographic record. See also Newsreel p22. {6508}

And in brief:



The **Embassy** Waltham Cross in April 2006

- After due consideration it has been concluded that the **Embassy** at Waltham Cross has been subject to such drastic internal alteration as to render it unlistable. {2505}
- Although unlikely to achieve national listed status, the **Gaumont** at Worcester has been locally listed. Enquiries are afoot to discover if this venue and the nearby **Odeon** are situated within a conservation area. {20709, 25870}
- The CTA has objected to the partial demolition of the **Park Cinema** in Hither Green; the intended scheme would retain only the extant outer walls. See p19 last Bulletin. {30192}
- It has been reported that the **Capitol/Essoldo/Vogue** at Lane Top in Sheffield is at risk; further enquiries and research are currently being undertaken. See Newsreel p26. {25450}

PUBLICATIONS

Back Numbers Available

PICTURE HOUSE MAGAZINE

Listed below are the back numbers of Picture House that are still available, along with the main articles the particular issue contains. There are also available a few second-hand copies of out-of-print issues 9, 10, 14/15, 16, 22, 23 & 24, priced £5.00 each, plus postage. We also have just 1 or 2 copies of the extremely rare issues 2, 4, 5, 7, 11, 12 and 13 at £5.00 each plus postage. (If there is more demand than supply, a ballot will be held.)

No 6	£1.50	Television in the Cinema; Atherley Southampton; Hippodrome , Blackpool.
No 8	£1.50	Sol Levy; Reginald Cooper; ABC in NW London.
No 17	£3.00	Special Issue featuring the Cinemas of George Coles with 26 original photographs reproduced in sepia.
No 18	£3.00	Sydney Colwyn Foulkes; United Picture Theatres; Tivoli Wimborne.
No 19	£3.50	Co-operative Cinemas; Ideal Lambeth; Dursley; Alister Macdonald; Granada Tooting.
No 21	£3.50	100 Years On; Travelling Shows; Reggie Rea; Albert Hall Sheffield; Regal Wells; West End Adverts; Scotland.
all issues below have colour cover and inside pages		
No 25	£4.50	Oldest Cinema (Brighton); FE Bromige; Gaumont Managers; Carlton Swansea; Committee's Choice.
No 26	£4.50	Paramount Newcastle; Edward Stone; Granada Men; E de Wilde Holding; Electric Portobello Road.
No 27	£4.50	New Victoria/Apollo ; Whiteladies Bristol; Clark & Fenn; Compton Organs; Tim Foster Associates.
No 28	£4.50	James McKissack; WJ King; Torbay Cinema ; Tabs.
No 29	£4.50	Cinerama in Britain; Braziers the Builders; John Fernée; Waller Jeffs; John Duffin's paintings.
No 30	£5.00	The Davis Family, Croydon; Apollo Hammersmith Organ; Norwich Roadshows.
No 31	£7.50	Special 84-page edition: Essoldo – A Family Business: Sol Sheckman and the Essoldo Circuit.
No 32	£5.00	Harry Myers Photographs; Cinemas at the Coalface; Shaws of Darwen: Edward A Stone.
No 33	£5.00	Theodore Komisarjevsky; Circuit & other releases of 1956; The case for saving the New Victoria Bradford.
No 34	£5.00	Beaufort Birmingham; Granada Tooting in 1934; J Braddon's cinema life.
No 35	£5.00	Holophane lighting; Imitations of Odeon ; Cradley Records; 1909 Cinematograph Act; Kingston Showmanship.
No 36	£6.00	Leslie Kemp; The Clifton Circuit; Jeremy Perkins on Brighton; Circuit Releases of 1960.
No 37	£8.50	Special 92-page issue; saving the Electric Palace Harwich.
No 38	£6.00	Northern Morris Associated; Palace Conwy; Cinema Murders; Point Milton Keynes; Carlton Haymarket; Military Cinemas.
No 39	£6.00	WWI and the Film Trade; Tale of Two Regals ; Odeon North Finchley; Majestic Oxford; Films at the Royal Albert Hall .



Offers of contributions to this year's *Picture House* should be made to the editor by 31 May. We would like to feature a week-by-week record of programming at the **Paramount** Manchester from opening to take-over by Odeon, ie from 6 October 1930 to 27 November 1939. This would require some extensive research in a reference library. It would valuably supplement other, mostly pictorial material to hand on the cinema during this period. If anyone is interested in researching this and providing the information in an agreed format on a computer file, please contact me at [allen@aeyles.plus.com] or 01444 455 763. Name credit would, of course, be given.

Allen Eyles, Editor *Picture House*



BULLETINS

We can supply back numbers of most Bulletins from Volume 21 (1987) to date. Prices for issues from 1987 to 2013 are £4.00 per year (6 issues); individual issues are £1.00 each. Prices for issues in 2014 and 2015 are £4.00 per copy. All prices include postage. There are some issues available from earlier years, 1970 to 1986 – please send enquiries to the Sales Officer.

Recent Publications (reviewed in previous Bulletins)

How Belfast Saw the Light: A Cinematic History

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

Alpha to Odyssey:

A Short History of a St Albans Cinema by Penny Dade.

A5 paperback, 62 pages, illustrated, £4.99 + postage.

The Auditorium: A historical look at cinemas in and

around old North Warwickshire by Peter Lea.

A5 Paperback, 66 pages. £12.95 plus postage.

London's West End Cinemas by Allen Eyles.

Special price to CTA members, £20.00 plus postage.

See display advert on p35.

Going to the Pictures (Nottingham): £4.99 + postage.

Ordering

For books and other items except DVDs, please add £3.00 for post and packing for orders up to £20.00 in value, £6.00 for orders from £20.01 to £40.00 and £11.00 for orders above £40.01. For DVDs, please add £3.00 for up to 3 DVDs and £6.00 for more than 3 DVDs.

Orders to Jeremy Buck, CTA Sales, 34, Pelham Road, London, N22 6LN. Cheques/POs payable to Cinema Theatre Association, or send credit/debit card number with expiry date and security code. A complete sales list is available by sending an SAE or can be seen on the CTA website [www.cta-uk.org] where you can also place your order using PayPal. A sales list is sent with every order.

Also Available (but not from the Sales Officer)

A Kinematograph Journey Through London 1907-8

By Tony Fletcher; 140 pages, A4 paperback, £15.00

This book is a snapshot of the venues in London that were showing films in London during 1907 and 1908. The title may not sound too promising – this was early days with very few purpose-built cinemas but with numerous halls and theatres showing moving pictures. The content draws primarily on records in the London Metropolitan Archives – plans, photographs, programmes, correspondence over safety issues, etc – but supplemented by material from trade magazines and private collections. Tony Fletcher does not step out of the period to explain what happened to these venues (this would have made the book impossibly lengthy and required a huge amount of additional research). The buildings are arranged not by area but in one long alphabetical list, which is sometimes just the address, and sometimes the name (all the venues with 'Royal' at the start of their names are grouped together although located widely apart). I thought this book might be unavoidably dull and heavy-going but it proves continually fascinating in its wide and plentiful range of illustrations and revealing in the huge amount of detail gathered on the state of the buildings, the films shown, some court cases etc. It adds up to a valuable guide to this very early period of cinema history and is highly recommended. You will have to make an effort to buy it as it is not receiving proper distribution through bookshops but can be ordered via the website of The Cinema Museum (adding post and packing) [www.cinemamuseum.org.uk] or post free on a visit to one of the many events there.

Allen Eyles



THE STATE / GRANADA DARTFORD

By Reg Larkman

Barely a mile from the Greater London boundary lies the first town in North West Kent, the one-time successful Dartford, with an abundance of big name stores, a beautiful park and swimming pool and the cinemas. Over the years the town has fallen into decline and is slowly becoming a ghost town with customers preferring to visit the nearby huge shopping mall at Bluewater, with its multiplex cinema and more than 300 shops.

The three Dartford cinemas [Rialto, Scala and State] were run by Medway Cinemas until 1949 when the Granada group took them over and eventually re-named them. The largest of the three [the State] became the Granada and had the pick of the releases as there was no opposition within barring reach. A chief projectionist was required under the new company and they sadly promoted an incompetent man from the existing team. So Dartford Granada was a dream cinema with the best films to show and a modest seating capacity, so keeping running costs at a minimum.



Photos from CTA Archive; adverts supplied by the author



In those days I was training at an original Granada for over four years and succeeded completing an apprentice scheme and learned the Granada way to present a programme. On my day off I would occasionally drop by at the Granada Dartford to see their programme and I couldn't believe the appalling standard of projection, so much that I was embarrassed to be an employee of the company.

Dartford had a few sell-out one night stage shows, including Cliff Richard, Billy Fury, Adam Faith etc but with a small stage and no fly tower they were short-lived.

CinemaScope was installed in the early 1950s with a 4-track sound system. In the larger Granada Theatres with their wide prosceniums, the 2.55:1 screen fitted easily but with takeover locations like Dartford it was a 'botch-up' situation with bad cropping of the picture. CinemaScope pioneers 20th Century Fox would not have been amused.

In the 60s, following my experience at original Granadas I was transferred to Dartford. I was young, confident and enthusiastic for the Granada rules but I was filled with horror at this move, whereas the only similarity between this Granada and the others was the usherettes' uniforms.

GRANADA DARTFORD 2101

NOW! Michael Keogrove **THE BROWNING VERSION (A)**
Lucan McShane **OLD MOTHER RILEY'S JUNGLE TREASURE (U)**

MONDAY, THREE DAYS MAY 7th WEEK **THURSDAY, THREE DAYS**

ARTHUR KENNEDY **CLAUDETTE COLBERT**
PEGGY DOW **PATRIC KNOWLES**

LIGHTS OUT **THREE CAME HOME**
2.20, 5.30, 8.55 (A) 1.25, 5.0, 8.40 (A)

RONALD REGAN **LESLIE HOWARD**
DIANA LYNN **WENDY HILLER**

BEDTIME for BONZO **PYGMALION**
12.50, 4.0, 7.20 (U) 3.10, 6.50 (A)

SUNDAY ● John Wayne, Mariene Dietrich **PITTSBURGH (A)**
MAY 6th Bruce Cabot, Jacqueline Wells **CRIME'S END (A)**

RIALTO DARTFORD 3372

NOW! Richard Todd **FLESH and BLOOD (A)**
Michael Rennie **UNEASY TERMS (A)**

MONDAY, THREE DAYS MAY 7th WEEK **THURSDAY, THREE DAYS**

Open 12.45 Last Prog. 7.15 Open 1.15 Last Prog. 7.20

EDMOND O'BRIEN **JEAN SIMMONS**
WANDA HENDRIX **DONALD HOUSTON**

ADMIRAL was a LADY **The BLUE LAGOON**
2.40, 5.40, 8.55 (U) 2.40, 5.40, 8.35 (A)

DENNIS PRICE **TED RAY**
JACK HAWKINS **RAY OF SUNSHINE**
1.15, 4.20, 7.30 (A) 1.45, 4.40, 7.35 (U)

SUNDAY ● Open 3.0. Last Prog. 6.30—Gregory Peck, Joan Bennett
MAY 6th **MACOMBER AFFAIR (A)** **GAS HOUSE KIDS IN HOLLYWOOD (A)**

THE SERVICE WITH A SMILE THEATRES

FURTHER WANDERINGS – Part 2

By Hugh Sykes

... continued from last time



The six-screen **Reel** multiplex at Aberavon, Port Talbot

Before the start of September 2014, Ann and I booked into a B&B in Kidwelly, South Wales for 23-25 August. We called briefly in Bridgend for a stroll around the shops but found no original cinemas – all demolished? Then on to Aberavon, by Port Talbot. I thought it was a seaside with funfair but no, it's all gone. Plenty of housing, very few shops, plenty of walking and a **Reel** multi-screen cinema, which is next to a boarded-up takeaway or pub. The **Reel** was open and the staff welcoming but does patronage cometh?



The former **Cinema** Kidwelly, now a Factory Shop

Kidwelly had a 300-seat cinema run c1950 by AR Thomas of Carmarthen – prices 1/3 to 1/9, 18ft proscenium, 7ft deep stage, two dressing rooms. It was opened by Mr T Fox in 1936 and was still open in 1966. In 1990 it was converted to the Salt Rock pub but today it is open as The Original Factory Shop. Apart from the frontage and rear and side walls, which are original, the hall has a new roof with painted steelwork over the upper sales floor, which has access gained from a new stairway ¾ way down the hall. The only old item is a fan on the rear wall; all traces of the stage and proscenium are gone. The projection suite area was rebuilt for the current usage.



The **Workmen's Hall** in Pontyates

Tracing the old Burry Port & Gwendraeth Valley Railway [BP&GVR] brought us into Pontyates and found its lovely **Workmen's Hall** of 1938, refurbished in recent times. It currently offers "hall with seats, screen and projector".

After breakfast on the 24th we headed down to Burry Port to locate the site of the BP&GVR terminus, which had a cinema behind it. Now landscaped with excellent car parking, there is no trace of the cinema either. The **Adelphi** cinema on Ashburnham Road (addresses differ, elsewhere as Seaview Terrace) had 900 seats (the local population in 1950 was only 5,745) but drew its patrons from a wide area at 9d to 1/3. The owner, Mr Labor Dennis used to greet people in the foyer in what was "the most luxurious cinema of its time". It was sadly demolished in 1972-3 and the site is now a car park.



An early postcard of Llanelli showing the **Llanelli Cinema** [centre]

On the road again to view these three Llanelli venues: **Llanelli Cinema** open as Wetherspoons *The York Place* with lovely ceiling inside and good condition of property; the former **Odeon/Classic/Theatr Elli** closed and cordoned off as I believe the tiling is unsafe; **Odeon** multiplex with 550-seat theatre, fully open (this was the reason for closure of the **Theatr Elli**).



The former **Odeon / Theatr Elli** Llanelli



The five-screen **Odeon** multiplex Llanelli





The former **Electra** Gorseinon

With our destination The Mumbles we wanted to get there early but time was made to visit Gorseinon. The town had 2½ cinemas: the **Electra** on High Street with 784 seats, latterly on snooker as Riley's (not sure if still open); **Lido** on West End Square with 700 seats, sadly demolished; the '½' is **La Charette**, the famous 23-seat private cinema in a back garden in the town, built into a 1953 converted railway van and had fixtures and fittings from the **Lido**, only closing in 2008 needing repair.



The former **Regent** Oystermouth [Mumbles]

Continuing our journey down to The Mumbles we were in time for a parking space, then had a lovely walk to The Pier for the RNLI Lifeboat House. Along the way we had a look inside the former **Tivoli Picture Theatre**, not much to see art deco wise but some 1930s style fire exit doors that lead out onto a small arcade of shops down the right side took my eye. We strolled up to the former **Regent** cinema and found it was having a new roller shutter door fitted to the main entrance for its current mall of small shops.



La Charette in operation at the Gower Heritage Centre

With it being a Bank Holiday, it was getting very busy we decided to go and find the Gower Heritage Centre. Although busy but not overcrowded, we ventured forth and there, to the left of the entrance is **La Charette**, fully restored and open to view – it's lovely! Soft lighting, tip-up seats, screen with tabs etc. There was a Disney DVD cartoon from an overhead projector with customers coming and going. There is a charge to go into the main centre but you can see the cinema free first.



The **Landore** Swansea

Returning along the route of trams, we ventured into Swansea around their Ringway. We came across some locomotives by the Park and Ride at Landore but the gates were locked on a Sunday! Looking for somewhere to stop and park, I found around a corner the former **Landore** cinema, currently Casey's Roofing Centre. It was opened in late November 1913 with 600 seats and closed in 1939 "for the duration" (of WWII) and never reopened. Now listed grade II, it is a gem.



The **Cinema** at Cross Hands

Finally leaving for the M4 and A48 via Carmarthen for a visit to the Gwili Steam Railway but on the way we called in at Cross Hands for the **Cinema**, open Friday, Monday and Tuesday at 7pm for a film. Not sure if they project 35mm or DVD. It's a lovely hall. We finished our day at Pendine Sands and had a look at 'Babs' a speed car of the 1920s.

Monday dawned wet so our first call was at Pontycymer, home of the Garw Valley Railway, who were having an open day. Hopefully in the near future there will be 3½ miles of heritage railway down the valley towards Ty-du. We had a quick look at **Blaengarw Workmen's Hall**, intact and in good condition but no posters up at all for future events. The former **Central** in King Edward Street was demolished some time ago for bungalows to be built.

Ann and I stopped briefly in Merthyr Tydfil (still raining) and, having a walk around, found the **Temperance Hall / Scala** on Station Approach. Be aware – the railway station has moved to the front of the Shopping Mall near Tesco. We also found the site of the **Castle Super Cinema / ABC / Flicks**, which is now a piece of corner grassland. It had a 1,696-seater with a 3-10 Christie organ, last used in 1954.



The former **Temperance Hall / Scala** in Merthyr Tydfil

All photos by the author

THE FIRST ODEON ENTHUSIAST

By Allen Eyles

When writing the history of Oscar Deutsch's building of the **Odeon** cinema chain – *ODEON CINEMAS 1: Oscar Deutsch Entertains Our Nation* (CTA, 2002 – and still available!) – I occasionally wondered whether, had I been a youngster at the time these new **Odeons** were opening in the 1930s, I would have been keeping a record of them and visiting as many of them as possible. I'm encouraged to think I would have, after seeing a scrapbook compiled by former CTA member Kenneth Hester which his daughter has sent to me and which will go to the CTA Archive. Its opening page, written when Hester was aged 14, reads "This book is dedicated to **Odeon** Theatres. These cinemas are the most modern and comfortable in England... This book is composed entirely from cuttings of **Odeon** magazines, etc. K. Hester, 7.4.36."



It has drawings or photographs of Surbiton, Kenton, Kingsbury, South Harrow, Chingford, Southgate, Kingston, Sudbury (then called Sudbury Town), Barnet and many others. There are notes on the names of the resident organists where organs were installed. The drawings, of course, tend to show an enhanced view of the cinema that was actually built. There is also a composite page of new **Odeons**. And, at the back, there is a listing (on browning newsprint) of the programme at all the existing **Odeons** in the week when Barnet and Finchley were showing *The Last Days of Pompeii* – was this part of **Odeon**'s own publicity or did it appear in a national newspaper? Where the listing overran the size of the scrapbook page, the newsprint has crumbled into loose fragments, so is sadly no longer complete.

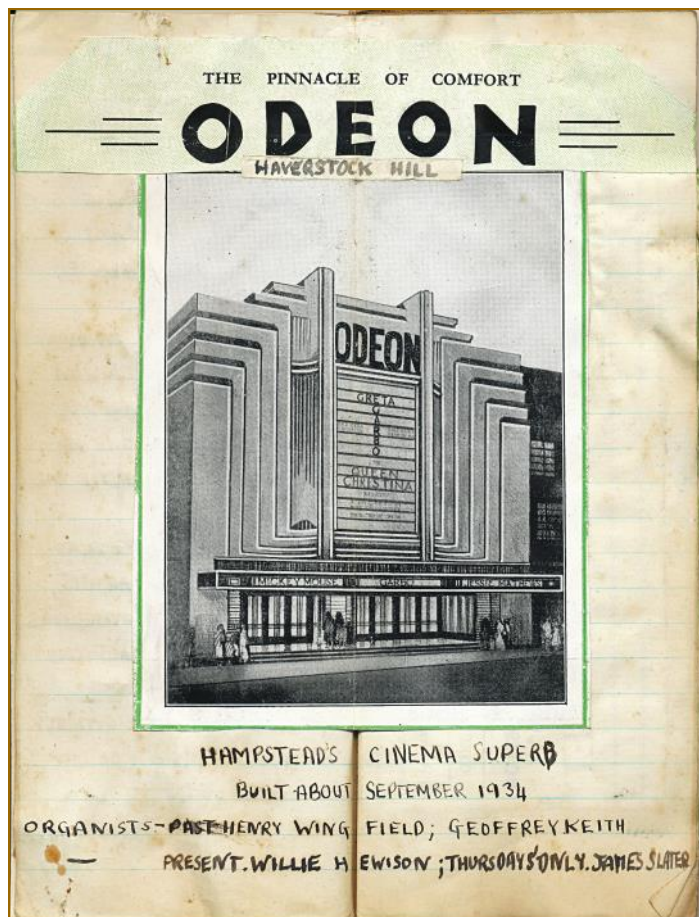
While this small book provides no new information about **Odeon** (and peters out early on in 1936), it does indicate that there was a least one young enthusiast for cinema buildings when they were new, long before the threat of their destruction brought about the creation of the CTA. In particular, the book highlights the distinctive series of AP Starkey **Odeons** – not one of which has been preserved by listing (although Colindale still stands in a very poor state).



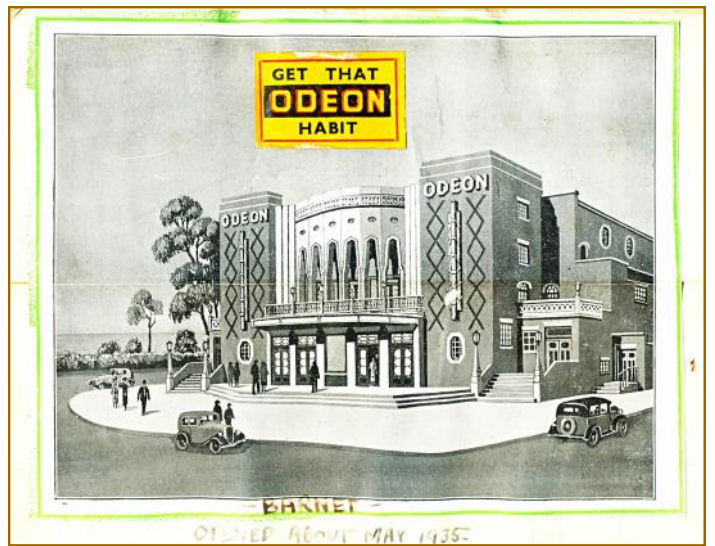
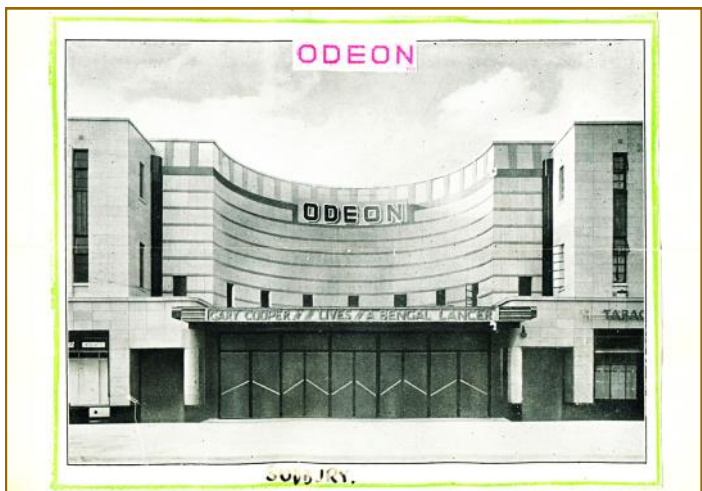
[L] Kenneth Hester (24 February 1922 – 13 November 2004)

[R] Front of the **Odeon** record book, size 193mm tall by 77mm wide

Kenneth Hester's daughter, Brenda Bugg, writes: "Dad was a long-time member of the CTA and in earlier years, before he became infirm, he went on many of the visits to cinemas up and down the country. He was also a cinema organ enthusiast and could name where all the restored **Odeon** Theatre organs were. He and Mum went to the post-war reopening of the **Odeon** Theatre at Haverstock Hill by special invitation, after he wrote a letter to **Odeon** management stating his long-time affection for **Odeon**. I clearly remember my mother getting very cross with him when they returned as he recalled at length his experiences about meeting and chatting with Diana Dors, who was on ceremonial duties that evening! Dad would have been so very pleased that the record book will be kept to be enjoyed by like-minded enthusiasts."

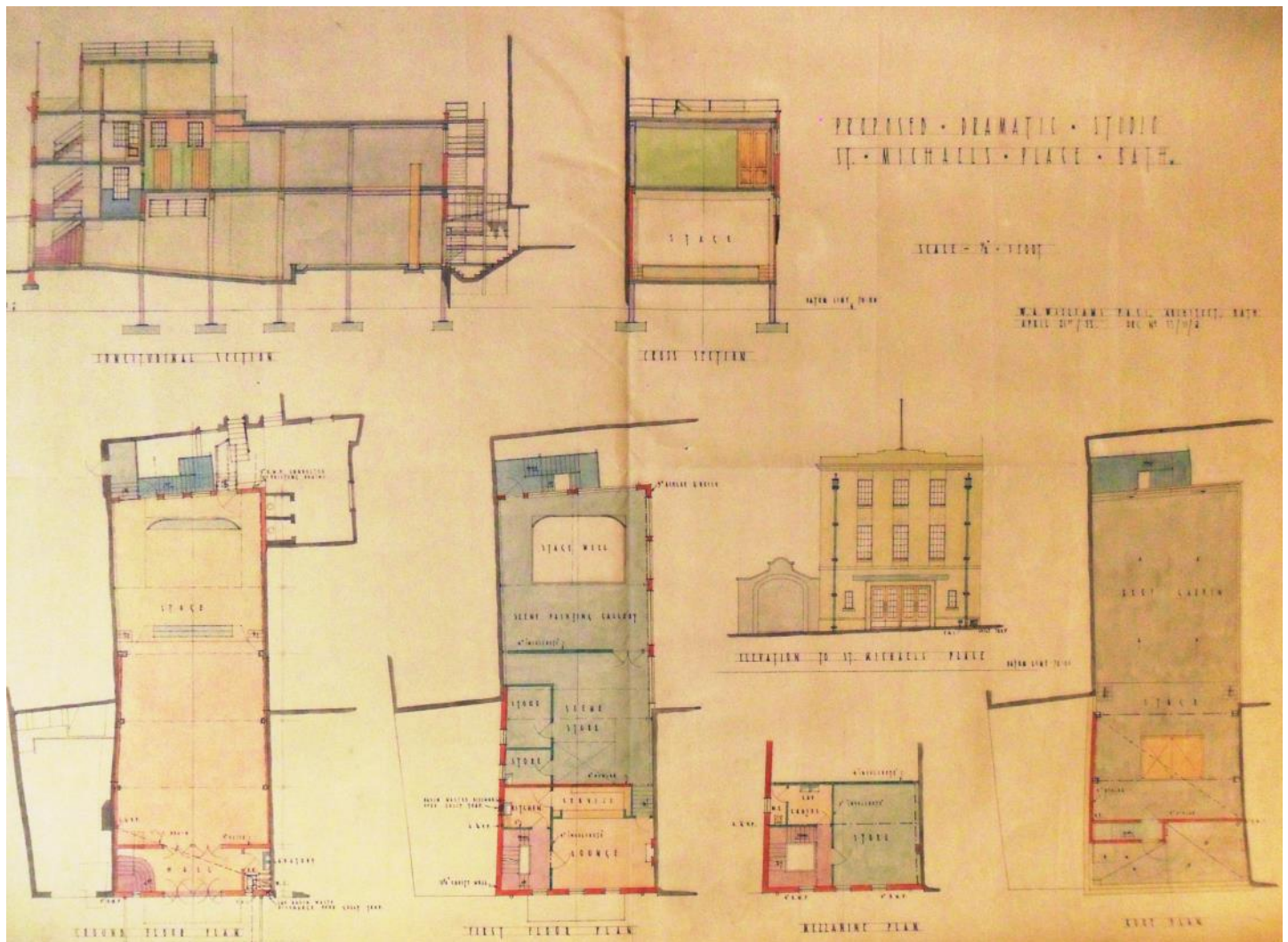


Your
ODEON
THEATRE
PRESENTS THE PICK
OF THE WEEK'S FILMS



ODEON

THE LITTLE THEATRE BATH – PART 1



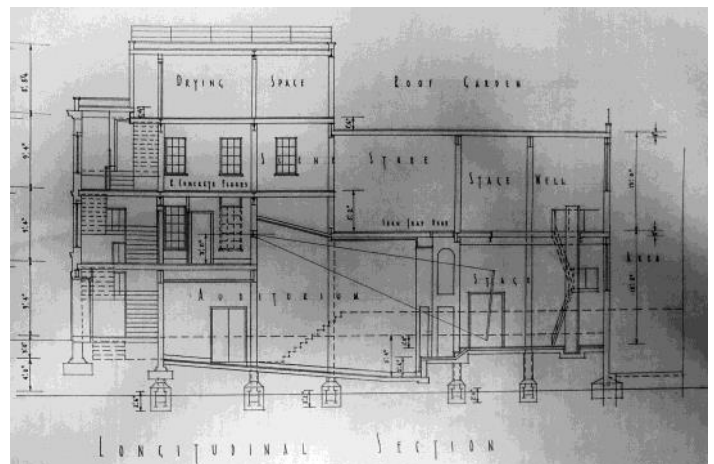
Proposed Dramatic Studio, 21 April 1933 – note the front elevation [centre] with a garage on the left, where the foyer was actually built.

By Ben Doman

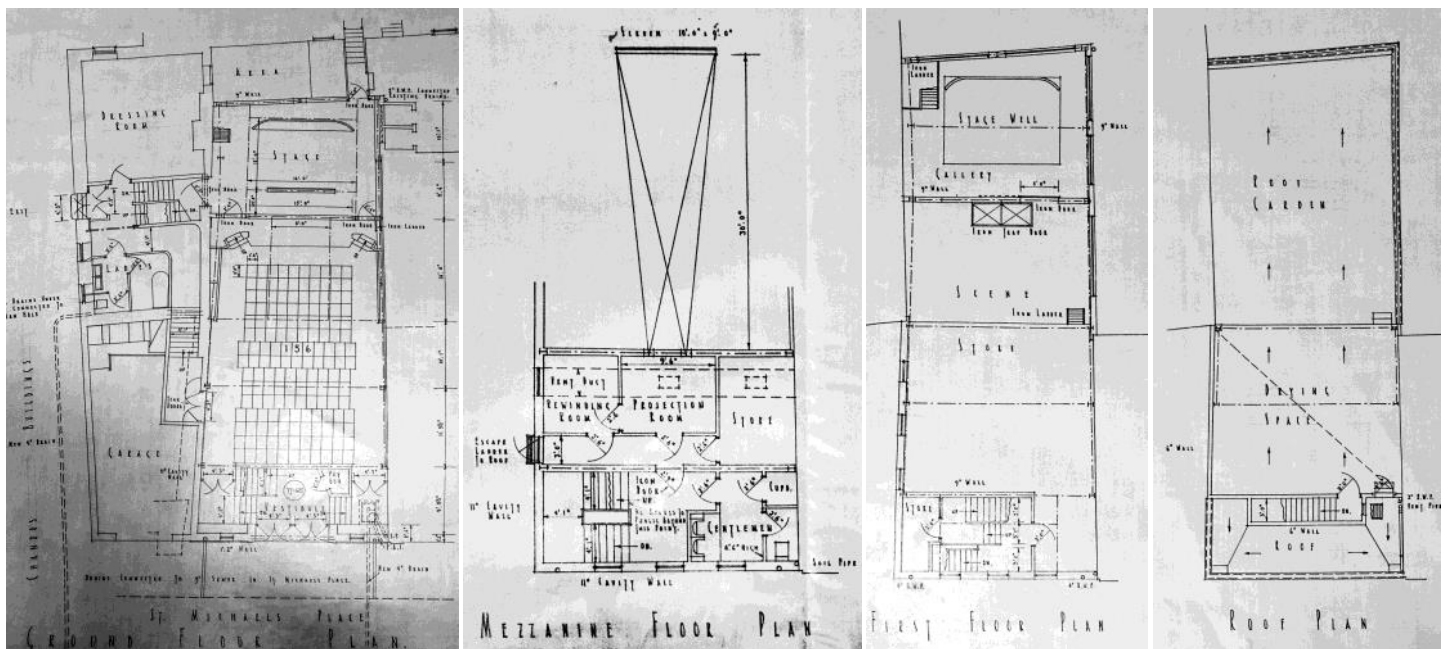
A few years after the end of the First World War, Mr Peter King, who had studied architecture in London, moved to Bath. He became interested in the work of Miss Consuelo de Reyes, who had set up a centre for dramatic theatre in Citizen House, part of the Little Theatre movement of the time. The work at Citizen House became well known, particularly for its unique wardrobe, summer schools held in both Bath and London and its association with the **Everyman Theatre** in Hampstead, London. The **Little Theatre** in Citizen House was the first of its kind in the country and spawned others in Sheffield, Nottingham and Leeds, as well as establishing the **Everyman** in Hampstead with Jim Fairfax-Jones, as the first of the Little Theatre movement theatres in London. As well as producing many of the plays, Peter King was a talented stage designer. Miss Consuelo de Reyes and Mr King were married in 1927. After 21 years of performances, the theatre had outgrown its location in St Michaels Place and a new theatre was proposed next door to Citizen House. Local architect WA Williams, who had refurbished the *Star* public house in the Paragon, Bath, in 1928, was engaged to design the new theatre.

All the plans just show the main block of the current building, without the corner that houses the foyer and staircase. The original planned location of the foyer was at the rear of the stalls, with double doors leading from the street. The first drawings show seating just on the ground floor and a lounge at first floor over the foyer. A few weeks later these plans were amended to show a roof garden, with a storage and drying area at roof level. In the next set of drawings, the roof garden had changed to a 100-seat open air theatre. By December 1933 the plans included a balcony, with small lounge over the foyer. There is a hand-written note in the corner of the drawing, "This is the sketch plan shown to Mr Peter King by Thuell on 8/12/33".

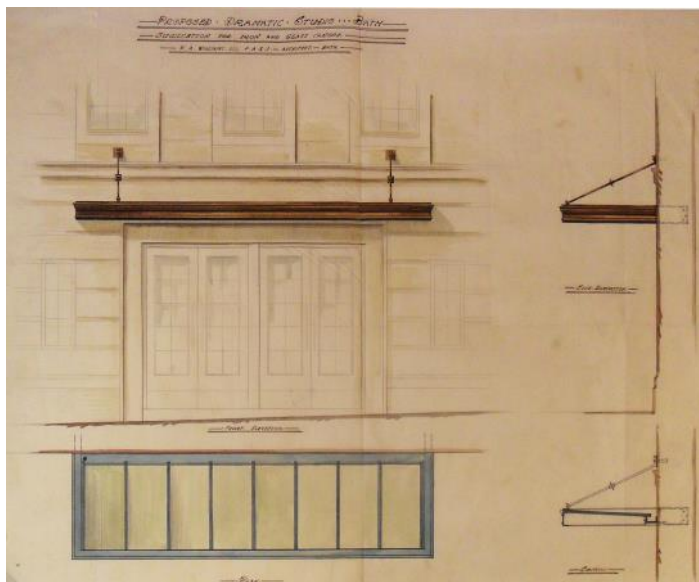
The auditorium was accessed from the foyer (situated in what is the rear stalls). A door to the left, in a position matching the current stalls entrance, led to the ladies toilet, dressing rooms and stage. At the rear right hand side of the foyer was a small pay-box and on the left a staircase leading to the gents toilet above the foyer. Also at this mezzanine level was shown a projection and rewind room and a store. This was in the position of the current balcony. The staircase continued on up to the first floor where most of the floor-space was given over to a scene store. Carrying on up to the roof level, the front part of the roof was an enclosed drying space for scenery, with a roof garden to the rear.



Proposed cross section, 22 December 1933. The projection room was built further back and a balcony inserted in its place.



Plans dated 22 December 1933: Ground floor with foyer at rear of the stalls; Mezzanine at what is now balcony level; first floor and roof showing scene store, roof garden and drying space for scenery.

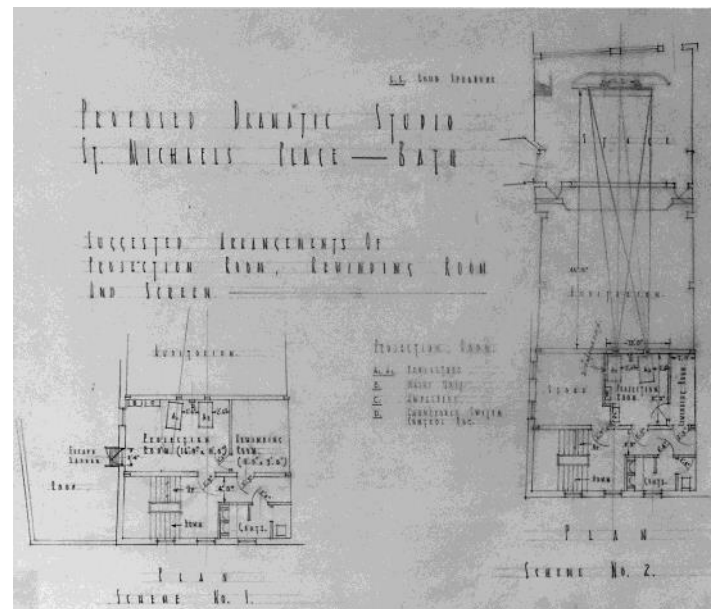


Suggestion for iron and glass canopy.

On these plans, as with all the previous, the area that is now the foyer and stairs is marked as a garage area. This area is currently the only part of the building not owned but is rented. It is not clear when the foyer was moved to this corner area, with the projection room moved back and seating put in the mezzanine area but as newspaper reports from the time of opening as a cinema refer to 'minor alterations', it would seem that although this was a late change in the plans, it was done at the time of the original build.

The final performance at Citizen House, next door to the new theatre, was on Saturday 30 December 1935, the play being *Little Tale of Christmas*.

The new **Little Theatre**, financed entirely by Miss de Reyes, was inaugurated on Friday 10 May 1935 with the first performance of Miss de Reyes's Victorian play *Vickie*, about the early life of Queen Victoria. The design of the theatre was praised, particularly its simple dignity. The theatre featured a fully sprung stage and a Strand lighting bridge. The colour scheme for the walls, described as pleasing and restful to the eye, was in green and silver. The theatre was designed by a Mr WA Williams. The opening ceremony was conducted by Lady Maragret Sackville, a poetess and dramatist who had several plays presented at the old theatre, accompanied on stage by Miss Nancy Price (Hon Director of the **Peoples Theatre** London) and Miss de Reyes. Miss Nancy Price declared "The theatre is the hospital for the mind" and commented that, "Everybody can see the stage and everybody has a comfortable seat. What more can you desire?"



Two proposals for the projection room layout, to the left and right of the mezzanine level.

Although built to replace the original **Little Theatre** in Citizen House, there were long-term plans for news and educational films to be presented as well as plays and the new theatre was designed with this in mind. An advert in the 30 December 1935 edition of the *Bath & West Chronicle and Herald* announced the start of film shows; "**Little Theatre** Bath Street – Now open to the general public – Pantomime – Cinema season opens Monday 6 January 1936". This was not to be, however, as a report on the license application in the *Bath Weekly Chronicle and Herald* announced "Little Theatre Cinema Opening Held Up". The article went on to explain that Miss de Reyes had announced the opening of the cinema before the license had been granted, assuming that it would be granted. The bench felt that had demonstrated a great disrespect to themselves.

It was pleaded by Miss de Reyes legal representative, Mr Ernest J White, that it had been a genuine mistake. In the original application, for presentation of stage plays, singing and dancing, it had been made clear that Miss de Reyes would be applying for a cinematograph license at a later date but that could not have been granted at that time as certain structural alterations were deemed necessary. Alfred J Taylor (who designed many buildings in the City, including the **Beau Nash** Picture House) had been instructed to advise the justices and he had recommended that a ventilator be added to the roof of the rewind room and that fire extinguishers be added to the

auditorium, both of which had been implemented. Mr Taylor stated that the building was fireproof and the requirements of the licensing justices had been met. Miss de Reyes, speaking from the witness box, stated that she had placed the advert pending the license being granted and had believed that all the wiring etc had been approved last February as a cinema and that the license was just needed for the new plant. She went on to apologise for the misunderstanding, which had been an honest mistake.

Although it was noted that this was a genuine mistake, the justices must have felt that a point had to be made and adjourned the application for fourteen days. The Mayor suggested that in the intervening two weeks, any films to be shown should be submitted for approval, as all films to be shown in the City had to be first submitted to the justices for their approval. Miss de Reyes said that all the films were censored before they came and that they were all "Universal". The Clerk (Mr WMR Lewis) said the rule was that no film could be shown in the City until the syllabus had been submitted to the justices for approval, apart from news films, which were exempt.



There seemed to be no further objection to the cinematographic license, as the advert in the *Bath Weekly Chronicle and Herald* on Saturday 18 January 1936 announced that the 'News & Interest Film Season' opens on Monday 20 January at the **Little Theatre**. The advert announced that there would be a continuous hourly programme from 3pm until 10:30pm to include world events, travel, sport, cartoons, comedy and Walt Disney films. It was stated that it was a "perfectly equipped Luxury Theatre with Rolls Royce equipment" and was headed by the rather splendid winged Western Electric sound system logo ("the voice of action").

The Theatre had six dressing rooms, behind and to the side of the 16 by 16 foot stage and the screen was mounted halfway down the stage. The projection room was directly behind the balcony and was accessed off the main staircase, via an external balcony above the cinema's entrance.

Alderman EJ White opened the film season at the **Little Theatre** on Monday 20 January 1936. Miss de Reyes made a speech. She said that it was not the intention to present film plays at the theatre; that was being left to the existing cinemas in the City. She also expressed pleasure at the presence of Mr SC Cadogan, manager of the **Forum** in Southgate Street, in the audience. She remarked that it was pleasant that the management of the largest cinema in Bath was so kindly disposed towards the smallest.

Mrs Birt, a lady doctor from Wantage, who was in Bath to take the cure (as drinking and bathing in the spa waters was referred to), made a short speech and complimented Miss de Reyes, Mr Peter King and the staff upon their enterprise.



The auditorium entrance in 1987.



The original auditorium from the stage in 1987. Exit doors to St Michaels Place are behind the curtains at the rear of the stalls. The proposed position of the foyer was in the space under the balcony.

The programme, which consisted of a nature film depicting the life story of a frog, an illustrated history of the Royal Academy, the *Gau-mont Magazine*, *The Song of the Ski* and other items, was then shown followed by tea in the lounge.



The Western Electric sound system logo was dropped from the press advert for the opening day and the press block was headed 'News & Interest Cinema, Little Theatre (End of Bath St)'. The press advert was usually headed as 'News and Interest Cinema' after this, apart from the one on Wednesday 22 January, which advertised a memorial film of King George's reign, the only cinema in the City to do so, so soon after his passing on the previous Monday evening of the cinema's opening. Prices were advertised as 6d (6 old pence) for the front stalls and 1/- (one shilling) for the rear stalls and balcony. A tea and coffee lounge and car park were also advertised in press adverts.



News and interest films made up the programme until 1939 when feature films were introduced. After Consuelo de Reyes' death in 1948 the **Little** was programmed by her business partner Jim Fairfax-Jones, with the cinema being managed by Ethel Lewis, then Arthur Tippet following her retirement. On Fairfax-Jones' death in 1974, Helen Pitt, Consuelo de Reyes' daughter, took over programming and running the cinema.

Architectural plans by kind permission of the Museum of Bath at Work.

Auditorium photos and adverts from the author's collection.

...to be continued

Museum of
Bath
at
Work

MY 'LITTLE CINEMA' IS REBORN

By Joyce Braddon

Back in the 1970s when cinemas everywhere were closing, I went around collecting the seats from one cinema, the carpet from another and the stage curtains from yet another and so my 'Little Cinema' was born. Sadly, all the cinemas from where I took the parts have now been demolished. So my 'Little Cinema' remains as a reminder of those incredible buildings, where you entered darkness and were absorbed into another world, that gave so much pleasure to so many people watching films

On 8 March 2015 Richard Norman, with his experience of arranging events, invited members and associates to the first CTA film show here since the digital projector was installed. Members came from all over. One came from as far away as Stoke-on-Trent and brought with him his keen 16-year-old son. And there was a recently retired member who travelled all the way from Christchurch in Dorset. I was particularly pleased to welcome Anderson Jones, who showed me pictures of a cinema he is constructing in the garden of his home. I am hoping that when it is finished he will let the committee know, so it will be possible for the CTA to arrange a visit there.



A view of the stage and attractive house tabs



[L to R] Commissionaire Robert Holden, Joyce Braddon and Richard Norman, ready to receive visitors.

The event attracted a full house, apart from one member who was unfortunately stranded at York Station. When they arrived, members liked the welcoming presence of a uniformed commissionaire to greet them. (With thanks to the Cinema Museum for allowing Robert the actor to wear the uniform.) The first part of the programme consisted of short films from the 1930s to the 1950s. During the break for afternoon tea, members had the opportunity to speak to others with the same intense interest and, of course, enjoy the delicious food the private caterers provided.



The Ice Cream Sales Girl providing the audience with free choc-ices.

The second part of the programme started with Adverts and Trailers from half a century ago; then when the spotlight illuminated the sales girl and the house lights came up, she served choc ices from her tray to everyone. After they were eaten, the lights dimmed, the screen tabs opened and as the footlights faded the big picture commenced. When the house tabs finally closed, Richard Norman on behalf of the committee presented me with a copy of *London's West End Cinemas*; this was a very thoughtful gift, as years ago I had worked at several of those cinemas. So that more members may experience a film show in my 'Little Cinema', I am looking forward to presenting another one later this year, when I'll have the pleasure of meeting old friends again and if you haven't been before, you will be especially welcome.

Photos arranged by Richard Norman




Members of the audience enjoying their unexpected choc-ices!




Joyce being presented by Richard with a copy of the CTA's latest book release - *London's West End Cinemas* on behalf of the CTA in gratitude of her hospitality for organising the film show.



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Apothecary Theatre, London. Photo: Hoare Lea Lighting

WELCOME TO THE CINEMA THEATRE ASSOCIATION

We are dedicated to cinema history – not the films, but the buildings they were and are shown in. Many of us are film buffs, of course, but what unites us is a fascination with the architecture, design and commercial history of cinema exhibition.

LATEST EVENTS

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By Rachel Woodforde, CTA Webmaster

Do you visit the CTA's smart new website?

If not, can I tempt you to try?

You can keep an eye on those cinemas we feel are at risk and follow the reports of the Casework team's activity...


CINEMA THEATRE ASSOCIATION

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CINEMAS AT RISK

PICTURE PLAYHOUSE
BIRMINGHAM

KINGSMAN
BIRMINGHAM

NEW VICTORIA
BRADFORD

ASTORIA
BRIGHTON

WHITELADES
BRIGHTON

SAVOY
BRIGHTON

ODEON
CHESTER

CINEMATOGRAF THEATRE
CLAPTON

REGAL
COVENTRY




PALACE
COVENTRY

CASEWORK


CINEMAS AT RISK

This building type is highly relevant to Britain's architectural and social heritage of the first half of the Twentieth Century, when picture palaces were a cornerstone of everyday life, entertainment and social interchange. While the facades were sometimes kept modest, exciting worlds of fantasy and escapism were offered on the modes with the exotic and highly detailed interior decorative schemes transporting the customers into a different world. Since then, these once ubiquitous features have started to disappear from our towns and cities and virtually intact examples are becoming increasingly rare.

LISTED CINEMAS AT RISK

Read about the archive (and make an enquiry to purchase images) or check up on the listed cinemas in the UK...


CINEMA THEATRE ASSOCIATION

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CINEMA HERITAGE ARCHIVE

ARCHIVE ENQUIRY
ARCHIVE ENQUIRY FORM
UK MULTIPLEXES
LISTED CINEMAS

CINEMA HERITAGE ARCHIVE

The Cinema Theatre Association maintains an extensive collection of material, built up over many years, charting the history and development of cinema in Britain. From the earliest picture houses and their conversions through the era of the super-cinema, the post-war decline and cinema's recent revival and the multiplex of today. The archive is a unique resource of both changing architectural and social history.


The collection includes photographs, drawings, architectural plans, newspaper cuttings, magazine and internet articles, books, posters, programmes, industry documents and artefacts. Within the holdings are special collections donated by leading architects and cinema companies as well as personal research collections which represent a life work. We appreciate donations both large and small from our members, the general public as well as from within the industry.

The archive is open to everyone whether or not you are a member and is used for research for local studies, publications, television, radio, exhibitions, talks and so on. You may wish to visit the archive in person or submit a request for material and we will endeavour to help you with your research studies and assist you in interpreting the material. The Cinema Theatre Association is committed to encouraging the study of cinema history and increasing general awareness through education.

For further information or to contact the Archive please go to the Archive Enquiry page.

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Keep track of cinema history-in-the-making with David Simpson's regularly up-dated report on UK Multiplexes...


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CINEMA HERITAGE ARCHIVE

UK MULTIPLEXES

CINEMAS AT RISK

EMPIRE

ODEON

SHOWCASE

VUE

OTHER OPERATORS

GAZETTEER OF MULTIPLEX CINEMAS

LISTED CINEMAS

MULTIPLEX CINEMAS INTRODUCTION

COMPILED BY DAVID SIMPSON

Love 'em or loathe 'em, there is no doubting the impact that the arrival of the multiplexes has had on the UK's movie going scene. Since the first opened in Milton Keynes in November 1985, over 300 have opened their doors. And the public have responded: annual attendances had dropped from a high of 1.635m, in 1984, to a nadir of 1.4m in 1988, but the multiplexes have played their part in lunging patrons back and annual attendances are now up to the 1.6m mark.

The development of the multiplexes (which I, and the industry, define as purpose-built cinemas with five or more screens) has, I would suggest, been more interesting than might at first be thought. While too many, from the outside, remain architecturally uninspiring, inside there has been a quiet revolution going on. It's fascinating to see how interior design has moved on, from the first generation – state of the art at the time – to today's ever more luxurious auditoriums, with their stepped datum seating, wider seats, greater leg room and ever larger screens.




This development is, of course, ongoing. In June 2011 Cineworld added three luxury, premium price and premium service "Screening Rooms" alongside their existing multiplexes at Cheltenham, while Odeon's luxury concept is "The Gallery", discrete areas at the rear of existing auditoriums, and Vue have introduced separate luxury screens called "Screen" at Stratford (Westfield). To enhance the individual manager's experience, Odeon's "Screen" seats have been installed in selected cinemas by Cineworld and Odeon. These "react" to the film, bringing a more immersive experience (and can be switched off if the experience becomes too intense). Vue pitched in with their innovative "Evolution" concept, which enhanced the usual luxury seating with bean bags and ottomans. Showcase went even further with their Cinema Du Lux branded multiplexes, which offer an exceptionally high standard of luxury throughout, together with concierge services and restaurant booking facilities of the type offered by top class hotels!

On the screen, far from being a gimmick, with the digital revolution 3D is most definitely here to stay. And screens are getting ever larger, with circuits keen to return to the "immersive experience" once provided by systems such as Cinema Cinema, Cinemascope, Cinescope and Empire have embraced IMAX, at selected cinemas (although IMAX is the choice at the AMC built, now Odeon, at Birmingham Broadway and Showcase also utilises IMAX) while Vue and Cinemascope have introduced their own brand, VueXperience and Cinemascope.

If you can't make it to the CTA bookstall in person, you can shop on line...

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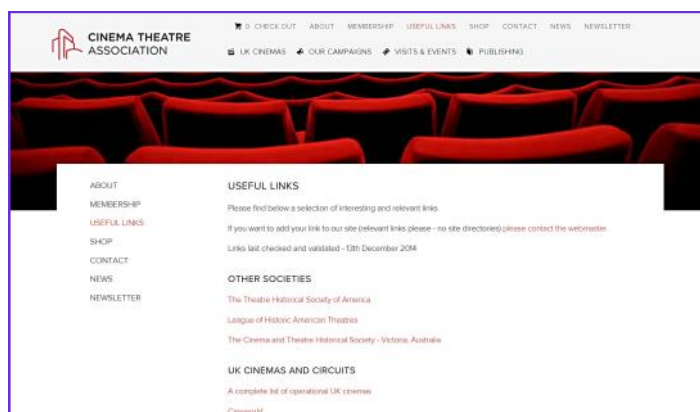
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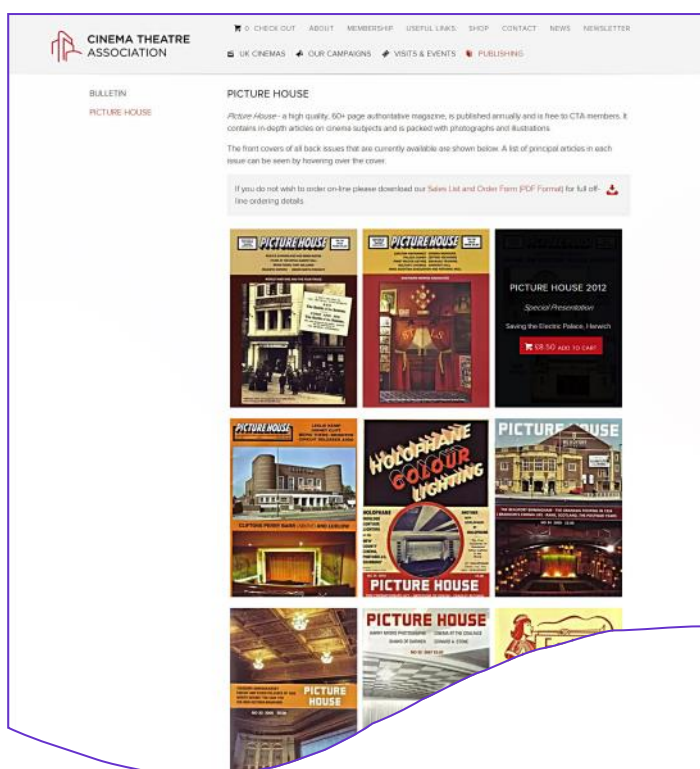
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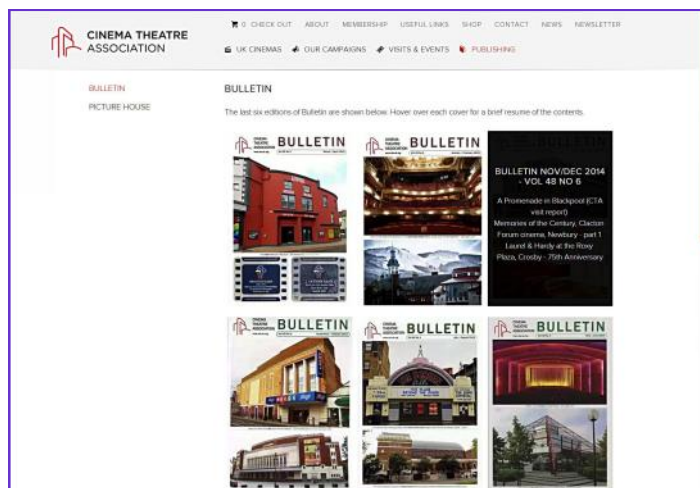
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Up to now, we have aimed not simply to inform existing members, but also to reach out to attract potential newcomers. As a result various sections of the site have been left intentionally incomplete. For example, visitors to the site have been able to see the content and quality of Picture House...



And the Bulletin...



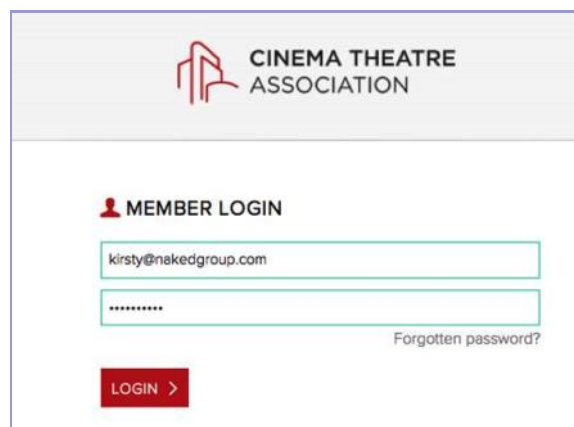
but the complete publications are only available by post to those who had paid their subscription.

From May 2015, we are pleased to announce the start of a new Members' Area. Plans include:

- Full visit information, along with details of the location and start time of the visit (check here for any last minute alterations)
- Current and past visit notes
- And, coming soon, present and past Bulletin issues and access to our new, digitised archive service, currently under development.

How do you get to this Members' Area ? When we have it ready, you will be sent a notification email by our web developer, Naked Creativity, giving you full log-in instructions, confirming your email address and supplying a password. You will need to use these every time you need to access the Members' Area.

The log-in screen will look like this:



If you would prefer to change that password to something more personal and memorable go to:



If you haven't heard from Naked Creativity four weeks after receiving this Bulletin, drop a friendly message to the Membership Secretary [subs@cta-uk.org]; it will probably be because we do not have your most up-to-date email address.

We hope you are enlightened and entertained by what you find. Any constructive comments (or compliments) you feel moved to offer, send to me at [web@cta-uk.org].

Editor's Note: The quality of the screen shots reproduced at this small size is not representative of what you see on-screen; they are merely intended to give you a flavour of what is there.

KEEP UP TO DATE WITH OUR E-MAIL NEWSLETTERS!

To keep members up to date with important news, such as visit updates, new book releases and non-CTA events (which we often hear about at the last minute), there is a 'Newsletter' function on the website. You can subscribe, free, by entering your email address in the 'CTA Newsletter' box on the front page and clicking [Submit >].

Please note: The Newsletters will be administered by a member of the Committee and you will not be sent any 'junk' advertising material or anything not related to the CTA or its objectives. Nor will your e-mail address, or any other details, be passed to any third parties. And, if you no longer wished to receive the Newsletters, you could simply unsubscribe, via the website, at any time.

Rachel Woodforde, CTA Webmaster

NEWSREEL

The items in this section are taken mainly from press cuttings from local newspapers; although their factual accuracy has been checked by Allen Eyles, there may be minor errors in reporting dates or other detail. Photos by Harry Rigby within entry, except where stated. A number in curly brackets {nnnnn} is the reference for the Cinema Treasures website. Go to: [cinematreasures.org/theaters/nnnnn]

ABERAVON (Neath Port Talbot)

The six-screen **Reel** (ex **Apollo**) at Hollywood Park is to be extended to include a new entrance and foyer together with a café, restaurants and a family entertainment centre. See p8. {22982}

South Wales Evening Post – 7 April; photo taken July 2008

ABERDEEN

Cineworld has begun talks with the landlords at both their Union Square and Queen's Links premises as they consider an **IMAX** screen.

Sent in by Carl Chesworth

ABINGDON (Oxon)

Four national cinema chains [un-named] are bidding to operate a 200-seat cinema in **The Guildhall**. Under current plans the venue will close in August for a £3.5m redevelopment. Work is set to begin in early 2016 for a 2017 opening.

Oxford Mail – 8 April; Oxford Times – 9 April

ARNOLD (Notts)

The **Bonington Theatre** (based in Arnold Leisure Centre and run by Gedling Borough Council) is to install a new purpose-made cinema screen, together with a digital projector and Dolby sound system.

Sent in by Terry Hanstock

ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE (Tameside, Greater Manchester)

An opening night of 19 August 2016 has been set for the **Tameside Hippodrome**. The grade II listed former cinema was closed by its Council owners in 2008 and has lain empty since. Now campaigners have earned permission to take over the lease and will pay a pepper-corn rent and foot the bills for repair with a mixture of fundraising and grants. See p 18 Bulletin 48/6. {2059}

Manchester Evening News – 26 February; sent in by Carl Chesworth & Nick Taylor

BASILDON (Essex)

Councillors told the developer of a new £20m cinema on top of the Eastgate Shopping Centre to submit a new design and delayed a decision on planning permission as a nearby business had objected to the plans. The revised plans were accepted a month later. The new reports mention ten screens, as opposed to the fifteen reported on p14 of the last Bulletin. Opening is expected by winter 2017; no operator has been mentioned.

Basildon Echo – 26 February, 27 March; sent in by Carl Chesworth

BELFAST

A cinema is amongst options being considered for the 1933 **Kings Hall**, owned by the Royal Ulster Agricultural Society. It closed as an exhibition and conference centre in June 2012.

Belfast Telegraph – 13 March

FROM PICTURES TO PINTS: Cinemas That Became Pubs

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Gavin McGrath, Flat E, 4 Meadow Close,
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BERKHAMSTED (Herts)



Owner of the **Rex**, James Hannaway, has cancelled matinées for parents and infants after complaints from staff and other customers. Staff had collected 'still warm' nappies from the floor and suffered 'misery' as they put up with first-time mothers with armoured tanks [prams] and a not always helpful attitude as they spread everything from the tank everywhere. Other audience members had complained about infants being allowed into screenings and threatened to report the cinema to the authorities if little faces in tanks turn up for a [15] certificate film. {11677} *photo taken April 2005 at CTA AGM*

Daily Mail – 10 April; sent in by Carl Chesworth & Barry Quinton

BEXHILL (East Sussex)

Wetherspoons have put in a planning application to convert the former **Curzon/Redstack** into one of their pubs. {27997}

Sent in by Andrew J Crotty

BIRMINGHAM (Central)

The future of the **Electric** has been secured after plans to build apartments next door were scrapped following objections. We reported on p 22 of Bulletin 49/1 the possibility that residents of these flats might object to noise pollution from the cinema. {9559}

Birmingham Post – 5 March

BOGNOR REGIS (West Sussex)

The **Picturedrome** opened its third screen in its landmark octagonal tower on Friday 26 March with workmen still putting the finishing touches to the auditorium that very afternoon. Costing around £100,000 it seats 33 patrons in four rows and utilises the available space in an attractive and effective manner. It boasts stadium seating with spacious leg room – there is 1.5m between rows – and the sightlines are superb. A £25,000 laser digital projector gives an outstandingly clear picture and, although there are no screen curtains, there is blue LED lighting around the screen. The auditorium has the latest hearing impaired technology and it can also cater for Power-Point presentations, which could bring in extra revenue when the screen is available for private hire. The opening of the eagerly awaited screen ③ marks the first stage in further improvements to the **Picturedrome** (1885, Arthur Smith). Building work will begin soon on screen ④ (to be built at the rear of the building in the cinema car park) while screen ① will have a new silver screen fitted as well as sound upgrades during April and May. {14782}

Bognor Regis View – 27 March; sent in by Mike Whitcombe

BOLTON (Lancs)

Construction work on the new 1,200-seat nine screen **Light** cinema to be built on top of the Market Place Shopping Centre started on 1 March. A large crane has been brought in to erect the steel framework of the cinema. The auditoria will seat between 80 and 270. It is expected to open in December.

Bolton Journal – 26 February, 26 March; Bolton News – 20 March; sent in by Philip Crompton

BOURNEMOUTH

Plans to use the basement of the former **IMAX** cinema as an art gallery have been rejected by the Council. The upper part of the building was demolished in 2013. {40986}

Daily Echo (Bournemouth) – 27 March

BRADFORD (West Yorks)



Workers have removed 200 tonnes of material from the inside of the former **New Victoria / Gaumont / Odeon** at the start of the £1.3m repairs programme. The twin domes have been reinforced and stripped of their covering ahead of plans to put new copper in place. The 1960s alterations are being removed to reveal the original 1930s décor. Tests are being carried out on the timber, steel and concrete to determine the strength of the building. The next big step is the serious and difficult demolition work needed to open up the original auditorium space, which has yet to be priced up and funded. The plans are to create a 4,000 capacity venue for live music and theatre at a total cost of about £18m. Video and photos from the *Yorkshire Post* at [tinyurl.com/qjds5tu] and the BBC at [tinyurl.com/qjds5tu]. See also Casework p5. {3677}

Yorkshire Post – 3 March; photo taken 5 March by John West

BRECHIN (Angus)

The Council has given permission for a community cinema in the **City Hall** to operate at a community rate. **Flicks** showed its first film on 11 April.

Evening Telegraph (Dundee) – 24 February

BRIGHTON

The grade II listed former **Astoria** has been sold to a student housing developer for £5.5m and is likely to be demolished. Attempts had been made to save it but all failed. It opened in December 1933 with 1,823 seats, full stage facilities and an organ. 70mm was installed in 1958 but it closed in May 1977. Bingo took over but the building has been disused since that closed around 1996. {1844}

The Argus (Brighton) – 8, 9 April; sent in by Barry Quinton

CAMBRIDGE



The former **Tivoli** was destroyed by fire on 14 March. It opened in March 1925 and films ceased in November 1956. It was used as a warehouse for many years and in 2004 was converted into a pub, known as *The Graduate*. It became a Wetherspoons pub in July 2010 under its original name, *The Tivoli*. Fire investigators were unable to access the building for several weeks as it was deemed unsafe to enter. {36849} photo taken July 2004

BBC News website – 14 March; *Cambridge News* – 18 March; sent in by David Alexander, Anthony Fulford-Brown & John West

CAMBUSLANG (South Lanark)



The former **Savoy**, designed by the Glasgow-born architect John Fairweather, reopened in January as a Wetherspoon pub. It's been called *The John Fairweather* in honour of its designer. His grandson was present at the opening. The original stage area has been retained as a feature dining area while the original decorative ceiling and balcony plasterwork have been restored. The balcony seating and one of the projectors have also been retained. The imposing four-storey building has been a local landmark on the south-eastern outskirts of Glasgow since 1929, when it opened as a cinema with facilities for theatrical use. It later became a bingo hall and was grade C listed in 2008. John Fairweather was one of Scotland's foremost cinema architects and is best known for designing the **Playhouse** Glasgow. When it opened in 1927, it was believed to be the largest cinema in Europe with seating for 4,400 patrons; it was demolished in 1987. It is thought that the **Playhouse** in Edinburgh is the only example of John Fairweather's work still in use as originally intended. {25853}

Wetherspoon News – spring 2015; photo taken July 2009 sent in by Jeremy Buck, John West & Mike Whitcombe.

CAMPBELTOWN (Argyll & Bute)

A further £300,000 has been awarded to the **Picture House** by Highlands and Island Enterprise, bringing the confirmed funding so far to £2.7m, just shy of the £2.8m target for the cinema's restoration. {16090}

Glasgow Herald, Press & Journal (Aberdeen) – 12 March

CANNOCK (Staffs)

A proposed multi-screen cinema has been cut from plans for a new designer shopping village at Mill Green. The news was welcomed by the proprietor of the independent three screen **Electric Palace Picture House**. The Council has indicated that if the proposed cinema does not go ahead, it will look at the possibility of a second cinema in the town centre.

Express & Star – 24 February, 2 March

CARDIFF

The five-screen 755-seat **Première** cinema was due to open on 10 April; tickets are only £4. It will have laser projection in four of the screens. It is housed in the former **Odeon** in the Capitol Centre, which closed in August 2001 after a life of only ten years. {6833}

South Wales Echo – 21 March; *Western Mail* – 9 April; sent in by Jon Williams

Planning permission has been granted to turn a grade II listed former tram shed in Grangetown into an Arts Centre with a 1,000-capacity performance space and a 40-seat cinema. See p16 last Bulletin.

Wales Online – 17 April

CARLISLE (Cumbria)

A stained glass window was rescued from the former **Lonsdale** before it was demolished. The 20ft by 7ft art deco mural of a sunrise over Carlisle Castle has been donated to the Council and it will be installed in the main auditorium of the **Old Fire Station**, a £1m arts and entertainment centre being built in Rickergate and due to open in May. See Casework p5. {14670}

News & Star (Cumbria) – 13 March

CHESTER

The new eleven-screen **Cineworld** was due to open on 8 May. The cinema is actually in Flintshire, North Wales and will replace the former **Cineworld** at the Greyhound Stadium, which was demolished last year. It will have an **IMAX** screen. Flintshire has not had a cinema since the **Plaza/Wedgewood** closed in January 1975.

Flintshire Chronicle – 2 April

CHIPPENHAM (Wilts)



The **Astoria Reel** is to have a £2m revamp. Three screens will be added in the disused bingo area downstairs, which closed in 2009, increasing the capacity from 370 to 655. Wheelchair access will be provided to the two upstairs screens, which will be refurbished, as will the front of the building. A café/bar will be added. The cinema celebrates its 76th birthday on 22 May.

Previous development plans had been put on hold; what may have changed this stance is the fact that the developers behind the Langley Park development on the old Westinghouse site, which had promised an “entertainment centre” have now announced that a cinema development is “unlikely”. As previously reported **Reel** have invested a lot of money in the **Astoria** over the last year with a new roof, boiler and redecoration but, having sat in one of the screens recently, the actual parts that the public see and use – seating, toilets etc are in much need of refurbishment; this announcement hopefully will address this! {24537} *photo taken March 2006*

Devises Gazette & Herald – 19 March; sent in by Carl Chesworth; also sent in with additional information by David Reeves



The **Palace** – formerly an Albany Ward cinema that closed in 1936 when the **Gaumont** opened in Timber Street – has been used for many things over the past decades from a workshop to storage but did get back to entertaining people as a nightclub, which closed some years ago amidst much public concern with regard to drunken and unruly behaviour! It has now passed into the hands of another nightclub owner, who has clubs in Bath, to be reopened as a new nightclub venue and I understand after much public opposition he has fulfilled those objections by installing soundproofing, a set minimum age limit entry and promises over crowd control/ behaviour but nothing seems to have been forthcoming about reopening? At one time the whole site was to be swept away with the old roller skating rink that was part of the **Palace** site and the old sorting office; the latter has now been taken over as a Sainsbury's local store so demolishing the site as a whole seems to have gone away for the moment. {48863}

Sent in by David Reeves; photo taken June 2013

CHORLEY (Lancs)

Reel Cinemas has announced plans to open a six-screen cinema at Market Walks Shopping Centre. Plans for the expansion of the centre have been out for public consultation and a planning application has been submitted.

Chorley Guardian – 31 March, 29 April; Lancashire Evening Post – 1 April

CLACTON-ON-SEA (Essex)

Planning permission has been granted for a six-screen cinema at the Clacton Factory Site. The operator of the two-screen **Century** (ex **Essoldo/Classic/Flicks** etc) says the plans will have a massive impact on the town centre and could lead to the closure of his cinema. It only reopened last June.

Clacton Gazette – 26 March; Colchester Gazette – 2 April

CORBY (Northants)

Construction of the 900-seat six-screen **Savoy** is on schedule for an opening in June.

Corby Evening Telegraph – 19 March; sent in by Chris Godbold & Trevor Haynes

CRAIGAVON (County Armagh, Northern Ireland)

The new eight-screen **Omniplex** opened on 267 March. One of the auditoria has a **MAXX** screen.

Lurgan Mail – 26 March

CROOK (Co Durham)



A group has been formed to save the former **Empire Palace** after the building was sold. The building is used as a motor accessories shop, which intends to relocate but the cinema is well preserved behind. It opened as a theatre in November 1910 and soon went over to cinema use, later becoming part of the **Essoldo** circuit. The original seats, ornate décor and signage are just as they were when the cinema closed around 1967; it was subsequently used for bingo. {43148}

Northern Echo – 12 April; photo taken August 2007

DEAL (Kent)



“We are ready roll with Cinema”, reports the *East Kent Mercury*. There has been a five year delay but the **Regent** has to be opened as a cinema for 20 years before it can be sold on. The developer has agreed land rights with Dover District Council and appointed as architect Arts Architecture International Ltd. A planning application is expected in late May. {32928}

East Kent Mercury – 30 April; sent in and photo by Martin Tapsell

DERBY

The fire-damaged **Assembly Rooms** will be demolished and replaced with a new City centre entertainment venue. It was built in 1977 and was used as a cinema in the 1990s. An insurance report says that poor construction and breached firewalls allowed the blaze to spread in March 2014. {45029}

Derby Telegraph – 24 February, 5 March; sent in by Peter Good & Bob Taylor

The Derby **Hippodrome Restoration Trust** is to make a Lottery bid to help it draw up a restoration plan. The new project manager for the site (see p16 last Bulletin) is supporting their efforts. The grade II listed building was badly damaged in 2008. {14683}

Derby Telegraph – 18 March; sent in by Peter Good

DOWNHAM MARKET (Norfolk)

The owners of **The Luxe** cinema in Wisbech have submitted a planning application to rejuvenate the former **Regent** with three screens and a wine bar. The plans retain the domed entrance foyer and the sweeping staircases. The cinema, built in 1928, closed in October 1976. It became a cycle museum then an antiques centre. In 2004 planning permission was granted to demolish it and build flats but nothing happened. It has been empty for at least six years.

[downhamweb.co.uk] – 14 April; Lynn News – 16 April

DUBLIN (Ireland)



Planning permission has been sought for apartments on the site of the former **Stella** in Mount Merrion. This large suburban cinema opened in 1955, closed in 1976 and is empty following a long period as a furniture shop. {26163}

Sent in & photo by Bob Bradshaw

The **Vue** cinema in the Liffey Valley Shopping Centre is to be reconfigured as part of the €26m expansion of the Centre. No further details have been given. {48796}

Irish Daily Mail – 24 February

EDINBURGH

The Lord Provost cut the ribbon on 20 March to open the new 1,182-seat seven-screen **Odeon** at Fort Kinnaird. **Odeon** had previously operated a twelve-screen cinema (ex **UCI**) on the site but that closed seven years ago and was demolished to enable the shopping centre to be expanded.

Edinburgh Evening News – 21, 26 March

ELY (Cambs)

Plans have been approved for a new six-screen **Cineworld**. The site alongside the A10 will be linked to the town centre via an underpass. No estimated opening date has been given.

Ely Standard, Ely Weekly News – 26 March, 1 April

EXETER (Devon)

The **Phoenix Theatre** has won an Arts Council grant of £320,745 to increase the capacity of the main auditorium by 94 and provide digital cinema facilities.

Express & Echo (Exeter) – 26 February

FARNBOROUGH (Hants)

The new seven-screen **Vue** multiplex has been delayed again. Planning permission was granted in March 2012 and the first announced opening was to have been by the end of 2013. This was later put back to summer 2014 but now but it may not now open until August, when environmental assessments have been carried out.

Aldershot News & Mail – 12 March

FARNHAM (Surrey)

There are rival proposals to bring a cinema to the town. One is to demolish the closed **Redgrave Theatre** and build a six-screen **Odeon** in its place. Another would develop the vacant site of the former **Regal** in East Street with a building incorporating a three-screen 400-seat cinema and refurbish the **Redgrave Theatre**.

Farnham Herald – 3 April

FRAMLINGHAM (Suffolk)

The town has a new 'soho style' pop-up cinema, **Little Lightning**. Described as a "cosy arthouse cinema in the country" it offers a glass of sparkling wine on arrival and two-course film-themed set menu. [www.littlelightning.net]

Sent in by Terry Hanstock

GATLEY (Stockport)

The owners of the former **Tatton** are bringing forward new plans to develop the site. The auditorium was demolished a while ago. It is hoped the retained façade will be incorporated in the plans. {2536}

Cheadle, Gatley & Cheadle Hulme Mail – February; sent in by Carl Chesworth

GRAVESEND (Kent)



Permission is expected to be refused to demolish the former **Gem/Regal**, currently occupied by a gym. It opened as a cinema in October 1914 and films ceased in August 1968. It became a bingo hall but this had closed by 2011. Previous planning applications to develop the building were refused in 2005 and 2007 but outline planning permission to demolish it was granted in 2012. {37338}

Gravesend Messenger – 12 March; photo taken November 2005

GRAYS (Essex)

There are rumours that the grade II* listed **State** could become a Wetherspoons pub. {1837}

Thurrock Gazette – 29 January; sent in by Margaret Burgoine

GUILDFORD (Surrey)

The former **Cannon** [etc] has been demolished. See p5 Bulletin 48/6. {44474}

Sent in by Ken Roe

HALIFAX (West Yorks)



The leasehold of the grade II listed former **ABC** is on the market with Fleurets agents. The reserve price is just £0 – offers invited! It opened in September 1938 as the **Regal** with 1,918 seats and designed by WR Glen. It was tripled in 1976 and closed in 2002. It was used as a nightclub, which closed in 2010. The CTA visited in August 2011 and found the circle virtually intact above the 'box' made in the stalls to contain the nightclub. See p5 Bulletin 45/6. {3331}

Halifax Courier – 6 March; photo taken on CTA visit, August 2011

HARWICH (Essex)

Plans to build a six-screen cinema, along with homes and a hotel, have won planning approval. The site is between the A120 and Stour Close in Dovercourt. No operator has been named.

Colchester Gazette – 2 April

HINCKLEY (Leics)

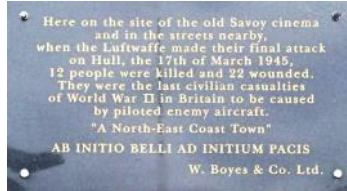
A new Iceland store has opened on the site of the former **Regent**. The auditorium of the former cinema, last used for bingo, was demolished last year, leaving the façade remaining. Ironically, Iceland had been told by the Council to find a new site to trade from, after it was issued with a Compulsory Purchase Order [CPO] so their old site could be used for the new **Cineworld** cinema.

Hinckley Times – 19 March

HULL (East Yorks)

A ceremony was held on the site of the former **Savoy** in Holderness Road to mark the 70th anniversary of an attack on 17 March 1945 when a lone German Heinkel 111 opened fire with machine guns as it flew across the City. 12 people were killed and another 22 injured, many of whom were leaving the cinema after a film. There was no structural damage to the building as no explosives were used. The cinema opened in October 1923 with 1,377 seats and closed in July 1960. Today a Boyes store stands on the site, with a plaque remembering the attack. {48601}

BBC News website – 17 March; Hull Daily Mail – 18 March; sent in by David Alexander



The former **Mayfair** on Beverley Road has been converted into 30 apartments to let from £475 per month; the façade has been retained. The cinema opened in October 1929 with 1,936 seats in stalls and circle. It closed in November 1964 in favour of bingo. In 1998 it was converted into a pub, which closed in 2011. {44995}

Hull Daily Mail – 23 March; sent in by David Alexander; photo taken July 2005

INVERNESS (Highland)

Uncertainty surrounds plans (reported on p22 of Bulletin 48/5) to build an eight-screen cinema as part of the expansion of the East-gate Shopping Centre as the Centre has been put on the market for £120m. The present owners acquired it just two years ago.

Inverness Courier – 6 March

IPSWICH (Suffolk)

The new owners of the Buttermarket Centre want to put in a sixteen-screen cinema. They have applied to the Council to amend the planning consent that was granted two years ago to **Vue** cinemas to create a nine-screen multiplex in the centre; that scheme fell down. The new application would see auditoria range in size from 507 seats to 66 seats and include a luxury bar and video games centre. If permission is granted, work could start in early summer with a view to opening by Christmas 2016.

Ipswich Star – 17 April

KINGS LYNN (Norfolk)

25 new homes are being built on the site of the former **Pilot**, which was demolished in summer 2014. {42467}

Eastern Daily Press – 14 April

LEEDS (West Yorks)

Expansion plans for the White Rose Shopping Centre have been given the go-ahead. They include a **Cineworld** multiplex with an **IMAX** screen. There are concerns this will affect the **IMAX** screen at the **National Media Museum** in Bradford, which is run by **Picturehouse** cinemas, owned by **Cineworld**.

Yorkshire Evening Post – 24 March; Morley Observer & Advertiser – 1 April

LINCOLN

The former SuperBowl site in Tritton Road has been sold. The building was home to the first **Odeon** multiplex in the City, which opened in November 1995 with six screens, before they moved in October 2001 to the current site at Brayford Wharf, which has nine screens. The future of the building has not been disclosed. {25898}

The Lincolnite – 16 February; sent in by Carl Chesworth

LIVERPOOL (Central)

The grade II listed former **Forum/ABC** on Lime Street is to be converted into a 1,500 capacity entertainment venue. The auditorium would retain its upper circle of seating while the ground floor would be able to cater for standing or seated crowds. A sound stage would offer facilities for live transmission and there would also be a TV studio overlooking the auditorium. The cinema opened in May 1931 with 1,835 seats. It was tripled in 1982 and closed in January 1998. It has lain empty since. {6521}

Liverpool Echo – 9 March

LIVERPOOL (Old Swan)

The former **Curzon** has been demolished; a Home Bargains store will be built on the site. The cinema opened in 1936 with 1,750 seats and films ceased in 1960. See p 23 Bulletin 48/3. {44852}

Liverpool Echo – 16 March

LIVERPOOL (Speke)

Cineworld is to be the operator of a new cinema to be built at the New Mersey Shopping Park, if planning permission is granted.

Liverpool Echo – 21 February, 31 March, 1 April

LONDON (Alexandra Palace)

Alexandra Palace has been given £18.8m from the Heritage Lottery Fund to restore the eastern part of the building, which has been derelict for 35 years. Plans include renovating the hidden theatre, dating back to 1875; it will have 1,300 seats. Material from the BBC archives will be shown in revamped TV studios, where the broadcaster first launched a regular television service almost 80 years ago. The £26.7m project will start in 2016 and be finished by 2018. The theatre showed films between about 1908 and 1914, The CTA presented a silent film show there in 2003. Much of the original stage machinery still exists and this will be accessible by special tours once the building is restored. {44961}

BBC News website – 25 March; sent in by David Alexander & Jeremy Buck

LONDON (Battersea)



A serious fire damaged the **Battersea Arts Centre** in the grade II listed **Town Hall** on 13 March. The building was nearing completion of a multi-million pound renovation, including the Norman & Beard organ. The 200-seat Grand Hall was the most damaged part of the building, leaving only the outer walls standing. The following day performances went ahead in the two smaller auditoria [70 & 75 seats]. A fundraising drive was immediately begun to help with a rebuilding of the Grand Hall. {28359}

Sent in by Ken Roe; photo courtesy Edwardx, creative commons licence

LONDON (Bethnal Green)



The independent **Rich Mix** arts centre and three-screen cinema is being taken to court by Tower Hamlets Council over the non-repayment of an £850,000 loan. It was granted in 2003 but nothing was signed as to how it would be paid back. Now the Council is demanding a lump sum and have rejected the offer of a long-term payment plan. The dispute could force the venue to close. {21146}

Evening Standard – 6 April; photo taken September 2006

LONDON (Bloomsbury)

We reported on p20 of the last Bulletin that the **Renoir** was due to reopen as the six-screen **Curzon Bloomsbury** on 27 March. One of the screens is called the **Bertha DocHouse** and will show documentaries all year round.

Screen Daily – 23 March

LONDON (Chalk Farm)

A three-screen cinema to be built on the former Marine Ices site (announced on p23 Bulletin 48/6) will have a giant ice cream cone design built into the brickwork on the side of the building in deference to the site's 82-year history of producing ice cream. Planning permission is expected to be applied for later this year. Squatters moved into the building in January.

Camden New Journal – 26 February

LONDON (Hounslow)

Plans have been submitted for a 27-storey residential tower, incorporating a ten-screen cinema, on land between the High Street and ASDA. No operator has been named. Subject to permission, the development is due for completion in early 2018.

GetWestLondon – 18 March; sent in by Carl Chesworth

LONDON (Ilford)



Plans have been approved to demolish the former **Astoria/State** in Seven Kings and put up a six-storey building with 32 flats. It opened around 1914 with full stage facilities; films and variety shows were presented. It was refurbished in 1955 but closed in May 1960. It became bingo for a while but later became a banqueting suite, catering for the Irish community. {31351}

Ilford Recorder – 4 March; photo taken July 2006

LONDON (Islington)

The grade II* listed former **Carlton** has been officially reopened as **Gracepoint** a 900-capacity venue available for hire five days a week as well as an active church with services. Many original art deco features have been restored as well as its Egyptian façade. The CTA visited last August – see p11 Bulletin 49/1. {15111}

Islington Gazette – 31 March, 2 April

LONDON (Kings Cross)

A small cinema is to be included in a new 10-storey office development. The area has not had a cinema for over a decade.

Evening Standard – 17 April; sent in by Keith Bye

LONDON (Marble Arch)

Westminster Council has resolved to grant planning permission for the development of Marble Arch Tower. The 22-storey 1960s office block will be demolished and replaced with two new buildings. A six-screen cinema will replace the current five-screen **Odeon**.

Out-Law.com – 18 February; sent in by Carl Chesworth

LONDON (Shepherds Bush)

The former **Palladium**, last used as a Walkabout pub looks set to be demolished to make way for a 16-storey apartment tower. The site is next door to the former **Pavilion/Odeon**, which has been converted into a hotel. It is the owners of this hotel who have submitted the planning application. {3776}

London Weekly News – 2 April

LONDON (Tottenham)

The **Bernie Grant Arts Centre** is to open a 36-seat boutique cinema in the Hub building. [www.berniegrantcentre.co.uk]

Tottenham & Wood Green Independent – 20 February

LONDON (West End)

The £6m restoration of the **Regent Street Cinema** was due to open 7 May. It will be able to show all formats from 8mm, 16mm, 35mm and 4k digital. The theatre was added to the 1838 Regent Street Polytechnic in 1848 and initially used for science lectures. In 1896 it hosted the UK's first demonstration of moving pictures by the Lumière Brothers. The UK's first [X] rated film premiered at the cinema in 1951. The restored cinema houses the original organ. The current décor dates from the 1920s alterations. See *London's West End Cinemas* p6, p45 & p205. {21245}

Independent on Sunday – 29 March

The **Odeon** Leicester Square hosted an exclusive live concert on 1 May when Oscar-nominated composer and Grammy Award winner Antonio Sanchez performed music from his new album with his band Migration, followed by a screening of the film *Birdman* for which he composed the score.

Sent in by Allen Eyles

LONDON (Woolwich)



The **Woolwich Grand** closed suddenly at the beginning of April. The building is to be redeveloped for flats. It was always on the cards that this might happen but the news came out of the blue. Staff came in to find the locks changed. It was the former **Regal/ABC**, which opened in September 1955 and closed in November 1982. It was used as a nightclub for a while then a community group had plans to develop it as a live theatre and performance space. {19968}

Woolwich Grand email – 10 April; sent in by Richard Jones

LUDDENDEN FOOT (West Yorks)

Thanks to funding from the 'Big Lottery' a pop-up cinema was held on 21 March at the **Civic Centre**. This is the start of a new venture to provide a cinema club for the village [near Halifax].

Courier (Halifax) – 20 March

LUTON (Beds)



A planning application has been submitted to refurbish the front section of the former **ABC** in George Street, which would then be sub-let to a Pentecostal church. The pastor has said the building will be able to be used by all. The cinema's auditoria would be untouched and sealed off from the rest of the building. The cinema opened as the **Savoy** in October 1938, designed by William R Glen. It was tripled in 1971 and closed in November 2000; it has lain empty since. **Late News:** Local radio reported on 17 April that the planning application has been refused by Luton Borough Council. {6248}

Luton News – 4 March; Luton on Sunday – 22 March; sent in & March 2015 photo by Margaret Burgoine

MACCLESFIELD (Cheshire)

Debenhams have pulled out of the proposed 'Silk Street' development, putting the future of the included cinema in doubt. **Cineworld** has confirmed its commitment to the town. The Council has said that it will make funds available for the leisure element of the proposals.

Macclesfield Express – 4 March; sent in by Carl Chesworth

MANCHESTER (Central)



The **Cornerhouse** held its last screening on 4 April. In May it will reopen at **HOME**, which includes a 450-seat theatre and five cinemas. The old building will be used by the University. {2677}

Manchester Evening News – 28 March, 6 April; The Guardian – 3, 4 April; sent in by Carl Chesworth & Richard Lysons; photo taken October 2005

MANCHESTER (Didsbury)

Cineworld has been fined £9,500 with £2,573 costs for breach of Health and Safety laws after two staff suffered electric shocks from a popcorn machine at its eleven-screen cinema at Parrs Wood. The machine had a faulty switch and panel missing, meaning a live circuit board was exposed. The fault was reported but management switched off the wrong machine. {25058}

Sent in by Carl Chesworth

MIDSOMER NORTON (Somerset)

The opening of the Wetherspoons pub in the former **Palladium** [reported on p21 last Bulletin] has been delayed after roosting bats were found in the building. Further surveys will have to be carried out. The venue is now hoping to open in September. See Internet Corner p28. {28883}

Western Daily Press, Somerset Guardian – 2 April; sent in by Phillip Stevens

MILTON KEYNES

An old oak tree that had a shopping centre built around it is to be removed as it has become structurally unstable. The Midsummer Place centre will be roofed-in and an "alternative chic cinema" is amongst the development plans.

BBC News website – 12 March

MORLEY (West Yorks)

The former **Picture House** in Morley, near Leeds, has reopened as a Wetherspoon pub. It is on two floors and features a large vaulted ceiling. It's believed that the **Picture House** was the west Yorkshire town's first purpose-built cinema. It closed in 1960 and most recently had housed two shops. There is a beer garden to the rear of the premises as well as a rooftop terrace (on top of what would have been the original foyer). The pub was opened by Arthur Firth, who worked as an assistant projectionist at the cinema in 1955 when he was sixteen years old. See photo on front cover. {20726}

Wetherspoon News – spring 2015; sent in by John West & Mike Whitcombe

NEWARK (NOTTS)

The grade II listed former Old Magnus Buildings are being converted into the National Civil War Centre. The venue will include a 40-seat cinema showing short films about the town's rôle in the Civil War.

Newark Advertiser – 19 March

NEWPORT (South Wales)



The grade II listed former **Odeon** is on the market again for offers above £300,000. The exterior has recently been refurbished. {3420}

Wales Online – 31 March; South Wales Evening Post – 1 April; sent in by Carl Chesworth; photo taken June 2013

NOTTINGHAM



The **Majestic** in Woodborough Road was successfully sold at auction last November but there's no sign of anything happening to the building under its new ownership. Contrary to what I reported on p25 Bulletin 48/6, the basement (where the stalls would have been) is in use as a martial arts academy. Operated by JJBBa Martial, it still has a film connection of sorts, the owner being a friend of Jean Claude Van Damme. {45066}

Sent in & photo by Terry Hanstock



The **Theatre Royal** has started celebrations to mark its 150th anniversary on 25 September. It opened in 1865, designed by Frank Matcham; a plaque in his honour will be unveiled there. Agatha Christie's *The Mousetrap* premièred here in 1952 and returned 62 years later. The CTA visited in May 2008.

BBC News website; sent in by David Alexander

Plans submitted for the redevelopment of the Broadmarsh Shopping Centre include – yes, you've guessed it again – a multiplex cinema. It could be open by 2018. No operator has been mentioned.

Nottingham Post – 7 April

Nottingham now has a 'micro cinema' above The Castle pub – as you'd expect this is just across the road from Nottingham Castle. Offering "big films in a small space", **The Castle Moviehouse** screens films every Friday, Saturday and Sunday evening. Fittings include refurbished cinema seats rescued from an unnamed closed down picture house. [castlemovies.co.uk]

Sent in by Terry Hanstock

OSWESTRY (Shropshire)

Work began in February on a new £45m development at the old livestock market. It will incorporate a five-screen **Cineworld**, due to open in 2016.

Shropshire Star – 24 February; Oswestry & Border Counties Advertiser – 3 March

OXFORD

Demolition has started on the Westgate multi-storey car park in preparation for a new scheme, which will incorporate a five-screen **Curzon** cinema. Opening is expected by autumn 2017.

Oxford Mail – 12 March

PETERBOROUGH (Cambs)

A public consultation is being held on plans for a development at North Westgate to include an eight-screen multiplex. Talks are ongoing with a proposed [un-named] operator and planning permission is expected to be applied for in May or June. It is hoped that construction could get under way early in 2016 with a view to opening in 2017/18. Peterborough already has a thirteen-screen **Showcase**.

Evening Telegraph (Peterborough) – 19 March

PLYMOUTH (Devon)

Permission has been granted to demolish the former Bretonside coach station. It will be replaced with a development incorporating a twelve-screen **Cineworld**.

BBC News website – 13 March

PORT TALBOT (Neath)

A business plan for the development of the grade II listed **Plaza** has been put before the Council. It is proposed to turn it into an arts centre, theatre and dance school; it could also show films again. It opened in April 1940 but wasn't completed until war restrictions were lifted after 1950. It closed 1983 and became bingo, which closed in 1985. The cinema reopened and in 1988 was converted into four screens. It finally closed in January 1999. {18212}

South Wales Evening Post – 26 February; Western Mail – 2 March

PORTHMADOG (Gwynedd)

On Wednesday 1 April several people went and stripped this out, including the projection room (Vic 8s) etc, balcony seats, speakers etc. In May there is a bat inspection and, if this raises no issues, the cinema will be demolished. It has been sold to a development company for about £235,000.

Sent in by Trevor Harris

POYNTON (Cheshire)

The former **Brookfield** Cinema has been demolished. It opened in 1930 and closed in the mid-1950s. It has had various uses since, including a garage and a nightclub but has been empty since around 2003. There were originally two Russell Newbury diesel generator sets in the basement under the stage; these were removed a while back by a local museum and are in safe storage. I think that BTH projectors were installed at one time, but I have no idea what happened to these. See p25 Bulletin 48/6. {37404}

Sent in by Christopher Kearney

PRESTATYN (Denbigh)

The Council has appointed Aurora Leisure the new leaseholders of the **Scala**, saying they had a "proven track record in turning around the fortunes of struggling community cinemas". The centre had reopened after a £3.5m restoration programme in 2009 but closed in January after funding problems. The company, who operate the **Cinema** in Thurso [see p27], says it aims to have the cinema open by late April. It has promised to hold a public meeting before then to listen to the customer and the community. {23237}

Rhyl, Prestatyn & Abergelle Journal – 11, 18 March;

BBC News website – 5 March; sent in by David Alexander

PRESTON (Lancs)

Permission has been granted to demolish the seven-screen **Vue** at Walton-le-Dale. **Vue** has confirmed it will not renew the lease when it expires in 2016 but has declined to comment on whether it will relocate to the City centre. See p21 last Bulletin. {25252}

Lancashire Evening Post – 16 March

RAMSGATE (Kent)

The **West Cliff Hall** could be demolished after a survey revealed the building has significant structural problems. It has been empty since 2005 when a Motor Museum in the premises closed. There have been plans to demolish it and build an arts and entertainment complex, including a theatre, cinema and restaurant.

Isle of Thanet Gazette – 20 February; sent in by Margaret Burgoine

REDHILL (Surrey)

Proposals for the redevelopment of Marketfield Way, incorporating a six-screen cinema, have been put before the Council. The plans have been recommended for approval and contracts could be awarded in the first half of 2016.

Surrey Mirror – 26 February

RINGWOOD (Hants)



A petition to restore the **Regal** has been signed by over 800 residents. It occupied the 1868 **Corn Exchange** from 1914 to 1972. It was converted into a shopping arcade with a squash court above, which later became a nightclub. The building has been empty for several years. Permission was granted in 2008 for demolition and a mixed use development but nothing happened. {28134}

Daily Echo (Bournemouth) – 17 April; sent in by Philip Stevens; photo taken March 2009

RYE (East Sussex)

The recently-opened two-screen **Kino** has been shortlisted for the Royal Institute of British Architects [RIBA] South East Awards. See p13 last Bulletin. {47891}

Battle Observer – 13 March

SCARBOROUGH (North Yorks)

Plans for a seven-screen cinema at North Bay have been refused by Councillors, despite a recommendation by planners that they be passed. Planning permission was granted in 2008 for a five-screen cinema on the North Street car park in the town centre; it is thought this is the Council's favoured site.

Scarborough News – 17 April

The latest bid to save the **Futurist** (reported on p22 of the last Bulletin) has not been welcomed by campaigners, who have called it a "pointless diversion". They say the Council cannot legally accept it, as the closing date was last August and they are now in discussions with the preferred bidder, Flamingoland. The Council did not discuss the bid at its meeting on 27 February and a decision is unlikely until a new Council sits after the May election. See Letters p29. {1842}

Scarborough News – 23 February, 1 March; sent in by Harry Fisher

SCUNTHORPE (Lincs)



The former **ABC/Ritz** has been demolished. It opened in February 1937 with 1,063 seats on a single floor and a Compton organ. Films ceased in January 1974 and it became a ballroom. In September 1985 the front stalls and stage area were converted into an ice rink and the rear stalls and foyer became a nightclub. {34985}

Sent in by Ken Roe; photo taken October 2006

SHEFFIELD



The carpet sales business in the former **Capitol** at Lane Top was due to close on 31 March. The cinema opened in September 1936 with 1,716 seats, designed by George Coles. It became the **Essoldo** in 1950 and the **Vogue** in 1972. It closed in October 1975 and became bingo and later a furniture warehouse. {25450}

Sent in by Mike Higginbottom; photo taken August 2005



The independent four-screen **Showroom** will be 20 years old this year. It is to have a £250,000 refurbishment with new seats, fresh carpets, better lighting, updated technical equipment and a high-quality foyer area and toilets. The money will be raised in several ways, including a public appeal. The building is a former car showroom. {25310} *photo [bottom previous column] taken February 2005*

Sheffield Telegraph – 5 March; sent in by Carl Chesworth & Terry Hanstock



The Tesco (ex Somerfield) supermarket in the former **Manor** cinema closed in March. The cinema opened in December 1927 and was taken over by **Star** Cinemas in 1958. In later days cinema and bingo operated alternately but final closure came in June 1969. It is not known what will happen to the building. {25857}

Sent in by Mike Higginbottom; photo taken May 2004

Efforts are stepping up to preserve the grade II listed former **Abbeylea** cinema. A flea market was held on 26 April and there was also an art exhibition and tours of the building. On 18 & 19 July a film weekend will be held. The first film shown there, *The Call of the Road* will be projected in 35mm with a live music accompaniment. See p21 Bulletin 48/4. {22681}

Sheffield Star – 21 April; event organiser's email – 15 April; sent in by Gerald Glover & Stuart Smith

SHEPPERTON (Surrey)

Since the end of January, the **Korda Theatre** at Shepperton Studios has been hosting weekly screenings for members of the public. No one under the age of 15 is permitted to access the cinema. Due to studio regulations, anyone between the ages of 15-18 years old will need to be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Tickets can only be bought in advance – there are no sales at the door. This is the second cinema in the chain, after Pinewood and is operated in conjunction with **Curzon** cinemas. [www.pinewoodcinema.com]

Shepperton Matters – April 2015; sent in by John Warner

SIDMOUTH (Devon)

A collection at the **Radway** during the three-week run of *The Theory of Everything* raised over £1,000 for sufferers of motor neurone disease. The charity is hoping to buy iPads so sufferers can speak to loved ones; the disease attacks the motor neurone nerves, which allow people to grip, walk, speak, breathe and swallow. {25329}

Devon24 – 27 February; sent in by Richard Jones

SITTINGBOURNE (Kent)

Plans have been approved for a town centre development incorporating a seven-screen cinema. Negotiations are continuing with **Vue** to be the operator. It is expected to be open by summer 2017.

Sittingbourne News Extra – 18 March

SKELMERSDALE (Lancs)

Reel Cinemas has been named as the anchor tenant for a development in the town centre and has committed to a 15-year lease.

Southport Visitor – 17 March; sent in by Carl Chesworth

SLEAFORD (Lincs)

The Indian restaurant in the ground floor of the former **Picturedrome** closed in March. The owners plan to open up a new snooker club as soon as possible in the space. It would be part of the Sports Bar, which currently operates in the upper part of the building. The cinema opened in November 1920. See p24 Bulletin 48/1. {18430}

Sleaford Target, Sleaford Standard – 25 March



SOUTHAMPTON

The **Harbour Lights** celebrates its 20th anniversary this year. Opened in 1995 amongst great acclaim, it lasted only nine months before closure. A local Conservative councillor (who later lost his position on the Council!) launched a vitriolic attack on the cinema in the *Daily Echo*, labelling it as a 'Porn Palace'. The *Daily Echo* followed suit with similar invective, saying that almost £1m of taxpayers' money had been wasted on the cinema. A number of letters appeared in the *Daily Echo*, both for the cinema and against. Correspondence continued for some time. Sometime later, when the prospects of reopening were mentioned, the *Daily Echo* seemed to have changed its tune and welcomed the likelihood of reopening. It was eventually taken over by **City Screen** who still run the cinema today. A small sample of the *Echo's* correspondence is on show in the cinema together with photos of the cinema being built. A recent magazine article describes the cinema as a "Quirky Little Cinema" and that bigger and better cinemas have been popping up everywhere. This seems to run the cinema down as the **Harbour Lights** is one of the best cinemas I know. It has two screens, showing films normally side-lined by the multiplexes, some main stream films and one-day showings of revivals. The cinema has ties with the BFI and shows films that have extended showings at the **NFT** in London. The 'Discover Tuesdays' and 'Vintage Sundays' often show older films. The café bar, called Food and Drink, offers a selection of food and drink with a reduction in price for cinema members. There is also a Slackers Club, Film Quiz Night, Silver Screen showings for older members, Toddler Time and Big Scream for parents with children. A recent innovation is the screening of live stage shows. And what other cinema offers a free view over a yacht marina? The initial furore has now died down and I look forward to the next 20 years. {6173}

Southampton Daily Echo – 21 February;
sent in and additional material by Ian Patterson

SOUTHEND-ON-SEA (Essex)

A new football stadium for Southend United could include a twelve-screen cinema. The stadium plans have been in doubt because the club is reliant on Sainsbury's buying up the existing ground for a new store. If a new cinema is built as part of the plans it would be the third in Southend, with **Odeon** at the top of the High Street and **Cineworld** planned for the Seaway development

Basildon Echo – 6 April; *Halstead Gazette* – 7 April

STAFFORD

The former **Picture House**, now a Wetherspoon pub, shows films on a big screen every Wednesday in honour of the building's heritage. The **Picture House** opened as a cinema in February 1914 and screened films until the 1990s. It opened as a Wetherspoon pub in March 1997. {22692}

Wetherspoon News – spring 2015; sent in by John West & Mike Whitcombe

STOWMARKET (Suffolk)

Following increased admissions at the Council-owned **Regal**, the possibility of a second auditorium is being evaluated. Further improvements have already been announced – see p22 last Bulletin. {6241}

East Anglian Daily Times – 8 April

SWANSEA

The owners of the **Palace Theatre** have been given more time to carry out work on the property to make it safe. The Council has said that grant funding is available if the work is completed to a satisfactory standard. A cherry picker has arrived on site to start work higher up the building. See p 6 last Bulletin. {22953}

South Wales Evening Post – 22 January; sent in by Peter Good

TENBY / DINBYCH-Y-PYSGOD (Pembroke)

The Council has discussed a proposal to apply for Lottery funding to provide cinema facilities at the De Valence Pavilion. The **Royal Playhouse** closed in early 2011 and there are plans to develop the site.

Tenby Observer – 20 February

THETFORD (Norfolk)

Light Cinemas is to operate a new three-screen cinema to be built as part of the Riverside Project on the former bus station site. It will be at first-floor level above a café and bar on the ground floor. It is expected to open in early 2017.

Eastern Daily Press – 20 February; *Thetford & Brandon Times* – 25 February

THIRSK (North Yorks)



Volunteers are celebrating the 20th anniversary of running the **Ritz** as a non-profit venture. It was saved from closure in 1994 and, after being run by the Council for a year, was handed over to volunteers. {3372}

The Press (York) – 26 February; photo taken January 2006

THURSO (Highland)

The boiler at the **Thurso Cinema** broke down and could not be repaired as it was obsolete. Engineers have come up with a way to recover the waste heat from the projectors and, together with low cost heaters, this makes a cost effective way of heating the building. The cinema has two screens, seating 152 and 88 and opened in 2012 in the former **All St@r Factory** cinema, which had closed in 2009. {27141}

Caithness Courier – 11 March

TIVERTON (Devon)

A Council report proposes that the **Tivoli** should be demolished and replaced with a "boutique type operation" offering more screens. The operator, Merlin Cinemas, said they were committed to remain in the town and had been working with the Council about redevelopment plans. Merlin had previously announced their intention to add more screens in the future. {20863}

Bampton & Dulverton Gazette – 31 March

TONYREFAIL (Rhondda Cynon Taff)



The grade II listed former **Savoy** reopened on 9 April as a live theatre. See p22 Bulletin 47/4. {22977}

Sent in by Ken Roe; photo taken July 2008

TOTNES (Devon)

A planning application has been submitted to turn the former library back into the cinema it was until it closed in 1964. The building was the **Temperance Hall** and first became a cinema in 1946. It became the **Romany** cinema in 1951 and operated until 1964. The cost of the project is estimated at £250,000. See p29 Bulletin 49/1.

South Devon & Plymouth Times – 18 March

TROWBRIDGE (Wiltshire)

During a recent cinema trip to the West of England I called at the **Odeon** multiplex, situated in a small leisure park just off the town centre. Opened on 25 October 2013, it has seven screens. This is rather old news but I was captivated by the exterior. To my mind, it is extremely eye-catching and imaginative and far from the oft-maligned 'functional box'. There is even the hint of a traditional **Odeon** 'fin'. See photo on front cover. {43674}

Sent in by David Simpson

TUNBRIDGE WELLS (Kent)

The **Opera House** a former opera house and cinema but now a Wetherspoon pub, once again rang to the sound of an aria when the Mercury Opera Company gave two performances of its latest show *The Barber of Seville* at the start of 2015. A sold out audience, totalling almost 300 customers, enjoyed a Sunday matinée or evening show, either from the balcony or in boxes and stalls.

Wetherspoon News – spring 2015; sent in by Mike Whitcombe

A planning application has been submitted for a three-screen **Curzon** cinema in the former 'Day at the Wells' tourist attraction in The Pan-tiles, which closed in 2004. It could be open by summer 2016.

Kent & Sussex Courier – 1, 3, 7, 8 April; Times of Tunbridge Wells – 8 April

WALSALL

We reported on p23 of the last Bulletin that construction had started on a nine-screen **Vue** cinema in Littleton Street West. Now we have received a report that work has been delayed and it is not now expected to open until next year. A change in the design of the drainage and sewer work is blamed for the rescheduling.

Walsall Chronicle – 26 February

WARRINGTON

Plans have been submitted for a ten-screen 2,000-seat **Cineworld** in the Bridge Street development. It will incorporate an **IMAX** screen.

Warrington Guardian – 9 April

Eight arrests have been made after a serious fire virtually destroyed the former **Ritz/ABC** on 14 April. 7 juveniles were held in custody on suspicion of arson and an older man was released without charge. The former cinema opened in August 1937 and was converted into a cinema upstairs and bingo downstairs in 1972. Both closed in 1982 and the building became a nightclub; it had been empty since that closed in 2010. There had been plans to demolish it or convert it into a youth centre; it was now demolished within 48 hours of the fire as it was in a dangerous condition. There are lots of pictures of the fire and demolition on the websites of the newspapers mentioned below. See p29 Bulletin 48/5. {29137}

Warrington Guardian, Manchester Evening News, Liverpool Echo – 14, 15 April; sent in by Carl Chesworth, John Forster, Christopher Kearney, Richard Lysons & Ken Roe

WATFORD (Herts)

Plans (reported on p30 Bulletin 49/1) to demolish the former **Central Hall/Regal/Essoldo** have been passed by the Council after initially deferring the decision. The developer said it would not be viable to provide 35% affordable housing as per the Council's policy. {11698}

Watford Observer – 27 February, 20 March; Watford Free – 5 March

WELLINGTON (Shropshire)

The Town Council has granted £5,000 to set up a working group to develop a business plan for the future of the former **Clifton**. The group is trying to buy the building, last used as a Dunelm store and turn it in to an Arts Centre but it is understood there is an offer from a developer on the table. {37745}

Shropshire Star – 9, 13, 19 March

WELLS (Somerset)



A local entrepreneur is working with the current owner of the former **Regal** to revive variety nights in the City. The shows are proposed once a month; the audience will enter the building on a red carpet through the main doors, which have remained shut since the cinema closed in 1993. The grade II listed building is currently used as a nightclub. See letters p31. {22111}

Wells Journal – 23 April; sent in by John Wills; photo taken June 2013

WESTON-SUPER-MARE (Somerset)

Cineworld has increased the size of its proposed cinema at the Dolphin Square development. The developers believe this will unlock the stalemate that has dogged the project. Construction was due to start in late 2013 but dates have come and gone. The revised cinema will have 1,572 seats with increased legroom and eight screens, some more than 9m high.

Weston Mercury – 5 March

WHITELEY (Hants)

Construction delays blamed on poor weather have set back the progress on the nine-screen **Cineworld** by about two months. It is now expected to open in mid-October.

The News (Portsmouth) – 26 March

WICKHAM MARKET (Suffolk)

Wickham Market Movies has been given £10,000 from the National Lottery, £600 by Suffolk Coastal District Council and a further sum from an anonymous donor to pay for a motorised, retractable screen to be installed in the village hall's ceiling along with a high-definition projector.

East Anglian Daily Times – 27 February; sent in by Terry Hanstock

YORK

A twelve-screen cinema could be incorporated in a development of a new stadium at Monks Cross for York football and rugby clubs. Plans have been approved and construction is expected to start in July. No operator has been mentioned. York already has a twelve-screen **Vue** at Clifton Moor.

The Press (York) – 21 March; Yorkshire Post – 26, 27 March

INTERNET CORNER

- ★ [www.theatresonline.com] A database of hundreds of UK theatres with information, seating plans and links.
- ★ [afterthefinalcurtain.net] A photographic documentation of the effects of years of neglect and decay in some of America's greatest theaters. Some beautiful photographs.
- ★ [levyboy.com/cinema.htm] On the cinemas of the Levenshulme area (Manchester) and links to other nostalgia pages.
- ★ [tinyurl.com/pj3lhgh] A link to a Facebook page *Welsh Cinema Photo History* – which is exactly what the name implies.
- ★ [playingbingo.co.uk/gallery] has links to pages of photo galleries of current and former bingo halls, many in former cinemas.
- ★ [www.nuneatonhistory.com] A local history website with information about the former **Ritz** and its organ. Click on *Save the Ritz and Films* in the menu on the left of the page.
- ★ [picturepalace.org] A thorough history of Liverpool cinemas.
- ★ [tinyurl.com/ovntg5m] A short (40s, silent) film from the Media Archive for Central England [MACE] on the opening of Cinerama at the **ABC** Bristol Road in Birmingham in 1963.
- ★ [www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-29816153] England's Lost Theme Parks – has a couple of cinema photos, including an aerial shot of **Dreamland** Margate. *Sent in by Robert Holden*
- ★ [dalstonist.co.uk/search/cinema] An index to articles on that website related to cinema in the Hackney area of London. *Sent in by Richard Norman*
- ★ [tinyurl.com/mhj8re3] A *Somerset Guardian* picture gallery of the **Palladium** Midsomer Norton. *Sent in by Philip Stevens*
- ★ [www.youtube.com/watch?v=xzYKsJQkXlw] An 8-minute video on the **Musical Museum** Brentford and its Wurlitzer organ.
- ★ [vimeo.com/114539857] A 2-minute fly-through video of the development in the former **Capitol** Aberdeen.
- ★ [tinyurl.com/onoz7mo] A flickr page of pictures of the **Shelley Theatre** in Bournemouth. *Sent in by Philip Stevens*
- ★ [tinyurl.com/muh8ec7] An item from the *Newcastle Chronicle* "21 cinemas you might have forgotten about in Newcastle and the North East" with a gallery of photos.
- ★ [tinyurl.com/q8s7gl4] A gallery of photos from the *Newcastle Chronicle* showing the conversion of the **Ritz** Wallsend into a Wetherspoons pub.

LETTERS

CERTIFICATION

A fascinating letter by Ian Patterson got me thinking about how film certification affected me as a teenager in the 1950s. Obviously I wanted to get around the problem and as a young boy would ask adults to “take me in” if it was an [A] film. I was never refused! But in teenage years I wanted to gain access to films that were daring and maybe salacious too. I managed to get in to see *Women of Twilight* [X] when I was 14. No big deal. It wasn't all that salacious! I remember coming out of the **Ritz/ABC** in Barnsley hugely disappointed! The [X] rating had been introduced in 1951 when the [H] certificate was felt to be too limiting to ‘horror’ only – which it was. Initially you had to be 16 to gain access to see an [X] film. In my home cinema here in Yorkshire I was showing the 1953 film *The Yellow Balloon* a wonderfully atmospheric and thrilling film with a good deal of ‘threat’ from William Sylvester chasing Andrew Ray in the Underground to ‘silence’ him as he had seen Sylvester’s character murdering another guy. Strong stuff I suppose. It was the second film to be given a [X] certificate (the first, I think, was *Cosh Boy*). But I remember seeing this film at my local cinema in 1954 and it had been rated [A], so I suppose it had been edited to gain a wider screening. Not sure if the version I’ve got from the *London Collection* is the edited version or the original but it’s a film I would recommend that’s way ahead of the normal for the fifties.

Terry Ladlow

I thought I saw *No Love for Johnnie* [not Jonnie] in 1960 before I started at the **Odeon** Torquay in 1961 but I saw it on television about May 1986. What a great cast: Peter Finch, Mary Peach, Stanley Holloway, Donald Pleasance, Billie Whitelaw and many others.

James E Tilmouth

In his letter in the last issue of the Bulletin (page 27), Ian Patterson said he had never seen *No Love for Johnnie* and did not know if it was for sale as a DVD. I have a copy so I can confirm that it is available. It has a [12] Certificate compared to the [X] Certificate it was given for cinema release in 1960. The rights to the film are now owned by ITV Studios along with all the other titles that were in the Rank film library. *No Love for Johnnie* is distributed by Strawberry Media Limited [www.strawberrymedia.net].

Tony Williams



PORT TALBOT AND NELSON

Good to see the **Plaza** Port Talbot in the ‘Happy Birthday’ column (Bulletin 49/2 p30). However, the architect is known. He was Howard Williams, a Cardiff architect, as mentioned in my article *Balcony Projection Rooms* (Bulletin 46/3 p12). It was also interesting to see the probably only extant image of the **Theatre De Luxe** in Nelson, Lancashire. It was variously nicknamed “the bug hut” and “the tin tabernacle” but had the unique distinction of being Nelson’s first purpose-built cinema. It opened on 29 August 1910, which is around the year of the image. It was of corrugated iron and wood; and accommodated 500 on benches with stoves for heating. After a succession of management changes and periods dark, it finally closed on 13 April 1940, having been refused a licence renewal because of the dangerous state of the building for use as a cinema. It was demolished and a nursery / primary school erected on the site. What it sounded like inside when it rained, can only be imagined.

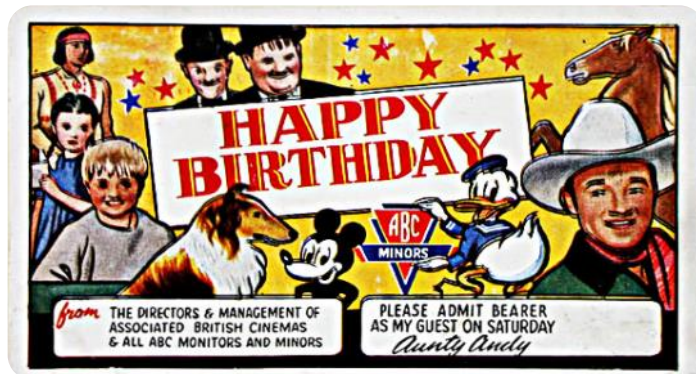
Hector Hill

JEAN PERKINS

I was sorry to read of the passing in November of former CTA and THSA member Jean Perkins. (Bulletin, March/April, page 31). She was the cheerful, friendly lady who recruited me into the CTA in Philadelphia in June 1985. During the 1980s Jean was a tireless tub-thumper for the CTA in the United States.

Ron Salters

KIDS CLUBS



I just happened to be listening to *The Film Programme* on BBC Radio 4 on 29 January. They had a segment on these clubs based on listeners memories so we heard about the **ABC Minors** and the **Odeon** equivalent and what went on at these shows. Tales of mayhem, prizes for various things, children going up on stage, the organ playing to accompany singing and what they all really wanted: the films. It was a fascinating segment that probably lasted no more than about 7 minutes but took us back to another time through the voices of people who had their memories. This is available as a downloadable podcast on BBC iPlayer for those who didn't hear the programme.

Peter Chester

MUSICAL MUSEUM

The concert hall in the **Musical Museum** in Brentford hosts a series of films, concerts and dances. It is home to the Wurlitzer organ from the **Regal** Kingston-on-Thames. It is very enjoyable and there are always good prints. [www.musicalmuseum.co.uk]

John Warner

21ST CENTURY FOX?

A fox was photographed looking out of the Scarborough **Futurist** bar window. Whether he'd been on a whisky or whatever is unsure but it was entirely appropriate for him to be in charge of the closed cinema; Fox films had been shown there many times. Maybe next there'll be a lion – a reminder of MGM days there. So, it's not surprising that a zoo company has put in a bid for the theatre, to demolish it and create a Flamingoland Zoo statement on Foreshore Road in Scarborough. The fox looked sad, just like the empty, forlorn cinema.

Terry Ladlow

ODEON LEICESTER SQUARE

I think somebody has their wires crossed. There was a quote in the last Bulletin saying that it was announced at the last organ concert that the cinema was closing for a refurbishment. In fact what I said was that it was a possibility but nothing was definite.

Donald McKenzie

EARLIEST CINEMA HISTORIAN?

Anyone who reads (or writes) histories of local cinemas may be interested in who wrote the first one. Surely nobody can beat the Huddersfield historian Stanley Chadwick who wrote *The Mighty Screen: the rise of the cinema in Huddersfield* in 1953. I can find nothing earlier than 1973 (which covered Gateshead), so this man was a real pioneer. Few cared about cinemas then or saw much significance in them and the CTA was 14 years ahead. So to cover dates, architects, opening films, seating capacity, who opened a cinema, what key films it showed and have a useful gazetteer was a good start all those years ago. Sadly the historian was killed in a house fire in June 1983 but the library has his book and press cuttings dating back a century.

Martin Tapsell

EARLIEST CINEMA

I think the Jan/Feb Bulletin has finally answered the question of the oldest cinema in the UK. On page 24 of Bulletin 49/1 it says that **Odeon** Corby (Rutland) opened in March 1036!

David J Kay

Ed: Oops! 9 and 0 are next to each other on my keyboard!

HOUSE LIGHTS UP

I wonder if anyone knows whether the automatic cues to control house-lights are inserted into digital prints by the distributors or are inserted and removed by the cinemas themselves? I've been thinking about this after two recent cinema visits (different circuits) where the raising of the lights during the end credits was very sensibly delayed. In *Kingman* the lights were only raised after a very satisfying closing scene part-way through the credits and in *Suite Française* the lights stayed down during the rather affecting early part of the credits. I'd be interested to know where such decisions are made – in these cases someone somewhere got it right.

Jeremy Perkins

KIDS' CINEMA BOOK

My twins are only two years old and not yet ready for proper cinema-going. But other friends with slightly older children tell me that they have problems persuading their children that a trip to watch a film in a dark room is a good thing and something to look forward to. In order to 'prep' our twins and get them excited about the idea, my wife and I were really pleased to discover a relevant and entertaining book, which I would like to recommend to any member who may know of small children yet to visit a cinema. The book is called *Maisy Goes to the Cinema* by Lucy Cousins (published in 2014 by Walker Books). To quote from the description:

"Maisy, Ella, Charley, Eddie and Cyril are all going to the cinema together. There is a BIG queue and they must line up to get their tickets for the latest adventure movie: *Hero in the Jungle*. Eddie's most favourite movie star (ever), Troy T Tiger, is starring and - ooh! - he can barely contain his excitement! In fact, he gets so excited that he shouts at the screen. Shhhhhhh... Don't you know you can't shout in the cinema, Eddie? Seating arrangements, the dark cinema, popcorn spills and a nail-biting hiding-behind-your-hands moment... this is everything a first cinema trip is about!"

It's an absolute delight and I am pleased to report that it is a big hit in our household as the twins become familiar with the joys of proper cinema-going, as well as the right and the wrong way to behave! I cannot give you much detail about the cinema featured in the book – although some members will be pleased to hear that from an early external view it is clearly not obviously a multiplex.

Anthony Fulford-Brown

QUOTE

Here is a little aside in relation to the photograph on page 8 of the last Bulletin, which is labelled "Interior of the **Lecture Hall Cinema** at RAF Uxbridge". In particular, I noted the words "To err is Human To Forgive Divine" which appeared to have been whitewashed on the front of the stage. Rather an odd choice of graffiti, I thought. Certainly, rather more literary than usual – although I readily confess that I did look up the fact that it was originally written by Alexander Pope in 1711.

But I parked the mystery at the back of my mind and thought no more about it until yesterday when I was watching a DVD copy of the Simon Pegg film *The World's End* (released in cinemas in 2013). In the last few minutes of the film there is a scene where Nick Frost's character is recounting the end of the story to a group of survivors who are sitting around a camp fire, supposedly in the ruins of London. I paused the film and, sure enough, there are the same words in the background of the scene. Given the fire, it would seem to suggest to the viewer that the scene takes place outdoors but, of course, we know otherwise.

No doubt others have spotted this but it clearly indicates that, although derelict, the **Lecture Hall Cinema** has found use as a film location on at least one occasion. Perhaps due to the renovations work to follow, the film makers did not feel it necessary to remove their graffiti once the filming was completed.

As a further aside, according to Wikipedia, there is another cinema connection in the film: "The **Broadway Cinema**, Letchworth, a renovated independent cinema built in a quintessentially Art Deco style in the 1930s, was used to portray the Mermaid pub. This cinema was also the first outside London to play the film, with a special introduction by Pegg thanking the residents of Letchworth for their help during its making; over 800 viewers watched the film at the cinema on its opening night."

Anthony Fulford-Brown

PICTURE HOUSE ARTICLE

I was very interested in the article on Tony Williams in *Picture House* No39 as it was near my home territory of Droitwich, where I was a projectionist from 1954 to 1963 at the **Salters Cinema**. First of all he mentioned the **Roxy** Ross-on-Wye. I booked the films for John Barratt, who ran this cinema in its latter days before closure. I was running the **Winter Gardens** Droitwich at the time (1975-1983).

Next stop is Worcester with its five cinemas; **Odeon**, **Gaumont**, **Scala**, **Northwick** and a former **Odeon** on the other side of the river. The **Odeon** had SUPAs when it first opened and changed to GK 21s and then to Victoria 8s. The box at the **Odeon** was built partly over the circle seats with a very steep rake. In contrast, the box at the **Gaumont** was at the rear of the circle with hardly any rake and full GK21s. The **Scala** in Angel Place was run, I believe, by a Miss Gray, along with the **Northwick**. The **Scala** was always well-equipped with its Westars, Magnarcs and 4-track magnetic sound in a very small box. It then changed over to Philips 35/70 with 6-track sound. No one else in Worcester had any mag sound – very canny was Miss Gray. When the **Scala** and the **Northwick** both closed in the early 1970s, everything was auctioned off in the **Scala**. I remember Bob Sankey had a field day with this lot. I believe the **Northwick** had Simplex machines, although I may be wrong on this. I come now to the **St John's** – a bit of a queer place with the box downstairs and, I think, BTH machines, last run I think by Miles Byrne Cinemas.

With the advent of magnetic sound in Worcester on 35mm and 70mm, the **Scala** absolutely hammered everyone for miles around as they always seemed to be packed. I had been there myself to see *South Pacific* and *The Sound of Music* as the renters would not allow the **Salters** to have these so they never showed in Droitwich. I did manage to show *The Sound of Music* in the **Winter Gardens** on a re-release in the 1970s. In my younger days I stripped out some boxes in areas mentioned by Tony; the **Godiva** at Coventry (full Vic8 35/70) run by Neville Dent and **Theatre One** (Westars). I spent many happy years at the **Salters Cinema** with its Kalee 12s, G3 soundheads, BA sound and Magnarcs but I never found out who took them out or where they went; I rather think they were leased and went back to Kalee.

Other cinemas I know in the area were the **Plaza** and **Regal** at Bromsgrove, the **Danilo** and **Gaumont** at Redditch, the **ABC Central** Kidderminster, the **Plaza** Bromyard, the **Regal**; Tenbury Wells, the **Picture House** Ludlow (now the **Assembly Rooms**) and, of course, the **Haven** Stourport, when I worked for Miles Jervis Cinemas, who had the **Kings** West Bromwich and the **Imperial**. The **Haven** had Kalee 12s on BTP soundheads and BTH Xenons 93-electrode) and then changed over to Kalee 12 heads on G3 soundheads that were found buried under some seats in a bingo hall – I think Wednesday.

After leaving the **Haven** I went as a projectionist to the **Odeon** Worcester, which was being turned into three screens. After a few months I was promoted to senior projectionist. In August 1975 I left the **Odeon** to open the **Winter Gardens** Droitwich to work for myself. That started a very long career running various cinemas around the country.

Trevor Harris

The Projected Picture Trust

Bletchley Park, BLETCHLEY, Buckinghamshire, MK3 6EB, UK

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 at Bletchley Park has perhaps the largest collection of all types of film equipment in the UK. The Data Archive within the Museum 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.

contactppt1@googlemail.com

www.ppttrust.org

CINEMASCOPE AT MABLETHORPE

On getting the latest CTA Bulletin (March/April 2015) I was pleased to see that someone has at long last put the record right by sending in a programme copy regards the **Lyric** cinema at Mablethorpe. Other authors have said in the past that its presented its first CinemaScope presentation *The Black Shield of Falworth* on Saturday 21 May 1955 on a 28ft screen; the new screen in fact was 22ft x 10ft 6in and set behind a 28ft proscenium, which can be seen from the **Lyric's** programme copy, which I understand was kindly sent in by my friend David Elliott.



During my visits to our Lincolnshire libraries and spending many hours going through old newspapers regards the town's cinema history, I came across a report backing up the programme that appeared on the back page of the Bulletin. With all due respect to other authors, the report said that the **Lyric** cinema would be closing for four days on Sunday 22 May 1955, when the 12ft wide x 8ft 6in screen would be used for the last time for the showing of *The House In The Square* [U]. The cinema then closed for extensive alterations, which included the installing of the new CinemaScope screen and would be holding its grand reopening on Friday 27 May for its first CinemaScope presentation *Three Coins in the Fountain* plus a full supporting programme, starting at 7pm.

Maurice Brader

ERRATA

The photo of the model in our Archive captioned '**Gaumont Kingston**' on page 29 of the last Bulletin is in fact what became the **Gaumont Twickenham** but opened in 1928 as **The Twickenham Cinema**. It became the **Queens** in 1940, the **Gaumont** ten years and then an early demolition casualty after closure in late 1956 [latter information from Allen Eyles' *Gaumont* book].

In reply to a request for comments from Mr RW Hawkins (page 27). In 2013 we registered the CTA's support for the campaign to save the Earls Court Exhibition Hall and I believe the campaign is continuing. The building is not listed but there is the possibility that the Warwick Road frontage might be retained in the residential redevelopment of the site. As Mr Hawkins points out, the interest to the CTA is that not only does it look like a particularly vast cinema but its American architect, C Howard Crane, also designed several in Britain, such as the **Granada** Greenwich and **Gaumont** Holloway (not in Finchley, I'm afraid), which is listed Grade II.

Jeremy Buck, Richard Gray & Clive Polden

Thank you for printing the photo of the **Granada** staff noticeboard [p27, last Bulletin] but somehow, gremlins got in the works. The manager's name was Rex Smith. Rex served for over 20 years with **Granada**, starting as a projectionist at Mansfield. He managed **Granadas** at Rugby and Kettering before moving to Bedford, replacing Ivan Morgan, who transferred to Granada Toddington Motorway Services. Rex left Bedford in the mid-1950s to open a general shop in Wolverton. I recall asking Gene Pitney, who was visiting the **Granada** Bedford on a pop package, to present Rex with a staff leaving present during his act; I was assistant manager there at the time. Rex sadly died in a car accident.

R David Simpson

On p23 of the last Bulletin it says there will be an **Odeon** in Walsall. It was to be so at one point but it is now a **Light Cinemas** scheme.

Tim McCullen

SEEN ON THE BIG SCREEN

The interior and exterior of the **Redford Theatre** (Detroit, Michigan, USA) can be seen near the beginning of the recently released American horror film *It Follows* (2014). Not only does the film do justice to the cinema's spectacular Japanese décor, it also shows its 3-manual, 10-rank Barton Theatre Pipe organ in action. The feature being shown, incidentally, is *Charade* and people are queuing round the block to see it! For those of you who missed the film, there's a link to a virtual tour of the cinema at: [www.redfordtheatre.com]

Terry Hanstock

REGAL WELLS

I was a resident of Wells between 1948 & 1953 and a regular at Saturday morning cinema for children at the **Regal**. Like Andrew Linham in Picture House No 21, I was there when Jane Hylton visited and was given my signed picture, long since lost. The silver festoon curtains he mentions and their lighting changes were magical to a small boy and sparked the interest in cinemas, which I retain to this day. I have recently taken a trip down memory lane and, courtesy of the owner Mr Rizzuti, was given a tour of the Kudos night club as it now is. It was sad to see this magnificent cinema converted to a nightclub but, to give credit to Mr Rizzuti, most of the original features are still there, apart from the top of the proscenium arch. He explained that as a listed building he had had to retain them. He has also restored the coloured glass in the exterior windows (at considerable expense, he told me) and I was pleased to see that they are now protected by fairly unobtrusive grilles. Nearly all the original house lights are still there but not in use. Other original features such as the doors and chrome decorations remain too. Given a lot of money it would be possible to restore it to its original glory. The **Regal** will be 80 years old this year and, such are the vagaries of time, I realised that when I was going there it was less than twenty years old! On the day of my visit, the *Wells Journal* published the owner's plans to take the club upmarket – see Newsreel p28.

John Wills

MODEL CINEMAS



Looks like the former **ABC/Regal** Torquay lives on in the model village at Babbacombe; very close to 'Bygones' in the former **Tudor** cinema. {38380, 47057}

Paul Bland [photo]

The card model cinema on page 2 of Bulletin 49/1 is downloadable from [scalescenec.com] as are the buildings on either side. Despite the building materials and textures appearing to be photographically based, I don't believe it is a particular cinema because it can be downloaded alternatively as a Marks and Spencer store in brick to the same dimensions. Other firms producing card model cinema frontages are Superquick, Metcalfe and Kingsway, the last of which produce accurate models of actual buildings.

Tom Dewhurst

I have a feeling the mystery **Odeon** you saw in the model railway exhibition is based very loosely on the **Gaumont/Odeon** Holloway Road. The relief work in the centre of the façade is near identical.

Louis Barfe

Editor's Note: Another one has surfaced – see my editorial p2.

EVERYMAN BUYS FOUR ODEONS



Everyman Media Group raised £20m in a share placing to buy four cinemas across London with a total of 14 screens; three of these buildings are listed. It will buy the current **Odeons** at Gerrards Cross [pictured above in April 2015] Esher [grade II] Muswell Hill [grade II*] and Barnet [grade II] for £7.1m and then spend £6.1m refurbishing them. As a result, the group will increase its number of cinemas from 11 to 15 and its number of screens from 21 to 35. It also opened a new three-screen cinema in Canary Wharf on 15 May. {24705, 22712, 13783, 14114, 48871}

Evening Standard – 20 April, *City AM* – 21 April;
sent in by Keith Bye, Richard Gray & Andrew Youdell

RATES HIKE

The **Omniplex** cinema chain in Northern Ireland has reported huge increases in their business rates. Their smallest cinema in Armagh has seen a rise of 190% and the busiest in Lisburn is being hit by a 103% increase; the Carrickfergus branch will have to pay an extra £60,000. The directors said they may have to pass the increases on to customers and will have to study the accounts to see if some of their sites remain viable. Their cinemas in the Irish Republic are rated much lower and also endure lower VAT bills.

Daily Mirror (Northern Ireland) – 25 March

EMPIRE EXPANDS

Empire Cinemas has announced an agreement for three **IMAX** screens to be added to their existing multiplexes in Basildon, Hemel Hempstead and Great Park, Birmingham. They already have an **IMAX** screen at their flagship **Empire** Leicester Square [pictured right].

Empire Press Release – 20 April; photo by Ken Roe, April 2015

CINEWORLD

Cineworld more than doubled its profits from £30.9m to £67.3m last year. Revenues increased from £406m to £619m. The chain has 203 sites with 1,875 screens and is set to open **Picturehouse** cinemas in East Dulwich in April, Crouch End in October and the **Trocadero** in Piccadilly Circus over summer with seven screens and two bars. The latter is advertising 35mm and 70mm projection facilities as well as 4k digital and Dolby Atmos.

Evening Standard – 12 March; *Daily Telegraph*, *Daily Mail* – 13 March;
Picture House press release – 17 April;
sent in by Keith Bye, Carl Chesworth, Robert Holden & Barry Quinton



THE AUDITORIUM

A Historical Look At Cinemas
In And Around Old North Warwickshire



Author PETER LEA

The Auditorium

This book has been many years in the making. I originally set pen to paper back in 1991 and have met some wonderful people along the way during my research, one of which was the late President of the CTA, Tony Moss. He was a great help with his vast knowledge and letting me use some photographs from his private collection in the book. The book covers all cinemas that operated in North Warwickshire between 1900 and 1990, with photographs of all the cinemas featured both externally and internal shots. With staff memories and some funny stories I have been told along the way too. Towns and villages covered in this publication are, in alphabetical order, Atherstone, Attleborough, Bedworth, Bulkington, Chapel End, Coleshill, Dordon, Nuneaton and Stockingford. I hope you will add this to your collection through the CTA shop and that you enjoy reading it as much as I enjoyed writing it!

Peter Lea

Price £12.95 + £3.10 p&p;
available from the CTA Sales Officer, details on p6.

MISCELLANY

CINEMA DEMOLITION

A businessman has been ordered to demolish a “substantial” personal leisure complex he built at his home in Cinderford [Glos] without planning permission. The development includes a 16-seat cinema, twin bowling alleys, a squash court and a casino. He has been given two years to complete the work because of the amount of earth that will need to be moved.

The Forester – 25 February

LISTING

The Grade II listing for The Regent Street Polytechnic, including the Polytechnic cinema and the Fyvie Hall, has been amended by English Heritage following an application from the CTA. The listing now details the present state of the cinema including the Compton organ. [list.historicengland.org.uk/resultsingle.aspx?uid=1265181]

Sent in by Richard Gray

CINEMA TICKET DOORMAT

[thegiftoasis.com] is offering a rubber doormat in the style of a cinema ticket. Size 0.5cm by 74cm by 44cm, it costs £22.99, inclusive of delivery. There is also a set of two PVC table placemats 36cm by 26cm based on USA film certificates for £8.49. You can get a 10% discount by pretending to leave the site and submitting your email address.

Sent in by Martin Tapsell



CAT CINEMA

There are plans for the world's first cat cinema, café and cat shelter. The venture will allow guests to enjoy a cup of tea and a cuddle with a cat while watching a film. **Great Kitten** will screen around 10 films per week and prices will range from £10-£12 depending on the particular title. The ratio of visitors to cats will be carefully managed in order to prevent the feline residents from becoming overwhelmed. There is also to be a special human-free room for cats to go in and out as they please. A crowdfunding appeal has been launched to finance the idea. [www.greatkitten.london]

Daily Telegraph, LDN24 – 1 April

Editor's Note: The date of the report made us suspicious but we checked and it seems to be genuine.

MOBILE CINEMA FOR SALE



A vintage mobile cinema has gone on sale on eBay for £120,000 as the owners who spent years restoring it want to enjoy parenthood. It was one of seven commissioned by the then Ministry of Technology in 1967. It has toured the country showing vintage footage and even starred in TV programmes. It has recently been reunited with its original trailer, which is a restoration project for the new owners. See p20 Bulletin 43/6.

Mail Online – 21 April

IMAX AT HOME

Film fans can now have an **IMAX** screen installed in their own home – if they have £1.8m to spend. They will also need a room at least 22ft wide, 12 ft tall and 40ft deep to house the screen and 10 seats. The newly-launched **IMAX** Private Theatre Service could install it “in a matter of months” if the room was ready. That space could house three double-decker buses! There have also been enquiries from people about getting the system installed in luxury boats and yachts.

Evening Standard – 4 March; sent in by Keith Bye

SECRET RIP-OFF?

Secret Cinema has defended its asking price of £75 per ticket for the new *Star Wars: The Empire Strikes Back* screenings as filmgoers branded it “out of this world”. It compares with £53.50 for last year's *Back to the Future* event at London's Olympic Park. The new film will be shown at a London location for two months from 4 June; it is billed as “the most ambitious and dreamlike **Secret Cinema** experience the UK has ever seen.”

Evening Standard – 20 March; sent in by Keith Bye

SWASTIKA SKIRMISH

Last summer a war of words broke out as Shoreham (West Sussex) Airport was draped in Nazi flags for filming of scenes for the recently released film *Woman in Gold* starring Helen Mirren. Now known as Brighton City Airport, it doubled as wartime Vienna Airport in the movie. The controversy was exacerbated as it was shortly before the 70th anniversary of the D-Day landings.

The Argus (Brighton) – 11 April; sent in by Barry Quinton

KINEMACOLOR

A Kinemacolor film camera is expected to fetch £20,000 at auction at Newbury (Berkshire) later this year. In 2012, footage taken using the camera emerged, with sharp moving images of London in the early 1900s shown in colour for the first time. The process was invented by George Albert Smith of Brighton and used a black and white film behind alternating red and green filters.

Mail Online – 22 February; sent in by Carl Chesworth

50 SHADES OF GRAZE

A male cinema-goer was attacked by three women he asked them to keep quiet during a screening of *50 Shades of Grey*. Staff had to wipe blood off the seats at the **Grosvenor** in Glasgow. Police were called and the women arrested for an alleged public order offence.

Metro – 17 February; sent in by Carl Chesworth

POPCORN

The popcorn index of discretionary spending in cinemas rose by 6% last year; a lot of that came through Starbucks concessions.

Evening Standard – 12 March; sent in by Keith Bye

SMALL ADS

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

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

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

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

FOR SALE: Original cinema film posters in good condition. Please contact me for full contents lists. [beeps46@ntlworld.com]

John R Forster, 171 Castle Lane West, Bournemouth, BH9 3LE

Editor's Note: When this advert appeared in the last issue I had made two mistakes in the address. If you wrote and didn't receive a reply, please write again. I'm sorry for any inconvenience.

Ideal Kinema 51 issues 1943 to 1955; *Cinema TV Today* 1972, 1973 & 1974, some issues missing; *Monthly Film Bulletin* 1973 from July, 1974 (except Sept), 1975 to March. Offers invited or may swap for issues wanted.

Charles Morris, Eller How Farm, Lindale, LA11 6NA
[charlesmorris@nm-cinemas.freemove.co.uk]

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

100 years

Kingsland Empire (Classic/Rio) 107 Kingsland High Road, Dalston. Originally opened May 1915. Architects: Percy C Adams / George Coles / Frank E Bromige. Listed Grade II.



Grosvenor 137 Grosvenor Street, All Saints, Manchester. Opened 19 May 1915. Architect unknown. Listed Grade II. [above]

Cinema De Luxe (News Theatre / Tatler / Classic) 15 Renfield Street, Glasgow. Opened 22 May 1915. Architect: James Miller. B listed (façade only). [Right]

80 years

Odeon Great North Road, Barnet. Opened 15 May 1935. Architect: Edgar Simons. Listed Grade II. See p11.

Odeon 18 Walliscote Road, Weston-Super-Mare. Opened 25 May 1935. Architect T Cecil Howitt. Listed Grade II. See p23 last Bulletin.

75 years

Regal (ABC) 262 Camberwell Road, Camberwell, London. Opened 17 June 1940. Architect: Leslie H Kemp. Listed Grade II. [Below]



ARCHIVE

The archive is located at 226 Roxwell Studios, Leyton, London E10 7QY. It is open from 10am to 4pm on the following dates and at other times by special arrangement.

16 May 13 June 11 July

To make an enquiry, go to the Archive page on our website: [cta-uk.org/uk-cinemas/cinema-heritage-archive/].

To arrange to visit the archive on one of the dates above please email Clive Polden at [cta-archive@hotmail.co.uk].

Getting There: Take the Victoria Line or National Rail to Walthamstow Central then catch W19 bus to its terminus at Argall Avenue. Follow the road ahead of bus stop around the corner; the studios will be found on the left.

Archive Charges:

• Making enquiries to establish what material is held	Free
• Visiting the archive to undertake research	Free
• Each image/page copied	Members £1.50
• Each image/page copied	Non-Members £3.00

ARCHIVE OPPORTUNITIES

The CTA Archive can offer members an excellent opportunity to contribute towards preserving our cinema heritage. Whether it be putting your particular skills to good use or just giving some of your spare time, there are plenty of opportunities within our friendly environment and you might learn something new along the way!

Please email [cta-archive@hotmail.co.uk].

HELP THE ARCHIVE IDENTIFY CINEMAS

Brian Hall posts regular weekly sets of unidentified cinema photographs on the CTA-UK Yahoo! Group. Please consider joining this group [movies.groups.yahoo.com/group/cta-uk] and help us to identify cinemas. It's great fun!

SENDING DONATIONS BY POST OR EMAIL

We are always keen to receive donated material and can accept this in different formats. Of course, we always prefer to have originals. If however you cannot part with the material, then we are happy to accept scanned material or copies of your digital photographs.

Please let me know before sending donations by post and do not send them directly to the archive as there is no facility to accept post securely. Please send items c/o 14 Iychurch Gardens, Cliftonville, Margate, CT9 3YG. Small quantities of scanned material or digital photographs can be emailed to [cta-archive@hotmail.co.uk].

ONLINE ACCESS TO THE ARCHIVE COLLECTIONS

We are pleased to share with members the current work being done to make material from the Archive viewable via the Internet.

We have been digitising photographs and other items within the Archive for several years. It is our wish to make these items available to view on the CTA website and for a fee, the ability to download the images for personal and commercial use. This will be a vast improvement on the current access arrangements and mean those who cannot easily visit the Archive will have the ability to browse its contents.

To this end, we are currently testing out a variety of digital asset management software to find the best way to deliver this service on the CTA's new website. We hope to have the service up and running with a limited amount of material by this summer. We will keep you all posted on progress through the website and the Bulletin.

Clive Polden, CTA Archivist

CIRCUIT HISTORIES AVAILABLE

by Allen Eyles – all fully illustrated with gazetteers

ODEON 1 – Oscar Deutsch Entertains Our Nation £19.99

ODEON 2 – From J Arthur Rank to the Multiplex £19.99

THE GRANADA THEATRES £18.99

GAUMONT BRITISH CINEMAS

(good second-hand copies available) £25.00

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

MEMBERSHIP

NEW MEMBERS

The last couple of months have been a quiet period for membership applications. Nevertheless the following new members have been enrolled to the CTA and we send a warm welcome to Richard Findlay, David Barraclough and Steve Tovey.

LIFE MEMBERSHIP

The following Annual Members have recently taken the step of enrolling as Life Members of the Association: Dr Christopher C Woollard of Sidcup first joined in July 1990 and John Faulkner of Tunbridge Wells, who joined in September 1984, together with Anne Woodward, his wife. We send them all our good wishes.

DONATIONS

Sincere thanks to the following long list of members who generously added a donation to their recent membership renewals: SD Allanson, D Aspinall, I Bacon, JS Barber, KJ Barnes, PT Bayley, P Beresford, DP Brown, PJ Chester, J Clarkson, P Cooper, GE Cranch, DG Daykin, LJ Deacon, MS Derriman, B Eckersley, WJ Elliott, IC Ewers, ET Faulkner, PJA Ferrari, RJ Fox, GC Gibson, A Goodwin, G Greaves, E Griffiths, RP Hagon, BW Harries, CE Hide, A Hodson, MR Hunt, SA Jarvis, K Johnston, AP Jowett, DJ Kay, RA King, M King, JM Knight, RC Lobb, A Maltby, RL Maudsley, AE McCann, RJ McDonald, TD Mills, REJ Mylius, RM Paddock, AN Paterson, JW Perkins, RP Pilbeam, JE Pilblad, DE Popey, JE Prickett, S Quick, DP Rees, PJ Roberts, NJ Ruben, D Schofield, BW Simpson, MR Smith, PH Smith, JJ Surtees, RJ Tite, B Wakefield, JW Walker, DA Warner, AJ Weise, GJ Wheeler, TK Williams, DR Williams, DF Willis and J Wootton.

CTA MEMBERSHIP

As at the time of the 2015 Annual General Meeting, the total paid-up membership of the CTA was 1,107.

IN MEMORIAM

Sadly the passing of the winter has brought us the news of the passing of a number of CTA members and we send our sincere condolences to their families and friends. Miss Elizabeth A Sadler of Worthing died in November 2014 at the age of 86; she joined in 2002 and became a Life Member in 2013. Arthur Percival MBE of Faversham died in November 2014 at the age of 91; he joined the CTA in 1989 and was the founder of The Faversham Society. Douglas Rendell of Altrincham died at the age of 96; he was the author in 1998 of *Cinemas of Trafford*. Ian J Guy of Chippenham died of an unexpected stroke in February at the age of 50. Neville C Long of Newton Abbott died in February 2015 at the age of 91; he joined the CTA in 2000. John D Clark of York died on 9 March at the age of 80. Kenneth D Gay of Hornsey, London, died in April 2015 at the age of 91; he joined CTA in 1984 and was president of the Hornsey Historical Society – see obituary below.

OBITUARY

KEN GAY

Ken Gay who died on 9 April, aged 91, had been a CTA member since 1984. He lived in Alexandra Park, Wood Green, London and was a regular attendee at the Odeon Muswell Hill. His favourite local cinema, however, was the Ritz / ABC Muswell Hill, until its closure in 1978. He once wrote “some cinema buildings have a sort of magic and I felt this particularly when visiting the Ritz, a fine place”. Ken was President of the Hornsey Historical Society and also until recently the chair of their Publications Committee and it was Ken who invited me to write *Cinemas of Haringey*, which the Society published in 2011. In his professional life, Ken was for many years the Production Manager for National Coal Board films, a job that took him up and down the country arranging filming of all manner of documentaries. He was also a freelance contributor to *Films and Filming* magazine and wrote several local history books about the Muswell Hill area.



Jeremy Buck



SUBSCRIPTION RATES

The subscription for Annual Members of the Association has been held at its present rate since 2011. Unfortunately our costs have continued to increase over that period – some, such as the introduction of the full colour CTA Bulletin at the beginning of last year, were through our own choice and members will surely have welcomed this. However members will be aware, from their own experience, of the annual demand for an increase in the price of stamps from the Post Office. The cost of mailing one copy of the Bulletin in the UK has increased by nearly a third in that time; for Overseas mailings the increase is even larger. Therefore after much discussion and with regret, the Directors and Committee have concluded that an increase in subscription rates cannot be avoided at this time. With effect from 1 July 2015, the annual UK membership subscription will be £29 (an increase of £4). A similar increase will apply to Overseas subscriptions but with the addition of small increase in the differential to recoup the increase in postal charges. The rate for European members will become £37 (an increase of £5) and for members in the rest of the World the rate will be £49 (an increase of £7) – the latter may still elect to receive mailings by the slower ‘economy mail’ and pay the European rate. There is no proposal to increase the basic fee paid by Associate Members or the reduced rate offered to the ‘Under 25s’. Life Membership rates will be increased pro rata.

Neville C Taylor, Membership Secretary

NECROLOGY

SHAW TAYLOR

The presenter of ITV's *Police Five* has died, aged 90; his catchphrase on the programme, which ran for 30 years, was “keep ‘em peeled”. He trained at RADA and acted for a spell on the West End stage. In retirement he was a keen supporter of local charities and helped save The Shanklin Theatre on the Isle of Wight.

BBC News website – 19 March; sent in by David Alexander



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.

THE NORTHERN LIGHT CINEMA, WIRKSWORTH

By Chris Smith

Wirksworth is a popular Derbyshire town, especially for those wish to visit the picturesque Peak District, situated as it is slightly more than twenty miles to the north west of Derby. However, since July 2013 it has also been home to the **Northern Light** cinema – the brainchild of Paul and Esther Carr. They acquired the site, a former Malthouse on North End, Wirksworth and for many years the site of Weston's electrical supplies shop, when it came on to the property market in April 2012.

The cinema was built without funds from the National Lottery and was only possible through Paul and Esther selling a plot of land at the side of their house to Paul's mother-in-law. Planning permission was eventually granted in January 2013. The licensing permissions were originally granted in April but were appealed against and permission was finally granted just 2 days before the opening night on 4 July 2013 – the first film to be screened was the 1954 version of *A Streetcar Named Desire* with Marlon Brando and Vivien Leigh.



The auditorium of the **Northern Light** cinema [1]

A quick browse through the January/February brochure is testament to a diverse range of screenings such as *The Cabinet of Dr Caligari* with a live original score, as well as recent hits such as *Mr Turner* and classic Hollywood fare like *It Happened One Night*. The cinema benefited from the efforts of the local community with people volunteering their services at weekends to renovate it. One of the great idiosyncratic charms of the auditorium is the seating. All 52 seats were part of the former Darlington **Civic Theatre**. Indeed, the cinema continues to benefit from volunteer support and, although the final say on the decision to screen a film rests with Paul, there is input from the working group, which consists of between 6 and 10 members of the local community who share a passion for film and what it can do for the community. Spanning the ages, members of the group range from their teens to their eighties and each brings their own passions as well as general advice and support to planning meetings.



The bar area of the **Northern Light** cinema [1]



The exterior of the **Northern Light** cinema [2]

Part of the licensing restrictions means that no tickets can be sold on the door – all tickets must be purchased in advance. Presumably, the licensing authorities envisaged long queues of cinema patrons cluttering up the street. In order to maintain good relationships with his neighbours, patrons are encouraged not to park on the street but to make use of local car parks. The projection box, at the moment, houses Blu-Ray projection equipment and, as a consequence, there can be a time lag of 12 to 16 weeks between national release dates and a new film appearing at the **Northern Light**. There is a thirteen and a half metre throw for projection. However, Paul and Esther are injecting a further £25K into the cinema for a new Barco 2K DCI compliant projector in February 2015, so will be entering the realms of mainstream distribution.

Towards the end of last year I attended a screening of an old favourite of mine, *Kind Hearts and Coronets* on a damp, cold Thursday evening. On entering the cinema from the street you find yourself in the bar area, which on film nights is usually packed. There were no trailers or advertisements, just straight on with the film, which seemed to add to the enjoyment of the film. The atmosphere was cosy and intimate, more akin to a meeting of old friends than a public screening, a feeling that was re-enforced in discussions with members of the audience after the screening. In conclusion, if you ever find yourself in this lovely part of Derbyshire why not make a point of visiting this charming and quirky cinema – you may never have visited anywhere quite like it! {41667}

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

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