



CINEMA
THEATRE
ASSOCIATION

www.cta-uk.org

BULLETIN

Vol 49 No 4

July / August 2015



The grade II listed Ritz at Grays (Essex), where bingo is about to close, photographed in April 2004 – see Newsreel p19



Two views of just part of the Projected Picture Trust's collection in its new home in Halifax – see Newsreel p18

FROM YOUR EDITOR

It doesn't seem two minutes since I was writing the last editorial; time seems to come around so quickly. We have just returned from the CTA visit to Winchester, where we had an enjoyable – if hectic – day; there will be a full report in the next Bulletin. We travelled down via Nuneaton and returned via Oxford. In both places I was able to photograph some former cinemas I had not seen before to add to my collection. There are still some I have missed in odd areas of the country and I aim to try to get these over the next few years.

On a recent visit to Hornsea (East Yorkshire) the car screeched to a halt when I saw the building pictured below. It looked to have cinematic features but I could only find references in the KYBs to the **Star** cinema in the town, which I knew this was not. I emailed the local library and got a very nice reply from a lady librarian, which said:

"The building to which you are referring was called the Independent Chapel (Bethesda Chapel) on Southgate, Hornsea, built in 1808. This cost £465 and it was later enlarged and a burial ground added in 1847. Independents built this building as their second chapel then moved to the United Reform Church when they became Congregationalists. A new chapel was built in New Road, so after 1874 this building was taken over by the Independent order of the Good Templars (a temperance organisation from Hull). It was converted into a lodge room and lecture hall. In the late nineteenth and early twentieth Century the building was used for dances and concerts. In 1911 the building become the parish hall for St Nicholas Church but is now unused. We have no record of it in cinematic use."



I must convey my thanks to this lady and other librarians I have similarly contacted, for taking the time to reply. I also recently emailed the Town Clerk at Market Weighton (also in East Yorkshire) and she confirmed where the former cinema once stood.

I have been clearing out my inbox and been able to include a couple of items I was sent earlier in the year, which I couldn't fit in before. If yours was one of them, I hope you didn't think I'd forgotten. I still have some holiday snaps I have had to hold over. However, I could always use a few more. I have also almost run out of articles. I know this good weather is not conducive to sitting indoors writing stuff for the Bulletin but if it turns inclement... Don't forget that photos and illustrations turn a page of plain black text into an interesting piece.

As I am constantly moaning about being sent photos that are too small to reproduce, someone asked me the best way to send large files to me. The size limit on attachments to emails appears to have grown bigger recently. It now seems a total attachment size of 15-20Mb will get through OK. If you are concerned as to whether I get them or not, please ask me to acknowledge. Alternatively you can post them to me on a memory stick, which I will return if requested. Another way is for me to create a private folder in my Dropbox account and send you a link so you can load photos up. If this method appeals to you, email me for details. Just to repeat, any picture below about 100kb in size is probably too small.

Harry Rigby, CTA Bulletin Editor

**DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE
THURSDAY 20 AUGUST**

CINEMA THEATRE ASSOCIATION

promoting serious interest in all aspects of cinema buildings

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BULLETIN: Members are invited to submit items for possible publication to the Bulletin Editor. However, it is stressed that the publication of an item does not necessarily imply that it reflects the views of the Cinema Theatre Association, its Committee or its Bulletin Editor. It is assumed that submissions are for publication, unless stated otherwise; items may be shortened or edited at the discretion of the Editor. Please enclose SAE and state if you require items to be returned, otherwise everything will be passed on to the CTA Archive.

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

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

Typeset in Franklin Gothic Book by Harry Rigby

Printed by The Ludo Press Ltd, 18 Wimbledon Stadium Business Centre,
Riverside Road, London, SW17 0BA [www.ludo.co.uk]

VISITS & EVENTS

South West London and Surrey tour by Routemaster Bus Saturday 29 August

Organised by Ray Ritmeester

This event is now fully booked but if you would like to be added to the waiting list please send an email to the organiser at [ray.ritmeester@thetube.com] or by post to Ray Ritmeester, 66 Woodside Road, High Wycombe, HP13 7JB. Please include your contact email and telephone details. For those who have made a firm reservation for the event, details of pick up and set down places and times will be sent out in late July. If you have any other queries please send them to me at the above email address. Details will also be on the CTA website.

Assorted Bournemouth Cinemas Wednesday 30 September to Saturday 3 October

Organised by David Eve

This visit has had a lot of interest from members with the allocation being oversubscribed. Once the first bookings have been confirmed and those on the waiting listing are consulted, any spare places will be offered in the Sept/Oct Bulletin. Thanks once again for the interest.

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.

TOUR OF THE CITY VARIETIES, LEEDS.

Our Sales Officer, Jeremy Buck, has arranged a visit to the famous **City Varieties Theatre** in Leeds (home of *The Good Old Days*) for a group of friends on the morning of Tuesday 1 September. There are some places available if any local CTA members want to come along. The cost would be £5.00. If you are interested, email Jeremy [jbuck@connectfree.co.uk] or drop him a line – address on p2.

OPENING OF THE TROXY WURLITZER

The Wurlitzer organ that has been installed in the **Troxy** Stepney, London, by the Cinema Organ Society, has its grand opening concert on Saturday 22 August at 7pm. Tickets available from the Troxy: [www.troxy.co.uk] select "Night of 1000 pipes". The featured artists are Richard Hills and Robert Wolfe.

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

Silent film shows and events featuring the Wurlitzer Organ.

Tuesday 21 July concert by Elizabeth Harrison at 12:30pm
Saturday 8 August Buster Keaton in *Steamboat Bill Jr* (1928) accompanied by Mark Latimer at 5:00pm
Tuesday 18 August concert by Mark Laflin at 12:30pm
Tuesday 15 September concert by Len Rawle at 12:30pm
Saturday 26 September Lillian & Dorothy Gish in *Orphans of the Storm* (1921) accompanied by Michael Holmes at 1:00pm

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

In association with the Furness Theatre Organ Project.

[www.nm-cinemas.co.uk] [015394 43364] or [www.ftop.weebly.com]

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 24 July *The Battles of Coronel & Falkland Islands* silent film reconstructing two 1941 naval battles with new orchestral soundtrack [U]
Friday 7 August Walt Disney's *Pinocchio* (1940) [U]
Friday 28 August Walt Disney's *Aladdin* (1992) [U]
Sunday 30 August Silent films accompanied by Nigel Ogden ‡
 Buster Keaton *The General* (1926) [U]
 Laurel & Hardy *Liberty* (1929) [U]
Thursday 3 September Barry Norman's Favourite Films ‡
Friday 4 September Alfred Hitchcock's *The 39 Steps* (1939) [U]
Sunday 13 September Heritage Open Day 10am; free admission
Friday 25 September *Blade Runner* (1982) [15]

All at 2:30pm [not ‡] & 7:30pm; all seats £6.50, concessions £5.50. Organ introductions commence 30 minutes before most films.

Behind the Scenes Tours on Mondays 27 July, 24 August & 19 October 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 24 July John Smallwood
Friday 11 September TBA
 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.

THE FECKENODEON (Worcestershire, B96 6HN)

This year's programme is now on-line. CTA members wishing to attend can book tickets (£5) at [www.feckencodeon.co.uk] or by phone through TicketSource on 0333 666 3366 (local call rate) – or you can contact the Society directly on [films@feckencodeon.co.uk].

26 September *What We Did On Our Holiday* (2014) [12A]
31 October *The Night of the Hunter* (1955) [X]

Shows on Saturdays at 7:30pm. Licensed bar at all performances.

WIDESCREEN WEEKEND

National Media Museum, Bradford – 15-18 October

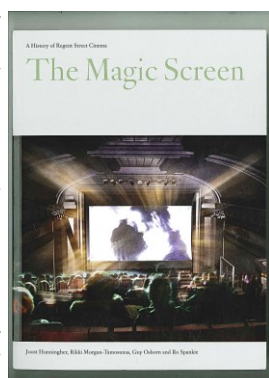
The full programme was not available as we went to press. It will include *Oklahoma!* and 2001: A Space Odyssey in 70mm, *How The West Was Won* in 3-strip Cinerama and the digital restoration of the 1962 compilation *The Best of Cinerama*. Weekend passes are now on sale. [www.nationalmediamuseum.org.uk/film/widescreen-weekend]

PUBLICATIONS

New Publication

The Magic Screen – a history of Regent Street Cinema. Various authors. Large format paperback, 178 pages, fully illustrated. £20.00 plus postage.

To celebrate the renovation and re-opening of the **Regent Street Cinema** London, its long and fascinating history has been told for the first time. Built in 1848 for showcasing 'optical exhibitions', in 1896 the theatre was the site of the first UK public performance of the Lumière's Cinématographe. It evolved into a cinema specialising in travelogues and nature films in the 1920s, becoming the **Cameo-Poly** after the Second World War. Regularly hosting premières of continental films, the cinema achieved another first with its screening of *La Vie Commence Demain* in 1951, the first [X]-certificate film in the UK. After mixed fortunes in the 1970s, the cinema closed to the public in 1980. The cinema's recent renovation and re-birth is also featured. This multi-authored volume tells the cinema's history from architectural, educational, legal and cinematic perspectives and is richly illustrated throughout with images from the University of Westminster Archive. See article on p7.



Recently Published (Reviewed in previous issues)

How Belfast Saw the Light – £20.00 plus postage

Alpha to Odyssey (Odeon/Odyssey, St Albans) – £4.99 plus postage

The Auditorium (North Warwickshire) – £12.95 plus postage

Available Again

These two titles have been out of stock for a while but are now available again:

Suburban London Cinemas by Gary Wharton

Published 2008. A5 paperback, 128 pages. £12.99 plus postage

The author takes a journey around the London suburbs, noting the various cinemas he encounters, many in a derelict state. An interesting read, with a few errors along the way, notably the interior of the **Savoy** Stoke Newington wrongly captioned as the **Rio Dalston**.

SHAZAM! The History of a Regal Cinema by Rob Hemming

Published 2008. Hardback, 196 pages.

Special reduced price £14.99 plus postage (Previously £19.99)

A comprehensive history of the **Regal** Evesham, with many interesting items and pictures including a reproduction of the opening brochure. The volume was compiled before the recent renovation was completed.

Back Numbers Available

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.

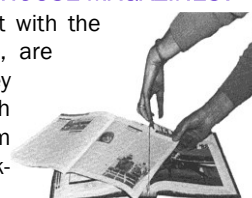
PICTURE HOUSE MAGAZINE

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 .

AND WHERE TO KEEP THOSE PICTURE HOUSE MAGAZINES?

'Cortex' binders, in red leather-look effect with the magazine name embossed on the spine, are available for £4.30 + £3.00 postage – they are sent in a special postal carton. Each binder holds twelve copies and will not harm or mark your magazines, which may be taken out later if desired.



Your copy of ABC could be valuable...

Your Sales Officer was amused recently to be offered a second-hand copy of the very rare CTA publication **ABC – The First Name in Entertainment** by a bookshop in the USA.. The price was £1,315.24 (plus £50.38 shipping)! He refused the offer. Copies of **Gaumont British Cinemas** are also regularly offered at prices around the £55 mark – so you'd better keep your copies safely stored!

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)

LUX, REX & CORSO Les salles de cinéma en Suisse

272 pages couleurs (272 color pages) © éditions d'autre part, 2011 text: french & german size: 230 x 300 mm / 1,350 kg.

Price : £35 / €50, including shipment charges. Delivery after payment at IBAN CH40 0900 0000 2501 5068 9 / SWIFT: PO-FICHBE, purpose payment: "LUX"

Un ouvrage magnifique qui permet de découvrir pour la première fois à l'échelon de la Suisse entière le monde étonnant des salles de cinéma.

[A beautiful book that allows to discover for the first time at the level of the entire Switzerland the world wonder of movie theatres.]

[www.dautrepart.ch]; email: [info@dautrepart.ch] for further details.

The Lanarkshire Legacy

Wishaw Cinema Listings 1946; Part One, Jan to June. The latest volume in this series is now available for £3, including postage. Please make cheques or postal orders out to John McKillop and send to: 22 Clydesdale Avenue, Netherton, **WISHAW**, ML2 0AX.

In Conversation with Cinematographers

ISBN for hardback is 978-4422-5109-0; ebook 978-14422-5110-6. It is published by Rowman & Littlefield in the USA. Hardback and ebook price £44.95.

In August I will have my second book published on cinematographers called *In Conversation with Cinematographers*. It contains interviews I have conducted with 22 cameramen and one camera woman, including Haris Zambouloukos (*Mama Mia*, *Cinderella*) and Seamus McGarvey (*Atonement*, *The Hours*). The book has a foreword by Sir Sydney Samuelson CBE.

Coming Soon

I am writing a book with a couple of friends Roger Shone and Peter Davies on the history of Chester cinemas and theatres, to be published by the CTA. The book will include dozens of illustrations and will be similar to the York book. Watch these pages for details.

David A Ellis

A MUST for your collection

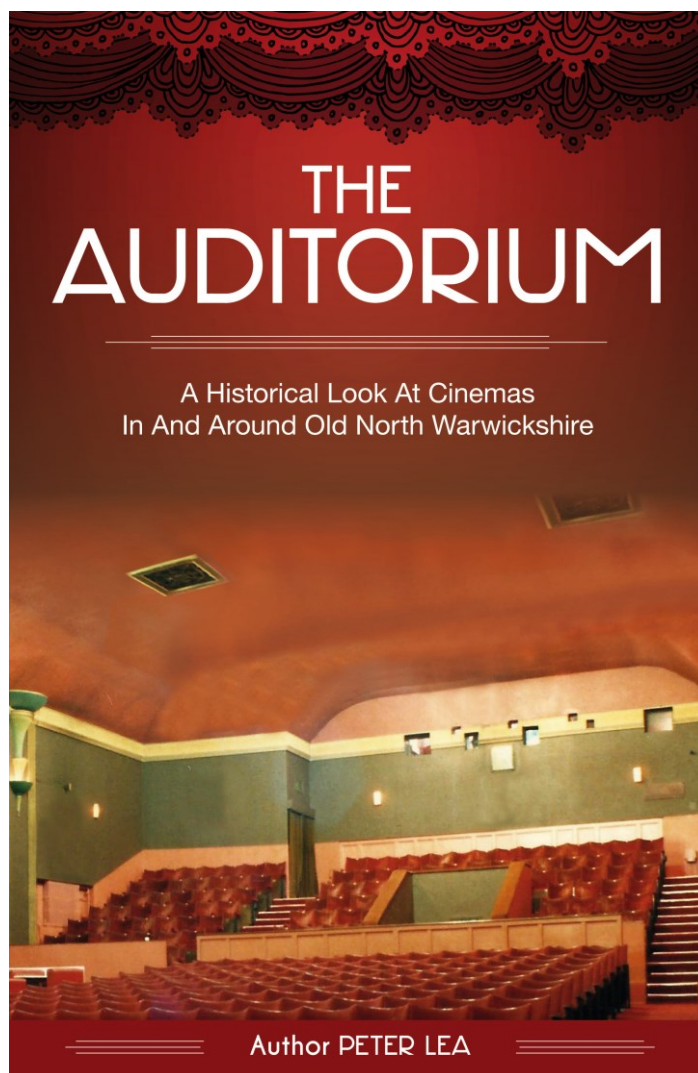
CINEMAS IN BRITAIN

A History of Cinema Architecture
by Richard Gray

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

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

Special price for CTA members
£29.50 + £6.00 postage from
Jeremy Buck, CTA Sales Officer
34 Pelham Road, Wood Green, London, N22 6LN
(Publisher's price £45)



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, 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 p4.

CAMPAIGNING TO SAVE YOUR HISTORIC CINEMAS

By Tim Hatcher

Everyman Group Purchase

It is reported that the **Everyman** Group is to acquire four major cinema sites: the **Odeon** at Muswell Hill (listed grade II*), the **Odeons** at Esher and Barnet (listed grade II) and the unlisted **Odeon** at Gerrards Cross. Concern arises over any change of style and/or location of external signage that may result from a consequent re-branding exercise; the relevant local authorities will be contacted to ensure compliance with applicable listed building classification.

Grade II* Listed



The Avenue/Odeon Northfields in April 2006

In addition to the Association, Historic England and The Theatres Trust have also objected to planning and listed building consent applications relating to the **Avenue/Odeon** in London's Northfields area. The drawings, which form part of the submission, are of poor quality and it seems likely that the proposal will be refused. A site meeting is planned. {11190}

Grade II Listed



The Regal Camberwell in September 2004

Avery Associates Architects have submitted planning and listed building consent applications relating to the **Regal** in Camberwell, now owned by a church. It is intended to remove the mezzanine (added for bingo) and build side and rear extensions, access to which would involve creation of new access ways through original walls in the foyer area. See also p34 last Bulletin. {18111}

An Islamic enterprise, The Merkez, has purchased the **Savoy** at London's Burnt Oak and appointed Signet Planning as its consultant. The latter's representative, James Hobson, has invited the CTA to discuss the organisation's intentions. See p5 Bulletin 46/1. {16555}

In response to a request from the Principal Planning Officer at Calderdale Council, a photograph displaying the original appearance of the **Regal** at Halifax has been located and forwarded. It will be recalled that this cinema was recently marketed with a reserve price of £0; see p20 last Bulletin. {3331}

Pursuant to the issue in March of the local Council's Decision Notice pertaining to the **Regal** at Kingston-upon-Thames, the developer is formulating revisions intended to satisfy conditions therein relating to certain alterations; these are being forwarded to the Association for consideration and comment. See p6 Bulletin 48/4. {20490}

Unlisted

In a somewhat questionable move, the designation of the **Picture Playhouse** in Bexhill as an Asset of Community Value has been rescinded by Rother Valley Council, following acquisition of the premises by JD Wetherspoon. See p22 Bulletin 49/1 & Newsreel p18. {27997}

A representative of Historic England has consulted the CTA apropos of the proposed subdivision of the **Elite** in Middlesbrough. This cinema opened in 1923 and underwent alteration in the early 1960s; unfortunately it has not proven possible to locate photographic evidence of the original, purportedly circular, auditorium. See p20 Bulletin 49/2. {18510}



The Odeon Kensington in 2004

It is presently uncertain if Delancey, successor company to Minerva, will proceed with the 2012 scheme for the site of the **Odeon** at Kensington, consent for which expires in the current year, or opt to persevere with the more recent concept previously reported here. A site meeting is to be held in June. {13801}

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the wonderful world of the theatre organ

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For membership details and sample publications contact

David Shepherd, COS Membership Secretary
Dolby House, Barrington Gate, Holbeach, Spalding, PE12 7DA
or email membership@cinema-organs.org.uk

www.cinema-organs.org.uk

REGENT STREET CINEMA OPENS

By Ian Meyrick

The **Regent Street Cinema** in London, which claims its place in film history as the *Birthplace of Cinema*, reopened as a full-time venue for film on 6 May. Originally part of the Royal Polytechnic Institution, the Lumière Brothers gave the first showing of moving pictures to a paying public in Britain here on 21 February 1896. The Cinématographe was an immediate success and transferred within weeks to the **Empire Theatre** Leicester Square.



The Great Hall at the time of the Lumière show [1]

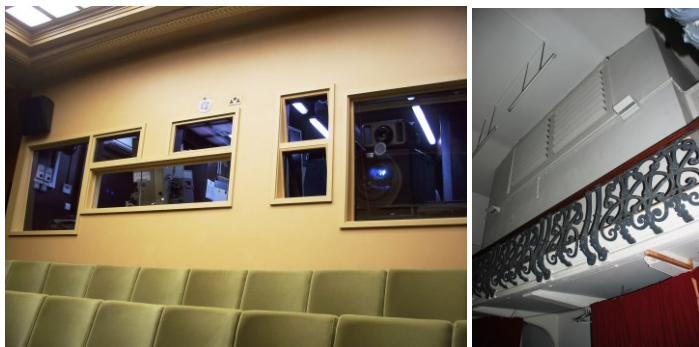
The original Great Hall, surrounded by galleries with ornamental cast-iron balustrades, has undergone a number of major reconstructions since the historic Lumière presentations but has remained an important auditorium space. Developed as a full-time cinema with attractive neo-classical plasterwork and a curved-front gallery (1927, FJ Wills), a Compton organ was added in 1936.

Operating under a number of names, of which the best known is probably **Cameo-Poly**, it became well-known for art and continental films. The Compton Cinema Club, of which film censor John Trevelyan was a member, started there and one of the first batch of films to be awarded the new [X] certificate opened there in 1951. In its time it served as a live theatre and news theatre, before finally closing as a cinema, the **Classic Poly**, in April 1980 to become a lecture hall for the University of Westminster.



The auditorium as it was [2]

The University decided to re-open it as a full-time cinema, initially with a rather ill-conceived plan to return it to a version of its original Victorian appearance, losing the elegant 1927 interior in the process. Input from a number of bodies, notably the CTA, led to the abandonment of these plans and the eventual design (after a £5.8m fundraising campaign) retains the look and feel of the cinema. Stadium seating necessitated breaking through the balcony front in two places but the elegant end-curves have been retained. The former back stalls area has become a spacious bar and meeting area.



[L] the enlarged projection room & [R] the organ chambers [2]



The audience at the *Take Your Seat* preview on 29 April [1]

A proper-sized screen has replaced the small rear-projection one we had seen on our later visits and the enlarged projection room is equipped for 35mm (two FP30s), 16mm and digital. It is also intended to have facilities for 8mm. The Compton organ has been retained and is to be placed on a lift in the centre of the stage. The pipe chambers are behind the screen, situated on the vestiges of the Victorian balcony, where they always have been.



The proscenium [2]

The CTA was delighted to make a financial contribution to this restoration and a seat bears a plaque acknowledging this. Richard Gray, Chair of Casework and Ian Meyrick, CTA Vice-Chair, were invited to represent the Association at a special donors' evening a few days before the opening. A triumph indeed for all involved and a fitting restoration of one of the few remaining cinema interiors from the late 1920s. This and the neighbouring Fyvie Hall (also with a Compton organ from 1934) now have Grade II listed status. Thanks go to the CTA Casework Committee for their major input to this happy outcome.

Photos [1] University of Westminster & [2] the author



[L] the organ console & [R] the projection team [2]

Editor's Note: Thanks also to the dozens of members who sent in press cuttings about this reopening. See p23 last Bulletin.

THE LITTLE THEATRE BATH – PART 2

By Ben Doman

... continued from last time

1959 plans drawn up by the original architect of the theatre show alterations to the projection room and stage to accommodate a wider CinemaScope screen. The original proscenium was removed and the front of the stage moved back, creating space for two extra rows of seats. A new screen was fitted towards the rear of the stage. This extended from wall to wall and blocked the entrances to the existing dressing rooms. To allow the projection beam to reach the new screen, the projection portholes were lowered and part of the ceiling, about halfway between the front of the balcony and the stage, had to be cut back to allow the beam to reach the rear of the stage. The sides and top of the stage were draped with red curtaining. These plans were passed on 6 October 1959.



The first CinemaScope film to be advertised was the Bridget Bardot film *And Woman Was Created*, an [X] certificate, from Sunday 14 February 1960. The original mono Western Electric 'Wide Range' sound system was retained for the CinemaScope installation.

After some lean years during the 1970s, the cinema's fortune was about to turn. The ABC Beau Nash passed over the booking of a new film called *Ghostbusters*, in favour of [15] rated *Gremlins*. Being rated [PG], the Little was able to pull in the family audience. Just hours before the film was due to open in December 1984, Mrs Helen Pitt passed away from an asthma attack. Although in great shock at the death of Mrs Pitt, Manager Steven Warren said he felt that she would have wanted the cinema to stay open. *Ghostbusters* opened as planned with queues stretching around the block and proved to be the start of a revival in the cinema's fortunes. Mrs Pitt's sister, Miss Hilary King, was to take on the running of the cinema.

A second screen was added to the cinema in 1980. The cinema being too small to do the usual horizontal split, the additional screen was built in space that had been the scene store and tea rooms. The foyer area of the new screen included a small bar, although this was never used as such. The 74-seat screen had an unusual arrangement for screen masking. There were 'shutters' either side of the screen that could be opened by hand to expose the full width of the screen. There was a rounded-corner picture frame feature two thirds of the way down the auditorium, with an additional two rows of seats in front. The new screen opened on Tuesday 20 May. There are no records showing what film was shown and no press adverts as the local papers reporters were on strike at the time.



Screen ② (built in the fly tower of the original auditorium's stage) in 1987. The black square below the screen is the mono speaker; it could not be placed behind the screen as this was set on the back wall to increase the seating capacity.



Screen ② in 1987

In May 1985, audiences queuing up were met by seven ducklings and their mother, who had made a nest on the balcony over the entrance doors. The family of ducks had been mistaken for a publicity stunt by some customers – the film showing that week was *The Shooting Party*, the story of one boy's attempts to save his pet duck from being shot! The real life story playing out on the cinema's roof had a happier ending; the ducks returned every summer for several years.

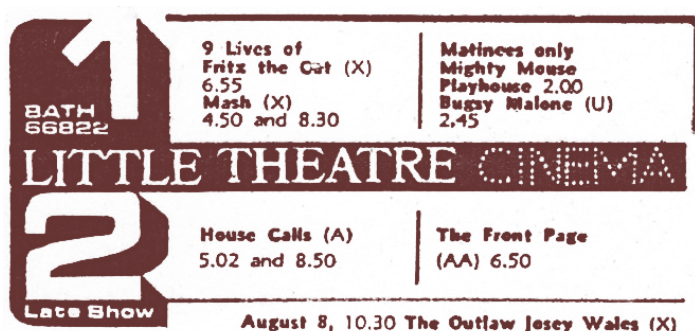


Author front of house in 1985

Films showing are *A Room with a View* and a Japanese film *Ran*. Note the metallic band around the poster frames, referred to below

In the 1980s, the exterior of the cinema had some distinctive poster and still frames incorporated in a wide metal band that started at one end of the frontage, up to the front doors, then carried on around the corner a short way. This metallic band continued inside the foyer, passing around the cash desk and up the stairs, where a black and white montage of film stars covered the entire wall. From there a similar band in dark green stained wood carried on up to screen ② foyer. The cash desk was situated on the left of the foyer and was in front of the small original one. Stairs adjacent led up to the balcony for screen ① and on to screen ②. Stairs led down to a small lobby with kiosk and toilets and the entrance to screen ① stalls.

Projection equipment at that time consisted of Westar projectors in both screens with Cinemeccanica long-play towers. These held giant reels of film. At the end of the show the film had to be rewound ready for the next show. Screen ① had a double-sided tower that held two sets of reels and could be rotated to use either side whilst the other was rewinding and still used the original Western Electric sound system. Screen ② had a single-sided tower and a mono Cinemeccanica C/55 transistorized amplifier.



At this time, late shows were very popular, the **Little** and the **ABC Beau Nash** taking turns to show *The Blues Brothers* and *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* time after time. With waiting patrons dressed as Jake & Ellwood for *The Blues Brothers* or Dr Frank-N-Furter and Magenta from *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*, the queues outside the cinemas for the late shows were quite a spectacle.

In 1992 a programme of improvements was started, with Hilary King spending months trying out new seats for the theatre. After a brief closure to allow the seats to be fitted, the cinema reopened on 31 January 1992 with the Jodie Foster film *Little Man Tate*. The new seats represented an investment of £20,000. Following on from the new seats, the theatre was redecorated and new lighting and carpets fitted.

In May 1994, screen ① was given a facelift when a new Ultra-Stereo sound system from Canada was installed at the cost of £8,000. This replaced the original 1936 Western Electric mono valve amplifier system, which by this time had clocked up a remarkable fifty-eight years of service. Ten surround speakers were fitted around the auditorium and four behind the screen (left, centre, right and sub). At the same time, a new Perlux screen (Perluxe being the type of reflective surface) was fitted. The front of the building was spruced up with the stonework cleaned.



Little Theatre Cinema sign in Westgate Street in 2015. The sign has been in place at least since 1980 and the building it is mounted on was the former Vaudeville Electric Theatre from 1911 to 1923.



The Little Theatre in 2015. The main block of the building is pretty much as the original design. The foyer block and stairwell behind (with **CINEMA** sign) look very much the last-minute additions that they were. The doorway between the four poster cases on the front is the exit from the rear stalls of screen ①. The curved building next to the theatre is the original Citizen House where Miss Consuelo de Reyes set up a centre for dramatic theatre in the early 1900s.



A close-up of the entrance in 2015

To mark the cinema's 60th birthday, the 1928 Buster Keaton film *The Cameraman* was screened on 28 January 1996, with a piano accompaniment.

The cinema was leased to City Screen from 1 April 2003. Screen ② was refurbished, opening on 10 December 2004 with *Phantom of the Opera*. The old seats were sold off to raise funds. The cinema was featured as a building near Farmer Boggis' Farm in the 2009 film *The Fantastic Mr Fox*.

In July 2012, 'Screen ③' was opened in the former **Beau Nash** cinema in Westgate Street, using the balcony seating.

The **Little Theatre** is still a popular cinema and is celebrating its 80th birthday this year.

All photos [except below] from the author's collection



The former ABC Beau Nash in June 2013; photo by Harry Rigby

The Projected Picture Trust

Dean Clough Mills, HALIFAX, HX3 5AX

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

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

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

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

contact@ppttrust.org

www.ppttrust.org

A RETURN TO THE VALLEYS

By Hugh Sykes

26 October 2014. Starting at Rhymney with a quick visit to the station, then a walk into the town for the site of the **Scala**, demolished some time ago, with a wide walkway through to a health centre. The shops on either side remain. It had 389 seats c1950 with prices 7d to 1/9. Frances Frith do a lovely postcard showing the frontage and the town. Rhymney also had the **Victoria Hall**, a 580-seater but I couldn't find it on this occasion. On the road again, to Aberdare and the **Palladium** site. I found the construction of new dwellings well underway, looking quite similar to its demolished counterpart.

The next call involved driving over a steep mountain pass to Maerdy. Sadly, the **Maerdy Workmen's Hall** is no more, with a recreation ground on the site. Around 1950 it was an 850-seater, proscenium width 31ft 6in, prices 4d to 1/9 and run by the Workmen's Hall Committee. The Hall was the focal point during the 1984 miners' strike. Maerdy Colliery closed in 1986 and is now an industrial estate. Nearby is Ferndale, where two cinemas were once open. The **Tudor Palaceum**, a 655-seater was demolished for 'The Strand' car park, which is opposite the Ferndale Band HQ. The **Workmen's Hall** stood on the High Street with 1,067 seats, proscenium width 30ft, stage 25ft deep and six dressing rooms. A doctor's surgery now stands on the site.

Now there is a Co-op store nearby and it put me off guard, thinking ex-cinema usage – but wrong! The local newsagent came to my rescue. The building is a conversion of two Co-op shops, a greengrocer and a butcher, into its present form.

To the next valley and visiting Treherbert via the railway station (terminus) we found the site of the **Gaiety** cinema in Bute Street, a 500-sater with a 12ft deep stage, run by G Beynan & Sons of the **Casino** Porthcawl. Now demolished and the site occupied by a Spar store. Up the valley a little further to Blaen-Rhondda with the closed Fernhill Colliery at its end. It had a 500-seat cinema within the **Fernhill Workmen's Hall** but unfortunately I couldn't find it; some new housing was present.



The Blaengwynfi Workmen's Hall in Abergwynfi

More hill climbing to Abergwynfi to photograph the **Blaengwynfi Workmen's Hall** found (as noted previously, p10 Bulletin 49/2) open for the community with films once a month. Down the road and into Cymmer (near Port Talbot), the first call was a must! The important railway refreshment rooms are still here and open, even though trains on the Rhondda and Swansea Bay Railway ceased in 1970. The line is now a recreation park and walks, all landscaped.

Down into the village proper, turning left over the river, is the former Co-op store in Cymmer, now a private residence. But upstairs, behind the frontage, this building contains the auditorium of the 350-seat **Cosy Cinema**, proscenium width 24ft, prices 9d to 1/9, which I believe ran until c1960 with the Co-op manager operating the venue. I had the honour to meet the 'Lady of the House' and we had quite a chat; she even asked me if I would "like to buy". I showed her some photos.



The former **Cosy** in Cymmer

Leaving the **Cosy** I turned left for the former mining hamlet of Glyn-corrwg at the end of the valley. Its **Workmen's Hall** is fully open, even on films once a month. Within the building there is an auditorium that had 400 seats, a 24ft proscenium, a stage 14ft deep and prices 1/- to 1/3. There are several ways of getting to Glyn-corrwg – the loveliest is the former railway line, converted into a country footpath and cycleway.



The Workmen's Hall in Glyn-corrwg

Back out of the valley via Cymmer, I took another climb to the hamlet of Caerau. Lots of change here, with the removal of the Caerau Colliery, then closure and clearance of the railway into a footpath/cyclepath and both cinemas long gone. The 608-seat **Coliseum** stood on Herman Road with a proscenium width of 22ft. Landscaping has taken place as the road junction has been altered. The 505-seat **Cosy** near the station was far from 'cosy' at the end of its life. It held occasional variety and had a 16ft stage and three dressing rooms. Locals seem only to remember the poor quality of the auditorium and films projected and there were no tears when it was demolished. With the removal of the station and road alterations, the site is long gone. The only landmark is the Station Hotel, which was nearby.



The Institute Nantyffyllon

On our way to Maesteg is Nantyllyllon, which still has an Institute. Now I am not sure about this one. Films were screened locally (I believe in the 1950s) but I cannot prove where.



The former **Plaza** Maesteg

The last town on this tour was Maesteg with four venues still extant. The 950-seat **New Theatre** is now The Sawyers Arms for Wetherspoons. The 900-seat **Plaza** had opened in 1935, replacing an earlier **Cosy** cinema. In 1973/4 it was converted into a nightclub but was recently sold at auction (to whom?). I found the doors open for a Bible study group but I did not venture in! The 750-seat **Regal** in Castle Street operated c1939 to 1984; since closure it has become a church, part of the Elim movement. The **Town Hall** hosted cinema screenings in 1994 in the 170-seat balcony but patronage dwindled when newer/latest releases were shown at Bridgend so only live shows were advertised as seen. There were earlier cinemas in the town – the 1910 **Co-op Hall** in Neath Road / Llynfi Road; the 1910 **New Empire** in Office Road; the 1919 **Cosy** but I know little of them.

On the way home I passed through Tonyrefail and noted the **Savoy** reopening as a theatre and Gilfach Goch, which had two venues. More on these from the next visit.

Photos above by Hugh Sykes; photos below by Harry Rigby, July 2008



The **New Theatre** Maesteg



The former **Regal** Maesteg

HOLIDAY SNAPS



Taken at Le Treport in Northern France; sent in by Roger Fox



The **Empire** at Paray-le-Monial in south-central France; sent in by Trevor Haynes & Chris Godbold



The **New Picture House** at Diss (Norfolk) recently tidied up and in use by an electrical retailer; Sent in by Martyn Hunt

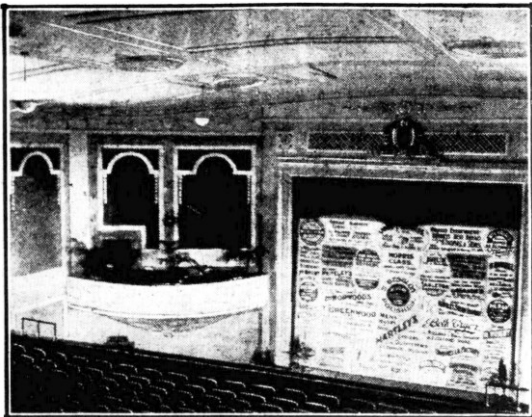


The **Movies** at Dordrecht, Holland; sent in by Harry Rigby

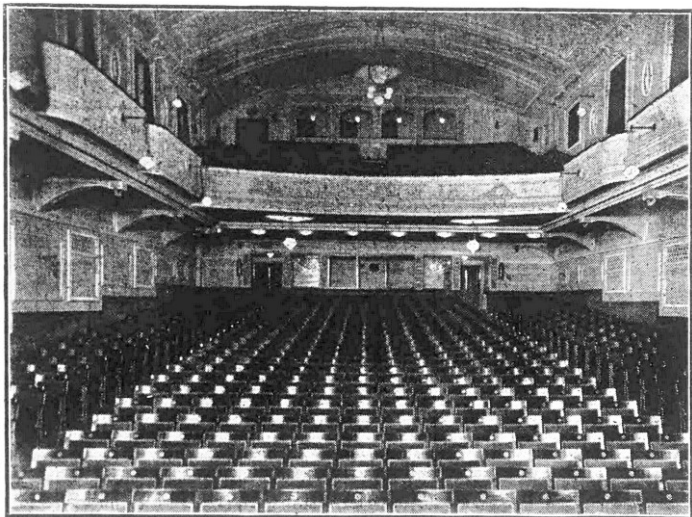
TALKIES COME TO BURNLEY

By Hector J Hill

The year was 1929 and the days of silent films were numbered. On Saturday 4 May in Lancashire, the *Burnley News* reported “A ‘Talkie’ Rumour’ going around the town that the operator of an un-named ‘principal cinema’ had given his musicians six-months’ notice.” Having investigated, the reporter declared the rumour groundless and that ‘talkies’ would not reach Burnley until 1930 at the earliest. Within days, events proved him wrong. The tale of the early adopting cinemas is interesting.



The first Burnley cinema to install sound equipment on a permanent basis was the locally-owned 1,189-seat **Pentridge**. It had opened in 1910 in part of the Victorian Pentridge textile mill, half a mile from the town-centre; and had been re-fronted, remodelled and enlarged into the upper floors in 1920 [above]. The owners installed a Butcher's Film Services Electrocord sound system, which debuted with Bebe Daniels in *Hot News* [right] on Whit Monday 20 May. This was just 16 days after the report of the 'groundless' rumour. The local newspapers gave minimal editorial coverage to the event. The **Pentridge** may have lacked influence with these newspapers but it did have the monopoly of 'talkies' in Burnley for the next 14 weeks.



Second was the town-centre **Savoy**, a locally-owned 1,023-seat, purpose-built cinema [above] and café, which had opened on a prime site in December 1922 after much delay. Clearly, the owners already had firm plans when the **Pentridge** beat them to it. So on Saturday 18 May, two days before the **Pentridge** launched, the **Savoy** had a spoiler in the form of an article in the local paper, pointing out that they had tested a sound system (probably Phonofilm) some 18 months earlier but had found it unsatisfactory. Therefore they were acquiring the best: a Western Electric system, the logo for which featured in **Savoy** advertisements [top next column].

PENTRIDGE
FIGURE 104E. BOOK YOUR SEATS

TREMENDOUS HOLIDAY ATTRACTIONS.
MONDAY, MAY 20th, FOR SIX DAYS.

6-40 Twice Nightly 8-45
Matinees Monday, Tuesday and Saturday at 2.30.

THEY'RE HERE

TALKIES

Come and see and hear them.
TALKING, SINGING, and SOUND FILMS.
Now showing at **Every Performance**
in addition to above.

MONSTRE HOLIDAY ATTRACTIONS.

BEBE DANIELS
IN "HOT NEWS"
"This picture has a really swift pace of faraway lands."
—Daily Mail
"A brilliant comedy of laughs and thrills."
—Daily Chronicle
Starring **MIL HAMILTON**
A Paramount Picture
A CLARENCE BAKER Production
"For a first-class movie of this kind, nothing might be better than the swift, snappy, and the smart Paramount, the Bebe Daniels film, 'Hot News'."
—Rexley Graphic
Another Zane Grey's master story,
"THE WATER HOLE"
With **JACK HOLT** and **NANCY CARROLL**
"Zane Grey has made a new personal statement in the history of the western picture. 'The Water Hole' is a really modern story and story, the story Zane Grey tells is the one part of the action being played in the West. He has his own magnificent plot, and an engaging, modern, readable, was created in the West."
—M. C. C. "Many of the legends and stories in Indian history."
A PROGRAMME THAT HAS NEVER BEEN EQUALLED.

THE SHOW THAT BEAT THE WEATHER.
SATURDAY 1st and 2nd HOUSES SOLD OUT.
SEATS STILL AVAILABLE FOR EVERY OTHER PERFORMANCE.

'THE GLAD RAG DOLL'

THE ALL-TALKING LAUGHTER HIT, WITH —
DOLORES COSTELLO

HERE'S YOUR FINEST LAUGH AND WE WARN YOU AGAIN—YOU'LL MISS IT IF YOU DON'T BOOK NOW.
SEE FIVE DOLLORET WINDOW. THAT'S ALL! 100 ST. JAMES STREET, THE MELODY SHOP.

NEXT WEEK BOOK NOW. BOOK NOW.

LOIS MORAN, THE GOLDEN VOICED STAR OF "BEHIND THAT CURTAIN IN
"WORDS AND MUSIC."

ALL TALKING, ALL SINGING, ALL DANCING MUSICAL REVUE OF COLLEGE LIFE.

WE ARE NOW BOOKING SEATS FOR CHRISTMAS WEEK.

SAVOY, Burnley, 2-45, 6-40, 8-45.

 **Western** **SOUND**  **Electric** **SYSTEM** 



On 20 July the *Burnley Express & Advertiser* provided publicity in the form of a long report about 'Talkies At The Savoy' with details about the 'operator's box' being extended into the foyer, a 'speaker chamber' being built into the alley behind the screen and Western Electric engineers assessing the acoustic properties of the hall. The *Burnley News* on Saturday 3 August obligingly printed a photograph [above] of a lorry and trailer laden with Western Electric equipment and bearing large signs, parked ostentatiously outside the **Savoy** earlier that week. The 'four-and-a-half-ton' had been 'shipped direct from America'; and come straight from the London Docks'. However, it was not until 23 days before the dual sound-on-disc and sound-on-film *talkies* debuted.



At this stage one suspects that there was discussion around Burnley about the relative merits of the already-operating Electrocord and the forthcoming Western Electric systems, because the third cinema to wire for sound used devious advertising. The locally-owned **Imperial** was a 1,072-seat, purpose-built cinema with café in an area of dense, cramped, terraced housing, which had opened in January 1921 [above].

Tel. 3933 IMPERIAL Tel. 3933

TO-DAY (SAT.) at 2.30, 6.30 and 8.45: LIANE HAID in "THE NIGHT OF HER LIFE," BARRY NORTON and DOROTHY JANIS in a desert romance "FLEETWING."

MONDAY and WEDNESDAY at 7.30, TUESDAY at 2.30 and 7.30:
BARBARA BEDFORD and RALPH GRAVES in a gripping story of a dangerous mission, with a striking climax.
THE Second Shot
 Sir Alan Cobham's flight of 20,000 miles in a flying boat.
Round Africa with Cobham
 A thrilling and inspiring picture.

QUITE SO!
 Imperial Talkies are the best! Made by Western Electric in fact! Soon you'll see and hear:
 "Through Different Eyes,"
 "The Perfect Alibi,"
 "Nothing but the Truth,"
 "The Doctor's Secret,"
 and then judge for yourself.

THURSDAY, & FRIDAY, at 7.30, SATURDAY, at 2.30, 6.30, and 8.45:
BETTY COMPSON
 Also B. Francis & Theo Von Eltz
 In an entertaining story of New York society and its underworld.
Life's Mockery.
 FRANCIS X. BUSHMAN and GERTRUDE OLTMISTED in
MIDNIGHT.

The Best Western Electric Talkies will soon be here

The imminent arrival of 'talkies' at the **Imperial** was advertised in the *Burnley Express & Advertiser* on Saturday 24 August [above]. To the casual reader it looked as if top-dollar was being paid for a Western Electric system but careful examination reveals it merely referred to 'talkies' 'Made by Western Electric'. It was a spoiler, two days before the **Savoy** burst into sound.

Al Jolson in *The Singing Fool* launched 'talkies' at the **Savoy** on Monday 26 August. There was generous pre- and post-launch newspaper coverage describing the **Savoy** as the first "in the town itself" with sound. It is interesting to read the *Burnley News* reporter's account of his first time in a 'talkies' 'cinema house'. "One noted at once before the darkness descended... that the orchestra spaces had undergone some sea change. Where there had been chairs and music-stands there was that which, from the back parts of the gallery, looked like a green bank such as that whereon the nodding violets blow; and it seemed strewn either with brightly tinted autumn leaves, or with the petals of seasonal roses... And whilst we waited to see the Talkies there was a continuous chant of dark, swelling, organ-like music coming from behind the screen. It felt a little like being in church and one assumed it was a sort of overture to *The Singing Fool* or to the exhibition in general."

Tel. 3933 IMPERIAL Tel. 3933

TO-DAY (SAT.) at 2.30, 6.30 and 8.45: HOLMES HERBERT and MARGARET LIVINGSTON in "THRO' THE BREAKERS," and JACK HOLT and BETTY COMPSON in "COURT-MARTIAL."

ALL NEXT WEEK at 6.40 and 8.45. MATINEES EVERY DAY AT 2.30 (EXCEPT FRIDAY).

BURNLEY'S GREATEST ENTERTAINMENT.
 Direct from a wonderful run at the Manchester Hippodrome.
 A TREMENDOUS THRILLER BY THE MAKER OF "THE BAT"

THE PERFECT ALIBI
 A Magnificent 100% Talking Production.
 ACCLAIMED BY THE THOUSANDS WHO HAVE SEEN IT AS—
THE PERFECT TALKIE.
 The Latest and Best Western Electric Movietone.
 THE MOST COMFORTABLE HOUSE IN TOWN NOW PRESENTS AN ENTERTAINMENT EXACTLY AS SHOWN IN LONDON AND NEW YORK.

POPULAR PRICES: 6d., 9d. and 1/-
 At Matinees: 800 Seats at 6d.

SEATS NOW BOOKING. Tel. 3933. SEATS NOW BOOKING.

Three weeks later, 'talkies' debuted at the **Imperial** on Monday 16 September with *The Perfect Alibi*. Two days earlier, on Saturday 14 September, an advertisement [above] in the *Burnley Express & Advertiser* showed the **Imperial** was still spinning the Western Electric line; but careful readers would note 'The Latest and Best Western Electric Movietone'; a conflation of sound systems. In fact, the **Imperial** had installed British Talking Pictures equipment.

Electrocord at the pioneering **Pentridge** lasted barely 15 months. In August 1930 the cinema had new out-of-town operators, Standard Cinema Properties Ltd of Birmingham, who immediately rebranded it the **Regal** and installed a Western Electric system, the logo of which they displayed in their joint advertising for the **Regal** and their other recent Burnley acquisition the **Alhambra** [right column, top]. Whereas the **Pentridge** was being re-equipped, the **Alhambra** was a newcomer to 'talkies' [right column, centre].

By late 1931 every Burnley cinema had installed a sound system. The 1935 *Kinematograph Year Book* listed 16 cinemas in the town: 8 with Western Electric; 5 British Talking Pictures; 2 British Thompson Houston; 1 RCA; and none Electrocord.

The **Imperial** stayed with British Talking Pictures, announcing a system upgrade in January 1937 [right column, bottom]. But 'talkies' were no longer a novelty and Burnley cinemas did not routinely advertise their sound system brands.

3 SHOWS DAILY 2-30, 6-40, AND 8-45.

REGAL
 LATE PENTRIDGE, OXFORD RD, PHONE 3048.
Western Electric SOUND SYSTEM
ALHAMBRA
 TRAFALGAR ST., NR MITRE, PHONE 2765.

BURNLEY'S PREMIER CINEMAS.
 MONDAY, TUESDAY, and WEDNESDAY.

THE SCREEN'S GREATEST ALL-TALKING THRILLER.
TEMPLE TOWER
 FROM THE NOVEL BY "HAPPIER," WITH A BIG TALKING CAST INCLUDING
Kenneth McKenna and Marceline Day.
 THE YEAR'S MOST ORIGINAL ALL TALKING THRILL DRAMA.
 THE ALL-TALKING AND SINGING REVUE—
THE NEW WAITER
 WITH A BIG CAST INCLUDING KEBLE THE FAMOUS JUGGLER.

BRITISH MOVIE TONE NEWS
 HEAR THE NEWS SEE THE VIEWS.
 THURSDAY, FRIDAY, and SATURDAY.
 THE ALL TALKING AND LAUGHING MYSTERY PLAY

IN THE NEXT ROOM
 FEATURING
Jack Mulhall and Alice Day.
 BARGAIN MATINEE PRICES DAILY AT 2.30.
LOOK OUT FOR JACK BUCHANAN, the World-Famous Musical Comedy Star.
 WE LEAD WITH THE BIGGEST TALKIES OF THE DAY.

ALHAMBRA
 TRAFALGAR STREET, BURNLEY.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

This Theatre has been acquired by an important syndicate, and closed on Monday last for alterations, re-furnishing, renovations, and the installation of the latest costly model of

WESTERN ELECTRIC SOUND SYSTEM
 which will be installed by Monday, Sept. 1st, when we re-open with Exclusive Talking Programmes. WESTERN ELECTRIC SOUND SYSTEM is noted for perfection and clarity of tone, and you will say the Alhambra is the Premier Talkie and most comfortable theatre for miles.

Watch our posters for further announcements and big exclusive Talkies.

MATINEES DAILY at 2.30.
EVENINGS, TWICE NIGHTLY at 6.40 and 8.45.

IMPERIAL
 TEL. 3933. GANNOW TOP. USUAL TIMES.

MONDAY, TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY, — JANUARY 25th, 26th, 27th.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT!!!
 WE HAVE INSTALLED AT TREMENDOUS COST —
 THE FIRST NATURAL FULL RANGE SOUND EQUIPMENT IN THE NORTH.
 IT'S AMAZING! IT'S WONDERFUL! I! COME AND HEAR—
NELSON EDDY and JEANETTE MacDONALD
 IN METRO'S GOLIATH OF MUSICAL SHOWS— (U)

NAUGHTY MARIETTA
 ALSO ON THE SAME PROGRAMME THAT BRILLIANT DRAMA— (U)
RHODES OF AFRICA with **WALTER HUSTON, OSCAR HOMOLKA.**
 COMPLETE CHANGE OF PROGRAMME THURSDAY, FRIDAY & SATURDAY.

Postscript: 86 years after the shadows on their screens first spoke: the **Pentridge** (Holmes St) is a derelict former night club; the **Savoy** site (Manchester Rd/Red Lion St) has a retail business in the bank building that replaced the cinema; the **Imperial** site (Shale St/Monmouth St) has Imperial Court apartments; and the **Alhambra** site (Trafalgar St) has a canal-side car park for a college in an adjacent mill, having previously been the site of a car wash, which replaced the cinema.



REVISITING MALTA'S CINEMA HERITAGE

By Marc Zimmermann

It has been three years since the CTA's visit to Malta, organised jointly with the Cinema Heritage Group (CHG), offering members a four-day introduction to the numerous historic cinemas that predominantly date to the country's British Empire period. (Malta gained independence in 1964 and became a Republic in 1974. A direct British influence was felt until troops withdrew in 1979.) As with any historic – and contemporary – cinemas around the world, changes occur often, ranging from new threats and unchecked losses to restoration projects and the securing of cinemas' future survival. For the benefit of the CTA members who explored Malta in 2012 and for those preferring a dose of armchair travel, I have compiled an update of the changes observed during the three years since. The following overview follows a similar itinerary to the 20-25 May 2012 tour, which I led in my capacity of CHG Chairman.

[1] VALLETTA

Malta's capital city is gearing up for V18, as European City of Culture in 2018. There are no firm plans to recognise its historic – as well as current – cinemas for the key rôle they have been playing in the socio-cultural fabric of the city, as yet.

With the assistance of a government co-funding scheme, the **Embassy** cinema managed to fully upgrade its remaining analogue screens to digital projection, retaining only one 35mm projector in the process. It is envisaged, however, to relocate its six screens within the multi-storey retail building (to basement levels), designating the current cinema space to a boutique hotel development. A planning application was approved last year but it appears works are unlikely to kick off any time soon. Whether all six screens will survive the move remains to be seen.



The Manoel Theatre in Valetta

The 1732 **Manoel Theatre**, which served as a full-time cinema from 1927 to 1955 and which is reputed to be Europe's third-oldest working stage theatre today, had its rental agreement for the adjacent Palazzo Bonnici terminated. The building had been used as the theatre's courtyard café, admin offices and a small additional performance hall. Consequently, ancillary spaces such as its box office were relocated, while the informative theatre museum was restructured. Restoration works at the theatre are ongoing.

The former 1866 **Royal Opera House**, which was damaged in a 1942 air-raid and dismantled in the 1950s, reopened in August 2013 as the Renzo-Piano-designed open-air theatre **Piazza Teatru Rjal** [Royal Theatre Square; sic] within the footprint of the original structure and nestling within the fabric that was conserved as a ruin. In addition to concerts and performance art events, it screened three European films with a maritime theme in August 2014. While the current structure remains controversial in the eyes of many Maltese, the call for the faithful rebuilding of British architect Edward Middleton Barry's original edifice does not die away, in spite of the fact that – as others claim – the historic venue would not meet modern-day performance requirements.



The Opera House in Valetta

The small **St James Cavalier Cinema**, a Europa Cinemas member, was upgraded to digital 4K projection in 2013, a resolution somewhat excessive for its petite screen. The 35mm projector was retained but 16mm equipment had to be removed from the booth due to space restrictions. Nestling in its historic setting within a substantial 16th Century cavalier, the cinema has gradually re-established its focus on European films, reducing the time given to theatre or opera broadcasts, under its young, new programming director.

The small 1977 **City Lights** cinema (opened as the **Capitol**), which had converted from mainstream to soft-core pornography screenings in the late 1970s, was in the spotlight on and off between 2009 and 2012 as an outcry over this well-known 'secret' swept the media and it was forced to cease screenings. The owner had already been considering alternatives such as establishing a 5D cinema experience but no such progress can be reported as yet. Its future remains uncertain.

[2] GOZO



The Citadel in Gozo

The **Citadel Theatre** (cinema, Victoria) closed its doors in March 2013, unable to operate sustainably any longer due to a lack of available first-run 35mm prints. For about a year it appeared as if Gozo's only full-time cinema might not recover but a second call in the government's digitisation scheme finally brought the much-needed co-funding for the upgrade of its two screens to digital projection and I am pleased to report that the **Citadel** reopened in December 2014.



The **Don Bosco** cinema in Gozo

The 1951 **Don Bosco** cinema (part of a Catholic oratory, in Victoria) also benefited from government support, upgrading its single auditorium to digital projection and 7.1 surround sound. It has continued its weekend screenings (Sat/Sun only) of family-friendly second-run features and remains the only cinema with a classically-styled auditorium operating in the Maltese islands. In April 2015 it extended its schedule to bring Malta's 2015 Oscar-shortlisted feature film *Simsha* (directed by Rebecca Cremona) to Gozo for the first time.

The fiercely competing 1968 **Astra** and 1976 **Aurora** (within a few hundred metres of each other in Victoria), which had each been built for the twin purposes of cinema and opera house, continue to stage an annual opera production while accommodating visiting plays at other times.

[3] SLIEMA & BEYOND

Over the past year the **Empire** multiplex (Buġibba) has managed to upgrade the remaining of its six screens to digital. In my eyes it remains the best-maintained of the three first-run multiplexes in Malta. Meanwhile, without basic protection of its fire-gutted ruin, the 1916 **Australia Hall** (Pembroke), a sizeable entertainment hall and cinema built for convalescing WWI soldiers, has been deteriorating further.

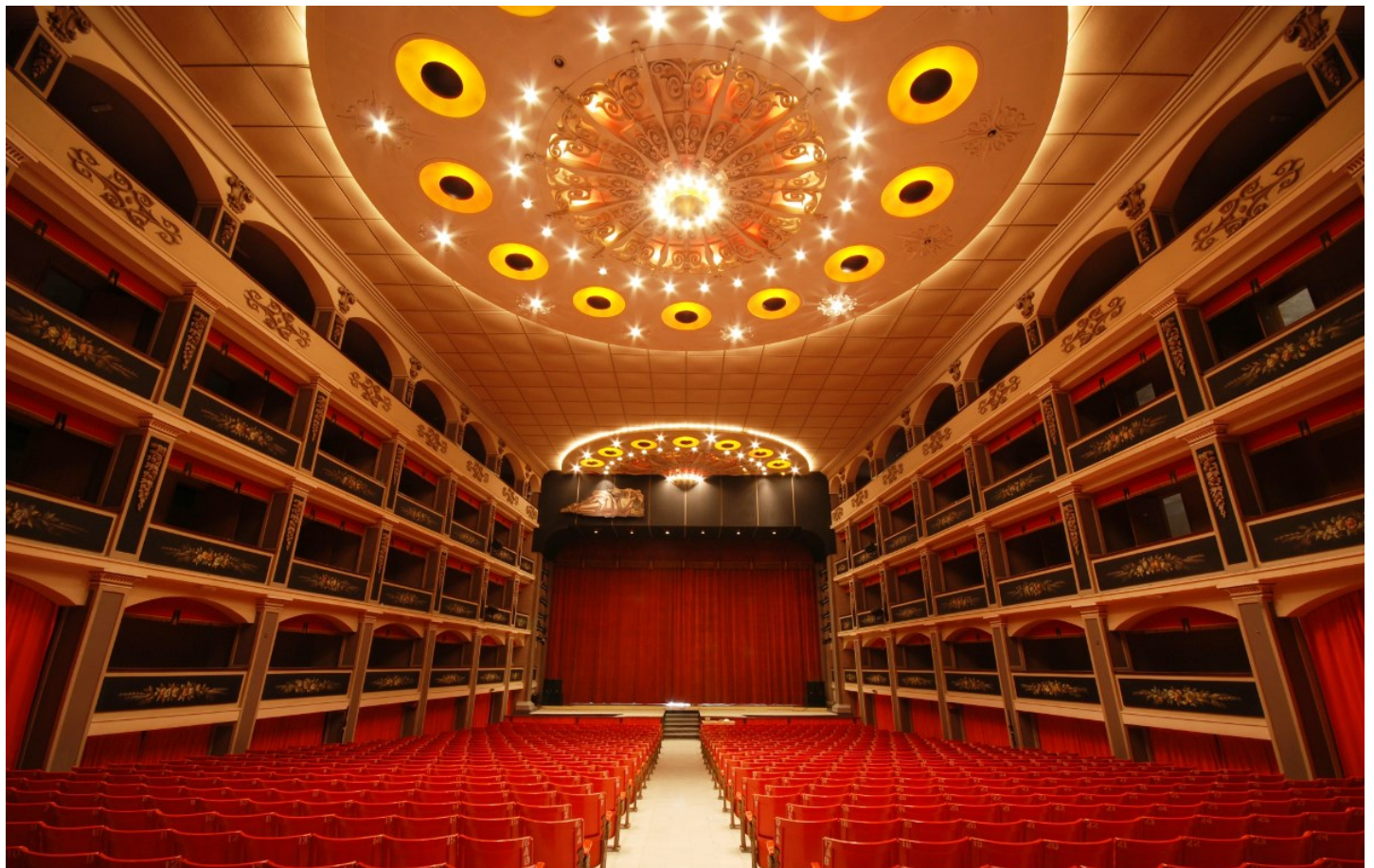
In a much-criticised move, the current Labour government ordered the Maltese courts to drop a lawsuit against it (concerning breach of lease contract due to neglect of the heritage-listed building) and de facto gave the building to its own party as a gift. On a positive note, the Australian High Commission has recently expressed an interest in reviving the building and in restoring it to its former glory. This fight is not over yet.

The **Eden** megaplex completed digitisation of its remaining auditoria in 2014. As I had anticipated and considering the substantial investment required (even with a projected 30% government co-financing), the owner/operators downsized the cinema complex – located in two separate buildings – by closing its four basement auditoria (screens 7/8/9/10, to be converted to a casino), reducing Malta's (still) largest cinema from 17 to 13 screens.



The **Orpheum** in Gżira

Regrettably, nothing of consequence is to be reported regarding the direly needed restoration of the **Orpheum** cinema (formerly theatre, Gżira). Its interior has been deteriorating further, while its striking auditorium is being underused for bingo and the occasional photo shoot or music album launch.



The **Aurora** in Gozo



An audience in the **Orpheum** in Gżira in 1934

The converted 1919 **Carlton** (Sliema) is still used as a retail outlet (M&S). The retailer's adjacent towering extension has dwarfed the former cinema, reducing the legibility of its original appearance in the waterfront streetscape.



The **Carlton** in Sliema, c1939

[4] THE THREE CITIES & BEYOND

The **Rialto** (Cospicua) which had been afforded heritage-protection in 2010, following the Cinema Heritage Group's dedicated casework, has received a limited clean-up and coat of paint in its auditorium. Regrettably, its potential as a culture venue has still not been recognised by its owners (the Malta Labour Party) and it has been relegated to host a handful of minor events throughout the year, including a short-term call centre. It is the CHG's vision that the former cinema be regenerated – in conjunction with the adjacent Dock No1 area – as a cultural hub for the Three Cities, serving a range of functions including stage (play/concert/conference), screen and exhibition. This fight isn't over, either.



The **Rialto** in Cospicua, c1970

The erstwhile **Eden** cinema (Fgura), which has been operating as a popular second-run miniplex under the **Tal-Lira** (One Pound) and **Gallerija** brand, has managed to fully upgrade its four screens to digital projection, with the assistance of the government's digitisation scheme. Since last year it has added selected first-run features to its programme. While its second-run features are priced at just €3, new releases are charged at €6, slightly cheaper than its competitors.

CINEMA HERITAGE GOUP

The Cinema Heritage Group (a registered preservation NGO) has continued to consult with two government entities on two main cinema restoration projects. Both are concerning the restoration of full-time cinemas built and operated by the British Armed Forces. The **Astra**, a 1950s former RAF cinema (Luqa) is to be restored and converted to a conference venue. The **Navy Cinema** at Fort St Angelo is undergoing restoration works to serve as an audio-visual centre and exhibition space for the heritage fort. While other sites are at risk, our involvement can prevent more counter-intuitive losses.

The Cinema Heritage Group (CHG) is an NGO dedicated to recording and preserving cinema-going history worldwide, with a focus on Ireland (where it was founded in 2006) and Malta (its current main base). Our organisation has further been instrumental in the establishing of a new NGO in 2012, the Malta Film Network, an association of seven non-profit entities that jointly work to promote cinema-going culture, European film and heritage preservation.



BONUS POPCORN FACTS

Fort Ricasoli, the nearby Water Tank Facilities (aka Mediterranean Film Studios) and other versatile locations around the islands have been hosting a large number of foreign productions in recent years, facilitated by the increasingly active Malta Film Commission. They range from biopic adventure *Kon-Tiki* (2012) to Hollywood's *World War Z* (Brad Pitt) and *Captain Phillips* (Tom Hanks) in 2013, Angelina Jolie's *By the Sea* (2014) and TV series such as *Sinbad* (2012) and *The Dovekeepers*, which recently wrapped filming. This May, director Michael Bay shot parts of *Tempest* here, the story of the 2012 attack on the US compound in Libya, while actor Rob Lowe explored the islands during breaks in filming for the TV series *You, Me and the End of the World*.

If readers have photographs or details pertaining to British cinema history in Malta, I would be glad to hear from them. To find out more about cinema-going history around the world, check out [www.CinemaHeritageGroup.org] and/or [www.facebook.com/CinemaHeritage]. Your input and queries are equally welcome via [info@cinemaheritagegroup.org].

Editor's Note: See colour supplement with Bulletin 46/5.

Colour photos © Mark Zimmermann; b/w photos © CHG collection

THE RITZ WALLSEND

By David Williams

Those members who took part in the Tyneside Pilgrimage tour in October 2011* will recall the visit to the Mecca Bingo / former **Ritz** Cinema, Wallsend, which was closing that day. It was then rumoured to have been acquired by a supermarket chain. As subsequently reported it was eventually bought by Wetherspoons and reopened as a pub, The Ritz, last month after a £1.26 million rebuild.

I have visited it this week and was very disappointed at what I found but, having seen the plans on-line, I was prepared for most of the mutilation of the building but not all. The original building was designed by the renowned architect, Percy L Browne & Son and opened in May 1939 but unfortunately, unlike the nearby 1937 **Wallaw** Cinema in Blyth by the same architect and also reopened as a Wetherspoon's pub some two years ago, did not enjoy the protection of Grade II listing!



The retained original foyer ceiling

At Blyth, Wetherspoons retained the full auditorium, the foyers and staircases along with the plasterwork decoration throughout, including the proscenium. In contrast at Wallsend, whilst they have created an attractive well-fitted room, bar and servery, all traces of the cinema have been obscured, removed or even demolished, including one of the most attractive parts. The only two exceptions are the entrance foyer, behind the retained façade, with its high-domed square ceiling (which ironically on our visit was the only part obscured by a suspended ceiling but is now exposed) and the crush hall at the rear of the stalls, which retains its ceiling coving but has now acquired light oak panelled walls along with the rest of the remaining stalls walls.



View from the foyer to the site of the stalls passage and the circle staircase – compare with photo top next column

That is where the good news ends; the link between the foyer and the auditorium, which runs parallel to the street, has been completely demolished, leaving an open area between the street block and the auditorium. This area contained both the corridor leading to the stalls crush hall and the adjacent imposing staircase leading to the



A view from almost the same place as the previous photo. The staircase has now completely gone! *

circle. This demolition has, therefore, removed all public access to the circle. In keeping with this now 'rustic' space, all the plaster has been removed from the remaining front foyer walls, taking them back to the bare brick.



The retained crush hall ceiling

In the auditorium a ceiling has been inserted over the front stalls between the circle front and the proscenium. This covers the bar, food servery, cellar and kitchen, which have all been constructed in the front stalls area. The toilets occupy the stage with only a small section of the proscenium edge and adjoining wall decoration still visible next to the ladies' toilet door. To complete the distancing of the building from its original use, large windows have been inserted on both side walls and the rear wall of the auditorium.

All photos by the author, except * by Dave Profit; #see p9 Bulletin 46/1



Windows inserted in the North wall; the South wall has even more!

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]

ABERDEEN

Further to the newsreel item on p18 of the last Bulletin, **Cineworld** has confirmed it will add an **IMAX** screen to its multiplex at Union Square as part of expansion plans for the Centre. {44719}

Press & Journal (Aberdeen) – 22 May

ABERFELDY (Perth & Kinross)

The **Birks** cinema celebrated the second anniversary of its reopening on 20 April with a visit from Scotland's Second Minister. In that time it has attracted over 90,000 visitors and seen a growth in sales of 13%. It had won national awards and widespread acclaim for its architecture and design. {39010}

Perthshire Advertiser – 21 April

BARGOED (Caerphilly)

Plans to build a Council-funded **Odeon** multiplex have been dropped because it would cost too much money. Initial plans, which originated in 2010, were revised last year when the scheme would have cost £8.4m.

Caerphilly Observer – 28 May; Western Mail – 5 June

BARNESLEY (South Yorks)

There could be a cinema war in Barnsley! There are proposals for a multiplex as part of a £50m town centre regeneration scheme and also plans for a nine-screen cinema on top of the Alhambra Centre. It is understood cinema operators have been consulted.

Barnsley Chronicle – 29 May

BASILDON (Essex)

The eighteen-screen **Empire** (ex **UCI**) was due to open its new **IMAX** screen on 11 June with *Jurassic World*. It is a conversion of the existing screen ①. {24133}

Basildon Recorder – 22 May

BELFAST

The four-screen **Strand** has announced plans to seek funding for a £2m renovation programme. The refurbishment plans are in their infancy but new screens and drama/dance studios are on the wish-list along with workshops, two theatre spaces and a cafe/bar fronting the Hollywood Road. The CTA visited the building, which celebrates its 80th birthday later this year, in September 2014 – see Bulletin 49/1. The cinema hosts monthly Saturday morning tours. The next one is on 15 August and costs £3.50. Only ten places are available on each tour so book at [strandartscentre.com] or 028 9065 5830. {24058}

Belfast Telegraph – 23 May, 19 June; sent in by Bob Bradshaw

BEXHILL (East Sussex)

Plans by JD Wetherspoon to convert the former **Curzon / Redstack Playhouse** into a pub have been approved by the Council. See Case-work p6. {27997}

Bexhill on Sea Observer – 29 May, 4, 5 June

BIRMINGHAM (Central)

Plans have been submitted to convert the ground floor of the former **ABC New Street** into an Italian restaurant. It was originally built as a Masonic Hall but became a full-time cinema in July 1910. In November 1930 it reopened as the **Forum** with a modern interior designed by WR Glen within the existing walls. It had 1,259 seats over three levels, unusual for a cinema. The last film was *ET* in April 1983, a year after it had been listed grade II. The foyer was converted into an amusement arcade, which closed in January 2013. Offices were created in upper parts of the building but the rest was just abandoned. There is a gallery of dozens of interior photos on the *Birmingham Post* website at [tinyurl.com/oshqckv]. {9313}

Birmingham Post – 4 June; photo [top next column] taken April 2007



The former **ABC New Street**, Birmingham

BISHOP AUCKLAND (Co Durham)

Planning permission has been given for a six-screen cinema at Auckland Retail Park, along with the usual attractions. An operator has been appointed but does not wish to be identified at present.

Wear Valley Advertiser – 15 April

BLETCHLEY (Bucks)

The 42-seat **Enigma Cinema** operated by the Projected Picture Trust at Bletchley Park has been shut down. The move is part of the regeneration of the park into a heritage site; all private collections that operated within it have been given notice. Some of the Trust's collection of projectors has been moved to Halifax (West Yorkshire).

MK News – 13 May; see photo on front cover

BORTH (Ceredigion)

Plans have been submitted to turn a former chapel into a boutique cinema, theatre and restaurant. The building has been empty for the last five years. Important architectural features will be retained.

Wales Online – 16 June

BRADFORD (West Yorks)

Proposals for a six-screen cinema together with restaurants and a café on the Broadway site have been put out for public consultation.

Telegraph & Argus (Bradford) – 23, 17 April; Yorkshire Post – 24 April

£1.32m Remedial work on the **Odeon** [detailed on p19 of the last Bulletin] has been completed. The building is now safe and sound and ready for conversion into a large performance venue. {3677}

Telegraph & Argus (Bradford) – 1 May



The **IMAX** cinema at the National Media Museum [above] has closed for more than two months for a £780,000 upgrade. A new screen and digital projection system will be fitted and there will be improved seats with more leg-room, reducing the capacity to 218. The attraction will reopen in September; the other two cinemas in the complex remain open. {3672}

Telegraph & Argus (Bradford) – 11 June

BRIGHTON

Proposals have been submitted to demolish the grade II listed former **Astoria** and replace it with a commercial development. {1844}

Argus (Brighton) – 12 May; Brighton & Hove Leader – 14 May

BROUGHTON (Flintshire)

The eleven-screen **Cineworld**, which opened on 8 May, is said to be doing good business. It has the only **IMAX** screen in North Wales. The business was relocated from nearby Chester. See p20 last Bulletin.

Western Mail (Cardiff) – 4 June

CAMBUSLANG (South Lanark)

The John Fairweather Wetherspoon pub (see Bulletin 49/3), once the former **Savoy** cinema, is becoming something of a mecca for old cinema workers and enthusiasts, with a vintage 35mm projector as one of the cinema-related items on display in the entrance foyer. Andrew Goodwin, from Specialist Cinema Services in Strathaven, contacted ex cinema managers and projectionists, with whom he had worked, inviting them to see the newly restored former cinema and this has gone so well he is organising other groups to see the restoration. {25853}

Sent in by Mike Whitcombe

CAMPBELTOWN (Argyll & Bute)

250 seats from the **Picture House** are being sold to raise money for the cinema's restoration. A single seat will cost £15; two or more cost £10 each: email [admin@weepictures.co.uk].

Campbeltown Courier – 10 April

CANTERBURY (Kent)

A redevelopment of the Kingsmead site is to include – yes, a multiplex cinema!

Kentish Gazette – 23 April, 14 May

CHESTER



An art deco building in Boughton that was created as a cinema is to become a wine merchants, with 10 loft apartments to the rear due for completion in October. It was built as a cinema in 1939 but never opened due to the outbreak of WWII. It was used as a store and has been occupied by a variety of businesses since, latterly by Bonhams Auction House.

Chester Chronicle – 19 June; photo taken July 2007

CORK (Ireland)

Plans have been put forward for the demolition of the former **Capitol** cinema. See p32 Bulletin 48/4.

Irish Examiner – 14 May

DERBY

Derby Civic Society has unveiled a “grand vision” for the City. Ideas include a new concert hall to replace the fire-damaged **Assembly Rooms** and a new commercial theatre in a resurrected **Hippodrome**. A cinema is also included. Campaigners have welcomed the report.

Derby Telegraph – 23, 26 May; sent in by Peter Good

DUDLEY

Campaigners are “appalled” after an £8m deal to save the **Hippodrome** fell through. Bosses claim the deal broke down after they failed to reach an agreement over shared use of the car park with Dudley Zoo and the removal of asbestos.

Express & Star – 28 April; sent in by Ivan Harris

DURHAM

Durham City Council has appointed **Picturehouse Cinemas** to take over film and event programming at the **Gala Cinema**. The existing two screens need modernising and further screens could be added. It opened in February 2002 with a giant screen on which was shown an 8/70 film about St Cuthbert; a 72-seat second screen was added in 2007. See p21 Bulletin 48/6. {24672}

Northern Echo – 30 May

A six or seven screen cinema is being proposed for the redevelopment of the Gates Shopping Centre. An [un-named] operator has shown an interest. A planning application has been submitted and, if approved, work could start next year with completion in 2017.

Northern Echo – 10 June; Durham Advertiser – 11 June; Durham Times – 12 June

ELLON (Aberdeen)

Ellon Cinema had reached its £41,000 funding target to buy a digital projector. A mobile cinema has been visiting the **Victoria Hall** once a month but now shows will be held there more regularly.

Ellon Times & East Gordon Advertiser – 21 May

FARNBOROUGH (Hants)

The new seven-screen **Vue** opened on 8 May on the ground floor of The Meads shopping centre. Seating is provided for 326, 154, 83, 95, 73, 95 and 95. {49042}

Aldershot News & Mail – 9 April

FLEETWOOD (Lancs)

The former **Victoria** has been bought by a local firm. They have plans to lease the building and create an arts and community centre. The vision includes transforming the main hall into a 400 or 600-seat theatre, which could also be used as a cinema for older films. It was built in 1929 and closed in 1967. Bingo took over but that closed about five years ago. See p6 Bulletin 48/6. {36672}

Fleetwood Weekly News, Blackpool Gazette – 6 May

GLASGOW (Shawlands)

Plans by the G1 Group to reopen the former **Waverley** (latterly Tusk nightclub) seem to have fallen through. {23093}

Extra (Glasgow) – 28 May

GLASGOW (Silverburn)

The fourteen-screen **Cineworld** at the Pollock Shopping Centre was due to open on 26 June. It will have a Superscreen – a wall-to-wall screen with dual projectors.

Extra (Glasgow) – 28 May

GRAYS (Essex)

Mecca Bingo in the grade II listed former **Ritz** looks set to close on 19 July. A spokeswoman didn't confirm the site was closing but said, “Grays has been underperforming for some time and we are considering the difficult decision of terminating our lease.” It opened in November 1940 and films ceased in February 1976. {22456}

Thurrock Gazette – 12 June; sent in by Margaret Burgoine; see photo front cover

HALSTEAD (Essex)

Campaigners aiming to reopen the **Empire** have raised hundreds of pounds by holding a successful quiz night. £60,000 is needed to fund a digital projector. See p25 Bulletin 49/1. {14560}

Halstead Gazette – 29 May

HEATON MOOR (Stockport)

The **Savoy** has been closed since last November but now has been taken over by the Mundin family. They have successfully reopened the **Ritz** in Belper (Derbys) and the **Regal** in Melton Mowbray (Leics). Renovation has already started and the cinema should be open by September. There will be a selection of 125 standard seats, luxury Pullman chairs and sofas. The latest digital and satellite equipment will be installed. Their website [www.savoycinemaheaton.com] has a blog with photos of the progress. {24761}

Stockport Express – 13 May; Manchester Weekly News – 13, 21 May; sent in by Carl Chesworth, Terry Rourke & Nick Taylor

HEMEL HEMPSTEAD (Herts)

Dacorum Borough Council is hoping to attract operators for a new six or nine-screen cinema in Market Square. The manager of the Marlowes Shopping Centre says that competition from the **Empire** will put off potential investors. The **Empire** is planning to upgrade to an **IMAX** with almost 20 screens.

Hemel Hempstead Gazette – 27 May

HEREFORD



The Hereford-based Freedom Church has expressed an interest in taking over the former **Ritz/ABC/Odeon**. It proposes a 450-seat auditorium and offices; presumably this means getting rid of the 1972 horizontal subdivision. The cinema opened in January 1938 and closed in May 2014. {24769}

Hereford Times – 4 June; photo taken March 2008

HULL (East Yorks)

The owner of the former **National Picture Theatre** put up for auction the front part only of the bombed building but it failed to sell, falling short of its reserve price of £40,000 by £1,500. He had also put in planning permission to use this part as an alfresco dining area. The National Civilian World War Two Trust wants to turn the site into a memorial. The Council has previously announced it would issue a Compulsory Purchase order for the site. See p18 Bulletin 49/2 and Picture House 38 (2013) back cover feature. {40893}

Hull Daily Mail – 12, 27 May, 25 June; sent in by David Alexander

ILKLEY (West Yorks)

Work has begun on converting a former nightclub into a 56-seat cinema; this is expected to be the smallest 4k cinema in Europe. The upstairs hall used to be a Co-op. Opening is expected in November.

Ilkley Gazette – 9 April; *Yorkshire Post* – 14 May

IPSWICH (Suffolk)

Revised plans (reported on p22 of the last Bulletin) have been approved for a sixteen-screen cinema in the Buttermarket Centre. The operator is not known. **Vue** pulled out of a previous scheme for a multiplex at the centre.

Ipswich Star, *BBC News Website* – 3 June; *East Anglian Daily Times* – 4 June; sent in by Carl Chesworth

KIRKCALDY (Fife)

Vue cinemas is reported to be developing plans for a cinema in the town. It is believed to be interested in the former swimming pool site on the seafront. The last cinema in town, the **ABC** closed in 2000.

The Courier (Fife) – 16 June

LLANDUDNO (Conwy)

The former **Grand Theatre** has been sold for £140,000. The new owners, MBI Hotels, say they will work with the community to decide what to do with the grade II* listed building. It was last used as a nightclub, which closed in June 2013. See p26 Bulletin 49/1. {25528}

Daily Post (Wales) – 22 May; sent in by Nina Williams

LLANELLI (Carmarthen)

An open day was held at the grade II listed former **Odeon / Theatre Elli** by its new owners. They are developing the building into a new entertainment hub and restoring its art deco appearance. A digital projector has been installed but 35mm is being retained. It is hoped one cinema screen could be open by Christmas. Shares are being offered to the public to fund the next stage of the project. See p8 last Bulletin. {7304}

South Wales Evening Post – 3, 4 June

LLANGOLLEN (Denbigh / Sir Dinbych)

A new community run **Dot Cinema** will be showing films at Llangollen Town Hall from July. The original red velvet seats are still in the balcony. The name harks back to the former **Dorothy** cinema in the town, which is now a bookshop. [www.newdotcinema.org]

Denbighshire Free Press – 29 April

LONDON (Bethnal Green)

Permission has been granted to turn the former **Rex / Essoldo** into apartments and commercial space. See p5 last Bulletin. {16512}

Metro – 26 May; *Docklands & East London Advertiser* – 28 May, 4 June; sent in by Keith Bye & R David Simpson

LONDON (Canary Wharf)

A three-screen **Everyman** cinema opened on 15 May in a new development that will incorporate the new Crossrail station in 2018. Seating is provided for 109 in screen ①, 52 in screen ② and 105 in screen ③. All screens are equipped with Sony 4k digital projectors, premier armchair and sofa seating. {48871}

BBC1 Breakfast – 1 May; *Evening Standard* – 15 May; sent in by Carl Chesworth

LONDON (Croydon)

Campaigners who brought the **David Lean Cinema** back from extinction have formed a community interest company. The *Save the David Lean Campaign* will be able to hire staff and more easily sign contracts with film distributors, putting it on a professional footing and heralding a new chapter in the 68-seat venue's life. The campaigners successfully fought to reopen the cinema in the Croydon Clocktower last year, after it was shut down by the Council in April 2011.

Sent in by Stuart Smith

LONDON (East Dulwich)

The three-screen **Picturehouse** opened on 23 May in the former Thomas More Hall. The screens seat between 123 and 56 and there is a café. {49040}

Southwark Weekender – 1 May

LONDON (Hackney Road)



Mecca Bingo in the former **Odeon** closed on 16 June. The cinema opened in July 1938 and closed in May 1961. It was the first purpose-built **Odeon** to be converted to bingo; in fact its 65 years as a bingo hall were longer than its life as a cinema. The lease was terminated early by the owners of the building, who stated they have an offer to redevelop the site. {13886}

Hackney Citizen – 2 June; sent in by Jeremy Buck, Charles Jenkins, David Jones, Philip Mayer, Ken Roe & Andrew Woodyatt; photo taken April 2015

LONDON (Hammersmith)

The **Lyric Theatre** reopened on 28 April after a £20m redevelopment that has taken nine years. It includes new state-of-the-art facilities and a 50-seat cinema.

Ealing Gazette – 10 April; sent in by R David Simpson

LONDON (Harlesden)

The former **Coliseum** in Manor Park Road has been re-opened as a pub, The Picture Palace, by the Antic Pub Co. The frontage has that chain's usual dilapidated appearance, with no name visible. Inside is a large space, with a sizeable screen at the far end, loosely divided into two by a set of doors, enabling privacy from those eating and drinking at the front of the building. The building closed as a cinema around 1980 and later became a Wetherspoon's pub before another pub chain took over. When it was Wetherspoon's *The Misty Moon* they put on (amongst others) *Jackie Brown* – most enjoyable with an especially good soundtrack. The alterations are not yet complete and I get the impression it is being run on a shoestring.

Sent in by Jeremy Buck & Simon Walker

LONDON (Holloway)

Eight Irish Travellers have won damages of £3,000 each after they were refused admission to Wetherspoon's in the former **Savoy/ABC/Coronet** in November 2011. The judge said that the thinking of the



then manager of the pub was “suffused with the stereotypical assumption that Irish Travellers and English Gypsies cause disorder wherever they go.” {4301} *photo taken September 2004*

BBC News website – 18 May; sent in by Ian Patterson

LONDON (SHEPHERDS BUSH)

Plans to demolish the former **Pyke's Cinematograph Theatre / Classic / Odeon 2** and replace it with a 16-storey apartment block have been rejected by local planners.

Evening Standard – 2 June

LONDON (South Ruislip)

Sainsbury's has won a judicial review into plans for an Asda supermarket and an eleven-screen **Cineworld** on the former Arla Foods site.

Uxbridge & West Drayton Gazette – 29 April

LONDON (Victoria)

A burst pipe outside Westminster City Hall flooded the recently opened five-screen **Curzon Victoria**. It is situated in the basement of an office building. The road outside collapsed and firemen had to carry about 20 cinema-goers to safety. {45417}

Evening Standard – 8 June; West End Extra – 12 June;
sent in by R David Simpson & Ian W Mitchell

AE writes: This incident was greatly exaggerated by the *Evening Standard* as far as the **Curzon** is concerned. No damage was done as no water invaded the cinema and the newspaper showed a fireman carrying a cinema-goer across the flooded pavement outside. The **Curzon** was closed on the Saturday night as a precaution after the water main burst but re-opened as normal the following day.

LONDON (Walthamstow)

The former **Granada/EMD** could reopen to the public before Christmas. The plans have a 1,000-seat auditorium with restaurants and bars. Rooms for B&B could also be added. Residential development will help fund the scheme. See p19 Bulletin 49/2. {9397}

Waltham Forest Guardian – 29 May, 4 June;
sent in by Carl Chesworth & Nigel Pitt



A planning application has been submitted to demolish the former **Empire/Cameo/Tatler** at Bell Corner and replace it with a six-storey development of flats and retail space. It opened in February 1913 with 880 seats on a steep site with the screen at the entrance end. Films ceased in August 1963 and it became a bingo club. It was last used for snooker. {22759} *photo taken August 2013*

Waltham Forest Guardian – 25 June; sent in by David Jones

LONDON (West End)

Picturehouse Central in Piccadilly Circus partially opened in mid-June. It is housed in the former **Trocadero/Cineworld**. Eventually there will be seven screens, each named after a film star. 35/70mm projection will be retained in screen ① and 35mm in screen ⑦. Screen sizes have been increased and sightlines improved. Further technical details are available on Picturehouse Cinemas' website blog [picturehouseblog.co.uk]. {16993}

Picturehouse Cinemas website; Time Out, The Guardian – 6 June;
sent in by Jeremy Buck, Keith Bye, Carl Chesworth & R David Simpson

AE writes: **Picturehouse Central** accesses the seven former **Cineworld** screens in the Trocadero Centre by a new entrance and staircase from the corner of Shaftesbury Avenue and Great Windmill Street. It fully opened on Friday 19 June with films ranging from *Jurassic Park* in 3D (hardly an arthouse film!) to a single showing of the classic *Freddie*. Full admission price after 5pm is £18.00.

LUTON (Beds)



The nightclub in the former **Ritz** has closed. The cinema opened under the **Union** banner in October 1937, just three days before the circuit was acquired by **ABC**. Films ceased in 1971, when **ABC's** other cinema in the town, the **Savoy**, was tripled. It became a bingo club until 1999, when it was converted into a nightclub. A sign on the building says “Nightclub Freehold”. {6247}

Luton News – 20 May; Herald & Post – 21 May; Luton on Sunday – 24 May;
sent in & photo by Margaret Burgoine



Above is a photograph I took on 4 June of the former **Picturedrome** in Park Street. All the For Sale / To Let signs have now been removed along with the Riley's Snooker signs so hopefully that means the work on converting the building to a Church is about to start.

Luton at Large – June; sent in & photo by Margaret Burgoine

MANCHESTER (Central)

The new £25m **HOME** arts centre held its opening weekend at the end of May. There were special events and tours of the building, which comprises two theatres five cinemas and an art gallery. Seating capacities in the screens range from 250 to 40. 35mm & 16mm projection has been installed as well as 4k digital. [homemcr.org]

Manchester Evening News – 15, 22 May; sent in by Carl Chesworth

MARCH (Cambs)

JD Wetherspoon has opened a 13-room hotel next to its premises in the former **Hippodrome**. The final film had been in 2009 and the pub opened in March 2011. {19945}

Wetherspoon News – 1 April

MARGATE (Kent)

Phase one of the Dreamland Theme Park reopened in June with 17 rides. Work on the grade II* listed **Dreamland** cinema is scheduled to begin in the autumn; it is hoped it could reopen by 2017. The disused cinema building is currently subdivided with two screens in the former circle and a bingo hall in the stalls. {15123}

Isle of Thanet Gazette – 5, 12 June; sent in by Margaret Burgoine

MONTROSE (Angus)

Montrose Theatre Project has acquired a 99-year lease on the former swimming pool for £1 per annum. The group plans to convert the building into a four-screen 352-seat digital cinema. The next step is to complete an array of funding applications towards the £4.3m cost of the project. An artist's impression of the building has been published and plans were displayed in the local library.

Evening Express (Aberdeen) – 27 May, 8 June

NEWMARKET (Suffolk)

Plans to turn the former **Doric** into flats have been rejected by councillors. Local residents are still hopeful that the 1937 building could be developed for community use, including a cinema. Films ceased in July 1964 and it was last used as a nightclub. See p25 Bulletin 48/6. {24935}

Newmarket News – 3 June; *Newmarket Journal* – 4, 10 June

NEWPORT/CASNEWYDD (South Wales)

The shell of the new eight-screen **Cineworld** at the Friars Walk Shopping Centre has been handed over for fitting out. It is due to open on 12 November.

Western Mail (Cardiff) – 4 June

OSWESTRY (Shropshire)

Fears have been raised that **Cineworld** is questioning the viability of operating a five-screen cinema in the Smithfield site development.

Oswestry & Border Counties Advertiser – 19, 26 May; *Shropshire Star* – 19 May

The former **Regal** is to become an Original Factory Shop. It opened in May 1933 and films finally ceased in June 1994. In 2003 the interior was gutted and two levels created for a shop. A recent proposal to use the building as an arts centre came to nothing. See p23 Bulletin 48/1. {28606}

Shropshire Star – 1 June; sent in by John Powell

PAISLEY (Renfrew)

Renfrewshire Council has agreed to provide up to £34,000 towards a business plan for a community-led theatre and cinema development.

Paisley Daily Express – 25 May

PETERBOROUGH (Cambs)

Plans have been unveiled for a £30m redevelopment of the Queensgate shopping centre; they include – wait for it – a multiplex cinema! Plans have already been announced for an eight-screen cinema as part of a development at North Westgate, which adjoins the Centre.

Peterborough Citizen – 20 May

PLYMOUTH

Plans for an eleven-screen **Cineworld** on the site of the Bretonside Bus Station have been given planning approval.

The Herald (Plymouth) – 24 April

PONTYPRIDD (Rhondda Cynon Taff)

A campaign has been launched to save **Pontypridd Town Hall**. The building dates back to 1885 when a large theatre, seating about 1,700, was built over the pre-existing fruit and vegetable market. It was also used as a cinema but closed in 1982. Wales Online photos at [tinyurl.com/noaqd2s]

Wales Online – 1 June

PORTSMOUTH



The **Theatre Royal** [above L] is due to reopen later this year after a £4.5m rebuild and refurbishment. They have launched a sponsor a seat campaign – for £215 the sponsor's name will be displayed on a plaque for the life of the seat. A brief history appears on p15 Bulletin 45/6. {27719}

The former **Palace** [above R] in Guildhall Street (almost opposite the **Theatre Royal**) is now a nightclub called Astoria. The cinema closed in 1980 in a run-down condition. The exterior of the building is in good condition with the paybox still at the entrance. {22564}

Daily Echo (Portsmouth) – 4 June; sent in & photos by Ian Patterson

PRESTAYN (Denbigh / Sŵr Dinbych)

The new operators of the **Scala** have assured residents that the cinema will retain its existing name. It was expected to reopen in late May or early June after improvements had been made. {23237}

Rhyl, Prestayn & Abergelle Journal – 29 April

PRESTON (Lancs)

The 1973 indoor market and car park is to be demolished to make way for a redevelopment incorporating a cinema. The 1875 covered market is to be retained with an indoor facility built under the grade II listed canopy.

Lancashire Evening Post – 9, 10 June

RAMSGATE (Kent)

JD Wetherspoon has released plans of how it proposes to turn the grade II listed former **Royal Victoria Pavilion** into a pub. A public exhibition and consultation was due to take place on 19 June.

Isle of Thanet Gazette – 12 June; sent in by Margaret Burgoine

REDHILL (Surrey)

Construction of 76 flats has begun on the site of the former **Odeon**. The auditorium was demolished but the façade has been retained. See p26 Bulletin 48/6. {33941}

Leatherhead Advertiser – 21 May

RYE (East Sussex)

Local architect firm Jonathan Dunn has won the main Townscape award from Rye Conservation Society for its work on the new **Kino** cinema. It now goes for consideration for the Stirling Prize. See p13 Bulletin 49/2. {47891}

Rye Observer – 1 May

SALISBURY (Wilts)

The **Odeon** has had a partial refurbishment, including a new heating system and major improvements to the seating in screen ②. It opened as the **Gaumont Palace** in September 1931 and became the **Odeon** in 1964; it currently has five screens. It is listed grade II, although the façade and outer foyer was built as Ye Halle of John Halle around 1470 and is listed grade I. {22735}

Salisbury Journal – 30 April; photo [R] taken June 2015



SCARBOROUGH (North Yorks)

The Council's cabinet has rejected the idea of a five-screen cinema on the North Street car park. Planning permission had been granted in 2008.

Scarborough News – 21, 28 May, 4 June

Suitable locations are being sought for a drive-in and open-air cinema for the town. The entrepreneur behind the scheme says the project is fully funded and ready to go, including a 4k digital projector, capable of using a screen up to 30m wide.

Scarborough News – 11 June

SHEFFIELD

Construction has begun on a nine-screen cinema at The Moor, which will be operated by **Light Cinemas**. Opening is expected early in 2017.

Sheffield Star – 8 June

SOUTHEND-ON-SEA (Essex)



The **New Empire** is on the market for £775,000. The building is a 1920 rebuild of an 1896 theatre and opened as the **Rivoli**. In 1962 it reopened as the **ABC** after a £100,000 refit. It was twinned in 1980 and closed in January 1998. Later that year it was used as a theatre but the company was evicted in 2008 due to a rent dispute. In 2009 the building was on the market for £1.5m and as recently as 2012 estate agents were asking £950,000. In 2012 a planning application was submitted for religious use but the church pulled out after it was revealed they would need to spend in excess of £2m to renovate the building. {14608}

Basildon Echo – 25 May; photo taken July 2007

SOUTHSEA (Hants)

The **Kings Theatre** has been subject to extensive (and on-going) renovation since it changed hands several years ago. The Frank Matcham Society recently held its AGM there and had a tour. The guide mentioned about the restoration, including the removal of 1960s panelling on the doors. Apparently, during the makeover of the dressing rooms, the carpet had to be scraped off the floors and a person followed behind with a hammer to kill the moths that flew out of the carpet!

Sent in & photo [R] by Ian Patterson



ST LEONARDS ON SEA (East Sussex)

The 100-seat **Kino Theatr Playhouse** [sic], which closed in 1977 and has been empty ever since, is to reopen as a cinema, theatre and live music venue.

The Stage – 18 June; sent in by Peter Good & Sally McGrath

STOCKPORT

The restoration of the Compton organ at the **Plaza** has been completed. It now looks and sounds as it did when it was installed, 80 years ago. Glass in the illuminated surround has been replaced with exact replicas of the original. The organ was showcased at an Art Deco weekend in early June.

Stockport Express – 27 May; sent in by Carl Chesworth & Nick Taylor

STOURBRIDGE (Dudley)



The former **Scala/Savoy/ABC** is up for sale. Local agents Walton & Hipkiss say on the sale board it is a “major development opportunity”. It opened in October 1920 and closed in November 1982. It has since been used as a supermarket, a health club and a “gentleman's club”. {28388}

Sent in by Ivan Harris; photo taken April 2005

SUDBURY (Suffolk)

It is understood that the Council is in talks with a cinema operator in their bid to attract a three-screen cinema to a site in Hamilton Road. The town once had two cinemas, the **County** and the **Gainsborough**; the latter still stands and is used as a nightclub.

East Anglian Daily Times – 25 May

THETFORD (Norfolk)

The first spade has been put in the ground to start the Riverside development, which will incorporate a three-screen **Light** cinema and a Travelodge hotel. The project is expected to take 18 months to complete.

Eastern Daily Press – 12 June

TROWBRIDGE (Wilts)

Cineworld has refused to comment about its plans for an eight-screen 1,400-seat cinema on the former Bowyers factory site. The site has appeared on a commercial property website. A seven-screen **Odeon** opened in the town last year; see p27 and front cover last Bulletin.

Wiltshire Times – 5 June

TUNBRIDGE WELLS (Kent)

The site of the now demolished **ABC** [etc] has gone on the market again. This follows failed attempts to have a Waitrose and hotel complex moved there.

Kent & Sussex Courier – 17 April

WALLSEND (North Tyneside)



The former **Ritz** reopened as a Wetherspoons pub on 12 May. The conversion is not one of their best; the foyer was demolished to make an outdoor smoking area and the auditorium has had a false ceiling inserted, which hides most of the original decorative features.

The cinema opened in May 1939 with 1,636 seats and closed in September 1962. It became a bingo hall, which closed on 9 October 2011; the CTA visited that very day. It has retained the name **The Ritz** with red lettering down the fin and a triangular sign suggestive of ABC on the frontage. £1.26 million was spent on the refurbishment. See p17. {29098} *photo by David Williams*

The Journal (Newcastle) – 18 April; Evening Chronicle (Newcastle) – 14 May; additional information from Martin Tapsell & Mike Whitcombe

WARRINGTON (Cheshire)

The Council has confirmed it has no plans to include a theatre in the ten-screen **Cineworld** at the Bridge Street development.

Warrington Guardian – 11 June

WEDNESBURY (Sandwell & Dudley)

The former **Gaumont / Odeon / Silver Cinema** is still for sale. The building had a suspected arson attack in 2014 but is still considered structurally safe and is on the market for £425,000. See p28 Bulletin 48/2. {33046}

Sent in by Ivan Harris

WETHERBY (West Yorks)



The **Wetherby Film Theatre** has celebrated its 100th birthday. It opened on 21 April 1915 with 500 seats and was originally called **The Raby**. It was acquired by Star Cinemas in the 1940s and re-named **The Rodney**; the seating capacity had been reduced to 260. Bingo was introduced part time in the early 1960s but it closed in 1964. A group of locals stepped in to restore the cinema and it reopened in 1994 with 156 seats on a single level. Digital projection has now been introduced. {3507}

ITV News Yorkshire – 21 April; photo taken July 2004

WHITEHAVEN (Cumbria)



The **Gaiey** (circle cinema) reopened for one weekend only on 19/20 June as part of the Whitehaven Film Festival. A huge community effort was made to get the building in order. Digital projection was temporarily installed. It is hoped someone may eventually reopen it permanently but it would require “a significant investment”. The building opened in April 1922 with 1,480 seats in stalls and circle. In 1980 it was split horizontally with the circle becoming a 264-seat cinema, which closed in 2003. Bingo still continues in the former stalls below. {3134}

Whitehaven News – 28 May; photo taken June 1999

WOLVERHAMPTON



Hundreds of people had to be evacuated from the **Cineworld** at Bentley Bridge after 50 Sikh campaigners surged into the screen showing the Bollywood film *Nanak Shah Fakir*. Police were called and the campaigners refused to move until the screening was stopped. The controversy stems from a depiction of the Guru and other religious figures in human form, which is considered to be a blasphemous violation of religious doctrine by many Sikhs. {25861}

Express & Star – 21 April; photo taken August 2007

WORCESTER



The **Odeon** is celebrating 65 years on film. It currently has seven screens. The CTA visited in September 2012. {25870}

Worcester News – 1 May; photo taken May 2006

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.

LETTERS

HOUSE LIGHT UP & CERTIFICATES

In reply to Jeremy Perkins' query on when and who decides on when the auditorium house lights should be raised at the end of a film, I can hopefully cast a little insight into this. All hard drives on which the feature is sent to the cinema have what is called a 'Credit Offset' on the label. This is usually a few minutes and so many seconds back from the end of the film. In other words if the complete running time of the film is two hours and the credits run for 3 minutes 30 seconds then the credit offset will be labelled 1 hour, 56 mins, 30 seconds to read 1:56:30. This enables the person building the programme to insert the 'Houselights Up' macro into the programme at that particular point. Of course this can be ignored but unfortunately some major companies insist that the houselights are raised at the point when the first end credit hits the screen. This is solely due to Health and Safety issues and does not take into account any action that may appear during or after the final scenes. The Distributors accept this practice as a cinema chain does not want a claim for someone leaving the cinema and falling in the dark. In some sites this brings on lighting that also floods the screen and makes it impossible to even view the credits. In addition you may also get a poorly trained usher/usherette who will ram on the cleaners lights anyway.

Geoff Gill (Formerly Chief Technician Odeons Streatham and Brighton)

The letters regarding certificates in the current bulletin jogged my memory of an incident at the **Cannon (Savoy/ABC)** Swindon when we showed the first [12] rated film *Batman*. Although the BBFC certified the films, local Councils had to approve the ratings used by them. By the opening Friday the manager had not received a letter from the Council stating that we were permitted to show [12] rated films, so the film ran as a [15] certificate on the Friday. The letter arrived the next morning and from that day it was shown as a [12] certificate. I don't think this was uncommon, as the print was provided with both [12] & [15] certificates to attach to the beginning. Local Councils also had the power to refuse a BBFC certificate or impose their own if a film was refused a certificate by the BBFC. One film that comes to mind was *The Last Temptation of Christ*, which the local Council refused to be played at the **Cannon** Newbury but was granted a showing in nearby Reading.

In answer to Jeremy Perkins' letter on lighting cues, they are inserted by the cinemas themselves, much as were the foil cues on 35mm prints. Cues for lights, sound, projector functions etc are placed by time. They can be inserted at the start or end of a clip or at a dedicated time in a clip or point in the playlist. There is usually guidance on a letter from the distributor as to what point in time on the film

the credits start but experience has shown that this is not always 100% accurate. Most TMS systems (Theatre Management System) which are basically a central server that hold all the content and where playlists can be built and scheduled, will insert the standard cues (show start, feature start, show end) automatically, with just the lighting cue for the end credits needing to be inserted as appropriate. Some are even intelligent enough to insert the appropriate projector cue for flat, scope, 2K or 4K based on the naming convention of the feature.

On naming conventions and certificates, there is no indication in the naming convention of trailers to indicate their certificate. With the trailer certificate no longer shown on screen in most cases, it's no wonder that the occasional cinema slips up with inappropriate trailer ratings. Certificates can be ascertained by referring to the distributors' web sites.

Ben Doman

I can answer Jeremy Perkins's question that he asked in his letter on page 30 of the last Bulletin. Digital prints only contain data associated with the film. Everything else in a programme – ads, trailers, etc and the cueing of non-synch, house lights, screen lighting (if there is any) – is added at and by the cinema. How well this is done varies considerably from cinema to cinema and is determined by the skill and interest of the technical manager (if there is one) or another member of staff such as an assistant manager. Depending on the make and type of digital projector being used and the associated software, there can be limitations on what can be achieved. This is why presentation in a digital screen is invariably nothing like as good as it was with 35mm film when there were dedicated projectionists aiming to provide 'a good show'.

Tony Williams

EMPIRE EALING



The site of the former **Empire** cinema (ex-**Forum**, **ABC**, **Virgin**, **UGC**) opposite the Town Hall is the subject of a compulsory purchase order (CPO). The CPO was promoted by the Council but financed by Land Securities, their development partner for the wider development site incorporating the site of the former **Walpole Picture Theatre** (the arch of which survives forlornly [pictured above in April 2006] on the side of a house in nearby Mattock Lane). The CPO was opposed by Empire Cinemas and various other landowners affected, in particular the owners of Walpole House in nearby Bond Street, which would be demolished. The public inquiry hearing was held in mid-April, concluding in May. Empire argued strongly that they had fully intended to complete their 20-screen cinema but this intention was thwarted by the Council's CPO action, which had resulted in Empire's loan financing the development being called in by their bankers. Empire had lost control of the site for 12 months in 2013/2014 as a direct result. They indicated that if the CPO failed they would build their original scheme or an amended one, which incorporated a route into Bond Street. The result of the inquiry is not expected before the autumn.

Robert Gurd

Delivery Type:	Addondics EXT3 formatted hard disk		
File Format:	JPEG 2000 Interop		
This package includes the following DCP elements, which should be assembled to play in the order shown.			
Name	Description/Type		
SOUND_MUSIC_BBFC_HD-239_EN-XX_GB-XX_51	Sound of Music BBFC		
PARKCIRCUS_LOGO_177_EN-XX_00	Park Circus Logo		
SOUND-OF-MUSIC-R1_FTR_HD239_EN-XX_GB-XX_51AD	Sound of Music Feature, Part 1		
	** optional intermission **		
SOUND-OF-MUSIC-R2_FTR_HD239_EN-XX_GB-XX_51AD	Sound of Music Feature, Part 2		

Main Film Details			
CPL Name: SOUND-OF-MUSIC-R1_FTR_HD239_EN-XX_GB-XX_51AD			
Credit sequence offset:	n/a	Subtitle Language:	n/a
Audio Language:	English	Total file sizes:	119GB
Rating:	U	Sound Format:	5.1 with AD
Running Time:	01:42:36	Projector config:	DCI-HD239
Aspect Ratio:	HD-239		

CPL Name: SOUND-OF-MUSIC-R2_FTR_HD239_EN-XX_GB-XX_51AD			
Credit sequence offset:	01:11:10	Subtitle Language:	n/a
Audio Language:	English	Total file sizes:	79GB
Rating:	U	Sound Format:	5.1 with AD
Running Time:	01:11:49	Projector config:	DCI-HD239
Aspect Ratio:	HD-239		

Part of a Digital Cinema Content Delivery Summary sheet for *The Sound of Music* showing the credit sequence offset in part 2.



The above photo was taken on a recent visit to Chester. As you can see, the whole backstage area of the former **Odeon** has been demolished. The remainder of the building is to be incorporated in a new cultural centre called **RE-NEW**.

Sent in & photo by Nick Taylor

SIZE IS IMPORTANT...

I have read with both interest and curiosity in our (super!) Bulletin recently about a number of new cinemas being created that seat between 33 and 80 patrons. These are either in existing cinemas or in public buildings – and sometimes developed at public expense. I have some difficulty in accepting that such small auditoria can create a sufficient differentiation to what is now possible to be readily achieved at home. I have an extremely modest 'home cinema' room consisting of a 55" curved screen television with Dolby 5.1 sound with lighting on dimmers. My view is that these new small cinemas can only but offer a modestly 'scaled-up' version of this. Given the currently very affordable price of good home technology – and especially with younger, more affluent, technology savvy buyers – why would they go out and spend £10 a seat on something only marginally better? If we were in a situation where low-price home entertainment was not possible, maybe I might just about understand the appeal of a local small capacity cinema.

The recent and most informative, survey of multiplex seating capacities published in the Bulletin, does show that most of them can offer some semblance of the experience to be gained within a larger auditorium, let alone a visit to a traditional single-screen cinema. Perhaps I should be more appreciative of the fact that these new alternative venues are being opened. Yet it must be that their costs must be disproportionately high. The same infrastructure and health and safety requirement applies to a 33-seater as well as 330-seater – so why, where space permits, can developers not be more imaginative?

Edward Huggins

OLD TICKETS

This roll of tickets is exactly as I received it from a friend of the former manager of the **Kings** cinema in Oswestry – a bit grubby and sealed with brown paper tape. When the cinema closed, the 'junk' was cleared out by a dealer, as in such clearances and it included some 35mm cinema film from 1930s and 1940s. The tickets would have been 1950s probably but I don't know exactly when the **Kings** closed [1998 – Ed]. The dealer did not know what to do with the bits of film and this roll of tickets so he put them in a box in his attic – this was nitrate film! When the dealer died, his widow knew of my interest in films (mainly home movies) as gave the lot to me in exchange for a copy of an old piece of 8mm film. I still have bits of the film but nobody wants it these days, for obvious reasons. {34935}

John Powell



WHATEVER HAPPENED TO THE ICE CREAM LADY?

I paid a visit to the new eleven-screen cinema in Broughton, near Chester. The film was screened in 3D digital IMAX. Now I must admit the picture quality was superb but I felt the cinema experience of old was missing. You walk in to find a large screen without tabs, no screen lighting, no decorative features like the old art deco theatres and no music to entertain us before the show. In other words there is no atmosphere. It's just like waiting for the TV to be switched on. The cinemas of old provided a better cinema experience. We had two features and continuous performances, meaning you could go in anytime you liked. I know it could be irritating if the usherette shined her torch along your row to allow another patron to get to their seat. The cinemas of old had balconies or circles and had plenty of character. Now we only have one feature, no matter what the length, along with loads of ads and trailers thrown in (yawn). Also way back when, people didn't have to travel to a retail park to visit a cinema. Many towns and cities no longer have a cinema.

Today's cinemas may offer pristine pictures but on my visit to the new cinema I found the sound level was a bit over the top – not good for the ears I am sure. The old picture houses had sensible levels – lowering the volume if there weren't many in and turning it up when the house filled. Today we are blasted by deep bass that is a little uncomfortable. Though the 3D IMAX experience was good it wasn't quite as impressive as I had expected. The three strip Cinemascope experience, though not in 3D was, I think, more impressive because of the huge curved screen, which the IMAX at Broughton wasn't. I would say the screen wasn't that much bigger than the big CinemaScope screens I have seen in large old traditional cinemas; a bit deeper but no wider. Because you are in a small hall compared to the 1930s super cinemas, the screen appears large. Seating in the modern multiplex may be superior to the old tip-up seats of the past and the pictures scratch-free but presentation doesn't exist. Admittance to the IMAX screen cost twice as much as the other screens – why? It would be good to combine modern technology with the old ways regarding presentation. Why not have tabs, screen lighting and non-sync music and give us a cinematic experience that cinema-goers of old experienced? One more thing – whatever happened to the ice cream lady? See Newsreel p19.

David A Ellis

ODEON ADVERTISING

While doing some research, I came across a series of adverts, which the **Odeon** circuit had placed in the *Daily Mail*. These ran weekly from 23 March 1936 to 26 July 1937 and listed all their cinemas, with the programmes showing that week. This was a fascinating period, as one can clearly trace the gradual appearance of a regular release pattern at **Odeon** cinemas. Although I have copies of all of these adverts, the quality is not great, as they are taken from microfilm, however I have attached some samples of the better ones, including the one that Allen Eyles seems to be referring to in his article on *The First Odeon Enthusiast* in the last Bulletin. If the quality is good enough to reproduce, I hope that they may be of interest to members.

John Gibson

CLARIFICATION

The **Plaza** Port Talbot only ever had three screens, although in some places it says four. The **Corner House** in Manchester is not quite so straightforward. Corner House ① is an older building and this has closed; it is owned by the railway and awaits its fate. The two screens in the building dating from 1985 will become lecture theatres.

Tim McCullen



MISPRINT?

Reading the May/June issue of the Bulletin, I came across a misprint that had me in hysterics. On p32 is a little article about the **Omniplex** cinema chain in Northern Ireland. The offending line reads, "Their cinemas in the Irish Republic are rated much lower and also endure lower VAT bills." Surely that should be "...enjoy lower VAT bills"? I love the Bulletin, especially now it is in full colour. Keep up the good work.

Alix Kendall

Editor's Note: I checked – and what I printed was exactly what was in the original press cutting – but Alix's version makes more sense!

EVERYMAN

In checking the details I hold on open cinemas in May I came across news on three **Everyman** venues I don't believe have yet been updated in the Bulletin. The three-screen cinemas at Canary Wharf and Mailbox Birmingham are now open, while it seems that their Selfridges enterprise, which only opened last autumn, has now closed.

Jeremy Perkins

GRANADA DARTFORD

I was interested to read Reg Larkman's article on the **Granada** Dartford on p7 of the last Bulletin. I managed this cinema from September 1971 to November 1974 and wrote an article about the cinema in the *Mercia Bioscope* February 2007. I had heard there had been projection problems in the past but by the time I arrived a co-chief projectionist 'Scotty' Bratton had moved there when his cinema, the **Granada** Sydenham, had closed and projection was back to **Granada** standards. It will be interesting to see the results of the church 'makeover'.

R David Simpson

ON MY TRAVELS

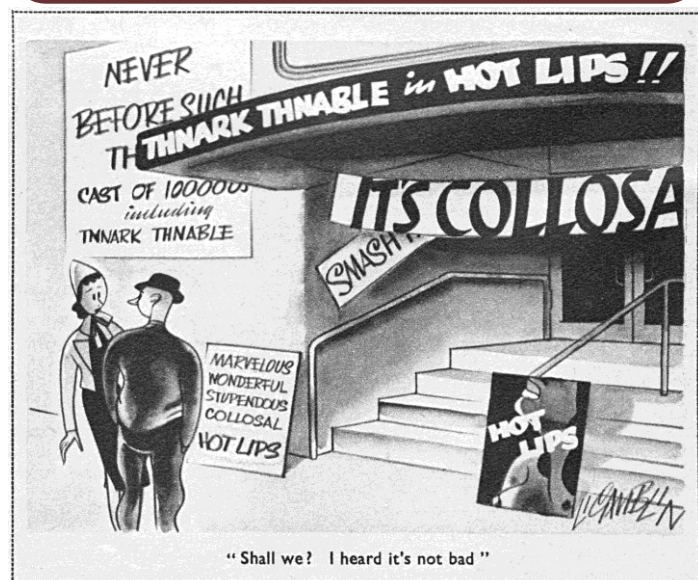
I visited Todmorden [West Yorks] on 10 May and was pleased the Border Bookshop were selling this mounted press advert for £2. Certified on back as over 85 years old, it dates from 1922 and is from the *Hebden Bridge Times*. The **Hippodrome** has begun showing some films and the **Olympia** remains unused opposite the bus station. In Harrogate the tourist lady said the **Odeon** was the only art deco building in town and a 'must see' but they also directed me to a pub [Hales Bar] which still has gas lighting. Took photos of both.

Martin Tapsell

HIPPODROME, Todmorden.
 General Manager, ALBERT H. NICHOLLS.
Monday, Oct. 23rd, and during the Week.
 MONDAY, TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY—HARRY HAYAKAWA, HENRIE LOVE and FRANKIE LEE in
THE SWAMP.
 Thrilling Five Act super-masterpiece. A story of tremendous heart appeal of love and loyalty.
 A Drama of the lowest quarter of a great city, shillingly known as "The Swamp," where from the grim justice, blends a harmony of sorrow and laughter from humanity's least.
 TOM MIX in the "Fox" Masterpiece, "HANDS OFF." A Western whirlwind.
 "THE CUCKOO'S SECRET." The first of a wonderful series of Master films.
 THURSDAY, FRIDAY AND SATURDAY—THOMAS MERRIHAN in the Paramount Special Six Act Masterpiece.
The Frontier of the Stars
 Powerful, gripping, drama of a great stirring event. The story of a reckless criminal, fleeing from the law, and a lovely girl, a film of great charm and wonderful scenes of breathtaking power, with death and sensation.
 "The Sowing of Allardene Green," by Margaret Fennell Monaghan.
 CHILDREN'S MATINEE at OLYMPIA, SATURDAY, October 24th, at 2.30.
 Stalls & Circle, Pit Stalls & Upper Circle, Pit.
 Prices -- 9d. 7d. 5d.
 Including Tax. Reserved in.

OLYMPIA, Todmorden.
 Proprietor, Mr. H. HARTLEY. General Manager, ALBERT H. NICHOLLS.
MONDAY, Oct. 23rd, and during the Week.
 MONDAY, TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY—THOMAS MERRIHAN in the Paramount Artisan Special Production—
The Point of View.
 Thrilling, Gripping, Rousing Battles of Love and Devotion, Dush and Danger, and a gripping conclusion with Paris Avenue. The story of a Dashing American Bachelor who set out to do Paris—and did it.
 BETTY FAIRER and JACK HOBBS in "THE LONELY LADY OF GROUVENOR SQUARE." Magnificent "Ideal" screen version of the novel by Mrs. H. de la Pasture.
 THURSDAY, FRIDAY AND SATURDAY—DORALINDA, the famous screen actress and variety greatest dancer, in
PASSION FRUIT.
 Powerful, Gripping Drama of the moonlit tropics, with all the passionate appeal of burning love under heavy exoticism, the bewitching lines of this tropical tale of the Pacific and the wonderful spectacle of an unrepentant pirate. A great thrilling story.
 RICK HONOR in "THE ONE MAN TRAIL." A gripping story of a courageous cowboy and the trail to vengeance.
 CHILDREN'S MATINEE at OLYMPIA, SATURDAY, October 24th, at 2.30.
Orchestra Stalls 9d. Pit Stalls 7d. Pit 5d.
 Reserved in. Including Tax.

CARTOON CORNER



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

NEW CINEMA TO OPEN IN GENEVA

Dear Members of the Cinema Theatre Association

We are happy to announce that we have taken over a Cinema in Geneva (Switzerland) which was closed for three years. We are now preparing for a new opening later this year: **Cinerama Empire**. All the information is on our website [www.cinerama-empire.ch] (unfortunately at this stage only in French). Presently we are running another old cinema in the centre of Geneva: **Cine 17** [www.cine17.ch]. Here are a few photographs taken in January. We will change nothing in the 1960 look. The most important investment will be for the digital installation. Also, we would be honoured for members of your association to visit. Meanwhile I send you my best regards.

Jean-Pierre Grey – proCitel Ltd, Geneva

Following information from: [cinematreasures.org/theaters/43854]

The **Cinerama Empire** opened on 18 August 1967 with the documentary film *Russia 70 – From the Urals to Kamchatka*. It was designed by architects Lucien Archinard and Jean Zuber. Seating is provided in orchestra and balcony levels. Later re-named **Cine-Art** it was closed in 2011.

Editor's Note: If you use Google Chrome as a web browser, right-click the text and there is an option "Translate into English".



WHAT'S IN A NAME?

By Mike Whitcombe



This year marks the one hundredth anniversary of the **Dome** Cinema on Worthing seafront receiving its current name – although at the time it wasn't the cinema we know today. What we've called the **Dome** for a century first opened in April 1911. Designed by London architect Theophilus Arthur Allen, it was originally a flat-floored hall used for roller skating, concerts, dancing, billiards and meetings, called the **Kursaal**. Six months later, an upstairs cinema called the **Kursaal Electric Theatre** opened. In 1915 local man Hubert Shewin, of Hawthorndene, Park Road, jumped on the bandwagon of anti-German sentiment to claim that the **Kursaal**, a Teutonic name for 'Cure Hall' was "obnoxious" to Worthing residents while their sons died on the Western Front fighting the dreaded Hun.

Swiss-born Carl Adolf Seebold, the owner and builder of the **Kursaal**, was a canny businessman and immediately sensed some free publicity as he appeased his German-hating customers. He publicly announced that he was perfectly happy to change the name and asked Worthing residents to come up with an alternative. As an incentive he offered to award the winner a £1 prize. More than four hundred suggestions were quickly offered. The names that people conjured up were certainly inventive and offer a fascinating snapshot of the time. Suggestions included: The Worthing Cupola, Golden Dome, Joy Dome, Rotunda, Khakidome, Albert Palace, Britannia, Alexandra Empire, Victory, Entente Hall, Happy Palace, Paliseum, Marine Joy Palace, Neptune's Palace, Hall of Pleasure, Liberty Hall, Hall of Merriment and Playhouse. Other suggestions included Whimsydome, Olympic Coliseum, Snuggeries, Ark, Kremlin, Cinemarine and Electra. Seebold eventually chose – for obvious reasons if you've ever seen this splendid cinema – the name **Dome**. Four people submitted this idea. They were Miss Mary Summers of Church Walk; Mr W Tedder of Lyndhurst Road; Miss FC Philpott of York Road; and Thomas Chandler of London Street. It's not known if the one pound prize was divided four ways or if each lucky winner received their very own pound.

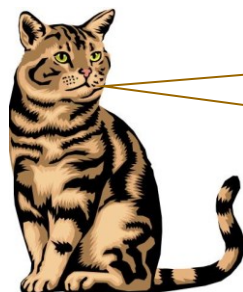
The **Dome** eventually became the cinema that is still doing brisk business a hundred years on in 1921. The conversion cost £8,000 and saw the plain hall transformed with decorative plasterwork, quality oak panelling, a raked floor and 950 tip-up seats (the current capacity is half that). Carl Adolf Seebold was the mastermind of this fabulous conversion and remained involved with the cinema until the spring of 1949 when he leased the **Dome**, along with the nearby **Rivoli** cinema that he also owned, to a new company formed to take them over called **Rivoli and Dome** (Worthing) Ltd. Today the **Dome** has two screens (the second auditorium is, like the original one, upstairs) and is well worth a visit. You don't even have to take in a film to be impressed by the recent restoration of this building. By walking into the oak-panelled foyer, you can enter the 'Projectionist's Bar', where you can enjoy a drink and marvel at the two projectors that stand guard over you – one of which is even laced up with real 35mm film. This bar is open during normal cinema opening hours and, with its pictures of movie stars from the golden age of Hollywood and some very comfy seats, it really is an ideal place to recall a more glamorous time of cinema-going!

With thanks to The April 2015 issue of The Worthing Journal and Cinema West Sussex by Allen Eyles, Frank Gray and Alan Readman (1996).

CINEMAS IN CUBA 2015

By Ned Williams

A recent trip to Cuba gave me an opportunity to observe several different branches of human activity while touring the country – mainly by train. Naturally I looked out for cinemas and I enclose a few photos of three buildings I saw. The **Arenal** which seems to have recently closed was in Havana and I spotted it while on the open-top bus tour of the City! Also while on that trip I took a photograph of the **Yara** a modern-looking multi-screen cinema in downtown Central Havana. By way of a contrast we visited a working sugar mill called Heriberto Dusquesne out in the countryside, near the city of Remedios. After visiting the mill and its railway we made our way back through the mill-worker's 'village' and came across the illustrated 'village hall' type cinema photographed here. As is so many situations, language problems made it difficult to find out more.



CINEMA CAT

Did you know that Cuba has over 300 cinemas but only two are digital?

NEW USES FOR OLD CINEMAS

By Stewart Kidd



Forgive me if you are aware of this location but I spotted it on my first trip to Eastbourne (to attend a meeting on the future of the pier after last year's fire). I've not seen an adaptive reconstruction of a cinema building as a funeral undertaker's premises (the Last Reel?) and was taken by how well the external conversion has been executed and the overall good condition of the building and auditorium, which appears to have been recently re-roofed. A nice touch was the potted history of the premises in the front left hand window (as you face), lower right.

THE EASTERN CINEMA

143, SEASIDE, EASTBOURNE.

THE EASTERN CINEMA PALACE — THE EASTERN CINEMA
— THE NEW EASTERN CINEMA — THE REGAL CINEMA

Designed by architect Andrew Ford, in 1911, for owner Harvey Baker, The Eastern Cinema Palace opened in March, 1912 with the film *Vanity Fair*. Known just as The Eastern Cinema in the 1920s, it became the New Eastern Cinema in May, 1930 with the installation of the Western Electric Sound System for its first 'talkie' presentation *Blackmail* (1929 - starring Anny Ondra and directed by Alfred Hitchcock). The cinema's programming in the 30s, and the first nine months of the 40s, consisted mostly of 'A' films on a second run, allied to 'B' features mixed with some top-class new films. The new films often ran concurrently with The New Central cinema in Seaside Road which, it is reasonably assumed, was under the same ownership. It is said that the Eastern/New Eastern cinema had a star and a crescent moon on its facade (which presumably lit up at night) and these embellishments would certainly add style to the cinema's suggested Eastern promise.

This front elevation of The Eastern Cinema Palace has been extracted from the original drawings, of 1911, by Andrew Ford, architect of the cinema. (Photo courtesy: Eastbourne Borough Council)

It was still the New Eastern Cinema when it closed, because of South Coast bombing, in September, 1940.

Now proudly re-named The Regal Cinema, the old New Eastern had a Grand Re-opening on Bank Holiday Monday 6th, August, 1945. The opening programme was the Deanna Durbin starrer *100 Men and a Girl* (1937) supported by The Crazy Gang in *Alf's Button Afloat* (1938). After World War 2 had ended, both The Regal and The New Central Cinemas became under the proprietorship of husband and wife team of S.J. and E. Glen.

It was on October 3rd, 1953 that the 384-seat Regal Cinema closed down finally, with an ignominious double-feature programme - *Bomba and the Lion*

This set me thinking about promoting a similar practice on other conversions – a standardised, CTA-endorsed plaque or sign giving operating dates, architect and other salient features? This could even be posted where the original building has been demolished – some Weatherspoon's properties have something like this. I'd be interested in whether others think this might be viable, it's probably something that could be funded by national and local grants – or by guilt-inducing developers!

Editor's Note: The CTA has funded three plaques, on the sites of the **Regent Brighton**, The **Trocadero Elephant & Castle** and the **Davis Theatre Croydon** – they weren't cheap.

A NEW 'TRADITIONAL' CINEMA

By David Simpson

During a recent cinema trip to the West Country and South Wales, I was delighted to meet up with CTA member Mark Cunningham, whom I last encountered some years ago at the **Palace Cinderford**. He has since sold that and, much more recently, opened the **Sherborne** just to the north of Gloucester City centre.

Housed in the former Friends Sherborne Street Mission Hall, dating from 1880 and latterly a Christadelphian Hall, Mark spent two years transforming the building into a splendid single-screen neighbourhood cinema, with plenty of art deco fixtures and fittings – some original, others self-crafted – to provide a wonderfully traditional and welcoming 140-seat cinema.

In a lovely touch, tickets are dispensed from an Automaticket machine. Projection is, of course, digital but Mark couldn't resist installing a 35mm projector and he hopes to show classic films in that format in the future. Aside from Saturday and Sunday children's matinées, there are screenings at 5:30pm and 8:30pm each evening, often with two different films, thereby making the best use of the single screen.

The **Sherborne** opened its doors on 20 February this year. CTA members in the area are assured a warm welcome and I'm sure we wish Mark all the best for the future.

All photos by the author



MISCELLANY

UNDERGROUND CINEMA

Transport for London opened a pop-up cinema in a disused Underground station from 29-31 May. *Strangers on a Train* and *Paddington* were screened in parts of Charing Cross station that have been closed to the public since 1999.

Evening Standard – 29 April; sent in by Keith Bye & Mike Collins

MOBILE CINEMA SOLD

The 1967 mobile cinema, featured on p33 of the last Bulletin, has been sold for its asking price of £120,000. The new owner is to continue using it as a mobile cinema and plans to install a cocktail bar.

BBC News website – 20 May; *Daily Express* – 25 May; sent in by David Alexander & Carl Chesworth

RED CARPET SCHOOL RUN

A school in Hampstead shares a walkway to its entrance with the **Everyman** cinema. It was hosting a special screening of *The Tainted Veil* and waiting for dignitaries when pupils and parents emerged from the school and walked over the red carpet. The cinema's staff were relieved that the school run cleared before the VIP guests arrived.

Ham & High – 18 June; sent in by Keith Bye

EVEN MORE MODEL CINEMAS

GO TO THE CINEMA!



card cinema kits in 1/76 scale

Kingsway Models has cardboard kits in OO gauge of the **Gaumont** Cheltenham, the **Dominion** Southall, the **Capitol** Forest Hill, the **Kinema / Studio 7** Kingston, the **Embassy** Petts Wood and the **Odeon** Whalebone Lane. See [www.kingswaymodels.com/page33.htm]

Best of British Magazine – June; sent in by R David Simpson

PENSIONERS SHOULD WATCH 3D

As study has indicated that watching 3D films could help mental decline amongst pensioners. It found that watching in 3D could speed up the ability to process thoughts by 23% and improve reaction times by 11%. The study put 129 people through brain tests after watching a clip from Disney's *Big Hero 6* in either 2D or 3D.

Daily Telegraph – 15 May; sent in by Carl Chesworth

FILM ON THE FERRY



The King Harry Ferry in Cornwall was transformed into a floating cinema on 26 May. It left from both banks in turn then moored in the middle of the River Fal to show *Mamma Mia!* Tickets were £9 or £7 for children. I suppose this is one way of ensuring a captive audience. See [tinyurl.com/nwmqmf]

Ferry website; sent in by Philip Stevens; photo of ferry taken June 2013

LAUREL & HARDY TRIBUTE

Showcase Cinemas is to screen some of the comedy duo's greatest works at some of their cinemas. *County Hospital* and *Sons of the Desert* will be shown back to back to celebrate the 125th anniversary of the birth of Stan Laurel. Some screenings will have a celebrity appearance. The pair made a total of 106 films, including 23 full-length features and 32 silent films.

Manchester Evening News – 22 April; sent in by Carl Chesworth

6D CINEMA

A 6D cinema has opened in Bournemouth. It is a combination of a platform simulator, electronic 3D glasses and real world interactions such as wind and snow. The movies last for an intense 6 minutes, full of twists and turns; there are four or five to choose from. On-line advance tickets cost from £5 for one person with discounts for more than one. See [www.6dcinema.co.uk]

Promotional website; sent in by Philip Stevens

PICTURE QUIZ



Where will you still find on open-air display this 1930s programme for the former **Perrymount** Cinema in Haywards Heath? Answer next time.

Allen Eyles

OLDEST CINEMA?

It's believed that Blackburn once had the world's first purpose-built cinema. It was known as the **Alexandra** but was often referred to as **Penks**. Construction began in 1906 in Dock Street, on the site of old stables and a windmill – making it the first such building of its kind. But because it did not open until three years later, other purpose-built cinemas had also sprung up. {35010}

Lancashire Telegraph – 3 December 2014; sent in by Philip Crompton

AE writes: This raises the question of when it was completed but effectively it is a 1909 building, although my notes have it as opening Easter 1906. GJ Mellor in *Picture Pioneers* pages 42/3 also has it opening in 1906 and states that Adolph Zukor visited it in 1939 having been told it was "the first cinema" in Britain. I have also noted that it was modernised over eight weeks in 1954 with new screen, curtains and relocated projection box, but no further details. Nor do I have a date of closure.

LONDON OPEN HOUSE & HERITAGE OPEN DAYS

Details of these events were not available as we went to press. See:

England [www.heritageopendays.org.uk] 10-13 September

London [www.openhouselondon.org.uk] 19-20 September

Scotland [www.doorsopendays.org.uk] various September weekends

Wales [cadw.gov.wales/opendoors] various September weekends

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

CINEMA BUSINESS

GERMAN CINEMA BOYCOTT

686 screens in 193 small German towns refused to show the new Disney film *Avengers: Age of Ultron*. The reason is that Disney has raised its rental fee from 47.7% to 53% of ticket sales. The money Disney previously contributed to advertising and 3D glasses has also been cut. In 2003 about 200 German cinemas refused to show *Hulk* when Disney also tried to raise rental fees.

Deutsche Welle – 23 April; sent in by Carl Chesworth

THEY THINK IT'S JUST AWFUL

United Passions, a film about the history of FIFA, made a paltry £394 in its opening weekend in the US. It was released in ten cinemas, with the top-performing one taking just £106. Another cinema only sold one ticket at £6. *The Guardian* described it as "cinematic excrement."

Metro – 9 June; sent in by Carl Chesworth

RECORDS BROKEN

Dinosaur movie *Jurassic World* has achieved the highest first weekend earnings for a film, taking \$511.8m (£328.8m) at the box office worldwide. It topped the charts in all 66 countries where it was released. It is the sixth most successful opening in UK cinemas. The previous *Jurassic* film came out 14 years ago.

Daily Telegraph – 15 June; *Daily Mail* – 16 June; sent in by Carl Chesworth

ROMANIA'S FIRST 4DX CINEMA OPENS

Cinema City Romania, the second largest cinema operator in Europe, opened a fourteen-screen cinema in Bucharest on 19 May. It is completely digital and has 2,366 seats. The 4D screen has 128 seats and a top price of €10. The group already has 29 multiplexes in Romania (17 in Bucharest and 12 in other towns) totalling 145 screens and operates the only **IMAX** cinema in the country. Two other multiplexes are expected to open in Romania by the end of 2015.

[*filmneweurope.com*] – 21 May; sent in by Carl Chesworth

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.

Empire Press Release – 20 April

OMNIPLEX EXPANDS

Omniplex founder Kevin Anderson celebrated his 100th birthday with the purchase of rival chain **Gaiety Cinema Group** for €8m. This added another two cinemas (in Sligo and Arlow) to the stable, bringing the total to 22; 11 in the Irish Republic and 11 in Northern Ireland. Omniplex recently opened two cinemas in Carlow and Craigavon. The company has spent €44m in the last three years on refurbishment and expansion. Irish cinema admissions in the 12 months to the end of March were up 3% compared with the year before, with 1.02 million patrons through doors in the period. Ireland still has the highest rate of cinema attendance per head in any European country.

Irish Independent – 24 May

SCANDINAVIA SALE

Bridgepoint, the owner of Prêt-à-manger, has bought Nordic Cinema Group for 4.7bn Swedish crowns (about £356m). The group trades under four brands – **SF Bio** in Sweden, **SF Kino** in Norway, **Finnkino** in Finland and **Forum Cinemas** in the Baltics. Revenues of 2.61bn Swedish crowns helped make it the region's market leader last year.

[*cityam.com*] – 29 April; sent in by Keith Bye

AUSTRALIAN SALE TO CHINA

Wanda Cinema Line Corp has bought Australian cinema chain **Hoyts** for an undisclosed sum. **Hoyts** operates 450 screens in Australia. Wanda Cinema operates China's biggest cinema chain with 150 cinemas in 80 cities.

Reuters – 2 June; sent in by Carl Chesworth

HOT TUB CINEMA

Hot tub cinemas have been operating on rooftops in Cardiff and Salford this summer. Each inflatable hot tub can accommodate six or eight guests. Waiters were on hand to serve snacks and drinks.

South Wales Echo – 6 May; *Manchester Evening News* – 15 June; sent in by Nick Taylor & Nina Williams

BARRING WARS



A dispute has broken out between Sheffield's two arthouse cinemas amid claims the **Showroom** has been barred by the **Curzon** chain from screening new films when they are released. As film distributors, **Curzon** claimed it was standard practice to limit the number of cinemas on a film's opening weekend. However, they have recently opened a new cinema in the City [above], which showed the film in question, *Force Majeure*. Last year **Curzon** received £646,488 in Lottery money from the BFI as well as €741,160 from the European Union.

Sent in by Carl Chesworth; photo by David Simpson

CINEWORLD

Cineworld is looking for a new chief financial officer after Philip Bowcock said he would step down following 3½ years in the job. Total revenues rose 8.8% in the 19 weeks to 14 May in the UK and Ireland. Box office takings grew 7.9% with sweets, drinks and popcorn sales up 8.5%. 17 new screens opened in Swindon and Broughton and a **Picturehouse** in Dulwich.

Mail on Sunday – 1 March; *Evening Standard* – 26 May; *Daily Telegraph* – 10 June; sent in by Keith Bye & Carl Chesworth

ODEON

Odeon and UCI Cinemas Group sales were up 12.6% on last year to £183.9m. However, on 13 May Odeon announced that 100 jobs would go within a matter of weeks. In the latest bid to sell **Odeon**, private equity group Terra Firma is cutting jobs to subsidise cheaper tickets and make the firm more attractive to potential buyers.

Daily Telegraph – 22 May – sent in by Carl Chesworth & Ian W Mitchell

RANK

The boss of Rank Group has hailed signs of stabilisation. Revenues at its Mecca bingo clubs slid 5% last year and 3% in 2013 but latest figures show the decline has been halted. Rank had 120 clubs in Britain a decade ago but that number has fallen to 91.

Daily Telegraph – 22 May; sent in by Carl Chesworth & Ian W Mitchell

WORTHING (West Sussex)

The Council-run Worthing Theatres – comprising of the **Connaught Theatre and Cinema** (506 seats), **Connaught Studio** (242 seats), **Assembly Hall** (930 seats) and **Pavilion** (850 seats) – are improving attendances. Amanda O'Reilly, general manager of Worthing Theatres, has overseen the improvement and helped decrease the amount of taxpayers' money used to subsidise the theatres. The borough council are hoping to reduce the "overspend" from £290,000 last year to £192,000 this year.

Worthing Journal – April; sent in by Mike Whitcombe

CHEAP LONDON?

Nothing to do with cinemas but London came 12th in a poll that assessed the costliest places for multi-national organisations to base their expatriate staff. This was well behind rival financial centres like Hong Kong and Geneva. The most expensive place to base staff globally is Kuanda, the capital of Angola, known for its iron ore and diamond production. New York was four places below London.

[*cityam.com*] – 17 June; sent in by Keith Bye

HOLIDAY SNAPS



On my visit to Rome in December 2012 and near to the Trevi Fountain, I stumbled across a very surprising cinema! On the Vicolo del Puttarelllo is the **Cinema Trevi – Cineteca Nazionale**, which is to be found amongst an excavated Ancient Roman tenement! One of my other interests and hobbies is that I am a Roman re-enactor so to find a cinema deep underground alongside the Roman ruins was a double treat for me. Apparently they discovered the site when they were excavating down in 1999 to build the new cinema, a replacement for the long-defunct original **Cinema Trevi**, which was above ground and is now a bookshop. One would have thought that with the lure of the iconic image of Anita Ekberg frolicking in the nearby fountain in *La Dolce Vita*, that a cinema here would have attracted people!

The present cinema opened in 2003, seats 100 and runs a programme of Italian films, both classic (mined from the National Archive) and modern and international arthouse fare – a kind of bijou BFI, Italian style. When I visited they were showing films from the Florence Indian Film Festival, plus a season of works by screenwriter Ennio Flaiano, famed for his collaborations with Fellini. Although I didn't go to a screening there, I happened to be walking through the corridor on my way out when the projection room door opened (with barely enough room in there to swing a film canister!) I spoke with a lady briefly about the cinema and she also knew of the CTA.

As I mentioned, the cinema is situated within the archaeological site, which is known as La Citta dell'Acqua (The City of Water), which can be accessed for a small fee and is worth a visit. It is well-designed, with steel walkways so you can easily view the remains of the 4th Century mansion, Vicus Caprarius, built on top of the older insulae and a section of an aqueduct, the Acqua Vergine, which connects to the Trevi Fountain. It also contains a museum of found objects from the site. The upper right-hand wall of the cinema is glazed so you can see into it from the walkways.

Michelle Facey



If you are lucky enough to live in a former cinema, this is how to make it interesting. Bottom left is the entrance to a flat in the former **Ritz** at Rothesay on the Isle of Bute

Martin Tapsell

INTERNET CORNER

- ★ [www.kirkleesimages.org.uk] The Kirklees [West Yorkshire] Image Archive. A search for “cinema” reveals 46 images. Copies of the photographs can be bought.
- ★ [archive.historicengland.org.uk] Historic England now has over one million photographs and plans of buildings online, including more than 3,400 of cinemas, over 1,700 of which are directly viewable. The search field allows a wide range of searching from just ‘cinema’ or ‘cinema ipswich’ to much more specific combinations such as ‘chichester granada’. *Sent in by Jeremy Perkins*
- ★ [heritagetoronto.org] has some stories and photos of neighbourhood cinemas in Toronto. *Sent in by Robert Holden*
- ★ [tinyurl.com/p7hds5] another page on Toronto's old cinemas.
- ★ [tinyurl.com/o2bduc2] historic pictures of the **Roxy** New York
- ★ [youtu.be/YpbyJLd9uxg] A 6 minute video feature on the **Odeon** Weston Super Mare by Damon Cox with Donald McKenzie at the organ for the 80th anniversary concert. *Sent in by Jeremy Buck*
- ★ [tinyurl.com/qaopumo] A report from *The Age* (Australia) on the reopening of the **Astor** in Melbourne. *Sent in by Charles Jenkins*
- ★ [tinyurl.com/nbd5s] & [tinyurl.com/nmf6dkb] Pictures from [fitzrovia.org.uk] of the Tottenham Court Road (London) area in the 1970s, showing several cinemas. *Sent in by Terry Hanstock*
- ★ [www.guerrillaexploring.com] Another urban explorer site. Enter the site and use the search feature for “cinema”. Photos of the Hammersmith **Palais & Apollo** and the former **Ritz** Tunbridge Wells plus some foreign cinemas. *Sent in by Terry Swoffer*
- ★ [www.facebook.com/cinematheatreuk] is a Facebook Community of British Cinema and Theatre History. Lots of information and photographs. *Sent in by Patrick Hayward*
- ★ [www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-30734045] is an interesting link to a BBC news item about ghost signs. Are there many painted cinema signs left? *Sent in by Dave Profit*



Editor's Note: We have featured similar links before and printed the one of the Palladium Morecambe on p25 of Bulletin 48/5. Above are two more I photographed on my travels, in Bradford (West Yorkshire) and Prestwick (Ayrshire). Do members know of any more?

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 CTA website [www.cta-uk.org]. 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

LAURY REYNOLDS



Laury, aged 86 in 2005

My father, Lawrence (Laury) Reynolds, alumni of Trinity College, Cambridge, retired Principal Scientific Officer of Trinity House Lighthouse Service and former Treasurer of the Cinema Theatre Association, has died at the age of 96.

Laury was born the day after Armistice Day on 12 November 1918 in Newport, Isle of Wight. The son of William Reynolds, a wounded veteran of the Battle of the Somme and a Shipping Clerk and his wife May (née Abraham), a milliner. He had one younger sister, Mavis.

The first pupil from the Isle of Wight County Secondary School to win a place at Cambridge, Laury discovered that, at 17, he was too young to go up and was forced to spend an extra year at school 'messaging about in the chemistry lab'.



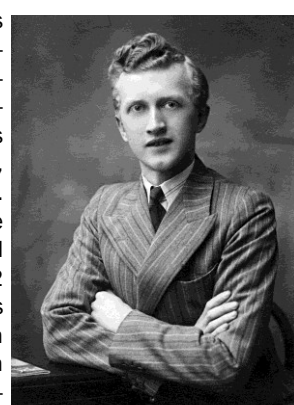
Laury and his wife Davina on the CTA trip to Morecambe in 2008

the early development of radar. Laury spent the war ensconced in various country houses, such as the Admiralty Signal and Radar Establishment in Witney, Hampshire. Although not in a combat situation, he narrowly escaped death when his lodgings in Southsea took a direct hit. Luckily he was out!

Laury thoroughly enjoyed himself at Cambridge and, like his friend and contemporary the cultural academic, Raymond Williams, found fellow students to be both approachable and egalitarian. He rubbed shoulders and made friends with people like George Owen (AFG Owen), the Poltergeist research expert and Fred Hoyle, the astronomer credited with the discovery of the 'Big Bang' theory.

Graduating during the early months of the Second World War he was, along with Fred Hoyle, scooped up by the Admiralty as an Experimental Officer to work on

After the war, Laury spend three years as Senior Scientific Officer at the Radio Research Station for the Department of Scientific & Industrial Research, where he published papers on microwave and aerial systems, one with his old friend George Owen. In 1951, he moved to Trinity House Lighthouse Service where he worked as Principal Scientific Officer for 32 years until his retirement. During this time, Laury was crucial in the design of the Dungeness Lighthouse, built in 1961, which was the first to incorporate the Xenon electric arc lamps as a source of illumination. He presented



Laury, aged 20 in 1938

many papers to International Conferences on Lighthouses and Other Navigational Aids and was Editor and Co-author of the First Edition of the International Dictionary of Aids to Marine Navigation, published by IALA (International Association of Lighthouse Authorities) in English, French, German and Spanish (1970).

A life-long photographer, ciné-film-enthusiast, movie buff and connoisseur of music, art and architecture, Laury's eclectic and varied interests formed a vital part of his life. He was a member of the Walton & Weybridge Film Society, the Decorative Arts Society, the Twentieth Century Society, NADFAS and was Treasurer of the Cinema Theatre Association. His personal photographic archive includes a huge array of now demolished or defunct cinema theatre architecture and interior design.

Laury met a young teacher, Davina, at the French Circle in Richmond in 1958. They married in 1960 and settled in the Eric Lyons designed Span estate of Parkleys, Ham where their eldest daughter Sally was born. Their second daughter, Lucia, was born after the family had relocated to Weybridge where he lived until his death. Laury leaves behind his devoted wife, who cared for him at home until the end, two daughters and four grandchildren: Imogen, Lawrence (known as Luca), Sam and Libby.

Sally Reynolds

CTA SERVICE

Laury joined in 1976 and frequently was to be seen with his wife, Davina, on CTA visits both in the UK and Overseas. Laury took over the post of Treasurer in 1987 retiring from that role at the age of 80 in 1998. Although at that age he was still fit and well, he was beginning to suffer the problem of Macular Degeneration, which, in particular, affected his ability to read. He was subsequently one of the first recipients of the CTA's Distinguished Service Award and, with Davina, was made an Honorary Life Member. In his later years, he was still a member of the CTA's Committee and, although latterly unable to attend, he enjoyed receiving its minutes, which would be read to him by Davina.



Laury receiving his CTA award

Neville C Taylor

I will never forget how Laury saved the entire trip to Madrid in 1989 through being a fluent Spanish speaker. I had no reply to my letters to the cinemas and theatres we wanted to visit (in Spanish, again, Laury's translation) and it all had be put together on the spot in a day or two before the actual event but it turned out to be one of the CTA's most memorable foreign trips. Laury was a very nice, extremely helpful and efficient person.

Richard Gray

80 Years



Odeon Kettlehouse Road, Kingstanding, Birmingham.
Architects: J Cecil Claverling / Harry Weedon.
Opened 22 July 1935. Grade II listed.

ODEON TWIN THEATRE ONE
NOTTINGHAM - Tele. 47766/7
COMMENCING SUNDAY, 29th JUNE
— FOR A SEASON —
20th Century-Fox presents

THE PRIME OF MISS JEAN BRODIE x

Chosen for
The Royal Film
Performance

MAGGIE SMITH
Starring
ROBERT STEPHENS · PAMELA FRANKLIN
GORDON JACKSON · CELIA JOHNSON
Co-starring
Produced by ROBERT FRYER
Directed by RONALD NEAME - Adapted from the Novel by MURIEL SPARK - Based on the Play by JAY PRESSON ALLEN
Screenplay by JAY PRESSON ALLEN - Music by ROD MCKUEN - Colour by DE LUXE

— SEPARATE PERFORMANCES —
WEEKDAYS 2-50, 7-55 p.m. - SUNDAYS 2-50, 7-20 p.m.
(DOORS OPEN 30 MINUTES PRIOR TO PERFORMANCES).
12/6 10/6 7/6. O.A.P's 4/- 5/6 MATINEES ONLY
MONDAY TO FRIDAY EXCEPT BANK HOLIDAYS.
ALL SEATS BOOKABLE IN ADVANCE FOR EVENINGS ONLY.
PARTY BOOKINGS — TWO FREE SEATS FOR EVERY 24 PAID
ADMISSIONS MONDAY TO FRIDAY EXCEPT BANK HOLIDAYS.
BOOKING OFFICE OPEN MONDAY-SATURDAY 10-30 a.m. to 6-30 p.m.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

The CTA Archive has to move from its current home in Leyton, East London as the building we use is being redeveloped. The Archive will be packed up and either moved directly to a new home or into temporary storage, should new accommodation not be found by the time we must vacate in August. We will not be open for visitors or be able to deal with enquiries for the next few months while we arrange the move. We will update everyone in the next Bulletin.

ARCHIVE OPPORTUNITIES

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

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

HELP THE ARCHIVE IDENTIFY CINEMAS

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

SENDING DONATIONS BY POST OR EMAIL

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

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

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

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

MEMBERSHIP

NEW MEMBERS

We are pleased to send a warm welcome to the following who have recently joined the ranks of the CTA: David McLeod, Brendan MacNeil, Andrew McGowan, Robert Eggeston, Richard Baker and Colin Mackay join us as Full Annual Members and Robin Bray-Hurren joins as an Associate Member.

LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Three Annual Members of the Association have now become Life Members: David L Shaw of London W8, joined in May 2003; Robert A Saffrey of Shenton Park in Western Australia, joined in September 1991 and Allan Pointon of Stoke-on-Trent, joined in November 1963.

DONATIONS

A splendid number of members have included a donation when renewing their subscriptions and we send them all our most grateful and sincere thanks: DA Alexander, BR Avery, LT Belcher, TE Benton, WC Birnie, M Brecknell, A Brown, CM Bryan, ME Burgoine, MJ Burke, RD Burke, GR Burton, NG Buxton, JL Byrne, BR Chandler, M Charlesworth, GR Cooper, L Culver, M Cunningham, AR Davis, IJ Drummond, DW Foster, SW Freeman, RK Fuller, RJA Galloway, PH Garrick, RJ Girling, P Good, IP Green, RE Grover, P Halpin, CD Harrison, RJA Hawley, PG Hennessey, RP Jefferies, PTL Johnson, SB Kay, RA Lascaut, TDC Laughlan, AV Mabey, FWD Manders, PV Marie, WG Marriott, JL May, P Meiklreid, PG Moules, S Northover, IJ Patterson, JB Powell, PB Prosper, IN Riches, MJ Ryder, CH Shaw, RW Short, MP Shotton, A Smith, BH Snowball, M Taylor, PE Thackeray, PF Thomas, WJB Thomson, MW Thornton, JE Tilmouth, D Trevor-Jones, DB Williams, RF Wilson and M Wooffinden.

IN MEMORIAM

Sadly we must record the passing of a number of members of the Association. Laurence (Laury) George Reynolds, former CTA Treasurer and Honorary Life Member, died on 16 June at the age of 96. Laury joined the CTA in 1976 (obituary on p33). Derek J Southall of Ashton-under-Lyne died on 5 March at the age of 78. Derek joined the CTA in 2010 and was the author of *Magic in the Dark: The Cinemas of Central Manchester and Ardwick Green and The Golden Years of Manchester Picture Houses*. Andrew N Paterson of Putney, who joined the CTA in 1996, died on 18 April aged 82. Brian Hornsey of Stamford died on 30 June at the age of 80. He joined the CTA in January 1980. Brian researched, wrote and published, under the Fuschia print imprint, many booklets in the *Ninety Years of Cinema in...* series about cinema buildings in various cities and towns in the UK.

BULLETIN MAILINGS

The CTA Bulletin is usually mailed to all members on or near the 21st of each odd-numbered month. For members in the United Kingdom, Channel Islands and Isle of Man, it is sent by Royal Mail second class post. For our members resident in Europe, we use Royal Mail's International Standard service (formerly called AirMail) and should be delivered in 3 to 5 working days. For members in other parts of the world who elected to pay the higher subscription rate for AirMail delivery, the International Standard service should deliver in 5 to 7 working days. For those Overseas members who paid at what was previously called Surface Mail, the Bulletin is sent using Royal Mail's International Economy service and delivery may take anything from 6 to 12 weeks (although it seems clear that it may often be less than this).

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Members are reminded that our subscription rates increased to those shown on page 2 on and from 1 July 2015. This is the first change in the basic rates for four years and we hope that our valued members will think that the CTA Bulletin and Picture House magazine continue to be a great investment of their hard-earned pounds.

Neville C Taylor, Membership Secretary

STAFFORD

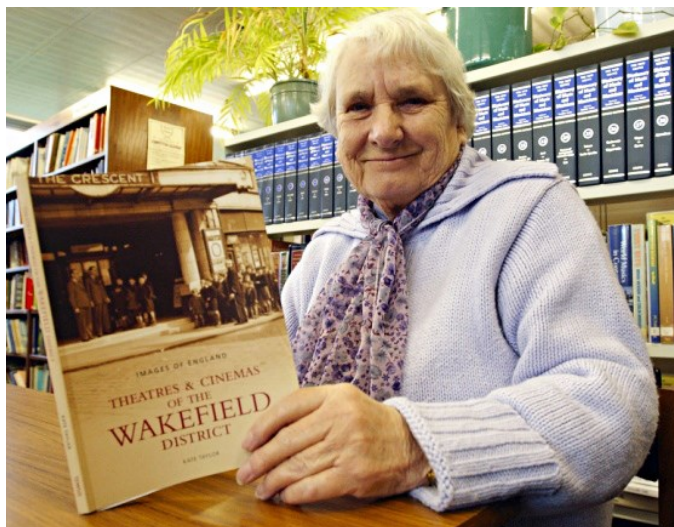
ODEON—Telephone 51277.
Today, Roger Moore in
MOONRAKER (a).
Complete shows 1.50, 4.40,
7.35.

BRIDGNORTH

MAJESTIC—Telephone
61815. Roger Moore as 007
in MOONRAKER (a) 5.15,
8.05. (Mat Sat 2.25). LCP
7.30.

OBITUARY

KATE TAYLOR MBE



Kate Taylor, for many years Chair of the Mercia Cinema Society and long-time former CTA member, died on 5 May aged 81. A prolific writer, editor and lecturer on a wide variety of subjects, her contribution to the history of her home City of Wakefield was immense. As a cinema historian, her most recent publications were *Theatres and Cinemas of the Wakefield District* (Tempus/History Press series) and *Barnsley Cinemas* (Mercia Cinema Histories), both available from the CTA sales list. As Chair of Mercia Cinema Society she was instrumental, with the late Mervyn Gould, in taking advantage of the more accessible printing technology to raise the quality of presentation and printing of the Society's books; she used her research experience to good effect to ensure that the quality of the content was also maintained. She chaired committee meetings with fairness and good humour but didn't put up with any nonsense. It was with sadness that she eventually oversaw the winding-up of the MCS but was delighted at its eventual incorporation into the CTA.

Her work on the history of Wakefield Cathedral, its chantry chapels and the diocese, led to her being appointed as a lay canon. Her final honour, the award of an MBE for Services for Heritage and Community in Wakefield, came days before her death, which was before the Birthday Honours List was published. Her family found the letter confirming the honour in her personal files the day after she died, so although she knew that it had been awarded, she had not been in a position to tell anyone at that stage.

Ian Meyrick

ROGER SPENCE

Roger Spence of Aberford, Leeds, sadly passed away recently. He had been a driving force for many years in keeping 9.5mm ciné film at the fore. Indeed, with his wife Mavis, they used 9.5mm for several travelling projects, even that of the Transiberian Express. He was actively involved in the 9.5mm group [especially in the Leeds/Manchester area]. Roger had been Chief Projectionist at the impressive Odeon Leeds when it was a single screen and was proud of his presentation and quality of performance there. In between his Odeon time and retirement, he was involved in audio equipment sales. Then he took 50% ownership of the Wetherby Film Theatre in Yorkshire with his friend Ray Trehwitt. He maintained interest and involvement with the cinema until his stroke, which obviously limited his quality of life. Nevertheless, the cinema became a focus of good entertainment in a comfortable auditorium and the audiences grew, enabling the venture to be profitable both in social and economic terms. See Newsreel p24.

Terry Ladlow

SAMUEL JOHN WINFIELD

Samuel John Winfield, of Etwall in Derbyshire, died on 27 May aged 94. He was previously a member of the CTA and wrote an excellent book *Dream Palaces of Derby*.

Ron Staton

HOLIDAY SNAPS

We have passed the derelict **Louxor** in Paris too many times over the past few years, including the CTA visit in 2008. So when we were in the City for a weekend in December 2014 we had to go and see how it looked now it is restored and showing films again. We queued to buy tickets for the film *Timbuktu* so that we could get in to the auditorium. When I spoke to the ticket seller in English, he was anxious to point out that the film dialogue was in Arabic with subtitles in French. When I explained that we simply wanted to see the auditorium now that it was restored, my proffered money was refused and we were waved through the barrier to have a look. I hope my pictures give you some idea of its new glory. The café bar on the top floor was doing great business too.

Rachel Woodforde



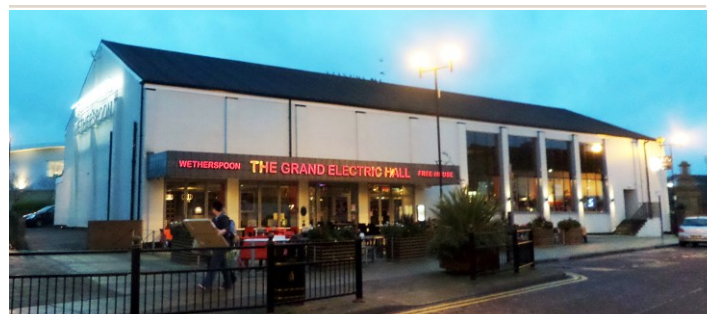
The **Theatro Leal** in La Laguna, Tenerife, now a conventional theatre, has an Ernemann Imperator projector on display in the foyer, suggesting some previous history as a cinema.

Bob Bradsaw



Above is a picture I took in May in Antequera, which is near Malaga in Andalusia in southern Spain, as the cinema has a striking exterior. It is no longer a working cinema and has been taken over by the Town Council. It is used intermittently as a theatre and for occasional film performances. At the time I was there these were family films clearly aimed at the children's matinée audience.

Tony Duggan



The former **Arcadia** in Spennymoor (Co Durham), a Wetherspoons pub since 2013.

Martin Tapsell