

CINEMA
THEATRE
ASSOCIATION
www.cta-uk.org

BULLETIN

Vol 50 No 5

September / October 2016



The auditorium and proscenium of the Forum Bath, visited by the CTA in August – see report p9



The new Everyman five-screen cinema in Harrogate (North Yorks) due to open on 9 September – see Newsreel p21

FROM YOUR EDITOR

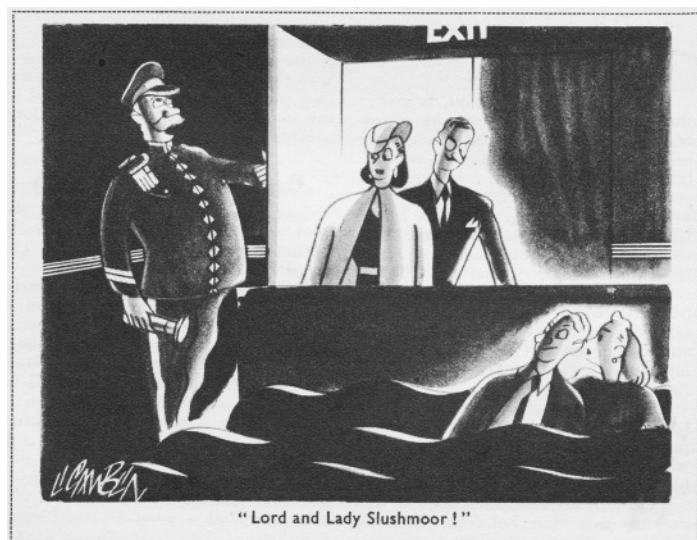
I was surprised nobody contacted me about the Roman Cinema item on p25 of the last Bulletin. Did you notice the date of the original article – 1 April? This is one of the better April Fools I have come across, although not quite as good as the Spaghetti Harvest.

Despite this edition being bigger than the last, I still have some items held over; notably a couple of submissions about New Zealand cinemas, an article from Gavin McGrath about new uses for old cinemas and some more 'wanderings' from our friend Hugh Sykes. I should be able to get these in the next edition. There are more events and casework than usual in this issue. In the next edition there should be only one visit report so I should have plenty of space. If this means I exhaust my stockpile, I'm sure you will come to the rescue. I still have many holiday snaps you sent in yet to use.

My sister gave me a 'selfie stick' for Christmas. Not wanting to take photos of myself, I have found a new use for it. If you put the camera on a time delay (or have a remote control) you can use it to raise the camera over hoardings and see what's going on behind them. I photographed the shored-up façade of the Forum/Empire in Ealing and the demolition of the Hoxton Cinema in Pitfield Street. Next time I see a hoardings around a cinema, I know what to do.

Harry Rigby, CTA Bulletin Editor

CARTOON CORNER



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

The Projected Picture Trust

Dean Clough Mills, HALIFAX, HX3 5AX

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

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

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

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

contact@ppttrust.org

www.ppttrust.org

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE
THURSDAY 20 OCTOBER

CINEMA THEATRE ASSOCIATION

(founded 1967)

promoting serious interest in all aspects of cinema buildings

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CINEMA THEATRE ASSOCIATION

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

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

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

VISITS: Members and non-members are reminded that they attend visits
entirely at their own risk and no responsibility can be accepted by the
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VISITS AND EVENTS

An Invitation from Her Majesty's

Wednesday 19 October at 11:30am

Organised by Ray Ritmeester



A mid-week visit to Her Majesty's Theatre Haymarket, London. This comprehensive tour of the historic venue in London's Theatreland will be led by Mark Fox, the Advertising Manager for the Really Useful Theatres Group and Chairman of the Frank Matcham Society. The current theatre of 1897 was designed by the famous architect CJ Phipps, who also designed many other venues including the Lyric, Prince of Wales and Vaudeville theatres. The site has a theatrical history dating back to Vanbrugh's Queen's Theatre of 1705. The tour will last about two hours and involves quite a strenuous walk around the theatre, including climbing many stairs.

To apply: As there is a limit on numbers the tour will be restricted to members only. The cost is £12.50. Cheques payable to the Cinema Theatre Association enclosing SAE should be sent to: Ray Ritmeester, 66 Woodside Road, High Wycombe, Bucks, HP13 7JB. The closing date for applications is 7 October.

Photo above courtesy Tony Webster, Creative Commons Licence.

Monday Morning at the London Palladium

Monday 7 November at 11:30am

Organised by Adam Unger



Due to the popularity of this visit earlier this year, we have been able to arrange a repeat visit to the legendary London Palladium. Built for Walter Gibbons, it was designed by renowned theatre architect Frank Matcham as a palatial variety theatre seating 2,298, in a style described as 'French Rococo'. The Palladium opened on 26 December 1910 with a variety programme, which included music hall star Nellie Wallace.

The tour is scheduled to last about two hours and will cover the front of house areas, auditorium and understage. Mark Fox, the Advertising Manager for the Really Useful Theatres Group, will lead the tour. Please be warned that there are lots of stairs and standing involved during the tour.

To apply: As there is a limit on numbers, the tour is restricted to members only. The cost is £12.50. Cheques payable to the Cinema Theatre Association enclosing a SAE should be sent to: Adam Unger, 59 Harrowdene Gardens, Teddington, Middlesex, TW11 0DJ. The closing date for applications is 31 October. Priority will be given to those members who were unsuccessful in their applications for the previous visit. See p7 Bulletin 50/3 for the report on the last visit.

London's Silent Cinemas

Saturday 12 November at 5:30pm

Our guest speaker, Dr Christopher O'Rourke, was instrumental in developing the website [www.londonssilentcinemas.com] during a Research Associateship at UCL. The website records the history of cinema exhibition in London from the emergence of permanent film venues in 1906 to the end of the silent film era around 1930. It documents the early lives of over 700 cinemas across London and its suburbs, using information gathered from local histories, City council records, film trade journals and directories, cinema programmes, street directories and historic maps and plans.

For this talk, Chris will draw upon his research when putting together the *London's Silent Cinemas* website as a starting point for exploring the City's cinema history. He begins with the cinemas in the West End and the City of London during the years before World War One. He then proceeds to other parts of the capital where cinemas thrived during the war years and the 1920s. This will include such places as Whitechapel, Islington, Clapham, the Old Kent Road and Finsbury Park. Finally, he considers the early art-house cinemas and the start of the transition to sound in the West End. Chris will be illustrating his talk with some of the stories, photos and programmes that he's come across in the archives during his research.

The talk will be in two parts with a break half way for drinks, refreshments and socialising. The venue is the 'Gallery' at Alan Baxter's. Admission is £8 including wine & nibbles. Doors open 5pm for 5:30pm start.

Getting there: The 'Gallery' is situated at 75 Cowcross Street, London, EC1M 6EL. Nearest station is Farringdon on the Metropolitan/Circle lines and Thameslink services. Buses 55 & 243 serve Clerkenwell Road with the 63 serving Farringdon Road.

Film Returns to the Tooting Granada

Friday 18 November

Serious problems have occurred with this event in that the CTA and the Tooting History Group had been given permission to hold it by the manager at Tooting but now Gale, who owns the Granada, may rescind the agreement. The local Council has written to Gale asking them to confirm if the film will be possible. We hope it will go ahead – screening either *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* or *Singin' in the Rain* – to be confirmed (or not), including the time, admission price and how tickets can be purchased, on the CTA website in due course.

Richard Gray

CTA Film Nites

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

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

Help Wanted

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

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

HOLIDAY SNAPS



Found this lovely old cinema in Verbana on Lake Maggiore, couldn't find out much about it. I think it may have closed.

Sent in by Philip Stevens



This is the Aurora cinema in St Petersburg [Russia]. It opened as the Piccadilly Theatre in 1913.

In 1932 it was renamed Aurora, after the battleship of that name, which became a symbol of the October Revolution.

Sent in by Doug Raynes

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.

BRITISH MUSIC HALL SOCIETY: LILY MORRIS AND HER WORLD THURSDAY 3 NOVEMBER AT 7:45PM, BY RICHARD NORMAN

Fans of famous music hall performers will be familiar with comedienne Lily Morris (1882-1952) noted for her songs *Why am I always the Bridesmaid?* and *Don't have any more Mrs Moore*. An artiste who toured the halls for over fifty years, made many gramophone records and appeared in several films.

Lily Morris and Her World is an illustrated talk of Lily's career with songs and film clips. A joint collaboration with Richard Norman and Keith Fawkes, this is first time that this amazing performer has been researched and presented for public interest.



Venue: The Club for Acts and Actors (CAA), 20 Bedford Street, Covent Garden, London WC2E 9HP (Bar available prior to the start of the show)

THE PLAZA, STOCKPORT

Saturday 24 September Organ Coffee Morning 10am admission free
Saturday 8 October *The Blob* (1958) [12] – midnight matinée
Sunday 9 October *Yield to the Night* (1956) [15] 7pm
Thursday 20 October *Calendar Girls* (2003) [12A] 11am & 7:30pm
Monday 31 October *Night of the Living Dead* (1968) [18] 7:30pm
Friday 18 November *It's a Wonderful Life* (1946) [U] 11am & 7:30pm
Behind the Scenes tours at 11am on Monday 31 October
£6 – book or simply turn up.

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

THE CINEMA MUSEUM, LONDON

Cinema Museum Bookstall – 8 October & 12 November, 2pm-5pm

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

[www.cinemamuseum.org.uk]

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

THE REGAL EXPERIENCE, WYMONDHAM

Sunday 2 October *The Family Way* (1966) [X]
+ A Tribute to John Mills

Sunday 6 November *Charade* (1963) [PG] + A tribute to
Cary Grant & Audrey Hepburn

Shows at 2:30pm at the Wymondham Ex-Service's Club (former Regal cinema) NR18 OAT [tinyurl.com/zddvkq4]. Presented in 35mm.
Further information from Michael Armstrong [01953 603246].

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].

24 September *Hail Caesar* (2016) [12A]
29 October *To Kill A Mockingbird* (1962) [12A]
26 November *Bridge of Spies* (2015) [12A]

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

ROYALTY CINEMA BOWNESS

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

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

Tuesday 20 October Royalty House Organist

Silent Film Presentations accompanied on the Wurlitzer Organ

Saturday 29 October Lon Chaney & Joan Crawford in *The Unknown*
accompanied by Mark Latimer at 11pm.

Organ concerts: £6 for all.

Film: Circle – Adults £7.50, Children & Seniors £6.50;
Stalls – £7 & £6.

CAMPAIGNING TO SAVE YOUR HISTORIC CINEMAS

By Tim Hatcher

Grade II* Listed



Objections by the CTA to the installation of the proposed 'pods' in the circle of the ex-Odeon [now Everyman, pictured above in March 2016] in Muswell Hill have been augmented by complementary opposition from The Twentieth Century Society and Save Britain's Heritage (SAVE). Meanwhile Historic England has devolved determination of the listed building consent application to the local Council. {13783}

Architect Sean Soanes of Ipswich has been appointed to oversee the intended refurbishment of the **Electric Palace** in Harwich. The Association has proffered advice on design of new seating. See p18 Bulletin 50/3. {2597}

Architects, project manager and heritage consultant have now been appointed by Antic Limited to further its plans for adaptation of the **Granada/EMD** at Walthamstow. {9397}

Grade II Listed



It is gratifying to report that the **Dudley Hill Picture House** in Bradford [pictured above in August 2005] was recently listed. {36724}

No objection was raised to an application for a creditable scheme of replacement fenestration at the **Curzon** in Clevedon.

It is reported that the new owner of the building incorporating the **Curzon** in London's Mayfair is intending to convert the offices above the cinema into residential units and is requesting that the exhibitor installs sound insulation in the venue.

Unlisted

In the hiatus between the Court of Appeal's rejection of SAVE's application to retain the fine façade of the **Futurist** in Liverpool and the organisation's preparation of an application to the Supreme Court, the local Council took advantage of its opportunity and demolished the building. Whilst within the letter of the law, this unseemly display of cultural vandalism is reminiscent of the employment of the 'Midnight Demolition Company', oft in the past utilised by unscrupulous owners to prevent imminent listing of a property. See Newsreel p22.



The Association has been instrumental in facilitating the installation of a plaque indicating the origin of the relocated relief figures from the frontage of the **Gaumont Palace** in Cheltenham; it has also supplied the informative text. *Photo above by Robert Rimell.* {17447}

Objection has been submitted to demolition of the **Danilo** at Hinckley, which boasts an impressive exterior although sadly little of note remains internally. Unfortunately scant interest in conserving the structure is evident locally. See p21. {14982}

The Conservation and Heritage Panel of Hockley's local council is to consider the solicitation by the Association to extend the boundary of a Conservation Area in order to include the **Palladium** therein; it is also to appraise an additional request to place the latter on the Local Listing Register. See p5 Bulletin 49/3. {34732}

The local Conservation Officer in Bournemouth is receptive to the concept of realigning the borders of a Conservation Area in order to include the **Westover** and **Regent** therein. Concurrently the CTA is pressing for the cladding on the façade of the former to be removed. There is no planning application lodged for this cinema at present and it has been re-leased to its operator.

An Asset of Community Value (ACV) application is being submitted relating to the **Palladium** in Brixton; happily the current lease of the enthusiastic operator has nine years until expiration. {14445}



A local resident of South Hackney has reported that the **Odeon** has closed; it has been suggested that ACV status could be sought, with a view to retention of the structure for community use. {13886}

Editor's Note: It closed on bingo in June 2015; photo above May 2015.

The local Council's planning committee in Hornchurch has deferred its decision on the application to demolish the **Towers**. Committee members viewed photographs provided by the Association; it is also planned to conduct them on a site visit around the building in order that they may appreciate its merits comprehensively. Consideration is also being given to strengthening the documentation of the previously rejected listing application with a view to seeking a reassessment.

In the latest development of a long-running saga, the decision of the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea to refuse ACV status to the **Odeon** is being challenged by campaigners. {13801}

SCOTTISH CASEWORK

By Gary Painter

New Victoria / Odeon, 7 Clerk Street, Edinburgh

Category A-listed, 1930,
architects WE Trent & John Jerdan

Closed as a cinema since August 2003, this long-running saga looks to finally be coming to an acceptable end, after 13 years of demolition applications, petitions, planning inquiry appeals, listing upgrade requests and various short-term or abortive schemes for re-use.

The saga is well-documented in previous Bulletins – the last re-use was at the end of 2013, when Gerry Boyle (brother of *Britain's Got Talent* star Susan) opened the foyers as a Vegas-style cabaret bar. This venture, named the Instant Arena, lasted less than two months and closed amid accusations of unpaid bills and poor attendances. In the time since, the stage house and fly tower were demolished and replaced with student accommodation. This has now been completed and is up-and-running.

A requirement of planning permission and listed building consent for the latter was that the rest of the venue be leased or sold to a restoring purchaser, so when the Instant Arena folded after such a short period of time and to the surprise of no-one who examined the plans in any detail, this caused some concern.

In the last few months, however, the building was sold to the G1 Group and an application has now been made to reconfigure and restore the cinema back to cinema use. Given the objections of locals over late-licensing issues for many other potential uses and the loss of the stage and fly-tower, this would appear to be the best outcome for all concerned.

When it closed as a cinema in 2003, the venue had been subdivided into five screens in a fairly reversible manner, thanks to the building initially being listed when still a single auditorium. Two of these screens were later additions in the stage house and fly tower, so were lost with the demolition of that space, leaving two mini screens protruding from under the very shallow balcony. The main screen upstairs used the whole of the original balcony but due to the protrusion of the minis, a smaller reproduction of the original proscenium was built on top of them, with the original hidden behind.

We have some minor points to note regarding the plans. The deep, highly decorative ante-proscenium area, which was hidden when converted to CinemaScope in the 50s, will remain hidden but we were only ever able to confirm the survival of fragments of this area during our various extensive explorations of the building since it closed. The new floating screen in the main auditorium appears to obscure most of the original proscenium and we'd perhaps suggest that a more elegant solution, such as a retractable screen, could be employed.

Nonetheless, these appear to be minor quibbles in what could be one of the best restorations of a cinema of this size yet seen in Scotland. The Glasgow-based G1 Group are primarily pub and club operators, who successfully operate two (much-altered) historic cinemas in Scotland – the Grosvenor in Glasgow and the Playhouse in Perth. They have been looking to expand in this area and have both the resources to take on a project this size and a record of rehabilitating large, difficult historic buildings such as this. The CTA have had scrapes with them in the past, notably over alterations to a former Edwardian cinema in Glasgow but providing this scheme is as mooted, then we would be little hesitation in supporting these plans. A soft strip, removing later subdivisions and revealing the full volume of the auditorium for the first time in 34 years, has already taken place.

Much credit in this case must go to CTA member Tom Pate, who is local to the cinema and whose campaigning efforts to both save the building and find a restoring purchaser have been utterly tireless. We look forward to buying you a well-deserved drink on opening night, Tom!

County / George, 4 Bath Street, Portobello

Category C-listed, 1939,
architect: T Bowhill Gibson

A surprise application for listed building consent to completely demolish this still-functioning bingo hall appeared in May, with a corresponding planning application to build flats on the site.

Situated in Edinburgh's seaside suburb of Portobello, the building was designed by Thomas Bowhill Gibson, who was one of Scotland's most prolific cinema specialists, primarily working on the east coast. Of the many cinemas he completed, very few survive other than this one – the most notable being the Dominion just up the road in Morningside, which is still run as a cinema by the family who commissioned it, albeit in subdivided form.



The County was taken over by George Palmer's circuit in the mid-50s and as was his wont, renamed the **George**. By the mid-70s, cinema use had ceased and bingo took over. At some point, the façade had been altered, with the central glass feature removed and the tower above it truncated. A false ceiling hid the balcony from view and, more recently, the cement render on the exterior was painted in a cream colour. Despite these alterations, the cinema still appeared well-kept and it's symmetrical façade contributed much to the streetscape of a town which regrettably demolished its large outdoor pool from the same era and idiom some years ago. The sealed-off balcony area, in particular, retained much of the original decorative detail and fittings one would expect from a cinema of this era and was unexpectedly viewed by CTA members on the 2008 Edinburgh, Lothians and Fife tour [above].



The new proposals envisage returning to a five-screen complex, with four smaller cinemas in the former stalls area [illustrated above] and the balcony once more employed as the largest screen. Whilst this level of subdivision can hardly be considered ideal, the restoration of the building as a whole, if done according to the plans lodged, is very impressive. Previously hidden original panelling and decorative ceilings in the foyer areas are to be returned to their former glory, with plenty of space for bar and catering use. Some backstage space will also be formed to the rear of the building, underneath the original proscenium.

There was an accompanying planning statement which attempted to address the various tests Historic Environment Scotland apply when it is proposed to demolish a listed building – namely condition, possible marketing and re-use, importance and wider economic benefits. The justification provided for each was somewhat flimsy, however a survey concluded it to be in far from terminal condition – its architectural significance had been considerably downplayed and the benefits of new flats could be achieved anywhere in the town. The marketing and re-use section was especially thin, with no specific details of how it had been advertised or for what price. Façade retention, it had been argued, was not economically viable, suggesting that the price sought was too high for a site encumbered by a listed building. Moreover, a local campaign group sprung up to save the building, during which a number of parties came forward to express an interest in using the structure as is, claiming they had not been aware it was for sale.

Thankfully, Edinburgh City Council's planners were quick to agree with all of the above points, supported by Historic Environment Scotland's objections on the same grounds and listed building consent was refused. See p15 last Bulletin for exterior photo.

Paramount / Odeon, 52 Renfield Street, Glasgow

Category B-listed, 1934,
architects: Verity & Beverley

The office tower that replaced the auditorium block is now well-occupied but concern had been growing over the deterioration of the retained corner foyer block, which occupies a very prominent site in Glasgow City centre. Left in shell condition, bar the three shops operating at ground floor level, permission had been granted for conversion to a hostel but this was never enacted.



The façade on 22 June this year

A new application earlier this year had proposed conversion to offices, with leisure use on the ground floor. Given that the original interior had been largely ripped out in 1970, there was little to object to, as the scheme proposed a fairly decent external return to the building's 1930s appearance. The proposals also reinstated the double-height space behind the corner windows and fins, which had been hidden or blanked off for 46 years. The only real problem with the application was the insertion of various new window openings at the upper levels, spoiling the clean blank walls but this seemed a small, reversible price to pay if the rest of the exterior was restored as planned.



The façade in August 2015

Work started on the exterior restoration a few months ago and the scaffolding has recently come off the newly-painted façade. Although the original finish was probably some form of reconstituted Portland Stone, it was clear during the work that this was too badly stained and patched to avoid a painted finish. Happily, the new upper windows on the plans appear not to have been inserted but a rethinking of the

interior spaces was a backwards step. The double-height space behind the corner windows was once more to be horizontally divided, albeit with small glass sections where the floor met the windows. This seems to have been further rethought at the behest of Glasgow City Council's planning department and it has now been rejigged to incorporate a glazed curtain wall set a couple of metres back from the main windows – an acceptable compromise in the circumstances [R].



A further application has also now been lodged to amalgamate the three ground floor shops into one restaurant but this is still in the early stages – the suggested fenestration and fittings so far appear appropriate to the building's age and style. Internal work has just started and the development seems thus far to be speculative, so the final appearance and configuration may yet change again. We shall keep a careful eye on proceedings.

ABC2, Sauchiehall Street, Glasgow

Unlisted, 1967, architects: Leslie Norton & CJ Foster



Following a pre-application consultation last year, formal permission has now been sought to completely demolish the ABC2 in Glasgow City centre. Although unlisted, it lies within the City Centre Conservation Area and is immediately adjacent to both the original 1929 ABC Regal cinema (C-listed) and Glasgow School of Art's Mackintosh Building (A-listed), currently under restoration following the devastating fire in 2014.

The site has a long and varied entertainment history, with the original ABC Regal (their flagship Glasgow cinema) having been a remodel of a building previously used as a diorama/panorama, an ice-skating rink (site of Glasgow's first public film show in May 1896) and a Waldorf Palais dance hall. The ABC2 was built next door in 1967 and was very much of its time – a floating curved screen behind drapes that wrapped round the sidewall of the 922-seat stadium-style auditorium. Foyer and bar areas were fitted out with light wooden panelling, black tubular steel and grey terrazzo flooring. The exterior was a simple box of Dutch-style dark brown brickwork, punctuated by a few windows and with a green copper-clad roof box. The original 1929 ABC was subdivided into four screens in 1979 and both buildings changed hands and name several times with the ABC chain in the 80s and 90s. ABC2 closed in October 1998 (although confusingly, it was Screen ① by then!) and the original ABC followed a year later. Both buildings were comprehensively gutted internally and converted into various bars and clubs circa 2002. A music venue now known as the O2 ABC takes up most of the older structure, whilst the ABC2 was a Jumpin Jaks nightclub. The older section of the building was Category C-listed in 2010. The new plans involve building 185 studio flats for students in an entirely new building. Had the ABC2 retained its original 1967 interior, then we would have certainly have put it forward as a very decent, rare example of a full-size roadshow-era cinema in Scotland. Sadly, we feel unable to offer anything much in the way of objection now as it's essentially just a blank brick box with various recent and garish nightclub embellishments.

PUBLICATIONS

Back Numbers Available

BULLETINS

We can supply back numbers of most Bulletins from Volume 21 (1987) to date. Prices for issues from 1987 to 2014 are £4.00 per year (6 issues); individual issues are £1.00 each. Prices for issues in 2015 and 2016 are £4.00 per copy. All prices include postage. There are some issues available from earlier years, 1970 to 1986 – please send enquiries to the Sales Officer.

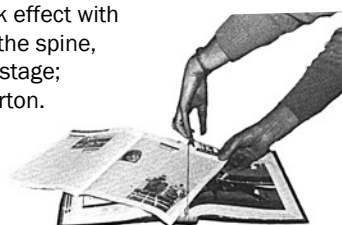
PICTURE HOUSE MAGAZINE

Listed below are the back numbers of Picture House that are still available, along with the main articles the particular issue contains. There are also available a few second-hand copies of out-of-print issues 9, 10, 14/15, 16, 20, 22, 23 & 24, priced £5.00 each, plus postage.

No 6	£1.50	Television in the Cinema; Atherley Southampton; Hippodrome, Blackpool.
No 8	£1.50	Sol Levy; Reginald Cooper; ABC in NW London.
No 17	£3.00	Special Issue featuring the Cinemas of George Coles with 26 original photographs reproduced in sepia.
No 18	£3.00	Sydney Colwyn Foulkes; United Picture Theatres; Tivoli Wimborne.
No 19	£3.50	Co-operative Cinemas; Ideal Lambeth; Dursley; Alister Macdonald; Granada Tooting.
No 21	£3.50	100 Years On; Travelling Shows; Reggie Rea; Albert Hall Sheffield; Regal Wells; West End Adverts; Scotland.
all issues below have colour cover and inside pages		
No 25	£4.50	Oldest Cinema (Brighton); FE Bromige; Gaumont Managers; Carlton Swansea; Committee's Choice.
No 26	£4.50	Paramount Newcastle; Edward Stone; Granada Men; E de Wilde Holding; Electric Portobello Road.
No 27	£4.50	New Victoria/Apollo; Whiteladies Bristol; Clark & Fenn; Compton Organs; Tim Foster Associates.
No 28	£4.50	James McKissack; WJ King; Torbay Cinema; Tabs.
No 29	£4.50	Cinerama in Britain; Braziers the Builders; John Fernée; Waller Jeffs; John Duffin's paintings.
No 30	£5.00	The Davis Family, Croydon; Apollo Hammersmith Organ; Norwich Roadshows.
No 31	£7.50	Special 84-page edition: Essoldo – A Family Business: Sol Sheckman and the Essoldo Circuit.
No 32	£5.00	Harry Myers Photographs; Cinemas at the Coalface; Shaws of Darwen: Edward A Stone.
No 33	£5.00	Theodore Komisarjevsky; Circuit & other releases of 1956; The case for saving the New Victoria Bradford.
No 34	£5.00	Beaufort Birmingham; Granada Tooting in 1934; Rank in post-war Scotland; J Braddon's Cinema life.
No 35	£5.00	Holophane lighting; Imitations of Odeon ; Cradley Records; 1909 Cinematograph Act; Kingston Showmanship.
No 36	£6.00	Leslie Kemp; The Clifton Circuit; Jeremy Perkins on Brighton; Circuit Releases of 1960.
No 37	£8.50	Special 92-page issue; saving the Electric Palace Harwich.
No 38	£6.00	Northern Morris Associated; Point Milton Keynes; Going to the Cinema in Birmingham; Palace Conwy; Carlton Haymarket; Military Cinemas; Cinema Murders.
No 39	£6.00	WWI and the Film Trade; Tale of Two Regals ; Odeon North Finchley; Majestic Oxford; Films at the Royal Albert Hall .
No 40	£6.00	Tolmer Euston; Michael Stringer memories; West End in the 1950s; Stafford Entertainments; Will Onda & James Atroy; Stephen Waddingham – a Granada man.

AND WHERE TO KEEP THOSE PICTURE HOUSE MAGAZINES?

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

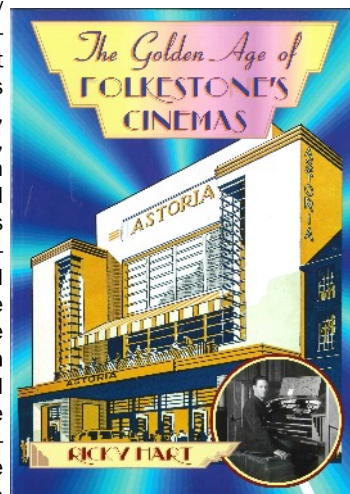


New Publication

The Golden Age of Folkestone's Cinemas

by Ricky Hart – A4 softback, 82 pages, fully illustrated in black and white and colour. Special price to CTA members: £12.50 plus postage (normal RRP £14.95)

This attractive book was written by Ricky Hart – known to cinema organ enthusiasts as "The Standaard Man" – because in his house was installed the organ of that make, originally in the Savoy Cinema, Folkestone. After his death in 2009, his son Brian has completed the work and added the captions to the many interesting photographs. The stories of the principal cinemas in the town: the Electric/Savoy, the Central, the Playhouse and the Astoria/Odeon are recalled in some detail and there is a chapter describing the Pleasure Gardens Theatre too. Another chapter relates how the Standaard was rescued from the Savoy and what happened to Folkestone's other organs. A well-presented book with some rarely-seen photographs.



Still Available (reviewed in previous issues)

From Celluloid to Cereal – Cinemas That Became Supermarkets by Gavin McGrath, 28 pages, A4 paperback, £4.00 plus postage.

From Pictures to Pints – Cinemas That Became Pubs

by Gavin McGrath, 30 pages, last few copies – £4.00 plus postage.

The Cinemas of RA Thomas

by Mick Collins, 346 pages, large paperback, £24.95 plus postage.

Second Hand Copies available

ABC and GAUMONT circuit histories

We have available some good second-hand copies of the very rare book *ABC: The First Name in Entertainment* by Allen Eyles, published by the CTA in 1993. Price £30.00 plus £3.00 postage.

Also a couple of second-hand copies of *Gaumont British Cinemas* also by Allen, published in 1996. Price £20.00 plus £3.00 postage.

Please send cheque/PO/credit card details to the usual address. If there are more orders received than copies available, a draw will be held.

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.

CIRCUIT HISTORIES AVAILABLE

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

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

A DAY IN BATH

A report of the CTA visit on 8 August 2016

by B Nash

Every once in a while it seems that a visit was just meant to be. According to Mike Wood, the organiser of this CTA walking tour, it was local resident Rupert Rhymes (until recently Chairman of the acclaimed Frank Matcham Society) who handed him a list of venues and some of the contacts, following a private visit to the Forum. Little did Mike know but during the gestation period, four of them would move on and one would pass away before he could get the contacts aligned and the doors opened.

The one constant during the run-up to our arrival in Bath, was the friendliness of the people of the City and our eventual hosts. For a town that is teaming with tourists, the locals remain cheerful. It had been about twenty years since the last CTA visit to Bath, so perhaps it was this, the relative ease of access from other parts of the country, the prospect of an easy summer's day stroll through a world heritage site, or could it have just been the mix of venues, that drew such a large group?

Since that last visit, there have been two losses, two restoration and repurposing, a rebuild within an existing structure and a new build, plus most people's favourite, the Little (WA Williams 1935 Grade II) still in business as a cinema and currently operated by Picturehouse.



The exterior and screen ① at the Little

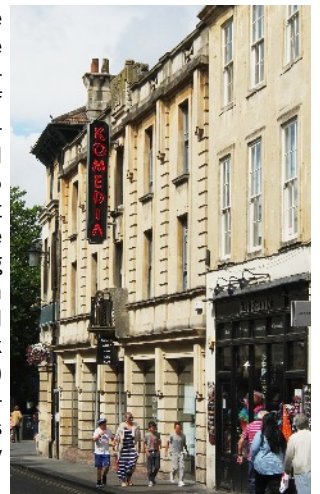
Our group numbering almost fifty set off only a few minutes late due to a delayed arrival of the train from London, pausing at the Old Theatre Royal (1750 Hippisley/Palmer Grade II) for a view of the little-changed exterior, the interior having been completely reconstructed for a Masonic Lodge. Then, passing the Abbey and Roman Baths/Pump Room, we arrived at the Little for our first visit. Ollie, the duty manager, was waiting for us and we went straight to the main screen in the original auditorium. Built for theatre by Consuelo de Reyes and Peter King (and still owned by the family) but with the possibility of showing film from the start, this makes a very comfortable place for 171 people in stalls and on sofa seating in the Royal balcony to see a film; now on digital but with the film projector and tower still in situ. Screen ② seats 70 and has its own bar and lounge. Ollie was a great host, telling us its story, showing us the working areas and answering our questions; we could have stayed all day.

Bath lost the venerable Southgate Odeon/Regal/Picturedrome, which fell to a large redevelopment for retail. Its eight-screen replacement Odeon (Aaron Evans 2004) opened within the Kingsmead complex and it is probably the only multiplex new build within a world heritage site. They had all screens working due to the school holidays but duty manager Clayton took a few minutes out of his busy schedule to tell us about it since its opening on his first day working there. We might sometimes be a bit unimpressed by Odeon's design portfolio but I've always had a very good welcome from its staff.



The exterior + and foyer of the Kingsmead Odeon

A couple of minutes later we were outside the Komedia / ABC Beau Nash to be greeted by Erica, who is Komedia's marketing manager. This is now a branch of the Brighton comedy club, which took possession following a three year hiatus and some campaigning after closure in 2005 when the Kingsmead Odeon opened. It now has a flat floor and café/bar in the Foyer/Stalls with the Balcony remaining seated. For a short time, the Komedia ran film occasionally but this has now ceased and the roller screen and temporary box (the original now being used for storage) are to be de-rigged. Erica took us everywhere and told us that the venue was enjoying continued success on comedy and music events.



The exterior and interior of the Komedia



The exterior and interior of the egg

After our lunch break we regrouped to visit the **egg** purpose-built youth theatre. This was a 2005 new build by Haworth Tomkins within the shell of the old St Paul's Church Hall, which itself had been a 1976 conversion into the **Gemini/Robins**. This was a two-screen cinema with a third screen added in the basement bar space in 1991 after Robins had taken ownership. It is in the block adjacent to the **Ustinov** black box studio theatre and part of the (second) **Theatre Royal** and was purchased by them in 2000, remaining on film until 2004, when the interior was gutted for the **egg** build. Lindsay Baker has been the manager there since the beginning and had given us permission for a fifteen-minute window in Summer Camp activity, whilst the young people took lunch in the large ground floor café.

Curiosity satisfied, we passed the **Ustinov** with its plain exterior enlivened by Igor Ustinov's bronze and steel winged figures. He is the son of Peter, who raised the funds for this theatre. We turned into Beauford Square, where the earliest façade of the second **Theatre Royal** stands (Palmer/Dance 1805 Grade II*) in Bath stone and decorated with lyres and a gigantic Royal coat of arms. Around the corner in Sawclose we viewed the present day frontage designed in 1863 by CJ Phipps in Italianate style and could not resist having a look in its pretty lobby, the 900-seat theatre auditorium being busy on the day. There is a commemorative plaque on the theatre side wall to Beau Nash (1674-1761) who was the famous dandy and master of ceremonies and who lived in a house on this site.

Across the road was a less agreeable site, that of the **Pavilion / Lyric / Palace / Regency Ballroom / Zetters / Gala** (1886 unknown architect, later Wylson & Long conversion from music hall to theatre Grade II), of particular interest to us because it was also the home of the **President** cinema with 53 seats and on 16mm. This ran for just a few years into the early 1980s. In the conversion to ballroom, the theatre had lost its stage, boxes and all Victorian decorative elements. Now it has lost its auditorium, with just the stage-house and Lyric tower entrance block remaining when we saw it in the rebuild to casino and hotel.

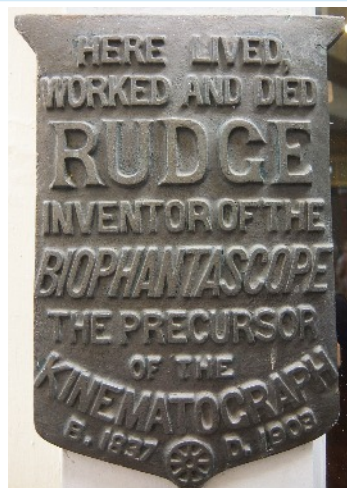
Our organiser had arranged a Georgian interlude but not before passing the commemorative plaques to John Arthur Roebuck Rudge, inventor of the Biophantascope, a precursor of the Kinematograph,



The stagehouse and entrance tower of the Palace during demolition

alongside one for William Friese-Greene, who developed early celluloid projection, so Bath claims the invention of film.

Our stroll through the early development of Georgian Bath was interpreted by Richard Gray and it took us to The Circus by Wood the Elder (1768 Grade I) and the Royal Crescent by Wood the Younger (1774 Grade I) who also designed the upper Assembly Rooms (1771 Grade I) where is situated the Ballroom. It was converted to a cinema and on film from 1921 closing in 1934 to be restored as a Ballroom. After a short break to rest some weary feet, we left for an easy walk back to the lower part of town and our last visit.



The Rudge plaque

The **Forum** (Watkins/Gray 1934 Grade II*) turned out to be the highlight of the day; the best is always kept to last. This was Bath's only super cinema, on an island site and in classical Bath stone externally, it has art deco Roman on the inside. It is curious that this and the ones in London's Ealing and Kentish Town were built in the same year but by different architects without any apparent connection, except one about 2000 years ago. This one has a similar frieze and some Legionnaires' insignia, with some additional deco touches including a striking ceiling dome sunburst. It seats about 1,600 nowadays. We had been met by Tom Clayton, who is the venue manager and comes from a cinema background, having operated real (reel) projectors at the **Little** and he has been collecting parts of the Ernemann projectors that had been installed. Incidental projection is now digital and the venue presents most kinds of events, including for the Bath Festival, when Bath City Church, who own the building and are responsible for its excellent upkeep, are not holding a service. We explored the extensive front of house areas and the shallow stage space, extended forward to accommodate larger bands.



The lobby of the Forum

Tom stayed with us answering our questions but in the end we had to tear ourselves away and head for the station at the end of a satisfyingly full day. With our hosts' friendliness and enthusiasm for their cinema buildings reminding us that maybe we should have returned to Bath sooner.

In Mike Wood's illustrated visit notes, he credits CTA's Ben Doman, who grew up in Bath and had a working life in cinemas, latterly researching and writing about the Bath cinema history, two articles appearing about the **Little** in recent Bulletins with another on the way.

In Mike Wood's illustrated visit notes, he credits CTA's Ben Doman, who grew up in Bath and had a working life in cinemas, latterly researching and writing about the Bath cinema history, two articles appearing about the **Little** in recent Bulletins with another on the way.

Photos by Kevin Gooding on the day, except + by Harry Rigby [March 2006]



The Forum Bath

USHERETTES

By Peter Gruner ‡

A 79-year-old and her granddaughter starred in a popular exhibition about cinema usherettes, which is shortly moving from Portsmouth to London. Pensioner Win Books from Fratton, a former usherette in the 1950s, attended the exhibition on the history of the service and a film at No 6 Cinema in the Historic Dockyard last weekend. Her granddaughter Jade Evans, 24, from Portsmouth who is studying film at Southampton University, dressed as a 1930s usherette for the event.

The exhibition, which includes interviews with many of Portsmouth's former usherettes and is supported by Film Hub South East with National lottery funds, is expected to transfer to a cinema in London later this year. As part of her project, University of Portsmouth senior lecturer Eva Balogh, who devised and researched the exhibition, was in San Francisco in August to interview two former American usherettes. "I've also had contact with ladies in Australia who are former usherettes. Usherettes represented the glamour of a bygone era of cinema that appeals to a lot of people. Many former usherettes have contacted me from all over the world, thanks to the publicity the exhibition has received locally, including stories in the *Portsmouth News*." [www.cinemausherettes.com]

‡ Peter is Press Officer at the No 6 Cinema in Portsmouth

PHOTOS [R]

Top: Usherette Jade Evans in front of the cinema doors.

Bottom: [L-R] Senior Lecturer Eva Balogh, former usherette Win Brooks and granddaughter Jade Evans dressed as 1930s usherette.



PYRAMID/ODEON/TATTON CINEMA, SALE

By Charles Morris



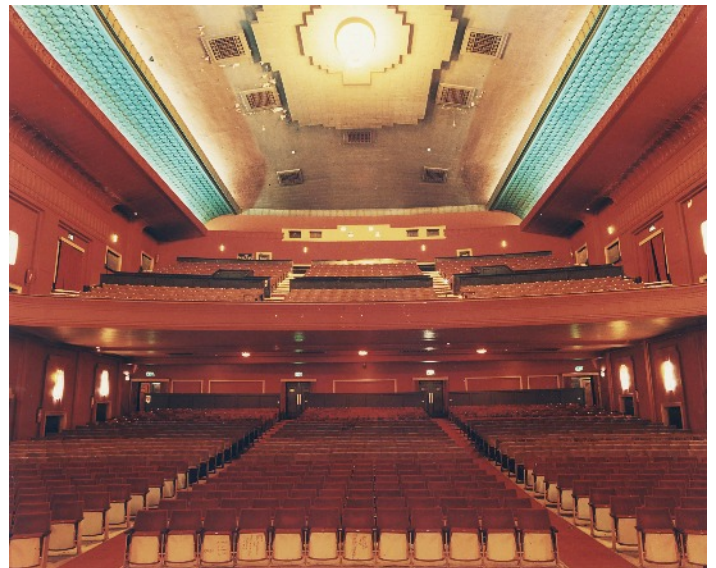
Richard Hagon's description [p11 last Bulletin] of the precarious route to the projection box presumably refers to its access from the stage. There was a perfectly conventional access from the rear stalls via a concrete staircase, into which was an additional entry from the circle.

I had the privilege to be a part-time operator up till the cinema's closure in December 1984. In fact I still have a key to the projection box! Sadly I was not there for the very last show as the company had persuaded me to relieve at their Savoy Heaton Moor on that night and I took the view that it was more positive to be working at a cinema that was staying open than to mourn the passing of the Pyramid/Tatton.



I had a joyous three months working in an unspoilt 1930s super, my only such experience. The staff were a cut above those with whom I had most recently been acquainted at the Classic Blackburn and the cinema was operated most professionally under the Tatton banner. The projection room had the full Odeon GK21 set-up, replete with the 'elephant's foot' bases and square-ish spool boxes, though with President arclamps rather than the original Lightmasters. Operating single-handedly was a challenge, partly due to the lighting controls being on the back wall, whereby one couldn't properly see the effect one was creating with the various colours for the proscenium side grilles and ceiling coves. Curiously, although there were three sets of footlights, it was only possible to use one at a time as they were controlled by a single dimmer and a rotary switch to select the colour required. There was a fully equipped stage and the main curtain just rose straight up into the fly-tower.

There was a vast foyer, above which had been a café, then a Victor Sylvester Ball-room and finally regional offices for Odeon Cinemas, though vacant by the time I was there. I



had an interesting time combing through the rubbish looking for memorabilia.

Unfortunately closure was inevitable. It was the darkest year of British cinema exhibition and this near 2,000-seat cinema was attracting typically 50 patrons a night at that time – during the week at any rate. The final show, on Saturday 1 December 1984, was *The Woman In Red* starring Gene Wilder. In fact I made a mad dash from Heaton Moor to be there at the very end but the

show had finished and I arrived just as the staff were departing.

Many years ago I corresponded with one of the Pyramid's first projectionists. An extract from one of his letters reads:

"I was there just before it opened, there being a delay because the powers that be refused to grant a licence until public support made them change their mind. When I visited the cinema during construction, the projection room was a very long one but before completion the walls to the spotlight rooms were added, thus altering the size drastically [it still remained very spacious – author]. It had of course a full orchestra and organ on opening, a large café and a troupe of dancing girls, who were part of the ciné-variety provided nightly. The girls later on were dispensed with; then, I believe, the acts, then orchestra and of course the organ were later disbanded. Originally we had Simplex Standard rear-shutter projectors, Peerless rotating-positive arc-lamps supplied by two Peebles rectifiers in an adjacent room, Westrex [Western Electric] sound but strangely enough no non-sync unit, the proprietor at that time (John Buckley) assumed the orchestra/organ would provide any incidental music required. All stage lighting whilst I was there was controlled from a stage dimmer board as were all the tabs and of course main curtains."

John Buckley relinquished control of the Pyramid very soon after its opening. A year later it was apparently run by Union Cinemas, then from 1936 it was being operated by Anglo-Scottish Theatres Ltd, who also ran the Apollo Ardwick for a while. The Tatton Group, which acquired the Pyramid/Odeon in 1981, gained its name from the Tatton cinema in Gatley, which was one of four cinemas in Greater Manchester operated by Jack Edge. The others were the Davenport Stockport, the Mayfair Whitefield and the Savoy Heaton Moor. They were all acquired by Apollo Leisure when Mr Edge died. Ironically the Savoy, which was probably the least successful of the group, is the only one to survive.

John Buckley went on to create a circuit of cinemas in the Manchester area, whose remnants were eventually taken over by the Star circuit.

Interior photos by Mike Phillips, exterior by the author

KUNG-FU – A KICK DOWN MEMORY LANE

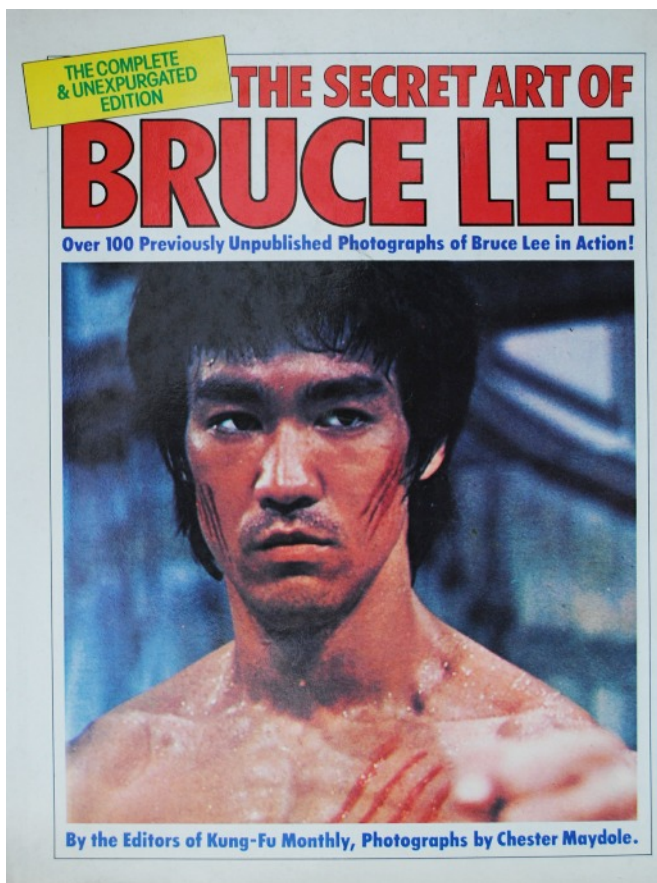
By Ross H Campbell

A DAWNING:

Way back in the early 70s, the craze of Kung Fu swept the country, from London to Llandudno, Exmouth to East Kilbride. First came King Boxer with Lo Lieh and later The One Armed Swordsman with Jimmy Wang Yu but later and more significantly, in the agile and athletic form of Jeet Kune Do master, Lee Jun-fan or Bruce Lee, as we all came to know and love him. Lee's back catalogue landed on British shores in a disarray of release dates with his second film, *Fist of Fury*, chop-socking its way onto "a screen near you and only five minutes from the culinary delights of the Kowloon Chinese restaurant!" The original release date of 20 July 1973 saw this period piece pitting Chinese against Japanese and leaving us all desperate for more martial artistry.

11 January 1974 saw the release of *Enter the Dragon*, a Warner Brothers produced, high-gloss Hollywood take on the martial arts epic. A pseudo Bond actioner, with Bruce Lee sent on a secret mission to a remote island owned by the one-handed villain, Han (Shih Kien). His mission, to expose the vice and drug-riddled empire of Han and bring it down. All rather like Dr No. Along the way, Lee is ably supported by a rag-tag of on-the-run con-artists and Black Panther devotees played by John Saxon and Jim Kelly respectively.

The Kung Fu phenomenon grew in such magnitude after *Enter the Dragon*, which only had an initial budget of \$850,000 but went on to gross \$90 million worldwide. Sadly, some six months before its UK release, Lee had died under mysterious circumstances at the tragically young age of 32 on 20 July 1973 in Kowloon, Hong Kong. By the time British fans were just getting to know him, he had already passed away but thankfully and like all the other Cinema greats: Valentino, Monroe and Dean, he instantly became immortalised.



Lee's first Hong Kong smash-hit *Big Boss* was the last to arrive, offering us a coarser and perhaps less glamorous depiction of Kung Fu violence and the story of exploited low-paid ice factory workers and their salvation from evil bosses by the slightly bulkier but none the less skilful and majestic Lee as factory worker, Chien. Originally produced by Golden Harvest in 1971, it didn't reach our screens until late January 1974.

INFLUENCES:

As East met West, all things oriental took on a new fascination with British teendom. The shuriken (a five-pointed metal throwing star) and nunchaku (a rice flail) became the commodities of youthful exuberance. Harry Callahan's .44 Magnum and McQueen's pump-action getaway shotgun, were all too unattainable, when small metal blades fashioned from tin can lids as makeshift shurikens or Mum's beloved kitchen broomstick handle chopped up into two 15-inch lengths and linked by a 6-inch length of sink plug chain, became a pair of nunchakus. Across Britain in many a bedroom, young men rice flailed their nights away, mimicking the mesmerising battle

between Lee and an onslaught of Han's guards. With a flick of his flails he crunched skull after skull (including that of another martial artist legend, Jackie Chan) in a slo-mo battle of skill and dexterity pitted against brute force and overwhelming numbers.

THE OLD HOME TOWN:

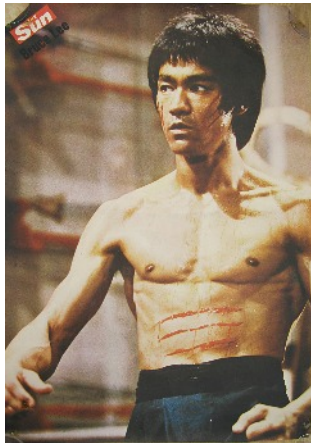


East Kilbride was my teenage playground and its Cinema was a grand 988-seater [above] and the pride and joy of the Scottish independent chain, Caledonian Associated Cinemas (CAC). Reputedly one of the best venues in Europe, it opened on Monday 2 December 1968 with a première of *Half a Sixpence* and featured a guest appearance by Miss Julia Foster. Under the management of moustachioed Mr Bob Johnstone, this was the first purpose-built cinema in Britain since the War and came complete with six-track stereo, lounge bar and cafeteria. A cinema to make the New Town proud and which gave both Glasgow's flagship Odeon and ABC a run for their money. Sadly, unable to secure first run rights, the cinema eventually faltered and faded on Saturday 29 May 1988.



BBFC

The desire to see more oriental fare meant trips further afield to Hamilton and Glasgow and the Odeon Eglinton Toll in particular to see *Hap Ki Do* and *Hellfighters of the East* all in their ShawScope glory. Great fun was added to by hilarious English dubbing but none seemed to have what the Bruce Lee films had to offer. Thankfully, on the horizon was Lee's 1972, Rome-set actioner *Way of the Dragon* co-starring amongst others the legendary Karate star Chuck Norris. Sometime after the original release of 14 June, 1974, *Way* arrived at East Kilbride. I was only 15 but so far, so good, age seemed not to matter when it came to seeing [X] certificated movies – well in my home town at least. Meanwhile, the nunchaku craze was growing apace and many a Puma or Adidas logo-adorned sports bag was not complete without its very own pair of home-made nunchakus. The popular press in their typically contradictory stance on most things was on the one hand offering free colour posters of the great Bruce Lee (*The Sun* [R]) but at the same time condemning the outbreak of street fighting inspired by Kung Fu films. Before long, the British Board of Film Classification [BBFC] was to make its presence felt and with the slice of their samurai-like scissors excised all references to flails in all films both past and present. Swords? Yes. Knives? Yes. Wooden sticks? A definite No!



HOMETOWN BOY

But, what happened on the night of *Way*'s first screening? Typical attire of 70s west-coast Scottish male teens was a mix of Bay City Roller inspired fashion, mixed with the remnants of the boot boy. On the night of the screening, I was resplendent in platformed Chelsea boots, navy Levi Strauss and the adult-affirming navy blue 'crombie' style coat. I looked more 25 than 15, as I was also tall for my age. Mr Johnstone had never challenged my age before but I couldn't afford

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to be found out on this, the big night. No sooner was the ticket kerchinged into my sweating palm, than I was in my seat. I had a dilemma though. My baby-faced mates were outside with, I thought, no way of getting in. Then, I had a brainwave. I could lend them my coat and use it to convince the cashier of their maturity. (I must have thought it had the power of Harry Potter's invisibility cloak.) I rushed back to the entrance, explained that I had my ticket and needed to go to the nearby chippy on an errand and as soon as I was out of the manager's gaze, I was at the end of the queue and swapping coats. Thankfully, my plan worked and my two mates smuggled themselves indoors, one by one. All seemed too good to be true. But, can you imagine our utter disbelief when the film reached the point where Lee famously confronts the local Mafia henchmen bullying Lee's restaurant co-workers. No sooner had he reached for his bag of flails, than the film did a jump cut to the end of the battle – a battle I wasn't going to witness till many, many years later! I broke into a cold sweat as I stared questioningly at my mates as they grimaced back in utter confusion. The BBFC had done their worst. Thankfully, though, all was not lost. The film gathered pace and headed for its climax at the Coliseum and the battle between Lee and Norris. And it was there that we were to witness a fight sequence, which to this day, stands repeated viewing. One-nil to Bruce Lee. What made Lee such a stand-out artist, wasn't just his good looks, cool hairstyle, bone cracking gear and sublime Jeet Kune Do but that he completely understood the medium that is cinema. He had a tremendous insight into its mechanics and power over its audience. He was the 70s. What a night and what a day the next day at school. All the disappointment now forgotten, as we recounted and re-lived all of Bruce's moves and celebrated his contribution to our lives. It would be another 4 years and 5 months after his death before we were to see him again. 1978 saw the release of *Game of Death* but the less said about that, the better...

WILF GOES IN SEARCH OF A STUDIO

By Wilf Watters

As part of my filming plan to show most of the film studios in the Home Counties, I set forth to cover firstly Riverside Studios that the CTA visited in June 2014 and found later that that too had gone and is now a pile of rubble. I then attempted to get into Teddington Studios and found that being demolished! However, on the outside of an office building there were some plaques of 'stars' who had appeared there in the days of Thames Television. The whole studio has gone – one can hope that the plaques will be saved somewhere.



A BIRMINGHAM BOY AT THE PICTURES

By David Groves

I must have been around six years of age when my mum started taking me to the 'Pictures' and very soon Tuesday and Saturday evenings became something to look forward to.

Birmingham and its suburbs in 1945 had well over 80 Cinemas and every evening The Cinematograph Exhibitors Association had a lengthy column in *The Birmingham Mail* listing every location and what was showing there. The City centre alone had seven cinemas plus two News Theatres so the choice was quite astonishing. One has to admit that the local cinema gave far better value for money but at the expense of the latest film and, often, of the quality of comfort offered by their more wealthy counterparts.



The Royalty Harborne in June 2008

Harborne, where I was born, boasted two cinemas. Directly opposite my home was the *Royalty*, a huge building running under the Associated British Cinemas banner. On Sunday mornings I'd lift the curtain to see Maurice Smith putting up the posters for the next attraction. The *Royalty* had a long main road frontage with two entrances. The main entrance was used by those who could afford the dearer tickets and they were welcomed into a spacious area that offered patrons that feeling of going somewhere special for the evening. The rest of us made our way to the other entrance where we would join the queue stretching down the side of the building. They certainly knew how to rub in our lack of cash as we stood forlornly in the rain waiting our turn to get inside a small reception hall with its own separate paydesk. Clutching our tickets we were ushered down a series of small steps, which admitted us right in front of the screen, while the wealthier were shown to their seats from the rear stalls. There was always a smell of disinfectant (I'm told it was Jayes Fluid) and the projection room was situated as part of the balcony. It had opened on 20 October 1930 showing the film *The Love Parade* with Maurice Chevalier and Jeanette MacDonald and seated 1,500.

Even as I type I can smell the cigarette smoke that filled the building, allowing the projection beam to be seen to flicker (missing in today's digital world) and hear the Pearl and Dean music accompanied by the Roman columns, which preceded the *pa pa pa pa* theme so beloved of most of us.



Detail from the façade of the Royalty

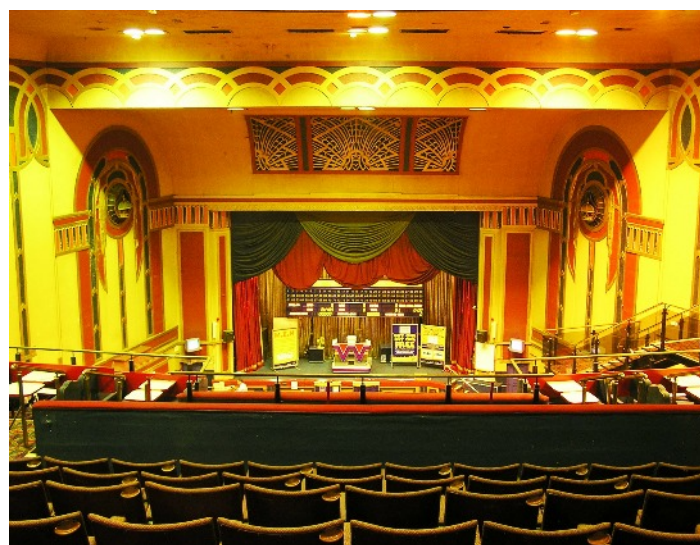
The double bills were much appreciated as, if one was boring, then at least there was another to look forward to. The Sunday shows were always revivals (often abridged, printed in very small letters as if they were ashamed of saying so) and usually shown from well-run prints that had seen better days. But who cared. We were warm and content and, having come in half way through, we'd sit the whole thing round till "this is where we came in". We always seemed to make sense of the story, even though it had been running for well over half its length.



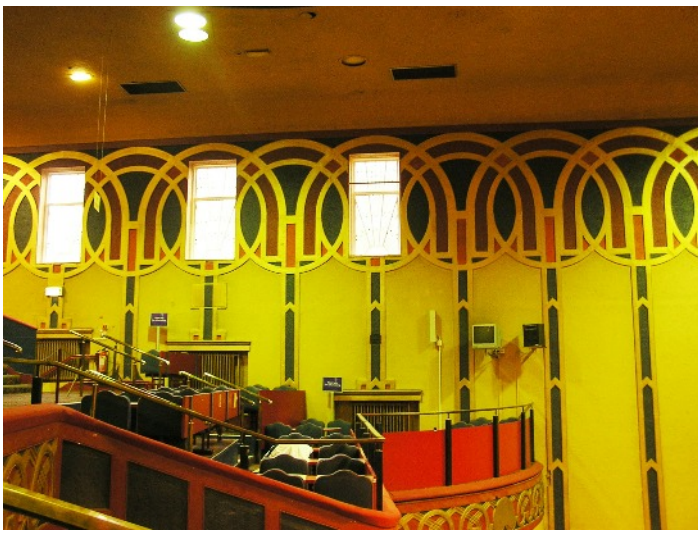
The Picture House Harborne in June 2008

At the other end of the High Street was the Picture House or 'The Old Harborne' as it was generally known. Designed by Archibald Hurley Robinson, it opened in 1913 and seated around 900. How I loved the old place. It had no proscenium arch. I guess originally the pictures were shown on the back wall, so the curtains hung from a track secured to the ceiling. There was just a raked floor with two aisles with exit doors either side. Patrons knew when the film was coming to its end as a member of staff walked down the aisle and ducked behind the wooden surround at the bottom of the curtains. He could be viewed sitting on his stool watching the screen for 'The End' to appear when he would turn the handle to close the curtain. He remained there until the Censor's certificate appeared on the curtains, demanding the reverse of his earlier action. Sometimes the film broke and folk would stamp on the floor, shout and whistle until the picture re-appeared. The little gas lamps gave a comforting light in the darkness. Emergency lighting they called it but I often wondered if it was fit for purpose.

Saturday mornings were a delight. The Saturday Club was a magnet for the youngsters of the neighbourhood and we loved seeing the words of *Hands, Knees and Bumps-a-daisy* and *Underneath the Spreading Chestnut Tree* thrown up on the screen as we sang, accompanied by age old actions. *The Three Stooges* brought forth roars of approval as did *Laurel and Hardy* and as near silence as one could expect from fidgety children was offered to Buster Crabbe posing as *Flash Gordon* or *Nyoka the Jungle Girl* as the latest chapter revealed further adventures of our heroes. All this for 6d (2½p).



The interior of the Royalty in August 2004



A side view inside the Royalty showing the recess for the balcony projection room

But the *Royalty* was observing a cinema full of sixpences and the opposition was born. Gaumont against ABC. *We come along on Saturday morning against We are the Boys and girls well known as minors of the ABC*. Suddenly we were wearing new badges and singing the new club song and loyalty to our old home had gone for ever. The films were the same but the surroundings posher and we could go up on the stage for our birthday card. But some things never change and when the show finished it was over to Murray's for a 3d bag of chips.

Time was passing and the boy in short trousers was growing up. Now my visits were to watch Margaret Lockwood, Norman Wisdom and a string of *Carry On* films. The Hollywood stars shone brightly and Hitchcock was as popular as ever. *Rock Around the Clock* with Bill Haley was a sensation that the Teddy Boys and the unruly revelled in as they tore out seats and danced in the aisles, much to the consternation of irate managers. But a new experience was about to be thrust upon us. I was fourteen and arrived home from school one evening at 4:45pm to find my mum and dad and both grandparents plus my sister sitting in the front room with the curtains closed watching *Children's Newsreel*. Television had arrived. Little did I know how quickly it would affect my life and my favourite haunts. The queues were shorter and bottoms on seats far fewer than would normally

have been expected. But we were hearing rumours of widescreens and something called 'CinemaScope' boasting "there is more on the film to see". Suddenly white vans appeared outside the *Royalty* and scaffolding was being erected. When I got home from school two boards had been positioned at either end of the building proclaiming "In the wonder of CinemaScope". I couldn't wait to see it. The wide proscenium arch was filled by the new screen. The curtains had been retired in favour of a frilly descending thing that somehow managed to look cheap and out of place. But what a picture. There was something quite exciting to see the masking disappearing out of sight as the news finished and the trailers began.

It would be some two years later when the 'Old Harborne' converted. Unfortunately, the process revealed the building's lack of appreciation of this new upstart. How do you get a wide screen to fit a 4x3 hole without blocking the two exits either side? The answer is really quite simple. Put a larger 4x3 in and arrange for masking to descend from the top, leaving a letterbox strip of picture along the bottom. In this instance, the non 'Scope films were far more impressive than the 'Scope prints. But even this compromise allowed *Carousel* in CinemaScope 55 with its "more than your eyes have ever seen" clarity to impact the visual senses as Gordon McRae assaulted the ears. How we shouted at the thoughtless individuals exiting at the screen end directly onto the street and leaving the doors open to flood the building with light. But it was a novelty that couldn't compete with cold nights and *Dixon of Dock Green* on the 'telly' in the front room. Mum had succumbed to its charms and my sister had a boyfriend! I alone trudged up the street to join the few loyal folk who were not yet captivated, or couldn't afford TV. But the writing was on the wall. It was left to John Mills in *Town on Trial* to bring the curtains to a close forever. The 'For Sale' signs went up and the Village Institute moved it to make irreversible changes suitable for their members. As for the *Royalty*, it struggled on for another two years before something called Bingo brought the queues back. I was glad I moved away from home and didn't see them boarding it up just a few years ago. Its art deco interior lies silent awaiting its fate. The strips of curtain hang forlornly, testimony to more productive days while the portholes stare blindly into the darkness.

At least the 'Old Harborne' still welcomes its audience, though few will recall or even care that it had another life. As a cinema, it's been closed 59 years but it will always be fondly remembered by "a Birmingham Boy at the Pictures".

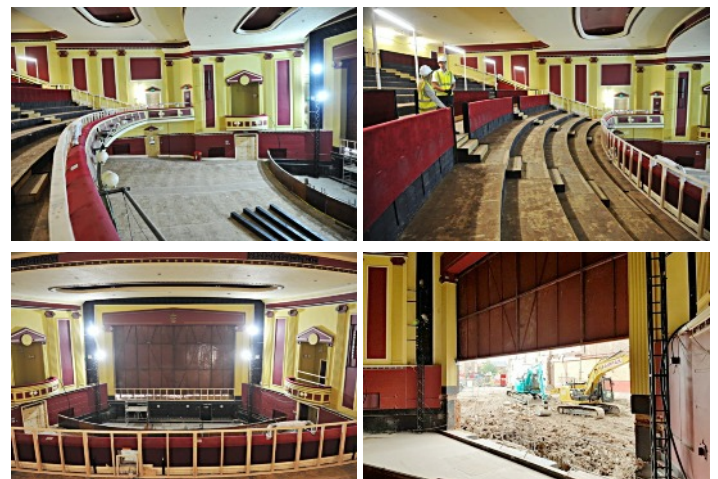
Photos by Harry Rigby

THE NEW THEATRE HULL



The New Theatre in Hull (East Yorks) is having a facelift. The old fly tower has been removed and a bigger one is being erected so that large touring productions can be hosted. A building has been demolished and steelwork is in place for a new entrance to the left of the original entrance. The seats are in storage and the basement area is being remodelled. Completion is scheduled for July 2017 – Hull's year as City of Culture – although some sceptics doubt this. Parts of this building served as the Assembly Rooms New Picture House between 1919 and 1924. Video and photos on the *Hull Daily Mail* website at [tinyurl.com/hnx3dns].

Sent in by Dean Conrad [photos L] and David Alexander



REJUVENATING SPA BREATHES NEW LIFE INTO CINEMA

by Mike Whitcombe

The words 'cosy' and 'multiplex' are rarely used in the same sentence. Multiplexes, after all, are efficiently designed, purpose-built venues, slick with modernism and state of the art technology that the latest savvy generation feel perfectly at home within. In contrast, traditional High Street cinemas, despite digital upgrades and additional auditoria, always seem to possess a cosy charm that, while accentuating the cinema-going experience, fails to emulate the hip, urbanised, instant gratification that 'plexes so effortlessly offer.



An exception to this generalisation is the Vue six-screen multiplex in Royal Leamington Spa. Although possessing all the trimmings of a multiplex – plush seats, good sound and picture quality, highly over-priced refreshments – it also combines an intimate charm that embraces you as soon as you enter the low-ceilinged entrance foyer. This fact, however, should not come as a surprise. For the site originally opened as a single-screen cinema eighty years ago and, despite the drastic changes it has undergone since, continues to give the impression, particularly from the outside, of being a 'real' movie theatre and not an out-of-town retail park cinema that could easily double as a large warehouse facility.

The history of this Warwickshire site is fascinating. It opened originally on Monday 14 September 1931, as the **Regal**. The opening film was the British International Pictures production of *The Middle Watch*, a nautical comedy starring Owen Nares, Jacqueline Logan and Dodo Watts, which Halliwell describes as "naval froth in primitive talkie form; absurdly long but popular."

Built by the Bath Cinema Company and designed by Horace G Bradley of Birmingham, the external look of the building was very much art deco in style. This was in contrast with the then equally fashionable Oriental style of the interior that climaxed in Oriental dragons backlit on coloured glass either side of a 45 foot wide proscenium. The auditorium had a capacity of 1,338 and was constructed on a stadium plan with a raised stepped section at the rear rather than an overhanging balcony. For pre-film entertainment a Barbieri 3 Manual / 6 Rank organ was installed. It was opened by Frederick Jukes and it's believed to be the only British cinema installation of this Italian-made instrument. It was removed in 1955 when CinemaScope was installed.

In November 1936 the **Regal** was taken over by Stratford Picture House Co Ltd, part of the Clifton Cinema Chain, run by Sir Sidney Clift. By the 1960s the **Regal** was the head office of Theatre Administration, which ran and managed the Clifton-owned cinemas in Warwick, Leamington, Evesham and Stratford on Avon. (Clifton Cinemas and Associated Companies provided management for the rest of the Clifton circuit). Twenty years later the **Regal** was the last remaining Clifton-owned cinema run by Theatre Administration.

In 1969 the cinema was temporarily closed for the installation of 70mm. This resulted in huge changes inside and out. Internally, the auditorium capacity was reduced to 904 seats and divided into two sections, with smoking in the middle and non-smoking on the outside. Externally the main entrance in Dormer Place and the rear stalls entrance in Portland Place were both bricked up and a new entrance was created on the corner of Augusta Place. An office building was also constructed on part of the car park. The gala reopening was on Monday 28 December 1969, with a 70mm showing of *Oliver!*. Twelve local mayors and the Lord Lieutenant of Warwickshire watched from the newly refurbished auditorium.

The metamorphosis of the **Regal** from a single-screen picture palace to a six-screen 'plex began in January 1993 when Apollo purchased the building. Apollo eventually submitted plans for a new screen in the 1969-built office space. This was approved and screen ② was opened on 19 April 1996, with 144 seats. Later that year the original auditorium was tripled. Two screens were converted from the sides of the raised rear stepped area with another auditorium opening in the former front stalls. All three screens were served by the original projection box.



A mosaic in the floor of the foyer of the **Regal**, now sadly hidden

A couple of unforeseen disasters now struck the former **Regal**. The first came in Easter 1998 when terrible storms ravaged the area, leaving a great deal of Leamington flooded. Speaking in an article printed in the *Leamington Courier* in 2004, manager Gary Stevens recalled those floods. "When I arrived the damage was all behind closed doors and everywhere was still – when I opened doors there was a sea of brown muddy water that covered all the chairs. When the waters went down it smelt like the sea and we found a fish and two duck eggs." Remarkably, the cinema was open just six weeks later. Ironically, at the time of the flood, the cinema was showing *Titanic*!

Two years later a far more serious incident occurred when fire ravaged the interior of the building. Fortunately, nobody was injured and the cinema was evacuated in ninety seconds. £500,000 worth of damage was caused and, at its peak, the fire brigade reported that temperatures in the corridors reached a thousand degrees Fahrenheit. This time the cinema was closed for three months while an extensive refit was carried out.

Like most cinemas built during the golden age of Hollywood, a ghost haunts this palace of dreams. According to Margaret Rushton of the Leamington History Group, the spectre is a lady believed to be Edith Devis. She was the widow of a wealthy local man who sponsored many interwar charitable endeavours. It's alleged that Mrs Devis helped fund the building of the **Regal**, although this was never publicly acknowledged and that after being killed in a car crash her spirit began roaming the cinema.

Vue took over the site in 2014 and the current six screens have a total capacity of 898. Screen ① with 286 seats, is the largest while the smallest is screen ④ with 96 seats. Located a block away from the attractive white faced Regency architecture of Leamington's main shopping street called The Parade and a short stroll from the famous Royal Pump Rooms and the beautiful Jephson Gardens, this Vue cinema plays an important rôle in the centre of town – as any good cinema always should.

Cinema purists would argue with some justification that the former **Regal** is not a multiplex in the true sense of the word. But the site is marketed as a 'plex and the quality of comfort, from the rest rooms to the auditorium seating, certainly exceeds some purpose-built multiplexes. The fact that after eighty years the former **Regal** is still entertaining the residents of Leamington despite flood, fire, a world war and box office slumps is a happy ending that even the biggest summer blockbuster would struggle to emulate.



NEWSREEL

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

ABERDEEN

An 850-seat cinema (number of screens not specified) has been proposed as part of a development on the northern outskirts of the City. The MOD, which owns nearby Blackdog Rifle Range, has objected to the scheme, saying they would be "noisy neighbours".

Press & Journal (Aberdeen) – 7, 16 July



The Forum nightclub that occupies the former Picturedrome / Cinema House is to close at the end of September. The building was originally a Union Hall, built in 1897. It became a full-time cinema in 1910 and films ceased in January 1971. It is listed category B. {23175}

Evening Express (Aberdeen) – 9 August; photo taken September 2008

ALTON (Hants)



The Palace Cinema has had the rear of the auditorium demolished to make way for flats. The cinema is still open with screen ① in the balcony area and screen ② in the rear stalls. The auditorium was demolished from the front of the balcony edge back. The cinema first opened in December 1912 as the Alton Picture Theatre with 440 seats. It closed for modernisation in February 1937 and reopened as the Palace Cinema in June 1937. A new balcony had been introduced and seating was now 620. The opening film was *Poor Little Rich Girl* Starring Shirley Temple. The cinema was modernised again in 1969 and reopened as The New Palace but the "New" was soon dropped. In 1988 new owner Raj Jeyasingham took over and altered the Palace into cinema and bingo by extending the balcony forward, with the balcony becoming a single-screen cinema and the stalls a bingo operation. Bingo ceased in the late 90s and a second screen was added in the rear of the stalls area in 2001. The CTA visited in June 2015 – see p7 Bulletin 49/5. {24101}

Sent in by Peter Lea [photo]

ASHFORD (Kent)

Plans have been submitted to expand the existing twelve-screen Cineworld at Eureka Leisure Park by three screens, including an IMAX screen. Meanwhile, it has been revealed that the six-screen cinema to be built at Elwick Place in the town centre will be operated by Picturehouse.

Kentish Express – 30 June, 7 July; Ashford Herald – 7 July

BANBRIDGE (Co Down, Northern Ireland)

Some five months after the independent Iveagh Studios was acquired by IMC, rival circuit Omniplex opened an eight-screen multiplex at The Outlet Retail Village on 17 June. It boasts Northern Ireland's first MAXX screen with dual Sony 4k projection and Dolby Atmos sound.

News Letter (Northern Ireland) – 18 July; sent in by David Simpson

BANGOR (Gwynedd)

The new £49m Pontio Centre will open on 31 October, a year later than envisaged. The centre's 200-seat cinema will open on 19 November. {52011}

Daily Post (Wales) – 15 September

BARLESTONE (Leics)



The Cosy has recently been demolished. The cinema stood on Barton Road and was constructed by a local builder on behalf of Mr Thomas Chesterton in the late 1920s. Built on simple lines it had an arched proscenium with a width of 47 feet+ with plain decoration. The stage had a depth of 10 feet with one dressing room. The auditorium had wooden bench seating to the front and traditional-style cinema seating to rear, which also incorporated a number of double seats for courting couples. The entrance was to the side of the building with a small paybox on the right as you entered and beyond were double doors leading into the auditorium. In the early years before the advent of sound on film, the Cosy played silent films on Tuesdays Fridays and Saturdays, with piano accompaniment from Nell Lovell; her husband Bill also worked at the cinema and managed the pay box.

Thomas Chesterton had also operated a small cinema in the neighbouring village of Newbold Verdon. Thomas passed away in the early 1950s and the business was taken over by his son Maurice. He continued to operate the cinema for a number of years but eventually sold it to a Mr George Weston. Mr Weston ran the cinema very well but changed the opening hours to Thursdays and Saturdays only as business had been affected by the advent of television and the introduction of new film formats such as CinemaScope. And so in 1960 the Cosy closed its doors for the last time to cinema; the seating and equipment were removed and the building altered into a village hall, operated by the local Parish Council. This survived until July 2016 when the Parish Council decided that the building was no longer viable and subsequently sold it for demolition to make way for two new houses.

Sent in by Peter Lea; photo taken April 2007

Editor's Note: ± 47ft seems much too big for a building of this size.

BASILDON (Essex)

In 2014 the Council put plans for a cinema in East Square on hold after the Eastgate Shopping Centre announced rival plans for a cinema as part of its revamp. However the latter scheme has been unable to find an operator so the Council is reviving their plans. A spokesman said they would be presenting their latest proposals to cinema companies in the hope of gaining their interest again. The town already has an eighteen-screen multiplex at Festival Leisure Park.

Basilidon Echo – 25 July; Basilidon Recorder – 5 August; sent in by Carl Chesworth

BIRKENHEAD (Wirral)

Permission is being sought to demolish the former Savoy and build apartments. It opened in October 1938 with 2,100 seats in stalls and circle. It was renamed ABC in the 1960s and closed in March 1982. It was last used for snooker. See p14 Bulletin 50/3. {32707}

Wirral Globe – 13 August; sent in by Philip Mayer

BIRMINGHAM (Great Barr)

The former Clifton reopened in June as a restaurant and banqueting hall called *Bad Shah Palace*. The art deco building opened in February 1938 and films ceased in November 1979. It was converted into a bingo club, which closed in June 2008. It became a Chinese restaurant, which had closed by 2011. In January 2012 an arson attack caused serious damage to the building. It is listed grade II. Pictures and details of the former Clifton are on the front cover and in *Clifton Circuit History* inside *Picture House* No36 [2011], where it is called Clifton Perry Barr rather than Great Barr

Express & Star – 28 July; photo taken June 2008

BLACKPOOL (Lancs)



Finishing touches were being made to the Regent in preparation for its reopening, which was due to be on 29 July. The film chosen for the occasion will probably be Quentin Tarantino's *Pulp Fiction*, following a poll of locals. The grade II listed building has been restored as an emporium on the ground floor with the cinema above. A BBC Lancashire interview with the operator is on their Facebook page at [tinyurl.com/zlhyd58]. The CTA visited the Regent in July 2014, when the owner discussed his plans to return films to the building. {6549}

Blackpool Gazette – 13 July; video link sent in by Billy Speight; photo taken June 2009

BLAENAU FFESTINIOG (Gwynedd)

A new 48-seat cinema opened on 23 July in the former Police Station with the film *BFG*. The cinema is on the ground floor, leaving the first floor free for other events and functions. Funding came from a Capital Lottery Grant and the Magnox Socio Economic Scheme. The last cinema in the town, the Forum, closed in the 1970s and is now a supermarket. [www.cellb.org]

North Wales Weekly News – 29 June

BLAENAVON (Torefan)

A 70-seat digital cinema opened in the Workmen's Hall on 22 July. The cinema had closed in October 2013 when 35mm film became unavailable. The hall is thought to have a large (c900-seat) auditorium on the first floor, which was used as a cinema in the 1940s and 50s – does anyone have more information?

South Wales Argus – 15 July

BOGNOR REGIS (West Sussex)

Minor changes to the access for a planned fourth screen at the Picturedrome have been backed by planning officers. The alterations will improve the means of getting in and out of the yet-to-be-built 114-seat auditorium. They were put forward by Bognor Regis Town Council, which owns the Grade II listed building and approved by Arun District Council officials. The town Council's £850,000 plans for the extra screen were approved by Arun last year. The new screen will be located in the cinema car park behind the current building.

Bognor Regis Post – 12 August; sent in by Mike Whitcombe

BOURNEMOUTH

The new name for the West Central development has been announced – BH2. It is due to open early next year and will include a ten-screen 2,000-seat Odeon.

Daily Echo (Bournemouth) – 23 June

BRADFORD (West Yorks)

Construction has begun on a six-screen 700-seat Light cinema in The Broadway shopping centre. No opening date has been given.

Telegraph & Argus (Bradford) – 9 August

BRIDGEWATER (Somerset)



The Scott Cinema celebrated its 80th birthday on 13 July. The building opened as the 1,525-seat Odeon in 1936 with Douglas Fairbanks Jr in *The Amateur Gentleman*. It was sold to Classic in 1967; they subdivided it into bingo in the front stalls and two 250-seat cinemas in the raised balcony area. Today the cinemas are operated by Scott Cinemas; Mecca bingo continues in the former stalls. {16641}

Bridgewater Mercury – 5 July; photo taken February 2006

CANTERBURY (Kent)

A public exhibition has been held of revised plans for the Kingsmead development. They include an eight-screen cinema; no operator has been named.

Canterbury Times – 13 July; *Kentish Gazette* – 14 July

CHELMSFORD (Essex)

Everyman will operate the five-screen cinema to open as part of the £120 million John Lewis shopping complex in Bond Street later this year – not Cineworld as previously thought.

East Anglian Daily Times – 15 July

CHESTER

An operator has been selected to manage the six-screen cinema that will be above the new market hall in the Northgate development; their identity remains unknown.

Chester Chronicle – 28 July

CHRISTCHURCH (Hants)

For almost two years enthusiasts at the Regent have been assembling a small cinema museum. Since the projection box now only has to house a digital projector, it has left space for a Kalee 11, a Simplex E7 and various other items from the film era. They are having an open day on Saturday 8 October and will demonstrate 35mm film. Tickets are £5 and can be booked on their website at [tinyurl.com/h6nkq96]. {24540}

Sent in by Philip Stevens

COALVILLE (Leics)

The Dunelm store in the former Rex closed on 26 June. There have been calls for the building to be restored as a cinema. It opened in February 1938 with 1,200 seats in stalls and circle. It was twinned in May 1973 and films ceased in May 1984. {23119}

Leicester Mercury – 16 June;

sent in by Peter Lea;

photo [R] taken April 2007



COLCHESTER (Essex)

Plans for a three-screen Curzon cinema (reported on p15 of the last Bulletin) have been approved. Work is set to start later this year with an opening in spring 2017.

Daily Gazette – 7 July; Essex County Standard – 8 July

Plans for a development at Stanway were due to go public inquiry in January. However, an inspector has overturned the decision and permission has now been granted. There is no mention of a cinema in the press report – has it been abandoned? A report on a rival development at the Northern Gateway mentions a twelve-screen Cineworld with an IMAX screen. Is there some confusion between the two schemes? Your editor and committee would welcome clarification.

Daily Gazette (Colchester) – 6 July

CONWY

Plans to show horror films in a former chapel were described as the equivalent of “having a funfair in a graveyard” by a former minister. The Coastline Film Festival was accused of having a “huge lack of respect” over their choice of films for the venue, The Tabernacl Chapel. The festival took place last year.

Daily Post (Wales) – 27 October 2015

CREWE (Cheshire)



The Plaza/Apollo is being demolished. It opened in November 1933 and survived for 83 years. Films ceased in August 1961 and it became a ballroom and later bingo. In the 1970s the circle was converted into a three-screen cinema with bingo continuing below; the cinemas closed in December 2005. There are some interesting pictures of the Plaza on the 28dayslater website at [tinyurl.com/jsqllf9]. Out of the six cinemas in Crewe, five have now been demolished, leaving the Palace as the last one standing. This is used as carpet warehouse in the stalls and a gym in the circle.

Sent in by David Corn; photo taken August 2007

DARLINGTON

The new nine-screen Vue opened on 23 June at Feethams Leisure Complex. It was the date of the UK's Europe Referendum and one of the opening films was *Independence Day: Resurgence*.

Northern Echo – 24 June

DEAL (Kent)

Scaffolding has been erected around the Regent and remedial work has begun. The façade will be cleaned and made good. Old paint will be removed, defects made good and repainted. The developers have assured that the building will reopen as a cinema but that is some way off. {32928}

East Kent Mercury – 9 June

EASTBOURNE (East Sussex)

The former Elysium (Gaiety/Classic) has undergone a refurbishment and was due to open on at 10am on 3 September as a Princess's shop, where mothers can take their very young daughters to be dressed like a princess in sashes and frocks. The venue opened in June 1914 and closed for films in November 1973. It was listed grade II – but see p5 last Bulletin. {22753}

Eastbourne Herald – 19 August; sent in by Geoff Gill

EDINBURGH

Demolition of the St James Shopping Centre is about to commence. It will be replaced with a development incorporating a multiplex cinema. No operator has been named.

Glasgow Evening Times, The National (Scotland) – 20 July

Plans to restore the Odeon in Clerk Street have been lodged before the Council. Proposals include five cinema screens and restoration of original features, including the terrazzo flooring. The G1 Group bought the A-listed building last year; they operate the Grosvenor in Glasgow and the Playhouse in Perth. See Scottish Casework p6.

Edinburgh Evening News – 1 August

EVESHAM (Worcs)

The fundraising campaign at the Regal has passed the £30,000 mark towards their £50,000 target. The grade II listed cinema wants to extend upwards with one 60-seat and one 40-seat screen together with a bar. There will be a lift to take patrons to the top floor of the building to the new screens. Work is due to start in September and should be completed for screenings to commence before Christmas. {13074}

Evesham Journal – 21 July; additional information from John West

FLINT (North Wales)



A formal bid has been placed by Ashley Whyatt, who operates the Rio in Burnham-on-Crouch and the New Century in Sittingbourne, to transform the grade II listed former Plaza into a cinema again. If the bid is successful, work could begin in September. The building opened on Boxing Day 1938 with 1,100 seats in stalls and circle. It was renamed Wedgewood in 1965 and redecorated in blue and cream. Films ceased in August 1975 and bingo took over, which closed in November 2011. {22948}

The Leader – 5 August; photo taken April 2010

FORDINGBRIDGE (Hants)

Planning consent has been granted to transform the former Regal into a small cinema and eight apartments. See p23 Bulletin 50/2. {37771}

New Forest Post – 4 August; Southern Daily Echo – 9 August; sent in by John Forster

FROME (Somerset)

Following the sudden closure of the 304-seat Westway in March (see p16 last Bulletin) some of the contents of the cinema were given away by putting them out on the pavement in front of the building. The memorabilia included seats, cushions and glasses from the bar. The owners of the building are confident they can lease it to another cinema operator. {24700}

Frome Standard – 23 June

GATLEY (Stockport)

A fire broke out in the former Tatton on 17 July. Five fire appliances and two ambulances attended. The fire was small and nobody was hurt. The cause is as yet unknown. The cinema opened in October 1937 and closed around 2000 with three screens. The auditorium was later demolished but the façade was retained. Plans for a residential and retail development were announced last year – see p15 Bulletin 49/6. {2536}

Manchester Evening News – 17 July; sent in by Carl Chesworth & Philip Nevitsky

GLASGOW (Central)

Cinema-goers raised safety concerns after they were evacuated from the world's tallest cinema, the 18-screen Cineworld in Renfrew Street following a power cut. They claimed there was no emergency lighting and they were left to walk down a “pitch black” emergency staircase from the 10th floor. They also complained of “clueless staff”.

The Herald (Glasgow) – 1 August; sent in by Carl Chesworth & Trevor Williams

GLASGOW (Rutherglen)



Mecca is refurbishing their bingo hall in the former Odeon after local residents complained that it had fallen into disrepair. Pictures were posted on social media of flaking paintwork, stonework in need of repointing and weeds growing out of the top. The Mecca Bingo sign also burnt out a few months ago and has not been replaced. The venue opened as the Vogue in January 1936 with 1,741 seats in stalls and circle. Films ceased in October 1974 in favour of bingo. The building is listed grade C(s). {23024}

Daily Record – 11 August; photo taken December 2006

GRANTHAM (Lincs)

Cinema companies have been invited to apply to be operator of the new cinema. Current operator Reel hopes it will be chosen as the preferred option. The existing two-screen cinema is to be expanded to six screens. See p16 last Bulletin.

Grantham Journal – 29 July

HALSTEAD (Essex)

A Family Fun Day was held on 24 June to support the campaign to bring cinema back to the town. The Empire ceased regular films in July 2005 after a multiplex opened in nearby Braintree. {14560}

Halsted Gazette – 22 July

HARLOW (Essex)

The fit-out of the new six-screen Cineworld at the Harvey Centre has begun. It will include a 259-seat IMAX auditorium and it should be open by Christmas. It will be the first cinema in the town centre since the 1960 Odeon closed in August 2005; it remains boarded-up. The existing six-screen Cineworld in Edinburgh Way will remain open.

Harlow Star – 4 August

HARROGATE (North Yorks)

The opening date of the new five-screen Everyman cinema in the town centre has been set for 9 September. 4k digital projectors are being fitted and the largest screen [132 seats] will have a Dolby Atmos sound system. See p33 Bulletin 50/1.

Harrogate Informer – 11 August; photo on front cover

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HARTLEPOOL



The former Odeon [sometimes listed as West Hartlepool] is back on the market again for offers over £600,000. Possible uses acceptable to the local authority include conversion to residential. The building opened in 1936 as the Majestic and films ceased in October 1981. It later became a nightclub, which closed around 2002; it is listed grade II. Particulars and drawings can be downloaded from the North East Commercial Property and Business Agents' website at: [\[tinyurl.com/jfec5mk\]](http://tinyurl.com/jfec5mk). See p26 last Bulletin. {6432}

Estate Agents' Particulars; photo taken September 2006

HAVERFORDWEST (Pembroke)

A planning application has been submitted for a development at Slade Lane, incorporating a five-screen cinema. No operator or time-scale have been mentioned.

Western Telegraph – 13 July; *Milford & West Wales Mercury* – 14 July

HEBDEN BRIDGE (West Yorkshire)

The grade II listed Council-owned Picture House has fully reopened after being damaged in last year's Boxing Day floods. See p23 Bulletin 50/2. {2434}

Sent in by Richard Lyons

HINCKLEY (Leics)



Plans have been submitted to demolish the former Danilo/Essoldo/Classic [etc] and build flats. The Theatres Trust has objected to the proposals and there is also a petition organised by a local resident, which claims the scheme has inadequate parking facilities. The building opened in July 1937 with 1,250 seats in stalls and circle. It became a three-screen cinema in August 1973 and films ceased in May 1993. It was last used as a sports bar, which closed over a decade ago. See Casework p5. {14982}

Hinckley Times – 22 June, 6 July; sent in by Peter Lea [photo]

AE writes: In the meantime, the auditorium of the former Regent/Gaumont/Classic Hinckley has been demolished to create parking space for an existing Iceland store. The entrance and foyer have become The Regent Vintage Tea Shop and Function Room but it only seems to be occasionally open. A sign reading **BINGO** remains at the top of the corner exterior as a reminder of the building's last use. The new five-screen Cineworld nearby in the town centre has apparently opened to strong attendances, competing to some extent with the out-of-town Odeon Nuneaton.

HORSHAM (West Sussex)

The Swan Walk shopping centre has submitted a planning application to demolish part of the site and redevelop it to include a five-screen cinema, thought to be an Everyman. However, objections have been lodged, criticising the design for “large masses of vertical metal cladding”.

West Sussex Gazette – 15 August

HUDDERSFIELD (West Yorks)

Plans for the extension to the Kingsgate Shopping Centre have been amended, although they are still thought to include a multiplex cinema. There are fears this could mean more delays for the scheme, which was originally due to get underway this year.

Huddersfield Daily Examiner – 21 June

INVERNESS (Highland)

The new owners of the Eastgate Shopping Centre have submitted an application to expand. The plans include an eight-screen cinema; the time scale depends on the chosen operator.

Strathspey & Badenoch Herald – 5 July; Inverness Courier – 5 July

IPSWICH (Suffolk)



The eleven-screen Cineworld has installed a 4DX system in the 136-seat screen ⑦. The curved screen measures 12.7m by 7.0m. The system stimulates all five senses using motion seats and effects such as wind, rain, fog, lightning and scents.

East Anglian Daily Times – 16 July; photo taken July 2007

LANCING (West Sussex)



Fire crews were called out after smoke was seen coming from ground floor windows in an unused part of the former Luxor. The blaze was quickly extinguished and nobody was hurt. The fire is thought to have been started deliberately.

Worthing Herald – 15 August; sent in by Geoff Gill; photo taken March 2009

LEEDS (West Yorks)

Plans have been unveiled to transform the former Majestic into an office development with office, leisure and café spaces on the ground floor. A photograph shows one – or possibly two – additional storeys built on the roof. A planning application was due to be submitted in August and construction work could start early next year. It was built as a cinema in 1922 and films ceased in 1969. It was then used for bingo and afterwards a nightclub. It suffered a serious fire in 2014 – see Bulletin 48/6. {2718}

Yorkshire Evening Post – 30 June, 8 July; sent in by Rob Chesterfield

The former Scala could be transformed into a food hub spanning four floors. It opened in June 1922 with 1,692 seats and closed in August 1957. It was converted into a furniture store and the auditorium was gutted. Various retail shops have used the foyer recently but it has been vacant for seven months. It is believed the only original part remaining [apart from the façade] is a marble staircase. {33584}

Yorkshire Evening Post – 29 July



The grade II listed Hyde Park Picture House is to receive £2.4m from the Heritage Lottery Fund. The money will be used to upgrade the cinema, including accessible toilets. It still has nine working gas lights, which are used every day when the cinema is open. The cinema's archives, including film programmes dating back to its opening, will also be shared with the public as part of the project. {1836}

Yorkshire Post, The Guardian, BBC News website – 12 August; photo taken June 2010; sent in by David Alexander, David Daykin, Richard Jones & Martin Tapsell

LIVERPOOL (Central)

The City Council is to loan the Royal Court Theatre £1.2m to buy a neighbouring pub to convert into extra backstage space for wardrobe and technical use. There will also be a restaurant and café and an area for youth theatre activity. The theatre is undergoing a £10m refurbishment, the second phase of which was completed in February.

The Stage – 12 May; sent in by R David Simpson

The Liverpool Biennial is on until 16 October. The grade II listed former Forum/ABC will host a film series called *Unmanned* that recounts the history of technology in reverse and will be shown in front of what used to be the main cinema screen. This gives a unique chance to see inside the normally boarded-up building since films ceased in January 1998. {6521}

The entrance is through a small side (fire?) door to the left of the main (blocked) entrance. Beware – the place is in darkness and you are offered a torch to find your way around. I had not been inside a disused cinema before and it was thrilling. The tripling has been undone. At times the auditorium is illuminated and there are good views of the ceiling, circle and side walls. The place didn't smell damp or musty. I asked the chap at the info desk about the circle and he said it was damp up there. I couldn't bear to walk past the Futurist. I'm glad that I took some photographs last year for posterity.

Liverpool Echo – 6 July; sent in by Carl Chesworth & Mike Taylor; further information from Richard Lysons



Work began on 2 August to demolish the Futurist – just hours after a bid to save the building was thrown out by the Courts. It opened in September 1912 and films ceased in July 1982; the building was disused from then. Liverpool Council has confirmed that the builders have been instructed to see which parts of the façade are salvageable. The area stands in the 'buffer zone' of the UNESCO World Heritage Site and they have expressed “serious concerns” about the Council's treatment. See p16 last Bulletin. {6508}

Liverpool Echo – 3, 5 August; Private Eye – 4 August; sent in by Alan Hodson [photo], Philip Mayer, Mike Taylor [who also sent a similar photo] & Simon Walker

LIVERPOOL (Kirkdale)



The former Princess was demolished on 24 July. It opened in May 1931 with 760 seats in the stalls and 700 in the circle. It was taken over by Essoldo in 1958 and closed in October 1966. It was converted into a bingo hall, which closed in 2000; the building had stood empty since. Urban explorers photographed the interior before demolition – see the *Liverpool Echo* website at [tinyurl.com/j7lkonp] and scroll down the page. {30355}

Liverpool Echo – 1 August; sent in by Philip Mayer; photo taken July 2007

LONDON (Alexandra Palace)

A hidden theatre has been boarded-up for more than 80 years. Now the campaign to restore it is nearing its goal of £27m by raising the final £1m, with the support of the Heritage Lottery Fund and Haringey Council. The building is 40% derelict but it is hoped that the whole



East Wing will be made open to the public by spring 2018. The aim is to preserve both the historically rare building and also the unique 'found space'. Visit [support.alexandrapalace.com]. The CTA visited in June 2003 when the above photo was taken – see p4 Bulletin 37/4

Alexandra Palace Press Release – 12 August; *Evening Standard* – 25 July; sent in by Keith Bye, Carl Chesworth, Barry Quinton & Tom Laughlan

LONDON (Burnt Oak)

Police were called to break up an illegal rave at the grade II listed former Savoy on 30 July. Officers found 500 people inside, 20 on the roof and 200 outside. There were 16 police riot vans, a police helicopter, ambulances and dogs. The building was cleared and there were no arrests. The report does not say if any damage was caused. The venue opened in June 1936 and films ceased in October 1961 under the Essoldo banner. It became a bingo hall, which closed in October 2014. See p20 last Bulletin – the 'For Sale' signs on the building have since disappeared. {16555}

The Times – 1 August; sent in by John Pilblad & Fiona Rosen

LONDON (Croydon)

The charity that runs the Fairfield Halls has gone into administration, three days after the venue closed for a two-year redevelopment. More than 200 staff have been made redundant but the charity has been unable to fund redundancy payments as promised. The venue is owned by Croydon Council and is now undergoing a £30m refurbishment.

The Stage – 21 July; sent in by Barry Quinton

LONDON (Dalston)

The Rio is taking part in the 'Cinema Know How' programme, which aims to improve customers' experience when they go to the flicks. Plans are being finalised for a second screen and to reopen the café/bar. {10557}

Hackney Gazette – 4 August

LONDON (Deptford)

Actress Glenda Jackson is backing a campaign to save the local cinema. The 40-seat venue was built in a derelict workshop in 2014 after a Kickstarter campaign to raise funds. It is staffed by volunteers but is in a standoff with Lewisham Council over a £12,000 bill for

business rates. It has applied for Charity status, which would entitle it to pay reduced business rates in the future. The Council agreed to take no action until the application is decided.

Evening Standard – 25 July; sent in by Tom Laughlan

LONDON (Ealing)

Land Securities has sold the site of the former Forum to another property developer, St George. It is not clear whether St George will work out the existing consented scheme – which includes an eight-screen Picturehouse behind the propped-up retained façade – or seek amendments. See p17 Bulletin 49/6. {3772}

Construction Enquirer, Land Securities Press Release – 8 August; sent in by Roger Fox & Robert Gurd

LONDON (Harrow)

A £17m project has been unveiled to transform Harrow Arts Centre. Plans include a 600-seat theatre, two cinema screens, rehearsal spaces, art gallery, bar, restaurant and café. A trust has been formed to take over from the Council and has launched an appeal for £40,000 towards the first stage of the development; Harrow Council has pledged a further £1m.

Harrow Times, The Stage – 7 July; sent in by Barry Quinton

LONDON (Hornchurch)

The former Towers/Odeon has become an Asset of Community Value [ACV] following a campaign by a local resident. Residents are now able to bid to buy the building and decide how it could be used to benefit the community. It opened in August 1935 with 1,799 seats and films ceased in October 1973. It became a bingo club, which closed in November 2015. An application for listing was refused. Supermarket chain Lidl bought the building with a view to demolition for a new store. See p6 Bulletin 49/6 and Casework p5.

New plans to demolish the building have been approved but they will not preserve the façade – instead just the letters **TOWERS** will be kept. Campaigners had approached the Everyman cinema chain to ask them to consider purchasing the site if the plans were refused.

Romford Recorder – 17 June, 11, 22, 25 August; sent in by Margaret Burgoine

LONDON (Staples Corner)



The six-screen Cineworld closed on 14 August as the landlord had served notice. Originally this was planned by Cineplex-Odeon, but it opened as the Cannon in January 1991. Taken over by Virgin Cinemas in 1995 it was re-branded Virgin and then taken over by UGC, again receiving a re-branding. It became a Cineworld in 2005. {21152}

Finchley Press – 11 August; sent in by Malcolm Davis & Ken Roe; photo taken April 2006

AE writes: I suspect Cineworld are not too heartbroken at losing this site. At one time a few years back I noticed it was on restricted opening. It was the nearest cinema to the Brent Cross Shopping Centre.

LONDON (Upper Norwood)

The Planning Inspectorate has dismissed an appeal by the Kingsway International Christian Centre [KICC] to turn the former Rialto/Granada into a place of worship. The plans have been branded as "harmful" to the vitality of the area. The move has prompted further calls for the building to be used as a cinema. {28989}

Croydon Advertiser – 20 May

LONDON (Whitechapel)

The restoration of **Wilton's Music Hall** has won the RIBA London Building of the Year award. The architects were Tim Ronalds Architects. The sensitive project took nine years to complete.

[RIBA Press Release – 3 May](#)

LUTON (Beds)

Yesterday when I was in the town centre I noticed a small notice on the door of the former **Savoy Cinema**. It said that a consultation meeting was to be held on 14 July at 51 George Street, which is part of the cinema site as I believe it goes from 43-51 George Street. The consultation was for a development of a hotel, shops, and apartments. There was a small artist's impression on the notice, which looked as though the only bit of the cinema to survive would be the entrance with the lovely stone frontage. The auditorium was covered with high storey blocks, which I presume would be the hotel/apartments. There has been no mention of this in the local newspapers and I have not heard anything on local radio. A Council executive has said she will welcome any proposals for what to do with the building; it has lain empty since the cinema closed in November 2000. {6248}

This morning I decided to have a walk to the former **Ritz Cinema** in Gordon Street and the 'Sold' sign is still in place plus another sign that says that the site has been acquired by GPS Estates for ongoing development. There has been no mention of this again in the local newspapers or on local radio as far as I'm aware.

[Luton on Sunday – 19 June; sent in by and additional information from Margaret Burgoine](#)

LYMINGTON (Hants)

Lymington is holding its first film festival at The Malt Cinema and will be showing some of Ken Russell's films including *Tommy*, *Women in Love* and *Valentino* plus some short films he made locally; he lived in the town for many years. Lisi Russell will be introducing some of his films. The films will run from the Tuesday 4 to Saturday 8 October. Book online at [www.thelymingtoncentre.co.uk] or 01590 672337.

[Sent in by Philip Stevens](#)

MANCHESTER (Central)

Campaigners have growing concerns about the future of the **Cornerhouse** building after the Council and Network Rail confirmed they had found a preferred developer for the site. The cinema relocated to the new **HOME** site last year.

[MEN – 23 July; sent in by Richard Lysons](#)

MARGATE (Kent)

The administrators for the operators of the debt-ridden **Dreamland Amusement Park** say that rescuing the park as a going concern "will not be achieved". The park will remain open for this summer season and into the autumn. The site suffered flooding in June, adding to the costs. The report makes no mention of the **Dreamland** cinema.

[Isle of Thanet Gazette – 5 August; sent in by Margaret Burgoine](#)

NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE



The **Peoples Theatre** in Heaton is undergoing a £1.6m restoration. The old front of the building will be opened out and an art deco ceiling has been revealed. The theatre has raised £1m and the Council will loan £½m. The building opened as the **Lyric** cinema in January 1936 with 1,596 seats in stalls and circle. Films ceased in June 1959 and the **Peoples Theatre** opened in 1962. In 1982 the main auditorium was rebuilt, eliminating the circle, to give two spaces on one level seating 510 and 280.

[Newcastle Chronicle – 9 August; photo taken September 2006](#)

NEWQUAY (Cornwall)

About 200 people were evacuated from the four-screen **Lighthouse** cinema when a fire started in a bin in the men's toilets. It was caused by a man putting a cigarette into the waste paper bin and was quickly picked up by the cinema's fire and smoke detection system. Only minimal damage was caused and patrons were soon allowed back to watch the remainder of their films. The CTA visited in June 2013. {36100}

[Newquay Voice – 20 July; sent in by Carl Chesworth](#)

NORTHAMPTON

Two schemes have been submitted for a development on the site of the demolished **Greyfriars Bus Station**. One includes an eleven-screen cinema and the other has a four-screen one. The town already has the (soon to be two-screen) **Errol Flynn Filmhouse**, a nine-screen **Cineworld** and a ten-screen **Vue**.

[Northampton Chronicle & Echo – 21 July](#)

AE writes: The **Cineworld** Northampton is out-of-town by some three miles.

NORWICH

The new screen heritage and film education centre at **Cinema City** will be named after actor Sir John Hurt. He recently narrated the project's documentary film *The Final Reel*. The Centre is due to open in September. {25212}

[Evening News \(Norwich\) – 25 July; Norwich Extra – 28 July](#)

PETERBOROUGH (Cams)

A judge has rejected the claims of the North Westgate development that the Council should not have granted permission for similar plans for **Queensgate**. That now paves the way for a £30m cinema-led redevelopment of **Queensgate**. The former project, which would also have included a cinema, is now in doubt.

[Evening Telegraph \(Peterborough\) – 21, 28 July](#)

By the time you read this, a planning application was expected to be submitted to demolish the auditorium of the **Broadway** (ex **Odeon**) and build 50 luxury apartments with roof gardens, an underground car park and a swimming pool; the façade will remain. At the turn of the Century, the building underwent a huge and costly refurbishment, removing the 1973 tripling and creating a 1,200-seat theatre / cinema. After a fire in 2009, the insurance company refused to pay out and the theatre closed. Various attempts to resurrect it have not succeeded. It has also come to light that the City Council put in a bid to buy the venue last January but it was well short of the £4m asking price; the bid was rejected in February. The CTA held their AGM there in 2002. {19950}

[Peterborough Telegraph – 15, 21 July; sent in by R David Simpson](#)

PLYMOUTH

Cineworld has confirmed plans for a twelve-screen cinema at **Bretonside**. It will have an 18m high 4DX IMAX screen, the biggest in the South West. Work is expected to start this summer.

[The Herald \(Plymouth\) – 23 June](#)

PRESTON (Lancs)

Although permission had been granted to demolish the seven-screen **Vue** (ex **Warner Village**) at The Capitol Centre in Walton-le-Dale and build a retail store, the "major retailer" has now pulled out. **Vue** has confirmed they will carry out a major upgrade of the cinema and has applied for planning permission. The multiplex is said to be "dated" and has not been modernised since it opened in 1991. Plans for a nine-screen **Vue** in the City centre were withdrawn in April. {25252}

[Lancashire Evening Post – 17 August](#)

RAMSGATE (Kent)

Asbestos has been discovered by workmen converting the grade II listed former **Royal Pavilion** into a **Wetherspoons** pub. They downed tools when the volume of asbestos became clear. **Wetherspoons** say that they are putting the extra work out to tender and this will delay the project. {43938}

[Isle of Thanet Gazette – 5 August; sent in by Margaret Burgoine](#)

READING

The Council has begun the search for a partner to create a major new theatre for the town. It has launched a preliminary market consultation to establish what interest there is in creating and operating a new theatre, intended to replace **The Hexagon**.

[The Stage – 11 August; sent in by R David Simpson](#)

RINGWOOD (Hants)

Around 150 people attended the first meeting of a campaign group fighting to save the **Regal**. A proposed layout of a 600-seat theatre was shown and it was explained how they hope to reinstate the Mansard roof to run the full length of the auditorium, allowing 200 seats to be installed in the balcony. At the rear of the building they propose to build an extension containing the stage, fly tower and dressing rooms. The project is estimated to cost £3m. {28134}

Daily Echo (Bournemouth) – 27 July;

New Milton Advertiser & Lymington Times – date unknown; sent in by Philip Stevens

RIPLEY (Derbys)



Planning permission has been granted to demolish the former **Hippodrome**; work was expected to start almost immediately. The owner says the building is in a poor state of repair and the auditorium roof has collapsed. It opened around 1913 and closed as a cinema in December 1991. It was last used as a nightclub. {24731}

Ripley & Hleanor News – 6 July; photo taken September 2003

RUSHDEN (Northants)

Plans to demolish the former football stadium and create a development incorporating an eight-screen **Cineworld** have been turned down by the Council.

Corby Evening Telegraph – 21 July

SLOUGH

The new library, museum and performance space **The Curve** was due to open on 2 September. I gather there will be a group photo of projectionists from yesteryear working in the **Ambassador's** box. The four remaining slabs from the **Granada's Pavement of Fame** should also be on display.

Sent in by R David Simpson

SOUTHEND-ON-SEA (Essex)

Cineworld has refused to comment on whether it will proceed with plans for a new cinema at the new Southend United stadium, following its takeover of the nearby multiplex in Basildon – see p18.

Basildon Echo – 11 August

A planning application has been made to demolish the **New Empire Theatre** after it was sold for £750,000 to a Hong Kong company that wants to build flats and a community centre. Plans to refurbish the building were dismissed because of its poor state. Films ceased in January 1998 and the building became a theatre. In November 2008 the landlord called in the bailiffs over non-payment of rent and the theatre closed. It has since been a target for vandals and arsonists. I was in Southend yesterday and was able to speak to two demolition contractors that were on site. They said they were in the progress of soft stripping. Talk came about having some of the old cinema chairs; for a row of 10 they wanted £600! {14608}

Southend Echo – 16 August; sent in by and additional information from Ryan Jeffries

STRATFORD-UPON-AVON (Warks)

Work has begun on the new four-screen **Everyman** at Bell Court. The cinemas will be on the first floor with three retail units at ground level. No opening date has been given.

Stratford-upon-Avon Observer – 1 July

SUNDERLAND

A recruitment day was held for the new seven-screen 1,000-seat **Cineworld** at Dalton Park. It was due to open on 9 September.

Sunderland Echo – 21 June, 26 July; sent in by Carl Chesworth

SWANSEA

A new cinema could be built as part of the **St David's** development. An indoor arena is also planned and discussions have already taken place with potential cinema operators.

Western Mail – 24 June

TUNSTALL (Stoke-on-Trent)



The bingo club in the former **Ritz** closed on 3 July. The building has been sold and will become a banqueting suite. It opened in September 1934 with 1,602 seats in stalls and circle. It became part of the **Essoldo** chain in October 1954 and was so renamed in March 1957. It became a **Classic** in 1973 but closed in June 1974. It reopened as a cinema for a brief period before becoming a bingo club. A false ceiling was inserted, cutting off the circle but this was removed with a change of operator in November 2013. See p27 Bulletin 48/6. {39542}

Sent in by Ken Roe & John Wilkinson; interior photo taken c2000 by an unknown member

WHITBY (North Yorks)

The Council wants to build a public convenience and shower facility on Church Street – with a pop-up cinema on the top! This is one possible use being considered for the space on top of the building, which could also be used for storage or concerts.

Whitby Gazette – 24 June

WINCHESTER (Hants)

The **Theatre Royal** is having emergency repairs to combat a façade that is leaking. Scaffolding has been erected around the building and the repairs will cost £9,000. The CTA visited in June 2015 – see p8 Bulletin 49/5. {27612}

The Stage – 12 August

WOLVERHAMPTON

A City Centre multiplex could be built as part of a waterside development.

Wolverhampton Magazine – 1 August

WORCESTER



There are plans to demolish the former **St John's Cinema** (or what's left of it) and build shops and flats. Located across the river from the City centre, it opened in September 1914. In June 1941 it was taken over by **Odeon** as their newly-built cinema in the City centre had not been completed when war broke out. It closed in June 1959 and was converted into a bingo club. It was later used as offices and a nightclub, which had closed by 2004. {47574}

Worcester News – 13 July; photo taken September 2012

WORTHING (West Sussex)

Worthing Borough Council might have to pay £3 million of public money to a private developer to kickstart development of the former police station site in Union Place. The new owners of the site have said that commercial investment alone cannot support the scheme and that there must be public sector intervention. Six large family restaurants, houses and – yes, you've guessed it – a six-screen cinema are currently being suggested. Worthing already supports the privately-owned Dome and the Council-run Connaught and Studio cinemas.

Worthing Herald – 21 July; sent in by Barry Quinton; *Worthing Advertiser* – 27 July; sent in by Geoff Gill; *Worthing Journal* – August; sent in by Mike Whitcombe.

YORK

Vue Cinemas has applied for a judicial review of the Council's planning decision (reported on p20 of the last Bulletin) for a larger multiplex at Monks Cross than was originally approved. It argues that the changes were so great that they should not be dealt with as a "minor design amendment" but warranted a new planning application.

The Press (York) – 4 August

LATE NEWS

DERBY

There has been yet another fire at the former Hippodrome. {14683}

Sent in by Robert Taylor

DURHAM

The former Palladium has been demolished. It opened in March 1929 and films ceased in 1976. It was later used for bingo and as a church but it had been empty since 2004. See p5 Bulletin 49/1. {35690}

Sent in by Ken Roe

LONDON (Victoria)

Andrew Lloyd Webber is to refurbish the St James Theatre in London's Victoria, which opened in September 2012. He wants to make the venue a "creative hub". He said there would be no change to the 312 seat auditorium but plans being discussed were about "repositioning" the space and adapting the "look and feel" of it.

The Stage – 30 June; sent in by Barry Quinton

LONDON (West End)

Plans (reported on p18 of the last Bulletin) to hang four banners outside the grade II listed Palace Theatre in Cambridge Circus, have been approved by Westminster Council, despite reservations. The permission will last for two years.

The Stage – 23 June; sent in by Barry Quinton

NECROLOGY

MARNIE NIXON

Marnie Nixon has died aged 86. She was the 'ghost singer' whose voice can be heard dubbing Audrey Hepburn in *My Fair Lady*, Natalie Wood in *West Side Story* and Deborah Kerr in *The King and I*. In the late 1940s she provided the singing voice for child actress Margaret O'Brien, most notably in the 1949 film *The Secret Garden*. In 1953 she performed the high notes that Marilyn Monroe was unable to reach in *Diamonds are a Girl's Best Friend* in the film version of *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes*. She was mainly uncredited with her work. In the film *The Sound of Music* she appeared as one of the nuns (she's the one who sings "But her penitence is real").

The Guardian – 25 July; sent in by Carl Chesworth

ROBIN HARDY

The Wicker Man film director Robin Hardy has died aged 86. The cult British movie was made in 1973 and Mr Hardy went on to make the sequel *The Wicker Tree* in 2011.

Sunday Express – 3 July; sent in by Barry Quinton



MISCELLANY

BRIGHTON SHORTS

Short films made by pupils at a Brighton primary school were screened at the Odeon. They were given free hire of an auditorium so they could see their work on the big screen.

Brighton & Hove News – 17 July; sent in by Geoff Gill

END OF VHS

Japanese technology company Funai Electric – thought to be the last manufacturer of VHS recorders – has produced its final machine. Introduced in the 1970s, video tapes have given way to DVDs and Blu-ray in popularity over the last 20 years. Despite the lifetime guarantee to re-record that was once offered on cassettes, it looks like video tapes will fade away into history.

Daily Telegraph – 22 July; *Sunday Post* – 24 July; sent in by Carl Chesworth & Tom Lauchlan, who adds:

Many CTA members will no doubt have a collection of videos made between 1972 and 2000 and should not dispose of them, despite the news that the machines will no longer be built. A great many films released on VHS have not been released on DVD for financial and contractual reasons. Also, those released on DVD today have often been edited for political correctness and therefore are not as complete as on the original VHS. This is just another ploy of manufacturers getting more by making equipment obsolete before its time; they are working on new equipment that will in the end make DVD obsolete too!

SOHO



Porn baron Paul Raymond's legacy lives on as his Soho Estates property company plans to put its boardroom behind the famous neon sign that once advertised his *Raymond Revuebar*. Many of the sex shops in the vicinity have closed as the area has evolved.

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

REMEMBERING ERIC

We published an obituary of ABC Futurist Liverpool projectionist Eric Northgate on p27 of Bulletin 49/6. Now, a year after his death, former employees held a charity screening of his favourite film *Singin' in the Rain* to raise funds for Clatterbridge Cancer Charity in his memory. It was held at the Light cinema in New Brighton.

Stage Screen and Radio – August/September; sent in by Mike Taylor

THE DWARFS THAT DISNEY REJECTED

Walt Disney himself decided on the choice of names for Snow White's famous seven in 1937. He chose Grumpy, Sleepy, Sneezy, Dopey, Happy, Bashful and Doc after rejecting names like Tubby, Baldy, Deafy, Shorty, Wheezy, Burpy, Lazy, Jumpy, Dizzy, Nifty and Puffy. The early character sketches were among 32 pieces of artwork that have come to light as part of an auction in New York. The dwarf drawings were part of a selection of *Snow White* pieces that sold for \$80,000.

Daily Mail – 1 July; sent in by Barry Quinton

BAD BREATH?

Scientists have sampled the gases in a cinema's ventilation duct and found it is possible not only to identify the film the audience is watching but also the individual scenes in the film. We breathe out not only carbon dioxide but also acetone and isoprene in a ratio that varies with our state. Some of the clearest data came from *the Hunger Games*. It has been suggested that films could be given ratings based on gas readings; they could say "People were frightened four times in this film."

The Times – 2 June; sent in by R David Simpson

ODEON SALE

The Odeon & UCI Cinemas Group with 242 cinemas (2,236 screens) in seven countries has been sold to the US chain AMC for £921 million. AMC is controlled by the Chinese Dalian Wanda Group and has 385 sites, mainly in the USA. The deal would have cost £122m more before the Brexit vote.

Daily Express, Daily Mail, The Times – 13 July; sent in by Alan Body, Keith Bye, Carl Chesworth, David Gammage, Geoff Gill, Barry Quinton & R David Simpson

PINEWOOD PROFITS

Pinewood Studios in Buckinghamshire reported profits of £7.8m in the year to 31 March, up from £4.9m a year earlier. It hosted 7 of the top 25 films of 2015, including *Spectre* and the latest *Star Wars* film. Filming for the next *Star Wars* episode has already taken place at Pinewood. The company's shares have gone up 29% since February after it announced it was considering putting itself up for sale.

Daily Mail, [cityam.com] – 12 July; *Slough Observer* – 3 August; sent in by Keith Bye, Barry Quinton & R David Simpson

EVERYMAN

Everyman Cinema Group has completed its refurbishment of former Odeon sites at Esher, Gerards Cross and Barnet and said they are trading well. There is now planning permission to add two more screens to Muswell Hill, which is currently being refurbished. The group has also exchanged contracts for new cinemas in Horsham, Durham and Wokingham.

Daily Mail – 12 July; sent in by Barry Quinton

CURZON

Curzon Cinemas is aiming to grow the digital side of the business and sees it eventually competing with the likes of Netflix and Amazon Prime.

[cityam.com] – 27 June; sent in by R David Simpson

VUE PROFITS

Vue Cinemas, which runs 211 venues in 10 countries, saw turnover rise by 4.4% to £381.8m in the six months to 26 May, with profits up 5.7% to £77.8m. The company said the rollout of recliner seats helped draw in audiences.

Daily Mirror – 20 July; sent in by Barry Quinton

CINEWORLD PROFITS

Cineworld's profits were up 48% to £100m last year, boosted by blockbusters such as *Star Wars*. Admissions were up 13% to 93.6 million and that helped boost revenue by 14% to £706m. Its UK box office hit £312m with a further £107m spent at concession stands. The group opened 18 new cinemas in 2015 and have refurbished 16 with 4DX technology.

Later news shows revenues for the first six months of 2016 were up 8.4% to £356.7m compared with £329.1m a year earlier. Audience numbers were up 2.7% to 46.1m, roughly the population of Spain. Customers spent £53.5m on popcorn and drinks – that's an average of £2.30 each. The company said that the weeks following Brexit were particularly strong for admissions.

The Times – 11 March; *Evening Standard* – 11 August; *Daily Mail, The i* – 12 August; sent in by Carl Chesworth, David Daykin, Geoff Gill, Barry Quinton & R David Simpson

CINEWORLD'S EMPIRE

Cineworld Group plc has announced the acquisition of five cinemas from Cinema Holdings Limited, the holding company of Empire Cinema Limited and the sale to Empire of the three-screen Cineworld Haymarket. Cineworld will pay Empire an aggregate consideration of £94 million for the transaction. The cinemas purchased are:

- the nine-screen Empire Leicester Square, a leading London West End venue for movie premières, which has a Laser IMAX screen,
- an 18-screen multiplex in Basildon, which has an IMAX screen,
- a 17-screen multiplex in Hemel Hempstead, which has an IMAX screen,
- a 16-screen multiplex in Poole, which has an IMAX screen and
- a 4-screen cinema (ex Odeon) in Bromley in Greater London.

The Leicester Square, Basildon, Hemel Hempstead and Poole cinemas will take on Cineworld branding, while management is considering converting the Bromley cinema into a Picturehouse to make optimum use of its size and location.

Cineworld Press Release – 28 July; local newspapers from relevant locations; sent in by Carl Chesworth, Ray Dolling, John Forster, Geoff Gill, Peter Knight & Philip Stevens

IRISH MOBILE CINEMA CEASES TRADING

The Irish Film Board confirmed that the Cinemobile, Ireland's only mobile cinema, ceased trading on 15 July. It started in 2000 but has been unable to make up the deficit caused by gradual erosion of its funding.

IFTN – 15 July; sent in by Bob Bradshaw

RECORD ATTENDANCES FOR PICTUREDROME BOGNOR.

In the week ending 4 August the Picturedrome Bognor Regis, enjoyed its most successful week ever. Each day an average of 1,500 patrons watched films at the three-screen cinema, which boasts seating capacities of 324, 85 and 33. On one day 1,596 – a record – attended shows of *Finding Dory*, *BFG*, *Jason Bourne* and *Star Trek*. The Picturedrome is part of the Electric Theatre Company Ltd. The other four cinemas in the circuit – the Plaza Dorchester, Century Clacton on Sea, Carlton Westgate-on-Sea and Maxime Blackwood – also announced admission records during that week.

Sent in by Mike Whitcombe

THE DARK STAR [TREK]



A specially mastered version of the latest *Star Trek Beyond* played in 30 cinemas worldwide in Barco Escape, a new Cinerama-like format. It uses three screens mounted on the front and side walls of the theatre, stitched together to form a wider image. It is only used for certain scenes, which in *Star Trek Beyond* amount to about 20 minutes. The nearest installations to the UK are in Belgium and The Netherlands. See [www.ready2escape.com].

Meanwhile, conventional 'prints' have been reported as being very dark in many scenes, especially the 3D version.

Sent in by Carl Chesworth

HAMMERSMITH CONVINCES

The new film *Florence Foster Jenkins* stars Meryl Streep and Hugh Grant. It was filmed at several locations across London and Liverpool and included Shoreditch Town Hall and the art deco ballroom at the Park Lane Hotel, while the Eventim Apollo in Hammersmith doubled as New York's Carnegie Hall. It opened as the Gaumont in 1932 and has recently undergone a substantial refurbishment, recorded in previous Bulletins. The Carnegie Hall set was built off-site and installed inside the Apollo. It convinced people who knew the real location into thinking it was filmed there.

Broadcast Film and Video; sent in by John West

CAUGHT NAPPING

In Singapore, the Golden Village cinema chain has come up with a way to monetise its Gold Class recliner seats during off-peak hours by renting them out for afternoon naps. For SGD \$12 (£6.72) patrons get a 90-minute kip, a complimentary snack, sleeping mask and some discount vouchers. No film is included. Since the promotion started, Gold Class has been two-thirds full during the nap hours of operation, mainly with executives wanting a power nap.

AsiaOne – 16 July; sent in by Carl Chesworth

GET THE MESSAGE?

Plans to introduce "text-friendly" screenings at US chain AMC for customers who struggle to part with their mobile phones, have been ditched after a public outcry on social media. The company has a UK multiplex in Manchester.

The Times – 18 April; sent in by Carl Chesworth

LETTERS

EMERGENCY!

WESTERN ELECTRIC SOUND SYSTEM

IN EMERGENCY TAKE THIS CARD TO THE TELEPHONE

AND MAKE YOUR CALL IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CURRENT MONTH'S SERVICE ITINERARY

YOU WILL BE ASKED—

IS SOUND OFF IN THE AUDITORIUM
as well as in the Operating Box ?

IS SOUND OFF THE NON-SYNC
as well as off the Machine ?

CAN YOU KEEP RUNNING
on one Machine ?

Special Remarks

SYSTEM

Consisting of —

FILM AMPLIFIER(S)

FADER

INPUT PANEL

MAIN AMPLIFIER(S)

OUTPUT PANEL

L.S. NETWORK

POWER UNIT

POWER CONVERSION EQUIPMENT

Western Electric SERVICE TAKE THIS CARD TO THE TELEPHONE TROUBLE - 7.9 WESTERN 340

I was interested to see Carl Chesworth's Westrex engineers' monthly service itinerary sheet for March 1970 in the last Bulletin. Above is a copy of the card issued to cinemas in the 1940s by Western Electric (before being rebranded Westrex), which refers to these service itinerary sheets and on which details of the equipment were to be written, to be readily to hand in case an emergency phone call had to be made.

Kevin Whealan

DATES

Some dates that I think need putting in the Bulletin. The actual closure date of Odeon Marble Arch was 23 April 2016. It is believed that a six-screen Odeon will emerge as part of the development. The closure date of the Cineworld Hammersmith was 8 May 2016. I believe a three-screen Curzon will emerge from this one.

Tim McCullen

BEST OF BERKSHIRE



Metro Banks usually have a large illuminated photograph of the Main Street of the town they're in, inside the branch. Noticing that Windsor included the Regal cinema, I was pleased to find that the staff were only too happy to run off this copy for me.

The August issue of *Best of British* magazine has a spread of four vintage postcards from the Francis Frith collection, showing cinemas. They include the Ambassador Slough, with comments from a former projectionist.

R David Simpson

THANKS

My thanks to Adam Unger and Richard Gray for responding to my letter requesting an update on the demolition of Earls Court in London – see p22 last Bulletin. If any members have any interesting photos of the demolition of the building, ie the lowering of the roof, the Warwick Road and Old Brompton Road frontage etc I would be very interested in purchasing them; a full refund of costs and postage would be made.

RW Hawkins, 19b Brodrick Avenue, GOSPORT, PO12 2EN

MANCHESTER PARAMOUNT

I passed the old Odeon/ Paramount in Manchester the other day and the lower part of the building is boarded-off, with signs announcing "Demolition by Bowmer Kirkland". The current work is to remove the last traces of asbestos (a worker on site tells me the place is riddled with it – I could have told them that) and then total demolition of the building, to be replaced with an(other) office block, to complement the 'new' one adjacent. They were amazed at the number of safes that were left in the building! Somewhere, in the roof void above the old circle (Odeon ①) a bunch of keys was lost and, despite frequent searches over 25 years of the various nooks and crannies of that area, these keys ('the main bunch' as they were known), were never found. The keys were replaced from 'master keys' but the sadness was a large metal key tag on the ring, reading "Paramount Theatre Manchester" which dated from the 1930s. There will be another link to the original building, with an enamel plaque in the electrical substation reading Paramount Cinema Manchester Sub-Station.

Carl Chesworth

KINGS OF THE HIGH STREET

As somebody who thoroughly enjoyed working in traditional High Street cinemas for twenty years and who also believes that they can still play a major role in modern day cinema going I was delighted to read in CTA E-newsletter no 429 that the Everyman Cinema chain wants to expand their circuit by buying and rebranding yet more former cinemas.

According to Crispin Lilly, their chief executive, Everyman hopes to open five new sites a year for the next three years. "If anyone thinks they have got an existing cinema and wants to move on, or an old bingo hall, we're interested," said Lilly in a *Guardian* interview. "There's something in the walls that comes out that you can't manufacture." Everyman currently owns sixteen cinemas, following the purchase last year of four former Odeons at Muswell Hill, Barnet, Gerrards Cross and Esher.

Everyman is joining a growing band of cinema operators who are having a renewed faith in traditional High Street sites rewarded. I find this a refreshing trend and one that makes perfect sense. I have never understood the mentality that prevailed for so long that our often faded, yet still majestic, cinemas were relics of a bygone age. Lack of investment, bad management at a senior level and corporate greed – too many freeholds and leaseholds were needlessly sold to realise a quick buck – were, in my opinion, often the cause of a cinema closing. I experienced this at first hand when two of the major brand owned sites I worked at in Portsmouth were closed down despite still turning a profit.

My local independent cinema is the Picturedrome Bognor Regis, part of Adam Cunard's Electric Theatre chain of cinemas. The five cinemas in this circuit are all old, traditional High Street sites that have been lavishly refurbished, had the latest technology installed and are now attracting record audiences. The power of multiplexes will never diminish but traditional cinemas still have much to offer. It's a shame that the famous Odeon chain has been so happy to off-load many of its glorious buildings in recent years; I truly believe they could have retained many of their town centre sites and still be the huge profitable player that they are.

Cinemas have always been the heartbeat of a High Street and when they close surrounding businesses always suffer. Everyman should be commended for investing in old cinemas and giving High Streets hope. It's just a shame that they concentrate solely on attracting the upper end of the market. Lilly, in that *Guardian* article, admitted that when he said they were targeting people prepared to pay extra and that only teenagers were not interested in them. That's a shame because cinema is for everyone, old and young, rich or poor. Charging as much as £18 a ticket, which Everyman does, is wrong in my opinion as local High Streets cater for all types without prejudice or exclusion. That's something cinemas should always do as well.

Mike Whitcombe

WHAT A PICKLE

On my shopping trip to Tesco, I could not believe that Barry Norman has his own range of pickled onions on sale, done to his grandmother's recipe. And – wait for it – made by Bennett Opie foods, trading as PickleODEONfoods.

Chris Ingram via Carl Chesworth

WORK IN PROGRESS



Construction has started on a development on the site of the former Paramount/Odeon Tottenham Court Road in London. The cinema opened in February 1936 with 2,568 seats in stalls and circle. Films ceased in March 1960 and the building was demolished almost immediately. The site was used as a car park for almost 55 years! {11046}

Sent in and photo by John Pilblad

ILKLEY



A free magazine that popped through my letterbox had an article on the new, 'boutique', digital cinema in Ilkley – see p23 Bulletin 50/2. No-one seems to have spotted the irony that it is in a hall space at first-floor level above the former Co-op; that the Co-op had moved out of those premises around 1970 to a new building on Railway Road; and that the new building involved demolishing the New Cinema (opened 1928, Essoldo 1949; closed 1969), Ilkley's last proper picture house. A further detail: the Ilkley cinema is in the former premises of the "Leeds Industrial Cooperative Society"; "LICS" is engraved in the stone pediment above the cinema's entrance. The new Co-op premises on the site of the demolished New Cinema were styled "Sunwin House". Any further information risks turning this into a history of the Co-op! {50929}

Hector Hill

BRIDLINGTON AND SCARBOROUGH



Here is a small pic of the new Leisure World building in Bridlington, which replaced the one we visited I think three years ago. I thought it might of interest to CTA members. The choice in Scarborough for films gets worse. I went to the Stephen Joseph Theatre (ex Odeon) two weeks ago to see a film in the McCarthy auditorium and the lift wasn't working. It hadn't been working for some weeks because they were having difficulty getting a part to replace the one that had gone wrong. Going up 60 steps to the auditorium is a real challenge and would put quite a few people off.

Terry Ladlow

CAMBRIDGE TIVOLI



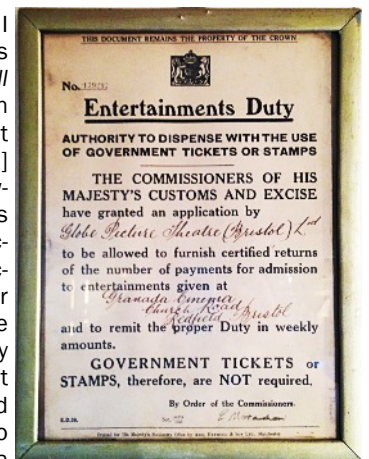
Here is a photo showing the extent of fire damage to the former Tivoli in March last year. It opened in March 1925 and films ceased in November 1956. It was last used as a Wetherspoons pub. There is nothing on the hoarding to say what will happen next. {36849}

Darren Keeling

GRANADA ERROR

Re-reading some past bulletins, I noticed an error in Ben Doman's piece entitled *Odeon Yeovil, Small Auditoria & Alcoholic Cinemas* on p31 of Bulletin 50/1. He says that the cinema in Redfield [Bristol] passed to Granada in 1935, however, that wasn't so. It was always independent, owned by Globe Picture Theatre (Bristol) Ltd. This picture [R] shows the exemption for Entertainments Duty from the Granada. It was printed in July 1938 for the Crown, so dates it within or after 1938 when issued to the Granada. I was fortunate to be allowed entry into the cinema as conversion to a Wetherspoon's was starting. Many items were salvaged from the building, including the exemption certificate, still glazed and in the original frame. PS: It's not listed in the excellent circuit history *The Granada Theatres* by Allen Eyles either.

Darron Keeling



LETCWORTH GARDEN CITY (Herts)



I thought you would be interested in this photo, taken by my son Stuart, showing the current state of redevelopment of the Broadway cinema. It centres on transforming the 450-seat Screen ① to also offer theatrical performances; the other three screens will also be refurbished. The cinema owners, Letcworth Garden City Heritage Foundation, released details of their proposals earlier in the year, which can be found on their website at tinyurl.com/jzpadqs. The Broadway's own website predicts a re-opening date of late July.

Victor Rose

HAPPY BIRTHDAY – 80 YEARS

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



Everyman (Odeon)
Fortis Green Road, Muswell Hill
Opened 9 September 1936
Architect: George Coles
Grade II* listed



Essoldo (Longford)
Chester Road, Stretford, Manchester
Opened 12 October 1936
Architect: Henry F Elder
Grade II listed



Capitol
Churchfield Lane, Radford, Nottingham
Opened 24 October 1936
Architect: Reginald WG Cooper
Grade II listed



Odeon Skinner Street, Wolverhampton.
Opened 11 September 1936.
Architect: PJ Price / Harry Weedon. Grade II listed.



Odeon East Parade, Harrogate.
Opened 28 September 1936.
Architect: W Calder Robson / Harry Weedon. Grade II listed.



Odeon Northgate Street, Chester
Opened 3 October 1936.
Architect: Robert Bullivant / Harry Weedon. Grade II listed.

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
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ARCHIVE

ARCHIVE ENQUIRIES

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

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

ARCHIVE OPPORTUNITIES

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

Please email [archive@cta-uk.org].

HELP THE ARCHIVE IDENTIFY CINEMAS

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

SENDING DONATIONS BY POST OR EMAIL

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

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

Clive Polden, CTA Archivist

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.

MEMBERSHIP

NEW MEMBERS

We are pleased to send a very warm welcome to the following newly joined Full Members of the Association: Robert Lewis, Ethan Jones, Deborah Barber and John C Barnes.

DONATIONS

Our sincere thanks are extended to all the members listed here who have included a donation when renewing their annual subscription: AC Bater, HD Behr, IJ Bellion, WC Birnie, RJ Buckler, RA Buckley, MJ Burke, GR Burton, J Clarke, M Collins, RG Dickson, PJ Edmunds, DN Hammond, T Harris, AM Harris, SP Hobbs, RE Howes, M Hutton, HB Jones, DWT Jones, PL Kent, AS Kidd, JM Lewis, I Lockie, SD Locking, T McNamara, AF Moore, CM Oxley, AA Philip, AD Philips, JH Popey, J Ramsden, JJ Seabrook, BC Sinclair, DE Smith, G Snowden-Davies, PV Stevens, BP Stoveld, D Trevor-Jones, JB West, KS Wheelan, JE Williams, D Williams, RF Wilson, JN Wilson and LG Woods.

IN MEMORIAM

Following a year of serious illnesses, Keith Barnes of Bournemouth, who joined the CTA in 1970, has died at the age of 78. Our sincere condolences are sent to family and friends.

Neville C Taylor, Membership Secretary

INTERNET CORNER

- ★ [tinyurl.com/hq2gav5] – A 4 minute film from the Yorkshire Film Archive: The opening ceremony of the New Cecil Hull in November 1955. {1247}

sent in by Richard Jones

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

2017 CINEMA CALENDAR

With twelve different colour photos of British Cinemas old and new. Available from mid-October. Still only £6, including postage. Please make cheque payable to Harry Rigby or simply send £5 note plus two loose first-class stamps to: Harry Rigby, 65 Tennyson Avenue, Harrogate, HG1 3LE or email [harry.rigby@ntlworld.com] for details of how to pay by EFT and save yourself a stamp!



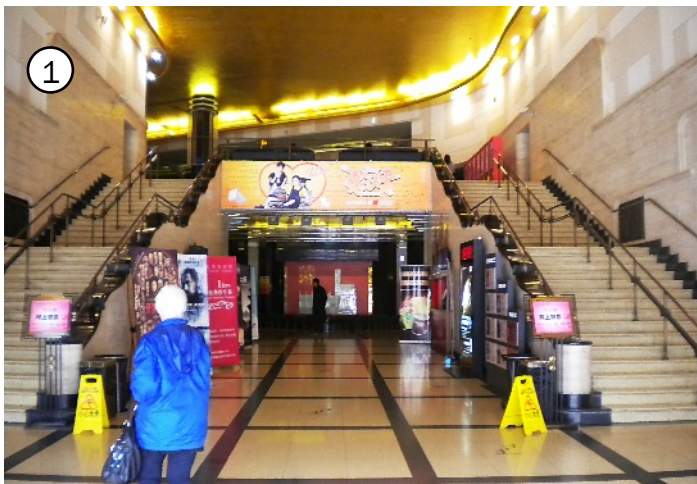
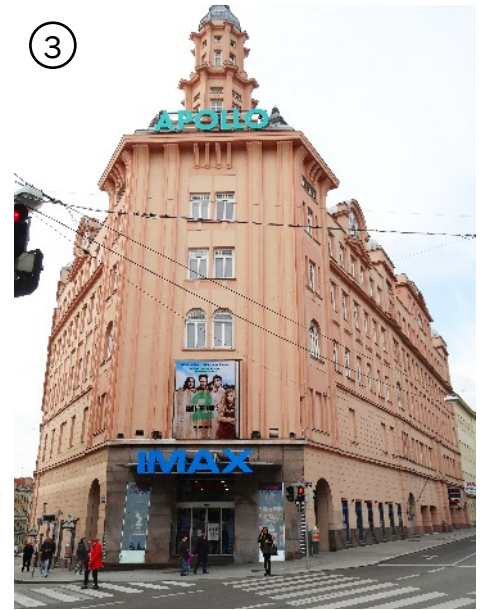
HOLIDAY SNAPS



The Cinema delle Vittorie in the tiny island of Ischia, just off the Bay of Naples. The film showing was the Italian *Come non Detto*.

Sent in by Terry Ladlow

HOLIDAY SNAPS



SHANGHAI BY BRIAN HALL

1. Grand Theatre, People's Square; 2. Peace Cinema

VIENNA BY JOHN SKINNER

3. Apollo IMAX; 4. Haydn English Language Cinema;
5. Erotik Kino; 6. Burg Kino; 7. Film Casino