



CINEMA
THEATRE
ASSOCIATION
www.cta-uk.org

BULLETIN

Vol 50 No 6

November / December 2016



The Teatro Comunale Bologna, seen on the CTA visit to Italy



The National Film Theatre in September 2006



The Regent Street Cinema in April 2016

The CTA will be 50 years old on 30 January 2017!

The inaugural meeting was held at the National Film Theatre on 30 January 1967.

A full day's programme of events has been arranged for the anniversary – see page 3.

We will be visiting the BFI Southbank (was NFT) and also the Regent Street Cinema, the birthplace of cinema.

Further celebrations are planned throughout the year; watch the Bulletin for details.

FROM YOUR EDITOR

I recently visited Leyburn in North Yorkshire. Here the **Elite** cinema opened in 1928 but sadly closed in May 2007. An attempt by volunteers to reopen it was short-lived. However I noticed films were being shown at the **Old School Arts Centre** in the town, usually twice daily every Friday [oldschoolhouseleyburn.co.uk]. Now obviously I don't know the full facts but, since the Old School building had to be converted, why could the former **Elite** not have been used? I have also come across similar examples in other towns where an Arts Centre has sprung up after the cinema has closed.

I was extremely short of space for this edition so I had no room for holiday snaps. I have also held over several items until next time.

Nothing to do with cinemas but on my last trip to London, to attend a CTA Committee meeting in August, I travelled on the Emirates Air Line, a cable-car over the River Thames from The Dome to the ExCel Centre. Highly recommended; the views are spectacular, it's not expensive, you can use your Oyster Card – and they take bikes!

Finally, although it's a little early, I and all the Committee would like to wish you the compliments of the season, using the card below, sent in by Alan Scott.

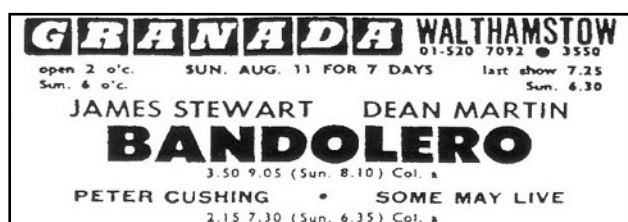
Harry Rigby, CTA Bulletin Editor



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by Allen Eyles – all fully illustrated with gazetteers
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DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE
TUESDAY 20 DECEMBER

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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CTA 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

CTA 50th Anniversary Day Monday 30 January 2017

Organised by Allen Eyles

Join us to celebrate fifty years of the Cinema Theatre Association on the same day of the year that the inaugural meeting was held at the **National Film Theatre** (now **BFI Southbank**) in 1967.

50 Years of the Cinema Theatre Association

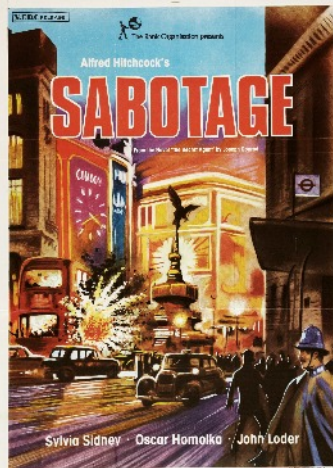
BFI Southbank, NFT2, Waterloo, London SE1

Fifty years on from the inaugural meeting of the CTA in the very same building, we will look back at the situation in 1967 that prompted its formation, highlight what the CTA has achieved over the five decades and ask what the future holds for our organisation. This richly illustrated joint presentation will feature some of the CTA's leading officers – Chairman David Trevor-Jones, Casework Chair Richard Gray and founder member / magazine editor Allen Eyles – along with comments from the audience.

Sabotage (1936)

BFI Southbank, NFT1, Waterloo, London SE1

A loose adaptation of Joseph Conrad's *The Secret Agent*, this British classic from Alfred Hitchcock uses an independent cinema as its central setting – unknown to the audience, its proprietor, M Verloc, is plotting acts of terrorism with his gang. Located in Camberwell, to judge by a letterhead seen in the film, the cinema was entirely a studio recreation. Typically, Hitchcock makes use of the cinema setting to further his aims, with a film can being used to carry a bomb on a crowded bus and a Disney cartoon on screen that reflects events off. Hollywood actress Sylvia Sydney co-stars as the wife of Oscar Homolka's anarchist with John Loder as the lurking detective.



Evening Double Bill:

The Birth of the Cinema + The Birth of the CTA

**Regent Street Cinema, 309 Regent Street
(north of Oxford Circus)**

Where better to celebrate the birth of the CTA than at the birthplace of film exhibition in this country? We will start with a very short introduction to the Regent Street Cinema (previously the Cameo-Poly art house) and hope to screen some of the Lumière shorts from that first film show in 1896 in the very same space (since modernised in 1927 and again in 2015). After some brief reflections on the first 50 years of the CTA and the introduction of some special guests we will also show extracts from some memorable short films about our cinema heritage: hopefully, *Odeon Cavalcade* and *An Acre of Seats in a Garden of Dreams* (both 1973). (The cinema's organ is currently awaiting repairs but may be playing again before the start of the performance.)

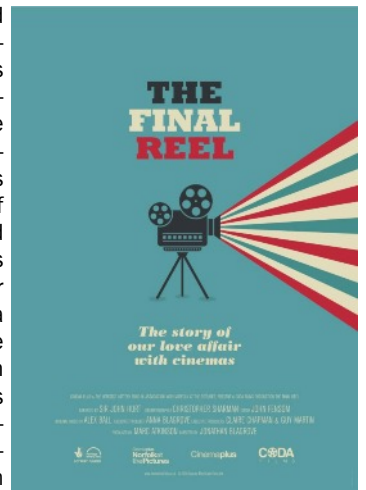


You are invited to toast the future of the CTA with a glass of wine or other light refreshment and enjoy a piece of celebratory cake, both free of charge, in the cinema's bar during the break between shows.

The Final Reel (2016)

**Regent Street Cinema, 309 Regent Street
(north of Oxford Circus),**

We are delighted to host the London première of this brand-new feature-length documentary narrated by the actor Sir John Hurt, which tells the story of how cinemas and cinema-going developed and flourished over the years in Norfolk as a microcosm of what has happened throughout the country. We meet some of the colourful entrepreneurs that are a key part of this narrative and hear the tales of how they kept cinemas going. And we hear from the projectionists, as well as audience members – for many of whom their local cinema was their favourite place in the world. *The Final Reel* offers a rich mix of interviews, photographs and an astonishing amount of archive film material in a most entertaining way, accurately covering in 94 minutes the story of exhibition from the beginning to the multiplex and IMAX. The screening will be attended by producer/director Jonathan Blagrove.



A CTA 50th Anniversary Visit – Return to Tooting Granada (Gala Bingo)

Sunday 26 February 2017; organised by Ken Roe

To continue our 50th Anniversary celebrations, members and associate members are invited to join us at the Granada Theatre, Tooting (now Gala Bingo & Grade I Listed). The reason we choose Tooting is that 'day & date' it also celebrates the first ever CTA visit, which was to the Granada Tooting on Sunday 26 February 1967.

Membership was small in that first year and 15 members attended to see the building, which was then still operating as a cinema. Films were supplemented by concerts, stage shows, pantomimes, circus (with live animals) and even wrestling, which kept the Granada open until it was suddenly closed as a cinema on 10 November 1973 (it had been Grade II* Listed in June 1972). The building lay unused until 14 October 1976 when it re-opened as a Bingo Club. It was given Grade I Listed status on 28 September 2000, the only 1930s cinema to be given this honour.

Time and meeting details to be confirmed in the next Bulletin.

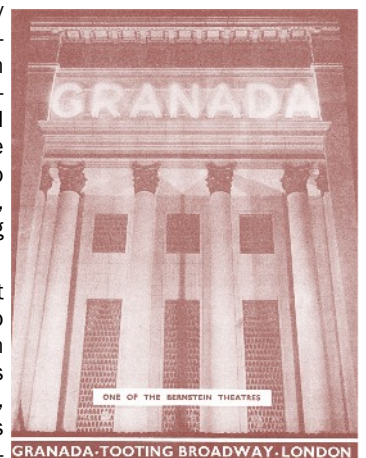
Coming Soon

A Trip Down Memory Lane

To mark the CTA's 50th Anniversary

Organised by Richard Norman

Our next Members' Slide Show and Social event will be a 'special' as we are aiming to include a collection of member's movies taken by them during past CTA visits and tours. If you would like to share any movie footage or still slides / photos / digital images (in any format), we will help with any editing and technical preparation, if required.



**Most visits are for members only –
details in the full Bulletin**

CASEWORK

By Tim Hatcher

Grade II* Listed

A briefing has been given by the project architect representing JD Wetherspoon Ltd on the proposed conversion of the **State** at Grays into one of its hostels. It is encouraging to note that retention of the stage and proscenium and maintenance of the separation of foyers from the auditorium are intended; however, some foyer space is currently designated for conversion to lavatories. The understage organ chambers complicate adaptation and location of the kitchens is proving somewhat problematical.

The application to build the controversial 'pods' in the circle of the ex-Odeon at Muswell Hill was recently approved by the local Council under delegated powers, not by its planning committee. As this appears to be in breach of its own published procedures, consideration is being given to initiating a formal complaint.



Considerable damage was caused to the Palace in Southall when it was converted to an indoor market; this included removal of the stage and mutilation of the proscenium. It is clear that this work was executed without listed building consent; therefore Ealing Council is to be requested to instigate an enforcement case for reinstatement of the affected areas. *Photo taken April 2006.*

Donations are currently being sought to finance emergency repairs to the Picture House at Paignton; the Association has been asked if it can contribute.

Grade II Listed



A constructive meeting has been held with Avery Architects, the practice currently overseeing the renovation of the Regal in Camberwell. The scheme includes as an objective the re-establishment of double-height space in the foyer, for which the Association has expressed its support. *Photo taken September 2004.*

**Much more Casework
in the full Bulletin**

MISCELLANY

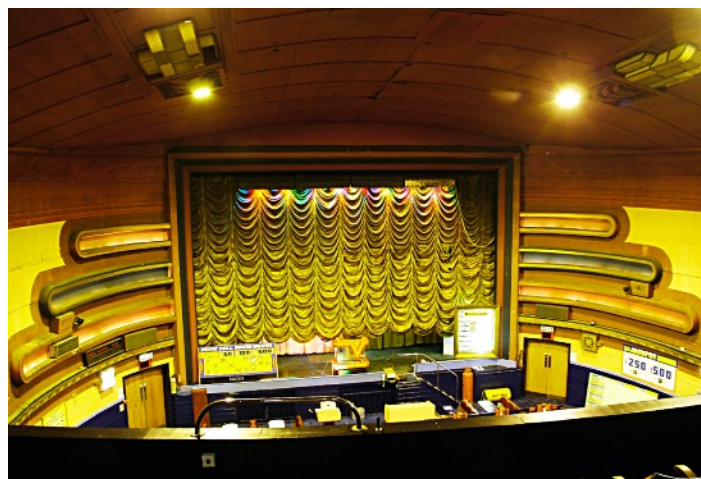
A CINEMA THAT NEVER WAS

Plans for **La Scala** cinema at the corner of Irvine Place and Princes Street have been found in the Stirling archives. The plans were submitted on 1 September 1932 and are marked "withdrawn" so obviously the art deco cinema was never built. The architect was Hamilton Neil.

Stirling Observer - 12 October

EBAY

Several cinema-related items have appeared on eBay recently: 35mm film frames from *Back to the Future* @ £10; Various 35mm film trailers @ £10-20; Cinemeccanica projector sprockets @ £25-30; 35mm 12-reel film storage cabinet @ £145; 35mm 2,000ft metal film transit case @ £50; Super 8 film *Hammer House of Horror* @ £100. This is just a sample; there are many others.



Two cinema clocks from the former Regal in Lanark [above] appeared on eBay for £350. The listing was subsequently removed by the seller. The Regal is a grade C(s) listed building. {24306}

Sent in by Carl Chesworth & Tim Addyman

FINAL CURTAIN FOR LADIES' QUEUES

Long queues for the ladies' lavatories in theatres could be banished after £125,000 was donated by a couple. Ten theatres will share the money to improve their facilities. Theatres have been invited to apply to the Theatres Trust; the recipients will be announced in December.

Evening Standard - 17 August; sent in by Barry Quinton

MUSICAL BIRTHDAYS

The *Phantom of the Opera*'s 30th anniversary was marked by a special performance at Her Majesty's Theatre on 10 October with original cast members joining the current cast. The gala was held in aid of the charity Music in Secondary Schools Trust. Meanwhile the musical *Wicked* marked its 10th anniversary in London.

The Stage - 29 September; sent in by Barry Quinton

CINEMA BUM

American actress Lena Dunham has revealed she has the Odeon sign tattooed on her bum. The 30-year-old is probably best known as the creator, writer and star of the HBO series *Girls*.

Metro - 18 October; sent in by Alan Body



LASSIE COLLIES PET AWARD

He's long gone to the Hollywood kennel in the skies... but Lassie remains the big screen pet most people would love to adopt. The long-haired collie - star of 11 movies and 6 television series - finished ahead of animated stars Nemo and Top Cat in a poll of 1,000 people commissioned by Odeon cinemas for World Animal Day. He is one of only three animals with a star on Hollywood's Walk of Fame.

*Metro - 4 October;
sent in by Carl Chesworth*

CINEMA CAT SAYS:



That's all well and good but he didn't get my vote!



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.

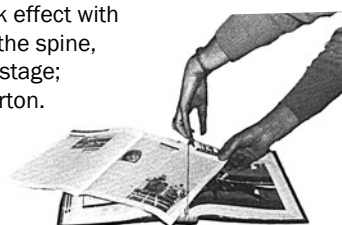
PICTURE HOUSE MAGAZINE

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.

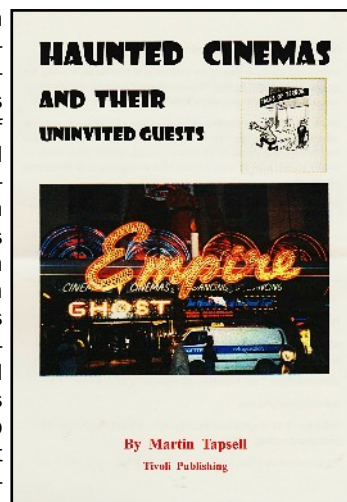


New Publication

Haunted Cinemas and their Uninvited Guests

by Martin Tapsell. 84 pages, A5, laminated card covers. Illustrated in black and white and colour throughout. Special price to CTA members £7.50 plus £3.00 postage; (normal RRP £8.95).

Well-known CTA member Martin Tapsell, who has previously written volumes about Buckinghamshire and Kent Cinemas, turns his attention to an unusual aspect of cinema history – the reported sightings of ghosts and other supernatural apparitions. As Martin says, nearly every old theatre has a ghost story, usually published in books, so do cinemas have them as well? He has answered his question by trawling through history books and the CTA archive and other sources and, after 25 years of collecting stories, has come up with over 85 locations throughout England, Scotland and Wales, arranged by regions, where such happenings have been reported. There are plenty of photographs of the buildings. An unusual and novel side of our interest!



Still Available (reviewed in previous issues)

The Golden Age of Folkestone's Cinemas

by Ricky Hart – Special price £12.50 plus postage.

Ordering

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

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

Also Available (but not from the Sales Officer)

After The Final Curtain:

The Fall of the American Movie Theater

By Matt Lambros; 240 pages hardback, lavishly illustrated in colour. ISBN: 2361951649; available from Amazon at £29.99 but follow the links on the page for cheaper sources.

When the great American movie palaces opened in the early 20th Century, they were some of the most lavish, stunning buildings anyone had ever seen. With the advent of television, theater companies found it harder and harder to keep them open. Some were demolished, some were converted and some remain derelict to this day. This book will take you through 24 of these magnificent buildings showing what beauty remains years after the last ticket was sold.

[afterthefinalcurtain.net]

Editor's Note: It is hoped to arrange for the author to speak to the CTA, possibly next April.



NEW USES FOR OLD CINEMAS

By Gavin McGrath

Whether it's trailers to treadmills or tip-ups to tumble dryers, cinemas have been transformed into an endless stream of uses since closing the door on films. In this feature I would like to take you through some interesting functions for our beloved buildings. It all started with bingo halls and throughout the course of time some of these treasured attractions have suddenly become more interesting than their predecessors. As with my previous projects they need not have been purpose-built as cinema, nor gone straight from film to the current function but they do need to be open so that you enjoy the transformation.



The Brighton Cinema on Westgate Road, Newcastle upon Tyne opened in 1911 as the Brighton Electric Theatre. It was designed by Marshall & Tweedy and was part of a complex that also included an assembly hall and billiard hall. The manager revealed there were plans to enlarge the facility but this never happened. The Brighton was the first cinema in the City to be equipped for CinemaScope in 1954. It closed in 1963 and was converted to a bowling alley, which is now run by 1st Bowl.



The Empire on Leeds Road, Outwood, near Wakefield, opened in 1921 and was run by the Rothwell Empire Company. It closed in 1964 and was later a bingo hall and in the 1980s a children's nursery and a carpet store. In 1995 the idea to have a fish and chip shop with drive-in was born and the rest is history. The auditorium is decorated with movie memorabilia. The CTA visited for a meal in 2011.

The Danilo on Bristol Road South in the Longbridge area of Birmingham was designed by Ernest S Roberts. It opened in 1938 and was the fourth in Mortimer Dent's chain of cinemas. It later became an SM Super Cinemas house and then an Essoldo house and was renamed so in 1954. It closed in 1968 and was turned into a bingo hall, latterly operating as Gala. It then became an LA Fitness but is now a Sports Direct Fitness Centre. The facilities include a gym with cardio machines, a pool and sauna and the exterior still looks a well-presented building.

The New Salters Cinema in Victoria Square, Droitwich opened in 1934 on the site of a previous one and was designed in a Tudor revival style. It closed in 1963 and was eventually acquired by the local authority and turned into a library in 1983. The gallery and proscenium from its cinema days have been retained and regular films are shown in the building by the Salters Film Club.



The Grosvenor Picture House on Stanley Road in the Kirkdale area of Liverpool opened in 1922 with a raised section at the back rather than a conventional balcony. It had a string of different operators including the W Gordon circuit, ABC's Regent circuit and the Essoldo circuit. It closed in 1963 and like many others went over to bingo. It has been occupied by a funeral director, Peter Coyne, since the mid-1990s, with the Grosvenor name still at the top of the frontage.



The Plaza in Peel House Lane, Widnes was designed by W & S Owen for Cheshire County Cinemas and opened in 1937. It closed in the late-1960s and went over to bingo, which ended in 1998. It is now a health centre called the Peel House Medical Plaza and has a surgery, pharmacy and physio sports injury clinic in-house.



The ABC in Bridge Street, Newport [South Wales] was built on the site of the Lyceum Theatre and was very much a latecomer, opening in 1968. Designed by C Foster and A Morgan it was tripled in the 1970s and renamed Cannon in the 1980s, returning to the ABC after the management buyout. Although it closed in 1999 it was taken on by an independent operator and named the City Cinema, which kept it alive until 2008. It has been converted to a hotel and is now a Travelodge.

The **Castle Cinema** in Worcester Place, Swansea is built on a hill and situated adjacent to the castle remains. It opened in 1913 and survived the war despite many buildings in the vicinity being destroyed. In the 1960s a foyer was created at the rear of the stalls, meaning the loss of many seats but it did have a number double seats for lovers. It was screening soft porn films in the 1970s and was run by Circle Cinemas as the **Filmcenta** from 1982. It closed in 1991, unable to compete with the UCI across the road and is now a laser centre called **Laserzone**. You will not be surprised to hear that nothing much is left of the interior, which now features a three-level playing field. It has been under threat from developers for a number of years, saved only by the fact that it is a Grade II-listed building.



The **Rex** in the **Gilesgate Moor** area of **Durham** was a single-floor cinema that opened as the **Crescent** in 1928 and was renamed in 1941. It closed in 1958 and was later a bingo hall. More recently it was a tool hire shop but today the building operates as a launderette and café known as the **Old Cinema Launderette**. There are vintage parties and gigs in the evenings.

The **Coliseum** on **Terrace Road**, **Aberystwyth** opened in 1905 on the site of an earlier theatre and was designed by **Arthur Jones**. It had two horseshoe-shaped balconies in the auditorium extending to the proscenium. It was adapted into a cinema in 1932 and closed in 1976. It was then converted into the **Ceredigion Museum** in 1983, specialising in local history. It recently installed a new screen for occasional films to be shown and a **Charlie Chaplin** silent comedy was screened in April 2016. The building is Grade II-listed.



The **Don** on **West Bar** in **Sheffield** was designed by **Henry Patterson** and opened in 1912. The frontage was in **French Renaissance** style faced with brick and terracotta and had a novelty neon sign featuring two clowns throwing a ball at each other. Originally it was a one-floor cinema but had a balcony added two years later. It closed in 1958 and was later occupied by **Bradford Woollens** who went out of business in 1977. Today it is in use as a self-storage facility. An extension has been added to the building and the frontage has been partially cladded.

The **Futurist** in **Sileby**, **Leicestershire** was opened by **Gilbert Baum** in 1920 with stalls and balcony. The building doubled as a dance-hall and lasted until 1965. It has been a pharmacy for a number of years under different guises but today is a branch of **Boots**.



The **Grand Cinema** in **Marsh Lane**, **Preston** opened in 1921 and was renamed the **Regal** in the 1930s and then the **Lido** in the 1950s. It was showing [X]-certificate films in its last years and closed in 1959. It has been a **National Tyre and Autocare** centre for a number of years with the side wall having been opened up.



The **Savoy** on **Hayling Island** in **Hampshire** was built in 1928 and survived until the late 1950s. It has been a **Royal Mail** sorting office for over 40 years.



The **Majestic** in **Castle Street**, **Tyldesley** opened in 1923 and was originally run by **Union Playhouses** of **Wigan**. It survived for 40 years on celluloid but was purchased by the local authority and converted into a swimming pool. It was previously known as the **Tyldesley Pool** but has been rebranded the **Pelican Centre** and now incorporates a gym within the premises. This is not the only example of a conversion to a pool, with other sites in **Chatteris** and **Sale**.

Photos courtesy of: Jaggery (ABC); Martin Tapsell (Rex); Gavin McGrath (Brighton) & Harry Rigby (remainder); used in accordance with the Creative Commons Licence - see [\[creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/2.0/\]](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/2.0/) More information on the functions of former cinemas can be found at [\[www.cinematreasures.org/functions\]](http://www.cinematreasures.org/functions)

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

A planning body has claimed that a proposed 850-seat cinema is "not needed" for the Blackdog area to the north east of the City.

Evening Express (Aberdeen) – 8 September

ASHFORD (Kent)

Plans to upgrade the Cineworld at Eureka Leisure Park to include three new screens and an IMAX screen were expected to go before planners in September. The extension would stand twice as tall as the existing building.

Construction work on the new PictureHouse cinema in the Town Centre is expected to begin before Christmas.

Kentish Express – 8, 29 September

AYR

Plans for an eleven-screen cinema in the Kyle Centre have stalled. Planning consent was granted in March 2015.

Ayrshire Post – 30 September

BARNSELEY (South Yorks)

The two-screen Parkway (ex Odeon) may be forced to close unless menacing anti-social behaviour near the bus station opposite is brought under control. Manager Rob Younger said a 'drugged-up' man, who was later seen trying to start a fire outside, had managed to sneak into the cinema between films.

Barnsley Chronicle – date unknown; sent in by Carl Chesworth

BATH

The eight-screen Odeon has abandoned plans for late-night screenings until 3am every day of the week. It was a condition of the original 1999 planning consent that opening hours should be restricted to prevent noise. This has been relaxed and now the cinema can keep one of its screens going until 3am at weekends. The decision has been welcomed by a local councillor.

Bath Chronicle – 11 September; sent in by Carl Chesworth & Malcolm Crowle

A long-lost BBC travelogue *Bath, Queen of the West* has been discovered in the projection room at *The Little*. It was made in 1952 and presented by Richard Dimpleby. The cinema held a screening of it on 25 September, when the special guest was Jonathan Dimpleby.

The Little Press Release; sent in by Michael Crowle

BELFAST



The former Majestic on Lisburn Road is being refurbished to become home to the Windsor Baptist Church. The venue opened in May 1936 with 1,369 seats in stalls and circle. It closed in October 1975 and became a furniture store; this closed a few years ago and the building has been empty since. {23087}

Belfast Telegraph – 1 September; County Down Spectator – 8 September; photo taken September 2014

BEXHILL-ON-SEA (East Sussex)

JD Wetherspoon has confirmed that it will not be opening in 2016 in the former Picture Playhouse. Planning permission was granted in early 2015. Metal hoardings have been erected around the site. No actual date has been given. {27997}

Bexhill on Sea Observer – 23 September

BIRMINGHAM (Central)



The twelve-screen Cineworld in Broad Street is to get a 4DX auditorium in screen ③, due to open on 21 October. The system incorporates 156 motion seats and special effects such as rain, fog, wind and scents. The screen measures 42ft by 23ft. The installation follows refurbishment of the cinema's IMAX screen in June; the rest of the cinema is being refurbished in stages. {24153}

Birmingham Post – 22 September; photo taken May 2006

BIRMINGHAM (Harborne)

Plans have been unveiled by a "national cinema operator" to convert the grade II listed former *Royalty* into a three-screen cinema with one large and two smaller auditoria. It opened in October 1930 and films ceased in November 1963. It became a bingo club but that closed around 2012. {33866}

Birmingham Post – 13 October; Birmingham Mail – 14 October

BLACKBURN (Lancs)

The grade II listed former Cotton Exchange is to have a £5m revamp to become a centre for arts, culture and business. It was built in 1865 and became a full-time cinema in 1918. The cinema closed as a five-screen *Apollo* in December 2005 and the building has been empty since. See [\[www.resourceblackburn.org.uk\]](http://www.resourceblackburn.org.uk) {24035}

Lancashire Telegraph – 22 September; sent in by Philip Crompton

BOGNOR REGIS (West Sussex)

Deputy manager Tracey Girdler has left the Picturedrome after 26 years of loyal service. 49-year-old Tracey has returned to Nottingham for family reasons. Tracey began working at the Picturedrome as an usher. She subsequently tackled most rôles, including projectionist, before becoming one of two deputy managers among ten staff. During her time at the Picturedrome, the three-screen venue has been owned by MGM, ABC, Cannon, Virgin and Reeltime. For the past ten years it has been run by Adam Cunard's Electric Theatre Company. Tracey admitted to feeling very sad about leaving and said: "I have enjoyed it. It has been good working here. This cinema is at the heart of the community and has a lot of support from local people." {14782}

Bognor Regis Post – 30 September; sent in by Mike Whitcombe

BOLTON (Lancs)

The new nine-screen 1,200-seat Light cinema opened on 5 October in the Market Place shopping centre. An official opening VIP night was held on 20 October. Local comedian Peter Kay dropped in to see a film and met some of the staff. The cinema invited fans to win a pair of free tickets by guessing which film Peter Kay watched.

Bolton News – 27 September, 12 October; photo top next column by David Simpson



The entrance to the Light in Bolton

BOURNE (Lincs)

Plans have been put forward for the future use of Bourne Town Hall; the building has been empty since 2014. The first floor courtroom could become a theatre and cinema and the ground floor returned to its original 1821 configuration of a large open 'shambles' providing a flexible space for markets and events. If approved, the plan is to set up a charitable trust to run the venue.

Rutland & Stamford Mercury – 23 September

BOURNEMOUTH

The local Civic Society has launched a bid to protect the Odeon (ex Regent) in Westover Road and has applied for the building to be designated as an Asset of Community Value [ACV]. It would give the Society a six month moratorium to raise funds to buy the building. The building and the neighbouring ABC were sold to a developer last year for £6.15m. The Council declined to bid for the buildings but has expressed a wish that the art deco frontages be retained. Recently released plans show this, with a nine-storey apartment block and a restaurant at first floor level, behind the existing arches. Odeon placed a covenant on the sale, requiring that it not be used for cinema purposes. The cinema operations are due to move to a new multiplex currently being built.

Daily Echo (Bournemouth) – 7, 25 October; sent in by Philip Stevens

CTA member David Cox organised a private screening of the 1980 Todd-AO35 film *Flash Gordon* in ABC screen ① on 13 October.

Daily Echo (Bournemouth) – 13 October; sent in by Philip Stevens

A fire broke out in the basement boiler room of the ABC at around 4:30pm on 3 October. Seven fire engines were dispatched; an aerial platform was also sent but not required. The cinema was evacuated and roads closed for about an hour and a half as crews brought the fire under control. There were no injuries.

Daily Echo (Bournemouth) – 4 October; sent in by John R Forster & Philip Stevens, who adds:

Cinema is OK; it does this every year at the start of winter when the boilers are switched on. I am told it's the old oil in the pipes burning off.

BRECON (Powys)

The 380-seat Theatr Brycheiniog is to start showing films and is to apply for grants towards the equipment. It says the Coliseum cinema in the town has nothing to fear from the move.

Brecon & Radnor Express – 11 August; sent in by Hugh Sykes

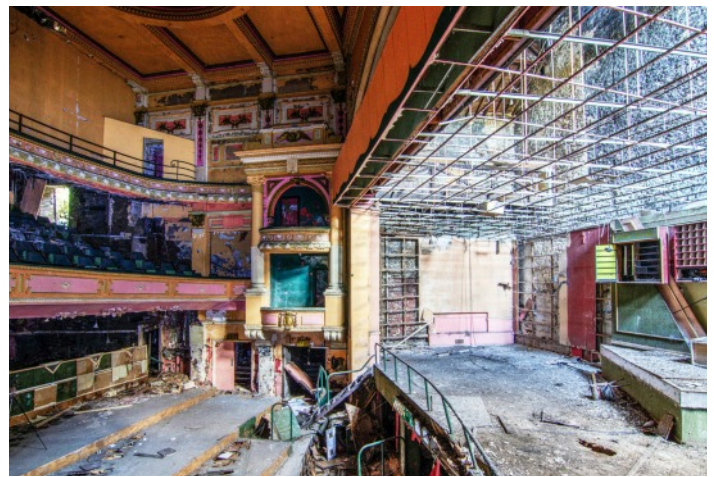
BRIGHTON

Councillors have been recommended to drop their reasons for refusal of plans to demolish the former Astoria. The move could spare taxpayers a large legal bill should developers win an appeal at a planning inquiry scheduled for December. The grade II listed building opened in December 1933 with 1,823 seats. Films ceased in May 1977 and bingo took over until 1996; the building has been empty since. {1844}

Argus (Brighton) – 8 September; sent in by Carl Chesworth, Ray Dolling & Barry Quinton

BURNLEY (Lancs)

The run-down grade II listed Empire Theatre was to be sold at auction in October but was removed from the lists at the last minute. The group campaigning to restore the theatre welcomed the move and will now carry on with its fundraising events. It was last used for bingo in



1995 and has stood empty since. It defaulted to the care of the Duchy of Lancaster as an "owner of last resort" after ownership could not be established. A spokesman said the theatre had been offered to both Burnley Council and the Trust at no charge. It opened in October 1894 and the auditorium was reconstructed in 1911 with 1,808 seats on three levels. It became a cinema in May 1930 and, after a couple of short closures, films finally ceased in July 1970 and bingo took over. {36755}

BBC Lancashire News website – 4 October;

Lancashire Evening Telegraph – 20 September, 15 October;

The Stage – 6, 19 October; sent in by Barry Quinton, Joseph Roberts & R David Simpson

CHESTER

Picturehouse is to be the operator of a new six-screen 715-seat cinema in the Northgate development. The City has not had a cinema since the Odeon closed in 2007; that is now being converted into the Storyhouse, comprising an 850-seat theatre, library and 100-seat arthouse cinema.

Chester & District Standard – 8 September; sent in by Carl Chesworth

CHORLEY (Lancs)

Plans for a six-screen Reel cinema at the Market Walk centre have been approved by planners. Work is expected to start in early 2017 and it could be open by summer 2018.

Chorley Guardian – 23 August, 27 September

CIRENCESTER (Glos)

Work has not yet started on the promised four-screen Everyman in Brewery Court. The £48m development was due to be completed in summer 2017 but some are doubting that it will ever happen.

Wilts & Glos Standard – 18 August

COLCHESTER (Essex)

The Council has finalised the sale of Roman House on Queen Street, formerly Keddies department store. Work was expected to start in October to demolish the building for a development incorporating a three-screen Curzon cinema. Opening is scheduled for late 2017.

East Anglian Daily Times, Daily Gazette – 6 October

COVENTRY

The former Standard/Godiva is to become a church. It opened in July 1938 as the Standard, named after the nearby car factory. It closed in September 1965 for internal reconstruction with shops and a bank downstairs and a 500-seat cinema in the former circle; this reopened as the Godiva in March 1967 – your editor saw many a 70mm roadshow there on a large curved screen. The cinema closed in September 1976 and became a bingo club, which closed in 1981. It was latterly used as a casino. {37905}

Coventry Telegraph – 22 April; sent in by Gavin McGrath; photo taken March 2006

DAVENTRY (Northants)

Northampton's Errol Flynn Filmhouse, run by the Royal & Derngate Theatre, has announced it is working on proposals for a three-screen cinema in Daventry. The cinema would be part of the planned development on the car park immediately north of the High Street.

Northampton Herald & Post, Daventry Express – 13 October

Seven more pages of Newsreel
in the full Bulletin

HAPPY BIRTHDAY – 80 YEARS

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



Odeon Baxtergate Loughborough. Opened 21 November 1936.
Architect: Arthur J Price (Harry Weedon Partnership). Grade II listed.



Grosvenor (Gaumont/Odeon/Ace) 440 Alexandria Ave,
Rayners Lane, Harrow. Opened 12 November 1936.
Architect: Frank E Bromige. Grade II* listed.

CARTOON CORNER



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

ARCHIVE

ARCHIVE ENQUIRIES

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

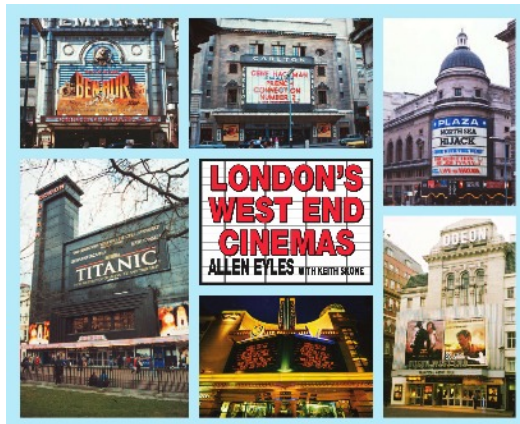
Please let me know before sending donations by post and do not send them directly to the archive as there is no facility to accept post securely. Please send items c/o 14 Ivychurch Gardens, Cliftonville, Margate, CT9 3YG. Small quantities of scanned material or digital photographs can be emailed to [archive@cta-uk.org].

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.

NECROLOGY

BRIAN RIX, 92

Perhaps best known as actor-manager of the Whitehall Theatre, he was a regular performer in its farces, which usually required him to lose his trousers. He turned his back on acting and became a disability campaigner, joining Mencap in 1980. He was made a life peer in 1992.



SYLVIA PETERS, 90

Sylvia presented the BBC's live coverage of the Queen's Coronation in 1953 and went on to become the host of *Come Dancing*. She recorded a training film to help the Queen prepare for her first Christmas broadcast in 1957 and retired from the BBC in 1958.



GENE WILDER, 83

The frizzy-haired actor studied at the Old Vic in Bristol before returning to America. He was famous for his frequent collaborations with Mel Brooks, for example in *Blazing Saddles*, *The Producers* and *Young Frankenstein*. He also starred in *Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory*.



CHARMAIN CARR, 73

The American accretes was best known for playing Liesl, the eldest of seven von Trapp children in *The Sound of Music*. She wrote two books inspired by her rôle in the film and received many love letters from teenage boys around the world. She was later the interior designer for singer Michael Jackson.



ANNIE MISKIMMIN, 97

One of the last cinema-goers who escaped the 1941 bombing of the National Picture Theatre in Hull. She pulled out her sister, who is still alive today. The local newspaper article is at tinyurl.com/j2dvn3w.

JOHN AVERY, 89

John started as a projectionist at the Majestic in Swadlincote [Derbys] and went on to run the Winter Gardens circus in Skegness. He was general manager of the London Palladium for 20 years until he retired in 1992. He was also at one time the director of all 12 Stoll Moss theatres in London.

LES CASTREE, 86

Les was an engineer who worked on the development of an automation unit for Essoldo, later to become Projectomatic. He was also in the 2011 film *The Last Projectionist*.

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.

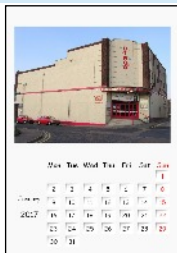
Please send cheque or postal order (payable to the Cinema Theatre Association) to the Bulletin Editor, address on p2. Please quote membership number.

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: Biggleswade Regal; Boldon Colliery Cineworld; Creswell Regors; Dunstable Union; Hull Tower; Lichfield Regal; Manchester Ardwick Apollo; Newtown [Powys] Regent; Nottingham [Basford] Futurist; Redhill Odeon; Smethwick [Birmingham] Grove; Taunton Odeon multiplex.



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!

CINEMA BUSINESS

EVERYMAN EXPANDS

Upmarket cinema chain Everyman aims to increase cinema numbers from 20 to 40 over the next five years, which would see job numbers rise from 520 to over 1,000. The chain recorded a pre-tax loss of £295,000 for the first half of the year, due to "heavy investment" in its estate and planning openings. Revenue rose 49% to £21.1m.

The Guardian – 5 August; *Financial Times* – 30 August; *The I*, *Eastern Daily Press*, *The Journal (Newcastle)* – 15 September; sent in by Carl Chesworth & John R Forster

CINEWORLD

Cineworld posted an 8.4% rise in revenues to £356.7m for the first six months to 30 June.

Daily Telegraph – 12 August; sent in by Carl Chesworth

UK BOX OFFICE

The UK Box Office has raced to £1 billion faster than ever before. According to comScore, the figure was reached on the night of 8 October after just 281 days, 17 days faster than in 2015. In 2009 it took almost a full year [352 days] to hit the same amount. In 2015 the UK Box Office took £1.2bn in ticket sales with around 170 million cinema-goers. In comparison, streaming service Netflix's revenue last year was £4.4bn, dwarfing Cineworld's £466m and Odeon's £403m.

Sky News – 24 September; *Hollywood Reporter* – 10 October; sent in by Carl Chesworth

AP BUYS MOVIE TONE



The Associated Press has purchased the film archive of British Movietone. It includes the first recorded speeches of personalities such as Ghandi and George Bernard Shaw as well as the footage of Charles and Diana's wedding, filmed in high definition on 35mm film. Much of the archive has been digitised and is available but about 15% of the library has never been seen before; this footage includes material that was barred by the censors in WWII. Previews at: www.aparchive.com/partner/British%20Movietone.

AP Press Release – 27 September; sent in by Carl Chesworth

PART OF THE UNION

Trade Union BECTU is to merge with a larger union, Prospect after its 27,000 members voted in favour of the move. The new sector is expected to keep the BECTU name and will retain its autonomy.

The Stage – 8 September; sent in by Barry Quinton

HOUSE

Mecca Bingo operator Rank Group has seen its annual pre-tax profits rise 15% to £88.5m. Annual revenues rose 1% up to £708.5m while Mecca sales were up 2%.

Metro – 24 August; sent in by Barry Quinton

TWEET TWEET

Disney has become the latest big name to be linked to the possible takeover of Twitter. The social media website has struggled to turn a profit since it was launched ten years ago.

Daily Mail – 27 September; sent in by Barry Quinton

COMPETITION PROBE

Cineworld's acquisition of five cinemas from Empire is being investigated by the Competition and Markets Authority. The £9.4m deal includes the flagship Empire Leicester Square.

Daily Mail – 3 September; sent in by Barry Quinton

**More Business
in the full Bulletin**

WILF GOES IN SEARCH OF A FILM

By Wilf Watters

Imagine the story – a pimply youth whose parents both worked in the ABC Forum in Kentish Town, London (it's still there!) and was very much a film-struck cinema-goer – chose to see a British film on its Odeon release at the Plaza in Camden Town. He was so impressed with the film that he waited for the return of it several weeks later in a second-run house. This turned out to be a local fleapit where even the fleas had fleas!



It was the Gaisford in Kentish Town [above], which was so run-down that it wasn't a pleasant experience; also the screen was over the front entrance with the problems of light creeping in. It hadn't been painted for many years. It was closed in June 1960. And the film? It was *Prelude To Fame*, a Rank film from 1950. His interest? It had lots of classical music and concerned a boy conductor who was exploited by Kathleen Byron, playing one of her usual bitchy parts. The rest of the cast were Guy Rolfe, Kathleen Ryan [R], Rosalie Crutchley – and the young Jeremy Spenser.



The film was unusual for the time as it featured a whole orchestral work, Weber's *Oberon Overture* (usually these works are greatly edited down) and ended with the *Polovtsian Dances* to provide a lively end piece as the boy returns to a vineyard in Italy.

The film impressed the youth so much that he watched the film every day for three days that week! As you might have guessed, that young man was me. So having never seen the film since that week in 1950 I would very much like to see it again. Has anyone got a copy of it or information where I might find it? Please contact me, Thanks.

Email [ernestclements1936@gmail.com]

Thanks are due to AE's second volume of the Odeon story. Gaisford photo from the Allen Eyles collection, courtesy of Derek Knights.

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.

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CINEMA IN THE MALVERN HILLS

By Peter Lea

On the evening of 2 September a special open-air Cinema was constructed for a charity fundraising event organised by the Colwall Rotary Club on behalf of Macmillan Cancer research. The location was at the stunning Quarry Garden of Rotarians Chris and Sara Mill, set in the Malvern hillside. Auditorium Services Ltd provided digital projection, sound and screen for this event and provided a 6 metre picture with Dolby stereo sound. The projector and sound equipment was mounted in a stout old tree, which gave the perfect projection angle.



The evening was well attended; food and drink sales were also provided with the local pub The Brewers Arms donating a barrel of beer and hot food provided by local volunteers. With an attendance of around 110 with an age range of between 16 and 80, who all brought their own seating, the open-air auditorium was soon full. There was a great atmosphere and with the anticipation as to what the film presentation for the evening would be the conversation among the crowd was focused on this. At 10pm prompt Mr Chris Mill thanked everyone for coming and cued the start of the film. The opening titles flickered onto the screen and a round of applause took place when the crowd realised that the film was the 1986 film *Critters* starring Billy Green Bush and Dee Wallace.



The movie was about alien furry critters landing on the farm of Helen and Jay Brown (Wallace and Bush). This film blended in perfectly with the setting of our open-air auditorium. As the closing titles appeared on the screen some 82 minutes later, the audience once again gave a round of applause, they then began to fold up their seats and make their way back down through the Malvern woodland home. The event was deemed a success and a similar event is planned for next year. The total raised at this year's event was in the region of £1,200.

