CAMPAIGNING TO SAVE YOUR HISTORIC CINEMAS

By Tim Hatcher

Grade II Listed

The owner of the Royalty in Harborne [Birmingham] has formulated a scheme that would replace the majority of the structure with sheltered housing. However, a trust formed with the objective of assuring retention of the cinema as an entertainment venue has now submitted its own scheme to the local Council; it reportedly has a commercial partner and additionally is applying to the National Lottery for funding.



Following revisions to the proposal to replace the Astoria in Brighton with a housing scheme, the Council has dropped its objections thereto. Demolition thus appears to be imminent, as local objections are unfortunately centred upon disruption during redevelopment, not upon loss of a local amenity. Photo above taken March 2009.

Despite representations from the Association, Leeds Council's Planning Panel enthusiastically passed plans for the proposed renovation of the Majestic, currently derelict following major damage from a conflagration.

Agreement has reportedly been reached between the cinema operator and the developer of the premises above London's Curzon apropos installation of sound insulation therein.

An enquiry has been received from a curator at the Black Country Museum concerning the private cinema at Wordsley Hall near Stourbridge. Information has been forwarded, including details of a local contact.

Unlisted



The custodian of panels from the frieze originally located on the façade of the Gaumont Palace in Doncaster has enquired if the CTA might express interest in their acquisition. Efforts are to be made to liaise with various parties in an attempt to secure a suitable position for their relocation and display on a site accessible to the public, in manner akin to the reliefs from the frontage of the Gaumont Palace in Cheltenham.

Photo above taken September 2009, just after the cladding was removed.

Despite extant planning permission for redevelopment of the derelict Regal at Lichfield for housing, which would entail retention only of the façade, a local group wishes to revive the building as a cinema. It is to be advised of several successful projects that it may find helpful to consider and compare.

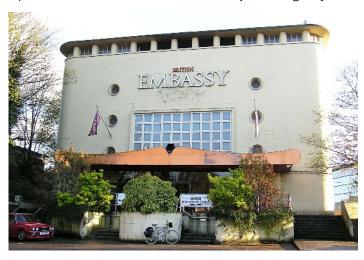


Similarly, permission to demolish the Regal in Wakefield was given in 2014 but a local campaigner is now attempting to save the building, which boasts a highly creditable auditorium by William Glen.

Photo above taken July 2004; interior photo on p29 Bulletin 42/2.



A new planning application has been submitted for the site of Pyke's Cinematograph Theatre in London's Shepherds Bush. Although the façade would be retained, the significant terracotta plaque [above] on the building's flank wall would, somewhat bizarrely, be replaced with a replica. The Association and The Victorian Society are amongst objectors.



It was understood that conversion of the **Odeon** at Redhill to a supermarket and residential accommodation would retain the frontage but this is not borne out by the plans. An objection is thus to be submitted.

Photo above taken April 2004.



A decision on the fate of the Futurist in Scarborough is set to be taken at the end of February during a meeting of the local Council, which body has previously expressed a desire to demolish the theatre and replace it with a theme park.

