

50
years

CINEMA
THEATRE
ASSOCIATION

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BULLETIN

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The Regal Bathgate (West Lothian). The charity that runs it has gone into liquidation; photo taken April 2006



The former Ritz Clipstone (Notts), which has recently been demolished; photo taken September 2006

FROM YOUR EDITOR

The new *Rewinding Back* feature seems to have been very popular, as I have received a lot of submissions – too many to include in this issue but I'll try to deal with them all in due course. I also haven't had space for any holiday snaps or a Necrology this time but I've still got the items you sent in. As I said last time, my supply will run out eventually so keep them coming. Just a reminder that everything you send me eventually finds its way into the CTA Archive; if you want something returning, please say so and include SAE – many thanks to those who already do.

In my last editorial, I included a picture of a street sign *Cinema Street* and asked you where it was. We had just cycled the Hull to Hornsea greenway on the former railway line and I took the photo down the side of the former Star in Hornsea, East Yorkshire. The 351-seat cinema was a conversion of a former Assembly Rooms. It was demolished in 1973 and a library built on the site. {48184}



This time I have a puzzle picture sent in by Allen Eyles. Where is (or was) this ABC? Again, the clue is 'some-where in England'. No prizes, answer on p9.

I would welcome feedback on the *Internet Corner* feature in the Bulletin. Do you find it useful or is typing in long URLs [website addresses] too painstaking? If they are too long I always generate a 'tinyURL'. Don't forget that these are case-sensitive so it does matter whether you use capitals or lower case.

On p6 Hector Hill has sourced an article on the coming of sound to films. In it he mentions non-sync records. This opens up an opportunity for someone to write an article on the (legal) use of gramophone records for non-sync in cinemas. Could it be you?

This is the last issue of our golden anniversary year. We hope you have enjoyed a look back at some of the things that happened in 1967. In this issue I have reprinted some articles from the Bulletin Volume 1 of that year. The article on p7 of the reopening of the Odeon Leicester Square after 'modernisation' caused me to chuckle – it talks about Victorian 70mm projectors. We are not amused.

Harry Rigby, CTA Bulletin Editor



DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE
WEDNESDAY 20 DECEMBER

CINEMA THEATRE ASSOCIATION

(Founded January 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 Cinema Theatre Association or the owners of the buildings for any accidents or injury sustained during the course of any visit. PRODUCTS: The Cinema Theatre Association does not necessarily recommend or endorse any products or services advertised in the Bulletin or in any flyer or document included in any mailings to members.

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

VISITS AND EVENTS

Christmas with Mirth in Walthamstow



This year's Christmas celebration will be held at the Mirth, Marvel & Maud bar located in what were the foyer areas of the former Granada/EMD, Hoe Street, Walthamstow in north-east London.

The Granada, dating from 1930, was one of the most spectacular of the circuit's cinemas – designed by Cecil Masey, with the interior decoration by Theodore Komisarjevsky – and is now listed Grade II*.

The auditorium awaits restoration but meanwhile the Antic pub group is utilising the foyers to good effect – 'Mirth' conjurers up the convivial atmosphere of a pub, 'Marvel' is the main auditorium and 'Maud' refers to one of the screening rooms under the balcony! We hope to see the left-hand screening room but most likely not the main auditorium. We have also arranged to visit the adjacent multiplex, the Empire, opened last year. This forms part of a residential and retail development with Pollard Thomas Edwards being the architects. It comprises nine screens and we hope to have a guided tour of all of them.

Members' Slide Show and Social

Saturday 13 January

The Gallery, 5:30pm (doors open 5:00pm)

organised by Richard Norman

KALEIDOSCOPE

This year's Members' Slide Show, really lurches forward into some movies at various points, promising a **kaleidoscope** of members' interesting and different offerings received and others that are currently under preparation for display on the 'big screen'.

An opportunity to socialise with members and guests with light refreshments including wine available. The CTA's bookstall will be open for the purchase of a wide range of cinema history books and other related topics. (Credit/Debit cards accepted.)

If any member wishes to present some cinema-related photos, stills, movies, recordings, a story or ephemera, etc, please email: [RichardNormanCTA@aol.com]

Venue: The Gallery, at Alan Baxter Associates, 75 Cowcross Street, Farringdon, London, EC1M 6EL (see overleaf for travel directions).

Admittance: £8.00 on the door. Guests welcome.
(Includes light refreshments.)

After The Final Curtain

Illustrated talk by Matt Lambros

Saturday 24 February

The Gallery, 5:30pm (doors open 5:00pm)

Our guest speaker is visiting the CTA from the US where he has acquired a strong reputation for the quality of his photographic and publications work of movie palaces. We are pleased to welcome him to the UK for the first time to sample some of his creative work.

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

CASEWORK

By Tim Hatcher

Grade II Listed

The trust campaigning to restore the Royalty at Harborne has assembled a management board that includes several high-profile members. It has been granted £5,000 by the local authority as an initial amount to finance consultancy studies. {33866}



The Ritz Nuneaton on bingo in June 2003

The local Council in Nuneaton is to be encouraged to serve an enforcement notice upon the owner of the Ritz in order to facilitate swift repair to the roof of the structure. {25909}



The Stephen Joseph Theatre Scarborough in August 2007

Objection has been forwarded to plans proposing yet more damaging alterations to the Odeon – now Stephen Joseph Theatre – in Scarborough, permission for which has been sought from the local Council. The scheme would involve drastic revision to the foyer areas, which currently comprise the only original internal elements not severely compromised previously. These works would also include insertion of new fenestration, which additionally would impact adversely upon the building's external appearance. {1843}

Unlisted

Numerous local residents of Peterborough objected to a planning application to convert the Odeon / Broadway into residential and business units; encouragingly this was refused subsequently by the local Council, which wishes to retain the venue for entertainment purposes. It is now anticipated that the building will reopen as a theatre expeditiously, despite the constraints imposed by its limited staging facilities. {19950}

More Casework in the full Bulletin

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 2015 are £4.00 per year (6 issues); individual issues are £1.00 each. Prices for issues in 2016 and 2017 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.
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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	Holophone 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.
No 41	£6.00	CTA's 50th Anniversary; Plaza Stockport; Grosvenor Rayners Lane; Majestic Leeds; Pascal J Stienlet.

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.



CIRCUIT HISTORIES AVAILABLE

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

All available from the Sales Officer – address on p2.
 please add £3.00 for postage.

Coming Soon

Reprints of the two out-of-print circuit histories ABC and Gaumont are due from the printers shortly and full information should be available by the next Bulletin. If you would like to be kept informed when copies are available, send an email to the Sales Officer at [sales@cta-uk.org] or drop him a line at the address shown below and you'll be the first to know!

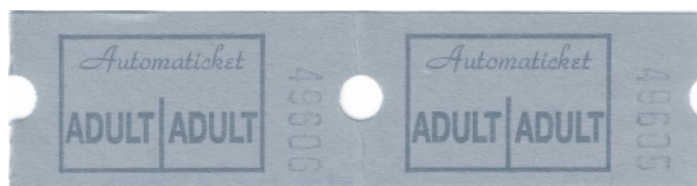
Still Available (reviewed in previous issues)

- **Electric Pictures – Films, Film-makers and Cinemas of Worthing & Shoreham.** £12.99 plus postage.
- **Off T'flicks In Old Aireborough – Guiseley, Rawdon and Yeadon.** £9.95 plus postage.
- **Screen Stories – Lewes.** £8.99 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.

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A **MUST** for your collection

CINEMAS IN BRITAIN

A History of Cinema Architecture

by Richard Gray

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

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

Special price for CTA members

£29.50 + £6.00 postage from

Jeremy Buck, CTA Sales Officer

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CINEMA NEWS – 50 YEARS AGO

When the CTA was founded in 1967...

Compiled by Harry Rigby & Ken Roe

November

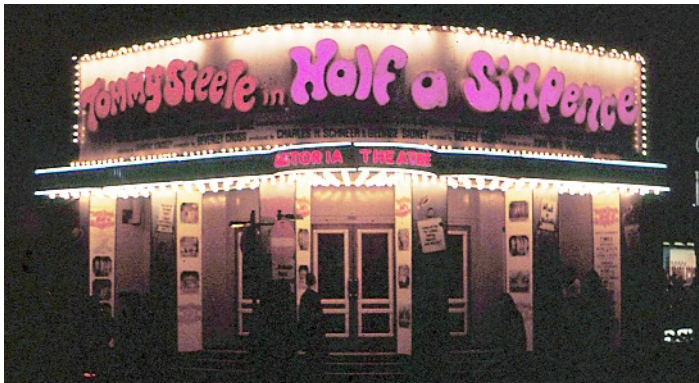
- 4th The Astor in Bexleyheath [then in Kent] closes to become a bingo club. {27801}
- 9th The World Première of *Custer of the West* in 70mm was held at the Casino Cinerama [now Prince Edward Theatre] in London. {2497}



- 9th The Royal Première of *Camelot* in 70mm [above] was held at the 1,789-seat Warner in London's Leicester Square. {3778}
- 13th Panton Film Distributors reopen the closed 1,005-seat Odeon Colindale [London] and rename it Curzon. {15727}
- 15th The ABC Central in Reading reopens with the 'Luxury Lounge' treatment. {34957}
- 18th The 1,650-seat *Essoldo* in the East London district of Hackney closed with *How I Won the War* and bingo took over. {13887}
- ?? The 1,814-seat *Essoldo* in the Southey Green district of Sheffield starts closing on Wednesdays, only to close completely in May 1969. {25709}
- ?? Classic Cinemas took over the Jacey Cinemas circuit and the Clavering circuit of Cameo Cinemas.

December

- 12th The Royal World Première of *Doctor Dolittle* in 70mm is held at the Odeon Marble Arch. {1830}
- 13th The première of *Bedazzled* is held at the Carlton Haymarket. {1838}
- 21st The 1,357-seat Astoria in London's Charing Cross Road holds the première of *Half A Sixpence* in 70mm. [below] {2499}



- 27th The 1,683-seat Odeon Leicester Square [London] reopens with a première of *Smashing Time* starring Rita Tushingham and a stage show featuring Cliff Richard and the Shadows. The cinema had been 'modernised'. {841}

- 30th In Gateshead the *Essoldo* closes as it was in the way of a new viaduct for the A1. {40089}



- 30th The 1,150-seat Dale at Willenhall [then in Staffs] closed with Dick van Dyke in *Lt Robinson Crusoe*. It became a bingo club and is now a Wetherspoons pub [above]. {37408}



- 30th The 1,050-seat Avion Aldridge [then in Staffs] closed to become a bingo hall [above]. It is now a Wetherspoons pub. {1239}
- 31st The première of *The Ambushers* starring Dean Martin as Matt Helm is held at the Columbia Shaftesbury Avenue. {6244}
- ?? The 400-seat Jacey Marble Arch closes. It was built as a News Theatre and latterly showed mainly 'adult' films. {13069}
- ?? The 728-seat Grove in Ilkley [West Yorks] closed and was demolished the year after. {40846}
- ?? The Shipman & King circuit buys the Futurist Cinema in Birmingham. {3189}
- ?? The 700-seat Plaza in Queensferry {25505} and the 1,100-seat Plaza in Flint {25505} [North Wales] are taken over and both soon renamed Wedgewood.

Ken and I hope you have enjoyed this look back at 1967 cinematic events in this year's Bulletins, so all that remains to say is:

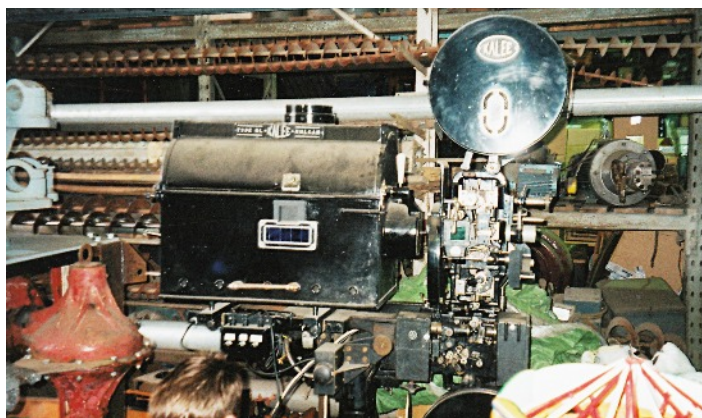


Film frame courtesy Kevin Wheelan

YET MORE WANDERINGS

By Hugh Sykes

May I first thank both Richard Gray and David Simpson for their kind notes on Chepstow and Northern Ireland with corrections to my last 'wanderings' – I do appreciate their replies.



A Kalee projector at Rundles of New Bolingbroke

5 October 2016 saw me at New Bolingbroke in Lincolnshire for an annual Open Day of Messers Rundle Ltd [Amusement Park Spares Specialists] and next door of Mr H Epton [Road Haulage Services]. The theme was Steam made by Savage of Kings Lynn. Plenty of Gallop Centre Engines (and organ ones too) plus fairground organs, showman's engines etc. Savages made electric light engines for Bioscope shows. In Rundle's workshop I found a vintage Kalee 35mm projector, origin unknown.



The Playhouse Louth



The Electric Palace Louth

Calling by Louth, I found three venues in use. The three-screen Playhouse is fully open; the Town Hall is home to the 3m Compton from the Queens Grimsby and the former Electric Palace (1909-1937) is in use for Heron Foods. The local papers all carry good cinema advertising.

23 October 2016: Another long distance journey into Suffolk. Stopping for a break in Framlingham I found the old terminus station but not the former cinema, the Regal. I may need help here. Was it converted in the 1960s into a garage and/or workshops? The 1950 KYB lists the Regal Framlingham (pop

2,100) props Bostock Cinema Circuit, Ipswich, 390 seats priced 10d to 2/6, films by road transport. I noticed whilst having a good walk around there were posters for 'Film@Fram' – first Wednesday of each month, Conservative Club Church Street, "The sound system has been improved with a pair of state of the art big speakers; also an additional 30 soft chairs have been acquired to add to your comfort." £5 for members, £6 for guests, first-timers and visitors. The Club is primarily for members @ £6 annual subscription.



The Leiston Film Theatre

On the road again for Leiston to view the Film Theatre, which I believe has been open since 1914. I also visited the town's 'Long Shop' museum; they were having an end-of-season steam weekend with traction railway loco and road steam.



The Aldeburgh Cinema

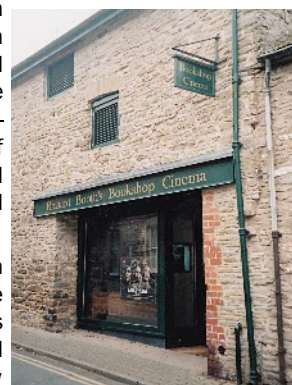
Then my last visit of the day, to Aldeburgh. The town was very busy but I managed to find a parking spot and just up the road was the lovely Aldeburgh Cinema. Built behind a mock Tudor front, it was showing the latest releases and live digital as well.

29 October 2016: A family visit to Wells-next-the-Sea. The Screen next the Sea has moved to Alderman Peel High School whilst The Maltings has a big extension and revamp. Local papers give good coverage of Kings Lynn, Fakenham, Wisbech and Hunstanton. I like the Thornham Village Hall – live ballet from Covent Garden!

1 November 2016: Our first visit to Hay-on-Wye, the town of books. Out via Leominster we passed by the reopened Clifton bingo club, which had closed under Top Ten in May 2014. It was reopened by Roger Witnall of the Ritz Belper bingo club in late July 2014. There are some nice photos on their website [leominsterbingo.co.uk/gallery.html].

Hay-on-Wye currently has a small cinema within Richard Booth's Bookshop in Brook Street; unfortunately it was closed on our visit. The original building at the top of the hill is the Hay Cinema Bookshop [photo top next column]. It is full of publications from floor to ceiling; sadly I did not see any items of its past life but I did purchase a few railway books.

Whilst briefly down in the Cotswolds in February I came across an article in the Evesham Journal about the Regal doors restored. Burglars smashed the original 1932 doors last year but they have now been restored at a cost of £10,000. The hooded burglars also stole money from collection boxes that were to fund an extension.



Bookshop Cinema



The Hay-on-Wye Cinema bookshop

Back to the *Wrexham Leader* for an advert for the **Stiwt**. The team at this restored venue are having a try (sorry) with live rugby on the cinema screen, choirs on stage, film club etc. The full name of the town is Rhosllanerchrugrug or Rhos for short.

Whilst down in South Wales over 23-25 April this year we managed a few visits: Llandovery c1950 **Castle Cinema** (Imperial Sound) Props E Taylor, Castle Cinema, Builth Wells, 230 seats, Prices 6d to 2/3, pros width 14ft, once nightly, twice Sat & Wes. Could I ask for help here as I couldn't find anything? Llandeilo c1950 **Cinema** (Imperial) Props HM Simonton, 26 New Road, 248 seats, priced 9d to 2/3, once nightly, twice Sat, pros width 24ft (?). Again could I ask for help as nothing found. LLanybie (not in KYB) but a modernised building noted as we passed by, formerly a Miners' Welfare Hall.

In Ammanford the **Palace** was demolished after a fire for a car park. The cinema was located behind a shopping arcade, which still exists, although now as a walkway from the High Street to the car park. There is a nice arched entrance to the arcade, which must have had cinema advertising thereon. It seated 847, at one time a Union house, then ABC and latterly an independent until closure in June 1977. Round the corner and into Wind Street is the **Miners' Welfare Hall**, used by community groups. The CTA visited here a few years ago but found alterations therein.



The nine-screen Odeon multiplex Bridgend

Needing some food, we pulled in to Bridgend Retail Park for a pub meal, which was excellent. Across the road was the Odeon multiplex. After our food, I duly ventured therein. It is massive – large enough to have more screens in the foyer. The above photo was taken from the footbridge that links the pub to the cinema and retail.

The next day (25 April) we journeyed home via Chepstow for a visit. This photo was taken of what remains of the Gaumont [photo top next column] although the third window rather spoils the original work. Films are occasionally shown in the **Drill Hall**, which is behind the main street. 30 April saw a visit to Ann's sister in Llay, Wrexham so with apologies after lunch, I was off to Flint and the reopened **Plaza**. I'd just missed the end of the matinée but I did see 12-15 patrons come out. Advertising is minimal on the front. Screenings are in the stalls with some cinema seats plus armchairs and settees (very popular, I was told). There is digital projection from a home-made 'box' in the centre of the stalls onto a screen inside the proscenium arch on the stage. The



The former Gaumont Chepstow



The Gaumont Plaza Flint

circle, which is blocked off, may have some additional screens in the future. A local gentleman, who was very keen on the **Plaza** reopening gave me some details, plus more off the Internet.



The Miners' Institute Llanhilleth

Our AGM in South Wales was very enjoyable, especially the Memo and the Maxime, really superb restorations, a great honour to see inside. Unfortunately I was unable to secure some decent priced accommodation so the car came in handy: home – CTA Sat/meal – home – CTA Sun/lunch – Blaenavon – home via steam train rides at the local P&BR by Big Pit. Whilst on tour on 14 May I visited the Llanhilleth **Miners' Institute**, a tall and massive building that recently has had some restoration work and extensions at the rear, used for and by the community, with occasional events on stage and sports/leisure.

Further up the valley into Blaina; sadly I couldn't find the **Gaiety** cinema on the High Street, c1950 BTH sound, 599 seats, props Blaina Cinematograph Co Ltd, prices 6d to 9d, once nightly. I believe this was demolished some time ago and the site remains unused. There is a fine Institute within the town but it was never a cinema.

8 May: Finally to mid-Wales for the gala at the Fairbourne Railway. The local *Cambrian News* is always good for cinema advertising. The **Magic Lantern** at Tywyn is open seven days a week showing latest releases. The **Aberystwyth Arts Centre** has a selection on most days. The **Criccieth Memorial Hall** (ex cinema) advert for Eryri Builders. Lastly the **Neuadd Buddug** in Bala was advertising a mixed bag, including live. This cinema will soon be having a narrow-gauge station built behind it for the future terminus of the Bala Lake Railway. Sounds familiar of a place in Devon – cinema and steam trains.

All photos by the author

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]

ABINGDON (Oxon)

The Friends of Abingdon have been working with the Regal Evesham to show films this winter at the 92-seat Unicorn Theatre. This will be a temporary arrangement; it is hoped a permanent home can be found. A cinema plan for the Guildhall was scrapped last January when the Council decided the scheme was unviable.

Wantage and Grove Herald – 11 October

BATHGATE (West Lothian)

The charity that runs the Regal Theatre has gone into voluntary liquidation and cancelled all future performances at the venue. The charity leased the art-deco former cinema building from West Lothian Council to run as an arts and community venue. In June this year, the Council approved additional one-off funding of £35,000 to enable the theatre to continue to operate over the summer, on the understanding that a “robust business plan that will deliver a sustainable future for the Regal” would be produced. A consultation will be carried out with the local community and user groups to search for a viable community use for the property. It opened in July 1938 with 1,067 seats but was subdivided in the 1970s. There is a 120-seat cinema located in the former circle, whilst the main floor is in live performance and community use with 206 removable seats. It is unclear whether the cinema element is still operating. The CTA visited in September 2008. {23052}

The Stage – 4, 7 September; sent in by R David Simpson; photo on front cover

Late News: Their website [www.bathgateregal.org] says that the 2017 panto is “back on” and is taking bookings “to save the theatre”.

BEDWORTH (Warks)



The former Star / Plaza was reported to be due for demolition some time ago. However when passing by last week it's still there and awaiting its future. This cinema, a converted chapel, was opened in 1921 as the Star by the Wallace brothers who went on to own the town's other cinema, the Palace. It was renamed Plaza in 1952 following a refurbishment. The Plaza showed its last film in 1960 and closed its doors to become a furniture storage warehouse. The site has stood empty for over ten years now and its future is uncertain. {46953}

Sent in by Peter Lea; photo taken June 2015

BLACKPOOL (Lancs)

Plans (described on p24 of the last Bulletin) for a nine-screen Light cinema at the Houndshill Centre have been approved. Work is due to commence early next year.

Blackpool Gazette – 28 September; Lancashire Evening Post – 30 September

BOSTON (Lincs)

The five-screen West End cinema is to be refurbished by owners Savoy Cinemas and rebranded Savoy. Screen ① will have new seats and a Dolby Atmos sound system. The frontage and foyer will also be refurbished. This phase one should be completed by 24 November; screens ② to ⑤ will be refurbished over the next few years. {24206}

Boston Standard, Boston Target – 30 August; photo top next column



The West End Boston in July 2007

BOURNEMOUTH

Bournemouth Civic Society has unveiled plans to convert the former Gaumont / Odeon and turn the downstairs cinema into a performance space with its original name, the Regent. The upper auditorium would show films and Curzon Cinemas has expressed an interest in operating it. However, there is a covenant placed by Odeon that precludes reuse of the site by a cinema operator and this would have to be negotiated. The public have welcomed the proposals, saying how great it is to see a scheme that doesn't include flats. Two previous proposals to demolish the building and build 10 and 14 storey tower blocks have been rejected. The site, along with the nearby ABC, was sold to Libra Homes for £6.15m. {20081}

Daily Echo (Bournemouth) – 26 August, 5 September; sent in by Carl Chesworth, John Forster & Philip Stevens

BRADFORD (West Yorks)

NEC Group International is to be the operator of the restored New Victoria / Gaumont / Odeon. They will invest £2m to convert it into a 4,000 capacity music venue, due to open in 2020. Following the news, the West Yorkshire Combined Authority announced a £325,000 grant. There are some short videos at: [tinyurl.com/yb7875qf] {3677}

Telegraph & Argus (Bradford) – 25 August; Yorkshire Post – 7, 14 September; BBC News website; sent in by John West

Construction of the new six-screen 780-seat Light cinema at The Broadway should be completed in late November. Opening is now scheduled for spring 2018.

Telegraph & Argus (Bradford) – 16 October

BRIDGWATER (Somerset)

Sedgmoor District Council is looking to develop a new leisure complex in the town centre, which could include a cinema.

[somersestive.co.uk] – 12 October

BRISTOL

The former Gaumont is set to be demolished and replaced with student flats. The façade will be retained. It originally opened as a music hall in 1892 and became a cinema in 1912. In 1927 the auditorium was reconstructed behind the original façade. It became the Gaumont in 1952 and films ceased in March 1980. It became a succession of nightclubs. See p6 Bulletin 51/3. {20707}

Bristol Post – 23 August

BUTLEY (Suffolk)

The Oyster Inn has built a 21-seat cinema in a converted barn. Though small, the cinema is fitted with genuine velvet seats, which the owner bought on eBay from the Science Museum in London as part of changes to its auditorium. They were collected in a horsebox from Felixstowe before Andrew Stowe, the pub's builder, created mini tiers. The cinema's programme is advertised in the pub. People can also email [filmclub@butleyoyster.com] to join a mailing list or reserve tickets, which are free.

East Anglian Daily Times – 1 September; sent in by Terry Hanstock

BUXTON (Derbys)

The grade II listed Pavilion Arts Centre is to become a 350-seat cinema showing the latest releases. A new screen, sound system and projector have been installed. It will open in December. Buxton has not has a full-time cinema since 1979.

Buxton Advertiser – 14 September

CANTERBURY (Kent)

Plans for a cinema in the Kingsmead development have had the number of screens reduced from ten to five or six. The bowling alley part of the plan has been scrapped completely and the number of homes almost trebled from 70 to 189.

Kentish Gazette – 14 September

CARDIFF

The Wetherspoons pub the Prince of Wales has had a £1m refurbishment. The grade II listed building had live theatre use until 1957 when film shows were introduced. It ended its cinematic life in June 1984 showing 'erotic' films. Subsequent uses included bingo, laserzone, nightclub and retail. It became a pub in July 1999 and was sympathetically restored. {20810}

South Wales Echo – 29 August; sent in by Jon Williams

CASTLEFORD (West Yorks)



The former Picture House was auctioned on 18 October. It opened in 1921 and closed in 1964. It has since been a bingo hall, café/bar and most recently a pub, which was destroyed in a fire last January, believed to be arson. The guide price was £150,000 but it sold for £252,500. The identity of the buyer is unknown. {6292}

Yorkshire Evening Post – 30 September; photo taken August 2005

CHRISTCHURCH (Dorset)

As reported on p25 of the last Bulletin, the Regent has been having structural problems. The circle has reopened but more work is scheduled. A charity première of *Victoria and Abdul* raised over £8,000 for the Dorset Blind Association.

Daily Echo – 19, 21 September; sent in by John Forster & Philip Stevens

CLIPSTONE (Notts)

The former Ritz has been demolished. It opened in 1936 and closed around 1959/1960. It became a function room, which the CTA visited in 2008. That closed a few years ago and the building had been boarded-up since. {45063}

Sent in by Ken Roe; photo on front cover

COLCHESTER (Essex)

The fitting out of the new three-screen Curzon began in late August. The opening is expected early next year.

East Anglian Daily Times – 31 August

Plans to convert the former Odeon in Crouch Street into apartments look set to receive approval. {17575}

Essex County Standard – 13 October

Work can now start on a multiplex cinema at the Northern Gateway after the Secretary of State decided not to call in the plans, which were approved by the Council last July.

East Anglian Daily Times – 3 October; Essex County Standard – 6 October

CREWE (Cheshire)

The Royal Arcade site is expected to be bulldozed next summer and work on transforming it into a leisure and retail scheme should be completed by Christmas 2020. The plans include an eight-screen cinema. The town already has a five-screen Odeon (ex Reel).

Crewe Chronicle – 6 September

DERBY

The Roundhouse was used as a cinema on 14 October to screen *Dirty Dancing* on the film's 30th anniversary. The grade II listed building is thought to be the world's oldest railway roundhouse, built in 1839.

Derby Telegraph – 5 September

DONEGAL (Ireland)

An application has been made for a five-screen 714-seat cinema on the outskirts of the town near the Drumlonagher roundabout. No operator has been named. The last cinema in the town closed 20 years ago.

Donegal Post – 6 September

DUBLIN (Ireland)



Permission has been applied for to demolish the former Screen cinema. It opened in 1964 and closed in February 2016. {11607}

The Times (Ireland) – 19 August; photo taken November 2002



The former Stella in Rathmines is to reopen as a boutique cinema. It was Dublin's largest cinema when it opened in January 1923 with 1,283 seats in stalls and circle. It was subdivided in 1981 and closed in 2004. Following the redevelopment, an audience of 220 will sit "in big leather armchairs with ottomans and blankets". Food will be brought to customers' tables. The developers have removed the cladding and revealed the original façade and claim to have "replicated every missing moulding, cornice and piece of panelling". {22364}

Sunday Times (Ireland) – 10 September; photo by David Simpson

DUDLEY

An appeal for £10,000 has been launched to pay for an asbestos survey and removal at the Hippodrome. In recent months volunteers have carried out a major clean-up both inside and out. The campaign group must raise about £5m before the full restoration can go ahead. They say a 25-year lease is needed to make the project viable.

Stourbridge Chronicle – 31 August; sent in by Ivan Harris

**Five more pages of cinema news
in the full Bulletin**

LETTERS

OBSERVATIONS

Many thanks for the latest Bulletin. Several items caught my eye. I hope to visit the Everyman at Kings Cross later in the October when I go to the V&A talk. I usually have a coffee in St Pancras station – a splendid place. Page 6 mentions the Grand in Bournemouth. I remember going there in the 1970s when it was part-time films and part time bingo. They showed some strange films – one showed a snake being decapitated and another a man drowning in quicksand! The exterior is in excellent condition, both back and front.

Page 21 mentions the Picture Playhouse in Bexhill. I went to junior school in Bexhill in the 1950s and well remember going there with my late father on Saturday afternoons. I saw a number of Ealing comedies and war films there. There were two other cinemas there in the 1950s; one was the Ritz in Buckhurst Road, where I saw the film of the Coronation and The Conquest of Everest. It later turned over to bingo but was subsequently demolished. The other was the Savoy in Town Hall Square, which was closed in 1954 and was subsequently turned into a tobacco warehouse but was eventually demolished. I saw my first film there – the Robert Newton version of *Tom Brown's School-days*. Although my father passed by the cinema every day for twelve years on the way to work, he always denied that there was ever a cinema there. All memory of the cinema had gone! I believe that there was a cinema called Gaiety in Sideley in Bexhill before the war but this was destroyed by enemy bombing. A part of one of the walls was believed to exist in the 1950s. However this needs further research.

On page 22 *Rewinding Back* mentions the closure of the Electra in Royston in 1937 as the last silent cinema in the country. I have always wondered how long silent films lasted in cinemas after the introduction of sound in the late 1920s. Although the local Harbour Lights in Southampton has shown some silent films, they are normally American, Russian or German but never British. The only British silent film I remember being shown on television is *The Vortex*, during the middle of the night! I have seen about half a dozen British silent films but at the NFT in London

Page 33 mentions the Studio Cinemas and cartoon cinemas in London. The most famous of these was the Victoria Station cartoon cinema. These cinemas were an American invention, dating from 1928. The one at Victoria station was the first to open in 1934 and the last to close in 1981. Classic – the operator at the time of closure – is on record saying that they would have liked to have kept it going but British Rail refused to renew the lease as the site was needed for the Gatwick Express extension. In 1981 it was believed to be the last cinema of its kind in the country. It was still operating with its original projectors put in in 1934, which had operated without problems all through the years. However when closure was announced they started to play up as if they knew that the end was nigh! I hope they found a safe home somewhere. I paid a visit to the cinema in the 1970s and enjoyed the experience. A *Tom and Jerry* cartoon is a different experience on a large screen. In the 1960s there were at least half-a-dozen news theatres and cartoon cinemas in central London. There were at least two in Charing Cross Road, a Jacey at Trafalgar Square, one at Piccadilly Circus (which became a sex cinema in the 1970s!) one at Marble Arch and another at Baker Street Station. The cinema at Waterloo Station – formerly a news theatre – had turned over to normal films by 1963. The entrance to the cinema was direct from the station and the stairway went straight into the auditorium. It was an interesting experience going direct from the station into the cinema. The interior of the cinema is captured on film. The cinema, built over a roadway, lay empty for about twenty years after closure before being demolished. I do not know of a book that traces the development and closure of this type of cinemas in this country.

Ian Patterson

MALICIOUS INTENT

May I add a little to the *Rewinding Back* article on p22 of the last Bulletin? The interesting account of "... the sudden outbreak of malicious damage to seats ..." prompted National Screen Services [NSS] to produce a *Malicious Cinema Damage* trailer in the 1940s – 30/- for immediate despatch – so the problem was widespread. Many years ago I saw a few frames of this title announcement and it was printed on nitrate film stock of the period.

Carl Chesworth

CINEMA MANAGER PRAISE

I found your coverage of the Picture Playhouse Bexhill in the last Bulletin very interesting and it reminded me of the manager who used to work there, who later came to work for me at the Curzon Cinema, Eastbourne, until he retired in 2010. His name was Brian Hopper [R] and he started in 1969, having worked at the Cinema De Luxe in Hastings. He continued during the Eric Rhodes and Gerald Rhodes era until the cinema closed in 1990. I thought that maybe you might like to give him a mention as he was certainly a very dedicated and conscientious cinema manager.

Roy Galloway, Curzon Cinema, Eastbourne



JARO

I enjoyed very much reading Ben Doman's excellent and informative article *JARO 1956 – The J Arthur Rank Organisation* in the September/October edition of the Bulletin. Regarding the last two paragraphs about film processing, I would like to mention that this was carried out not at Denham Studios but next door at Rank Film Laboratories, which had been built in the 1930s to serve the studios. The studios themselves closed in about 1952 and these beautiful art deco buildings were sadly demolished in 1981 and replaced by a bland business park. Rank Labs became Deluxe in the 1990s and I worked there for 12 years until they, too, closed in March 2014 due to digital technology. I think what may be confusing is that the Deluxe site has been turned into housing accommodation and re-named Denham Studios for marketing purposes.

There are videos on YouTube concerning Rank/Deluxe (and the studios) which may be of interest. Two of these are: [youtube.com/watch?v=tZ4tcX5wJ8k] Rank Film Labs Denham 1950s to 2000 and [youtube.com/watch?v=xXF99stVW4E] Visit of Rank Management to Rank Film Laboratories (Movietone News edition). Also, a short film was made about the studios in the 1930s called *A Day At Denham*, which is available to view on the BFI Player.

Peter Ferrari

A TOWERING ACHIEVEMENT

In the early 1970s when my wife, Janice, was at junior school, she spent almost a year living in naval quarters at Helensburgh (Argyll and Bute) on the banks of the Firth of Clyde, while her father was stationed on nuclear submarines at Faslane. On a recent trip to Scotland we decided to revisit her childhood haunts and stumbled across the Tower Digital Cinema and Arts Centre, situated in an old church on Sinclair Street, Helensburgh. It's staffed by volunteers and boasts two screens, one in the church itself, the other in an adjoining hall. The latest releases are screened – *Kingsman* and *Victoria* and *Abdul* were showing at the time – as well as beamed live theatre, opera and ballet shows. The lady we spoke to at the box office was most enthusiastic about the venture, claiming it brought the community culturally together. She added that the cinema had been open for around a year now and that it was doing good business. Cinemas have always been considered as cathedrals of dreams but the Tower, in an old church, gives new meaning to that. Living almost five hundred miles from Helensburgh, I can't give any more details on the venue and was wondering if any CTA Scotland members could reveal more about this admirable enterprise. I wouldn't mind a few churches where I live being turned into community cinemas.

Mike Whitcombe



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

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

105 years old

Picture House, 33 Long Row, Nottingham. Opened 5 November 1912.
Architect unknown. Façade only. Grade II listed. (No photo)



Picture Palace, Tong Street, Dudley Hill, Bradford. Opened 9 December 1912. Architects: Howarth and Howarth. Grade II listed.



Angel / Odeon, 7 Islington High Street, Islington. Opened 31 December 1912. Architect: H Courtney-Constantine. Façade only. Grade II listed.

95 years old



Waverley / ABC, 18 Moss Side Road, Shawlands Cross, Glasgow. Opened 25 December 1922.
Architects: Watson, Salmond and Gray. A listed.

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.

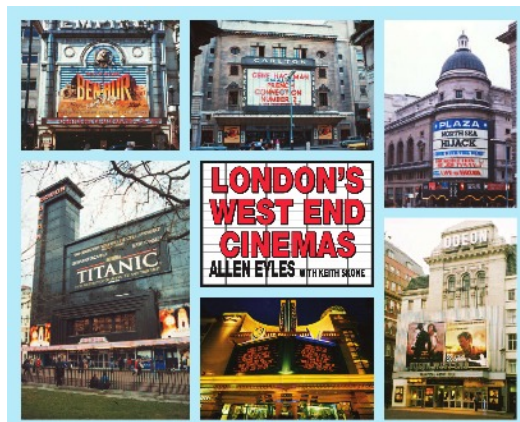
Please let me know before sending donations by post and do not send them directly to the archive as there is no facility to accept post securely. Please send items c/o 14 Ivychurch Gardens, Cliftonville, Margate, CT9 3YG. Small quantities of scanned material or digital photographs can be emailed to [archive@cta-uk.org].

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.



at your own children—or, if you have none of your own, at those of your friends and relatives. Have you ever known one who did not take every opportunity of "dressing-up"? In your own life, have you not always envied the other fellow and wished that you could only be in his shoes?

Again, modest though you may be of your own capabilities, have you not always had some nice little conceit hidden away in your heart that gives you a thrill when you fancy yourself filling the heroic part in some situation created in your own imagination?

Herein lies the secret of the kinema's success as the modern tonic for its hard-pressed clients. No emotion known to man lies outside its scope. Love, hate, humour, all lie within its province, and when woven into the form of a story, make an irresistible appeal.

The art of story-telling is the earliest form of entertainment known to man, but never before has the scope been so wide or the means of appealing to all the senses so exhaustive. But, like all story-telling, there is a glamour cast upon life that is lacking in our daily round.

Every event, good or bad, which falls to our lot in real life, has its repercussions and consequences, so many of which are painful. The vivid story of the film, though true to life, is exempt from these disadvantages—the experience is yours for a small cash payment whereby your debt is finally settled!

Lastly, the kinema is an education. It offers to all classes of the community, to all races and nationalities, all the drama of history and the literature of the world, the mysteries of science and a thousand and one other things, while, through its news reels, it keeps the public informed upon the important events of their time.

The programme which I and my friends witnessed showed films of widely varying type. Humour, travel and a "big picture" of a passionate love story. An atmosphere of make-believe sufficiently vivid to deceive the entire audience, held their attention fixed upon the screen. Worry and mental agitation vanished.

For two and a half hours the thoughts of all were concentrated upon that screen. New emotions crowded the mind to the exclusion of all other impulses.

A shadow-world where life, love and laughter pursues its way without fear of hurt or harm, replaces the stark realities of life and creates a detached but pleasurable outlook with the resultant tonic effect.

That night, over the fire, my friend, his wife and I sat till the early hours and discussed the "show." Differences of opinion, of course, we had, but we all recaptured the hilarity of the funny film and laughed again at the absurd situations.

We argued on the merits of the various actors. We criticised the characters as though they were actually living, and we recalled the brilliance of the photography and artistry of the "sets."

At long last and regretfully we retired for the night. All traces of the anxieties, which had obsessed my friend and which had prompted the visit to the kinema, had vanished. Mentally, we were all at peace with the world.

My friend's last words to me were: "That show was the best tonic I've ever known. I shall take another dose soon. Why don't you doctors recommend it instead of giving your rotten stuff?"

My answer was: "I do!"

The KINEMA as a TONIC by a DOCTOR

WHO asserts that in some cases the
mental stimulus of the movies
is more effective than medicine.

"LET'S go to the 'flicks,' dear! I've had a perfectly poisonous day at business and I just want to get away from everything. I'm fed up!" This commonplace remark was made in my presence only a few days ago, when I was staying with some friends of mine.

The avidity with which the invitation was agreed to by my friend's wife left me in no doubt that she, too, had had a "perfectly poisonous day" in the house and was no less eager to find some solace for her frayed nerves.

After a hurried meal, we were soon on our way through the pouring rain to the kinema. The weather did little to relieve the disgruntled mood to which my friend had referred and we walked in an ominous silence, our boots squelching miserably on the sodden pavements.

Suddenly, around a bend in the road, we caught a glimpse of the red glow, cast by the neon lights of the Picture Palace, mirrored in the wet road. The effect was instantaneous. My friend spoke for the first time and there was an unmistakable excitement in his voice.

That bright glow was the first cheerful impulse to rouse him from his depression. I noticed that he slipped his arm through that of his wife and by the time he reached the vestibule he was garrulous beyond his wont.

"Those who look on see most of the game"—especially if one happens to be a doctor accustomed to observe the changes in human moods and who is interested in psychology. From this point of vantage, I took note of my surroundings and watched the arrival of the patrons of this kinema.

Every face revealed pleasure and there was an urgency to pass through those doors that led to the foyer as though within lay some prize that awaited them. There was much good-natured jostling as they surged through the doors. Quickly, we joined this merry throng and, to the strains of the organ playing invigorating music, were shown to our seats.

A hum of conversation filled the theatre and an "atmosphere" of comradeship impressed itself upon my consciousness. Never do I enter a kinema without this feeling being strong upon me. By this time, my friend and his wife seemed to have forgotten all their troubles and not until the

lights were dimmed and the organ ceased playing did our chatter stop.

The programme that followed was of a high order and held our attention throughout. But, as a doctor, my chief interest centred around the profound psychological effect of this form of entertainment upon the ordinary man and woman.

In this particular theatre, two performances a day were being given to almost full houses. People, weary with the anxieties and worries of everyday life, flocked to this place as a means of escape from their troubles and, as was abundantly evident, found it.

Similarly, up and down the country, hundreds of other picture houses were attracting their millions of souls per week. There must be some irresistible urge in this form of entertainment beyond the mere fact of its cheapness.

Why do people make it a habit to go twice or more times a week? Everyone wants value for money and the audiences do not comprise those who can afford to throw it away! The explanation was being enacted before my eyes by my friends. It was the tonic effect. What a magic word that is!

We doctors know so well the dramatic results of our nauseating mixtures—but they could scarcely be more effective than the mental tonic my friends were experiencing.

The film owes its success primarily to the fact that all human beings are actors at heart. Look