



CINEMA
THEATRE
ASSOCIATION

www.cta-uk.org

BULLETIN

Vol 53 No 3

ISSN 1479-0882

May / June 2019



The Rex Wareham (Dorset) which is celebrating ten years of being run by a Trust – see Newsreel p28; photo taken May 2006



The Byron Hucknall (Notts). A new owner is planning to convert it into a four-screen cinema – see Newsreel p24; photo taken May 2008

FROM YOUR EDITOR

I owe all members and also Michael Armstrong and his colleagues at the **Regal** Wymondham a big apology. For the first two issues this year I erroneously printed last year's Regal programme in the 'Other Events' section of the Bulletin. I must have misfiled the current programme card and used the old one instead. I have done a suitable penance. The listing on p3 is correct!

Thank you all for continuing to send in items for publication. I have been able to use much of the backlog this time. On p32 I have printed some holiday snaps from Ned Williams. I have had these in stock since July 2017, just waiting for a suitable space. I say this simply to prove I throw nothing away deliberately – although, as noted above, I can sometimes do so by accident.

I still have held over a major article from Gavin McGrath on Cinemas in the Isle of Man, which I hope to include next time. I also have several small articles from David A Ellis and others, which I will include as space permits. As you probably know, the Bulletin has to be a multiple of four pages so if I have, say, 34 pages, I have to make the decision as to whether to cut something out to reduce it to 32 or find something to fill it out to 36. It is handy to have a stock of things for situations like this. Having said that, I always welcome more articles and holiday snaps.

I am still looking for a member to take over as Bulletin Editor. This year will be the 21st I have been doing it and it's time for retirement. If you think you would like the challenge, please speak to me at the AGM and I can tell you what is involved.

Finally, nothing to do with cinemas but a little [true] story that may amuse. Earlier this year I was coming home on the bus from town and two girls were sat behind me. One got something out of her bag.

"That's nice," said the other. "Where did you get it from?"

"The Pound Shop" was the reply.

"How much was it?"

Harry Rigby, CTA Bulletin Editor

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.

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE THURSDAY 20 JUNE

CINEMA THEATRE ASSOCIATION

(Founded January 1967)

promoting serious interest in all aspects of cinema buildings

Company limited by guarantee. Reg. No. 04428776.

Registered address: 59 Harrowdene Gardens, Teddington, TW11 0DJ.

Registered Charity No. 1100702. Directors are marked + in list below.

PATRONS: Allen Eyles; Carol Gibbons; Lucinda Lambton

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Full Membership (UK).....	£29
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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 state if you require items to be returned and enclose SAE, otherwise everything will be passed on to the CTA Archive.

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

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

Typeset in Franklin Gothic Book by Harry Rigby

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

VISITS AND EVENTS

CTA Annual General Meeting

Just a reminder that the CTA AGM will be held on **Saturday 1 June** at the **Castle Cinema Homerton [London]** at 12 noon, preceded by a visit to the **Odeon Leicester Square** at 9:30am. Full details were in the last Bulletin.

A hard copy of last year's AGM minutes is available in advance by sending an SAE (C5 size) to the Secretary, Adam Unger (address on p2). The minutes are also available in the members' area of the CTA website and additionally will be obtainable on the day. Last year's accounts are on p34.

Flicks in Fenland

Saturday 13 July – Over 18s only
Organised by Elain Harwood



The Majestic King's Lynn in July 2007

This full-day trip will start at 9:30am at the Majestic King's Lynn of 1928 by John Lewis Carnell and William Dymoke White. Apologies for the early start but films start at 10:30 and we must not miss this important and unusual listed cinema. The Majestic is in Tower Street in the town centre, a short walk from the railway station.

We will then depart by coach to visit the **Luxe Wisbech**, a 70-seat cinema opened in 2009 in a Women's Institute Hall, operated by the Picture-drome Electric Theatre Co; the **Regent Downham Market** by Cornell and White, now a market hall; and the **Ritz / Theatre Royal King's Lynn**, a cinema of 1937 completed by ABC after it took over the Union chain, on the site of an earlier theatre destroyed by fire. These visits are confirmed; I hope to fit in other cinema buildings in the area if possible.



The Empire Wisbech in May 2004

We will conclude at the fantastic **Empire Wisbech**, a gem of 1932 by FB Ward and CEA Woolnough and listed Grade II*, now on bingo, returning to King's Lynn for the 17:45 train. Do note that to fit around cinema and bingo openings we will be darting to-and-fro between the three towns to see as much as possible.

Please note that to enter the Ritz we must be members of the Ritz Bingo Club – I will have forms on the day but if anyone does go up the day before please join then – it will aid logistics.

Cost: £15 each, to include coach and notes. Numbers limited to 50.

To book a place on this visit, please send a cheque made out to the Cinema Theatre Association for £15 per person, with their names, to Elain Harwood, 2 Greenman Street, London, N1 8SB. Bookings will not be acknowledged unless you also include a stamped SAE or email address. Telephone number for enquiries: 07368 306581.

Coming Soon

A Cinematic Wander Around Coventry

Saturday 17 August; organised by Peter Lea and Richard Norman
A visit is being planned to explore the cinemas in and around Coventry. This will be an all-day event (timed to catch a train from London to Coventry) with a connecting coach to take us to the various locations. Further details and booking information will be announced in the next issue of the Bulletin. Make a note in your diary now!

Other Events of Interest [not organised by the CTA]

Details of these events are given in good faith but the editor or the CTA cannot be responsible for any inaccuracies; please check before travelling.

THE PLAZA STOCKPORT

Sunday 19 May	<i>Make Mine a Million</i> (1959) [U] 7pm
Friday 24 May	<i>Colette</i> (2018) [15] 11am
	<i>The Italian Job</i> (1969) [U] 7:30pm
Sunday 9 June	<i>The Godfather – Part 1</i> (1972) [15] 2pm
	<i>The Godfather – Part 2</i> (1974) [15] 6pm
Saturday 15 June	<i>The Matrix</i> and <i>The Animatrix</i> from 12:30pm
Thursday 20 June	Hammer Horror Double Bill 7pm
Friday 21 June	<i>The Aftermath</i> (2019) [15] 11am
	<i>Goldfinger</i> (1964) [PG] 7:30pm
Friday 5 July	<i>Can You Ever Forgive Me</i> (2018) [15] 11am
	<i>A Taste of Honey</i> (1961) [12] 7:30pm
Sunday 6 July	<i>Red Joan</i> (2019) [12A] 2:30pm
Saturday 13 July	<i>9 to 5</i> (1980) [15] 7:30pm

Behind the Scenes Tours at 11am on Mondays 20 May, 24 June & 29 July. £8. Book or simply turn up.

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

THE REGAL EXPERIENCE, WYMONDHAM

2 June	<i>Mamma Mia! – Here We Go Again</i> (2018) [PG] also <i>Abba, The Last Video</i>
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Shows on Sundays at 2:30pm at the Wymondham Ex-Service's Club (former Regal cinema) NR18 0AT [tinyurl.com/zddvkq4].

Further information from Michael Armstrong [01953 603246]

SIXTH RENOWN PICTURES FESTIVAL OF FILM

Sunday 6 October 11am – 7pm at the Plaza Stockport
With A Variety Of Celebrity Guests on Stage, Pathé Newsreels, B features and A features and of course the organist!

Tickets now on sale – £20

from 0808 178 8212 or [www.renownfilms.co.uk]

BRADFORD WIDESCREEN WEEKEND

This year's Widescreen Weekend at the National Science and Media Museum in Bradford will take place from 10-13 October – make a note in your diary. Program details will be available nearer the time.

Reprinted AGAIN due to popular demand..!

ABC – THE FIRST NAME IN ENTERTAINMENT by Allen Eyles

A reprint of the 1993 edition, with a new introduction by the author highlighting developments since the book was published, including the short-lived return of the ABC name. 164 pages, paperback, fully illustrated, £17.50 plus £3 postage.

Ordering details on p4.

PUBLICATIONS

Back Numbers Available

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.

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; Committee's Choice; Gaumont Managers; Carlton Swansea.
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; Jeremy Perkins on Brighton; The Clifton Circuit; Circuit Releases of 1960.
No 37	£8.50	Special 92-page issue; saving the Electric Palace Harwich.
No 38	£6.00	Northern Morris Associated Cinemas; 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 50 th Anniversary; Plaza Stockport; Majestic Leeds; Grosvenor Rayners Lane; Pascal J Stienlet.
No 42	£6.00	Odeon Elephant & Castle, Plaza Crosby; Depot Lewes; Cineworld Chelsea; Gaumont Sheffield Figures.
No 43	£6.00	Virgin Cinemas; Peter Jewett's ABC memories; Scala Kings Cross; Picture House Campbeltown; Beeston/Nottingham memories.

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. A list of their contents was printed on p4 of Bulletin 52/2 or can be obtained by SAE or email from the Sales Officer or Bulletin Editor.

BULLETINS

We can supply back numbers of most Bulletins from Volume 21 (1987) to date. Prices for issues from 1987 to 2017 are £4.00 per year (6 issues); individual issues are £1.00 each. Prices for issues in 2018 and 2019 are £4.00 per copy. All prices include postage. There are some issues available from earlier years, 1967 to 1986 – please send enquiries to the Sales Officer.



BINDERS FOR PICTURE HOUSE MAGAZINE

These binders are to a new, revised design, which should allow easier storage for the more recent thicker copies of the magazine. The 'Wirex' system allows copies to be inserted easily and removed if required. There are twelve wires per binder, although the number of copies that can be inserted may vary depending on the thickness of the issue. The binders can also be used for the thinner, earlier copies of the magazine. Featuring a red leather-look finish and the magazine title on the spine in the current format.



Price: £6.00 per binder, supplied in a special postal carton. Please add £3.00 to your total order for post and packing.

Recently Published (details in previous Bulletins)

Campbeltown Picture House – A Century of Cinema £10.00 plus postage.

The Wee Pictures: A History of The Picture House (Campbeltown) Ltd £4.99 plus postage.

Ordering

For books and other items please add £3.00 for post and packing for orders up to £30.00 in value; £6.00 for orders from £30.01 to £40.00 and £11.00 for orders above £40.01.

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)

A Night at The Pictures

A celebration of Manchester Cinema Buildings

Compiled by Terry Rourke. 116 pages, fully illustrated, landscape paperback. Available from Mr JT Rourke, 59 Ilkley Crescent, Reddish, Stockport, SK5 6HG.

Email [j.rourke2@ntlworld.com]

Available for a minimum donation of £10.00, plus £5 postage. PayPal payments possible.

All profits to the Christie Charitable Fund.

This is a collection of over 100 historic images of Manchester cinemas, mainly in the City centre and the adjacent districts. They are largely sourced from Manchester Central Library and some from CTA archive and most have not been published before. There are some fascinating images of grimy soot-covered buildings in foggy streets!



Cines de Cuba

Photographs by Carolina Sandretto; editorial coordination Paola Gribaud. Hardcover. 396 pages, 541 colour photographs. Price £60.00. ISBN: 978-88-572-3439-7. Available through Amazon.

A photographic and architectural journey through the Cinemas of Cuba. In 1953, Cuba had 694 cinemas and theatres. Havana alone had 134, more than either New York or Paris. In 2014, photographer Carolina Sandretto set out to find and photograph, with a 1950s medium-format Hasselblad camera, the remaining cinemas of the golden era.



Local East Anglian Books

[www.localeastanglianbooks.com] have two titles that may be of interest: *Let's Go to The Pictures* – Film, the beginning, how it worked and a bit more, with reference to cinemas in North East Essex, particularly Harwich and Dovercourt. £5.00 (sold in aid of Harwich **Electric Palace**) and *Southwold Electric Picture Palace* £5.50. Both written by David Cleveland. There are other titles about East Anglia film-making as well.

CAMPAIGNING TO SAVE YOUR HISTORIC CINEMAS

By Tim Hatcher

Planning Reform Submission to the Heritage Alliance

As a response to the consultation on National Planning Policy reform, the Association formulated and forwarded its objection to the extension of permitted development rights to cinema buildings, arguing for the genre's significance in both architectural and sociological terms.

Grade I Listed

The Conservation Officer responsible for the **Granada** in Tooting has indicated that the works recently executed thereon did not require listed building consent as they qualified as repairs. However, investigation is to be carried out on site to determine if replacement of damaged faience on the façade has been accomplished utilising appropriate materials.

Grade II* Listed

Planning consent for a hotel adjacent to the **Dreamland** complex in Margate has been granted, despite objection from the Association appertaining to its detrimental impact upon the vista of the frontage of the entertainment building.

Discussions are continuing concerning the previously reported funding request from the Trust administering the **Paignton Picture House**.

Grade II Listed

A meeting with representatives of the Crown Estate has revealed that the **Carlton** in London's Haymarket will close for two years whilst redevelopment work is undertaken around it. The office block that replaced the theatre's stage-house will remain alongside the recently-listed entertainment venue. The extensive illuminated advertising panel will be removed from the exterior in order to reveal its original well-balanced architectural attributes; a commitment has also been made to replace the canopy, a feature that promotes proclamation of the building's function. The requirement to comply with the Disability Discrimination Act by providing elevator access is proving practicably and aesthetically problematic. See Newsreel p26.

It is reported that the **Ritz** in Nuneaton has been purchased by a charitable organisation. No details of its intentions for the venue are known currently. See Newsreel p26

Unlisted



The Ritz Aldershot in April 2006 with the Empire in the background

A rumour has circulated that the **Ritz** and the **Empire** in Aldershot are both to be demolished. The former is in use as a bingo establishment within the stalls area, with the residuum of space disused, purportedly due to the presence of asbestos. The latter structure is currently in use as a Gurkha community centre, although permission for demolition has been granted; it was refused listed status in 2005.

Councillors of the Borough of Ashford have voted in a majority of thirty-four to seven to demolish the auditorium of the **Odeon** and redevelop the site as a retail complex.

A submission was forwarded to Bradford City Council maintaining that the interior of the **New Victoria** should be restored to its original Italian Renaissance internal appearance as designed by William Illingworth and not merely renovated as a poor pastiche of an alleged typical cinema interior. Reprehensibly the latter approach was approved by councillors. Attempts will be made to maintain a dialogue with the parties involved in an attempt to ameliorate the negative impact of this concept. See Newsreel p21.



The Brontë Haworth in October 2003

The Association has proposed that the Neighbourhood Plan relating to the area in which the **Brontë** at Haworth is situated recognises the cinema as a Non-designated Heritage Asset. Following local consultation, the Plan will be submitted to the City of Bradford Council for further statutory consultation and independent examination. If approved, it will become subject to a local referendum, a favourable outcome to which will result in its integration into the Statutory Development Plan for Bradford.

The **Byron** at Hucknall has been purchased by an Irish development company, which has commenced building work on site. The interior of the cinema regrettably was largely mutilated during its conversion for bingo within the lower auditorium volume. See Newsreel p24.

Pre-application discussions are proceeding concerning demolition of the main body of the **Dominion** in Harrow, with intended replacement by a supermarket and residential accommodation. Frank Bromige's magnificent, currently hidden, façade would be restored and integrated into the new scheme, although how fully or effectively remains moot. However, much interior detailing also remains, especially within the circle area. The CTA is thus advancing strong objection to this proposal and is arguing strenuously for retention of the entire structure. See Newsreel p25.

A site meeting has taken place at the location of the **Kensington Kinema** to discuss further possible salvage operations. Various artefacts have already been removed to storage prior to intended relocation in the redeveloped premises.

It is reported that the reproductions of Raymond Briton Riviere's 'Flying Ladies' have been returned to the splay walls of the **Odeon** in Leicester Square. They were initially missing following the frantic final rush to reopen the cinema at the end of 2018.

Slough Borough Council has acquired the **Adelphi** for conversion to a performing arts centre. If sensitively realised, that could prove to be positive news for this testament to the prowess of architect E Norman Bailey. However, a close watching brief must be maintained because, as previously reported, this cinema was recently lamentably refused listed status, despite its imposing façade and the almost unaltered decorative scheme within, including that featured in the distinguished ballroom, a rare survivor. See Newsreel p27.

Objections to both an original and a revised submission for extension of the **Wetherby Cinema** have been submitted. See Newsreel p29.

NEW SCREENS FOR OLD

By Mike Wood

A South London Cinema Resurrection: A report of the CTA Visit on Wednesday 13 February.

The clue is in the name; every one of the four venues on this visit has been revived in one way or another, with two now on full-time film and two in other uses but still recognisable for their original purpose.

The idea for a CTA visit came about when Kevin Gooding, who lives in the leafier parts south of South London, decided to pop in to the Everyman at Crystal Palace on its opening for business in November 2018. He was so impressed by the quality of the conversion and the enthusiasm of the staff, that in the ensuing conversation manager Joe Kelly agreed to a visit by us.



The façade of the Everyman Crystal Palace [MW]

We have been following the tortuous progress in recent years of what had started out as the 1,398-seat Rialto (1928 AC Mathews) becoming Granada after alterations by George Coles. Following a period with Gala Bingo, when the CTA had last visited, a church bought it. There had been earlier rumours of it reopening as a cinema and the active local Picture Palace Campaign group, supported in our Casework, opposed church use in favour of it becoming a cinema once again. Eventually, having failed to get change of use planning permission, the church sold it on to Everyman.



Screen ② at the Everyman Crystal Palace (original front stalls) [KG]

A quick glance at the nicely illustrated visit notes showed the new exterior paint scheme has stylistic hints of the original Rialto. The conversion carried out by Fusion Design and Architecture has resulted in a 75-seat screen in the original Circle, two small screens of 50 and 40 seats under the balcony and Screen ② with 148 seats in the original Stalls space forward of the Circle front, with digital projection by NEC for the two smaller screens and Sony in the larger ones. Screen ② retains the original proscenium and grilles each side, framed by pilasters and balcony front mouldings all picked out in gold. Each screen features the single and double sofa seats that are a hallmark of the new Everyman openings; and there are a few more of those coming soon.



The control room at the Everyman [KG]



Screen ④ at the Everyman (original circle) [KG]



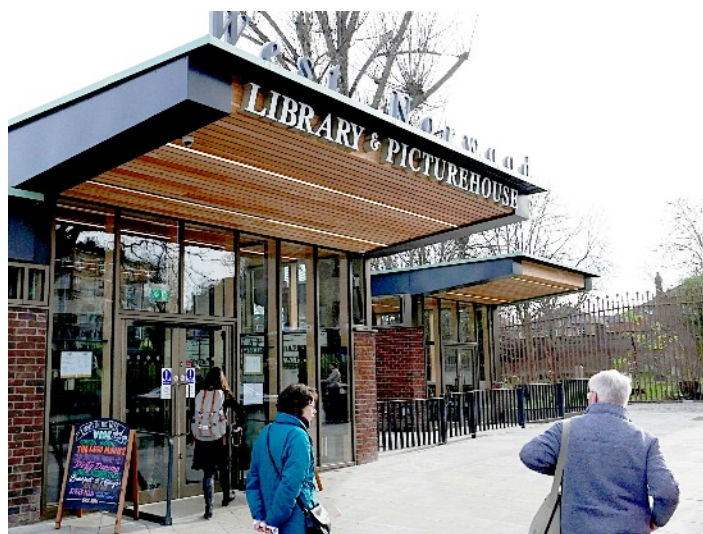
The main foyer at the Everyman [MW]



The former Century Crystal Palace [MW]

The circulation spaces have also had the Everyman/Fusion treatment with plenty of comfortable spaces for eating and drinking, where a welcome coffee and biscuits was laid on for us. Joe was on hand to give us an introduction and answer our questions.

After a sideways glance at the graffitied exterior and now derelict Albany/Century (1930 AC Mathews / Charles Edmund Wilford / George Coles) nearby, it was all aboard the 432 London bus bound for West Norwood Library. The top deck became the CTA tour bus complete with commentary from a young South London lad bearing a striking resemblance to celebrity cinema commissioner Maurice Hardcastle.



The exterior of the West Norwood Picture House [MW]

Philanthropist Frederick Nettlefold with Sir Henry Tate originally gifted the West Norwood Free Public Library to Lambeth. Now it is an award-winning 1969 rebuild, subsequently re-worked as a joint partnership between Picturehouse Cinemas and Lambeth Borough Council, becoming the West Norwood Library & Picturehouse, a four-screen cinema and reborn library/community space with bar and café, itself contributing to an award of Architect of the Year. The Picturehouse (2018 Panter/Hudspith) with its four screens opened just one week before the Everyman up on the hill.



The main screen at the West Norwood Picture House [KG]

Will, the duty manager on the day, kindly took us to all the screens, seating 78, 129, 132 and 223, all comfortably accommodated and well-raked for good views of big curved screens. The programme hadn't started but the library and café was very busy with families contributing to a nice friendly atmosphere.

We reassembled outside for our red TFL tour bus (this time displaying number 196) bound for South Norwood and the Stanley Halls. This group of public halls was designed, built and paid for by William Stanley over the period 1903-1909 and apparently said by him to be "if not the most beautiful in the world; it was, at least, one of the most substantially built". Pevsner later described it as "one of the most eccentric efforts anywhere at a do-it-yourself free-style" and its eye-catching exterior is certainly that; of mostly brick but with each stone riser capped with green terracotta, topped by possibly once gilded metal finials, said to be tulips, so perhaps a nod to arts & crafts. It is Listed Grade II.



The exterior of the Stanley Halls [MW]



The main hall at the Stanley Halls [KG]

Inside, the main hall has a shallow balcony, timber roof trusses and a stage framed by a proscenium. It is used for all kinds of events, including film, the smaller halls for just about everything else. When Croydon's Fairfield Halls was open, rehearsals were often booked here and, during the Fairfield Hall's lengthy closure, the Stanley has helped fill the gap for smaller events. Our friendly and knowledgeable host was David, who showed us around.

The Stanley Halls café was open but we were scheduled to take the two stops on the Overground to Forest Hill and the Capitol/ABC (1929 John Stanley Beard, Listed Grade II) now a Wetherspoon pub. This was built for silent films but quickly retrofitted for sound and it had stage facilities. Film continued until 1973 and it was then left unused until Mecca Bingo came in 1978. Bingo finished in 1996 followed by five years empty until 'Spoons carried out a fairly non-invasive conversion for pub use. It subsequently closed and was put up for sale in 2014. It remained unsold and Wetherspoon re-opened it in 2017 but its long-term future is unclear.



The Capitol Forest Hill in 2006 [MW]

Here was a fitting end in familiar surroundings for a great morning's visit, with a clutch of significant venues, each very different but all new for old in one way or another. Our thanks go to our friendly hosts and their staff and to Kevin Gooding, who put the visit together and who remained unflappable and in good humour throughout.

Photos by [MW] the author and [KG] Kevin Gooding.

Links for more: Celluloidjunkie: [tinyurl.com/y38m2kvr]; Fusion Design and Architecture: [www.fusiondna.co.uk/everyman] [Panter Hudspith Architects: [tinyurl.com/yymbfvkd] [British Listed Buildings: [tinyurl.com/yyfj3r4c]

CTA WESSEX

By Ian Meyrick

A report of the CTA Wessex launch and the Pavilion Bournemouth's 90th Birthday on 18-19 March

It is not often that you can attend a birth and celebrate a 90th birthday at the same time but that was what was on offer in Bournemouth. The birth was the launch of CTA Wessex by David Eve and Gary Trinder with a vintage film and slide show and supper at the Marsham Court Hotel, a pleasant get-together of over 30 members. Former managers, projectionists and cinema enthusiasts were able to chat over a relaxed evening; it was good that CTA members from further afield were also able to be there at the launch.



Cinema Dog: Amber in the projection room of the Regent Christchurch

The next morning a number of us met up at the Regent in Christchurch, where newsreels and memorably awful Kia-Ora adverts were shown in 35mm. Visitors to the projection room, with its small museum of historic equipment and Bournemouth area cinema memorabilia were welcomed by Amber, the cinema dog.

In the evening was the highlight – a show celebrating 90 years of the Bournemouth Pavilion Theatre. Devised and presented by CTA member Christian Knighton, Technical Co-Ordinator of BHLive Trust, the evening opened with an excellent selection by Donald Mackenzie at the Compton organ, including accompanying some silent films. Music from the 30s was then provided by a re-creation of the Pavilion Municipal Orchestra, a 14-piece ensemble rising from the pit on the original orchestra lift to great applause. (The original Bournemouth Municipal Orchestra developed into the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra, now based at Poole.) Following the interval, we enjoyed a showing of *42nd Street* (1933) and Donald brought the evening to a rousing close with the National Anthem and a play-out selection.

The Pavilion opened on 19 March 1929 in a prime position close to the pier and was designed in a restrained art deco style. With a large concert hall with organ (now the theatre), restaurants and reading rooms, it was a major attraction from the start. Live shows rather than films have been offered throughout its life. Memorabilia mounted by the CTA was on display.



A view of the display mounted by the CTA



The orchestra on the lift at the Pavilion Bournemouth



Donald Mackenzie plays the organ for the 90th birthday

It is difficult to imagine now that Bournemouth Council should have considered variously closing the theatre (1956), replacing it with a conference centre (1974-78), converting to a shopping arcade (1980), a children's Fun Palace (1982) and shopping mall (again!) In 1988. Thankfully, in 1998 it was given Grade II listing by English Heritage. It is now run by a Charitable Trust, BHLive. Equally difficult to realise is that it is now the only entertainment venue in Westover Road, which has lost the ABC/Westover, Regent/Gaumont/Odeon, Ice Skating Rink and entrance to the former Palace Court Theatre, now a church and entered from the road behind. This once vibrant and elegant road, the jewel of the centre of Bournemouth for visitors, now boasts many boarded-up buildings and garish shops, a sad sight to those of us who remember its glory days.

Our grateful thanks to David, Gary, Christian and the Regent team for arranging such an enjoyable couple of days. Long live CTA Wessex.



The auditorium at the Regent Christchurch



David Eve, Philip Stevens and Barry Sinclair



Chris Jarvis of National Pantomime and C-Beebies TV fame, was interested in the CTA display and what the Association did. He is in the centre of the picture with CTA members. (Just a head and shoulders at the back)

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MISCELLANY

BLUE PLAQUE

Film-maker and gay rights activist Derek Jarman has been commemorated with a blue plaque at the studio where he lived in Butler's Wharf, London. Derek died 25 years ago, aged 52.

Metro – 19 February; sent in by Barry Quinton

CINEMA GIG

The final UK date of Take That's tour, at the Principality Stadium Cardiff on 8 June, will be broadcast live to more than 600 cinemas in the UK and Ireland.

Daily Record – 12 March; sent in by Tom Laughlan

SCREEN SCOTLAND

A £1.6m fund to improve community cinemas in Scotland has been launched by Screen Scotland. Community venues can apply for awards of up to £25,000 to install or upgrade digital cinema equipment and also for gear such as induction loops and audio description equipment. Cinemas running DCI compliant equipment can bid for as much as £100,000.

Sunday Post – 10 March

CINEWORLD WITHDRAWS SUPPORT FROM BAFTA

Cineworld has withdrawn its support for BAFTA, citing concerns over eligibility requirements following *ROMA*'s success at this year's film awards. BAFTA members will no longer be able to use their cards to watch films at Cineworld sites. *ROMA* was a Netflix film – see p28 last Bulletin.

Screen Daily – 1 March

UGLY DUCKLING CINEMA

A financier has won £500,000 in damages from the architect he commissioned to build a home cinema in his £7m mansion. Instead of "an architectural jewel" the client was left with a glass box with an "industrial feel" and two steel columns that were not part of the original design.

Evening Standard – 28 February; sent in by Tom Laughlan

FACEBOOK TICKETS

People are now able to buy cinema tickets on Facebook for screenings at Odeon, Vue and Cineworld. The feature was introduced in the USA last year using cinemas from AMC. The number of cinema-goers rose by 3% last year.

The i – 9 February; sent in by John R Forster

... AND ACTION

Steven Spielberg has been granted permission to film scenes for a new war movie in Glasgow. Filming will take place at the Govan Graving Dock for four days in early June. Glasgow was used last year for scenes of the latest *Fast and Furious* spin-off, *Hobbs and Shaw*. Glasgow Film Office said the film had brought £19.1m to the local economy.

Daily Record – 21 March; sent in by Tom Laughlan

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

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Jeremy Buck, CTA Sales Officer

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EAST IS BEST – PART 2

By Emma Beeston

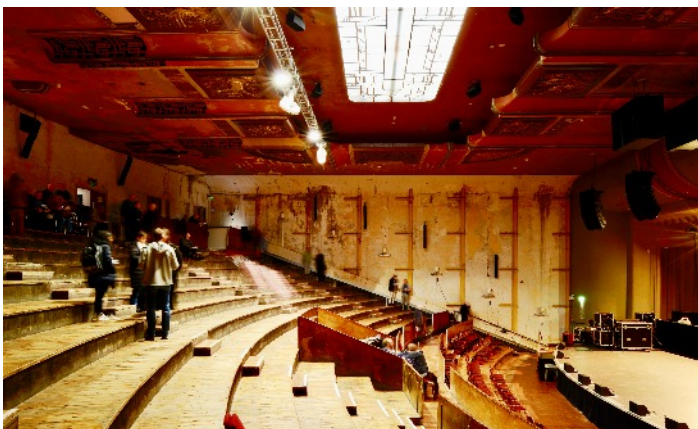
A report of the CTA visit on Wednesday 20 March, organised by Ken Roe with notes by Ray Ritmeester.

The announcement of the restoration of the Savoy Stoke Newington as an arts venue was an unexpected piece of good news in 2017. The new venue, Evolutionary Arts Hackney, Earth for short, duly opened in September 2018, although work is still on-going. It was equally exciting to meet so many members of the CTA on a grey Wednesday morning when I'd normally be at work, all keen to see what is happening at the Savoy.



The interior of the Savoy Stoke Newington [EB]

The Savoy was built for ABC by WR Glen, the company's in-house architect. Though he was a prolific architect, relatively few of his cinemas survive, with just three complete examples listed, in Halifax, Northampton and Camberwell, along with the frontage block at Streatham. Allen Eyles' book on ABC, *the First Name in Entertainment* (p37) shows the building when it was an undivided cinema, with a roll of ribbed plasterwork pinned above the circle front and a deep ante-proscenium. Glen loved ribs but here there was also a long laylight above the circle with more figurative plaster decoration. The ribs down the façade, by comparison, were subdued. The Savoy opened on 26 October 1936 with Gary Cooper in *Mr Deeds Goes to Town* and Madeleine Carroll in *The Case against Mrs Ames*, seating 1,800 patrons. It was renamed the ABC in 1961 and in March 1977 became a Bollywood cinema, the Konak. It resumed regular release screenings in March 1982, as the Ace but closed finally with Al Pacino in *Scarface* on 16 February 1984.



The rear circle at the Savoy Stoke Newington [EB]

The stalls area was eventually converted into a social club, Epic, with a false ceiling extending forward across the stalls. Efes Snooker Club opened in the balcony foyer using an emergency stair but the main balcony was left to deteriorate and the foyer was converted into two shops by removing the main staircase. Yet Auro Foxcroft, founder and director of Village Underground, a trendy music venue in Shoreditch, saw potential when he first stepped inside the upper circle in 2017.

He raised £1.9 million, including £31,000 by crowdfunding and acquired all three spaces. Check his enthusiastic tour on-line at [tinyurl.com/ywtlwvla]. Efes has been converted to a café/restaurant and the circle area reopened in September 2018 with a jazz performance by Mulatu Astatke and Fatoumata Diawara. Films returned briefly in December 2018.

The aim is to leave the upper space in its distressed state. The ceiling and circle side walls survive, together with the upper part of the proscenium. A stage has been simply constructed on the old false floor, so you cannot easily see where the proscenium decoration ends and the curve of the old circle makes for excellent sightlines. The low stalls area is currently being used for music, a difficulty being that sound travels between the two units so that events cannot be held at the same time.



The CTA group in the auditorium of the Close-Up [HR]

Members then filled a No68 bus down Kingsland Road to the corner of Bethnal Green Road, where there are three cinemas in close proximity. All three survive on a mix of public screenings and private hire and they are an exciting contribution to a buzzing neighbourhood.



The exterior of the Close-Up Shoreditch [HR]

Close-Up was established in 2005 to promote films and their history through a cinema, DVD library and its on-line magazine, *Vertigo*. In 2014 it moved to new premises, adapting the ground floor and basement of two Georgian houses in Sclater Street as a smart café, with space for reference and rental collections of videos. A rear extension was converted into a forty-seat cinema, equipped with two 35mm projectors and a 16mm projector as well as digital. The box is almost as large as the auditorium, into which our large party barely squeezed, although our host confessed that there was more interest in the films than how they were projected.

Round a couple of corners is the Electric Cinema, which opened on 20 May 2010 as the Aubin Cinema, based in the former Aubin & Wills store, a post-war office building. The ground floor is a lively café, from which a staircase descends to a luxurious fifty-seat cinema with leather armchairs, sofas and tables. It is run by the Soho House Group, which now also owns the Electric Cinema in Notting Hill. The upper part of the building is now called Barber & Parlour, a preening paradise that opened in 2014.



The exterior of the Electric Shoreditch [HR]



The luxurious auditorium at the Electric Shoreditch [EB]

Another coffee later – when has a tour included so many delicious coffee houses? – it was back round the corner to the Rich Mix, which opened on 28 April 2006 in a community arts and media centre created in a former garment factory. The conversion work for the charity was by the distinguished architects Penoyre & Prasad. The three cinemas show a mix of main release and art house films, including an Asian film festival. They are tucked onto the second, third and fourth floors, respectively seating 181 (equipped with digital and 35mm projection), 132 and 59 seats (both with digital projection). The decoration reflects the local community, with Asian-style panels, each one subtly different, in reds and blues depending on the auditorium.



Screen ① at the Rich Mix [EB]

Finally it was round to a couple of former cinemas, a reminder that Shoreditch was once far less trendy and upmarket. The Luxor Cinema was built on the site of St Stephen's church on the corner of Commercial and Quaker streets, opposite the now demolished Bishopsgate railway station. It opened on 2 January 1933 and was operated as part of the East End's small George Smart circuit. It closed on the opening of the Second World War and never reopened. For years there was an auto-repair shop in the stripped-out auditorium, behind a shop in the foyer. The building was converted into flats in 2003 but the white Portland stone façade survives.

Off Brick Lane, in Osborne Place, now Chicksand Street, was the Palace, built in 1913 by Adams & Coles. By 1935 the name might have become a misnomer, for it was replaced by the Mayfair Cinema, later the Odeon Stepney. The new Mayfair, by Leslie H Kemp and FE Tasker, opened on 29 January 1936 with Kay Johnson in *Jaina* and William Powell in *Escapade*. The flat façade was faced with white faience and had the name **MAYFAIR** across the top, over a black tiled panel that had the week's attractions in moveable letters.



The Mayfair/Odeon Brick Lane [HR]

The Mayfair was taken over by Eastern Cinemas in 1937 and then General Cinemas Financing, which merged with Odeon Theatres Ltd in 1943. It closed in July 1967 with *Those Magnificent Men in their Flying Machines* but immediately became the Naz Cinema screening Bollywood films. It was later used as a store and car park but was demolished in the late 1990s, save for part of the façade, replaced by a block of flats called Odeon Court. The frontage has been painted black but the **MAYFAIR** name has recently been revealed.

As an extra treat, Ken showed us a couple of early shop-front cinemas in Shoreditch, which went by the name Cinema. Both opened in 1909 with 200-seats and closed in 1910, unable to conform to the Cinematograph Act of 1910. They both survive in retail use.

My thanks to Ken Roe for a real treat of a day and to Ray Ritmeester for his excellent notes.

Photos by [EB] the author, [HR] Harry Rigby



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KINGSWAY SUPER CINEMA LEVENSHULME

By Hector Hill



The Kingsway Super Cinemas in the early 1930s

When the first cinemas wired for talkies, the sound was not always good. Such was the case at the Kingsway Super Cinema in Levenshulme, south Manchester, where ingenuity was needed to woo patrons back to the 1,809 seats. A fully-equipped ciné-variety venue, it opened to the public on Friday 15 March 1929 with *Glorious Betsy* starring Dolores Costello and *Red Hair* starring Clara Bow. 'Shareholders and friends' had had a private show on Thursday. The exhibitors made great play about providing musicians and a Jardine organ rather than 'canned' music to accompany the silent films.

BTH REPRODUCER
(FULLY INSURED BY PATENTS)

The British Thomson-Houston Company, Limited, have completed preparations for the manufacture, installation and servicing of this equipment for sound-on-film and sound-on-disc reproduction; constructed to a capacity of 2,000 seats at a price, ex works, of

£1,250

Deferred payments spread over two years by arrangement. Demonstrations will shortly take place at all principal centres.

These are the BTH Reproducing resources behind this Reproducing service is available in the following towns:

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CONVENTRY
EDINBURGH
GLASGOW
LEEDS

LIVERPOOL
MANCHESTER
MIDDLERBROUGH
NEWCASTLE
NOTTINGHAM
NORWICH
SHEFFIELD
SWANSEA

F. A. ENDERS, 22, SOHO SQUARE, LONDON, W.1

In mid-April 1930 the Kingsway installed British Thomson-Houston sound equipment but ciné-variety continued. BTH's advert in *The Bioscope* of 9 April 1930 listed the cinema amongst the first one-hundred-and-one adopters of their sound equipment. Geographically, installations ranged from Brighton's Duke of York's Theatre to Kendal's Kinema, Redruth's Picturedrome to Consett's New Town Hall and Aberystwyth's Palladium to Grantham's Picture House. Though mostly provincial, the venues included Golders Green's Ionic and Edmonton's Alcazar. Thirty-three weeks later, in *The Bioscope* of 26 November, BTH boasted three-hundred installations, reaching into Scotland and

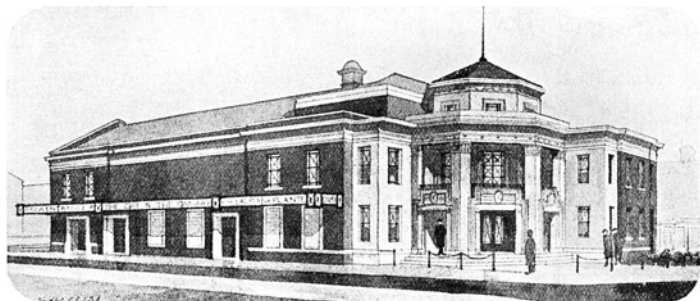
Northern Ireland: including Edinburgh's Palace, Glasgow's Grafton Picture House, Dundee's Britannia Theatre, Belfast's Alhambra and Lurgan's Lyric. The cost was not insignificant. On 6 November 1929 in *The Bioscope*, BTH quoted £1,250* ex works for their 'Reproducer' of sound-on-disc and sound-on-film suitable for halls seating up to 2,000. Presumably transport, installation and an acoustically-transparent screen were extra. The concessionaires were Film Booking Offices Ltd of 22 Soho Square. To finance the purchase, it was not a leasing arrangement, exhibitors could spread payments over a maximum of two years. By contrast, Picturetone Ltd of 11D Regent Street supplied and installed dual-system sound equipment, plus the necessary replacement screen, in halls of up to 800 for a coincidental £800; including a Phillips amplifier, a Truvox exponential horn loud-speaker and BTH gramophone pickups.

(* Estimating today's price equivalents is fraught. Based on inflation data, £1,250 in 1929 is around £78k today. It was thrice the average house price at the time.)

Apparently all did not go well at the Kingsway, because on 18 November 1931 *The Bioscope* reported how BTH and the exhibitor planned to persuade patrons back to the cinema and to reassure them that their ears would no longer be distressed. There was a Buy-One-Get-One-Free offer of a discriminatory nature that exhibitors could not deploy today. For the first three days of the week there was free admission for each 'lady' accompanied by a ticket-purchasing 'gentleman'. To demonstrate the sonic improvement, the film soundtrack was played for the first few minutes through the original baffle-loud-speakers, relegated to the side of the 42 ft wide stage and then switched to the improved BTH horn-loudspeaker system playing from behind the screen.

In the photograph, taken from the road that gave the cinema its name, the Kingsway is showing *Devil and the Deep* starring Tallulah Bankhead, Gary Cooper, Cary Grant and Charles Laughton. London's Carlton held the UK première on 29 August 1932, which likely dates the photograph to late-1932 or early-1933 (given the bare tree on the left) – a year or so after the BOGOF promotion. The advertised programme includes the ciné-variety stage act *The 4 Vardels*, who were billed at Eastbourne's Luxor in 1936 as 'novel acrobatic entertainers'. (The National Archive mistakenly catalogues *The 4 Vardels* as the supporting film at the Kingsway.) Ciné-variety must have been

good box office, as *The Bioscope* of 17 December 1930 reported plans to extend the stage depth 'from 15 ft to 33 ft by taking in part of the car park'. This got into the *Kinematograph Year Book 1931* as 36 ft but subsequent editions reported '16 ft'. In May 1931, Fred Read, chairman of Kingsway Super Cinema Ltd, complained about feature film renters charging as much as 50% of the total takings and effectively benefiting from the locally-arranged variety acts, which attracted audiences to a specific cinema. In January 1930, Kingsway Super Cinema Ltd was fined £2 for permitting 'persons' to sit on the balcony steps and on moveable chairs in the gangways during the first-house on New Year's Day. Archived newspapers reveal it was a not-uncommon piece of trade malpractice.



The architect's (John Knight) drawing of the exterior of the new Kingsway Cinema, West Point, Manchester

John Knight was the architect of the Kingsway. His perspective drawing shows the queuing canopy extended along the Moseley Road façade to the 'Area Entrance' at the stage end. Patrons of the dearer seats used the recessed-corner main-entrance in a merged octagonal tower, a design which Knight used at the West End in nearby Whalley Range, (opened December 1930; 2,032 seats). His Moss Side Claremont (opened February 1923; 1,699 seats), Cheetham Hill Premier (January 1929; 1,887) and Pendleton Ambassador (December 1929; 1,812), were statements in classical style.



John Knight, F.R.I.B.A.



Trade personalities on the board of the new Kingsway, Manchester: A. Snape, F. Read and A. L. Ward

The Kingsway was managed as part of the enterprising Read, Snape & Ward circuit of eight Manchester-area cinemas, whose St Ann Street offices were the registered office of Kingsway Super Cinema Ltd. After Fred Read's death on 14 September 1933, aged 56, the company became Snape & Ward. They added several Lancashire and Cheshire cinemas; and KYB 1957 even listed Bournemouth's Grand as one of the twenty-one 'Snape Cinema Circuit' halls. However, in July 1935 Union Cinemas Ltd acquired control of Kingsway Super Cinema Ltd and ownership of the cinema. Associated British Cinemas Ltd acquired control of Union as a subsidiary company in October 1937. Thereafter, ABC managed the Kingsway. It had BTH sound until fire damage forced its closure in June 1957, by when seating had reduced to 1,585. A 1970s office building Apex House (original address 45 Kingsway, reassigned as 266 Moseley Road) occupies the site.



CINEMA BUSINESS

SIR IAN RAISED £2M FOR THEATRES

The Sir Ian McKellan stage tour – 80 performances around the country to celebrate his 80th birthday – is taking expenses but has foregone his usual fees, meaning that more than £2m will stay with the venues the actor visits. There are a handful of theatres in London, such as the Donmar, the Duke of York's (where Sir Ian made his London debut) but the majority of venues are in the regions, in Bath, Bristol, Windsor, Nottingham, Sheffield, Jersey, Aberdeen and the tiny Orkney Arts Theatre.

Daily Mail – 13 March; sent in by Tom Laughlan

EVERYMAN

Revenue at Everyman grew 27% to £52m last year. Earnings before tax rose 38% to £9.2m and shares were up 9p at 190p. Admissions rose 25% to 2.8m in 2018, meaning it became the UK's fifth biggest chain. The firm opened five venues across the UK in 2018 and another 14 are planned.

Evening Standard – 13 March; *City AM* – 14 March; sent in by Tom Laughlan & Barry Quinton

CINEWORLD

Cineworld reported growth in profit before tax of 125% to \$349m (£262.9m) last year, up from \$155.1m (£117.2m) the year before. Shares jumped 3.8% or 11p to 300p. UK admissions dropped 2.6% last year. The company spent £2.6bn to buy US chain Regal Entertainment.

The i – 17 January; *Evening Standard*, *City AM*, *Daily Mail*, *The Times* – 15 March; sent in by Margaret Burgoine, John R Forster, Tom Laughlan, Barry Quinton & R David Simpson

THEATRE FRAUD

A trusted assistant manager at Liverpool's Epstein Theatre was jailed for 28 months after stealing more than £273,000 from the accounts. Administrators had to be called in as the fraud put the venue at serious risk of closure.

The Stage – 21 March; *Metro* – 11 April; sent in by Tom Laughlan & Barry Quinton

LOS ANGELES (USA)

Netflix is reportedly in talks to buy the Egyptian Theatre on Hollywood Boulevard. It was built by Sid Grauman and opened in 1922 with 1,771 seats at a cost of [then] \$800,000. The first ever Hollywood Première was held here in October 1922 – *Robin Hood*. [35]

Variety (USA) – 9 April; sent in by Terry Hanstock; *Daily Telegraph* – 11 April; sent in by Carl Chesworth

AT THIS RATE...



The Royal Opera House Covent Garden in August 2018

Scores of London venues saw their business rates rise from April. The Royal Opera House will have to pay £1.3 million, up from £897,500 while the Royal Albert Hall's bill rose from £934,000 to £954,000.

Evening Standard – 26 March; sent in by Tom Laughlan

SALE OF THE 21ST CENTURY

Disney has completed its £54bn purchase of 21st Century Fox as it prepares to take on Netflix. The takeover was secured after a lengthy bidding war with rival Comcast. The deal cuts the number of major Hollywood studios from six to five.

Evening Standard, *Daily Mail*, *City AM* – 21 March; sent in by Tom Laughlan & Barry Quinton

KENT CINEMAS

By Wilf Watters



The frontage of the Carlton Westgate-on-Sea

This time I am looking at cinemas that started off as something else. At Westgate-on-Sea in Kent we find the unique Carlton. This started life as the local Town Hall and looks very much like a Swiss Hotel. Down the side are the original windows from the Town Hall days. For a short while it used back-projection; however this didn't work out and a projection box was built out of the back of the building.



The original Town Hall windows in the side of the Carlton



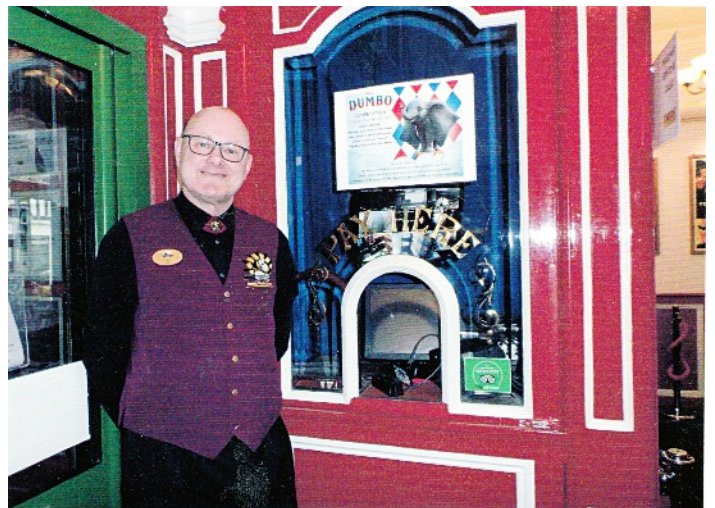
The built-out projection box at the Carlton



The projection box and the sweet counter at the Carlton ‡



The main screen at the Carlton



Manager Paul by the restored pay-box at the Carlton

When these scenes were filmed it was in film days and the three screens needed two projection boxes, one of which was in the basement and film had to find its way up through the ceiling. It seems to be quite popular as the admission prices tell – £3.50 and £4.50 for the seats in the 'Lounge' – the seats at the rear. The manager proudly shows the original pay box nicely restored.

Next we move to Broadstairs in Kent. This odd-looking cinema was built as a museum but has shown films since 1965. It is very cramped and when you enter-you are in the Balcony, the stalls are downstairs! The film projector was up a ladder in the foyer! So I presume that, now on Digital, it is all remotely operated in the foyer.



In the days of film at the Silver Screen Dover ‡

Lastly we visit Dover. Hidden away down the side of the town's museum is the Silver Screen. It is a new-ish building behind a preserved historical front and it has been operated by 'Sandy' Wallace, who also runs the Folkestone cinema of the same name. Again a visit in film days sees a young volunteer handling the huge spools in use then. The days of splicing film have long gone but he demonstrated the technique to me. The cinema is still a going concern, despite a new six-screen multiplex recently opened nearby, Sandy tells me the Silver Screen is still very popular and they have had to increase the pensioners' screenings to twice a week. It must be rare for such a cinema to offer free drinks at these shows but it does happen. They show new releases and it's a pity that it is hidden away down the side of the town's museum.

‡ Small Pictures are frames from video



The Palace Broadstairs



'Sandy' Wallace at the Silver Screen Dover

THE CAPITOL CINEMA BELFAST

By David A Ellis



THE CAPITOL CINEMA WHICH WILL BE OPENED THIS EVENING WITH A PERFORMANCE IN AID OF THE NEWSBOYS' CLUB.

The Capitol cinema, which was on the Antrim Road at the corner of Alexandra Park Avenue in Belfast was the third of the new Michael Curran picture theatres to be erected in the City to the plans of architect Thomas McLean. It was opened by a Lady Turner, who congratulated the owners on the splendid building. The opening attraction on Saturday 9 November 1935 was the Wheeler and Woolsey comedy *The Nitwits*. The second feature was *By Your Leave*. Prior to the opening ceremony, a half hour's musical programme was provided by a Mr F Mohan and his orchestra. Proceeds from the opening performance were donated to Belfast Newsboys' Club.

Refreshments were available from the first floor cafe, which had wide windows overlooking the Antrim Road. The exterior was finished in a cream colour. Over the entrance there was a canopy in gold and red and the same colours were used for the entrance doors and display cases, both picked out in stainless steel. Grilles were in pale green and silver. The cinema was carpeted throughout and the press said that the tip-up arm chairs seats were extremely comfortable.

The main entrance doors were on the corner. The porch had double swing doors, which prevented draughts getting into the foyer. The local press said the foyer was of ample size and had a handsome box office. Off it were cloakrooms for both sexes and a central door gave access to the auditorium.

CAPITOL CINEMA
ANTRIM ROAD
Belfast's Latest & Most Luxurious Cinema
NOW OPEN
WHEELER & WOOLSEY
— in —
"THE NITWITS"
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— in —
"BY YOUR LEAVE"
And Full Supporting Programme.
Continuous Performance from 1-30 p.m.
BALCONY 1/6 : : : STALLS 1/6



PLATFORM PARTY AT THE OPENING OF THE CAPITOL CINEMA.—Front (left to right)—Mr. D. D. Young, Chairman; Mrs. Skillen, Miss Ann Curran, Lady Turner, who declared the Cinema open; and Mr. James Curran. At the rear—Major Haxell, Mr. L. E. G. Loughton, Mr. John Curran, Mr. G. Curran, and Mr. McGee.

<p>CAMPBELL BROTHERS — GLASS FACTORS AND GLAZING CONTRACTORS — All the Plain and Decorative Glass for this Cinema was supplied and fixed by us. The Wrought Steel Verandahs were also entrusted to us. Estimates and Designs submitted for all descriptions of Decorative Glass. Telephone: 3344 & 3345. 37-79, MILLFIELD. Telegram: "GLAZING"</p>	<p>CAPITOL CINEMA The Super-Wilton Carpet, Cafe Furniture and other Furnishings WERE SUPPLIED BY THE CO-OP. TRADING CO. House Furnishings & Theatre Contractors. Address: 58-60, HIGH STREET - BELFAST</p>
<p>NEON SIGNS & DISPLAYS — Erected by — DAVID ROWAN (VIDRO) LTD. AINTREE ROAD - LIVERPOOL at CAPITOL REGAL ASTORIA LYCEUM and CASTLE CINEMAS J. P. HANVEY, 4, DOWGALL SQUARE NORTH, BELFAST Estimates and Designs gladly submitted</p>	<p>ELECTRICAL INSTALLATION at the CAPITOL CINEMA — Executed by — CURRAN BROS., ELECTRICAL ENGINEERS and CONTRACTORS. 10, LONG LANE, NORTH STREET, BELFAST.</p>

Unlike the other Curran houses there was no dome at the Capitol. Neon lighting was supplied by the Liverpool company Vidro Ltd, which was run by a Mr David Rowan. Furnishings, including Wilton carpet were supplied by the Co-op Trading Company, High Street, Belfast. Glass was supplied by Campbell Brothers of Millfield, Belfast; they were also responsible for the wrought steel verandas. Electrical installation was carried out by Curran Bros of Long Lane, Belfast. Terrazzo was employed in the foyer and staircases and was executed by a Mr Crescenzo Fusciardi of Belfast.

Seating was for around 1,100 and on the upper floor was a suite of offices, one of them used as a boardroom for the directors of the Curran group. The auditorium held around a thousand people and lighting was concealed behind the cornice. The local press said, "Around the proscenium arch and in troughs flanking the large ventilating grilles on either side of it are other lamps and though the auditorium can be brightly lit by these means, not a lamp is visible anywhere and glare is entirely absent."

It is said that at some point it was taken over by Rank, although the 1950s it was still run by Curran cinemas. It was eventually demolished, making way for a supermarket. If anyone can tell us when Rank took over and when the cinema closed, we would love to hear from you.

New Electric Theatre for Bath.



An audience inside the Coliseum
by kind permission of the *Bath Chronicle*

A picture in the *Bath Weekly Chronicle* shows a packed hall of a very basic design, the steel roof trusses being exposed. The cinema suffered from a remote location, outside the centre and struggled to attract customers.

To entice patrons away from the other cinemas in Bath, the management started handing out free tickets in large numbers and even postal orders, much to the annoyance of the Bath Electric Theatre Company, owners of the Electric and Picturedrome. This tactic didn't pay off as the cinema closed in 1915, having just one entry in the 1915 edition of the *Kine Yearbook*. Eighty years later in 2004, the new Odeon multiplex in Bath opened further down the same street.

WILLIAM RIDDELL GLEN



By David A Ellis

Architect William Riddell Glen designed the Regal Chester, which opened on 30 October 1937. He was born in 1885 in Hutchesontown and was a leading cinema and theatre architect. In his RIBA papers he claims that his birth was in 1884. Glen was the son of James Glen. His middle name comes from his mother's maiden name; her name was Margaret Riddell. Glen won a studentship at the Glasgow School of Architecture. He studied from 1900 and had an apprenticeship with a firm called Burnet, Boston and Carruthers. In 1904 he went to practice with John Archibald Campbell, while still continuing his studies for a further year. Glen commenced with independent practice in Glasgow until he served in WWI with the Glasgow Highlanders, rising to the rank of major and winning the Military Cross.

In 1919 he went back to Glasgow and became a partner with Albert Victor Gardner and it became known as Gardner and Glen, with offices in Bath Street, Glasgow. They specialised in the design of atmospheric cinemas. Glen decided to move to London in 1929 and the partnership was dissolved. Glen had got himself a position with Associated British Cinemas and went to work for John Maxwell. He was forced into early retirement by illness. He continued to be a consultant for ABC. He passed away on 19 February 1950.

THE RITZ/ESSOLDO CHELTENHAM



By Tim Sedgwick-Jell

On a recent visit to Cheltenham I noticed that the Essoldo, previously Ritz, on the Lower High Street, has been demolished, to be replaced by three retail units, which I suspect will take a long time to be let. The Ritz was always the poor cousin of Cheltenham's cinemas, being in a less central location and not having a balcony – information from Alan Moore's *The Picture Palaces of Gloucester and Cheltenham* (1989) where it merits only one page of text. It was also not part of a circuit, although there was a sister cinema in nearby Stroud, also called the Ritz. The cinema had a neo-Regency frontage, although I do not know whether this was in the design as built in 1937. This certainly fits in with the style of most of the working-class housing in that part of Cheltenham. With the demolition of the Regal/ABC in the 1980s and the same fate suffered the Gaumont/Odeon more recently (see previous Bulletins) the stock of the town's historic cinemas is much reduced but luckily the jewel of the Daffodil remains in a good state as a restaurant.

The two photos above, front and side views, were taken in the 1980s. I have just rediscovered some B&W negatives and had them digitised.

COLISEUM PICTURES.

(Late Central Rink), JAMES STREET, BATH
Manager MR. HECTOR POPE

NOW OPEN.

LARGE, AIRY AND PLEASANT—Sloping Floor—
Electric Light—Normal atmosphere at all times—
Comfortable and Extensive Seating Accommodation
for over 1,000 Persons—Plush Tip-up Chairs

Programme for To-day and To-morrow

: : : includes the star Film : : :

"THE MYSTERIOUS BALL"

CHANGE OF PROGRAMME EVERY MONDAY & THURSDAY

Two Performances Nightly - - 7 and 9

PRICES OF ADMISSION: 2d., 3d., and 6d.

MATINEES—THURSDAYS AND SATURDAYS AT THREE
CHILDREN, 1d., 2d. and 3d. ADULTS USUAL PRICES

COLISEUM (PICTURES)

CONTINUOUS PERFORMANCES

6 till 11.

STAR FILM

FOR MONDAY, TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY

NEXT:

"THE CALL"

A Story full of Human Interest.

POPULAR PRICES :: 2d., 3d., and 6d.

CONTINUOUS PERFORMANCES

6 till 11.

REWINDING BACK – NORTH

Sent in by David A Ellis

GOOD FRIDAY OPENING

At Widnes Petty sessions on Thursday morning Mr Frank Gallagher, manager of the Widnes Picturedrome, made an application for permission to open the Picturedrome on Good Friday for three performances, one in the afternoon and two in the evening. Special sacred cinema programmes would be submitted and everything would be in keeping with the day. A similar application was granted last year. It was necessary to make a special application for permission to open the building as the law provided under the ordinary license that it should be closed on Sundays, Christmas Day and Good Friday. Superintendent Foster said the place was always admirably conducted and he had no objections to offer. The application was granted.

Runcom Guardian – 7 March 1913

CINEMA LICENCE APPLICATION

On behalf of Mr Charles G Ewing, of Dale Street Liverpool, an application has been made to the Chester magistrates for a cinema licence in respect of a proposed building at the corner of Hoole Road and Lightfoot Street, Hoole, Chester. The Chief Constable opposed the application. It was proposed to erect a cinema hall with shops on either side. It would be a large hall of 68ft long and 55 ft wide, designed to accommodate 864 adults, of whom 240 would be in the balcony. One result of the erection would be to effect a great public improvement by setting back the existing footpath 12ft, throwing another 12ft into the footpath. The plans had been approved by the Hoole Council. The Chairman of the Bench said that the application would be considered at the adjourned sessions on 10 March and no doubt the applicant meanwhile would go into the plan again.

Note: This was never built.

The Bioscope – 22 February 1923

LIVERPOOL CINEMA'S DIVIDEND

At the fifth annual general meeting of the shareholders of the Trocadero Picture House Liverpool a few days ago, the directors recommended a dividend of 4%. The balance sheet for the year ended 30 September 1926 showed a profit of £5,172 7s. 2d. Depreciation of £270 16s. 2d. was written off, also the expenses prior to opening, totalling £2,306 10s. 9d. leaving a balance of £2,595 0s. 3d. that was carried forward from 1925, made a total balance to the credit of profit and loss account of £3,033 2s. 2d. Mr Hugh Bickett (managing director) and Mr WF Ewbank were re-elected to the Board of Directors, which comprises Mr PC Shawcross (chairman), Harold Lipson, J Taplen, O Wade, John M Griffith CC, in addition to the two gentlemen named.

The Bioscope – 13 January 1927

ABC NEGOTIATING FOR 20 THEATRES



The Capitol Wallasey in July 2007

The Capitol Cinema Wallasey has been purchased by Associated British Cinemas Ltd, who took control from last week. It is understood the purchase price is in the neighbourhood of £50,000. Only the cinema, ballroom and café are involved in the deal and not the shops and offices included in the block of buildings. The Capitol, which is in the heart of Liskeard Village, was built by the proprietors, Messrs Harrocks, about two years ago and has seating accommodation for about 1,400 persons.

ABC is at present negotiating for about 20 other cinema in Manchester and other parts of Lancashire and it is understood that some important deals are nearing completion. Ted Hardiman, Lancashire manager for British International Pictures Ltd is actively concerned in the negotiations on behalf of ABC. Two Manchester cinemas – the Premier Picture House Cheetham Hill and the Claremont Picture House Greenleys – previously reported as having been acquired by ABC, were actually taken over last week. There is no change in the managements of the three halls named.

The Bioscope – 30 January 1929

NEW LIME STREET CINEMA



The Forum/ABC Lime Street, Liverpool in August 2009
photo courtesy John Bradley

Application will be made to the Liverpool magistrates next month for the approval of plans for a cinematograph theatre to be erected on the site indicated by the numbers 28-54 (inclusive) Lime Street. The thoroughfare already contains three cinema besides the Empire theatre. Rumour has it that the plans have been prepared on behalf of Associated British Cinemas Ltd of Heddon House, Regent Street, London, who own the Olympia Theatre Liverpool, the Prince of Wales cinema (Clayton Square) and the Capitol Wallasey and who have very extensive properties in the provinces.

It should be noted that the idea of a cinema on the corner of Lime Street and Elliot Street is no new one, as application was made to the bench with a similar intention some two years ago and was turned down. The block of buildings, which is about 30 yards in length by 27 yards in width, comprises a number of small shops, the upper portions of the buildings being used as offices and storerooms. The block is held from the Corporation by a well-known businessman, who was recently concerned in the purchase of the Liverpool Stadium, at a ground rent stated to be in the neighbourhood of £3,000 per annum. The cinema – if it came into being – would hold, it is computed, about 1,750 persons, about the same capacity as the Rialto and a little larger than the Trocadero.

Liverpool Echo – 11 April 1929

OBJECTIONS TO CINEMA PLANS

Strong objections by the proprietors of three Liverpool City cinemas, the Scala, the Futurist and the Palais de Luxe, to granting of a license for a new Lime Street theatre, which Associated British Cinemas Ltd, propose to erect on the commanding site at the corner of Elliot Street, were made at the Liverpool Licensing Court on Friday. On behalf of the three theatres named, HI Davis argued that the supply of theatres in this area was more than adequate. Was it wise or just, he asked, to permit the proposed building, which would do harm to the three cinemas on whose behalf he appeared, which had over 1,500 shareholders and £250,000 capital. JR Dovener, managing director of the Palais de Luxe, said the position of the industry in Lime Street was critical because people were not coming into the City as they used to do, owing to the counter attractions in the suburbs.

Note: It is ironic that ABC went on to run two of the cinemas that objected, the Futurist and Scala.

The Bioscope – 10 July 1929

REWINDING BACK – SOUTH

Sent in by David A Ellis

BIOGRAPH, VICTORIA, TO REOPEN THIS MONTH

Change and time, hand in hand, sweep away the shapes of the past. An illustration among the many to which the cinema trade has within recent years borne witness is to be found in the **Biograph Theatre**, Wilton Road, Victoria, which up to a few weeks ago stood in the almost identical condition in which it was first opened as a 'super' hall of 1908 – one year before the passing of the Cinematograph Act, under which, in fact, it received the first licence issued by the LCC. It was one of eleven **Biograph** Theatres opened by the American firm and it is to be the last one to survive in its entirety.

In 1922 it was taken over by Harry Pearl, who with his associate still controls it. Now it is, day and night, in the hands of workmen and when it reopens – probably on 12 September – after having been closed for four weeks, it will be entirely transformed, its seating capacity nearly doubled and an additional entrance and foyer, with ample waiting space, installed on the Vauxhall Bridge Road side. At the front, in Wilton Road, a new entrance and hall is being constructed and new copings, supported on pillars with lead lights interspersed, will form part of a newly designed elevation. The seating, for about 1,000 to 1,100 is of modern tip-up style and a full stage with lighting effects is to be prepared for possible presentation items. Ventilation is ultra-modern, a new system by means of which hot air is electrically pumped into the hall through grilles having been introduced.

The **Biograph** opens with *Hindle Wakes* followed by *Hotel Imperial*, *Boadicea* and *The Kid Brother*. Mr Pearl thinks his quota of British pictures is already about 20% so he is not dreading the coming of the Films Bill. Good pictures, especially of the patriotic type, go over well under the influence of Mr Pearl's exploitation methods.

The Bioscope – 1 September 1927



The demolition of the **Biograph Victoria** in August 1983

NEW UNIFORM CONTRACT.

The **Walpole Cinema** Ealing has just placed a contract for the supply of new uniforms for the male and female staff and has selected designs and stuffs submitted by the Uniform Clothing and Equipment Co Ltd of Clerkenwell. The colour scheme is very unusual, the uniforms and dresses being of a purple cloth, with facings of French grey and gold trimmings.

The Bioscope – 21 October 1931

REGAL CINEMA KINGSTON OPENS

Kingston's new cinema, the **Regal**, was opened by the Mayor on Monday. It is indeed a handsome building, of 3,000 capacity, well-designed and beautifully decorated. All who shared the work of construction are to be congratulated on their successful efforts. There was an inspiring British note throughout the opening proceedings and the programme presented appropriately featured Sydney Howard in *Splinters in the Navy*. Elizabeth Allen, in a pretty speech, happily expressed the goodwill of all present. Reginal Foort, in charge of the three-manual Wurlitzer organ, took us musically on a tour round the British Isles and his reception forecast the great popularity he will have as an attraction. This Royal borough will be proud of its **Regal** cinema.

The Era – 17 February 1932

THORNTON HEATH'S NEW CINEMA



The New State / Granada Thornton Heath as Gala Bingo in April 2006

"All British" is the slogan of the **New State Cinema** at Thornton Heath Pond, which is to be opened on Boxing Day at 2:30 pm, by the Mayor of Croydon, Alderman W Peet. The building, of imposing structure, has accommodation for 2,500 people and has been built by Mr A Matthews, proprietor of the **Rialto** and **Albany** Upper Norwood and the **State** Sydenham. The cinema has been erected entirely by local labour. The colour scheme is of gold and the walls have some fine tapestries. The seating is petunia and the carpets green. There is a picturesque café and tea lounge and prices range from 9d to 2 shillings, children being admitted to all parts for 7d. The machines are Ross projectors and the latest Western Electric sound system is installed. Performances will be continuous daily from 2pm to 10:45. Mr AH Goodey has been appointed manager. The programme for next week includes Alexander Carr in *Divine Love* and Buster Keaton in a fine film *Speak Easily*. The stage attraction is Herman Darewaki and his band. The doors will open at 130pm on Boxing Day.

The News – 23 December 1932

LONDON'S FINE NEW CINEMA

London's latest cinema, the **Paramount Theatre** Tottenham Court Road, W1 was opened on Monday evening in the presence of many famous English and American film stars. The première was a truly spectacular occasion, well in keeping with the magnificence of the theatre itself. It can accommodate over 2,500 people and every seat has a clear view of the stage and screen. It is claimed that the acoustic qualities represent the greatest advance yet made in scientific design.

The opening ceremony was performed by the Mayor of St Pancras (Alderman RSW Fincham FCA JP) and among the celebrities who appeared on stage during the evening were Maurice Chevalier, Anna Neagle, Tullio Carmianti, Helen Vinson, Henry Hall, Herbert Wilcox, Mary Carlisle, Arthur Riscoe and Tracey Holmes. In the audience were Great Nissen, Gwynneth Lloyd, Nancy O'Neill and Jimmy Hanley. Gary Cooper, Claudette Colbert and Mary Ellis also appeared – in a special film in which they welcomed the audience to the new cinema.

The opening programme included *Millions in the Air*, a comedy of American broadcasting and a Charles Penley stage presentation, *Dazzle*. It will be the theatre's policy to present two pre-release films each week. Reginal Foort will be at the Compton organ and the orchestra will be under the direction of Anton and Harry Fryer. The proceeds of the opening performance have been given to the University College Hospital Extension Fund.

The News – 14 February 1936

AVENUE CINEMA'S NEW MANAGER

With the taking over of the **Avenue** and **Walpole** cinemas last week by the Odeon group, a new manager has come to control the fortunes of the **Avenue**. He is Mr Ernest Victor Collingridge, who was the first manager of the Ealing Forum, where he remained until the theatre was sold to Associated British Cinemas Ltd. He has been connected with cinema entertainment for about twenty years and has been with Forum Theatres Ltd most of the time. He has been manager of the **Forum** cinemas at Fulham and Kentish Town as well as in Ealing.

Middlesex County Times – 29 February 1936

EAST ANGLIAN JOURNEY

By Mark Barnard

Staying last year at the lovely Suffolk seaside town of Southwold, I happily stumbled upon the wonderful and almost 'Toy Town' exterior of the bijou **Electric Picture Palace Cinema**. It was not open at the time I was there as it is a venue owned by the Southwold Film Society. However, it seats 70 with a most plush and elegant interior as seen on their website, along with details on there of what they show and when [www.southwoldcinema.co.uk].

There was a very stylish vintage car parked outside which definitely added a touch of nostalgic glamour! What an amazing little cinema to find.

A short drive further down the coast brought us to the delightful coastal town of Aldeburgh where in the High Street you can find the 'Tudor-ish' looking exterior of the superb **Aldeburgh Cinema**. This is definitely a cinema that is bigger than it actually looks from the outside and I was most fortunate to be shown inside by a very informative and friendly staff member – once I explained my appreciation for the building – even though at that time, I wasn't there to see a film! This lovely cinema seats 253 with 3 wheelchair spaces and has an additional studio cinema room seating 40.



The Picture Palace Southwold [MB]

We did not have time sadly to visit the nearby **Leiston Film Theatre** – another occasion hopefully. Travelling north again and a little inland, we passed through the town of Beccles, where we noticed a pizza restaurant chain occupying the premises of an old cinema, which was worthy of a quick snapshot.

After a quick jump over into Norfolk, we visited Dereham and this time saw a film in the **Hollywood Cinema** on the corner of the town's small square. It has three screens and we were in the upstairs auditorium, presumably the former circle. Although comfortable, it did feel a little bit tired with the screen masking a bit askew on one side. This did not affect the film though, which was enjoyable.

Lastly, although we could not get any pictures of our next cinema as it was tucked away in the upper floor area of a shopping mall and we were short on time, we visited Norwich and in particular the Vue multiplex in the Castle Mall shopping centre in Norwich City centre (pictures of Vue Norwich on the Internet.) We also saw a film there and wanted to particularly mention that as multiplex auditoria go (ie functional boxes and not much in the way of elegant design) this one was one of the most comfortable

multiplex auditoria we've been in with a really good viewing angle and a huge screen. There was the vaguest of nods in the direction of a bit of art deco design in the side wall light fittings too, which I thought a nice touch. Sure, multiplexes are simply all about the film but it seems this film had a much better class of box with it! Hope to return.

Photos by [MB] the author; [HR] Harry Rigby



The exterior of the Aldeburgh Cinema in April 2016 [HR]



The interior of the Aldeburgh Cinema in November 1999 [HR]

The High Street exterior actually houses the screen with the auditorium building connecting into it from behind. This wonderful venue is celebrating its 100 year anniversary on 9 August 2019. Details of the celebrations are currently under wraps but be sure to check with their website [aldeburghcinema.co.uk] nearer the time and also for general information.



The Prezzo restaurant in the former Cinema Beccles [MB]



The Hollywood Cinema Dereham [MB]

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)

ASHINGTON (Northumberland)

The County Council has signed off almost £8m of funding for a new development in the town centre, incorporating a seven-screen cinema. No operator or time-scale has been given.

Morpeth Herald – 11 April

BASILDON (Essex)

The Council has awarded a £25m contract for a development incorporating a ten-screen Empire cinema. Work is expected to be started by this summer and completed by autumn 2020. The fitting out will take a further six months and the cinema is expected to open in spring 2021.

Basildon Echo – 13 March

A 270° ScreenX has been installed at the sixteen-screen Cineworld at Festival Leisure Park.

Basildon Echo – 8 April

BEESTON (Notts)

Arc Cinema has signed a deal to open an eight-screen cinema in the town centre; planning permission was granted last year. There will be 700 electric reclining seats. Work is expected to start in August with an anticipated opening date late 2020.

Nottinghamshire Live – 28 February; Insider Media – 1 March; Nottingham Post – 2 March; Nottinghamshire in Focus – 5 March; sent in by Terry Hanstock

BLACKBURN (Lancs)

The foundations for the new eight-screen Reel on the former Waves Water Fun Park have been laid. Opening is expected at Easter 2020.

Lancashire Telegraph – 12 March

BO'NESS (Falkirk)



The Grade A listed Hippodrome hosted 'Hipfest', a silent film festival in March. The highlight was the 1922 version of *Rob Roy* with a new score performed live by composer David Allison. Also in the festival was the restored 1929 version of *The Hound of the Baskervilles*, which was the last silent Sherlock Holmes film made and was discovered ten years ago in a Polish priest's basement. The venue was restored with Lottery funding between 2006 and 2009; the CTA visited in September 2008. {23125}

Sunday Post – 17 March; sent in by Tom Laughlan; photo taken September 2008

BOGNOR REGIS (West Sussex)

The Picturedrome is celebrating its centenary of showing films. The building opened in May 1886 as the New Assembly Rooms and was converted into a full-time cinema in 1919. It's hoped to celebrate the fact with a charity screening in September. A classic film will be screened and staff will dress in period costume. More details will be announced in the next couple of months. {14782}

Sent in by Mike Whitcombe; see Happy Birthday p33

BOURNEMOUTH

The developer that paid more than £6.15 million for Bournemouth's two former cinemas in Westover Road is intending to submit new plans for them. Previous applications have been turned down and two appeals have been lost. Town centre councillor David Smith said: "The site is a classic case where in my opinion the developer paid too much for the site and consequently they're trying to squeeze too much on the site to make the scheme stack up financially."

Daily Echo – 27 February; sent in by John R Forster & Phillip Stevens

Plans to turn the grade II listed former Grand in Westbourne into a Wetherspoons pub have come to nothing. It is understood the site has been sold to a developer. The bingo operation ceased in January 2018. {22430}

The Herald, Bournemouth – 7 March; sent in by Sally McGrath

BOWNESS-ON-WINDERMERE (Cumbria)

The threat to the *Royalty* has been lifted following its removal from the Lake District National Park Authority's draft local plan. The plan, which identifies sites where redevelopment can take place over the next 25 years, determined 29 potential sites within South Lakeland and the most contentious was the cinema site. A record 2,700 people responded to the consultation. {18521}

In Cumbria – 4 March; North West Evening Mail – 5 March; Westmorland Gazette – 7 March; sent in by Terry Hanstock

BRADFORD (West Yorks)

Plans to convert the former New Victoria / Odeon into a 3,800-seat music venue have been approved by the Council. See Casework p5. {3677}

Yorkshire Post – 2, 8 March; sent in by Richard Lysons

BRIERLEY HILL (Dudley)



A busy road had to be closed for days after high winds blew off part of the roof of the former Danilo. A contractor was called in to remove the rest of the roof to make it safe. The photo in the newspaper report shows a 'For Sale' sign on the building. The cinema opened in December 1936 and films ceased in February 1969. It became bingo but was last used as a nightclub from 2000. {37851}

Express & Star – 15 March; sent in by Ivan Harris & Chris Ingram; photo taken May 2006

BRIGHTON

A fight broke out during a screening of *Captain Marvel* at the Odeon. The manager asked the people involved to leave and they attacked him.

The Argus, Brighton – 10 March; sent in by Geoff Gill

BRODICK (Isle of Arran)

Plans, announced on p23 of the last Bulletin, for a two-screen cinema in the former ferry terminal, have been approved. An optimistic opening was announced for Easter.

Arran Banner – 9 March

CARRIGTWOHILL (County Cork, Ireland)

The Movie Junction drive-in is now permanently closed. How it survived so long in Irish weather is a mystery. Reports suggest that the land will be redeveloped as a superstore.

Sent in by Bob Bradshaw

CASTLEFORD (West Yorks)



A planning application has been lodged to convert the former New Albion into 20 flats and four commercial units. The cinema opened in January 1927 and became part of the ABC circuit in June 1932. It went to Star Cinemas in 1957, who tripled it. It was later taken over by Cannon, who closed it in April 1987. It was then used as a series of nightclubs; the last one closed in 2011. {6285}

Insider Media – 11 March; photo taken August 2005

CHELTENHAM (Glos)

According to signs on the building, the Cineworld is having a revamp, although no details have been released. It will expand into an adjacent former eatery and is due to be complete by summer. Elsewhere, permission was granted last October for a five-screen cinema in the Regent Arcade shopping centre, in the space that was home to BHS.

Gloucestershire Echo – 14 March

CHICHESTER (West Sussex)



The independent New Park cinema is celebrating its 40th birthday. Screenings of milestone films from the cinema's history are being shown on the first and third Tuesday of each month (until December) and a free booklet is available from the box office detailing the highlights and importance of the cinema. More details are available from [chichestercinema.org].

Sent in by Mike Whitcombe; photo taken March 2009

The ten-screen Cineworld held an IMAX festival on 2 March. It showed five of 2018's most popular films in IMAX with tickets only £3 each. This annual event is now in its fourth year. {24529}

Chichester Post – 1 March; sent in by Barry Quinton

DEAL (Kent)

Mark Wools Amusements has submitted a planning application (18/01169) to demolish the former Royal cinema and replace the building with five apartments above retail units. Originally an Oddfellows Hall built in 1890, the unlisted building has been much altered internally, most recently in 1987 when a snooker club with separate entrance was placed above the amusement arcade. Films were last shown in April 1981. The application compares it unfavourably as architecture with other Oddfellows Halls and describes the Royal as too massive for alternative use in a town the size of Deal.

Sent in by Martin Tapsell; photo [top next column] taken April 2008



DERBY



A crowdfunding campaign has been launched to bring the Grade II listed derelict Hippodrome back in use as a theatre by 2020. The restoration will take place in two stages, costing £25m overall. Phase one will cost £5m; it will involve clearing and stabilising the building, rebuilding the external walls and front-of-house and replacing the roof. This will result in a functional space with a capacity of 1,000. Once this is complete and generating its own income, fundraising for phase two will start. This will include a tiered auditorium and a new backstage infrastructure. The building was badly damaged in 2008. {14683}

The Stage – 28 February; sent in by R David Simpson; photo taken March 2006

Derby City Council is set to formally write off a £200,000 loan outstanding from QUAD since 2010. The loan dates back to the financing of the £11.4m QUAD capital build project. The three-screen venue opened in September 2008 as the new home to the former Metro cinema. {25926}

East Midlands Business Link – 4 April; sent in by Terry Hanstock

Plans have been put forward for a cinema in the basement of the Old Post Office building in Victoria Street.

Derby Telegraph – 10 April

DONCASTER (South Yorks)

Building work has begun on the new six-screen 1,600-seat Savoy cinema in Waterdale, next to Sir Nigel Gresley Square. Opening is expected in April 2020.

Doncaster Free Press – 28 March; sent in by Carl Chesworth

Planning consent has been given for a multiplex in the Frenchgate shopping centre. Discussions are in progress with two well-known cinema brands. Work on the £8 million investment will begin later this year, ahead of a spring 2020 opening.

Retail & Leisure International – 3 April; Yorkshire Post – 4 April; sent in by Carl Chesworth

DONEGAL (Ireland)

A revised application has been submitted for a five-screen 714-seat cinema on Balleybofey Road. A previous bid in 2017 was rejected.

Donegal Post – 6 March

DOUGLAS (Isle of Man)

Planning permission has been granted for a seven-screen Omniplex cinema on the former bus station site in Lord Street. No time scale has been given.

Portfolio, Isle of Man – 1 March

DUBLIN (Ireland)



The former Stella Cinema in Mount Merrion (which operated 1955 to 1976) is being demolished. It was more recently occupied by a furniture shop with inserted floors. It has been empty since last September. {26163}

Sent in and 2006 photo by Bob Bradshaw

DURHAM



The former Robins Cinema is to become another pub and nightclub. Since films ceased in January 2003 it has been an Australian bar and then a Chinese buffet, which closed in 2014. {4672}

Northern Echo – 11 April; photo taken November 2006

EASTBOURNE (East Sussex)



The newly-refurbished Congress Theatre has reopened with a sell-out concert by the London Philharmonic Orchestra. The Grade II listed venue has been closed for two years for the works, which have replicated the style from when it was first built in 1963

The Argus – 26 March; sent in by Barry Quinton; photo taken April 2008

ECCLES (Greater Manchester)

The Grade II listed former Crown Theatre is to be converted into flats, retaining the façade. It opened in February 1899 with 2,500 seats and films ceased in 1963. It went over to bingo, which closed around 200; the building has been empty since. {2055}

The Stage – 21 February; sent in by Barry Quinton; photo [top next col] taken July 2005



EDINBURGH (Leith)

The auditorium of the former State has been demolished. The B-listed foyer block and former snooker hall will be retained, as well as existing commercial units housed within the main frontage. Flats will be built behind, using the foyer as an entrance. The cinema opened in December 1938 and films ceased in May 1972. {23261}

Edinburgh Evening News – 10 April

EGHAM (Surrey)

Plans have been submitted for a development incorporating a new cinema at the corner of Station Road North and Church Road. The plans can be viewed on the Runnymede Borough Council's website under references RU.19/0437 & RU.19/0444.

Surrey Advertiser – 5 April

EXETER

Bosses at WH Smith say there are no plans to move out of their unit in The Guildhall, despite plans being approved to replace it with a cinema and bowling alley. It has another five years left on the lease, despite widespread rumours that it will move into the Mothercare unit.

Express & Echo, Exeter – 7 March

FORT WILLIAM (Highland)

Planning permission has been granted for a new two-screen cinema. Work should have started by the time you read this and opening is scheduled for May 2020. There will be one 100-seater screen and an 85-seater screen and an 80-seat café bar.

The Herald, Glasgow – 16 March

GALWAY (Ireland)



The Palas (Palace) cinema opened last year after years of controversy as to costs and delay. For some reason that escapes me, it has proved popular with architects.

Sent in & photo – taken March 2019 – by Bob Bradshaw

GLASGOW (Central)



Historic Environment Scotland has hit out at plans to demolish the C-listed former Regal/ABC, which was badly damaged by a fire in the adjacent Glasgow School of Art in June 2018. The group has said that the argument for demolishing the building – and wiping out the front façade – is “not adequately justified” against national policy. The building was last used as the O2 ABC Music Venue. {38564}

The Herald, Glasgow – 19 April; photo taken November 2006

GRANTHAM (Lincs)

The new five-screen Savoy cinema has been handed over to the operator for fitting out. Opening is scheduled for the summer.

East Midlands Business Link – 5 March; sent in by Terry Hanstock

GRAYS (Essex)

Hoardings have been put up around the State. Could it be that Mr Wetherspoon is about to put his hard hat on and begin work to convert it into one of his pubs? Thurrock Council has welcomed the progress.

Thurrock Gazette – 18 April; sent in by Margaret Burgoine

GREAT YARMOUTH (Norfolk)

Peter Jay, the owner of the Royalty has said that the building will reopen as a cinema, with the new operator being announced ‘soon’. It was last let to the Hollywood cinema chain, which has ceased trading. {17924}

Great Yarmouth Advertiser – 28 February; Great Yarmouth Mercury – 1 March

GRIMSBY (North Lincs)

There are concerns as to whether the proposed nine-screen Cineworld at Freshney Place will ever be built as the shopping centre is up for sale.

Grimsby Telegraph – 28 March

HARLOW (Essex)



An arson attack at the former Odeon is being investigated by police. About 2pm on Monday 8 April smoke was seen coming from the disused building. Firefighters were called and extinguished the fire by 3pm. It is not clear if the site was targeted to be burnt down or a fire that got out of control. It was the first cinema to be built by Rank after the war and opened in February 1960 with 1,244 seats on a single floor. It was tripled in 1987 and refurbished in 2001. Films ceased in August 2005. {2510}

Harlow Gazette – 11 April; sent in by Raymond Dolling; photo taken April 2006

HEMEL HEMPSTEAD (Herts)

Empire Cinemas has signed a 25-year lease to operate a new nine-screen 924-seat cinema in the town centre. Planning permission has been secured to add an extension above the existing shopping centre. Construction is expected to start this autumn with opening scheduled for early 2021. There is already a seventeen screen Cineworld (ex Odeon/Empire) on the outskirts of the town at Jarman Leisure Park.

Property Funds World – 27 February

HORSHAM (West Sussex)

The new three-screen Everyman opened on 29 March in Piries Place. The auditoria seat 97, 87 and 52 and all have Sony 4k digital projection and Dolby 7.1 sound.

West Sussex County Times – 14 March; Horsham District Post – 21 March; sent in by Norman Pemberton

A seven-figure project to revamp the Capitol is being considered by the Council owners. The move has been prompted by the success of the centre and the arrival of the new Everyman. The venue currently houses a 400-seat theatre/cinema and two smaller cinema spaces. The possibility of an additional screen is being explored. New seats would be installed in the theatre and cinemas and improvements made to the inside of the building and the foyer.

West Sussex County Times – 28 February, 28 March; sent in by Norman Pemberton

HUCKNALL (Notts)

The former Byron has been sold to Melcorpo, an Irish operator who plans to plans to revamp the building as a four-screen cinema. Work on stripping out the interior has already started. Campaigners are calling for historic elements of the building to be retained. {13428}

Hucknall & Bulwell Dispatch – 8, 15, 22 March; photo on front cover

HULL (East Yorks)

Plans are being drawn up for a second-stage bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund for a grant of £289,000 to turn the ruined National Picture Theatre into a memorial. The Council would make a match-fund donation of £188,000. A new roof and windows would be installed and the project could be open by the middle of 2020. {40893}

Hull Live – 11 March; Insider Media – 15 April; sent in by David Alexander

KILKENNY (Ireland)

IMC opened with five screens of the twelve-screen new cinema complex in Kilkenny City on 12 April.

Sent in by Bob Bradshaw

LEEDS (West Yorks)

The UK's second Odeon Luxe Dolby Cinema (following the Odeon Leicester Square) opened at Thorpe Park on 12 April. The 273-seat auditorium has Dolby Atmos sound and Luxe recliners with triple leg room. The complex has ten screens with a total of 971 hand-made reclining seats, including a 173-seat iSense screen. Ticket cost £5 before 5pm Monday to Friday and at peak times adult tickets will be priced from £10.50.

Yorkshire Evening Post – 28 February, 29 March



Channel 4 is in advanced negotiations to move its HQ to the former Majestic. If talks are successful, the broadcaster will lease over 25,000 sq ft on the third, fourth and fifth floors of the building. The Grade II listed venue is currently undergoing a rebuild following a serious fire in 2014 – you can see the damage in the photo. {2718}

Yorkshire Post – 2 April; sent in by Terry Hanstock; photo taken October 2014

LEICESTER

Plans have been approved for an expansion of the Phoenix. There will be two new 70-seat cinemas, a new bar, open-air terrace and digital art gallery. Since the venue moved to the Cultural Quarter nine years ago, it has more than doubled its audiences.

Insider Media – 27 February

LONDON (Battersea)

A boutique cinema, Archlight opened in late March at Circus West Village, a new area of shops, bars and restaurants which adjoins (and is part of) the ongoing development at Battersea Power Station. The new cinema has three screens (57, 37 and 37 seats) which are set into three railway arches and each have separate entrances. There is no connecting corridor as this would affect the integrity of the original arches. Extensive soundproofing has eliminated the sound of the trains above. The cinema is an independent, which is affiliated with Olympic Studios cinema in Barnes. I visited the cinema last week and the staff are happy to welcome any CTA members in the future who wish to visit. It seems likely an operator will build a larger cinema in the former Power Station itself when it finally opens as a shopping and cultural space.

Sent in by Michael Mantell

LONDON (Belsize Park)



The Everyman (former Screen on the Hill) has unveiled plans to upgrade the front of the building with a new marquee sign and lights. The work will be “reminiscent of the old cinema and give consideration to the historic nature of the site”. The venue has also applied for a licence to show films until 2:30am on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays. {15081}

Camden New Journal – 7, 14 March; sent in by Tom Laughlan; photo taken May 2014

LONDON (Bloomsbury)

A member of staff was seriously hurt when she fell through a lift shaft at the Curzon (ex Renoir) and was taken to hospital. An investigation into the accident has been started. The cinema’s website said the lift was out of order. {12788}

Camden New Journal – 28 March; sent in by Tom Laughlan

LONDON (Bromley)

The scaffolding has come off the Cineworld (ex Odeon), which is being converted into a six-screen Picturehouse behind the original façade. Opening is scheduled for “late spring” this year.

News Shopper – 16 April; sent in by Philip Stevens; also sent in with additional information and photo [R] by John Kyriacou



LONDON (Camden)

The KoKo nightclub in the grade II listed former Palace closed in March for a £40m refurbishment. The plans include taking over buildings either side and opening its rooftop. Six different “performance areas” will be created; the main 1,500 capacity music venue will not change. {14486}

Evening Standard – 28 February; sent in by Tom Laughlan & R David Simpson

LONDON (Dalston)

Three years ago, staff at the Rio found about 10,000 glass slides stored in the basement. After making some enquiries, they realised the images were part of The Tape/Slide project, a street photography group created to capture 80s life in the community. Around 4,600 have been cleaned, restored and digitised so far. The cinema is hoping to get funding to make the archive permanent and accessible. {10557}

Hackney Gazette – 14 March; sent in by Tom Laughlan

LONDON (Eltham)

The new six-screen 857-seat Vue cinema was due to open on 25 April.

News Shopper – 12 March; sent in by Philip Stevens

LONDON (Greenwich)

The Cineworld at the O2 has had a 1,400-seat extension, taking the number of screens from 11 to 19. There is a 156-seat 4DX screen with rain, smell, movement and wind effects, the company’s 22nd in the UK. There are three new 60-seat VIP auditoria, all featuring Dolby sound and Barco laser projection. The extension, which will be run as a separate entity, opened on 12 April. It will make it London’s largest cinema, with more than 4,500 seats.

AV Magazine – 22 March; News Shopper – 25 March; sent in by Martin Tapsell

LONDON (Harrow)



The Dominion opened in January 1936 but was taken over by ABC the following month. It was designed by FE Bromidge with 2,014 seats and a fly tower. However in 1962 the frontage was ‘modernised’ with metal sheeting. If you look carefully at the photo you can see the tops of the towers peeking over the cladding. In 1972 the interior was subdivided with bingo in the stalls and a 612-seat cinema in the circle. A smaller cinema was created in the former café area in 1981. With the closure of bingo, the downstairs area today hosts a church but the cinemas upstairs continue to show Bollywood films, keeping the building alive. It may be that the cladding has done the frontage a favour by protecting it from the elements. Will it ever be removed? See Casework p5. {21135}

Harrow Times – 7 February; sent in by Mike Collins; photo taken September 2006

LONDON (Sidcup)

Permission has been given for a new library and three-screen cinema at the former Blockbuster site. The venue could be open by 2021.

News Shopper – 10 April; sent in by Philip Stevens

LONDON (Victoria)

Cameron Macintosh is planning further works to the Grade II listed Victoria Palace Theatre, just a year after it reopened following a £60m refurbishment. The number of rows in the Grand Circle will be reduced from ten to nine and the remaining rows spaced out to increase audience comfort. The current row spacing of 800mm is the lowest dimension in the group of theatres. The move will reduce the capacity of the Grand Circle from 402 to 360.

The Stage – 14 March; sent in by R David Simpson

LONDON (West End)

A 2,000 capacity music venue is set to open in 2020. The site is opposite where the Astoria used to be in Charing Cross Road and is currently part of the Crossrail works.

Evening Standard – 21 February; sent in by Tom Laughlan

Work has begun on a new 600-seat theatre above the Tottenham Court Road Crossrail station, on the site of the former Astoria. The development is due to be completed by November 2021. It is thought this will be the first new theatre built in the West End for over 50 years. It will be operated by Nimax Theatres, which already runs six West End venues. Planning documents reference construction and fit-out costs in excess of £25m.

*Westminster Extra – 8 March; The Stage – 14 March;
sent in by Barry Quinton & R David Simpson*

Proposals for second phase of development at St James's Market have been presented. The area includes the former Carlton Cinema on Haymarket, which received Grade II listed status in 2018, where enhancements to the façade are proposed, involving the removal of the modern advertising hoarding and careful cleaning of the front elevation. The Crown Estate and its partners will come forward with proposals for the interior of the cinema separately. See Casework p5.

Property Magazine International – 26 February

The former Odeon West End site in Leicester Square (ex Leicester Square Theatre) is almost ready to be fitted-out for the new screens, which are below ground of the new hotel development above. It is understood that the hotel will be completed in about a year's time.

Sent in by Donald Walker

MAIDENHEAD (Berks)



The boarded-up former Plaza suffered a serious fire on 12 March. Films ceased in October 1962 and it was last used as a Chicago Rock Café. The remains of the structure are being demolished as it is unsafe. {34021} photo taken April 2006

Maidenhead Advertiser – 14 March; sent in by Ken Roe & R David Simpson;

MIDDLESBROUGH

The eleven-screen Cineworld (ex UGC) has only just had a refurbishment but is set to have an additional 440-seat screen. It will be created by subdividing an adjacent unit, currently used by DW Fitness. It would be connected to the existing cinema on its upper foyer.

Teesside Live – 12 April

MONTROSE (Angus)

The project to transform a former swimming pool into a three-screen cinema and community hub has been awarded more than £2m. This means the tender process can begin, with a view to starting work in June. It aims to be open by the middle of 2020.

Evening Express, Aberdeen – 9 March; Dundee Courier – 19 March

NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE

The new four-screen Everyman was due to open on 2 May in the basement of Earl Grey House. The auditoria have 80, 52, 50 & 37 seats; the first three have Sony 4k projection and the smallest NEC 2k projection.

Newcastle Chronicle – 5 April; The Journal, Newcastle – 6 April

NEWMARKET (Suffolk)

Funding of £210,000 for a final business case to bring a new cinema to the town has been approved by councillors. Land adjacent to the Guineas Shopping Centre has been identified as the preferred site for a three to four-screen cinema. It is said that potential operators are interested. Meanwhile, the former 1937 Doric, which has seen various uses since films ceased in 1964 and is currently empty, is likely to become a restaurant.

Cambridge News – 1, 7 March; East Anglian Daily Times – 7, 26 March

NEWTOWNABBEY (Co Antrim)

Permission has been granted for a multi-screen cinema in Old Church Road. It will be operated by Showcase, the first in Northern Ireland. The operator of the six-screen Movie House in nearby Glengormley has said it might close if the Newtownabbey cinema goes ahead.

North Belfast News – 23 February; Irish News, Belfast – 14, 26 February

NORWICH

An empty back room at the Reindeer pub on Dereham Road was converted into an art deco cinema for just two nights at the end of March. The organiser dressed up in top hat and tails and welcomed a sell-out audience to a showing of the classic Buster Keaton silent film *Steamboat Bill Jr* and Charlie Chaplin's 1915 short *One AM*.

Norwich Extra – 28 March; sent in by John Popey

NOTTINGHAM

Plans have been submitted to turn the former Majestic in Mapperley into apartments. The building is currently home to a Haunted Museum and a gym. These tenants have said they will oppose the plans and do not think the applicant has even bought the building. See p24 Bulletin 52/5.

Nottinghamshire Live – 17 April; sent in by Terry Hanstock

NUNEATON (Warks)

We reported on p28 of the last Bulletin that the former Ritz had been bought by a mystery buyer. Their identity has now been revealed as Semichyong UK, a Co-operative society registered to a local address. The purchase price was £339,500. A spokesperson said that it was "too early" for their plans for the building to be shared. However, they did say they are planning something "which could benefit both the wider public as well as the members of the community". According to the Semichyong UK page on Facebook, the group is affiliated to Master Godangel, described as spiritual master and patron saint of Heavenly/Nirvana Path. See Casework p5. {25909}

Coventry Live – 19 April

OAKHAM (Rutland)

A local lady has spent the past year attracting £1.1m in pledges to open a two-screen boutique cinema but cannot find a suitable place to build it. [www.rutlandkino.co.uk]

Rutland Times – 4 April

OSWESTRY (Shropshire)

As reported on p26 of the last Bulletin, the 79-seat Kinoculture was due to close in April. Now it is set to remain after extending its lease for another five years.

Oswestry & Border Counties Advertiser – 3 April

OXFORD



The Ultimate Picture Palace has launched a survey asking members if they would be interested in bringing the Grade II listed cinema into community ownership. A small steering group has been running the cinema since owner Becky Hallsmith died from cancer in September. The 60-year-old had ensured before her death that the future of the business was safe and the 105-seat UPP would carry on showing films as normal. See also Obituary p35.

Oxford Mail – 30 March; photo taken March 2006



PENISTONE (South Yorks)



The future of the Paramount has been secured with the Council confirming it intends to grant a new 25-year lease on the building, which it owns. {20833}

Yorkshire Post – 22 February; photo taken July 2006

PETERBOROUGH (Cambs)

The running of the Broadway Theatre (ex Odeon) has been taken over by Selladoor Worldwide, which has renamed it the Peterborough New Theatre. The previous operator had run into severe financial difficulties. The new management has promised to work hard to rebuild trust in the venue after customers were previously left out of pocket. {19950}

Peterborough Telegraph, The Stage – 7 March;
sent in by Martin Lightfoot & R David Simpson

PLYMOUTH

The new twelve-screen 2,140-seat Cineworld at Bretonside was due to be handed over for fitting out on 23 April. Opening is scheduled for October. It will have an IMAX screen.

Plymouth Live – 20 March; *The Herald, Plymouth* – 21 March

PORT TALBOT

Work on the redevelopment of the Grade II listed Plaza is due to start later this year. It has received £5.5m funding from Welsh Government's 'Building for the Future' programme. The new arts and culture facility could open in 2020.

South Wales Evening Post – 4 March; *Western Mail* – 6 March

REDCAR (Cleveland)



The Council has confirmed that the Regent, which they own, will reopen, although no time scale has been given. It has been closed since April 2018 after serious structural problems were found. Controversial plans for a five-screen multiplex at nearby Coatham have been dropped. {5304}

Evening Gazette, Teesside – 23 February

SALFORD (Greater Manchester)

The seven-screen Vue at the Lowry Outlet is currently closed while every seat is replaced with a "luxurious padded leather recliner". It means an end to the £4.99 tickets that have been available but the new price will be £7.99 – all day, every day. The cinema opened in November 2001 as the Warner Village with nine screens; two screens have been mothballed. {25291} photo [top next column] taken March 2006

Manchester Evening News – 12 April; sent in by Carl Chesworth



SCARBOROUGH (North Yorks)

The opposition group on the Council has called for the authority to ditch plans for a cinema at North Bay, following news of a further delay. They want a multiplex in the town centre.

Yorkshire Post – 1 March; *Scarborough News* – 28 February, 7 March

SHEFFIELD

A 270° ScreenX has been installed at the twenty-screen Cineworld at the Valley Entertainment Centre. {25308}

Sheffield Star – 5 April; sent in by Terry Hanstock

SLOUGH (Berks)



R David Simpson writes: I understand the Council has given Buzz Bingo a very short lease, possibly only two years, on the Adelphi. The Council bought the building in August 2018 for £4.6m and is looking at "a range of options" for future use. A local man has started a 'Save the Adelphi' Facebook page. The building has a certificate of immunity from listing. See Casework p5. {14760}

Photo taken April 2015

SOUTHAMPTON



The Woolston Picture Theatre is being converted into flats. It is thought the façade will be retained. The building dates from 1913 and was last used for bingo, which closed in 2007. {21359}

Sent in by Ken Roe; photo taken May 2006

STAFFORD



The three-screen Stafford Cinema (ex Odeon/Apollo) closed on 28 February, less than a year after being taken over by a new company, AJH Cinema. Falling attendances were blamed for the closure, despite ticket prices of only £5. The news comes after a six-screen Odeon Luxe opened in the town last November. The cinema originally opened in October 1936 with 956 seats. It was designed by Percy Roland Satchwell and was one of the smallest original Odeons. The projection box was at the rear of the stalls to maximise balcony space on a corner site. Coal for the boiler had to be carried in through the auditorium! {22874}

Express & Star – 6 March; photo taken August 2004
sent in by Carl Chesworth, Chris Ingram, Allan Pointon & Ken Roe

STRATFORD-UPON-AVON (Warks)



Planning permission has been granted to demolish the two-screen Picturehouse and build a hotel. The building was originally a garage and was converted into a cinema in May 1997. A four-screen Everyman opened nearby in June 2017. {21199}

Stratford-upon-Avon Observer – 20 February, 22 March; sent in by Terry Hanstock

SWADLINCOTE (Derbys)



The former Empire is up for sale again for £225,000. It had reopened as a bar last October but that has now closed. See p27 Bulletin 52/6. {39091}

Derbyshire Live – 1 March; photo taken February 2005

SWANSEA



The Grade II listed Albert Hall is up for sale for £800,000. It opened in 1864 as a Music Hall and was last used for bingo, which closed in 2007. It was at one point showing films as a Union cinema and taken over with the rest of the circuit in 1937 by ABC, then went to local owners in 1939 and to Rank in 1976, which converted it to bingo in 1977. {17667}

Wales Online – 1 April; photo taken August 2007

ULVERSTON (Cumbria)



The building that houses the Roxy cinema and the Laurel & Hardy Museum has been sold; the agent's asking price was £195,000. The Charity that runs the town's Coronation Hall has made a bid to have the Roxy listed as an Asset of Community Value. Cinema operator Charles Morris said he had two offers on the property turned down in the past.

Westmorland Gazette – 1 April; sent in by Terry Hanstock; photo taken June 2005

WAREHAM (Dorset)

The Purbeck Cinema Trust celebrated ten years of running the Rex Cinema on 28 April with a special showing of *Cinema Paradiso*. The Rex is one of the oldest continuously running independent cinemas in the UK. From its opening in the early 1920s with silent movies accompanied by a piano, it has kept up with developments in technology, with the introduction of mono then stereo sound and CinemaScope. Over the past ten years the single-screen auditorium has been refurbished and now seats 125, with space for one wheelchair at the front. New heating has been installed and online booking and new smartphone app introduced. It now boasts the very latest Christie Series 3 digital projection and Dolby surround sound. Over 40 volunteers keep the cinema running seven evenings a week, with matinées in the school holidays: the only closures are on Easter Day and Christmas Day. Normal ticket prices are £7 for adults and £5.50 for seniors, students and children. There are also Silver Screen showings for which tickets cost £5. Live and deferred relays cost £15. The Rex is supported by local authorities, charities and sponsors. {15225}

Sent in by Anthony Wills (personal visit and brochure); photo on front cover

WELLINGTON (Shropshire)

The former Clifton is back on the market, having only been bought a year ago by a developer. A plan to convert it into shops and flats fell through. No sale price has been advertised. A campaign to reopen it as a cinema came to naught. {37745}

Shropshire Star – 1 March



The owners of the Wetherby Film Theatre have submitted an application to extend the venue at the side to create a bar and split the existing large cinema into two smaller screens. Seating will be reduced from 134 to 99. It is envisaged that opening hours would start at 9am. The proposals have been met with local objections. See Casework p5. {3507}

Wetherby News – 8 March; photo taken July 2004

WORTHING (West Sussex)

The Pavilion Theatre will receive £48,500 from the Government's Coastal Revival Fund. The money will be used to "revive and restore" the building

Worthing Herald – 26 March; sent in by Barry Quinton

Plans to hand the management of the Connaught, Pavilion Theatre and Assembly Hall to an in-house trust have been approved by Councillors.

Worthing Herald – 7 March; sent in by Barry Quinton

INTERNET CORNER

- ★ [tinyurl.com/y3lyf6tm] A *Grimsby Live* page on the cinemas of Grimsby and Cleethorpes.
- ★ [tinyurl.com/y5sudnug] A page from the *North West Evening Mail* (Barrow) – The changing face of Furness entertainment venues; sent in by Philip Meyer
- ★ [tinyurl.com/y2odo2qm] A *28DaysLater* report on a permission visit to the former Embassy / Irvine Theatre in Wallasey. Lots of photos and links to similar pages.
- ★ [www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-suffolk-47588275] Inside the abandoned Odeon Ipswich, soon to be converted into a church; sent in by Margaret Burgoine
- ★ [www.boredpanda.com/beautiful-cinemas-around-the-world] 123 photos of the world's most beautiful cinemas.
- ★ [tinyurl.com/y43gbsd6] A page from *Architecture and Design* on the world's most beautiful cinemas (some overlap with the above).
- ★ [youtu.be/f8IRyFffJ8] A 6-minute YouTube video The World's Coolest Cinemas; above 3 items sent in by Gavin McGrath
- ★ [tinyurl.com/yy9yyhxx] From *The Guardian* – a photo essay on the battle to save 1930s Odeons.
- ★ [tinyurl.com/yyj2moa3] A page from the US edition of *Variety* – Inside Indie Movie Theaters' Battle to Survive.
- ★ [tinyurl.com/yyq4rhlh] Another page from the US edition of *Variety* – How America's Biggest Theater Chains Are Exploiting Their Janitors; above 2 items sent in by Terry Hanstock
- ★ [tinyurl.com/yxab69ev] A page from the *News Shopper* on the Rivoli ballroom in Brockley, London. Sent in by Philip Stevens
- ★ [tinyurl.com/y4huykx9] From the *Huddersfield Examiner* – Bygone cinemas in Kirklees (West Yorkshire).
- ★ [tinyurl.com/yydxkstn] From the *Bournemouth Daily Echo* about projectionist John Newcombe, still working at the Lighthouse in Poole, aged 82. Sent in by Philip Stevens
- ★ [tinyurl.com/y6o2z26n] Seven weird but wonderful spring film screenings in London – from *Time Out*

LATE NEWS

MAIDENHEAD (Berks)



The eight-screen Odeon is being transformed into an Odeon Luxe. Capacity will be reduced from 1,415 to 633 reclining seats. The enhanced comfort will be coupled with a complete overhaul of the technology, including a new fully-reclining 120-seat iSense auditorium; the screen measures 15m x 6.2m, and is curved to maximise light reflection. The cinema is remaining open during the works. {24995}

Maidenhead Advertiser – 15 April; photo taken April 2006

CARTOON CORNER



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

The Projected Picture Trust

Dean Clough Mills, HALIFAX, HX3 5AX

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

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

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

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

contact@ppttrust.org

www.ppttrust.org

LETTERS

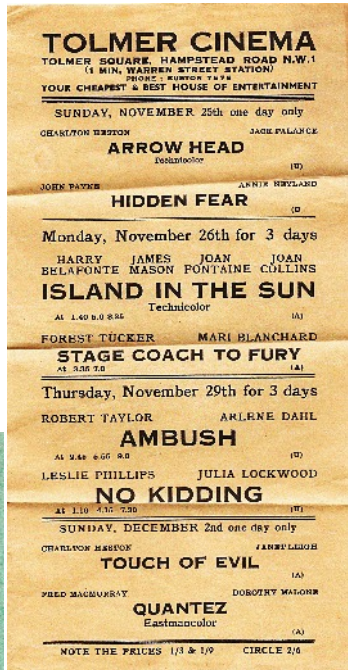
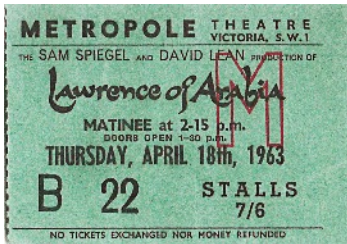
ERRATA

Regarding the Newsreel item for the *Mayflower* Southampton on p27 of the last Bulletin. I appreciate you were reproducing a newspaper article from the *Southampton Daily Echo* but this entry gives a false impression of the scale of the theatre with just 1,659 seats – the *Echo*'s error. The article might instead have recorded 1,708 new seats plus 510 refurbished seats (including 494 Kalee balcony seats dating from 1928) plus 107 standing places, giving a total audience occupancy of 2,325. The capacity in 1928 was 2,289. I was responsible for the re-seating exercise at the *Mayflower*.

Peter Ruthven Hall

MATTERS ARISING

I would like to thank Ron Knee (CTA Bulletin, March-April 2019) for satisfying my curiosity about the trailers on *Talking Pictures TV*, in identifying the Tolmer Cinema at Euston and the Regent at Chesham. There are other introductions to the films that are not limited to the *Glimpses* fillers. I imagine the cinema equipment shots are courtesy of the Cinema Museum in Kennington. I enclose some flyers for the Tolmer, dates unknown.



A propos Peter Ferrari's letter in the same issue on 70mm epics at the *Metropole* in Victoria. I enclose my flyer and the cinema ticket from 1963 – note the price of 7/6, which at the time must have seemed expensive! I also enclose some illustrations of other epic advertising that may also interest you.

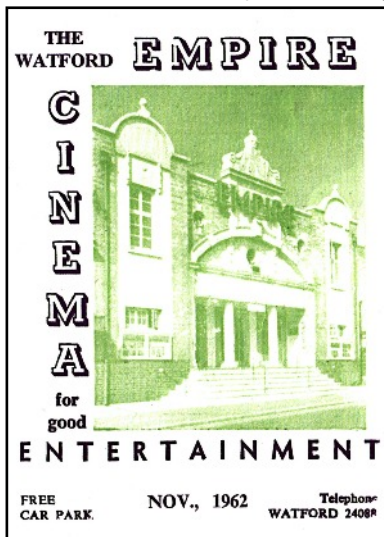
Finally, I am not surprised about the piece under Cinema Business that Cineworld revenues are up by 3%. I used to get a senior's ticket at my local *Cineworld*, which was £6, then went up to £6.60 and eventually £9. The new *Cineworld* at Watford is even dearer! I just refuse to pay those prices and prefer to patronise the refurbished *Rex* in Berkhamsted or the *Odyssey* at St Albans where matinées are just £5 and the cinemas are much better anyway, offering an enjoyable movie experience as they did when they first opened in the 1930s. I include examples of film-going in Watford in the 1960s at the *Empire*, which always had great double-bills.

Michael Darvell

Editor's Note: Michael sent quite a few adverts and programmes for various cinemas. I have kept the rest back to use as fillers in future Bulletins and, of course, passed the originals onto the Archive.

In the Casework report on p6 of Bulletin 53/1 it states that the *Wurlitzer* in the *Granada Tooting* may be restored again. Len Rawle, who has been in charge of looking after the organ for several decades, tells me he has no plans for restoration next year.

R David Simpson



On p32 of the last Bulletin, Mr Peter Ferrari is unsure as to whether *55 Days at Peking* played at the *Metropole*. It played at the *Dominion*. **[Editor's Note:** and later at the *Odeon Haymarket*.]

Michael Jones

In the last Bulletin it said the *Hollywood* cinema Norwich had three screens – it was four. Mr Wickes added the fourth one after the visit. I think he had intentions of adding three more at that point.

Tim McCullen

Further to David A. Ellis' comments in the last Bulletin about the loss of some 80% of all silent films, I believe another reason for this was the recovery of the valuable silver content in the nitrate stock. Today, of course, we celebrate 'recycling' – but we most certainly do not celebrate this early example!

David Simpson



Interesting to read Fabian Breckels' *Odeon* reminiscences. The photo above was taken in the late 1940s on stage at the former *Gaumont Palace* Salisbury. Showing behind the uniformed staff line-up is one of the two house tabs, each having three Tudor scenes. There was no centre opening, the whole curtain opened to one side of the stage. This rarely-seen curtain in my picture shows, left, A Town Harbour, centre, Tudor ships sailing in front of the White Cliffs of Dover and right, soldiers advancing with pikes and horses. Note: The original Trent Gothic design oak panels, which ran the entire width of the stage, can be seen at the bottom of photograph. My last visit to the *Odeon* Salisbury was in 1987. We had been given permission to remove a section of the original *Gaumont* 'Insignia' carpet from the old restaurant. This was used for the floor of the *Gaumont Restaurant* area in the *Museum of the Moving Image*. But that's another story?

Ron Knee

Three points from the previous Bulletin. (1) I was interested in David A Ellis' excellent letter in the last Bulletin about *Lost Movies*. Bob Monkhouse was involved in a Court Case some years ago over copyright problems over some of his films that involved the Channel Islands. The Channel Islands are within the Customs Territory of the European Union but outside the Fiscal Territory, ie there is no VAT there. I do not know what the copyright position is on these islands or the result of the Court Case. The modern digital restoration has meant that a number of old films have been traced and restored to DVD. Performers such *Lupino Lane*, *Elsie and Doris Walters*, *Ethel and Gracie West* and one of the forgotten names in the industry, *Betty Balfour* – England's first international film star in the 1920s. *Renown Pictures* have found a number of these films which the *BFI* have said were lost.

(2) Letter from Mike Whitcombe p31. The letter mentions the thriller *Raising Cain*, which I have never seen. I remember one of my relatives using this expression, which seems to mean making a huge fuss over things. My mother sometime used the phrase 'Corn in Egypt' when something unexpected and pleasant happened. I've not heard either expression – both derived from the Bible – being used for some time, possibly due to the general decline in religion and Biblical knowledge in this country

(3) Miscellany, Theatres at Risk, p29. The Intimate Theatre at Palmers Green is given as the place where Richard Attenborough made his stage debut. However the Little Theatre in Leicester makes the same claim – a photograph of the plaque on the wall is enclosed. I do not know which is right.

Ian Patterson

Editor's Note: The information about the Intimate Theatre came from the *Evening Standard*. A little further research says Richard Attenborough performed there during his time at RADA. It is more likely his stage debut was in Leicester, as he went to school in Leicester prior to going to RADA. [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Richard_Attenborough]

ODEON FILM BOOKING OFFICE?



The discussion in Bulletins 53/1 and 53/2 on Rank HQ buildings remind me that until recently, on leaving Leicester Square down Whitcomb Street along the side of the former Odeon West End, one came across an entrance to "Odeon Film Booking" set into the side of the cinema. How key to Odeon's operation this was and whether it has relocated now that the building is gone I do not know but, cinema anorak that I am, I did take a photo in June 2011.

Jeremy Perkins

TO LIST OR NOT TO LIST... II

Richard Gray's response to my letter in Bulletin 53/1 regarding the listing of the former **Carlton Theatre** in London's West End as opposed to the refusal of listing for the **Futurist Theatre** in Scarborough suggests he had missed the thrust of my letter and, as there may be others like him, I would welcome the opportunity to make my position on the matter clearer.

Firstly, I wished neither to denigrate nor underestimate the amount of work and time put in by those whose efforts and persistence finally resulted in the **Carlton** being listed, not least Mr Gray himself. I'm also aware of their good work put in on behalf of the **Futurist**. Secondly, I was certainly not "grumbling" about "...what we have as well as what we have not got...". The results of Historic England's assessment of the two buildings were made known within a relatively short time span and brought into sharp focus both the different criteria applied in the two cases and the frailty of listing itself. It was the glaring disparity between the two assessments that appalled me. Mr Gray himself thinks the **Futurist's** fate may well have been due to heavy pressure from the local Council, which owned the theatre and wanted rid of it. The delisting and demolition of Newcastle's **Paramount/Odeon** remains an open sore to many in the North East and the numerous pressures against buildings being listed – including powerful developers, site owners, local authorities and money – are clearly pressures Historic England is neither equipped nor financed to withstand.



Different criteria. High on the list of reasons why the **Futurist** was denied listing came the unsightly cladding largely concealing the ornate façade. The façade was inspected and restoration specialists declared it intact and the cladding on its wooden frame to be removable. Presumably the huge, framed 'Readograph' sign concealing most of the **Carlton's** frontage could similarly be removed, yet its retention and likely future survival as a valuable advertising space does not seem to have concerned HE. The **Futurist's** enlarged proscenium arch from the mid 'fifties survived until last year's demolition while the **Carlton** lost its entire proscenium in the late 'seventies.

Mr Gray states that it would be possible to regain the **Carlton's** complete auditorium if desired by an operator but who wants an auditorium with neither stage nor screen? Its original theatrical configuration would require a stage house and the space is simply no longer there to build one. An opened-up auditorium will never be a single-screen cinema again as any capacity remotely commensurate with its volume would render the cinema unprofitable, especially given the venue's proximity to other cinemas showing the same product as is the case these days. Even the **Odeon Luxe Leicester Square's** Screen ① capacity of almost 800 is already beginning to look like over-provision except for a few performances at the start of a 'must see' blockbuster's run and the occasional première / special event.

When all is said and done, what remains the case is that the former **Carlton** contains some furnishings, décor and artefacts that are worthy trophies and commendably saved – for now – but they are no longer linked in a way that conveys the whole, once magnificent theatre. Screen ① of what is currently called the **Empire** is a decent, spacious auditorium by today's standards (if you don't mind the naked screen, exposed screen frame and visible cables around the screen). It occupies the ceiling area of the former **Carlton** with the nicely-raked seating being above the original upper circle level. Those lengths of ornate cornice still visible are very impressive as are those chandeliers that survive. The foyer too is a deserving survivor. Had it not been for the loss of the intact and fully equipped **Futurist**, I might have felt more like joining in the Haymarket celebrations and come away thinking HE listing and protection were one and the same but, too evidently, they are not.

James Bettley

TERMINUS



With the frequent showings of the 1961 classic documentary *Terminus* on TV and continuous runs at the National Railway Museum in York, both film and railway buffs may be interested in the fact that the young man answering a telephone enquiry is alive and reasonably well at 83. He is my brother Gerald Uzzell, who now lives in Herne Bay, where his local cinema is the **Kavanagh**. He remembers well the few days the crew spent filming and, like the rest of us, did not anticipate what would become of the director, one John Schlesinger.

Adrian Uzzell

DANCING ON ICE

I was watching the *Skating On Ice* final (I know, I'm sad) on TV recently and mid-programme they interviewed final contestant James Jordan in front of the most wonderful cinema proscenium of the marvellously restored **Rex Cinema** at Berkhamsted.

Mark Barnard

LAST ORDERS, PLEASE!

I found myself recalling memories of my own early cinema career after reading Fabian Breckels' enjoyable piece (*My Year with J Arthur Rank*) in the last Bulletin. We appear to be the same age and both begun working in cinemas during the same year, although Fabian chose Odeon and I chose Cannon. My site was the ABC Portsmouth, just a couple of miles south of our main rival, the Odeon Portsmouth, where Fabian records being sent to cover on the opening weekend of *Total Recall*.

Fabian adds that the cinema was shut and locked up by 10:30pm, which I remember to be the case. (We always closed by 10:30pm at the ABC Portsmouth as our manager at the time liked to ensure she could catch the last bus home if I wasn't on duty to give her a lift!) Fabian says he was told that the Odeon closed as early as it did so last orders could be drunk at the local pub. As far-fetched as this might sound, I would say there's more than a grain of truth in it. One of the assistant managers of the Odeon at the time was a friend of mine. He enjoyed his beer and his favourite haunt was The Thatched House, which was opposite the Odeon. He always popped across the road for a drink after the cinema closed and often did so during the day, even when he was duty manager. I remember calling into the Odeon around six-o'clock one evening and being told my friend was in the office. The office, in this case, was the bar across the road! As duty manager he shouldn't even have set foot outside of the cinema during opening hours let alone left the building to drink beer but the staff never told on him and he got away with it for years.

Fabian also recounts that while covering at the Odeon Portsmouth he was booked into "a dive of a B&B". I wonder if this was the Market House Tavern (no longer called by that name) which sat on Mile End Road, opposite the ferry port and a few hundred yards from the ABC Portsmouth. This was the B&B that relief managers at our site were always put up at and it was indeed a dive. Thirty years ago when Fabian was covering the Odeon Portsmouth it had a reputation for all-night drinking as well as a few other dodgy dealings! But it was cheap and therefore according to the suits at Head Office the ideal place for some young, under-paid, put-upon relief manager to spend an uncomfortable night.

Mike Whitcombe

ARCHIVE ARCHIVE



On the back page of this Bulletin there is a report of the Archive move. Look at the bottom right hand photo. Here is a photo of me in the Archive in in 1993. It was previously printed on p4 of Bulletin 27/3.

Tim McCullen

YOUNGEST CINEMA MANAGER

Those claiming to be the youngest cinema manager would include Gerald Parkes MBE, who managed the Ritz Keighley for ABC at age 25 and Mike Ellis, who was 24 when he was offered the Odeon Queensway Birmingham in 1977. But in Joe G Smith's *The story of Bishop's Stortford's cinemas* he claims his grandfather Ernest E Smith opened the Saffron Walden Cinema in 1912. However when the Great War broke he joined the army and left the running of the cinema to his 13-year-old son GPA (Percy) Smith. The teenager wrote to his father that a funny man was attracting audiences, the hire of whose films cost 15/-. The funny man was Charlie Chaplin.

Martin Tapsell

HOLIDAY SNAPS

By Ned Williams

Well, we've been on our travels – all the way to New Zealand. We found it to be quite a cinema-going country relative to its size of population. We saw quite a lot of relatively new 'bijou' cinemas in very modern buildings and some cinema frontages obscured by new use of building etc. Thanks to the country's commitment to putting up interpretation plaques everywhere it was quite often possible to read a building's history and see earlier photos of the places concerned! Top to Bottom:

The State Napier (NI); The Regent Hokita (SI) still going strong; The Geraldine Hokita (SI); Trainworld, Napier (NI) now home to a model train museum but once a cinema in the Spanish style.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

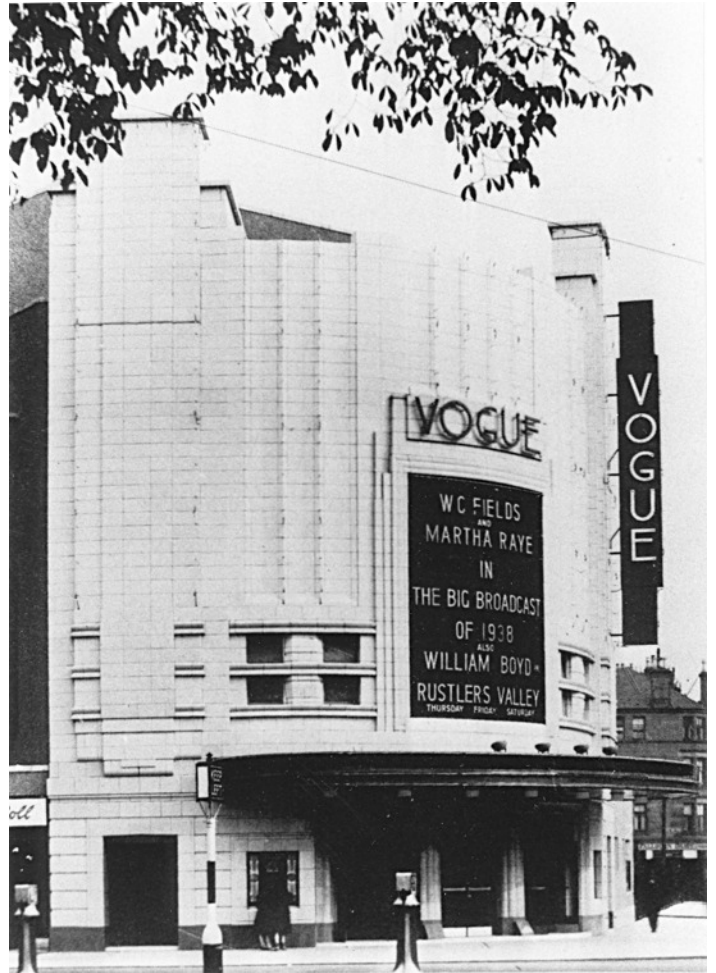
A regular column celebrating our wonderful listed cinemas.
All images come from the CTA Archive.

105 years

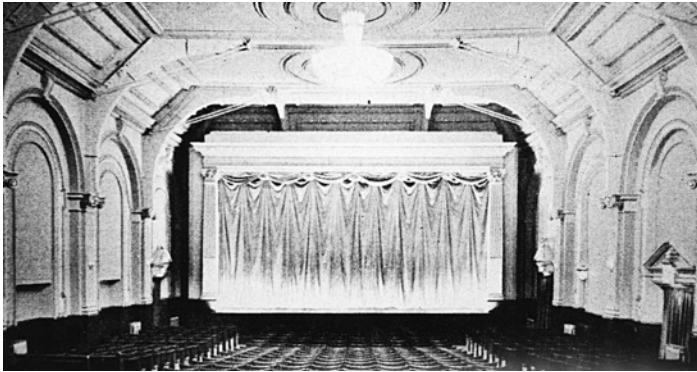


Tower 52 Anlaby Road, Hull. Opened 1 June 1914.
Architect H Percival Binks. Listed Grade II. [Above]

Picture Theatre / Empire / Elysian / Gaiety / New Classic
Seaside Road, Eastbourne. Opened June 1914.
Architect unknown. Listed Grade II. [No image]



100 years



Picturedrome / Classic / Cannon / MGM 51 Canada Grove,
Bognor Regis. Opened 5 June 1919. Peter Dulvey Stonham
(1886 Assembly Rooms) – Arthur Smith. Listed Grade II. [Above]

95 years

Scala 13 Galgate, Barnard Castle. Opened 24 May 1924.
Architect unknown. Listed Grade II. [No image]

90 years

Kingsway / Vogue 1235 Cathcart Street, Cathcart, Glasgow.
Opened 8 May 1929. Architect James McKissack. (B) Listed.
[Next column, top]

85 years

Forum Southgate Street, Bath. Opened 19 May 1934.
Architect A Stuart Gray / William Henry Watkins. Listed Grade II*.
[Next column, centre]

80 years

Odeon 5 Dickson Road, Blackpool. Opened 6 May 1939.
Architect W Calder Robson / Harry Weedon. Listed Grade II.
[Next column, bottom left]

Cosmo / Glasgow Film Theatre 12 Rose Street, Glasgow.
Opened 18 May 1939. Architect James McKissack. (B) Listed.
[Next column, bottom right]



THE CINEMA THEATRE ASSOCIATION

Company limited by guarantee No. 4428778: Registered Charity No. 1100702

	Turnover	2019	2018
Draft Profit and Loss Account for the period from 1st March 2018 to 28th February 2019	Members' subscriptions	£ 25,713	£ 29,530
	Members' payments for visits and events	£ 31,156	£ 10,517
	Income from sales	£ 4,658	£ 3,868
		£ 61,527	£ 43,916
	Cost of memberships		
	Cost of CTA Bulletin	£ 18,154	£ 17,217
	Cost of Picture House	£ 5,065	£ 4,549
	Cost of sales	£ 2,937	£ 1,983
	Cost of visits and events	£ 31,404	£ 15,498
		£ 57,560	£ 39,246
	Gross profit	£ 3,967	£ 4,670
	Other income		
	Donations	£ 4,384	£ 4,698
	GiftAid on subscriptions and donations	£ 4,959	£ 6,083
	Legacies	£ 2	£ 11,850
		£ 9,345	£ 22,631
	Administrative expenses		
	Archive costs	£ 26,192	£ 25,195
	Casework costs	£ 15,123	£ 12,335
	Other costs	£ 6,981	£ 8,498
	Donations to restoration groups	£ 0	£ 0
		£ 48,296	£ 46,027
	Operating surplus/(deficit)	£ (34,984)	£ (18,726)
	Interest receivable	£ 1,820	£ 2,241
	Surplus/(deficit) on ordinary activities	£ (33,164)	£ (16,485)
Draft Balance Sheet as at 28th February 2019		28 Feb 2019	28 Feb 2018
	CURRENT ASSETS & LIABILITIES		
	Book stock at Director's valuation	£ 13,157	£ 13,153
	Cash at Bank	£ 167,459	£ 200,623
	M&G Charibond (at net cost)	£ 49,419	£ 49,419
	NET CURRENT ASSETS	£ 230,035	£ 263,195
	RESERVES		
	Current assets brought forward at 1 st March	£ 263,195	£ 279,860
	Surplus (deficit) for current period	£ (33,164)	£ (16,485)
	Change in value of book stock	£ 4	£ (180)
	TOTAL RESERVES AT 28th FEBRUARY	£ 230,035	£ 263,195

This statement has been prepared to give members information on the financial position of the Association and, as the full accounts have yet to be approved by our accountant, may differ in detail from the final position. The Accounts which are presented for the approval of the Directors at their AGM and filed with Companies House and the Charity Commission are less detailed. However fully detailed accounts, as presented to members at the CTA AGM, will be available as a PDF on the members' area of the CTA website in advance of the date of the AGM.

OBITUARY

BILL HEINE

Bill Heine of Oxford died on 2 April, aged 74, after a battle with cancer.

Well known as a journalist and broadcaster, he was also a cinema proprietor. Anxious to find a suitable venue for non-mainstream films after the Scala (now Phoenix) was taken over by the Star circuit and operated as Studio ① & ②, he and a partner found the derelict East Oxford Picture Palace, which had closed as a silent cinema in 1917. They re-opened it as the Penultimate Picture Palace in 1976 and ran it very successfully until it closed in 1994. It reopened in 1996 and still operates today as the Ultimate Picture Palace. The cinema has never shown advertisements but instead of Ladies and Gents the toilets were named Pearl and Dean and marked by nude statues of the appropriate sex.



Bill Heine with 'Pearl'

He next reopened the Moulin Rouge in 1980 (later he renamed it Not the Moulin Rouge during an argument with Oxford City Council over a sculpture of kicking can-can legs). The little cinema prospered until it was repossessed and demolished in 1991. He also ran the Electric in New Street, Birmingham and the Duke of York's in Brighton, where the ex-Headington legs still kick out over the top of the façade.

A formidable radio interviewer, he also kept Oxfordshire entertained with his various tussles with the City Council, including licensing and late night shows and sculptures (including the famous shark crashing through the roof of his terraced house). He greatly improved programming at his cinemas and, it can be argued, kept them running at a most vulnerable time in their histories. It is a tribute that three out of the four of these unlikely survivors are still running successfully.

Always fun to be in contact with (unless you were a City planner or councillor) his death has robbed Oxford of one of its most colourful characters.

Ian Meyrick

ARCHIVE

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

MEMBERSHIP

NEW MEMBERS

We have been very pleased to send a warm welcome to the following new members of the CTA, who are listed in order of joining: Chris Clay, Anthony Walton, Martin Moore, James Fletcher, Joop de Gruiter, Mattias Mattsson, Geoffrey Booth, Mike Norris, Sam Cuthbert, Brian Hawkins, Ellen Cheshire and David Piper.

DONATIONS

Grateful thanks are extended to the following renewing members for adding a donation to their annual subscription: JS Barber, WA Bates, PT Bayley, GM Booth, G Booth, DP Brown, PJ Chester, J Clarkson, P Cooper, GE Cranch, DG Daykin, MS Derriman, ET Faulkner, PJA Ferrari, RJ Fox, PH Garrick, A Goodwin, E Griffiths, RP Hagon, BW Harries, CE Hide, K Johnston, DR Jones, SB Kay, M King, JM Knight, R Lobb, A Maltby, PV Marie, RL Maudsley, R McDell, AE McCann, TD Mills, N Pemberton, JW Perkins, JE Pilblad, JE Prickett, DP Rees, AG Roberts, HR Rowley, NJ Ruben, JM Seligmann, JM Sturdy, CW Turner, AJ Weise, GJ Wheeler, TK Williams, DR Williams, J Wootton, CT Wright, MJ Yallop and PG Yaxley.

IN MEMORIAM

Sadly we record the news of the passing of two long-standing members of the CTA. Martin Moritz of Harpenden joined us in 1992 and has died at the age of 78. Alan Booth of Scarborough, who joined in 1988, has died aged 86 and his son, Geoffrey, has joined in his memory. Our sincere condolences are sent to their families and friends.

Membership changes above are noted up to 22 April at which date the membership totalled 1007 excluding overdue renewals from January and February.

Neville C Taylor, Membership Secretary

NECROLOGY

ANDRÉ PREVIN 89

Recipient of four Oscars, including for his scoring of *My Fair Lady*. He was principal conductor of the London Symphony Orchestra from 1968-79. He was "Andrew Preview" in the 1971 *Morecambe and Wise Christmas Special*.



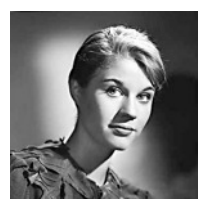
CLIVE SWIFT 82

Probably best known as the henpecked husband to Patricia Routledge's Hyacinth Bucket in *Keeping Up Appearances*. He spent a decade with the Royal Shakespeare Company at the beginning of his career and has more than 110 screen credits on film and TV.



JULIA LOCKWOOD 77

Daughter of film star Margaret Lockwood, Julia made her own acting debut at the age of four. She followed in her mother's footsteps and played Peter Pan at London's Scala theatre. Further West End stage appearances followed before she retired to raise a family. She later returned to appear on TV and teach.



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

FOR SALE Film related books - Chaplin, Disney, Hitchcock etc. Contact Martin Cleave [martincleave66@gmail.com] or send SAE to 19 South Park Court, Park Road, Beckenham, BR3 1PH for list. Postage and packing charges only.

PUBLICATIONS OFFERED I have every *Bulletin* and *Picture House* since November 2010. If anyone is interested in collecting these, please contact me. Trevor Williams, 4 Roland Way, Worcester Park, KT4 7HF. Tel: 020 8337 4619

ARCHIVE MOVE TO ROCHFORD

By Clive Polden

Over a couple of sunny days in late March 2019 a very significant and long-anticipated event took place, namely the Cinema Theatre Association's Archive moved from its temporary storage in Bow, East London to new premises at Rochford, just outside Southend-on-Sea in Essex. This represented the culmination of a tireless three-year quest to find new accommodation for the Archive after we lost our previous space when it was redeveloped for housing.

As you may be aware, the Archive has moved many times over the years, having been located in both South and East London, including a variety of cinema buildings. Although it would have been preferable to keep the Archive in London, simple economics prevented this from being a realistic proposition. Instead the key factors considered were suitability of the space, transport links and of course affordability. Finding suitable space has proved to be a difficult task and there have been a number of disappointments.



Cramped conditions at the Archive temporary storage in Bow



Packing it all ready for the move



Some of the volunteers who helped with the Archive move

Moving an Archive the size of ours is equally a Herculean undertaking requiring months of work to box up all the content and protect items for transit. This could not have been achieved without the many CTA members who have volunteered their time over the last few months in either helping to pack, assisting with the move itself or lending a hand to unpack and set up the Archive in its new home. I am indebted to these dozen or so members who have worked so hard so that this move could be achieved. Even with all this help the Archive still needed the services of four very strong and willing removal men and two lorries over two days to relocate to Rochford.



It is hoped that the Archive will be able to receive visitors and enquiries by late summer. In the meantime the Archive will be unpacked and reorganised in our new spacious surroundings. We are always looking for volunteers, so if you can spare time to occasionally take a trip down to Rochford to lend a hand please do get in touch. It is hoped that there will be an open day arranged next year so members can come along to inspect the new facilities. To whet your appetite I am happy to present some photographs of the Archive's new home and of the move.



Two views of the Archive in its new location in Rochford