



CINEMA
THEATRE
ASSOCIATION

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BULLETIN

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



The Byron Hucknall (Notts). A new owner is planning to convert it onto a four-screen cinema; 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.

Thank you all for continuing to send in items for publication. I have been able to use much of the backlog this time. 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

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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

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VISITS AND EVENTS

CTA Annual General Meeting

Just a reminder that the CTA AGM will be held 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.

Flicks in Fenland

Organised by Elain Harwood



The Majestic King's Lynn in July 2007

This full-day trip will start 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.

Coming Soon

A Cinematic Wander Around Coventry

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!

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

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.

CASEWORK

By Tim Hatcher

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

More Casework in the full Bulletin

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.

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]

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]



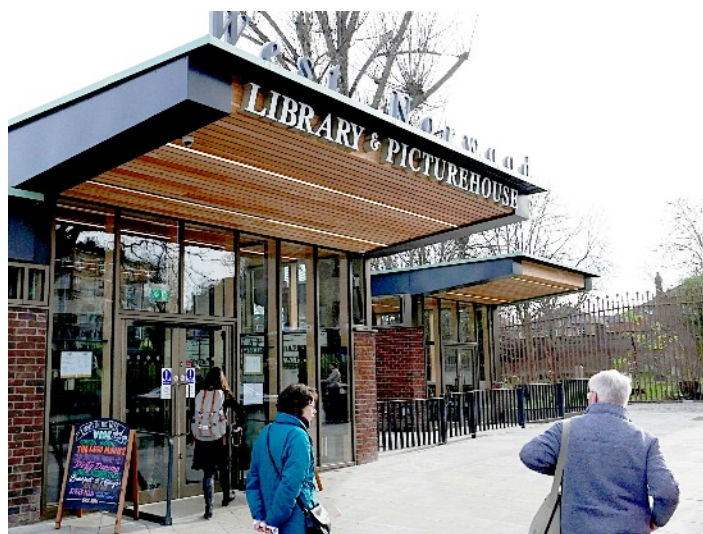
The main foyer at the Everyman [MW]



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]

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]

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

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. {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

Seven more pages of newsreel
in the full Bulletin

LETTERS

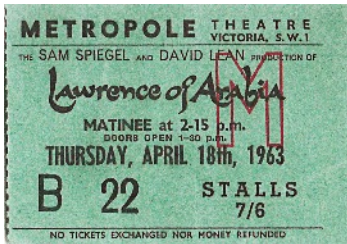
ERRATA

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.

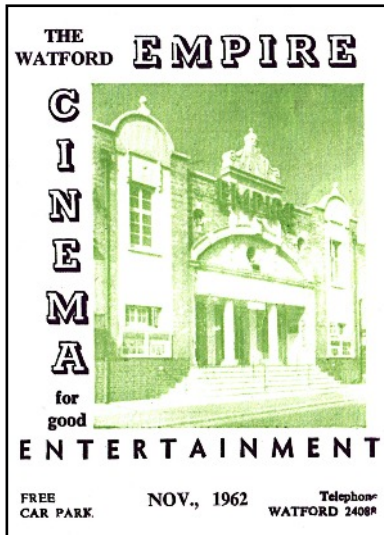
Finally, I am not surprised about the piece under Cinema Business that Cineworld revenues are up by 3%. I used to get a senior's ticket at my local *Cineworld*, which was £6, then went up to £6.60 and eventually £9. The new *Cineworld* at Watford is even dearer! I just refuse to pay those prices and 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 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]

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

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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

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

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

More letters in the full Bulletin

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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