



CINEMA
THEATRE
ASSOCIATION

www.cta-uk.org

BULLETIN

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The Grade II listed Tameside Hippodrome in Ashton-under-Lyne (Greater Manchester) which is 'at risk'



The Regent Downham Market [L] and the Majestic Kings Lynn [R] both seen on the CTA Fenland trip

FROM YOUR EDITOR

Many thanks to all those who met the deadline for this issue of the Bulletin. However, anything I received after 20 August will have to wait until the next Bulletin, unless it has already been covered. Just like last year, we are going to Europe for the whole of September and I needed the time to prepare. It also means I haven't had time to produce my usual Cinema calendar before we go. I will do it soon after we come back so look out for the advert in the next Bulletin. There will be plenty of time to order it in time for Christmas and the New Year.

In the week before this Bulletin's deadline, we were having trouble with emails sent both to the Bulletin address and my personal email address. If you sent me something by email and either you haven't had an acknowledgement or it doesn't appear in this issue, please let me know. I'm afraid I can't acknowledge individually everything I receive but if you would really like an acknowledgement, please say so in your email or enclose SAE if submitting by post.

Another full 32 page edition this time. I'm afraid I have had no room again for your holiday snaps. Please don't let this stop you sending them in; this bounty can't last forever. I also have used my backlog of articles so, if you feel like putting pen to paper, let me know.

I have had two letters questioning the use of the word "necrology", one quoting a rather bizarre definition. I have been unable to find this definition in any on-line medical dictionary. However, Oxford, Collins and several other on-line dictionaries give the meaning of "necrology" as "a list of people who have died, especially in the recent past." I use this word as the Bulletin item is a list of [usually] more than one person, together with a very short précis of their contribution to the entertainment industry. The word "obituary" seems to be used for a single person, with a much longer summary of their complete lives. I hope this is a satisfactory explanation.



I also had a letter from Jim Kirkham enclosing an advert for the Light cinema in Thetford. Jim said he didn't think he had seen this mentioned in the Bulletin. Well, we reported the opening on 2 December 2016 on p29 of Bulletin 51/1 but I hadn't got a picture at the time. We visited Thetford in May 2018 and took the above picture, so here it is.



Thetford is where many of the TV episodes of *Dad's Army* were filmed. In front of the Light cinema is a statue of Captain Mainwaring sitting on a bench. We stayed at the Bell Hotel, which had *Dad's Army* themed rooms. Thetford is also home to the Charles Burrell Museum, housed in the Grade II listed original steam engine factory. It has limited opening times so visit [www.thecharlesburrellmuseum.com] before you go.

In his membership report on p17 Neville asks members to leave a gap for his letter opener if using sticky tape on envelopes. I can echo the sentiment. I sometimes think members have shares in 'sellotape'. It really does make post difficult to open if the envelope is plastered down like a Teddy Boy's hair style with Brylcreem! [I was surprised to find that Brylcreem is actually still manufactured.]

Harry Rigby, CTA Bulletin Editor

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE SUNDAY 20 OCTOBER

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

A Chance to Vue

organised by Marion Kennett



The six-screen Vue cinema in Eltham High Street, SE9 1BJ [above] opened in April 2019. After a short walk along Eltham High Street we will then visit the Bob Hope Theatre in Wythfield Road, SE9 5TG and hear of the recent improvements that have been carried out. Following a lunch break we head to Welling on the B15 bus to view the former Odeon, now the church of Freedom Centre International, situated in Upper Wickham Lane, DA16 3HF, commencing our conducted visit at 2:30pm.

There will be a charge of £6 for visit notes, which will be available on the day.

Getting there: Eltham station is served with trains from London on the Bexleyheath line to Dartford via Victoria, Charing Cross, Cannon Street, London Bridge, New Cross and Lewisham. Buses from the station go to Eltham High Street, stopping outside Marks and Spencer's, almost opposite the Vue cinema. The 161 bus does not turn into the High Street. Alternatively Sidcup line trains to Dartford stop at Mottingham where a 126 bus will stop near the Vue. Public car parking at Sainsbury's, behind the Vue, is entered from Passey Place or Messeter Place.

After the visits, return to London can be via Eltham or from Welling station on the Bexleyheath line.

Best of Berks

organised by Ray Ritmeester



Another early start I'm afraid! We shall be visiting the Empire Slough at 9am. It is one of our earliest multi-screen cinemas, opening as the Maybox in 1987 and has been operated by Virgin, UGC and Cineworld to name but a few. Our next port of call will be the Buzz bingo, formerly the Gala/Granada club [above] and originally opened as the Adephi way back in 1930. We shall then use public transport to reach Windsor for a short lunch break and then have a tour of the Theatre Royal. The Frank Verity designed theatre opened in 1910 and operated as the Royalty cinema between 1935 and 1938. Our next venue will be the Screen cinema at the Old Court, which reopened in 2018 following a refurbishment.

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

CASEWORK

By Tim Hatcher

Grade II* Listed



Following a protracted period of dormancy, the concept of extending and developing the Carlton in Islington has been revived. The current proposal specifies a block of residential apartments to its rear and dressing-room accommodation to its side. Overall this appears to be an acceptable scheme, with the exception of the ubiquitous mandatory provision of an elevator, which is likely to mar the balanced composition of the foyer. No listed building consent application has currently been tabled. *Photo taken October 2014.*

The CTA recently released a press statement condemning inaction on the rehabilitation of Margate's Dreamland Cinema; this resulted in an article in the *Kent Live* publication. At that time a local authority spokesman commented that the Council was reviewing its options; that body subsequently determined to dispose of the entire Dreamland site, subject to satisfying certain fiscal obligations. This resolution has now been called in for re-examination by opposition councillors.

Grade II Listed



The Theatres Trust has advised that a listed building consent application has been presented relating to the Picturedrome in Holmfirth, an unusual building boasting a pressed-tin ceiling. Further investigation will thus be instigated. *Photos taken August 2005 & August 2011.*

Planning and listed building consent applications have also been advanced detailing an intended addition of seven storeys above the auditorium of the Savoy in London's Burnt Oak. These are to be utilised for accommodation described under the somewhat peculiar appellation of 'pocket living'.

Discussions are ongoing concerning commercial viability of removal of the extensive illuminated box sign currently blighting the façade of the Empire (ex-Carlton) in London's Haymarket and also upon the feasibility of reproduction of its original canopy.

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.

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.



There are also available a few second-hand copies of out-of-print issues of *Picture House* 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

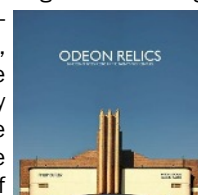
We can supply back numbers of most Bulletins from Volume 21 (1987) to date. Prices for issues from 1987 to 2017 are £4.00 per year (6 issues); individual issues are £1.00 each. Prices for issues in 2018 and 2019 are £4.00 per copy. All prices include postage. There are some issues available from earlier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

New Publication

Odeon Relics by Phillip Butler.

144 pages, hardback, fully illustrated, 225mm x 225mm. £25.00 plus postage.

This is a hardback photo-book showcasing what remains of the iconic cinemas built by Oscar Deutsch. Photographer Philip Butler has travelled the country capturing what remains of the ground-breaking **Odeon** empire in the 21st Century. The book showcases this collection of exterior photographs, each presented with summarised histories of the building in question. A 12-page introduction by architectural writer Jason Sayer introduces the series, looking into the birth of the chain and the cinemas and illustrated by the period images of John Maltby. There is a map of locations and a comprehensive list of **Odeon** cinemas built during the period and their subsequent fate.



TO BE PUBLISHED IN OCTOBER. See display advert on p(Ref). Copies will be dispatched as soon as they are available.

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)

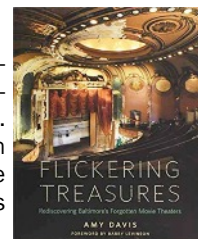
Flickering Treasures – Rediscovering Baltimore's forgotten movie theaters by Amy Davis, foreword by Barry Levinson.

302 pages, hardback, fully illustrated and colour map.

Available from Amazon, etc.

ISBN 978-1421422183.

This is a chronicle of this USA city's movie theaters over the past century, told through photographs, old and new and poignant reminiscences. In 2008, Amy set out to find Baltimore's forgotten cinemas and she found 72 theaters, which are illustrated here with her contemporary images and historic photographs.



Last few copies available!

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 above.

REWINDING BACK

Sent in by David A Ellis

PICTURE PALACE ON FIRE

An alarming outbreak of fire occurred during the performance at Vint's Picture Palace Kettering on Friday evening. While an acrobatic display was in progress, a screen composed of wood and felt at the back of the gallery suddenly burst into flames. A scene of intense excitement followed but the presence of mind of the pianist, who continued playing and a reassuring shout from the manager to the audience to keep their seats, prevented serious panic. The occupants of the gallery rushed past the blazing mass to reach the exit. Many narrow escapes were witnessed. Several women fainted and were carried into safety. The cinematograph operator rushed through the flames with the films and clung to the balcony in front of the building and was rescued. The flames were quickly subdued with buckets of water. The screen was a temporary structure during alterations.

Runcom Guardian – 26 August 1910

EALING AND DISTRICT CINEMA NEWS



The façade of the Walpole Picture Theatre Ealing, now on display not far from its original location

The *Battle of Waterloo* was shown at both the Walpole Picture Theatre Ealing and the Kinema West Ealing, last week to crowded houses. Mr Batley, who played the part of Napoleon in the film, appeared in person at the Walpole, while the Kinema engaged Trumpet-Major Browne, late of the 17th Lancers, to sound bugle calls at each performance. Captain Morris, the popular manager of the Theatre de Luxe at West Ealing continues to give only the best of everything to his audiences. Last week he featured exclusively the great fight between Carpentier and Wells, also the *Penalty of Crime* a fine two-reel drama and the *Exposure of the Land Swindlers*. Captain Morris is not content to rest on his laurels and this week he is featuring the first part of the *What Happened to Mary* series, also the *Clutches of the Apaches* and *Tolstoi's Resurrection*. The theatre has recently undergone redecoration. There is an excellent orchestra, under the able direction of Mr Clift Summers. A word of praise must be given to Mr Hunt, the new violinist, whose solos are much appreciated. The Broadway Cinema has recently been reopened, Mr ML Capua being the managing director. Large audiences attended the screening of *Madame Sarah Bernhardt 'At Home'* last week. Educational matinées are to be given in this theatre from 1 October and onwards. It is rumoured that the Ealing Hippodrome is shortly to be opened as a cinema. The Crown Cinema Acton has been redecorated and an orchestra has been engaged. During the next four weeks West's *Our Navy* is being featured. The Grand Cinema Hanwell, which has been closed for redecoration, reopens on Thursday next.

The Bioscope – 18 September 1913

NO SUNDAY CINEMAS

Another attempt to obtain Sunday Cinematograph performances in Middlesex, was overwhelming defeated at a special meeting of the Middlesex County Council on Thursday week. An application by Mr H Usher for permission to open the Walpole Cinema Bond Street, Ealing on Sundays, which was taken as a test case covering 36 similar applications, was refused by 64 votes to 7. Three applications for permission to give sacred concerts in cinemas, two at Willesden and one at Edmonton on Sunday evenings, were also refused and in all sixty-three applications for various forms of Sunday entertainments were unsuccessful, none being acceded to. The cinemas in respect of which applications were made for the permission of Sunday Cinematograph performances, included besides the Walpole, the Ealing Broadway Palladium, the Grand Theatre Hanwell and the Globe Cinema Acton.

Mr Norman Hart made the test application on behalf of the Cinematograph Exhibitors Association. The Rev WB Sandberg, vicar of St Mellitus Church, Hanwell was the spokesman of a deputation introduced by the Bishop of Willesden, which opposed the applications on behalf of the Middlesex United Committee for Sunday Defense. There was also opposition on behalf of the Musicians Union.

Acton Gazette and West London Post – 19 October 1928

MORE NEW CINEMAS FOR ULSTER

More new cinemas are being planned for Ulster and will be ready for opening towards the end of the year. In Belfast special attention is being paid to the suburbs, where three of the most modern equipped houses for local companies are to be erected and work on two of them is due to start immediately. The largest of them will be in the Crumlin Road district at a site on the corner of Tennent Street, while another is being planned for the Castlereagh Road area. The third will be on the Lisburn Road, where a site has been obtained.

The reason for the increased activity outside the centre of the City is that, with the ever increasing populations in the suburbs, the belief is held that the provision of first class cinemas will meet with such support that will justify the promoters spending large sums of money on their venture. The search for suitable sites in the centre of the City by both local and cross-channel syndicates has not abated in the least and constant inquiries are being made but so far the prices demanded have held up any purchases being made.

Northern Whig & Belfast Post – 30 March 1934

NEW CINEMA ORGAN

A new cinema organ, played by a new organist, will be heard on the air for the first time tonight. The organ is that of the Pyramid Cinema Sale, Manchester and the organist Reginald Liversidge is a Yorkshireman from Huddersfield. A church organist as a child, Liversidge claims, moreover, to have been the youngest man ever to play a cinema organ in the West End of London. He gained the distinction at the age of seventeen and a half, when temporarily employed at the Astoria Charing Cross Road.

Daily Mail – 18 September 1934

A MUST for your collection CINEMAS IN BRITAIN

A History of Cinema Architecture

by Richard Gray

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

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

Special price for CTA members

£29.50 + £6.00 postage from

Jeremy Buck, CTA Sales Officer

34 Pelham Road, Wood Green, London, N22 6LN

FLICKS IN FENLAND

A report of the CTA visit on Saturday 13 July

By Mike Wood

In between cycling around Europe to raise funds for the 20th Century Society and writing books on post-war architecture (I counted seventeen listed on her Wikipedia page) Elain Harwood found time to organise a CTA visit to Kings Lynn and Wisbech. This quickly followed our uphill and downhill visit to Lincoln with the very flat Fens, unless you count up and over the bridge over the Great Ouse that is.



Screen ① at the Majestic Kings Lynn

For most of us, it was a not too early morning stroll from our lodgings in Kings Lynn to the Majestic (1928 – Cornell & White – Listed Grade II). Originally with a single screen and ballroom, this was converted by the previous owners into three by horizontal division of the stalls and balcony (screens ① and ②) and changing the ballroom into screen ③, preserving much of its interior features, some said to have been rescued from the original Empire Leicester Square, which was being demolished around the time that the Majestic was being built. Since the CTA last visited it has been redecorated throughout by the current owners, who also plan a fourth screen in a vacant shop unit. This building, with its copper-domed clock tower, benefits from a prominent site in the town centre and it was good to see it flourishing.



St George's Guildhall Kings Lynn

A short way across to the historic heart of Kings Lynn is St George's Guildhall, the largest and most complete surviving medieval guildhall in Britain dating from 1420, with plays performed there since 1442, making it also the oldest surviving playhouse in the country. This is now the Kings Lynn Arts Centre and the long and fascinating history of this place was well told by our guide. By 1945 it was derelict and threatened with demolition. Alexander Penrose stepped in and bought it, gifting it to the National Trust. Film also features with the Community Film Club but the fly in the ointment is a Council plan for art-house films to play in two new screens at the Corn Exchange modern theatre conversion close by. We had plenty of time to explore the Guildhall inside and out before setting off across the Ouse for Wisbech.



The auditorium of the St George's Guildhall Kings Lynn



The Luxe cinema Wisbech

Our first visit there was to the Luxe Cinema a 2009 single-screen conversion of a Women's Institute building. In 2017 it passed to Adam Cunard's Picturedrome Electric Theatre Company, which started an extensive programme of stylish refurbishment and upgrades. The young manager took time to tell us about this and answer our questions until the audience began to arrive for the start of the day's programme.



The Cinema Upwell

After a break for lunch on our own it was back to the coach and the short journey to Downham Market with a brief stop at Upwell for the Cinema (1920) now a private residence but for many years known locally as the Cinema Salon; a hairdressers. Downham Market was for the Regent (1928 – Cornell & White) and contemporaneous with the Majestic in Kings Lynn. Now it is apparently closed after a period in other uses, including a bicycle museum, however there were some exterior similarities to spot. Our attempts to catch the attention of someone smoking at an attic room window failed, as had Elain's previous attempts to make contact, so we re-boarded the bus for the return journey to Kings Lynn.



The façade and auditorium of the Ritz Kings Lynn

We arrived at the Ritz (1938 – Allflatt & Courtney) built on the site of the earlier Theatre Royal, which was lost to a fire in 1937. The Theatre Royal had become a full-time cinema and the first to run talkies in Kings Lynn. The replacement cinema was built with full stage facilities as witnessed by the large fly-tower clearly visible on its corner site. It

also originally featured rear projection until CinemaScope came along in 1955 and it has been on bingo since 1962. Our visit was timed for a break in the bingo session and the friendly staff let us explore the accessible areas, which had benefited from a recent refurbishment by the same architectural practice that built it.

Now it has to be said that there was a bit of back and forth across the river as we returned to Wisbech but for very good reasons, ie to give us plenty of time at our final visit and, for those that had not seen it before, the wow factor that is the Empire (1932 – Ward & Woolnough – Listed Grade II*). It is in a jazz-modern style, somewhat restrained externally but wonderfully exuberant inside and displaying great quality in the detail of the original wood inlaid doors and plasterwork.

Also there were the two great surprises of a projection box almost ready to run again, plus a complete set of tabs and flying paraphernalia hidden behind the bingo stage set. We would award it Grade I listing. It went to bingo after films ceased in about 1971 and stage use in 2004 and it appears to have a new operator that is looking after the place well.

We had to tear ourselves away from the Empire to get back to Kings Lynn for those catching trains but very happy after a good day out in Fenland, thanks to Elain and our kind hosts and helpful coach driver, who I half expected to fetch someone's bicycle out of the hold when he dropped us off and the end of the trip.

Photos by the author – two more on front cover

Links for more: Elain's Wiki and book list:
[en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elain_Harwood]



The mosaic in the foyer floor at the Majestic Kings Lynn



A selection of photos of the Empire Wisbech

NEWSREEL

The items in this section are taken mainly from press cuttings from local newspapers; there may be minor errors in reporting dates or other detail.

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]

ACKWORTH MOOR TOP (West Yorks)

A blue plaque has been erected on the former Electric Theatre. It was built in 1915 as an extension to the working men's club and could seat 220 people. It was refused a cinematograph licence in 1929 over inadequate fire safety and lack of public toilet provisions and closed for good. The theatre became a garment factory and later a gym, which operates today. {41221}

Pontefract & Castleford Express – 17 July; sent in by Terry Hanstock

ALNWICK (Northumberland)



Early November is now the target date for completing the £3.3m overhaul of the Playhouse. The venue closed 12 months ago for the major refurbishment project, which is being carried out by Northumberland County Council. It followed an agreement being struck for the local authority to buy the building and then grant a new 50-year lease to Alnwick District Playhouse Trust for it to continue to operate the main auditorium, the ground-floor studio theatre, the bar and an expanded café facility. The Council will use the rest of the ground floor for the library, tourist information and customer services, investing £2.5m to ensure the building is brought up to modern standards and fit for the future.

Chronicle Live – 9 August; sent in by Terry Hanstock; photo taken March 2016

ASHINGTON (Northumberland)

Reel is to be the operator of a new seven-screen cinema in Portland Street. A public consultation took place on 17 July and planning permission is expected to be applied for later this summer.

Evening Chronicle, Newcastle – 28 June; *News Post Leader* – 4 July

ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE (Greater Manchester)

Passing by the Grade II listed Tameside Hippodrome today [20 August] I was saddened to see the left hand side had been blocked off with fencing and orange cones. There were big red signs, "Dangerous Building – Keep Out". I walked around the building; it is in a terrible state. There were broken windows and vegetation growing all over. It first opened in November 1904 and was a cinema for many years. It was last used for live theatre but closed in March 2008. Attempts to reopen it came to naught. {2059}

Sent in by Carl Chesworth; photo on front cover taken June 2005

AUCHTERARDER (Perth & Kinross)

The former Regal was due to be sold at auction in June but was removed from the sale at the eleventh hour after intervention from Historic England (Scotland). The local authority has now called for the building to be given listed status, which could save it from the wrecking ball. The CTA has described the building as "a rare example of its kind"; the ceiling is made from pressed tin panels. It opened around 1928 but had closed by 1980. {47797}

The Courier – 13 July; photo [top next column] taken September 2006



The former Regal Auchterarder

BLACKPOOL (Lancs)



The Grand Theatre has celebrated its 125th birthday. Designed by Frank Matcham, it opened in July 1894; the opening night programme for *Hamlet* was printed on pure silk, perfumed with 'Tower' bouquet. With the advent of talkies, the Grand found itself competing for audiences and turned itself into a cinema during the off-season; for many years it was a full-time cinema during the winter months. During the 1950s, the programme juggled touring theatre with summer seasons aimed at holidaymakers. In the early 1970s the theatre closed and was threatened with demolition. It was listed Grade II [now upgraded to Grade II*] in 1973 and became a bingo club in 1977. It reopened as a live theatre in March 1981 and has now been fully restored. {36695}

The Stage – 23 July, 1 August; sent in by Barry Quinton; photo taken September 2003

BODMIN (Cornwall)

The new four-screen Capitol cinema opened on 24 July in the Public Rooms. It is operated by Merlin Cinemas. Initially, only three screens opened. The fourth will open in due course. It is thought each screen has between 30 and 50 seats. {60297}

Cornish Guardian – 24 July; sent in by Carl Chesworth & David Simpson

BOURNEMOUTH

Urban explorers have been granted a permissive visit to the Grade II listed former Grand – with the power on. The video [youtu.be/JaUDJoTqSP4] reveals that the building is still in good condition and the wall murals are intact. It opened in December 1922 and films ceased in October 1977. It operated as a bingo club, which closed in January 2018; the building has been empty since and 'to let'. See also *Internet Corner* p17. {22430}

Bournemouth Daily Echo – 8, 24 July, 14 August; sent in by John R Forster & Philip Stevens



BRADFORD (West Yorks)

The project to turn the former New Victoria / Odeon into a music venue has received £1m of Lottery funding, bringing the total funding up to £10m. Work has been underway for several months; there was a progress report on p18 of the last Bulletin. {3677}

Meanwhile, three six-week old kittens have been rescued from the site. It is likely they were feral but mum was nowhere to be seen. A volunteer at Bradford Cat Watch Rescue, is now looking after the litter – all named after theatres in Bradford.

Telegraph & Argus – 25 June, 11 July; sent in by Geoff Gill

BRIGHTON

Revised plans for flats on the site of the former Astoria have been agreed. The cinema was demolished in summer last year.

The Argus, Brighton – 12 July; sent in by Barry Quinton

CHATHAM (Kent)

There is a planning application for an IMAX sign at the nine-screen Odeon. It is not known whether this is to be a conversion of an existing screen or in an extension. {24449}

Medway Messenger – 27 June, 4 July

CHELTENHAM (Glos)

Work has begun on building a five-screen 'boutique' cinema in the former BHS store in Regent Arcade. It will have four main screens and a VIP lounge for private screenings. It will be operated by Tivoli, part of the Empire chain. It is due to open next year.

Gloucestershire Echo – 8 August

CHORLEY (Lancs)

Construction of the new six-screen Reel is well underway. It is expected to open in December this year.

Lancashire Evening Post – 2 July



The Little Theatre has had a new set of doors and a new box office layout. It is housed in the former Empire, which dates from 1910. The original stained glass Empire sign has been cleaned and protected.

The Citizen – 11 August; photo taken February 2006

COLCHESTER (Essex)

Following pressure from the Council, the owner has begun work to tidy up the site of the former Odeon in Crouch Street. The order says Blumarble has until 24 August to board up all of the windows in the property, block off the front recess of the building, clean and paint the outside walls, remove vegetation and repair or replace any damaged guttering. A long-awaited £10 million redevelopment scheme for the building, which would have seen 57 apartments created, stalled late last year when Blumarble admitted the plans were not financially viable.

Essex County Standard – 6 August

DEAL (Kent)

Plans have been approved for a two-screen cinema in the former Regent; each screen will have 104 seats. A condition of the permission is that work must begin within three years. Campaigners fear a delay. {32928}

Kent Online – 24 July; sent in by Martin Tapsell

Plans have been approved to demolish the former Royal and build flats. It was a 1910 conversion of the Oddfellows Hall of 1890. Films ceased in October 1961 and it became a bingo club until July 1963, when films returned until April 1981. The building was divided horizontally with snooker upstairs and an amusement arcade downstairs. {32927}

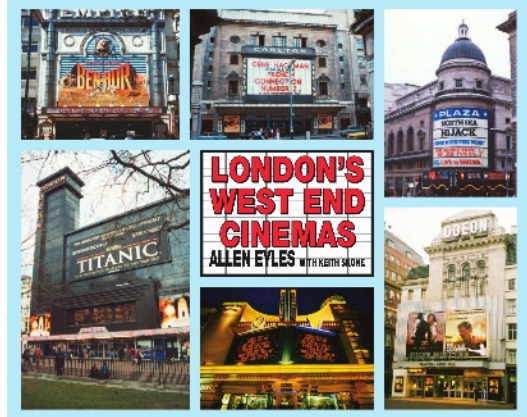
Kent Online – 23 July; sent in by Martin Tapsell

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.

DUNFERMLINE

An online crowdfunding campaign has been launched to raise £40,000 to open an independent community cinema in the town centre.

Dunfermline Press & West of Fife Advertiser – 18 July

EASTBOURNE (East Sussex)

As reported on p19 of the last Bulletin, the new eight-screen Cineworld opened in the Beacon Centre on 12 July. It has a total of 1,552 seats with the biggest (screen ②) seating 327 and the smallest 34. The former six-screen Cineworld at Sovereign Harbour closed the day before. The new cinema had a power cut on Sunday 14 July, just two days after opening. 300 people were evacuated. The fire brigade were called to rescue four people trapped in a lift. {60220}

Eastbourne Herald – 12, 15 July; sent in by Geoff Gill

EDINBURGH

The 48-seat Scotsman Picturehouse opened on 9 August. It is situated in the former offices of *The Scotsman* newspaper, which is now a hotel. The cinema features ornate Edwardian cornice-work, wood panelling and bespoke red leather and velvet armchairs and sofas, each lit by table lamps.

Edinburgh Evening News – 6 August

**Five more pages of newsreel
in the full Bulletin**

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THE GRANADA THEATRES – £18.99

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LETTERS

MATTERS ARISING

Relating to the photographs of the Biograph Cinema on page 24 of the last Bulletin; they are deemed to be from the early 1970s. The horror films advertised were both from 1981, so the said photographs will be approximately that year.

Michael Pass

A PARAMOUNT ARTICLE



Many thanks to David A Ellis for the interesting article all about the Odeon (ex-Paramount) Newcastle in which you mentioned how lavish the cinema was. Luxury and splendour were indeed all the hallmarks of the Paramount when it opened its doors on 7 September 1931. The foyer, grand staircase and upstairs lounges made this beautiful theatre a pleasure to visit for everyone. There is no doubt, Tynesiders were very impressed with the Paramount as in its heyday up to 40,000 a week used to see films. The marvels of the interior that lay behind the glittering frontage were fantastic and every piece of beautiful furniture was designed to Paramount's own specifications. This was certainly an architectural achievement, which was the original development of a classic tradition that is the only way of describing what the patrons would call the last word in cinemas. As the years rolled on, however, many changes have taken place in the cinema world, including the introduction of multiplexes and not many of the original cathedrals of motion pictures can be found today. The Odeon wasn't just a cinema, it had a fantastic history behind it and reflected the glamour of the business. I'm proud to have been part of that history, having worked there from 1975 until closure. A great pity it couldn't be saved and restored back to its original state.

Neil Thompson (ex chief projectionist)

TICKETS



Following on from Michael Darvell's piece in the May/June Bulletin featuring his stalls ticket from the Metropole Victoria for *Lawrence of Arabia* in April 1963, readers may also be interested in my 1967 ticket from the Metropole for *The Sand Pebbles* starring Steve McQueen as well as a ticket for *The Pawnbroker* (Rod Steiger) (Odeon Haymarket) dated 29 October 1966. I also have a ticket for *The Whisperers* starring Edith Evans, which I saw on 26 August 1967 at the new Odeon Marble Arch, which had only been open for a few months. This small scale black and white film directed by Bryan Forbes seemed an odd choice even then for a single-screen cinema with a capacity of well over 1,000 and would have been a better fit for the more intimate Odeon Haymarket.

David Bennett



TRAILERS

Regarding the item on trailers in the last Bulletin. I have managed to copy some frames from the Gary Dartnall set of day titles from the time (1985) he was in charge of ABC and during the unsuccessful management buyout before Alan Bond and Cannon/Classic take overs. The set consists of 13 different titles. I have tried to get most of the relevant detail in and hope they are OK. These titles, in my opinion, were better than the previous ABC ones and certainly better than any that came after.

Vic Harvey

MORE TRAILERS

National Screen Service, Ltd.

P. KIMBERLEY, O.B.E.,
Managing Director.

25, Denmark Street, W.C.2.

Trailers for Every Feature

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NATIONAL SCREEN TRAILERS ALWAYS SELL SEATS

A successful old-time Trailer.

Here are two NSS adverts from 1928 & 1934 for trailers. These verify what Mike Whitcombe said on p6 of the last Bulletin, that NSS used scenes from the films themselves in the trailers they produced.

Carl Chesworth

TALKING PICTURES TV MUSIC

Following on from my item about *Talking Pictures TV*, I have now found out the fourth piece of music used over the *Now Showing* listings board between films. The title is *Fly Past* composed by N Brooks and comes from the Josef Weinberger Music Library. This can be heard in full on the APM Music Library website.

[www.apmmusic.com/albums/SOHOA-0127] track 1.

John R Forster

RIVERSIDE STUDIOS ARTWORK

Riverside Studios were converted from an engineering works in 1933 into a film studio complex, which became BBC studios in 1954. They were the home of the then ABTT Trade Show for six years 1984 - 1990. When the exhibition get-out was happening in, I think 1984, I came across this fibrous plaster panel, about four feet square, on a rubbish skip. At the time work had begun to convert the former film dubbing theatre / BBC recording studio into a cinema and this panel is one of probably several that were being removed. I saved the panel and took it home, where it has been in store ever since and it saw the light of day yesterday for the first time in 35 years. Certainly, it is something that I saved just because I thought it was too good to throw away.



The old Riverside Studios have been demolished and replaced with a shiny new arts facility on the same site. Recently the new organisation advertised for an archivist and this prompted me to get in touch. The result is that the panel, which no one but me knew about, is now back at Riverside and is likely to be on display soon. The panel is in reasonable condition and is easily refurbishable. It depicts a film camera with its film magazine sitting on a traditional tripod surrounded by spirals of film stock.

Roger Fox

REGAL DOVERCOURT

Here are two pictures of the 940-seat **Regal** cinema in Dovercourt, Essex. Picture [L] is of the cinema after its closure in 1969 and after a time as a social club. Picture [R] is showing its final demolition on 24 May 1989 to be replaced by a Co-op store. The **Regal** was part of the Bostock Cinema Circuit, based in Ipswich. For me, however, the loss of the **Regal** was a demoralising blow. It was built in 1938, the year of my birth. It was a four-minute walk away from our two-up, two-down terraced house in the road opposite the cinema. The **Regal** played a large part in my life in movies. At five years old, I was fascinated by the beam of light illuminating the **Regal** screen. I was curious and turned my head to see where the light came from – disappointingly from a hole in the auditorium back wall. It was many years later that I discovered what was behind that wall when I was a trainee projectionist at the **National Film Theatre** in London. I still have my certificate of commendation for my painting book competition submission depicting scenes from *The Last of the Redskins* (1947) and handed out to kids after we had seen the film at the **Regal**. I also remember looking at the stills displayed outside the **Regal** for *King Kong* (1933) (It took that long to reach the **Regal**). I couldn't understand why I was banned from seeing it because of a letter [H] (for horror). In the early 1960s I finally



caught up with *Gone With The Wind* (1939) at a special presentation in the **Regal**. During World War II, I remember standing outside the **Regal** and watching my first 'Doodlebug' flying low from the North Sea and heading north, probably to Suffolk.

Thus began my long journey to the British Film Institute, Rank Film Distributors, RAF Air Ministry, travelling the country with a 16mm mobile cinema and to a management position in Shepperton Studios in the early 1960s, eventually retiring as a Cinema and Film historian and, of course, as a Veteran of the industry that sparked my five year old brain curious to know from where that beam of light illuminating the **Regal** screen came from. Of course, we now know that the light could only be seen through the dust and smoke from cigarettes. Indeed, my professional involvement with cinemas, studios, film production and distribution, writing for trade and consumer magazines

and for documentary consumption, all spiced up with running the successful public campaign in 1970 to prevent Shepperton Studios being demolished for a new housing estate and 'borrowing' the Odeon Leicester Square to celebrate 100 years of British film making by presenting a Saturday Morning Pictures show from the 1950s. Therefore, it is hardly surprising when I see in the *Bulletin* yet another cinema demolished to wonder if the customers of that cinema feel the same way as I did about the **Regal** Dovercourt. Indeed, even the word 'cinema' has been replaced by the word 'screens', a fatuous non-word alongside 'multiplex'. Now pushing 81 years old, like many others of my generation, I have my happy memories of 'going to the flicks' where continuous performances allowed my mother and her fiery temper to go to cool off from time to time.

Derek Threadgall

T-SHIRT ADVERTISING

A T-shirt printer assures me any press ad can be photo-shopped on to a T-shirt of your size for £15. Personally I have a big choice of favourite cinemas clipplings but also recall my first job as a qualified librarian was pasting in replacement cinema ads that had been snipped out of the local newspaper. But I never went to the Eros!

Martin Tapsell

GRAND ANNIVERSARY

Today [27 June] is the sixtieth anniversary of the last commercial film to be shown at the cinema in Herne Hill. The **Herne Hill Cinema** opened on 20 December 1913, with Mr Edward Hardiman as manager. Shortly afterwards the name was changed to the **Cinema Grand**, the name it had for most of its life. In 1953 the name was changed to the **Pullman Cinema**. The **Pullman** closed on 27 June 1959, with *The Ladykillers* and *The Way to the Stars*. It then became a bingo club, which finally closed in the autumn of 1986.

The following year the **Pullman Grand Theatre Project** was set up, with the aim of saving the building and converting it into a theatre. Although the project was not successful in that respect, over the next ten years more than a thousand people went on conducted tours of the building and much information about its history was gathered. The building gradually became derelict and the auditorium in Dulwich Road was demolished in 1999. The foyer building reverted to what it had been before the cinema was built: a shop on the ground floor (now a restaurant) with living accommodation above. The parapet at the top of the building, which once carried the word **Grand**, is now the only reminder of its glorious past.

Robert Holden; photo taken June 2009

CIVIC AWARD FOR REEL

This picture [R] is of Mr KC Suri (third from left) and his management team of **Reel** cinemas receiving a Civic Society Environment and Conservation award from the Chippenham Civic Society.

This award is given bi-annually to residents and businesses that have made a significant contribution to the heritage and preservation of architecture in the Chippenham area. The **Reel** (Astoria) cinema has been praised for the way it has been converted and modernised but retaining many of the original features, particularly the Portland stone façade, which has been repaired and cleaned enhancing the 1930' art Deco features. It is now a great asset to the town, particularly in a conservation area.

David Reeves



More letters in the full Bulletin

MORE TRAILERS

I was very interested to read Mike Whitcombe's meticulously researched history of trailers in the last Bulletin, as I have been collecting 35mm trailers for over 40 years. My main interest lies in vintage trailers, those with dramatic voiceovers, with bold lettering making sensational claims about the films they are trailing and with a variety of optical wipes between scenes. Outlandish, of course but great fun and they lured me into the cinema as no modern trailer ever has.

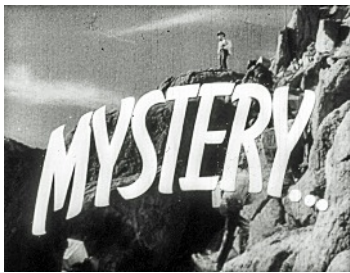
Many were little works of art in their own right, sometimes better than the films themselves but by the 1970s what was being served up, in my opinion, was a boring mishmash of randomly chosen clips, thrown together with little skill or imagination. Obviously things have moved with the times but it is the vintage trailers that my audiences find most enjoyable, no doubt because they are so over the top and so reminiscent of a bygone era. And they are the ones most sought after by collectors. Here are a few frame enlargements from my collection.



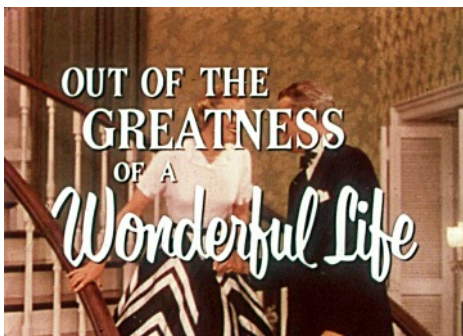
The *Coming Attractions* with the buxom lady trumpeters dates from the 1930s and comes from the Oriental cinema in Market Harbourough. The *Coming Shortly* dates from the silent era, as it covers the full width of the film, ie over where the soundtrack would be if it were from the talkie era. Both were copied from nitrate prints.

Kevin Wheelan

HOPALONG RIDES AGAIN (1937)



THE GLENN MILLER STORY (1954)



JET PILOT (1957)



GOLIATH AND THE BARBARIANS (1959)

