

# HERITAGE CASEWORK

By Tim Hatcher

## Grade II\* Listed



A proposal for renovations to the Dome in Worthing includes provision of additional women's lavatorial facilities and re-seating of the auditorium. The CTA is to recommend that a number of the original seats be retained and displayed as heritage artefacts. A request is to be made of the local council that enforcement measures be initiated swiftly to rectify the recent modifications to the arcade, which did not conform to the permissions obtained. *Photo taken March 2009.*

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The Conservation Officer within whose purview the Picturedrome in Holmfirth is situated recognises the merit of the cinema and is monitoring planning and listed building consent applications closely.

At the Ritz in Nuneaton a site meeting has been attended by representatives of the CTA to liaise with those involved in the renovation work to the building, including a Local Council planner, the owners, the architect and the builder. A section of the venue is already in active use as a Nepalese community meeting space; future objectives include a restaurant situated in the lower foyer specialising in that nation's cuisine. Part of the construction work will be undertaken by volunteers from the aforementioned community under supervision from a professional building concern.

## Unlisted



A listing application for the Curzon in Eastbourne has been submitted by a third party. *Photo taken April 2008.*

The prospect has been mooted that the frieze from the façade of the Gaumont in Doncaster may be re-sited within retail space when the museum at which it is currently externally displayed is relocated. The Association is to propound that it should be mounted in the new museum.

Save Britain's Heritage has bestowed its support upon the campaign advocating retention of the Odeon in Ashford; The Twentieth Century Society has agreed to do likewise.

The frontage of the Regal in Colchester has been refreshed following complaints from local traders concerned about its previous detrimental impact upon the area. Concurrently two local businessmen have expressed interest in returning the premises to entertainment usage.

The Deal Society was contacted to establish if it intended to campaign to save the Royal; the enquiry received a negative response.

The previously reported planning application pertaining to alteration of the entrance of the Odeon in Exeter has been declined: a scheme more compatible with the building's aesthetic qualities has been solicited.

A petition has been initiated requesting that the Regal [Granada] in Kettering be reclaimed from its current desuetude and returned to community use; an application for its designation as an Asset of Community Value has also been tendered.

The architect of the alterations to Smart's Picture Palace [Essoldo] in Bethnal Green has agreed to incorporate a selection of the scant surviving original internal elements into her designs.

A planning application has been submitted for works to the exterior of the Forum (now Cineworld) in London's Fulham Road. It is not known if alteration to the current internal spatial disposition is contemplated; thus a watching brief will be maintained, although only remnants of the original décor remain currently visible.

The Association is to press for retention of the ballroom of the Dominion in Harrow in addition to its fine frontage if plans for its redevelopment advance to fruition. The cinema was featured in a recent article in London's *Evening Standard* newspaper.



The Local Authority has refused a planning application for a hotel incorporating a cinema in its basement on the site of the Odeon in London's Shaftesbury Avenue. This structure was formerly the Saville Theatre, of which little remains internally, although its exterior, featuring a striking bas-relief frieze by Gilbert Bayes, remains largely unaltered.

*Photo taken March 2004.*

Its Local Council has advised that it is reasonably confident that the project to convert the Majestic in Mapperley into apartments may be averted; its Conservation Officer is also supportive of the cinema's retention. In an unusual development, a local campaigner prompted the publication of an article in *Private Eye* magazine concerning the building's insecure future.

Regrettably, planning permission has been granted for alterations to the Wetherby Cinema. This outcome will entail the loss of the architectural cohesion of the current auditorium.

