

# HERITAGE CASEWORK

By Tim Hatcher

## Grade II Listed



The Grand Westbourne [Bournemouth] in May 2006

Proposals to convert the Grand in Westbourne into open-plan office spaces are to be opposed assiduously by the Association.

Historic England is reviewing the listing designation of the Picture House in Leicester. Although a rear façade comprises the only original extant feature, the CTA is to express support for retention of protected status; the local Conservation Officer endorses this stance.

A pre-application relating to planning consent appertaining to the Savoy in London's Burnt Oak has been lodged with Brent Council.



The Phoenix Est Finchley [North London] in April 2006

Architects and designers are being sought to develop possible schemes to facilitate construction of a second cinema auditorium adjacent to the current single-screen Phoenix in East Finchley.

## Unlisted

The Mayfair [Embassy/Gaumont] in Chadwell Heath is currently operated successfully as a wedding venue. However, it is unfortunate that permission for this utilisation has not been granted and a local group has now requested that the CTA supports opposition to the aforesaid usage as it wishes to purchase the leasehold, although no funding has been procured for that purpose. Concern arises that the building could remain unoccupied and subsequently deteriorate if the current enterprise ceases trading; furthermore it would become vulnerable to redevelopment inasmuch as it is located in close proximity to a Cross-rail station. Therefore it has been determined that a neutral stance is the appropriate response to the current circumstances.

A planning application concerning the Byron in Hucknall has been approved; it envisages two screens on each of two levels and a replacement for the current unoriginal fin. Investigation is afoot in an attempt to ascertain that retention of the admirable stained glass features is envisaged.

Unfortunately the application to list the Odeon in Ashford has been rejected by Historic England. It is reported that a competition will be launched to seek a design for the redeveloped auditorium.



The entrance to the Point Milton Keynes in August 2004

In similar vein, the Association's re-application to list the Point in Milton Keynes and a request by a third party to list the Curzon in Eastbourne have each been declined by Historic England. In the latter case a major justification stated in defence of rebuttal was that the building is not currently under threat. The illogicality and irrelevance of this factor to the assessment of a building's merit is palpable and once again serves to demonstrate the flawed nature of the listing process as exercised by Historic England.

Shaun Earle of Earle Architects, the practice involved in the initiative to update the Forum/Cineworld in London's Fulham Road, has advised that no major changes are contemplated; merely a modest refurbishment is envisioned.



The Odeon/Gaumont Eltham Hill on bingo in August 2019

In its Local Plan, The Royal Borough of Greenwich's Council designates the Odeon/Gaumont at Eltham Hill as appropriate for redevelopment into housing stock. The CTA has objected strongly, emphasising not only the architectural significance of the structure but also its value as a social asset to the community.

Deplorably, Pyke's Cinematograph Theatre in Shepherd's Bush was demolished in June of 2019. The fate of the terracotta plaque on the flank wall of the cinema is unknown and investigation is to be initiated.

Inclusion of the façade, door threshold and window configuration of the Odeon at Kensington into the new building intended for that site has been advocated in a missive to the Conservation and Design Officer of the responsible council. No reply has been received and no activity is currently discernible on the plot.