



CINEMA
THEATRE
ASSOCIATION

www.cta-uk.org

BULLETIN

Vol 55 No 2

ISSN 1479-0882

March / April 2021



The Strand in Market Warsop (Notts) which has sadly been demolished; photo taken July 2004

CTA Virtual Talks and Social Media



Members may have noticed that the CTA, over the last few months, has been gradually adapting its operations to enhance its presence in the expanding digital world enabling enthusiasts, both members and non-members, with their different interests in cinema heritage to communicate online more easily. The display of icons above represents the digital services in which we are either already established and those that we have launched. These are explained on p2.

The difficulties in organising 'real' meetings, created by the global pandemic situation, has made it impossible and this has led to the rapid introduction of digital alternatives, notably video conferencing, virtual talks and presentations and social media, etc. Naturally, we all hope that it will be possible to return to some form of normality in the not-too-distant future; however it is quite probable that using these on-line methods will have a permanent impact on our future way of life.

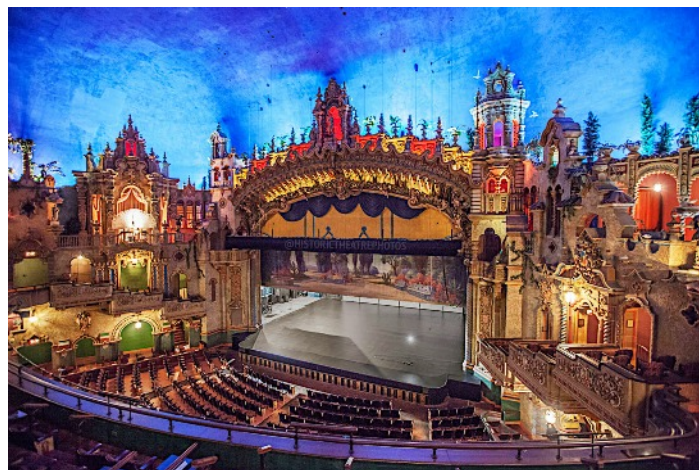
Our recently introduced virtual talks and presentations (using Zoom) has allowed us to trial and perfect the technology, enabling us to provide a programme of regular monthly talks, from a wide range of cinema-related speakers and topics of interest. This has a major advantage of potentially reaching a global audience and certainly a much larger attendance than was ever possible to attract to our London-based meetings.

SPECIAL LAUNCH EVENT: ATMOSPHERIC THEATRES (BY ZOOM)

Saturday 3 April at 5:30pm (UK time)

To mark the CTA's expansion into the digital world we have arranged in collaboration with the Los Angeles Historic Theater Foundation (LAHTF) a live link-up for a spectacular presentation entitled *Atmospheric Theatres*.

Full details on page 3



The Majestic San Antonio (Texas)

FROM YOUR EDITOR

Back in Bulletin 54/5 last September I reminded you that I was putting Internet and email addresses in [square brackets]. As I was compiling this Bulletin, I thought –why? That convention dated from the days when your Bulletin was printed in monochrome and I did it to make them stand out. We have been in full colour since the beginning of 2014 and it has taken me these seven years to realise there is another way. My DTP program can automatically put them in colour and underline them; that will make them stand out. It also has the advantage that if you download the PDF version of the Bulletin from the CTA website cta-uk.org the links should be 'live'. You will have to log in to the members' area first.

Another member has asked me about printing pictures from newspapers and the Internet. I have been trying to find out the position but have come across conflicting information. I was working under the impression that it was fine to quote brief passages from written material for the purposes of reporting but photographs were a different matter. However I have come across a legal website that talks about a "copyright exception" for images and gives examples such as "non-commercial research, criticism, review, quotation and reporting current events". I'm sure that your Bulletin falls into one or more of these categories. Can any of our legal members give further guidance?

I see that Boris's 'roadmap' for coming out of lockdown has given a provisional date for when cinemas can reopen – 17 May at the earliest. Let's hope that by the next Bulletin we can give more positive news.

Finally, an item only remotely connected to cinemas. BBC News had reported last December that the second person to be vaccinated (in Coventry) was called William Shakespeare. In February they carried an interview with him and his son, also called William Shakespeare. They were described as "Two Gentlemen of Corona!"

Harry Rigby, CTA Bulletin Editor

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Are you staying at home and then doing more on-line shopping these days than formerly? When you do make purchases at the AMAZON UK site, you can make a charitable donation to the Cinema Theatre Association through the Amazon Smile program.

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Zoom talks and presentations platform

Useful CTA Contacts

digital@cta-uk.org : enquires about digital services

visits@cta-uk.org : enquires about talks/events bookings

info@cta-uk.org : general enquires

CINEMA THEATRE ASSOCIATION

(Founded January 1967)

promoting serious interest in all aspects of cinema buildings

Company limited by guarantee. Reg. No. 04428776.

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

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

PATRONS: Alan Baxter; Allen Eyles; Lucinda Lambton

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Please note these rates will increase from 1 May – full details on p(Ref).

All membership and subscription enquiries should be sent to
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BULLETIN: Members are invited to submit items for possible publication to the Bulletin Editor. However, it is stressed that the publication of an item does not necessarily imply that it reflects the views of the Cinema Theatre Association, its Committee or its Bulletin Editor.

It is assumed that submissions are for publication, unless stated otherwise;

items may be shortened or edited at the discretion of the Editor.

Please state if you require items to be returned and enclose SAE,

otherwise everything will be passed on to the CTA Archive.

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

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

Typeset in Franklin Gothic Book by Harry Rigby

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

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE
TUESDAY 20 APRIL

CTA VIRTUAL TALKS AND PRESENTATIONS

Special Launch Event: Atmospheric Theaters

Talk No 6: Saturday 3 April at 5:30pm (UK time)

We are delighted to announce that the Los Angeles Historic Theater Foundation (LAHTF) is collaborating with us for a spectacular presentation on the theme of Atmospheric Theaters. Many outstanding examples will be discussed and illustrated. The presentation will be followed by a Q+A session from experts at the LAHTF.

This has been arranged as a special event to mark the CTA's expansion into the digital world. Why not see the trailer on YouTube: youtu.be/ekuVyfc6PIM

Marcus Loew famously said, "Patrons buy tickets to theaters, not movies," and this may not hold truer than with atmospheric theaters.

We invite you to join CTA and the Los Angeles Historic Theater Foundation as we explore the quaint villages, European Cities and fantasy lands within theatres of the 1920s and 30s. This design style was renowned architect John Eberson's signature, creating an experience for Americans who may never travel beyond the United States. We are incredibly lucky that so many have survived and are thriving as entertainment venues today, continuing to transport patrons to another time and place.

During the presentation we will visit Los Angeles, travel across the US and explore a few locations around the globe (including the UK). Whether under a perfect summer blue sky or a twinkling starry night, your imagination is certain to run wild and deliver you to a faraway locale. Come escape into the extraordinary world of atmospherics with us!

BOOKING THIS TALK



CTA talks and presentations are open to members and non-members. Booking is done on-line using TicketSource www.ticketsource.co.uk.

Simply insert 'Cinema Theatre' in their search box. Tickets are £4 per device.

Cinema Magazine Programme

Talk No 7: Saturday 1 May at 5:30pm (UK time)

A new feature bringing cinema enthusiasts a variety of topics of interest, intrigue and reminiscences. This edition will have a distinct Scottish flavour and end with a photo quiz and then transfer to the open chat session for those who may wish to participate.

AN EDINBURGH CINEMA WITH A DIFFERENCE

by Peter Kendrick

Is this Edinburgh's secret cinema? Enthusiasts not only enjoy visiting the cinema to see films they also make and show films in their own cinema built for the purpose.

MEMORIES OF ABERDEEN CINEMAS

by Ronald Grant

The CTA is pleased to welcome the curator and co-founder of the Cinema Museum in London to recall his interesting career, when in the 1950s, he worked as a projectionist in the Donald family-run circuit of cinemas and other entertainments, where they owned and operated most of the cinemas in Aberdeen.

QUIZ OF UK CINEMA PHOTOS

A guest photographer is invited to provide a dozen photographs from their personal collection for a quiz. Members can participate in the quiz and we will open the chat room for viewers to offer their answers.

MEMBERS' OPEN CHAT SESSION

An extension to the above talks is an invitation to participate in an open chat session about cinema-related topics of your choosing that you may wish to share with others.

BOOKING THIS TALK



CTA talks and presentations are open to members and non-members. Booking is done on-line using TicketSource www.ticketsource.co.uk.

Simply insert 'Cinema Theatre' in their search box. Tickets are £3 per device.



The Orpheum Phoenix (Arizona) – images courtesy of Historic Theater Photography

PUBLICATIONS

Back Numbers Available

PICTURE HOUSE MAGAZINE

Listed below are the back numbers of *Picture House* that are still available:

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 16	£3.00	Dominion London; 3000 plus; John Broadley remembers.
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 22	£3.50	Burrell, Foley, Fischer; Palace Theatre London; David Nye.
No 24	£4.50	Oldest Cinema - Harringay; Cardiff Round-up; Odeon Miscellany.
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	Holophane 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 Campbelltown; Beeston/Nottingham memories.
No 44	£6.00	Village Cinemas of NE Scotland; William Keys' career; Bernard Snowball's remembers Pt1.
No 45	£8.50	Classic Repertory Cinemas; Blackpool Cinemas; Thomas Jackson; Bernard Snowball remembers Pt2.

There are also available a few second-hand copies of out-of-print issues of *Picture House* 9, 10, 14/15, 20 & 23, 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 2019 are £4.00 per year (6 issues), individual copies are £1.00 each. Prices for issues in 2020 and 2021 are £5.00 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 £3.40 to your total order for post and packing.

Ordering details below.

Recently Published

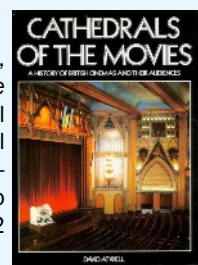
(reviewed in recent Bulletins)

The Matcham Directory - £10.00 plus postage

Abandoned Cinemas of the World - £29.50 plus postage

Second-Hand Book Sale

There are still some books available in this sale, including rare titles such as *Cathedrals of the Movies*, *The Picture Palace*, etc. To receive a full list with around 50 titles, please send an email to the Sales Officer sales@cta-uk.org with 'Second Hand Book List' as the subject. Or write to Sales Officer, 34 Pelham Road, London, N22 6LN (SAE appreciated).



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For post and packing: total order value up to £20.00 please add £3.40, total order value from £20.01 to £40.00 please add £4.40, total order value from £40.01 to £60.00 please add £6.40. For larger orders and overseas, please contact the Sales Officer, email: sales@cta-uk.org. 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 and all the books 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.

CARTOON CORNER



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

HERITAGE CASEWORK

By Tim Hatcher

Grade II* Listed

The campaign to instigate action in response to the deterioration of the **State** at Grays has elicited a statement from JD Wetherspoon plc, which reaffirms its commitment to the rehabilitation of the cinema. An updated planning application is to be tendered; however, this is budgeted at approximately five million pounds, whereas expenditure on the previously approved scheme was estimated at a figure exceeding ten million pounds. It is feared that this diminution of funding could prove detrimental to the sympathetic restoration of the edifice.

The CTA has received an exhaustive report detailing analysis of the original paint scheme of the **Granada** in Walthamstow. It is unclear if this original palette will be adopted in the current design; however, it appears that the Association's argument against an 'arrested decay' strategy of renovation has been accepted.



Additional problems, including severe decay to certain elements, have been identified on the façade of the Gaumont in Wood Green; these will require significant remedial measures, necessitating a corresponding additional pecuniary input from the owners.

photo taken March 2016

As reported previously, endeavours at the Picture House in Paignton have been re-energised subsequent to procurement of substantial funding. The CTA is to emphasise the significance of certain rare surviving original features that may be in danger of neglect in the refurbishment. These include the gypsy-pit and the mid-auditorium barrier. See *Holiday Snaps* on back page.

Grade II Listed

The **Granada** in Shrewsbury has been identified as an 'opportunity site' in a local regeneration plan. Both the Theatres Trust and the Association have objected, stressing that a distinguished building with listed status should not be classified as available for development.

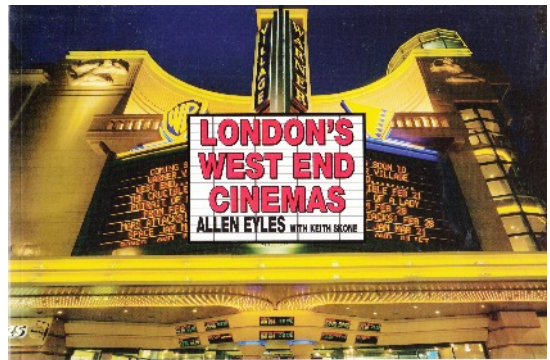
A local campaign has effected the acquisition by the local authority of the **Gaumont Palace** in Taunton; the venue currently retains its function as a bingo hall.

A pre-application proposal for the conversion to a gymnasium of the **Grand** in Westbourne has been proffered. The majority of the modifications prove acceptable but a pervasive uninspired grey colour scheme and obscuration of the murals are to be resisted.

More Casework in the full Bulletin

London's West End Cinemas

by Allen Eyles with Keith Skone.



The history of London's West End cinemas dates back more than one hundred years. This book details all of them, in chronological order, totalling well over one hundred, from 1906 up to 2013. The best of the West End's cinemas were outfitted to a very high standard to match their role as showcases for new films, hosting press shows and premières, as well as being a magnet for film enthusiasts anxious to see films on exclusive première runs. Even now, when films are available everywhere at the same time, the West End's cinemas are a vibrant attraction to visitors from all over the world as well as for Londoners having a night on the town. There are interior views as well as exteriors of most of the cinemas and over 50 illustrations are in full colour, together with appendices of club cinemas and theatres used as temporary cinemas.

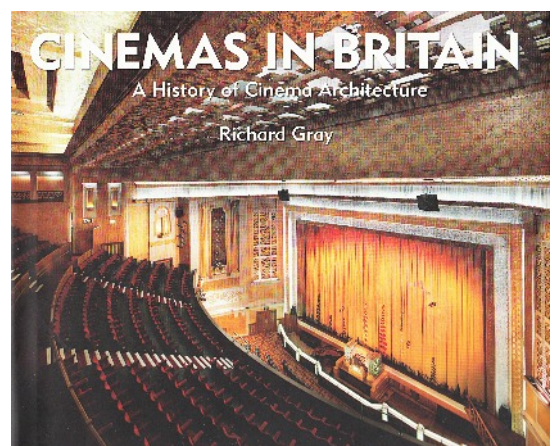
Large Format paperback, 210 pages, over 400 illustrations, £25.00 plus £3.40 postage, from the Sales Officer.

Published in 2013 in conjunction with English Heritage.

Ordering details on p4

*A **MUST** for your collection*

CINEMAS IN BRITAIN



A History of Cinema Architecture
by Richard Gray

This is the definitive guide to the buildings that were built to show moving pictures, from the earliest origins in 1896 up to the multiplex era. There are many illustrations with several in colour and a 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, normal RRP £45

Special price for CTA members

£29.50 + £3.40 postage from

CTA Sales Officer, address on p4.

JACK PRENDERGAST CINEMAS

By Terry Hanstock

Re the letter on p31 of the last Bulletin that mentioned John Barry's father's cinema chain, I've identified seven and possibly the eighth.

In film composer John Barry's entry in *The Oxford Dictionary of National Biography* his father, John Xavier – Jack or JX – Prendergast (sometimes spelt Pendergast) (Wigan 1898 – 1978 York), is said to have owned eight independent cinemas in the north of England. I've been able to trace the following:

Aberdeen Walk Picture House Scarborough, later the **Gaiety Cinema**. Jack Prendergast was the proprietor in 1937 and was managing director of Aberdeen Cinemas, Scarborough, between 1951 and 1962.

Astoria Cinema, Holderness Road, Hull. Jack Prendergast booked its films in 1944 and was said to be the owner in 1964. Some sources also say that he built it. Now the home of Astoria Bingo, it is owned by Astoria Bingo Club Ltd, whose directors are his grandsons Jonathan and Jeremy Prendergast.

Belle Cinema, Belmont Road, Astley Bridge, Bolton. Opened in 1914, its licence was transferred in 1945 to Jack's brother, Frank Prendergast (born Blackpool 1902 as Francis Pendergast – died 1959 in Crosby.) He and Jack were listed as joint owners between 1950 and 1954. It was destroyed by fire in 1957.

Central Cinema Finkle Street, Market Weighton. Formerly the **Central Hall**, Jack Prendergast was co-proprietor with his son Patrick between 1950 and 1954. It closed in 1960.

Central Cinema, 38 Market Place, Pickering. In 1960 Jack Prendergast was reported as selling the cinema to Pentland Hick (managing director of the Gaiety Cinema, the former Aberdeen Walk Picture House Scarborough). Hick went on to open the Flamingo Land theme park.



The Clifton York in May 2004

Clifton Cinema, 52-54 Clifton Moor, Clifton, York. Clifton Picture House (York) Ltd was registered in 1936 to acquire property at Town Street, Clifton, from Jack Prendergast for the purpose of erecting a kinematograph theatre. He and William Tomlinson Mawson (a corporate accountant) were named as directors. It was opened in November 1937 by the Clifton Cinema Company Ltd, with Jack Prendergast "in control". Percy Bedford was the manager, RM Morsley the assistant manager and Mawson the company chairman. Prendergast and Mawson were both listed as proprietors in 1944. It closed as a cinema in October 1964, reopening as the Clifton Bingo Club. Jack Prendergast's son, Patrick (Lancaster 1924 – 1985 Grimston, York), a "trainee cinema operator" in 1939, became manager, while his own son, Jonathan, managed the adjacent Clifton Club. Now known as Clifton Bingo and owned by Clifton Bingo Club Ltd, whose directors are Jonathan and his brother, Jeremy.

Rialto Cinema Fishergate, York This was Jack Prendergast's first appointment as a managing director in 1927, when it was the **Casino Cinema and Rink** – it was originally built as a skating rink. Renamed the **Rialto Cinema**, it burnt down in a fire in April 1935 but was rebuilt and reopened in October 1935. Jack Prendergast and JE Winder were listed as proprietors, with Prendergast also taking on the role of

general manager. John Barry worked there as a projectionist from the age of 14 and it was where the John Barry Seven debuted in 1957. In 1961 the building (which incorporated a large ballroom) was sold to Mecca (Dancing) Ltd who ran it as a Mecca Bingo and Social Club. It closed in 2002 and was demolished in 2003 to become the car park for a new bingo club built nearby.

Cinema number eight could be the **Regent Cinema**, Castlegate, Thirsk. One source refers to a Thirsk cinema built by Jack Prendergast and demolished in the 2000s. Building of the **Regent** started in 1928 but was only completed in 1934, so he may have had a hand in its construction. Sold to Star Cinemas c1938, it was demolished in 2006.

As cinema-going declined, Prendergast adapted to change and converted the **Clifton Cinema** and **Astoria** into bingo halls in the 1960s. This move was not without the occasional controversy. In 1967 he was one of the defendants in *Adcock v Wilson*, a case in which the legality of 'Golden Scoop' bingo was determined in proceedings that went all the way from Hull Magistrates Court to the House of Lords. Their Lordships eventually decided that it was illegal.



The Clubmoor Picture House Liverpool in July 2007

Prior to moving to York, Jack Prendergast had been in charge of the **Majestic Cinema** / **Majestic Picture House**, Liverpool and from 1920 to 1927 he was the manager of the **Palladium Picture House** / **Palladium Super Cinema**, Lancaster. In 1925 he was also made general manager of the newly-opened **Clubmoor Picture House** in Liverpool. Following his departure to York, brother Frank took over management of both the **Palladium** and **Clubmoor**.

One account has Jack Prendergast employed as stage manager at a Liverpool theatre before becoming a cinema projectionist. The same account also claims that he was born in Ireland and moved to Liverpool with his family at an early age. However, official records reveal that his parents, John Prendergast (born Kilkenny) and Annie Elizabeth Austin (born Armagh), were married in Bolton in 1896, John junior being born in Wigan two years later.

In addition to running his cinemas, Jack Prendergast was active in many aspects of the industry. At various times he was chairman of the Leeds and District Branch of the Cinematograph Exhibitors Association and a member of its General Council. Always arguing for a fairer deal for the smaller exhibitor, in 1937 he co-founded British Independent Exhibitors (Distribution) Ltd which aimed at securing films on favourable terms for independent exhibitors. Although this went into receivership in 1938 after failing to raise funds for producing its own films, Prendergast continued to press for the establishment of a 'third circuit' throughout his career.

For many years he was on the board of Younger Publicity Service Ltd, a cinema advertising company and in the 1950s became a distributor of anamorphic lenses for 16mm projectors. During that period he was also involved in a joint venture with The Perforated Front Projection Screen Co Ltd of Walthamstow to promote the Prendergast-Turner wide screen, the "widest angle screen of all time." Sometimes known as the Prendergast True Vue, it was described as a perforated silver white sound screen designed for "all systems of wide screen presentation." His company, True Vue (York) Ltd later diversified into the manufacture and sale of fire shutters and stage equipment.

Always an astute businessman and entrepreneur, on his death Jack Prendergast left £137,000 (equivalent to almost £550,000 today).

CINEMA STATISTICS

By Mike Whitcombe

He uses statistics as a drunken man uses lamp posts – for support rather than illumination.

Andrew Lang (1844-1912), Scottish poet and novelist

At the outbreak of war in 1939, when Odeon and Associated British Cinemas, in particular, were opening a couple of new cinemas every month, there were 5,500 cinemas in Britain. Imagine how glorious that must have been! Ten years later, there were 4,483 cinemas. By 1977 there were just 1,004 sites and 1,510 screens. In 2019 there were 840 cinemas in the UK, over one hundred more than 2003. As cinemas today now boast multiple auditoria, that equates to around 4,500 screens (a thousand more than ten years ago), roughly the same number of screens as 65 years ago when cinemas only had one auditorium.



The County Cinema Lancaster, one of 5,500 cinemas open at the outbreak of WWII and one of many closed by the end of the 1950s

Since 2010, the UK Box Office has grown by 27% and in 2019, when there were 176 million cinema admissions, the UK Box Office was worth £1.25 billion. The final six weeks of 2019, in fact, delivered 23% more box office revenue than the same period in 2018, when there were 177 million admissions, the most for fifty years. 2020 began with 16.5 million admissions – three million more than January 2019. February 2020 attracted 14.5 million admissions – two million more than the previous February. Cinema bosses were understandably anticipating a bumper year. But then, as we are all sadly aware, the pandemic struck and cinemas throughout the land were forced to lock their doors.

MONTHLY CINEMA ADMISSIONS FOR 2019 & 2020

	2019	2020
January	13,711,441	16,505,362
February	12,226,237	14,544,878
March	11,430,575	4,807,037
April	15,981,248	0
May	16,590,282	0
June	13,920,453	0
July	18,646,247	393,596
August	15,553,494	2,062,983
September	10,958,104	2,647,903
October	16,344,313	2,195,610
November	12,211,869	303,211
December	18,500,328	521,125
TOTAL	176,074,591	43,981,705

UK SITES AND SCREENS – 2009 ONWARDS

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
cinema screens	3696	3741	3824	3858	3897	3947	4115	4194	4309	4399	4564
cinema sites	766	763	761	750	747	743	771	788	801	811	840

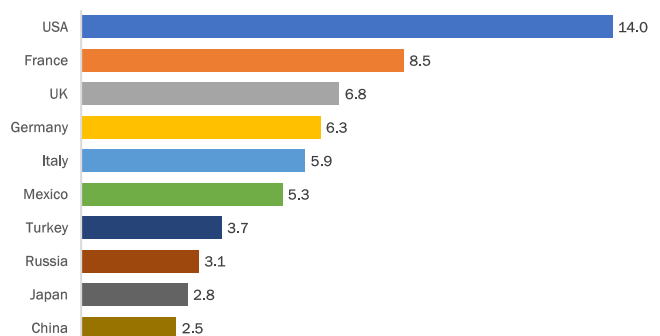


Birmingham Star City Cinema, the largest site in the UK, built with 30 screens, that helped admissions reach a fifty-year high in 2018 but which now stands temporarily closed and deserted

By the end of 2020, which saw two national lockdowns and zero cinema admissions in April, May and June, total admissions for the year were 43.9 million, fewer even than the figure recorded in 1984, previously considered the worst in history, when there were just 54 million admissions. Cinemas tried their best when the Government allowed them to tentatively reopen last July but with studios refusing to release product, it was hopeless. August 2020 saw 13 million fewer admissions than August 2019. October 2020, a month that traditionally boasts a profitable school half term, had 14 million fewer admissions than the previous October, while December 2020 saw just half a million admissions, 18 million fewer than at the same period in 2019.

The current year began with zero admissions for January. February and March will also post zero admissions. Will April finally see the first UK cinema admissions for 2021? It's possible but unlikely. And even if cinemas are allowed to open, will the Hollywood Studios release their latest product? With the exception of Warner Brothers, the big players refused to release their anticipated blockbusters last year when cinemas initially reopened after three months of closure and there's nothing to suggest they will this time round.

NUMBER OF CINEMA SCREENS PER 100,000 PEOPLE



When it comes to a table of cinema screens per capita, the UK lies in third place, with 6.8 screens per 100,000 people, slightly behind France and just ahead of Germany. The number of cinema screens per capita reflects the level of economic development of a country as well as its cinema-going culture. In a radically changed post pandemic world where people will be desperate to leave their homes and escape their troubles, cinema can be a saviour. We just need to hope that our cherished cinemas can continue to ride out these terrible times. The statistics may make grim reading at the moment but we must continue to hope for better cinema-going times.

Figures from the UK Cinema Association

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 added comments, where indicated.

Photos by Harry Rigby within entry, except where stated.

A number in curly brackets {nnnnn} is the reference for the Cinema Treasures website. Go to: [\[cinematreasures.org/theaters/nnnnn\]](http://cinematreasures.org/theaters/nnnnn)

ABERDEEN

The owners of the Bon Accord shopping centre hope to create a new four-screen cinema in the upper floor of the mall. Permission for a seven-screen cinema was granted in 2014.

Evening Express, Aberdeen – 22 January

Permission is being sought to open an adult gaming centre in the front part of the former Gaumont. A bingo licence has already been granted for the same address. The cinema opened in April 1914 and closed in October 1973. The auditorium was demolished and the remaining façade acts as an entrance to shops. {41126}

Press & Journal, Aberdeen – 4 February

AYLESBURY (Bucks)

The County Council is reviewing the future of the former Granada, which it owns. At least two investors are thought to be preparing proposals for an arts and music centre. The venue opened as the Pavilion in March 1925 and was reconstructed in 1937. It was re-named Granada in November 1946 and closed in October 1972. It became bingo, which closed in 2019. {33269}

Bucks Free Press – 13 January; photo taken April 2005



BBC national news showed people queuing to get into a cinema – a rare sight so far this year! The Odeon had become a vaccination hub from 16 January and is pharmacy-led. A good community gesture by Odeon.

Sent in by RW Hawkins & Martin Tapsell

AYR

It has been confirmed that the Kyle Shopping Centre will not reopen after the current lockdown. Instead it will be transformed into a "multi-million pound leisure development". Arc Cinemas has signed a long-term lease to be the anchor tenant with an eight-screen cinema. Construction is expected to start in 2023.

Daily Record – 4, 11, 20 February

BARNESLEY (South Yorks)

The Parkway cinema was 65 years old on 27 February. Although [temporarily] closed, some staff went in and screened a film in honour of the occasion. It opened in 1965 as the Gaumont and was renamed Odeon in 1962. It was twinned in 1980 and closed in September 2005. Two years later it was reopened as an independent and still operates the 419 seats in the former circle and 636 seats in the former stalls, which can show 70mm. {6208}

Parkway Cinemas Facebook Page – 13 February

BEESTON (Notts)

The contractors have handed over the new eight-screen Arc Cinema to the operator for fitting out. They are recruiting staff, including a manager at a salary of £30-35k. It is expected to open this summer. There is a photo and a fly-through video on the *Nottinghamshire Live* website at tinyurl.com/4on2syne.

Nottinghamshire Live – 12, 23 February; sent in by Terry Hanstock

BELFAST



The Strand celebrated its 85th birthday on 7 December. It was opened by the Lord Mayor of Belfast in 1935. It is the only surviving 'traditional' cinema in Belfast; today it has been converted into four screens. The design was heavily influenced by its proximity to Harland & Wolff. The exterior is shaped like the bow of a ship and the nautical theme continued inside, with curved walls, porthole windows and light fittings. The CTA visited in September 2014. {24058}

Belfast Telegraph – 8 December; photo taken September 2014

BISHOP AUCKLAND (Durham)

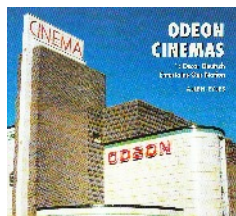


A recent clean-up at the Grade II listed former Hippodrome revealed a number of artefacts in the boarded-off upper circle; these included projectors and original seats. History enthusiasts have formed a group to raise money to convert part of the building into a small museum; their fundraising page is at: tinyurl.com/jmnqqlqq. The building opened in December 1909 and became the Essoldo in 1947. It closed in August 1966 and became bingo, which still continues. {26537}

Northern Echo – 21 January; photo taken February 2020

All you need to know about... ODEON

These two volumes, by Allen Eyles, provide a comprehensive history of the Odeon circuit, from its beginnings in the 1930s up to the multiplex era. Fully illustrated in b/w and colour.



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Available from the Sales Officer – address on p4.

BLACKPOOL (Lancs)



The Grade II listed Regent was 100 years old on 17 January. It originally had 1,150 seats, including 400 in a horseshoe-shaped balcony. The ceiling had a retractable roof with glass panels. In the 1960s and 70s it booked musicals for long summer seasons. 70mm was installed in 1961. It closed c1970 and became bingo and later snooker, which closed in 2010. It reopened in July 2016 using 124 seats in the circle with an antique and collectors' market in the former stalls. The owner says he will try and hold the Centenary celebrations later in the year. {6549}

Blackpool Gazette – 15 January

Work will begin in March on the second phase of the Houndshell Shopping Centre development. It will include a nine-screen 850-seat cinema with the largest IMAX screen in the North-West. MMC Cinemas is named as the operator.

Lancashire Telegraph – 1 February

BRADFORD (West Yorks)



The former Scala could become an extension to the adjacent wedding venue in the former St Mary's Church. The cinema was purpose-built with 700 seats in stalls and balcony. It opened in August 1913 and closed in 1922. It later became the church hall for St Mary's Church but it is reported the balcony and projection room are intact. {3674}

Yorkshire Post – 9 December; photo taken June 2005

BURNLEY (Lancs)

Plans for a redevelopment of Pioneer Place were given the green light last year. Now the developers have submitted revised plans, in view of the pandemic. The scheme will still include a seven-screen cinema. Work is hoped to start in summer 2021 with opening planned for spring 2023. No operator has been given.

Lancashire Telegraph – 29 January, 8 February

The first stage of stabilisation work has started at the Empire Theatre, thanks to a crowdfunding appeal, which was matched by the Architectural Heritage Fund. Sadly, the work was delayed due to vandalism that occurred just days after the appeal launched. The money will also pay for emergency repairs to the roof. {36755}

Lancashire Telegraph – 10 January; sent in by Philip Crompton

CARMARTHEN



A film called *Save The Cinema* has started production in the town. It is based on real events that happened in 1993. The then Mayor sent a fax to Steven Spielberg after the cinema lost out in the race to show *Jurassic Park*, pleading with him for a copy of the film. Incredibly the Mayor had a reply and not only did the Lyric show *Jurassic Park*, it did so before any other UK cinema and hosted a joint première alongside Leicester Square. The film is due to be reissued in 2021. The CTA visited the Lyric in April 2010, when this photo was taken. {26588}

South Wales Evening Post – 28 January

COVENTRY

The interior of Coventry University's Ellen Terry Building is to be given a facelift. It is the former Gaumont, which opened in October 1931. It was renamed Odeon in July 1967 and closed in October 1999. The work was due to start in February and take about ten weeks. The building is home to the University's media and performing arts courses. {34030}

Coventry Observer – 15 February

DERBY



It has been confirmed that the eleven-screen Showcase at Foresters Leisure Park will not reopen after it closed in September due to the pandemic. All branding has been removed from the exterior. It opened in November 1988 and a Showcase de Lux opened elsewhere in the City in May 2008. {21129} photo taken March 2005

Derbyshire Live – 11 January; sent in by Ken Roe & Bobby Taylor

EDINBURGH

Revised plans for the replacement of the Filmhouse have been submitted. They show six underground cinema screens with 259, 218, 148, 75, 92 and 79 seats and a further auditorium with 196 seats. A conservation body has attacked the proposed Centre for the Moving Image. The Cockburn Association says it would "undermine the character of a public space" if built in Festival Square. Irvine Welsh, author of *Trainspotting* has backed the plans. Details and plans at: www.newfilmhouse.com.

*Edinburgh Evening News, The Scotsman – 23 December; Edinburgh Live – 28 January
Scottish Sun, The Times Scotland – 30 January; sent in by Tom Laughlan*

HALIFAX (West Yorks)



The Grade II listed Victoria Theatre celebrated its 120th birthday on 8 February. The first event on that date in 1901 was a concert by the Hallé Orchestra. It operated as a cinema in the middle of the last Century. It was bought by the Council in 1964 and adapted into the Civic Theatre. There is a fine Hill pipe organ in the building. {3333}

Halifax Courier – 5 February; photo taken August 2011

HORSHAM (West Sussex)

The Capitol is due to celebrate its 85th birthday in June and is looking for people with memories of its life. It opened in 1936 as the Ritz and was situated near the Odeon (now demolished). It was renamed ABC in 1967 and closed in 1982. It was acquired by the Council as a replacement for the Capitol Theatre and reopened in 1984. If you can help, please contact tracey.grubb@horsham.gov.uk. {3263}

West Sussex County Times – 4 February

HUDDERSFIELD (West Yorks)

The redevelopment of the Kingsgate Centre will go ahead, thanks to a £7m loan from the Council to the developer. The scheme includes a Light cinema. Work is due to begin this summer and be completed by the end of 2022.

Yorkshire Live – 11 January

KIDDERMINSTER (Worcs)

The four-screen Reel cinema closed in March 2020 due to the pandemic and in July it was announced that the closure would be permanent. A group of film fans stepped in to save the venue, housed in a Grade II listed former carpet warehouse. The site has been secured and contacts signed. A crowdfunding campaign has been started to reopen it; it will be called the Lume Cinema. {24790}

www.crowdfunder.co.uk/support-the-lume-cinema

Stourbridge News – 16 February

LEEDS (West Yorks)

Restoration work on the Grade II listed Hyde Park Picture House, which had been postponed due to the pandemic, is due to begin in April. The *Yorkshire Post* report contains a 1-minute video interview with the Head of Cinema: tinyurl.com/1uclm19a. {1836}

Yorkshire Post – 19 February

LEICESTER

The three-screen Phoenix in the City's Cultural Quarter has been awarded £645,586 towards its plans to increase to five screens and create a larger bar and café, a roof terrace and bigger art gallery. It follows an earlier award of £4m towards the scheme from the Arts Council. {35252}

Hinckley Times – 20 January

LONDON (Sidcup)

Work has begun to turn the former Blockbuster store into a new library and three-screen cinema. Completion is scheduled for April 2022. It will be run by the Really Local Group, who already have a venue in Catford and are looking to expand in a number of new locations including Hayes and Bermondsey.

News Shopper – 22 January

LONDON (Teddington)

Plans have been unveiled to convert the former HSBC bank in the High Street into a bar and 40-seat cinema. Details at: tinyurl.com/4zk71yt0.

SW Londoner – 6 January

LUTON (Beds)

Workmen involved in the redevelopment of the former Ritz have unearthed a time capsule buried in a wall. It was placed there when the cinema was built in 1937. Initially it was thought to be rubbish but on closer inspection it was obvious that someone had carefully placed the items there. Among the items discovered was a pack of Player's Navy Cut Cigarettes; this brand was introduced in 1883. Written in pencil inside the cigarette box was the following: "1937, H Ambridge, Plasterer, Age 33, Ystalyfera, Swansea." Accompanying this was a cutting of what was assumed to be that day's newspaper, dated Wednesday 14 July 1937. {6247}

Luton Today – 11 January; sent in by Margaret Burgoine

MAESTEG (Bridgend)



The Grade II listed Town Hall is currently undergoing a £7.9m renovation, which will see it reopen in spring 2022. It was used as a cinema in the early 20th Century and in 1994 the balcony was converted into a 170-seat cinema. The renovations have uncovered the original stage. A performing arts centre will be established on the first floor with a studio theatre that will double as a cinema. {26607}

Wales Online – 1 January; photo taken July 2008

MANCHESTER (Hulme)

The Grade II listed Hippodrome was put up for auction with an 'unrealistic' price tag of £950,000. It was previously up for auction in 2017 at £300,000 meaning that its price has tripled in four years, despite standing empty, bar a brief occupation by squatters. The listing had said that the plot on which the theatre stands could be redeveloped for residential use but The Theatres Trust and Manchester City Council have said they would "not support" the demolition of a heritage building. It has been on the Theatres Trust 'at risk' register since 2006. The lot was withdrawn prior to the auction on 10 February. A crowdfunding campaign has been launched to save it. The theatre opened in October 1901 and closed in 1986; it has remained empty and unused since. The *Manchester Evening News* report contains some interior photos: tinyurl.com/1x615zb4. {55576}

Manchester Evening News – 9 February

MATLOCK (Derbys)

Plans (reported on p26 of the last Bulletin) to build a two-screen cinema in the former Market Hall have been approved by the Town Council. It is hoped to be open in December 2021.

Derbyshire Times – 7 January

NENAGH (Co Tipperary, Ireland)

The 900-seat former Rialto cinema, which has been a hardware store since around 1977, has been acquired by the local authority. It seems likely to survive in area renewal plans. This photo is about ten years old. {57485}

Sent in & photo by Bob Bradshaw



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

LETTERS

ERRATA

I've noticed a couple of typos in the last issue of the Bulletin (Jan/Feb) which you may have noticed already: On page 33 under 'Cineworld' there is a date of May 2012, which I think should read 2021. On page 5, in the review of the book about Popular Music at Manchester's **Free Trade Hall**, the actual title of the book *Were You There?* is not mentioned (although it is in picture of the cover) Also, it says "just before it closed in 1966" which should read 1996. The film show mentioned, *Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse*, was in fact a CTA event, organised by Gary Trinder and David Eve, to celebrate the centenary of cinema and took place on 18 May 1996. Cinema organist Jim Riggs was flown over specially from the USA to accompany the film on the Wurlitzer organ. The organ was moved to the ballroom of **Stockport Town Hall** when the **Free Trade Hall** closed and is in regular use for concerts, dances, etc.

Jeremy Buck

I have had a communication from a member, who says that some of the information in the opening paragraph of the article on the Odeon Holloway on p20 of the last Bulletin is wrong. "4k projection and Dolby Atmos" should read "2k projection and Dolby 7.1". The Odeon website doesn't give this level of detail.

David Simpson

The original author, Adrian Zak, writes: I contacted Odeon directly and got the following reply: "It depends on the showing. If it's IMAX or ISENSE performances then these screens have the ability to stream in 4k quality but a standard screen does not."

DEMOLITION SHAME

Ian Patterson's letter in the January/February edition of the Bulletin concerning a previous Leicester authority that allowed the demolition of the **Palace Theatre** (1959), was very much to the point but their true legacy is worse. Matcham's **Palace** would have made an ideal touring theatre for the largest touring productions and saved us from the stark and unattractive **Curve**, which has insufficient seats to support big companies. The City Fathers did not prevent the destruction of the **Theatre Royal** (1958), a rare example of a playhouse dating back to 1836. Nor did it save Phipps' **Royal Opera House** (1877-1960) which would have been a reasonable touring theatre for present-day productions, although not as large as the **Palace**.

Their crowning disgrace was not saving the unique **City of Leicester Working Men's Club Theatre** (1862-1985), which was an early music hall before that genre developed into the variety theatre. It had exquisite plaster mouldings, which I understand were smashed rather than saved for the museum, a small stage and a delightful semi-circular balcony. It belonged to the same family of venues as the **Nottingham Malt Cross Music Hall**, the **Glasgow Britannia**, **London Wilton's** and **London Hoxton Hall** (all Grade II listed) and others that have long disappeared. They are all examples of a rare breed of early entertainment venues.

Another local authority that ought to hang its head in shame is **Scarborough**, which permitted the demolition of the Grade II listed **Alexandra Music Hall** (1858), the lovely **Royal Opera House** and the big **Futurist** leaving no large theatre in the town. The Council thought that an open-air theatre was a suitable alternative! One suspects that in some cases big business may have played its part in both areas. **Leicester WMC** was adjacent to the **Shires Shopping Centre**, which wanted to expand.

We know that theatre in general went into decline during the 50s and 60s and **Leicester**, along with other towns and cities, could not have saved all its old theatres but there appeared to be no attempt to retain even one. **Hindsight** is a wonderful gift but some local authorities did have the foresight to help their local theatres to survive. The **Leicester Working Men's Club** membership was falling but the hall would have worked as a pub, like the **Malt Cross**, with the ability to put on live entertainment in a true and rare music hall environment.

Ted Bottle

CLASSIC CINEMA AND REGIONAL BFI FILM THEATRE COMPETE IN SIXTIES MANCHESTER

What a wonderful edition the latest *Picture House* magazine is – yet again! Congratulations to all the contributors. Allen Eyles' fascinating feature on the complicated history of **Classic Repertory Cinemas** is

almost a book in itself. Roy Stafford's account of **Blackpool** cinemas also brought back fond memories of childhood and teenage visits to several of the cinemas and theatres featured.

As a student living and subsequently working in **Manchester** during the sixties / early seventies, I regularly visited many of the City centre cinemas with an equally movie-mad colleague. Most of these cinemas (as well as the live **Palace Theatre**) were clustered within a couple of hundred yards of each other, almost side by side on **Oxford Road** as well as adjacent to the nearby **Midland Hotel** and in **Deansgate**. 70mm 'Roadshows' were regularly on offer in up to four large venues (**Gaumont**, **New Oxford**, **Theatre Royal** and **ABC Deansgate**), with new releases, re-releases and art-house/repertory in the other City centre cinemas – paradise!



The interior of the former **Classic** in its **Cornerhouse** days in 2009

The **Classic** presented some repertory seasons at that time and we managed to see a couple of double-bill Marx Brothers films there amid relatively small audiences. I recall the plain long narrow auditorium being reasonably comfortable and yes it did have a lavish arrangement of plastic flowers adorning the stage (as referred to in Allen's article).

However, our City centre visits for repertory cinema were mainly to the splendid new **Regional BFI Film Theatre** located opposite the **Odeon** (ex **Paramount**) on **Oxford Road**, which was much more comfortable than the **Classic**. This was a former **News Theatre** which had been nicely refurbished with about 300 seats on one floor, new screen and screen tabs and fully equipped for 16mm, 35mm and 70mm. I recall that the theatre was managed enthusiastically at that time by **Dr Bruce Jackson**, who was also I believe a senior academic at **Manchester University**. On our visits **Dr Jackson** was frequently present in the foyer greeting people on arrival or leaving, would often ask patrons for their views on the films and was always open to requests for future films. We were able to have several interesting conversations with him on future programme plans.

Admission prices to the **Regional Film Theatre** were moderate and programming comprised mainly art-house films. We loved *Elvira Madigan*, *Le Bonheur* and *Stolen Kisses* as well as selecting other films from the **Director** or **Actor** seasons regularly presented. We managed about five **Bergman** films in a fortnight, which was hard going and both a **Bogart** season and a **Garbo** season were wonderful. Also, even prints of the old movies seemed pretty good (possibly new **BFI** prints). The supporting programmes often comprised award-winning shorts from across the world. A favourite, brought back several times by customer request (including us) was the 1967 **Cannes Film Festival** winner *Sky Over Holland*, in 70mm and six-track stereo. This gem comprised amazing aerial shots depicting different seasonal aspects of the **Dutch** landscape and coast, accompanied by a no-commentary soundscape and a music score – similar to the **ToddAO** promos. I would love a **DVD** of this for my home cinema but have searched in vain so far.

Graham Fee

More letters in the full Bulletin

HOLIDAY SNAPS – SOUTH DEVON CINEMAS

In high summer when the sun shines, the English Riviera, that delightful area of the south Devon coast that stretches between Torquay, Paignton and Brixham, is a tourist hot spot. On days when the weather is cold and wet, there's plenty of cinemas for the holidaymaker to seek refuge in as these pictures, taken in October 2020 by CTA member Anthony Wills, show.

Text and captions by Mike Whitcombe



PAIGNTON PICTURE HOUSE

Opened in 1912 and built in the theatrical 'free Baroque' style with art nouveau decorative details including a spectacular grand entrance, the Paignton Picture House closed in 1999. In 2015 it was acquired by the Paignton Picture House Trust, who were excited that many original features had survived, including art deco wall lights made by a local craftsman. A £2.5m regeneration programme is planned; it recently received a £200,000 grant from Historic England to refurbish intricate stonework and its stained-glass windows. The cinema's most famous regular customer was crime writer Agatha Christie. A seat was always reserved for her in the balcony and there's a legend that her butler would serve her drinks during a film! She often used a thinly-veiled version of the cinema in her novels, calling it 'The Gaiety'.



CENTRAL CINEMA, TORQUAY

The original building opened as the Theatre Royal in 1863 and was extended in 1880. Projection equipment was installed as early as 1915 but it wasn't until 1931 that the theatre became a full-time cinema, when it was closed and was remodelled by architects Healy and Overbury of Cheltenham. It reopened as a cinema in March 1933 with 571 seats in the stalls and 312 in the circle. Odeon bought the site in 1935, rebranding it Odeon two years later. In 1973 it was closed for twinning, reopening in March 1974 with 360 seats in the former stalls and 309 in the former circle. Odeon ran the cinema until November 1999 when they closed it. It was then taken over by Merlin Cinemas and reopened yet again in February 2000. This time it was called the Central and in 2001 the former stalls was tripled. This four-screen cinema, like every other site in the country, is now closed due to the current pandemic and it's doubtful whether it will reopen; that's because it was already scheduled to close in June 2021 when Merlin Cinemas is hoping to open a thirteen-screen multiplex in a former BHS store nearby.



KINGS CINEMA, KINGSBRIDGE

Housed in the former Town Hall, this cinema is run by Merlin Cinemas and is delightfully quirky – even boasting a blue clock on the roof!



VUE CINEMA, TORBAY

This was originally built as the Paignton Festival Theatre, opening in 1967. Until it closed in 1998 it staged big-name summer shows. Legendary entertainers who graced the theatre included Ronnie Corbett, Larry Grayson, Danny La Rue, Les Dawson and, perhaps the most famous of all, Basil Brush. It reopened in October 1999 as the Apollo multiplex cinema. Today it's a nine-screen Vue cinema.



TOTNES CINEMA

Built in the 1880s as the Town's Temperance Hall, it first became a cinema for a short period in 1946 when it was used by a travelling cinema for Thursday night screenings. Between 1951-64, it was operated as a cinema by Kelvin and Grenville White and called The Romany. On closure the building became a library but when that shut in 2013, it was bought by Jane and William Hughes, who reopened it as a single-screen cinema in June 2014. A modest two-row balcony with 13 seats was constructed in 2017 and the current capacity is 161 seats. In December 2020 it became one of 200 independent cinemas to benefit from the Culture Recovery Fund.