



CINEMA  
THEATRE  
ASSOCIATION

[www.cta-uk.org](http://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 – see Casework [p6](#); photo taken July 2004

# 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 *Newsreel px* and *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.

*photo taken August 2007*



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. *photo taken August 2003*

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.

## Unlisted

It is with extreme regret that the demolition of the **Strand** in Warsop must be recorded. Although permission for demolition had been granted, this was conditional upon contracts for redevelopment of the site having been secured. However, following the fall of a piece of masonry from the structure, the owner immediately commissioned a structural engineer's report, which certified that the condition of the cinema posed a danger to the public. This presented a complex legal scenario whereby under relevant legislation the local Council's duty of care for public safety over-rode the planning condition preventing immediate demolition. The objections of the CTA thus proved of no avail.

*see photo p6 Bulletin 54/6 and front cover this Bulletin*

Following cleansing and repair, the frieze from the façade of the **Gaumont Palace** in Doncaster has been re-erected in the town's Civic and Cultural quarter. Its location upon a plinth at ground level facilitates close scrutiny of its subtleties, yet without additional protection it is susceptible to accidental or intentional damage.

An application has been submitted to convert the **Pavilion** in Morley into residential accommodation. Its previous utilisation as a night-club suggests that negligible decorative detailing is retained internally, although a local Conservation Area Appraisal recognises the merit of the frontage, which would be preserved if the project receives approval. *see photo p23 Bulletin 54/6*

The Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea has granted permission for the façade of the **Kensington Kinema** to be dismantled and subsequently reconstructed following stabilisation. Conditions have been placed upon the operation and a photographic record must be created; however, apprehension remains concerning the degree of originality which this procedure will conserve.

Two planning applications have been presented relating to the **Royal** in Plymouth, which is situated in a conservation area. The CTA has objected to demolition and is supporting a local campaign group, which aspires to convert the building to an arts centre. Regrettably this organisation does not own the cinema and is in possession of no funding for its proposition. Nevertheless, the proposal is garnering an element of political support, which could prove crucial as the local Council holds title to the structure.

Wakefield Metropolitan District Council has purchased the outstanding period of the lease of the **Regal** but it has not published any specific plans for the site. It had previously declared an intention to demolish the structure; however, following a consultation exercise, it has indicated that it would additionally explore other options. The Association has issued a press release emphasising the building's merit and canvassing for its retention. *see photo p27 last Bulletin*