

HERITAGE CASEWORK

By Tim Hatcher

Grade II* Listed



The operator of the nightclub currently established in the former Regal in Uxbridge is to be requested to effect removal of vegetation presently protruding from the upper section of the building's façade.

Photo taken March 2004, which unfortunately doesn't show the offending vegetation.

Current specifications for renovation of the Granada in Walthamstow stipulate that the existing paint scheme shall be consolidated, with only a sole indicative area fully restored in order to exemplify the original palette. This is unsatisfactory to the Association, which supports the inaugural detailing being either revealed or replicated. Bond Bryan Ltd. has now been appointed by the local Council to execute the project.

Funding comprising a sum of between four and five million pounds from the government's Coastal Renewal Programme has been allocated to the Dreamland complex in Margate. Present plans encompass reinstatement of the main section of the auditorium as a theatre, last employed as such in 1975; additionally the two cinemas in the former balcony area would be retained.

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The finalised planning application relating to the Grand in Westbourne has been submitted. Obscuration of the murals will now be obviated by the erection of protective Perspex screens. No original plasterwork will be removed from the foyer block, although a pervasive light grey colour scheme will be effected.

The freehold of the Ritz in Ilkeston has been sold for £660,000. The bingo operation has terminated and related signage has been removed. The local Council recognises the significance of the structure and will alert the CTA to relevant evolving circumstances. See photo on cover Bulletin 53/5.



The planning application relating to the Savoy in Burnt Oak has been approved; this integrates responses to the comments of the Association. It is intended that all notable elements of the cinema shall be retained. See Newsreel px.

The current owner of the Regal in Kingston-upon-Thames has dismissed his previous architects and planning consultants. It is unknown if the previously approved scheme will be amended within the remit of the current applicable permissions or if a disparate strategy will be formulated.

It is proposed that a low block of dressing rooms to the rear of the Troxy in Stepney be demolished and that the land thus vacated be combined with an adjacent plot upon which dwellings would be constructed. It is stated that the profit from this enterprise would finance refurbishment of the cinema, including partial restoration of the foyer to original designs. *Photo top next column taken September 2004*



Unlisted

The Gaumont in Birkenhead has been purchased by a developer whose intent is to build an apartment block, although the furniture outlet presently occupying the building continues to trade. The cinema is endowed with a distinguished auditorium, the loss of which would prove regrettable; a watching brief will thus be maintained. See photo p22 Bulletin 55/1.

The principle of demolition of the Majestic in Cradley Heath was previously established as permissible by the local Council in its lapsed approval of an unfulfilled scheme. The building is currently being cleared of content following utilisation as a storage facility and the local authority has been contacted to request protection of stained-glass windows. The structure has deteriorated to an unsatisfactory degree and is situated in a neglected section of the town, which currently features many shuttered retail units. It is thus anticipated that the Council would view favourably any proposal which could aid rejuvenation of the area. Another case which will be monitored closely is presented thereby. See photo p6 Bulletin 54/6.

Permission has been granted to demolish the Adelphi in Moston; a stricture that full recording of the structure be undertaken has been imposed. The Manchester Archaeological Society wishes to excavate the site in an attempt to locate foundations of a prior cinema thereon. See photo p22 Bulletin 54/6.

Planning permission to demolish The Point in Milton Keynes has expired; however, a recommendation has been made that a new Certificate of Immunity from Listing be issued. See cover photo Bulletin 54/1.

An application to develop the site of the Premier in Somercotes has been submitted. The frontage of the cinema would be integrated into the contemplated housing block; the original auditorium was destroyed by a conflagration in 1960. See photo p23 Bulletin 54/6.

The Association's press release concerning the Regal in Wakefield has generated considerable local attention, including that from a local businessman who has expressed interest in the possibility of repurposing the building as a live-music venue. See photo p27 Bulletin 55/1.

A local actor had been investigating the prospect of operating the Scala in Worcester as a community performance venue. However, the local Council has purchased that property for theatrical usage and he is therefore now considering the Gaumont as an alternative. The CTA is offering its moral support. See photo p27 Bulletin 55/1.

A small 'time capsule' has been laid at the site of the Odeon in Kensington, for inclusion in which the Association supplied several relevant articles.

Proposed Planning System Changes

The CTA has responded to a consultation upon a series of proposed changes to planning law. A key concern is that permitted development rights to demolish would be extended to locally listed buildings. The Heritage Alliance has convened a working group with the objective of assembling collective opposition to this proposition; the Association will become a signatory body to the resultant expression of disapprobation.