



The Globe Stockton-on-Tees, which has reopened after a £28m restoration – see Newsreel p26; photo taken April 2019 during works



The façade of the Carlton Swansea – see Newsreel p27



The former Scala/Galaxy/Cannon Long Eaton – see Newsreel p25

FROM YOUR EDITOR

I have been able to collate all the correspondence I have had following the *Cinema Names* article in Bulletin 55/3 and the results are presented here on p13-17. I want to thank everyone who complimented myself and Mike on the article and who sent in additional names we had overlooked. As I said before, the lists are not exhaustive so if you find another that we all have missed, please let me know.

I have had a request from Edward Marriage for an "idiots guide to the projection room", explaining carbon arcs, Xenon lamps, rectifiers, non-sync, cakestands etc. I have promised to write such an article, based on a talk I gave to the CTA in 1976 [yes, that long ago!]. However, as you will see, this Bulletin is crammed to the gunwales and, because of the holiday season, I simply haven't had time to do it. As the darker nights approach, I should have more time so I promise I will produce it, hopefully in time for the next Bulletin.

In the Newsreel on p25 there is an item about a film show to celebrate 100 years of the Bruce Grove cinema in Tottenham, North London. Darron Keeling kindly sent in a poster for the event. There wasn't room to put it in the Newsreel alongside the report so I'm printing it here – thanks, Darron.

As you will know, there is at least a three-week delay between the Bulletin deadline and the printed version landing on your doormat. Some of the earliest news items, received soon after the deadline for the previous Bulletin, could be well over eight weeks old by the time you read them. There is mention on several occasions in this edition of limits on venue capacity and other Covid-19 imposed constraints. The government in England relaxed most restrictions on 19 July, the so-called 'Freedom Day', although there are still some recommendations on conduct. I understand this means that all capacity limits have been lifted. You can read the official page on the government's website at tinyurl.com/hhv8ub9t. The rules also vary between the four devolved nations and some organisations may set their own conditions. It makes things very confusing.

Finally, I see that the CTA Facebook group [see below] has reached the milestone of over 1,000 followers. The CTA also has its own channel on YouTube at tinyurl.com/h2xnc4bx, which at present contains five videos, the trailers for some CTA Virtual events; the next two events are detailed opposite. Thanks go to all concerned with setting up and maintaining these modern-day resources.

Harry Rigby - CTA Bulletin Editor



Quick Guide to CTA Social Media



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www.facebook.com/cinematheatreorguk



www.twitter.com/Ctheatreassoc



www.instagram.com/cinematheatreorguk



www.ticketsource.co.uk



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

Amazon Smile link : [smile.amazon.co.uk/ch/1100702-0](https://www.amazon.co.uk/ch/1100702-0)

CINEMA THEATRE ASSOCIATION

(Founded January 1967)

promoting serious interest in all aspects of cinema buildings

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CINEMA THEATRE ASSOCIATION

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

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DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE
WEDNESDAY 20 OCTOBER

CTA VIRTUAL TALKS AND PRESENTATIONS

Season of Talks:

Notable Cinema Architects

Continuing the CTA's season of monthly Zoom talks showcasing notable cinema architects and their works. These will be given by key presenters including lecturers and partners in well-known practices associated with award-winning cinema designs. These talks will range from the pioneering iconic cinema designs popular in the twenties and thirties through to contemporary innovative designs for multi-screen venues. All talks are fully illustrated and include rare source material.

Saturday 2 October 5:30pm (UK time) (Zoom talk No 11)

**A BESTIARY OF BUILDINGS: SCOTLAND'S CINEMAS AND THEIR ARCHITECTS, FROM EGYPT TO SPAIN, VIA GOVAN...
BY GORDON BARR & GARY PAINTER**

Scottish cinema buildings are unusual for their range and variety – with some surprisingly far-flung influences and influencers. While Scotland's great Victorian and Edwardian theatres were mostly designed by specialist English theatre architects, almost all cinemas north of the border were designed by local architects, many of whom went on to build or influence cinemas across the UK and beyond. From James McKissack to William R Glen, Albert V Gardner to Thomas Lamb, McNair & Elder to B Marcus Priteca: this talk will tell just some of the stories of the role of some of Scotland's specialist cinema architects both at home and abroad and how they turned Glasgow from the second City of the Empire into the Empire's premiere Cinema City.



The Picture House Campbeltown (photo taken April 2018)

This talk, by duo Gordon and Gary [www.ScottishCinemas.org] will also set the scene by giving a whistle-stop tour of converted skating rinks, factories and churches, via the earliest purpose-built halls, the peculiarly Scottish 'back-court' theatres, to the finest thirties art deco super-cinemas, stopping off to highlight some of the most interesting buildings and unusual discoveries (including camels, monkeys and prancing deer!) they have made along the way. This talk will appeal to those new to the subject as well as established enthusiasts who might be unfamiliar with Scottish examples of otherwise familiar styles.

OPEN CHAT SESSION

Once the main event has finished, stay on and join us in the popular 'pub chat' session discussing cinema related topics of your choosing that you would like to share with others; feel free to join in, or just enjoy listening - you are welcome in any situation. This is an open-ended session so you can leave whenever you wish. The session closes when either the conversation or the virtual pub bar runs dry!

BOOKING YOUR TICKET

CTA talks and presentations are open to everyone – members and non-members alike. Booking is done online using TicketSource www.ticketsource.co.uk. Simply enter 'cinema theatre' in their search box. Tickets are Members: £3 and Non-Members: £5 (per device). Please ensure that you complete the registration link that accompanies your TicketSource confirmation.



Saturday 6 November 5:30pm (UK time) (Zoom talk No 12)

**THE REBIRTH OF NEIGHBOURHOOD CINEMAS –
A HISTORICAL REVIEW BY ARCHITECT STEFANIE FISCHER**

Exploring the role of local neighbourhood cinemas: a historical review from the early 20th Century to the post Covid-19 era.

Stefanie Fischer will use selected examples of cinemas to illustrate their role at the heart of local communities as more than cinemas: the disruption presented by the advent of suburban multiplexes; the opportunity to re-establish local neighbourhood cinemas presented the change over from film to digital distribution and the anticipated interest in local neighbourhood cinema in the post Covid era.

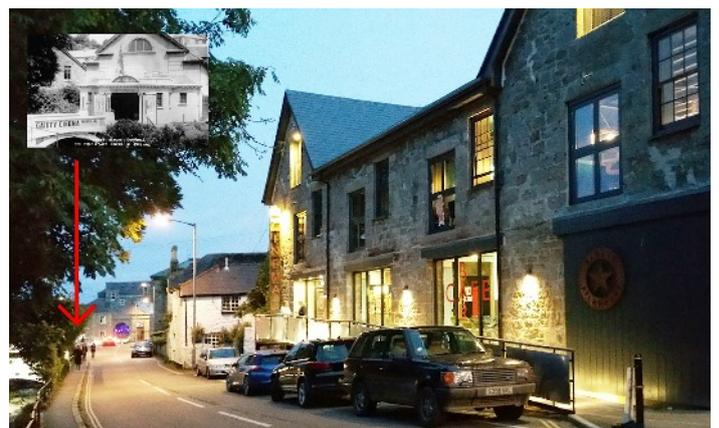
The impact on cinema architecture will be discussed, as will wider social and economic impacts, including the potential for cinemas to engender local pride in places and to have a regenerative impact on town centres and High Streets.

Stefanie Fischer is regarded as one of the foremost architects working in the independent cinema sector. While a principal of and consultant to Burrell Foley Fischer LLP [1995-2020] she worked on cinema projects including: Rio Dalston [Grade II]; Ciné Lumière [Grade II]; Picture House Exeter; Norwich Cinema City [Grade I]; Scala Cinema and Arts Centre, Prestatyn; Broadway Nottingham; Depot Lewes, Campbeltown Picture House [Category A] and Newlyn Filmhouse. The latter three projects featured in the *Guardian* Readers' Top 10 Independent Cinemas 2018.

She currently works as a Cinema Consultant to Philip Meadowcroft Architects where projects include: a two-screen cinema with a café bar for Rutland Kino; further improvement works for Broadway Nottingham; Cinema Consultancy services to East Hertfordshire District Council on a new five-screen cinema in Bishops Stortford and Cinema Consultancy services to Shropshire Council on the potential for including a 3-4-screen boutique cinema in a repurposed shopping centre.

She has provided Cinema Consultancy services to other architects including: early input to Strelka on the Khudozhestvenny Cinema, Moscow; the technical evaluation of competition entries for Garage Cinema, a summer cinema pavilion in Gorky Park Moscow; Cinema Consultancy to Robin Baker Architects on Birks Aberfeldy and to Nicholas Hare Architects on London Film School's initial plan to relocate to Barbican Hall 1.

Stefanie's passion for cinema and the benefits it can bring to local communities will highlight the value of her work.



The rebirth of neighbourhood cinema – Newlyn Filmhouse opened in 2016 in a former fish smokery opposite the former Gaiety Cinema (inset) (1905-1964), now the Newlyn Meadery.

OPEN CHAT SESSION

Once the main event has finished, stay on and join us in the popular 'pub chat' session discussing cinema related topics of your choosing that you would like to share with others; feel free to join in, or just enjoy listening - you are welcome in any situation. This is an open-ended session so you can leave whenever you wish. The session closes when either the conversation or the virtual pub bar runs dry!

BOOKING YOUR TICKET

Please see the information opposite to make a TicketSource booking.

VISITS AND EVENTS

Back to the West End

Monday 27 September, early afternoon;
start time shown on TicketSource website [see below].

After 18 terrible months, to initiate some live events, this walk will explore the cinemas of the West End. Although the area is well known to CTA members, it is hoped that the event will be of interest. We aim to include a cinema interior visit, possibly the Leicester Square Odeon and maybe an interlude played by the resident organist Donald MacKenzie.



The Odeon Luxe Leicester Square in March 2019

The walk will be led by Richard Gray, commencing in Leicester Square. Please assemble by the Shakespeare memorial in the centre of the Square.

The cinemas in Leicester Square and their preceding theatres will be described, such as the Odeon, the Cineworld and the Vue, together with the vestigial remains of others. In the south-west corner, the replacement hotel and cinema on the site of the Leicester Square Theatre / Odeon West End is nearing completion.

Passing along Coventry Street we look at the West End Cinema Theatre, known as the Rialto when still a cinema but now a casino and a Grade II listed building. Almost opposite is the Prince of Wales theatre, never on film full-time but designed by Robert Cromie, a leading cinema architect of the 1930s. We turn left into Haymarket and pass the office building created from the Capitol of 1925, later the Gaumont and eventually an Odeon but then consigned to a basement. This interior is said to still exist. On the right beyond, is what is now the Empire but for most of its life was known as the Carlton, made famous as the Twentieth Century-Fox premier venue in Britain. Here a huge conservation battle was fought by the CTA. After being threatened with demolition by the ground landlord, the Crown Estate, we achieved a Grade II listing and the Empire will now survive the regeneration of the surrounding offices.

We continue up to Piccadilly Circus to view the London Pavilion building, now looking rather neglected but for many years the London showcase for United Artists, although in essence a Victorian Grade II listed theatre. Opposite is the Criterion Theatre, never a cinema but notable as London's only totally subsurface playhouse. On the corner of Regent and Jermyn Streets is the Plaza building, constructed by Paramount as a magnificent film palace but now mainly devoted to Tesco's, with a small Vue basement miniplex. Hidden over to the left of the Circus is the Piccadilly Theatre where Warner Brothers previewed sound films in 1928. Beyond the Regent Street quadrant we may take in the New Gallery, now Burberry's clothing emporium.

Historical notes to be provided

BOOKING THIS EVENT

Booking is done on-line using TicketSource www.ticketsource.co.uk Simply insert 'Cinema Theatre' in their search box. Tickets are Members: £5 and Non-Members: £7. Bookings can also be taken over the telephone on 01494 532241 for members who do not have Internet access.

Other Events of Interest

not organised by the CTA

National Film Theatre / BFI Southbank, London
Thursday 23 September, 6:10pm, NFT ②

Cinema Architecture and Atmosphere – part of a BFI 'Art in the Making' season – celebrating diverse artistic forms, movements and makers



The BFI entry reads: "In this special edition of our new strand 'Art in the Making', we sing the praises of cinemas, their design and their histories, focusing on the architectural visions that have shaped movie-going as an acutely spectacular, social, communal experience. In *Odeon Cavalcade* (1973) John Cecil Clavering illustrates his cathedral-like cinema designs, while in *Cinema in East London* (1979) the Four Corners film collective reveals movie house sites and histories that have been sadly pushed out of view or knocked down. The Cinema Theatre Association's Richard Gray will give a short presentation about their campaign to protect historic cinema buildings. BFI projectionist Alexa Raisbeck will discuss her 'Oral History of Women Projectionists' project and Allen Eyles will give an illustrated talk on the history of BFI Southbank".

CTA members can obtain a price reduction to £8.00, by quoting the code CTABFI with the box office or on-line.

BOOKING THIS EVENT

All tickets must be booked in advance online or by phone and phone lines are open from 11:30am to 8:30pm daily on 020 7928 3232.

PLEASE NOTE

At the time your Bulletin went to press, this event was shown as "Sold Out" on the BFI website. However, the BFI says that additional seats are being released so it may be worth checking by calling the box office on the number above. It may still sell out early.

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Neville C Taylor, CTA Treasurer

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.

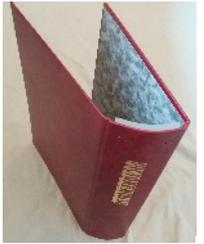
There are also available a few second-hand copies of out-of-print issues of *Picture House* 9, 10, 14/15, 20 & 23, priced £5.00 each, plus postage. A list of their contents was printed on p4 of Bulletin 52/2 or can be obtained by SAE or email from the Sales Officer or Bulletin Editor.

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.

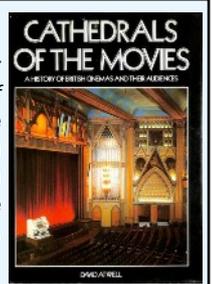


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Ordering details below.

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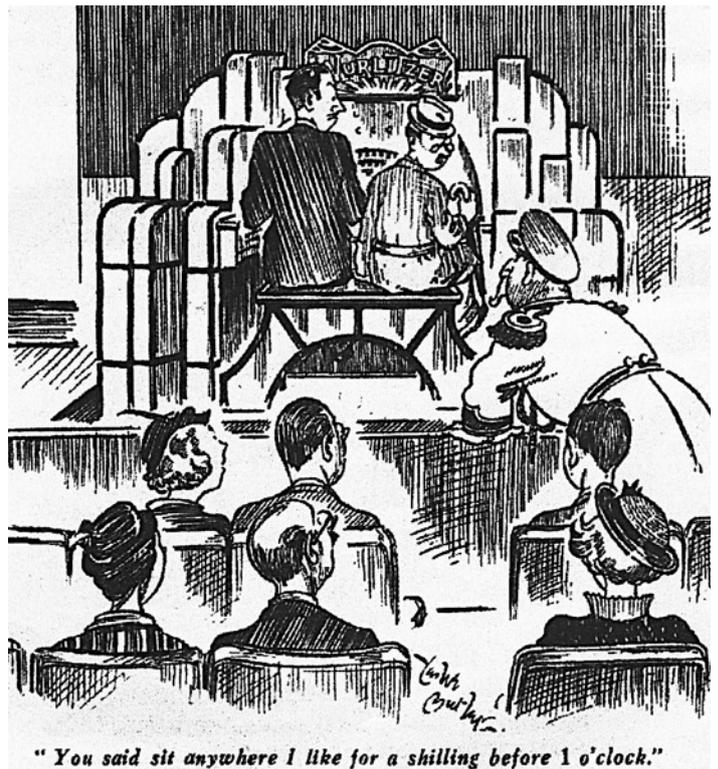
We have a selection of second-hand books for sale, including rare titles such as *Cathedrals of the Movies*, *The Picture Palace*, etc. To receive a full list with around 50 titles, please send an email to the Sales Officer sales@cta-uk.org with 'Second Hand Book List' as the subject. Or write to the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



Ordering

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



"You said sit anywhere I like for a shilling before 1 o'clock."

from the Joyce Braddon collection

HERITAGE CASEWORK

By Tim Hatcher

Grade II* Listed

Subsequent to consultation with several interested parties, including the CTA, followed by approval of the revised plans, relevant permissions have now been granted for conversion of the State in Grays into a hostelry of JD Wetherspoon plc. It is intended that work should begin within two years, which enterprise will encompass restoration of the Compton organ and installation of a demountable screen in order to facilitate occasional film exhibition. See Newsreel p23.

It is gratifying to report that restoration of the façade of the Picture House in Paignton is currently underway and nearing completion.

Grade II Listed

A formal submission to seek planning and listed building consent has been tendered relating to the previously reported proposal to convert the Central Picture Theatre / King Edward in Blackpool into an 'artisan market'. A major defect of the scheme is the intent to pierce the ceiling in order to introduce multiple skylights. See photo p6 last Bulletin.



A productive meeting with representatives of Panter Hudsmith Architects and CNM Estates has been conducted in which it transpired that an objective of the latest scheme is to retain substantially the originality of the lower floor of the interior of the Regal at Kingston-upon-Thames. The Association is adjuring that the integrity of the full volume of the auditorium should be preserved as a single entity.

photo taken April 2006

The freeholder of the Majestic in Mapperley [Nottingham] has sought advice from the Association concerning its restoration.

It is reported that major phases of renovation of the Ritz in Nuneaton have been accomplished; attention is presently diverted to conversion of the foyer into a restaurant.

Unlisted

The Windsor in Bearwood [Birmingham] was recently marketed at a price of almost half a million pounds. Its most recent utilisation was as a snooker parlour. See photo p22 last Bulletin.

Noise emanating from the Brontë in Haworth suggests that internal building operations have commenced; the external parapet has also been removed. This situation was reported to Bradford Council's conservation team, the response of which, stating that pressure of work precluded immediate action, is palpably unsatisfactory.

Hammerson has placed The Point in Milton Keynes for sale with Savills plc; the plot offered includes the pyramidal structure, auditorium block and car park.

The Association, in parallel with the Theatres Trust and Historic England, has objected vociferously to Rotherham Metropolitan District Council concerning proposed demolition of the Regal. This edifice, situated in a conservation area, possesses associations with both Victor Sylvester and Sandy ("Can you hear me, mother?") Powell.

A timely intervention by an assiduous local conservation officer prevented destruction of the Sandonia in Stafford following the owner's acquisition of permission to demolish. The current aspiration is for retention of the foyer block. See Newsreel p26.



Blackpool Council has been made aware that the locally-listed Royal Pavilion is reputed to be the earliest purpose-built cinema within the United Kingdom. It is envisaged that this particular may influence positively any deliberations upon the building's future.

photo taken June 2009

Wakefield Council, currently bidding to become UK City of Culture 2025, has declared its determination to demolish the Regal; it is manifest that the former body had at no stage exhibited any avidity towards its retention. Fifty-two local objections have been received.

The development company that wished to demolish the Royal in Plymouth has apparently withdrawn the scheme. Simultaneously the campaign to transform the building into an arts centre proceeds and indeed some temporary related activity has recently ensued within its portals.



After permanent closure as a Buzz Bingo establishment, ownership of the Regal in Bridlington was transferred to an alternative operator, subsequent to which a new gaming licence was granted and deployment as a bingo undertaking resumed.

photos taken: exterior June 2006; interior September 2013

Previous disquiet regarding the Imperial in Walsall was not misplaced, as a developer has now submitted a planning application to create residential apartments within the cinema's shell. The Association is to forward its objections.

UNIDENTIFIED CINEMA PHOTOGRAPHS



Int106 – A Granada foyer, gone over to bingo



Int141 – An Odeon foyer



C115 – Classic Cinema from 1982. Former Theatre Royal in Bury?



O47 – car registration indicated Portsmouth area



E41 – Kwik Save conversion



AS8 – might be a former Co-Op



C09 – no further information

These are some samples from a regular weekly set of unidentified cinema photographs posted on the CTA-UK Google Group. Please consider joining this group: groups.google.com/forum/#!forum/cta-uk and help us to identify cinemas. It's great fun! If you're having trouble signing in, email the archivist at archive@cta-uk.org. If you don't wish to join the Group but want to be involved in identifying these photographs they can be viewed at tinyurl.com/uomjyom.

If you recognise any of these photos, please email darron.keeling@me.com, quoting the reference number, or contact your editor (address on p2).

TWO SOLVED FROM THE LAST BULLETIN:

O83 – Odeon Surbiton {31366} by Nigel Wolland;
Int005 – Regal St Leonards-on-Sea {42948} by Alan McCann
photos on p18.

All in all, a fantastic result, so thank you, everybody, for having a look.

Darron Keeling

PICTUREDROME / REGAL / ODEON, 16 SOUTHGATE STREET, BATH – Part 2



Frontage of the Picturedrome under Odeon ownership in 1936
photo CTA Archive (Maltby)

By Ben Doman

In August 1933, proposals were made to alter the screen and stage end of the cinema. The stage was centred to the auditorium and widened and a new proscenium arch built.

An article in the *Bath Chronicle* on Saturday 6 July 1935 announced "Regal Cinema Change - Acquired by Odeon Theatres Ltd, Manager Remaining. This week an important change has taken place in the control of the Regal Picture Theatre, Southgate Street, Bath, for it has become one of the cinemas belonging to Odeon Theatres Ltd, whose headquarters are at Cornehill, Bennetts Hill, Birmingham."

The shareholders had the option of retaining a considerable portion of their individual holdings under the [arrangement] and in all cases, excepting where a trust fund was concerned, accepted.

The directors of the Regal Theatre were Messrs FH Milsom (Chairman), Robert Membery (managing director), Ralph D Owen, Dr Waterhouse and Mr A Milsom. All these, with the exception of Mr Membery, are retiring from the board but they are retaining a financial interest in the company. Mr Membery is remaining on the board to represent local interest. Mr George Morrish, who had been manager for the past five years, will continue to act in the same capacity.

The Odeon group have as a motto "Service to the Public" and it is one that they strive to live up to in the character of the programmes they provide and the comfort of patrons of their theatres in various parts of the country.

"There are fifty of them in the chain" said Miss Salberg, assistant general manager to the Odeon Company, who was in Bath on Saturday making the final arrangements for taking over. "Our nearest theatre to Bath is at Weston-Super-Mare. It is not our intention to take away local interest in our theatres. That is not our policy. The City will still be able to regard the Regal as its own theatre and we shall, as far as possible, encourage a local feeling in that way."

"Our intention at present is to retain the name of the Regal Theatre and we shall make no changes in the management of it. But Bath will reap an advantage, in as much as we are in a position to obtain the latest and best productions in the film world. The pictures to be shown will be the very best. We shall renovate the theatre and bring it right up to date. New seating will be installed. The Odeon Company is a British concern throughout. The governing director is Mr Oscar Deutsch and associated with him is Mr WG Elcock, a member of the Birmingham City Council."

[The second purpose-built] picture house established at Bath, the first being the Electric Theatre, Westgate Street, which later was enlarged and is now the Beau Nash. Mr J Bannister Howard was the prime mover in the opening of both of them...

"Since it originally opened the Regal - then known as the Picturedrome - has undergone important and extensive alterations and its accommodation has been considerably added to.

Mr Frank H Milsom was chairman from its inception up to last week, when he retired from the board on Odeon Theatres, Ltd... still retains a considerable financial holding in the company. He and his co-directors have always aimed at maintaining a high standard in the class of entertainment provided for Bath picture theatre-goers. In this they have had the support as manager for the past five years of Mr George Morrish and patrons will learn with great satisfaction that he will still be continuing in that capacity.

It will be recollected that it was recently announced that the Odeon Theatres Ltd were in negotiations for the acquisition of a site in St James' Parade and last week it was revealed that a proposal to transfer the Royal Mineral Water Hospital to this particular site is being considered."

On 2 August 1935 the five current directors of the Bath Electric Theatre Company resigned to be replaced by Oscar Deutsch (Chairman of Odeon Theatres), Frederick Stanley Bates (Director of Odeon Theatres) and William George Elock (Chartered Accountant). Thus the Regal passed into the control of Odeon Theatres. Procedures to wind up the Bath Electric Theatre Company were started on 6 August 1935 and on 14 June 1937 the company's assets were purchased by Odeon Theatres Ltd. Winding up procedures were completed on 18 November 1937.

The cinema's transformation into a modern theatre was completed in November 1935 when an article in the *Bath & West Chronicle & Herald* on Saturday 30 November announced "Regal becomes the Odeon - Complete Renovation of Bath Cinema. "Better Pictures with Service." That is the motto of Odeon Theatres Co Ltd. and it has been brought to Bath, for from now onwards the Regal cinema becomes the Odeon cinema. High as was the standard of entertainment and comfort under the previous management, patrons may expect even more pleasure from future productions."



Auditorium in its Odeon days. The 1911 enlarged projection room is now the balcony entrance behind the photographer. The seating blocks on the left and right of the stalls are the 1911 & 1915 extensions that increased the width of the building.

photo CTA Archive (Maltby)

Within a month the cinema had a startling but nevertheless pleasing change, for besides the re-seating of the whole theatre, the decorators have been busy in the lounge and vestibules. The colour scheme adopted is very attractive to the eye. The lounge walls are in old gold and green splashes and plush green curtains hang over the bay windows, toning beautifully with the rest of the room.

Modernistic chairs replace the old ones and the rubber flooring, being in harmony with the other alterations, is the most up to date form of carpeting, besides being excellent to walk on and most hygienic. Chromium plated handrails are another of the many installations and smart overhead and wall lights provide the light for the lounge. The vestibules on the ground floor have been provided with chairs and special flooring prevents noise escaping into the theatre. Doors leading into the vestibules and theatre are a tonefull contrast to the decorations. They are of walnut and are plain apart from some ultra-modern handles.

The outstanding improvement of the whole changeover, however, is the fact that the seats are identically the same throughout the theatre, hence patrons of the 6d seats have the same comfort as those in the 1s/6d seats. Another feature is that to give the patrons all the roominess they wish for, the accommodation has had to be reduced... The new Odeon has an imposing entrance with a canopy, under which are ten lights, throwing into relief the different colours that adorn the covering. In the background the redecorated box office tones well with the impressive vestibule..."

Mr Ernest Simpson was manager by the early 1940s. He was superseded by a Mr LW Flaton on Saturday 25 April 1942. Mr Flaton had previously been the Managing Director of L Flaton & Sons Ltd, connected with the woollen trade in Yorkshire's West Riding. He was also a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society. That date was also of note for different reasons, as this was the date of the first blitz raids on Bath. Luckily, unlike the Scala in Oldfield Park, the Odeon did not suffer any damage.



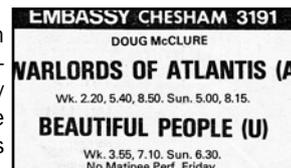
8 January 1955 saw the first showing at the Odeon of *White Christmas*, in VistaVision. This was the high-definition format of its day, where the film ran through the camera horizontally, rather than vertically, enabling a larger frame size. It is unlikely that horizontal projectors were installed, merely a different lens that gave a larger picture. Pictures taken at the time of closing show a pair of standard Kalee 21 projectors with Kalee President lamphouses.

Plans for the new Southgate shopping centre in 1962 sounded the end for the Odeon and the cinema showed its last film, *The Undefeated* with John Wayne and Rock Hudson, on 13 December 1969. A Rank Organisation spokesman was quoted as saying "There will be just a normal performance". The Odeon's 16 staff were offered other positions within the company. Dismantling the pair of Kalee 21 projectors after the cinema had closed, Chief Projectionist Kenneth Ostler said, "It is part of your life. It has always been a happy theatre." On the last night, manageress for the last month of the cinema's life Mary Townsend said, "It just feels busy. It is an ordinary Saturday night". Plans to build a replacement Odeon in the circle of the Forum opposite (owned by the Avon Cinema Company, in which Rank had a 49% stake) fell through due to weak foundations. The building was demolished shortly afterwards for the new Southgate shopping centre, the site of the Odeon was roughly where Boots the Chemist was within the centre. In the new millennium, the Southgate centre was itself replaced by the redevelopment of the southern end of the City, including the Tivoli cinema.

EMBASSY CHESHAM 1981 VISIT

By Tim McCullen

Further to the article on p22 of Bulletin 55/3, I went on the Chesham and Aylesbury visit on 12 July 1981. It was my second visit. The visit notes said that the Embassy "is unlikely to remain in its present form much longer." The organiser said that there was a plan to triple here.

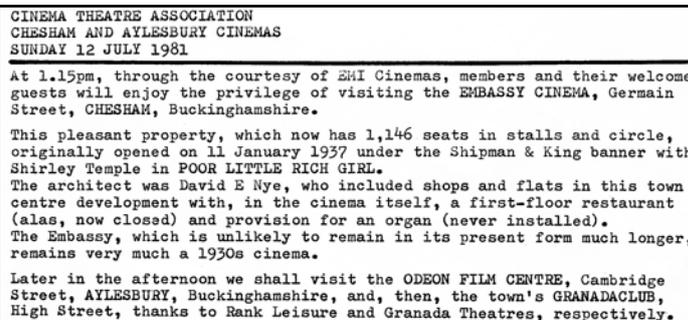


Advert c1978

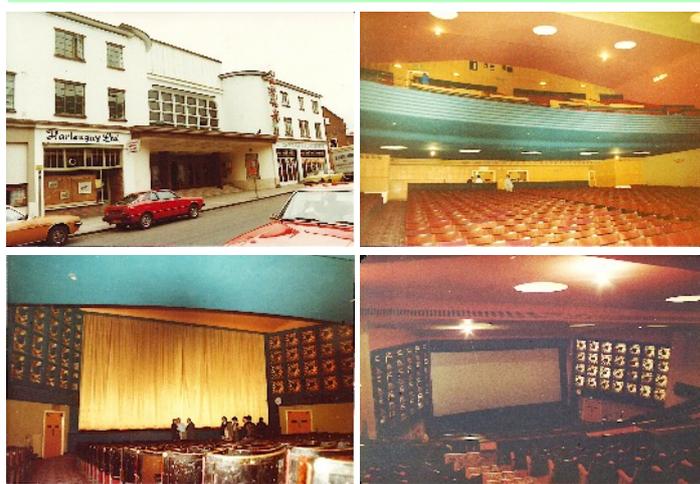
On looking at the building, as CTA members do, it would have made an ideal site to do a 'drop-wall' keeping the venue reasonably intact. On saying that, Thorn EMI conversions were not always done quite so tastefully as the downstairs screens often projected well beyond the front of the above circle and a new screen would be put upstairs.

However, it was not to be. The Embassy closed on 24 April 1982 with *Evil Under the Sun* and was demolished soon afterwards. Its closure was mentioned by the late Terry Creswell, who was the then CTA treasurer, at the 1982 AGM. Terry, who went to a lot of final films said it was a "full house. and nothing had changed at that cinema since opening, including the telephone." I understand other CTA members went too.

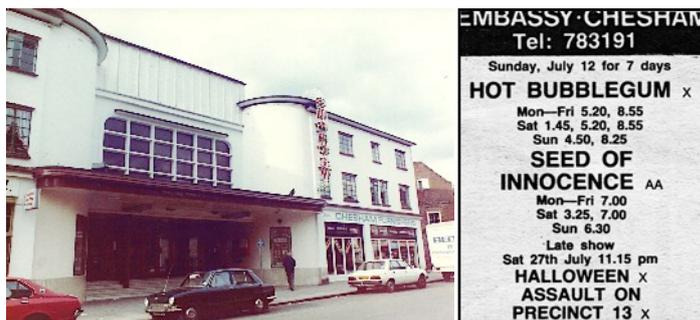
Did the cinema close because the capital cost of the conversion to triple was not be viable in the long term or was it because the site was sold for redevelopment as it was soon demolished? Had the site been redeveloped, would it have survived and what would it be called now, given all the subsequent changes of ownership - we will never know.



The CTA Bulletin announcement of the visit



Photos taken on the day of the visit by Terry Creswell



[L] photo by Terry Creswell, undated but believed to be on the last night [R] advert for programme on the week of the CTA visit

REMODELLING OF THE WARE CINEMA / ASTORIA

By Kevin Wheelan

Opened in 1911, by 1948 the Ware Cinema was in need of modernisation. According to an article in the *Ideal Kinema* of February 1949 the operating box, measuring a mere 10 feet by 8 feet, was unlikely to pass new fire regulations. It was not possible to rebuild it where it was situated in the vestibule, so the decision was made to turn the auditorium around and relocate it to the back. Behind the cinema was a generating shed containing a rotary converter, which was decommissioned and replaced by a metal rectifier, placed temporarily in the pay desk. Demolition of outbuildings enabled the hall to be extended by 27 feet and provided space for an entrance corridor at the side.



Manager Charles Ballands and wife, 1936. They later owned the cinema.



The Ware Cinema in 1941

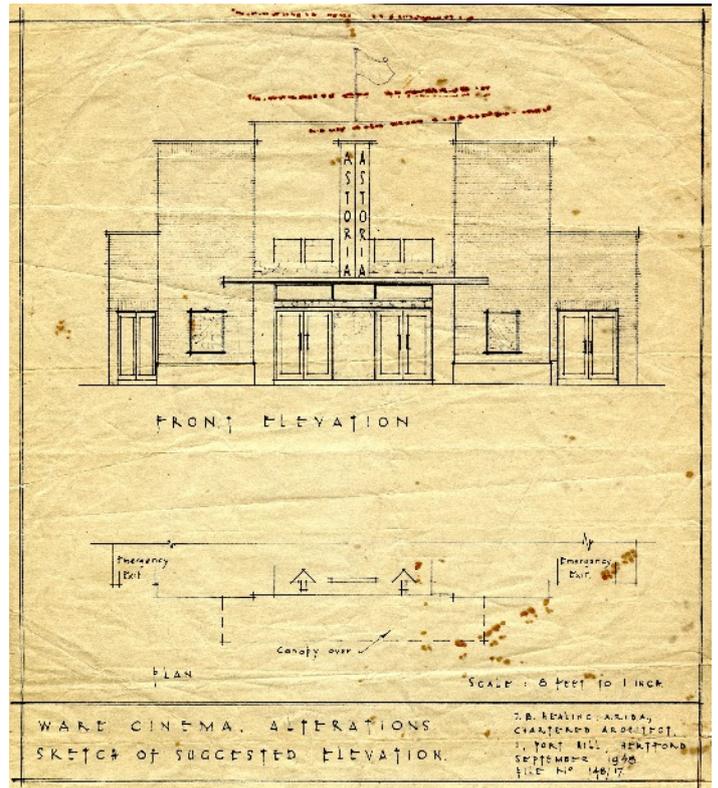
Hertford-based architect JB Healing ARIBA drew up plans that entailed raising the auditorium ceiling by 5 feet 6 inches, reversing the rake, lowering the foyer to the new lower level of the auditorium floor and removing the entrance steps. Plans to remodel the frontage were abandoned. The screen was relocated to the front of the building and a new spacious operating box (21 feet x 16 feet 3 inches), rewind room (15 feet by 13 feet), workshop, staff room and manager's office were built over the extended rear stalls.

As the electric wiring ran above the ceiling, it was necessary to rerun it temporarily under the floor and along the walls. For the sound wires, which remained in the void, the conduit was cut and flexible Greenfield tubing 9 feet in length was inserted at each end to allow for the added height.

The ceiling was raised in 9-inch increments by ten 10-ton hydraulic jacks, the gap being bricked in before the next lift. The process took a week, during which no evening performances were lost.



Yard rear showing gable end of cinema and speaker chamber



Architect's abandoned plan for new frontage, 1948.



The show then closed for three weeks, during which the rake was reversed, the foyer level lowered, the entrance steps removed, a new proscenium built, the projection equipment relocated, new and reconditioned cherry red seating installed, a wooden barrier placed across the hall to separate the different priced seats and new wiring run in the void. The auditorium was redecorated in beige with pink and green speckle and rust coloured carpet was laid. The foyer and corridor floors were covered with rubber tiles in mottled red and beige with a black and green border. A pay desk and confectionery stand, finished in mahogany, were constructed in the foyer. An Automatticket machine was installed and Girosign provided the exterior and interior publicity frames.



Side passage converted to entrance hall

The cinema reopened as the Astoria on Saturday 23 October 1948 with *London Belongs to Me* starring Richard Attenborough, Susan Shaw and Alastair Sim.



SCREEN END OF OLD CINEMA WITH THE ROOF LIFTED.



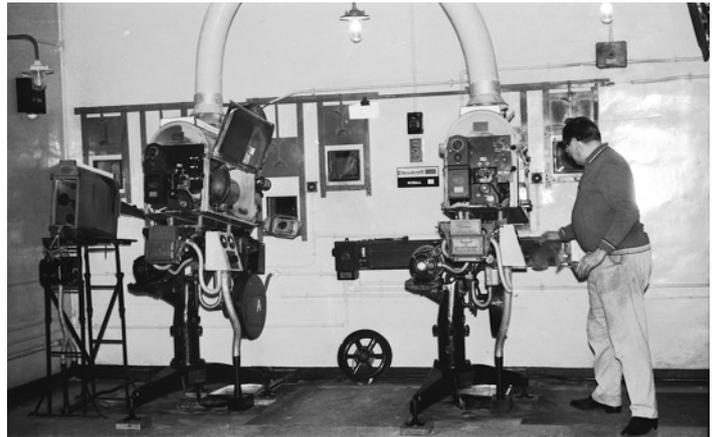
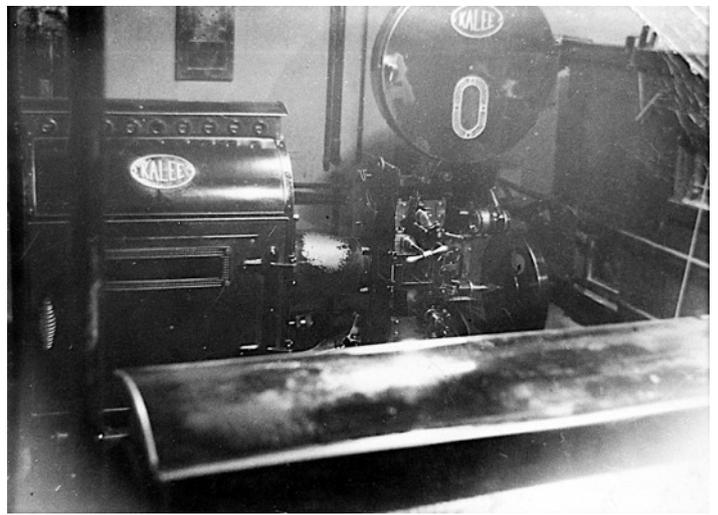
NEW FOYER AND PAY BOX.



SHOWING NEW PROSCENIUM AND FRETTS, AIR DUCT ON CEILING, AND NEW COLOUR FLUORESCENT LIGHTING.



Fifth anniversary 1953



Original projection room 1948 and new projection room 1970



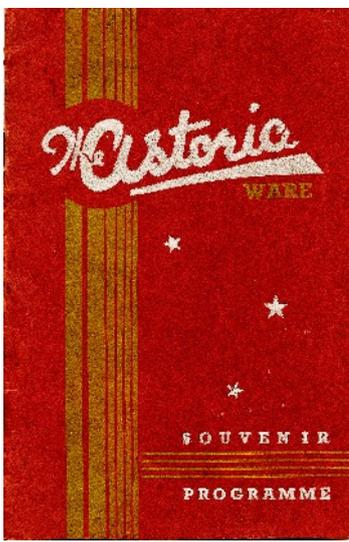
Auditorium, showing new projection box overhanging rear stalls, 1970



The façade in 1951



Rear balcony leading to projection box and office/staff room, 1970. The Bostwick gates on the left were originally at the front of the old cinema.



The
ASTORIA
WARE

Proprietors - THE ASTORIA CINEMA FRAMES LIMITED
Directors - I. D. BETHOUSE C. W. BALLANDS

Welcome

THE Directors, Management and Staff take this opportunity of extending to you a very sincere welcome to the opening of the
Astoria, Ware

Congratulations to
The ASTORIA
and Best Wishes for a
Deserved Success

THE THEATRES
ADVERTISING CO
Proprietors - J. PRESIDENT & CO. LTD
GLOUCESTER HOUSE
19 CHARING CROSS ROAD W.C.2
Screen and Programme Advertising
Contractors to Leading Cinemas

THE MANAGER -
Mr. C. W. BALLANDS

Dear Patron,

It is indeed an honour and pleasure for me to welcome you to the Astoria.

As you know, I have grown up with most of you starting as a lad in the old Cinema, in the early days of 1928. Looking back to that time, and looking at the Astoria which we now have, I can only say "Thanks" to you all for the support you have given to my colleagues and myself.

Knowing you personally as I do, I know your likes and dislikes regarding screen entertainment, and have always endeavoured to give you the pick of the world's film market.

This theatre has always been a cosy intimate family house, and I would like you to know that I intend to see that it stays that way now it has become more commodious and modern in design.

In conclusion, may I remind you that there is always a very warm welcome, in this, your own cinema, for all of you, where the best is only good enough for your entertainment.

Yours very sincerely,
C. W. Ballands

The Astoria _____ *Ware*

Grand Opening Programme
Saturday
October 23rd
1948
at 7.30 p.m.

- Opening Ceremony.
By the oldest regular Patron
Mrs. L. ROGERS
- Flashback.
Re-introducing Mr. C. HORNE
- O.K. for Sound.
- Our Guest Stars.
Personal appearance of
JIMMY HANLEY and DINAH SHERIDAN
(The first appearance of the 2 London House Organists)
now appearing in the Huggatt Family series.

5. LONDON BELONGS TO ME

— Cast —

PERCY BOON
Richard Attenborough

Mr. SQUALES
Alastair Sim

UNCLE HENRY
Stephen Murray

Mr. JOSSER
Fay Compton

Mr. JOSSER
Wylie Watson

DORIS JOSSER
Susan Shaw

CONNIE
Ivy St. Miller

Mr. VIZZARD
Joyce Carey

6. God Save The King

RICHARD ATTENBOROUGH

SUSAN SHAW

ALASTAIR SIM

For your information _____

Mondays - Thursdays - Saturdays
Continuous from 1.45 p.m.

Tuesdays - Wednesdays - Fridays
Continuous from 4.45 p.m.

Sundays
Continuous from 8 p.m.

Prices of Admission 1/- 1/9 2/3 2/6

Programme for *Tuesdays* October 28th
For Three days

GLYNIS JOHNS
GRIFFITH JONES
GOOGIE WITHERS
JOHN McCALLUM
in
Miranda

— ALSO —
James Kennedy as **CIRCUS BOY**

● ALL PUBLICITY FRAMES ●
(INTERIOR AND EXTERIOR)
INSTALLED AT THIS THEATRE.
DESIGNED, MANUFACTURED
AND FULLY SERVICED BY

GIROSIGN LTD
Poster and Display Card Specialists

86/8 WARDOUR STREET
LONDON W. 1
TELEPHONE GERRARD 3524/7

Wanted...
CARPETS TO CLEAN (the drier the better)
We know all the tricks and have the modern equipment to give you the scientific head-off. Whether it's a big commercial or a private household job, we're experts at cleaning and restoring carpets and upholstery. Free-to-phone estimates, washing and padding floors, handwashing, hoovering or planing wood. Please write to:
John Gilpin of **WARE LIMITED**
85, HIGH STREET, WARE, HERTS. TEL: WARE 11

Printed by The Star Press, Bowling Road, Ware

Pages from the souvenir program for the reopening of the Astoria Ware on Saturday 23 October 1948



The Astoria in 1970 [top] and 1974 [bottom]

LETTERS ABOUT NAMES

NAME CORRECTION

I very much enjoyed your article in Bulletin 55/3, all the more so as coincidentally I had started to write something on the same subject a while ago. In the event lethargy got the better of me and I am sure you have done a far better and more thorough job than I could possibly have done. While most schoolboys in the 1950s were content with collecting stamps, matchboxes and other physical things etc, I went one better and started collecting cinema names. It was not enough to see an advert in the local paper, I had to actually see the buildings 'in the flesh'. I must have driven my poor parents mad as everywhere we went I had to run around trying to find the local cinema to identify whether its name was a new one for my list. Fortunately for every corporate Odeon or ABC, or every prosaic Regal or Ritz, there was a Radway or Romany to whet the appetite. I think I managed to compile a list of over 150 different names before the sad closure of so many cinemas rendered the hobby obsolete. One minor point of detail in your article, growing up in Bournemouth in the 1950s, my local cinema was the *Moderne*. The name never bore an accent over the 'e' in those days and indeed us locals, ignorant of the architectural lexicon, always referred to it as the 'Modern'. By the way it closed as a cinema in 1963, not 1983 as stated, a date forever etched in my memory.

David Barker

Editor's Note: This may have been my over-enthusiastic word processor, wanting to be politically correct and inserting accents everywhere.

AUSTRALIA TIME



Congratulations to Mike Whitcombe and Harry Rigby for their exhaustive and fascinating *What's in a Name* article and Cinema Names List (Bulletin 55/3). My local cinema during the 1950s and into the early 1960s was in the Melbourne suburb of Balwyn in the state of Victoria [Australia] and was called the Time Theatre. This was one of many of the Hoyt's theatres chain of suburban locations but was the only one with the unusual name Time. Indeed, I have never been aware of any other theatre both here or overseas with this name. We did have a newsreel theatre in the CBD named Times (plural) Newsreel, which sort of makes sense as these newsreel theatres were invariably known as 'hour shows' but the singular name Time seems to be a very much one-off. Apart from the intrigue as to why this theatre was named as such, I wonder if any other members are aware of this name being afforded to any other theatres? This was a beautiful stadium designed theatre that, despite its great location and popularity, received only a very short life 1943-1962 due to Hoyts Theatres threatening to shut down many of its locations in protest to the Victorian government's increase in the entertainment tax. A threat that soon became a sad reality. {23639}

John Holloway

THE IRISH ASTRAL DIMENSION

While the first purpose-built cinema in Dublin was the *Volta*, associated with James Joyce, the most common name for cinemas in Ireland was the *Cinema*, sometimes with the addition of 'New' or in earlier days, 'Electric'. There were, however, a few Irish kinemas with astral connections; the *Astral* Lisnaskea, the *Mars* Kilrush, the *Rainbow* Kilmacthomas, the *Moonlight* Arva, which was also a dance hall, as well as a good number of *Stars*. More recently there is a small chain

of *Eclipse* multiplex cinemas in Ulster, operating both North and South of the Border. Despite independence, *Rex* and *Regent* also remained popular names, as did a number of *Magnets*, *Cosy* or *Cosey* cinemas. Another odd one is the *Eureka* Charlestown.

Bob Bradshaw

SOME SHORT SUGGESTIONS



I would like to add the *Excelsior* Bethnal Green. It was converted from a swimming baths in 1921 and was remodelled in 1926 and 1939. It closed on 13 August 1961 with 661 seats. It continued to screen Bollywood films for several years and was demolished in 1969. {16515}

Kevin Wheelan

On cinema names I would add West Malling (Kent) where the Badminton Hall (game) became the *Badminton Cinema* when Ray and Mary Halkes made the hall a cinema in 1951 then renamed it the *Raymar* about four years later. {43609}

Martin Tapsell

Loving your cinema name article. One possible addition – if you allow renames – the *Ruby* in Clapham Junction, London. {28254}

Gary Donaldson

One I can throw in, which could nicely come under a heading along the lines of 'Welcome to our Cinema'(!), is the *Red Carpet* at Barton-under-Needwood (Staffs). Another, rather more intriguing one, is a place name. *SBC* opened up a few multiplexes in the early 2000s, then promptly acquired the *Warner Village* circuit and became *Vue*. *SBC* stands for *Spean Bridge Cinemas* – and I understand the name derived from the village in the Scottish Highlands where co-founder Stewart Blair got married! (Spean Bridge is about 8 miles to the north east of Fort William.) However, since the name is expressed as initials, it probably doesn't count!

David Simpson

I'd like to suggest an additional category for the Cinema Names List – inappropriate cinema names. The first contender is the *Gemini*, Bath (Robins, site of *Egg*) – it had three screens! To be fair, it did originally open in 1976 [photo R] with two screens and a basement bar, which rather appropriately was converted to a third screen three years later. It had a fixed ratio screen and the projection room entrance was through the gents' toilet, which caused some customers embarrassment in later years when a lady projectionist was employed. {44737}



Ben Doman

I am pleased you had a good response to the article about Cinema names. Here is some more about a couple of them.

Melbourne Leicester. Built in 1920 and situated on Melbourne Road, it seated 700. It closed in 1961. I remember going up Melbourne Road after closure and seeing the posters for *Sons and Lovers* flapping in the breeze. (This film was one of the important films of its time with a fine performance by Trevor Howard but I have been unable to obtain a copy. After closure it became a casino and social club but reopened as a cinema in 1979 under the name *Aspara* showing Asian films but closed in 1986 due to the popularity of home videos. It was later converted into a mosque. Some years later I went up Melbourne Road and found an open door to the building. A foreign gentleman looked up from his prayer mat as I had accidentally interrupted his devotions. I quickly closed the door! {33752}



Tonic Bangor, Co Down, N Ireland. This cinema was built in 1935 in Hamilton Road and survived under several changes of ownership – at one time named *Odeon* – until the early 1980s when it became a bingo hall. After closure there was a fire before demolition. The site is now occupied by housing called *Tonic Mansions*. I well remember the *Tonic* on visits to see my grandparents there. My late grandmother went to see the film of the *Coronation* there in 1953 – the only time she went to the cinema in her life! I photographed it in its later years [above] when the shops had already closed. I always thought it was one of the finest examples of a 1930s cinema anywhere in the country and equal to any in the West End. {25562}

Ian Patterson (photo)

HOLIDAY SNAPS

I was able to stay in Wales for a time in early June, now that outsiders are allowed into the country! While there I took the opportunity of visiting the *Brynamman Public Hall Cinema* which was operating under Covid-19 restrictions with most rows of seating cordoned off. Built in the 1920s the cinema is now run by volunteers. I didn't take a photograph of the interior that, to be honest, does not reflect the attractiveness of the interior as shown in this photograph. {26566}

Doug Raynes



TERRY'S NAME LIST

By Terry Hanstock

ROYALTY

Louis Quatorze – Gorleston [Norfolk] (referred to as *Lousy Quarters* by disrespectful locals... Also known as *Filmland*) {29866}

ARTISTS

Bonington – Arnold, Nottingham (named after Richard Parkes Bonington, local 18th Century painter) {57129}

Chantrey Picture House - Sheffield (may have been named after local 19th Century sculptor, Sir Francis Chantrey) {26107}

PLACES/NAMES

Mayfair – Bungay, Chadwell Heath, London (Mayfair)

FAMOUS

Leno's – Nottingham (named after Dan Leno) {50568}

SURNAMES

Noverre – Norwich (Named after the local family who owned the ballroom subsequently converted to a cinema) {43928}

Poole's Picture Palace – Ipswich (Operated by the Poole family) {50829}

Pringle's Picture House - Bristol, Edinburgh (Operated by Ralph Pringle)

NATURE

Sunbeam – Sheffield {26180}

PLACES IN WHICH LOCATED

Broadlands – Stalham (Situated on the Norfolk Broads) {30659}

Colne Valley Cinema – Halstead (River Colne runs through the town. Later became the *Picture House* and *Savoy Cinema*) {30131}

Dale – Nottingham (situated at Sneinton Dale) {39468}

Pakefield Cinema – Lowestoft {61952}

Walden – Saffron Walden (First cinema with this name burned down and was replaced by the second) {50361} {50363}

ARCHITECTURE & BUILDINGS

Abbeygate – Bury St Edmunds (near the Abbey's gate) {24294}

Marina – Great Yarmouth {19949}

Quad – Derby {25926}

Rink Picture Palace – Bury St Edmunds (originally a skating rink)

Royal Aquarium – Great Yarmouth (originally an aquarium) {17924}

Thatched – Norwich {47153}

Wayland Hall – Watton {65005}

MISCELLANEOUS



The Dara/Fan Camden Town in April 2006

Dara – Camden Town (renamed the *Fan Cinema*) {28001}

Kinnodrome – Kessingland {20592}

Lansdowne – Sheffield {26101}

Riverside – Woodbridge (almost on the banks of the River Deben) {22411}

Sphere News Theatre – Fitzrovia, London {30800}

Venus – Kentish Town {30419}

QUOTATIONS

Another cinematic quotation from the list sent by Gavin McGrath:

◆ I refuse to join any club that would have me as a member.

Graucho Marx

TIM'S LIST OF OTHER CINEMA NAMES

By Tim McCullen

Abbey
Abbeygate
Academy
Ailsa
Alexandra
Alhambra
All Star Factory
Atrium
Arcadia
Arcadian
Arclight
Arena 7
Arnolfini
Arts
Aston
Astra
Astral
Atherley



[The Avenue Brandon](#)

Avenue
Baker Street
Beacon
Beech Hill
Belgrave
Belle Vue
Belmont Picture House
Bentleys
Berkeley
Broadway
Brynammon
Caerphilly
Caesars Palace
Caledonian
Caley
Cameo
Campus West
Cecil
Central
Chapter Arts Centre
Charlton
Chase
Chorlton Cinema
Cintra
Cine City
Cine De France
Cine De Lux
Cinecenta
Cinema House
Cinema Royal
Cintra
City
Civic Hall
Clock



[The Clock Leeds](#)

Coliseum
Colony
Comber
Commodore
Concorde
Continental
Corn Exchange
Coronet
Corsham Film Theatre
Cottage Road
County
Crescent
Cromwell
Crosshills
Crown
Cwmillgmfell
Davenport
Diamond Screen
Dome
Dorchester
Dovercourt
East Coast Cinemas
Elite
Ellesmere
EMD
Empress
Elysium
Eros
Europa
Evington
Fairworld
Film Centre
Flicks
Flix
Flora
Focus
Fosse
Futura
Gala Royal
Galaxy
Gemini
Genesis
Glamour
Gorey
Gosei
Grange
Granville
Grove
Haggar's
Hale
Harbour Lights
Hinds
Hippodrome
Hollywood
Home
Images
Imperial
J and A
Jesmond
John Whitgift
Kelburne
Kinema in the Woods
Kings Cross
Kingsway
Kino
Lady Street
Langham
Libanus 1877
Lodge
Loewen
London Pavilion
Lonsdale
Lounge

Lumière
Lux
Luxe
Lyceum
Lyric
Magic Lantern
Magna
Malvern
Marina
Market Hall
Marlborough
Mayfair
Metro
Metropole
Minema
Monico
Monroe
Moulin
Movie House
Movie Starr
Movieland
Neuadd Buddug
New Cecil
New Cinema
New Era
New Forum
New Invicta
New Oxford
New Parade
New Picture House
New Princess
New Roxy
New Royal
New Vic
Ninian
North Star
Northern Lights
Not the Moulin Rouge
Novello
Noverre
Novo Cinemas



[The Oadby Leicester](#)

Oadby
Odyssey
Olympic
Orient Express
Other
Oxford
Paragon
Parkway
Pendle Stairway
Penultimate
Piccadilly
Pigalle
Pleasure Island
Premiere
President
Priority
Radstock Playhouse
Radway
Romany
Raymar
Rebel
Red Carpet
Reel

Regency
Rendezvous
Rich Mix
Rio
Riverside Theatre
Royal
Royal Pavilion
Royal Playhouse
Ruby
Rutland
Safari



[The Salon \(ex Odeon\) Clacton](#)

Salon
Sangam
Select
Severn
Sheldon
Sherbourne Cinema
Side
Spey Valley
State
Sterling
Stoll
Storm Cinemas
Story House
Strand
Studio
Studios (1,2,3,4,5,6 etc)
Swinton
Taibach Entertainment Centre
Talkies
Tatton
Temperance
Temple
The Station
Theatr Kino
Theatre Elli
Theatre One
Tivoli
Torbay Picture House
Tower
Town Cinema
Troxy
Tudor
Ultimate
Unit 4
Vale
Vogue
Warwick
Waterfront
Watershed
Waterside
Waverley
Wedgwood
Welfare
White Palace
White River
Windmill
Windsor
Winter Gardens
Woolton Cinema
Workmen's Hall
WRM Film Centre
WTR Film Theatre
Wycliffe

NAME CALLING?

By Terry Rourke

The fabulous piece in the Bulletin 55/3 *What's in a Name?* by Mike Whitcombe and Harry Rigby along with the accompanying photographs was a joy to behold. I have always had an interest about the naming of cinemas and who decides what they shall be called. You can imagine the thrill I got when on the first day of the lifting of some Covid 19 restrictions the said Bulletin with these memories popped through my letterbox.

The first two cinemas mentioned in the article, **Black Cat** and the **White Rose** do indeed sound like your local pubs and one would have thought there was a special reason for choosing such unusual names. As for **White Elephant**, well that is what you get for letting a comical seeking public have a vote to name it! Remember Boaty McBoatface? 124,000 voted to name the £200 million Polar ship with that title but it was not accepted. It is noted the 'White' was dropped immediately when the cinema was eventually sold!

It may be a fact that naming cinemas after monarchs are not as common as is thought but both Manchester and Stockport had venues named both Kings and Queens. While Stockport had two Kings, Manchester had two Queens. In fact, the Manchester district of Longsight had both Kings and Queens cinemas within 100 yards of each other. The Kings opened in 1905 as a theatre and opera house and also showed films but converted to a full-time cinema in 1933 with 1,153 seats and lasted until 1964. 1965/66 saw it transformed into the Adri Irish Club but after a fire in September 1966 it lay empty and unused until demolition in 1973, The Queens had 850 seats opening on 1 May 1913 and closing on 21 March 1961. It was later demolished and replaced by a parade of shops.

Mike and Harry had been searching for a cinema named after a monarch to no avail but I can help in this department by offering the former name of the **Plaza** in Gorton, Manchester. This opened in about 1912 as **The King George V Picturedrome** with 660 seats. No date is available for its actual closure and although this is listed as 1957, the *Manchester Evening News* cinema column for Saturday 5 May 1956 states "Cinema closes tonight!" The building was taken over by CA Smethurst, Organ Builders, for quite some years until it was demolished to make way for part of a new housing estate.

While I was consuming every word of Mike and Harry's magical piece, I thought I would take up the challenge of letting them know of any other unusual name that they may have missed. It will not be as comprehensive as their recollections but may or may not add to the debate because I expect many members will know theatres with unusual names other than those I suggest and I do not claim that the names I offer are unique but I hope they ignite memories about strange names.



The Don Stockport in October 2005

When I was a mere schoolboy (that was many years ago) my favourite 'Picture House' and where I probably spent too much time was The Don, Beswick, in Manchester. It had 839 seats and opened on 25 May 1913 with a closing date of 8 February 1968. This name I thought was so unusual that there could not be another cinema with it. However,

when I moved to Stockport, I found a cinema with the very same name! I think this must have started me with the fascination with cinema buildings and names because I was already in love with films.

Starting with the aforementioned building. Why name a cinema the Don? A man's name? A university tutor? A mafia boss? Will we ever know? A few questions in my first offering so I had better stick to the names and forget why they were called what they were called! Most of the names I am recalling will be mainly within the old boundary of Manchester with a few just outside of it.



The Palladium/Cintra Harpurhey in October 2005

There must be a good reason why the Cintra in Harpurhey changed its name from the traditional **Palladium** that is listed in the KYB from 1931 to 1954. It was still listed in 1962 but was gone by 1980 and was home to The Northern Sporting Club and then Gala Bingo before being demolished in 2006, to be replaced by the usual block of flats!

The **Cosy Corner** was situated on Swan Street and opened on 8 January 1913 and closed 13 October 1930, it had just 100 seats. Some sources list it as **The Kings**, so there is another royal cinema for you. Why the cinema carried this title is a mystery and although it may have been cosy it certainly was not on a corner. The **Palmerston** located on Palmerston Street, Ancoats may have been named after the street it was on or Viscount Palmerston, a former Prime Minister. This had 1,220 seats and once again the opening date is uncertain but pre-1914. There is also no official closing date but the building was for many years a carpet warehouse and lasted until the 1970s or maybe 1980s before being demolished. Not far from this was the **Butler** which was most certainly named after the street it was built on. It was opened on 6 August 1913 as the **Electric Theatre**, renamed the **Butler Electric Theatre** in 1931 then the **Savoy** in 1950. It closed in April 1956 and was demolished in the 1960s.

Another nearby was the **Mosley** on Stott Street in Beswick, it opened on 2 April 1913 and closed in February 1961 and had 600 seats. It survived for some years as the **Rowsley Bingo** club before it was demolished. The demolition was filmed and became part of a BBC TV drama about Council corruption. A pub a hundred yards away had the same name and both may have been named after the Mosley family, who were Baronets of Ancoats, just a mile or so away. Moving across town we have the **Avenue** in Blackley which was opened in August 1932 as the **Victoria Avenue Cinema**, then renamed **Avenue Cinema** in 1940. It closed on 31 March 1973 and converted into a bingo club that lasted until 1985 before being demolished the same year.

The **Greenhill** in Cheetham Hill opened on 30 November 1911 as the **Premier Picture Hall** but changed it when a larger cinema opened across the road in 1925 and used the same name. There were 550 seats and it closed on 19 May 1962. It still stands today as a supermarket. Close by was the **Temple**, opening in November 1913 as the **Temple Pictorium** with 1,250 seats and closing on 31 May 1984.

Close to Manchester University we had the **College** with 1,000 seats, opening on 8 December 1918 and closing on 13 February 1960. The building stood for quite a few years after it closed as a cinema to firstly to become the **College Theatre Club** and then the **Adri Irish Club**. Even when the latter transferred to the old **Kings** cinema in Longsight it survived whilst the University built all around it and may have even used it for certain purposes. It was finally demolished.



The Conway West Gorton in March 2006

The Conway in West Gorton was opened somewhere between 1910 and 1912 and closed 21 June 1961. It began life as the New Central Picture Theatre with 500 seats, then later Central Cinema, changing to its final name in 1951. Before it was demolished to make way for housing it served as a bingo hall, a double-glazing company and a Church.

The Hulme district of Manchester had cinemas with names quite unlike any other part of the City, among them being the exotically-named Luxor with 950 seats, which was built on the site of the Bijou Electric Theatre and opened on 12 April 1937, closing on 20 June 1959. It went on to become a cabaret club but was finally demolished when the area was redeveloped. Not too far away was the Junction the history of which is hazy to say the least. Adjacent to the iconic Hulme Hippodrome variety theatre, it is difficult to discover who showed films first and even if the names of the twin venues were swapped at one time. The buildings were built at the beginning of the 20th Century and 1929 sees it named the Junction Picture House; by 1951 it becomes The Playhouse. Five years later in 1956 it became the BBC Playhouse Theatre broadcasting many shows and closed in 1986 before opening again as The Nia Centre. It continued under various guises and the fight still goes on to save both historic buildings. Another cinema in the area was the Radnor that opened on 17 March 1938 with George Formby in attendance at the opening ceremony. There is no record of the film shown that day but you can bet it was one of George's. He wasn't as daft as he pretended to be! This is another cinema with a sketchy history but it is said to have closed on 21 December 1940 because of enemy bomb damage and we do know it had 1,100 seats.



The Ceylon Newton Heath in August 2005

Newton Heath boasted the Ceylon Picture House with 800 seats opening on 20 March 1939, replacing one directly behind it on Ceylon Street that became a dance hall. It closed on 28 May 1960. It became a sporting club, a furniture warehouse, carpet warehouse and then a plumbing supplies depot. It still stands today.

Over in Moss Side was a cinema frequented by many Manchester City players before and after the Second World War because it was very close to their Maine Road Stadium. The Claremont opened on 1 February 1923 with 1,699 seats which was quite a large capacity for a local cinema. It closed on 8 February 1958 and stood for many years empty and deteriorating before the eyes, it was demolished for a new housing estate. The Darncombe was not too far away and although it is difficult to find an opening date, it is listed in Kelly's Street Directory for 1920. By 1928 it had been renamed Savoy Cinematographic Hall and was still operating in 1929 but by 1934 it was closed. It became a Salvation Army Citadel until its demolition in the early 1970s.

On Old Lane in Openshaw stood the Regal with 800 seats and although there may be many cinemas of the same name, there may not be any with their original name. It opened 1913 -1915 as the Whitehall Picture Palace but by 1926 it became the Whitehall Cinema and continued under that name until 6 May 1957. It reopened on 10 June in the same year as the Regal cinema and closed on 15 February 1964. It was converted into 'Flocks' Openshaw Snooker Hall, with top Canadian player, Cliff Thorburn cutting the usual ribbon. Later it became the home for various businesses until demolition. Just like the iconic Alhambra just yards away, it made way for a Morrisons supermarket and retail park. In the same district (although that is up for debate) was a cinema with 600 seats that showed films many years after they were first released and probably a forerunner of today's excellent TV channel *Talking Pictures*. The Roy, opened on 20 February 1913 and closed in 1958 and was stuck around a fruit and poultry shop that regularly had its fare on display alongside the cinema entrance. After closure, the building housed a carpet showroom for many years until its demolition.

The Rusholme Theatre in Rusholme will be unique because of the district it was located in. It is worth mentioning, however, the fact that two famous film stars were part of the theatre company; they were Robert Donat and Wendy Hiller. It was housed in the old Manchester Carriage Company Depot and had 938 seats and was a live theatre from 1911 to 1940 when the company moved to Rhyl in North Wales to avoid enemy bombing. However, it was a cinema by 1941 and carried on as such until 26 June 1968. For a time, part of it served as St Edward's Catholic Club before being demolished.



A contemporary postcard of the Palatine Withington

Another cinema probably sporting a unique name and located in Withington was the Palatine opening on 15 January 1921 and closing on 26 March 1960. It served some time after as a petrol service station but like most independent cinemas was eventually demolished.

Mike and Harry mentioned that ABC would name their sites Regal or Savoy to suggest grandeur and that is a fact but in and around Manchester they seemed to have ignored this by 1969. The *Manchester Evening News* Cinema listings for Friday 1 August that year had every district with one of their cinemas, advertised just as ABC and no other name.

Many local cinema owners would precede ABC by naming their establishments with names such as Regal, Majestic, Grand, Paragon, Star, Palace, etc. to give the impression of a plush building and sensational entertainment. They did this even though their buildings were nothing more than flea pits. Even so we all fell for it!

If you were out to coax the public into your cinema, perhaps the two best examples of that were the Ideal in Ashton Under Lyne and the Super cinema in Stockport. They are names that needed living up to.

All the cinemas that I have named as being unusual or unique are from within the limits of the City of Manchester unless stated otherwise. However, I did come across an image of a cinema with a name that I thought was both unique and unusual. It was the Clock in Leeds.

A final thought about names, it is said that The Red Lion is the most popular name of British pubs but what is the most popular cinema name? Surely it must be a name that incorporates the word 'Palace'!

† There were also Don cinemas in Sheffield and Doncaster, presumably named after the River Don, which flows through both.

UNIDENTIFIED PHOTOS

Two of the unidentified photos on p15 of the last Bulletin were solved – 083 by Nigel Wolland, as the rear the Odeon Surbiton [31366] and Int 005 as the Regal St Leonards-on-Sea [42948] by Alan McCann, who sent in these three lovely photos.

This month's unidentified photos are on p7.



The Regal St Leonards-on-Sea (East Sussex)

Opened 8 August 1932, was a Union cinema but taken over by ABC. Closed 8 September 1956, was demolished to build an office block.



The Odeon Surbiton in the 1950s – CTA Archive

CINEMA BUSINESS

VUE

The Vue cinema chain has been fined £750,000 for safety breaches after a customer was crushed to death in 2018. He had bent down to look for his keys and he became trapped under an electrically reclining seat at Star City in Birmingham. Vue said that all recliners of the type involved in the incident had now been removed from their cinemas.

Metro, Daily Mail, The i – 21 July; sent in by Tom Laughlan, Barry Quinton & R David Simpson

Vue, the third largest chain in the UK with 90 venues, could show Netflix series such as *Queen's Gambit* and host big video game events and show more live sport. Chief executive Tim Richards said the lines between the film industry and home entertainment were becoming more blurred.

Mail on Sunday – 8 August

CINEWORLD

Social distancing rules will remain in all Cineworld and Picturehouse auditoria in England, despite easing of Covid restrictions. Hand sanitiser stations, deep cleaning and plastic till screens will also remain in place. The Cineworld website has a dedicated page that explains the moves at [tinyurl.com/273cm46p](https://www.cineworld.com/273cm46p).

The Argus, Brighton – 24 July; sent in by Barry Quinton

Cineworld has secured another £143m from existing lenders. The move to bolster its finances comes as it prepared for “an unprecedented slate of films”. The company, which owed nearly £6bn at the end of 2020, has also renegotiated existing debt agreements. It said trading had “improved” since its cinemas reopened. It is also facing a £1m legal action from the owners of its multiplex in Southampton, who claim unpaid rent since March last year.

Sunday Times – 25 July; Daily Telegraph, Daily Express – 31 July; sent in by Tom Laughlan & Barry Quinton

An analyst has forecast that Cineworld could close 5% of its sites after being left reeling by lengthy closures due to the pandemic. The chain has nearly 800 venues in 10 countries. It is considering listing its shares on Wall Street or partially floating US movie chain Regal. Even so, shares shot up by 7.5% to 65.8p.

Evening Standard – 12 August; Daily Mirror – 13 August; sent in by Barry Quinton

Cineworld and Picturehouse cinema have increased average prices by more than 40% since Covid restrictions eased. The company said prices were driven by customer behaviour and timing.

Daily Record – 13 August; sent in by Tom Laughlan

COVID PASSPORTS RULED OUT

The UK Cinema association said that the vast majority of its members will not need ‘vaccine passports’ to enter their premises. They are not currently required by law but the government “reserves the right” to introduce them if infections spike. Other industries, including theatres, have welcomed the passports.

Daily Mail – 15 July; sent in by Tom Laughlan

FREE CINEMA IN TRAFALGAR SQUARE

Six films were due to be shown over the August Bank Holiday weekend at an open-air cinema in Trafalgar Square. A total of 1,500 tickets were available for each screening, of which 150 were reserved for key workers. The event was part of the Mayor of London's £7m *Let's Do London* initiative to encourage visitors back to the West End.

Evening Standard – 12 August; sent in by Barry Quinton

THEATRES

We reported on p30 of the last Bulletin that Lord Lloyd Webber was determined that his new musical *Cinderella* would open. However, he had to postpone it as a cast member tested positive for Covid-19 and, under government rules, the whole cast had to isolate. He says that without government support he may be forced to sell off his theatres, including the London Palladium; they could go to non-British owners.

Daily Express – 24 July; sent in by Tom Laughlan & Barry Quinton

RAINBOW SOUP KITCHEN

The UCKG has opened a soup kitchen in its HQ building, the Rainbow Theatre (ex Astoria) at Finsbury Park in London. It opened for the first time on Easter Saturday and handed out chicken soup and a small bag of groceries to 29 homeless people; a week later 45 benefited and the menu was noticeably wider. It is open from 10am to 1pm every Saturday.

Metro – 23 April; sent in by Tom Laughlan

MISCELLANY

BABS' BIKINI FLYING OFF TO HIGHEST BIDDER



The bikini worn by Dame Barbara Windsor in *Carry on Camping* has sold for £9,500 at auction. It featured in the famous scene from the 1969 film showing the top half flying off during exercise. The vendor will donate the proceeds of the sale to the Alzheimer's Society, in memory of Dame Barbara, who died from the disease in 2020, aged 83.

Daily Mirror – 16 June; sent in by Barry Quinton

STASI WERE SET TO NICK JAMES BOND

Recently released documents show that East Germany's secret police, the Stasi, were poised to arrest Roger Moore when he was filming the James Bond movie *Octopussy* in Berlin in August 1982. In the scene at Checkpoint Charlie, Bond's car drove up to the border before turning round and returning. However, on each of the four takes, the car violated the actual border by 4 or 5 metres.

Daily Mirror – 28 June; sent in by Barry Quinton

GOLD FINGERS

A new gold James Bond coin has been tested for purity in a medieval ceremony. The commemorative 7-inch-wide coin, featuring 007's Aston Martin, was minted for the latest Bond film, *No Time to Die*. It has a face value of £7,000 but could fetch up to £600,000 if sold privately to a collector. It was one of 60,000 submitted for testing by the Royal Mint at the annual Trial of the Pyx, which dates from 1284.

Daily Mirror – 18 June; sent in by Barry Quinton

BIG TRUNK

Our local hospice, Keech Hospice Care has put on a Big Trunk Trail through the town. All the elephants have been painted in various designs and you can see them at places throughout the town and have an app on your phone or in my case go onto the Keech website and make a list of where the elephants are! Later in the year the elephants will be auctioned to raise funds for Keech. One of the elephants is outside the Galaxy Centre [home to an eleven-screen Cineworld {24992}] so I have attached photos of that elephant for you. It's advertised as a trail that children will enjoy – well this rather old child has enjoyed looking at the town centre elephants.



Sent in & photo by Margaret Burgoine

JAWS FILMS UNLEASHED A MONSTER

Conservationists claim that the *Jaws* movies have undermined the protection of sharks. Researchers say that most portrayals of the big fish are negative. Sensationalised depictions suggest sharks are to be feared when they are at greater risk of harm from humans. About 100 million are killed every year for their meat and nearly a third of all species are threatened with extinction.

Daily Express – 17 July; sent in by Barry Quinton

MONROE AUCTION

A collection of Marilyn Monroe memorabilia has sold for almost £1m. The most expensive item was her green and black lace outfit from the 1956 film *Bus Stop*, which sold for £290,000. A white polka-dot dress from *The Seven Year Itch* went for £154,000.

Daily Record – 20 July; sent in by Tom Laughlan

OLDEST CINEMA

A cinema in La Ciotat, near Marseilles, has been ruled the oldest one in operation, after 122 years. The Eden Theatre showed some of the first films made, after its owner was invited to a private showing by the father of the Lumière brothers, the inventors of the motion picture. The Eden said it had taken two years to get Guinness World Record certification.

The Times – 14 July; sent in by Allen Eyles

Editor's Note: La Ciotat has the railway station where the Lumière brothers filmed *The Arrival of a Train*, one of the first films ever made. There is a 4k scan of the restored version of this 46-second film at youtu.be/1FAj9fJQRZA.

OLDEST THEATRES



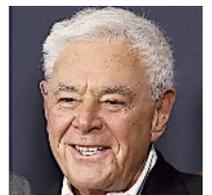
History Hit, an online channel for history fans, has tracked down nine of the oldest and most historic theatres in Britain. The Bristol Old Vic is the oldest continuously working theatre in the English-speaking world. The Grand Theatre in Lancaster [pictured above in May 2008] is the third oldest in Britain, having been in near-continuous use since 1782. The full list can be seen on the *Lancashire Telegraph* website at tinyurl.com/tp79hzas.

Lancashire Telegraph – 18 August; sent in by Philip Crompton

NECROLOGY

RICHARD DONNER 91

Richard came to fame as a film director with *The Omen* (1976) and went on to direct *Superman* (1978) and *The Goonies* and *Ladyhawke* in 1985. He continued with four of the Mel Gibson *Lethal Weapon* films. He directed his last film *16 Blocks* in 2006.



UNA STUBBS 84

Una appeared in the 1963 *Summer Holiday* with Cliff Richard and the sequel *Wonderful Life* the following year. She was an uncredited bridesmaid in *The Bargee* and recreated her TV role on the big screen in *Till Death Us Do Part* in 1969. She appeared with Charlie Drake in *Mr Ten Per Cent*.



SHANE BRIANT 74

Shane is best known for his roles in four Hammer Films productions – *Demons of the Mind*, *Straight on Till Morning*, *Captain Kronos - Vampire Hunter* and *Frankenstein and the Monster from Hell*. He also appeared in *Straight on till Morning* in 1972 and *Lady Chatterley's Lover* in 1981.



A MANHATTAN MOVIE MEMORY

By David Evans

It was March 1966 and I was paying my very first visit to New York City. Why? Well, I had been working for Air France for a year – I was to stay with them for another thirty-two years – sending people all over the world and now, with a week's leave, I was seeing some of that world myself. Settled in at the once luxurious and now somewhat rundown Hotel Claridge on Broadway and W44th Street, which was recommended by my trusty Guide Book *New York on Five Dollars a Day* – how that dates me! – I walked through the streets and avenues of Manhattan, wide-eyed and thrilled to be in a place most Britons, from a modest background like mine of fifty-five years ago, had only experienced via the cinema... and it was to the movies I went, one afternoon, courtesy of the City's famed Radio City Music Hall.



In those days Radio City still presented pictures accompanied by a fairly lavish stage show – in this case Natalie Wood, Robert Redford and Christopher Plummer in *Inside Daisy Clover* together with a South Seas extravaganza called, I think, *Salute to Tahiti*, which had absolutely nothing to do with the featured movie. Unknown to me the picture had opened to somewhat lukewarm reviews in mid-February but even if I had known that I would not have missed the chance to experience being in such an iconic venue. So as I entered the huge main foyer I marvelled at the lifts and staircases taking patrons to different levels. I also took the opportunity to visit the lavishly-carpeted and furnished main lounge in the basement below all this.

I am not too sure where I sat but it was in one of the balconies giving me a splendid view of the vast auditorium seating around 6,000, although not for the performance I attended as this was a matinée. Each patron was given a free four-page programme listing the film credits and accompanying show details but at this distance in time I do not remember which came first. I do recall that the picture and sound were extremely good when the film played. *Salute to Tahiti* started with a piece performed by the Radio City Orchestra. This was *The Grasshopper's Dance* by Ernest Bucalossi, although what this sprightly composition had to do with the South Seas was beyond me. Perhaps it was a nod to Tahitian *grass* skirts? However, when the body of musicians rose up from the orchestra pit, I was fascinated by the way they glided to the back of the stage after reaching that level. The Rockettes, the Hall's famous dancing troupe, performed in perfect unison and the rest of the Tahitian-themed show continued in colourful fashion.

When it was time for me to step out back onto 6th Avenue, I realised that it had been well over three hours since I had first settled into my seat. With so much to see and do in the few days I had in New York there was no time for more movies. However, I did manage to catch a 'live' Betty Grable in *Hello Dolly* but that is another story...



REEL STORIES

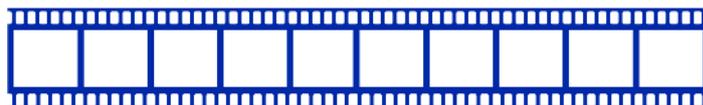
AN ORAL HISTORY OF LONDON'S PROJECTIONISTS

Reel Stories is a Lottery Heritage Funded project set up and run by educational charity [digital:works](http://digital-works.co.uk). Working with the British Film Institute on the South Bank, this project is part of our 'Working London' series that explores and records the history of various aspects of work in London. Working with historians, local archives and digital-works staff, the project will train volunteers in research skills, oral history interviewing and recording skills. We will then record oral history interviews with projectionists, which will be given to relevant archives including the BFI and Bishopsgate Institute. The interviews will be edited to make a documentary film to be shown at various screenings and broadcast on television and a series of podcasts. The project [website](http://www.reelstories.org.uk) will house all of the full [interviews](#), the [podcasts](#), the [film](#) and cover the [progress](#) of the project.



PROJECTIONISTS, WE NEED YOU!

As an oral history this project relies on us finding projectionists able to give up an hour or so of their time to talk about their working history. Interviews will take place at the BFI Southbank or at a place convenient for you. All interviews will be conducted by a small number of people and will exceed industry standard COVID safety guidelines - ie wearing masks and face shields in large well-ventilated spaces while ensuring we maintain social distance. We will cover travel expenses.



To find out more about our oral history projects please visit: digital-works.co.uk

For more about the Reel Stories project please visit: www.reelstories.org.uk

Please do get in touch to find out more about the project. Matthew Rosenberg; tel 07949 107023; mat@digital-works.co.uk

The Projected Picture Trust

Dean Clough Mills, HALIFAX, HX3 5AX

The Projected Picture Trust exists to locate and preserve projectors and related film equipment, both professional and domestic. Since 1978 enthusiastic volunteers have been happy to help restore these items and so preserve THE MAGIC OF CINEMA.

The Trust provides help and assistance to non-commercial community cinemas and museums exhibiting film related artefacts.

The Museum of Cinema Technology has perhaps the largest collection of all types of film equipment in the UK. The Data Archive holds over 3,000 items including press cuttings, manuals and film related technical documents. We are presently looking to strengthen our management team...

PLEASE CONTACT US IF YOU ARE ABLE TO HELP or if you would like to become a member only.

contact@theppt.org

www.theppt.org

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

Council planners have rubber-stamped plans to transform the old Laura Ashley unit in the Bon Accord shopping centre into a new four-screen cinema. No operator or time scale has been given. However, locals are expressing disquiet over the plans and wondering if Aberdeen really needs a fifth cinema.

Evening Express, Aberdeen – 23 July, 3 August

ABERYSTWYTH (Ceredigion)

The Aberystwyth Arts Centre suffered serious flooding last August and would have had to close for a lengthy period even without the pandemic. Both the cinema and theatre have now had new floors installed and the opportunity was taken to install new digital projection equipment in the theatre. The Arts Centre reopened on 21 June; as the cinema, which normally seats 114, is perhaps not well suited to social distancing, the theatre (312 seats) will be used for busy film performances, allowing 70 people to be seated in comfort. {26514}

Sent in by Jeremy Perkins

ALTON (Hants)



The Palace will close in September next year unless a buyer is found. The current operator is aiming to keep it open until the new six-screen Reel opens in Farnham – unless the projectors break down or the loss becomes uncontrollable. The asking price for the freehold is £850,000, non-negotiable. The venue opened December 1912 with 440 seats. A balcony was added in 1937, increasing the capacity to 620. It was split in 1988 with a 111-seat cinema in the extended circle and bingo in the stalls. In 2003 a 60-seat cinema was added in the rear stalls. In 2014 planning permission was granted to demolish the by-then-unused bingo club and build four two-bedroom flats at the rear but it is unclear if this ever happened – does anyone know? The CTA visited in June 2016, when the above picture was taken. {24101}

Alton Herald – 2 August

ASHFORD (Kent)

Details of the mixed development in Lower High Street have been released by the Council. Currently named 'St Mary's Fields', the scheme also involves the controversial part-demolition of the former Odeon site to allow an "uninterrupted view" of St Mary's Church. A public square is part of the development. A request by the CTA to have the cinema listed was rejected.

Kent Online – 4 August

BASILDON (Essex)

Bosses at Empire have confirmed they remain committed to a new ten-screen cinema being built in the town centre. The keys were due to be handed over in July and it is hoped the venue will open in February 2022.

Basildon Echo – 11 June

BELFAST

The bowling alley in the Odyssey complex has closed for good. A £17m development of the centre was announced back in 2019 to include a Cineworld cinema. It was expected to be completed in spring 2021 but has not happened. The site is currently home to a twelve-screen cinema.

Belfast Telegraph – 29 May

BOURNEMOUTH



The Grade II listed former Grand in Westbourne is up for sale with an asking price of £1.6m. There were plans to turn it into a gym but these fell through. The venue opened in December 1922 and films ceased in October 1977. It became a bingo club, which closed in December 2017. There are six photos on the newspaper website at tinyurl.com/d7kpx6km. {22430}

Daily Echo, Bournemouth – 20 August; photo taken May 2006

BIGGLESWADE (Beds)

A planning application has been submitted to transform the Grade II listed old Town Hall into the Bigg Theatre. "This exciting new venue will be a community arts hub complete with a multi format, flexible performance space, 100-seat theatre and a contemporary cafe/bar foyer space that will serve as a gallery for local artists." The building was last used for Pizza Express but has been empty for about a year since that business closed due to the pandemic.

Biggleswade Today – 24 June

BRIGHOUSE (West Yorks)



The Ritz Ballroom has been put up for sale with a price tag of £650,000. It opened as a cinema in March 1937 and films ceased in June 1961. It was converted for bingo, which only lasted ten weeks. It became a ballroom and the Wurlitzer organ from the Gaumont Oldham was installed; the Wurlitzer was removed in 2006 and is now in Victoria Hall Saltaire. The ballroom closed in 2017 due to a naming dispute with the Ritz Hotel in London but reopened under the name Venue 73. {37341}

Yorkshire Live – 17 August; photo taken August 2005

BRISTOL



The former Gaumont has been turned into 92 student flats in an £8m redevelopment. The façade and original walls have been retained. The building dates from 1892 and became a full-time cinema in February 1912. In 1927/28 a new auditorium was constructed behind the façade. It closed in March 1980 and was converted into a nightclub. {20707}

Bristol Post, Western Daily Press – 8 June; photo taken February 2006

BURNLEY (Lancs)



Burnley's joint Reel Cinema and Burger King complex is set to close as part of plans to turn the site into a discount supermarket. The nine-screen venue opened as the Apollo in May 1997, a conversion of a DIY store. It was refurbished in 2017 and will now be partially demolished. Reel plans to open a new seven-screen cinema as part of the Pioneer Place masterplan. {24290}

Lancashire Live – 5 August; photo taken January 2006

BURY ST EDMUNDS (Suffolk)

The Abbeygate has a new general manager, Gareth Boggis, who previously served as front of house manager. The preceding manager Pat Church has worked at the cinema for over 50 years. A new 165-seat screen has recently been opened in the former bingo area. This is in addition to the existing 115-seat and 68-seat auditoria. {24294}

Suffolk News – 26 July; sent in by Terry Hanstock

CANTERBURY (Kent)

Planning Consultancy GL Hearn say the number of screens on offer in the City is below the national average and movie-goers are travelling outside the district to watch films. But analysts are satisfied the launch of the five-screen Curzon at the £115m Kingsmead site will "strengthen the offering". They also say more bowling alleys, escape rooms and gyms will breathe new life into the City centre.

Kentish Gazette 12-18 August; sent in by Martin Tapsell

The Odeon (ex ABC) has applied for permission to install roller shutters over the entrance in a bid to control anti-social behaviour. The cinema is not currently in operation as the site is a Covid-19 vaccination hub. {15034}

Kent Online – 21 August

CAVERSHAM (Reading)

Plans to open a new three-screen cinema have been shelved. See p13 Bulletin 54/4.

Henley Standard – 28 June

CHIPPING NORTON (Oxon)

We reported on p23 of Bulletin 55/1 of plans for a cinema in the former Harper's hardware store. These plans were subsequently withdrawn over pedestrian safety concerns but new plans addressing these issues have now been granted permission. The venue will have two screens with 46 and 44 seats and will be run by The Living Room Cinema. No time scale has been given.

Oxford Mail – 4 August

CHORLEY (Lancs)



The Odeon is being demolished. It opened in February 1938 and films ceased in February 1971. It became a bingo hall, which closed in March 2020 due to the pandemic. The building was handed over to Chorley Council, which decided that asbestos removal would be too costly. {15202}

Lancashire Post – 15 August; sent in by Darron Keeling [photo]

COLCHESTER (Essex)

Proposals to demolish the old Odeon in Crouch Street and build flats have been thrown out by councillors. The façade was to have been reconstructed. The building opened in February 1931 and has been empty since films ceased in October 2002. {17575}

Essex County Gazette – 12, 20 August; sent in by Terry Hanstock

DAVENTRY (Northants)



Fitting out of the new four-screen Arc cinema has been delayed. The company is now aiming to open in December.

Northampton Chronicle – 6, 12 August; photo by Darron Keeling

DUDLEY



The Theatres Trust has criticised the impending demolition of the Hippodrome to make way for a higher education complex. The trust says the theatre, which opened in December 1938 and has a full stage and flytower, has the potential to provide a 1,500-capacity venue for live performances. It has been on the Theatres at Risk Register since 2010. {41631} photo taken August 2004

Dudley News – 23 July; The Stage – 29 July; sent in by R David Simpson

EDINBURGH (Central)



The Scottish Government has awarded a grant of £6.5m towards the restoration of the A-listed Kings Theatre. The £25m refurbishment is now scheduled to start in September 2002, a year later than originally planned, with completion by summer 2024.

The Stage – 5 August; sent in by Barry Quinton; photo taken March 2004

EGHAM (Surrey)

Construction is underway at the Magna Square development, which will incorporate a new four-screen Everyman; it should be completed by the beginning of next year.

Surrey Live – 18 August

FORT WILLIAM (Highland)

Angus MacDonald, who built the new two-screen Highland Cinema to replace the one that closed in 2005, has been awarded a rare honour from the Pope. Bishop Brain McGee presented him with a Papal Knighthood of the Order of St Gregory the Great for his work in the town. See Bulletin 54/6.

Press & Journal, Aberdeen – 30 June

GLASGOW (Central)



64 homes are to be built on the site of the former Coliseum. The building was destroyed by fire in May 2009. It had opened as a Music Hall in December 1905 and was the first cinema in Glasgow to screen talkies in January 1929. It had a major revamp in 1931 and again in 1962 when Cinerama was installed. Films ceased in October 1980 and bingo took over, closing in January 2003. The building had been B-listed. {3147}

Glasgow Live – 6 August; photo taken December 2006 (on a rainy day)

GLASGOW (Govan)

An application to revamp the Lyceum has been rejected by the Council. Planners said the makeover would “detrimentally impact” the B-listed building. Reasons for refusing the application included a “potentially significant increase in noise and disturbance” and a lack of suitable servicing plans for the proposed concert use, which could have taken place at anti-social hours. {15565}

Glasgow Evening Times – 22 June

GLASGOW (Govanhill)

The regeneration of the B-listed former Govanhill Picture House is to receive £5,508 funding from Historic Environment Scotland. The project aims to clean up the vacant public street adjacent to the building and create a green space and street cinema. The building opened in May 1926 and films ceased in May 1961. It was subsequently used for bingo and then storage. {23163}

Glasgow South and Eastwood Extra – 29 July

GLOUCESTER



Mark Cunningham, owner of the Sherborne Cinema fears he may have to close over the summer holidays after a car was knocked into the building. A Ford car was shunted backwards through the cinema's brick wall into the gent's toilets after an elderly woman accidentally drove her Polo into it. Mr Cunningham has spoken about his relief that no one was hurt but admits it comes at a “bad time”. {48260}

Gloucestershire Live – 28 June; *Metro* – 29 June; photo from an unknown member; sent in by Joyce Braddon, Margaret Burgoine, R David Simpson & Tom Laughlan

GRAYS (Essex)

The Council is to sell the 300-seat Tameside Theatre having deemed it “surplus to requirements”, It is located on the third floor of the Tameside Complex.

The Stage – 15 July; sent in by Barry Quinton & R David Simpson

Planning Permission has been granted for Wetherspoon to convert the Grade II* listed State into a pub. The £5m conversion of the old cinema will see the main lobby and stalls foyer restored, while the Compton organ based inside the building will also be retained and refurbished. The projection box will be preserved and a roll-down screen installed. See Casework p6. {1837}

Thurrock Gazette – 19 July; *Daily Mail* – 21 July; sent in by Margaret Burgoine

Editor's Note: The *Daily Mail* report at tinyurl.com/hkub4ssy has several interior photos and detailed plans

GREAT YARMOUTH (Norfolk)

As trailed on p 24 of the last Bulletin, the Empire has opened as a hub for bars, cafes, street food, coffee and live music. A false ceiling has been removed and most of the original decorative details remain. {17911}

Sent in by Ray Ritmeester & Ken Roe

GREENOCK (Inverclyde)

We reported on p25 of Bulletin 55/3 that the Council had bought the former BB Cinema with the intention of demolishing it. It has now been revealed that the purchase cost £280,000 and the cost of demolition will be £400,000. The building is being prepared for the bulldozers and tenders are being sought. {50366}

Inverclyde Now – 20 August

HEBDEN BRIDGE (West Yorks)

The Grade II listed Picture House celebrated its 100th birthday on 12 July. It played host to a reduced capacity audience and invited them to travel back through the decades with a re-enactment of the 1921 opening ceremony performed by players of Hebden Bridge Little Theatre and a screening of Charlie Chaplin's *The Kid*. There will be a program of 24 events in the next twelve months. {2434}

Halifax Courier – 14 July

HELENSBURGH (Argyll & Bute)

Planning permission has been granted for a two-screen cinema in a former Warehouse on George Street. The project is directed by the Helensburgh Heroes Charity. No time scale has been given.

Helensburgh Advertiser – 3 June

HULL (East Yorks)

Plans to repair and conserve the ruins of the bombed National Picture Theatre have been approved by councillors. The space once occupied by the cinema's auditorium will be used to create a flexible area for events and as an education centre and memorial garden for visitors to learn about the life of people living and working in Hull during the Second World War. See p14 last Bulletin. {40893}

Hull Live – 29 July

KIDDERMINSTER (Worcs)

The former four-screen Reel Cinema was forced to close due to the pandemic but will reopen in September as Lume after a crowdfunding campaign. The building was once a carpet warehouse, which is Grade II listed. The venue opened in April 2005 as the Warehouse Cinema. {24790}

Birmingham Live – 10 August

LEICESTER

Leicester City Council has agreed a further grant for expansion of the Phoenix. The work will include additional cinema screens, improved catering facilities and an enhanced digital gallery. It is in addition to £1m worth of council funding already made to the Phoenix under the City council's Economic Action Plan. The City Council also supports the Phoenix with an annual revenue support grant of £215k, which it is hoped will reduce once the venue becomes more financially independent since the new development will drive extra income. {35252}

East Midlands Business Link – 23 July; Leicester Mercury – 24 July; sent in by Terry Hanstock

LINCOLN

A planning application is to be submitted to turn the former JTF discount warehouse in Greetwell Road into a cinema complex. No further details have been given.

Lincolnshire Live – 1 August

LIPHOOK (Hants)

The conversion of a former car showroom into a cinema to be called the Living Room is expected to get back on track soon. The building was to have been leased but now the backers are reported to be buying it. The project was started four years ago and has suffered many setbacks, including the pandemic.

Farnham Herald – 15 April

LIVERPOOL (Anfield)



The Lighthouse is reopening as a community cinema following an extensive refurbishment. The venue, put together by the late Charles Brown, was once the Gaumont Palace. Charles' grandson Andy Brown has been involved with the restoration. Hopes of reopening the venue were announced last year, alongside a crowdfunding page, which has now reached its total goal of £25,000. There is a 430-seat auditorium in the circle of the former Gaumont. www.liverpoolighthouse.com {34476}

Liverpool Echo – 28 July; photo taken June 2004

LLANDUDNO (Conwy)

About 200 people had to leave the nine-screen Cineworld in Llandudno Junction on Sunday 11 July after emergency services were called to a fire in one of the toilets. It is thought to have been started deliberately with a toilet roll holder being lit. {26606}

North Wales Live – 12 July; sent in by Margaret Burgoine

LONDON (Acton)



A new 72-seat cinema called Act One was due to open in July in the former Passmore Edwards Library. Plans for a second screen have already been approved.

Time Out – 8 June; sent in by R David Simpson; photo taken May 2016

LONDON (Camden)

Curzon has October or November earmarked for the opening of a new five-screen cinema under the railway arches at Hawley Wharf. Each screen will seat 30 people.

Time Out – 8 June; sent in by R David Simpson

LONDON (Chiswick)

The Chiswick Cinema opened on 25 June. It has five screens with a total of 420 seats, including a 16-seat private screening room. Originally destined for the Picturehouse chain, it occupies the former Ballet Rambert studios and took two-and-a-half years to complete, with progress being held up by both squatters and the pandemic. {65471} www.chiswickcinema.co.uk

Time Out – 17 June

LONDON (Covent Garden)



The Grade I listed Theatre Royal Drury Lane has reopened following a two-year £60m restoration. One of the project's key interventions involved reinstating the foyers and cantilevered staircases designed by the building's original architect, Benjamin Dean Wyatt. Street-level entrances on three sides now provide access to the foyer, which has been restored to its original form by removing later additions that had segregated the space. The auditorium itself was remodelled to create wider seats, better legroom and improved sightlines. The space was also reshaped to create a tighter curve, bringing the audience closer to the stage. It was also technically refitted to allow for a more flexible staging system; the stage can be altered to project out into the room, enabling performances to be staged in the round. The project also involved a full refurbishment of the dressing rooms, as well as the installation of a 16-person lift providing access to all floors of the theatre. Five new accessible toilets were installed and the number of female toilet cubicles was increased by 20 to 55 in order to reduce waiting time. lwtheatres.co.uk/theatres/theatre-royal-drury-lane {30674}

Daily Express – 24 July; The Stage – 29 July; sent in by Barry Quinton; photo taken August 2018

LONDON (Elephant & Castle)

Demolition of the 55-year-old shopping centre and the adjacent former ABC/Coronet is in its final stages. Now the developer wants amendments to the scheme with a reduction in the space allocated for a cinema. Whereas the previously approved scheme envisaged an eight-screen cinema with around 1,000 seats, the latest plans now cater for a six-screen venue with 500 seats. {27019}

London SE1 Community Website – 6 July

LONDON (Golders Green)

Barnet Council officers have recommended the approval of an Islamic centre at the Grade II listed former Hippodrome. However, the decision was postponed as councillors requested further details on issues such as fire safety and traffic. It said there had a public consultation in which 1,571 letters were sent out, with 902 objections and 756 letters of support received. {29969}

Jewish News – 16, 20 July; sent in by Terry Hanstock

LONDON (Kensington)



A time capsule has been placed in the new development on the site of the former Odeon Kensington. The CTA was invited to contribute items, which included a copy of the Bulletin. These photos shows the capsule being placed in the foundations of the new cinema complex.

Sent in by Adam Unger [photo]

LONDON (Kentish Town)

The Rio in Dalston has sent a letter of intent saying they want to explore setting up a cinema on the site of the former North London Polytechnic. The former poly, which until it closed in 2013 was home to a Pizza Express restaurant, has seen three different planning applications and three owners since the last pizza was baked. However, the owners say they already have a cinema company set to open a screen.

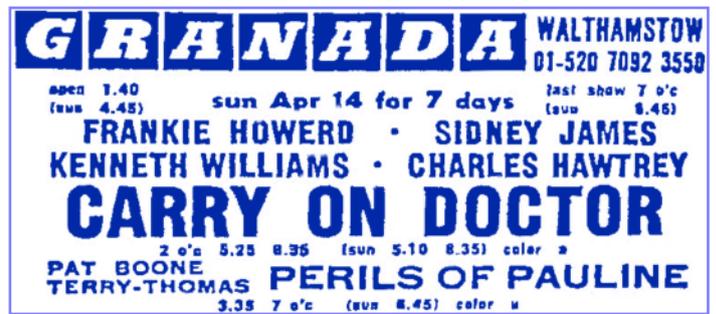
Camden New Journal – 17 June; sent in by Tom Laughlan

LONDON (Tottenham)



Despite closing as a cinema back in 1963, the owner of the former Bruce Grove, who runs Roller Nation roller disco in the stalls area of the former auditorium, celebrated 100 years of the building on 14 July by screening *The Mark of Zorro*, which opened the cinema on 14 July 1921. A suitably large screen was installed and the Douglas Fairbanks swashbuckler was accompanied by Donald MacKenzie on an electronic organ that, by way of some wizardry, was made to sound like a 'big cinema' Wurlitzer! This was a wonderful occasion. The building has been gutted over the years but, when the lights went down, it was still possible to get a real feel of this very large (1,800 seat) former cinema.

Sent in by David Simpson; photo taken September 2004



LONDON (Walthamstow)

The budget for reopening the Granada/EMD has risen by more than £11m in the two years since the project began. In January 2019 Waltham Forest Council agreed to spend £19.95m on restoring and redeveloping the Grade II* listed former cinema into a 1,000-seat comedy and theatre venue. The following January, Council leaders increased the budget by more than £5m after a survey of the building's interior revealed it was in worse shape than originally expected. At a meeting on 8 July another increase was agreed, also of more than £5m, bringing the new total budget for the project to just under £31.1m. The venue opened in September 1930 and was tripled in October 1973. Films ceased in January 2003.

Yellow Advertiser – 30 July

LONDON (West End)

The Trafalgar Theatre (formerly the Whitehall Theatre) has reopened after a multi-million-pound redevelopment. The 630-seat venue's original 1930s design has been reinstated. The balcony front, which was kept in storage whilst the theatre was two studio spaces, has been refitted along with the ceiling and proscenium arch. The original designs of the carpet and seating fabric have been replicated.

The Stage – 17 June; sent in by Barry Quinton

Cameron Macintosh has lambasted the government after tens of thousands of pounds worth of damage was caused to the Grade II listed Wyndham's Theatre on Charing Cross Road by football 'fans' on the day of the match between England and Italy on 11 July. About 50 people are reported as having broken through the fencing and climbed onto the canopy. Macintosh also questioned why thousands of people were allowed to descend on Central London whilst theatres were restricted in audience size.

The Times – 14 July; The Stage – 22 July; sent in by Barry Quinton & R David Simpson

A corner block of buildings in Leicester Square, including the large Burger King, is likely to be demolished under plans by the landlord to seek a new tenant for the site. The property development, next to the Odeon Cinema covers 17-21 Leicester Square and 13-17 Bear Street and will be designed in conjunction with the new entrant. Work won't start yet, as the planning application hasn't been filed (or approved) and the current tenants' leases run until 2025. However, the narrow building between the Odeon and the new development, that's currently occupied by Bella Italia, is not part of the development and will remain in place – and looking wonderfully out of character.

ianVisits – 4 August

LONG EATON (Derbys)

A full survey was being carried out on the former Scala/Galaxy in July when engineers became concerned about its structural integrity. Police closed the road outside for over an hour whilst an assessment was made. The building first opened in August 1907 and closed as the Scala in July 1964, Bingo took over, which ceased in 1993. A three-screen cinema opened in the ground floor of the building in 2007 but closed around April 2012. The CTA visited in May 2008 and was granted unrestricted access to all parts of the building. {24984}

Derbyshire Live – 27 July; sent in by Terry Hanstock; photo [on front cover] taken May 2006

LYME REGIS (Dorset)

WTW Scott Cinemas has sold the Regent to a local company, who wish to retain a cinema on the site. The building suffered a serious fire in March 2016 and has stood empty since. WTW Scott Cinemas said, "The insurance pay-out was some way short of the figures bandied about on social media. Some of the money covered the cost of the demolition of the area that was greatest destroyed by the fire and the balance does not go anyway close to rebuilding the cinema." {22441}

Dorset Echo – 23 August; sent in by Mike Henderson & Terry Hanstock

MANCHESTER (Chorlton-cum-Hardy)



The former Gaumont, where the Bee Gees gave their first performance, could be transformed into a food hall. It opened in November 1920 and closed in January 1962; it was last used as a funeral home. The Chorlton Community Land Trust [CLT] is in talks with Co-op Funeral care, which owns the building, with plans to create a market-style offering. The CLT wants to develop space for community events on the first floor, as well as create a block of affordable apartments, a space for businesses and gym and leisure facilities. The CLT did a pledge campaign 18 months ago and raised £500,000 to acquire the building. If it happens, together with the former **Palace** the district will have two standing memories of the great days of the cinema. {33843}

Manchester Evening News – 21 August; sent in by Terry Rourke; photo taken August 2005

MILTON KEYNES

The owners of **The Point** have put forwards plans to sell the building, describing the site as a “brownfield redevelopment opportunity” with the potential to construct 450 flats. It opened in 1985 with ten screens and was the UK’s first multiplex. It had been hoped that the building would be listed due to its historical relevance. There have been suggestions to dismantle the pyramid foyer and erect it elsewhere in the town. {25085}

MKFM – 11 July

MINEHEAD (Somerset)

Pat and Beryl Scott, who run the **Ritz** in Burnham-on-Sea and the **Westway** in Frome, have promised that the three-screen cinema they are creating in Minehead will open by February 2022, having been delayed by the pandemic. It will be in a former shop next to the **Regal**.

West Somerset Free Press – 13 August; sent in by Mike Collins

NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE

The **Tyneside Cinema** was due to reopen in July after work to repair “significant widespread” flood damage has got under way. Water burst through the ceiling of the fourth floor in January and cascaded down the central stairway affecting doors, walls, floors and many other parts of the cinema. {22729}

Newcastle Chronicle – 24 June

NORTHALLERTON (North Yorks)

Building work is set to start on the new **Everyman** cinema on the **Treadmills** site, a former prison. It will have four screens with a total of 276 seats. It is expected to open next summer.

Northern Echo – 17 August; Yorkshire Post – 20 August; sent in by Terry Hanstock

PAIGNTON (Devon)

The team behind the restoration of the **Picture House** has submitted a bid for Government cash. If successful, it will be used alongside the £1.28m already committed from the **Future High Streets** fund. {22124}

Herald Express, Torquay – 26 July

PONTARDAWE (Neath Port Talbot)

In 2019 the Council agreed to invest £500,000 in building a 70-seat cinema at **Pontardawe Arts Centre** but the project now requires a further £600,000. {27767}

South Wales Evening Post – 29 June

PRESTON (Lancs)

Councillors have agreed funding for a leisure complex to be called by the unusual name of **Animate** on the site of the former indoor market. It will include an eight-screen cinema. Negotiations with a potential operator are said to be at an advanced stage. Subject to planning permission being granted, it is anticipated construction work could begin in 2022 with the complex opening in spring 2024.

Blog Preston – 19 August; Lancashire Telegraph – 29 August; sent in by Philip Crompton

RAMSGATE (Kent)



Artists, actors, writers, musicians and more have signed an open letter to Thanet Council urging it to consider Kent Film Foundation’s plans for reviving the **Granville Theatre**. The charity hopes to take on the building and run it with two cinema screens and a new theatre space. The Council has agreed to the sale if a viable bid is put forward, otherwise it will be sold on the open market. See p27 Bulletin 55/3. {15019}

Isle of Thanet News – 29, 30 July; sent in by Margaret Burgoine; photo taken April 2008

SCARBOROUGH (North Yorks)

North Yorkshire Police has confirmed that it will not be objecting to plans to open a new bar, café and boutique cinema in **St Nicholas Street**. The application states that the business, to be called **Serenity**, would operate as a café during the day before switching to the bar and cinema in the evening.

Scarborough News – 27 July; Yorkshire Post – 28 July

SHEFFIELD



Planning permission is being sought to convert the ground floor of the Grade II listed former **Adelphi** in **Attercliffe** into an educational facility involving mentoring through sport and fitness. The building opened in October 1920 and films ceased in October 1967. It was later used for bingo then a nightclub then a music teaching centre. It was last used for storage. {22683}

Insider Media – 30 June; photo taken February 2005

STAFFORD

Two diggers moved in on the **Sandonia** late on Friday 2 July but once Stafford Borough Council was made aware by **SAVE**’s lawyers, they ordered a stop to demolition work, which had no planning permission. Contractors had already torn through part of the former auditorium to the rear of the site, with the façade scaffolded ready for dismantling. The building opened in November 1920 and films ceased in September 1963. Bingo took over until 1990 when it became a snooker club, which closed in the early 2000s. It has been empty since. {37530}

Sent in by Allan Pointon & John West

STOCKTON-ON-TEES

The Grade II listed **Globe** is set to reopen with a **McFly** gig on 6 September, following a £28m restoration. It opened in December 1935 with 2,649-seats and a full stage. It closed in June 1974 and became bingo, which closed c1997. The seating capacity has been reduced to 1,650 with 816-seats in the stalls and 834-seats in the circle. The total capacity including standing is 3,034 with 2,200 standing places in the stalls when seating is removed. {1835}

The Stage – 13, 16 August; sent in by Terry Hanstock & Anthony Wills; photo on front cover

SWANSEA

The Grade II listed former Carlton sold at auction in July for £423,000, a shade below the estimated £450,000. It opened in January 1914 and closed in October 1977. It was converted for retail use but later the auditorium was demolished and replaced with a Waterstones bookshop. The façade has been retained. {17944}

Business Live – 8 July; photo [on front cover] taken August 2007

TUNBRIDGE WELLS (Kent)

The new Council leader is pushing for a meeting with the owners of the site of the former ABC in a bid to “unjam” the past 21 years of inaction. A succession of owners has failed to bring on any development of the site following closure of the cinema in 2000 and its demolition in 2014. A cinema was included in plans approved in 2017. {25782}

Kent & Sussex Courier – 18 June

WAKEFIELD (West Yorks)

It has been confirmed that the Council is to demolish the former Regal/ABC, despite objections. The CTA fought a campaign to save it. It is not known what will happen to the site. See Casework p6. {3787}

Yorkshire Live – 28 July

WELLINGTON (Shropshire)

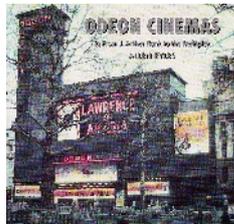
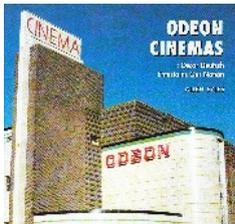


Plant has arrived on site to begin the demolition of the former Clifton. It is expected to take 3-4 weeks to get everything on site then the following two weeks will see the building razed and asbestos removed, then rubble clearing will take about a week. The cinema opened in January 1937 and films ceased in April 1981. It was last used as a Dunelm factory shop. {37745}

Sent in by David Jones & Darron Keeling; photo taken August 2007

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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WISHAW (Lanark)



The Grade C(s) listed former Gaumont/Classic has been transformed into a well-being café by the Lanarkshire Association for Mental Health [LAMH]. The cinema opened in April 1920 and was taken over by Denman/Gaumont in March 1928. In 1939 the mighty 2,982-seat Green's Playhouse was built immediately next to the cinema but both buildings managed to attract good audiences for many years. It was twinned in November 1972 with 332 seats in the former stalls and 134 seats in the former balcony. Closed in 1985, the balcony screen reopened in 1986 but this was short-lived and it closed in July 1988. The downstairs screen was converted into an amusement arcade and billiard hall, whilst the former balcony area has remained unused. By 2009, the building was in use as a bar & nightclub named Zico's. {22991}

Daily Record – 13 July; photo taken August 2009

WORCESTER

The Council has reached an agreement to buy the former Scala for use as a 400-500-seat arts venue. See p27 Bulletin 55/1. {39608}

Berrow's Worcester Journal – 3 June

YEADON (West Yorks)



The 1889 Town Hall has reopened after a two-year restoration. Completed building works include three new clock faces, 64 window repairs, 23 repaired stained-glass windows, extensive roof repairs, full decoration throughout, the installation of a new bar, new box office and new sound and lighting system. The venue is now the third largest theatre space in Leeds. It has shown films in the past and will now do so again.

Ilkley Gazette – 30 July; photo taken May 2013

2021 CTA AGM recording

Those members wishing to view the recording of the AGM held by Zoom on 19 June, please contact the Secretary, Adam Unger, address on p2 or honsec@cta-uk.org.



LETTERS

MATTERS ARISING

A couple of observations following Hugh Sykes' *Wanderings in 2019* (Bulletin 55/4). First, Laurel & Hardy did not give "their last ever performance [at the Olympia theatre, Dublin] during their 1950s tours of Britain and Ireland". They did give the first performance of their 1953-54 tour at that theatre (a one-night charity show), having already performed there for a full week in May 1952 during that year's (separate) tour. The impression that the Olympia was their final ever appearance is given in *Stan & Ollie*, which, sadly, is full of historical errors – often for no obvious dramatic reason. In reality, their final ever appearance was at the **Palace Theatre Plymouth** in May 1954. Having performed on the opening night, Ollie was unable to continue and the tour was cancelled.

Second, Hugh asks about cinema venues in Polperro. I, too, was unaware of any until some recent finds in the CTA Archive. Apparently, shows were presented in the late 1920s in a church schoolroom but then a Cinema, which was listed in the *Kiné Year Books*, operated from circa 1954 to 1964. For the full story, or as much as I could determine, see cinematreasures.org/theaters/64732. Unfortunately, I was unable to find an address for the Cinema and whether the building still survives, so if any member can provide this information, I would be most grateful.

David Simpson

A rather belated note on the entry about the Brontë Haworth on page 12 of the May/June edition. Somehow *The Tenant of Wildfell Hall* seems to have taken up residence in Wetherby. We have learned recently of the owner's death, Mr Snowdon senior but his son continues using it for storage. Currently it is undergoing repairs.

In the last issue there is mention of the **Plaza** in Flint but I don't think it ever had any connection with Gaumont, as stated on page 23 (unless Allen tells me otherwise).

Richard Gray

Editor's Note: Despite being proof-read by three people, *The Tenant of Wetherby Hall* slipped through the net. Apologies to Acton Bell (the pseudonym of Anne Brontë). Regarding the cinema in Flint, the new owners seem to be calling it **Gaumont Plaza**. I'm sorry if I inferred that it had been an original Gaumont.

CAPITAL OFFENCE?

The item *Signwriter's Nightmare* in the last issue, about the consequences of placing the capital letters L and I too close together, reminded me of an observation from a former Granada manager when I was researching my book on that circuit that care had to be taken to keep those letters apart when slotting the name CLINT EASTWOOD into the edge of a canopy. This didn't make it into the book for various reasons, including that it wasn't specific to the circuit.

Allen Eyles

PRESERVATION OF FAÇADES

I have sympathy with Richard Hagon's view in his letter in the last Bulletin, 'Preservation of Cinema Façades'. Regrettably, it now seems to be seen as a generous deal to retain a façade in return for destroying the key part of a building. Why are we being fobbed off with this? No doubt having to incorporate a pre-existing frontage into a new building causes some challenges to architects but nothing substantial and a small price for developers to pay to get proposals through planning. They can then reap the rewards of building yet more flats or 'student accommodation' on what is usually a prime central site of significant proportions. Leaving aside the architectural merits (or not) of the **Dominion Harrow**, what exactly is the purpose of these frontages being 'saved'? A façade alone has little cultural significance; the films were the centre of the cinema industry and almost all are available for viewing somehow, somewhere. It is not ecological; the building isn't being repurposed, adapted or re-imagined. The demolition of the substantial part of the building produces waste and the new build consumes yet more resources. With an auditorium, foyer and projection room razed, the characteristics that make a building a cinema – with all its atmosphere, memories and ghosts, is a cinema no more. The soul has been taken. Keeping a frontage won't restore it. Keeping a façade is not a really preserving something historic for future generations. There is no 'cinema experience' to be found here.

This saddens me as much as it probably saddens other CTA members but to most of the public it is largely irrelevant. I'm left with wondering what the retention of a façade says. "This was such an impressive and amazing building that we knocked it down but we did save a bit for you to look at"?

Colin Pinfold

Should the CTA campaign to preserve certain cinema façades? Richard Hagon (Letters, Bulletin 55/4) doesn't think so and puts forward a rational argument to convince others. But I must disagree with him. Cinema façades are often impressive, even beautiful, pieces of design. They are often the only noticeable piece of architecture in an otherwise drab High Street or City Centre and are much loved by locals. Although the rest of the building may be demolished, the façade often still deserves to be retained and incorporated into whatever use the site will be used for.

It should also be remembered that many cinema façades were literally ground-breaking pieces of architecture, which influenced many other kinds of building. An example would be the **Dominion/Safari** which Richard describes as "this hideous monstrosity". Again, I must disagree with Richard. For me, the recently uncovered frontage of the **Dominion/Safari** is an incredible example of imagination, progressive design and innovative use of materials that blend together to form an enticing work of genius. But then, as the old saying reminds us, beauty is in the eye of the beholder.

Mike Whitcombe

DUFAYCOLOR

As mentioned in the previous Bulletin, full details of the Dufaycolor process can be found on the Internet. In a nutshell, the colours were produced by a grid of red, green and blue lines, which at a distance merged to give a range of colours. Unfortunately, when viewed on a large screen, the grid was plainly visible, as can be seen in these frame enlargements from an original 35mm print of the Merton Park Studios 1939 production *Sam Goes Shopping*, an advert for Co-op stores. Consequently, this colour process was used mainly for short films and adverts.



In this very long advert Sam has been sent to the Co-op to pick up something for his wife. However, he cannot remember what it is, just that it began with a 'd'. In order to jog his memory the sales staff take him round every department, thus showing all the goods that the Co-op has to offer. Eventually Sam remembers. It's the divil!

Kevin Wheelan

On page 28 of Bulletin 55/4, there is mention of the Dufaycolour film process. The colour 'screen' was printed on the film base and the photographic emulsion was coated on afterwards. Almost all film is exposed with the emulsion towards the lens but Dufaycolour the film was exposed through the film base and the colour was picked up by the colour screen, thence onto the emulsion. After reversal processing, the projected film showed the colour. I have some 9.5mm film from the 1930s taken in Dufaycolour. The colour is very good and does not have the problem of faded colour dyes. The colour screen does show up on screen with the magnification of a small 9.5mm frame. 35mm Dufaycolour probably still showed the colour screen. Slight defocussing would help.

I also saw two films on TPTV that originated on Dufay, also a third film that was a documentary about farming, though I don't know if they were original or, if copied, how the copying process was achieved. The camera film was very slow, about 10 ASA if I remember correctly so only suitable for outside filming. Dufaycolour was also available in 120 size roll film, where the colour screen would be minimal.

Johnsons Photographic of Hendon had a similar process for plate cameras; the colour screen consisted of dyed particles of starch randomly covering a glass plate that was placed in front of the emulsion plate. In that process only the original colour screen would produce the colour image from the particular positive plate copied from the original negative plate or from the original plate reversal processed – not very practical!

Another similar process was Polaroid instant movie that was introduced in the 1970s but never gained popularity. The 8mm camera looked similar to other basic 8mm cine cameras but used the Polavision cartridges, which were processed in the player on its first run through the player. I have not actually seen the process in operation but from a report in a movie magazine, the result was good though the system was not good enough to be competition for the existing film systems.

John Powell

FILM CLASSIFICATION

The last Bulletin [Miscellany, p20] mentioned the subject of swearing and film classification. I think that excessive swearing in a film is a sign of sloppy scriptwriting and is an easy way of making a film without too much effort. As far back as the 1970s, the manager of the Woolston Picturehouse in Southampton was reported as saying that anyone can take off their clothes and swear (this was reported in a Bulletin not long ago). Some swearing may be acceptable, depending on the circumstances but used sparingly. *Talking Pictures* TV classifies their films very strictly, presumably to avoid critical comments. Many episodes of *Laurel and Hardy* have been classified as [PG] even though DVDs are available under the [U] Certification. Some classifications seem surprising, such as *Terminus* (1960) the excellent film about Waterloo station and a recent *Look at Life* with a voiceover by Sid James looking at London Markets! Films have been classified as [PG] because of racial contents. However it is not clear if the number of cigarettes smoked in these old films is taken into consideration; once widely seen it is no longer considered socially acceptable. There appears to be no general classification on DVDs acquired from dealers. I have some DVDs with music hall acts that need classification. A DVD containing the wonderful Gus Elen includes *The Postman's Holiday* youtu.be/5VnxNBf1CRE, which contains the now banned 'N' word. I am not sure what the long-term future to film classification is – if there is one.

Ian Patterson

THE NEW REGENT CINEMA, REDCAR

A missed opportunity for the movie-goers of Redcar and Cleveland.



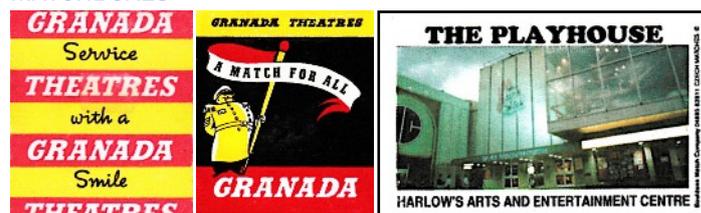
Aerial view of the construction of the new Regent Redcar

First of all it is being built in the wrong place, right on the beach. When I worked there from 1967 to 1977 there were numerous weather problems, particularly from the wind and the North Sea. The same will happen to the new one, no matter how well it is protected. Also the problem with the new Regent is that it is too small. Only three screens with 35, 55 and 95 seats, totalling 185. The previous Regent had 430 seats. Redcar has an approximate population of 38,000 plus a very large catchment area. Other cinemas in North Yorkshire towns with smaller populations have bigger seating capacities: Northallerton has a population of 18,000 and will have a luxury four-screen cinema built soon. Richmond has a population of 10,000 and three screens with a total seating of 205. The Ritz in Thirsk, population 5,000 has 186 seats complete with curtains and screen masking. Ripon, population 16,000, has two screens. The type of cinema that Redcar needs, considering the size of the population and to attract more visitors to the town should be on a par with the Empire Cinema, Catterick, population 16,000, with seven screens!

The above is just a small synopsis of what I presented to Redcar and Cleveland council cabinet and to the project team connected with the New Regent in November 2019. It fell on deaf ears. I believe the project has not been thought about properly and has been rushed through. Redcar desperately needs something to attract more visitors. The new cinema should have been built elsewhere and have been much bigger. This current project, considering the lower seating numbers of 185, is no more than a small village cinema. It will not satisfy the movie needs of Redcar and the catchment area. Where it is being built, on top of the old site, the weather problems will still exist. This project was originally decided by the previous Redcar and Cleveland Council and carried on by the current Council and is funded by the Tees Valley Authority. They are providing approximately £9m, which I said at the time would not be enough. I believe there will be a shortfall in finding enough money to cover all costs. Who will fund this? How can the Council afford to run it by paying an 'operator' £50,000 plus, when a General Manager of much larger, better facilitated cinemas in the UK, has an average salary of £37,000? It just doesn't add up.

Malcolm R Crow, former employee at the now demolished Regent from 1967 to 1977

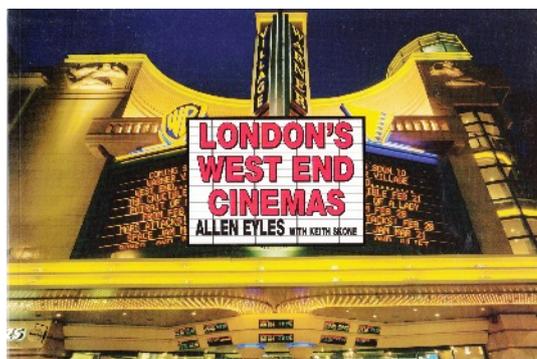
MATCHBOXES



Before that ominous phrase "The correspondence on this subject is now closed" appears, I thought I had better send two more examples of matchbox covers, one for the Granada circuit and one for the Playhouse Theatre Harlow. The cartoon figure of a commissioner featured in nearly all Granada advertising in the early fifties was known as 'Sergeant G'. The 'Service-With-A-Smile' slogan was in use from 1943 to 1953.

Ray Dolling

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 a 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 p5

INTERNET CORNER

- ★ youtu.be/wTMVotAYeGw Gracie Fields opens the Dominion cinema Barnet on 1 November 1938. 5'01" {27529}
- ★ youtu.be/TvkDO_LQeQM Movietone News – the opening of the Ruby Clapham Junction on 10 April 1973. Includes some projection room shots. 3'25" {28254}
- ★ youtu.be/S5rFNqIHDig From the Huntly Film Archive – the opening of the Cecil Hull on 28 November 1955. 4'11" {1247}
- ★ youtu.be/dX66Z79BX14 From the Huntly Film Archive – the opening of the Odeon Muswell Hill on 9 September 1936. 4'30" {13783}
- ★ youtu.be/f4D4iDAFirA From the Huntly Film Archive – the opening of the State Kilburn on 20 December 1937. 10'34" {1478}
above five items sent in by Gary Donaldson
- ★ tinyurl.com/fbuk8rjw From *Time Out* – The 50 best cinemas in the UK and Ireland. Lots of good photos. Some might question the choice? *sent in by Terry Hanstock, Jeremy Perkins & Martin Tapsell*
- ★ rbklocalstudies.wordpress.com A newsletter from Kensington & Chelsea library. There are links to several picture sets of cinemas in the Borough including the Electric, Kensington Cinema and Odeon Westbourne Grove. *sent in by Denis Bovey*
- ★ tinyurl.com/3w9eucx6 A Facebook page about the Regal/ABC Sidcup (Kent) when it was closed for modernisation in 1963. {31395}
sent in by David Kay
- ★ vimeo.com/507487664 A site walk through St Giles Circus, demolition of the Astoria and ballroom, new spaces being created in new Outernet development. 9'04" *sent in by Roger Edwards*
- ★ tinyurl.com/592d6ykb A downloadable 84-page pdf from the Independent Cinema Office – A Guide to Cinema Audio *sent in by Terry Hanstock*
- ★ tinyurl.com/x2sc68by Discovering Preston's former cinemas.
- ★ tinyurl.com/7d37rdfz From the *Birmingham Mail* – Urban Explorers have been inside the former Palladium Hockley. {34732}
- ★ tinyurl.com/u7b72any From the *Derby Telegraph* – new pictures inside the vandalised former Hippodrome. {14683}
- ★ tinyurl.com/9x6f58ck A page from *Worcester News* about an exhibition at the local museum, featuring the Odeon. {25870}
- ★ fb.watch/7bjOG-tsg A 2'15" video from the BBC Archives – In August 1957 a smoking ban is trialled two nights a week in two London cinemas. One looks like the Classic Tooting Bec and the other like the Empire Leicester Square.
- ★ www.yfanefa.com The website of the Yorkshire Film Archive. A search for "cinema" produced 432 results; however not all can be viewed free – only those with a thumbnail photo.
- ★ youtu.be/InZ0xUvtPIQ A trailer for the *Cinemas Lost Forever* YouTube Channel. Click on the profile photo of the owner, Neal Sutton, below the video to go to the channel. Initially ten videos of former cinemas in Suffolk but expanding all the time.
- ★ youtu.be/2dOxKZPOqr8 A 6'17" video from Bradford Live – The Cinema and the Beck; how Bradford Beck, which was culverted under a corner of the New Victoria / Gaumont / Odeon, flooded the cinema. Click on the *Bradford Live* logo underneath the video to go to the *Bradford Live* YouTube channel with 9 other videos.
- ★ tinyurl.com/46j8juvd From the *Liverpool Echo* - photos inside the Grand Southport – see p6 last Bulletin.
- ★ tinyurl.com/2b5aswnh from *Far Out* magazine – the ten best films set in Yorkshire! Top is Ken Loach's *Kes* (1969).

SMALL ADS

The rate for small ads from members is £3 for 25 words with name and address free, plus 15p for each extra word. Non-members rates: £5 & 25p respectively.

Please send cheque or postal order (payable to the Cinema Theatre Association) to the Bulletin Editor, address on p2. Please quote membership number.

Advertisers are requested to reply to all respondents who supply SAE for that purpose.

Display rates: eighth page – £15; quarter page – £25; half page (horizontal or vertical) – £45; full page – £80

FOR SALE: Cinema histories in paperback format with lower postage costs. Send SAE or email for list in location order.
Martin Tapsell, 68 Albert Road, Deal, CT14 9RB
email: Martintapsell@gmx.com

FILM BOOKINGS

By David A Ellis

In the early days of film rentals movies were hired out for a set fee. Later, they were hired out on a percentage basis. Several years ago a new release that was shown in a city centre cinema, for example an Odeon, could not be shown in another theatre, such as an independent at the same time, if the cinema was within a few miles of the Odeon. The distance was probably stipulated by the renters, which was known as barring (if anyone knows the barring distance please let us know). So, independents within the barring zone relied on people not having gone and seen it when first released in one of the big circuits. Outside of the barring zone the independent operator could show it at the same time as the ABC or Odeon several miles away.



Cinema adverts from the *Evening News* 24 April 1946 showing the different GB, Odeon & ABC releases for North & West, North & East and South London

Another thing that happened in the past was films were first screened in London and could not be shown in the provinces until later. So, several weeks could pass before, for example, Liverpool screened the film. Even in London the film was screened in the West End first and later in the suburbs at different periods in time. For example, it would be shown in North London on a different date to South London, even though the theatres in both areas were Odeon or ABC.

When films were first released the percentage was higher than it was on a re-release. In some cases a re-release was offered on a flat fee basis. Great for the exhibitor if the house was full. Unfortunately, we no longer have films re-released into the cinema world, because after a very short run they are put on DVD. Gone are the days when a double bill of *James Bond* went back into the cinema years after they were released. Unfortunately this doesn't give us the chance to experience these again in the cinema or catch them on the big screen if missed at first showing. We have to catch films within a short time-frame if we want the big screen experience. These re-releases were good for the exhibitor because percentages would be lower or even on a flat fee and these double bills usually attracted good audiences.

Also, long gone are the 'Sunday for One Day Only' shows. These were usually old films and were usually hired out at a set fee. Many of these screenings did well, so was good for the exhibitor. Not so good for the projectionist, who sometimes had to deal with worn prints. These shows were main feature shown twice, second feature once. Today, we only have one film and no continuous performances. A few years back we were treated to two features, news and sometimes a cartoon. A long film was sometimes accompanied by a short documentary. Among others were *Pathé News*, *Gaumont British News*, *Universal News*, *Look at Life*, *Pathé Pictorial* and *Mining Review*.



Big films often commanded high percentage rates (and still do), meaning the cinema would need good houses to make a good profit. Often in years gone by when cinemas usually screened pictures for only a week, we would see 'Retained for Second Great Week'. Usually this was a case of the cinema having to screen it for two weeks, agreed by the renter. Today, the provinces get to see the film at the same time as everyone else. Gone are the days when patrons would have to put up with a badly scratched film with joins and dialogue missing; the quality of images is now consistent due to digital.

MEMBERSHIP

NEW MEMBERS

We offer a warm welcome to the following new members: Nigel Rixon, Tom Killick and David Meddick.

DONATIONS

Once more members have displayed their generosity by adding a donation to the renewal of their subscriptions. Our sincere thanks go to: JC Barnes, IE Barrow, HD Behr, IJ Bellion, RJ Buckler, RA Buckley, J Clarke, WPC Cobb, M Collins, DWT Corn, MP Greenslade, DN Hammond, AM Harris, TA Harris, BD Hopper, M Hutton, RP Jefferies, PL Kent, AS Kidd, JM Lewis, SD Locking, JJ McKillop, P Mellor, CM Oxley, RM Paddock, IJ Patterson, A Philip, DJ Profit, HR Rowley, JJ Seabrook, J Shevelan, RW Short, BC Sinclair, G Snowden-Davies, PV Stevens, D Stirzaker, BP Stoveld, JB West, KS Wheelan, JE Williams and LG Woods.

IN MEMORIAM

We have been sorry to learn since the last issue of the Bulletin of the deaths of the following members: Eric Barlow from Stockport, Gerald Crane from Waterlooville and Ivar Ewers from Chelmsford.

Ray Ritmeester, Membership Secretary

CTA ARCHIVE

The Cinema Theatre Association Archive is open for research visits and for enquiries from members and the general public. Located in a modern building on the outskirts of Southend-on-Sea, the Archive offers all the facilities and resources you would expect from a modern archive. The Archive contains an extensive collection of material that has been steadily growing since its inception in 1967. This includes books, periodicals, articles, newspaper cuttings, photographs, plans and drawings, many donated or acquired from leading architects or industry figures and supplemented by personal collections and research. The breadth of the collection is such that there are very few topics related to cinema history, architecture, design or operation that are not represented.

MAKING AN ENQUIRY OR ARRANGING A VISIT

Please visit the new Archive website for full details or to make an enquiry: cta-uk.org/archive. The *Exploring the Archive* page of the website includes catalogues and lists for various collections along with indexes for periodicals including the Bulletin and Picture House. You may find these lists useful in identifying material for research. As the catalogues can only provide a brief snapshot of a small part of the Archive, please use the enquiry form that can be found on the *Making an Enquiry* page to tell us about a project you are undertaking or subject which you are interested in researching – or maybe it's a photograph that eludes you. Visiting the Archive is not normally necessary and material can simply be sent to you.

DONATING MATERIAL TO THE ARCHIVE

Please visit the *Donating Material* page of the website. Almost everything held in the Archive has been donated and is the main way that the collection grows. The Archive will not turn down material which is on subject and adds to the breadth of its holdings so please do not hesitate to contact us if you have something which you think should be preserved. If the material includes books or magazines, please first prepare a list and submit it to us, so we can determine which copies are not already held. We will occasionally accept books that are already held if they are in good condition, on the understanding that they will be sold to raise funds. Please do not post items to the Archive address as there is no facility to receive parcels when it is closed and they may be lost or returned to you as undelivered. Please contact the Archivist, who can provide a safe address. Although we always prefer to receive original material, if you cannot part with the originals we are happy to accept scanned material or copies of your digital photographs.

VOLUNTEERING AT THE ARCHIVE OR FROM HOME

The Archive is maintained entirely by volunteers. Volunteering can be a very interesting and rewarding experience and you do not have to be a member to be a volunteer. Volunteers might file, organise and sort the collections, deal with enquiries or undertake special projects. You don't need any experience or particular skills. If you cannot easily visit the Archive and have computer skills, a scanner or access to Word or Excel at home, you can still volunteer as we have plenty of work that can be undertaken remotely without visiting the Archive.

ARCHIVE TWITTER

You may be interested to know that the Archive regularly posts messages, often including photographs, on its Twitter account – @CTA_Archive. Please feel free to follow us if you use Twitter, alternatively you can view these messages via the link on our website or by visiting twitter.com/CTA_Archive.

CONTACTING THE ARCHIVE

To make an enquiry please use the enquiry form on the website. For any other matter, such as donations or volunteering, please email archive@cta-uk.org; if you do not have Internet access call 07971752807.

Clive Polden, CTA Archivist

NEWS FROM THE ARCHIVE



The above publicity photograph, taken at the Odeon Bristol, is part of a recent donation to the Archive of around 140 such images spanning a period from 1938 to 1960 while Mr Francis Hozier was manager of the Kingswood (Bristol) Ambassador, Plymouth Odeon, Cardiff Capitol, Glasgow Odeon, Bristol Gaumont and finally Bristol Odeon. Quite a career. The collection also contains a rare set of 1930s photographs of the interior of the Plymouth Odeon. Can anyone identify the two young film stars alongside Mr Hozier in the above image?

A new video has been created and added to the Archive YouTube Channel featuring a selection of cinema signs preserved at the Archive. You can visit the Channel to watch the videos by searching for Cinema Theatre Association Archive at www.youtube.com or directly via tinyurl.com/3w9eucx6.



The Archive project to reorganise and catalogue the slide collections is now underway. If any member has a slide viewer – preferably one that uses batteries – that they are willing to donate for this project, it would be deeply appreciated.

Clive Polden, CTA Archivist



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THE CARLTON / STUDIOS SALFORD

By Tim McCullen



It was interesting to see the article in Bulletin 55/2 regarding the Studios ① and ② Salford and what a high specification they had for a Star cinema in the early 1970s. According to the News Sheet of the North West Cinema Preservation Society, they had their AGM in August 1981 in Studio ②, which, from the photograph, had screen tabs. Later Star conversions were not to such a high specification. The North West Cinema Preservation Society became incorporated into the CTA in 1996. On looking at the CTA's *Directory of Cinemas 1980*, the Studio ① and ② was logged as the Carlton ① and ② under the proprietor Princess (Monton) Ltd, so Star must have relinquished the Salford cinema at some point. Does anyone know when?

The Carlton closed for films on 31 December 1983. While up in the area, I went to see what was left of the Carlton during its demolition in late May 1989 with fellow members David Eve and Martin Cleave, (see pictures). Today's Health and Safety Regulations would not have allowed this visit. David Eve advised us not to go into the former Studio ②, as it wasn't "the pleasant place it once was." There is a book *The History of Salford Cinemas* by Tony Flynn, published in August 1987; ISBN 1-85216017-9.

David Eve adds: The Carlton had been run by Star, they converted it into I think one of the first, if not the first cinema (circle) and bingo (stalls) operation. A chap named Jim Shepherd, his wife and a partner ran the Princess Cinema Monton into the 1980s. It was a company in which Jim had shares but didn't completely own. The early NWCPS magazines would give you a date of the closure of the Princess, a single-screen cinema in a nice area of Salford. The other partners in the Monton Cinema wanted their money out as they saw a big return in selling the site on for development. This they did and a block of flats was built on the site.

Perhaps around this time Jim took over the lease of the cinema part of the Carlton Salford, I would think the stalls would have been operated as a Coral Bingo Hall. Jim may have run both the Princess and the Carlton for a short period together. The Carlton was a twin-screen operation in Jim's day. The bingo closed and the stalls became a snooker hall. The Carlton had been on the main drag in Salford, Cross Lane, which had several cinemas and theatres on its length but at the time of the demolition of the Carlton for a new road scheme, it was the only building left standing.

Either due to the redevelopment, or because the Snape family decided to close the last of their cinemas, Jim decided to take on the lease of their Curzon Urmston, in Manchester. Jim and his wife and a partner ran the Curzon for many years until Jim had a stroke. The Curzon had several operators after this but struggled being so near the Trafford Centre and its multi-screen cinema.

Photos by the author except photo of Carlton Day Book on 8 October 1953 by Martin Cleave; film showing was Titanic with Across the Pacific being the opposition at the Essoldo



MANAGER'S COPY
'CARLTON' CINEMA CARLTON CINEMA SALFORD LTD.
 DAILY RETURN *Day 6 of 20* 1952

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