

# CASEWORK REPORT: September 2011

## ENGLAND

### Grade II Listed

This month's report commences with an update on the situation concerning the **Astoria, Brighton**. 'Urban explorers' have recently broken into the premises, and the CTA has contacted the local council to urge that the building be made safe, reminding it that the owner must not allow the structure to deteriorate. It has also been suggested to local campaigner Colin Dibley that a demonstration, similar in character to that previously reported in support of the **Granada, Walthamstow**, be organised to coincide with the upcoming council planning meeting to determine the cinema's future. Mr. Dibley asserts that he has secured two million pounds for the purchase of the Astoria, should a matching grant be advanced from the National Lottery Fund.

There is positive news concerning the intrusive proposals for the **Odeon, Chester**, mentioned in a prior digest: Chester City Council refused planning permission and listed building consent for the flats and new auditorium.

Another planning application has been made for the **Whiteladies, Bristol** involving the construction of apartments above the foyer and at the rear of the stage. Although the auditorium would remain, Jon Williams, of CTA Cymri, reports that the scheme would involve removal of the projection room and a reduction in size of the foyer. Happily, Bristol City Council has refused planning permission and listed building consent.

Proposed alterations to the **Regal, Tenbury Wells** include a design for disabled access which is highly detrimental to the character of the small foyer of this cinema, and entirely out of scale with its proportions. Unfortunately, the Regal Cinema Group is in favour of the scheme, and thus supports the application for listed building consent, but the CTA is to reiterate its opposition, whilst proffering positive suggestions for alternative means of disabled access provision which are more sensitive to the aesthetics of the building.

The characteristic pylon feature of the **Regal, Wells**, specifically mentioned in its listing, has been removed without consent. A request is to be made of Mendip District Council that the pylon's whereabouts be established, and its return initiated.

Concern has been expressed for the **New Gallery, Regent Street, London**, now that Habitat has ceased trading at that location, and an inquiry is to be advanced to Westminster Council to ascertain the current situation.

### Unlisted

A multiplex has been proposed for **Bournemouth**, which would have serious repercussions for the nearby **Odeon** and **ABC**. The CTA has objected to the plan, emphasizing the deleterious effect which the closure of these cinemas would have upon Westover Road.

Unfortunately the **Futurist, Scarborough**, has been refused listed status by English Heritage. In addition to alterations to both its exterior and interior, losses of the organ and original lighting fixtures were cited as grounds for rejection.

The site of the **Gaumont, Doncaster**, has now been entirely cleared, although no new building work has started. The local council is to be reminded of its promised reinstatement of the exterior frieze of the defunct building.

## WALES

### Grade II Listed

Although the **Palace, Conwy**, has been listed, there is currently no mention in the supporting text of the highly significant interior, which includes an intact Holophane lighting installation. CADW, the Welsh government heritage agency, is to be provided with a description to enable it to amend the listing.

Faience tile cladding at the **Odeon**, later Theatr Elli, **Llanelli**, has become insecure, and scaffolding has been erected to prevent danger to the public. An official of Carmarthenshire District Council has requested that the CTA furnish details of possible suppliers of replica tiles, and has been forwarded particulars of relevant companies.

Laser Quest, the current operator of the ex-**Castle, Swansea**, has made unapproved alterations to the building's foyer, including the removal of the original pay box. Swansea Borough Council's Conservation Officer has been advised of this, and the Enforcement Officer will be approached subsequently if no action results.