

IN THE FRAME

NEWSREEL FOR FRIENDS OF THE ELECTRIC PALACE

ISSUE NO. 32

Winter 2018

As you know the cinema is currently closed for major restoration work funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund.

In projects involving a wide range of specialist inputs there are possibilities of delays due to difficulties in setting up and maintaining time lines. The project was delayed several times eventually adding up to over five months and finally started in October.

** Repairs and Refurbishment Project is now underway **

The scaffolding has been erected over the past six weeks and will be completed in the week starting 17th December with the installation of a temporary roof.

The Works will then proceed with :

Removal of the present permanent roof.

Survey of the existing contents of the roof-space between the inner surface of the outer roof and the upper surface of the plaster ceiling.

These contents include previous insulation materials and the ducting of the present heating/ventilation system.

Clearance of all previous insulation materials.

Inspections of the upper surfaces of the original metal beams and wooden rafters and -

The Plaster Specialist's Inspection/Survey of the plaster ceiling including the roundels.

Reinforcement and stabilisation of the fibrous plaster ceiling by whatever means is agreed with the plaster ceiling experts.

We also plan to refurbish the seats and toilets - if funds permit.

The current draft works programme suggests that the cinema should be ready to re-open by the end of June - although this date is subject to variation dependent on : *the condition of the ceiling* and : *the severity of the winter weather*. An extra ITF will be sent in April with further updates on the progress of the restoration and a timeline for the re-opening.

Happy Christmas and New Year

RECENT VIEWS



Front from King's Quay Street



Auditorium 'Platform' from below



Ceiling etc. from Platform



Back from Wellington Road

The Bioscope - past, present and future.

Trust Chairman David Looser's brilliant idea of recreating Charles Thurston's travelling Bioscope on Harwich Green to coincide with the beginning of the cinema closure period proved very successful. Here is the excellent review which David Simpson wrote for the Cinema Theatre Association Bulletin.

THE BIOSCOPE ON HARWICH GREEN

By David Simpson

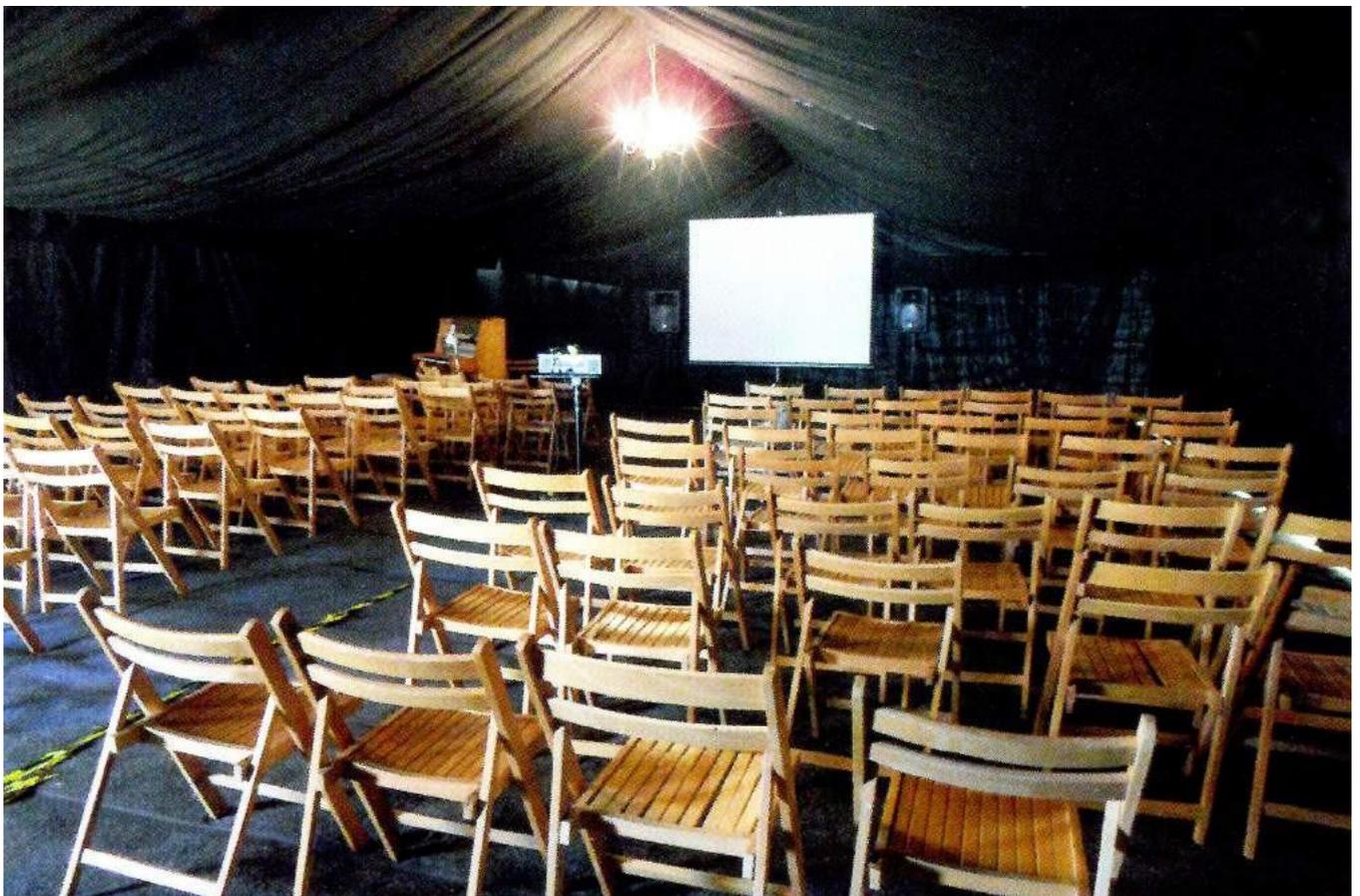
Further to the visit announcement in the May/June Bulletin, I went along to the Bioscope on Harwich Green on Sunday 1 July to see *Battleship Potemkin*. This proved to be an excellent recreation of the travelling Electric Cinema Palace presented by Charles Thurston, the showman who built the Harwich **Electric Palace**, with an ornate frontage by carpenter Adam Threadgall and his team and design and painting by sign writer and artist Bryan Rowland. As it happened, the marquee is usually used for weddings, so there was a 'twinkling star' effect overhead – and a chandelier! This nicely invoked the showmanship that, I am sure, Thurston would have provided! Linking in with Harwich Festival, the **Bioscope** operated for a week, with the programme of events including a demonstration of the Edwardian Bioscope by David Cleveland and Nigel Lister, local films and a variety of classic and recent feature films. Eisenstein's silent classic came complete with live piano accompaniment by Chris Jarrett. The show was introduced by Trustee (and CTA member) Chris Strachan and the mayor, Charlie Powell, made this a Gala screening. He spoke passionately about the **Electric Palace**, which was due to close in August for extensive refurbishment work.

Text (& photos labelled DS) by kind permission of David Simpson

plus thanks to CTA Bulletin Editor Harry Rigby



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The Opening Event was a fascinating evocation of the Edwardian Bioscope presented by the two doyens of such presentations - David Cleveland and Nigel Lister - and maybe this was 'the last picture show' of this particular programme.

The AGM of Friends 2018 was unique - being held in the Bioscope and featuring a wonderful restoration of the very first programme of moving pictures ever made - by the Lumiere Brothers - first shown in Paris and then in London in 1896. Many thanks to Allan Eyles for making this possible.

For their feature film the Friends saw the renowned Alfred Hitchcock thriller " **Number Seventeen** " with its famous Harwich ending !



CS ; David & Nigel ; Mayoress Kate & Mayor Charlie



Chris Jarrett

This whole Bioscope project was supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund and of course involved a lot of voluntary as well as professional input as described in David Simpson's write-up for the CTA.

All who had been involved throughout the 11 days of events agreed that it would be a great pity to simply let this new attraction be discarded.

Fortunately an ideal storage space was identified near-by to Harwich Green by Harwich Society Chairman Colin Farnell and discussions will soon be underway re reinstating the Bioscope on Harwich Green in the Summer of 2020 when it could be a venue for screening films relevant to the 400th Anniversary of the voyage of the Mayflower to the New World - as well as other film genres which could appeal to the many expected American visitors.

Obituary

We were all sad to hear that Electric Palace treasurer Lynn Yaxley died recently after coping well with many months of declining health.

Lynn did an excellent job in this post for over 10 years - her efficiency in record-keeping and presentations of balance reports were outstanding and very much appreciated by the Trustees and all members of the EP who knew her. No doubt her cheerful personality, sense of humour and practical skills will all be missed by former colleagues at Trinity House as well as by members of the Darts Club and all of us at the Cinema.

Membership

Membership and Friends Subs information - no change since ITF No. 31 and June 25th AGM .

Certain sections of the refurbishment plans will have to remain under review as the works continue and will probably need alternative sources of funding. It is still hoped to refurbish the seating; upgrade the toilets; replace the front-entrance security gates (which continue to deteriorate) and take the opportunity to re-instate the Finial - all items visible to, or used by, the public as well as The Friends.

All Donations Welcome



Message from Colin Crawford :

We are pleased to tell you that we will be showing occasional films and recorded satellite relay shows in the 1912 Centre next door to the Electric Palace beginning in January 2019.

The prices will be the same as the Electric Palace: £7 Adults, £6 Seniors and £3.50 Under 15.

Satellite relay shows will be £12.50 to £15.

January 2019

Sun 20th January Evening – Mama Mia: Here we go Again

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MANY THANKS TO SIMON and ALL THE TEAM