

THE HIGHAMS PARK SOCIETY



THE PARK

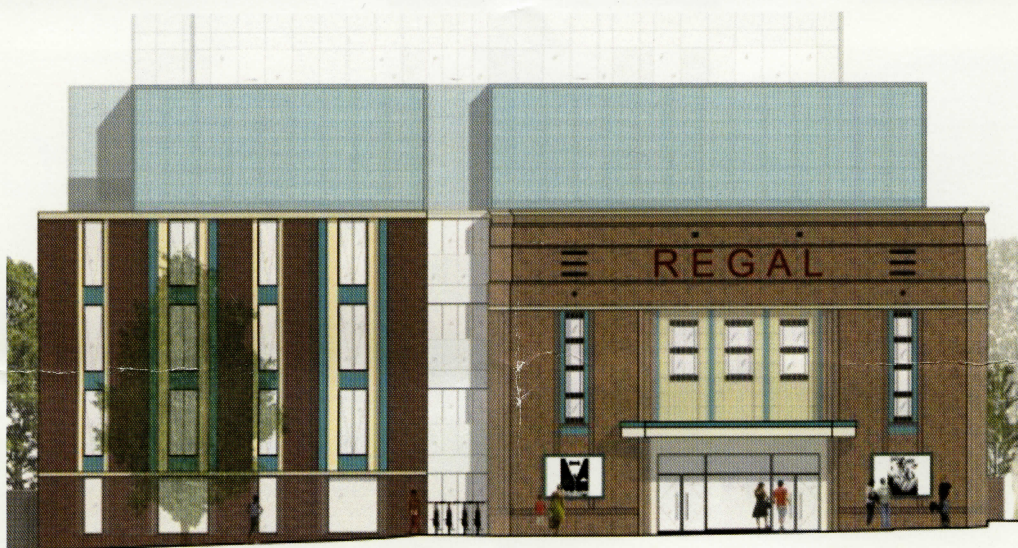


Celebrating the Past—Enjoying the Present—Looking Forward to the Future
Honorary President—Sir Henry Warner Bt.

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HIGHAMS PARK ELECTRIC THEATRE AND THE REGAL



The Highams Park Society has been showing films in Highams Park Baptist Church since 2006. The last film at the Regal was shown way back in 1974 and in 2006 we thought that after a break of thirty two years, the showing of films in public was long overdue.

Since 2006, Saturday Afternoon Cinema (as it is now known) has gone from strength to strength and our films are enjoyed by around fifty people each month.

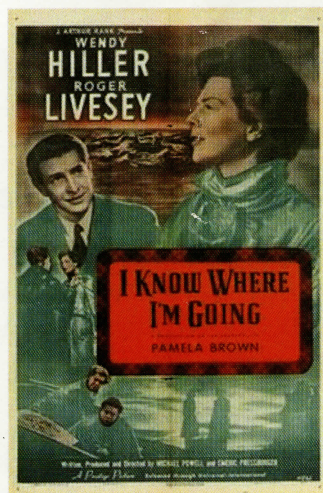
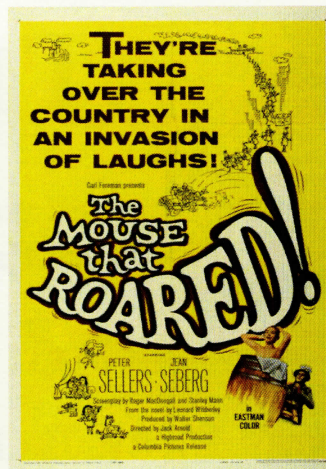
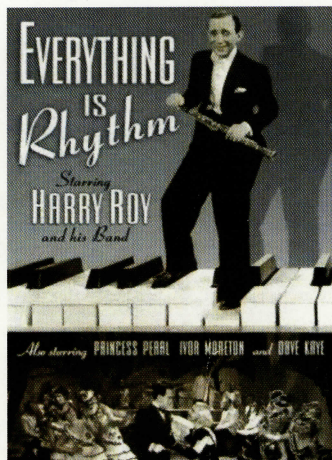
The old Regal Cinema on Hale End Road incorporates an earlier building, the Electric Theatre, which was built by OH Watling and opened in 1911. Watling designed the Beech Hall Road houses and some of the three storey shops in the centre of the village.

In 1928, the Electric Theatre was bought and renamed The Regal. The old 1911 part of the cinema is still clearly visible from the side, including its original slate roof which people remember leaking as long ago as the 1950s! The art deco frontage was completed in 1935 and a gallery added at the same time.

The Regal was never particularly profitable. This was because by the 1930s people travelled out of Highams Park for entertainment much more than in the earlier part of the century: it was impossible for the Regal to compete with the super-cinemas at Walthamstow and Chingford Mount, The Granada and Odeon.

At the present time, Mammoth Capital plan to open a two screen cinema, café and build thirty flats on the site. Some work seems to have started in the last few weeks. We wait patiently to see what will follow...

FILMS THIS SEASON—FULL DETAILS ON OUR 2021/22 PROGRAMME



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The Highams Park Society has been supported by Hobson of Highams Park since 2004