

# HARBORNE ROYALTY TRUST NEWS

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“In the middle of difficulty lies opportunity”.  
**Albert Einstein**



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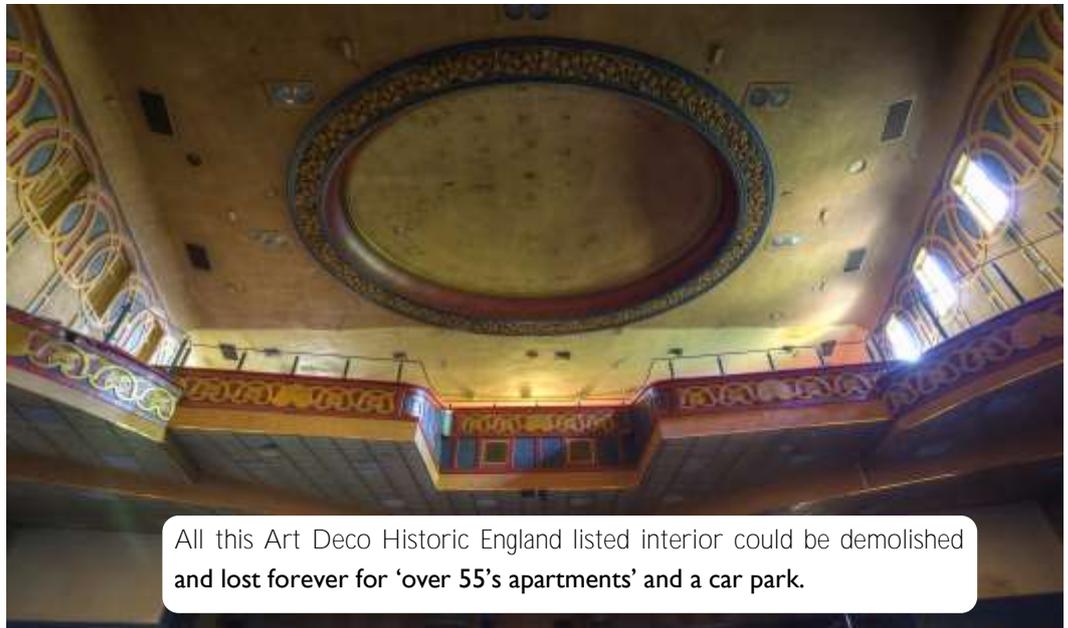
## IT'S TIME TO SAVE THE ROYALTY

Hello Everyone.

Do we care about Harborne? Do we want to save part of our history? We have a unique and historic High Street building which can provide a wonderful venue in Harborne. How can it have lain empty and unused for so long?

The Harborne Royalty Trust intend to change that. We have plans for the Royalty and we have been quietly working away over the last 12 months to bring them to fruition. If you would like to see details of some of our proposals then please visit our website. Wonder at the interior of this building and how behind that 1930s façade it is sitting empty on our High Street.

There is no need for demolition. There are viable alternative uses provided there is the will and imagination to **take them to fruition. It's easy**



All this Art Deco Historic England listed interior could be demolished and lost forever for 'over 55's apartments' and a car park.

to come up with reasons **why something can't be done**. Now is the time to prove them wrong and like the Clock Tower, this building can be brought back to life.

Rob Sutton. Chair.  
Harborne Royalty Trust

Sadly there have been a number of break-ins at the Royalty. We have taken the initiative and opened discussions with a national security company on what needs to be done to properly secure it. If you see any suspicious activity please contact the Police.

Below is the 2nd floor foyer with Art Deco stained glass doors, domed ceiling and fireplace.



### Trust Applies for LIF Grant

The Trust has an application in process with Birmingham City Council Local Innovation Fund. If we are successful, the funds will enable us to expand on our public consultation, obtain further heritage advice, promote ideas for the restoration and support the

legal advice to draw up agreements. Bringing this building back to life, creating 40-60 new jobs and acting as a catalyst for increased business on the High Street is truly an example of local innovation.

## The Royalty Trust Website

So what is the Royalty Cinema like inside? Googling 'Royalty Harborne' quickly brought up many images of the Art Deco interior. It's clear why the building has been listed. We are very grateful to the 'urban explorers' whose pictures have brought to public notice this hidden gem.

On our website are links to similar projects which have been successfully brought back to life and are now thriving as venues. These include 'The Deco' in Northampton and the Stockton Globe theatre.

Think for a moment what a resurrected Royalty could contribute to Harborne. We have lost the Clock Tower but we have gained Moor Pool - a fantastic example of community success. Now we need to build on the High Street itself and bring jobs and investment to Harborne. The community can have a say but only if you speak up



## SUPPORT THE ROYALTY TRUST

**Would you like to help us as we take this project forward? Have you a 'Can do' attitude?**

Are you interested in cinema, or public space and want to see it thrive in Harborne?

Would you like to be part of bringing this building back to life? Or would you like to help us investigate and promote the history of the Royalty and cinema history in general? If you do and would like to know more then please contact the Trust at [chair@theroyaltyharborne.co.uk](mailto:chair@theroyaltyharborne.co.uk)

There are many ways to help, from being a supporter, delivering newsletters like these, advising the Committee, to joining the Committee and many more.

## HRT PRE-PLANNING APPLICATION

The Trust, working with our commercial partner and eminent architects with expertise in listed buildings, have submitted a pre application to Birmingham City Council. This **has been very positively received with the comment 'The City Council support the retention and reuse of the existing building, such a scheme would receive the wholehearted support of the LPA'. These plans have been endorsed by the Conservation panel and also Historic England, whose comment was 'Your plans are to renovate the building for a new cinema use. We welcome this proposal and we consider it an excellent approach to preserving the historic fabric and architectural forms and to finding a sustainable use for the building'. The plans will return a building with 3 cinema screens, restaurant, cafeteria and community rooms.**

## TRUST TO MAKE OFFER FOR ROYALTY

**The Trust has contacted the vendor's agent and made a firm expression of interest.** The Trust now wants to have the opportunity to make a conditional offer. Anticipated conditions would be planning permission and grant funding. Our partner will commit substantial funding to the restoration and fit out, but the costs of putting right the many years of neglect are going to be substantial. We are in continuing dialogue with the Planning Officer dealing with the property and remain ready to engage in discussions with the current owner as to how we can move forward to the next stage.



## ROYALTY STORIES

Already many anecdotes concerning the Royalty Cinema have been passed to us. Did you work there or go there to watch the pictures or play Bingo in its later years? Do you have any photographs or items connected with it? Do you have knowledge of cinema projection or have worked in the cinema business? Anything you could contribute could be of historical interest, not just for the Royalty, but local and cinema history in general. There are examples of some of the films shown on the website which may stir memories.



## TRUST STEERING COMMITTEE

The Trust steering committee comprises:  
Rob Sutton. Former Chair of the Moor Pool Heritage Trust.

Adam Fraise.  
Bob Boucher.  
Rachael Magson.  
Simon Coghlan.  
Steve Potter.

We are also grateful to the various individuals and companies who are providing support including Paul Mountain, Trowers Hamblins and Greenwoods Projects.