

HARBORNE ROYALTY TRUST NEWS

Published by the HARBORNE ROYALTY TRUST steering committee.

In this issue

- *Trust makes offer for Royalty.*
- *Trust Awarded LIF Grant.*
- *Royalty Stories.*
- *Trust Gives Talk to U3A.*
- *New Board Members for The Royalty Trust*

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“When looking for a challenge, look for a way, not a way out”.

David Weatherford



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TRUST MAKES OFFER FOR THE ROYALTY

Dear Reader,

The Trust continues to pursue the goal of owning and restoring the Royalty Cinema and has put an offer to the owner. The sooner we can conclude a deal the better to put this Harborne asset back into use. If you would like to see details of some of our proposals or find out more about this local asset then please visit our website. The restoration funding will come substantially from our commercial partner and an HLF Enterprise Grant application, if successful. Community space is part of the vision but we continue to look at ways this can be expanded. We lost the Clock Tower community space so there is a real shortage on Harborne High St now. This is a £6m investment in our High St that we all need to get behind. It will rejuvenate the West End and provide jobs and a boost to our local economy.

Rob Sutton. Chair. Harborne Royalty Trust

chair@theroyaltyharborne.co.uk

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.

Trust Awarded LIF Grant

The Trust has been awarded a £5,000 grant by Birmingham City Councils Local Innovation Fund. 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 by investing £6-7 million, creating 40-60 new jobs

and acting as a catalyst for increased business on the High Street is truly an example of local innovation. We were extremely pleased by the resounding support given to the proposal at the recent Ward meeting by members of the public and by our local Councillors, Jayne Francis, James McKay and John Alden.



Over the last 18 months a lot of work has been going on behind the scenes by our volunteer steering committee, supporters and commercial partner culminating in an offer to the current owner. We are buoyed by the overwhelming support for this project from the public. Perplexingly there are those who for whatever reason still prefer to see this building demolished and transported away to landfill rather than get behind this project so that the Royalty can again serve the people of Harborne.



Below is the imposing frontage of the Royalty seen from Harborne High Street.

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.

Planning permission has been granted for a car wash on the Royalty car park. The planning condition states this car wash has to be removed by 15.6.2020 and ceases if the Royalty building is re-occupied or in our case brought back into operation.



Not easy to see in this picture but the entrance Foyer features a decorative mosaic floor. We are barred from using any of our own interior pictures so we are very grateful to all those who have supplied those we feature.



NEW BOARD MEMBERS JOIN THE ROYALTY TRUST

The Board are pleased to welcome 2 new Board members, expanding our skill base still further. Katy Ross is a chartered accountant with a leading top 4 accountancy firm. Lizzie Hayes works for a local authority as Strategic Investment Manager; managing grants programmes working within the Community Investment and Partnerships team, supporting charitable and voluntary organisations to grow and thrive and enabling them to become sustainable community resources.

There are many ways to help the Trust, from being a supporter, delivering newsletters like these, advising the Committee, to joining the Committee itself and many more. If you would like to know more, then please contact the Trust at: chair@theroyaltyharborne.co.uk

HRT SEEKS ADVICE TO SECURE THE ROYALTY BUILDING

The poor security measures being taken have resulted in continued acts of vandalism. Although not our responsibility, HRT have consulted with security experts on what needs to be done to properly secure this building and have forwarded details to the planning department and owner. We supported the return of the car wash, provided income was used to protect the building. Recently, piles of bricks were left after the demolition of a wall which would provide ready ammunition for further acts of vandalism. We are working closely with officials to protect the Royalty whilst our offer is being considered.

ROYALTY STORIES

We are meeting many people with memories of the Royalty and a few that worked there too. Please get in touch if you have a story to tell. These are stories about happy times seeing films, meeting people or technical information on the building and how it was operated. These stories and memories will be important for the future once the building has been restored.

TRUST GIVES TALK TO U3A

The Trust was invited to give a talk to U3A group at Quinborne Community Centre. Around 36 members attended the talk. Rob Sutton showed pictures of the building and talked about its history and the Trust's plans for the future. The audience asked many questions and were generally taken with the wonderful interior of this local building. Rob asked for any memories or anecdotes to be passed on as these will form an important part of detailing the building's history. If you would like The Trust to come and talk to your group about the Royalty, please get in touch.



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.
- Katie Ross.
- Lizzie Hayes

We are also grateful to the various individuals and companies who are providing support, including Paul Mountain, Trowers Hamlins and Greenwoods Projects, and those who have offered help when we are ready in the future.