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Next issue: Thu 5th June
Deadline: 10am, Wed 4th June

Tue 3rd - Wed 4th June 2008 (7th week)

WHAT'S ON / COMING SOON

oxford SAID BUSINESS SCHOOL — Green Templeton College, University of Oxford

The 2008 Oxford Leadership Prize

"What aspects of leadership in the 21st century can contribute most towards a global ambition of 'improving health and saving lives'?"

Prize: £3,500

Two further awards of £1,000 for highly commended entrants

Closing Dates: Registration 30 June 2008 | Submission 12 October 2008

- *Are you under 30 and connected to the University? (undergraduate, postgraduate, alumni, faculty or staff)*
- *Whatever your field, interests or experience – do you have innovative ideas about how leadership can help address this ambition?*
- *Can you make your case effectively – both in the format of your choice and in person – to distinguished leaders, thinkers and practitioners in the field?*

See www.oxfordleadershipprize.org for details of previous competitions

For full details and Registration Form, email: Dr Marshall Young: leadership-prize@sbs.ox.ac.uk

GIFFORDS CIRCUS
Special Charity Performance for CHILDHOPE

The Village Green, Stadhampton, Saturday 14th June
Picnic: 1.30pm, Performance: 3pm
Adults £22, Students £16, Children (3-16) £12
Call Tim on 0207 065 0967 to book tickets.
www.childhope.org.uk

FOOD AND DRINK

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BANDS, MUSICIANS & KIT

BANDS, DISCOS, KARAOKE. Equipment hire from ODS. (01865) 736660.

DISCOS, KARAOKES AND Equipment Hire - Dave Seamer Entertainments: (01865) 240054.

DISCO, PA, AND Lighting Equipment – hire and sales. 118 Cowley Road. 01865 722027

GUITAR AND BASS TUITION from experienced musician. Most styles taught (electric and acoustic), all levels, beginners welcome. Based in Jericho. £20 per hour. Jjdoole@googlemail.com

GIGS

Tue 3rd

BAT FOR LASHES / 7pm, £9 adv / Zodiac @ Carling Academy Oxford, 190 Cowley Rd, OX4 1UE; Tel: Box Office: 0844 477 2000 / Info: 0905 020 3999 (25p/min)

HOWARD PEACOCK QUINTET / Live jazz plus DJs playing r'n'b, funk and soul / 8pm. Free / Bullingdon Arms, 162 Cowley Road; Tel: 244516

BIG BANG TUESDAY JAZZ NIGHT / 8pm / £15 for 2 course dinner & jazz / www.thebigbangrestaurants.co.uk / 01865 511441 / 124 Walton St

ADAM WALDMANN QUINTET / Exciting contemporary jazz from some of Britain's finest young talents / Followed by Funk & Soul DJ / 8.30pm + DJ til 3am! £5/3. / www.myspace.com/adamwaldmann / Thirst Lodge, Penny Farthing Lane, St Ebbes, OX1 1QF

HAMMER & TONGUE / Special guests Steve Larkin & Jonny Fluffy Punk /8-11pm £5 / £4 / www.hammerandtongue.co.uk / 01865 200550 / Vaults & Garden Organic Café, University Church, Radcliffe Sq

Wed 4th

JUJU FISH, BROOKS WEST, JOE ALLEN & ANGHARD JENKINS / Raise money for water pumps in Africa / Port Mahon, St. Clement's

OPEN MIC / 8pm Free / Temple Bar, 21 Temple St, Cowley; Tel: 01865 243251

PONT MUSIC – OPEN MIKE / Acoustic Night. No amplifiers, just fun. / 8ish. Free / Guyz!StrangeVintage.co.uk / Folly Bridge Inn, Abingdon Rd; Tel: 01865 790106

BLACK POWDER, DESERT STORM, TWAT DADDIES / Local metal / 8pm. £4 / Wheatsheaf, Wheatsheaf Alley, 129 High St, OX1 4DP; Tel: 01865 721156

CINEMA to Thu 5th June

Odeon Magdalen St (0871 2244 007)

INDIANA JONES & THE KINGDOM OF THE CRYSTAL SKULL [12A]
Harrison Ford sets off once more. **daily: 2.30, 5.30, 8.30pm**

WHAT HAPPENS IN VEGAS [12A] Mon, Wed & Thu: 3.30, 9.00pm
A couple wake up married and wealthy. Tue: 3.30pm

THE ORPHANAGE [15] Tue: 9.00pm
Laura's family return to the scene of her youth.

Odeon George St (0871 2244 007)

SEX AND THE CITY [15]
daily: 12.00, 1.00, 2.00, 3.15, 4.15, 5.15, 6.30, 7.30, 8.30pm
Will Carrie marry?

INDIANA JONES & THE KINGDOM OF THE CRYSTAL SKULL [12A]
Harrison Ford sets off once more. **Mon & Tue: 11.45am, 12.45, 1.45, 3.00, 4.00, 5.00, 6.00, 7.00, 8.00, 9.00pm**

NIM'S ISLAND [U] Mon & Tue, Thu: 11.30am
Fiction and reality blend in fantasy adventure.

SENIOR SCREEN: LOVE IN THE TIME OF CHOLERA [15] Wed: 10.45am
A man waits over fifty years for his one true love.

Ultimate Picture Palace (245288)

MY BROTHER IS AN ONLY CHILD [15] Tue: 8.30pm
Politically opposed Italian brothers. Thu: 6.00pm

BREAKFAST AT TIFFANY'S [PG] Tue: 6.00pm
Classic romantic comedy. Wed & Thu: 8.30pm

THE WICKER MAN [15] Mon: 10.30pm; Thu: 4.00, 11.00pm
Horror classic. The original version.

PLANET OF THE APES [PG] Mon: 8.00pm
Charlton Heston tribute.

WE ARE TOGETHER [12A] Wed: 6.00pm
Life-affirming story of musical orphanage.

Phoenix Picture House (0870 758 3218)

SEX AND THE CITY [15] Mon & Tue, Thu: 12.15, 3.15, 6.15, 9.15pm Wed: 3.15, 6.15, 9.15pm
The film of the series.

INDIANA JONES AND THE KINGDOM OF THE CRYSTAL SKULL [12A]
Harrison Ford sets off once more. **Mon - Thu: 12.00, 3.00, 6.00, 9.00pm**

BIG SCREAM: SEX AND THE CITY [15] Wed: 11.30am
Will Carrie marry? For parents with children under one.

Vue Cinema (08712 240 240)

IRON MAN [12A] Mon - Thu: 2.15, 5.15, 8.15pm
Arms dealer becomes superhero.

WELCOME HOME ROSCOE JENKINS [12A] daily: 3.15pm
City star goes home to the country.

SEX AND THE CITY [15]
Will Carrie marry? **Mon - Thu: 1.00, 2.30, 4.00, 6.00, 7.30, 9.15pm**

INDIANA JONES & THE KINGDOM OF THE CRYSTAL SKULL [12A]
Mon - Thu: 12.30, 1.15, 2.00, 2.45, 3.30, 4.15, 5.00, 5.45, 6.30, 7.15, 8.00, 8.45, 9.30pm
Harrison Ford sets off once more.

NIM'S ISLAND [U] Wed & Thu: 12.45pm
Fiction and reality blend in fantasy adventure.

WHAT HAPPENS IN VEGAS [12A]
A couple wake up married and wealthy. **Mon - Thu: 1.45, 4.30, 6.45, 9.00pm**

SENIORS CLUB: PENELOPE [U] Tue: 12.00pm
Girl with pig nose seeks romance.

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FOOD REVIEW

Yo! Sushi, 73 - 75 George St, OX1 2BQ.

Opened May 08, Opening hours: Mon-Sat: 12-11pm, Sun: 12noon-10.30pm.

Yum! Sushi, more like! Mmm. Enter the world of space-age hi-tech dining, where tasty dishes - each encapsulated in their own plastic bubble - creep temptingly and ceaselessly towards you along the table-side conveyor belt encircling the open plan kitchen. Just grab what you want before it escapes you (don't worry, it'll come round again); the colour coded platter indicates the price of your item, so you can keep an eye on your spend as you go along. On each table are taps for fizzy and still water; £1 per glass, but endless refills. (Help yourself to the upturned glasses on the table; they will be counted along with your coloured plates when your waiter/waitress tallies up for your bill.) The endless refill policy also applies to condiments (ginger slices, wasabi, soy), green tea and miso soup.

If what you want from the menu isn't on the belt, press the button on the table to set off the flashing light that attracts a member of staff, and order it - it will be prepared and with you in minutes. Highlights include working out what the washing-machine-like device in the kitchen is (no prizes); gawping at the mushroom-shaped lanterns suspended from the silver-foil-covered ceiling; trying to determine what the occasional robot-voiced announcements were (I still haven't); watching huge rolls of seed-covered rice being turned into little neat rolls of sushi, and trying to take in all the weird glory of the Japan/Oxford mural that you encounter en route to the loos. Oh - and the handdryers. I was only slightly disappointed that the loo itself didn't play me a tune.

The only slight disadvantages of this wondrous place are as follows. Beer is very expensive (£3.50 for a 330ml Asahi); parties of bigger than 6 can't really be accommodated as they won't fit in the belt-side booths (our party of 8, 3 of whom were children, had trouble); and your table can become very cluttered with plastic crockery debris (as it can't be cleared until you're ready to pay).

And finally: to the food. I wouldn't say I'm a sushi expert, but I have eaten a fair bit of it in several different locations now (none of them Japan), and I know what I like! The plates on offer range from £1.70 to £5, and I didn't try a £5 plate, preferring to fit in more of the cheaper choices. The eel was delicious, but then it usually is (!); the katsu prawn and edamame went down well with the kids (as did the chocolate desserts), and the pumpkin korroke (croquettes) were a new one on me - and very tasty, though I preferred to save myself for some more eel. In all the excitement though I forgot to order any of the seaweed cone items I usually adore, so I clearly need to go back, almost immediately. To hell with the expense. Which, in the end, wasn't massive - the bill was just £15/head, and you'd be hard-pressed to eat so well anywhere else in town for less.

FishFace, 30/05/08

THEATRE PREVIEW

The Last Five Years

OFS, Tue 3rd - Sat 7th June

The Last Five Years tells the story of a troubled relationship between Jewish novelist Jamie Wellerstein and struggling actress Cathy Hiatt. The added twist to the narrative is that the two characters start and end the musical from opposite ends of the five-year timeline, so whilst one re-lives the last five years in a forwards direction, the other does so in reverse. This makes for some very poignant juxtapositions as moments of sorrow and hope come together in song.

The piece is musically interesting, set to a pleasantly edgy score for piano and strings (composed by Jason Robert Brown), and it provides a challenging task for Maple Giant. The company pulls it off, however - the cast are confident and assertive, both singers being more than able to carry the numbers, and the writing for just two lead parts fits in naturally with the company's minimalist aesthetic. The characterisations particularly come to life as Jamie (Luke Daking) and Cathy (Rachel Parris) meet in duet. The actors taunt each other with sarcasm and capture the unease in the relationship as well as the infatuation, and it is this dialectic which provides the driving force for the story.

Pianist Peter Wilson deserves a special mention for his confident handling of a challenging piano part. Having only been to a six-song press preview it will be interesting to see how the momentum is maintained through a full-length showing with just the two characters, but the mixture of comedy and pathos is well balanced to maintain interest and it looks to be a musical well worth seeing.

James Rome

THEATRE to Sat 7th June

Oxford Playhouse (305305)

THE ENGLISH GAME BY RICHARD BEAN Tue 3rd-7.30pm
Wed 4th: 7.30pm, Thu 5th, Sat 7th: 2.30, 7.30pm, Fri 6th: 8pm
Dazzling new play exploring the modern British psyche through cricket. £10.50-£23.50

Carsington Opera (361636)

L'INCORONAZIONE DI DARIO Wed 4th: 6.05pm
Vivaldi - British premiere. £80-£135

COSI FAN TUTTE Sat 7th: 5.35pm
Mozart revival. £80-£135

Unicorn Theatre, Abingdon

ODN DRAMA FESTIVAL Mon 2nd - Sat 7th: 7.30pm
A Festival of one-act plays by groups from all over Oxfordshire. £5 per night

OFS Studio (297170)

THE LAST 5 YEARS Tue 3rd - Fri 6th: 8pm Sat 7th: 2.30pm, 8pm
Contemporary musical chronicling a couple's romance: his story starts at the beginning, hers at the end. £9 / £7.

O'Reilly Theatre, Keble College

THE AGE OF ANXIETY Wed 4th - Sat 7th, 7.30pm
World premiere of Auden's pulitzer prize winning text. £5

New Theatre, Oxford (0870 6063500)

JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT
Mon 2nd: 7.30pm; Tue 3rd & Wed 4th: 2.30pm, 7.30pm
Thu 5th: 2.30pm, 7.30pm, Fri 6th: 5pm, 8pm ; Sat 7th: 2, 5 & 8pm
Starring Craig Chalmers. £11-£24.50

Oxford & Cherwell Valley College - City Centre Campus (550550)

OH! WHAT A LOVELY WAR Wed 4th & Thu 5th: 7pm
OCVC's BTEC Performing Arts students' present this provocative favourite. £5/£2.50

Burton Taylor Studio (305305)

AN ENGLISHMAN ABROAD Tue 3rd - Sat 7th: 7.30pm
By Alan Bennett. Can we feel sorry for Guy Burgess, nostalgic spy? £6/£5

Worcester College (278300)

THE TEMPEST Tue 3rd - Fri 6th: 7.30pm, Sat 7th: 2.30pm
In the gardens by the lake. NB audience will be required to stand / move around for much of the play. £8/£5

The Theatre At Headington (759138)

BREATHING CORPSES Fri 6th: 7.30pm
Three corpses, and their descendants, are strangely linked... £6/£4.50

CONCERTS

Tue 3rd

ORGAN RECITAL: ROBIN JACKSON / Tea and coffee available. / 1 - 2pm, £2.50 / 01865 252195 / Oxford Town Hall, 109-113 St Aldate's

Wed 4th

LUNCHTIME ORGAN RECITAL / Nicholas Prozzillo (Brasenose College) / 1.10 pm Retiring Collection / www.queens.ox.ac.uk / 01865 279120 / Queen's College Chapel, High St; Tel: 279194

FOOD AND DRINK

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Monday afternoon, 2.00 - 3.30pm. £4.50
Wednesday evening, 7.00 - 8.30pm. £5
Full details: **www.cfq.org.uk**

LOST & FOUND

THANKS FOR HANDING IN MY KEYS to agents, Jericho.

LOST: DRIVING LICENCE PHOTOCARD. Stutt, send to Wolfson College.

OLD GOLD EARRING lost December at Tesco Cowley. reward. elizabethcoulter8979@tiscali.co.uk

MEETINGS AND LECTURES

Tue 3rd

NURSE AS SPIRITUAL PROVIDER: USING WHOSE WISDOM? / Professor Peter Nolan & Malcolm Rae / 5.30pm / Regent's Park Coll, Pusey St; Tel: 280361

GO / BADUK / WEIQI / Oriental board-game: play or watch! Free. 7pm / www.britgo.org/clubs/oxford_.html / 01865 248775 / 273928 / Freud's, Walton St

DEUTSCHSPRACHIGER STAMMTISCH / speak German, play games and go on outings. All welcome. / 8:30pm, Free / deutscherstammtisch@yahoo.co.uk / Anchor Inn (corner Kingston Rd/Polstead Rd)

MUSIC IN THE AGE OF MASS DISTRIBUTION: REFLECTING ON WALTER BENJAMIN IN THE EARLY TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY / Timothy Benjamin / 5.15pm. Free / Denis Arnold Hall, Faculty of Music, St Aldates; Tel: 01865 276141

ANGLO-NORMAN, THE AND, AND THE OED / Prof David Trotter, Aberystwyth University / 5pm. Free / Rewley Ho, 1, Wellington Sq; Tel: 270380

RICHARD DOLL SEMINAR IN PUBLIC HEALTH AND EPIDEMIOLOGY / Prof Harry Hemingway, University College London Medical School / 1-2pm / Richard Doll Building, Old Rd Campus, Headington, OX3 7LF

FAKES, FORGERIES & OTHER DECEPTIONS / Prof Samuel Sachs ABC. Followed by drinks. / 6pm / Harris Building Lecture Theatre, Oriel College

WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE? / Six realms of existence. / £5 / www.longchenfoundation.com / 01865 725569 / Friends' Meeting Ho, 43 St Giles

Wed 4th

FROM THE FASTOLF MASTER TO JAN VAN HOGSPEUW: THE POETIC IMPORTANCE OF PHILIP LARKIN'S PICTURE POSTCARDS / Dr Christopher Fletcher, Head of Western Manuscripts, Bodleian Library / 1pm Free / Sheldonian Theatre, Broad St; Tel: 305305

PROF S ZIPPERSTEIN: ISAAC ROSENFELD, SAUL BELLOW AND THEN Y...JEWISH INTELLECTUALS / 8pm Free / www.ochjs.ac.uk / Yarnton Manor, Yarnton, Oxford OX5 1PY; Tel: 377946

BUDDHIST MEDITATION / 7pm / www.dwbuk.org / 07972 793066 / North Oxford Association, Diamond Pl, Summertown, OX2 7DP

COLOURFUL CHEMISTRY & MATHS / £3, Friends free / www.sciencexfound.com / Science Oxford, 1-3 London Pl, St Clements; Tel: 01865 728953

OXFORD ASIAN TEXTILE GROUP / Natural Dye Project in Wangden Valley, Tibet / 5.45pm £2 / www.oatg.org.uk / 01491 873276 / Pauling Centre for Human Sciences, 58, Banbury Rd (rear)

GEOPOLITICS OF ENERGY / Liquefied Natural Gas / 5pm, free / www.oxfordenergy.org/seminars.php / 01865 889123 / St Antony's Coll, Woodstock Rd

ANTHOLOGY & WEBSITE LAUNCH / 7.30pm / http://thewritersloungexsquarespace.com / Jericho Tavern, 56 Walton St.; Tel: 311775

VIGIL - TIANANMEN 19 YEARS ON / Oxford Amnesty silent vigil in support of Tiananmen Mothers / 6.45pm / snbarnard@gmail.co.uk / Martyrs' Memorial

HOUSES & FLATS TO LET

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Juxon Street, Jericho

Newly refurbished three/four bedroom Victorian terrace house. Sitting room, dining room/bedroom four, open plan kitchen, breakfast room, three further bedrooms, two bathrooms. Can be furnished or unfurnished. Rent £2100 pcm exclusive of utilities.

For viewings please call Rachel at Lucy Properties: 559973

Studio Flats, Juxon Street, Jericho

Three studio flats available in popular location from early/mid May for six months plus. Comprises sitting room/bedroom, kitchen, bathroom. Can be furnished or unfurnished. Rent £695 pcm exclusive of utilities.

For viewings please call Rachel at Lucy Properties: 559973

Iffley Road, Central East Oxford

Spacious six bedroom house, five doubles and one single. Three kitchens, living room, shower room and two w.c.s. Four of the rooms have own shower cubicles. Ideal for students. For viewings please contact Sarah. Rent £2400 exclusive of utilities. Available end September for twelve months.

For viewings please contact Sarah at Lucy Properties: 559973

GREAT HASELEY:
Spacious detached stone farmhouse.

Unfurnished (with white goods). 4 bedrooms; oil central heating; garage; garden. Suit professional couple or sharers (*sorry - no children or dogs*). Oxford 10 miles; convenient M40. **Available NOW. £800 pcm.**

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MUAY THAI BOXING comes to Oxford. Call 07886 288285, Stephanie for more information.

GUY 34: MY SPANISH for your English, kippezbm@hotmail.com

NEW TO OXFORD, would like to meet some friends to hang out with in their 30's. tamara40@btinternet.com

I AM FROM POLAND and came to Oxford 3 months ago. Need friend. 07900 587856.

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MONDAY-FRIDAY. AVAILABLE room in house, Islip village. £235 inc. pip.whitb@talktalk.net

EAST OXFORD (HOWARD STREET). Furnished double room. Now – August 9. Share house with a professional female. Suit professional / post grad. female, n-s. Victorian terrace, wood floors, living room, kitchen (with appliances) & wi-fi. £395 pcm including bills, GCH. Phone 07904 611694. manuela10@btinternet.com

IFFLEY ROAD: LARGE sunny double in clean upmarket house. Non-smoking professional. £422 inc. 01869 350372.

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DIDCOT: SINGLE, FURNISHED, £70 pw inclusive, parking, smoking outside, only 15 minutes walk from station, shared lounge, kitchen and bathroom. affmeyer@cds.caltech.edu

GRANDPONT, SINGLE ROOM in house shared with three friendly professionals near Hinksey Park/pool, £340pcm, 07962 971257 / williamjbooth@yahoo.co.uk

LARGE ROOM, IDYLLIC cottage, Oxford 5 miles, M40/A40 jct8, own shower, secure parking, £385 inc, 01865 873054 / 07963 442431

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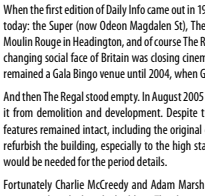
FEATURE: THE MANY LIVES OF THE REGAL

The Regal opened in April 1937, as a cinema for the residents of East Oxford. It was not the first cinema in Oxford, or even in East Oxford - The Picture Palace opened in 1911, but closed again in 1918, before the first of the talkies. Cinema-goers in the intervening period would have had to go to the town centre or Headington. The Regal made East Oxford cinematically self-sufficient again and was hailed as evidence of Oxford's prosperity. At this stage it must have stood on the outskirts of the town much as the VUE cinema out on Grenoble Road does today.

Cinema specialist Robert Cromie, who was a prolific architect in the 1930's, designed the building. As well as the Regal he built the Prince of Wales Theatre, the Hammersmith Apollo and the Odeon, George St (then called The Ritz). All were very much in the Art Deco mould, with solid exteriors and well-designed, highly decorated interiors, bringing cruise ship opulence to the masses.



To begin with it had a cinema organ, though this was later sold off to a cinema in Keighley. The talkies arrived in 1927 but all films were still black and white, until the advent of glorious Technicolor in the mid 50's. Around that time the ABC Minors showed films to up to 2000 minimally supervised children every Saturday morning. Fortunately the films held the young audience spellbound and this set up was not the recipe for disaster it might be today. Children paid 6d entrance, though apparently if one of your gang made a legitimate entrance they could let the rest in at the fire escape, making the venture much cheaper!

Maggie Jones' love of cinema started with Saturday mornings at the Regal. She remembers running all the way from the bus stop, eager for the fun and escapism to start. During the early 60's she watched a lot of B movies: "We would watch cliff hanger serials, mainly cowboy films and sci fi. I remember seeing Robert Vaughn pre *Man from Uncle* fame in a B movie about life in the future where the world has gone back to living in caves and Robert Vaughn finds a book with pictures of sky scrapers in it.

"At the beginning of every perfomance we would all sing the ABC anthem which was *We are the ABC minors* and it was 'sung' to the tune of *Bits and Pieces* by the Dave Clark Five. A film of the group playing was always shown as we sang. We would all stamp our feet in time to the music. The noise was awful. In the foyer was an easel and board stuck with enamel badges which were triangular shaped and had 'ABC minors' written on them. I think they cost about 6d each. I used to stare at them for ages because I thought they were beautiful!"

When the first edition of Daily Info came out in 1964, its cinema listings included several names you would not see there today: the Super (now Odeon Magdalen St), The Scala in North Oxford which specialised in old and foreign films, the Moulin Rouge in Headington, and of course The Regal, which was showing *War Of The Trojans*. By 1970 the rise of TV and changing social face of Britain was closing cinemas all over the place, and The Regal became a bingo hall that June. It remained a Gala Bingo venue until 2004, when Gala moved to the Ozone Leisure Park, where the VUE cinema joined it.

And then The Regal stood empty. In August 2005 it was designated a Grade II Listed building by English Heritage, saving it from demolition and development. Despite the passage of time and Gala Bingo's residency many of the original features remained intact, including the original cinema seating on the balcony. It was going to take a lot of money to refurbish the building, especially to the high standard stipulated for a listed building, and a lot of preservation work would be needed for the period details.

Fortunately Charlie McCreedy and Adam Marsh were up for the challenge, and over the next few years they raised money and worked on the building. They have refused to say how much the refurbishment has cost, but the grapevine suggests a figure in the region of half a million pounds. Entertainment licenses also proved problematic, but they have persevered. There is still work to be done, but The Regal is now open for business once again.

And it's not just music. McCreedy and Marsh have always said they wanted activities to suit everyone: from club nights and live music to film screenings (using those original 1930's chairs), dance classes and even a coffee morning! There are already a lot of music venues in Oxford, but a programme like this should ensure that everyone in the community benefits from The Regal, and with support from all ages that might give them the edge.

The Elite Room opened in March this year, with live music and DJs, and the Great Room followed at the end of April. Altogether there are four bar and dance areas with a combined capacity of over 1000 people. While the Great Room is the main venue particularly for live music (approximate capacity 850) the Elite Room functions like a separate bar, and can host smaller events at the same time. Corporate and private functions are encouraged to book out these rooms, and the versatile different spaces suit any size of party.

It's still early days for the latest Regal, the "Old Lady of Cowley Road", who seems to have more lives than a cat. But already there's an impressive array of events and musicians lined up. She seems to have settled back into her role as if she'd never left. Who knows where she may head in the future, but for now we say good luck to The Regal, and all who sail in her.

Jen Pawsey