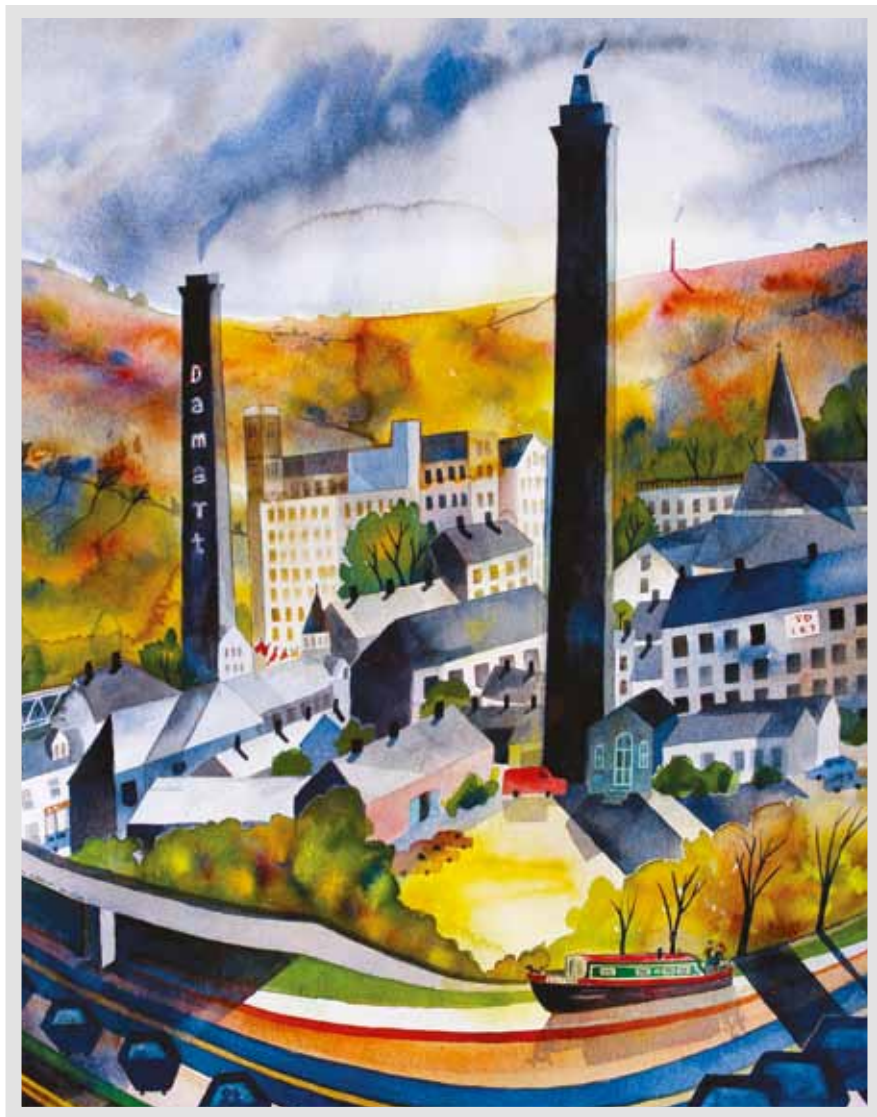


BINGLEY

A LIVING HISTORY



ALAN CATTELL

Longbottom's Smithy

One of Bingley's iconic buildings in the 18th and 19th centuries was known as Longbottom's Smithy, where at least four generations of the Longbottom family operated as blacksmiths over a period of 250-plus years. It was sited opposite the Strand area on Main Street described on page 49.

Records from June, 1864, show that Robert and Lucy Longbottom and their family lived in the premises, which they rented as a house and shed from the owner, William Ferrand, at a rateable value of £5/10 shillings. Later records show the smithy being rented from Mr Ferrand for £12 per year which was paid annually at the Brown Cow pub, where a free meal was provided.

In 1912 the smithy was demolished to make way for the first dedicated cinema in Bingley, the Hippodrome which opened in 1913. The history of cinema in Bingley and the eventual use of the site are covered on pages 106-111.



1894 Smithy.



1895 Lower Main Street.



1900 Smithy.



1910.



1911.



1912.



1913 Smithy, prior to demolition.



1915 Hippodrome Cinema.



1950s Hippodrome.



Woolworths, on old Hippodrome site.



2016 Car park on Woolworths site.

BINGLEY'S LOST CINEMAS - WHAT HAPPENED TO THEM?



Smithy, prior to demolition in 1913.

Introduction

The first regular cinema recorded in Bingley was in a building behind the market in Main Street and later (circa 1907) came shows in the Victoria Hall and in the Co-operative Assembly Rooms.

Between 1911 and 1922 Picture Palaces as they were originally known opened in Bingley, Baildon, Keighley, Shipley and Saltaire and were to provide entertainment to all age groups over the next 50 years.

This chapter traces the history of the two main cinemas in Bingley from opening to closure to establish what happened to them.

Memories

A couple of weeks ago I took my youngest son and a friend to “the movies” or as I used to know them, the pictures. Our trip involved

a car journey, a train journey and a walk to see one “movie”, a lot of advertisements and a visit to the bank manager to finance the popcorn! At one time Bingley, like other towns and cities had two main local cinemas serviced by local sweet shops and fish and chip shops. Each was frequented regularly by a local population eager to catch up with the films of the day, sometimes two or three times a week for a minimal charge for circle or stall seats, no mortgage involved!

The main venues in Bingley were:

The Hippodrome Cinema

This was the first main cinema to be built in Bingley which was opened in 1913 on the demolished site of Longbottom’s Blacksmith’s situated on the right of Main Street past the Old Queen Heads Hotel. The photograph heading this chapter shows the Smithy prior to demolition with a sign announcing “Site for Picture Palace - Bingley Hippodrome Ltd”.

The cinema was opened by Michael P. Cryer with a seating capacity of 739 and was eventually the first in Bingley to introduce “talkie” films. In its heyday it had two shows nightly and two changes of film per week.



The Hippodrome in 1915.

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