



Westgate House

The Story of a Building

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by
Graham Roberts

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(second edition)

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www.grahamroberts.photography

Introduction

On Friday 9th September 2016 the new Everyman Cinema in Harrogate, North Yorkshire, opened its doors for the first time. Its opening marked the completion of a major construction project in the town, on an important and prominent site.

With 400 seats and 5 screening rooms across 2 floors, it was the first new cinema in Harrogate for 80 years. The building, officially Westgate House, also provided for 8 restaurants/retail units on the ground floor.

Demolition and then construction of the new building took 20 months.

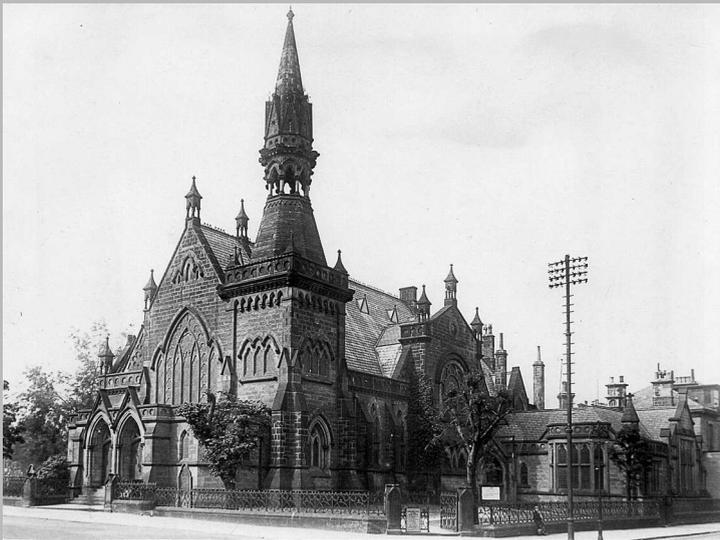
This book is primarily a photographic record of this project from demolition through construction and fitting-out, but in addition it records what went before, at this important Harrogate location.

I hope that the book is not only of interest to those who have been directly associated with the project, but also that it will form a useful historic record.

I would like to thank those, without whose cooperation, this book would not have been possible. They are:

- Harrogate Library, for use of its historic photograph library.
- John Owen, for researching the historic photograph library
- Ian Johnson, Associate Director, Spring and Company Ltd., for guided access to the building under construction.
- Neil Burgoyne, Project Manager, Spring and Company Ltd., for guided access to the building under construction.
- Lucy Sontae, Manager, Everyman Cinema Harrogate, for access to the Everyman Cinema.
- Paul Lancaster, Managing Director, 4Urban Consulting Ltd, for input to the written text.
- Stephanie Burns, Simpson (York) Ltd, for images and information.
- Margaret Roberts, for proof reading, constructive comments and encouragement.
- Johnston Press Plc. for permission to use images of the Harrogate Advertiser (Page 44)
- Historic England, for permission to use historic aerial photographic images (Pages 10,11 & 12)

Graham Roberts
January 2017



Victoria Park Methodist Church

A Story of Three Buildings

There have been 2 buildings on the Station Parade site (5 Albert Street) before the Everyman cinema was built:

Victoria Park Methodist Church (1865-1954) and
The Cooperative Society store (later Beales Department Store) which
was demolished in early 2015.

Victoria Park Methodist Church was the first building on the site, opening in 1865, but eventually, being one of a number of large Methodist churches in the centre of Harrogate, it became surplus to requirements and was demolished in 1954.



Cooperative Society building, later Beales

The Cooperative Society built a new store on the site of the church, which eventually traded as Beales Department Store. It closed in 2014 when the lease ran out. The building was demolished in early 2015 to make way for a new building.



Everyman Cinema

In late 2014, plans were approved to build a 3 storey building with restaurants on the ground floor and a multi-screen cinema on the first and second floors. The Everyman cinema opened on 9th September 2016.

The First Building: Victoria Park Methodist Church

The building of Victoria Park Methodist Church was funded by Richard Ellis, one of the great 19th century figures of Harrogate. So great was his contribution that when he died in 1896, he was nicknamed “The Bismarck of Harrogate.” Said to have been a quiet man of kindly disposition, his entire life was dedicated to the welfare of his fellow citizens.

A staunch Methodist, Ellis played a leading role in establishing the Methodist movement in Harrogate, initially with his support for Salem Chapel on James Street.

Later he provided the land (then valued at £500) and the generous funding for the building of Victoria Park Methodist Church on Station Parade.

The church was built by Messrs. Ellis and Raworth of Harrogate and opened for worship on 17th August 1865, the foundation stone having been laid just twelve months previously. The architect, J. H. Hirst of Bristol created a distinctive Victorian Gothic Style. At the time of opening, the costs had risen from an estimated £3,400 to £4,995 9s 10d but the outstanding debts on the church and nearby Sunday school were paid by Ellis.

Victoria Park Methodist Church was a church of the United Methodist denomination, one of three denominations which later united in 1932 when the future of the church was debated. It was foreseen then that some of the large Methodist churches would decline because of their close proximity. Since then, the residential population around Victoria Park Church had decreased considerably, with many people going to live on the developing outskirts of the town, particularly on Wetherby Road. The congregation at Victoria Park had dwindled, whilst a new church without its own building, but meeting at Woodlands school on Wetherby Road, was flourishing.

The trustees of Victoria Park announced on 14th April 1953 that services at Victoria Park Church would discontinue in August, the building would be sold and the money used to build a new Methodist church in Wetherby Road.

The Victoria Park Methodist Church was de-registered for marriages on 9th September 1953 (as reported in the London Gazette of 11th September 1953) and the church building was acquired by the Cooperative Society and demolished in the early months of 1954

About Richard Ellis

Richard Ellis, born in 1820, was one of several children of a High Harrogate blacksmith who had his forge in Church Square under the shadow of Christ Church. After working as a labourer when very young, he built up a business as a builder based on hard work, honesty and high quality workmanship, and soon became famous locally.

Ellis built much of Victorian Harrogate, including Queen Parade, Victoria Avenue and York Place. He joined the Board of Improvement Commissioners in 1855, and within a very short time became its chairman. He knew that progress depended on investment, but often fought long battles to get his colleagues to agree. At a time when only wealthy land or property owners could vote, and when the rich had several votes, the poor having none, Ellis fought for the “one man, one vote” principle.

He had the new Victoria Baths built in 1871 and founded the Victoria Park company in 1860 to join High and Low Harrogate into one town.

He was the driving force behind other social improvements. Ellis was the inspiration behind the Royal Baths; the purchase for the town, of the Crescent and Spa Rooms estates; he forced through the sewerage treatment scheme; the building of Harrogate's market; he was the driving force for the town's incorporation as a borough; he had founded Ashville College; and the infirmary was endowed generously.



Victoria Park Methodist Church



Richard Ellis

United Methodist Free Church, Victoria Park,
HARROGATE.

OPENING SERVICES.

The above Church will be opened for Divine Worship,

ON THURSDAY, AUGUST 17, 1865,

by the

REV. ENOCH MELLOR, M.A., OF LIVERPOOL.

SERVICE TO COMMENCE AT SIX P.M.

SERMONS WILL ALSO BE PREACHED AS FOLLOWS:

viz.,

On Sunday, Aug. 20,	10-30 a.m. & 6-30 p.m.	Rev. SAMUEL S. BARTON of Manch'er
On Tuesday, Aug. 22	6-30 p.m.	Rev. H. STOWELL BROWN, of Liverpool
On Sunday, Aug 27	10-30 a.m.	Rev. JAMES EVERETT of Sund'r'nd
" "	6-30 p.m.	Rev. GEORGE WARNE, of Leeds.
On Sunday, Sept. 3	10-30 a.m. & 6-30 p.m.	Rev. WILLIAM GRIFFITH, of Derby
On Sunday, Sept. 10	" "	Rev. JOSEPH COLMAN, of Manch'st'r President of the U.M.F. Churches.
On Sunday, Sept. 17	" "	Rev. JOHN MATHER, of Lincoln
On Sunday, Sept. 24	" "	Rev. JOHN MYERS, of York

ON THURSDAY EVENING, SEPT. 21st, THE

REV. JOHN GUTTRIDGE,

of Sheffield,

WILL DELIVER A LECTURE:

Subject: "PATRIOTISM: OR, MY FATHERLAND." Further particulars will be
duly announced.

A Collection will be made at each of these Services on behalf of the New Church.

A LADIES'

BAZAAR OF USEFUL & ORNAMENTAL ARTICLES.

Selected with great care, will be held in the Old Chapel, James Street,
On Tuesday, Aug. 15th, & four following days, to open each Morning
at 10 o'clock. Full particulars will be given in a separate bill.

Leaflet announcing the opening of Victoria Park Church

PLAN OF THE BUILDING

THE NEW CHURCH

Four years ago the Harrogate Methodist Circuit, realising the great and growing need for a Church in the Woodlands district, decided to commence Sunday evening services in Woodlands School. People began to attend the services, which have continued ever since.

HOW IT BEGAN

At the same time a Sunday School was started with the help of experienced teachers, and rapidly attracted children from all over the neighbourhood. At the end of a year the Church and Sunday School were well established, and a Women's Fellowship was formed, together with other week-night meetings which at present are held in members' homes.

With the development of the neighbourhood—Woodlands Methodist Church has grown too—as far as it can without a building of its own. Membership continues to increase, and capable leaders have come forward from new Church members. The Sunday School has 200 children on its registers, and further accommodation is needed.

IT GROWS

It is to meet the growing needs of the neighbourhood and make possible the continued expansion of the Church's work and witness that the new Church Hall has been planned. The Harrogate Council of Christian Congregations has given its full support to this venture of Christian service, and the Church has now firmly established itself in the life of Woodlands.

Woodlands Methodist Church gives you a sincere invitation to worship on Sundays and to join in the week-day meetings.

AN INVITATION

You will find a real welcome, a helpful service, and a warm-hearted Christian Fellowship.

Children will be welcome at the Sunday School, where there are Departments for Beginners, Primary and older scholars.

Architects:
Messrs. JACKSON & CALVERT,
HARROGATE.

Contractors:
Messrs. C. E. MORRIS & SON,
HARROGATE.

Approx. dimensions and Accomodation:

Church Hall	43' x 35'	250
Upstairs Room	33' x 18'	100
Class Rooms	18' x 15'	30
Vestibule	20' x 9'	
Kitchen	14' x 9'	

The Building will occupy a prominent site in the centre of Woodlands.

Leaflet to raise money for the building of a new Methodist church in the Woodlands District of Harrogate

The leaflet above was used to raise money for the building of a new Methodist church to replace Victoria Park. The Methodists had been holding church services in Woodlands school and also ran a Sunday School there with 200 pupils, but were outgrowing it.

The image, above right, is the only known image of the interior of Victoria Park Methodist Church, taken to show the new organ which is believed to have been installed around 1925. The church clearly had a very grand interior.



Victoria Park Church Interior at the installation of the new organ

The Second Building: The Cooperative Society

Early photographs show that the Cooperative Society was originally located on the south side of Albert Street, one building removed (Falshaws) from the church.

The Cooperative Society subsequently bought Falshaws, electrical retailers and engineers, around 1950.

Later they purchased the adjoining Victoria Park Methodist Church which they demolished in 1954 to make way for a new building.

From aerial photographs, it appears that the Sunday school at the rear of the church on Albert Street remained, even when the new Cooperative building was in place but was later demolished to make way for a single storey extension to the new building.

The new Cooperative Society building was named Sunwin House and subsequently Westgate Department Store.

The building was sold by the Anglia Regional Cooperative to 4Urban, a Harrogate property developer, in October 2009, with a leaseback to Anglia Regional Cooperative for a term of 5 years with no prospects of renewal at expiry.

Subsequently the building was sub-leased by Anglia Regional Cooperative to Bournemouth-based Beales department store, who had acquired the Cooperative business operation (but not the freehold) in April 2011.

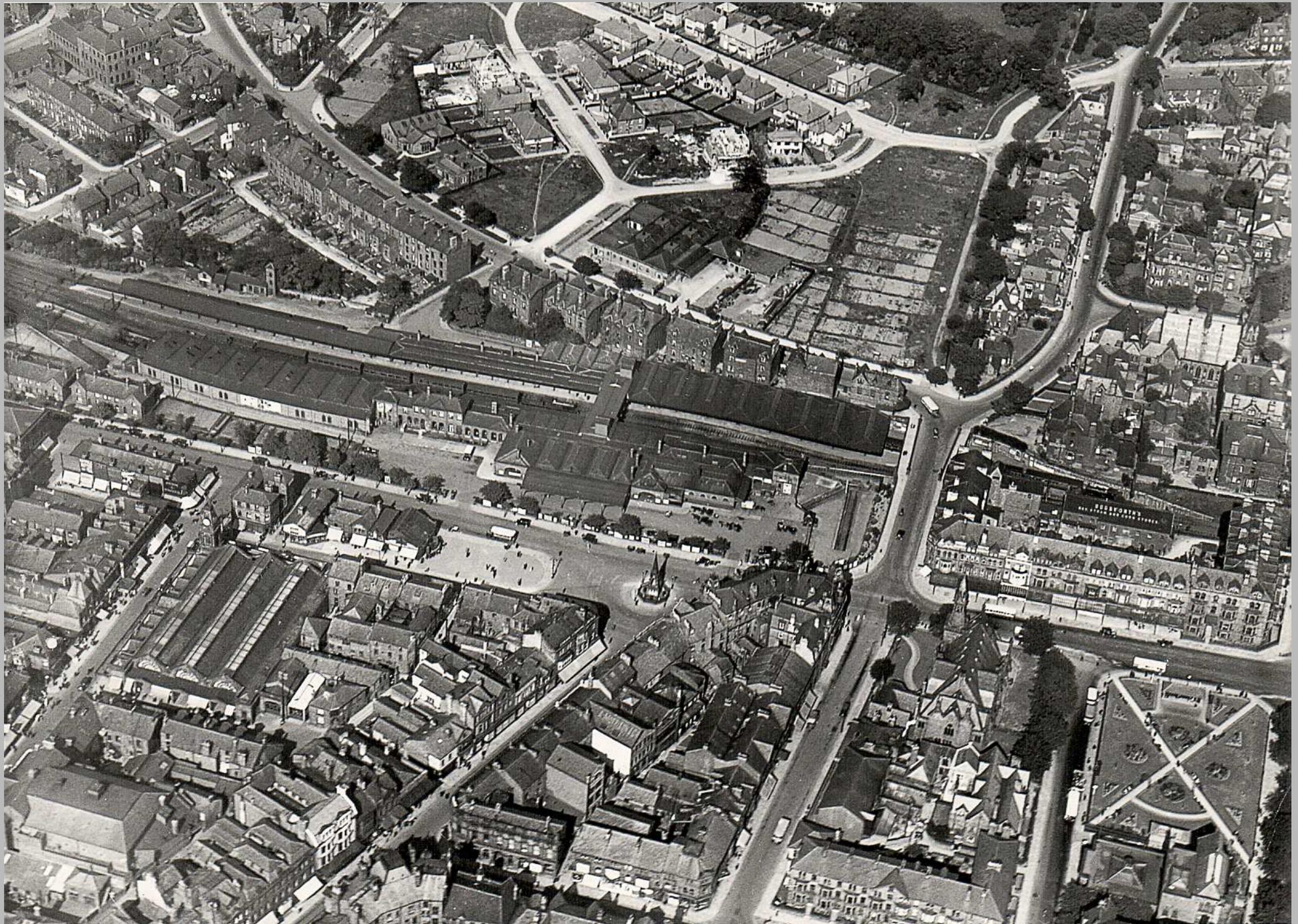
In January 2014 Beales announced the intended closure of the store in September 2014 when the sub-lease expired.



Albert Street with the Coop and Church



Coop announces purchase of Falshaws' building circa 1950



Victoria Park Church (bottom right) pre 1936.
Image © Historic England. Aerofilms Collection

Note that in this image the Odeon Cinema (1936) has not yet been built



Coop with remainder of church (left) before 1970.
Image © Historic England. Aerofilms Collection

From this image the old Sunday school of Victoria Park Church still remains even though the new Coop building is complete. The Sunday school was later demolished. The Odeon Cinema can also be clearly seen.



Coop post 1970 but pre 1992 with new Copthall Tower but before construction of Victoria Centre.
Image © Historic England. Aerofilms Collection

In the image above, the church Sunday school has now been replaced by a single storey extension at the rear of the Coop on Albert Street. The image also shows the Harrogate market before its replacement by the Victoria Centre (1992). The Copthall Tower(1970) has now been built.



Cooperative Society building, later Beales



Beales Store Streetscape 31 July 2014



Northeast corner with store signs removed



Beales department store 31st July 2014 closing down



3 weeks to go



"Westgate department store" signage uncovered after Beales sign removed



Harrogate Photographic Society's Tour de France photographic display just before demolition, October 2014

The Third Building: The Everyman Cinema

In February 2014, 4Urban announced plans to demolish the “Beales” building and to build a £11million cinema and restaurant complex totalling 55,000 sq ft . Plans were approved unanimously in late September by Harrogate Borough Council.

Spring and Company Ltd, whose head office is in Stockport, were appointed as main contractor.

By December 2014, the building was empty and by March 2015 it had been demolished.

The steel frame of the new building was completed by August 2015

In March 2016, restaurant owners CAU, ASK and Yo! Sushi were fitting out their premises, opening in May and the Everyman Cinema opened on 9th September 2016, 2 years from the date when the Beales lease expired.

In addition to the main building, 3 flats have been created in the upper floors of the building where the original Cooperative stores had been located on Albert Street.

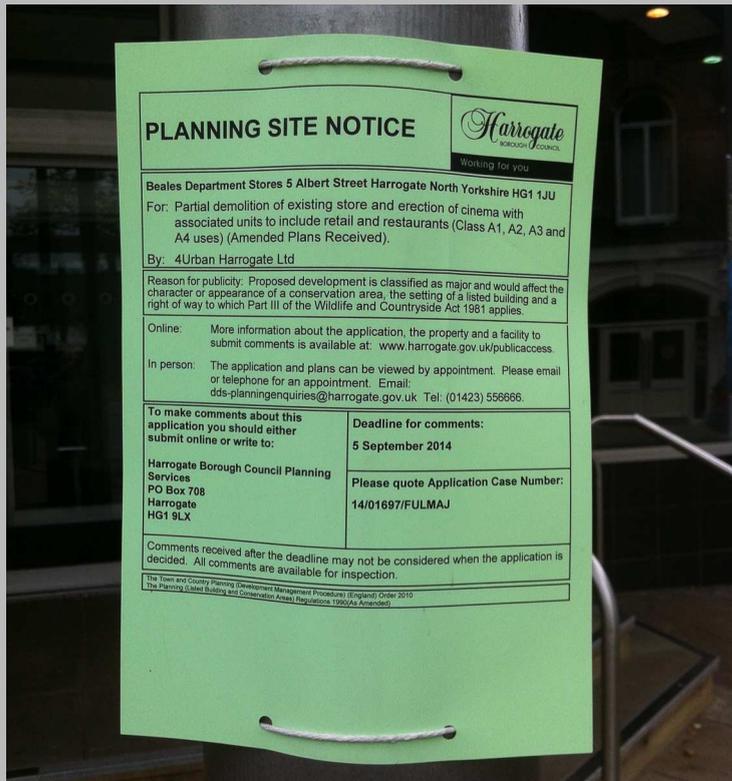
The ground floor was primarily let as restaurants but also has the cinema entrance and lobby at the northeast corner. The cinema occupies the first and second floors, the first floor being cinema bars and restaurant areas and the second floor dedicated to 4 of the 5 screening rooms which together have approximately 400 sofa-style seats.

The first movie to be shown on the opening night was the family adventure, Captain Fantastic starring Viggo Mortensen and during the first week the programme included Woody Allen’s Cafe Society, Bridget Jones’ Baby, Hell or High Water starring Jeff Bridges, a new version of Ben-Hur and One More Time With Feeling, a documentary about the making of musician Nick Cave’s new album.

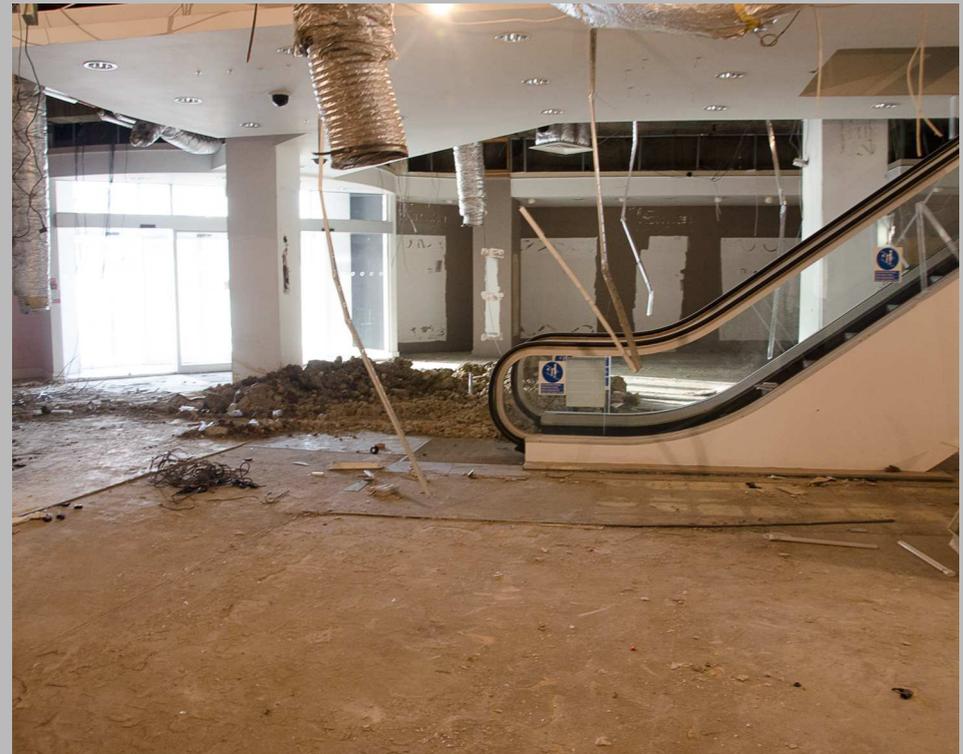
The building, which contains restaurants such as CAU, Cote Bistro, Byron, ASK, Veenoo and Yo! Sushi was Harrogate’s biggest retail-type development in the town centre since the Victoria Shopping Centre opened in 1992 at a cost of £50 million.

The building, named Westgate House, was constructed as a steel-framed building clad, in part, with stone tiles. The remainder of the building is of traditional stone construction.

At the time of the cinema opening, the Odeon Cinema on East Parade, which was celebrating 80 years in the town, announced a (albeit temporary) reduction in its prices.



Planning application notice



Internal demolition 1



Internal demolition 2



Preparing for demolition



Road closures



Station Parade shuttering...the trees were a casualty



Site office Raglan Street



Promoting the new building



Demolition 1 Southeast corner view



Demolition 2 Station Parade



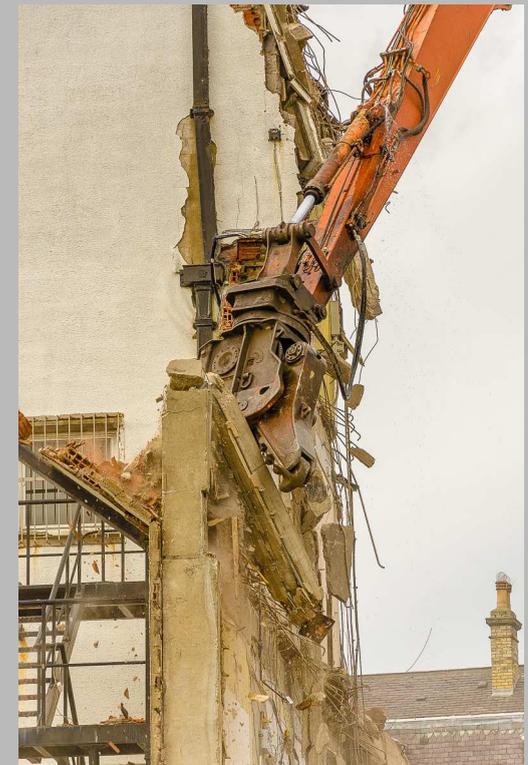
Demolition 3 Raglan Street looking east



Demolition 4 Raglan Street looking north



Demolition 5 Southeast corner



Demolition 6 detail



Demolition 7 Raglan Street



Demolition 8 detail



Demolition 9



Demolition 10



Demolition 11



Demolition 12

By mid April 2015 the Coop building was completely demolished revealing open street views



Steelwork 1



Steelwork 2



Steelwork 3



Steelwork 4



Steelwork 5



Station Parade looking south



Southeast corner at junction of Raglan Street and Station Parade



Albert Street looking west

By August 2015 the steel frame was complete, scaffolding was erected and the building was protected in readiness for the rest of the construction programme.



February 2016



March 2016 Albert Street



March 2016



April 2016



April 2016 from Victoria Gardens



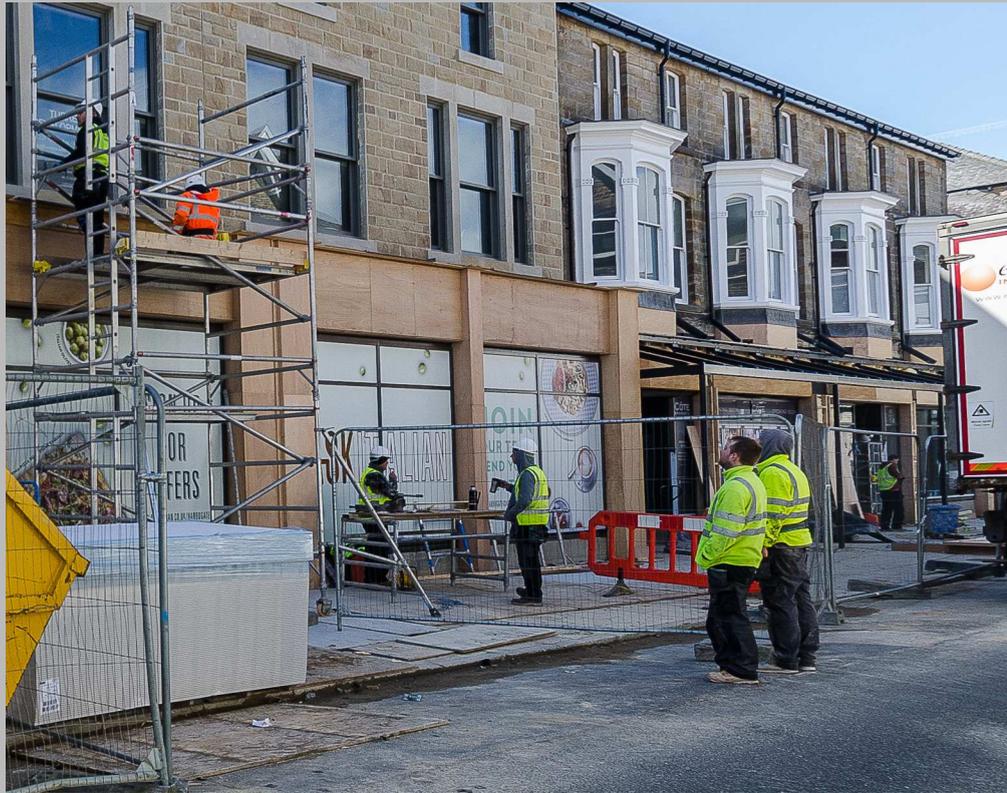
April 2016 Albert Street



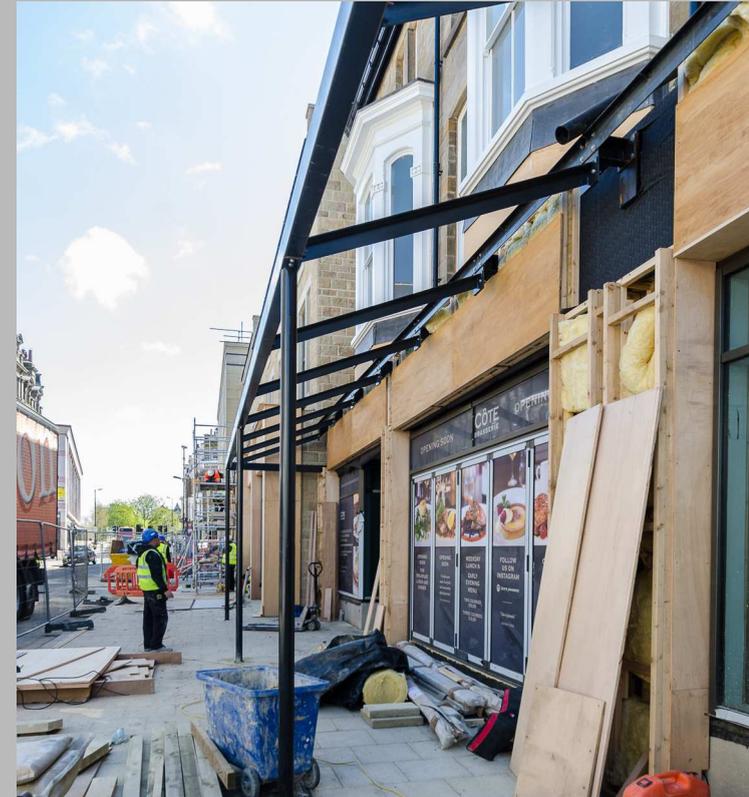
April 2016 from Raglan Street



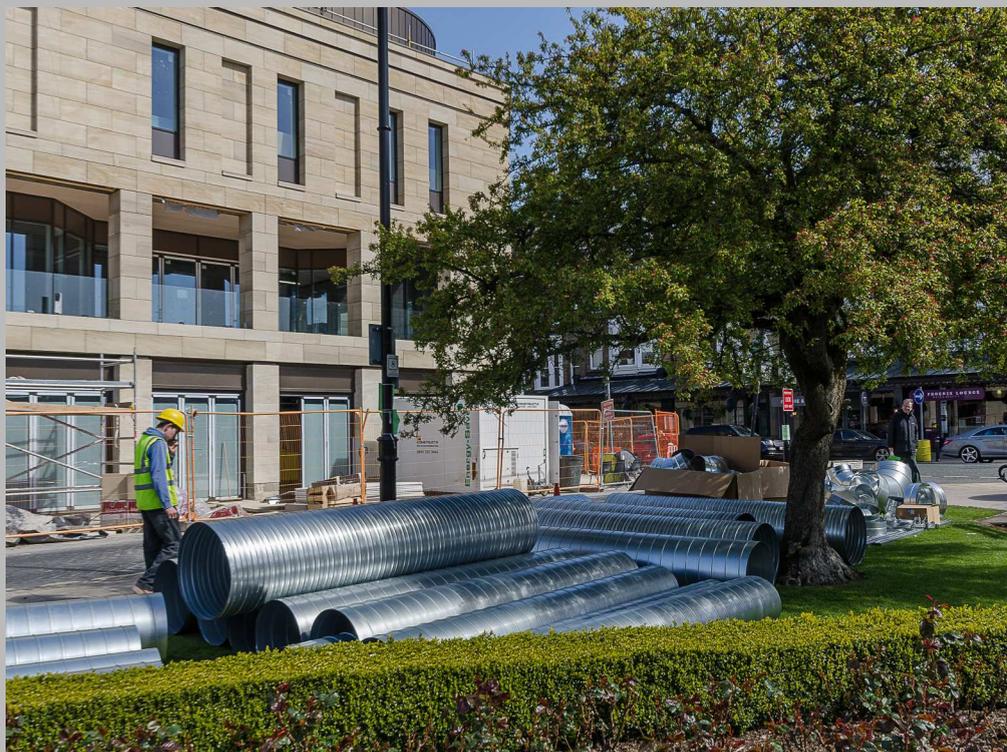
May 2016 Raglan Street



May 2016 Albert Street



Canopy Installation Albert Street May 2016



Arrival of air conditioning ducting May 2016



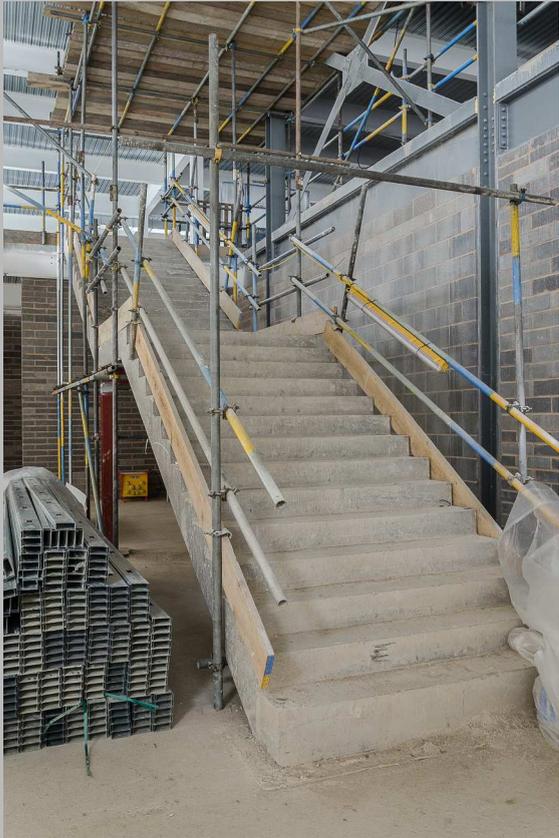
Southeast corner looking north along Station Parade May 2016



Streetscape May 2016

26 By May 2016 the building looked well established in the streetscape. Internal fitting-out was well underway





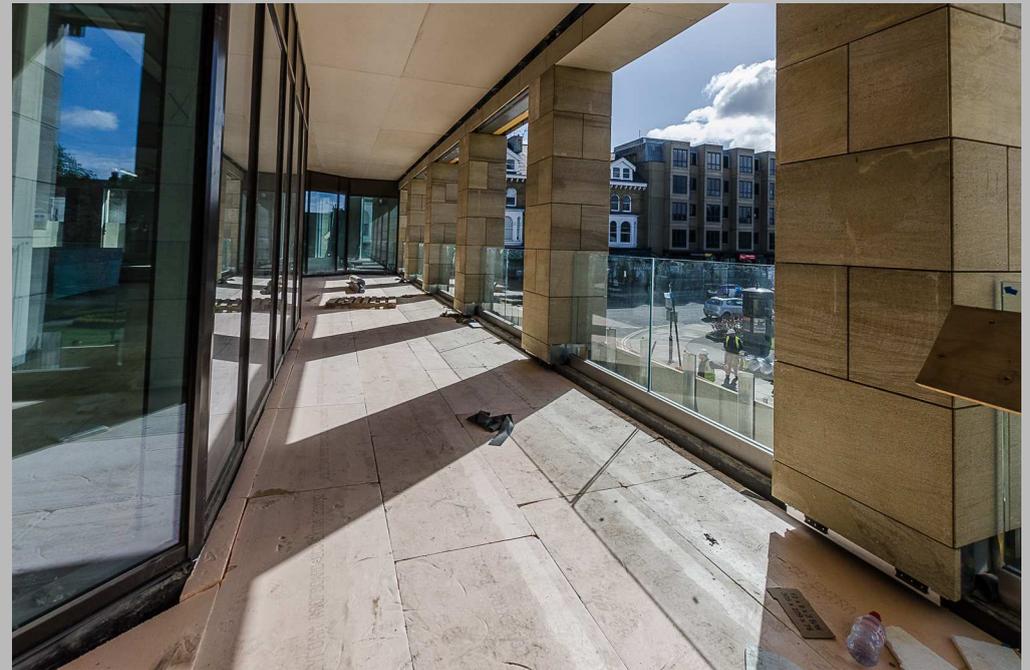
Northeast stairs



Northeast stairs from first floor



Southeast corner restaurant



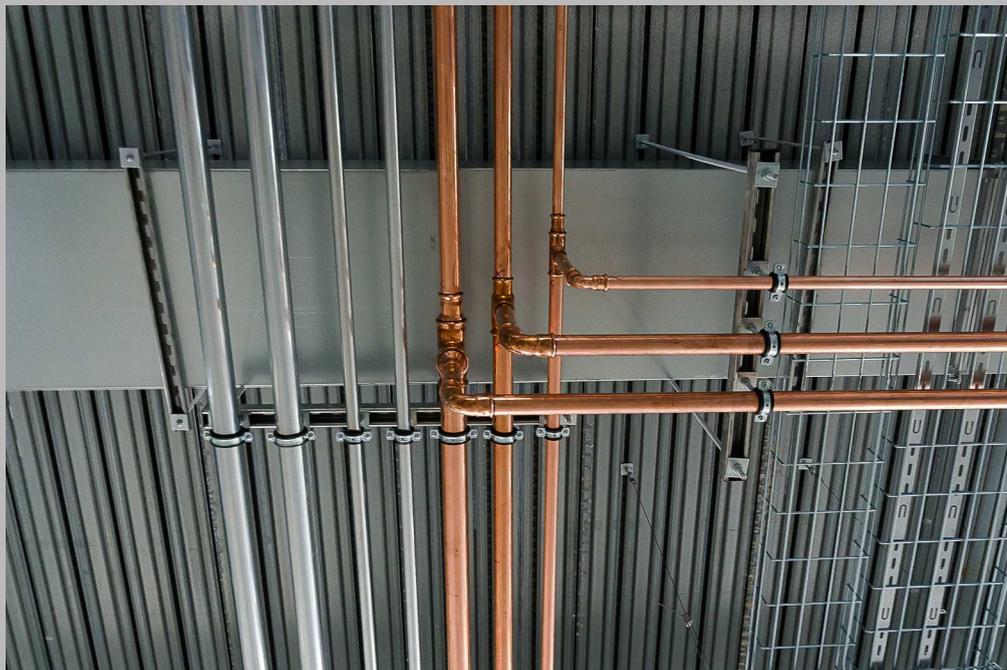
First floor terrace



Air conditioning unit



Odeon Cinema (background) and Station Bridge taken from first floor



Services installation



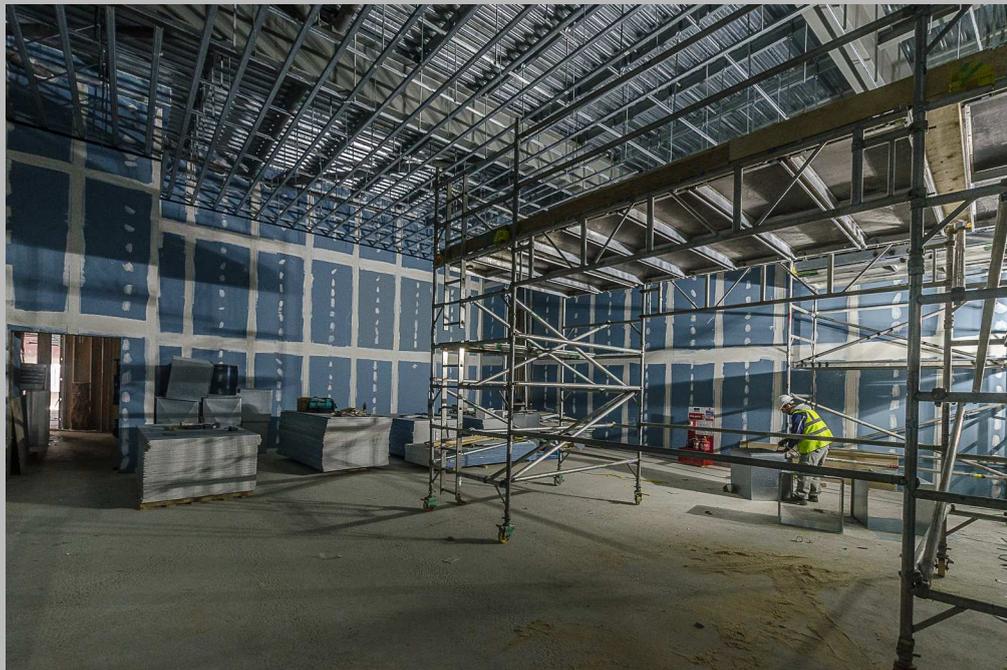
First floor showing private screening room under construction



Air conditioning ducting 1



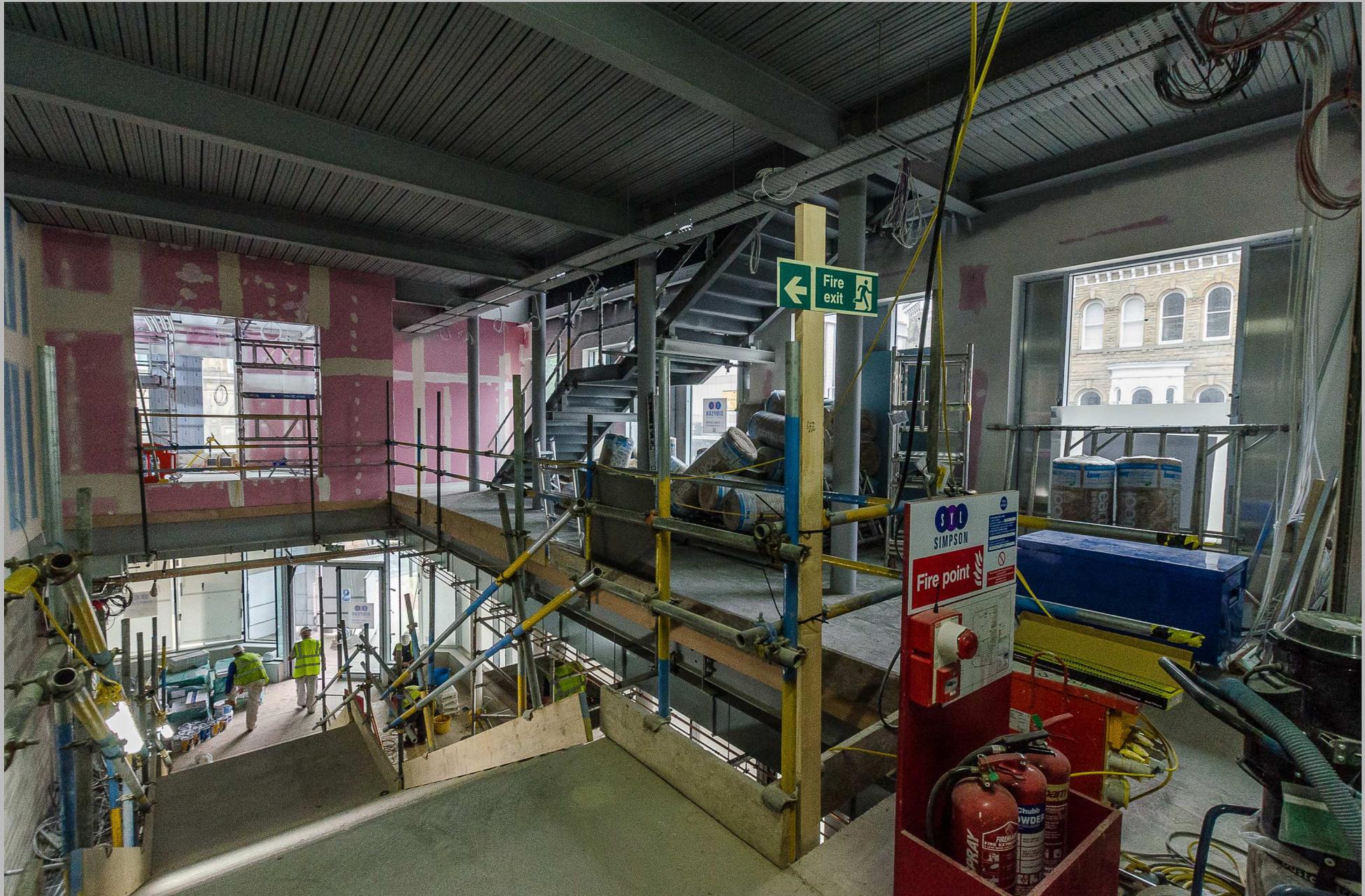
Air conditioning ducting 2



Second floor screening room installation



Ground floor offices for fit-out contractors Simpson (York) Ltd



Northeast stairs from above, end June 2016



Second floor panorama during early stages of fitting out early April 2016

Simpson (York) Ltd were responsible for the fitting out of the cinema on the first and second floors and the cinema reception on the ground floor. Restaurants used their own contractors.





Second floor screening room installation late June 2016



Second floor screening room seat staging, being installed end June 2016



Safety working



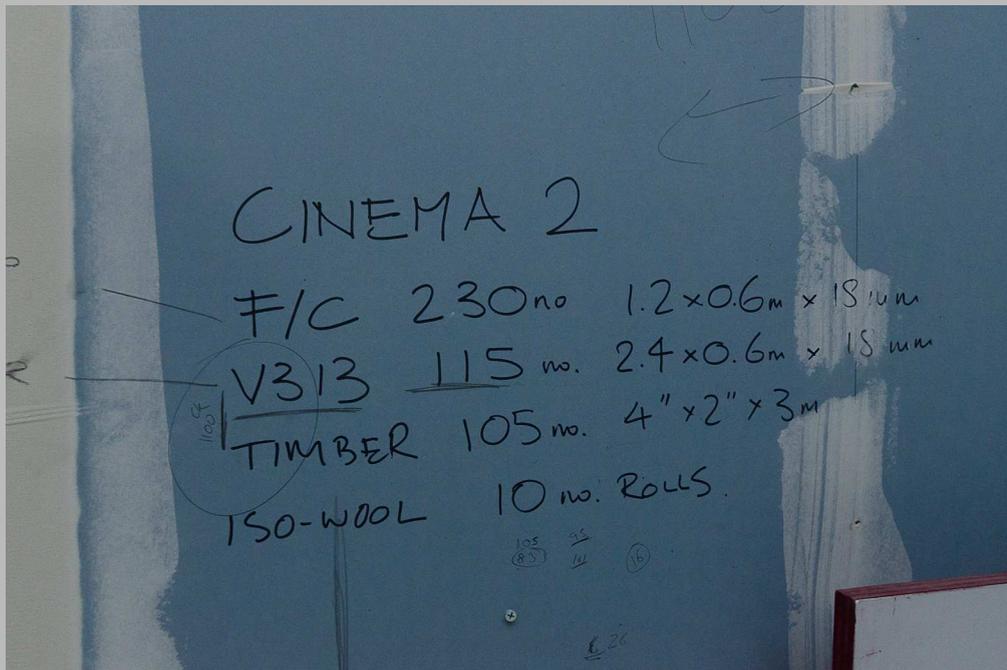
Language communication



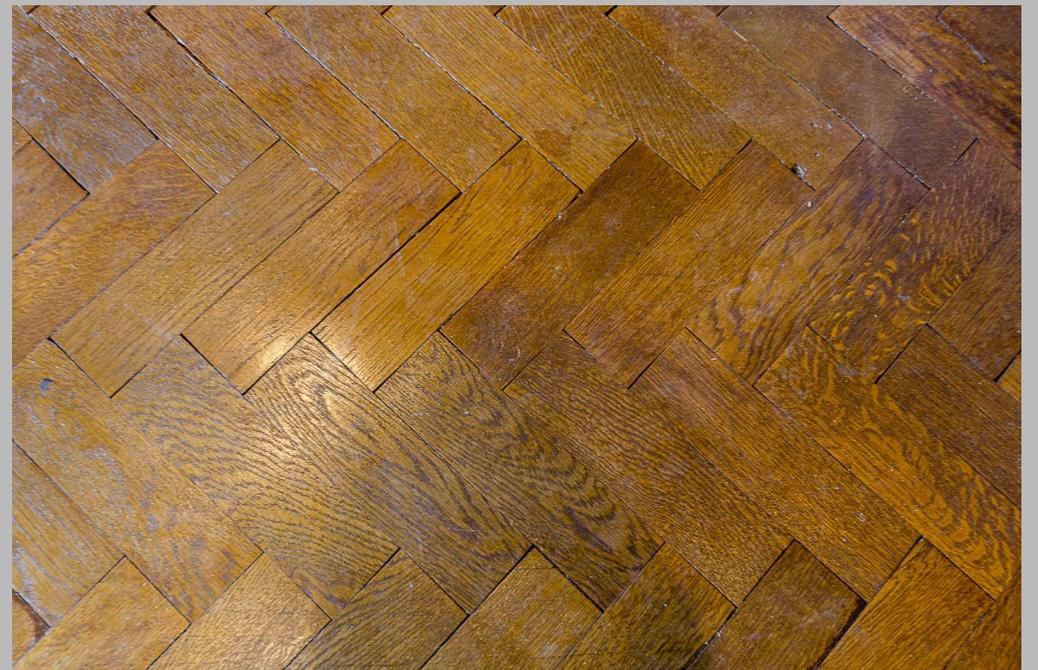
Working near existing buildings on Raglan Street May 2016



Recruiting and finishing May 2016



Timber cutting list and materials required for second floor screening room No2 end June 2016



Cinema ground floor reception using refurbished oak parquet flooring mid August 2016



Carl Foston, Contracts Manager (L) and Stewart Fratson, Project Manager (R) Simpson (York) Ltd
Photo courtesy Simpson (York Ltd)



Spring and Co senior team on site April 2016



Neil Burgoyne, Spring and Co discussing footpaths with North Yorkshire County Council, August 2016



HACS contractors, February 2016



Ian Johnson, Associate Director Spring and Co, in charge on site April 2016

Contractors

Development Manager

4Urban Consulting Ltd

Architects

Seven Architects Ltd

Project and Construction Management

Spring & Co Ltd

Building Control Inspection

Assent Building Control Ltd

Engineering and Environmental Consultants

Waterman Group

Groundworks, Drainage and External Surfacing

The HACs Group

Steelwork

James Killelea & Sons Ltd

Demolition

Hardwick Demolitions Ltd

Cinema Fitting Out

Simpson (York) Ltd



Yo! Sushi, the first restaurant to open late May 2016



Byron, Albert Street



Yo! Sushi, Albert Street



Veeno sign ready to install



Ask, Albert Street



Cote, Albert Street



Veeeno, Station Parade



CAU, Station Parade



Byron Interior 1

The first restaurant to open was Yo! Sushi in late May 2016 with Byron and others following shortly afterwards.



Byron Interior 2



Everyman Cinema almost ready to open - "The Wait is Over"

Harrogate Advertiser

YOUR VOICES SINCE 1836

Thursday, September 8, 2016

harrogateadvertiser.co.uk @HGateAdvertiser

£1.50 (or £1.20 if you take out a subscription)



Champions!

Harrogate celebrate title

SEE BACK PAGE



Readers' holiday supplement inside

Everyman opens its doors as part of £10m development

Delight over town's first new cinema in 50 years

BY GRAHAM CHALMERS
gchalmers@hgate.co.uk
@HGateAdvertiser

Like a Hollywood epic, it's been years in the making but Everyman cinema finally opens its doors in Harrogate tomorrow, Friday.

The launch of Harrogate's first new 'picture house' for at least half a century is the final piece in the jigsaw of Harrogate's biggest town centre development for decades.

With five screens across three stories, the Everyman will take pride of place in the new, £10 million cinema and restaurant entertainment complex at the corner of Albert Street and Station Parade.

"It's an exciting development. It should help increase interest in film."

Nicholas Williamson
Harrogate Film Society

And its arrival on the site of the former Beales department store has already been welcomed by the town's most fervent movie fans.

Nicholas Williamson, vice-chair of Harrogate Film Society whose new season of films begins next Monday at Ashville College, said: "We're looking forward to the opening of

the new Everyman cinema. It's an exciting development. The new cinema should help to increase interest in film throughout the Harrogate district. Hopefully it will complement the films shown by Harrogate Film Society."

Famed for its bespoke decor and swapping traditional cinema seats and popcorn in favour of comfy sofas, alcoholic beverages and pizzas, the Harrogate cinema is Everyman's 19th outlet nationwide.

Boasting 400 seats, a restaurant, a bar and the latest Dolby Atmos audio technology, Everyman is the first competition in years to Harrogate's longest-standing cinema, the Odeon.

In general, readers have posted their support for Everyman on the Harrogate



Everyman's Harrogate manager Lucy Sontae with assistant manager Anna Francis-Coates. (1609066AM2)

Advertiser's Facebook page, though loyalty to the art deco Odeon, which is celebrating its 80th birthday with a special party shortly, still remains strong.

Susan Myatt posted: "Everyman is great for Harrogate. We needed a new cinema. The Odeon is crumbling."

But Alison Campbell posted: "Those wanting to see new Bridget Jones, I think the Odeon is showing it. Please don't give up on that cinema. It's served us well for many years. I remember when there was the ABC Cinema on Cambridge Road, Odeon was open then, too."

The first movie film fans can look forward to watching tomorrow will be family adventure Captain Fantastic set in the Pacific North West starring Viggo Mortensen. **CONTINUED ON PAGE 5**



NEW SEASON COLLECTIONS NOW IN...

Aena, ALC, Alexander McQueen, Alexander Wang, Annette Gortz, Ba&sh, Bella Freud, Belstaff, Cheryl, Citizens of Humanity, Designers Remix, Duffy, Duvelca, Eloïe, Frame, Harris Wharf, Helmut Lang, Hudson, Iro, Isabel Marant, J Brand, Joseph, Larvin, Marc Cain, MoQ, Moncler, Nicole Farhi, Oyuna, Paige, Pedro Garcia, Peter Pilotto, Queens and Bella, Rebecca Taylor, Repeat, Self Portrait, Sophia Webster, Stella McCartney, Theory, Tibi, Velvet, Vince, 360

Montpellier Gardens, Harrogate, HG1 2TF
www.morganclave.co.uk

bringing you designers you love

Morgan Clave



Movies

Everyman cinema opens in Harrogate

Continued from page 1

The first week's programme also includes Woody Allen's Cafe Society, Hell Or High Water, a thrilling heist movie starring Jeff Bridges, a new version of epic historical drama Ben-Hur and One More Time With Feeling, a documentary about the making of musician Nick Cave's new album.

Everyman chief executive Crispin Lilly, said: "We want to offer the best hospitality possible, with service of great food and drink straight to your comfy sofa seating."

"We can be a couple of pounds more expensive than multiplex offers, but think that we offer the best value in terms of the experience we deliver."

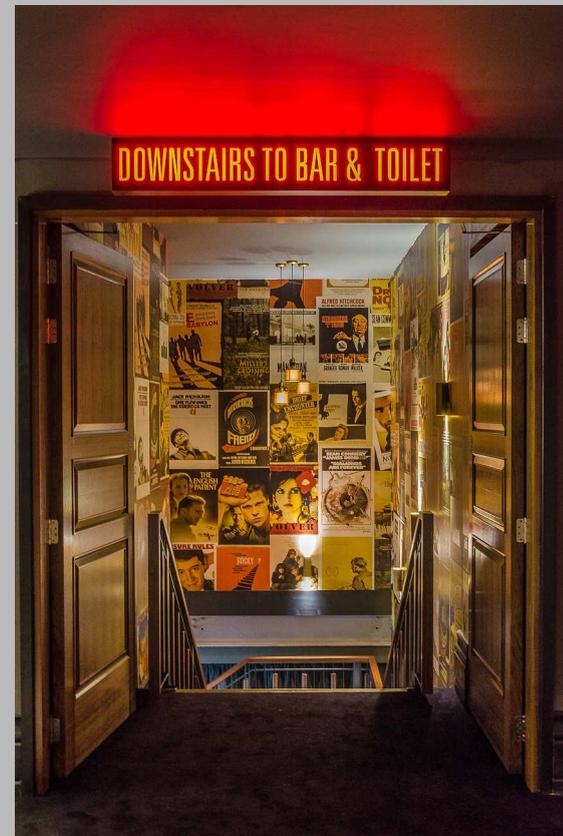
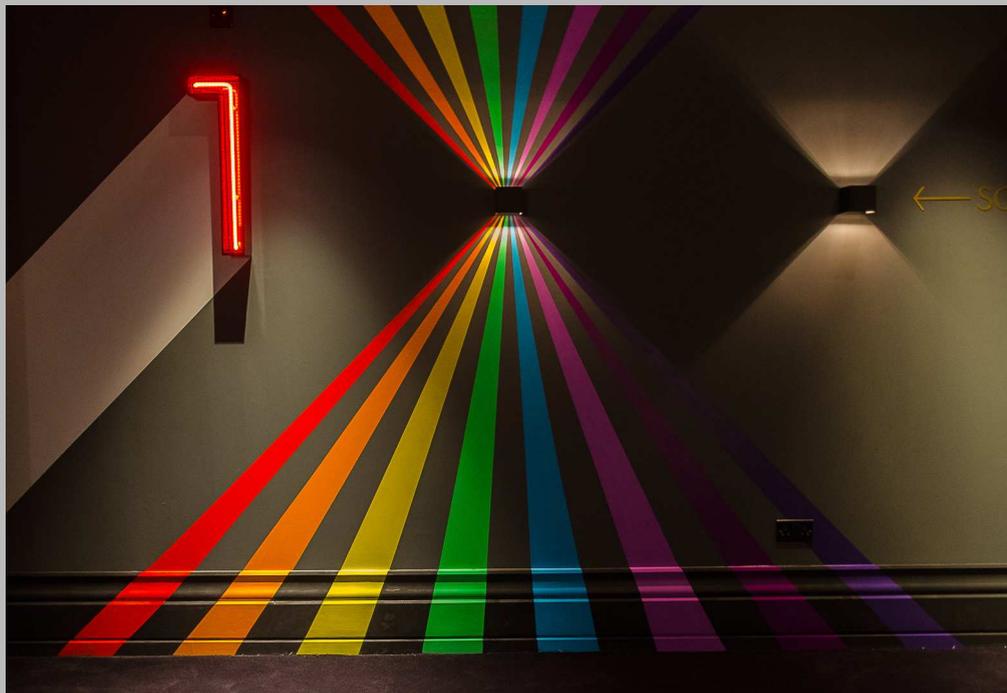
Alex B Cann posted on the Harrogate Advertiser Facebook page: "Everyman is a good addition, and it's also inspired Odeon to reduce its prices to far less than the multiplexes. A win win situation for film fans!"

The new Albert Street complex is the work of Harrogate-based developers 4Urban Consulting Ltd.

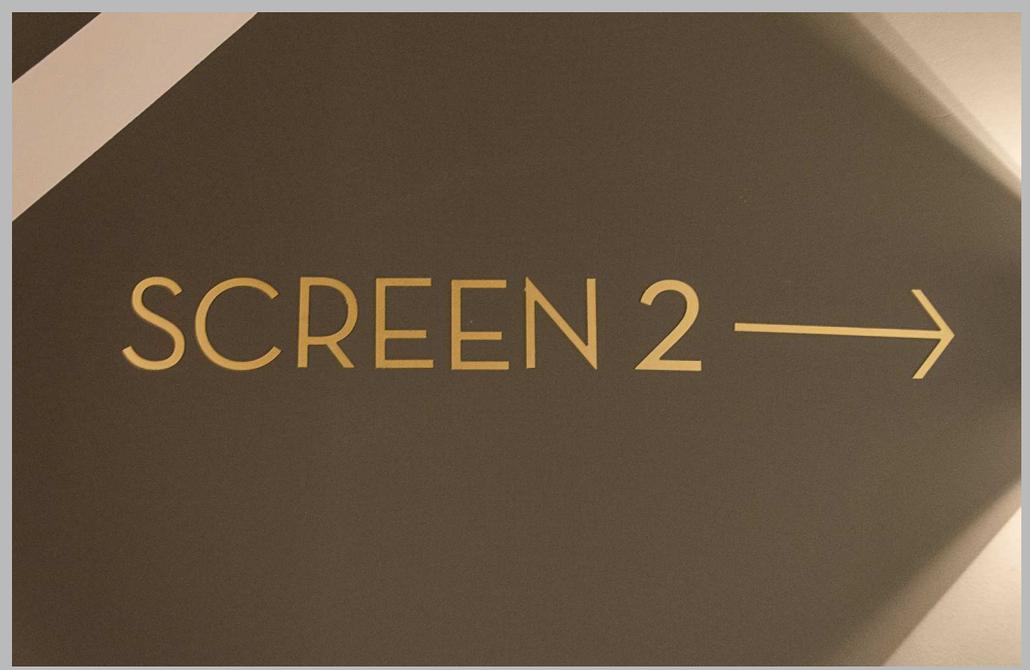
The building, which also contains restaurants such as CAU, Côte Bistro, Byron Burger, ASK and Veevo, is Harrogate's biggest retail-type development in the town centre since Victoria Shopping Centre opened in 1992 at a cost of £50 million.



Opening Night: Photo courtesy Simpson (York) Ltd



Cinema opens 9th September 2016





The Everyman cinema has 5 screens, each with sofa-style seating and 400 seats in total



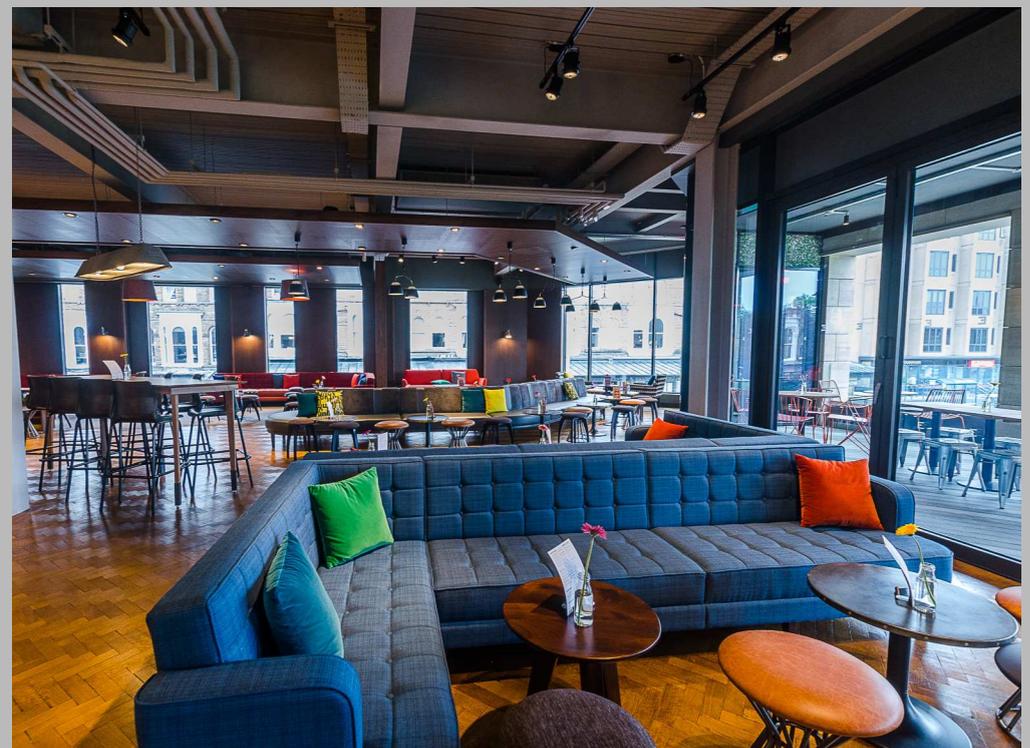
Cinema terrace, first floor



Cinema bar 1



Cinema bar 2



Cinema bar 3

The cinema has a comfortable bar/lounge with food service and a southern terrace on the first floor. Some of the furnishings were reclaimed and refurbished items



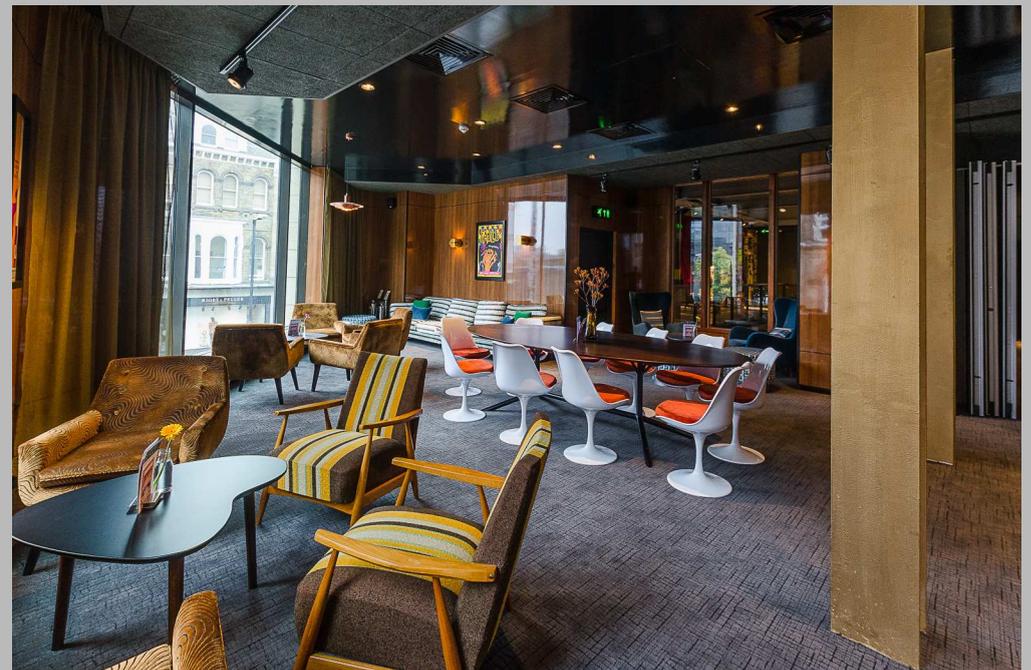
Cinema bar 4: showing reclaimed oak parquet floor



Cinema bar 5: showing bookcase made by Simpson's joiners shop from reclaimed science laboratory work benches
Photo courtesy Simpson (York) Ltd



Cinema private bar and meeting room 1



Cinema private bar and meeting room 2



November 2016 Northeast corner from Station Bridge



November 2016 from Station Parade



November 2016 Raglan Street



November 2016 Southeast corner



Northeast corner at night November 2016





Night Streetscape November 2016





Southeast corner at night November 2016

About the Author

I am a local photographer who has been taking photographs from about the age of 10. My interest has waned from time to time, but I always came back to it.

Today I am a real enthusiast for the art.

My first camera was a Kodak Brownie 127, a very simple camera, suitable for taking photographs on bright and sunny days, but over the years I have moved onwards and upwards and now possess a Nikon D7000 SLR.

In the 1990's I took a landscape photography course in the English Lake District. This course, led by local Lakes landscape photographer Frank Stirrup, opened my eyes for the first time to what photography was all about:

Composition-Creativity-Light-Luck-Persistence-Patience-etc.

It taught me not only to look, but also to see. It taught me to observe the effect of light. It showed me composition and camera angles.

I have embraced digital photography and the enhanced creative opportunities it provides and I use Adobe Lightroom and Photoshop Elements to manage and process my images and to create images and image effects beyond that which is seen through the lens.

I don't specialise in any particular field of photography. I take photographs of those things that interest me and which I feel make images that draw the viewer in; that delight, amuse, confuse or surprise.

In 2015 I gained LRPS distinction from the Royal Photographic Society. I am a member of Harrogate Photographic Society

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In September 2016, a major new building opened in Harrogate. This is the story, not only of the development of that building, but also of what came before starting with the first building on site from the mid nineteenth century. The story is a photographic one.