



Bookshelf

LIFE'S BOOK OF THE MONTH

THE KINEMA IN THE WOODS by Edward Mayor
J W Green Cinemas; ISBN 0 9543037 0 9; £9.95

THE DAY OF THE DECKCHAIR, the best seats in the pavilion, may be gone, but the Kinema lives on. Going to the 'flicks in the sticks' was an experience; it is still a pleasure today. A rarity with back projection its genesis is unique. This story, told reel by reel with commercial beaks, is one that needed to be told in full, and this book was published last year to mark the eightieth anniversary of Woodhall Spa's Kinema in the Woods. In fact, it is an integral part of the revival of Woodhall after the First World War.

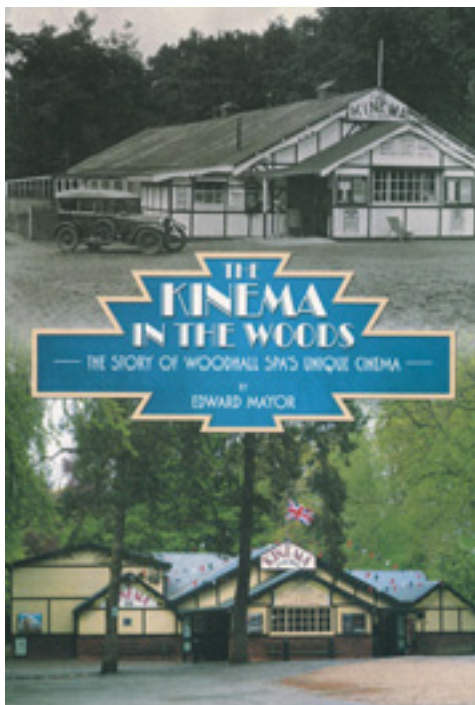
It all began with the wooden cricket and tennis pavilion in the Spa pleasure grounds near the Bath House. Built in the late nineteenth century and known to locals as The Barn, it was used for fetes and concerts. Turning it into the Pavilion Cinema in 1922 was part of the plan by Sir Archibald and Lady Weigall of Petwood House to draw more visitors to Woodhall Spa again.

A couple of years later, the task was entrusted to Captain C C Allport of the

Petwood estate office. He built a corrugated iron shed at the north end to house the hand-cranked projector, the picture showing on a translucent screen, and called it The Kinema. Films arrived by train and were conveyed from Woodhall Station in a converted bath-chair attached to a bicycle. The front six rows were deckchairs at 1s 6d (seven-and-a-half pence), with tip-up seats behind. They lasted until 1953.

This splendidly illustrated book has a wonderful range of programme advertisements from the past – 'The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse', 'Mademoiselle from Armentieres', 'Brief Encounter', 'Destry Rides Again', and 'The Crazy Gang'.

There's detail of more recent changes – to seating, lighting and decoration, the installation of the Compton organ when James Green took over, the addition of Kinema Too, and tributes to long-serving staff, particularly Sheila Bycroft. (DNR) □



Lincolnshire's Top 10 Bestsellers

- 1 **Ottakar's Local History Series – Lincolnshire**
Julianne Coggan, £3.99
- 2 **Lincolnshire - A Portrait in Colour**
Rod Edwards and Jez Ashberry
- 3 **Once Upon a Wartime X**
Molly Burkett and Robert Street, £5.99
- 4 **Tales of a Bomber Command WAAF (and her horse)**
Sylvia Pickering, £9.95
- 5 **Lincolnshire Privies**
Adrian Gray, £7.95
- 6 **There and Back Again – A Navigator's Story**
Flying Officer James Douglas Hudson, £12.00
- 7 **'The Nice People of Lincolnshire are Here' Pop Festival in Lincolnshire**
Paul Cope-Faulkner and Tom Lane, £3.95
- 8 **Escape to Branston**
Peter Owen, £3.95
- 9 **Roman Lincoln – Conquest, Colony and Capital**
Michael J Jones, £16.99
- 10 **Lincoln – A Place in Time**
David Vale, £8.99

Compiled by Ottakar's Lincoln and Ottakar's Grimsby

LINCOLNSHIRE BOOKS IN BRIEF

A COUNTRY GRAMMAR SCHOOL REMEMBERED compiled by Enid Bryce; Hutton Press, 130 Canada Drive, Cherry Burton, Beverley, HU17 7SB; ISBN 1 902709 18 7; £9

A history of Barton-upon-Humber Grammar School, 1931-1975, as a compilation of letters and photographs from former pupils and staff. Affectionate, personal and humorous record of a school community with a distinctive personality.

TWO HUNDRED YEARS OF CLAXBY PARISH HISTORY by Rex Russell (1801-1901) and Elizabeth Holmes (1901-2000); Claxby Parish Council; ISBN 0 9543072 0 8; £4.95

Claxby by Normanby. Results of village millennium project. Competent and wide-ranging research about people, where they lived and what they did, including that 'gloomy cavern of disaster', the ironstone mine. Illustrated with maps and photographs. Published

with grants from Rural Community Projects Fund, hence the low price.

THE HISTORY AND EVENTS OF WRANGLE by Freda Royle; available from author, 47 Church Road, Old Leake, PE22 9NS
 A packed compilation of photographs (some 175) with captions and historical notes about people, places, events and changing ways of life (see the Ten Commandments of the Bricklayers Arms).