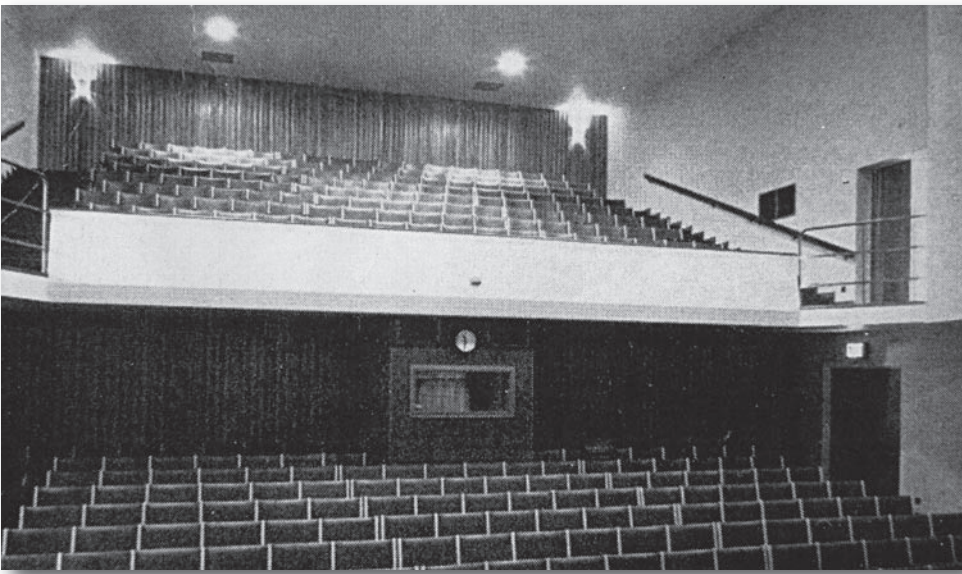


200 YEARS OF THE ATHENÆUM BUILDING



The new, clean and modern Lounge (above) and Lecture Room (below) in the rebuilt Athenæum



BACK HOME

The Institution was renamed 'The Plymouth Athenæum' when it moved into its present building on 1st June 1961. The current building is located on almost the exact location of Foulston's pre-Blitz original.

THEATRE

The Post-War, rebuilt Athenæum building included a theatre, which has housed thousands of productions. Individual artists who have taken to the stage include John Nettles, Angela Rippon and poet Pam Ayres.

The theatre was also used by *Westward Television* as a venue for some of its programmes, including *Treasure Hunt*, a game show presented by Keith Fordyce. It ran for 14 years, and at one stage featured comedian Jethro as the pirate co-host.

Although it was mothballed in 2009, thanks to a partnership with the Barbican Theatre it was re-opened in 2016 as part of ongoing plans to develop The Athenæum as a vibrant theatre, music, comedy, dance, lecture, screenings and lifelong learning venue.



The theatre in the rebuilt Athenæum (left) was home to local and national theatre companies, dance and music festivals, and was a television theatre among many uses from its opening in 1961 until it was mothballed in 2009. In 2016 it reopened thanks to a partnership with *Barbican Theatre*. Audience favourites *Le Navet Bete* (above) are shown on stage during their production of *Dracula*



The Beatles are pictured in the tunnel that connected The Athenæum with *Westward Television* in November 1963

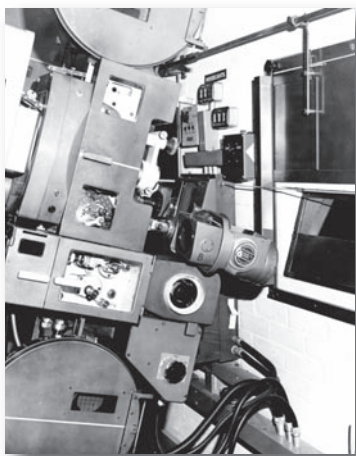
THE BEATLES

On 13th November 1963, *The Beatles* played at the *ABC Cinema*, which was located next to The Athenæum.

In order to avoid the crowds of screaming fans gathered outside the cinema, *The Beatles* were rushed into and out of the cinema via The Athenæum.

The Beatles were escorted through a tunnel which connected The Athenæum with the *Westward TV* studios.

Westward had been filming the Fab Four from the Lyneham Inn, on the outskirts of Plymouth. At the end of the concert, *The Beatles* were driven away from *Westward's* studios.



Inside the Athenæum Projection Room

FILM THEATRE

In 1971, with the assistance of the British Film Institute, a film theatre was created at The Athenæum

It required the construction of a projection room. Three heavy projectors were craned into the new room and the roof was added once they were in place.

Present at the opening of the film theatre were Malcolm McDowell, Bryan Forbes and Nanette Newman.

200 NOT OUT

After 200 years of existence, The Athenæum remains a building dedicated to the promotion of learning in the fields of science, technology, literature and art.

Athenæum activities include writers, art, discussion and photographic groups, lectures and talks. The Library is part of the Independent Libraries Association.

The building is also used by a range of community groups and organisations as well as local and national businesses.



Since the 19th Century, The Athenæum has housed a Library (above). It is a member of the Independent Libraries Association



The Athenæum was used as the headquarters of the *Daily Mirror* in the 2016 *Comic Strip* film 'Red Top'