

F&DHS Heritage Shop Project 2017



• 16 Church Street •

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The Grand Cinema with 482 seats stood on this site between 1923 and 1962. It was built by the Frodsham Cinema Company Limited and one of its shareholders, Thomas Fyall, who had previously been lessee and manager of the Picture Palace, Chapel Lane (Fluin Lane) became its manager.

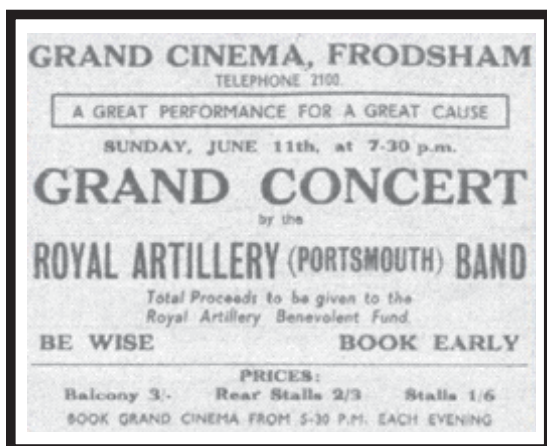
The Grand had been designed to stage live shows as well as screening films: there were two dressing rooms below the stage. "Tom Fyall's Enterprises" advertised regularly in "The Stage" for live entertainment and Concert Parties for the Grand, as well as promoting his own productions and pantomimes throughout the country.

The cinema also staged live amateur shows and Tom had a troupe of dancers called "Tom Fyall's Dainty Dots".

Sketch of proposed cinema for Church Street



The Grand 1923-1962



Ad 1944



Ad 1939

Films were shown each evening, except Sundays, with matinees on Wednesday and Saturday. In 1942 a special licence was given for performances on Christmas Day. It was the good old days of cinema. There were usherettes, the National Anthem and Pathe News, with a break mid-way through the main feature when the reels were changed and ice creams sold.

In the late 1930s the cinema was run by Stanley Grimshaw of Byrom Picture Houses Ltd. The cinema interests of this company were purchased in January 1939 by Philip Hanmer then of Regent Enterprises Ltd based in Liverpool. By the end of 1939 he owned 18 cinemas.

In December 1939 the cinema licence was transferred from J P Scully to F J Barker. Other managers over the years were Mrs Bolton and Mrs Beaumont. James Turner known as "Jimmy Pictures" was in charge when the cinema finally closed on 5th August 1961, the last feature being "Carry on Regardless".

It could not "carry on" however, as the fabric of the building was damaged probably due to the vibrations created by passing trains. After a short time as a Bingo Hall, the cinema was demolished in 1962 and a new property built. This new building has housed a number of supermarkets over the years: Markdown, Presto, Hanbury's and Bridge Store. For a short time it was a wine merchant before becoming the home of WH Smith.



Hanburys supermarket c.2000