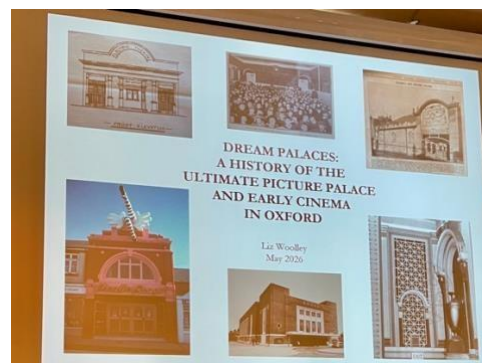


B-c-S WI Meeting

Tuesday 12th May 2026

We welcomed **30 members and 4 visitors** to our talk

Dream Palaces : A history of the Ultimate Picture Palace by Liz Woolley



Liz provided us with a fascinating history of the growth of cinemas in Oxford starting in August 1895 with Louis Lumiere moving onto Taylors Royal Electric Coliseum at St Giles fair in 1905



A number of cinemas followed; one in Cowley Road, another in Castle Street and then the building of the Ultimate Picture palace in Jeune Street. By 1913 there were 5 cinemas in Oxford which were extensively visited during the first world war when showing clips of men at the front.

The UPP went through a chequered history being brought into its current day use by Bill Heimer. It is now community owned and under threat. Oriol college are the freeholders and are currently refusing to extend the lease as the Palace forms part of a larger development site they are in the process of acquiring. A campaign exists to support the community in its battle to retain this treasured city venue.



Moving onto **WI business** we covered the following

Resolutions for the NFWI Annual meeting in June.

We voted unanimously to support both resolutions namely

A - promote accessible public toilet facilities to support dignity health and social inclusion

B- Action on women's homelessness.

Jan is the delegate representing 5 local WI's and has discretion to vote for either proposal once she has heard the arguments for and against.

Sunday 17th May Brightwell open gardens

Birthdays

There are surprisingly **no birthdays to celebrate this month.**

A reminder of the village auction on Saturday 13 June. We have sent out details in a separate email reminding everyone it's possible to bid for the lots without attending in person.

Brightwell Supporting Refugees have asked me to include a notice of the talk coming up this **Friday** with Robert Seatter who we all enjoyed when he came to talk to us - see flier below.

RIVER



A poetic journey along the Thames
from source to sea
with *Robert Seatter*

Friday May 22nd
7.30 pm in Brightwell Village Hall

Tickets £10 (£5 for under 18s)
from the Brightwell Village Stores

A fundraising event for Brightwell Supporting Refugees



Brightwell-cum-Sotwell WI

May 2026

**Dream Palaces: A history of the
Ultimate Picture Palace**

Next meeting

Our next meeting is our **Garden Party on June 9th** which is at Jennie's – **Coombe House, Slade End, Brightwell cum Sotwell OX10 ORD**. The meeting starts at three and ends at five.

Sandwiches cake and a glass of sparkles will be on offer plus tea and coffee.

Could you please **reply by email by 1st June** advising if you are coming to the garden party as we need to know numbers for catering purposes. Thank you

See you all at the tea party enjoy spring/summer which we are told is on its way!