
OUR HISTORY

Since its opening in the late 1930s, the Tyneside Coffee Rooms has been a local institution. The result of an accident rather than design, the Cinema's founder Dixon Scott initially intended to let out the three room suite of offices but no tenant could be found at the relatively high rent of £150 a year.

The Scott family decided to make the space pay for itself a year later, and in 1938 the 'Tyneside Coffee Rooms' were opened. The grand title referred to both the main restaurant and the Smoking Room next door, which is now the Tyneside Cinema Digital Lounge.

During the Second World War the Coffee Rooms, like everyone else, had to deal with rationing and it became difficult to obtain many items, including butter. However, the inventive staff devised their own mixture of butter and margarine which they described as a 'pleasant and nutritious alternative'!

The business continued strongly following the War, and legendary specialities such as kidneys on toast became firm favourites.

Our satisfied customers in recent years and decades have included Sir Ian McKellen, Charlton Heston, John Hurt, Rowan Atkinson, Bryan Adams and many, many more.

In 2000 the entire building was recommended for a Grade II listing by English Heritage. Attention was drawn to this 'rare example of a fine cinema café', and the Coffee Rooms was an integral aspect of the building's recent restoration and redevelopment.

After being a family business for 30 years, Tyneside Coffee Rooms is being managed by the Cinema's own team from Monday 9 April 2018. The Coffee Rooms continues to serve up hearty comfort food in the cosy atmosphere that makes it a firm local favourite and a stop off for visitors from around the world.