Historic Environment Forum

Heritage responds -Taking positive action on climate change

Case study

Alexandra Palace: West Hall lighting project

Alexandra Palace

The team at Alexandra Palace replaced the existing house lighting in the West Hall with new energy efficient lighting, reducing energy consumption and electricity costs, making Alexandra Palace more efficient and cost effective as a venue.

This project is a partnership between Alexandra Park & Palace Charitable Trust, Salix and Haringey Council.

Background

The West Hall at Alexandra Palace typically hosts a packed and diverse programme of events throughout the calendar year, covering live music, comedy, exhibitions and elite sport. It is home to the iconic World Darts Championship, the Masters Snooker and in recent times welcomed critically acclaimed performances from the likes of Nick Cave.

Much of the lighting infrastructure at Alexandra Palace was more than 30 years old, energy inefficient and had significant maintenance costs. We had already replaced much of the lighting across other areas of the site and the West Hall was the next key space that required upgrading.

As a blackout space with no natural light, the lights in the West Hall are used intensively, so installation of energy replacement alternative and smart control systems will make a significant impact on our energy consumption. The capital costs are funded by Salix, to be repaid through savings in utility bills in the coming years.

Assisted by expert consultants including Andrew Selwood at Ridge Consulting, we had identified the replacement of our old lighting infrastructure with new energy efficient lighting as a priority in helping Alexandra Palace become more energy efficient. We have replaced existing lighting where possible, but the West Hall was a large project, difficult to achieve when the building is in use. The pandemic offered us a window of opportunity, as the West Hall was not being used for public events.

The project is currently underway, and we are expecting a significant reduction in utility bills in future.

Next steps

Once this project is completed, most of the main lighting inside Alexandra Palace will be energy efficient. We will seek to replace all of the legacy lighting in future. We are also looking at replacement lighting across the 196acre park.



As always with managing a venue, planning is key.

Co-ordinating projects to minimise the disruption on the venue is vital. Making the venue more energy efficient will reduce our carbon consumption and make us more financially resilient, so it is a key priority for us. Image: *Joel Ryan*