1-The ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL

This book was obtained second-hand by Paul Yunnie of the Heritage Group (now retired and living in Australia) having been disposed of by a library in Canberra, passed to myself, and now forms the basis of this Electronic Book.

Brian Roberts. May 2012
The 2900 seat Royal Festival Hall, now a Grade 1 listed building, was built as part of the 1951 Festival of Britain on the South Bank of the River Thames in London. The foundation stone was laid in 1949 by Clement Attlee, then Prime Minister, on the site of the former Lion Brewery, built in 1837. Constructed by Holland & Hannen and Cubitts it cost £2 million. The architects were Leslie Martin, Robert Matthew and Peter Moro. The cost of renovation in 2007 was £111 million and the alterations included improving the poor acoustics.

The site on which the Festival Hall now stands, photographed on 21 July 1949. The famous shot tower stands on the left hand side at the back of the site.
The Old Lion Brewery which stood on the site in Victorian times

The site, looking towards Waterloo Bridge, at the start of foundation work
The site during construction, September 1949

Progress on the site after some eight months after the start of foundation work.
The building contractor was Holland & Hannen and Cubitts Ltd.
Sectional diagram showing the main concert hall above the foyer level.
Two early views of the Royal Festival Hall
Two modern views of the Hall in use