

Chairman's Chat

Brenda has been a member of Wanstead & Woodford Movie Makers for over 20 years, was its Chairman from 2007 > 2010, and has been Chairman of the North Thames IAC Region since November 2007. She was made an FACI in October 2012.



Brenda Granshaw FACI

Another year. Let me start by wishing you all a Happy New Year. By the time you read this, I shall have completed 6 years as the Chairman of the North Thames Region and be starting on the seventh. This has not been a matter of choice. I would have liked to hand over the reins after 2 or 3 years at the most but no one has been prepared to take over responsibility. This year, light is at the end of the tunnel and the region is fortunate to have John Howden who has been elected as vice-chairman with a view to becoming chairman in 2015. Thank you, John. I shall enjoy working with you.

Looking back over the last 6 years I have seen many changes. We have had to revise some of the competitions that have run for many years. The first to go were the Gillham and Manasseh Competitions, which were an off-shoot of the Triangle Competition.. The Triangle Competition, which has run for as long as most of us can remember, originally required clubs to produce 3 films on certain subjects: a documentary, a set-subject and one of the club's choice. At its height, the Competition started out with 27 clubs who competed against each other in groups of three. The number of clubs entering gradually diminished until in the end the Competition was no longer viable.

We tried to make the Competition more attractive to clubs by removing the need to make a film to a set subject but that had little effect and last year the number of clubs entering the Triangle Competition had fallen to 12 which was not sufficient to run a worthwhile interclub competition over the winter months.

The Council has now introduced a new Competition called the Four by Four, which has been fully described in the Newsletter. The purpose was to make a competition with only 16 clubs viable. We have stopped specifying the types of film to be entered. It now requires the four clubs in each group of four to produce the most entertaining programme, as judged by a single judge. Will this succeed? I hope so but I am beginning to despair of ever keeping interest in film making alive in the Region.

At the AGM it was suggested that communication was the key and I agree. But it is a two way street. Clubs need to let John Astin know of events that they are holding to which members of other clubs would be welcome to attend and we at the centre need to do more to communicate individually with clubs. Please e-mail me with your thought & ideas.

Roy Claisse FACI

1929—2013



It is with a great sense of loss that your Council has to report the death of Roy Claisse FACI, who passed away after a long illness on December 6th at the age of eighty-four.

Roy started out as a still photographer and never owned a movie camera. However, he joined Wanstead and Woodford Cine Club in the 1960s and specialised in lighting. In this way he contributed to most of the films the Club made during that time.

Also, although a reluctant actor, he did appear, a bit self-consciously, in a couple of productions.

He furthered his support for the club by becoming its Secretary, a post he held for many years.

He also bought an Elmo 1200 projector - an expensive item - which he made available to the Club and which was particularly useful for its public shows. For about eight years he served as Secretary to the Essex Federation of Cine Clubs, and he helped to organise their annual events.

He joined the North Thames Regional Council where he served for over thirty years as Secretary, helping each new Chairman to get to grips with the job. He worked hard for the Region, supporting the Competition Organiser, printing score sheets, catalogues and information sheets.

He moved on to join the National Council of the IAC on which he served for almost twenty years. He acted as a contact between the Council and our North Thames members.

Having become a member of its Management Committee, he used his building expertise — he had been involved in the building trade in younger days — to advise on the maintenance of the IAC HQ.

He was dedicated in everything he did, and on Council, he was particularly passionate about keeping the Mermaid Competition as a light hearted event. His contribution to the IAC and our Region will be very much missed.

May he rest in peace.

Paul Desmond LACI, from Colchester Film Makers Club, won a 4 Star Trophy and an Imagen Award for his documentary “Out of my Head” in BIAFF 2013. Paul, who is very grateful to Colchester FMC for all it has taught him about film-making, explains how the film came to be:

A FaceBook message alerted me that a former colleague from my journalist days on Merseyside had unexpectedly swapped his camera and lenses for an artist’s palette and brushes and embarked on a new career. I was intrigued to know what had prompted such a radical step. Tony Kenwright’s “story” presented itself at a time when my wife and I were planning a return trip to Merseyside to see family friends, and Tony was staging an acclaimed one man exhibition. His keenness to participate equalled my enthusiasm to make the film, so we agreed a date for the shoot. But bearing in mind our Liverpool visit was ostensibly to see friends and not indulge my passion, I decided to allocate only half a day.

Over the next couple of weeks we exchanged emails and phone calls and agreed that the film would focus on the circumstances surrounding his decision, his one man exhibition and his plans for the future.

I didn’t particularly want to use a third party narrator, especially someone with a southern accent, which I felt would detract from what was intended to be a Liverpool story. Tony was happy to take part in a conversational piece to camera with my voice edited out.

The only ferry operating on the day of the shoot was the Royal Iris—now a tourist attraction. Instead of plying straight across the river the ferry now takes a circular route and, from my point of view, in the wrong direction. So my plans to film Tony dramatically arriving by ferry from one direction had to be thrown overboard!

Armed with a Sony HXR-MC50P camera and a Cullmann 3090 mini tripod, and accompanied by a pal carrying my Velbon D-600 tripod, I met Tony at New Brighton and together we rode the ferry across to Liverpool and then back to Birkenhead where his one man exhibition was being held at the Rathbone Studio.

The on-ferry filming went without a hitch, albeit it was a rather chilly, grey Sunday morning with very few passengers sharing the delights of the crossings.

Tony’s interview was recorded via my on-camera mic with an Edirol R-09 (24bit wave/mp3) recorder set up as a failsafe backup. Happily, there was little or no traffic noise to cause problems. And what had persuaded Tony to seek a new career after 25 years as an award winning Press photographer?

He explained: “I was influenced by the words of the song ‘Fred Jones, Part Two’ by the Ben Folds Five about a newspaperman, who wanted to paint but left it too late to change.

“I had wanted to paint for a long time and thought if I didn’t do something about it, I’ll end up like the newspaperman in the song.”

Tony’s artistic output can be viewed on: www.tonykenwright.com/artworks

Paul’s film can be viewed on **Vimeo Plus**: The link is `<iframe src="http://player.vimeo.com/video/49297419" width="500" height="281" frameborder="0" webkitAllowFullScreen mozallowfullscreen allowFullScreen"></iframe>`

NTR MOVIE FESTIVAL 2013 RESULTS

The One-Minute Competition

*Four films were entered, and the Competition was judged by
Michael Gough FACI(M), from NERAC.*

Winner: "The Mark One Trumping Machine" – **Nigel Lee**

The Main Festival

*28 films were entered (and all shown) and the Competition was judged by
Alan Atkinson FACI, Simon Sumner and Jackie Williams, all from
CEMRIAC.*

Commended:

"Papering over the Cracks" – **Ken Mills OBE LACI**

"The Shard" – **Geoffrey Rippingale**

Highly Commended:

"Value for Money" – **Elstree Studio Group of Staines Video Makers**

"Born To Fly" - **Brian Salmons**

Very Highly Commended:

"Close Encounters" - **Bert Lee**

Kenneth Seeger Trophy for Best Editing:

"Olympic London" - **John Astin AACI**

Leslie Germany Memorial Trophy for Best Use of Sound:

"Seventy Degrees North" - **John Astin AACI**

3rd Place, The Kodak Trophy + £15:

"Olympic London" - **John Astin AACI**

2nd Place, The Ganderson Shield + £25:

"Oui Chef" - **Michael Slowe FACI**

1st Place, The North Thames Regional Trophy + £50:

"Walk on the Wild Side" - **Joe Phillips**



THE 2013 NTRIAC AGM AND MOVIE FESTIVAL

Your editor reports on the event



Over 50 NTRIAC members supported the AGM & Movie Festival Day at Pinner Village Hall on Sunday November 24th 2013.

Having been welcomed with a cup of tea or coffee and biscuits lovingly dispensed by Penny Love & Margaret Farrer from Potters Bar FM, they settled down first to the 90-minute morning programme of films.

Of these for me the most memorable were probably John Astin's "Olympic London", a fast-paced miscellany of London Olympic scenes, Judy Long's "Winter", beautiful snowy pictures cut to music, and Ken Mills' "Papering over the Cracks", another of Ken's everyday-life films, this one depicting the resurfacing of his street!

The AGM followed the morning programme at 12 noon (see p. 10), and then it was lunchtime.

2 pm saw the resumption of the Movie Festival, with a showing of Ken Langan's "The Robbery", his hilarious comedy that even wooed European audiences, winning a Bronze Medal and a Special Award for a Remarkable Script in UNICA 2013 (see photo).

That was followed by the four movies (why only four?) entered in our One Minute Competition, and the deserved winner here was Nigel Lee (see photo) with his "The Mark 1 Trumping Machine".

With another tea/coffee interval half-way through –

this time with some lovely cakes! – the afternoon programme consisted of 17 more movies.

There were several highlights here for me. Michael Slowe's "Oui, Chef", was a fly-on-the-wall documentary about the hectic life in a hotel kitchen, relying solely on interviews and direct speech recordings to tell the story. Potters Bar FM's "A Team"'s "Moving On", told a good story in a well-produced and acted film. "Walk on the Wild Side" by Joe Phillips was a classy,



Ron Jones & Nigel Lee beautifully-shot and edited wild-life documentary.

"Value for Money" from Staines VM was a spiritedly-acted comedy leading predictably to an unpredicted (by me, anyway!) punch line.

"After the Party" (Alan Colegrave), "My Christmas Present" (Ed Kinge), "Hidden Hertfordshire" (Nigel Lee) and "Seventy Degrees North" (John Astin) all had



Brenda Granshaw & Ken Langan

much to commend. (See page 5 for the full results.)

The day went really well, and the Council's thanks go to Penny Love for her work with the refreshments, Christine Collins for the organisation of the One Minute Competition, the Harrow C&VS members for their immaculate projection – the sound quality in particular was outstanding – and to Ken Mills for the tremendous amount of work he had put in to the whole event.

John Astin AACI

Your Competition Officer gives his thoughts



Ron Jones & John Astin

It's interesting to see the changes each year in the number of entries, the aspect ratios, formats and running times of the videos.

This year I had 28 entries lasting 3hrs 41mins, against 31 in 2012 lasting 4hrs 45mins. The big differences here were the running times with 8 entries over 10mins this year against 13 last year. Blu-Rays were up to 9 against 6 last year with a steadily reducing number of 4:3 entries down to 5 against 7 in 2012. The biggest drop in Mini-DV entries was in 2011 when we had 11 which went down to 2 in 2012 and again just 2 this year.



Ron Jones & Michael Slowe

Jim Gatt, my technical colleague, has the unenviable job of compiling for each of the three sessions, DVDs with all the standard definition videos. Because we have to contend with the hall's 4:3 screen, Jim keeps the 4:3 entries full size and letter-boxes the 16:9 entries so we actually project in the 4:3 format. We were specifically asked this year to show the Blu-Ray entries and as they were all 16:9 we had to re-set the projector every time and return it to 4:3 afterwards.



Ron Jones & Joe Phillips

A few years ago when we first had Blu-Rays to contend with, we had to ask for standard definition copies as we had so many problems playing Blu-Rays and Jim used all the standard definition copies in his compilations. He was most amused when people came up to him to say how wonderful the HD versions looked – which we didn't use, when actually our equipment had simply upscaled the standard ones almost to the HD quality!

So this year we did show the HD versions and no one I spoke to mentioned that they saw any difference between our upscaled SD versions and the Blu-Rays. The only glitch we had in an otherwise perfect presentation, was of course a Blu-Ray which refused to play in spite of trying several times. We had to put it in another player which "Belt and Braces Jim" had standing by, so all was well. **continued on page 10**

NTR 100 CLUB

Contact: John Farrer

Tel.: 01462 434948 E-Mail: jffarrer@madasafish.com

The Draws for November & December were made
at the NTR AGM & Movie Festival on November 24th.

Each of the following wins £12:

November

- 67 Guy Scott
Colchester FM
- 40 M.F. Dwyer
ex-member ?
- 54 Bob Chester
Potters Bar FM

December

- 81 Wallace Jacobs
Harrow C&V S
- 10 Ted Bateman
St. Albans MM
- 23 John Farrer
Potters Bar FM
- 29 Ron Jones
Potters Bar FM
- 57 Aylesbury CE

John Farrer writes:

The 100 Club provides the only regular income to our Region.

From this income the Region funds this Newsletter, our Competitions, and our Educational and Social Events etc.

To build up our 100 Club here is a choice of New Year Resolutions!

Buy your first share

and/or

Buy another share

and/or

Cajole a friend to join the 100 Club

and/or

Make sure your club is a shareholder!

A share costs only £12 annually and we are aiming to have up to 60 prizes of £12 in 2014. There were 46 in 2013!

For an application form or more details please send an email to me (*address above*).



Welcome!

To our new members:

No new members this time

To join the IAC , contact:

IAC, The Film and Video Institute,

Dorset House,

Regent Park,

Kingston Road,

LEATHERHEAD, Surrey, KT22 7PL.

Tel.: 01372 824350

E-Mail: admin@theiac.org.uk



SPOTLIGHT ON THE FUTURE

JANUARY 31st 2014

Deadline for entering your film into BIAFF 2014. There was an Entry Form in the last "Film & Video Maker", or it can be downloaded from the IAC website.

SATURDAY MARCH 22nd 2014

The East Anglian Audio-Visual Competition at Margaretting Village Hall, Wantz Road, Ingatestone, Essex, CM4 0EP.

Judging starts at 9.45 am.

Gala Show & Presentation at 7 pm.

For details: Phone Dick Williams on 01708 748580

E-Mail: dickwilliamsav@yahoo.co.uk

Website: www.essexavgrouop.org.uk

Deadline for Entries: February 22nd

FRIDAY APRIL 11th - SUNDAY APRIL 13th 2014

BIAFF 2014 hosted by the North Thames Region at the Park Inn by Radisson, Bedford, MK42 0AR.

Booking Forms were in the last "Film & Video Maker", and are available from the IAC website, or from Jack Gill.

Thoughts on the Movie Festival *continued*



This is the last year that Jim will be doing the presentation for us. He has set a very high standard which I hope we can maintain and I'm very grateful for all his efforts over the last few years. I couldn't have done my job without his help.

Many Thanks Jim.

Ken Mills OBE LACI

Harrow CVS Projection Team:

(l>r) Ken Mills, Ken Gale, Jim Gatt & Judy Long

Members' Voices at the AGM

Issues raised:

1. Audio-Visual:

Ken Mills reports:

We will, in all probability next year, be introducing AV entries and, as they are often projected from a card, Alan Colegrave will be looking at the possibilities of combining HD and SD video and AV and playing it all out of a computer. Technology forever marches on - let's hope we can keep up with it!

2. Club Communications:

Several Council Officers expressed frustrations at trying to communicate with Clubs who did not keep their contacts up-to-date either in the Newsletter Club Directory or on their website, and about letters & e-mails that went unacknowledged and unanswered. All Clubs were urged to be more pro-active, or the viability of the NTR would be under threat.

3. Copyright Issues:

There were questions about copyright issues.

The IAC website (www.theiac.org.uk) deals very thoroughly indeed with most situations. Go to the Home Page > IAC > (from the dropdown list, click on) "Copyright" .

There is also a 6-side A5 flyer (on yellow paper) called "IAC Copyright Clearance Schemes" available from the IAC Head Office (*address on p.9*).



Club Matters



The East Anglian Film Archive

I wonder how many members or clubs out there know of the East Anglian Film Archive, or indeed make use, or have made use of, its facilities.

Their website Home Page (www.eafa.uk) invites us to view 200 hours of film from their archives for free, to browse, to search, to watch highlights, and to learn about the archives and their library.

If my memory serves me right, Potters Bar FM once inquired whether the EAFA would store our old celluloid films for us, but the Club went no further. *Ed.*

Eric Jukes, Chairman of Enfield Video Makers, has had more recent dealings with the Archive:

"Recently I was looking for some stock footage to go with a film I am making. I needed footage of an old beauty contest ,a common event until political correctness killed them off.

They were popular for decades - Miss Margate etc or the ones held at Butlins Holiday Camps come to mind.

I was advised to contact the East Anglian Film Archive.

I searched on their website and found the perfect bit of footage. I emailed the Archive stating that I was happy to pay for the footage.

They came back to me after 6 weeks to inform me "that for the time being your enquiry is something we're not able to commit to."

They said that "Your project is the type of work that we would have previously been very keen to be involved with but due to cuts we now have a smaller resource pool and have had to re-prioritise what it is that we're able to offer. For the time being we're focusing our efforts on existing broadcast, education and donor commitments as well as maintaining and developing our website. It's possible in the future, we'll be able to help out directly with enquiries like this again, we hope so. Sorry we can't help just now, do keep an eye on the website and feel free to get in touch again to see if the situation has changed."

I'm not going to hold my breath on this one but thought that fellow film-makers who might wish to use the East Anglian Film Archive should know the position.

Not good news! If anyone else has had any recent contact with EAFA, please let us know.

HACCA 2013

The Hertfordshire Amateur Cine Clubs Association (HACCA),



The HACCA audience at Hemel

as far as I know never an Association as such, but just an annual competition between all the cine clubs in Hertfordshire, was started in the 1960s by Peter Wernham, who with his wife Daphne ran Cresta Electronics in Radlett. I used to take all my Super 8 films there to be striped in the good old pre-video age!

Sadly, Peter passed away in June 2013, and his Competition is ailing somewhat.

It is now reduced to just three clubs, Hemel Hempstead MM, Potters Bar FM and St. Albans MM, who competed for the HACCA Shield on a Hemel Club Night in November.

The general idea was to find the best film (in the judges' opinion, of course!) made in Hertfordshire in the past 18 months or so.

An audience of about 30 members from the three clubs watched a good programme of films, with each club allowed a maximum of 25 minutes screen time.

Potters Bar FM took second and third places with "Moment to Shine" and "Moving On" respectively, but the HACCA Shield was won by Hemel Hempstead, with Andrew Pennycook's beautifully crafted "Stained Glass", a documentary about making a stained-glass window. The judges described the film as "captivating" and "technically highly proficient".

John Astin AACI



Judges: (l >r) Roy Newman, Eric Jukes & Dennis Kelly



HHMM's Mary Harris presents the Shield to HACCA Winner Andrew Pennycook (HHMM)

To learn more about the history of HACCA, have a look at Alan French's article on the "Hertsmemories" website. It's at:

www.hertsmemories.org.uk > Topics > Films and Film Makers > Annual Hertfordshire Film Competition

Deadline for the next issue is Sunday February 2nd

Please send all contributions by e-mail to:

john.astin1@ntlworld.com