

North Thames Region



The Film & Video Institute

www.theiac.org.uk

NEWSLETTER

January—February 2015

HAPPY NEW YEAR



“Steaming Harz” wins the hearts of the SERIAC judges at our 2014 NTR Movie Festival
full report on pp 5—7

Changes at the 2014 AGM on your NTR Council.
Welcome in their new roles to:



John Howden
Chairman



Brenda Granshaw
Treasurer



Christine Collins
Festival Competition



Alan Colegrave
“Without Portfolio”

NTR CONTACTS:

Chairman: John Howden, 12A Back Road, Writtle, CHELMSFORD, Essex, CM1 3PD
Tel.: 01245 422023 E-Mail: johnhowden@talktalk.net

Newsletter Editor: John Astin AACI, 137 Perrysfield Road, CHESHUNT, Herts., EN8 0TJ
Tel.: 01992 426937 E-Mail: john.astin1@ntlworld.com

Membership Secretary & Regional Contact: Penny Love FACI
Tel.: 01707 656446 E-Mail: alystan@tiscali.co.uk

For one edition only, the “Chairman’s Chat” transfers across the page to make way for a tribute to the work of our outgoing Chairman from the Region’s Membership Secretary, Penny Love FACI:

Brenda Granshaw FACI



- Chairman of the North Thames Region Council for 7 years.
- Member of Wanstead and Woodford Movie Makers for more than 20 years.
- A judge for many inter club competitions & for rounds of The Triangle Competition.
- A judge many times for BIAFF.
- Travelled to many countries to be at UNICA.
- A member of the National IAC Council.
- Has made brilliant films while on holiday in some most unusual places.
- Was made an FACI in 2012.
- Travels many miles between a home in Ealing with her cats, and Chingford with Eric.
- Always willing to give help and advice when asked.
- She must also have a 36 hour day to fit all of this in !!!!

Brenda has looked after our interests for many years, including reluctantly taking on the Chairmanship of North Thames for a second, and even third time, after her original term of office, and manages to take everything in her stride.

Her biggest challenge, though, must have been when, about 14 days before the event, she went to check on the last minute arrangements for us hosting BIAFF in April 2014, to be told that the Hotel had double booked the rooms !!!!!!!!!!!!!

It's probably best that we weren't there to hear what she said to the manager but it all got sorted out quickly by some of us being 'out stationed' to another hotel.

She and Jack Gill must have got fed up with explaining why the change of plan but she always had a smile, (regardless of the nervous breakdown that must have been lurking in the background), and was even at 'the other hotel' to make sure everyone knew the travelling arrangements to get to and from there to the main hotel in time for the events to start.

We have been very fortunate to have a woman of many talents 'at the helm' for the last 7 years but she has now decided to step down and let someone else take the strain.

Brenda will still be a Council Member and rumour has it that she will even take on the job of Treasurer.

Our thanks go to her for keeping the Region under control for so long and for dealing with so much behind the scenes that we will probably never know about.

It's no good telling her to take it easy as she's not that sort of lady, so we give her our very best wishes for the future and look forward to seeing more of her films from unusual places that she should now have a bit more time to visit.

Chairman's Chat

John Howden joined Colchester Film Makers in 2004 and took over as Chairman in 2005. Now the Club's Competitions Officer, he joined the NTR Council in 2012 & also now serves on the National IAC Council. He is an active film maker, regularly receiving 3 and sometimes 4 Star Awards in BIAFF.



Hello Fellow Film Makers!

As I take over from Brenda as your Chairman, I have to say that I feel it is a privilege. As a relative newcomer to the Council and to film making, I ask myself 'how did it all happen?' Maybe I didn't see it coming, or I didn't duck in time! Whatever, I am here and I take over with some trepidation and with a lot of questions.

There has been a lot of chatter about the future of our hobby recently. How can we attract new members to the clubs? How can we be open to young people joining? How do the clubs relate to the Region and to the IAC? And so on and so forth. Every now and then, someone comes up with a scheme to try to answer at least one of these queries, and maybe, just maybe, for a time, things seem to improve.

About four or five years ago my own club, Colchester Film Makers, had an influx of younger people (that meant under 55!), all of them keen on improving their skills and getting information on cameras etc. After a few weeks their enthusiasm disappeared and they got fed up with a group of much older people, many of whom had given up making films a long time ago.

I don't blame them, the young people I mean, and some went on to form film making groups of their own shooting a new production every week! AND they use DSLR's, mobile phones and GoPro's. Provided the dramas contained at least one death and concerned gangs of hoodies roaming the streets, all seemed to be right in their universe. The movies are on YouTube and will never win BIAFF, at least not in this decade.

So I am left with the same dilemma. What use is the North Thames Regional Council and what function does it serve in our hobby? I will return to this in future newsletters.

In the meantime I am passionate about film and film making. I am amazed to find that a large number of people do not watch TV productions, let alone go to the cinema, but still claim to be a film maker. Apart from early forays into cine, my interest in film and particularly drama and documentary was sparked by meeting such people as Anthony Minghella, Mike Leigh, and Alan Plater during my time with the BBC. Film making is a team exercise, and we amateurs tend to work alone. Maybe that is a clue for future thinking. If you have read this far, drop me an email with your views and ideas. I would love to hear from you: johnhowden@talktalk.net.

The 2014 4x4 Competition did not have enough Clubs entering, so your Council has replaced it with a Knockout Competition (full rules in the Nov./Dec. Newsletter) that needs only 12 Clubs. Unfortunately, only 11 Clubs entered.

Here is the Draw:

First Round

This Draw shows the running order, which applies to each round of the Competition.

Normally the Club that is named **first** is regarded as being the **Host Club**. However, for the first round, where it would be advantageous for one of the other Clubs to act as host due to geographical location, or for any other reason, this will be acceptable, providing that:

1. All the participating Clubs in the round affected to agree to the change
2. The Competition Organiser is informed in advance of the round taking place.

The First Round should take place in March.

Round A

Walthamstow CVC
Hemel Hempstead MM
Enfield VM

Round C

Harrow FM
Staines VM
Finchley FM

Round B

Potters Bar FM
Colchester FMC
Bourne End VM

Round D

Wanstead & Woodford MM
St Albans MM

Final Round

Winner of Rounds A, B, C, & D.

The winner of last year's NTR 4 x 4 Competition, Hemel Hempstead Movie Makers, will host the Final Round, on Saturday 16th May 2015 at 2-30pm, at Leverstock Green Village Hall, Leverstock Green Way, Hemel Hempstead, HP3 8QG

Ron Jones, Competition Organiser

NTR 2014 MOVIE FESTIVAL RESULTS

*25 films were entered (and all shown) and the Competition was judged by **Ron Prosser FACI, David Fenn and Paul Bailey**, all from **SERIAC**.*

Commended:

"A Wonderful World" – Nigel Lee
"Pastures In The Sky" – Dennis Lowe

Highly Commended:

"Branches Everywhere" – Christine Collins
"Java Jive" - Ed Kinge

Very Highly Commended:

"Panacea" - Christine Collins
"One Night Only" - The A Team from Potters Bar FM
"The Cloud" - Graham Large & Tim Stannard

Kenneth Seeger Rose Bowl for Best Editing:

"Water's Edge" - Channel 7 Productions

Leslie Germany Memorial Trophy for Best Use of Sound:

"A Heap of Cinders" - John Astin

3rd Place, The Kodak Shield + £15:

"Water's Edge" - Channel 7 Productions

2nd Place, The Ganderson Shield + £25:

"Tudor Rap" - Tim Stannard

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

"Steaming Harz" - John Astin



THE 2014 NTRAC AGM AND MOVIE FESTIVAL

Your editor reports on the event

By 10.30 am on the morning of Sunday November 30th 2014, over 50 NTRAC members in Pinner Village Hall had already enjoyed a cup of tea or coffee and a biscuit lavished on them by the ever cheerful Penny Love & Margaret Farrer, bought some Raffle Tickets from Bob Chester & Angela Stroud, and were settling down to the first 90 minutes of films.



Ken Gale & Jim Gatt at the controls

To save hassles, the Projection Team had decided to show all the 4:3 entries first, and, as it turned out, four of the first five shown were from Potters Bar FM members! We then switched to 16:9, with all the Blurays being projected individually from the originals – nine films in all in the morning.



A section of the afternoon audience

Modesty prevents me from mentioning my own films, but of the others I particularly enjoyed Christine Collins' "Branches Everywhere", an engrossing look at the world of genealogy, with a natural, absorbing voiceover. "Tudor Rap!", by Tim & Martine Stannard, was also a stand-out for me. This lively, vibrant film puts Tim & Martine's children, their friends & Green Screen to brilliant use in a costumed piece featuring the children singing the story of Henry VIII to a rap beat. So refreshing!

The first afternoon session started at 2.15 pm, after the AGM & the lunch break. There were nine more films in this slot.

The use of Green Screen seems to be becoming more prevalent in amateur films, and its use was evident in "Tut Tut!" (Tim & Martine Stannard), "Wren's London" (Mike Hobbs) & "Pastures in the Sky" (Dennis Lowe), yet the straightforward films to a record or poem ("Java Jive" by Ed Kinge and "Panacea" by Christine Collins) were also enjoyed. "One Night Only" (The A Team from Potters Bar FM) turned out to be a very amusing punchline comedy to end the session.

The most talked-about film in this session, however, was Dennis Lowe's "Pastures in the Sky", a film focussing on the life of Cornish artist Patrick Woodroffe. It contained some impressive special effects, archive footage, interviews with his wife and with access to the artist himself. Some members of the audience were very moved by the film, others found it rather confusing, and it was the subject of most discussion at the interval.

The last session from 4.30 – 5.30 pm contained six films.

Channel 7 Productions' "Water's Edge", a classy, downbeat film about a man seemingly contemplating suicide after inadvertently allowing his child to drown, appeared the most professionally made.

I was impressed by the dawn scenes and the gilded luxury of St. Petersburg in “Baltic Charms” (Brian Salmons), and the well-produced drama “The Cloud” (Graham Large & Tim Stannard).

Finally, Competitions Officer Ken Mills read out the names of the Award Winners (see p. 5), and NTR President Ron Jones presented the Awards.

Though it was an enjoyable day with a decent though not huge attendance, there were some alarming signs.

Of the 25 films entered & shown (5 less than in 2013, 8 less than in 2012), at least 15 came from members of just two clubs (Potters Bar FM & Staines VM). Surely across our Region there must be many more film makers who could have entered films. There are 23 clubs listed in the Club Directory (p. 11), yet I doubt whether more than five or six had films from their members entered in the Festival.

Some of our formerly most prestigious clubs were totally unrepresented both in the shows and in the audience.

If someone would like to explain why, the Council would love to hear from you.

It was also sad that this will be the last year that Ken Mills serves as the Festival Competition Officer, and Jim Gatt & his team from Harrow FM act as the Projection Team. Their devotion to duty, attention to detail and willingness to give so much of their time and energy to ensure a top-class event will be sorely missed. Many, many thanks!



Lindsay Townley & Darren Lalonde (r) from Channel 7 Productions receiving the Shield for 3rd Place



Tim Stannard receiving the Shield for 2nd Place



John Astin receiving the Shield for 1st Place

The **NTR AGM** took place at 12 noon, and the changes in your Council shown on the front cover were voted in.

Aivar Kaulins, Eileen Kenning & Ken Mills retired from the Council, and Brenda thanked them in her Report for the enormous contribution they had made to the North Thames Region over the years.

John Astin, John Farrer, Ron Jones & Penny Love remain on the Council, their roles **unchanged**.

“Members’ Voices” produced nothing from the floor.

Everyone happy—or total apathy?!



(l>r) Ron Jones, Brenda Granshaw & Penny Love conducting the AGM

NTR 100 CLUB

Contact: John Farrer

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

Each of the following wins £12:

November 2014

53 Kim Harrold

PBFM

103 Nick Gale

HFM

36 Peter Barnes

HFM

59 John Parkes

PBFM

December 2014

2 Eric Granshaw 67 Guy Scott

WWMM

CFMC

32 Fred Curtis 78 Ron Jones

—

PBFM

52 Gill Harrold 36 Peter Barnes

PBFM

HFM

92 Sheila Goodwin 17 Vera Duffin

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The 100 Club—A Success Story: Well done, John Farrer!

- Issued shares now are at an all-time level of 108 !
- 56 shares were “ winning shares” in 2014. (36 in 2011 !)
- £672 has been paid to Shareholders in 2014.
- £672 has been paid to the North Thames Region in 2014.
- The NTR 100 Club is the Region’s only regular source of income.
- All in all, a snap-shot of a very healthy region!



Welcome!

To our new members:
Hayley Hope-Newman - Beds.
John Watkins - Essex

To join the IAC , contact:
IAC, The Film and Video Institute,
McCracken Park,
Great North Road,
Gosforth,
NEWCASTLE ON TYNE NE3 2DT
Tel.: 0191 303 8960
E-Mail: admin@theiac.org.uk

SPOTLIGHT ON THE FUTURE



JANUARY 31st 2015

Deadline for entering your film into BIAFF 2015. An Entry Form can be downloaded from the IAC website.

THURSDAY>SUNDAY APRIL 16th—19th 2015

BIAFF 2015 hosted by SERIAC at the Best Western Hotel, Sittingbourne, Kent
Details in "Film & Video Maker"

Central and East Midlands Region of the IAC **CEMRIAC TRAINING SEMINAR**

Sunday 8th February 2015

The Perdiswell Young Peoples' Club, Droitwich Road, Worcester WR3 7SN.
9.30am to 5pm

Ashley Hawkins - Professional filmmaker and experienced trainer presents:

"DRAGON SLAYING INTERVIEW TECHNIQUES"- Multi-tasking the interview for the solo film maker. How to ask the right questions and get the best camera angles.

"FROM ONE LIGHT TO FINAL GRADE" - Introducing the how and why of white balance, colour correction and colour grading. Tips and techniques for using colour to enhance your films. *(NB this will be relevant to users of any editing software.)*

Michael Gough - Master Movie Maker Fellow of the IAC presents:

"STYLE AND SUBSTANCE" - The best piece of equipment is your brain.

Tickets: £6 for IAC Members, £7 for non-members *(Prices kept low with IAC grant)*

Roast Lunch (optional): £10 *(must be booked in advance)*

E-Mail Contact: Alan Atkinson AlanAtkinsonCV23@aol.com

At the start of a new year, I'm printing the Club Directory (*opposite*) with the contacts for all the video clubs that want to have their information made public.

There have been changes & losses since the Directory was last printed.

Please have a look and let me know if you think there is any information that is absent or inaccurate, or that you'd like changing. *Ed.*

Please note that the IAC Office has now changed its location. The new address is:

IAC, The Film and Video Institute,
McCracken Park,
Great North Road,
Gosforth,
NEWCASTLE ON TYNE NE3 2DT
Tel.: 0191 303 8960
E-Mail: admin@theiac.org.uk (*unchanged*)

The Fight for Survival

As a former publicity officer for both the North Thames Region of the IAC and my own club - Harrow Cine & Video Society, recently renamed Harrow Film Makers - the subject of publicity is one that is of great interest to me.

I am a great believer in the saying "promote or perish", and regrettably this has proved to be true, with all too many of our cinevideo clubs in the country.

I was therefore very pleased to read John Astin's article on page 10 of the November / December 2014 edition of the NTR Newsletter regarding ideas for club publicity, and wish to congratulate him and John Farrer on their initiative. Well done, Potters Bar Film Makers!

It is both interesting and certainly good to know that most larger Tesco supermarkets have a Community Champion, and are open to promotional suggestions. Harrow's nearest Tesco will certainly receive a visit from our own Publicity Officer, currently Judy Long, and I wish her well!

Aivar Kaulins

FOR SALE

Sony HVR A1E camcorder in good working order, with a number of high volume batteries, a wide angle lens, battery charger, and a number of cables. This is an HDV mini DV tape camera shooting at 1440 by 1080, with manual focus, touch screen controls, firewire out, 2xXLR and 3.5 stereo mic inputs and an external microphone. Price; £550 plus package and postage. Further details from John Howden.
E-Mail: johnhowden@talktalk.net Tel.: 01245 422023

Club Directory

ACORN FILMS, CHINGFORD

Contact: David Piggott 020 8524 9642

AYLESBURY CAMCORDER ENTHUSIASTS

www.the-ace.org Contact: Alan Bowles,
50 Queens Mead, Bedgrove, Aylesbury,
Bucks., HP21 7AP

BOURNE END VIDEO MAKERS

www.bevm.co.uk Contact: David Jarman,
Secretary, 4 Lowlands Crescent, Great
Kingshill, High Wycombe, Bucks., HP15
6EG.

BRENTWOOD VIDEO CLUB

Sec. Julian Ryley, Tel.: 01277 21 6147

CHANNEL 7 PRODUCTIONS

E-Mail: Darren@channel7.org.uk.
Contact: Darren Lalonde 01480 405615 or
07887 932498

COLCHESTER FILM MAKERS CLUB

www.Cfmclub.org.uk
Contact: Paul Desmond, Secretary.
Tel.: 07831 452295

ENFIELD VIDEO MAKERS

www.enfieldvideomakers.co.uk
Contact: Eric Jukes. Tel.: 0208 366 6162

THE ESSEX AUDIO-VISUAL GROUP

www.essexavgrouop.org.uk
Contact: Mr. R. Williams, Tel.: 01708 748580

FINCHLEY FILM MAKERS

www.finchleycinevideo.co.uk
Contact: Brian Clayfield, 4 Waterlow Court,
Heath Close, London NW11 7DT.

HARROW FILM MAKERS

www.harrowcinevideo.org.uk
Contact: Ken Gale Tel.: 020 8424 0235

HEMEL HEMPSTEAD MOVIE MAKERS

www.hemelmoviemakers.org.uk
Contact: Mary Harris
Tel.: 01442 256393

MILTON KEYNES CAMCORDER CLUB

www.mkcamcorderclub.co.uk
Contact: Tel.: 01908 236419

OXFORD VIDEO SOCIETY

[Oxfordvideosoc.mysite.wanadoo-
members.co.uk](http://Oxfordvideosoc.mysite.wanadoo-members.co.uk) Contact: Michael
Batts, Tel.: 01865 88 1393

POTTERS BAR FILMMAKERS

www.pottersbarfilmmakers.co.uk
Contact: Penny Love Tel.: 01707 656446

RADLEY VIDEO

www.radleyvideo.co.uk
Contact: Radley College, Abingdon, Oxon.,
OX14 2HR

SOUTH ESSEX FILM MAKERS

www.sefm.org.uk
Contact: Geoff Woolfson.
Tel.: 07964445356

ST. ALBANS MOVIE MAKERS

www.stalbansmm.weebly.com Contact:
Nigel Longman. Tel.: 01923 779571

STAINES VIDEO MAKERS

www.stainesvideo.co.uk Contact:
Mrs. Cathy Clarke, Tel.: 01784 433580

SVGA – THE SELECT VIDEO GROUP OF AMERSHAM

www.svga.weebly.com
Contact: Ron Haddock, thro' the web

THREE COUNTIES MOVIE MAKERS

Contact: Tel.: 01442 214990

WALTHAMSTOW AMATEUR CINE VIDEO CLUB

www.wacvc.org.uk
Contact: Venner Gilbert, Tel.: 01708 746586

WANSTEAD AND WOODFORD MOVIE MAKERS

www.wansteadcinevideo.org.uk
Contact: Martin Page, Tel.: 020 8508 6312

WEST LONDON FILM GROUP

Contact: Karen Cherrington 020 8429 8497

HACCA 2014

The Hertfordshire Amateur Cine Clubs Association (HACCA),

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.

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

A sad sign of the times - It is now reduced to just three clubs, Hemel Hempstead MM, Potters Bar FM and St. Albans MM.

Potters Bar hosted the 2014 event in the Wyllyotts Centre in Potters Bar on the evening of Saturday November 15th.

In the 25 minutes maximum screen time allotted to each Club, Hemel showed three films, and Potters Bar & St. Albans four each.

All eleven films were shown before the coffee break, during which time the three judges, John Luton, Ben Simon & Michael Crowe, discussed the films & chose their winners (see photo, left).



Judges: (l >r) Michael Crowe, Ben Simon & John Luton

On the resumption, one judge spoke on each film, and their concise, erudite and constructive comments were much appreciated.

Steve Game's interesting travelogue on Norway was placed 3rd, The A Team from Potters Bar FM's very funny 2-minute comedy was placed 2nd, but the HACCA Shield was presented for the second year in succession to Hemel Hempstead & Andrew Pennycook, this year for his moving film, beautifully narrated, featuring a visit to Northern France, and including an interview with a WWII survivor.

3rd: Halfway To The Pole—Steve Game, St. Albans MM

2nd: One Night Only—The A Team from Potters Bar FM

1st: Never Forgotten—Andrew

Pennycook, Hemel Hempstead MM



Potters Bar FM's President John Astin presents the Shield to HACCA Winner Andrew Pennycook (HHMM)

Deadline for the next issue is Sunday February 8th

Please send all contributions by e-mail to:

john.astin1@ntlworld.com