

# North Thames Region



## NEWSLETTER

March—April 2017



Earth has not anything to show more fair: Dull would he be of soul who could  
pass by  
A sight so touching in its majesty: This City now doth, like a garment, wear  
The beauty of the morning: silent, bare, Ships, towers, domes, theatres, and  
temples lie  
Open unto the fields, and to the sky; All bright and glittering in the smokeless air.  
*William Wordsworth*

**Get those Camcorders out—the light at this time of year can be  
stunning!**

**The Results & Report on the 2016 On-Line Competition -  
and a Festival for 2017!**

#### **NTRIAC CONTACTS:**

**Chairman:** Brenda Granshaw FACI, 8 The Green Walk, CHINGFORD, E4 7ER

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**Membership Secretary & Regional Contact:** Penny Love FACI

Tel.: 01707 656446 E-Mail: [alystan@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:alystan@tiscali.co.uk)

# Chairman's Chat

**Brenda has been a member of Wanstead and Woodford Movie Makers for over 20 years and became their Chairman again in 2015. She was Chairman of the North Thames Region from 2007 to 2014, and is now serving for the second time.**



It is a long time since Christmas and even longer since I attended the North v South Competition in Farnborough, Kent. The Competition was started over 40 years ago and was for many years organised by Mike Coad who sadly died last year. The entries to the Competition are organised into two groups, the North and South, with the dividing line being an east-west boundary line drawn through Stoke on Trent. Although the Southern Group includes the North Thames Region, our clubs are either reluctant to enter or do not receive details. Films for the Competition have to fit a theme which last year was "Out of the Blue". We saw all but two of the 29 entries and had a very enjoyable afternoon. It became all the better when it was revealed that the South Section had won the Competition with "Ties that Bind" by Sutton Coldfield Movie Makers. The planned Theme for 2017 is "Moving" but currently Orpington Video and Film Makers have said that they are unable to organise the Competition and as yet no one has stepped forward to take it on – so watch this space. It would be a shame to lose this Competition after all these years.

I find the comments made in the Newsletter about the future of our hobby very interesting. Both Tom Hardwick and Steven Mayfield speak of the benefits of training courses and I am sure they are right. However, having done the training course, these youngsters are much more likely to arrange a filming session on Facebook or Twitter than join a club. Also, I would agree with Steven that those newly turning 50 are not suddenly going to want to join a video club – where would they find the time? Currently, I would expect those over 60 to join a club when they retire, have more time, and want to meet other likeminded people. This leads me to wonder, assisted by Tom's comments, whether we should be looking to the U3A for new members but this would mean arranging meetings during the day and finding someone willing to run them.

In the meantime, the First Rounds of the Knock-Out Competition have been arranged (see p. 10) and I hope that you will consider attending rounds in addition to your own. It is always interesting to see what other clubs are producing. In addition, the NTR has started planning the 2017 Movie Competition & Festival Day (see p. 8).

**Brenda**

# Club Directory

*The Region now has just 19 Clubs who want to appear in this list*

## ACORN FILMS, CHINGFORD

Contact: David Piggott  
Tel.: 020 8524 9642

## AYLESBURY CAMCORDER ENTHUSIASTS

[www.the-ace.org](http://www.the-ace.org) Contact: Alan Bowles,  
50 Queens Mead, Bedgrove, Aylesbury,  
Bucks., HP21 7AP

## BOURNE END VIDEO MAKERS

[www.bevm.co.uk](http://www.bevm.co.uk) Contact: David Jarman,  
Secretary, 4 Lowlands Crescent, Great  
Kingshill, High Wycombe, Bucks., HP15  
6EG.  
Email: [enquiries@bevm.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@bevm.co.uk)

## BRENTWOOD VIDEO CLUB

Contact: Betty O'Neill, Secretary, 28 Leafy  
Way, Hutton, Brentwood, Essex CM13 2QW

## CHANNEL 7 PRODUCTIONS

Contact: Darren Lalonde 01480 405615 or  
07887 932498  
E-Mail: [Darren@channel7.org.uk](mailto:Darren@channel7.org.uk)

## COLCHESTER FILM MAKERS CLUB

[www.Cfmclub.org.uk](http://www.Cfmclub.org.uk)  
Contact: Lionel Bloomfield, Secretary.  
Tel.: 07914 800022  
Email: [secretary@cfmclub.org.uk](mailto:secretary@cfmclub.org.uk)

## ENFIELD VIDEO MAKERS

[www.enfieldvideomakers.co.uk](http://www.enfieldvideomakers.co.uk)  
Contact: Eric Jukes  
Tel.: 0208 366 6162

## THE ESSEX AUDIO-VISUAL GROUP

[www.essexavgroup.org.uk](http://www.essexavgroup.org.uk)  
Contact: Mr. R. Williams  
Tel.: 01708 748580

## FINCHLEY FILM MAKERS

[www.finchleycinevideo.co.uk](http://www.finchleycinevideo.co.uk)  
Contact: Alan Douglas, 1 Nethercourt  
Avenue, Finchley, N3 1PS.  
Tel.: 020 8349 3623 or 07715 171 446  
Email: [aljendouglas@btinternet.com](mailto:aljendouglas@btinternet.com)

## HARROW FILM MAKERS

[www.harrowcinevideo.org.uk](http://www.harrowcinevideo.org.uk)  
Contact: Geoff Foord  
Tel.: 020 8868 4021

## HEMEL HEMPSTEAD MOVIE MAKERS

[www.hemelhempsteadmoviemakers.org](http://www.hemelhempsteadmoviemakers.org).  
Contact: Mary Harris  
Tel.: 01442 256393

## POTTERS BAR FILMMAKERS

[www.pottersbarfilmmakers.co.uk](http://www.pottersbarfilmmakers.co.uk)  
Contact: Penny Love  
Tel.: 01707 656446

## RADLEY VIDEO

[www.radleyvideo.co.uk](http://www.radleyvideo.co.uk)  
Contact: Radley College, Abingdon, Oxon.,  
OX14 2HR

## SOUTH ESSEX FILM MAKERS

[www.sefm.org.uk](http://www.sefm.org.uk)  
Contact: Stewart Cope  
Tel.: 07740 366937

## ST. ALBANS MOVIE MAKERS

[www.stalbansmm.weebly.com](http://www.stalbansmm.weebly.com).  
Contact: Mike Cobert  
Tel.: 01727 853819

## STAINES VIDEO MAKERS

[www.stainesvideo.co.uk](http://www.stainesvideo.co.uk)  
Contact: Helen Mills  
Tel.: 01932 845616

## WALTHAMSTOW AMATEUR CINE VIDEO CLUB

[www.wacvc.org.uk](http://www.wacvc.org.uk)  
Contact: Roy Garner  
Tel.: 01992 577568

## WANSTEAD AND WOODFORD MOVIE MAKERS

[www.wansteadcinevideo.org.uk](http://www.wansteadcinevideo.org.uk)  
Contact: Martin Page  
Tel.: 020 8508 6312

## WOODSTOCK VIDEO CLUB

[www.woodstockvideoclub.co.uk](http://www.woodstockvideoclub.co.uk)  
Contact: Brian Battrick  
Tel.: 01993 812891

# Did You Notice . . . ?

## Spotted in the National Press in January 2017

LG and Sony have followed Samsung, and ceased production of 3D TVs, saying that there just isn't the demand from customers. The need to wear chunky 3D glasses in the lounge seems to have been the major problem, along with a lack of quality films and programmes in 3D. Less than 10% of TV sets sold in 2016 had 3D capability, and owners report that they tried it once or twice, but then never picked up a set of glasses again. So what's trending at the moment? Super-thin TVs with a high-dynamic range!

New technology and changing viewing habits – particularly the use of hand-held devices -are leading to a big increase in the use of Close-Ups in commercial films. Whereas tight shots were traditionally used sparingly to heighten intensity, nowadays Oscar-nominated films such as **La La Land**, **Manchester by the Sea** and **Moonlight** are using C/Us unflinchingly to wring the last drop of emotion from the actors.

The ultimate holiday experience – Drone the World! – a new holiday concept in which clients get to explore remote corners of the planet with a drone and an expert cameraman in tow! Every holiday step you take is followed and filmed from above, with the results professionally cut and edited with a soundtrack added to create a story. The finished movie is then presented to you afterwards in a slick movie reel!

The battle for control of the TV remote has given way in many households to the battle to secure the prime viewing seat from which to watch the latest curved TV. It seems that these state-of-the-art curved sets may offer a poor experience unless you sit directly in front of them. LG did not show a curved set at the recent Las Vegas Consumer Electronics Show. Could they be following 3D sets into oblivion?

**Harrow Film Makers represented the London Borough of Harrow in the 2017 New Years Day Parade in London. But the event seems to have been spoilt by the weather, and it's rumoured only two Harrow members participated.**

**The indefatigable Alan Colegrave writes:**

"I guess it was nearly two months before the event that I was asked, wearing a Harrow Film Makers hat, whether we would like to get involved in the Parade.

I confirmed our interest and I was invited to a meeting.

Here I found that it was going to be a Charlie Chaplin theme. There was going to be loads of painting and construction work to be done.

Everything would be assembled on the back of a borrowed flatbed truck. We had a small generator for our PA system.

Local professional artist Peter Williams spent about a week painting while Wiseworks in Harrow did all the construction using mainly re-cycled timber.

After assembling the float on New Year's Eve to see if it all worked, everything was taken down again to be re-assembled near Green Park on Piccadilly the following day.

Rain had been forecast for later in the day.

Geoff Foord installed two GoPro cameras on the truck and all seemed to be fine. We were waiting to move and a few spots of rain came.

Five minutes later it was raining properly. Luckily Geoff had put the fixed cameras in waterproof housings.



We were off, the dancers were doing their thing and all seemed fine. Then it started to really rain – not quite tropical but not far off and everybody just carried on.

Now we have had a chance to look at the video material it had many elements of Singing in the Rain!

The dancers still performed their routine in ankle deep water!!

After a view of the material

we now have to decide how to put it all together.

Should be fun!

**PS** Harrow came third in the London Boroughs' Competition which came with a prize of £8,000 for nominated charities."

## The NTR 2016 On-Line Video Competition has been quite a success . . .

- Altogether there were 32 entries, more than were entered in our 2015 Festival. Several of these, however, were from SERIAC filmmakers.
- Each film was judged & marked independently on-line by 3 judges from a pool of 13 judges. Though 3 or 4 of these judges were the usual UK-based IAC/BIAFF judges, the rest were from Australia, France and Holland These judges from abroad brought in fresh ideas & viewpoints, and offered different insights.
- Each judge completed a mark sheet, allotting marks for the different aspects of filmmaking, e.g. a mark out of 15 for camera work & visual content, a mark out of 10 for quality of editing & pace, and so on, up to a maximum total of 100.
- The total marks out of a hundred from each of the 3 judges were then added together and divided by 3, to create an average percentage mark for each film.
- A film order was then produced by listing the films from highest to lowest percentage. Those of you who remember the Cotswold International Film Festival will be familiar with the format.
- Each judge also produced a written critique of each film for the filmmaker, though these varied in length and depth from judge to judge. Each entrant has received a copy of these comments & the mark sheet by e-mail, and been asked to provide feedback about the Competition.
- So far, no serious negative feedback has been received.
- The top 15 films and their marks are printed opposite, along with the list of judges.
- The makers of the top five films will each receive a Certificate.
- There is not going to be a communal showing of the films, but most of them are now available to be viewed on-line.
- To see them, go first to the Competition Website; there are two links to it:  
<http://www.adhocvideos.co.uk/ntriac/results.html>,  
or <http://bit.ly/NTRresults>
- Then click on any film that is underlined. To view the winning film, "The Bench by the Sea", you'll need to add the password "Worthing". It is hoped that by the time you read this, all makers will have given permission for their films to be viewed, and that therefore all the films will be underlined.

# The Top 15

1st	83.00%	<b>The Bench by the Sea</b>	Alan Cross in association with South Downs Film Makers
2nd	82.33%	<b>To Eleanor ...</b>	Tim Stannard
3rd	79.67%	<b>Gold Leaf Service</b>	Richard Lawrence
4th	79.33%	<b>Cambodia</b>	Geoffrey Foord
5th	76.00%	<b>Ups and Downs in Lisbon</b>	John Astin
6th	75.75%	<b>I Hate Halloween</b>	Eric Jukes
7th	75.67%	<b>Bed Talk</b>	John Howden
8th	75.00%	<b>A simple question - or maybe not</b>	Alan Colegrave
8th	75.00%	<b>Restoring the Wendover Arm of the Grand Union Canal</b>	Paul Welton
10th	74.67%	<b>Two Words</b>	Alan Colegrave
11th	74.17%	<b>The Dark Pearl</b>	John Sharp
12th	74.00%	<b>Bees Love Comfrey</b>	Cathy Clarke
13th	73.33%	<b>The Glass Church</b>	Dorothy Batten
14th	72.67%	<b>Flower for Bumblebees</b>	Cathy Clarke
15th	72.27%	<b>Messing About On The River</b>	Ed Kinge

## The Judges were:-

<b>Bob Howes</b>	Australia	Journalist and News Producer
<b>Canelle Hoppé</b>	France / UK	Actress and Feature Film Assistant Director
<b>Tom Hardwick</b>	UK	Journalist and Video Producer
<b>Margaret Dijk</b>	NL	Active film maker and Film Festival Follower
<b>Kees Tervoort</b>	NL	Active film maker and Film Festival Follower
<b>Bouke</b>	NL	Active film maker and Film Festival Follower
<b>Paul Kittel</b>	UK	BAFTA winning TV producer / director
<b>John Luton</b>	UK	Feature Film Director and Picture Editor
<b>Catherine McQueen</b>	UK	TV presenter, news producer
<b>Owen Carey</b>	UK	Feature Film Producer and Director (Rough Cut 2015)
<b>Mike Taylor and Bev Irwin-Taylor</b>	Australia	Theatre Director and Fiction Writer
<b>Alan Atkinson</b>	UK	Active film maker, ex chairman of IAC, regular judge

*continued overleaf*

## **Tim Stannard and Alan Colegrave tried it and it worked! Alan writes:**

Not too much rocket science but just keeping up with current practice.

Behind the scenes we had a few minor problems but most of these were solved easily. I feel having our own website made entering so easy.

Apart from keeping up with modern practice, we wanted to make entering a competition easier, cheaper and to generate a system whereby entrants would receive really good feedback from experts in film production.

In the end 8 of our judges were professionally involved in drama, film production or TV. The other 4 were amateurs but highly involved in film making.

Every entrant received either 3 or 4 critiques; some one-liners to maybe a page.

Five of our judges lived abroad. As we were online, this posed no problem. In fact the first judge to submit results was from Australia.

I guess the question could be asked "Why don't we get more professionals to judge at our competitions".

This is easy to answer. The workload for each judge was maybe 1 to 2 hours in his/her own home. This is very different from asking judges to travel to a venue to judge and then go home and fill out the forms and write a short critique.

So far all the feedback has been good. Maybe some think this is not progress but want to return to the old format. Let us know.

### **So Now For 2017 . . .**

## **We're definitely going to restore our Annual Competition and have an AGM & Festival Day, which will be on October 15th 2017 in the Drake Hall of the Amersham Community Centre.**

- We will be accepting online as well as physical entries. To cover the possible extra postage required for physical entries, there is likely to be a supplementary charge of £2. Even so, the entry fee will be less than the last time we ran the competition.
- We are accepting films of any length but films over 15 minutes may not be shown at the festival even if they are award winners.
- We intend to only have judges who can judge. The judges will either be very experienced amateur filmmakers or professionals, but many will not be UK residents.
- Each film will have at least three critiques. Even if you are not a winner, having a good critique is often more valuable
- Although the entry opening and closing dates have not been finalised, they are likely to be Mid August to Mid September. Late online entries will most likely be accepted until the last week of September. **Further event details will follow.**
- The Hall will be a new venue to many. It seats up to 150, has a very large screen and is about 5 minutes walk from the Met Line Station (the highest station on the TFL network). It also has parking for about 100 cars (free on Sunday).
- The day will start with coffee and the AGM. Following this will be two sessions of films until lunchtime. After lunch we hope to have a talk by a speaker on an aspect of filmmaking. We will finish with a final film session and the awards presentation.

## SPOTLIGHT ON THE FUTURE



### SATURDAY MARCH 18th

East Anglian A-V Competition (25th Anniversary), in the Margaretting Village Hall, Wantz Road, Ingatestone, Essex CM4 0EP. 7 pm.

For details contact: Dick Williams 01708 748748580  
E-Mail: dickwilliamsav@yahoo.co.uk

### THURSDAY > SUNDAY 20th > 23rd APRIL

BIAFF hosted by CEMRIAC at The Three Swans Hotel, Market Harborough, Leics., LE16 7NJ.

For details contact Alan Atkinson: 01788 890726  
E-Mail: AlanAtkinsonCV23@aol.com

### THURSDAY APRIL 27th

Harrow FM's Spring Public Show, in the Pinner Village Hall, Chapel Lane Car Park, Pinner HA5 1AA  
(See the Club website)

### SATURDAY OCTOBER 7th

Potters Bar FilmMakers Public Show  
at Northaw Village Hall, Northaw Road West, Northaw, EN6 4NW  
2.30 pm & 7.30 pm  
*Details from Penny Love (see front cover)*

### SUNDAY OCTOBER 15th

NTR 2017 AGM & Festival Day  
in the Drake Hall at Amersham Community Centre, Chiltern Avenue, Amersham, HP6 5AH  
*Details to follow later*

### THURSDAY > SUNDAY 19th > 22nd OCTOBER

The IAC Autumn Convention & AGM hosted by SERIAC in Sittingbourne, Kent.  
*Details to follow in Film & Video Maker and on the IAC website*

# THE NTR 2017 KNOCK-OUT COMPETITION

## Draw, Dates & Venues

### Round A:

**Potters Bar FM v Harrow FM v Staines VM**

at 7.45 pm on Thursday March 23rd

in the 60+ Room, The Wylyotts Centre, Potters Bar EN6 2HN

### Round B:

**Wanstead & Woodford MM v South Essex FM v Colchester FMC**

at 8 pm on Friday March 17th

in St. Pauls Church Hall, Chigwell Road, Woodford Bridge, Essex,

IG8 8BT

### Round C :

**Hemel Hempstead MM v Enfield VM v Bourne End VM**

at 7.00 pm on Saturday March 11th

in Hemel Hempstead Methodist Church, 270 Northridge Way,

Hemel Hempstead, HP1 2AU

### Round D:

**St. Albans MM v Walthamstow CVC**

at 8 pm on Monday March 13th

in The United Reform Church Hall, Homewood Road, St. Albans,

AL1 4BH

**The Winner of each Round goes forward to the Final,**

**to be hosted by Staines Video Makers**

**at 1 pm on Sunday May 7th in**

**Laleham Village Hall, The Broadway, Laleham, TW18**

**1RP**

## NTR 100 CLUB

Contact: Bob Chester

Tel.: 020 8449 2004

E-Mail: [robertalanchester@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:robertalanchester@yahoo.co.uk)

Each of the following wins £12:

### January 2017

57 Aylesbury Camcorder Enthusiasts

29 Ron Jones  
*PBFM*

11 Potters Bar FilmMakers

### February 2017

6 John Farrer  
*Potters Bar FM*

61 John Astin  
*PBFM*

102 Tim Stannard  
*Staines VM*

## An Evening with Tom Hardwick

Wanstead and Woodford Movie Makers have invited Tom Hardwick to come and give them an evening on **Friday 19 May**.

Tom will have been to the BVE show at Excel in February where all the latest video developments are on display and he proposes to draw on this in his presentation.

Tom plans to cover a lot of ground and he has chosen to call the evening **Tom's Variety Show**.

We want to ensure that Tom has a good audience for his evening and we are therefore inviting all filmmakers to join with Wanstead and Woodford in welcoming him.

**The evening will start at 8pm in the clubroom at St Paul's Church Hall, Chigwell Road, Woodford Bridge IG8 8BT where all will be welcome.**

We hope to see you there.

Any questions about the evening please contact Brenda Granshaw (*contact details on front cover*)

**Sad to relate, Harrow Film Makers are mourning the loss of Club stalwart, Derek Lucas, who died on January 12th aged 94.**

# The Power of Film!!



A cold, dank February morning at Kings Cross Station, yet a crowd of fans, predominantly female, wait to have their photo taken at the Harry Potter Wall.

But the site's been moved more than once, and the bricks in the wall are new—this wall wasn't even there when the film was shot!

And it's reported that every customer in the adjoining Harry Potter Shop spends on average £72!!

Would that our videos could create such interest—but I suppose the books help!!!

**Deadline for the next issue is Sunday April 2nd 2017**

**Please send all contributions by e-mail & attachments to:**

**[john.astin1@ntlworld.com](mailto:john.astin1@ntlworld.com)**