



# North Thames Region



The Film & Video Institute

[www.theiac.org.uk](http://www.theiac.org.uk)

# NEWSLETTER

November—December 2015



The Maids Head  
Hotel, Norwich  
Your Region hosts  
the IAC AGM  
Weekend here:  
Oct. 20th > 23rd 2016  
Book it in your Diary  
NOW!!

And don't forget our NTR Festival & AGM Day on Sat. Nov. 21st  
(see Back Cover)

## Also in this Newsletter:

- Club Directory (p. 5)
- Public Shows (pp6-7)
- The KnockOut Competition (p. 8)
- Building a NTRIAC Database? (p. 10)

## NTRIAC CONTACTS:

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Tel.: 01992 426937 E-Mail: [john.astin1@ntlworld.com](mailto:john.astin1@ntlworld.com)

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

# Chairman's Chat

John Howden joined Colchester Film Makers in 2004 and took over as Chairman in 2005. He has served as Competitions Officer and is currently one of the Club's projectionists. He joined the NTR Council in 2012 and now also serves on the National IAC Council. He has judged at local, regional and national level and was a Final Round Judge at BIAFF 2015. He is an active film maker, regularly receiving 3 and 4 Star Awards at BIAFF.



The new season is well and truly under way and those of us who had a summer break from club activities are now wondering where the space went. All the fantastic footage taken on holiday is probably all waiting for the cutting room floor and the editor's incisive eye!

At my Club, Colchester, we have already had one competition and we are preparing to start on our annual film making activity.

Last year one of the groups produced the multi-award winner 'Ransom Note'. Not only did this film win a Diamond Award at BIAFF, it also achieved the award for Best Edit and was entered as part of the UK entry to UNICA. Imagine our delight and surprise when we learnt that the film had won a Bronze! The North Thames Council congratulates Colchester on this achievement. The film can be seen on the club website [www.cfmclub.org.uk](http://www.cfmclub.org.uk) under 'films' and films for 2013/14.

We have 27 clubs registered in our area, including one new one over in Oxfordshire (see p.4). But I can count on the fingers of one hand how many of those clubs actually participate in any regional or national events.

Perhaps film makers join the IAC for the music licence and the magazine and for little else. Yet the IAC runs one of the top amateur film competitions in the world; its annual events at BIAFF and the AGM are an ideal opportunity to meet with other film makers and swap tips and ideas; yes and it has the music licence and an advice service. The regions of the IAC are bidden to lay on training events as well as competitions, but these get increasingly hard if members do not participate.

I would love to know, as a starter, what our 27 clubs put in their programmes. Please send me your programme so that we might share some good ideas. My email is [johnhowden@talktalk.net](mailto:johnhowden@talktalk.net).

The IAC AGM 2016 is booked from Thursday October 20 until Sunday October 23 2016 at the Maids Head Hotel in Norwich.

Never been to Norwich? Well you are in for a surprise; it is a lovely old city, once the second largest in the land. The city boasts a Cathedral, Castle and medieval streets, a premiere league football club and the cook Delia Smith.

It also claims to be the place where Morris Dancing started, though this is hotly debated! I hope to see many of you at this event.

That's all for now. If you have got this far in reading this, then I hope we may meet soon.

# Does Your Club Have an Ageing Membership?

*Some thoughts from Peter Hughes*

Over recent years we have struggled to increase our membership of the video club. We are all getting older, more are becoming unwell or unable to participate in video work. Our meetings are now averaging about 10.

Conversely, in the same area we have a Organ Society who has a similar age range and is thriving. The monthly attendances range from 80 to 130 people (hall maximum). They can afford to bring in top professionals to entertain members.

Today the methods of creating video are vast in number compared with 15 years ago. In those days we had only a camcorder.

Today mobile phones, still cameras and video cameras all take video and stills as well. The market is flourishing, but not clubs!

These are the symptoms, is there a cure?

Going back 15 years again, editing your video was relatively easy with the introduction of computer editing systems. One standard, to either VHS tape or DVD.

Today we have so many standards covering pixel numbers per frame, codecs, file formats etc. Life has become difficult!

Most people who have a mobile phone and take video, have no idea how to save it for the future, especially if they are keeping a record of a child growing up.

Photography today is for present time only, where in the past it was for the future. That's why we can see how our ancestors lived. In 100 years time, they may not have a record of how we lived.

This theme was presented to the American Association for the Advancement of Science by Dr. Vint Cerf, Vice President of Google.

I have a friend who gives me a packet of video of their children growing up each year and asks for it to be made into a viewable DVD. In the early days it was just tapes.

I now have tapes, footage from mobile phones and stills from a camera. I have learnt how to use all these media together. Is this something we should do in the clubs?

Social media plays an important part in many peoples' lives - not mine! How can we use it to our advantage?

Could it be used to educate people in how to save their mobile footage for the future? Just a thought.

Imagine social media before the computer - You get up in the morning, have breakfast and walk out of your house with pictures of your pets. On your morning walk, you stop and tell everyone how you got up and what you had for breakfast. You try to exchange pictures! After a while, you get a following - two policeman and a psychiatrist in a white coat!

Perhaps we need this psychiatrist to give us the club cure!

**Reproduced from the Sept./Oct. 2015 Edition of SERIAC News, with grateful thanks to author Peter Hughes & Editor Keith Sayers.**

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## Welcome to Woodstock Video Club

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• It's good to hear of a new Club joining our Region, so a particular welcome to  
• Woodstock Video Club whose aim, according to its website  
• ([www.woodstockvideoclub.co.uk](http://www.woodstockvideoclub.co.uk)) is to "bring people together who share a  
• common interest in film making and to enable its members to learn and improve  
• their film making skills and techniques together".

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## Congratulations to Staines Video Makers on celebrating their 60th Anniversary!

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### Do You Just Want A One-Page List of Dates?

The two items above are the good news.

What's the bad news, you ask?

On second thoughts, you probably don't ask.

Over the past 12 months, every single item in every Newsletter I've edited has been written by a committee member or by a handful of individuals at my invitation (and I've been very grateful to them!).

The only unsolicited items I receive from non-committee members are adverts for a Club's Public Show to go on the "Spotlight" page—and they too are very welcome.

**The above apart, I have not received a single unsolicited article from any other member of the entire North Thames Region.**

**Not an item about their Club, not a product recommendation, not a video-making or club issue for discussion, not a response to anything in this Newsletter!**

Is there anybody out there reading this?

We have 300 copies printed every other month—is not one of these copies stimulating someone somewhere to write in?

**Would the membership prefer the Newsletter to become just a one-page list of event dates?**

That would certainly save time & money, and could be the way things are moving.

But that, surely, would be another nail in the coffin of the amateur film-making hobby in the Region.

*Ed.*

### CLUB DIRECTORY (*see opposite*)

It's time to print the Club Directory again.

**Please check it carefully, and let me know if there any alterations to be made, or if there are any more clubs that would like to be featured in it.**

*Ed.*

# CLUB DIRECTORY

## ACORN FILMS, CHINGFORD

Contact: David Piggott 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.

## BRENTWOOD VIDEO CLUB

Sec. Julian Ryley, Tel.: 01277 21 6147

## CHANNEL 7 PRODUCTIONS

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

## COLCHESTER FILM MAKERS CLUB

[www.Cfmclub.org.uk](http://www.Cfmclub.org.uk)  
Contact: Paul Desmond, Secretary.  
Tel.: 07831 452295

## 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.  
020 8349 3623 or 07715 171 446  
[aljendouglas@btinternet.com](mailto:aljendouglas@btinternet.com)

## HARROW FILM MAKERS

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

## HEMEL HEMPSTEAD MOVIE MAKERS

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

## MILTON KEYNES CAMCORDER CLUB

[www.mkcamcorderclub.co.uk](http://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](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: Geoff Woolfson.  
Tel.: 07964445356

## ST. ALBANS MOVIE MAKERS

[www.stalbansmm.weebly.com](http://www.stalbansmm.weebly.com). Contact:  
Nigel Longman. Tel.: 01923 779571

## STAINES VIDEO MAKERS

[www.stainesvideo.co.uk](http://www.stainesvideo.co.uk) Contact:  
Mrs. Cathy Clarke, Tel.: 01784 433580

## SVGA – THE SELECT VIDEO GROUP OF

AMERSHAM [www.svga.weebly.com](http://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](http://www.wacvc.org.uk)  
Contact: Venner Gilbert, Tel.: 01708 746586

## WANSTEAD AND WOODFORD MOVIE MAKERS

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

## WEST LONDON FILM GROUP

Contact: Karen Cherrington 020 8429 8497

# We're in the season of Video Club Public Shows

## Potters Bar FM President and Newsletter Editor John Astin FACI gives his thoughts on Public Shows (Photos: Kim Harrold)

We are in the season for Public Shows – the chance for club members to see their productions on a big screen, and for them to gauge the reactions of a non-specialist, “general public” audience.

In my experience, the general public out for an enjoyable evening are much more favourably responsive to our films than a video club audience, who rarely react out loud above polite applause, and seem more interested in finding fault rather than just simply responding to the film for what it is. I know the wonderful response to my films from groups such as the U3A, the Townswomen's Guild and Rotary Clubs etc. help to give me the enthusiasm to continue in the hobby.

But like most areas of our seemingly narrowing hobby, the number of Public Shows appears to be dwindling. Only three clubs this Autumn have advertised theirs in the “Spotlight” section of the Newsletter.



**Before the afternoon show starts**

Each of these three clubs seems to have a different approach. Harrow, for example, usually have two shows a year, on a Thursday evening, and include a Newsreel of events in their Borough.

Wanstead & Woodford has one show a year, on a Friday Club Evening.

Potters Bar plumps for a Saturday in the Village Hall at Northaw, and put on the same show twice, in the afternoon and evening. The Mayor is invited, and either he/she with partner or a deputy turn up every year and seem to enjoy it.

But these seem to be all the Public Shows there are in our Region. If there are others, the Clubs don't feel the need to advertise them in the Newsletter.

As club membership decreases and ages, there are presumably fewer people willing to put in the work that's required. Indeed, it may be that clubs don't have enough new films to show.

Should a Public Show consist solely of that Club's films, or could it incorporate the best films from other clubs? Or indeed, could it become a showcase to the general public of the best of

non-professional films from throughout the UK, using some of the top prize winners from BIAFF?

How do we attract audiences to make the shows profitable and worthwhile - apart from getting them mentioned in “Spotlight”?!

We have found at Potters Bar that, as the audiences get older, more people are choosing to come to the afternoon show. Having two shows gives the opportunity for people who may have a previous engagement, say, in the evening, to come in the afternoon, and vice versa.



**Raffle Prizes in front of the PBFM advertising screens**

At Potters Bar FM, we do some advertising with flyers, but we probably rely on and need the whole club membership to attend, and bring along with them two or three other family members, friends and neighbours. One or two members belong to organisations such as the U3A or the WI, and manage to persuade members from those organisations to come and support the event.



**Hertsmere Deputy Mayor Cllr  
Pete Rutledge & PBFM Chairman  
Edward Catton-Orr at the  
evening show**

These days, it's very unlikely anybody is just going to "come in off the street" in response to an advert.

For the last two years, our afternoon audience has been larger than that in the evening, and if we had to revert to just one show, we would probably choose to hold it in the afternoon.

Oh—and a good, well-organised Raffle is essential to boost the income.

At Potters Bar FM, Christine Collins chooses the films, and for the last few years, the club members have been prolific enough in their video-making for her to be able to put on a 90 minute show (2 hours+ with refreshments interval and raffle) consisting of films

made entirely by PBFM members.

For the first time this year, I got involved in the projection, and decided to put the films onto two BluRay discs, one for each half of the Show.

I edit on Edius 5.5, and with the help of Ringo at DVC, I'd learnt how to capture both BluRay and SD discs into the computer so that they can appear on a project timeline.

Like most things to do with computer editing, once you know how to do it, it's quite a quick and simple job.

I've just acquired a new, more sophisticated titler, VisTitle, so to start the show (after the 7 seconds of black leader) the first thing that appeared on the time line was a brief attention-seeking professional-looking Introduction, set to music chosen by Christine.

We then put the movies onto the timeline in the chosen order, with a 20 interval of black between each one. We could have put some "between films" music on the timeline, but Christine chose to leave it silent and play some music from a CD player "live" at the shows. We would also fade in some coloured screen lights during these intervals.

The beauty of this system is that BluRays, SD DVDs and 4:3 DVDs all go faultlessly on to the timeline, and when the finished show is downloaded onto a BluRay disc and projected from a BluRay player through an HDMI lead,

picture and sound quality are excellent, and there is no need to touch the projector nor change the aspect ratio. We just leave it at 16:9, and all is well.

In case the BluRay discs proved temperamental, I made a reserve SD copy with a Menu, so that in a worst-case scenario, we could replace the BluRay with the SD DVD, and go straight to the start of the movie that had failed on the BluRay. The BluRay itself had no Menu; I just pressed "Play" at the start and let it run.

Happily, all went very smoothly on the day, there were no glitches on the BluRays, and audiences for the two shows totalled around 85 people. The treasurer seems happy!



**NTRIAC Chairman John  
Howden LACI draws the  
Raffle at the  
afternoon show**

# **The NTRIAC 2016 KnockOut Competition**

Competition Organiser Ron Jones FACI has sent out invitations to participate in this Competition to the following Clubs:

**Bourne End VM \* Colchester FMC \* Enfield VM \* Finchley FM \* Harrow FM \* Hemel Hempstead MM \* Potters Bar FM \* South Essex FM \* St. Albans MM \* Staines VM \* Walthamstow CVC \* Wanstead & Woodford MM \* Woodstock VC**

- Is your Club amongst them?
- Have you replied to Ron and accepted the invitation?
- If your Club isn't amongst them and you'd like it to be, contact Ron as soon as possible.

**All you need to enter is to be able to put on an entertaining programme of not more than five videos that lasts for a maximum of thirty minutes—and to be able to pay the £6 Entry Fee!**

***But note, only the first 12 Clubs that get their Entry Form & money to Ron can participate—so get entered now!***

Ron can be contacted for whatever reason to do with the Knockout Competition at:

67 The Larches,  
Palmers Green,  
N13 5QD

Email: [ronald-jones12@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:ronald-jones12@tiscali.co.uk)

**Don't delay!**

# SPOTLIGHT ON THE FUTURE



## FRIDAY NOVEMBER 20th

Wanstead & Woodford Public Show  
at St. Paul's Church Hall, Chigwell Road,  
Woodford Bridge, IG8 8BT. 7.30 pm for 8 pm.  
£6 including refreshments

## SATURDAY NOVEMBER 21st

NTRIAC Annual Movie Festival & AGM in Northaw  
Village Hall, Northaw near Potters Bar, EN6 4 NW.  
10 for 10.30 am start. AGM at 12 noon.  
£5 in advance, £7 on the day, inc. refreshments.  
Contact Penny Love for tickets (*see front cover*)

## THURSDAY APRIL 14th—SUNDAY APRIL 17th 2016

IAC BIAFF 2016 hosted by NERiac in the Cairn Hotel, Ripon  
Road, Harrogate, Yorks.  
Contact Derek Mathieson: [dereks07@gmail.com](mailto:dereks07@gmail.com)

## THURSDAY OCTOBER 20th—SUNDAY OCTOBER 23rd 2016

The IAC AGM Weekend hosted by the NTR in the Maids  
Head Hotel, Norwich.  
Contact: Penny Love (*see front cover*)



To our new members:  
  
Woodstock Video Club

**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](mailto:admin@theiac.org.uk)

## **Our Region's Publicity Officer, Alan Colegrave, a member of Harrow FM, comes up with a novel idea for Clubs & individuals producing story films:**

Several years ago a fellow movie writer sent me a script to read. All seventy pages of it arrived in the post. A few days later I started to read it. I had hardly read past the opening scene before having serious reservations about whether the film could be made for the typical low budget.

The scene was at night – we would need a generator or somewhere to plug in to power the lights. The action was: a couple of actors throw a body into a muddy pit – not too difficult action but if you did not get it on the first take, we would need a change of clothes, somewhere for the actors to wash. I could go on. Oh yes, it was meant to be raining. We could have added the rain on the wide shots in post production but would need water and a hose for the close ups.

This relative short opening scene could easily cost several hundred pounds. However with the right location, it could have been done for virtually nothing.

As a writer, one of my constraints when writing a script for a low budget film is the choice of locations. All very well writing a big scene at a wedding reception but where will you find a location where you can shoot for a reasonable fee (next to nothing). However other non-commercial filmmakers do find places. Often the owners are keen on film production and more than willing to allow their property to be use for free. The difficulty I find is locating these places.

**My idea is to start a NTRIAC database.** It could include locations, personnel, actors even people willing to do catering. How would it run? At the moment I do not know. It would be good for it to go electronic but first we need general interest.

These are what I would suggest the typical entry should be (*the examples are fictitious*):-

### **Locations**

101 Jack's Garage: a small garage near St Albans. The owner is very happy to allow filming in his garage almost any evening between 6pm to 9pm and on Sunday mornings. We offered to pay but he said just put something in the charity box. He even supplied us with tea and coffee.

### **Actors**

102 Jayne Smith: a 25-year old actress living in Watford area. She is professionally trained but willing to work in any serious amateur / non-commercial production. She drove to the locations and we refunded her fuel money. We gave her a copy of the finished production, several production photographs and some extra footage she may find useful for her showreel.

### **Personnel**

103 Neil Holmes: Retired professional sound recordist living in Hampstead. Neil is very happy to get involved with any serious production. He has a full sound kit and is not interested in any payment. He misses his previous life style. Our production was nearly 50 miles away. Neil was very happy to drive there.

**So if you think this is an idea worth pursuing, please make contact.**

***Alan can be contacted by e-mail at: [alan.colegrave@gmail.com](mailto:alan.colegrave@gmail.com)***



## **NTR 100 CLUB**

**Contact: John Farrer**

**Tel.: 01462 434948 E-Mail: [jffarrer@madasafish.com](mailto:jffarrer@madasafish.com)**

**Each of the following wins £12:**

### **September 2015**

37 Lorna Gill (Sarah Williams)  
*Wanstead & Woodford MM*

81 Wallace Jacobs  
*Harrow FM*

59 John Parkes  
*Potters Bar FM*

65 Christine Collins  
*Potters Bar FM*

### **October 2015**

62 Ted Bateman  
*St. Albans MM*

90 Eric Jukes  
*Enfield VM*

5 Eric Jukes  
*Enfield VM*

21 Jim Gatt  
*Harrow FM*

## **Ring Any Bells??!**

**How many film directors does it take to change a light bulb?**

**Just one, but he wants to do it thirty-two times and when he's done, everyone says that his last light bulb was much better!**



## LIGHTS - CAMERA - ACTION

ROLL UP.....ROLL UP.....

For the GREAT NTRIAC ANNUAL FILM COMPETITION  
There were 28 entries in the competition on a variety of  
subjects...hopefully yours was one of them!

COME AND SEE THEM AT

## THE NTR FESTIVAL & AGM DAY

**Location:** Northaw Village Hall, Northaw, EN6 4NW

**Date:** Sat. November 21<sup>st</sup> 2015

**Time:** 10am for 10.30am. (coffee)

**Shows:** 10.35-11.55am.

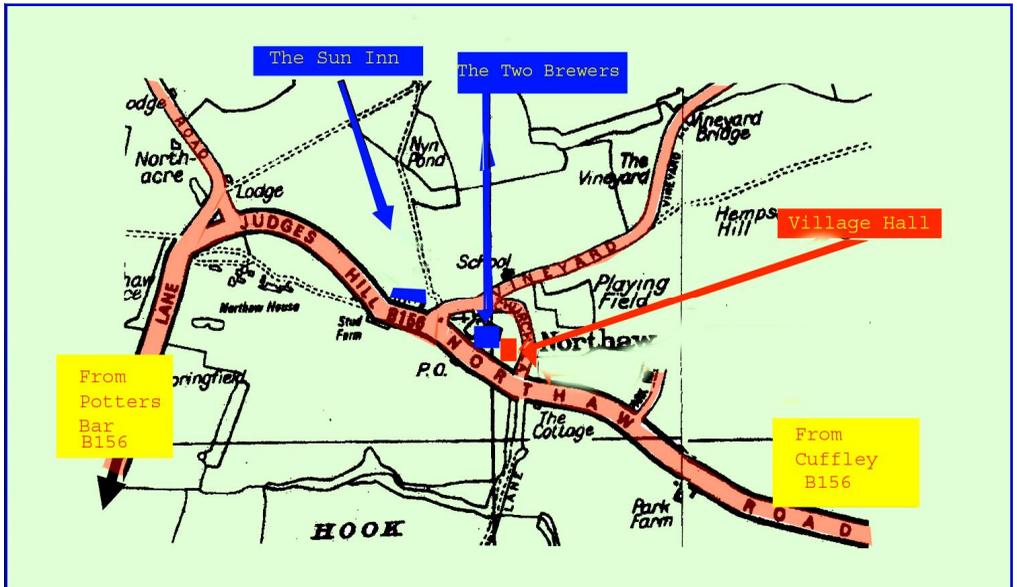
**AGM** 12.00noon. (Followed by Lunch)

**Shows:** 2.15pm-3.50pm. (tea). 4.30pm-5.30pm.

**AWARDS:** 5.30pm

**Price:** £5 in advance £7 on the door

**SEE YOU THERE!**



**Deadline for the next issue is Sunday December 6th**

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

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