



# North Thames Region



The Film & Video Institute

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

# NEWSLETTER

November—December 2017

## AUTUMN

“Seasons of mist and mellow fruitfulness!  
Close bosom-friend of the maturing sun”

*(John Keats)*



Cameras at the ready for this lovely time of year

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# Chairman's Chat



**Brenda Granshaw FCI 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.**

By the time you read this we shall have had the North Thames Annual Competition and AGM. My report on the year is included opposite for your information.

We owe a great vote of thanks to Alan Colegrave who organised the Film Competition and North Thames Day.

I have just returned from a holiday in Costa Rica and must say thank you to the members of South Essex Movie Makers who made the film "Go Ape", which was included in the 2017 Knock Out Competition. In the film, members of South Essex Film Makers were seen flying about on zip wires and made it all look very easy. Having just seen the film, I happily ticked the box for the optional extra to do the 14 zip wire trail in Monteverde. It was absolutely brilliant with wonderful views across the rain forest canopy. The only snag was that you were provided with very thick gloves to wear, so the chance of using my Go-pro was nil!

The group I was with on the holiday included two bird watching enthusiasts. They had very good still cameras and achieved the most beautiful shots if the bird sat still long enough. Unfortunately this did not happen often and many shots that I achieved with my camcorder, albeit not as good, were missed by the photographers.

Since returning I have visited the newly opened Postal Museum at Mount Pleasant. It includes a 15-minute ride on the old, miniature, underground mail train that moved the post across London. The current tour is only a round trip below the Mount Pleasant depot, but this is a filming opportunity for those who are interested in the postal system and are fans of miniature railways.

Now back to reality as I prepare for the North Thames AGM and a new year of film making and film appreciation.

***Brenda***

# **This is Brenda Granshaw's NTRIAC Chairman's Report as presented at the 2017 AGM on Sunday October 15th in Amersham:**

Our last AGM was held at the Maid's Head Hotel in Norwich, where the North Thames Region was hosting the IAC AGM Weekend. The Weekend Event was a success with everyone enjoying being in one of the oldest hotels in the country, and with the added attraction of being in the centre of Norwich.

As a result of organising the national event, the Council decided not to have a North Thames Festival but to take the opportunity to look to the future and trial an OnLine Competition using Vimeo. This was organised by Alan Colegrave and Tim Stannard, both of whom put much time and effort into organising the on-line site and obtaining judges from all round the world.

As a result, the 2017 North Thames Competition has been able to allow both online and hardcopy entries.

Ron Jones has decided that after many years of running the Knock Out Competition, it was time to retire. Our thanks go to him for his years of service both for running the Knock Out Competition and for his contribution to the North Thames Council.

The Knock-Out Competition was entered by 11 clubs. Each entry included a variety of films which made the First Round Evenings very entertaining. The final, hosted by Staines Video Makers, was judged by Tom Hardwick, Celia George and Geoff Harmer. They had a difficult decision to reach as all the programmes of films were of a high standard.

Congratulations go to Bourne End Video Makers who were awarded the Trophy.

John Farrer, who has run the 100 Club so successfully, has had to resign from Council due to ill-health.

I am glad to say that a new member of Council, Bob Chester, agreed to take on the running of the 100 Club. He has started to promote the Club, and seems to be gaining new members with his current £10 a share offer. This offer will end at the 2017 North Thames Festival.

I was pleased to see that the North Thames Region is maintaining its number of entries to BIAFF year on year. Congratulations go to Finchley Film Makers who received a 5 Star Award for their comedy film "The Interview".

# ***Moaner Geezer/Gal***

***Anything in the amateur film world you'd like to have an anonymous rant about?***

We've just seen yet another bad decision from the NTR Council!

Here we are again – the NTR organiser inviting us to “Come to the Festival” in Amersham on October 15<sup>th</sup>, the very same day that Group 9.5 hold their Annual Get-Together in Harpenden.

Who knows which party is at fault here, if indeed there is a fault(!), but as an avid life-long supporter of the home cinema scene, I find it a great pity that many enthusiasts will not be able to attend both events.

Surely the year is long enough, at the last count with 52 weeks to choose from, to avoid this regrettable situation yet again!!!

## **Your editor responds:**

It is obviously regrettable that these two events will take place on the same day.

But as a member of the Council and Editor of this Newsletter, I have to say I did not know of the existence of a 9.5 Group.

In the last five years they have made no contact whatsoever with this Newsletter, nor asked for any of their events to be mentioned. They do not appear in our Club Directory.

How, then, is the Festival Organiser supposed to know they have an Annual Get-Together, or that it's on October 15th this year?

And what are all the other bad decisions by the Council??!!

**Dave Smith, a regular contributor to this Newsletter, comments on the proposed changes to the structure of the Knock-Out Competition.**

"I'm not a member of any video club but I did attend nearly all the evenings of the NTR Knock Out Competition last season.

In my opinion, the Committee's proposal to have just two clubs in each round competing against each other is the right way to go. It works very well in the football FA Cup Competition!

As only NINE clubs entered last season, however, a slight problem could arise as to who gets a bye in the second and third rounds if only nine clubs enter this year?.

I personally think the Competition should end up with just TWO clubs in the Final and who gets the bye in each round is done fairly. Hopefully there will be an even number of clubs entering out of the nineteen clubs in the NTR.

This Knock Out Competition is a great way of meeting other clubs and supporting one another."

*I think 11 Clubs entered the Competition last time, Dave.*

*Ed.*

**Do you or Your Club have Equipment & Public Liability Insurance?**

**Bob Chester, the NTR 100 Club Organiser & Potters Bar FM Treasurer, reports on his experiences trying to renew the Club's policy:**

Potters Bar FilmMakers renews its Public Liability and Equipment Insurance Cover on the 1st October each year. (All clubs should have Public Liability, just in case, especially if you have a Public Show.)

For some years, we have used the IAC-recommended broker, Gallagher Heath. This year, I had several telephone calls from them to say that they were having difficulty getting a quote. With less than a week to go, they came up with a figure similar to last year's, but with a bigger excess and a £2 million Public Liability.

I tried to e-mail the IAC at the address given in the FVM Magazine and it bounced back, as did the e-mail to Mike Whyman!

I then went onto the IAC web site (if you can find it) and found a different recommended Insurance Broker called Tennyson Insurance, who appear to be Zurich. I dealt with a Mr. Jack Neal who was most helpful, and within an hour we were all sorted. Cheaper premium, discount for IAC Membership, lower excess and £5million Public Liability!

I should add that the lady at Gallagher Heath said she had received several enquiries from IAC Clubs.

**As Editor of this Newsletter, I am often led to believe that the Clubs in the NTR are either dead, dying or comatose. What a delight, then, to receive an item from Alan French of Hemel Hempstead Movie Makers, showing us that at least one Club in the Region appears to be alive and well.**

Members of Hemel Hempstead Movie Makers have now returned from our summer break with smiles on our faces.

There have been some documentary projects in process. These include the completion of our production featuring the creation of Hemel Hempstead's Water Gardens. This movie should be of considerable local interest.

We have also adapted for video an original stage comedy sketch, 'MEANWHILE IN LEVERSTOCK GREEN...' This has resulted in a new title 'NONE MUST KNOW'.

Although it includes shots of the village of Leverstock Green at the beginning of this production, the main location for acting purposes had to be elsewhere. This was because of a danger of interruptions on the set. So most of what the audience will see is filmed at Shendish. This was done with kind permission of the Shendish Hotel.

This video is included in our entries for the annual county movie competition known as H.A.C.C.A., hosted this year by Potters Bar FM in October. *(A report on the Competition will appear in the Jan/Feb Newsletter. Ed.)*

Have you had problems accessing our website? A few years ago some peculiar things started to go wrong with it. So we now have another website which is gradually being built up.

The address is: [www.hemelmoviemakers.org](http://www.hemelmoviemakers.org)

**Scenes from  
the comedy  
“None must know”**



**Photos supplied by  
Andrew Pennycook**

**Is your Club alive and well, and still actively involved  
in movie-making?**

**Please take a leaf from Hemel’s book, and let us know  
what you’re up to.**

**No contributions—no Newsletter.**

It's great to have a contribution from our  
President, John Howden LACI. He calls it:  
**An occasional dip into the techie world**

## **1. A FREE AVID VIDEO EDITING PROGRAMME**

Avid have just launched their Avid Media Composer-First FREE editing suite. To obtain a copy, log on to this website:

**<http://www.avid.com/media-composer-first/learn-and-support>**

The opening page has a number of tutorials giving information about all the fundamentals of the programme. Have a look at these and if you like what you see, click the Orange Button at the top right-hand side of the screen and follow the instructions.

You need to register and confirm your email address before being able to download the software. You are also required to answer a number of simple questions.

Once registered, you need to be on line to open the software via the Avid Application Manager, which is automatically installed when you download the software.

The programme is available in Windows and Mac versions.

Avid Media Composer-First is not up to the standard of the full version of Media Composer, but users will be perfectly capable of producing full edited movies and it does handle 4K footage. There is a good pallet of effects, titling options and audio tools and overall it does a very acceptable job for the film maker.

If you are new to the editing art, and before you buy a more expensive product, have a go with this and see how it feels.

**Please note: You cannot install this software on a machine which already has the full version of Avid Media Composer installed.**

## **2. ARE YOU SHORT OF SPACE?**

One of the problems with making films is the enormous amount of storage space needed on our computers, not to mention RAM and Video Card speed.

Well, help is at hand on the storage front.

Seagate has started producing 8 terabyte and 10 terabyte hard drives for those that require lots of space.

Amazon has both sizes at prices ranging from £185 to £324, though better prices may be available elsewhere.

I personally use a number of 2 or 3 terabyte external hard drives to store all that digital footage that is recorded to SD cards. The only downside to this method of storage (it replaces the mini DV tapes that used to house my archives) is that I have to be meticulous in cataloguing the footage!

The hard drives I have been using, for preference, are Western Digital My Passport Drives that cost around £75 for 2 terabytes.

**That's it for this time. More Techie Stuff in due course. Enjoy your film making and keep entering the North Thames Annual Competition and BIAFF.**

# **The 2017 Annual Competition**

**Owing to the unfortunate deadline dates for the printing and distribution of this Newsletter, this edition had to be “put to bed” before our Festival Day in Amersham, and before the announcement of our Annual Competition Results.**

**By the time you receive this Newsletter in the post, however, the Festival Day will have come and gone (there will be a full report in the Jan/Feb 2018 Newsletter) and the results will have been announced.**

**If you wish to see the results, they should be available on the national IAC website at:**

**<http://www.theiac.org.uk/news/NTRIACcomp2017.html>**

## **Our Competition Officer Alan Colegrave writes:**

This year's Festival was based very much on the model we tried the previous year.

Last year, we only accepted online entries. This year, however, we have accepted physical DVDs, BluRays and Video Files.

For this Competition, 60% of the entries were online, leaving 35% on DVD and one Video File on a Memory Stick.

All the physical entries were uploaded to Vimeo. Eventually they will be on the NTRIAC Festival Vimeo site. So, providing the makers agree, they will all be available to view.

There are enough films to make two club evenings, should any clubs have spare evenings.. Why not compare your Club's assessments with those of our judges?

This Festival Vimeo site should be up and running by mid November.

We received 30 entries, so we were well up on the last time we held a similar competition. Maybe we are getting it right. Please let us know.

Last year, most films were about 6 minutes in length. This year, the direction was “long”. Many were over 12 minutes and two over 30 minutes.

One of the reasons to enter a competition is to get feedback. So we need judges who know how to judge.

This year we had ten main judges. Two were from Australia, one from the USA and one from France.

One of our newcomers was Emmanuel from Toulouse in Southern France. He has been a regular entrant to BIAFF and this year picked up a Diamond Award together with the Award for Best Comedy.

**As Alan says, please give the Council feedback on both the Competition & the Festival Day.**

**NTR 100 CLUB**

Contact: Bob Chester

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**The September & October Draws are taking place on the  
Festival Day in Amersham.**

**The winners' names will appear in the Jan/Feb 2018  
Newsletter.**



**Welcome!**

**To our New Member:**

**Catherine Holgate Herts.**



**To join the IAC , contact:  
IAC, The Film and Video Institute,**

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***How many art directors does it take to screw in a light bulb?***

**Does it have to be a light bulb? I've got this neat candle  
holder...**

***How many camera assistants does it take to screw in a bulb?***

**Five: One to do it and four to tell you how they did it on the  
last job.**

## SPOTLIGHT ON THE FUTURE



### FRIDAY NOVEMBER 17th

Wanstead & Woodford MM Public Show  
at St. Paul's Church Hall, Chigwell Road, Woodford Bridge,  
Essex, IG8 8BT.

Doors open at 7.30 for 8 pm start. £6 inc. refreshments.

### THURSDAY DECEMBER 21st

Early closing date for entries to BIAFF 2018. (Reduced entry fees apply)

### WEDNESDAY JANUARY 31st 2018

Final closing date for entries to BIAFF 2018

### APRIL 13th > 15th 2018

BIAFF 2018 at the Cairn Hotel, Harrogate,  
HG1 2JD

*Details to follow in Film & Video Maker and on  
the IAC website*

*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.

*How many actors does it take to screw in a light bulb?*

100: One to do it and ninety-nine to say "I could've done that."

We videographers can often feel a targeted bunch, as jobsworths make a beeline for us to try to prevent us indulging in our hobby.

What a pleasant surprise, then, to see this Virgin Trains poster on

Warrington Station.

“Virgin Trains welcomes rail enthusiasts and passengers who wish to take still or video images at our stations”

“If you wish to use a tripod you should locate and speak with the Station Team Leader to ensure you are in a safe area”

Well done,  
Virgin!!

*Virgin Trains*  
**Customer**  
*information*

**Keep us in the picture**

**Filming and photography at Virgin Trains stations**

Virgin Trains welcomes rail enthusiasts and passengers who wish to take still or video images at our stations.

We ask that you do not interfere with the flow of passengers and respect the wishes of both passengers and staff not to be photographed.

If you are filming for extended periods and/or using bulky equipment you should make yourself known to our station staff so that the reasons for filming are clear.

Flash photography is not permitted at any time and the use of tripods should be avoided wherever possible. If you wish to use a tripod you should locate and speak with the Station Team Leader to ensure that you are in a safe area.

Thank you for your co-operation

Deadline for the next issue is **Sunday December 3rd 2017**

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

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