



North Thames Region



The Film & Video Institute

www.theiac.org.uk

NEWSLETTER

September—October 2018



What glorious weather for filming!
And if you have made a film,
PLEASE ENTER IT
in our Annual Festival Competition.

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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.

First I must say how sorry I was to hear of the death of Freddy Beard. Freddy was a member of SERIAC, but she was always a firm friend of the NTR Council and well known to those who attended the IAC events.

I have received a couple of emails suggesting that by reverting to hard copy entries for the Annual Film Competition this year, we are going backwards. I pondered why the method of entering the Competition was so much more important than the film itself, but failed to reach a sensible conclusion. One really does have to take a step back and consider what is the object of the exercise. In general, the Competition is for IAC and Club Members who live in the North Thames Region. The Entry Form is in the Newsletter and flyers are sent to Clubs but it is not going to be seen by a wider audience. I would therefore suggest that all those entering the Competition can remember how to address an envelope and find the nearest post box. I prefer to think of it as old fashion come up again, which happens with so many things. I was amused at a recent car boot sale to see the young searching through piles of vinyl records. And of course the old turntables are now very much sought after. Why would this happen when digital sound is all the rage? And, of course, we are now learning that the sale of printed books is increasing while the sale of ebooks is declining. A funny old world! Actually it would appear that whatever format is available, the number of entries to a competition each year varies very little. The main IAC Film Competition publishes statistics from one year to the next, and it is interesting to note that, whatever the format, the number of entries each year usually falls somewhere between 200 and 250. As on-line entries increased, so the number of DVDs dropped. The same happened with the move from mini DV to DVD and previously from VHS cassette to mini DV tape. I suspect that our Competition follows a similar pattern. The conclusion to be drawn is that, no matter what the form of entry, there is a regular group who enter each year but with a few more who enter from time to time.

However, back to the Competition. Entry is free and we have brought back the cash prizes. I am delighted to report that the films will be judged by two well respected judges, Tom and Celia Hardwick. Congratulations to them on their recent marriage.

And finally, the sunny weather gave me the opportunity to read the FVM magazine from cover to cover. I was struck by an article by Doug Collender. Doug was commenting on the fact that films in the cinema no longer obey the "grammar" of filmmaking as they did years ago. Having recently watched amateur films from the 60s and 70s, I find it interesting to note that in general they reflected the cinema and television comedies of that era and that they did keep to film making etiquette, such as not crossing the line etc. It is the makers of these films who formed, and are still members of, the IAC. They are still making similar films today which we usually see in the mini cinemas at BIAFF. The young on the other hand only know filmmaking where no rules apply, and of course are brought up on the more aggressive cinema and TV productions of today. Hence their amateur films fall into the same mould.

NOMINATIONS FOR NTRAC COUNCIL MEMBERS 2018

(For a term of three years)

(This form must either be sent to Penny Love by Friday November 16th or handed to her before 1.30 pm on Saturday November 17th.

Note: The agreement of the nominee must be obtained before a nomination is submitted.)

1. 2.....
3. 4.....

Proposed..... Seconded.....

Membership of the Council is open on an elective basis to all members of the IAC in the Region. The Council consists of an elected group of 10 post holders and up to 8 members, a total of 18. We currently have 8 people on Council (see below). The Council meets every other month on the fourth Tuesday, at 1.45pm, in King Charles the Martyr Church Hall, 368 Mutton Lane, Potters Bar, Herts., EN6 3AS.

NOMINATIONS FOR OFFICERS OF COUNCIL 2018

(For a term of one year)

1. Chairman..... 2. Vice Chairman.....
3. Regional Contact..... 4. Hon. Treasurer.....
5. Membership Officer..... 6. Publicity Officer.....
7. Newsletter Editor..... 8. KnockOut Competition
Officer.....9. 100 Club Officer.....
10. Annual Competition Officer.....

Proposed..... Seconded.....

Current Members of The NTRAC Council:

President	John Howden
Chairman	Brenda Granshaw
Vice Chairman	Christine Collins
Regional Contact	Penny Love
Membership Officer	Penny Love
Treasurer	Brenda Granshaw
Publicity Officer	Eric Jukes
Newsletter Editor	John Astin
Knock out Competition Officer	Brenda Granshaw
Annual Competition Officer	Geoff Foord
100 Club Officer	Bob Chester
Member	Dave Smith

North Thames Region IAC Annual General Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the 56th AGM of the members
of the North Thames Region of the IAC will be held at
2 pm on Saturday November 17th in

The Barn Hall, Community Centre, Chiltern Avenue, Amersham, HP6 5AH

Penny Love, September 2018

**The North Thames 56th AGM will take place
at 2 pm on Saturday November 17th in
The Barn Hall, Community Centre, Chiltern Avenue, Amersham,
HP6 5AH**

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the previous Meeting (15th October 2017)
3. To receive the Chairman's Report
4. To receive the Treasurer's Report and Accounts
5. To elect Members of the Regional Council
6. To elect the following Officers and Special Posts:
 - Chairman
 - Vice-Chairman
 - Regional Contact
 - Hon Treasurer
 - Newsletter Editor
 - Publicity Officer
 - Membership Officer
 - Annual Competition Officer
 - Knock Out Competition Officer
 - 100 Club Officer
7. To appoint an Hon Auditor (Independent Examiner)
8. Members' Voices - your chance to make suggestions
9. Any Other Business

**Alan French wants everyone to know that Hemel Hempstead MM are alive
and well, that they've given a Show to the local History
Society, and have been shooting merrily away in the lovely summer weather.
They're looking forward confidently to next year's NTRIAC Competitions.**

Because of the importance of the Festival to the future of the NTRIAC, I am publishing the Entry Form and Rules etc. again in this Newsletter (Ed.):

NTRIAC 2018 AGM and Annual Movie Festival

We have a new Competition Officer, Geoff Foord, and we have made changes with the hope of getting both a bumper number of entries this year and attracting a bumper audience to the Festival Day on Saturday 17th November.

Overleaf (*pages 6 > 7*), you will find the Competition Entry Form. Page 8 will give you the Competition Rules, the Judges, and details of the prizes to be won.

We are going back to the Amersham Community Centre this year, although we are moving from the Drake Hall into the Barn Hall which is just opposite. The full address is:

**The Barn Hall,
Amersham Community Centre,
Chiltern Avenue,
Amersham, HP6 5AH**

Another change is that it will be an afternoon event, starting at 2.00pm. This will give attendees a chance to get things done in the morning and come and join us for the afternoon.

The result of the timing change is that there will only be 3 hours of movies instead of the usual 3.5 hours. We shall of course show all the winners and as many others as we can manage. Long movies may be précised if necessary.

The current plan for the afternoon is as follows:

2.00 pm	Welcome and North Thames AGM
2.15 pm	Movies – first half
3.45 pm	Refreshments
4.15 pm	Movies – second half
5.45 pm	Results and Presentations
6.15 pm	Departure

Cost of entry will be £2 including refreshments. Please put a coin in your pocket so that we don't need to hunt for change.

Now, please, turn the page, fill out the Entry Form and send in your movie. Entries are FREE this year.

And, please put the date in your diary:

2.00 pm, Saturday 17th November

NTRIAC Annual Movie Festival – Saturday 17th November

COMPETITION ENTRY FORM

Title of movie:

Name of Maker:

Address:

.....

Postcode:.....

Telephone: **Email:**.....

An acknowledgement, preferably email, will be sent on receipt of your entry.

IAC Membership Number (if applicable).....

Details of movie: please tick as appropriate:

BluRay (plus std. DVD)..... Memory Stick (plus std DVD).....DVD.....

Length of movie:

Please supply only one movie per disc/stick

Please ensure a minimum of 5 secs of black at start and preferably no menu.

Start of audio: If before the first frame, please state timing:.....

Brief description of the movie:

.....

.....

.....

Copyright clearance to be strictly observed (Rule 5)

Audio: MCPS/BPI Licence Nos:

External video content used: Permission:

**N.B. Your data is just for the purposes of running this Competition,
and will not be passed on to third parties.**

Please sign that you agree: **Date:**

All Entries and Judges' Comments will be available for collection at the end of
the Festival.

If you are not attending and wish to have them sent to you, please provide a
stamped addressed envelope. Otherwise your films will not be returned.

Entries to be sent to:

**Geoff Foord,
102 Waxwell Lane,
Pinner,
Middlesex HA5 3ES**

**CLOSING DATE FOR ENTRIES:
12 NOON
SUNDAY 16th SEPTEMBER**

Movies will be returned as soon as practicable. While every care is taken, the Region
cannot be held responsible for any movie, which is lost or damaged.

*Please complete this form, remove the pages from the Newsletter, and enclose it in the
package with your disc or memory stick.*

NTRIAC Annual Movie Festival – Saturday 17th November

RULES

The Competition is open to all amateur movie makers living within the North Thames Region of the IAC.

Entries must be made without professional assistance other than the use of recorded music as they may be included in a compilation record of the Festival on DVD. Movies can be entered on DVD, BluRay or Memory Stick, but if on either of the latter two, please also send a “standard” DVD copy for viewing in case of technical difficulties.

It is a condition of entry that movies which have won a major national or international award (5 Stars or above in BIAFF, for example) are not eligible for the Competition.

Only one movie to each disc will be accepted. The maximum length of any movie is limited to 25 minutes.

All copyright material, both audio and visual, must be cleared by the movie maker. Details of the music copyright clearance can be obtained from the IAC Film and Video Institute, McCracken Park, Great North Road, Gosforth, Newcastle Upon Tyne, NE23 2DT. Tel: 0191 303 8960. Email: admin@theiac.org.uk

The Judges’ decisions are final. No correspondence will be entered into with reference to any decision made.

There is no limit on the number of entries per person. However, entries should have been made in the last three years and should not have been entered into the Competition previously.

There is no charge for entry to this Competition, but please enclose a stamp addressed envelope for the return of your entry/entries if it/they will NOT be collected at the Festival.

Judges: Tom and Celia Hardwick

Awards:

Winner – £50 + the NTR Trophy

Second – £30 + the Ganderson Trophy

Third – £20 + the Kodak Trophy

Best Use of Sound

Best Editing

Certificates for: Very Highly Commended, Highly Commended and Commended.

SPOTLIGHT ON THE FUTURE



SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 16th

Last Day for Entry into the NTR Annual Competition

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 21st

WANSTEAD & WOODFORD MM PUBLIC SHOW in St. Pauls Church Hall, Chigwell Road, Woodford Bridge, Essex, IG8 8BT.
7.30 for 8 pm. £6 inc. refreshments.

SATURDAY OCTOBER 6th

POTTERS BAR FM PUBLIC SHOW —"A Festival of Films" - at Northaw Village Hall, Northaw Road West, Northaw EN6 4NW at 2.30 pm (only). *Details from Penny Love (see front cover).*

THURSDAY OCTOBER 18th > SUNDAY OCTOBER 21st

IAC AGM Weekend, hosted by CEMRIAC in The Three Swans Hotel, Market Harborough, LE16 7NJ. (*Details in "Film & Video Maker" and on the IAC website.*)

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 17th

NTR AGM, ANNUAL COMPETITION & FESTIVAL at the Barn Hall, Amersham Community Centre, Chiltern Avenue, Amersham, HP6 5AH.
Start: 2 pm. (*See p. 5*)

NTR 100 CLUB

Contact: Bob Chester

Tel.: 020 8449 2004

E-Mail: robertalanchester@yahoo.co.uk

Each of the following wins £12

July 2018

99 Michael Slowe
51 Marie Jones
38 Ian Luetchford
4 Edward Catton-Orr

August 2018

16 Hemel Hempstead MM
99 Michael Slowe
44 Peter Noakes
104 Mrs. S. Howden

Special Offer on November 17th for those present!

Adventures with a GoPro

Your editor writes about using a new GoPro

I'm not quite sure why I bought a GoPro, but I bought a Hero Black 5 from Currys in Oxford Street in May 2017.

I've always been a fan of tracking shots, and I fancied trying to use the GoPro for that. Also, I thought the wide angles created by the GoPro would "open out" my films, and give them a new look.

GoPro produce a very wide range of enticing accessories, and careful thought is required before deciding whether any are actually needed. I bought the Jaw and Flexible Jaw Mount (the second of which I use all the time as a hand grip like the old Super 8 cameras used to have), and a spare battery and independent battery charger (neither of which I've ever used so far!).



The GoPro attached to the Flexible Jaw Mount and Jaw

Being used to the traditional camcorder, I took a little time to get used to the GoPro. It is, of course, fully automatic – basic point and shoot. There is no zoom – I have to select from the Fields of View, as they call them, (of which there are 5), beforehand.

Also, I have to select the Resolution setting (from 4K, 2.7K, 2.7K 4:3, 1440, 1080, 960, 720 and 480), and the Frames per Second setting (from 240, 120, 100, 90, 80, 50, 48, 25 and 24).

Somewhat overwhelmed, and wanting to use the GoPro footage alongside my Panasonic SD900 camcorder footage in my movies, I chose 1080 and 25fps to match the camcorder.

Experiments with the Fields Of View, however, revealed that not all Frames per Second and Resolution settings are available with all Fields of View.

And what are these five Fields of View? Well, GoPro call them (from widest to narrowest) Superview, Wide, Medium, Linear and Narrow.

My experiments with each revealed that with Superview and Wide, I got considerable "Fish Eye" type distortion around the edges of the frame, and particularly with verticals. They tended to jar alongside my SD900 footage.

Medium is just about OK, and Linear and Narrow are fine, so it's those three settings that I use all the time for "ordinary" filming. I should stress, though, that all three of those settings are considerably wider angle than the widest angle on my SD900.



The GoPro attached to the Flexible Mount alongside the lens bag

My second wish in buying a GoPro had, therefore, been successfully achieved. They really do open up a view, and bring an enhanced wide look to landscape pictures.



The GoPro with Flexible Mount and Jaw attached to a car window for excellent tracking shots.

Above, from behind.

Below, from in front



The Hero Black 5 has an excellent stabilizing filter, and that, aided by the wide angle, I presume, ensures the pictures are incredibly steady, and with the Flexible Jaw Mount, even my hand-held pans look as if I've used a tripod.

I bought one of those large lens bags to carry the GoPro and Mount in – it clips to a belt support on my trousers – and I use the GoPro regularly alongside the SD900

The only slight downside is that I don't think the GoPro records the time a clip is filmed (as my SD900 does). If it does, I've yet to find it, so if I'm filming an event in chronological order, I'm not always sure the right place for the GoPro clips to be put into the movie alongside the SD900 clips.

And what about tracking shots? Another success!

I take them from the car. With the GoPro fixed on to the Jaw Mount and the Jaw, I wind the windscreen down, fit the Jaw onto the windscreen, tighten it in position, and wind the windscreen back up as far as it will go.

From the outside of the car, I then adjust the camera position so that it's perfectly horizontal and, obviously, facing in the direction I want.

I should add at this point that the GoPro pairs up fairly reliably by BlueTooth with my Samsung smartphone, using the GoPro app which can be downloaded for free. All the information that is displayed on the GoPro screen, including the start/stop button, is also displayed on the smartphone screen, from where the GoPro can be controlled.

So into my car I get, with the smartphone clearly in view, and with no traffic around, I drive slowly alongside whatever I want to film. The results are terrific, really smooth and clear.

I used two tracking shots in my film "The City For the Dead" last year, and am using more in my current project.

There's a lot more to say about the GoPro – perhaps you'd like to contribute your own experiences or knowledge.

In January of this year, I bought a 4K TV, and I thought I'd see what GoPro 4K clips looked like.

But that's another story, and, if there's room, I'll recount that in the next Newsletter.

John Astin

WANTED: A NEW EDITOR

John Astin writes:



John Astin FACI

Having edited the North Thames Newsletter for almost seven years—the first Newsletter I edited was the February/March 2012 edition—I shall not be standing for re-election at the November AGM. **So the Region needs a new Newsletter Editor.**

The booklet appears at the moment every other month, so, assuming there are ample contributions, the actual compilation involves three or four mornings work every two months.

The Newsletter has to appear at the same time as the IAC's Film & Video Maker, so that magazine's editor, Garth Hope, sets the

deadlines.

I use "Publisher" to produce the Newsletter, but there may well be other programmes available.

Once finalized, the Newsletter is converted to a PDF, then e-mailed to the printers.

I use a printer local to me, but any convenient printer could be used.

The Newsletters are circulated with the FVM magazine by Garth Hope and his team in the north of England, so I have arranged with my printer that he posts all the copies directly to Garth. We are not involved in the distribution.

I also email a copy of the PDF to Jan Watterson, the IAC Webmaster, for publication on the website. That's more or less the end of my work.

The Council meets every other month on a Tuesday afternoon in Potters Bar, and the Editor would probably need to attend these meetings.

**If anyone out there is interested, please contact Brenda or me
(*contact details below and on front cover*).**

**If no one comes forward, the Council will consider moving to an
online only factual News Sheet.**

Deadline for the next issue is Sunday September 30th 2018

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

john.astin1@ntlworld.com