

NORTH THAMES REGION *NEWSLETTER*



The Film & Video Institute

www.theiac.org.

**BIAFF 2010 at Bedford hosted by the
North Thames Region**



Alan Morgan and Jim Gatt from Harrow setting up their equipment ready for 2 days of critical viewing by capacity audiences who were not disappointed

More pictures on page 11.

May-June 2010

CHAIRMAN'S CHAT



Brenda Granshaw

BIAFF 2010 has now been and gone. I am grateful for all the support we received from the Region. We had 5 excellent projection teams for the mini cinemas, provided by Harrow, Hemel Hempstead, Luton, Potters Bar and Wanstead and Woodford. I must give special mention to the members of Harrow who undertook the projection at the Awards Winners Show on the Sunday. Their new HD projector made everything brighter and clearer than ever before. And The 12 foot wide screen provided by Cemriac enabled films to be shown to their best advantage. All the films shown were of a very high standard. Those who did not make it to the event, can view some of the entries by going to the IAC website and to [bijou BIAFF 2010](#) where you can also see a list of all the entries. In some cases, the maker has provided an article about the making of the film.



Now that BIAFF is over I can tackle all the jobs, which were relegated to the "After Bedford" pile. This includes getting to grips with Media Composer, which has been provided by Avid to Liquid Edition users at a reduced price because Avid is no longer going to support Liquid. By the size of the instruction manual I think I can give up all other activities for the next 5 years! Luckily there do seem to be some similarities to Liquid Edition. I also have Crazy Talk, which I have seen used so successfully by SERIAC. Most recently they have used it in their promo for the IAC AGM weekend in Worthing (21-24 October – note for your diary).

For the North Thames Region, the next event is the Triangle Final to be hosted by Staines on Saturday 8 May. It is always a very enjoyable afternoon so do come and join us. A map and details of how to get there are provided on page 13. The finalists are SVGA, Potters Bar and St Albans. Good luck to all of them.

Brenda

NOT A GHOST OF A CHANCE

In a previous issue of the North Thames Region Newsletter the editor requested articles from clubs concerning their activities. With this in mind, members might be interested to read about some recent events attended by Enfield Video Makers who have forged an association with a club that examines the paranormal

We were first approached by this club, who had arranged an evening of Clairvoyance, to be demonstrated at a local theatre. We therefore made a few visits to the theatre to familiarise ourselves with the layout and also to sort out any technical difficulties

Our brief was to have two cameras on either side of the stage and as the medium selected a member of the audience, we were required to zoom in to that person and project their image onto a screen so that other members of the audience could see them.

Part of the evening went something like this:

Medium " Does any one know the name Oscar ? "

Lady in the audience " Yes, it's the name of my cat "

Medium " Well Oscar wants you to know that he still loves you "

Lady in the audience " So he should, he's still alive "

Medium " Well in that case he's not as bad as I thought he was "

On the second occasion the club had obtained permission to visit late one evening a country house hotel, on the Herts Essex borders, to establish if there was any paranormal activity present and again Enfield Video Makers were invited along to video and record any such activity.

With a member of the hotel staff present, to accompany the group, various rooms, including the cellars, were visited. These were sometime lit or darkened and group members would use divining rods to establish cross over points and various instruments to establish either cold spots or sudden drops in temperature. Occasionally flash photography was used in a completely darkened room to see if any floating orbs appeared on the photograph.

The evening ended with a séance being held with the group being seated round a large table, but sadly all to no avail. As Enfield Video Makers were packing up our equipment, we said to the hotel member of staff " We knew we would not see any ghosts because the hotel is not allowed to serve spirits after 12 o'clock "

From The Editor

First, an apology. Many copies of the newsletter were wrongly assembled by the printer. His black and white laser printer stopped working and he had to resort to using his colour printer for which he made no extra charge. Putting the pages together then became a problem. I hope all is now solved.

John Howden is one of the joint secretaries of Colchester Filmmakers and because he is an ordained minister the NT Council invited him to say grace at the Saturday evening gala dinner. Grace was much appreciated by those present and I thought you might all like to share John's version which appropriately went well beyond the customary 'for what you are about to receive'.

Grace at BIAFF by the Rev John Howden

O Creator God, master of the fine edit, pin sharp focus and the perfect white balance, we have toiled long and hard this day viewing films and sitting on our bums. Now we thank you for this magnificent dinner and for filling our tums.

Don't forget that you can read this newsletter with pictures in colour on the IAC web-site - address on page 1.

Eric



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Proposed Casablanca Training Day

As I mentioned in my editorial in the last issue, Dalco, the distributors of Casablanca, are willing to devote a day to help Casablanca users to get the best out of their equipment. The proposal is for the day to start at about 10am and end at about 5pm. No date has yet been arranged but a Saturday in October would suit Dalco. The actual date will depend on finding suitable premises available in October at a reasonable cost.

We need 30 users who want to take part in order to cover costs. If we can get this number I would hope to arrange the day at a cost to members of about £15.

Dalco offer a general presentation (new models, software, questions and answers etc) and deal with whatever people say in advance that they want to know about Casablanca.

So far, 10 members have put their name forward. If you would like to join a day with Dalco and have not already registered an interest, would you please get in touch with me by the end of April. My email address and telephone number are on page 4.

Eric Granshaw

Rules for the One Minute Competition (Entry Form on page 9)

1. Movies may be entered on VHS, Mini DV or DVD.
2. Movie must not exceed sixty-seconds inclusive of titles and credits.
3. Subject matter is open but contents should be entertaining/humorous for showing to audiences of all ages.
4. NTR Council reserve the right to reject an entry contravening any rules or containing material deemed unsuitable for showing to universal audiences.
5. Audio & visuals copyright clearance is the sole responsibility of the entrant.

David Piggott looks back at his seven decades with Acorn Films

It was in the Festival of Britain year of 1951 that Chingford teenager David Anning had saved enough to purchase a second-hand ciné camera. His friends were impressed with the results and they decided to form the Anco (Anning & Co) Film Unit to make and show local films.



I joined the unit as a schoolboy in 1956. Having grown up during World War II and the austere post-war days of optimism, I had become fascinated by wireless news bulletins, the early days of the resumed television service and the great cinema newsreels of Pathe, Gaumont British and Movietone. So, I jumped at the opportunity to become part of a local newsreel unit.

By the time that the unit's name had changed to Acorn in 1957, I was established as the unit's commentator and a cameraman using my recently purchased, fixed-focus, standard 8 clockwork Kodak Brownie — a simple tin box with two wires for a viewfinder, but capable of results usable for the annual 'Chingford Newsreel'.

These were the days of the richness of Kodachrome. Over the years, we have chronicled the changing scene of what had been an Essex village becoming a London suburb and in the process we have amassed a unique library of local life.

The defining moment for Acorn came in 1997 when BBC2 transmitted a 30 minute documentary telling how Tim Emblem-English and I still produced the newsreel. I had responded to a small ad in the erstwhile 'Amateur Cine Enthusiast' magazine placed by a television producer who wanted to make a documentary about amateur film makers in general. After viewing our archive, the producer

decided to devote the whole programme to the 'Chingford Newsreel' story. His completed film was watched by nearly a million and a half viewers - that's one in 40 of the UK population. In the same year, Acorn had become the first organisation to receive the Borough of Waltham Forest's award "for outstanding service to the community."

By the end of 1999, Kodak had ceased manufacturing the Super 8 sound film which had been our format since 1974. I successfully applied for a Heritage Lottery grant to equip the unit with a broadcast-quality three-chip DV camera and a computer editing system which took the film unit into the 21st century. With a grant from Waltham Forest Council, we purchased a top-of-the-range video projector and a back projection screen enabling us to continue our annual newsreel premiere to an audience of a thousand over a matinée and two evening shows. Next year, the unit celebrates its Diamond Anniversary. By then we will have been Chingford's eyes and ears for sixty years.

Email from Edward Catton-Orr

Reading the North Thames Region News Letter I picked up an interesting slant on the winning of trophies and having the desire to display them, I take the point that not all trophies are attractive and some might be positively ugly therefore a smart looking picture frame isn't a bad idea. Listing the winners I presume is to be a typed addition, this itself will become very tacky. I can see different type faces and ink colours and creased paper.

Eight quid though doesn't seem much to me to have an engraved disc, plaque or shield on a trophy. May be the idea of a picture frame could be extended to be a 10 x 8 brass or steel plate that could be engraved and hung on the wall or stood on a mantle piece. So cups and shields are out. Plaques in picture frames are in, the next issue though is how does it work, would these have to be new awards otherwise the history of the competition will be lost unless the plaque was set up with a list of previous winners. Then who pays for the engraving?

So I agree in principle how does it become reality?

North V South Competition 2010

For those of you who have not entered before, this is a competition to a theme between clubs in the North and clubs in the South with an East-West dividing line through Stoke-on-Trent. The theme for this year's competition is:-

NOW AND THEN

Last year we had 21 entries representing the South most of which came from previous entrants to the competition. However we would also like to receive entries from clubs who have not entered before.

The closing date is not until 31st October 2010, so there is plenty of time to make and enter a film to the above theme.

The entry fee is £10.00 which entitles the club to 2 free tickets to either the Southern Heat which will be held on 28th November 2010 or the Grand Final which will be held on 30th January 2011, both in Farnborough, Kent.

The overall winning club will receive the prestigious 'John Wright' Trophy.

Please speak with your fellow club members and consider entering a film this year. If you are able to attend either event, OVFM members will be delighted to welcome you. Whilst we cannot make any guarantees, up to now we have been able to show every entry entered each year. We will strive to continue this way.

If you have any queries concerning the competition, please do not hesitate to contact me on 01424 220391 or by e-mail at mikecoad@btinternet.com. An entry form and copy of the rules can be obtained by email from ericgranshaw@thekeys.plus.com.

Thank you on behalf of OVFM in anticipation of your support.

Mike Coad (Orpington Video and Film Makers)

North Thames Region One Minute Competition

Film Title:
.....

Format supplied: (tick) VHS Mini DV DVD

4:3 16:9 (widescreen) Additional information (HD etc)
.....

Maker: (Individual/club)
.....

Address:
.....
.....

Administration cost per entry £2 enclosed (tick)
Return postage enclosed **OR** Collecting at show

CLOSING DATE: JUNE 30th 2010

N.B. For the safe arrival of your entry, please ensure the correct postage for weight & size of packet is used.

Send your entry to: **Christine Collins faci. 5, Walnut Grove, Enfield, EN1 2BL**

The top three videos to be shown at NTR Movie Festival & AGM in November.

Should entry be chosen to represent NTR in the National 'One Minute' competition, known as the Mini Mermaid, I/we give/decline permission for its use.

Give permission Decline permission

I have read and understand the rules (page 5)

Signature

SVGA's (Select Video Group of Amersham) visit to Portaprompt

Portaprompt developed the world's first digital prompter in the UK, and its pioneering work was recognised recently by the National Academy of Television Arts, with the award of a Technical and Electronic 'Emmy'. Its taken 29 years said Jim Keating.



The Group spent an hour and a half with Jim who delved into the history of prompting and showed some of the equipment used years ago. In earlier times the words were carried on what might be described as, a toilet roll. Today of course computers are involved and the whole prompting gear can be so much smaller. In fact Jim demonstrated the smallest prompter on one member's tiny camera and light tripod, the type of camera gear some of us might use for our filming activities.

The Group were inquisitive as to why, not that long ago, TV viewers could see the prompting screens either side of a speaker, whereas nowadays, at the BAFTA presentations for example, we see nothing. As Jim explained, this is because the words are now carried on much larger screens at the back of the auditorium and the TV viewer does not see them. The audience in the auditorium are also oblivious because the screen has a close egg box style mesh which stops the light from the screen, spilling out to the audience.

It just leaves all of us in the dark !!!

North Thames members who helped to make the 2010 BIAFF in Bedford a great success



Top: Alan Atkinson and John Gibbs from Cemriac erecting their 12 foot screen.

Top: Jack and Lorna Gill at the reception desk and Christine Collins who organised the projection arrangements.

Above: Brian Harris and his team from Hemel Hempstead preparing for projection in the Tavistock Room.

Above: John Parkes from Potters Bar who projected in the Bridge Room



Paul Clarke and Elizabeth Haruna from Luton Movie Makers who projected in the Woburn Room



Paul Dowdall and Rita Wiskin projected from Wanstead and Woodford Ciné and Video Club in the Board Room

THE ELITE 100 CLUB

Results of the March 2010 draw of the NTR 100 Club

1st prize of £18.13 went to Joan Moody No 100
2nd prize of £10.81 went to Ken Martin No 33
3rd prize of £6.23 went to Ron Jones No 29

The sum of £34.67 went to the North Thames Regional fund,
Total Prize money paid out so far this year £104.01

Results of the April 2010 draw of the 100 Club

1st prize of **£18.13** went to Mrs S Fulcher No 87
2nd prize of **£10.81** went to Nicholas Gale No 95
3rd prize of **£6.23** went to L Lewy No 21
The sum of **£35.17** went to the North Thames Regional fund,

Total Prize money paid out this year **£138.68**
Total donated to North Thames Region this year £139.18

Promoter for NTR J.Tumbridge, FACI, 42 Ridgeway Hutton Mount,
Brentwood Essex, CM13 2LJ.
Tel. 01277 221950 FAX 07092 012703
E-mail: moviejim@jimtumbridge.co.uk



**Sincere thanks to all those members who are
supporting the Club.**

**You can join at any time and your membership lasts for 12
draws New members very welcome.**

We do need your support

Copy Dates Copy Dates Copy Dates

If you have something that you would like to see published in this newsletter, then send it to me. Email or post it by 'snail mail' to:-Eric Granshaw, 8 The Green Walk, Chingford, London E4 7ER.

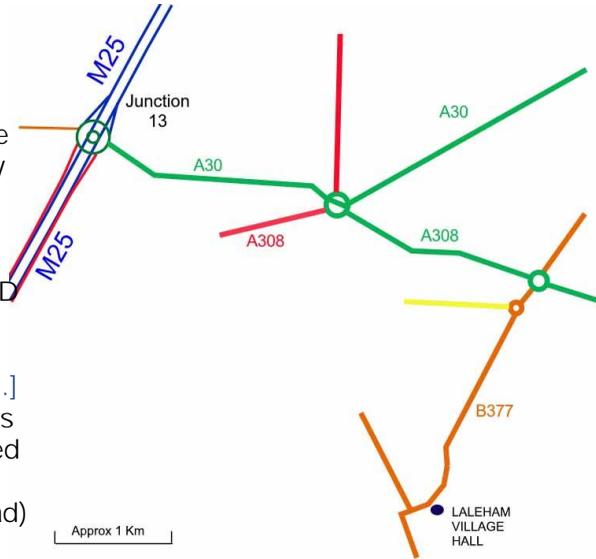
Send it when you have it ready, and I will put it in the edition that I am working on. Print deadline is the 15th of the month preceding publication.

Aivar Kaulins Publicity Page

Diary Dates

Saturday 8 May 2010. The North Thames Triangle Final will be hosted by Staines Cine & Video Society at Laleham Village Hall, The Broadway, Laleham, Surrey TW18 1ASB. Start at 2pm

Leave the M25 at Junction 13 taking the A30 to Staines. BEWARE the next roundabout (The Crooked Billet) is a tricky junction. A traffic light controlled roundabout with a "straight across" route. We want the THIRD exit, but approach the roundabout by getting into the LEFT hand lane.] Take the left hand lane as you approach the Crooked Billet Roundabout (to avoid going straight ahead) then take the THIRD exit onto the A308 to Ashford/Sunbury.



Turn RIGHT at the next roundabout (Fordbridge Roundabout) towards Laleham/Staines. Turn Left at the mini roundabout onto B377 (Ashford Road). After about 1.5km Ashford Road becomes The Broadway. There is a pub - the Feathers - on your left and Laleham VH is 50 yards further on the left immediately before a Pay and Display car park also on the left. Car parking charges have been introduced and will cost £1.50 for 2 hours or more on 8 May.

Secretaries and publicity officers of affiliated clubs are invited to send in details of their forthcoming public shows for inclusion in the AIVAR KAULINS PUBLICITY PAGE. Send details direct to the newsletter editor.

Aivar Kaulins, 19, The Ridgeway, Stanmore, Middlesex, HA7 4BE

ACORN FILMS CHINGFORD

Well known for their Chingford Newsreel.
Contact David Piggott 020 8524 9642

AYLESBURY CAMCORDER ENTHUSIASTS

www.the-ace.org

Every third Thursday of the month at Eskdale Community Centre, Eskdale Road. Stoke Mandeville, Bucks, from 7.30pm. Contact Alan Bowles, 50 Queens Mead, Bedgrove, Aylesbury Bucks HP21 7AP

BOURNE END VIDEO CAMERA CLUB

meets in the Red Cross Centre, Victoria Road, Marlow. Bucks, at 8pm first & third Wednesdays of the month..

Contact Derek Miller (Secretary), 01628 637587
[<>](mailto:derekmiller@bulldoghome.com)

BRENTWOOD VIDEO CLUB

meets Thursdays 7.30pm at St Thomas's Church Centre, St Thomas's Road. Brentwood.
Hon Sec Julian Ryley. 8 Robin Hood Road. Brentwood. Essex CM15 9EM. 01277 21 6147.

CHANNEL 7 PRODUCTIONS

darren@channel7.org.uk

Based in St Neots, Cambridgeshire, and operating as a production unit which holds project, rather than Club meetings. For more information, contact Darren Lalonde on 01480 405 615; mobile 07887 932498.

COLCHESTER FILM MAKERS CLUB

Cfmclub.org.uk

Every Tuesday (September to May) 8pm to 10pm. in the Hythe Community Centre, 1 Ventura Drive, Hythe, Colchester, C01 2FG. Chairman: Sue Howden Contact Jt Secs:
bryanlittlewood@btinternet.com
01621 891125 or johnhawden@talktalk.net 01245 422023

EALING VIDEO & FILM MAKERS

meet on Fridays at 8pm at the Annexe, Greenford Community Centre. 170 Oldfield Lane South, Greenford. Secretary Karen Cherrington. 41 Flemming Avenue. Eastcote. Middx HA4 9LE 020 8429 8497.

ENFIELD VIDEO MAKERS

meet on the first and third Tuesday each month at 8pm at the JubileeHall. 2 Parsonage Lane. Enfield. Middx. Contact James Meehan 0208 251 1829.

EPPING FOREST CINE & VIDEO CLUB

meets at Pelly Court, Hemnall Street, Epping, at 8.15pm 2nd and 4th Mondays each month.
Contact: Peter Bradford, 24 Lampits, Hoddeson, Herts EN11 8ED. Tele: 01992 479312

THE ESSEX AUDIO-VISUAL GROUP

www.essexavgroup.org.uk

dickwilliamsav@yahoo.co.uk

First Wednesday of the month, Holy Trinity Church, Rectory Garth, Rayleigh, Essex.
Contact Mr R. Williams. 34 Heather Way, Romford, Essex RM1 4TA. 01708 748580

FINCHLEY FILM MAKERS

www.finchleycinevideo.co.uk

Meets at Quakers Meeting House, 58 Alexandra Grove, North Finchley N12 8HG, 7:30pm on Fridays. Contact Peter Kidman. 020 8292 6367.

HARROW CINE & VIDEO SOCIETY

www.harrowcinevideo.org.uk

Meets Mondays at 7.45pm in the Weald Room. Harrow Arts Centre (adjacent Morrison's), Uxbridge Road, Hatch End until the middle of May. Asst sec Ken Gale 0208 424 0235
Harrowcinevideo@tiscali.co.uk

HEMEL HEMPSTEAD MOVIE MAKERS

www.hemelmoviemakers.org.uk

meet first and third Wednesdays each month at 8pm. The Memorial Hall, (back of) Carey Baptist Church, The Marlowes, Hemel-Hempstead. Herts.
Contact Audrey Batchelor. 01442 25 6853.

CLUB DIRECTORY

HORNCHURCH CINE & VIDEO CLUB

meets at Cranham Community Hall, Marlborough Gardens. off Avon Road, Cranham. Upminster, on Mondays 8 to 10pm. Closed August and December. Secretary Sheila Goodwin, FACI, 4 Athelstan Road. Harold Wood, Romford. Essex RM3 0QB. 01708 34 1445. Sheila@dennisgoodwin.wanadoo.co.uk

LUTON MOVIE MAKERS

www.moviemakers.freeuk.com
meet Thursdays at Hat Factory Arts Centre, 65-67 Bute Street, Luton LU1 2EY at 7pm
NTR members welcome for free.

MILTON KEYNES CAMCORDER CLUB

Www.mkcamcorderclub@googlemail.com
Meets at Centrecom 602 North Row, Secklow Gate West Central Milton Keynes, third Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm.
Tel: 01908 236419

OXFORD VIDEO SOCIETY

oxfordvideosoc.mysite.wanadoo-members.co.uk
meets every Monday (September-June) at Gosford Hill School, Kidlington. at 7.30pm.
Contact Michael Batts Hon Sec 25 Witney Road, Eynsham, Oxon OX29 4PH 01865 88 1393
michaelbatts@btinternet.com

POTTERS BAR CINE & VIDEO SOCIETY

www.pottersbarcineandvideosociety.org
meets alternate Thursdays at 7:45pm in Room 2, Wyllyotts Centre. Darkes Lane. Potters Bar.
Contact Penny Love. 01707 65 6446.

SVGA - The Select Video Group of Amersham. Meets at various member's homes approx every 3 weeks.
Contact Ron Haddock, hrhvideo@tiscali.co.uk

ST ALBANS MOVIE MAKERS

meet every other Tuesday at the United Reformed Church Hall. Homewood Road off Sandpit Lane. St Albans. Contact Chairman Frank Miller 01727 831166. email: frankmllr@aol.com

SOUTH ESSEX FILM MAKERS

www.sefm.org.uk
meets at Wyburns School, Nevern Road. Rayleigh. Essex SS6 7PE. on Monday evenings 7.45 for 8pm.
Publicity Officer Nigel Woodham 01702 462073.

STAINES CINE & VIDEO SOCIETY

Website www.stainesvideo.co.uk
every Friday at 7.30pm in Laleham Village Hall.
Contact Hon Sec Mr A Valvona 24 The Copse, Farnborough, Hants GU14 0QD

WALTHAMSTOW AMATEUR CINE VIDEO CLUB

waccmail@ntlworld.com www.wacvc.org.uk
meets weekly on Thursdays at 8pm at Stafford Hall. St Barnabas Road. Walthamstow Hon Sec Mrs Toni Butcher, 7 Gordon Avenue, Highams Park, London E4 9QP. Email toni@butcher.name

WANSTEAD & WOODFORD CINE & VIDEO CLUB

www.wansteadcinevideo.org.uk
meets 1st, 3rd and 5th Fridays each month at 8pm at St Paul's Church Hall. Chigwell Road, Woodford Bridge. IG8 8BT. Hon Sec Martin Page, 33 Bush Road. Buckhurst Hill, Essex 020 8504 9430
Email martin.page33@ntlworld.com

IAC ONLINE - website of IAC
The Film & Video Institute
for all the latest on amateur film, video and AV
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