

Chairman's Chat

Brenda has been a member of Wanstead & Woodford Movie Makers for 20 years, was its Chairman from 2007 > 2010, and has been Chairman of the North Thames IAC Region since November 2007. She was made an FACI in October 2012.



Brenda Granshaw FACI

Didn't we have a lovely time the day we went to Rayleigh for the Triangle Final! South Essex were the perfect hosts, having had lots of practice over the years, and the three final programmes were of a very high standard and had not lost their charm on their third showing. Congratulations to all three clubs for a very entertaining afternoon and particularly to the winners – Staines Video Makers who will be hosting the final of the NEW COMPETITION next year. Yes, we have decided to revamp the Triangle competition so please read all about the new 4x4 Competition on page 10.

One of the films in the Triangle Final had all been shot using green screen. It was so well done that it was impossible not to think that it had been filmed on location. This has led the Council to consider whether there would be merit in holding another seminar on the use of green screen. It is some years since Alan Atkinson gave his presentation on the subject and the current editing systems have made it all much easier. The IAC are offering grants for training sessions put on by Regional Councils and I wonder whether an afternoon presentation on this subject would interest you. If it would or if you would like a presentation on some other video related topic, please let me have your suggestions.

It was the day after the Triangle Final that Eric and I joined a river trip along the Dnieper River in the Ukraine. It was the first time I had been on such a trip so I was not sure what to expect. Camera at the ready, I soon found that filming on a river cruise was a waste of time. The amount of time spent visiting each place was too short to provide any worthwhile footage. The fact that 200 people were all moving about together meant that they kept appearing in my viewfinder. And, a number of places had so few interesting features that my camera stayed firmly in my handbag. However, I must say that the visit to Yalta was very interesting – even if too short.

Summer is now with us, so get those cameras out and make films for the Annual Competition!

Does your Club have a decent web-site? Or don't you know, because you never look at it? And do you use Facebook?

Award-Winning Staines Video Makers' Chairman

Tim Stannard gives his thoughts:

Good websites are a key to attracting new members. We at Staines must have plenty of new members then, yes? Well... no.

And it's not the website's fault, neither is it a reflection of the quality of the website.

People who visit the website will fall into four categories.

Firstly, club members and members of other clubs and organisations who want to see what we're up to or contact details. From a recruitment point of view we are not interested in these –they know of the existence of the club. Much of the news and comment in which they might be interested has now devolved to our Facebook site, more of which later.

Next we have people who are actively searching for a local club. They have come to the website via links from the IAC website or other organisations (eg local council sites) or through googling "Video Clubs in Surrey", for example. These people are actively looking for a club and are probably already well on the way to joining. A good website may help clinch the deal here and get prospects through the door (although other factors are probably more important – what evenings we meet, our advertised programme etc.), but there is little doubt in my mind that **a bad website is likely to put people off.**

Finally we have the people who come across our site by accident. This is where a good website can really count. This is our opportunity to sell the club. However, it needs to be accurate and representative. Most people will sense very quickly if a website is full of overblown statements of what and who we are.

The last seven members to join SVM have all come via the website. Six of them were in the third category above – this is hardly surprising as an internet search is probably the more common "directory" search nowadays. The seventh person was just generally searching "Video" and the locality and came across us. Whilst he is most definitely at the younger end of the age spectrum, he still fits into the "grey haired" demographic and so was not overly put off by the photos we have on the site.

We try to avoid putting too many photos of grey-haired old men on the home page, but at the same time we do not feel it's appropriate to misrepresent ourselves by filling our pages with images of young men and women. We do have a trump card though – a regularly changing cartoon about life as a video maker conceived and drawn by our member John Anscorb. Possibly more than anything else on the site, this gives the viewer a good idea of what SVM is all about.

As mentioned earlier, many of the day to day announcements or lesser news is now posted on our Facebook site([facebook.com/StainesVideoMakers](https://www.facebook.com/StainesVideoMakers)) which we launched in February. This is much more immediate and several members are site administrators and can create less formal posts than we might see on the main website in a much more timely fashion. Anyone who has a Facebook account can "like" this page and they will be kept informed of any updates every time they visit Facebook as opposed to the website where they have to visit to see what's new. The difference is not necessarily clear until you have joined Facebook – something which many members are, understandably, reluctant to do. However, I find this a great way of keeping informed about what other clubs (e.g. Reading, who put me on to this idea) are up to.

In summary then, a website is essential – it's the "go to" place for anyone who wants to contact you. **A good website won't necessarily win you new interest/members, but a bad one will probably lose prospects. A Facebook page is a great way of keeping people updated and it is probably as essential now that any organisation has a Facebook page as it was 10 years ago that they had a website.**



club Matters



Hemel Hempstead Film Makers are a long-established movie club, a member of the IAC since the 1980s, who still have a member who gives them an annual film show in 16mm!

Over the years, their films have covered a wide variety of subjects, including one, "The Last House", that has had brief excerpts broadcast on BBC TV. They've even had a visit from comedian Harry Worth!

Alan French talks about their most unusual film, and what the Club is up to at the moment.

"Where There Is Smoke" was a comedy film about a house being renovated after it had a roof fire. Footage of a fire was included.

The film maker was Brian Harris.

Trouble was, it was his house that he filmed on fire!

For this, Brian was given a special award for filming beyond the call of duty. Possibly the only member to have achieved this!

Although memorial competitions for members sadly no longer with us, are not new, Brian may also be the only member who has an annual inter-club competition in his honour. The two clubs competing for this comedy contest are St. Albans Movie Makers and ourselves. Brian was a member of both.

This year's 2012-2013 Season has seen some varied motion pictures both in production and completed. The Season has yielded the drama '**Sanctuary**', the documentary about the making of stained glass windows '**With a Touch of Glass**'; and a film looking back at the 'D-Day' landings in Normandy '**Never Forgotten**'.

Another production, which has now just been completed for our 2013-2014 season, is '**Fun With Offenbach**'. This is a very colourful short musical comedy, which we are very excited about.

Currently, ideas for forthcoming DVDs are being discussed.

No matter what method of motion picture making has been employed, Hemel Hempstead Movie Makers has been, currently still are and hopefully in the future, will always be heavily involved in movie-making.

Further information on Hemel Hempstead Movie Makers, can be found on the following websites:-

www.hemelmoviemakers.org.uk

www.hertsmemories.org.uk

www.ourdacorum.org.uk

Our Annual NTR Annual Movie Festival draws nearer.

We can't have a Festival without your movies!

Read on...

The Venue

This will again be at the **Pinner Village Hall, Chapel Lane Car Park, Pinner HA5 1AB** and, as before, a map and eating arrangements will be supplied in the next Newsletter.

The Competition

This will be held on **Sunday November 24th** and the **Closing Date for Entries is Saturday September 14th**.

Cost of an entry this year will be £7 – still excellent value as it is half of the BIAFF entry fee and as usual you get helpful comments from three judges –this year from CEMRIAC.

Tickets for attendance on the Competition Day will cost **£6 in advance** and **£8 if purchased on the door**.

DVD Compilation

As usual for ease of projection on the day of the competition, entries will be put onto DVDs and all entries will eventually be available for hire from the NTR Council.

Please would you be sure to include at least 5secs of black at both start and finish of your entry whether on tape or DVD and if sending HD entries then a standard definition copy must be included.

Postal Charges

Please note that these have gone up again so do check that you have put the correct postage on. If an entry is under-priced a cheque for the underpayment will be required before the video will be entered into the Competition.

Rules & Entry Forms

You will find the **Entry Forms** on **pages 6 & 7**, and the **Rules** on **page 8**.

North Thames Region IAC
Annual Movie Festival - Sunday November 24th 2013
COMPETITION ENTRY FORM

Title of film:.....

Name of maker:

Date of birth [Youth & Junior only]:.....

Maker's address:

..... **Post Code:**.....

Telephone:

Email:.....

IAC membership number (if applicable):

Please mark (x) in appropriate box:

Details of film: Mini DV [] DVD [] Other []

Aspect Ratio: 4:3 [] 16:9 [] 16:9 letterboxed [] Other

Projection :- Please specify any special requirements

.....

Leader : If Mini-DV, state length (preferably 5-10 secs black)**secs**

If DVD, state whether a Menu or no. of secs black**secs**

Length of movie : State exact length :.....

Start of audio : If before first frame – state number of **secs:**... ..

**(Please detach these centre pages or make a
photocopy to use as an entry form)**

Give brief description of film :

.....

.....

.....

Copyright clearance : – to be strictly observed [see Rule 6]

MCPS/BPI Licence Nos.

Entry Fee £ **Return postage £.....** **Total £**

(For fees see page 10)

Return Postage. Not necessary if arrangements have been made for collection of video(s) at the event. **If video(s) are not to be collected then return postage is necessary otherwise they will not be returned.**

Cheques to be made payable to ‘North Thames Region IAC’ and sent together with the entry to:

Mr. K. J. Mills OBE LACI,

35, St. Mary’s Avenue, Northwood, Middlesex, HA6 3AY.

For acknowledgement of receipt of entry, please enclose a stamped self addressed envelope.

Will the entry be collected at the Festival? Yes [] No []

I have read the rules of this competition and agree to abide by them

Signed Dated

Closing date for entries is 14th September 2013.

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

Rules:

1. The competition is open to all amateur movie makers residing within the North Thames Region of the IAC.
2. 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. Videos can be on tape or DVD. If your video is on Blu-Ray please also send a "standard" copy for viewing, in case of technical problems.
3. You may submit as many entries as you wish, providing they have not been entered before and have been made in the last 3 years.
A separate form must be used for each entry. Photocopies of the entry form are acceptable. Entrants for the Youth Section must be under 25 and Juniors under 18 on the Festival date.
4. It is a condition of entry that videos which have won a major national or international award, are not eligible to enter this competition.
5. Only one video to each tape/disc will be accepted. The maximum length of any video is limited to 25 minutes.
6. **All copyright material, both audio and visual, must be cleared by the video maker. Details of music copyright clearance can be obtained from the IAC at Dorset House, Regent Park, Kingston Road, Leatherhead, Surrey KT22 7PL Tel. 01372 824350**
7. The judges' decisions are final. No correspondence will be entered into with reference to any decision made.

Entry Fees per video:

IAC Members:

Adults £7;

Youths [18-25yrs] £3;

Juniors [under 18yrs] £1;

Non-IAC Members:

Adults: £10

Youths: £4

Juniors: £2

Add return postage if the entry will not be collected.

Prizes of £50, £25 and £15 will be awarded to the top three winners in addition to the usual trophies and certificates.

Trophies:

North Thames Regional Trophy for **First** place;

Ganderson Trophy for **Second** place;

Kodak Trophy for **Third** place;

The **Leslie Germany Trophy** for the **Best Use of Sound**;

the **Kenneth Seeger Trophy** for **Best Editing**.

Certificates for Very Highly Commended, Highly Commended and Commended.

SPOTLIGHT ON THE FUTURE



SATURDAY OCTOBER 5th

POTTERS BAR FM PUBLIC SHOW at 2.30 & 8
Further details from Penny Love (see p.1)

TUESDAY OCTOBER 15th

ST. ALBANS MM PUBLIC SHOW *(Details to follow)*

OCTOBER 25th — 27th

The IAC NATIONAL AGM WEEKEND hosted by NERAC at the Holiday Inn, Seaton Burn, Newcastle. *(Further details on the IAC website)*

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 15th

Wanstead & Woodford FM Movie Night *(details to follow)*

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 24th

NTRIAC FESTIVAL & AGM

Pinner Village Hall, Chapel Lane Car Park, Pinner, HA5 1A
10 for 10.30 am. £6 in advance, £8 at the door.

NTR 100 CLUB

Contact: John Farrer

Tel.: 01462 434948 E-Mail: jffarrer@madasafish.com

The Draws for May & June were made at the Triangle Final on Sunday May 12th.
Each of the following wins £12:

May

Ken Mills
Martin Page
Brenda Granshaw

June

Edward Catton-Orr
Kim Harrold
Eric Granshaw



To our new members:
Goldington Green Academy
M.J. Hillyard
A.G.Taylor

Beds.
Herts.
Oxon

To join the IAC , contact:
IAC, The Film and Video Institute,
Dorset House,
Regent Park,
Kingston Road,
LEATHERHEAD, Surrey, KT22 7PL.
Tel.: 01372 824350 E-Mail: admin@theiac.org.uk

A new Competition for 2013—2014!

Chairman Brenda Granshaw FAcI explains:

The Triangle Competition became a North Thames Region event in 1970. It developed from a competition started in 1965 between Edgware Amateur Cine Society and Watford Cine Society. They were later joined in 1968 by Ealing and Boston Manor. At that time there were sufficient clubs in the Region to fill the 27 places required for the competition. Over the years the number of clubs in the Region has diminished and this year saw only 15 entries from within the Region.

Times have changed and the Council has therefore decided that the Triangle Competition needs to be reformed.

This year, the competition will be renamed the Four by Four (4 x 4) Competition designed to run with an initial entry of 16 clubs. This will provide four groups of four clubs for the first round. There will no longer be a requirement to include specific categories of movie.

The emphasis will be on entertainment and the judges' remit will be to choose the most entertaining programme in each group

Ron Jones (the 4x4 Competition Officer) will be inviting Clubs to enter the 4x4 Competition, which will run as follows:

To enter, clubs will need to put forward an entertaining presentation lasting no more than 25 minutes.

Ideally the Competition requires 16 clubs to enter so that by a draw, 4 groups of 4 can be formed for the first round.

The club drawn first in each group will host the round, arranging the venue and date.

There will be a single judge for each of the first and second (semi-final) rounds of the competition. These judges will be arranged by the NTR 4x4 Competition Officer.

In round 1, the judges will pick a winner and runner up from each of the 4 programmes shown and these 8 clubs will proceed to the semi finals.

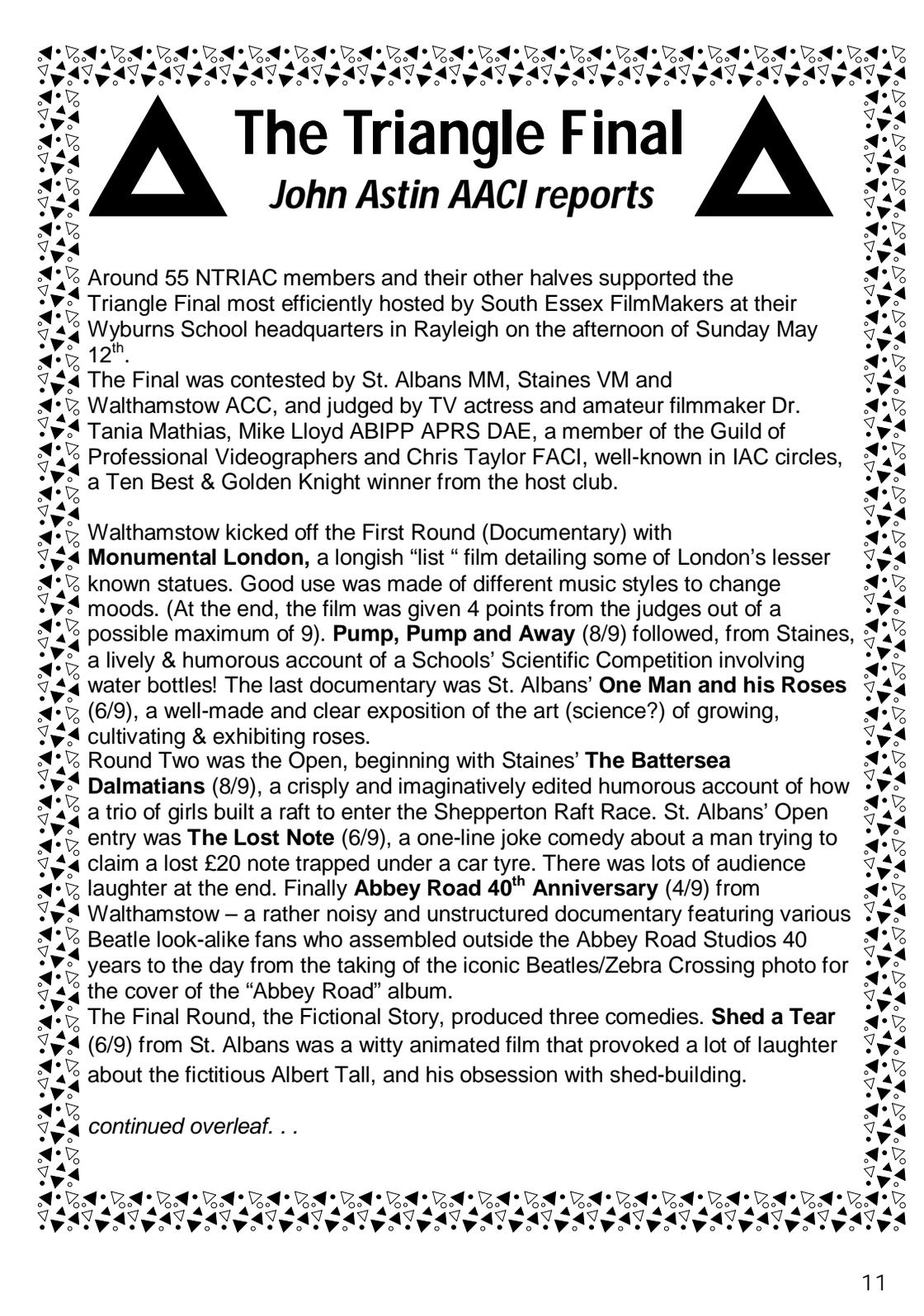
Each semi final will comprise two first round winners and two first round runners up who did not compete against each other in the first rounds.

The winners and runners up from the two semi finals will proceed to the final.

The final will have a panel of 3 judges chosen by the NTR 4x4 Competition Officer.

The aim of the competition is to encourage clubs to make movies and to foster friendly competition between clubs in the Region.

As this will be the first year of this Competition it will be subject to review after the event so please keep a note of comments that you may want to make.



The Triangle Final

John Astin AACI reports

Around 55 NTRIAC members and their other halves supported the Triangle Final most efficiently hosted by South Essex FilmMakers at their Wyburns School headquarters in Rayleigh on the afternoon of Sunday May 12th.

The Final was contested by St. Albans MM, Staines VM and Walthamstow ACC, and judged by TV actress and amateur filmmaker Dr. Tania Mathias, Mike Lloyd ABIPP APRS DAE, a member of the Guild of Professional Videographers and Chris Taylor FACI, well-known in IAC circles, a Ten Best & Golden Knight winner from the host club.

Walthamstow kicked off the First Round (Documentary) with **Monumental London**, a longish "list" film detailing some of London's lesser known statues. Good use was made of different music styles to change moods. (At the end, the film was given 4 points from the judges out of a possible maximum of 9). **Pump, Pump and Away** (8/9) followed, from Staines, a lively & humorous account of a Schools' Scientific Competition involving water bottles! The last documentary was St. Albans' **One Man and his Roses** (6/9), a well-made and clear exposition of the art (science?) of growing, cultivating & exhibiting roses.

Round Two was the Open, beginning with Staines' **The Battersea Dalmatians** (8/9), a crisply and imaginatively edited humorous account of how a trio of girls built a raft to enter the Shepperton Raft Race. St. Albans' Open entry was **The Lost Note** (6/9), a one-line joke comedy about a man trying to claim a lost £20 note trapped under a car tyre. There was lots of audience laughter at the end. Finally **Abbey Road 40th Anniversary** (4/9) from Walthamstow – a rather noisy and unstructured documentary featuring various Beatle look-alike fans who assembled outside the Abbey Road Studios 40 years to the day from the taking of the iconic Beatles/Zebra Crossing photo for the cover of the "Abbey Road" album.

The Final Round, the Fictional Story, produced three comedies. **Shed a Tear** (6/9) from St. Albans was a witty animated film that provoked a lot of laughter about the fictitious Albert Tall, and his obsession with shed-building.

continued overleaf. . .



The audience awaits the start of the Triangle Programme of Films



Triangle Judges (left > right) Chris Taylor, Tania Mathias & Mike Lloyd

Next was Walthamstow's **The Robbery** (8/9), a very amusing comedy with an original and funny script about how a shopkeeper dealt with a rather stupid robber.

Finally, Staines' **Murder In Store** (4/9) – a fairly typical club production featuring some unlikely characters in a rather long and not really credible build-up to an unforeseen (and unforeseeable!) one-line joke .

In the end, **Staines won with 20 points, St. Albans were 2nd with 18, and Walthamstow 3rd with 16.**

It had been a top-class afternoon – the judges had been suitably perceptive and instructive (and acceptably brief!), the refreshments after Round Two had been delicious, and – see page 10 - it took the Triangle out on a high note!



Staines' Chairman Tim Stannard receives the Triangle Trophy from NTR Chairman Brenda Granshaw and Competition Organiser & President Ron Jones



Ron Jones, NTR President, is presented with something alcoholic to celebrate his 90th birthday!

Deadline for the next issue is Sunday August 4th
Please send all contributions by e-mail to:
john.astin1@ntlworld.com