

# NORTH THAMES REGION *NEWSLETTER*



The Film & Video Institute

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

## What is on Offer?

The Regional Council is working hard to provide activities of interest to the members of the Region. They need to know whether what they propose to provide is what members - and this means YOU - want .

1. Competitions Galore - see pages 5,6,7,8 and 9
2. A half day session at a commercial cinema available for hire to show members' films about the area where they live on the big screen (under discussion)
3. A Visit to Alexandra Palace - see page 4
4. Tom Hardwick on HD and its problems - capture, editing and projection - see page 9 of the March-April Newsletter (available on line)

If any of these events interests you, please send an email to [ericgranshaw@thekeys.plus.com](mailto:ericgranshaw@thekeys.plus.com) expressing your interest or suggestions for other activities.

No commitment at this stage.

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May - June 2011

## Chairman's Chat



By the time you read this we should know which club won the Triangle Competition. I am pleased to say that I made it to nearly half the first rounds in one capacity or another and then two of the three semi finals. I saw lots of very good films by all the clubs. This was highlighted by the closeness of many of the competition results. Indeed, Enfield and Bourne End drew and the final decision was made on the more entertaining programme. Bourne End lost by a whisker. All the clubs that entered the competition should congratulate themselves on providing a competitive collection of films. I was also pleased to see the level of support that was given to the evenings by club members. Well done everyone!

As promised, the NT Committee has been considering various activities, which we hope members might find attractive. You will have seen in last month's magazine that Eric has arranged for Tom Hardwick to come and talk about High Definition. There are many questions both about cameras and projectors that I am sure it will be an interesting and informative event. The front cover lists other events that we shall put on if there is sufficient support. Do read the details provided elsewhere in the magazine and let us know what you think.

It is also that time of year when we are thinking about our film competitions. This year we are back to Pinner for the Annual Competition and AGM. There were many good films in the Triangle competition and I am hoping the makers will be prepared to enter them for the Annual Competition so that they can give pleasure to a much wider audience.

Finally, I must congratulate Channel 7 Productions and Staines Cine & Video Society for being short-listed in the IAC Best Website Competition. Both sites are very informative and well worth a look. It would be interesting to hear from these clubs about the amount of time it takes to develop their super sites and also about the number of new members who have been attracted to join their clubs because of their website.

Brenda

# Orpington VFM win at Staines

The Inter-Club Competition for the Silver Salver is an annual competition organised and hosted by Staines Ciné and Video Society. For this popular competition, Staines invites a number of clubs from NTR and SERIAC to enter a film of their choice running for no longer than 20 minutes and the films are all shown and judged on the night. This year the competition also gave Staines the opportunity to show off for the first time in public their new High Definition projection system and indeed two of the competing clubs took full advantage of this, submitting entries on Blu-Ray.

This year, the 38th ICC, saw some 60 people, half of whom were from from competing clubs, attend to watch the films from the 10 clubs who had entered (more than 90 minutes of content). The judges were from within the ranks of the Staines membership - Laurie Miller, a well-established filmmaker who will be well known to many IAC members, and Tim Stannard who was a replacement for Ken Ferguson who unavoidably had to drop out at the last minute.

As usual with this competition, the content was varied and the standard high. With at least half a dozen films potential winners the judges had a tough job. However a decision had to be made and the trophy, the "Silver Salver" went to "Writer's Block" from Orpington Video & Film Makers. This was an innovative comedy which drew from various styles of modern TV and film productions. In 2nd place was a documentary, "The Bells of St Mary's" from South Essex Film Makers, about the replacement of the bells in the church of the title. It had some excellent footage and commentary of the whole process, much of which was shot at Whitechapel Bell Foundry. The 3rd place went to Wanstead and Woodford Ciné and Video Club with their succinct comedy "Time Out", about a travelling salesman trying to "take a break" as motorway signs keep telling us.

The other clubs competing were Ealing FVM with "The Hypnotist"; Surrey Border FVM with "Cecil's Law"; Bourne End VCC "To Whom It May Concern"; Reading FVM - "The Ghosts of Livadia"; Potters Bar CVS - "Wow!!"; Hemel Hempstead MM - "Time Flies" and "Epsom CVS - "The First of a Few".

# BEHIND THE SCENES OF ALEXANDRA PALACE TELEVISION STUDIOS

For those of you who don't know, Alexandra Palace, built in 1875 in North London, is where the BBC Television Studios were opened in the south east wing in 1936 and was the site of the first regular high definition public television broadcast in the world.

Apparently, the BBC chose it as the building was so high up but only had 18 months to get everything ready for transmission, including installing two studios, the dressing and make up rooms, and control rooms for sound and vision etc but which then remained in use for about 45 years.

Apparently, although television broadcasts were stopped for the duration of the war, the BBC transmitters were still used and were essential in helping to jam the various radio signals used by German bomber pilots to identify their positions and targets.

Luckily, the fire at the Palace in 1981 didn't damage the television production centre and we have the opportunity to look behind the scenes of this fascinating place.

Before we go any further with making arrangements, we need to know how much interest there is in having such a visit. If you are interested, please let me know as soon as possible either by phone on 01707 656446 or email on [alystan@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:alystan@tiscali.co.uk).

*(Please put Ally Pally in the subject heading)*



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## The Triangle Semi-Finals



Harrow Ciné and Video Society hosted the semi-final against South Essex Filmmakers and Colchester Ciné and Video Society. **South Essex Filmmakers** will be in the final on May 7.

The judges (pictured) were Christine Collins, Paul Welton and Ben Simon

Darren Lalonde was one of the judges at the second semi-final hosted by Cromwell Video Camera Club. Cromwell, Ealing and Potters Bar fought a very hard contest. **Ealing Video and Film Makers** won the day to go through to the final.

The other judges were Lindsay Townley and Richard Cutting



The 3 judges at the semi-final between Enfield Video Makers, Norwich Movie makers and Bourne End Video Camera Club were Peter Wernham, Eric Granshaw, and Daphne Wernham.



It was a very close contest in which Enfield tied with Bourne End. Enfield won when they were judged to have the more entertaining programme.

For details of the Final to be hosted by last year's winners, SGVA - see page 13

## ***"Sumer is icumen in.."***

...and so is our Movie Festival. No doubt, to banish the dreary winter months, you have all been busy working on your productions for this year's competition.

Even if you haven't been busy and have just dusted off your cameras in readiness for making this year's holiday, documentary or story video, please remember that the **closing date for the Movie Festival**, which has the habit of creeping up on you, is **Saturday, Sept. 17<sup>th</sup>**.

Although an entry form will be in the July – August Newsletter, I thought it would be worthwhile to remind you now so it doesn't come as a surprise and you can put the date into your diaries before you forget.

Ron Jones, of Triangle Competition fame, told me that over the years he has seen some excellent club productions but why haven't they been put into the Movie Festival? There are 35 clubs in the region and last year I had only one club entry. Is a fiver entry fee too much to ask from your Treasurer? It's actually very good value for money and doesn't really cover our costs. These start from the arrival and logging of the entry, the postage to the judges in another region with all the paperwork that is involved, payment of their expenses, return postage, £50, £25, £15 for the first three winners plus splendid engraved keepsakes, paying the club which projects the videos at the Movie Festival and finally the preparation of a DVD of the Festival, a copy of which goes to the IAC library and one to our Secretary. Your Programme Secretary can borrow this for an evening's entertainment at your club. Your video could also be seen by clubs all over the country and that could be valuable publicity.

We make your fiver go a long way! So let's have a bumper crop of videos for this year's competition.

Ken Mills

# The One Minute Competition

ONE MINUTE and counting.....

This is a reminder to think up/make/complete/enter/ your One Minute film for our Competition.

I was at the SERIAC AGM the other day and they had several One Minute films in the general competition. So...I'm sure that North Thames can manage to beat that!!!!

## **POINTS TO REMEMBER:**

Closing Date: June 30<sup>th</sup> 2011

Entry form in this magazine (overleaf)

Enter on DVD or Mini DV

Please mark up your entry with all info for the projectionist

i.e. Title of film, Length, Format (16:9 or 4:3), additional info e.g.

BlueRay etc. And the Name of the maker.

And...PLEASE projectionists would prefer NO MENUS or Run

Down Leaders on DVD's

That's all.....except send them in good time and with the correct postage for size & thickness of package, also Return postage if you will not be collecting them at the Show in November.

GOOD LUCK, I look forward to seeing lots & lots of entries!!!

Christine

## **Rules:**

1. Movies may be entered on 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.



# The North V South Competition

*This is **not** an IAC event, but a great many IAC members take part.*



North V South is a fun competition for movie making clubs in the U.K. The dividing line between North and South is drawn East to West through Stoke-on-Trent in Staffordshire.

The idea is that a theme is set and then clubs and societies are invited to submit entries up to a maximum of 20 minutes long. The North selects their best five and the South does the same. These 10 movies are entered into the grand final where they compete for the John Wright Trophy.

The competition has evolved into being organised by two clubs: Altrincham Video Society for the North and Orpington Video and Film Makers for the South. At each stage the audience are asked to choose their top five films, just for fun. Those seldom match the judges' decisions.

**THE THEME FOR 2011 IS EASIER SAID THAN DONE .**

The South is desperately in need of a North Thames input. Deadline for entering is October 31st 2011. The Grand Final shows will take place in January 2012 simultaneously in the North and the South. At these shows, the best 10 movies are shown and the winners announced. Enquiries to Mike Coad (South) 01424 220391 or email [general.enquiries](mailto:general.enquiries). Website [www.n-v-s.co.uk](http://www.n-v-s.co.uk).

# Your film and how the Projectionist sees it

*I make no apology for dwelling in this issue on the problems faced by projectionists. When making our films we are so involved in the complexities of our editing programmes that we give little thought to problems that we may be creating for projectionists. At home we just stuff the DVD in the TV and it doesn't much matter to the family if it jumps straight into the picture. They will no doubt have seen it many times before. But the projectionist in a public presentation knows that he will not easily be forgiven if your film is not presented at its best. First, Alan Morgan describes the problems facing a BIAFF projectionist and then an appeal from John Parkes who projects at many of our North Thames events. Both, you will notice, sing from the same hymn sheet which the North Thames Council endorses. Ed.*

Harrow Cine & Video Society provided a projection team and equipment on behalf of North Thames Region for BIAFF at Bedford in 2010, giving a Saturday show and the Sunday Award Winners Show. We were very conscious of the lack of leaders on a large number of entries. We played 43 videos over the seven sessions and 17 were letterboxed and/or autostart (no leader of any sort). Among the 17 mini DVs, 3 were letterboxed and we had to adjust the projector settings in three different ways. Some had no lead and so little black that the start of the video was lost in the loading of the player. There were 21 DVDs and 12 were letterboxed and/or autostart and we had to reset the projector in two alternate ways and the player for one. Some of those letterboxed were listed as 16:9 but had to be played 4:3, as also one letterboxed had captions in the bottom black bar. Even the ends gave us problems, some had no black at the end, some had no black and looped back to the menu and some started playing again! We suggest that the rules for all competitions should include:

- 1. 3 - 5 seconds of black as a leader for DVDs and a minimum of 12 seconds for mini DVs;**
- 2. DVDs should have either a simple menu (no animation) or no menu; and,**
- 3. include a 10 to 20 second black ending after the credits/titles with a minimal gap between the video end and the credits**

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**Alan Morgan  
Harrow Cine and Video Society**

# A Plea from a Projectionist.

## ENTERING Videos INTO COMPETITIONS

It has become clear to me recently that some guidance is needed in the preparing of Mini DVs and DVDs for entry into competitions, whether they are internal or national. In the past the requirement has been for Colour Bars followed by a countdown of from 10 to 3, then 3 seconds break and then the start of the film. Whilst this is still applicable for Mini DVs, DVDS have to be dealt with in a different manner. Both formats still have to have only one film to each tape or disc for entry in a competition, but whereas the projectionist can monitor Mini DV tapes before showing, DVDs cannot so easily be monitored.

The solution for **DVDs only** is this-

1. Include 10 seconds black before the **start** of the film.
2. **DVDs** should have **NO menu at all** and start immediately.
3. Include at least 10 seconds black at the **complete end of the film** with a minimal gap between the ending of the film and the credits. (If any). Otherwise they may be ignored.

I hope that these suggestions will help you in your production of entries for the various competitions which, if adhered to, will make the projectionists lot an easier one' I

Competition entries should have the following details in CAPITALS on them in order that they may be shown correctly.

Full name of the production.  
Name of the maker.  
Time length of film.  
Aspect Ratio e.g.4:3 - 16:9.  
Length of lead in.

# **THE ELITE 100 CLUB**

## **Results of the March 2011 draw of the NTR 100 Club**

- 1<sup>st</sup>. Prize of £17.75 went to John Farrer  
2<sup>nd</sup>. Prize of £11.72 went to Marie Jones  
3<sup>rd</sup>. Prize of £6.03 went to Jim Tumbridge

The sum of £35.50 was donated to the NTR

## **Results of the April draw 2011 of the NTR 100 Club**

- 1<sup>st</sup>. Prize of £18.00 went to Arthur Gatcum  
2<sup>nd</sup>. Prize of £11.88 went to Marie Jones  
3<sup>rd</sup>. Prize of £6.12 went to Hornchurch Cine and Video Club

The sum of £36.00 was donated to the NTR

The amount donated to the NTR in the 1<sup>st</sup>. quarter 2011, amounted to £139.50

Promoter for NTR John Farrer, Mossbury, The Ridgeway, Hitchin, Herts SG5 2BT  
email: [jffarrer@madasafish.com](mailto:jffarrer@madasafish.com)

Did you know that members of the NTR 100 Club can own more than ONE share? Why not double your chance of winning a handsome prize? Typically a 1<sup>st</sup>.prize will cover your annual subscription and still leave you with some pocket money. In the next draw we expect the 2<sup>nd</sup>.prize will also cover your annual subscription and the 3<sup>rd</sup>.prize to cover 50%! It really is a good investment !

In the first quarter of this year individual membership has risen by 12 (around 16%) and recently Hemel Hempstead Movie Makers & the Colchester Film Makers Club have joined Potters Bar Cine and Video Society, Hornchurch Cine & Video Club, Wanstead & Woodford Cine &Video Club and Aylesbury Camcorder Enthusiasts with club memberships!

To obtain an application form go to the March – 2011 April NTR Newsletter or email John Farrer at [jffarrer@madasafish.com](mailto:jffarrer@madasafish.com).

Stop Press - The Council has decided to renew all subscriptions every January. Therefore your first subscription, to enter the next monthly draw in May, will be £8. So you don't even need to dig so deep in your pocket!

# *Aivar Kaulins Publicity Page*

## Diary Dates

**Saturday 7 May Triangle Final** hosted by SGVA at St Michael's Hall, Sycamore Road. Amersham, Bucks HP6 5DR 2pm for 2.30 start. End 6pm.

**Thursday 30 June Closing date for the North Thames One Minute Competiton.** Please get your entries ready. The entry form is on page 8.

**Saturday 8 October. High Definition.** Tom Hardwick is leading a discussion on High Definition, its advantages and the problems it presents in capturing, editing and projection. At St Paul's Church Hall Woodford Green starting at 1.15pm. Entrance £5 including refreshments. See page 9 of March-April newsletter.

**Sunday 27th November 2011 - NTR AGM and MOVIE FESTIVAL,** all day event. Pinner Village Hall, Chapel Lane Car Park, Pinner, HA5 1AB. Doors open 10 am for 10.30 am start. Tickets at the door £ 5 Includes morning / afternoon refreshments. Children free. Further information Roy Claisse,FACI. Tele 01992 - 812520.

### Welcome to New Members

David Lewis  
A P Spiers

London  
Essex

Secretaries and publicity officers of affiliated clubs are invited to send in details of their forthcoming public shows for inclusion in the AIVAR KAULINS3PUBLICITY PAGE. Send details direct to the newsletter editor.

ACORN FILMS CHINGFORD

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

AYLESBURY CAMCORDER ENTHUSIASTS

[www.the-ace.org](http://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 Target Room, The Community Centre, Wakeman Road, Bourne End, Bucks, SL8 5SX at 8pm first & third Wednesdays of the month. [www.bevcc.co.uk](http://www.bevcc.co.uk)  
Contact Derek Miller (Secretary), 01628 637587

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](mailto: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](http://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 Secretary Lionel Bloomfield, 121A London Road, Copford, Colchester CO6 1LH Tel:01206 211788  
Email: [lionel.bloomfield@btinternet.com](mailto:lionel.bloomfield@btinternet.com)

EALING VIDEO & FILM MAKERS

meet on Fridays at 7.30pm 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

<http://enfieldvideomakers.moonfruit.com>  
meet on the first and third Tuesday each month 8pm at St Stephen's Church Hall, Park Avenue, Bush Hill Park, Enfield EN1 2BA. Contact James Meehan 0208 251 1829.

THE ESSEX AUDIO-VISUAL GROUP

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

[dickwilliamsav@yahoo.co.uk](mailto: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](http://www.finchleycinevideo.co.uk)

Meets at Quakers Meeting House, 58 Alexandra Grove, North Finchley N12 8HG, 7:30pm on Fridays. Contact Brian Clayfield, 4 Waterlow Court, Heath Close, London NW11 7DT.

HARROW CINE & VIDEO SOCIETY

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

Will meet Mondays from Sept 6 2010 at 7.45pm in the Canons Room, Harrow Arts Centre (near Morrison's), Uxbridge Road, Hatch End. Asst sec Ken Gale 0208 424 0235  
[Harrowcinevideo@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:Harrowcinevideo@tiscali.co.uk)

HEMEL HEMPSTEAD MOVIE MAKERS

[www.hemelmoviemakers.org.uk](http://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@dennissgoodwin.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.

### RADLEY VIDEO

Radley College, Abingdon, Oxon,  
OX14 2HR. www.radleyvideo.co.uk

### SVGA - The Select Video Group of

Amersham. www.sgva.weebly.com  
Meets at various member's homes  
approx every 3 weeks.  
Contact Ron Haddock,

### 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.  
Secretary Geoff Woolfson. 07964 445356

### 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 Venner Gilbert, 58 Victoria Avenue, Romford, Essex RM5 2QD. Tel 01708 746586  
Email: Vennerandfrances@tiscali.co.uk

### 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  
www.theiac.org.uk

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After thanking all the entrants for a very entertaining evening, Staines' Chairman, Jeremy Holder, announced that this would be the last Inter-Club Competition hosted by Staines Ciné and Video Society, as the 39th Competition will be hosted by the club under its new name - Staines Video Makers.



Rita Wheeler, Chairman of Surrey Border film and Video Makers (last year's winners) presents the inter-club silver salver to Mike Turner, Vice-chairman of Orpington Film 7 Video Makers. See page 3 for the story.

### **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.