



# North Thames Region



The Film & Video Institute

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

# NEWSLETTER

May—June 2016

Major NTRIAC Successes at BIAFF 2016



+ Sponsor's Prize

Tim Stannard :

*Greece is the Word*



John Astin :

*Hamburg's Wunderland  
Tracks To Victory*

Channel 7 Productions: *Sebastian & Me*

Robin Harvey: *Akin*

John Howden: *The Art of Nat  
Just Fuchsias*

Michael Slowe: *A Thump In The Eye*

Ian Woodward: *I'll Walk With God*

## NTRIAC CONTACTS:

**Chairman:** John Howden LACI, 12A Back Road, Writtle, CHELMSFORD, Essex, CM1 3PD  
Tel.: 01245 422023 E-Mail: [johnhowden7@gmail.com](mailto:johnhowden7@gmail.com)

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**Membership Secretary & Regional Contact:** Penny Love FACI  
Tel.: 01707 656446 E-Mail: [alystan@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:alystan@tiscali.co.uk)

# Chairman's Chat

John Howden joined Colchester Film Makers in 2004 and took over as Chairman in 2005. He has served as Competitions Officer and is currently one of the Club's projectionists. He joined the NTR Council in 2012 and now also serves on the National IAC Council. He has judged at local, regional and national level and was a Final Round Judge at BIAFF 2015. He is an active film maker, regularly receiving 3 and 4 Star Awards at BIAFF.



At the time of writing, the four first round heats in our regional Knockout Competition have taken place.

Ron Jones was unfortunately unable to referee, so Brenda Granshaw and I took on that duty. It was a real pleasure for me to visit three of the clubs and to enjoy their hospitality. Thank you to the hosts and the projectionists.

The finalists, Bourne End, Hemel Hempstead, South Essex and Staines will come to Colchester to battle it out (*Details on page 9*).

There were some very entertaining and interesting programmes and the judges often had a difficult job in deciding which was the winner! As usual we owe a huge debt of thanks to all the judges who gave their time and expertise to us so willingly. Their wisdom, knowledge and comments are much appreciated.

It will not have escaped your notice that the North Thames Region is hosting the **IAC AGM** this year. It will be held in Norwich in October at the Maids Head Hotel and promises to be really good. If you have never been to Norwich this is your chance to come and explore.

**PLEASE SHOW THE PROMO DVD AT YOUR CLUB.**

Copies were sent to every club in February with the hope that they would be shown quite a few times.

**AND BOOK TO COME** (*Booking Forms are in the current FVM Magazine*).

The weekend includes a walk round Norwich, a lucky dip film competition (bring a five minute film to enter), a visit to the Bressingham Steam Museum and Gardens, and a celebrity guest speaker.

**All we need is your company.**

Finally you may like to know that as a result of your North Thames Council refusing to host BIAFF 2018, the IAC is looking into the whole future of BIAFF and what form it might take in the future.

We live in interesting times!

Have a great summer of filming.

**John Howden LACI**

## The Future for our Hobby 4

### WHY? WHY? WHY?

There are 22 Clubs listed in the Directory on page 10.

In the NTR Festival & AGM 2015 (reported in the last Newsletter):

- Only 28 films were entered
- Around 75% of those were from members of just three Clubs
- In mid-afternoon, there were just 40 people in the audience, of which nearly a third were from one Club
- At least three of our erstwhile most prestigious Clubs were totally unrepresented both in entries and in the audience

### WHY? WHY? WHY?

Your NTRIAC Committee desperately needs to know what you want from it, how you see the future for our hobby, how you think the NTR Festival Day & Competition can be re-energised

and what to plan for the future.

That is, if there is to be a future . . .

*Please let us know—contact details below and on the front cover*

In the last Newsletter (*left*), we sought to find out why the NTR Annual Movie Festival had so few entries, why the Festival itself was poorly attended, and how members saw the future for our hobby.

**WE HAD JUST TWO RESPONSES!**

*Draw your own conclusions*

**This is what Chris Taylor, from South Essex FM, has to say:**

“Your piece in the NTR Newsletter raises some interesting points about why our supporters are disappearing. **It’s the same in almost all ‘clubs’ of the traditional kind – ‘we’, the old wrinklies, are falling off our perches and are not being replaced.**

I have been an ardent follower of the

hobby since my student days 55 years ago at the age of 15 when I worked in Bruce’s camera shop in Westcliff in the sixties – familiar place name there?

Now I am still a member of a much diminished ‘cine club’ but I don’t take a movie camera on holiday any more. ‘Been there, done that’ and if I did make a video, no-one would want to watch it anyway because they had ‘been there- done that’ too! That’s also the reason, I suspect why competitions are supported so badly.

**Over the years of cine-club decline, there have increasingly been more things do elsewhere.** Even for the wrinklies.

People can shoot their holidays on their i-phones, then sit in the car, giggle and ooh, and then forget them until they show their friends for a laugh in the pub. Then, when they come home, they can catch up on the e-mails, visit friends, go out to dinner, go to college, and a hundred and one other things which are available to do.

Being sociable doesn’t mean going to a dreary village hall every week to get away from Coronation Street, or dare I say it...’er indoors! Sorry ladies!

**I think the decline of the video club, and many other clubs like it, even ones like sailing clubs, is down to the reluctance of people to commit to anything in this fast-moving world.**

There are perhaps two exceptions, one is keep-fit and the other is the amazing rise of the U3A. But in the U3A, there is a more lively social scene and an enormous choice of things to do, all under one umbrella. I’m not a U3A member now because, being what I am, when I tried, I ended up being an unsuspecting teacher of local history and organising coach trips.

However, my good friend Ken Pratt, a keen supporter of South Essex Film Makers, runs a couple of very successful courses under the U3A banner, one on movie photography and the other on modern technology.

*continued overleaf*

Sadly the 'club funny' type of film has run its course because there are hundreds of funnies to see on YouTube, and you don't have to be artificially polite when you see them, or switch them off when need-be.

I have always hated what I call 'amateur dramatics—on-film' films.

**The vogue now is fast moving GoPro stuff which resides on the i-pad or on the internet. Not in the village hall.**

I should mention here that there is an impressive exception to that, in the form of my own Club's Chairman, Stuart Cope who flies through the air with the greatest of ease (and 3 GoPros) on the ski-slopes or wherever, edits most of his films in his i-phone and produces some spectacular results.

So that's my answer to "Why, Why, Why?"

**But to "What What What?" is another question.** I have no real idea.

How about going out to dinner as a group on your club night and chatting about your hobby? Someone may actually want to see your film! Or ask the local U3A if your club could become one of their groups? Or get a GoPro on your helmet and jump out of a plane at 12,000 feet! And put the images of pure terror on 'Vimeo'!!"

*Chris Taylor, wrinkly, living in the past, Fakki of Westcliff Cine Club*

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**Milton Keynes Camcorder Club folded fairly recently—another lost Club (see page 10) - and its former Chairman, Brian Wright, contributes to the debate:**

"I doubt that what I have to say will be well received at all, or honestly make any difference.

The continued debate about the IAC has brought no meaningful changes and is not helping films get made.

No one so much as batted an eyelid when MKCC stopped. Not even a phone call in 5 years to see how we were.

Anyway, I'd be interested to know how many of the other 21 (*sic*) clubs are actually alive and kicking.

***Is there a future?***

For me, the purpose of a film/video organisation is ultimately to support film/video creators to get stuff made and promote those creators. That's it really.

Why do I remain a member of the IAC?

Today, only because of the discounted music licence.

All the signs are there to show that the IAC is already below critical mass. The debate about declining members has run for years.

After all the hours of talk, I've seen no material differences. The chances that it will change, or know how to change, are very small, so no, I doubt it will be able to survive.

**Giving a T-Rex a bobble hat and mittens isn't enough to stop an ice age.**

***Why do I feel the IAC is dying?***

**The IAC (i.e. its image from the F&VM Magazine) feels like 1990-something.** If it genuinely wants new members, it must update its dated **image** and its organisational **attitude** - and quickly.

- The website is dated. The 'For Sale' ads date back to 2014 !
- The world's gone global and the IAC frets about local knock-out competitions.
- It's 2016 and there's an article in the colour mag about creating a Facebook page. 1.44 billion users and the IAC finally suggests that Clubs should think about it!
- 90% of my life is online, yet the IAC is on paper!  
After binning the obits, socials, regional stuff and ramblings about the past from the F&V Maker, 2-3 pages reach the in-tray for scanning in to read later.  
Sometimes I even get time to read them.
- It says it's a professional body but seems to run itself like a charity that overuses goodwill and volunteers.
- The natural collected instinct is to leave members to debate, instead of facing up to analysed hard data and feedback and taking action.
- It doesn't seem to notice when a club closes down.

A young film-maker says he has no interest in sitting in a darkened room with people who aren't his target audience. I think that's pretty clear feedback and sound marketing.

Apparently, he should try it regardless!

Well OK, but that's completely missing the original point.

Compare the chances of finding someone that responds to content from a ONE BILLION potential YouTube audience against the occasional 'ooh' from 20-30 people in a darkened room, who are unlikely to even understand the references.

I'm with the student personally.

**The audience/views from a Facebook and YouTube page have many more times immediate potential than the largest IAC event audience ever.**

I haven't the time to explain content 'in person' especially when an online target audience will get it in an instant.

### ***Will I miss the IAC if it goes?***

Sadly, not much. It doesn't help me get films made and I didn't join for the social aspect. It's become another source of unnecessary distraction for me so whilst I will still make content, I won't be renewing my membership when it expires later this year.

***Many thanks to Chris & Brian for their challenging contributions.***

***Surely they must provoke more reactions from our readers!***

***Ed.***

Those of us who've been in the hobby for a few years will remember when there were various national competitions in which we could enter our films. The "Cotswold", the "Guernsey Lily", the "Morecambe Bay" have now all sadly departed the scene. Some European, American & Australian Competitions remain, but BIAFF seems now to be the only national UK competition standing. It's encouraging, therefore, that the annual Staines Silver Salver Competition continues to thrive, with ten entries from Clubs from three different IAC Regions—NTR, SOCO & SERIAC.

## BOURNE END RETAINS STAINES' INTER-CLUB TITLE

'Pull', a drama about jealousy and murder, made by *Bourne End Video Makers*, won the 43<sup>rd</sup> Staines Video Makers Inter-Club Competition, on Friday, March 11. Bourne End retained their title, which they won last year for the first time since 1982.

In second place was '**Under the Shadow**', a travelogue-cum-documentary, by *Andrew Tweed, of Potters Bar Film Makers*, and third was '**Blood Swept Lands and Seas of Red**', a film about the Tower of London artificial poppy installation, made by *Pamela Smith of Epsom Movie Makers*.

Other clubs entering films in the competition were *West London Film Group, Surrey Borders Movie Makers, Wanstead and Woodford Movie Makers, Shooters Hill Camcorder Club, Harrow Film Makers* and *Reading Film and Video Makers*. In all, ten films were judged over the course of the evening, comprising three comedies, two fiction dramas, three documentaries and two travelogues, offering a wide variety of subjects for judges, Graham Large and John Anscorb, to consider.

John stepped in at the last minute to deputise for David Moore, who had dropped out because of a late illness.

The winner, '**Pull**', managed to satisfy most of the requirements for a drama, with good acting from its cast of

four, a well structured story line, good indoor lighting and nicely framed shots with well chosen music. The film was a deserved winner.

'**Under the Shadow**' was an example of opportunism on the part of the maker, *Andrew Tweed*, who had shot the bulk of the film during a trek to the Himalayas with his wife back in 2002. But in the wake of the Nepalese earthquake in April 2015, he thought it would be a good time to remind us what Khathmandu was like before the disaster. The film included some delightful shots of Nepalese people going about their work. One man ploughed his narrow terrace with a pair of oxen, which seemed to have little room to manoeuvre in the cramped space, and there were good shots of children putting on their charm to sell trinkets to tourists.

*Pamela Smith's 'Blood Swept Lands and Seas of Red'* showed the making of the sea of bright red ceramic poppies in the Tower of London's moat, for Remembrance Day in



July 2014. Close ups of the making of the artificial flowers, coupled with volunteers being shown how and where to plant them, were well shot, although it was felt by the judges that the detail of assembly was a little repetitive and we struggled to make out some of the speeches over the PA system. Nevertheless the film was a worthy runner-up.

Other films shown on the evening included **'Thomas and Horatio'** by **West London Film Group**, in which Nelson's orders to his fleet at the Battle of Trafalgar are emasculated by an underling quoting health and safety legislation.

**Sir Paul Holden's 'Spitfire Restoration'** showed the work involved in making a new Spitfire wing using parts of an original plane. From **Orpington Video & Film Makers** came **'One Small Job'** where a simple task of disposing of a discarded drinks can turns into a trail of mishaps for an unfortunate husband, who ends up wiping up a mess from the floor with his wife's new tee shirt.

**'Twenty-Five Minutes To Go'**, from **Wanstead & Woodford Video Makers**, was a series of visuals based around the old Johnny Cash song about an impending hanging, shot against a green screen and using a number of interesting images. A documentary by **Rita Hayes, of Shooters Hill Camcorder Club**, about a Thames river disaster near Woolwich in the 1870s in which 650 people died, consisted of a narrator telling the story, accompanied by engravings of the event from what was probably the Illustrated London News.

**'Gold Leaf'**, by **Richard Lawrence of Harrow Film Makers**, was a film of a train journey through the Canadian Rockies. Shots from the train were excellent, showing soaring, snow-covered mountains and wooded valleys, and in one memorable sequence, a grizzly bear wallowing in a river.

The final film of the night was another comedy, this time by **Reading Film & Video Makers**. The judges found the story of an elderly lady being pursued by a potential bigamist and then the vicar rather unlikely: however the film was technically very good.

With nearly 90 minutes of screen-time, judges Graham, Large and John Anscomb delivered succinct reports from their copious notes—a presentation now able to be viewed on YouTube.



**Roger Davies (left) receives the Silver Salver from Staines VM Chairman Len Evans**



**A crucial moment from "Pull"**



**"Pull"'s happy & successful cast!!**

## NTR 100 CLUB

Contact: John Farrer

Tel.: 01462 434948 E-Mail: [jffarrer@madasafish.com](mailto:jffarrer@madasafish.com)

Each of the following wins £12:

### March 2016

14 Lorna Gill

*Wanstead&Woodford MM*

104 Harrow FM

66 Wanstead & Woodford MM

40 M. F. Dwyer

—

47 Jean Biskeborn  
*Harrow FM*

### April 2016

87 Shirley Fulcher

*Ex-Hornchurch*

51 Marie Jones

*Potters Bar FM*

64 Penny Love

*PBFM*

102 Tim Stannard

*Staines VM*

1 Ted Bateman

*St. Albans MM*

## CORRECTION: They're not Optical Viewfinders!

In the last Newsletter, I wrote about camcorders and the lack of "optical viewfinders". Tom Hardwick points out my error:

"I'm sure people will understand that you're describing the EVF, the Electronic Viewfinder, to differentiate it from the LCD flip-open screen, but we haven't had optical viewfinders since the chemical days of Super-8. Current DSLRs use optical finders, too, of course, but all mirrorless digital cameras and all camcorders use EVFs."

Thanks, Tom. Live and learn! *Ed.*

It's several years since "Camcorder User" disappeared from newsagents' shelves.

I see there are now two relatively new magazines around—"Pro Moviemaker" and "Digital FilmMaker".

They seem to be aimed at the small professional film-making company market, but can any of you recommend either of them?

Please let me know.

*Ed.*

## SPOTLIGHT ON THE FUTURE



### SATURDAY OCTOBER 15th

Potters Bar FM Public Show in Newgate  
Village Hall, Newgate Street, EN6 4NW  
2.30 & 7.30 pm.

Details from Penny Love (*see front cover*)

### FRIDAY OCTOBER 21st—SUNDAY OCTOBER 23rd

The IAC AGM Weekend hosted by the NTR in the Maids  
Head Hotel, Norwich (*See Chairman's Chat, p.2*)

*Booking Form enclosed in current FVM*

## THE NTR IAC 2016 KNOCKOUT COMPETITION

All four First Rounds have now taken place, and congratulations go to Bourne End VM, Hemel Hempstead MM, South Essex FM and Staines VM who each won their Round, and now compete in the Final to be hosted by Colchester FMC on Saturday May 14th 2016 at 2.30 pm in the Hythe Community Centre, Ventura Drive, Colchester CO1 2FG.



**Welcome!**



The Film & Video Institute

No new members

*To join the IAC, contact:*  
IAC, The Film and Video Institute,  
McCracken Park,  
Great North Road,  
Gosforth,

NEWCASTLE ON TYNE NE3 2DT

Tel.: 0191 303 8960

E-Mail: [admin@theiac.org.uk](mailto:admin@theiac.org.uk)

# Club Directory

*The Region now has just 19 Clubs who want to appear in this list*

## ACORN FILMS, CHINGFORD

Contact: David Piggott 020 8524 9642

## AYLESBURY CAMCORDER ENTHUSIASTS

[www.the-ace.org](http://www.the-ace.org) Contact: Alan Bowles,  
50 Queens Mead, Bedgrove, Aylesbury,  
Bucks., HP21 7AP

## BOURNE END VIDEO MAKERS

[www.bevm.co.uk](http://www.bevm.co.uk) Contact: David Jarman,  
Secretary, 4 Lowlands Crescent, Great  
Kingshill, High Wycombe, Bucks., HP15  
6EG.

## BRENTWOOD VIDEO CLUB

Sec. Betty O'Neill, 28 Leafy Way, Hutton,  
Brentwood, Essex CM13 2QW

## CHANNEL 7 PRODUCTIONS

E-Mail: [Darren@channel7.org.uk](mailto:Darren@channel7.org.uk).  
Contact: Darren Lalonde 01480 405615 or  
07887 932498

## COLCHESTER FILM MAKERS CLUB

[www.Cfmclub.org.uk](http://www.Cfmclub.org.uk)  
Contact: Lionel Bloomfield, Secretary.  
Tel.: 07914 800022  
Email: [secretary@cfmclub.org.uk](mailto:secretary@cfmclub.org.uk)

## ENFIELD VIDEO MAKERS

[www.enfieldvideomakers.co.uk](http://www.enfieldvideomakers.co.uk)  
Contact: Eric Jukes. Tel.: 0208 366 6162

## THE ESSEX AUDIO-VISUAL GROUP

[www.essexavgroup.org.uk](http://www.essexavgroup.org.uk)  
Contact: Mr. R. Williams, Tel.: 01708 748580

## FINCHLEY FILM MAKERS

[www.finchleycinevideo.co.uk](http://www.finchleycinevideo.co.uk)  
Contact: Alan Douglas, 1 Nethercourt  
Avenue, Finchley, N3 1PS.  
020 8349 3623 or 07715 171 446  
[aljendouglas@btinternet.com](mailto:aljendouglas@btinternet.com)

## HARROW FILM MAKERS

[www.harrowcinevideo.org.uk](http://www.harrowcinevideo.org.uk)  
Contact: Geoff Foord: 020 8868 4021

## HEMEL HEMPSTEAD MOVIE MAKERS

[www.hemelmoviemakers.org.uk](http://www.hemelmoviemakers.org.uk)  
Contact: Mary Harris  
Tel.: 01442 256393

## POTTERS BAR FILMMAKERS

[www.pottersbarfilmmakers.co.uk](http://www.pottersbarfilmmakers.co.uk)  
Contact: Penny Love Tel.: 01707 656446

## RADLEY VIDEO

[www.radleyvideo.co.uk](http://www.radleyvideo.co.uk)  
Contact: Radley College, Abingdon, Oxon.,  
OX14 2HR

## SOUTH ESSEX FILM MAKERS

[www.sefm.org.uk](http://www.sefm.org.uk)  
Contact: Geoff Woolfson.  
Tel.: 07964 445356

## ST. ALBANS MOVIE MAKERS

[www.stalbansmm.weebly.com](http://www.stalbansmm.weebly.com).  
Contact: Mike Cobert 01727 853819

## STAINES VIDEO MAKERS

[www.stainesvideo.co.uk](http://www.stainesvideo.co.uk) Contact:  
Mrs. Cathy Clarke, Tel.: 01784 433580

## WALTHAMSTOW AMATEUR CINE VIDEO CLUB

[www.wacvc.org.uk](http://www.wacvc.org.uk)  
Contact: Roy Garner 01992 577568

## WANSTEAD AND WOODFORD MOVIE MAKERS

[www.wansteadcinevideo.org.uk](http://www.wansteadcinevideo.org.uk)  
Contact: Martin Page, Tel.: 020 8508 6312

## WOODSTOCK VIDEO CLUB

[www.woodstockvideoclub.co.uk](http://www.woodstockvideoclub.co.uk)  
Contact: Secretary: Brian Battrick  
[secretary@woodstockvideoclub.co.uk](mailto:secretary@woodstockvideoclub.co.uk)

**You may be wondering why the Club Directory (*opposite*) is being printed in successive editions of the Newsletter. Please read what our NTRIAC Membership Secretary Penny Love has to say:**

**ATTENTION ! ATTENTION ! ATTENTION ! ATTENTION !**

“Yes, this does mean you !!!!

I am fed up with people telling me that the contacts I have for some clubs are wrong, and that the information I have is out-of-date.

One Club had advised the IAC Webmaster of a contact change in 2013, but no one had thought to tell me !!!!!

I'm told the IAC website holds more up to date information than I do, but as I do not have the time, nor inclination, to check that site every day, just in case there have been any changes, I rely on the Membership and Clubs Changes List that the IAC admin. office send to me each month. (I gave up thought reading quite a while ago).

**Good that the IAC website, and hopefully your own if you have one, is up to date but have you also told me or the IAC office?**

Probably not, despite me putting a request for you to do so in the Newsletter now and again.

In March, three clubs let me know of changes of contacts, but that was probably only due to someone being contacted who had given the job up a few years ago. In one case, sadly, and distressing for the family, the person had died at least two years before.

If you don't want to bother contacting the IAC admin office, then **PLEASE LET ME KNOW** and I will do it for you. My contact details are on the front page of this Newsletter so no excuses that you can't find me.”

**Yes, indeed. Keeping up-to-date with correct contact names & addresses seems to be an ongoing problem. So when you make a change, as Penny says, please let the IAC Webmaster, the IAC Office and Penny know. All necessary contact details are to be found in this Newsletter.**

**At the time of writing, the following Clubs' contact details on the IAC Website differ from those opposite:**

**Bourne End VM**

**Colchester FMC**

**Finchley FM**

**Hemel Hempstead MM**

**St. Albans MM**

**Walthamstow ACVC**

**Woodstock Video Club does not appear on the IAC website.**

**IS IT SURPRISING CLUBS STRUGGLE TO GET NEW MEMBERS?**



**BVE** is the annual Video Show held at the Excel Centre in mid-February. It's a good place to go (entry is free if you register in advance) to catch up with the latest developments (seemingly mainly 4K and drones this year) in the professional world. It seems to get bigger and better each year, but moves further away from the non-professional filmmaker.

## A few items that caught the eye:



A dedicated external microphone for your smartphone



(left) a rig for using your tablet for filming, complete with lens attachment and microphone, and (right) a GoPro rig, with microphone and lights



A monitor on a model, wooden camera, so that a potential monitor purchaser is not distracted by a real camera



And there's a whole new language out there!!

**Deadline for the next issue is Sunday May 22nd**  
**Please send all contributions by e-mail & attachments to:**  
**[john.astin1@ntlworld.com](mailto:john.astin1@ntlworld.com)**