



North Thames Region



The Film & Video Institute

www.theiac.org.uk

NEWSLETTER

May—June 2017

BIAFF 2017

BVE

The London Film Archive

The NTR 2017 Festival

The NTR 2017 KnockOut Competition

The Staines Silver Salver

and more!

They all get a mention inside!

And well done, Finchley FM, for their

BIAFF 2017 Five Star Award

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Chairman's Chat



Brenda Granshaw FACI has been a member of Wanstead and Woodford Movie Makers for over 20 years and became their Chairman again in 2015. She was Chairman of the North Thames Region from 2007 to 2014, and is now serving for the second time.

I think one of the most useful things provided by the IAC is the NLE (Non-Linear Editing) Website, which both enables us all to get answers to those baffling editing problems and also to share information. Having had difficulty starting both my Edius editing systems recently, but finding that they worked when not connected to the internet, I was interested to read that it was actually AVG (the AntiVirus Protection) that is the cause of the problem and just needs disabling before starting Edius. Once Edius is up and running then AVG can be enabled again.

I had a similar problem a number of years ago with Liquid Edition which insisted that my Norton AntiVirus Protection be disabled while it was working.

It was with great sadness that I noted the message from Julian Baldwin again on the NLE site telling us all that DVC had stopped trading on 10th March. David Clarke and his team had built computers for many of us and were always ready and willing to answer questions about our misbehaving editing systems. They will be sorely missed but could no longer function for a dwindling ageing market. Hopefully, once David has cleared the office and got himself settled, he will put some useful information on his website. In the meantime I for one am very grateful for the service they have provided (*see also p. 9*).

It is that time of year when we all set off for the BIAFF Weekend to watch a variety of competition entries on the Saturday and then to see those chosen as the best on Sunday. Having a clear out of diaries recently, I found it interesting to see how things have changed over the years. Initially we seemed always to be attending the event in London and only in the 1990s did it move out into the Regions. The Competition Judging was hosted by Council Members in their own homes. I have fond memories of catering for all the judges and projectionists for three weekends. The Judges either lived locally or stayed with us or other IAC members. The Competition Manager, then Roger Mackintosh, settled contentedly in our loft for the duration.

The last time we stayed in London it was at the St Ermins Hotel. I remember it well because my rings were stolen from our bedroom while I was arranging the flowers for the Festival Dinner!!

Then we moved out of London and as Regions we had to find hotels large enough and with sufficiently high ceilings to accommodate the weekend of film showing. Once we had found the Bedford Park Inn it should have all been plain sailing but every time there was a different catastrophe – only one of the lifts was working, one of the car parks had been removed and finally, sorry but we have given your rooms away to One Direction! It should therefore come as no surprise that the North Thames Council declined the opportunity to host BIAFF again.

I am sure we all take our hats off to CEMRIAC for hosting the weekend and finding yet another attractive venue.

See you all at the KO Competition Final. (*Details on p. 12*).

Brenda

The NTR 2017 Annual Competition & Festival Day

Alan Colegrave, our Competition Officer, writes:

As announced in the previous Newsletter, the Festival is back!

The Venue will be The Drake Hall at Amersham Community Centre, Chiltern Avenue, Amersham, HP6 5AH. There is space for 150 people.

The event will be on Sunday October 15th, will start at 10am and finish about 17.30 (5.30pm) and will include the AGM at a time to be decided. The format of the day will be slightly different from more recent Festival Days, and we intend to have a guest speaker.

The Venue boasts a large car park which is free on Sundays.

If you prefer public transport, Amersham station is 5 minutes walk away.

Travel time from Central London is around 40 minutes by Chiltern Railways or 60 minutes by the Metropolitan line.

The major change from our experimental OnLine Only Competition in 2016 is that we are also this year accepting physical entries in the form of DVDs and BluRays.

However we expect most people will choose online entry. Please upload your video to Vimeo or YouTube. We will also be happy to receive H264 MP4 video files set by WeTransfer or similar. At the moment we are not in a position to accept 4K files.

The general entry fee will be £5 – this includes an entry discount to the Festival. We are happy to accept films of any length but films over 15 minutes may not be shown at the Festival even if they are winners.

We will have categories for young people up to the age of 16. In this case the entry fees will be £1 for a film of up to 5 minutes in length.

Payment by PayPal will be preferred but cheques/BACS will be also be OK.

In the meantime if you need to contact us please use the

e-mail address: NTRIAC@gmx.co.uk

The July/August Newsletter will contain a printed version of the entry form, together with online & postal addresses, precise payment details and deadline dates.

We also will have further details about the Festival Day itself, including a timetable for the day, and information about the guest speaker.

Put the Festival Date—Sunday October 15th—in your Diary now!

Dave Smith puts a case against online only competitions, and sings the praises of SoCo.

Under the heading “One Door shuts, another opens”, Dave writes:

Being just a Two–Star film maker and getting nearer to my sell-by date by the second, but still just about managing to put my underpants on in the morning while standing - but then again they are not always the right way round (must go to Specsavers) - I guess I come under the heading of being called a dinosaur when it comes to putting videos online.

Richard Lawrence from Harrow FM offered to put my film online, but I declined his offer. Instead, I looked up the IAC website and found that the SoCo Region were having their Annual Competition, but only for clubs and IAC members in that region. After downloading the entry form and enclosing the entry fee of £5.00, I added a note explaining that the NTRIAC were only accepting entries online, which wasn't the way ahead for me, so would their judges give me a critique on my film if they had the time, if it wasn't possible, I added, it was OK by me, and keep the fiver for the club funds.

In the middle of November I received a parcel not only of the critique of the film I had submitted which was helpful and constructive, but also THREE DVDs of all the entries in the Competition with a running time of 229mins 37secs.

Of the 23 entries 6 were over 12 minutes and would not have been able to be loaded onto the NTRIAC site.

Watching any one of the films sent to me from SoCo is a piece of cake. I just pop the DVD into a DVD player, switch on the 42" TV and then the **whole family** can watch any of the films on the DVD with just a push of a button on the remote.

Now for me to view any of the entries that were entered in the 2016 NTRIAC Online Competition on my 9 year old 17" iMac, I've firstly got to type in

<http://www.adhocvideos.co.uk/ntriac/results.html>, then click on the film I want to see (only one at the moment), add a pass word, wait for it to load and after all that, I can only view it all on my lonesome as I just can't get more than one other person besides me around the computer!

So I think I will stay a dinosaur as turning into an anorak is not a step I am willing to take, and I don't feel as if I've been deprived of not entering the Online Competition—in fact, quite the reverse.

To put things into perspective, the cost for me to send my film to SoCo was 17p for the DVD & 64p for the stamp plus the entrance fee. I'm pleased to say I have received an invite to enter the SoCo Competition again this year, so thank you, Alan & Tim, without you setting up the online competition I would not have found like-minded film makers who want their creations viewed by an audience and not just online.

If at all possible, could we see a list, the placings & scores of the other 17 entries who took part in the 2016 NTRIAC Competition, please?

You'll be pleased to know, Dave, that entries for the NTR 2017

Annual Competition can be online or via disc, as before (see p.3)

Ed.

Many of us who have been enjoying our hobby for longer than we care to remember have probably got vintage footage of London scenes. London's Screen Archives may be interested.

Brenda Granshaw explains:

London's Screen Archives is the regional film archive for London, managed by **Film London** based at Finsbury Park.

The London's Screen Archives are looking to preserve and digitise the Capital's film heritage.

As a registered charity, it works on behalf of the local borough archives, collecting and ensuring the Capital's moving image records are preserved long-term.

The film and video material is stored in specially built vaults at the London Metropolitan Archives near Farringdon.

With funding from the BFI and the Heritage Lottery, the London's Screen Archives are keen to encourage people to share their old home movies or films in order to build a bigger picture of London's past. They are able to digitise material that is of significance, providing the donor with digital copies and sharing the films for free with the general public via the London's Screen Archives' website and also at local screenings.

London's Screen Archives would like to hear from anyone with relevant film, who might potentially be interested in donating their material to them. Anyone interested or wanting to find out more should contact Jack Reichhold either by email

jack.reichhold@filmlondon.org.uk or call him on **0207 613 7674**.

To bring screen heritage alive, screenings are put on in boroughs. The KinoVan, is a mobile cinema showing films from across London, inspired by the travelling cinema vans of the 1920s. Each screening gives a unique insight into the borough's past, with a mix of old home movies and other gems from the archive. The hidden stories behind the films, including memories from the original filmmakers or their families, are also revealed.

If you live in a London Borough, keep an eye out for a showing.

<https://www.londonsscreenarchives.org.uk>

A Reminder:

Wanstead and Woodford Movie Makers have invited Tom Hardwick to come and give them an evening on ***Friday 19 May***.

Tom will have been to the BVE show at Excel in February where all the latest video developments are on display and he proposes to draw on this in his presentation.

He plans to cover a lot of ground and he has chosen to call the evening ***Tom's Variety Show***.

We want to ensure that Tom has a good audience for his evening and we are therefore inviting all filmmakers to join with Wanstead and Woodford in welcoming him.

The evening will start at 8pm in the clubroom at St Paul's Church Hall, Chigwell Road, Woodford Bridge IG8 8BT where all will be welcome.

We hope to see you there. Any questions about the evening please contact Brenda Granshaw (*contact details on front cover*).

Your Editor enjoys a Day Out at the BVE Show

The BVE Show, now held annually in the Excel Centre, usually at the end of February, makes for an interesting free day out for anyone who wants to see what's trending in the world of corporate video, TV & filmmaking.

It is, of course, aimed at the professionals & semi-professionals, and I say every year that unsurprisingly it seems to move further & further away from relevance to the amateur movement.

This year was no different.

For the first time that I can remember, AKM, the producers of excellent non-copyright music used by many non-professionals, were not present. Also absent, I think for the first time, were Hague Camera Supports, one of whose directors used to be, perhaps still is, an IAC member who helped to organise the now defunct Nottingham Film Festival.

Odd, too, that there was no SONY presence !

So what was there that might be of interest to IAC members?

Well, very little that was brand new, I thought.

4K appears to be becoming quite widespread, and myriads of camera abound.

The modern trend is never to have a still shot - the show is awash with steadicams, glidecams, drones, cranes, jibs, linear rail systems—anything to move the camera!

I picked up a free copy of “**Pro Moviemaker**”. It calls itself “The ultimate magazine for next generation filmmakers”. Although obviously aimed at professionals, the Spring Edition contains amongst other articles several camcorder reviews, mini-tests of lights, holdalls, monopods etc., an “Academy” section on Final Cut Pro & the relative strengths of camcorders v DSLRs, and so on. It seemed a very lively, forward-looking magazine—I was quite impressed. It normally costs £4.99.

Training Days in our Region seem to have bitten the dust, but, if people are prepared to pay, all sorts of courses are on offer at:

The National Film & Television School www.nfts.co.uk
Ravensbourne: www.ravensbourne.ac.uk
Raindance: www.courses@raindance.co.uk
The Metfilmschool: www.metfilmschool.ac.uk



There are now quality mini-drones!



Need to keep your smartphone steady?



Inspecting a green-screen set-up

Staines VM's 44th Annual Inter-Club Competition

Tim Stannard writes:

"Guests from several clubs visited Laleham Village Hall on Friday 10th March for Staines Video Makers' 44th Annual Inter-Club Competition, judged by former BBC producer Jack Saltman and horror film writer and director Hakan Besim.

Several films came in for criticism for bad sound – something which had been improving in recent years – and the judges also suggested that some documentaries needed more focus.

The evening opened with **John Astin's (Potters Bar)** lively, informative and colourful "**Ups and Downs in Lisbon**" about the funicular railway and trams in that city and was followed by the first of two wildlife documentaries shot on safari in Africa, **Pamela West's (Epsom)** "**A Visit to Mwamba Waterhole**" which was full of the sort of detailed close-ups that amateurs could only have dreamed about a few years back.

Next up were two club films: "**The Ghost of the Church Hall**" from **Wanstead and Woodford** was a film that came in for particular criticism for sound – the treated voice of the ghost being particularly difficult to understand. However it went down well with the audience and had humour running throughout – unlike many club comedies that seem to drag on forever before fizzling out with a weak punchline.

"**Commute**" from **Orpington**, could easily have fallen into that category, but writer Barbara Walker wisely kept the script very concise and the clever punchline was delivered by Mike Shaw in his best Grumpy Old Man characterisation.

Geoff Foord's (Harrow) "**Cambodia (A New Generation)**" contrasted the horror of the civil war with many of the fascinating places built in more successful times, but ended on a rather downbeat message about the apparent lack of future for the country's children.



Judges Hakan Besim (l) & Jack Saltman with the Silver Salver

The second of the evening's African wildlife films, **Brian Hibbert's (Reading)** "**Return to Kenya**" was placed third overall by the judges who thought this had a bit more structure than some of the documentaries.

Bourne End, having won this Competition for the previous two years, just missed out on a hat trick with their excellent club comedy "**The Next Stop**" – a film which suggests that difficult decisions need to be made even after death.

The winning film was **Brian O'Connell's (Surrey Borders)**

"**Petals**", a romantic drama which the judges praised for its varied and creative camera work.

Whilst the judges deliberated, the audience enjoyed **Rita Hayes' (Shooters Hill)** study of Portmeirion "**One Man's Dream**".



Two Stills from "Petals"



BIAFF 2017

By the time this Newsletter falls on your doormat, the BIAFF 2017 Weekend hosted by CEMRIAC in Market Harborough will have come and gone. There will be a Report on the Weekend in the July/August Newsletter.

The Competition Results, however, have been on the IAC website since late March.

How did the North Thames Region do?

- There were 32 NTR entries—the same number as in 2016.
- There were 11 Four & Five Star Winners from filmmakers living in the North Thames Region.
- Congratulations to Finchley FM, whose film “The Interview” was awarded Five Stars, and also was judged “Best Entry by an Affiliated Club”.
- Congratulations on their Four Star Awards to John Astin, John Howden, Michael Slowe, Tim Stannard & Ian Woodward.
- The names of the other Winners who live in the North Thames Region do not appear on the NTR Membership List.
- Films from abroad won nine of the seventeen top awards, the Diamonds & Five Stars.

An Idea from Potters Bar FM to get more films made

It isn't all doom and gloom in our film making world!

Potters Bar FilmMakers has just formed three new groups and the first group, called Moonlight Productions, recently completed their first film called Stolen Property. The short film was shot on a rare sunny February morning in Enfield Town Park and edited a week later at a member's home.

It will be included in our Knockout Competition programme and hopefully go on to bigger things.

If you have over a dozen or so members in your Club, why not get groups of four or five together, hold a Scripting Evening and see what develops. It worked for us!

Bob Chester, PBFM Treasurer

SPOTLIGHT ON THE FUTURE



FRIDAY MAY 19th

Wanstead & Woodford MM host an Evening with Tom Hardwick in St. Pauls Church Hall, Chigwell Road, Woodford Bridge, IG8 8BT, starting at 8 pm. Everyone welcome.

SATURDAY OCTOBER 7th

Potters Bar FilmMakers Public Show at Northaw Village Hall, Northaw Road West, Northaw, EN6 4NW
2.30 pm & 7.30 pm
Details from Penny Love (see front cover)

SUNDAY OCTOBER 15th

NTR 2017 AGM & Festival Day in the Drake Hall at Amersham Community Centre, Chiltern Avenue, Amersham, HP6 5AH
Timings & Programme to follow later

THURSDAY > SUNDAY 19th > 22nd OCTOBER

The IAC Autumn Convention & AGM hosted by SERIAC in Sittingbourne, Kent.
Details to follow in Film & Video Maker and on the IAC website

DVC (David Vincent Clarke) Ceases Trading

As Brenda mentions in her Chairman's Chat, sadly DVC ceased trading in March. Many members in the NTRIAC & indeed in IAC Regions throughout the country will have bought their editing equipment from the company, and relied on David & Ringo for their excellent after-sales service in helping them up the steep learning curve of mastering sophisticated editing programmes.

As one of them, I've been in e-mail contact with David, who said that new people no longer seem happy to pay for proper support. He said that if he found another similar company that he could recommend, he would put it on the DVC website.

His support website will remain in operation as an information resource for a few months at least, as will his free tutorials on the YouTube channel.

He will try to respond to people's problems through his support e-mail address (support@dvc.uk.com), but this support may be limited as he also needs to work out what to do next.

I for one will miss the company's expertise, and don't quite know what I'll do the next time my Edius editing programme starts playing up. Join the IAC NLE Forum, perhaps!

Ed.

THE NTR 2017 KNOCK-OUT COMPETITION

The First Rounds have been completed, and the Finalists decided.

See page 12 for all the Final details

The Good:

- There is still a small number of enthusiastic videographers in the Region making quality films.
- The overall standard was high, and the winning teams' programmes are excellent.
- There are very good club programmes which will not be seen at the Final—is there a case for seeding the First Round?

Not So Good:

- One Club had to withdraw after the Draw was made, so another Club was given a bye through to the Final.
- At two of the First Round Competitions, one judge did not appear, leaving just two judges. This creates a difficult situation if the two judges do not agree on the winner!
- Attendances were generally rather low. At one evening, excluding judges & referee, there were only 16 members present from three clubs.

We've probably all bought an electrical gadget made in the Far East, where the translation of the instructions into English leaves something to be desired. But how about this, from Eddie Moody of Wanstead & Woodford MM?!

"I recently bought one of those screwdrivers that allows one to locate which electric wire is live and which is not. Wrapped round the tool was a label with the following wording exactly as it appeared and not altered in any way:

"The voltages, stated in the voltage are rated voltages. The voltage tester may only be used at the stated voltage or in the stated voltage range respectively.

Perfect indication is only assured at temperatures of -10° to +50°C and at frequencies of 50 to 500Hz.

The perceptibility of the indication can be impaired in unfavourable lighting conditions, e.g. in sunlight, in unfavourable positions, e.g. on wooden runged ladders or insulating wall covering or alternating current circuits which have not been properly earthed. The voltage tester may not be used where is precipitation, e.g. dew or rain. Voltage testers with screwdriver blades may only be used for testing voltage, not for other work on plant parts under tension. Damaged voltage testers, the function and/or safety of which is clearly impaired may not be used."

Before I bought this screwdriver, I thought I knew how to use it, but no, I have now instructed a qualified electrician to replace the broken lamp holder in the lounge!!!

NTR 100 CLUB

Contact: Bob Chester

Tel.: 020 8449 2004

E-Mail: robertalanchester@yahoo.co.uk

Each of the following wins £12:

March 2017

97 Nicholas Gale

Harrow FM

28 Marie Jones

Potters Bar FM

95 Michael Slowe

Finchley FM

75 Brenda Granshaw

W&W MM

April 2017

57 Aylesbury CE

34 Robert Ginter

Potters Bar FM

20 Mrs Harland

PBFM

84 Tony Loader

PBFM

Are you a 100 Club Member? It's the NTR's main source of income? If not, contact Bob now—details above



Welcome!

To our New Members:

John Groslin Essex

Colin Metherall Herts.



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

Apologies: In the last Newsletter

Two 100 Club prizewinners' names were omitted from the printed list. They were:

69 Eddie Moody
W&W MM

22 Angela Stroud
PBFM

Some of the photographs in some Newsletters were unduly dark. The printer & I are working to ensure this does not happen again.

Ed.

North Thames Region

Knock out Final

Sunday 7th May 2017

1.00 for 1.30 pm start

Hosted by Staines Video Makers

Laleham Village Hall

The Broadway, Laleham, TW18 1RP

Judges: Tom Hardwick FACI,
Celia George and Geoff Harmer LACI

Finalists: Potters Bar FilmMakers
South Essex Film Makers
Bourne End Video Makers
Walthamstow Cine Video Club

NOTE THE SLIGHTLY REVISED START TIME

Deadline for the next issue is Sunday May 28th 2017

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

john.astin1@ntlworld.com