

NEWS FRAMES

CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME: Greetings to you all and welcome to this autumn/winter edition of our newsletter.

The past six months have been a very busy time for the trust working hard behind the scenes in preparation for another hectic season ahead.

The name of the Northamptonshire Film Archive Trust is reaching out to greater numbers of people all the time. We have been asked to attend various local history groups and other societies in the county where we are able to talk about the trust and screen examples from our collection.

I am pleased with the way the trust is moving forward and attracting new members so in light of this I would like to thank everyone for their continued support.

Jane Austin

NEW PRESIDENT: Due to the passing of our former president, Cliff Morris, the trustees invited one of the group's longest supporting members to take on the role.

We are pleased to say he accepted the offer and we can announce that Rodney Pope is the new president of the NFAT.

AND STILL THEY COME: It is quite remarkable that in this digital age that the NFAT is still adding reels of cine film to its collection.

In addition to the several small family collections that have been handed over to us we have also been fortunate to receive the cine films made in the 1970s and 1980s by Kettering & District Cine Club members and, from the same period, the cine films made by Rushden Amateur Cine Club.

Covering local scenes and events along with club outings and individual documentary style films of other places visited, these are another invaluable addition to the archives.

We have also been asked to be the curators of the films made by TV4U, a television studio which was based at Northampton General Hospital but has now been disbanded. It was founded in 1990 to film and broadcast programmes to patients on the wards albeit some content was 'brought in' to fill air time the unit also filmed many local events.

Although recorded on the then 'new' Hi8 video format, not cine film, the NFAT objectives state we collect films of any gauge and format and with the footage containing local scenes and events, there fall within the remit of our collection policy.

Not only did we receive the films, which include footage of carnivals, balloon festivals and charity bed pushes, we also received a cheque. This was the remaining balance of the TV4U funds and it will allow us to digitise the films in order to screen them to a wider audience.

Our grateful thanks go to Paul, the secretary who was tasked with winding up the operation, for contacting us and handing over the films and cheque.

FUNDING: The Kettering Cine Club films that have been donated to us have now all been viewed - it took weeks to view and catalogue all of them – but in doing so it was found they contain a wealth of local history.

Our aim is to digitise these films, which were mostly filmed on either Standard 8 or Super 8 gauge. This will allow us to screen these films in a format that is more suitable for a larger audience to appreciate – as it will produce a larger and clearer image on the screen. We approached Kettering Borough Council about the possibility of obtaining a grant to digitise the films that were taken within the borough of Kettering and we are pleased to report that our application was granted.

Once the digitisation has been completed, to comply with the grant stipulation, we will also be arranging to screen these films at the Alfred East Gallery, Kettering, possibly in the autumn of 2020.

Our aim to approach Rushden Council to ask if it would be possible to obtain funding to digitise the Rushden Amateur Cine Club films.

PRESERVING THE PRESENT FOR THE FUTURE: We may be a small group – how we wish we could attract some new people (that said, in August, we were pleased to welcome two new members to our fold) – but we are extremely busy with one thing and another.

We were approached by Higham Ferrers Town Council to film the Charter Day celebration which took place in the town on June 29. The result was that five camera operators spent the day filming the events held to celebrate the restoration of the town charters..

All that remains to do now is edit all the footage into a cohesive documentary. Once completed it will be screened, at the Mayor's request, in the town along with other local footage we have in our collection.

The film will remain in the NFAT archives for future generations to enjoy.

Following a presentation we gave to members of the Probus One Club in Northampton, we were approached and asked if we film current events to preserve for the future. A large restoration project at the Holy Sepulchre, Northampton, has just been completed and the restoration trust members would like the work to be recorded for posterity.

This is something we would like to undertake and discussions are on-going.

BARRY'S CORNER: Much effort has been put into the repair and serviceability of the equipment we rely upon but the greatest progress that has been made in the last few months has been in developing interest in the Trust from the wider public and like minded organisations. We are already building on these contacts to increase our following and to share in the experience of other workers in heritage film.

It has been surprising what can be accomplished by our small band of dedicated enthusiasts. And it is thanks to them that it is possible to run our presentations and to ensure that the name of the Northamptonshire Film Archive Trust is constantly reaching new audiences.

If you are interested in what we do, please join us and help us to continue our work in preserving the social history recorded on moving images held in our film collection.