



THE
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE
FILM ARCHIVE
TRUST

Registered Charity No. 298527

Newsletter

April 2018 to September 2018

NEWS FRAMES

WELCOME:

Here is your April 2018 – September 2018 newsletter informing you of recent activities and our aims/ambitions for the future.

For our present members, we sincerely hope you want to continue to support our work and, to anyone considering joining us, we look forward to seeing you at our monthly meetings and our various presentations throughout this period and beyond.

You will find enclosed our subscription (renewal) form for the year running from April 1, 2018 to March 31, 2019 and trust you will complete and return, either by post or in person. You will note that there has been an increase in the subscription rate to £15 per person but following a discussion by the Trustees, and a vote amongst current members, this was found to be an acceptable charge. Putting things into context, the previous cost was less than £1 per monthly meeting and people would expect to pay that, or more, for tea and biscuits, let alone taking into consideration the 'entertainment' factor of films and room hire and receiving a printed copy of our newsletter.

AWARENESS:

The name of The Northamptonshire Film Archive Trust is slowly, but surely, spreading across the county and beyond. This can be largely attributed to our web and Facebook pages plus people approaching us at our film presentations in the wider community. This has led to being approached by those wishing to donate family film to us for safe-keeping.

While on the topic of film presentations, please see the back cover of this newsletter for details of our activities but do keep checking our web and Facebook pages for any additional events.

To encourage more people to attend both the monthly meetings and our screenings we are considering holding an 'Open Day'. This could be during the Waendel Walk weekend, which, although being an international event, attracts a large number of local people, people who would be interested in finding out what we do and may want to get involved in some way.

TRAINING:

Although run purely by volunteers everyone in, what is commonly called 'the working party', is dedicated to doing the very best to maintain and keep the collection in the best possible condition. To do so requires a greater understanding of what is needed and to this end two members of the Trust recently attended a two-day course on 'The Preservation of the Moving Image' and returned with valuable information – allowing us to prioritise our actions and ensure we continue to move in the right direction. By the time you read this we will also have attended a one-day presentation on Copyright but coming up, we have arranged a training course, to be held at Wellingborough Museum.

This will be open to museums in the East Midlands area who are part of the Heritage Forum, on the correct storage of items in their collections.

BEHIND THE SCENES:

The public face of the NFAT is presenting cine film but, like a face is only a small part of the overall body, screening films is only a small part of what we do.

Although we are a voluntary organisation run by enthusiastic amateurs we do aim to work in the most professional manner that is possible – hence the previously mentioned training courses.

At the moment we are working on following up many of the suggestions made to us following a visit from members of Museum Development East Midlands. Their expertise in all matters relating to museums is invaluable and brought home many ways in which we can better meet our aims and objectives.

One concern was our lack of a written collections policy. With space being at a premium - a problem facing most museums and collectors in general - having such a policy in place will undoubtedly benefit us in the long term.

Along with this and many more behind the scenes projects, 2018 is going to be a very busy year for us.

BARRY'S CORNER:

I thought appropriate to take stock of the situation NFAT in which the Trust finds itself. In the last six months we have made considerable progress. NFAT has been welcomed to the Northamptonshire Heritage Forum through which we are meeting and working with other like-minded heritage organisations. We are also liaising with Northampton College in relation to student media courses and with the Museum Development for the East Midlands; the latter has been extremely supportive in relation to our archiving methods and the possibilities for funding. These activities are extending our horizons and public awareness considerably.

We receive film material in a small but steady stream: this need cataloguing and the identification of the most valuable items is a slow and painstaking process. We are currently short of the means to do this as effectively as we feel is necessary and efforts are being made to provide the tools to address this. However, much of our equipment is elderly and needs servicing or repair if we are to achieve a high standard of presentation for our customers; space for maintaining these is currently extremely limited.

How are we to move forward? Clearly our primary aim is to accurately catalogue our films; as I write this we are seeking funding for a suitable computer and the software to host the core of our archive, this has not always been done in the most effective manner in the past and when made more robust will enable us to meet the need to access material for our shows and heritage and public enquiries. There is a much undiscovered film to assess and catalogue and our resources are extremely limited.

Efforts are being made to gain the support and friendship of like-minded organisations and to obtain support from local firms and authorities; fresh consideration is also being given to funding possibilities including a new and more considered approach to the Heritage lottery.

If you are interested, or know anybody who might be - please join us and help to support the value and preservation of our collection.

Dates for your Diary – Members Social Film Evenings

April 9
June 11
August 13
May 14 A.G.M.
July 9
September 10

Meetings start at 7.30pm and are held on MONDAYS at Wellingborough Museum, Castle Way, between Castle Road and Castle Way.

(Limited parking in Castle Lane, easy parking on Castle Road, the multi-storey car park or the council car park adjacent to The Castle Theatre)



Forthcoming Events at Wellingborough Museum



April 17 That's Entertainment
September 25 The Working Day

7.30pm start - Admission: £5

In the community

April 26 Brigstock Village Hall
June 29 Alfred East Gallery, Kettering
September 26 Rushden Hall (Talk)

(Please check our Facebook and web page for any updates)

Rushden Cavalcade and Earls Barton Rally to be confirmed



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