

NEWS FRAMES

WELCOME: By way of welcome, whilst archives remain firmly looking into the past, the Northamptonshire Film Archive Trust must always look towards the future to help to ensure it is in a position to carry on the work of its founder members.

We have already introduced a regularly updated webpage and posts on our Facebook pages remind people of events, meetings etc. Both of these platforms have helped to increase our profile and have resulted in contacts from a variety of sources, from other film groups, television programmers and those interested in learning more about us.

In other moves we have introduced a new logo, no clip art image this time but an in-house, self-made design. With the new laptop purchased from a grant from Wellingborough Borough Council we have also changed our email contact to: tnfat@outlook.com which is purely dedicated to that computer. Emails to our former address will still be received and accessed but remain linked to a personal laptop.

COMMUNITY: In addition to the public presentations at the Wellingborough Museum, members of the trust have been, and will continue to be, active within the community.

We are keen to develop links with younger people with the hope they would like to become involved in our work, whilst still in education and maybe, if they do not move from the area when seeking employment, some may stay with us.

To help achieve this aim we have made links with the Wrenn Academy, Wellingborough and The University of Northampton at the new Waterside Campus, and will be attending open days on October 2 and 28 respectively.

In another effort to widen our profile and to spread the message that cine film is important and should not be discarded, we will be visiting local history societies to present a talk on the founding of the trust. Using our DVD, 'In the Frame', as the prime focus before continuing the story and opening up the events to a question and answer session. To date, in 2019, we have been invited to societies in Blisworth, Finedon and Northampton, borrowing a digital projector as we do not have one of our own at this present time.

We have designed name tags for people to wear who will be attending these events but ideally a small display stand (panels and/or a roller banner) with information about us and what we do would make for a better presence. Whilst the costs of these are not entirely prohibitive there is the problem of storage as we have limited facilities available to us.

STEAM RALLIES: The rallies at Rushden (Cavalcade) and Earls Barton (Country Fayre and Steam Rally) have been a staple event for us for many years over the May and August Bank holidays respectively. This year the Rushden event was moved to a smaller location at Rushden Station and was unable to accommodate us. We now know that this event has been withdrawn from the rally calendar for future years, so we expect this event will no longer be one with which we are associated. We did attend the Earls Barton Transport

Show, (its new name) but unfortunately we had to abandon our presence on the Sunday, heavy rain made a washout of that day. However, Saturday and Monday attendance was good. We hope to attend this show next year as this event has, in the past, attracted both donations of film and a new member or two. One never knows what the result will be only that, by not attending such events, nothing of the above would be achieved.

TELEVISION: A new six-part BBC series, Handmade in Britain presented by BBC Breakfast's Steph McGovern, is scheduled to be aired during the autumn.

The programmes will be looking at some of the traditional manufacturing processes in the UK, each episode focusing on a specific trade. One of these is shoe manufacturing in Northamptonshire and we have been asked if we can supply some footage for this episode. We are currently in negotiations with the production company about this.

DIGITISATION: With the help of one of our members we have already digitised some film and have produced two 5 minute films, one for the Central Museum and one for Abington Museum, both in Northampton. Showing scenes from the area around their respective locations these films will run on a loop that visitors can stop to watch when visiting the museums. By providing these films, not only do we get a financial return but also publicity about us as details of who supplied the footage will be on display.

It is becoming increasingly important that all the amateur films in our archive become digitised. There are many reasons for achieving this aim. Primarily it is to preserve the images that are on these films before they deteriorate - colour film on some 8mm gauges can rapidly lose pigmentation causing them to have an overall magenta colour. Once digitised all films can then be catalogued in greater detail. It will then be possible to pause the film and take notes of the contents without burning out a frame as would happen on a projector. The overall effect of digitising film would then make it easy to present film of any gauge at a presentation - copies of Standard 8 film are very difficult to screen due to the small original image and low intensity light in those projectors.

To achieve the above would mean a significant financial input, and the facilities to set up the equipment needed to run the operation.

DATABASE: Our new database format is almost complete, and then will begin the task of re-cataloguing our collection.

At present we have many films with the same reference number, i.e. the original film, and its copy and, in earlier times, family collections were given one number when they may contain 10 or more individual reels.

After attending courses on cataloguing films we realise each film is a unique item and should therefore have its own identification number. This will be a mammoth undertaking for the limited number of people we have available and being fitted around all the regular activities we have going on. There is much to do. And so we repeat our final words from the last newsletter:

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