



BFM News

Issue 4

February 2021

Burnley Film Festival: 2020-21

At our February 17th Zoom meeting, BFM members were updated on plans to hold the postponed Burnley Festival as an online event. The Festival will take place over the weekend of **April 10-11th** and will be online. We hope that all BFM members will become involved in this new venture.

Members will need to register in advance, **not later than Saturday April 3rd**, by sending an email to thesecretary.burnleyfilmmakers@gmail.com just stating your interest in attending.

Registration will be acknowledged together with detailed notes being provided on how to operate YouTube and Zoom (to help those who have not taken part in our online sessions this season and want to attend the festival).

A Festival programme will be sent out to registered viewers by e-mail early on **Saturday, 10th April**. The programme will have links to the films on YouTube for viewing parts one and two. Each part lasts approximately one hour. You will simply open the programme on your computer, click on the links and be taken directly to YouTube to watch the films.

The Festival films will be on the Burnley Filmmakers YouTube channel (in the 'unlisted' (restricted) area) from Saturday 10th through to 3.00 p.m. on Sunday 11th.

On Sunday the 11th April at 2:30pm, we will send out an email to those registered with a link to part three, a 'live' Zoom session **starting at 3:00pm**. Part three will cover; BFM Chairman Mike Breeze's welcome, a film of the Judges' comments on the films, the announcement of the results and a 'live' question and answer session with viewers. The Sunday event will last approx. 60 minutes.

Carl Stredder and Rowenna Baldwin will be leading the question and answer session on the Sunday afternoon and those attending will be invited to email Carl and Rowenna with their questions about the films.

We haven't run our annual Festival this way before, but with the Coronavirus restrictions continuing to prevent us from social gatherings, we have no alternative. We need to move forward and complete the Festival from 2020 and hopefully we will be back in our normal routine soon hosting the 2022 Festival back in our familiar surroundings.

Ron Harrison
Festival Organiser

Burnley Film Makers Present our
Annual Amateur Film Festival
This is our 2020 postponed event
and will now be held online on
Saturday & Sunday 10 - 11 April 2021
The Festival is for
Members of Affiliated IAC Clubs
To register please email us at
thesecretary.burnleyfilmmakers@gmail.com

Burnley and Morecambe Bay Movie Makers ZOOM link up 20th January

Another first for the club took place on Wednesday 20th January when we linked up on ZOOM with our colleagues, Morecambe Bay Movie Makers, to screen an evening of their films via YouTube. At one point we had 26 film makers online and it was quite a busy time keeping track of people coming and going, but the technology all worked OK in the end!

First half films provided by MBMM included; *Dales Dalliance* a well-researched tour of the Yorkshire Dales by Martin Wade, *The Lost Canal* – work on restoring a section of the Lancaster canal by Dave Weatherley and *Great Uncle George* a fascinating insight into a family history project filmed by Pamela Smith.

After a brief interval we were treated to a selection of one-minute films by Roland Ward – *Old Hat*, Christine Wade's – *How to Grow Rice*, Graeme Isherwood's – *Methane*, Bob Skelly's - *Railway Children*, Martin Wade's – *Mostar Bridge* and finally Roland Ward's – *Sheepdog Trial*. The second half screened longer films including; *Enjoy Mull* by Dave Weatherley, *Nagarhole National Park, India* by Christine Wade, *Coast* by Martin Wade and finally, *Maximus the Bear in Lockdown* by Pamela Smith.

Overall an excellent selection of films taking us from the Yorkshire Dales, to Scotland, Turkey and India using a range of camera techniques and styles from a talented group of film makers. Our thanks go to Christine and Martin Wade for helping put the evening together.

Mike (S)



Amateur Film Making – A Brief History In Lancashire

By Mike Smith

Part Four: Sam Hanna – The L.S. LOWRY of Film Making

Sam Hanna is one of the best known names in amateur film making in Burnley and in the United Kingdom from the 1920s until the mid-1980s. Born in Burnley in 1903, Sam's interest in films began aged seven. While recovering from pneumonia, his Uncle brought him a magic lantern that used a paraffin lamp to illuminate coloured slides. He was immediately smitten. On leaving school, young Sam became apprenticed to a local cabinet maker and in his early twenties began teaching handicrafts at Abel Street School. He bought his first cine camera in the 1920s and began filming family holidays at Blackpool. Shortly afterwards he began making films of local craftspeople in Burnley and beyond.

In 1932, one of Sam's first films to be screened to a public audience, made using a 9.5mm Pathe cine camera, was of Burnley Hospital Fete and Carnival. Sam's interest lay in recording films about crafts such as clog making, hay creels, barrel making (filmed at Masseys brewery in Burnley) and hand loom weaving won him recognition from the British Film Institute who recognised his work. He was invited to film at Turf Moor and recorded Burnley's FA cup win over Luton Town in 1935 and later that year, Burnley's last tram ride. *(Sam pictured here in 1986 with his wife Edith)*



At the beginning of World War Two, Sam was in a reserved occupation but he volunteered for the Burnley Home Guard and recorded the Burnley Company while training, on parade and on manoeuvres in and around the town. During the war and to take his film making hobby further, he began manufacturing several devices for amateur film making. The products he invented were, The Hanna Projector, The Loop Absorber, The Daylight Screen and several others including the Brun Cine Titler, an attachment for making titles and special split-screen effects. These devices turned into a part-time business – Brun Educational Films and sold in their thousands all over the world.



Sam graduated from 9.5 to 16mm film and filmed the VE celebrations in May 1945 and the visit of the Royal Family – where he was almost arrested on the steps of the town hall! In the late 1940s he made films of Burnley Industries including Lucas Aerospace, Prestige and Lambert Howarth's. In 1984, aged 81, Sam was awarded Pensioner of the Year by the Burnley Express. He appeared on BBC and ITV talking about his work and was interviewed by Russell Harty. In 1986 Sam was present at the royal opening of Queen Street Mill by Prince Charles. The theatre at the Mill was named in his honour. He also received an Honorary Fellowship of the Royal Photographic Society the same year. Sadly, Sam died in 1996 aged 93.

Sam Hanna's legacy is a huge back catalogue of short films. It is his beautifully filmed and edited old English crafts films that he is fondly remembered for. Sam's editing technique of intercutting close-ups with wide shots, which keep the interest, shows what an excellent film maker he was. He apparently lived with his cine camera and took it with him wherever he went. Towneley Hall in Burnley hold a number of Sam's inventions and cameras. The North West Film Archive and British Film Institute websites host a number of Sam's classic films.

Filming with Creative Talent

Over the last few months, I have been working on a few filming jobs with Kevin Furber, owner of Creative Talent and Burnley Film Studio at Hapton.

You may remember that Kevin came to talk to BFM a couple of years ago to tell us about his career as a rally driver before he turned to producing video content around 20 years ago. There is often still a car theme running through Kevin's corporate and promotional video work as he regularly films new cars in his studio.



In January, Kevin asked me to work on two different projects with him. The first project was a series of videos that would be used to train people working in sales, particularly those in car sales. The videos depicted two scenarios of how to deal with customers – the right approach and the wrong approach.

My role on this project was to act out the role of a customer who displayed various traits that the salesperson (an actor named Steve) had to pick up on and therefore adjust his approach. This was all pre-scripted so there wasn't any need to test my improvisation skills, thankfully.



All the filming took place in Kevin's fantastically equipped studio and each of the five scenarios had a slightly different set-up. One of the scenarios was a Zoom conversation between the customer and salesperson. Another scenario was supposed to take place during a test drive in a car.



The second project that I was invited to take part in was an interesting corporate interview, filmed at a Mercedes Benz Vans dealership in Trafford. Kevin and I set up the dealership as if it was a studio, complete with autocue, three cameras, lights, and (socially distanced) chairs for the interviewer and two interviewees.

As well as generally assisting on the shoot, my role was to capture behind the scenes footage of the interview set up using my own camera (Panasonic Lumix S1H) on Kevin's moveable slider. This was my first time using this piece of equipment and I really liked the effect that can be created with this piece of kit.



It was great to be able to do some filming again and try my hand at a few new things. It's important to note that all filming was conducted safely and within the official rules for continuing to work.

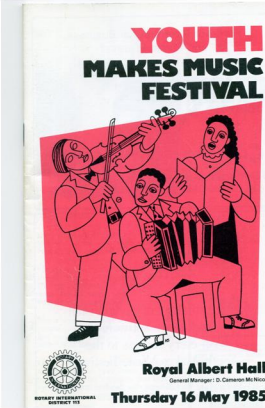
Let's hope we can all get back out there filming very soon.

Take care.

Rowenna

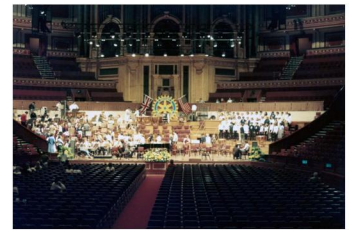
David Wilson

I am not a prolific video maker but I have been involved in several amateur projects. I thought that it could be useful if a recording unit with several cameras and mixer was available for local community events. I started by purchasing old professional video items like vision mixer, studio cameras, tripods etc. In 1985 there were no Panasonic MX-10 type mixers with built in synchroniser so all cameras had to be controlled by a master pulse generator. Luckily, someone in the British Amateur Television Club had designed this and had empty printed



circuit boards professionally manufactured for members to construct. I did this together with building other electronic circuits to operate the pro cameras. The vision mixer was bought at an auction but several of the electronic vision switches failed and they had to be replaced. I retained my membership of Finchley Cine Society when my job took me to Milton Keynes. One of their members, Trevor Williams, was a Rotarian and the London Rotary Clubs organised a concert at the Royal Albert Hall for school musicians in May 1985. I offered to take the system to record this using members of the FCS to operate the cameras and vision mixer. The three tube cameras and vision mixer were electronically set up at home and run for many hours in the evenings at weekends to check for reliability.

The recording did not go as smoothly as it should have. All the equipment was squeezed into my car and unloaded into the hall. The old cameras needed much more light levels than modern CCD models so were at the limit of giving good pictures. The problems were very small depth of field due to the lens operating at maximum aperture, spherical aberration due to the lens construction and the extra electronic gain boosts the video signal and also increases the visible noise. The most disruptive fault was picture flashes caused by an intermittent connection in



the vision mixer probably due being vibrated on the journey down the M1 as it was working fine when checked before. It was later found to be at a single transistor which was faulty. Luckily Trevor had his camcorder recording a wide view which could be used to edit in to cover the worst of the flashes. The sound was from a microphone near the stage and the sound and vision were recorded on a borrowed U-matic recorder.

It was not an ideal result but much was learnt so that these problems could be avoided in future.

In the last newsletter Frank Swift mentioned the ring light system for "Chromakey". Unfortunately, you still need to set up a large curtain behind the actors. The curtain is expensive, highly reflective and highly directional to reflect the green light from the ring. Normal lighting on the actors should hide the small amount of green from the camera light but the curtain should only appear green and operate the keying.

David Wilson



What Makes A Winner

How do you produce a competition Winning video?

Since joining Burnley Cine Club in 1964 I've been lucky enough to have my name etched onto the various club trophies a number of times. So why am I asking the question? Well the answer is "I don't know", if anybody does know the answer please let us all know.

What makes a film a winner in the eyes of a judge or judges?

Ideally the film will be well structured. It will have a beginning, middle and an end.

If it's a fiction film it will have a story that holds the viewers interest from start to finish, with maybe a few surprises on the way.

A documentary will also tell a story. It will explain process, a way of life or may be the history of a person or location. It will also have a beginning, middle and end.

A holiday or travelogue will be presented in a logical economical way. It will explain where you are, why you're attracted to a place and why you enjoyed your visit so much. This also will have a beginning, middle and end.

A promotional video will be trying to sell an item, a subject or an event and will have to be sharp and to the point. No shot should be wasted. Just watch TV adverts to this art form at its best.

All the above will have a suitable sound track that enhances the viewers experience. Music will be carefully chosen and balanced to compliment the visuals. All will have relevant titles designed to capture the viewer from the start.

So you see it's quite simple to produce a winner isn't it?

Well no, there is one stumbling block... the Judge/s. What suits or inspires one won't necessarily work with another judge.

The best and most recent example is the film produced by Joseph, "Adults with Autism". This video, in my opinion and that of the BIAFF judges, deservedly collected four stars at last year's BIAFF. It's the words "in my opinion" that is the crux of the matter, because in our own club's competition the judges, for whatever reason didn't think it worthy of a winners slot. Who was right, BIAFF or our judges?

So, as I say, if you know the answer to the question... "How do you produce a winning film"... let me know, I've been searching for the answer for over fifty years!

And I've had fun doing it and that's the main thing. Enjoy your film making.

Keith

Good Moaning

As is our, my, right, (being at the older end of this amazing thing we call life) I am going to have a moan! There are a couple of things that really get me down and wondered if I was on my own in these thoughts. First of all let me say that it has nothing to do with what I think of my wonderful friends at the club, that's you lot of course. Mind you..... O never mind, I will discuss that later. It's not important anyway Frank, Did I say Frank, O I am sorry Mr Swift I meant to say Keith, well not Keith exactly. Gentlemen I merely jest. It's really just to make the article a bit longer. If you gays sorry guys do wish to defend yourselves in this matter please write your complaint on a £50 note and slip it through my letter box so I can consider my reply.

Now to the mater in hand, about these 8mm films, o no that's not it. I don't think it's that I am moaning about, although there is something, it will come to me in a moment..... No, don't tell me.

Frank I told you not to tell me, O you didn't, it must have been someone else. I can see my article is far too sophisticated for you all so I will return to the subject of moaning, there is one thing though by the time you all read this, that is if you do bother to read it, you won't have far to look for something to moan about.

I am now running out of ideas so back to the article:- I have a number of things to moan about but there are two that spring to mind and really do P... me off.

First "American football" "what kind of talk is that" the BALL hardly ever touches their feet. Surely it should be called "American Hand ball", or "American Rugby", but not American Football I just don't understand.

My biggest gripe is, so called "Wrapping" what in gods name does someone talking into a mic and someone else banging a drum in the background got to do with music, The only wrapping I do is at Christmas or Birthdays although it is Irene who does that, if there is some sort of talent connected to "Wrapping" it is quoting poetry because that's all it is, to me, it has no connection with music. People spend years learning the art of Music and how to play it. Then some berk comes along and starts talking into a mic and claims it to be music, they also talk so fast no one has a clue what they are saying apart from the fact that there is no melody line which is the basic make up of music its spoken in the same drone and at the same pitch. I know my parents didn't like the music of the 60's & 70's mainly because they couldn't hear the words but at least it was music of some sort. No matter what anyone thinks, Wrapping has nothing to do with music.

Carl

David Hall

I am sorry that I missed the last meeting. I was asleep which seems more predominant. I am now more restricted as I cannot walk without an aid. this also means no overseas travel travel where most of my filming was done. The days are quite boring up late watch the birds feeding in the garden, reading, tv and of course sleeping.

As I am one of the victims the Feb 17th meeting I promise to stay awake and hope to see you all then.

David

Upcoming Events



Burnley Film Makers Present
Burnley Cine Club Films 1950 - 1970s
Featuring films made by local
film makers around Burnley
Wednesday 3rd March 2021
Join us: - fill in the contact form on our website
and we will send you a free programme
and links to ZOOM and the films

 **North West Film Archive** 



Burnley Film Makers Present
An evening of films by Mike Smith
on Wednesday 17 March 2021 at 7:30pm
Join us - it's free - just fill in your contact details on our
website and we will send you a free programme
and links to ZOOM and the films

 www.burnleyfilmakers.org