



BFM News

Issue 3

Jan/Feb 2021

BFM PROGRAMME JANUARY TO MARCH 2021

Welcome back everyone after our fortnight break and the Tier 3 lockdown festive period. Here's a bit more information on the programme for this season from January to March. We begin the second half of the season on **January 6th** with the second half of the Non-Winning competition entries. There are some nine films from members to see on the night.

The **20th January** sees a 'first' when we link up with colleagues from Morecambe Bay Movie Makers who will be presenting a virtual film show on the night, which should see our ZOOM numbers increase. We're sure to see a different programme on the night and there are some 13 films to see in all over the evening.

On the **3rd February** we are screening the Winners films from last season. You will need to provide your own pie and pea supper unfortunately but our show will finally present those winning entries from last season that was cancelled after coronavirus shut the club down. You will also be able to vote on the night for 'Movie of the Year' at the end of the film screenings and the result given shortly after.



17th February is a Two Members Night and we have our very own Messrs Frank Swift and David Hall taking centre-stage to show us some films from their back catalogue(s).

3rd March should be an interesting evening. I have been in touch with Nick Gladden from the North West Film Archive to find out what films they hold about Burnley from Burnley Cine Club and other incarnations of Burnley Film Makers down the years from the 1940s. There should be some 'classics' here from the past that the archive has that former Burnley film makers have made. Our own YouTube Channel has Newsreels going back to 1995, but more recent members may not have seen any films beyond that time, so they will be nice to see again.

On **17th March** you'll have to put up with me for the evening. I've been editing together some films I did at while working Manchester University along with a number of my own local efforts, which during lockdown I've had time to fiddle with.

The BFM Committee meet on **18th January** and the Film Festival is on the agenda. Questions for the Committee are; do we hold it at Burnley Youth Theatre in March (if we're allowed to), do we hold it online using ZOOM, or do we postpone it again until later into this season? A decision will be made at the committee and you'll hear about it soon afterwards.

More on the Programme from March to May in the Next Issue of the Newsletter.

Many thanks everyone.

Mike (S)

THE BAND

This is the film that should have been viewed on Wednesday 6th in the second batch of non-winners. I thought I might have sent the other film (Cinemas and Theatres) to Mike twice but I am now not sure as the films are stored and saved on different external drives. Anyway.....

In 2019, I received permission from the Cinema Organ Society to make a promotional documentary. In the early stages of shooting I was approached by a local big band to film a forthcoming concert in which the Wurlitzer would also feature. You will have seen the short promotional for this as it won the one minute category last year.

On the night I asked Mark Jackson to record the sound as he has a pair of really high quality mikes. He set himself up to record on a laptop by the side of the stage. He also did some hand-held camera work from that position and from "walkabouts" on the hall floor. As it was also a dance Mark had to dodge the enthusiasts.

I was upstairs in the balcony with my two Panasonic camcorders, one of which has pro sound connections so I could use my Beyer and my Rode rifle mikes. I have added a Rode digital camera mike to the other camcorder.

I was quite pleased overall with the results except for a few fundamentals: 1) It is difficult to work two camcorders at the same time; 2) It would have been better to widen the distance between the camcorders; 3) I should have synchronised the cameras and the laptop before the start and left them to run right through. The larger camera has two card slots and switches over automatically.

A film lasting 2 hours is no use to me for a competition and so I decided to make a separate documentary. I could use any footage from the concert but any interviews had to be made during a club evening. I attempted to film twice but each time there were only short breaks and even then the background noise never stopped. The final interview with the lady was a second "take" as the first failed to record and even then I lost the visuals.

Some years ago Mark and I filmed an entire football match at Valley Parade. We used four cameras all with their own operators. This worked well and I learnt a lot. Like the concert filming, there are a lot of specialised techniques that need to be used and practised regularly.

The Band is now available on the Club's YouTube site.

Mike Breeze

News in 1966

What was in the news in 1966? Well there was there was the small bit of news about England winning the World Cup but not much else.

Much more important was Burnley Cine Club's Annual Competition. In those days the show was held in the Sion church Hall on Church St, Burnley. In the February issue of the club's Focus magazine Editor, Harold Brindle, notes that "The show went without a single hitch, and appeared to be a great success. About **160 people attended**, including about a dozen from Bacup Camera Club Cine Section.

"A visitor from Carlisle told us he always attended any amateur film show in whatever district he found himself, and he had never seen an amateur show so well presented – and one of the Odeon projectionists, taking a busmen's holiday, also praised the slick presentation."

Those of course were "the good old days". No such things as the programme being downloaded onto a memory stick. The projection was in the hands of the competition winners, as each member had a different projection setup, and the films had to be run on the setup used to produce them. This meant there could be at least half a dozen setups at the rear of the hall. To say that the show went without a single hitch is a small miracle.

Quite often during a show film splices broke, film jammed in the projector gate and the heat of the lamp burnt a hole in your film, the tape sound track would go out of synch. Oh... how much simpler it is these days.

Keith Widdup

Amateur Film Making – A Brief History In Lancashire

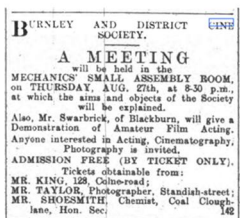
By Mike Smith

Part Three – The Formation of Burnley and District Amateur Cine Society

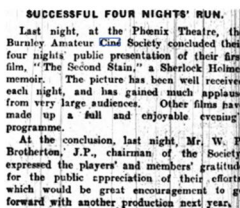
The Burnley and District Amateur Cine Society was formed in the summer of 1931 and the first meeting was held on the 27th of August 1931 at Burnley Mechanics Institute.



Three people who helped establish the club were a Mr King of Colne Road, a Mr Shoemith (who owned a chemist's shop in Coal Clough Lane) and **Mr Tom Taylor** (pictured here) who had a professional photography studio in Standish Street. At the first meeting the annual subscription was set at 10s 6d. The group met monthly and showed members films and those made by other clubs from other film clubs across the country. The 'Objects of the Society' were agreed as follows; "First, The production of photo-plays and films, acted and produced by members of the Society to be shown publicly if of a sufficiently good standard. Second, monthly meetings for the production of local and topical science films taken by the members. Third, talks on different types of work such as acting, make-up, scenario, choice of stories, editing and putting in captions. Fourthly, competitions among members for story writing and Fifthly, co-operation and loaning of any apparatus that the Society might come to possess." (Burnley News 29/8/1931). At the Society's second meeting held in November, two member made films were screened; a film report of the funeral of the bishop of Burnley and the other, the unveiling of a memorial to the late Sir James Mackenzie.



At December's meeting in 1931 the Burnley Express reported that two films were shown, "THE DEATH RAY" and "FAST AND FURIOUS," both comedy films. Possibly the first ever public screening of a colour film in Burnley was given at the clubs September in 1932 when visitors from Kodak Ltd showed a Koda-Color film of Jersey and "its beautiful bathing beauties which was greatly appreciated," according to the Burnley News on 14/9/1932. Fifteen months after its formation, in December 1932, the Burnley Club screened its first complete film titled, "THE SECOND STAIN" a Sherlock Holmes thriller based on an Arthur Conan Doyle short story. The film was premiered at the Phoenix Theatre in Burnley over four consecutive evenings (There is great interest in finding a copy of this original film by the Arthur Conan Doyle Society based in the USA who contacted Burnley Film Makers about it last year.)



The *SECOND STAIN* was well received by "very large audiences" according to the Burnley Express of 7th December 1932 and following the success of the film, a club dance was held in February 1933. Eighty members were present at the event, organised by the ladies of the Society. Later in 1933 saw the release of the clubs second film, "GOLD OR DROSS" based on a short story by local author John W Kneeshaw and featuring 'over fifty scenes' shot in Burnley and other locations.

Part Four next month, Mike Smith

WINTER WALKS

A BBC4 series titled Winter Walks aired recently. I watched 5 of the half hour programmes and really enjoyed them. The subject matter was great but I was also interested in the filming of them. The first one was filmed around Wharfedale and finished at Appletreewick. The second was in Dentdale finishing up the hill at the station. The third was a walk on the North Yorks Coast finishing at Robin Hood's Bay. The fourth was around the Kettlewell area and the fifth was from Sutton Bank to Rievaulx Abbey.

So you can see the subject matter was really interesting. The filming on all five was by the walker with what looked like a selfie stick but of a bigger diameter with something like a Go Pro on the end? It was called a 360 degree camera so suspect the stick had a motorized head? It never showed the stick and it looked like it had been edited out. The only time you saw it was when you saw a shadow of it. The only other filming was from a drone. The narration was never affected by wind and I suspect that the red back pack that they all wore carried something to record voices. Also the red pack would have been a good visual aid for the drone operator. There were occasional captions showing distance travelled and distance still to go and other facts about the area. There was no background music just the sound of the countryside which I thought was brilliant.

It seemed such a simple concept yet at the end of each programme, the credits showed quite a lot of people employed on it. I think, apart from the drone footage, you could film something like this on your own. If anybody is interested in filming our great outdoors, check out these programmes which will still be on BBC iPlayer. Also if you just want to watch something decent instead of the usual daytime fodder, check it out.

Mark Grice.

Idle Hands make work for the Devil

Crikey, there seems no end to this endless worry we are all subject to "Covid Death Threat". I try to put it out of my head as much as possible and carry on (no jab forthcoming yet).

When it kicked off in March last year we all knuckled down to the safety advice and mainly kept indoors, well I did for a couple of months then slowly ventured outside. I was lucky my daughter came round once a week (safe distancing) with essential supplies even calling at the pharmacy for my monthly prescription.

May has now arrived and I visit our local park around 6.30am for exercise driving there in 2nd gear in order to high rev the engine and put a long awaited charge in the battery, now I'm getting more adventurous and take my video camera to record an introduction to a film I'm making,.. its quiet, very quiet, fairly warm and sunny and I'm able to speak to camera without onlookers thinking I'm potty.

As the month wore on I now take my lunch some days and staying well away from every dog walker and his bone just contemplating what comes next, little did I know it would all start up again with a vengeance,.. this time I'm a bit better prepared regarding safety Masks, disposable gloves when I fuel up plus... I've joined the big boys club... Internet shopping. I'm now officially registered with Iceland home delivery! It took some figuring out but what a great idea.

After our recent meet up via Zoom (non winners part two) I realised I had tempted fate with my film about the Vulcan Bomber by using copyright action music to give it reality, Battle of Britain stuff was in the air! I thought the Unlisted area accessed only to BFM would be ok. Which now brings me to think what other films do I have with the same problem.. oh dear part of my film programme now needs to be re-edited including a finished piece of yours truly dancing, that's right dancing.. shame you would have had such a great laugh I have to say I was rather nimble footed treading the.....actually all filmed in a local park with props "including onlookers", a 3 filming day spectacle! I will show it when we resume Clubroom meet ups. I'm working on 3 films at the moment switching between "Our visit to Canada".. our club film "Vroom Vroom".. and a short Holiday film, I hope to include 6 or 7 films in my shared club night in February.

Better press on with the editing again, learning things like Green Screening, Cropping, Paint,.. as well as Home Shopping. As my old Mam said many times,..
Idle Hands make Work for the Devil!

Frank.

A Year in the life of Dob Croft

Hi everyone. I hope everyone is well and trying to keep occupied. My filming this past few months has been much less than normal but I've been trying to film. A Year in the life of Dob Croft. This is a very small area of rough land that has been saved from the building development in Preston. It consists of about 5 acres and very soon will be completely surrounded by new and existing houses. This is mainly due to the existence of The Great Crested Newt and the land being owned by a small local charity. A small number of volunteers have been on a course that was arranged by the Wildlife Trust and took place on the site itself. The lockdown over past months has made it very difficult. The site has been closed to all except the Volunteers and is completely fenced off. Originally I was part of the volunteer work force but for various reasons I no longer take part. I have filmed on a number of occasions since April to capture the change in seasons and to show how the Volunteers work has progressed. At the moment I haven't managed to gain access to film the winter scene so I can complete the Year on Dob Croft. This is somewhat annoying but in the light of everything else it's of little consequence. Hopefully in the next few weeks things will change for the better.

I have a little good news. I have now had my second covid jab and with a bit of luck should be clear of this dreaded pandemic. Unfortunately I have lost two good friends.
Keep safe and keep well. Neil.

The Choir

My wife belongs to a Community Choir based in Crawshawbooth, which has around 100 members. They used to meet once a week on Tuesdays at the local church hall. A Community Choir is very informal and has no auditions to join unlike many other choirs. Basically if you can open your mouth and make a noise, you're in!

They have however, been very successful, winning first place in their category in a number of choral competitions throughout the UK. For most of the members though it's a chance to socialise, make new friends and chat over a cup of tea and a biscuit.

COVID-19 however put a stop to all of that. As many of the members were 'vulnerable' due to their age or medical conditions many of the members decided they couldn't risk meeting together. Not meeting at all would have meant losing touch with friends and that was not an option. Just as BFM decided to turn to zoom to continue meeting, so did the choir.

One of the choir's projects for the year was to celebrate with a live performance for VE Day 2020 but with the choir not meeting, rehearsals would be difficult and in any event the lockdown rules would have prevented a live performance. So what to do?

The Choirmaster decided to make a challenge. Members who wanted to mark VE Day could do so by recording their part at home, using video, and each members video part would be brought together, into one master video. Music and a backing track was provided to around twenty members who decided to give it a go.

Over the course of a few weeks, the choir singers recorded their singing to the backing track and submitted them to the choirmaster to put them all together. This is where the fun started.

The Choirmaster has a reasonable understanding of how video is put together and has software capable of doing this but he was overwhelmed with the prospect of putting together a video with 18 different tracks. After struggling for days with the task he asked for help and my wife volunteered my services!

So I ended up with 18 videos with 18 tracks of song, recorded on 18 different mobile phones or cameras, recorded at various frame rates per second, in very different lighting conditions and sound qualities that ranged from 'challenging' to 'not bad'. This was going to be an interesting edit to say the least.

I have a number of editing suites available to me including Adobe but my favourite is the Apple product, Final Cut.

As with many editing suites individual tracks can be synchronised by sound, the program uses the sound from multiple tracks, compares the sound tracks and matches the video frames. Easy if you know how to use those multi-track tools. I've been using multiple cameras to record events for a long time so I didn't expect there to be too many problems.

I started with the backing track given to each of the members, this was the one thing that was a constant. When I attempted to synch the videos though I found that the editing suite was incapable of getting the frames perfectly correct. Under normal circumstances the software would have worked. I found however that the timings of some of the singers was sometimes out, some of the videos started at different parts of the backing track - one didn't start until about half way through the track as that was where the individual singing part started!

Eventually I decided to synchronise each individual track with the original backing music and then to synchronise that to my master file, laying each track on the timeline on top of the last one. Even this required some individual cutting of tracks and pushing frames forward or back to ensure lip-sync. Finally videos were cropped in size so that all 18 choir singers could be seen on screen at once. Finally the choir was brought together. I published the video to Vimeo and sent out a link. The Choir loved the final result and the choir members shared the video with friends near and far. I know the choir members will never understand the complex processes and how much time was needed to put the video together and I'm never going to get back the hair I pulled out in frustration but, mission accomplished! Next lockdown project please.

NT

Carl Stredder

It's been a hard day's night, and that is very true about the last twelve months and that goes for the whole of our planet. Walking around with masks on and avoiding folk is unfortunately becoming the natural thing to do. Irene and I have tried to stick to the rules, we haven't been anywhere not permitted and have stayed in unless it was for shopping or various medical appointments. I am happy to say that we have had our first vaccine jab, and that is mainly due to Dave Hall. Thanks David. After David's comments on our zoom meeting last week I put my "***I have got to sort this out***" head on, and the following day we had our Jabs. Anyway my friends it looks like the Jabs are being distributed quite fast now.

During this time of unrest I have been editing some camera shots that have never been used.

One surprise that is now keeping me occupied is that I recently purchased a 8mm cine digital converter for Irene but for some unknown reason after a couple of hours she lost interest in it and gave it to me, so I am now lumbered with it, I will now have to use it I suppose however I'm sure I will manage to digitise my old cine films. (What a coo) I have also turned to my other passion and that is music, some time ago I purchased a program called "Logic Pro x." which is on the same lines as a movie editing program only for music. It looked a bit complicated but now with me having time I have started learning how it works. It hooks up to my keyboard via a midi cable and has now opened up a whole new world it is amazing. I have managed to produce a couple of small piano concerto which when given the opportunity I will hopefully be able to play them for you.

O well I'm sorry but its time to spend some time with one of my new toys. I suppose it will have to be the cine converter.

Comment of the week = "You don't get a second chance to make a first impression"

Take care all

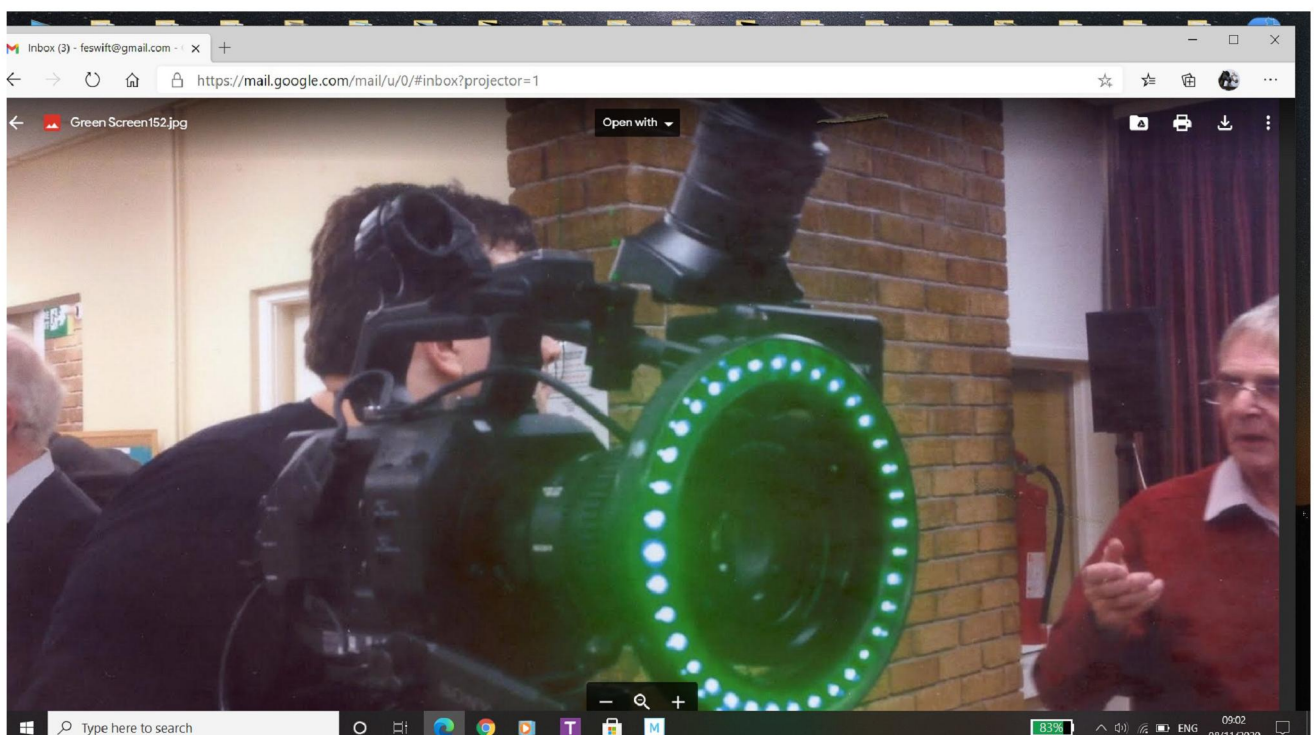
Carl Stredder

Ring Light

Sharing video ideas and information with Club members is always a good idea,

Has anyone come across this kind of Green Screening, as you can see its a Ring Light fitted around the Camera Lens thus doing away with all the paraphilania of setting up a large green curtain. I don't know anything about it much as it was sent onto me by a mate from another Club I am partly involved in,

Frank Swift



Gabble Track

Most of you won't know what a gabble track is or was. It's not something you have to worry about these days. Carl and David (C) will probably remember them.

Back in the early sixties and into the seventies, unless you were very well off you would be using cameras that recorded the pictures but didn't have sound facilities. Projectors, until the mid-seventies were silent only. So, if you wanted to add the luxury of sound, that was in synch with the picture, you needed a system or systems, to enable this to happen.

You needed a reel-to-reel tape recorder, preferably a four-track machine with the capability of playing back two tracks at once. You also needed some sort of device to link, or to synchronise, your projector and tape machine together. Eumig produced a projector with a built-in loop synchroniser, or you could use a Synchrodek, a device invented by Harry Garlick, yes, the Harry Garlick of the local TV shop fame.

With this setup you were halfway there. You could see the pictures, via the projector but how did you know where to start any music and put in any comments etc? There was nothing visual on the tape.

So, you had to mark your film with a cross that you positioned in the projector gate. The tape was threaded into the machine and the start marked with a cross at the recording head, then set the tape recorder to record mode. You then started the two machines together and when the first picture appeared on screen you started to describe what you could see on screen.

For example... "Main title appears, title fades, shot of aircraft landing, cut to baggage cart, CU luggage, cut to passengers leaving aircraft..." and so on all the way through film. You just hoped a splice didn't break, if it did you lost the synch and you had to start all over again!

When the film did finish you had an audio recording of everything in the film.

Then you had to go through, listening to the tape and marking the tape where you wanted music start, where to fade out, where a comment was needed so that the music could be faded out, when the comment ended to be able to fade the music back in.

Then it was simply a case of recording your commentary and music and inserting them in the correct places, simply...well nothing is ever that simple, many the time I wish I'd taken up stamp collecting.

So, remember when things go slightly wrong with your video production just think about how much easier it is today.

That's when you've come up with an idea for a film of course.

Gabble Track was also the heading I used for a series of articles in the club's "Focus" magazine many years ago. I've just been reading some old magazines and I'm quite surprised at what I managed to come up with.

Just "gabbling" on as they say!!

Staying In Is The New Going Out

It's dreary January, we're in our third lockdown of the year, the pubs and restaurants are closed and the weather is cold and wet.

A number of business have introduced new ways of reaching out to their customers. I, with hundreds of other people, have enjoyed Tuesday evenings meeting wine makers from around the world on zoom meetings hosted by a national wine merchant whilst sipping the makers wines at home and discussing the intricacies of wine making.

Similarly I and family members around the UK enjoyed a Christmas cocktail evening together hosted on zoom and guided by experts from a Bury wine merchant. I did learn something about cocktails but mainly it was the chance to catch up with family whom we are unable to visit during lockdown.

I should be celebrating my birthday at a nice restaurant with family and friends in a much warmer climate but it's not going to be like that this year.

It's sometimes difficult to run a successful restaurant business in the best of times but in COVID lockdown it must be a nightmare.

But some restaurateurs are ingenious entrepreneurs.

There are some very good restaurants now offering a 'lockdown home dining' experience with dishes created by the very best of chefs using the finest ingredients, delivered straight to your door so that you can create that special occasion in the comfort of your own home. Locally Northcote Manor are one of the restaurants providing such a service.

My wife and I are proficient at producing decent scoff for the table but we can't compete with the finest chefs in the country.

So it was with great joy that on the day before my birthday a large box arrived on the doorstep emblazoned with 'Cote at Home' and containing everything required for a four course fine dining meal for two, provided by the chefs at the Cote restaurant, London. All we had to do was heat it up and set the table and serve.

All the food had been securely packed encased in cardboard insulation and ice bags to keep everything cold and fresh.

Secretly my wife had selected dishes from the restaurant's menu. A starter of Chicken Liver Parfait was followed by a main course of Roasted Lamb with Roast Vegetables. Desert was Chocolate Fondant with Creme Fraiche D'Isigny. All of this gluttony was topped off with a selection of cheese.

The only difficulty was selecting a wine to accompany the meal. No need to worry about whether service is included or how much to tip the waiter though.

Hats off to the chef. We enjoyed a beautiful meal with decent wine and background music of our choice. I'm looking forward to discovering other restaurants from my Loveclough private dining room. Staying in is the new going out. However, I haven't yet worked out how to send the plates and cutlery back for washing!

NT

Christmas Goodies

Late off the press...

Apple Computers have developed a brand new super duper Fast, and I mean Fast Processor called the "M1" chip. 8core cpu.. its been released into their standard MacBook priced at just £700.. its far better than their £2k. Laptops! outperforming them up to 3 times faster.. also low power consumption i.e. longer battery life,.. quite revolutionary and causing big concerns with rivals such as Intel/AMD. However as with all new Comps & Mobile Phones it best to hold back a little while to see what gremlins throw up.

So if you're in to treating yourself research it first?

Frank S.

BRIEF REPORT FROM COMMITTEE MEETING held on January 18th

The Health & Safety Policy and in-house Risk Assessment procedures were discussed and agreed. These will be reviewed with members when we resume our normal meetings at Higham. Separate assessments will need to be done for any projects away from Higham Village Hall.

In view of the continuing uncertainty about Covid, it was decided not to attempt to have a 'live' showing of the delayed Festival 20 in 2021. Alternative presentation approaches were discussed for the event and a final format will be agreed at the February committee meeting.

Our web site subscriptions have been renewed for 2021.

It was agreed that we hold an AGM, albeit using 'zoom', before the end of our season. Date to be confirmed.

The winning films from our 2020 Annual Competition will be shown at our February 3rd 'zoom' members' meeting. 7.30 p.m. start.

Club Competitions

I was querying competitions this year and thankfully Keith has clarified what is happening. This is Keith's reply.

"As regards the Annual Film Competition, given the restrictions we've been under for the past year, we have no plans to hold a competition this year. From discussions with other members there has been very little filming done during this period.

"However, on the 14th April, the AKM and Five Minute Competition will take place and are two separate competitions.

The AKM competition is a film set to an appropriate piece of music from the AKM library that you have. The film, including titles and endings, should not exceed the length of the AKM track used i.e. if the track is say 3min 20 sec, that is the length of the film.

You can only use 1 music track per film, you can't mix two tracks together however, if you want you can shorten the track selected if your footage available is too short, hope that makes sense.

As an example, I've just reedited a film, using an AKM track, but because I only had limited footage available, I've edited the music down from just over 3 mins to about 1 min 15secs and this is the running time of the film. Hope all that makes sense.

"The 5min comp is what's on the can. The max run time is 5mins, inc titles and endings (but it can be shorter than 5mins). You can use more than one piece of music or no music at all. In both cases we tried to keep any rules to a minimum to try and encourage members to take part, it may not sound like it, it takes longer to explain, I'm afraid also both competitions are useful exercises in editing to limits."

I hope that's helpful to you.

Mark and Keith