



Since 1985

Association of Reunited Thames Staff
www.arts-tv.org.uk

No.113 Spring 2015

QUARTERLY



Outside Broadcast Memories
Commemorative Lunch
Get Some In (Part 2)
Cross Country
Conranymys

The Magic Circle Experience
Teddington Site Sold
Rural Life Centre
60 Years of ITV
River Trip



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... to promote social contact and good fellowship among members

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For the Spring edition: 10 February

For the Summer edition: 10 May

For the Autumn edition: 10 August

Views expressed by contributors are not necessarily those of the Editor or the Association.

We need to reserve the right to edit all contributions for the sake of clarity or brevity.

Logo design: the ARTS script device was created by the late John Stamp. Alan Cross created the triangular design behind the script.



The ARTS web site (arts-tv.org.uk) provides additional information about the Association, as well as publishing many more photos than is possible in *ARTS Quarterly*. Members should also check the web site for late breaking news about forthcoming ARTS events.



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ED-LINE NEWS



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I'm so pleased that Jayana (pronounced Jayna) Austin, pictured on the right, who came to our January Committee Meeting, decided to join us, and was co-opted until our AGM in May, when I trust that ARTS members present there will vote for her to 'officially' become a Committee Member.

Her experience as a Researcher in the Children's Dept. at Teddington will prove invaluable when she starts investigating possible future events. However, she has already started working on an ARTS coach visit next year to The Gardens at Highgrove (home of their Royal Highnesses The Prince of Wales and the Duchess of Cornwall).

In the meantime, plans to turn the Teddington Studios site into a 213-flat development were approved in October



© Alan Cross

by Richmond-upon-Thames Council's Planning Committee. Haymarket Group was granted permission to demolish the site in exchange for an £8M contribution towards affordable housing in the borough. The planned development, which will include a public riverside walk, gained a majority vote of five to four. See page 6 for further details. Resulting from this decision, two separate gatherings were arranged to take place at 'The Anglers', one on the 11th of December and the other on the 17th of January. Pictures of both appear on page 6 and pages 12 & 13. This also made the timing of our 'Farewell Teddington Studios' Special Commemorative Lunch all the more poignant and you'll see pictures of this event on pages 9, 10 & 11. No less than 117 people booked for this totally brilliant event!

Bill Rawcliffe

WHAT'S WHEN?

Saturday 21 March

Old Time Music Hall - Normansfield Theatre, Teddington. Flyer in last AQ
Bookings have ended for this event.

Monday 13 April

The Magic Circle Experience
(Article on page 5 and enclosed flyer)
Organiser: Bridget Moore

Saturday 18 April

Northern Noggin, Natter 'n' Nibble Night (Not ARTS organised)
The Green Man, 383, Euston Road, London, NW1 3AU from 18.00.
Attendance Fee (food & room hire) £3.
Organiser: Sheila Hawksworth

28 May to 2 June

Italian Holiday in Bologna
Organiser: Alan Herbert

Sunday 21 June (Almost certain)

Coach Trip to Rural Life Centre
See page 17. Flyer in June AQ
AQ.Organiser: Bill Rawcliffe.

Wednesday 15 July

River Trip from Festival Pier
Article on page 7 & flyer in June AQ
Organiser: David London

Tuesday 22 September

ITV60 - Celebrating 60 Years of ITV (Non ARTS organised)
See page 16 for more details.

XTCC (eX Thames Computer Club)

See next 4 meeting dates on page 5.

WHAT'S WHERE?

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In the Pipeline as possible visits, etc:

1. The Gardens at Highgrove.
2. The Mill at Sonning (September)?
3. The Dome Cinema, Worthing (and maybe the English Martyrs' Church in Goring as well. (Next year)?
4. Kenwood House.
5. Royal Philharmonic Orchestra.
6. A Shopping Village.
7. National Archives.

Cover picture (© Peter O'Toole) shows David Hamilton making his speech at the Farewell Teddington Studios Commemorative Lunch.

Chairman's Comments



Well, as you will have read from Bill's 'Ed-Line News' overleaf another major event has happened in the life of ABC/Thames Television. It is one of those sad facts that over the years we have lost many close friends and now we have lost another friend, Teddington Studios. At the Commemorative Lunch to celebrate our farewell to the studios, I asked who was the earliest employee there - 'based' at Teddington Studios?

Although Frank Taylor had visited the site in 1958 with Fred Atkinson, it turned out that Alan Fowler was employed there in 1959. I remember that Nobby Clark the plumber and Stan Johnson the foreman electrician were employees of the previous company at the site, but I wonder if there are any ARTS members who can match or beat Alan Fowler's record?

It seems funny that when you just say 1959, it does not seem that long ago, until you say 56 years ago (Alan must have been in short trousers!), but when you consider the dramatic and life changing advances that have been made over that period it is mind blowing. For the technical - no transistors, we were still using valves, for the secretaries - no computers, but typewriters, and for all of us who would have thought that we would have the world at our finger tips on something not much larger than a credit card - and we didn't have those either!

I suppose that sounds a bit 'Luddite', thinking back to the so called 'good old days', but things have to change and it is a good and healthy philosophy for us all to move forward, albeit remembering Teddington Studios as a fantastic place to work.

We are exceptionally lucky that Thames looked forward, and formed a retirement organisation which has kept so many of us in contact through the pages of this ever evolving magazine. It was extremely satisfying to see that nearly 120 people were able to attend the Commemorative Lunch - keeping the memories alive; and that ARTS, now in its 30th year has been able to continue in its aim:

to promote social contact and good fellowship among members

Alan Herbert

P.S. PLEASE READ THE BOX BELOW AS IT REPRESENTS A MAJOR CHANGE TO THE ARTS CONSTITUTION!

DON'T FORGET
TO ATTEND THE
ARTS AGM ON
6 MAY
(WEDNESDAY)
AS PER THE
ENCLOSED
FLYER, AT
WHICH AN
IMPORTANT
CHANGE TO
THE ARTS
CONSTITUTION
WILL BE
DISCUSSED!

TTV Big Band



The audience at the festive December concert

The next 'performance night' is at:

Constitutional Club,
5, Stanley Road,
Teddington,
Greater London,
TW11 8TP.

Monday, 30 March 2015

As usual it commences at 20.15
But arrive around 19.45 for best seats!

Drinks at Club Bar prices.

Raffle.

Entry cost for Club Guests is just £2.



The new Musical Director - John Sands,
who replaces Dave Marrior



The Magic Circle Experience



The Magic Circle was founded in 1905 and was male-only until 1991 when women were admitted. There are now 80 female members of the Magic Circle, including Debbie McGee - Paul Daniels' wife.

The motto of the society is *indocilis privata loqui*, which, roughly translated, means "not apt to disclose secrets", and anyone who ever worked on the David Nixon Show at Thames TV will know how strictly magicians adhere to this rule.

If David was sawing a lady in half during his show, then it was virtually a closed set and studio staff were only admitted on a 'need to know' basis.

However, it sounds as though the Magic Circle Museum will be full of interest for our ARTS group when we visit on 13 April, as it includes an original Sooty with associated Harry Corbett apparatus, and sets of props used by David Nixon and Tommy Cooper. Even the Prince of Wales is a member - he took his Magic Circle exam in 1975.

As well as the Museum we shall also see a display of close-up magic and a stage performance in the Magic Circle theatre. We have only 20 tickets for this event so book now to avoid disappointment. Flyer enclosed.

Bridget Moore



XTCC Meetings

Although not directly organised by ARTS, XTCC (which is known as EXTACY) holds a meeting every 2 months, which takes place at various member's houses within about 20 miles of Teddington.

These tend to be held towards the end of January, March, May, July, September and November.

Meetings start at 19.30 and there's a £5 attendance fee to help to pay for the extensive food and tea/coffee/soft drinks supplied by the host. (But take along your own 'booze' if preferred)!

Although the content of these friendly gatherings is substantially 'social', if anybody has some sort of 'computer problem' it can be discussed, and, hopefully solved.

Alternatively, anybody who has not yet 'dipped their toes' into computing can acquire help & guidance regarding what equipment to buy (and what to avoid purchasing)! Next dates and venues:

Wednesday 25 March
at John Rosewarne's,

Friday 29 May
at Bill Rawcliffe's,

Thursday 23 July
at Brian Moray's,

Friday 25 September
at Jamie Acton-Bond's,

Further details - future meeting dates, addresses, maps, etc. available from XTCC Organiser, Bill Rawcliffe :

Email: xtcc@arts-tv.org.uk.



**WEB
WATCH**

Video/Audio

For the password-protected video material on our web site you will need to enter a username of _____ and a password _____ in the panel that comes up on the screen.

Magazines

For the password-protected magazine archive on our web site you will need to enter a username of _____ and also a password of _____ in the panel that comes up on the screen.



The above QR (Quick Response) code will take your 'smartphone' and most 'tablet computers', direct to the ARTS website if you use its camera to 'see' it.



Teddington Studios Sold to Singaporean Developer

The financial pages of most newspapers on Friday the 6th of February contained the news that the studio site is to be sold to a listed Singaporean developer and turned into a £250M luxury residential complex.

Apparently, contracts had already been exchanged between Kwek Leng Beng, the chairman of City Developments, and Haymarket, which owns Teddington Film Studios, on the banks of the river Thames in south-west London.

The 4.5-acre site was sold by Lord Heseltine's publishing group for £80M, as it was reported in *Estates Gazette*. City Developments has been working closely with Chelsea-based Dartmouth Capital Advisers, while property agents Savills and Colliers have been advising on the deal.

Teddington, being only a few miles from Richmond, is one of the most expensive residential areas in Greater London, with house values as much as £750 per square foot, but values at the project will be more than £1,000 per square foot.

"We are assessing all our options for a move but we are wedded to staying in the borough," said Kevin Costello, the chief executive of Hay-market. He said the firm, which has been selling off its offices, will find a new home by the end of this year.

The studios site was bought by the Haymarket publishing group in 2004 and leased out. Haymarket has used them to produce adverts.

The sale is another example of overseas buyers lining up to invest in historic London landmarks. A host of sovereign wealth funds are eager to bid for Hyde Park Barracks - and the Qatari Investment Authority has just led a hostile takeover to buy Canary Wharf from listed owner Songbird Estates.

Anti-Pinewood/Shepperton/Teddington Gathering at The Anglers

ARTS made numerous approaches to Pinewood/Shepperton/Teddington (PST) and Haymarket Publishing after hearing that the lease for the studios site had not been renewed.

Ex-members of the Teddington Sound Department were willing to organise an amazing 'end of an era' event within either Studio 2 or 3 in the same way that they had done over 20 years earlier, including a bar and buffet food, BUT, neither organisation was interested!

In the meantime, some ARTS members received a communication from PST inviting them to attend a "Celebration of over 50 years of television at Teddington Studios", incorporating the sentence:

"However, we are aware that very many people have worked at Teddington over the years and that we may have forgotten someone.

Therefore, if someone you know has not received an invite please ask them to contact us."

In the light of this, I posted an email to nearly 500 people in my ex-colleagues email group, who started sending emails to PST, but, all of a sudden, PST posted this message:

"Thank you for your interest in attending the Teddington TV client event on 11th December. We are just emailing, as we have been contacted by a number of people who were forwarded the private invitation, and need to let you know that this is actually a private event, by invitation only, and a guest list will be in operation on the night.

Unfortunately it appears that our email has been misconstrued. We were suggesting that if the invitee spoke to someone, who he presumed would be invited due to their close, or continuing relationship with Teddington, then he

should tell that person to not be embarrassed to get in touch. As much as we would have loved to invite everyone who has ever worked at Teddington at any time, it is just not feasible to do so."

As a result of this incredible 'climb-down' Bill Rawcliffe decided to hold a gathering of those who really did work at Teddington studios - for decades in many cases (including mine) - on the same evening! Interestingly, we were joined, after 18.00 by some of those who had received 'official' invites from PST for its event from 19.30!

Although only some 45 attended this event, it provided a 'snub' to PST for its complete and utter lack of PR!



Left to Right:
Bob Reed, Peter Horton, Adrian Sumption,
Brian Croney & Alan Herbert



A bevy of girls with Tony Tyrer & Pat Vance



Peter Turl, John O'Brien & Grant Feltham

William B River Trip



The William B used to be moored on the Thames alongside Teddington Studios (where MV Iris used to be) when it was known as the Sir Thomas More, but it was, later, considerably lengthened and offers a high standard of quality and versatility. ARTS actually used this boat for its river trip on the 12th of July, 2006 but it is particularly poignant that, following the 'demise' of Teddington Studios, we should, once again, be using this boat.

The fully upholstered teak panelled entrance hall with its polished brass wall lights and handrails makes an impressive introduction.

A new, spacious bar and a formidable galley provide an exciting array of exceptional food and drink, while a quality PA system is perfect for commentaries, while cruising down the river.

The deliciously welcoming teak panelled entrance hall leads on to a modern and contemporary stateroom complete with high quality carpets, sleek and polished wooden flooring and fresh, clean lines. The subdued lighting and authentic nautical touches add to the luxurious feel of the surroundings.

This event will occur on the 15th of July and a flyer will be enclosed in the next edition of AQ but please don't delay in letting David London know of your interest.

Bill Rawcliffe

Hotel Brochure

A friend went to Beijing recently and was given a brochure by the hotel. Obviously, it has been translated directly, word for word from Mandarin to English.

Getting There: Our representative will make you wait at the airport. The bus to the hotel runs along the lake shore. Soon you will feel pleasure in passing water. You will know that you are getting near the hotel, because you will go round the bend. The manager will await you in the entrance hall. He always tries to have intercourse with all new guests.

The Hotel: This is a family hotel, so children are very welcome. We of course are always pleased to accept adultery. Highly skilled nurses are available in the evenings to put down your children. Guests are invited to conjugate in the bar and expose themselves to others. But please note that ladies are not allowed to have babies in the bar. We organize social games, so no guest is ever left alone to play with them self.

The Restaurant: Our menus have been carefully chosen to be ordinary and unexciting. At dinner, our quartet will circulate from table to table, and fiddle with you.

Your Room: Every room has excellent facilities for your private parts. In winter, every room is on heat. Each room has a balcony offering views of outstanding obscenity! .. You will not be disturbed by traffic noise, since the road between the hotel and the lake is used only by pederasts.

Bed: Your bed has been made in accordance with local tradition. If you have any other ideas please ring for the chambermaid. Please take advantage of her. She will be very pleased to squash your shirts, blouses and underwear. If asked, she will also squeeze your trousers.

Above All: When you leave us at the end of your holiday, you will have no hope. You will struggle to forget it.

Bill Rawcliffe

Cooperesque

Bridget's Magic Circle event has reminded me of the sort of gags that Tommy Cooper used to include:

I went to buy some camouflage trousers the other day but I couldn't find any.

A man goes to the doctor, with a strawberry growing out of his head. The doctor says, "I'll give you some cream to put on it."

What do you call a fish with no eyes?
A fish!

Two elephants walk off a cliff.....
boom, boom!

Two Eskimos sitting in a kayak were chilly. They lit a fire in the craft, it sank, proving once and for all that you can't have your kayak and heat it.

My friend drowned in a bowl of muesli. A strong currant pulled him in.

Phone answering machine message -
"...If you want to buy marijuana, press the hash key..."

Two blondes walk into a building
You'd think at least one of them would have seen it.

I went to the butchers the other day and I bet him 50 quid that he couldn't reach the meat off the top shelf. He said, "No, the steaks are too high."

I went to a seafood disco last week
and pulled a muscle.

Our ice cream man was found lying on the floor of his van covered with hundreds and thousands. Police say that he topped himself.

Patient - "I can't stop singing The Green, Green Grass of Home"

Doctor - "It's Tom Jones syndrome."

Patient - "Is it common?"

Doctor - "It's not unusual."

You know, somebody actually complimented me on my driving today. They left a note on the windscreen. It said, 'Parking Fine', so that was nice.

Contranymy

A word that can mean the opposite of itself is a contranym, so here are some examples:

1. **Apology**: A statement of contrition for an action, or a defence of one.
2. **Aught**: All, or nothing.
3. **Bill**: A payment, or an invoice for payment.
4. **Bolt**: To secure, or to flee.
5. **Bound**: Heading to a destination, or restrained from movement.
6. **Buckle**: To connect, or to break or collapse.
7. **Cleave**: To adhere, or to separate.
8. **Clip**: To fasten, or detach.
9. **Consult**: To offer advice, or to obtain it.
10. **Continue**: To keep doing an action, or to suspend an action.
11. **Custom**: A common practice, or a special treatment.
12. **Dike**: A wall to prevent flooding, or a ditch.
13. **Discursive**: Moving in an orderly fashion among topics, or proceeding aimlessly in a discussion.
14. **Dollop**: A large amount (British English), or a small amount.
15. **Dust**: To add fine particles, or to remove them.
16. **Enjoin**: To impose, or to prohibit.
17. **Fast**: Quick, or stuck or made stable.
18. **Fine**: Excellent, or acceptable or good enough.
19. **Finished**: Completed, or ended or destroyed.
20. **First degree**: Most severe in the case of a murder charge, or least severe in reference to a burn.
21. **Fix**: To repair, or to castrate.
22. **Flog**: To promote persistently, or to criticize or beat.
23. **Garnish**: To furnish, as with food preparation, or to take away, as with wages.
24. **Give out**: To provide, or to stop because of a lack of supply.
25. **Go**: To proceed or succeed, or to weaken or fail.
26. **Grade**: A degree of slope, or a horizontal line or position.
27. **Handicap**: An advantage provided to ensure equality, or a disadvantage that prevents equal achievement.
28. **Help**: To assist, or to prevent or (in negative constructions) restrain.
29. **Hold up**: To support, or to impede.
30. **Lease**: To offer property for rent, or to hold such property.
31. **Left**: Remained, or departed.
32. **Let**: Allowed, or hindered.
33. **Liege**: A feudal lord, or a vassal.
34. **Literally**: Actually, or virtually.
35. **Mean**: Average or stingy, or excellent.
36. **Model**: An exemplar, or a copy.

37. **Off**: Deactivated, or activated, as an alarm.
 38. **Out**: Visible, as with stars showing in the sky, or invisible, in reference to lights.
 39. **Out of**: Outside, or inside, as in working out of a specific office.
 40. **Overlook**: To supervise, or to neglect.
 41. **Oversight**: Monitoring, or failing to oversee.
 42. **Peer**: A person of the nobility, or an equal.
 43. **Presently**: Now, or soon.
 44. **Put out**: Extinguish, or generate.
 45. **Puzzle**: A problem, or to solve one.
 46. **Quantum**: Significantly large, or a minuscule part.
 47. **Quiddity**: Essence, or a trifling point of contention.
 48. **Quite**: Rather (as a qualifying modifier), or completely.
 49. **Ravel**: To entangle, or to disentangle.
 50. **Refrain**: To desist from doing something, or to repeat.
 51. **Rent**: To purchase use of something, or to sell use.
 52. **Rock**: An immobile mass of stone or figuratively similar phenomenon, or a shaking or unsettling movement or action.
 53. **Sanction**: To approve, or to boycott.
 54. **Sanguine**: Confidently cheerful, or bloodthirsty.
 55. **Scan**: To peruse, or to glance.
 56. **Screen**: To present, or to conceal.
 57. **Seed**: To sow seeds, or to shed or remove them.
 58. **Shop**: To patronize a business in order to purchase something, or to sell something.
 59. **Skin**: To cover, or to remove.
 60. **Skinned**: Covered with skin, or with the skin removed.
 61. **Splice**: To join, or to separate.
 62. **Stakeholder**: One who has a stake in an enterprise, or a bystander who holds the stake for those placing a bet.
 63. **Strike**: To hit, or to miss in an attempt to hit.
 64. **Table**: To propose (in British English), or to set aside.
 65. **Temper**: To soften, or to strengthen.
 66. **Throw out**: To dispose of, or to present for consideration.
 67. **Transparent**: Invisible, or obvious.
 68. **Trim**: To decorate, or to remove excess from.
 69. **Trip**: A journey, or a stumble.
 70. **Unbending**: Rigid, or relaxing.
 71. **Variety**: A particular type, or many types.
 72. **Wear**: To endure, or to deteriorate.
 73. **Weather**: To withstand, or to wear away.
 74. **Wind up**: To end, or to start up.
 75. **With**: Alongside, or against.
- English must be extremely difficult for a foreigner to understand, but why is it no longer taught properly in our schools? Why are spelling mistakes not corrected any more? My English teacher told our class never use a preposition to end a sentence with! It was so ridiculous that everyone laughed out loud! Those were the days!

Bill Rawcliffe

Farewell Teddington Studios Commemorative Lunch

So, finally, Teddington Studios did get the commemorative event it thoroughly deserved!

In spite of the politics surrounding the celebrations of its existence, in the end, thanks to ARTS, we did have an official occasion to be proud of!

Teddington was, of course, the only site left following the merger between ABC TV and Rediffusion and became, very much, a symbol of that amalgamation.

This lunch was, without a doubt, a nostalgic, highly enjoyable, entertaining and hugely successful occasion.

This was due to so many people, including all attendees and, in particular, to Hazel Earle and Peter Turl who "fronted" the whole event - (Earle & Turl...even sounds like a double act!) and who, in liaison with Kate, the Functions Manager at Imber Court, decided on menu options, colour choice and who should sit at which table.

These details were amalgamated into a spreadsheet by Bill Rawcliffe who, considering his heavy involvement with the ITV 60 get-together later this year, worked wonders printing out and laminating menu choices backing onto a list of those present at each table, as well as printing the individual place name cards which contained each attendee's menu choices (so that there could be no arguments!). Bill was also involved with the "Memorabilia Tables" in the welcoming Bar area and many of the articles thereon plus the four large pictures located below the big screen above the stage.

Alan Cross prepared the continuous running video slide presentation for the large screen, the table number print-outs (each with a different programme series title which were made at Teddington) and the ABC/Thames TV logo which adorned the balloons which Judi McCormack organised for the tables. Inès White made the splendid floral table arrangements.

Our thanks to them all.

David Hamilton was, of course, our guest of honour and after ARTS Chairman, Alan Herbert's opening speech, he spoke humorously and lovingly of his long association with Thames TV, neatly including his personal reminiscences of many of the production staff present.

Finally Bernard Burke, who started from virtually day one at ABC Didsbury, rounded off the proceedings by thanking everyone present for their support and attendance at this very special occasion.

A very nostalgic day, shared by so many colleagues and friends.

RIP TEDDINGTON STUDIOS!

YOUR CONTRIBUTION TO ITV HAS BEEN ENORMOUS.

Steve Minchin

Editor's Note: All pictures of this event were taken by my Sound Department mate, Peter O'Toole, and there are 136 of his pictures on the ARTS website.



Earle & Turl - the double act!



Steve Minchin's table listening to David Hamilton's speech.



Balloons showing double-sided artwork by Alan Cross



Earle & Turl setting up



Inès' Flowers & Alan's Artwork

Farewell Teddington Studios Commemorative Lunch



Alan Herbert delivers his opening speech after the lunch



David Hamilton & Bernard Burke on the Top Table listen to Alan Herbert



The Kaleidoscope TV recording crew in the background



Lively chatter in the Reception/Bar area prior to lunch



Just one item on the Memorabilia Table!



Table 1



Table 5 - The Sound Department Table



Table 8

Farewell Teddington Studios Commemorative Lunch



David Hamilton acknowledges a past colleague!



Bernard Burke responds to David's speech



Alan Cross, Mick Davidson & Brian Croney admire the tables of memorabilia



Hazel & Peter with Alan Herbert while Alan Cross sets up his slide show



Brian Croney gets further along the memorabilia



WARTS (Walkers in ARTS Table.)



Some of the memorabilia

Teddington Staff Reunion



Terry Foster, my ex colleague from the print room at Thames TV Teddington, and myself, were discussing the sad news that the Studios were to be demolished to make way for luxury flats. Many ex Thames Staff (including ourselves) are heartbroken that the site is being razed to the ground. Some had 2 generations of their family working there up until the early 1990s, and they dedicated their lives to Thames Television, so the studios held treasured memories for many. These people helped to put the studios on the map in the first place and they treated it like their second home.

With this in mind, we contacted Pinewood Studios and Haymarket Publishing in the hope that they would understand some compassion and let us arrange for ex-Teddington employees to have one last peep inside before the buildings disappear, but it wasn't to be - as our pleas weren't acknowledged!

About mid November 2014, Terry and myself decided that we just couldn't allow Thames Television to be forgotten so easily, and came up with the idea of a Reunion Party. But, if we couldn't hold it in the studios, then we would hold it as close to the studios as possible, which is where The Anglers stepped in.

We decided it would be best to allow the dust to settle after the Christmas rush and agreed that Saturday the 17th of January would be the perfect day.

I started out by contacting ex-Thames staff that I still kept up with by email and on Facebook. Initially Terry and myself thought that we would probably get around 50 people interested, but, then, the networking started, the word spread, and it snowballed, then the snowball turned into an avalanche, the end result was that just over 400 ex-Thames Staff and celebrities were all anxious to attend. Alan and Jan Norman travelled all the way from Cyprus and others travelled from Spain, Gibraltar, Italy and all over UK.

The management of The Anglers were extremely hospitable, helpful and accommodating. We started off booking the upstairs function room, but our numbers were changing by the day. Terry made many journeys back and forth to The Anglers to meet up with the management and confirm our requirements. However, by Christmas, it was agreed that the whole pub would be closed to the public at 5pm on Saturday the 17th of January 2015, in order to host our reunion party, but most of the furniture would have to be moved out and 4 security doormen would be manning the front and back doors in order keep the evening

exclusively for ex-Thames Television staff and celebrities.

On the actual evening ex-Thames TV cameramen, sound men, producers, directors, editors, vision mixers, graphic designers, print room staff, photographers, writers, floor managers, props & scenes guys, P.A.s, make-up/wardrobes artists, office workers, tradesmen, catering, security, cleaners, Rod, Jane, Freddy, Geoffrey, George, Zippy, Mr. Spoon and his family from Button Moon, and many more, met at 6pm in front of the studios for a photo shoot (see above), and held a massive personalised 'Thames Television' banner designed and organised by Graham Walker.

The upstairs function room in The Anglers was a viewing room on the night, where guests watched out-takes from over the years of Thames TV programmes plus show-reels of the studios, which had many familiar faces of ex colleagues (thanks to the combined efforts of Terry Foster, Darren Foster, Graham Walker and Ray Gearing for making this happen). Director Paul Kirrage suggested we had a photo board, so we invited guests to bring along copies of old pics. We supplied the boards and the Blu Tack. This was a big success - the viewing room was a sea of old nostalgic photos of 'Days Gone By' at Thames TV.

Teddington Staff Reunion



Organisers - Terry Foster and Avril Saunders

Downstairs, in the pub itself, the walls were echoing with reminiscences, happiness and lots of laughter from ex-Thames TV staff & celebs, including Michael Groth (Splash presenter) & Mick Robertson (from Magpie).

'Nark Drool and the Shudders' shook the house and got the party going. Thank you to Aidan Boulter, Pete Crossland and the others in the band for supporting our reunion evening. Pete sang a moving eulogy, written by himself, for colleagues no longer with us. Terry's business partner, Craig, manned the disco and kept the theme going with his excellent taste in music while guests danced the night away.

Messages wishing us a wonderful evening were read out from Des O'Connor, Julie McKenzie, Judith Chalmers, Brian Murphy and his wife Linda Regan, Les Dawson's widow, Tracy (& daughter Charlotte)), Brian Tesler, Jim Davidson, Ted Robbins, Nino Ferrito, Steve Gunn, Shirley Teece, Malcolm Lord (Bungle), Emma Chisholm from the catering office & Emily Merrett in Sydney (ex The Bill).

A nominal charge of £5 was collected per person to cover the cost of a hog roast and finger buffet, plus expenses incurred.

Since that special evening, my emails and Facebook message section have been jammed with hundreds of congratulations and thank you messages for Terry and myself. We understand that mini-reunions are now being organised by many who hadn't seen each other for over 20 years and have now vowed to keep in touch.



Rod, Jane & Freddy



Zippy with Neil Stinchcombe & Ronnie Le Drew

Just to conclude, Terry and myself couldn't have managed without our band of helpers and volunteers, Graham Walker, Aidan Boulter, Pete Crossland, Ray Gearing, Raymond Drummie (who was there to help with everything and anything on the night), press photographer Martin Spaven (who took all of the pictures in this article) with his assistant Jade, and all the lovely ladies, Francesca Unsworth (Frankie), Lyn Harvey, Sarah Perkins, Liz Hall, Nina Challenor for patiently checking all the guests in and issuing them with name labels, what a team!

Meanwhile, we have been pressurized into holding another reunion, so have penciled in Summer 2016!

Are we all ready to rock again for the 'Thamesalicious Summer Ball 2016'?

Best wishes, thanks to all who attended and made January the 17th 2015 a very special evening to remember.

Avril Saunders

Editor's Note:

Although this wasn't an ARTS event it certainly drew in an enormous number of ex-colleagues and we wish Terry and Avril well for their proposed Thamesalicious (oops!) Summer Ball.



Nark Drool & The Shudders entertain the crowd



Mick Robertson with Rolie Luker



Grant Feltham & Garry Wilkinson with Geoff Hayes, from Rainbow.



Mike Solomons enjoys a smile with Liz Day



The Hog Roast was much appreciated

Get Some In part 2

My time as a conscript in the R.A.F. (1957-1959)

This is the sequel to Michael's article in the last edition of AQ. Editor.

Basic training was over and we all had learned new skills like how to kill when all your weapons had expired and it was goodbye 'spit & polish' and farewell to 'if it moves salute it, if it does not move paint it'.

As we all had another year and nine months to go they needed to find us a job, (cheap labour) the Youth Training Scheme came later. None of us would have trained as pilots sadly. For me I was to become a telephonist, which I felt was a bit naff, but, to serve Queen and Country, I went to Compton Bassett, in Wiltshire for 3 weeks training. On my first day I had to install a field telephone, for goodness sake I had joined this supersonic, high tech R.A.F. or so I thought. I was then introduced to a PBX or Private Branch eXchange to give its full description, not your modern sophisticated equipment, no lights but doll's eyes that dropped down when your services were needed, then it was standard G.P.O. plugs and sockets, and even the extension to extension calls came through you. So this was it for the next 21 months.

On leaving Compton Bassett I had hoped to go to The Far East, oh well, nearly, it was to Norwich, Norfolk, at R.A.F. Coltishall which was a flying station with 24 Gloster Javelins - the R.A.F.'s first missile armed jet interceptor, and the only delta winged fighter. And, oh yes, the old Avro Anson that was used to transport the officers to other bases for cocktails. The Javelins were used to patrol the North Sea at night. We lived at Coltishall but worked at R.A.F. Neatishead which was a field with a football pitch, a couple of radar scanners, and a very large bungalow, that were all to cover what was really the entrance to a vast underground facility where up to 150 of us would be working. The a/c R.A.F. were plotted as they patrolled the North Sea

up to Scandinavia and on to the coast of the then U.S.S.R.

Strangely enough, when I was at Thames TV, there was a fire in the underground facility, that's when I discovered only one way in and the same way out, health and safety didn't seem to exist in the 1950s! Being a fully qualified telephonist at Coltishall was not a bad little number as there were 3 good things - you were classed as communications and, as such, you had this insignia of 2 lightning bolts held in a hand, this coupled with your marksman's insignia of crossed rifles that really impressed the girls, great icebreaker, not quite Top Gun though!

You would be doing shift work O.K. that meant that you were excused picket duty. I will explain - picket duty is patrolling the perimeter of the military facility at night, when you'd be armed with a pick axe handle, if you met an intruder you challenged with this "halt who goes there friend or foe"? Have you ever heard such a stupid question in your entire life? Rumour has it that a Warrant Officer, after an input of booze, was wandering and was challenged accordingly, he answered "WO"! He was lucky that the picket recognised him and did not take his head off. And finally you had undetectable access to monitor all calls, including extension to extension. What a bonus as we only had BBC 1 in those days, so this facility was the great source of entertainment. I had access to listen to all incoming calls even personal ones, all in the line of security you will understand! They were always the best, wives and girlfriends would ring, their beloved who would respond by saying how much pain they were in being parted, yeh right! So many spoke of their undying love, when you knew their affections were being catered for locally, but, as in communications, it was compulsory to sign the official secrets act, therefore I could only listen, for hours and hours. I could write a book.

I was now working alongside regular airmen; the R.A.F. was their career. Some had been involved in WW2, Korea, and the Suez Crisis, but there

was now a shift and the role of the armed forces had changed to counter a new threat, terrorism in Kenya, Malaya, and Cyprus. They are still doing the same today, just the venues are different.

I was enjoying my time in the east when Queen & Country decided it was time to move on, "go west" they said, "to Gloucester" for the remaining 14 months. The base was the Records Office for the whole of the R.A.F. And the shift pattern gave lots of free time. Day one, morning and evening, day two, afternoon and night, day off, and then repeated with three days off. The P.B.X. was an absolute monster which, at peak times, had 12 telephonists and with doll's eyes dropping left, right and centre it became very competitive to use all your plugs and get a rest! How sad is that? However, many more calls to monitor.

Some of my fellow airmen had served on Christmas Island in The Pacific Ocean where our atomic bombs were tested. It was nothing like the film South Pacific, watching the mushroom cloud left after the bombs exploded. with just land crabs for company and warm beer, it was no great surprise that some came back different (a little crazy). Others had done tours of duty in Cyprus and suffered from what they had witnessed from terrorist activity. There were only two incidences that affected me. The first, one of our Gloster Javelins was lost at sea with no survivors, the other, which happened several times to my brothers in arms was when they received, in the post, a 'Dear John' - which is a letter from the love of your life when you went away to serve Queen & Country. But now they had found someone new and you darling are history! In so many cases, teenage romance and conscription were not compatible, and hopes and dreams were shattered because, sometimes, absence did not always make the heart grow fonder! On the plus side a great excuse to get together and not celebrate but get well and truly er..... Inebriated!

Generally we had a lot of practical jokes and laughs. Sometimes you would get back from the evening shift

Get Some In part 2 (continued)

and something would be missing like your bed! Where the heck could it have gone? All was revealed when you went outside and discovered that it was on the roof of the hut! Ha, ha, but they helped you get it down eventually. The power of threatening to use a fire extinguisher on them certainly helped.

One of the guys liked to drink and would always ask "Bring me back a sandwich when you come off the evening shift". He showed very little appreciation for this service, so, when asked the next day "How was your sandwich?" his response was just a grunt, with no gratitude at all. So, a plan was hatched one night. We came back with a speciality, a unique gourmet sandwich, in the morning we asked "How was your sandwich?" Absolutely no response! Clearly he had never tasted the gourmet delights of a baked bean and custard sandwich, what a Neanderthal! It was my first redundancy as he never asked again.

One of the guys had a motor bike, a very powerful one, and, one day, he asked "Fancy a little spin?" I had never had a pillion ride before so surely I was not expected to put my arms round his waist! Off he shot at great speed and I got left behind sitting on the seat of my pants in the middle of the road. Happy days! We would go to Stroud swimming pool which was 'the place to be'. Once, coming off the night shift, Taffy Thomas said "Fancy a day out?" Off we went to Worcester for a round of golf, lunch, then the cinema followed by going to Wolverhampton to see the football, it was a great day, except, on the drive back, Taffy was driving all over the place, he had dozed off at the wheel, whilst, coming straight at us, was this massive lorry! I shouted "Taffy"! The lorry missed us by the thickness of a fag paper, but my shout had woken Taffy up. Undeterred he said "That was close boyo!" and we kept the windows open for the rest of the journey! It was a good day out though.

Taffy was an opportunist though, and one section of the Records Department was overseas posting. He wined and dined with a contact there, and, as a

result of his hospitality, he wangled a posting to Paris. Our supervisor, Sergeant Jeffries (who had served on Christmas Island) sat behind us telephonists watching for a certain doll's eye to drop. He immediately monitored the call which was an officer (a squadron leader) who enjoyed gambling on the horse racing, and had an account with the local bookmaker (betting shops did not exist then). Jeffries assumed, because he was an officer and had been to university, he had some kind special knowledge. Wrong - they were both mugs.

Back in the 50s it was Russia that was the problem, and the space race had just started. They and the U.S.A. had plenty of atomic weaponry whilst the U.K. was in the middle. Rest in your beds folks we are here to defend you, except on Wednesday afternoon, when everyone was engaged in sporting activity! If only those Russians had known.

My time at Gloucester was fast running out. I was not one of those who had a demob chart with a square for every day from day one - 730 squares (or 731 if there was a leap year) and crossed them off day by day. My demob day was November the 5th. and I had no need for a daily reminder. About September I wondered what on earth is going on as we were issued with bedspreads and a choice of colour green, blue or pink. Had the R.A.F. gone soft or which politician had a vested interest in a bedspread business? Your guess! When it was time to leave, you left with a railway ticket (single of course) and your uniform, as you were officially now on the reserve list, just in case! I gave my boots to a man of the road outside Gloucester station, and my greatcoat became a fashion item when the Mods and Rockers started. My cousin was a Mod - so bang went my greatcoat.

When you were conscripted, by law, your job was secured. I worked for a publishing company and it was agreed, after conscription, they would train me as a printer, but, when I returned, they had changed their stance. That turned out to be a blessing in disguise as I

would never have met my wife and all you lovely people at the studios. About 5 years later, with a wife and young child, I came home from work only to find my wife greatly distressed as there was a letter for me from The Ministry of Defence which coincided with the Cuban missile crisis. The U.S.A. and Russia where on the brink against each other, rather like a game of poker except, this was for real! Kennedy verses Khrushchev. Who would stand down? Russian missiles to be based in Cuba! Very dodgy! Gladly, it was Khrushchev and WW3 never happened. I opened the letter with trepidation only to find it read "You are now off the reserve list". Glory be! I could get rid of that rubbish uniform and I have no idea where it went. Conscription was good for me, but, having lived all my life locally, I was not aware there was a North/South divide. For those in a career it was an inconvenience, but for those just out of university, they were pressurised to make a career in the armed forces. However, for economic reasons, the government decided to end conscription. No more compulsory discipline for all young men, and so, the swinging sixties was the replacement.

Maybe just 2 months compulsory discipline would have been better. None of us would like our children to go to the trouble spots, but compulsory discipline, however stupid, did work. As a late developer, there was a benefit. To only have to shave once a week when there was only cold water and a long wait for a vacant wash basin. My age of innocence also departed. I also put on 2 stones and grew 3 inches taller during my time in the R.A.F. In 1959 that was good, but now, as a member of ARTS, I have put on another 2 stones since leaving the studios! Not so good!

But I still know how to kill! How useful that would have been at some of the union/management encounters with which I was involved (both sides of course). No names, but you can speculate at your will.

*Ex-Senior Aircraftsman
Michael Davidson 5053937
& ex Thames TV Employee 1433
Both jobs were great.*

60 Years of ITV



On page 8 of the last edition of AQ was the article announcing that I am a member of a committee which hoped to hold a lunchtime gathering in London on the 22nd of September (precisely 60 years following the very first ITV transmitted programme) to celebrate those years, and, as you can see above, Alan Cross has kindly designed a logo for it consisting of a 4:3 grey, rounded corner section - representing the old black and white cathode ray tube TVs - and the wide-screen colour screen shape of today. Even the years go from black and white to colour! Very clever.

However, since November, things have moved on enormously. I've already received committed interest from 160 attendees (the maximum that the venue can hold) and have started a 'Reserve List' which will be 'actioned' in chronological order of applications!

The venue has been confirmed to be at London Studios on the South Bank of the River Thames. Fortunately, Director of Resources there, Kathy Shulz, is not charging for our use of the venue, which will mean that attendees will only have to pay for the food (probably buffet) and any other expenses incurred by organisers.

If you wish to be added to my 'Reserve List' you must remember that eligibility is limited (as it was for ITV40 & ITV50) to anyone who was a member of the staff of one of the **original** ITV companies between 1955 and 30/07/1968!

All that you need to do is send an email to me stating for which of those ITV companies you worked (and when), plus your 'snail-mail' address, landline phone number, and, if applicable, your mobile phone number. If you do not have an email address, please contact:

Lois Singer,

Phone:

Bill Rawcliffe

ARTS & High Tech!

The ARTS Committee has been swiftly transformed in its modus operandi because, since Alan Cross moved into his new home (see adjacent article), we have been using Skype so that he can be at home in Shoreham whilst taking a full part in the live ARTS Committee Meetings when they are taking place in Teddington. This also saves ARTS paying for his petrol costs to travel from the South Coast and back to attend in person, not to mention his loss of time doing the return trip.

The picture on the right shows Alan Cross on the big screen with my Android Tablet Computer directly below it, which is connected to the wi-fi in the upstairs Function Room at The Adelaide in Park Road. Not only that, but, after the Committee Meeting, we can enjoy the superb food at the location (except poor old Alan Cross)!

Bill Rawcliffe



Judi McCormack and Bridget Moore take notes (left) whilst Hazel Earle and our Chairman, Alan Herbert, look at the screen and I take the picture.

Cross Country

Alert readers may have noticed that the details on page 2 of ARTS Quarterly (AQ) regarding Alan Cross have changed during the last year.

In December 2014 he and Eileen were still living in Wokingham, but, soon afterwards, his house was sold and they used rented accommodation in Partridge Green (Sussex) whilst they sought their 'dream home' in Sussex.

Eventually, they moved into their delightful thatched dwelling (Adur Cottage) located in Shoreham-by-Sea as denoted on page 2 of the Winter 2014/15 edition of AQ and pictured Below.

The thatched part of the house is circa 1780, and the extension was built 200 years later in 1980! The two halves actually work very well together - the extension is larger by far, so it's a bit like the Tardis once inside. It's in a Conservation Area, two miles from the sea and two minutes from the downs, but, most importantly for Alan & Eileen, most of their children, and all of their grandchildren, are 5-15 minutes away (near but not too near!)

I gather that archaeological finds at Adur Cottage have included 16th century pottery within the wattle & daub plasterwork, so maybe there's been a property here for around half a millennium!

Bill Rawcliffe



Adur Cottage-thatched at the front but tiled rear



Rural Life Centre

Provisional plans are well in hand for ARTS to run a coach trip to the largest country life collection in the South of England at Tilford.

Apart from the Old Kiln Light Railway (which only runs on Sundays), there are some 28 attractions, as shown on the right, and, on our provisional date of the 21st of June (the longest day), there will, almost certainly, be an added attraction which occurs on most Sundays at this most interesting venue.

When Jean and I last visited I spied a Cyclomaster Wheel, which was my very first mechanised transport (all 25/32cc of it)! We saw a Hoover Keymatic automatic washing machine (which was our first after getting married in 1964). Not only that, but a Hotpoint 'Top-Loader' that we also owned later.

The prefab reminded me of the one in which my Grandma used to live with her three sons - my uncles - with all of the furniture & equipment of the fifties.

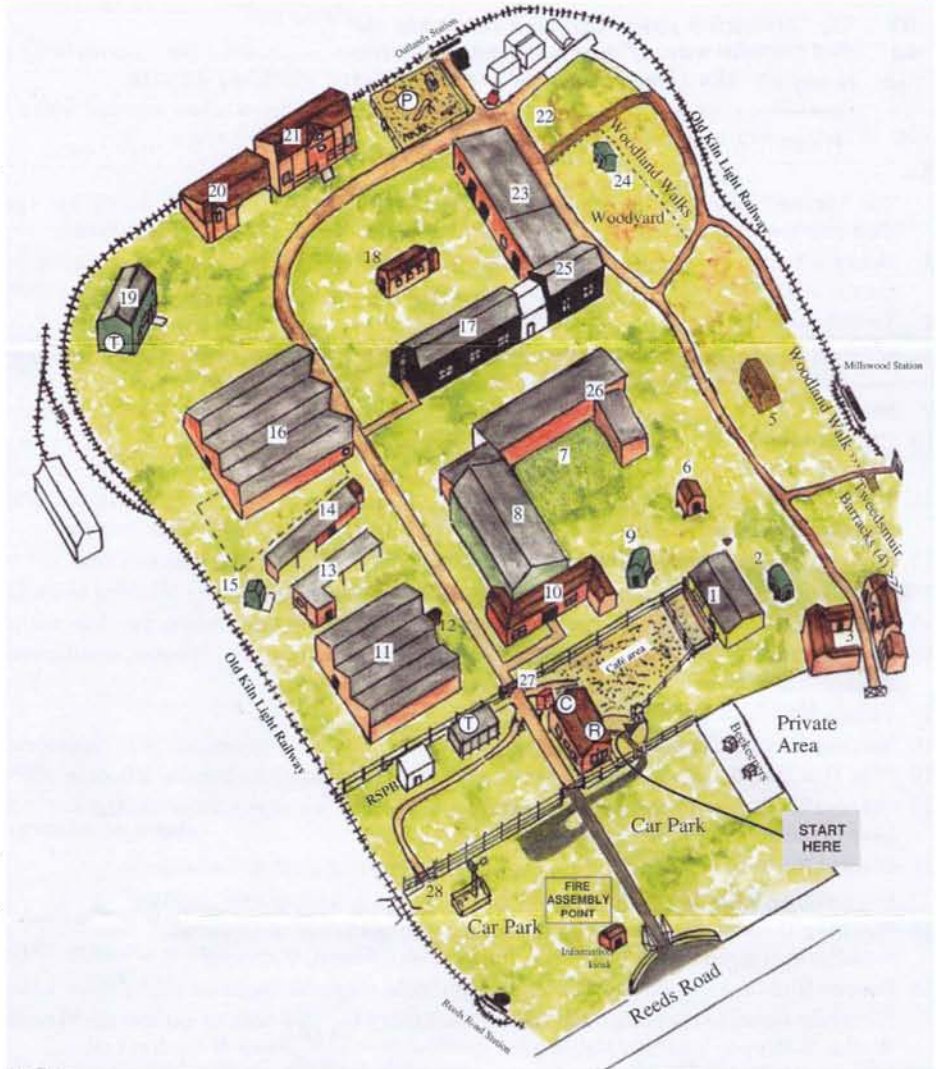
I'm sure that perusing around the many and varied exhibits here, members will be reminded of the cherished days of their youth - when a tablet was something that the doctor prescribed rather than a hand-held computer!

The Old Kiln Café serves excellent tea, coffee, home-made cakes and light lunches, but you may prefer to take your own picnic along to eat somewhere around the 10 acre site.

Hopefully, the weather will be warm and sunny, but, if it isn't, there's plenty of interest in all of the buildings.

We may even have time for the coach to visit Frensham Ponds (which are only a mile away) on the way back to Teddington. Put the date in your diary now as it is virtually certain!

Bill Rawcliffe



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Bill Rawcliffe

- 1-Arcon Prefab & Stanton shelter shed.
- 2-Gypsy caravan.
- 3-Iron Furnace, Forge, 1900s & 1930s.
- 4-Tweedsmuir Barracks.
- 5-"Smudgers" holiday chalet.
- 6-Granary.
- 7-Wagon Gallery.
- 8-Gibbs Building-Ransome Collection.
- 9-Shepherd's hut.
- 10-Churt Building.
- 11-Tilford Building.
- 12-Anderson Shelter.
- 13-Plough Gallery.
- 14-Hand Tools, Brick Carver & Agricultural Machinery.
- 15-Victorian Laundry.
- 16-Frencham Building.
- 17-Village Hall from Lindford.
- 18-Chapel from Eashing.
- 19-School Building from The Bourne.
- 20-"Madge's" Wagon Shed.
- 21-Pavillion from Godalming.
- 22-Village Garage.
- 23-Engineering & Carpentry.
- 24-Woodyard & Living Van.
- 25-Bourne Building.
- 26-Machinery Galleries.
- 27-Telephone Kiosk & Post Box.
- 28-Water Pump Display.

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Outside Broadcast Memories



I was saddened to hear of the death of Doug Rowland. All of us in Outside Broadcasts will have happy memories of his professionalism as an OB Engineering Manager “par excellence” and of his friendship.

He planned all of my State Occasions. Charles and Diana’s Wedding. The Duke of York’s Wedding. The Queen Mother’s 80th Birthday Celebrations, and Pope John-Paul’s Mass at Westminster Cathedral, where, not only did he have to cope with me, but also with the BBC, as we were Pool Coverage. I have just looked at his Planning Sheet for the latter - all 14 pages of it. ‘Mind blowing’.

Many were the miles we walked together along the processional routes to ensure no one had built an office block on a camera position!

The attached photograph shows (left to right) - myself, my wife (Sheila), Noreen (Doug’s wife), and Doug himself on our way to attend a garden party after the wedding of the Prince of Wales.

Jim Pople

Time to Reflect!

Ignoring your conscience allows you to justify anything.

Surrender is having the vision to see the damage your pride could cause you.

Jealousy... the inability to share in another’s joy.

Greet criticism by asking “How does that help me?”

Understanding is a warrior who has never lost a fight or defeated an opponent

You will let go in death what you think you can’t in life, so why wait?

When a dream joins forces with an intention, the result is a reality.

A great place to meet is on equal terms.

Dark clouds are sunbeam makers.

Legality before morality = brutality.
Morality before brutality = compassion.

Why lend what you can afford to give?

In Memoriam



John Day
Scenes Department
Thames TV, Teddington

Ann Leno
Film Editor
Thames TV, Euston & Teddington

Andy Michaelidis
Film Editor
Associated-Rediffusion
LWT & Thames TV

Michael (aka Joe) O’Brien
Maintenance Electrician
Thames TV, Euston.

Doug Rowland
Engineering Manager
Thames TV, Hanworth OBs

Liz Sadler
Casting (Associated-Rediffusion)
Casting Director with Thames TV
Teddington

Doris Scott
Personnel Department
Thames TV, Teddington.

Dave Thornewill
Technical Supervisor
Associated-Rediffusion+Thames TV

Paul Wheeler
Chargehand Electrician (Studio)
Thames TV, Teddington

Our dear friends and colleagues



Mailbox



Re: Commemorative Lunch

Dear Hazel,

I apologise if I am addressing the wrong person, but, if so.. maybe you'll pass it on. However I am so sorry to hear of the destruction of dear old 'Teddies', especially at my old age (now 98) and therefore unable to attend the Commemorative Lunch. The more so as I must be one of the few who actually worked at the old film studio building in my early ABC days, before it was set up for TV.

I used the old 'stage', split down the middle by just a curtain, to rehearse two shows at a time, prior to them moving to Didsbury studio productions - for the week-end Transmission.

Rehearsing under those conditions, albeit better for being in West London, I have memories of the two Directors shouting at each other through the curtain division, to "keep the noise down" etc.

Best wishes to you and all at the Special Lunch.

Leonard White

Member of:

Royal Television Society.
Directors Guild of Great Britain.
English Speaking Union.
British Academy of Film & Television ARTS.
Equity.
Alexandra Palace Television Society.

Dear Alan,

Just a note to thank you for such a splendid lunch on Wednesday. A nice venue, excellent food, efficiently served, good company and good entertainment!

The most important part was the planning and organisation beforehand. Everything ran smoothly, at a leisurely pace and was obviously enjoyed.

Well done and thank you.

Bruce Goddard

Dear Alan,

I much enjoyed the lunch for the 'End of Teddington' last week. It was a marvellous occasion and all the memorabilia which was displayed and the slides screened during the meal brought back a lot of old memories. Those who organised it are to be thanked and congratulated.

One sadness was the fact that many of those who were instrumental in converting the old Warner Brother's film studios to the great TV production centre it became were not able to be there. Bernard Greenhead brought in Howard Steele from Marconi and he formed and led the group which designed and built the Technical Block with so many original features that it became a standard which was followed in many parts of the world, as well as the UK. With the beginning of solid state electronics he also started a laboratory under Stuart Sansom which used that latest technology to design and build much of the switching systems in the new CAR.

After Howard left to join the ITA, the further development of the site was mainly master-minded by Phil Berkeley, along with the company's architects, the Ware MacGregor Partnership. They created the new scene dock, scene construction, scenic artists' area, wardrobe and make up areas, canteen, car park and additional office accommodation.

It was the ultimate development on the site devoted to the manufacture of TV programmes.

What a pity that all that work is to be scrapped; what a pity that Thames TV lost its franchise; and what a pity that death has robbed us of those people who did so much for ABC, Thames and the TV industry. Fortunately we were able to meet many others who have not passed away and who made their contributions to a magnificent studio centre.

Brian Scott

Dear Bill,

I would like to say a very big thank you to all the Arts Committee, especially Hazel Earle, for all the great organisation to make this 'Special Commemorative Luncheon' the great success that it undoubtedly was.

I found David Hamilton's history of where he had worked in the past, fascinating, and what had become of those companies. It seems that we both have left a trail of destruction in our wake! Even the BBC's Television Centre is to be destroyed, and it was the licence payers money which paid for its construction, and where has all that public money gone?

At times, this ephemeral world that we all inhabited, in our dream factories, seems to have a greater tangibility than the real world about us. Certainly all the great creative times we had in the 'dream factories' where we delighted in working together to make great productions of art, drama, music, documentary, etc.

I looked forward to going to work, every day of my life, and I cherish all the great friendships that it has given me.

So very, very, many thanks 'ARTS' for giving us a moment to reflect, and capture some of the wonder of our past working lives.

Dick and Jean Hibberd

Even More Mailbox



Farewell Teddington Studios Party at The Anglers (17/01/2015)

Hi Avril,

Really great party last night - all those faces from over 20 years ago.

Thank you for organising

A few people suggested - how about repeating this annually a few weeks after Xmas as long as there are enough of us around.

Regards,

David Harvey

Pam Jarvis - Copper Leaf Memorial

Dear Alan,

Please can you extend my thanks to ARTS members for the donation to Princess Alice Hospice in Mum's memory? I had a copper leaf engraved and hung in their memory garden on the 27th of February.

Thank you also for the kind obituary in the ARTS magazine. Please could I have a copy?

*Alexa Richardson
(as well as Colin, Elena & Kristian)*

Editor's Note:

A copy of the Winter 2014/15 edition of ARTS Quarterly has been sent to Alexa and family.

IT's not Fair!

Dear Editor,

Two events reported in the current AQ were not ARTS events - the Anti-Pinewood Gathering on 11 December which you organised at the Anglers pub, and the Teddington Staff Reunion organised by Avril Saunders and Terry Foster on 17 January, also at the Anglers.

Both these events were publicised via the internet (courtesy of your database of ARTS members and non-members), and from those without computers I hear shouts of "I would have liked to have gone to one of those - why didn't someone tell me - it's not fair!"

Well, life isn't fair, is it? Like it or not, communication these days is via the internet, and if you won't join in then you'll miss out. Get a friend to help you buy a computer, then Google IT (internet technology) to find a local teacher and learn the basics of sending and receiving emails. It's not that difficult - school children do it all the time. It will probably cost you two or three hundred pounds - you may or not think it's worth it. But I hope to see you at future non-ARTS events!

Bridget Moore

Churchill's Funeral 50 Years Ago

In the week leading up to Sir Winston Churchill's death, I was one of the outside broadcast directors spending much time in the Redifusion Scanner in Hyde Park Gate waiting daily for statements from Lord Moran, Churchill's Doctor, with news of his condition.

There was the usual media attendance including American Television. One day, on opening a window, right below me, was Walter Cronkite recording a piece to camera. The voice was instantly recognisable as he intoned "It was as if the Angel of Death stood at the foot of the bed and the Great Man said - No, not yet!"

The five hour transmission of the funeral itself, which was superbly produced and directed from TVH Studio 9 by Peter Morley, and for which he won the CIRAD award, presented by ORTF (French Television) for the best Outside Broadcast. It was the first time we beat the BBC in direct competition. The BBC did not even finish in the first ten, and their chagrin was deepened when Peter also won the Guild of TV Producers and Directors Trophy (later BAFTA) for best OB.

My contribution on the day was the unit at Tower Pier. On the morning of the rehearsal it was snowing. Before anything was visible came the sound of the slow marching footsteps of the Naval personnel pulling the gun carriage down Tower Hill with a lone piper playing "Flowers Of The Forest." It was quite spine chilling.

Of the day itself, my abiding memory is of the bearer party passing along Tower Pier, when cameraman Bill Metcalf performed a slow zoom into a big close up of the words "Honi Soit Qui Mai Y Pense" on the Garter, lying on the top of the coffin. Brilliant! So, it was a privilege to have been a small part of that momentous January day.

Jim Pople

Dear Bill,

I collect and archive the music of JERRY ALLEN AND HIS TRIO who were with ATV at the Alpha studios in Aston Birmingham for over eight years as well as at London venues. I have the full blessing of all the musicians and their families.

I'd like to contact anyone who was with ATV in 1955 - 1964 so that I can ask them about the many thousands of shows the band were involved with. I've had some success with this but could you ask any members of ARTS who can assist me to contact me or I will get in touch with them?

Roger Hooper

Editor's note: Please contact me and I'll email your details to Roger.