



# NEWSREEL

THE NEWSLETTER OF  
THE BRITISH FEDERATION OF FILM SOCIETIES



**August 2008 ~ Edition**

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## **Welcome**

Welcome to the August e-edition of NewsReel.

The popcorn pops, the ice creams melt and the programmes rustle - it's the start of a brand new autumn season.

Be the FIRST to tread the red carpet at the BFFS National Conference and Film Society of the Year Awards.

**Follow this link:** [http://www.bffs.org.uk/Content/advice\\_and\\_support/bffs\\_national%20\\_conference.html](http://www.bffs.org.uk/Content/advice_and_support/bffs_national%20_conference.html)

## **BFFS National News**

### **BFFS Announces New Board Members**

We are pleased to announce a series of new appointments to our Board. Each appointment will run for three years.

- **Julianne Crothers-Gibson, BFFS Chair;** Director of Policy Development, Northern Ireland Screen
- **Donna Anton, BFFS Vice-Chair;** editor and business executive, Secretary to Penwith Film Society, Penzance, Cornwall
- **Dr Richard Grayson, BFFS Vice-Chair;** foreign correspondent, lecturer and writer at Oxford University
- **Jim Dempster, BFFS Treasurer;** BFI Royalties Manager, member of London Socialist Film Co-op
- **Roger Drury;** community arts worker and media consultant for SOUNDWORK based in the Forest of Dean
- **Claire Elliott;** PhD student at University of Sheffield, Senior Projectionist at Sheffield Film Unit
- **Alan Knowles;** creative and cultural development consultant based in Scotland
- **Adrian Pickering;** project manager and lecturer at University of Southampton, Treasurer to The Phoenix (Southampton Film Theatre)

**David Miller outgoing Chair of the BFFS says:** *I'm delighted that the recruitment process attracted candidates of such high calibre and wide-ranging experience, and such obvious enthusiasm for the community exhibition sector. Under their direction I'm certain BFFS will continue to flourish.*

**Julianne Crothers-Gibson, new Chair of BFFS comments:** *I am thrilled at my appointment to the position of BFFS Chair. David will be a difficult act to follow, but it will be an honour to serve with such a distinguished and experienced Board. I will relish the challenges ahead, as together we move forward to build on the already excellent achievements of the BFFS across the UK.*

The appointments were made after a nationwide recruitment process. Board members comprise those directly appointed and those elected by BFFS Members. The appointments do not attract remuneration but Board members may claim reasonable travel and subsistence.

## BFFS National Conference

The second National Conference for Film Societies and Community Cinemas will take place on the weekend of **Saturday 27 and Sunday 28 September** at the Showroom Cinema and the Cutlers' Hall, Sheffield.

*Here's a taste of what's on offer:*

- Facilitated Networking
- Training and Information Sessions
- Q&As with Expert Speakers
- Introduced Film Screenings
- Director Q&As
- Seminars and workshops
- BFFS AGM

*...and a special programme of evening events on Saturday 27 September*

- Welcome Reception
- Film Society of the Year Awards Ceremony
- Special Guest Presenter
- Annual Dinner
- Networking and Photo opportunities



**WALLFLOWER PRESS**  
CINEMA AND THE MOVING IMAGE

Enjoy excellent company, delicious food and a complimentary glass of fizz, courtesy of Awards sponsors **Wallflower Press** in a magnificent setting as we come together to celebrate the excellence that volunteers achieve in cultural and community cinema.

We are delighted to announce that limited bursaries to attend the event are being offered by our colleagues at Northern Film and Media and Screen West Midlands. Delegates in North East England and the West Midlands should contact:



contact: roxy@northernmedia.org



contact: emma.bangham@screenwm.co.uk

More information and a full programme will be available shortly.

**You can download a booking form and more information about the event here:**

**[http://www.bffs.org.uk/Content/advice\\_and\\_support/bffs\\_national%20\\_conference.html](http://www.bffs.org.uk/Content/advice_and_support/bffs_national%20_conference.html)**

## Industry News

### UK Film Council Statistical Yearbook

Facts at your fingertips - the Exhibition Chapter (Chapter 9) of the recently published Statistical Yearbook provides a comprehensive and in-depth analysis of community cinema exhibition across the UK. You can read more here: <http://rsu.ukfilmcouncil.org.uk/>

### Tartan Films Closes

It has been announced that the British distributor Tartan Films has gone into Administration. The Tartan film catalogue, which included titles such as 'Funny Games' and 'Old Boy' could be booked via the BFI (DVD) and Winstone Distributors (35mm). Film bookers should be aware that for the foreseeable future these films will not be available. We will keep you updated as further information emerges.

### Filmbank Survey their Customers

We understand that, prompted by BFFS, Filmbank have started surveying their film society and community cinema customers regarding two issues: the feasibility of providing films by secure digital download over the internet, and online payment of invoices by credit and debit card.

Generally BFFS see this as a positive step forward by Filmbank that will address many ongoing issues regarding the current operating system. But we'd like to know what you think – please send us copies of your replies to Filmbank so we can take account of your views in our further advocacy across the industry. No doubt new issues

will arise with the introduction of new technologies and payment systems, but we believe the opportunities offered will ultimately outweigh any initial teething problems.

### **BFI Archives on Youtube**

The BFI are now making a selection of archive films available to view FREE on Youtube. The 150 films, which go back to 1896, are from a collection that was originally digitised for the BFI's South Bank Mediatheque, thanks to a generous grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund. To take a look go to link <http://uk.youtube.com/user/BFIfilms>

## **Regional News**

### **NEW Equipment Fund from Scottish Screen**

Scottish Screen has launched a new 300,000 Digital Projection Equipment Fund to help fit-out cinemas, multi-art spaces and other venues in rural and remote areas of Scotland with equipment to enable them to project films digitally. A further 100,000 is available through HI~Arts for smaller scale organisations such as **community groups and film societies**.

The recent introduction of high definition digital projection technologies offers both improved quality of image and much increased programming flexibility.

To complement the launch of the Digital Projection Equipment Fund, Scottish Screen is also making available a digital cinema resource, Tentpoles and Pixels, to help people understand more fully the changing cinema landscape and what the benefits and challenges are.

The aim of the resource is to provide a general overview of the issues involved in developing and running a modern cinema. Particular focus is on the local and independent cinema sectors, including multi-use venues such as arts centres and community businesses. However, it will also be of interest to film societies, mobile cinema operators, and film festivals.

For details on eligibility, how to apply or to download Tentpoles and Pixels go to [www.scottishscreen.com/digitalprojection](http://www.scottishscreen.com/digitalprojection) for small grants, go to [www.hi-arts.co.uk](http://www.hi-arts.co.uk).

## **Information and Offers**

### **Block Booking Scheme – New Titles**

A series of fantastic new titles will be announced and previewed at the BFFS National Conference 2008.

### **Arrow Titles Extension**

This collection of cinematic classics has proved so popular that the agreement has been extended. The films are now available for booking to 31 December 2009. For a list of the Arrow films and the rest of the films available on the Block Booking Scheme go to: <http://bffs.futurate.com/>

## **BFFS Interactive**

### **Bury St Edmunds FS - Free 16mm Projector**

16mm Film Equipment free to BFFS Member or film enthusiast: projectors, projection booth, 'scope screen, all-inclusive. For further details please contact [info@bffs.org.uk](mailto:info@bffs.org.uk)

### **Heartland Film Society – Film Festival**

Heartland Film Society in Aberfeldy, Perthshire have announced their second Annual Film Festival. This year's festival is themed 'Made in Scotland' will take place on the 24/25/26 October. The festival will feature introduced screenings, the Palme Dewar Award for best festival short, food, drink and film fans galore – go to: [www.heartlandfilmsociety.org.uk](http://www.heartlandfilmsociety.org.uk)

## About BFFS Interactive

Do you.....

- want to buy, sell, or hire 2nd hand film equipment?
- want to screen a film but can't locate the distributor?
- know a handy tip that other organisations may benefit from?

E-mail us with your request and we'll post it here.

Please note that this service is exclusively for use by not-for-profit community cinema providers.

## For Your Consideration

### Full of Life - UK Older People's Day

The second UK Older People's Day aims to challenge outdated stereotypes by celebrating later life and the huge contribution older people make to their communities. This year's theme is all about bringing older and younger people together to strengthen local neighbourhoods and create better understanding.

If your Membership comprises older people or your organisation is involved in outreach work, eg with residential care homes then this is an excellent opportunity to showcase your work. Participating events and projects will be listed online, providing you with extra publicity both nationally and among your local community. It's also a good opportunity to be seen by Government.

You don't have to spend a lot of money coming up with a new idea; in many cases you will be able to utilise what you are already doing, whilst taking advantage of the extra publicity that comes from being part of a nationwide day.

If you are interested in getting involved go to: [http://www.dwp.gov.uk/opportunity\\_age/fullloflife/](http://www.dwp.gov.uk/opportunity_age/fullloflife/)

Source: *Voluntary Arts Network e-news*

## Dates for Your Diary

27-28	September	Sheffield	BFFS National Conference for Film Societies and Community Cinemas and Film Society of the Year Awards 2008
11	October	Belfast	BFFS/Northern Ireland Screen: Networking and Viewing Session
18	October	Bracknell	BFFS/Screen South: Networking and Viewing Session
26	October	tbc	BFFS South West: Viewing Session
08-10	November	Edinburgh	ICO Screening Days
05-08	December	Scarborough	BFFS Yorkshire: Film Education Weekend

## Get in Touch

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