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BRITISH ENTERTAINMENT HISTORY PROJECT
Bulletin no 11

15 Oct 2021

Dear all

We are pleased to announce that Will Wyatt, former Director of Television at the BBC has joined Sir Sydney as our second honorary member.

Update from the chair

You will be pleased to hear that Mike has fully recovered from Covid, We are continuing to review and check the state of interviews in our collection.

Jez Stewart of the BFI is organising an interview with animator Barrie Merritt Martin Smith will be interviewing producer Peter Williams in the near future

Items on the not digitised list, MS commented that

13 - no solution

537 and 546 were HDCam and he was seeking a company who could transfer

599 - Bob Geoghan would remove feature film clips

- Update by Chair

Otter/Kaldi transcription comparison with Denis Main Wilson intv; Both very similar in accuracy, but Otter seemed preferable as it recognises and identifies voices and adds time code at regular intervals. This to be discussed with Rob Cooper of BBC R&D who developed Kaldi and are interested to make comparisons

ACTION: SM to arrange a zoom with Rob after meeting with Ben Jackson

A meeting with Ben Thomas re the website and related matters to be arranged by MD. Then any issues arising to be discussed with Alison of Redport.

ACTION: SM to set up zoom with Alison, MD and EB following the meeting with Ben.

Uploading of interviews eg Pat Norrish has been done following Andrew Dawson delivering interview to MD; 37 Francis Searle uploaded; 73 Bob Dunbar audio issues resolved and missing sides uploaded ; recent recording 801 Barrie Merritt to be uploaded

ACTION: SM to send thanks to Barrie and Jez (interviewer)

Access to Clapham to refile returned tapes is unlikely for some time.

The article for the Veteran was delivered to Allen Eyles

ACTION: DS to telephone AE

HMRC reporting requirements were still problematic despite MD writing to them in Nov 2019 explaining our status; 31 March 2020 speaking with someone explaining again and being told it was unlikely that we were taxable and again in Aug 2021. They are now requiring tax returns for 2018 onwards. NG said this reinforced his suggestion that we should withdraw from Companies House and apply for charitable status

ACTION: MD to raise benefits of Charitable status and how to apply as well as withdraw from Companies house with recently contacted retired accountant who has offered to help submit the back tax records

Address of the archive if not Clapham (as difficulties in getting access to post) HMRC cannot send emails. Propose to submit the address of the account or if he is not will that of MS.

- Finance - Current situation (Martin) – with use of accounting template. There is £19104.44p in the account. Expenditure on Sound Cloud (£75) and Ian Noah's payments to Google on behalf of the BEHP are still outstanding awaiting final total from Ian or Alison.

MS had not yet been able to use the template for recording expenditure and income

ACTION: MS to review identification of potential expenditure headings – add to the template and then print for use

- Television centenary/marketing of the archive (Sue)
SM reported that as part of BBC centenary celebrations she had written an article on the first women camera operators at Ally Pally. Also, that she would approach Will Wyatt former Head of BBC Television for an interview and honorary membership

ACTION: SM to contact Will Wyatt – done and he has agreed. NG will conduct the interview

ACTION:NG

DT was going thru interviews with Sir Sydney Samuelson to find reference to his work with the BBC

ACTION:SM to check on progress with DT – difficult for DT due to health issues .If proving problematic NG had offered to look at the interviews with Sir Sydney and David Samuelson and other interviewees looking for interesting extracts or themes

ACTION:NG

SM agreed to reissue her list of BBC related interviews indicating which had been transcribed for Top priority discussion at next meeting

ACTION:SM

DS suggested that we should also check the list of interviews to be done for any which are BBC related

ACTION: All

NG asked about the progress on the BBCPA 100 voices. SM reported that at this stage they would not be part of the Sussex/BBC project or the BBC's 100 voices and that they might be looking for a permanent home that could be the BEHP

ACTION:SM to send a link from BBCPA 100 voices to all for consideration

- Shooting new interviews (David) – the revised list

It was agreed to keep DS's lists as they are and use the "Priority" one as the agenda for the coming year.

MS has proposed Tony Hall's secretary, Gordon Croucha, Stan Lane a grader
MD proposed Phil Dolling

- BBC/Sussex project partnership update at end of the Project
The project comes to an end on 17 Dec 2021

- Current activity

MD and NG will start planning the Paul Collard interview which will help to determine future interviewing methodology. Also they will revisit the Tony Lennon intv.

MD has to complete the Tom Bell intv

MD will investigate if possible to use Clapham to conduct interviews when he has permission to enter the building to start re-filing tapes etc.

MD is working with Emma Feather transcribing the Dallas Bower intv.

Ros Cranston is transcribing Margaret Thomson and has made some changes to the Sarah Erukhar transcript

SM reported that KR was involved in the recording of a interview with Peter Williams

Lower Priority items

1. Feedback for Website Upgrade of database and website -Requirements for Alison (Mike Sue & Elaine) – awaiting summary of discussion from Alison

ACTION: SM to arrange a meeting with Alison, EB,MD and SM after meeting with Ben Jackson

2. ACTT Films (Mike)
3. The future of the archive - if not covered elsewhere(all)
4. Any Other Business.

BECTU have been asked to support an academic project led by Stephen Dugdale on women in the Italian film industry – it was agreed this was little benefit to the HP.

Robin ODonoghue a Director of Twickenham Film Studios; also an Oscar nominated and BAFTA winning sound recording engineer.

commented on the sound recording interviews of Guido Cohen and Gerry Humphreys. They are all running at the wrong speed, too fast, making the interviewees sound incorrect, high pitched and squeaky. He has corrected them and we will upload the new versions. We have also proposed to interview him

Sept 2021

Update from the chair

Future interviews

Sue was pleased to report that Heather Stewart had responded positively to the invitation to be interviewed for the History Project - we would get back to Heather when it would be possible to set the interview up safely.

Jez Stewart of the BFI is organising an interview with animator Barrie Merritt
Martin Smith will be interviewing producer Peter Williams in the near future

BFI

Ben Roberts CEO of BFI had responded promptly to our letter to him about BFI projects use of the BEHP collection. and has proposed a zoom meeting with Head Curator, Robin Baker – a most positive initiative

„Missing“ interviews

Here is the list of **Interviews that have not been uploaded**

356 Charles Hamill

462 Ian Rakoff.

541 David Croft

546 Simon Relph

612 Nigel Ostrer

If anyone has any information about these interviews please let Sue know

sue.malden@btinternet.com

83 John P Hamilton on HD1 – need to check if complete interview has been uploaded

Good news! 239 Shaun Sutton has been uploaded.

Transcribing

As far as transcripts are concerned Ros Cranston is working on Margaret Thomson and Emma Feather Dallas Bower – Two very important characters in the project and television history.

Television centenary

In order to enable more use to be made of our interviews in the coming year celebrating the centenary of the BBC Sue has produced a list of all interviews known to have a BBC connection with a note as to whether and how they had been transcribed. If you want access to this list do ask Sue.

And finally...

The book that Andrew Martin of the BBC has been working on for so long has been published by Kaleidoscope Publishing, who can be contacted by post at 42 Victoriana Way, Birmingham B20 2SZ, and it can also be obtained through www.tvbrain.info. People can also email info@tvbrain.info. It's also coming to Amazon soon I'm told...

And don't forget Derek Threadgall's recent publication 'Shepperton Studios - A Personal View' Sir Sydney Samuelson CBE honoured Derek with his brilliant foreword to the book..

Copies available directly from Derek - dthreadgall1165@gmail.com

Mike Dick & Sue Malden