



## THE BRITISH ENTERTAINMENT HISTORY PROJECT

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2022

Website [www.historyproject.org.uk](http://www.historyproject.org.uk)

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Hi everyone

We are sad that Nick Gilbey has resigned from the Board due to pressure on him to meet all final delivery requirements for the final documentation to the National Lottery for his amazingly successful MCR project . He hopes to be less busy by the end of August. And be able to contribute to the History Project again.

John Luton has been accepted by the Board as a new member, proposed by Mike, seconded by Ken Rowles and accepted by all. However, we are delighted that Will Wyatt former Director of BBC Television has agreed to become our next History Project honorary member, joining Sir Sydney Samuelson.

The Board will be meeting face-to-face in April in ,New Prospect House in Waterloo. We hope it will bode well for getting us altogether with you in the near future – please watch this space. As we wrote last time, the most important issue facing us is the marking of the BBC Centenary celebrations in 2022 which have now begun. To prepare for this momentous milestone in the history of radio and television, we have searched through our archive to find all the interviews with the men and women who have worked at the

BBC over the past 100 years. Our list issued in the last Bulletin gave you some idea of both the number - now well over 200, and the wide range of interviewees .Every craft is there.

Following our appeal to all of you to help us in this ambitious BBC centenary project, we have had many suggestions for the top 10 names that in your opinion are important figures in the BBC's history. Here they are:

5 Dallas Bower – Such a significant person in the history of the BBC! During the television trials at Alexandra Palace Dallas was responsible for directing the opening day broadcast on the 2<sup>nd</sup> November 1936 .He went on produce and direct many ground breaking live plays, ballets and operas and the first BBC television demonstration film in 1937.You can find the interview with this remarkable man on our website at:

<https://historyproject.org.uk/interview/dallas-bower>

142 Anthony de Lotbiniere

144 Kenneth Griffith

145 Sydney Newman

146 John Read

147 Tony Bridgewater

158 Royston Morley

162 Leslie T Jackson

164 Stephen Hearst

239 Shaun Sutton

247 Geoff Baines

260 Leonard Miall

276 Sydney Lotterby

289 John Elliot

314 Alan Prior

330 Charles Wheeler

336 John Ammonds

We hope to put this list on the home page of the History Project with direct links through to the interviews, transcripts and biographies.

These have all been digitized and put thru the speech to text software we are using. So now their transcripts need to be proofread and corrected where necessary. **Volunteers, please!!**

Sadly, deaths happen, - Barry Cryer has been a huge loss to the comedy world of entertainment. Of course, we have an interview with him, and Dick Fiddy is proofreading the interview for us.

Also we have lost Heather Armitage, designer and HP member for many years who contribute a lot of ideas to us, and interviewee actor, Doug Robinson

We are still researching a reasonable price for the transfer of the few HDCam tapes we hold .

We are exploring a Memorandum of Understanding with Bob Geohan on behalf of Film Friends regarding interviews deposited with BEHP , It is essential to clarify copyright and any potential commercial use and removal of film clips .An example is Muriel Pavlow interview- an actress who performed at Alexandra Palace in the very early days of television

Another very important Alexandra Palace person is Dallas Bower - Emma Feather is currently proofreading this interview.

Now that virtually all interviews have been digitised. we have been focussing on BBC relate interviews for transcribing which will make them so much more accessible in this year of the BBC's centenary.

Latest Ottered interviews are:

146 John Read

147 Tony Bridgewater

158 Royston Morley

164 Stephen Hearst  
247 Geoff Baines  
276 Sydney Lotterby  
289 John Elliott  
330 Charles Wheeler  
314 Alan Prior  
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We hope to put this list on the home page of the History Project with direct links through to the interviews, transcripts and biographies.

These will need to be checked for missing biographies which need to be added if necessary; proofread and corrected

**Please let Sue know [sue.malden@btinternet.com](mailto:sue.malden@btinternet.com) if you are willing to do any of this fascinating work**

### **Interviewing**

- Ken Rowles confirmed his recording of Paul Harris had gone well –to be number 808 He and John Luton are due to begin interviewing David Neale and Graham Fowler
- Mike Dick would be interviewing Ken Coles who worked on “Whistle Down the Wind”, “Spiderman”, “St Trinians” and separately his wife Jo Langley who worked on “Georgie Girl”, “Repulsion” on 20th April and Paul Weston, stuntman and Roger Moore understudy for the Saint and Bond films on 30<sup>th</sup> March
- Martin Sheffield will be interviewing( 807 )Terry Marcell (Film Director- Hawk the Sayer ) on 21/3/2022 with Darren Perry on Camera and then Kate Lees of Adelphi Films .

### **Digitisation.**

MD is digitising the interview with Jill Balcon and doing a sample Otter transcript of one tape to send to Daniel Day Lewis for clearance as Jill did not sign a consent form.

### **Future meetings**

MD has meeting scheduled with Mike Clancey Prospect General Secretary and Philippa Childs Head of BECTU to discuss meeting rooms and future of HP in Clapham

### **Television centenary/marketing of the archive**

Publicity – KR commented on excellent articles in the latest edition of the Cinema Veteran – MD on Dallas Bower and SM on “Let My People Go” and printing the BEHP John Krish intv.

These articles have also been accepted by Stage Screen and radio. SSR will also publish an article in each edition this year to celebrate the BBC centenary drawing on HP interviews.

David Sharp has suggested a presentation to the BFI Researchers group

Claudia Coles has approached the BEHP to offer assistance with PR. Mike has had a very useful meeting with her and discussed many good ideas.

Derek Threadgall spoke about an interview he had done with Chris Strachen and the opportunity to make a presentation to the Harwich Electricity Palace Cinema.

Our voluntary digitisers – John Harwood and Alec Hall-Shaw have been so productive that virtually every interview has been digitised and if cleared uploaded to the website, so now they are turning their hand to speech to text automatic conversion. But the transcripts still need to be proof-read!! **So here we need more volunteers!!**

**Good news - Maurice Fleisher** [mf9593111@gmail.com](mailto:mf9593111@gmail.com), *High Wycombe, Bucks. UK* has offered his services as a camera operator

**Finally, we want to promote the value of the British Entertainment History Project collection of interviews with people who have worked in film, Television, Radio and Theatre to all of those interested in learning about the BBC history in its centenary year.**

Finally, do not forget the two events at the Riverside Studios. They have two BBC events currently on sale for which the links are below.

You may be interested? One celebrates Episodes of Hancock made at RS and the other is a tribute to Verity Lambert;

<https://riversidestudios.co.uk/see-and-do/hancocks-half-hour-triple-bill-introduction-23898/>

<https://riversidestudios.co.uk/see-and-do/a-tribute-to-verity-lambert-shoulder-to-shoulder-episode-1-23896/>

Many thanks.

Sue and Mike.