

REMINISCENCES

Bringing you archive films direct to your screen!

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Majestic Buxton (Picture courtesy of Wikimedia Commons)

Welcome to Reminiscences a quarterly bulletin from CWPT Libraries which features a selection of archive films on a variety of subjects, freely available online.

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BFI Player
London Transport
Museum
BBC Archive

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title to access the
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Please contact us if you have any comments or suggestions?
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Places



Picture Courtesy of Flickr

Gravelly Hill Interchange-Early Years **Spaghetti Junction Story (1972)**

ATV 9 Mins Col

An ATV Today feature on the then, new M6 junction interchange at Gravelly Hill in Birmingham. The film provides context to the extensive scale of constructing a road hub devised to assist with an increase in road traffic. However ironically the interchange has itself become a bottleneck in more recent times!



Picture Courtesy of Geograph – Pebble

Ross on Wye

The Travel Show UK Mini Guide: Ross-On-Wye (1990) (BBC) 6 Mins Col
Pleasant travelogue providing a quick tour around Ross on Wye and neighbouring areas. The beauty of the unspoilt countryside, landmarks, and sporting activities on the River Wye all feature in this early nineties BBC travel feature.



Picture courtesy of Wikimedia Commons
Patrinton Church

[Patrinton Village, Yorkshire](#) (1955) (Shell Films)
(Discovering Britain Series) 3 Mins B/W

A visit to East Yorkshire to take a close look at Patrinton Church. Initially sweeping us the viewers, in from the East Coast to the quaint village of Patrinton and the focus of the film, the church. The short film is complemented by John Betjeman's expert narration. Informing us of the beautiful architectural features of Patrinton's fine church.



Picture Courtesy of Geograph Dave Bevis

Delights of Matlock

[The Travel Show UK Mini Guides: Matlock](#) (1992) BBC 5 Mins Col

Attractive travel promotion feature, on the delights of Matlock.

The film provides glimpses of Matlock Bath, Chatsworth House, and the Heights of Abraham. Providing a taster to the viewer of the many attributes of this beautiful part of England.

Vocations



Picture courtesy of PICRYL

A trip to the Blacksmith

[A Quick Look Round: Glasgow's Dumbarton Road's Blacksmith](#)

(1965) (BBC) 4 Mins B/W

By the Mid 1960's The Horse as a method for goods transport was in decline. However, this BBC film visits a Glaswegian Blacksmith who is still actively busy, producing shoes and fitting them to an assortment of horses. Informing the viewer of the variety of his work and his career as a Blacksmith.



Picture courtesy of Wikimedia (Ben Brooksbank)

Maintaining the Steam Locomotives

[Enginemen](#) (1959) (Grigsby) (BFI/Free Cinema) 17 Mins B/W

One of the later "Free Cinema" offerings Enginemen, observes a group of Steam Engine Maintenance Men, servicing a constant queue of locomotives at Newton Heath Depot in Manchester. Partly a celebration of the endeavours of the railwaymen and a filmic snapshot of a time transition when; the Diesel Locomotives were superseding Steam Engines. A topic of concern discussed by the workers within the soundtrack.



Picture Courtesy of Flickr

Producing Quality Cheese

[Mousetrap is out!](#) (1956) (Spiro) (Worldwide Picture) 15 Mins Col

An elegant film, featuring Cricket legend John Arlott, we; are taken from a traditional pub; for a tour round a few of England's significant cheese making counties and individuals involved in the production of cheese are interviewed by John. Firstly, we travel to Leicestershire for the Stilton, then Cheshire and finally to Yorkshire for the Wensleydale. Product and place are central to this film as suggested by one of the characters interviewed "it is the land that gives the unique flavour to the cheese".



Picture courtesy of Trevor Littlewood (Geograph)

Tree Felling

[Tonight: Lumberjills](#) (1964) (BBC) 6 Mins B/W

Alan Whicker interviews a group of young Scottish women who have taken up the vocation of felling trees. The Lumberjills are shown in a positive manner eager to indicate that they enjoy their role and the value of working outdoors in the idyllic Scottish woodlands.

Transport



Picture courtesy of Wikimedia

Swift Train Journey from Derby to Lincoln

[Midlands Today: Derby to Lincoln in Five Minutes](#) (1991) (BBC) 5 Mins Col
Following on from “London to Brighton in Four Minutes” (1953) also produced by the BBC and similar to British Transport Films “Let’s go to Birmingham” (1962). “Derby to Lincoln” is a fast motion film, taking us on a trip from Derby Station to Lincoln at speed; navigating the great East Midlands, Fifty-five Miles in Five minutes.



Picture courtesy of Geograph Gerald England

Travel by Helicopter

[News: Timetable Helicopters](#) (1951) BBC 3 Mins B/W
BBC News feature on an early 1950’s new transport innovation a timetabled passenger helicopter service from Birmingham to London. Providing the “well-heeled commuters with a fast alternative to the car or train.

Animals



Picture courtesy of PxHere

Walking the Dogs

[Tonight: Kate Ward's Dogs](#) (1960) (BBC) 5 Mins B/W

Alan Whicker meets Kate Ward a lady who is devoted to the care of her 13 Dogs. The film takes us on Kate's daily dog walk down to the local park in Camberley. Where she discusses the welfare and the demands of her canine companions.



Picture Courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

Conserving the Scottish Wildcat

[Reporting Scotland: Scheme to Protect Wildcats](#) (2014) (BBC) 2 Mins Col

BBC News feature on a conservation plan to potentially save the Scottish Wildcat a native breed to Scotland. A cat whose numbers have declined to a critical level and the hope that by creating a reservation for them, may reverse this trend.