

REMINISCENCES

Bringing you archive films direct to your screen!

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Picture courtesy of Flickr

Chester a city with a proud heritage

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

Films Sourced from
BFI Player
BBC Rewind

Click on the html
title to access the
film source.

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Please contact us if you have any comments or suggestions?
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Places



Picture courtesy of Flickr

Blackburn Memories

[Tonight: Wakes Weeks](#) (1957)
(Schlesinger) (BBC) 4 Mins B/W

Blackburn, an industrial town in Lancashire is the subject of this late 1950's Tonight feature; directed by John Schlesinger who went on to enjoy a long career as a major feature film maker. The film focuses on the impact of Wakes Weeks, a time when effectively the whole Town practically closes as most of the population leave for their annual holiday. Wakes Weeks were a tradition not exclusive to Blackburn, but popular across England as a period when factories and mills closed so working folk, could enjoy a holiday away from home.



Image Courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

Wooden Homes

[Nationwide: Prefabricated Homes](#) (1974)
(BBC) 5 Mins Col

A news item on an estate of prefabricated bungalows situated in Birmingham. The bungalows built by Austin Motors in 1916, were constructed using Canadian cedar wood to provide accommodation to the extra workforce employed at the nearby factory during the First World War. The condition of these attractive, yet modest homes is a testament of their build quality.



Picture courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

The tranquil beauty of Hampshire's New Forest [Forest Heritage](#) (1952)

(Layzell) (Esso Films) 23 Mins B/W

An elegant travelogue, extolling the many attributes of the New Forest. Heritage, tradition and the vocations of a rural community are beautifully portrayed in the film. The forests in all their glory and the diversity of animals residing in this picturesque location are all present including the famous New Forest Ponies.

Vocations



Picture courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

Shrimping

[Home Ground: Shrimper](#) (estimated 1977)

(BBC) 3 Mins Col

A news feature on the last Shrimper in Parkgate, a seaside village located in Cheshire. The film follows the Shrimper to Thurstaston where he has taken his boat for the daily catch.

Parkgate is known locally and nationally for its Shrimps, the river has been replaced by grass over the years in this part of the River Dee, which has made shrimping difficult and possibly why the vocation is unappealing.



Picture Courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

Grocers Shop
[Traditional Shop](#) (1977)
ATV 3 Mins Col

An ATV news item featuring a traditional Cheltenham grocer and provisions on offer in 1977 a time long after the advent of the Supermarket in the United Kingdom's Cities, Towns and larger villages. The film certainly promotes the value of personal service and quality over speed and quantity.



Picture Courtesy of Flickr

Rag and Bone Men
[Nationwide: Edmonton's Rag and Bone Brothers](#) (1977)
(BBC) 7 Mins Col

Regular visitors to our neighbourhoods, the Rag and Bone men have practically disappeared from our streets. Almost certainly in their traditional; Horse and Cart format. This 1977 news item features Two brothers who work their round in North London and face losing their base due to land redevelopment.

Leisure



Picture courtesy of Flickr

The Pleasures of Pony Trekking

[Points West: Pony Trekking in the Quantocks](#) (1964)

(BBC) 5 Mins B/W

A pleasant news feature on Pony Trekking in Somerset, following riders on their hack around the Quantock Hills, dropping in to a local hostelry and a visit to the Blacksmith to shoe a pony. The film successfully promotes trekking as an adventure into the beautiful countryside away from the bustling towns and cities.



Image courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

Celebrating Youth Hostels

[News: The Youth Hostels Come of Age](#) (1951)

(BBC) 2 Mins B/W

News feature promoting the virtues of the Youth Hostel Association, featuring the Birmingham branch visiting Wilderhope Manor Hostel in Shropshire. Providing a brief historical overview of the Youth Hostel Association, rural location and accommodation, the film gives an insight into a popular and economical method of enjoying a holiday away from the hustle and bustle of urban life.



Picture courtesy of Geograph

Pleasures of Cycling

[Living in Scotland: You and Your Leisure: Glasgow Nightingale Cycling Club](#) (1975)
(BBC) 3 Mins Col

Short film on the enjoyment of cycling, featuring a cycling club based in Glasgow and its many attributes. Featuring the bike as inexpensive transport which can be upgraded, helping cyclists keep physically fit and a way of visiting new locations.

Transport



Picture courtesy of Flickr

2CV Festival

[Reporting Scotland: 2CV Cars World Meeting](#) (2005)

BBC 2 Mins Col

A BBC News feature on a world meet for owners and fans of the venerable Citroen 2CV at Kelso in Scotland. The little Citroen offered inexpensive transport for Post War motorists, it was reliable, comfortable and capable.

Animals



Picture Courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

Pet Wolf

[Wales Today: Canadian Timber Wolf](#) (1980)

(BBC) 3 Mins Col

An interesting news feature about animal lovers in rural Wales, keeping a wolf as a pet. The beautiful animal is shown to be relatively placid in its caged environment as it is conditioned to a domestic environment.



Picture courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

Showjumping Dog

[Look North: Wonder Dog](#) (1988)

(BBC) 2 Mins Col

News item featuring Barron the wonder dog, who through his natural talent and agility has become a talented show jumper. The film shows him successfully competing with horses over fences at a riding centre.