

I remember Don as a very gentle character; he always had a ready smile, and was highly regarded by other members. I think he ran a toyshop during his working life, and maybe that contributed to his sense of fun. Rather quiet but always good company, we will certainly miss him.

*Peter Heaven*

Just like to add my sad thoughts regarding the passing of our dear member Don Smith-this week. To me he was always a very good friend & we exchanged Xmas cards every year. Please in my words say: "You will be sadly missed, but always remembered".

*Ken. Webber*

Don Smith has died at the age of 91. He was a former Chairman and Honorary Member of the society and had been an active member for more than forty years.

Don was a skilled filmmaker with an assured touch. He started in the days of film but easily transferred his skills to video. He was a winner of both the Annual Trophy and the Burris Cup (holiday film competition). Apart from his individual films and his work on society productions, Don was also a founder member of a subgroup of members, Falcon Films, specialising in making a series of films on local customs and events.

Don was Chairman of the society from 1999 to 2002 and Vice-chairman for the preceding three years. He celebrated his eightieth birthday while in the post of Chairman. Don is remembered for his time as Chairman for conducting both the society meetings and the committee meetings with quiet authority. When in office he took his role very seriously and was tireless in his work for the society. Before becoming Vice-chairman Don was a committee member for many years. He regularly attended other clubs to present our films.

Don was a crew member on innumerable society productions including Bristol Celebrations (1977 Jubilee), The Nautical Novice, Pink Ballerina Affair, The Big Bang, Skodaman, Fire and Water, Planets, Anne Teaks, Mr Davidson's Autumn, The New Room and Clarkson. He was the producer of the recruitment film that the society made for the Air Cadets, In addition, Don's clear voice meant that he was the narrator for a number of society productions.

He was a major contributor to the society's 'epic' Cabot where, in addition to acting as Associate Producer, he took over supervision of props as well as acting as a second-unit cameraman, model-maker, special effects, and as an extra. He was a vital member of the editing team with responsibility for logging every single shot. In fact, Don was one of the three members who started the project and was one third of the scriptwriting team.

Away from the camera, Don owned and ran a toy and pram shop, once supplying a pram to Cary Grant. For many years he visited First World War battlefields with his great friend and Bristol Film and Video Society member Joe Higgins. During the Second World War Don served in the RAF and saw action in Italy.

Don always had a great interest in the sea and shipping and was a keen supporter of the Waverley paddle steamer project. This led to him in his mid-seventies to take up a new interest of sailing. He regularly sailed on the South Coast and sailed across the English Channel to France.

Don was a true gentle man in every sense. In recent years ill health restricted his attendance at the club, particularly when he had to give up driving. He was last able to join us last summer.

Don was married to Connie until her death. He leaves a daughter Sheila. I know that the thoughts and sympathy of all BFVS members who knew Don go out to his family in their time of sorrow.

*Graham Egarr and Gordon Young*

April 14th 2013