



BRITAIN ON FILM: COAST AND SEA

CIRCUMNAVIGATING BRITAIN'S COAST AND SEA ON FILM:

- ***SEARCH OVER 100 YEARS OF ARCHIVAL COAST AND SEA***
 - ***EXPLORE OVER 600 UK-WIDE FILMS***
- ***DISCOVER 200 NATIONWIDE SCREENINGS AND EVENTS TAKING PLACE AT COASTAL LOCATIONS ACROSS THE UK THIS SUMMER***

NEWLY AVAILABLE FOR FREE THROUGH BFI PLAYER

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#BritainOnFilm

For immediate release Monday 12 June 2017, London – Last year Britain on Film took a closer look at rural life across the UK, today the BFI announces **Britain on Film: Coast and Sea**, an online collection of **over 600 newly digitised films**, ranging from **1898 to 2000**, from the BFI National Archive and the UK's national and regional film and TV archives, spanning the whole of the UK, available (mostly) for free on **BFI Player** via an [interactive map](#). As we enter the summer holiday season, find inspiration here with over 160 films that paint a vivid portrait of the quintessential British holiday. Coast and Sea highlights include *Playing on Beach (1903, BFI)*, *Netting The Tide (1978, North West Film Archive at Manchester Metropolitan University)*, *Rohilla Wrecked off Whitby (1914, BFI)*, *The Homecoming (1967, South West Film and Television Archive)*, *Cargo for Ardrossan (1939, BFI)* and *Private Life of the Gannets (1934, BFI)*.

Since Britain on Film's launch, **over 30 million people** have accessed their country's film heritage through **BFI Player and social media channels**. With this new collection **over 7,500 films can now be seen online – 97% of which are free**. By 2018, thanks to **National Lottery** funding and the support of the **Esmée Fairbairn Foundation**, 10,000 film and TV titles from 1895 to the present day will be newly digitised and available to view.

There is also an exciting nationwide programme in partnership with the **BFI Film Audience Network (FAN)**, with nearly 200 archive film screenings and special events taking place at coastal locations around the UK, offering audiences ways to discover, explore and engage with the coast and sea relating to local stories in their own area. The **Independent Cinema Office (ICO)** will also tour the latest **Britain on Film on Tour** compilation to cinemas and community groups, bringing Britain's diverse coastal screen heritage to life this summer.

Coast and Sea charts our changing relationship with the land and the sea and the intrinsic connection with our national self-image. Using the Britain on Film map, with the click of a mouse viewers can plot their own course, **circumnavigating over 11,000 miles of varied coastline** through film, from the southernmost tip of the Scilly Isles to the northernmost reaches of the Shetland Islands, to search and explore locations which hold a deeply personal connection, or collective concerns which occupy us a whole; leisure, industry, environmentalism, the weather.

From holidaymakers enjoying all the seaside has to offer, and coastal towns changed beyond recognition, to the mixed fortunes of fishermen and the lasting impact of industry, tourism and development on our fragile environment, **Coast and Sea** paints a rich and diverse portrait of our island nation. The collection highlights activities and traditions that still survive today, or have made an unexpected resurgence, as well as looking at those customs, skills and trades that have dwindled or disappeared over the last century.

Coast and Sea represents all types of film, from news and actuality footage to documentaries, promotional travelogues and educational shorts; the rare intimacy of amateur home movies, as well as fictional subjects and artists moving image, from the earliest days of film, ***Conway Castle – Panormaic view of Conway on the L.& N.W. Railway (1898, National Screen and Sound Archive of Wales)*** and ***Rough Seas Breaking on Rocks (1899, BFI)***, to the present day.

Robin Baker, Head Curator, BFI National Archive said, "Britain on Film has been a transformative project for the BFI and our partner archives. It has demonstrated that millions of people across the UK want to engage with their film heritage. Comprising over a century of filmmaking, Britain on Film has highlighted some of the lesser known films from our collections, some of which not even curators had seen before, and provided them with audiences that are often bigger than on their first release. There are over 600 newly added films, contextualised by curators, exploring lives led and holidays enjoyed around the UK coast. As such there are now even greater opportunities for people to while away hours watching and making discoveries about British film heritage".

Viewers can indulge in a filmic cornucopia of culinary delights, with Cromer crabs, Whitstable Oysters, Whitby Kippers, smoked salmon caught from the River Dee and Blackpool rock all on the menu, washed down with the Navy's favourite tipple.

Famous faces make plenty of cameos too, including a scuppered pop-star (**Simon Le Bon**), Torquay's most famous Spanish waiter (**Andrew Sachs**), a cricket all-rounder turned charity fundraiser (**Ian Botham**), comedy legends (**Morecambe and Wise**), a national treasure (**Bruce Forsyth**) as well as a sprinkling of royal guests to oversee proceedings.

Britain on Film curators have again found extraordinary footage of ordinary people and places, to shed a fascinating insight into our shared cultural and social history on film. These include:

- The discovery of **Oscar-winning director John Schlesinger** (Midnight Cowboy)'s undergraduate student film, ***The Starfish (1950, BFI)***. Set in deepest, darkest Cornwall, a nasty sea witch called Meg lurks, pursuing innocent holiday-making children from London. Can a local fisherman break her evil spell in time? Schlesinger made this charming film together with Alan Cooke, who went on to become an illustrious TV director.
- One of the most iconic figures in British sailing history, the then 65 year-old Sir Francis Chichester sailed into the history books in 1967, setting world firsts as the fastest circumnavigator, single-handedly sailing the globe via the clipper route. 50 years later we can witness the rapturous home reception to his triumphant return to Plymouth, with his yacht, The Gipsy Moth IV, in the live news report, ***The Homecoming (1967, South West Film & Television Archive)***.
- Meet the original SAGA sightseers, enjoying their golden years in ***Travelling Sixties (1968, BFI)***, a recently rediscovered early promotional travelogue for SAGA Holidays, following a group of intrepid over-60s from Newcastle on their holiday to the Isle of Wight, in the days before SAGA's luxury round-the-world cruises.
- Coastal towns often feature as central characters. Blackpool is a good example of these changing towns, as depicted on film over the decades, reflecting physical and social redevelopment. See Edwardian holidaymakers strolling along the seafront as work continues on the new promenade, ***Blackpool Promenade (1924, BFI)***, to the colourful nostalgia of Kodachrome home movies showcasing Blackpool's post-war attractions in ***Happy Sea Side Holidays (1956, Yorkshire Film Archive)*** and a fascinating account of the promenade as a place of political protest and activism in ***Ban The Bomb (1964, North West Film Archive at Manchester Metropolitan University)***; when CND came to Blackpool for a rally on the beach.

Celebrating the 2017 UK City of Culture, we take a closer look at Hull in John Taylor's classic industrial film, ***The Port of Hull (1963, BFI)***, produced by British Transport Films. The film expertly interweaves factual details with often gorgeous images to showcase Hull's status as a thriving international port, whilst finding beauty in the ebb and flow of maritime monsters on the River Humber. A number of films by veteran documentarian John Taylor feature in Coast and Sea,

including his engaging portrait of *Southampton Docks (1964, BFI)* and the cautionary tale of environmental pressures levied by tourism and urban development, (*Vanishing Coast 1965, BFI*); an early example of a conservation film, sponsored by an oil company.

SCOTLAND

- ***The Island That Came Back To Life (1970, BFI)*** An edition of educational wildlife programme Survival, exploring the delicate balance of life on St Kilda with and the protection of its avian inhabitants.

WALES

- ***Clog Dance (1959, BFI)*** Exploring traditions and customs which have been resurrected with the revival of clog dancing in Portmadoc and the craft of clog-making.
- ***Miss Margaret Morris' Merry Mermaids (1923, BFI)*** This utterly charming newsreel features rare footage of the pioneering choreographer who founded the Margaret Morris Movement, and Scottish National Ballet. Students of Miss Margaret Morris' dance summer school perform an energetic chorus line with gusto, including a bizarre tableaux of a crab on the beach at Harlech, on the edge of Snowdonia.

NORTHERN IRELAND

- ***Maidens in Distress (1976, Northern Ireland Screen Digital Film Archive)*** Twin brothers from Comber, Roy and Noel Spence, have been making films for over 50 years. *Maidens in Distress* is an endearing documentary about the East Maiden lighthouse and the men who bring essential supplies to the lighthouse keepers, made just one year before East Maiden became automated.
- ***Morris Dancing in Portrush (1977, Northern Ireland Screen Digital Film Archive)*** A fascinating portrait of Northern Ireland's only Morris Dancing Group, formed by homesick English lecturers from the University of Ulster in Coleraine. The group began performing as a support act for the Chieftains, before going on to dance across Ireland, France and England.

YORKSHIRE AND HUMBER

- ***'Rohilla' Wrecked off Whitby (1914, BFI)*** Extremely rare early actuality footage from one of Whitby's most famous maritime disasters that befell the crew of the SS Rohilla, the First World War hospital ship which ran aground just 1 mile off the North Yorkshire coast, with the loss of 83 lives.
- ***Net Result (1938, BFI)*** We join the Grimsby fishing fleet as they set out on a fishing voyage to Norway in this poetic, beautifully shot classic documentary. The wild west soundtrack gives the film a sense of epic drama. On the return to port we are transported to Grimsby market where in its heyday, over 500 tonnes of fish landed every day.

NORTH EAST

- ***Whitley Bay (1950, North East Film Archive)***. This home movie is amateur film-making at its best, capturing the growth of Whitley Bay as a seaside town in stunning colour. Rich Kodachrome cinematography captures a bygone era featuring carousel, swing boats and Punch & Judy in ice cream colours.
- ***SAM Presents "Scooter Weekend" (1957, North East Film Archive)*** Game Vespa and Lambretta Club scooter enthusiasts gather at a wet Whitsun carnival parade and charity rally in Whitley Bay, in the pre-Mod era.

NORTH WEST

- ***Netting The Tide (1978, North West Film Archive at Manchester Metropolitan University)*** Absorbing documentary profiling Tom Smith, who reflects on his work as the last Lancashire shrimp fisherman to use a horse and cart on the sands of Morecambe Bay.
- ***St. Annes, Sept 1940 (1940, North West Film Archive at Manchester Metropolitan University)*** You would have no idea that we were at war in this lovely, rare, colour home movie of a carefree family holiday during wartime Britain, shot by amateur filmmaker Harold Brickhill.
- ***Life Apart: Anxieties in a Trawling Community (1973, BFI)*** Made by one of Britain's greatest documentary filmmakers, Michael Grigsby's stunning documentary on the work and life, onshore and off, of the trawlermen of Fleetwood, is an unforgettable depiction, both visceral and sensitive, of a workforce and community facing danger and exploitation.

MIDLANDS

- ***Old Age Pensioners First Visit to the Seaside (1973, Media Archive for Central England)*** Revel in the reactions of Edie and Mick Atkins, a couple of pensioners from the industrial West Midlands on a momentous day, their first ever trip to the seaside. Joy and pleasure abound, particularly from Edie, who goes as far as getting her feet wet, as they find out what they've been missing during a trip to Llandudno.
- ***Skegness Holiday Report (1979, Media Archive for Central England)*** Fighting back against the allure of the Costa Brava, Butlins tempts the East Midlands holidaymakers. Synonymous with the holiday camps that boomed in the post-war years, Butlin's Skegness resort was still teeming with thousands of visitors from the East Midlands in 1979, who enjoyed their unique brand of entertainment on offer, from baby competitions to the ever-smiling Red Coats.

EAST

- ***Sailorman (1975, UEA's East Anglian Film Archive)*** Narrated by Michael Hordern, and featuring interviews with the skippers of the magnificent barges lovingly referred to as graceful workhorses of the Thames, David Gowing's film reflects on the tough life of the Essex bargemen who worked in and out of London and up the east coast.
- ***The Sea Breaks Free (1938, UEA's East Anglian Film Archive)*** Extreme weather and its aftermath; the North Sea breached the Norfolk coastline and the dune defences in Horsey in February 1938, flooding the town. Made by East Anglia Film, this film, long thought lost, is a local record of the aftermath of the storm damage and the work taken to restore the sea defences.

SOUTH EAST

- ***Beach Bound (1964, Screen Archive South East)*** Basking in the glory days of the work beano, before the term 'work away day' was coined, this delightful film follows a coachload of Sainsbury's employees arriving in Margate for a day trip full of fun, sand, sea and sun. Dreamland, which has been lovingly restored and currently enjoying a renaissance, forms the central backdrop for this nostalgic look at a typical British Seaside resort.
- ***First Victims of a shell-fish pleasure (1923, BFI)***: The annual Whitstable Oyster Festival returns 22-24 July 2017. Here, Topical Budget reports on the start of the oyster season in Whitstable with an almost sadistic zeal in this timely pun-tastic newsreel item. Using the language of custodial punishment, the film shows the unfortunate oysters' whole journey, from dredging to sorting and finally being scoffed by an adventurous young boy.

SOUTH WEST

- ***Torquay Waiter's Race (1963, South West Film and Television Archive)*** The Waiter's Race in Torquay was an annual fixture in Torquay Hotels Week, including professional waiters working in the Imperial Hotel, The Palace and The Grand. Here the 1963 trophy is presented by Bruce Forsyth who was doing summer season at the Princess Theatre. The Waiter's Race is due to be revived in Torquay this September.
- ***Surf Lifesaving (1958) South West Film & Television Archive*** Entertaining training film made at Perranporth, putting the Cornwall County Constabulary through their paces at a time when surf life-saving was in its infancy. From the fifties onwards, years before anyone had heard of *Baywatch*, Australians and Americans were taken on as lifeguards and surf lifesavers because they could work and teach surfing, which helped develop the sport in the UK. Just one of a number of films in the collection exploring the rise of surf culture in the South West.

- ***Butlins Opens at Minehead (1962, South West Film & Television Archive)*** Butlin's Holiday Camp at Minehead in Somerset opened its doors in 1962. This is early film of its first vacationers. Butlins, which offered all-in holiday deals for the average family, was founded in 1936 when Billy Butlin opened his first resort in Skegness. Statutory paid holiday introduced in 1938, and a post-war boom in holidaymaking, established Sir Billy as the King of the Holiday Camp. The Butlins camp at Minehead survives to this day.

UK-WIDE ACTIVITY

The Independent Cinema Office (ICO) are screening a specially curated Coast and Sea film compilation at cinemas and community centres across the UK; their fourth programme from Britain on Film on Tour.

From travelogues enticing holidaymakers to the beach to promotional films celebrating the work of fishermen and shipbuilders, the selected films capture the traditions, industry and joyfulness of the British coast.

Full details of the selected films featured in the compilation and how to book the programme can be found at <http://www.independentcinemaoffice.org.uk/films/britainonfilmcoastandsea?c=9823>

BFI Film Audience Network (FAN) organisations with funds from the National Lottery and lead by Film Hub Central East (Broadway Cinema Nottingham) are staging a programme of over 21 projects and nearly 200 screening events throughout the summer at coastal locations around the UK. It includes special screening events on the beach, the promenade, the ferry and using dramatic backdrops of rocks, sails and even a lighthouse to help audiences connect with the rich diversity of our extensive coastline.

Full details of upcoming screenings and events can be found at: www.britainonfilmscreenings.org.uk

BFI FILM AUDIENCE NETWORK – ‘BRITAIN ON FILM’ COAST AND SEA HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

NORTHERN IRELAND – COAST TO COAST: Northern Ireland Screen's Digital Film Archive have programmed a mix of screenings, exhibitions and performances along their coastline celebrating Northern Ireland's coastal and maritime heritage, including a new commission by local musician Malojian and filmmaker Colm Laverty, who have curated a collection of coastal-themed archive film for Malojian's new video single, *Some New Bones*.

SCOTLAND – THE EDGE OF THE WORLD, MADE BY THE SEA, FOLLOWING THE FLEET: Edinburgh's remarkable FloWave Ocean Energy Research Facility hosts a unique 80th anniversary screening of Michael Powell's St Kilda-set *The Edge Of The World*, as part of this year's Edinburgh International Film Festival. *Made by the Sea* features rarely-seen archive gems exploring the drama of Scottish life on the coast and sea, drawn from the *National Library of Scotland Moving Image Archive*. *Following The Fleet* re-traces the historic route down Britain's east coast, following the journey of the herring shoals and drifter fleets, with internationally renowned beatboxer and sound artist Jason Singh performing his astonishing live soundtrack to John Grierson's seminal 1929 silent documentary *Drifters*.

WALES – SINEMAES, THE NATIONAL EISTEDDFOD OF WALES: Film comes back to the Maes for a second year with a full programme of Welsh language features, special events and archive coastal film at the world-renowned cultural festival in Anglesey, working with *The National Screen and Sound Archive of Wales*.

ENGLAND – MOVING NORTH COASTAL, North West: Delivered by the North West Film Archive at Manchester Metropolitan University in partnership with *North East Film Archive* and *Yorkshire Film Archive*, *Moving North Coastal* is a fascinating archival tour from the bustling mouth of the River Mersey to the far reaches of the Cumbrian coast, showcasing the contrasting landscapes in the North West through the eyes of the filmmakers who captured coastal life there over the last 100 years. **SCREEN-ON-SEA, East:** With a programme sourced mostly from the UEA's *East Anglian Film Archive*, Cambridge Film Trust's *Screen-on-Sea* celebrates the rich archive of the Norfolk and Suffolk coast, with a series of outdoor pop-up screenings, touring resorts including Southwold, King's Lynn, Felixstowe and Aldeburgh as part of summer festivals, concerts, carnivals and Heritage Days including a special screening for *International Lighthouse Heritage Day* in the shadow of the iconic Happisburgh Lighthouse.

- ENDS -

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Film and TV titles can be viewed and downloaded via Panther – for access please contact

elizabeth.dunk@bfi.org.uk

Images are available via – www.image.net | BFI > Britain on Film > Coast and Sea

Clips for broadcast are available to download at Panther – <https://panther4.dmsukltd.com/>

Regional logins below:

East Anglia

Username: BritainOnFilm.EA@dmsukltd.com

Password: vjPVMfcv

North West

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Password: SxRN43Hc

Northern Ireland

Username: BritainOnFilm.NI@dmsukltd.com

Password: JflkNSCq

South West

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North East

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South East

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Password: 4LePnSdw

Wales

Username: BritainOnFilm.Wales@dmsukltd.com

Password: DfcGwJ76

Regional press releases and press contacts can be found at www.bfi.org.uk

ABOUT BRITAIN ON FILM AND UNLOCKING FILM HERITAGE

Britain on Film is one of the largest and most complex archival projects ever undertaken and is part of the BFI's Unlocking Film Heritage programme (2013-17). Unlocking film heritage for everyone in the UK to enjoy is a key strategic priority for the BFI, and Britain on Film is the public launch of a vast programme of work, which has been ongoing for over three years. Bringing together a partnership with Regional and National Film Archives and rights holder collections across the UK, this work has included a sophisticated programme of data capture, cataloguing, copying to archival standards, meticulous preservation of original materials, thorough searching of archives across the country, new state-of-the-art equipment and digital storage facilities and the transfer of films to the BFI's online video platform, BFI Player.

Unlocking Film Heritage and Britain on Film are thanks to £15 million funding from the National Lottery and the additional support of the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation.

BRITAIN ON FILM ONLINE ELSEWHERE

- Selections from Britain On Film will also be hosted on the BFI's YouTube channel, Facebook and Twitter, so audiences can find and experience it in the easiest way possible
- BFI and regional and national film archive curators will be writing features highlighting important films and themes on the BFI website. Their expertise will add context and provide new ways in for the British public to find films that illuminate the places they know and love
- Join the conversation at **#BritainOnFilm**

Britain on Film is a project from the BFI National Archive and the UK's Regional and National Film Archives

ABOUT THE REGIONAL AND NATIONAL FILM ARCHIVES

The English Regional Film Archives and other National Film Archives (listed below) hold significant collections of film and video material specifically relevant to their regions or hold dedicated collections such as Imperial War Museums, preserved in specialised storage facilities and made widely available for education, research, communities and the wider public.

East Anglian Film Archive
Imperial War Museums
London's Screen Archives
Media Archive for Central England at the University of Lincoln
North East Film Archive
North West Film Archive at Manchester Metropolitan University
Northern Ireland Screen Digital Film Archive
Scottish Screen Archive
Screen Archive South East
South West Film & Television Archive
National Screen and Sound Archive of Wales
Wessex Film and Sound Archive
Yorkshire Film Archive

ABOUT THE BFI

The BFI is the lead body for film in the UK with the ambition to create a flourishing film environment in which innovation, opportunity and creativity can thrive by:

- Connecting audiences to the widest choice of British and World cinema
- Preserving and restoring the most significant film collection in the world for today and future generations
- Championing emerging and world class film makers in the UK - investing in creative, distinctive and entertaining work
- Promoting British film and talent to the world
- Growing the next generation of film makers and audiences

The BFI is a Government arm's-length body and distributor of Lottery funds for film. The BFI serves a public role which covers the cultural, creative and economic aspects of film in the UK. It delivers this role:

- As the UK-wide organisation for film, a charity core funded by Government
- By providing Lottery and Government funds for film across the UK
- By working with partners to advance the position of film in the UK.

Founded in 1933, the BFI is a registered charity governed by Royal Charter.

The BFI Board of Governors is chaired by Josh Berger CBE.

ABOUT THE BFI NATIONAL ARCHIVE

The BFI National Archive was founded in 1935 and has grown to become the one of the largest and most important collections of film and television in the world with over 180,000 films and 750,000 television programmes. For over 80 years the BFI has been an international leader in film preservation and guardian of Britain's unparalleled film and TV heritage. The BFI is an innovator in presenting films to audiences in new and dynamic ways, from cinemas to film festivals, outdoor events to online video-on-demand. At the heart of all its activities is the BFI's central aim to ensure that everyone in the UK has access to the widest possible range of film and their own film heritage.

That heritage includes all time great British directors Alfred Hitchcock, David Lean and Powell and Pressburger; and the rich vein of documentary filmmaking, in which Britain led the world, including the lyrical work of Humphrey Jennings. The archive also boasts a significant collection of filmmakers' papers as well as extensive stills, posters and production and costume designs along with original scripts, press books and related ephemera.

Expert teams undertake the time-consuming and complex task of restoring films at the BFI John Paul Getty Jr Conservation Centre in Hertfordshire. The BFI's most precious film materials are kept in optimum conditions in the world-leading Master Film Store in Warwickshire.

ABOUT BFI PLAYER

BFI Player is a ground-breaking video on demand service which offers a uniquely diverse range of films, from the latest releases to the rarest silent cinema classics, giving UK audiences a rich and rewarding digital film experience. The Britain on Film collections are accessible through the BFI Player. <http://player.bfi.org.uk/britain-on-film>

ABOUT THE BFI FILM AUDIENCE NETWORK

The BFI Film Audience Network (FAN) is a ground-breaking initiative that gives audiences across the UK the opportunity to see a diverse range of films in a cinema setting. For filmmakers, getting films onto cinema screens is a highly competitive business, particularly for specialised films which includes archive, documentary, independent and foreign language films. The BFI FAN aims to change this.

- With £8.7 million of Lottery funding over four years (2013-2017) BFI has set up partnerships with nine lead organisations (Film Hubs) to work full-time with cinema exhibitors, film festivals, educators, film societies, community venues, film archives and other organisations in their regions or nations to boost audiences for film across the UK.
- The Film Hubs, which drive audience engagement locally, work together with the BFI at a UK-wide level to grow audiences for British independent and specialised film. They currently comprise: Broadway, Nottingham; Chapter, Cardiff; HOME, Manchester; Film London; Queen's Film Theatre, Belfast; Regional Screen Scotland; the University of Brighton; Showroom Sheffield and National Media Museum, Bradford; and Watershed, Bristol. These organisations and their partners form the BFI FAN.
- The Film Hub for Central East (Cambridge Film Trust & Broadway Cinema, Nottingham) has secured funding as part of the BFI's Programming Development Fund to administer and coordinate more than 80 screening events across all UK Film Hubs including film from the regional archives to engage with a wider audience in a number of venues.



Life changing®

ABOUT THE ESMÉE FAIRBAIRN FOUNDATION

Esmée Fairbairn Foundation aims to improve the quality of life for people and communities throughout the UK both now and in the future. We do this by funding the charitable work of organisations with the ideas and ability to achieve positive change. We are happy to be supporting Britain on Film – a significant, UK-wide film archive project, which will make titles from the BFI National Archive and national and regional screen archives available to the British public, offering a unique opportunity for insight and reflection on places, communities and histories throughout the UK.

The Foundation is one of the largest independent grant-makers in the UK. We make grants of £30 - £35 million annually towards a wide range of work within the arts, children and young people, the environment and social change. We also operate a £26 million Finance Fund which invests in organisations that aim to deliver both a financial return and a social benefit.

www.esmeefairbairn.org.uk

