

# Alexandra Palace Television Group

*CBE; Treasurer: Tony Wilding; Secretary Frank Phillip*

## **History of Alexandra Palace Television Group (APTG)**

The Alexandra Palace Television Group came about in 1998, at that time Dr Jim Lewis was looking for a location to exhibit/store the historically important Thorn EMI collection. It was housed in a soon to be demolished Ferguson factory in Enfield. The General manager at that time agreed it could be housed in the Historic studio A.

One of our objectives is to work with other agencies to assist in the development of a world class visitor attraction documenting the development, of all aspects of television, particularly important part Alexandra palace played up to 1981.

## **Achievements**

- We have installed and developed the current exhibition currently displayed in studio A. This has involved bringing a number of collections together and negotiation with other curators to make artefacts available.
- We organised a series of lectures to local school Children informing children of the important television history on their door step.
- We have helped host open days which have attracted up to 600 visitors to studio A in one day!
- We have conducted many lectures and tours in studio A for many groups and societies.
- We collected approx 1900 signatures to demonstrate to Trustees' and the Charity Commission the depth of feeling with regard to protecting AP's television heritage.
- We conducted a campaign to encourage people to make representation to the charity Commission 2005. This led to an unprecedented amount of TV history related representations.
- In conjunction with the BBC we made an application to English Heritage to review the listing of AP

## **Activities**

We have been working with a number of organisations over the last 5 years with the objective of establishing a TV heritage attraction in the south east wing at Alexandra Palace. We were in the process of developing a viable concept when the decision was made to adopt the Firoka group as preferred developer.

Alexandra Palace Television Group had a number of meetings with Mr Kassam and his possible partners. We explored the viability of our concept and were working towards the establishment of a visitor attraction. We were looking forward to working with Mr Kassam with a view to implementing our plans.

## **Our Broad Concept:**

The opportunity exists to create a place of engagement between the public, specialist audiences, education and the television industry. Still within the building are the studios, support areas and offices leased by the BBC from 1936 to 1981 where trials were undertaken to establish the first public television broadcasting service in the world. On November 2 1936 two test transmissions were made from adjacent studios, one with the

# Alexandra Palace Television Group

*CBE; Treasurer: Tony Wilding; Secretary Frank Phillip*

hybrid mechanical-electronic Baird system and the other with the electronic EMI Marconi system. Using the studio spaces and the ancillary areas it would be possible to provide facilities for;

- A popular visitor attraction with;
  1. Static and interactive exhibits including recreation of the original broadcasts using a replica studio
  2. Limited display of objects - on rotation
  3. Digital engagement spaces allowing visitors to explore their personal and community history through television
  4. Temporary exhibitions with particular interest to local schools
- Education facilities for schools and colleges
- Corporate entertainment, event and showcase spaces
- Retail and catering