



RTS LONDON CENTRE

## **RTS London Centre Chair's Report for 2010**

The majority of RTS members are in the London Region so the Centre's strategy continues to be to provide events and activities that complement the Society's national events and reflect the large and diverse television community in and around the capital.

Our main focus has been on the successful programme of lectures and discussions while other activities have included the London Student Awards and the popular Carol Concert.

The 2009 RTS London Student Awards were presented at the ITV London Studios on the South Bank in early February and thanks to the efforts of Terry Marsh, Kristin Mason, Phil Barnes and others this was once again an excellent evening with added educational value for the students from a question and answer sessions by established producers. Two of our winning entries went on to be nominated for the national Student Television Awards.

The events committee are to be congratulated for organising a wide ranging and successful programme with fifteen evening events and thanks to the continuing generous support of ITV, most of these were also held at the London Studios. Six 'Production Focuses, where a team talk through their programme, ranged from the BBC's multimedia offer for teenagers on BBC Switch to "Churchill's Spy School" for the History Channel. Four more technology-based events included an overview of IBC and developments in Mobile TV. The Guild of Television Cameramen were invited to debate their craft and over a hundred people attended the second Jane Mercer memorial lecture, a joint event with Focal International, where Kevin Brownlow reviewed his life in archives. There was also an expert led discussion on 'Demystifying Copyright' - a topic proposed by a student- and an open discussion, led by Roger Bolton, on 'The General Election - How was it for you?' with four News Editors and Michael Cockerell.

These diverse events have attracted a growing audience so, following a lot of hard work by Peter Weitzel, an online registration system has been introduced. This has proved extremely successful and should help us to widen our range of activities.

2010 concluded with the traditional biennial RTS London Centre Carol Concert at St Bartholomew the Great in West Smithfield. Thanks to our sponsors this not only raised funds for the society but also, despite the early snow, enabled many members of the Television community, some from outside London, to catch up with old friends and colleagues.

At the end of the year the trustees of the RTS decided to honour Norman Green, who chairs the events committee and was one of the founders of the London Centre, with the RTS's distinguished Pilgrim Award. This award, which is only given occasionally, honoured Norman's outstanding contribution to the Society over many years. The award was presented by David Lowen, the Honorary Secretary of the RTS, before our first event of 2011.

For the future we are looking to widen our range of activities and also to provide more activities specifically for RTS members including visits where numbers are limited. One of these, a visit to BBC R&D, took place in April this year.

David Thomas,

Chair, RTS London Centre.