

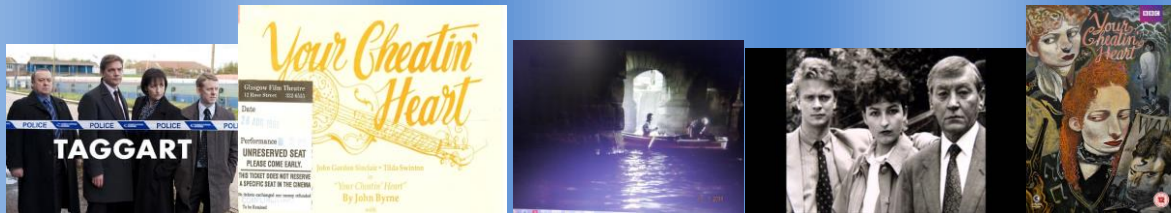


TALES OF THE RIVERMAN 58



FILMS-FICTION AND MORE FICTION

Although many films and radio programmes have been made about the Glasgow Humane Society, we have also featured in a few “non-documentary” films, such as ‘Your Cheatin Heart’, and several Taggart productions, including ‘Prayer for the Dead’ and ‘Billy Whizz’. Sometimes we appeared in the actual film, sometimes we just stood by giving safety cover or advice on location and authenticity. If these films were taking place on the river it was easier if we just took part and ensured everything was done safely.



I remember how funny it was to see Rab C. Nesbit being filmed in one of our boats with a monkey and how pleasant he was to converse with between takes (that’s Gregor Fisher, not the monkey).



I am enjoying the return of ‘Tutti Frutti’ to the small screen and it brings back memories of standing by while Glenda jumped off the Suspension Bridge (several times).



There have also been ‘The Justice Game 2’, ‘Bad Boys’, and others, difficult now to remember them all.



In an episode of ‘Taggart’ a few years ago, it was highly amusing for my two sons when they discovered that the “dead” body in the river was their school drama teacher. Also amusing was watching the “body” with his throat cut, drinking cups of tea or coffee during a break in takes, and when the “dead” body you have lifted into the boat smiles, winks and laughs when he hears the words “CUT”.



How many “takes” can be shot before the film is accepted? I think my record was 48, when a packet of heroin was meant to drift up to the surface, and wasn’t behaving itself.

In one Taggart film a Glasgow University eight was told to hit a body floating in the Clyde with their boat and then I had to go out and retrieve the body.

Mark McManus used to come into the house between breaks and sit and chat to my Mother who was bed ridden at that time. He was so nice and kind with Mother. I also remember him getting his photo taken in the boat with one of our local “cops”, who was called Taggart.





Many actors and entertainers have visited at the river, with some helping to promote the Society. You might recognise some of them!



Appologies to those productions and actors whom I have forgotten about; it has always been a pleasure to meet them.