

Welcome to the new look Border Post. Available on the web and in pdf format.

CHAIRMAN'S CHAT

Firstly a warm welcome to our two new committee members, Josephine Jones as Hon Sec and Valerie Hitchman as editor of Border Post. I do hope you like Val's new format and now in full Technicolor too.

You will have read in last months BP of Dick Hibberd's account in attempting to film the club's principal offering, at Sainsburys, for the Albany Competition and then having to relocate at the last minute. A second story, dreamt up by Ivan Dally and also fleshed out by Rita Wheeler in script form, appeared to go somewhat more smoothly. In this case the local police turned a blind eye to us parking a car on a double yellow as part of the story plot. All appeared to go well with the weather in our favour, but the edit has yet to materialise, so fingers crossed!

Another project that was mooted back in November concerned an audio-only recording of Crawley Ridge Junior School Choir, Camberley. Not normally in our remit, with no visuals, but had good potential as a valuable fundraiser for the PTA and one that particularly excited the children. Those of us involved had to be CRB checked and for the end product to be sold it was necessary to get MCPS licence clearance. The job was achieved using minidisk recorders, and the club's mighty stand-mounted

10m telescopic microphone boom proved to be a great asset, looked impressive and helped to inspire a great result. In the event, we recorded both the choir and the whole school, all 250 pupils.

Incidentally, the project procedures drafted by our Scottish Highlands country member Bruce Frazer were put to good use in this venture.

We are now into round two of our camera and DVD workshops and we are most grateful to Mike Sanders for leading these sessions and to Fred Hawkins for setting them up. I'm pleased to say that the feedback I get is all positive and I look forward to more of the same. A Macintosh users group is currently being planned. Speaking of Macs, David Fairhead, our speaker for this evening is a Mac man which he puts to professional use as a pro editor, so maybe we might have a few more converts by the end of the evening.

Gordon Sutton

COUNTRY MEMBER

Hi Gordon, Thought you might be interested to know I showed Judgement Day to the Dundee Club last night. They were both impressed and entertained!

Best wishes. **Bruce**
(a country member now living in St Andrews)

CLUB NIGHT

Considering the cold evening a surprisingly large number of members arrived for the February meeting of Surrey Border Film Video Makers. No, it wasn't the thought of the Annual General Meeting which inspired them, but the anticipation of a talk by long-time member and past chairman, David Jackson.

The AGM was rapidly out of the way, concluding with a presentation of a bouquet of flowers for the retiring secretary



Gillian Gatland. Then after a short break for refreshments and informal discussion, members were enthralled by a compilation of extracts from some of the more memorable films made by members since the club's inception over two decades ago. David Jackson demonstrated his unique expertise as he brought together such representative extracts so skilfully and entertainingly interwoven. The compilation lasted nearly an hour with members showing their appreciation and delight throughout.

Penny Johnson

MARY DOVE

Members of longer standing will be very sorry to hear that Mary Dove experienced a bad fall on a day out to a London theatre with her family. Instead of the show, she spent 2½ days in St Thomas's Hospital, suffering from a multiple fracture of her wrist. Due to the complexity of the fracture, she had to undergo a general anaesthetic there, to have it set correctly. She is now back home, and despite occasional family help, has to display considerable ingenuity, living alone, to find ways of surmounting ordinary tasks that just can't be done with one hand!

She will have to go to Frimley soon to have wires removed, after which she will have to go back into plaster again for some time. I'm sure she would be immensely cheered to hear from old friends in the Club who would care to ring her up for a chat!

Paul Holden

THE SURREY FILM-VIDEO FESTIVAL '09

If the show is to continue we desperately need more "bums on seats". A show like this does not come cheaply and we are very keen to find out what we have to do to attract a bigger audience. We would very much like to have your input - be as frank as you like. Enclosed is an insert detailing how the Festival is organised at present and suggestions as how it may be improved. I would appreciate you taking the time to let me have your comments, both positive and negative. If you prefer to pass your comments to the editor in confidence, then please free to do so, especially if you'd like to tell us where we're getting things wrong.

David Longley

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MOTHERS DAY CD

As a parent at Crawley Ridge Junior School and a member of the PTA, in November 2007 I was involved in discussions for raising funds. One of the committee commented how beautifully the children sang, and that it may be a good idea to create a CD of them singing. Seeing an opportunity to promote SBFVM, I suggested that the club may be interested as they had done several other charitable projects.

At the end of January we had a trial run with the whole school at 9am. The trial itself was successful, and prudent, since it proved the air-conditioning needed to be switched off to prevent a background hiss and hum. Gordon provided trial disks and suggested CD covers which we promptly delivered the next day.

During February, we recorded 2 sessions, one with just the choir and again the following week with the whole school. The children performed very well with minimal disruption to the recording process and kept quiet at the beginning and end of each song. In all we recorded 14 tracks.

The school held a competition for a cover design intending to have a winner from each year group. But Gordon in his unfailing wisdom, could foresee the administrative problems of producing 4 different designs and instead produced a **composite of all 4 designs**. He then worked his wizardry to produce 2 copies of the finished CD and artwork for the CD cover in 4 days, and the project was ready for delivery on the 16th February. Just 3 weeks and 2 days from the start of the first test run to the finished master disks.

A parent from the school has a media company, Wickens Media, and has agreed to do the volume production for the CDs at reasonable cost and we have been advised that 52 CDs had been pre-ordered before the master disks were even ready!!!

This was an excellent PR opportunity for SBFVM which was a successfully managed project providing professional results. The school and PTA were very grateful and asked "... ummm! Would you be able to do a Christmas CD?".

Ivan Dally



LEARNING ZONE

Shot size

- Shot sizes depend on how intimate we want to be with the character. At the beginning of the story we don't know the characters so long shots should be used, then medium shots, moving on to close ups as we get to know the characters.
- Extreme close ups should be used only when the relationship has become personal. Being too close to a character can be severe if we don't know the character. Intimacy takes time.
- Long shots are used for the opposite effect. Imagine our character is sitting on a bench in the park - as we move out slowly we become less and less intimate with them; and they become insignificant.

REPORT ON N v S FINAL

Vivien and Paul Holden, and Mary Dove, represented SBFVM at the Grand Final of the North v South 2007 Competition at the Farnborough, Kent Village Hall on Sunday 27th January 2008. A packed house, with representatives from as far afield as Derby and Nuneaton, were shown the other four entries from the North that didn't make the final five, and the ten finalists from North and South.

As usual, the audience were asked to pick their top five films out of the ten, in an attempt to mirror the top five nominated by the two judges, both career TV cameramen who became Producers/Directors with Tyne Tees Television before they retired. I only managed to achieve three of their five films in my list, (but not in the same order!), and only one of the packed audience actually put the judges' winning film at the top of his list. I think that this shows not that the judges are out of touch with what audiences regard as entertaining films, but rather that you can't produce the best balanced judgement after a snap showing of ten films in quick succession, with no opportunity for the measured reflection and careful grading which judges are able to do. (But I have to say that their runner-up was a film which I refused to mark at all, because I couldn't see that its content bore any relation to the theme of Faith, Hope and Charity – so I suppose the results will also reflect the guidance judges are given by the competition organisers about the rules of the competition, and the weighting to be given to this aspect.

Whilst Mike Coad was working out the results of the audience competition, we were privileged to see two absolutely outstanding films that have won International Awards all over the world. The first, "225" showed a small boy

travelling on an express train, whiling away the tedium by looking at a Science Fiction book. When his Mum took his little sister along the corridor to the toilet, he looked out of the window and was astonished (as we were) to see several Star Wars type jet fighters formatting on the train as it sped along, nipping in and out of the overhead wiring, and occasionally knocking the top off a passing signal. Then one collided with a church steeple, and came back streaming smoke and crash-landed right alongside the speeding train! He was ever so relieved when his mother returned, but when he looked out of the window to show her what was going on, all the spacecraft had disappeared. But the computer animation of all the special effects was truly out of this world! The second extra film we enjoyed was an expert comedy called "Stripped" – but I won't give you the story line of that, in case you get to see it somewhere

yourselves, as pre-knowledge of the totally unexpected ending would spoil it for you.

After this, Mike came back to announce the official result, which was that the North had won the competition again for the third year running, with a film from Tynemouth Video Group called "Grant Aid"- with the South winning second and third places. (Actually I had the North winning first and third place, and South taking second, fourth and fifth places, so I can't feel that we have been cheated!) And the 2008 theme for this competition was announced as "Be Prepared" – So get thinking, all our scriptwriters!

QUESTIONS

If anyone has any camera or editing questions, please let Fred know. We have a great pool of people who are prepared to give 'one-to-one' assistance.

WHATS BEEN HAPPENING...

- 20 Jan **Steve Bisset** collects his commended certificate at the Surrey Festival in Guildford
- 1 Feb Rough edit of Club entry for A Senior Moment shown at club night - comments requested.
- 2 Feb Ivan Dally and Gordon Sutton meet with Crawley Ridge School to produce a CD to sell in time for Mothers Day
- 5 Feb Script discussion and dress rehearsal for **ShoeString entry for A Senior Moment**
- 7 Feb ShoeString script rehearsal
- 8 Feb Amendments made to Club entry for A Senior Moment following comments from Club Night
- 10 Feb ShoeString shoot for A Senior Moment
- 12 Feb Gordon and Ivan recording for Crawley Ridge School
- 16 Feb Gordon completed Crawley Ridge CD and cover. Disks handed to School
- 23 Feb Final scenes shot for **Club Entry for A Senior Moment**



