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CHAIRMAN'S CHAT

Behind every good club is a hard working committee and, excluding our social gatherings in August and December, yours meets every month to discuss and plan matters of the past, present and future. This **picture of your committee** hopefully shows

us hard at it in the home of V-C Rita during our April meeting. Although Gillian has retired as Secretary she was present on this occasion to hand back her gallant caretaker-ship of the finances now that Treasurer George has returned from his world travels.



When did you last listen to a drama on the radio? I have always been a fan of this media and as a family we both rise and retire each day to the sound of the wireless (that shows my age). As a boy my favourite programme was Journey into Space. Charles Chilton, the creator, writer and producer of this series in the Fifties, which outclassed the ratings of TV at the time, and now age 91, came up with one more instalment "Frozen in Time" which I just had to hear. On this occasion his son, David provided the soundtrack. Images of course are left to one's own imagination so the problem of creating mind-blowing visuals is not part of the production. My only disappointment was the absence of the haunting

music that topped and tailed the original fifties series.

Talking of visuals, one TV programme I would commend to all you anxious-to-learn film-makers is the recent Doctor Who Confidential series. This is a Freeview BBC 3 transmission

that immediately follows the Saturday evening instalment on BBC1. I find it very interesting personally to hear about the storyline thought processes and seeing how the professionals go about shooting and solving the problems with much use of the green screen.

If radio and TV do not currently turn you on, but you want to know how it was done, then look no further than the IAC website. At the request of amateur film critic David Watterson, and as a 4 Star winner at BIAFF '08, our very own Val Hitchman tells all in a 2,400-word article of the trials and tribulations in making her first and very successful film My Passion. A gripping read, expertly illustrated by David. Go to <http://www.theiac.org.uk/makingofindex.html>. This article well deserved to be reproduced in the IAC magazine Film & Video Maker.

Gordon Sutton

LOOKING BACK..

to 1993 ... David Jackson instigated and produced our monthly Border Post. John Woolmer's "Vic the Video" was the monthly cartoon giving timely advice to improve our videomaking, accompanied by an amusing and instructive article headed Woolmer's Wisdom. The following is taken from July '93 entitled:

"POWER

Batteries are never completely discharged on the camcorder. As the voltage drops you get a warning sign in the viewfinder and, shortly afterwards, the camera cuts out. The battery should still be above the lowest operating voltage with enough power to eject the cassette. **Beware of over-discharging batteries!**

Yes in those days we had to use a discharger to prevent a build up level that would not re charge! Thank goodness that's over! You could lose a battery in a week at no mean price!

Penny J

UPDATE ON SIGHT SAVERS

Last month, I trotted out my old 1950s Eumig Sound-on-Stripe Projector to project two of my original 1980 Super-8 sound films about Eye Camps in India to the Good Companions Derby & Joan Club in Rowledge, in support of a talk about Sight Savers International, for whom I am still a voluntary speaker. As a very satisfactory result of this show and talk, they took a collection and contributed enough to restore sight by cataract operations to four blind adult villagers and one blind child - which I thought was a pretty generous gesture from an audience of about 40 people, mostly in their 70s and 80s! - **Paul**

APRIL CLUB NIGHT

We had a very full programme for our April meeting and we started off the first half of the evening by watching the entries for the Club Editing Exercise. There were four entries - 'Rituals' by WriteAngle and John Thompson - a spoof Planet Earth report on the end of a species; 'Mysteries at The Grange' by Paul Holden - a mystery of multiple murders; 'Mayhem at the Manor' by Bill, Alistair and John Widdecombe - another murder mystery; and 'Keeping Score' by Penny - a film accompanied by a poem of the Hoopoe Bird. Judging of the entries was by audience vote.

Before we stopped for our break, we screened the two Albany club films for those members who had not seen the finished products. Both films were well received.

After the break, the results of the editing exercise were announced. The winner was **WriteAngle and Co**, and the runner-up was **Penny**. In the second half of the evening, members demonstrated their

favourite bits of kit, prompting many comments and questions from the floor.

Mini Tripods seemed to be the order of the day with us being shown four different types - **Gillian** introduced us to a strangely attractive little number called a gorillapod, Neil showed us his tiny thing which he said he often held in his hand, Peter showed us his monopod which he had made by removing a leg from his tripod, and Paul showed us his £5



Marks and Spencer 'bargain' which he warned everyone NOT to buy because it wasn't man enough to hold a video camera. Peter also showed us a small beanbag which he had made himself, using square 'beans' as they provided more stability than round ones!

Penny brought along her Inverter which could be used in conjunction

with a portable 12 volt power pack. You charge up the power pack at home, then plug in the Inverter when on site, converting the 12v DC to mains voltage. This setup would provide sufficient power to drive a good size monitor for several hours.



Then Peter showed us his new 'mini' camera with full definition

capability. Although it was a superb camera in size and functionality, it had proved a complete pain to get footage in a condition to edit - taking 7 times real time to import it.

To finish off the evening we watched Peter Matthews film 'On Location' about the Kempton Park Pumping Station, which we plan to visit as a filming opportunity in June. It is a splendid location and should provide inspiration for budding drama buffs to come up with an original script - 'Quatermass Returns' maybe?

Then it was off home after an action packed evening.

Val Hitchman

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING ..

- 6 Apr** A group of members attended the Albany Competition in Chichester
- 8 Apr** Rita and Gordon met to select the film clips to be shown on BAFTA Night
- 12 Apr** Heron Productions met to discuss the script for Amanda, their new film to begin shooting in the autumn.
- 15 Apr** Club committee meeting
- 16 Apr** Penny represented the Chairman at an Albany Competition wash-up meeting
- 17 Apr** Sally moved onto the next stage of her 3D animation movie
- 18 Apr** First mac users training session at Peter's.
- 24 Apr** Val finally made some headway with her war film script
- 26 Apr** Rita started to paint her games room
- 30 Apr** Neil, Rita and Gordon visited Farnham Library as a prelude to the forthcoming Arts Festival
- 30 Apr** Peter's Second mac users training session

NTSC vs PAL

While I was away recently, I set the video recorder to record the NY Concert, but as usual, the BBC planned timetable was not accurate, and the DVD stopped before the end of the final 'Radetsky March'.

I sent away for the 'official' recording by the Wiener Philharmonic, and received a super-looking DVD in a case with illustrated leaflet. Very nice. Just one problem: it was recorded in NTSC instead of PAL. I sent them an email asking if I could change it for one recorded in PAL, but they've simply told me that 'all DVD players will play these DVDs' (not true - my relatively new Panasonic DVD recorder does not!). They also said if I was not satisfied, I could send the DVD back and have my money back. In the circumstances, I've decided to keep it. I've read up the technology on the internet (most of which I can't understand), and gather that the NTSC is mainly used in the USA, while the UK uses PAL, which in many ways is superior.

The point of all this long diatribe is that I understand you can buy an NTSC-PAL converter to enable you to view a DVD on British equipment. Does anyone in the Club have any experience of these programmes, and do they work satisfactorily?

John Leaning

Ed - try www.videohelp.com/dvdhacks which I successfully used to convert my DVD player to 'all regions' for free.

THE ALBANY

On Sunday 6th April, 10 members of SBFVM attended the showing (and judging live) of the 14 maximum permitted entries from 10 Clubs in Surrey and Sussex. This was the first year in which SBFVM had actually

commissioned two Club entries made especially for this competition, for which the theme was "A Senior Moment".

The entries were "Just one of them thingies" from

Dick Hibberd and crew, and "On Patrol" from Val Hitchman and co. We were lucky to get them both shown, because 7 "second" films had been submitted, and the lucky 4 were drawn by lot, apparently

The show was hosted very competently by Chichester Film and Video Makers in a lovely large hall, with excellent catering facilities (run by the Chichester Ladies), close to their



normal Club Meeting Place. A heavy 3" snowfall early that morning did not deter any of the four cars from setting out, and brilliant sunshine during the afternoon melted most of the snow before our return.

The three judges from the Epson Club, with impressive professional film making



backgrounds, told us that "On Patrol" was "another one we liked; Editing good; Video good; Sound good; but not really relevant to the Theme".

Regarding "Just one of them thingies", they commented that it was "a sound concept, well put together, and could have been developed into a better film". That didn't stop them, however,

for telling us that the judges couldn't make their mind up between this film, and "The Dinner Party" from the Portsdown Camcorder Users Club, which was "well thought out; very natural acting; and with several stories relevant to the theme", which to make the overall Winner, and which the Runner Up. Since the Winner's Club has the doubtful privilege and duty to host next year's Albany Competition, there were a few quiet sighs of relief that they finally chose the Portsdown

entry, and awarded the Runner Up Trophy to **Dick and John Widdecombe**, the representatives present of the winning team.

Well Done, Dick and Crew! And

Thanks and Congratulations also to Val and Co. for sending in a very creditable entry on our behalf, which was very well received by the audience.

Paul Holden

JUST DESSERTS

In WriteAngle we have rung the changes over the years. We started with a black comedy "Dead in Bed"; then we tried our hand at a love story, 'A Bright Thread'; then a little Sci Fi, 'A Spell in the Highlands'; and then a drama 'Gingerbread man'. Of course we have made many other mini epics in between these major productions, so when Jean suggested why not try our hand at a documentary, it seemed a good idea to explore another avenue of video production.

The story we found was after visiting the Barley Mow pub at Englefield Green. The more we have researched the story, the more intriguing it has become. It is becoming all too apparent that it will probably require the full co-operation of the Club, together with some outside resources.

So this is the reason why I am telling you a little about our documentary here, so that if you feel interested and that you can help, do get in touch. We will need assistance with duelling pistols, make up, costume, historical research, and perhaps last but not least a cast of six French speaking gentlemen.

We will also need to try our hands at picture compilation where we produce a 3 story high barricade across two different roads in Paris, to simulate the area of where the two protagonists first had their differences during one of the many French Revolutions (probably will only be on the screen for 20 seconds at the most).

At the moment we are envisaging only re-enacting part of the story, and perhaps only narrating the main

features of the plot, as the full story would even stretch the production resources of a major broadcaster. At present we do not have the full plot that we can pitch to those who might be interested in taking part in this production. We keep on discovering more and more about this story, and as yet we are still searching for the full reason why these two men hated each other enough to try and kill each other! Oh there will definitely be tears before tea time with this one, and I hope that with your help we might manage to complete the production within one year. It took us 3 years to complete 'A Bright Thread'! One thing for sure that it has taught me already, is that I know so little about our history! (so, no change there then!!).

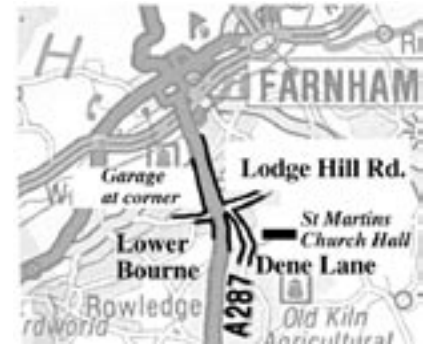
Dick Hibberd, for WriteAngle.



MEETINGS are at St Martin's Church Hall, Lower Bourne on the 1st Friday of each month at 7.30pm for 7.45pm. Meetings close around 10pm.

New members are very welcome, either phone 01252 717877 or turn up at the door!

Dene Lane is the first road on the right in Lodge Hill Road. St Martin's Hall is about half-way down and reached by a walkway to the left. There is ample parking in Dene Lane.



LEARNING ZONE

Voiceovers can make the difference between your film being good or very good. We often don't pay enough attention to the planning of getting that voice 'just right'. In addition to a couple of bottles of water to drink during recording, encourage your narrator to start lubricating their voice at least 4 hours BEFORE the recording, to ensure clarity.

Get them to avoid tea, coffee, ice cold drinks and milky drinks as these produce mucus which will dampen clear speech. Instead, get them to drink lots of clear fluids - preferably water at room temperature.

MISCELLANY

- Those who want to join the filming outing to Kempton Pumping station, please sign up on the notice board.
- Don't forget that Gillian holds the club's Royalty Free music, so if you're looking for that special piece for your latest blockbuster, speak to her.
- If anyone has any camera or editing questions, please let Fred know. We have a great pool of people who are happy to give one-to-one assistance.
- Do you want people to know you are a proud member of SBFVM? Then hand over £16 to Pauline and buy a club sweatshirt for the summer.

DIARY

May 10 Willy van der Linden at SERIAC. This award winning filmmaker will present a programme of films at Tonbridge in Kent.

Jun 15 Filming outing at Kempton Pumping Station.

CLUB DATES

Jun 6 Friends and Relations - speaker Colin Jones

Jul 4 Film in an Evening

Aug 1 Dolphin Puppet Film Productions

Sep 5 Reading F&VM exchange visit

Oct 3 Inter-club Competition

COMPETITIONS

- May 24** **The Croatian Minute Movie Festival.** A great celebration of one-minute movies. Closing date was 18 April. There is a special deal on a holiday package as well. For details check the IAC website.
- May 30** **The 55th British Film Collectors Convention** at Ealing Town Hall. Shows, kit, demos. Mostly Super 8 but also larger gauges. Details at www.bfcc.biz
- May 31** **Closing date for the Guernsey Lily Festival.** The festival is on 17-19 October in La Villette Hotel, Guernsey, Channel Islands.
- Sep 6** **Cotswold International Film and Video Festival.** For details check the website www.cotswoldfilmvideofest.co.uk

LOOKING AHEAD TO 2009:

- Jan 25** **North v South Grand Final**
- Mar 21-29** **19th FIFA (Wildlife) Festival.** Held at Albert in Northern France
- Apr 24-26** **BIAFF 2009** will be hosted by CEMRIAC at the Chesterfield Hotel, Chesterfield.

IMPORTANT CONTACTS

Name Telephone: Email: