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## CHAIRMAN'S CHAT

Where does the time go? I can hardly believe it's time to compose a few lines again. My diary tells me we spent a week in Kefalonia immediately following the May club night but it seems much longer ago than that. Since then a number of us gathered in Dick's barn studio for a projection equipment training session (see Paul's report) and groups of members have been actively planning in preparation for the forthcoming Film-in-an-Evening productions next month.

On Saturday 24th May our club showed its flag by being one of the 16 points of interest on the Farnham Arts Trail, one of the scheduled events for the May 2008 Community Arts Festival entitled "Farnham Creates". This opportunity was taken in the hope of attracting new members by staging both a static display and continuous screening of the introductory sequences of the best 25 films generated in the last 3 years, as shown at last months "Surrey BAFTAs".

Good news. The newly built St Joan's Centre, adjoining the Catholic Church off the Tilford Rd, Farnham, looks very promising as a future club venue. In short, we have booked it for our August meeting as a trial and have options reserved for the future, subject to membership approval. Interestingly, I read in the paper recently that the consumption of a Smoothie a day was highly recommended as it contained the equivalent goodness of eating three fruits. Hooray. A few days later the same paper took an about turn, the headline read 'Smoothies could cause tooth decay'. Typical! The recommendation was brush your teeth FIRST as Smoothies, like fruit juice, have an acidic component. I, probably like most, brush my teeth after breakfast, when apparently the enamel has just

been weakened. Damn it! So I've obviously been doing it wrong for the past 60 odd years and this probably accounts for the fact that I have more

fillings than teeth and sometimes have trouble with my worms words. Following on this health theme, I also read the secret of Bond's success.

### JINGLE BELLS

The committee are having difficulty coming up with a new venue for Christmas lunch this year, so please let us know if you've got any ideas.

Martinis 'Shaken, not stirred' are healthier as shaking the drink deactivates hydrogen peroxide, a substance linked to ageing and disease. Great. My third point on this topic escapes me for the moment. Oh yes, Celery. Eating this now helps to counter the onset of Alzheimer's. I must try to remember that!

**Gordon Sutton**

## MAY CLUB NIGHT

The May meeting of Surrey Border Film & Video Makers was a special tri-annual celebration of its filmmaking. In that time Club members had made a total of 128 films/videos! The meeting was the second of what looks set to be a regular celebration of the best acting, directing and script writing over a three-year period. Introduced by a previous club chairman Brian Harrison, it represented the consolidation of a move towards recognition of artistic merit.

The evening started with a composite video made of extracts from the 25 videos on the short list. Members were then shown excerpts from the five films short listed for the drama scriptwriting prize. Guest speaker Norman Holden followed with insightful comments on the five, drawing on his wide experience in commercial films. Then followed

excerpts from four films short listed for a new category of non-drama scriptwriting, which Norman also commented on. Harry Page, a guest speaker from Portsmouth, then attacked the seven nominations for the directing award with his individualistic views on what qualities he was looking for under the umbrella of direction. Finally Derek Watts, an



experienced actor, gave his supportive views on the four nominations for the acting award.

After the interval, during which there was much speculation as to which

videos would be winners, the actual awards were made. **Josephine Jones** took the acting award for her part in 'Judgement Day'; Jacky Wilson the drama scriptwriting award for 'A Bright Thread' and **Val Hitchman** the directing award for 'My Passion'. Club Chairman, **Gordon Sutton**, was presented with the non-drama scriptwriting award for '24 inch Boys'.

**Neil Cryer**



# PROJECTOR TRAINING

On Wednesday 21st May, courtesy of Dick and Jean Hibberd, we ran a quite complicated projector training session for those brave souls who had volunteered to help out with this important Club Duty – Fred Hawkins, Dick Hibberd, Penny Johnson and John Thompson. Chairman Gordon Sutton undertook the training, with assistance on the sidelines from Paul Holden and John Widdecombe.



The most difficult thing to learn is how to connect all the various pieces of film playing equipment – VHS, SVHS, Mini-DV and DVD through the Panasonic VCR, where the cueing up films on any of this equipment can be privately monitored on a connected small video screen, before passing the signals on to our Panasonic Digital Mixer, and from there to the Projector and Sound



Amplifier. Then there is the trick of storing the Club Logo on one channel of this mixer, so that this can be projected whilst the projectionist cues up the next film, and mixed to that film, when it starts, and back to the Logo when it finishes.

All this looks very easy when it is competently done by a trained and experienced projectionist – but it is a very different matter when you are trying to do it quickly whilst Club Members are assembling, and trying to talk to you on interesting topics of the day – and when you are trying to project a strange and possibly unresponsive DVD whilst the audience is getting restless! So new hands are vitally needed, both to help out on Club Nights, and to help sometimes with external shows.

So well done, Fred, Dick, Penny and John – they all passed with flying colours, and we look forward to some

## PLEASE HELP

I am taking part in 'Walk in the Park' on June 8 to help raise vital funds and awareness for Diabetes UK. I am completing my local walk (I hope to do 5 miles) because there are now 2.3 million people living with diabetes in the UK and it would be great to help to find a cure.

Would you, please, show your support by sponsoring me to complete this walk. The money raised will go directly to Diabetes UK to fund research into better treatment, prevention and the ultimate goal of finding a cure of diabetes.

Everyone who signs up brings us one step closer to finding a cure for diabetes, so your donation really can make a difference to the millions of people in the UK affected by diabetes, including David. I would be really grateful for your support.

**Pauline Tate**

skilled help with setting up in the pre-show panic, and getting in some practice operating with background support from one of the old hands . . .

**Paul Holden**

## SOME IDEAS FOR FILMING AND VENUES?

In case anyone is interested, we have been on some very interesting day trips - some of which could make interesting little films (not that we did any filming!).

We went to the Roman Museum in Cirencester first to get the background. It is an excellent museum, interesting, well laid out and informative. Cirencester is a lovely town, used by Charles and Camilla apparently and consequently rather expensive. After lunch we were taken through some lovely countryside to Chedworth Roman Villa. Those Romans certainly knew how to pick locations! Chedworth is in a beautiful spot. The art of bathing can be understood very clearly at the villa and the mosaics are amazing.

Updating the history trail to 1066 next with a visit to Battle Abbey, which put

a totally new light on King Harold. The audio handsets brought the battle to life - what a hell of a day that was! Fortunately the weather was nice that day as visiting Battle Abbey means a lot of time outdoors. Plenty of good eating places in the town.

A trip to Dover Castle brought the trail a little more up to date. Even though we have been through Dover several times we didn't realise what a marvelous place the Castle is - full of history about the threatened invasions from the French to the threat from Hitler during WW2. Those who worked in the tunnels for D-Day landings must have felt like moles, but how exciting to have been part of it all. Those white cliffs hold some secrets! Our last trip was to Bletchley Park, rescued from extinction quite recently. As a Communicator (Telegraphist) in

the WRNS I had always wanted to see the home of the 'Enigma' code breaking machine. We had used very similar machines during my service. However, what turned out to be even more fascinating was the 'Colossus' machine - forerunner of our computers. A working replica has been built and is chugging away in the Centre and the workings of this huge machine can now be contained in an electronic chip - amazing. We were fortunate to be able to see the Bletchley Park House, which is a lovely building. The all important 'Huts' are showing their age but .....what stories they could tell. What is amazing is that all those people managed to do the all important work without anyone getting to know the secrets of Bletchley Park.

**Pauline Tate**

# IT TAKES TIME

I have always been an admirer of the genius of Alfred Hitchcock, even though today some of his films do seem quite dated. Over the years with the help of television, the viewer has grown more sophisticated in accepting whatever the medium throws in our direction.

It would seem that programmes are mostly made for the lowest common denominator, although we do get the occasional gem. This has happened because the controls and restraints that were once imposed on the TV producers, have largely been removed. Successive governments of all political shades have been uncomfortable with the power of television. Margaret Thatcher managed eventually to emasculate the TV industry, and I am sure that our current government, are grateful to her for that.

So what about Alfred H? Well, I am sure that we would all agree that Mr Hitchcock was a master of suspense. Apart from the plot, scary lighting, and strange camera angles, Alfred let his film editors build the suspense into a sequence, by the intercutting of shots, and the duration that they were on the screen.

As you will know, if we have a bomb in a case, and an unsuspecting man is carrying this case, the shots of his face, his casual glance to his watch, our view of the clock by the bomb ticking away to the hour, we know that disaster will happen, if he doesn't get rid of that case. So we make the shots get gradually closer, to his view of his watch, the shot of the bomb clock, his feet on the pavement, perhaps children walking close by. We also reduce the time that these pictures are on the screen, and so the tension mounts with the shots getting closer, the time

on the screen getting shorter, and then the hands of the clock showing the hour has been reached, and then there is a mighty explosion, a flash of white light, and everything is in chaos, we have a long shot of the devastation, shots of people standing still in shock, or staggering around in dust and smoke.

Of course in a Hitchcock film, Alfred would have pulled the master stroke, of having the bomb clock develop a fault, or a loose connection, and the bomb wouldn't have gone off as the town clock struck 12. The person carrying the case would have got up and walked away from the bench where he was sat waiting for his friend, and their greeting might have been some small distance from the exploding case.

When I worked in the film industry, I was interested to see that in the cutting rooms, the editors had large bins with a row of bulldog clips nailed to a bar, a couple of feet above the bins. In the bulldog clips were all the shots of the sequence I have just described. In order to get the correct build up of suspense, shall we say shot 1 was 12 feet long, and so were all the intercutting shots. Shot 2 was 8 feet long, and so were all the intercutting shots, shot 3, 4 feet, shot 4, 1 foot, shot 5, 6 inches, etc, etc. It was quite simple to translate the ever increasing speed in an intercutting sequence, by simply measuring the length of film, and consequently its time on the screen.

This is not so easy to do in the amateur video world of today, but it is possible. A Belgian television cameraman, Werner Van den Bulk, managed it in a short film entitled "Holocaust Express".

I first saw this film at the Guernsey International Film Festival last October, and then again recently at the SERIAC event, when Willy Van der Linden showed us many of his films on the

10th of May in Tunbridge. This film has a surprising conclusion, but the shots at the start of the film, the people getting on the train, the

## MUST WATCH !!!

If you want to see some great shorts from a member of Nottingham Moviemakers, watch his YouTube videos at: [www.b-hague.co.uk/nm.htm](http://www.b-hague.co.uk/nm.htm) ABSOLUTELY CLASSIC! - Ed

train starting, gathering speed, the coal being shovelled into the fire, the steam coming from the pistons, the driver looking anxiously forward, the steam and smoke in the cab - all beautifully shot and framed, with exquisite lighting, and the duration of the shots becoming shorter and shorter, and then.....but I won't spoil it for you, you'll just have to see for yourself.

As a cameraman I was able to appreciate the cleverness of the shots, camerawork, and the editing. But as a viewer, you shouldn't be aware, only moved by the event, without fully understanding why.

Its a question of 'Pace'. It doesn't have to be rapid, it can be slow and tranquil, leisurely and laid back, whatever suits the story or the occasion. It is really something we should all aspire to as film makers, but oh so difficult to achieve in video.

As the old bull said to the young bull, "No, don't hurry down to that field of heifers, you'll only get one or two. Just stroll down slowly and we can have the lot!!" It's all a matter of timing.

**Dick Hibberd**

## DON'T BE SHY

Have you recently completed a film, or maybe you're still working on a film and struggling with parts of it - maybe you could benefit from some comments from other club members. We would love to see it a club night. **The club is for sharing**, so contact a committee member to talk about your film being shown!

## WHATS BEEN HAPPENING...

**5 May** Oddbods brainstorm Film in An Evening

**21 May** Projector Training at Dick's

**24 May** SBFVM man a display in Farnham library for the Farnham Arts Trail

**28 May** Committee visit prospective new venue for SBFVM

**29 May** Oddbods run through script and props for Film In An Evening

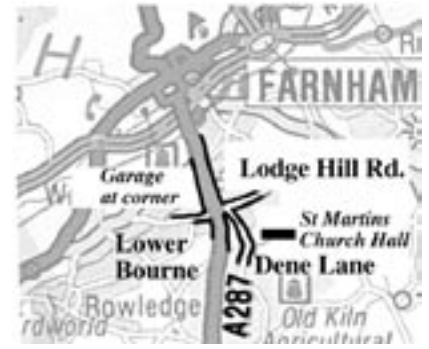




**MEETINGS** are at St Martin's Church Hall, Lower Bourne on the 1st Friday of each month at 7.30pm for 7.45pm. Meetings close around 10pm.

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.



## BUCKS OPEN STUDIOS '08 June 14 - June 29



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Email:

[tana.fletcher@dolphinpuppetfilms.co.uk](mailto:tana.fletcher@dolphinpuppetfilms.co.uk)

## MISCELLANY

- DON'T FORGET THE FILMING OUTING AT KEMPTON PUMPING STATION on 15 June.
- Film & Video Maker - our very own Steve Bissett is mentioned in dispatches for his BIAFF entry!
- Any members willing to have one of their SHORT films shown on the SBFVM website, contact Neil. The film must be cleared for copyright for music etc.
- Don't forget that 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.
- Film In An Evening is our next club night, so get rehearsing!!

## DIARY

- Jun 14** Bucks Open Studio (see details alongside)
- Jun 15** Filming outing at Kempton Pumping Station.
- Jul 6** Summer Barbecue - details to follow
- Jul 19** Bourne Show

## CLUB DATES

- Jul 4** Film In An Evening
- Aug 1** Dolphin Puppet Film Productions (see details)
- Sep 5** Reading F&VM exchange visit
- Oct 3** Inter-club Competition
- Nov 7** Chairman's Night
- Dec 5** Annual Members' Club Competition

## COMPETITIONS

**Oct 17-19** Guernsey Lily Festival. La Villette Hotel, Guernsey, Channel Islands.

**Sep 6** Cotswold International Film and Video Festival.  
For details check the website [www.cotswoldfilmvideofest.co.uk](http://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 hosted by CEMRIAC, Chesterfield Hotel, Chesterfield.

## IMPORTANT CONTACTS

Name

Telephone:

Email: