



Affiliated to the

# Border Post

Journal of Surrey Border Film & Video Makers

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## CHAIRMAN'S CHAT

As most of you are aware we are fortunate to have a healthy number of members in our club and one of the highest in SERIAC (South East Region of the Institute of Amateur Cinematographers). In total we are currently 51 in number, comprising 12 doubles, 22 singles and 5 Country Members who mainly live away.

Most new members in the past 5 years have been attracted by our club web site, which is excellently maintained by our PRO Officer Neil Cryer. Of late, interest in our club was expressed by a handful of people at the recent Farnham Arts Festival and it is hoped more will emerge, particularly the young, from our attendance at the Bourne Show later this month. If we have not seen them earlier these people will then be personally invited to come to our Interclub Competition evening in October, that may be at the new club venue!

Subsequent to a recent dispatch from

the IAC in which the first 12 months subscription is being offered for the price of 9 to help swell its membership, I was very pleased to establish that 15 of us already hold individual membership of the IAC but I would still like to encourage others who have expressed interest.

Although our club is affiliated to the IAC, which covers the submission of club made films in competitions from a copyright viewpoint, this does not cover films made by individual members.

The advantages of personal IAC membership are too numerous to cover here; so to find out much more do take a look at <http://www.theiac.org.uk/central/newcamera.html>. Quite frankly the IAC

### NEW CLUB VENUE

Don't forget that next month's meeting will take place at St Joan's Centre in Farnham - see Miscellany for address.

magazine, Film & Video maker, is worth the subscription alone and is a valuable resource which justifies archiving for

reference purposes in view of the many excellent and informative articles it contains on numerous aspects of film making. Apart from telling us the ins and outs of what has been made and how it was done, it covers what's new and how to get the best out of your kit. The IAC magazine also comes with a copy of SERIAC

News, one of the eight regions covered by the IAC, which deals with the events and happenings in the South East and Channel Islands. One of the features is Reg Lancaster's production of "Offcuts" from SERIAC Club Magazines and I'm always interested to see any reference hits that come from our own Border Post. I wonder if this will make it?

**Gordon Sutton**

## ON-GOING TRAINING COURSES

Our professional training course is once more under way with three full groups.

We recapped on 'Crossing the Line' and cleared up a few hazy points. A very complicated subject this one, which most of us felt wouldn't really fall into place until we get well practised. It boils down to placing cameras on the side of the line facing towards us, and bearing that in mind we moved on to the next session, the subject of camera positions.

Every camera position has to be set up so all shots to be taken from that position are taken and carefully numbered for the Editor, then all the shots for the next camera position follow, and so on. Shot numbers are

then critical for editing.

Following this was all about focus, 'shifting', 'pulling', in this case

### VOLUNTEERS

are needed for the forthcoming 'The Bourne Show' on 19th July to man the stand. Gordon will be supplying the gazebo and a board for displaying photographs. Other details are yet to be finalised.

'wracking' focus, and aspects, consisting of blurring out the foreground or background to enhance depth and hold the focus on the main subject, be it

in the foreground, centre, or background forming three 'planes'. Depth can also be enhanced by adding props to each plane, thus avoiding a flat picture.

We were also taught the use of frames, shifting depth and the effect of pendulum shots! also how your focus and aperture works and the use of lenses and 'deep staging'. All very interesting and at the end of the day we should all talk the same language.

Thanks go to Mike Sanders who has made it all possible and given up so much of his precious time. Thank you Mike from us all.

**Pennyj**

# A STEAMING WEEKEND!

No, we weren't in the tropics we were much nearer home, Kempton Park in Middlesex. Several months ago Peter Matthews, who as well as being a keen amateur cinematographer is also an engineer, suggested members of the club may be interested in visiting the **Kempton Park Water Works**.

Now visiting a pumping station may not sound very interesting, but this isn't any old pumping station. This is a purpose built pumping station that in 1928 was designed to house the largest triple steam engine in the world. The elegant lines of the Metropolitan Water Board building reflects the architecture of the time which combined practicality with style and once inside, the same attention to detail has created a clean work space which is completely tiled in attractive white tiles with black edging leading up to the ceiling.



Ten of us from Surrey Borders enjoyed the guided tour as the engines were started. **Mike Sanders** kindly explained to interested members why he was taking certain shots, what he was looking for with a view to holding the attention of a potential audience. He interviewed Peter and also two of the young apprentices for the human interest side. Watch this space for a future film.

The huge 62ft high engines were made in Newark, Nottinghamshire, and had to be designed so that no part would weigh more than 16 tons. The reason being that at the time, the pay load on the

trains was a maximum of 16 tons. This meant that the enormous fly wheels, weighing 32 tons had to be designed in two parts, each weighing 16 tons and assembled on site.

The pumping station worked 7 days a week, 24 hours a day from 1928 to 1980, pumping millions of gallons of

water to areas of London. In 1980 the triple expansion engines were turned off. The site lay dormant, cold and derelict until in 1995 Peter Matthews picked his way in the dark through the sludge, grime and rats and, shining his



torch onto these sleeping giants had a dream that one day these mighty engines would work again. On 13th December 2002, HRH The Prince of

Wales inaugurated the museum.

To help finance the Trust, the pumping house has been used as a location for several films and television programmes including one of the James Bond films, recently *The Golden Compass*, and also for several of the *Poirot* films. Steaming Weekends, when the No. 6 Engine will be in steam, take place seven times a year. Details can be found on: [www.kemptonsteam.org](http://www.kemptonsteam.org)

**Rita Wheeler**

## JUNE CLUB NIGHT

At the June meeting of Surrey Border Film and Video Club, **Colin Jones** from the Orpington video club enthusiastically entertained members with a fascinating talk on filming family and relatives.

He started off light-heartedly with a film to a relatively traditional theme of a wife being caught with the milkman. After a hurried exit of said tradesman the closing remark by the irate husband was, "It's the baker we owe money to!"

The next film was on the more serious subject of how to make a film to remember someone with Alzheimer's. Fortunately this particular Alzheimer's sufferer was still excellent at the piano and so the introduction was his sitting down at the piano and starting



to play. We then heard this playing throughout the film, as he was taken on various visits. In the discussion afterwards the film was complimented on both the piano-playing idea and the sympathetic treatment.

Another memorable film was of an old-timer who never threw anything

away and was a dab hand at mending things. It was full of humour as we saw how the main character had mended his wife's handbag using a nut and bolt, made an umbrella from three faulty ones and made cold frames for the garden from windows thrown out when the house was being double glazed. The tips and humour flowed in equal measure from this charming old

guy who seemed blissfully unaware that the audience was laughing as much at him as with him.

The final film was an excellent example of how to present reminiscences. An old man reminding us of his past was out in the park with his grandson in a pushchair feeding the ducks. This provided attractive visuals which were remarkably in harmony with the stories from the past. It was the presence of the youngster which was key to the film, with excellent choices of expressions and sideways glances superbly cut, to give the impression the child was understanding everything that was said. For the parting shot to show the child to be asleep was a brilliant touch and produced quite a few chuckles from the audience.

**Neil Cryer**

# JUST HOW LUCKY CAN YOU GET?

It is quite incredible just how many interesting and exciting places I have been introduced to by being a member of our Video club. I was going to try and write a short piece about Directing, or possibly 'Crossing the Line', but those can wait for another time, and anyway, I know a lot more about 'Crossing the Line' than I do about Directing, so there is no great loss there.

A Film in an Evening, is such a great challenge, and it certainly sharpens the mind about video production values and techniques, and by the time you read this, only WriteAngle and our delightful Editor will have been privy to our secret.

Jean wrote a script which involved a monastery, and monks. Well of course we had neither. There were discussions about turning some white witches costumes into monks habits with the aid of the odd pillow slip, and then there was a brown flannelette blanket which might be turned into a Habit, neither possibility very convincing.

I thought that a friend of mine, the Reverend John Evans, might be able to advise. "Try Farnborough Abbey, or Alton Abbey" came the response to my enquiry. I was going to Alton, so I rang up the Abbey.

Abbot Giles was most accommodating, and "Yes, I could borrow a couple of habits". So off I went to Alton Abbey near Beech.

I was going to make a good impression, arrive on time, show my reliability .... Then, 'ROAD CLOSED'.... Oh no, now what do I do? I retraced my steps, well tyre marks really, back down through Beech, and found an alternative route arriving only 5 minutes later than scheduled.

I did as the sign commanded at the door, and rang the bell and waited. Perhaps I should have pressed the bell a little longer, after all it was a big place, and very quiet. A rather wispy middle aged little lady came down the drive. Was she perhaps a visiting Nun out of

uniform? I answered her question, "Yes, I had rung the bell", and then a man got out of a nearby parked car, and walked to the door in a very business-like manner and entered the building, and as he passed he said he would get someone to come and see me, and why didn't I wait in the Foyer.

I left my wispy Nun and went into the Foyer. By now my diuretic was beginning to have its usual effect, and yes there was a sign that said 'Toilets', but it would be just my luck for some monk to arrive whilst I was otherwise occupied, and turn away thinking I had left. It was no good, the alternative to not using the toilet was unthinkable at the best of times, and certainly GOD would not forgive me even if the monks would!



Ah, that's better, what a relief. I hope no one has been to the Foyer, whilst I was elsewhere. No, but here comes someone, I can hear footsteps, rather ponderous ones. Was I about to be confronted by Quasimodo? Well, almost. A very large man with glasses, a black clerical shirt, and the most colourful Bermuda shorts that it was my misfortune to encounter, with his bare legs without socks in casual moccasin slip ons. I told him of my mission and he seemed to understand, told me to wait,

and he went back the way he came. I gazed after his receding figure, and then wandered around the Foyer, looking at various texts and information about the Abbey, and the Benedictine Order. All quite fascinating. Then quite suddenly a large bespectacled bearded figure

came through the front entrance, this time wearing a clerical gown. He was carrying a large black bundle of clothes. "Here you are, I think this is what you want" I said thank you very much, and to whom do I have the pleasure of addressing? "I'm Abbot Giles". Well I told him my name, and thanked him, and asked that whilst I was here, would it be possible for me to take a few photographs. "Yes, yes" he boomed, "Just go down the path at the side there and you can enter the church, do take any pictures you care to".

I took lots of lovely pictures, wandered around the church and the grounds, saw my wispy Nun in the distance, seated under a tree in the lovely garden, studying a book, theologian one no doubt. I didn't disturb her.

I turned away from this oasis of tranquility and charm, and before I headed home, I bought a splendid little walnut tree from the plant stall in front of the entrance. I left the £15.00 required for the purchase of the tree in the honesty box, and I am sure that it would be put to good use. Now If I hadn't been a SBFVM Club member, I would never have had this wonderful adventure, or bought my walnut tree!

**Dick Hibberd**



## LEARNING ZONE

Rita has found a couple of web sites which mac users may find of interest. They offer information, advice and tutorials.

[www.zoom-in.com/apple/final-cut-studio](http://www.zoom-in.com/apple/final-cut-studio) is an interesting site which offers free tutorials, videos and podcasts for Final Cut Studio 2.

[www.soundsnap.com](http://www.soundsnap.com) is linked from zoom-in and has some interesting animal and other noises which can be downloaded for free.

[www.kenstone.net](http://www.kenstone.net) offers many articles and free tutorials for Final Cut Pro 6. The article by Steve Martin looks to be particularly interesting.

[www.rippletraining.com](http://www.rippletraining.com) offers Final Cut Studio training with both free tutorials and ones you have to pay for.



**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.



## MISCELLANY

- Don't forget that next month's meeting will be held at St Joan's Centre, 19 Tilford Road, Farnham (see map at top of page).
- We are shortly going to have week long static displays up in the entrance to the Farnham Library. Details to follow.
- 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.
- Our summer barbecue is this Sunday 6 July at Rita and Al's from 12 noon to 6pm. To ensure there's enough food for everyone, please make sure you let someone on the committee know if you intend coming.

## 10 REASONS TO JOIN THE IAC

### 1. CONTACTS

Membership puts you in contact with other enthusiasts

**2. EXPERT ADVICE AND TRAINING** on all movie and A/V matters, simple or complicated.

### 3. YOUR OWN MAGAZINE

Keeping in touch with members and new developments

**4. COPYRIGHT CLEARANCE** covers music used in non-commercial movies and A/V sequences

### 5. MUSIC DISCS

Recordings often composed especially for movies and not publicly available.

### 6. FILM AND VIDEO LIBRARY

The IAC holds the largest collection of outstanding amateur movies

### 7. COMPETITIONS

Our amateur film competitors receive written comments from a panel of experts. There is also an A/V competition.

### 8. FESTIVALS

Our British International Film and A/V Festival shows the winners from the UK and overseas.

**9. AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE** awarded for achievement and service to the IAC

**10. MEMBERSHIP CARD** confirms amateur status and can be helpful in getting permission to film in otherwise inaccessible places.

## 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.

## CLUB DATES

**Aug 1** Dolphin Puppet Film Productions

**Sep 5** Reading F&VM exchange visit

**Oct 3** Inter-club Competition

**Nov 7** Chairman's Night

**Dec 5** Annual Members' Club Competition

## IMPORTANT CONTACTS

Name:

Telephone:

Email: