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CHAIRMAN'S CHAT

A Very Happy New Year to all our readers in this the 25th Anniversary Year of Surrey Border Film and Video Makers. We owe so much to our founder member and President, Sir Paul Holden, who continues to inspire us all with his unending energy and enthusiasm in all we strive to do.

The annual members' competition held in December was once again an excellent event with no less than 20 of us being involved in some way or another in the 14 films we had the pleasure of viewing. I must add, however, that 5 of the movies did come from our 'International' member

emigrated to the Highlands with, what else, '**Highland Fling**' which



also gained him the best edit trophy. As the club is reluctant to pay my expenses to deliver his trophies, we will be dispatching cardboard cut-outs. Please see the inside pages for a full listing of all the entries and awards.

The club's Christmas lunch was also a joyous occasion with a record



number of 30 of us gathered at the Farnham House Hotel, Farnham, in beautiful grounds and set well back from the A31. This was our first visit to this excellent venue and was expertly sourced by our outgoing **Social Secretary Delia Hill** for which



we are extremely grateful. The staff were extremely obliging and the meal



choices and quality proved to be a delight and good value for money. I think we might be going there again at the end of 2009. What do you think?

Gordon Sutton



Steve Bissett who hails from New Zealand. As Jan and David Watterson, our internationally renowned judges for the evening said, "if only Steve's movies did not end so quickly". His longest production lasted just 90 seconds! Steve is fearless in using his camera at arms length in conditions others would rarely contemplate.

The overall winner was our Country member, **Bruce Frazer**, who has

CLUB NIGHT

Armed with alarm clocks Dave and Jan Watterson arrived to do the honours for our club competition, making sure that they wouldn't overrun the allotted time. Having prejudged the films, printed a superb programme and provided a disc of all the films in a splendid case for the club archives, they went on to present



a grand evening of club entries together with a short film from Iran, A Thimbleful of Water. A very moving film featuring a disabled lad, who tries to rescue a fish, a young lady comes to his rescue and falls in love with him.

Our thanks go to David and Jan for making the evening such a success.

"The Highland Fling" by Bruce Frazer opened the evening, for six minutes we were taken in to the spirit of tossing the caber, large women wrestling with large men pulled them down, while others flung heavy weights high into the air behind them to fail or fly over the height bar. Kilts twirled, and sword dancers danced in time to the highland music as the events took place and created a colourful enjoyable spectacle.

We moved on with **"Homesearch" and the Writeangle** group as Marjorie and Peter were invited to inspect a place in the sun by its every inch, and were too polite to say how awful it was until they left.

Neil Cryer's "Swallow Tiles" then took us for an interesting trip to see how 800 tiles a day were produced from the digger to the kiln, as another ancient craft sadly bites the dust for development.

This was Jan's chance to speak, bearing her words on a clay tile. "A wonderful resource of an old art."

Sally Maltby coursed the path of the flowers laid on the street to the ringing of bells, and bands playing as the Italian crowds and procession carried the statue of St Rita to its resting place, in her **"St Rita takes a trip"** filmed on holiday.

Were there 7? Yes of course there were. Seven crazy members of the **Writeangle** group, buried in waterproofs, faced the elements in the heights of the Lake District climbing stiles and stone walls, wading through mud and "losing face in a cow pat"until...wait for it.... **7 Fell Walking!**

"A Good Start in Life" A "moving" film that delighted an apprehensive audience as they watched the trials and tribulations of a newly hatched turtle on his traumatic



journey to the sea. Filmed by **David Jackson** on holiday in Costa Rica.

"The Golden Girls" produced a top secret drama this year for their premiere thriller. **"Home Alone"** Josephine Jones plays Mum who gets in a panic when her daughter leaves her alone and the night gets late and the noises won't stop and spooky things happen to spooky music....

surely this is only the beginning of a new drama group to be watched closely, **"Grain Processing" Sir Paul Holden's** documentary following the grain harvest to



the silos to the making of the flour used daily in our homes, brought Jan to the fore with her next prop...a packet of flour. "I will always think of this process now when I use flour for my cooking.

There followed five fast and lively shorts from **Steve Bissett**. We whirled through **"St Malia"** to see how the Brits spent their holiday at night. We watched a fashion show in the lights of **"Westfield"** noisy fast fun. We watched while a helicopter delivered crates of provisions to a remote ski station in **"St Moritz"**. On the worst day of the year we paid a visit to **"Brighton Pier"** to the tune of "I do like to be beside the seaside" while the rollers crashed onto the beach and over the pier. Then we watched "Steve's face" as he skied down the slopes until he...crashed... and still kept the camera on his face as out of the deep snow he came upsmiling.... he says it was all one take - **"The Crash"**.

The Results

Creativity: **Steve Bissett**.

Best Use of Sound: **The Golden Girls**.

Best Documentary: **Sir Paul Holden**.

Best Holiday Movie and Best Photography: **David Jackson**.

Best edit and Overall Winner: **Bruce Frazer**

Pennyj

CONTRIBUTIONS TO CLUB FUNDS FROM FILM SHOWS

During November and December the Club projector was in use for Fleet Arts once, and for shows to Various Senior Citizens groups no less than six times, making a contribution to Club Funds of some £200 at 2008 rates. On each of these occasions, it's use was necessarily accompanied by two club stalwarts, to help in setting up, striking down, presenting the programme or operating the projector, or in the case of Fleet Arts, a camera.

Those of you who read the Notice Board, either at Club night, or helpfully circulated after the meeting by Training Officer Fred Hawkins, will be aware that, even if the AGM approves the Committee's recommendations for raising club income

next year, there will still be an anticipated deficit in the order of £100 just on running the Club during 2009.

This deficit could be practically wiped out if we could manage to give only three more such shows next year, than we did this year. I am confident that I could find groups in the community who would welcome these shows of the excellent films which club members have made - but I don't feel happy to make even more calls on our existing small core of volunteers who nobly help man these shows.

IF you are not already helping out in this way to keep club subscriptions to

a minimum, would you please consider contacting me to volunteer your services? You don't have to be an expert projectionist - all that is needed is help with laying cables, erecting sound system tripods etc and moving chairs about - and then be willing to introduce the films whilst a qualified projectionist sets up and operates the projector - a job which any body who can use a camera could soon learn to do, if willing to come along and help. And I can tell you it would do your morale good to see the appreciation that your films will earn, if they are slotted into the programme. Can I look forward to hearing from you?

Paul Holden

A PRINCE CAME TO TEE

In 1858 Queen Victoria chose to visit Puttenham, rather than a typhoid ridden Aldershot, to review her troops enacting various military manoeuvres. After this event a commemorative plaque was laid and a flagpole raised to note the Royal visit.

150 years later Queen Victoria's Great-Great-Grandson HRH The Earl of Wessex visited Puttenham to re commemorate this event. Now a new flagpole and plaque replace the old ones on Puttenham golf course, and Puttenham Heath.

Jack Pook, one of our Club's Country members, phoned me earlier this year, and asked if I could assist him and a friend to cover this forthcoming event. Of course preliminary talks and a visit to the site were necessary. Following this Jack decided that we needed more camera coverage, as this was becoming a major event spread over several acres of the golf course, and including the interior and exterior of the golf club.

A little bit like topsy, the event grew and grew. It involved Gurkha Bandsmen, the Godalming Band, Puttenham village school performing country dancing including a Maypole dance, ten of the Queen's Royal Regiment of Foot, a Flying display by

world aeronautics champion Diana Britten, and of course very many local dignitaries. In the end there were six of us cameramen, 5 men and one lady, placed strategically around the golf course. Jack had briefed us well, to know what was likely to



JACK, DICK, JOHN & ROD (4 OF THE 6 CAMERAMEN WITH THEIR HELPERS) CELEBRATING A JOB WELL DONE AT THE 'GOOD INTENT' IN PUTTENHAM

happen, and what was expected of us.

It was quite a gruelling day for me, but then I was probably the oldest there. It was quite like the old days, when I was a cameraman

on Outside Broadcasts. But on those events we had a Director telling

us what he wanted, and also what was happening elsewhere on the OB. On this occasion we were entirely on our own.

What we did on the day doesn't compare with all the excellent planning that Jack had done to make it all work. The few hours we spent there are as of nothing compared to the very, very, many hours Jack spent collating all the video from 6 cameras, and then editing it all together. Part 1, 35 minutes. Part 2, 22 minutes.

Every Golf Club member will want a copy, the schoolchildren will want a copy, the

people of Puttenham will want a copy, the Godalming Band, the Band of the Brigade of Gurkhas, the Queen Royal Regiment of Foot, Diana Britten, and I suspect that even Edward would be pleased to have a copy.

My congratulations to you Jack for an excellent job well done, and as good as many a professional I have worked with in the past. Judging from the response to the film's world premier in Puttenham village Hall, I am not the only person who thinks that you did an excellent job.

Dick Hibberd

NEW SBFVM NOTICEBOARD

Fred Hawkins is responsible for the Noticeboard on each club night.

Sometimes members do not get a chance to actually look at the notices during busy club evenings, or because they are away. So in future, if there are relevant notices regarding training, requests for film crews, brainstorming etc., Fred will send out a blanket email to all members to keep them informed.

DO NOT CONTACT FRED.

LEARNING ZONE

So what does a judge look for in a video competition?

The opening shot.

Does this shot fade in or jump in.

Does this shot immediately grab my attention?

Does this shot establish Where. What. Who. When. Why or How?

Is it well framed?

General shots

Does this shot tell me anything? No! (-)

Is it necessary? No (-)

Is it well framed? No (-)

Is there any clever photography here? eg the background thrown out of focus behind the bee, or focus thrown from one person talking to the other.(+)

A distant shot in close up zooming out to a long shot could easily go out of focus, is this one worthy of the photography prize? (+)

Too much zooming and panning is heavy on the eye, frowned on by judges.(-)

But now the whip pan is not only accepted, but fashionable! Against everything we've been taught! (-) or (+) if you think it clever and appropriate.

Is the colour right, overlit, too dark, would it have been better with lighting? (-)

Was lighting well used? (+).

Is the shot too long or too short? (-)

Next month we shall learn about Sound; Transitions; and, Photography

Pennyj

1960s ATTIC FIND CONVERTED TO VIDEO

Some friends of John Widdecombe asked him if there were any possibility of club members helping to transfer an old silent Super 8mm colour film of their wedding to DVD, to show their children. It turned out to be in quite good condition, so the two of us dug out my old trusty Eumig Dual Gauge Sound Projector and transferred it to video by the simple process of filming the screen.

We then imported that into my computer – removed a few duff shots and wobbly transitions between shots – corrected the inevitable amateur under- and over-exposed shots, added some suitable music, and converted it to mpeg format to copy it onto a DVD. It probably didn't take us more than about three hours all told – but they were over the moon with the results of our labours. How satisfying it was to use our hobby to help others!

Paul Holden



MEETINGS are held at St Joan's Centre, 19 Tilford Road, Farnham on the 1st Friday of each month at 7.30pm for 7.45pm. Meetings close around 10.15pm

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

St Joan's Centre is 200 yards south of Farnham station and is in the grounds of St Joan's Church. The entrance to the church is by a narrow road opposite the junction with Alfred Road, and St Joan's Centre is to the right of the church. There is ample parking.



COMPETITIONS

All details and entry forms of the following competitions can be found on the IAC website.

Competition	Closing Date	Festival Date
BIAFF	31 January 09	BUT GET YOUR FILMS IN NOW!
April entries are open now and much appreciated as early as possible		
Frome 5 minute	28 January 09	5 April 09
Croatian 1 minute	18 April 09	30/31 May 09

Surrey Film Festival will be held at The Electric Theatre, Guildford, on 18 Jan '09

A note for your diary

Just to let you know that next year's **Albany Competition** will be held on **Sunday 19 April 2009** at the Newell Centre Hall, Chichester. (Same venue as this year). Doors open at 2:00pm for show to start at 2:30pm. We would expect to finish around 6:00 to 6:30pm

21-29 March 2009 FIFA (Wildlife) Festival. Held at Albert in Northern France.

CLUB DATES

- 2 Jan** Spot the Difference - comparing prize winning films
- 6 Feb** AGM + 'Kit and Gadgets' by Peter Matthews, and 'Animation', by Sally Maltby
- 3 Apr** Music Edit Exercise

DIARY DATES

- 18 Jan** SF-VF 'The Surrey'
- 19 Apr** Albany Competition, Chichester

MISCELLANY

- **CINEMA H2O.** A Farnham Public Art Trust Lecture is being given by Mike Valentine. His underwater filming has been used in Casino Royale and other films. Where: United Reformed Church Hall, South Street, Farnham (opposite Sainsbury's) When: 8.00pm Monday 19th January 2009. Entry: £5 payable at the door includes welcoming drink from 7.30pm Enquiries: 01252 702449
- **MALT(ING) EXTR-ACTS**
Farnham playwrights' collective present work-in-progress extracts from six new plays. rachel barnett - heather dunmore - mark hewitt - sean tyler - rita wheeler - matthew wilkie Saturday 17 January 2009 at 6:30pm at Farnham Maltings, Bridge Square, Farnham 01252 745444. Admission free. RSVP to sean@seantylor.org
- Volunteers are needed to take over the equipment bookings while Pauline and David are away. Please see Rita or Gordon if you can help out with this.

LOOKING FOR ACTORS?

We have contacts with an organisation which puts actors in touch with filming projects. They are quite happy with situations where no payments are made, but in that case the actors will be wishing to add to their show reel that they use to promote themselves.
Go to: www.StarNow.co.uk/

IMPORTANT CONTACTS

Name: Telephone: Email: