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CHAIRMAN'S CHAT

Thank you for electing me as your new Chairman. I am not superstitious but I began writing this on Friday 13th, which started me looking at the calendar and I notice that this year there are three Fridays 13th. Also, the remake of that horror film of the same name, yes, you've guessed it, Friday 13th was released on Friday 13th. Did you know that the word for having a fear of Friday 13th is araskavedekatriaphobia? (Try saying that when you've had a glass of wine.) At least that's what Wikipedia maintains.

However, it might not be all doom and gloom; again, according to Wikipedia the number twelve is a number of completeness, and due to adverse weather conditions we had to have the AGM on 12th February this year, so perhaps that will negate any bad luck.

Seriously, I would like to thank Gordon for handing me a comprehensive reference file and CD, which I am sure I shall have to refer to from time to time. I also want to say, "Gordon, you will be a hard act to follow."

So what do we have to look forward to in this time of recession and global warming, having suffered the coldest winter in ten years? We've got off to a good start with two club films being made, and we're

only in the third month of the year. The filming of Last Prayer began in January and has continued into February, the matter of a little snow delaying at least one weekend of filming. Nine Lives was filmed on location at Clare Park on 31st January. We were delighted that Trevor and his son Thomas joined the crew of Nine Lives, as go-fors, with Thomas doing the all-important Clapperboard. Another fairly new member, Alex Anderson, tried his hand at lighting and also took lots of excellent photos of the actors and film crew. Hopefully you'll have a chance to see some of these photos in an ongoing slide show during this evening.

The two above-mentioned films came about from a Brainstorming session held last year for the Albany Competition. The theme is 'The Clock Is Ticking'. I am sure you'll get a chance to see these films and give some feedback once they have been edited.

I am sorry to have missed Sally's talk and demonstration on Animation, and also not to see Roland's excellent animated films again. I am sure the evening will be both enjoyable and enlightening.

Finally, don't forget to pick up your tapes for the Editing Exercise - results in April.

Rita Wheeler

HOLLYWOOD TRAINING

By the time you read this, one group will have completed the Hollywood Training Course, that has been run by Mike Sanders over the last year. The course has been a superb training course taking us through the camera work for all possibilities involved in filming, we should now be able to make our own Hollywood success!!

Many thanks go to Mike for giving up valuable time and commitment to the club for this invaluable training which should surely set us all in a similar direction, enabling us to work together with a better understanding. Somehow we must put some of this into action.

Happy moviemaking.

Pennyj

THE CLOCK IS TICKING

Well the clock really is ticking as the deadline for the Albany competition is looming.

Dick's group with Last Prayer has been fortunate to find two very helpful and talented young people from Hook Players, **Sofi** and

Chris, who have given up quite a bit of their spare time to help out - and they say they are enjoying it and would like to do more (take note everyone!).



Rita's group, Nine Lives, have stormed ahead with their filming, which is now in complete. But Dick's group hit a glitch when Sofi went away on holiday for 4 weeks, and then filming had to be postponed due to the unexpected



snow and road conditions.

But eventually, true to British form, everyone battled through the adversity, as can be seen here with these smiling and action shots taken on both film sets.

Val Hitchman



BUMS ON SEATS? ... HA!!!!

Sunday March the 1st (St-David's Day) was the time for SERIAC Film & Video Festival. Jean and I were delighted to see David and Vicki Jackson, and later in the day David Longley, but sadly there were no others from SBFVM!

I am sure that you were all very busy with more important things, and if the first session was anything to go by, you didn't miss much!

I know that it is very difficult to be firm with the editing, and not to be self indulgent with material that interests or appeals to you, when you are compiling a programme/film/video. There are occasions when you make a film for a specific group, and cover every possible aspect of the subject which might interest a particular group. Well, when this is the case, I wonder if such a subject is suitable for a general audience in a regional competition.

Some time ago I was asked by the Club to make a promotional film for the Woodlarks Workshop Trust. On completion I submitted it as a competition entry, only to be told by the judges that it was too like a promotional film! Sadly the same criticism was not, as far as I am aware, made about one of yesterdays films. There are lots of criticisms I could list about the film, which

ran for 33 minutes, such as shooting a presenter dressed in black against black backgrounds, time and again. But that would be petty!

What really upset me was that the afternoon programme had two very similar 'Documentaries' following one after the other. I would have walked out half way through the first film, if I could have without making a great disturbance. Not because it was bad, but because I was bored, and not at all interested in the subject. My fault really.

But then I thought, if you want to make this a popular event, then you should

STOP PRESS

Writeangle's film 'Gingerbread Man' has been chosen to represent the club at the Staines Inter-Club competition in March.

DONT FORGET

- If anyone has any camera or editing questions, don't forget to ask Fred - he will put you in touch with the right person to help you out.

try and arrange an eclectic mix of films, especially at the start of the day.

I don't envy the organisers, and I thank them for all they do to make the event a success, but like my school reports, I felt that the phrase "Could do better" equally applied to them.

Dick Hibberd

CLUB NIGHT

With deep snow and the cancellation of the February meeting, an AGM was quickly prepared for the following Thursday 12 February.

Nineteen members came along to support the meeting. Delia Hill who has served as Social Secretary for five years stood down. Many good wishes and thanks were given for all her hard work, and outgoing Chairman, Gordon Sutton presented her with an orchid

Jean Hibberd is our new social secretary and we welcome her to the committee with all good wishes.

Gordon Sutton stood down from the Chair after three years of relentless and impeccable record keeping and sterling work in the running of the club, giving amazing encouragement to all members to join in work shops and extraneous events such as other club competitions. Gordon has recorded an amazing total of over 500 club films.

Gordon was presented with a book about Cinematic Storytelling and a signed DVD, 'Gone Fishing', which was made by Chris Jones who wrote the Guerilla Filmmakers Handbook.

Rita Wheeler was welcomed as the new Chairman for the next three years in office.

Pennyj and Rita Wheeler

FIRST TECHNICAL GROUP MEETING

It was a cold and very wet evening on 9th February when ten members braved the weather for the first Technical Group meeting organized by Training Officer Fred Hawkins which was kindly hosted by Dick Hibberd.

It was while Fred was sunning himself in the Caribbean that, on checking his emails, he noticed one from Dick suggesting it would be a good idea for the club to make some training films available for members to borrow on a DVD.

As soon as Fred returned he put a message on the Notice board for people to volunteer ideas and also to say whether they would be interested

in getting involved and he followed up this with a call on the e-notice board which is sent to all members after each club night.



Serious discussion

Surprisingly eleven people showed an interest and there were a multitude of ideas for training films.

As this was the first meeting it was necessary to discuss how to move this project forward.

Peter Matthews generated three lists of topics that could be covered under sound, camera work and lighting. Gordon Sutton showed two short films his son had made, one about white



balance the other about the different types of shots.

Several short films have been made by the club in the past and once copies of these films are found, they will be studied. Dick Hibberd has kindly volunteered the use of his barn for making any future films.

For your information: There is a useful article on the club website, 'Getting Connected' which is worth a read.

Also Border Post Aug 2008, Chairman's Chat - 'Comments on stand alone DVD recorder capabilities'; and Border Post Nov 2008, Chairman's Chat - 'Transferring Cine to Video'.

Rita Wheeler

OBITUARY TO COMMON SENSE

We mourn the passing of a beloved old friend **Common Sense**, who has been with us for many years. No one knows for sure how old he was, since his records have long since been lost in bureaucratic red-tape. He is credited with cultivating such abilities as taking bitter with sweet, recognising that life is not always fair and that maybe, it was my fault after all. Common sense developed some sound financial policies (don't spend more than you earn, don't borrow more than you can repay) and also a reliable parenting strategy (adults, not children, are in charge).

Common Sense's health declined in the 1960s, when he became infected with the If-It-Feels-Good-Do-It virus. His health further deteriorated when parents attacked teachers for doing the job that they themselves had failed to do in disciplining their unruly children.

It declined further when schools were required to get parental consent to administer sun-lotion or elastoplast to a student, but could not inform parents when a student became pregnant and asked for an abortion.

Common Sense took a beating when people could not defend themselves in their own homes but the intruder could sue for assault. He finally gave up the will to live after a woman failed to realise that a steaming cup of coffee was hot. She spilled some in her lap while driving and was awarded massive damages.

Common Sense was preceded by the death of his parents Truth and Trust, his wife Discretion, his daughter, Responsibility and his son Reason. He is survived by his four stepbrothers: I Know My Rights, I Want It Now, Someone Else Is To Blame and I'm A Victim.

Farewell, Common Sense, may you rest in peace.

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/

LEARNING ZONE

This month we continue with the penultimate lesson on judging tips from Pennyj.

Editing

A good guide here is to count a steady 1,2,3 -1,2,3 in seconds. Are the shots an even length, does the shot change on 3? Or maybe 6 if an action shot, this will give the film pace.

Look out for jump shots, (eg. A shot of Gladys continually talking, the camera has to interrupt when she gets hiccups, as the shot is then continued there is a jump in her position, this should not be cured with a dissolve! but with an appropriate cutaway.(eg In this case a shot of someone listening)

Are the transitions well executed with the same length dissolves.

Not too many dissolves.

Video effects are traditionally considered amateur. Are there too many effects? This is a matter of taste as they are now more accepted.

Action shots should start and finish with the action, if the action is drawn out cutaways should be used to keep pace.

If a shot does nothing for the film it should be omitted however beautiful!

Shots should only be used once

Look out for flashes indicating a split clip left behind.

Or even black as happened with my film Jinks.

Look out for gaps in the sound track

Does the sound begin just before the eye sees? (+)

Documentary

If a film becomes boring with too long shots and speeches (-)

Repetition (-)

A lively tightly cut film with an interesting story line and good sound (+)

Interesting narration well spoken with the topic in shot. (+)

Talking about the grass while the roof is in shot (-)

Audience appeal

Judging should not be affected by the fact that it is not your subject...."Not another bl....dy train film."

At the end of the day, if you cannot decide the winner on its merits then it is time to use your appeal factor to decide the winner.

Next month we shall learn about Judging in General, Judges Comments, and wind up our series with a Fictitious Example Report.

Pennyj

THROUGH THE VIEWFINDER

Dick Hibberd and his ex colleagues and friends from the BBC attended the launch of a TV Camerawork book, 'Through The Viewfinder', on 29 January. It was considered to be a wonderful occasion by those who were involved, and seeing it so well received after two and a half years in the making, made it all worthwhile. There was considerable turnout, some 55 people in total of which 14 had been contributors to the book. **Dick Hibberd**





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

You don't have to be a member to look on the IAC website. www.theiac.org.uk.

Here you will find an events diary and all the competitions being held, entry forms, news and competition results. It will keep you busy for hours. You can even watch many of the winning videos from BIAFF and other IAC competitions and the write-ups on how they were made.

March 28 Frome Five Minute Festival. Entries closed.
March 21-29 FIFA Wildlife Festival, France

April 19 Albany Inter Club 2.0pm The Newell Centre Chichester
May 31 Closing date for Guernsey Lily
June- Sept
October 16-18th Guernsey Lily Festival.
October entries close for Southern Heat TBA
November North V South Southern Heat TBA

Events

April 23rd - 27th BIAFF IAC weekend Chesterfield
October 30th SOCO Region weekend at Bournemouth

EDITORS NEEDED

As we have not yet put a film together on either The Rural Life Centre or Kempton Park, willing members are invited to start the ball rolling with this exercise. I have the footage for The Rural Life Centre, but material is needed for the visit to Kempton Park. Volunteers are needed please, to edit or come up with material for either of these club visits.

Paul Holden

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING

- 6 Feb AGM and talk by Peter Matthew cancelled due to adverse weather
- 9 Feb Committee Meeting
- 9 Feb Technical Film Group Meeting
- 12 Feb AGM and election of new Committee
- 14 Feb Last Prayer shoot at Basingstoke office location
- 26 Feb Editing of latest rushes of Last Prayer

CLUB DATES

- 3 Apr** Results of Editing exercise. 'Mood Swings' involves putting music to a silent film scene.
- 1 May** 'An Evening with Editing on Steroids', presented by Ray Pulston from South Downs Video and Film Club
- 5 Jun** Peter Matthews presents 'An Evening of Kit and Gadgets'.
- 3 Jul** Film in an Evening - the theme this year is 'Trapped'.

DIARY DATES

- 19 Apr** Albany Competition, Chichester to be held in The Newell Centre Hall. The theme is 'The Clock is Ticking'
- 30 May** Croatian 1 minute competition

IMPORTANT CONTACTS

Name:

Telephone:

Email: