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## CHAIRMAN'S CHAT

Spring, and doesn't it make you feel good seeing the daffodils as well as being in Summer Time and having those extra daylight hours.

Of course Spring is the time for that all important Spring Clean. Do you have piles of old cine films collecting dust in your attic? Intend to do 'something' with them – one day? No worries. Help is at hand, or soon will be. Several members of The Technical Group met at Dick Hibberd's for a days filming. Read more about it in next month's Border Post.

During the edit of Nine Lives I experienced a couple of problems, one of which I think, with some foresight, we could have avoided. Although we had two monitors linked to the cameras none of us picked up the fact that the footage from one camera was very orange while the other was normal.

I suspect before we began filming we should have set the White Balance for both cameras to either Manual or both to Automatic. Any White Balance expert out there like to write an article for Border Post about it?

The other problem we had which we did not pick up, despite listening on headphones, was a loud hum over part of the dialogue. This I've managed to reduce by using Goldwave. The hum, I suspect we could have done little about as it was due to the equipment being used in the room which we could not switch off. However, it is worth switching off fridges and freezers if filming at home, as long as you remember to switch them on again after the filming!

A local charity has approached the Club about the possibility of our making a film for them. The charity concerned is called Step by Step

and Sir Paul, Val and myself had a meeting in March to discuss exactly what they wanted.

This organization supports homeless young people between the ages of 16-25 and helps them to get back on their feet, find employment and become useful members of society. If this project gets a green light we may need some volunteers to help with the filming.

We shall be part of Farnham Creates a Festival again this year. Please put Saturday 23rd May down in your diaries as we shall need volunteers to man the Surrey Border site during the day. We plan to be

there from 10 am until 4 pm. You only need to give an hour of your time and as an added incentive, there is the Secret Garden Music Festival taking place in the Library Gardens in the afternoon.

**Rita Wheeler**

### YouTube

The club would like to feature a variety of films on the SBFVM website which would be linked through YouTube. If you would be happy for your film to appear through this medium, please let Neil know. REMEMBER, this will enable us to advertise the club to a wider audience and hopefully and entice more people to the club.

## POCKET VIDEO CAMERAS

There's no longer any need to miss THAT special video opportunity. Two tiny pocket video cameras have recently been launched which promise to produce excellent quality movies. Ok, so your own semi-pro camcorder is the real deal - buy hey, what about when you're out and about and you wish you had your cam with you. Well, now for around £120 you could invest in a camera no larger than a cigarette pack, which you can carry everywhere.

### FLIP MINO (review)

"I've been using a glossy, black Flip Mino for the past two weeks and it looks much cooler than older models. Its newly positioned USB adapter pops up from the top of the camera like something from a Swiss Army Knife. The Mino offers features such as the ability to lock the delete button, so no one accidentally deletes your videos, and mute all camera sounds, so as to record silently during quiet moments like wedding ceremonies or speeches.

I took it with me almost everywhere I went because of its small size and light weight, even fitting it into a thin purse with a cellphone and BlackBerry. I used the Mino in various situations ranging from bright, scenic outdoor settings to indoors while eating dinner in a candle-lit

restaurant. Overall, I was pleased with the sound and picture quality of the Mino, and I found its built-in software, which automatically starts when the camera plugs into your Mac or Windows PC, to be a pleasure to use.

Whenever I plugged this gadget into my computer to transfer videos, my Mino charged up via USB without me having to think about it. A full charge lasts four hours and recharging a dead battery takes about three hours.

The Mino didn't have a problem with lighting in most situations; indeed it did a nice job of capturing images of my family sitting around a table in a restaurant with little more than candlelight to brighten the picture. It doesn't use a flash or a built-in light, but instead uses automatic sensors to adjust to various levels of light.

This svelte camcorder seemed to handle



noise more evenly than I remembered in prior Flip models. It didn't make my voice sound unbearably louder than everyone else's, even though I was closest to the camera's microphone, yet it managed to detect voices across the room

In terms of recording, the Mino records 640 x 480 MPEG4 video at 30fps, and you can get 1 hour of video on to the 2GB internal memory. Start-up time is one of the real bonuses here, because you can literally whip it out and get filming in seconds which beats most phones or digital cameras".

Apparently the Mino's predecessor, the Ultra, has higher quality video, but lacks on some other features. Go to the web and have a look round, there are loads of postings from both professional reviewers and amateurs.

To see testing clips go to the MIDDLE of the web page below and click on the HIGH quality clips on lighting, speed and sound [http://www.firebox.com/product/2083/Flip-Digital-Video-Camera?video\\_id=1615&tab1=0](http://www.firebox.com/product/2083/Flip-Digital-Video-Camera?video_id=1615&tab1=0)

(NOTE Don't be influenced by the LOW quality clips uploaded by the public - Ed)

cont'd on page 3

# MARCH CLUB NIGHT

A large throng of Surrey Border Film & Video Makers took their seats in the St Joans Centre for their March meeting. Club member, **Sally Maltby**, enthralled us with a programme of animations. The first, 'Would you rather watch the fireworks' a cartoon by Barry Lockwood, had an animated character having trouble understanding his computer. Distracted by a large inviting button, he clicked it only to his regret as first his screen and then his computer and finally his whole house exploded in a large firework display.



Sally then showed us how animation can be done by drawing a simple stickman to show how the software would animate the drawing by given points to move across the screen.

This she followed with an amazing film where a stick man, drawn on the computer screen, comes to life. This stick man then proceeded to run riot, knocking bits off the display that we have all come to recognise when we turn on

our computers. The action descended into war on the desktop as the stickman attacked all the icons, destroying everything in sight.

We were then shown examples of how to 'build' characters by boning, pulling and stretching. And using 3D, we watched in amazement as a woman seated on a stool on the top of a cliff started knitting. Faster and faster went the needles, longer and longer grew the scarf, pulling her towards the cliff edge.....

Sally went on to show samples of cartoons, games and much, much more with the accent on "easy", inviting us to go home and "have a go at animation." What she didn't mention was the infinite time and patience required to put even the shortest of animations together! Has anyone a free year or two? Even so, a younger club member, still at school, was fascinated by the evening's talks and may well come up with his own version soon. He will certainly get support from the rest of us.

Well done Sally, exciting and entertaining.

**Roland Couvela**, presented the second half of the evening. An early member of Surrey Border Film & Video Makers in the 1980-90s, he showed a history of his computer animations which were imaginative and amusing.



He told us that his son, Paul, got drawn into animation, possibly in competition with his father. Paul went on to university and entered a career in animation, with television series Bob The Builder and other children's shows to his credit. Roland showed films, made by his son, which revealed in detail how professional animations are put together.

The knowledge members gained throughout the evening was so clear and comprehensive that we now wait to see if other members are stimulated to have a go.

**Pennyj and Neil Cryer**

## STEP BY STEP

It is several years since the club made a community film so when Step by Step, a local charity helping homeless youngsters, approached the club, it was with enthusiasm that Sir Paul, Val Hitchman and myself met with the Director and the Community Fund Raiser early in March.

Set up to help the 16-25 year old homeless people who want to change their lives, the organization initially provides beds in a hostel which can lead to sheltered accommodation and ultimately the responsibility of becoming a tenant and taking out a lease. The charity aims to help these youngsters to help themselves

by providing support, education, computer literacy and the skills to apply and gain jobs. Acquiring these skills helps self esteem and empowers these young people to change their lives.

Step by Step is predicted to have a budget shortfall of £50,000 this year and with this in mind they want to make their current Power Point presentation more compelling. When giving talks to organizations that are willing to support their projects they hope, by getting several of the youngsters to talk about their success stories, that this will vividly show the value of this charity and help to get further funding.

Once we get the green light for this film we shall need a small and highly competent team for the shoot. We are delighted that several members have already volunteered their services. However, we may need one or two more people to help, so if you feel you would like to be involved, please contact Paul or myself. No dates have been arranged for the filming, however it should take either three afternoons or one and a half days.

To find out more about Step by Step check out their website: [www.stepbystep.org.uk](http://www.stepbystep.org.uk)

**Rita Wheeler**

## WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING ....

- 11 Mar Initial meeting with Step by Step for possible Community film.
- 11 Mar Club projector used at Hatch Mill to show DVDs about the Queen.
- 14 Mar Club projector used for Fleet Arts.
- 16 Mar Committee Meeting
- 23 Mar Tech Group filming day. How to transfer cine to mini dv tape.
- 2 Apr Follow up planning meeting with Step by Step

## CALLING ALL SILVER SURFERS!

Take advantage of a campaign being run by Hampshire Council to help the terrified to learn how to use computers. Called Silver Surfer, details can be found on [www.hant.gov.uk/silversurfers](http://www.hant.gov.uk/silversurfers) Events will be taking place around the county.

# LEARNING ZONE

This month sees the conclusion of Pennj's wonderful series on judging tips.

## Judging in general

A film should have a beginning, a middle and an end.

If a film is shown badly by the projector, eg colour all wrong, out of focus, sound too low. Or a film is old or of poor quality. This should not affect your judgements.

## Judges comments

Firstly pick out the good side and congratulate the filmmaker where you can.

Then pick out where points were lost followed by the way it could be rectified or improved. Try to be constructive.

Say if you liked the film but don't say that you didn't!

Finally thank the filmmaker for entering the competition, and for showing you the film.

## Fictitious example of Judges Comments

"A Summer Garden. A summer record of the film makers garden.

There were some beautiful shots in this film, well framed full of colour and interesting flowers in a very lovely garden.

For me, it would have been improved if you had you used a shot of the entrance from the outside for your first shot as it would have established the site of the garden and then, showing the layout of the interior in a long shot from inside the entrance for 3 seconds, zoomed in to the flower bed onto your subject, it would have told the audience exactly in which part of the garden your flowers reside, then showing a straight shot of each of the flowers from the same bed (even if they weren't really! They would look as if they belonged there until you zoom to another part of the garden) making the shots more interesting than simply a collection of shots. Take care with your zoom though, before pressing record practice your shot by zooming in to the subject setting the focus and then zooming out before recording, otherwise you may lose the focus when you record.

To close your film you could fade to black with a comment that closes the scene. eg...Soon the frosts will come and we shall look forward to seeing these lovely flowers again next year.

This would give your film a beginning, middle and an end.

Thank you for entering the competition and showing me your beautiful garden."

**Pennyj**

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## VADO (from the manufacturer. No review currently available)

Catch the perfect snowboarding stunt, your baby's first steps or your kid's graduation, share it online and save it for a lifetime with Creative's Vado HD Pocket Video Cam. The thin, lightweight Vado HD is small enough to fit easily in a pocket, purse or the palm of your hand, and it captures video in 720P high-definition quality with just the touch of a button.

Sharing videos online is simple with built-in software that helps you post videos to YouTube, Photobucket or Box.net. The Vado HD is the only pocket video cam to feature true HDMI connectivity and an included HDMI cable for a superior viewing experience on an HDTV. Take the Vado HD Pocket Video Cam with you everywhere you go and never miss a moment. Product specs include 720p high-definition video, wide-angle glass lens, 2x digital zoom, 8GB of video storage capacity, up to two hours of recording and playback per charge, up to eight hours of recording time at 640x480 at 30 frames per second.

Simply start and stop recording with the touch of a button. Record up to 2 hours of stunning HD quality video or up to 4 hours of video at VGA resolution. The large 8 GB internal memory and four recording modes give you the freedom to choose the video quality that's best for you.

Large 2-inch antiglare screen Set up the perfect shot, review clips onscreen or show them off to friends. Keep the videos you like; delete the ones you don't.

Rechargeable for hours of fun. Enjoy 2 hours of recording and playback with the Lithium-ion battery; simply recharge via USB. Need more time? The battery is even removable so you can change it for a fresh one.

**Val Hitchman**



# THE MOTIVATED EDIT

Of the many types of editing grammar we talk about, the motivated edit is one of our most common. This is in place of transitions. The motivated edit, though having a single definition, comes in many flavours. In its most basic form, a motivated edit is one that alludes to something not in the frame and then cuts to that item or event. You see it all the time in horror films: a woman standing in a spooky place all alone and then hears a startling sound. She spins her head around and sees nothing. The sound then comes from another area, and the soon-to-be-victim jerks her head in that direction.

Eventually the viewing audience gets to see the object of terror, usually along with a loud, startling sound.

If you accept that any edit breaks the illusion of continuity, then we put forth that the motivated edit is one of the least jarring forms of transition.

The general rule is professional filming is that the viewer should not notice a single edit during a ninety-minute film. If there is an edit every seven seconds on average, that's close to 800 edits in an hour and half film. Quite a feat to have all of these breaks in continuity go unnoticed. - Ed

# SOFTWARE TRAINING

For FREE online tutorials, go to [lynda.com](http://lynda.com) or [VTC.com](http://VTC.com).

You can search through hundreds of software. Once found, you can watch a limited number of the tutorial modules (typically the first 15 or 20) FOR NOTHING before the modules are 'greyed-out'. If you need more, then you have the option of buying the whole tutorial for around £85, or subscribing £15 a month to be able to view EVERY tutorial indefinitely. Subscriptions may be cancelled at any time.

This is an excellent resource. Ed.



**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](http://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.

**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

## DECEMBER COMPETITION

It isn't too early to start thinking about your club entry for the December meeting, our club competition. Any subject at all as long as it is not more than 6 minutes.

If you haven't entered before, there is a trophy for the best 'first time winner', also for the best holiday movie and the best documentary.

Technical trophies are offered for the best sound, editing, photography and creativity. Then there's the big one for

the overall winner.

The judges will pre-judge the entries, scrutinizing them at home and writing helpful comments for you to be able to improve your masterpiece the next time round. This is a good learning exercise.

So get busy now as the entries will have to be in no later than the November meeting. It always goes to the last minute!!

**Pennyj**

## CLUB DATES

**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'

**7 Aug** David Longley 'The Surrey'

## DIARY DATES

**19 Apr** Albany Competition, Chichester to be held in The Newell Centre Hall.

**30 May** Croatian 1 minute competition

**5 Jul** Summer Social

## THE ALBANY

The Albany competition is held on Sunday 19th April at The Newell Centre in Chichester. Near enough for many members of our club to attend!

It is hoped that two club entries will be accepted this year.

Each year IAC affiliated clubs of Surrey and Sussex region are invited to compete against each other with a club film.

The winning club is invited to run the competition the following year.

Each year all the participating clubs enter their theme choice and then by process of elimination a theme is chosen for the next year. This years' theme is "The Clock is Ticking."

**Pennyj**

## IMPORTANT CONTACTS

Name:

Telephone:

Email: