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CHAIRMAN'S CHAT

I am delighted to announce that by the time you read this, our President, Sir Paul Holden, will have been awarded a Fellowship from the IAC. He has been invited to attend BIAFF (British International Amateur Film Festival) in Chesterfield, to collect his award, then he can add the letters, FACI after his name.

Paul is the second member of the club to have been awarded this honour. David Jackson, FACI, was awarded a Fellowship in 2000. With his usual modesty, Paul wondered why he



was awarded this honour. Perhaps it has something to do with his lifelong (over 60 years) interest in amateur cinematography and his enthusiasm and encouragement to get others involved. Well done Sir Paul.

While Paul is at BIAFF I am sure he will meet up with Country member Bruce Frazer who has received a 3 Star rating for his film 'Highland Fling', which, if you remember, was the Overall Winner in our December Club Competition. Three Stars means: well made, technically competent, keeps our interest and/or entertains

The Albany Competition took place in Chichester on Sunday 19th April. Six clubs entered nine films, the theme this

year being "The Clock is Ticking." Our club entered two films, Last Prayer and Nine Lives. The technical hitches which occurred when these films were shown at last months Club Night were rapidly fixed before the due date and Dick Hibberd's film, Last Prayer won the Syd Mitchell Trophy for the best comedy. Well done to the teams that made these films. The theme for 2010 is "In The Hot Seat."

This year we have five teams for Film-in-an-Evening. The theme 'Trapped' opens up all sorts of possibilities. If you are not already attached to a group, please contact Training Officer Fred Hawkins. Brainstorming sessions will be taking place soon, and on the night of Friday 3rd July, the limited time involved to film is a great training opportunity not to be missed.

Rita Wheeler

APRIL CLUB NIGHT

Once again there was a good attendance at the April meeting which also welcomed several prospective members.

A warm welcome was given to founder members Jim and Jan Attew after some 16 years and we all hope to see them again at some future meetings.

At the March meeting tapes were handed out to participating members with a short film created by Val Hitchman and filmed and edited by Rita Wheeler.

The story consisted of a handsome young man arriving by car at his girl friend's house and secretly leaving a present (Was it nice or could it be nasty?) on the garden seat. The idea was this time to dub the

film with music to create the mood.

There were a daunting 13 entries. However, there was never a dull moment as we were taken through relaxation, comedy, thriller, and suspicious moods.

After a refreshment break the club was treated to a film by member,



David Jackson, called Aerial Ballet. This was an award winning film taken at the Farnborough air show a few years back. The combination of superb camera work and well chosen music combined to give an awe-inspiring action film that was enthusiastically applauded.

This was followed by a wonderfully colourful film, of a continental market place by Vicky Jackson. It was full of fun, life and sunshine, with some wonderful big close ups from legs to ribbons, nougat to cane chairs and sunflowers to cabbages, and lots, lots more, all to the swing of the music, bright sunshine and noise of the market. Once again excellent use of music maintained the interest throughout.

The evening ended with four more short films, two of which were produced by groups within the club for sending to a competition shortly to be held in Chichester.

Pennyj and Neil Cryer

AND NOW FOR SOMETHING DIFFERENT

I recently made a trip to southern Brasil. My Rotary district has been successful in obtaining an RI 3H grant, (Water, Health & Hunger, Literacy) to clean up the river basin of the Gravatai river. The local favella or slum dwellers use the river as a rubbish dump and a toilet. There are also industrial polluters along the river, and in the summer the rice growers take too much water out leading to a big stink and dead fish. Rotary is providing a project manager and assistant, an arboricultural officer to deal with planting 20,000 trees to stabilise the river banks and boats for the brigada (military police) to control water intake.

I went out there to film the situation before the project kicks in. The first two days filming went just fine. On the third day we visited a water treatment plant and then we went with the environment people to see a 200 year old tree, the symbol of Brasil, and an old house now a museum from 1880. After that we went in flat bottomed boats up the river Gravatai and saw the rice growers canal and stopped to see where the dam to regulate water flow was going to be built. We went a little further in the boat and stopped again to plant a tree which I have named Sanders of the River.

We got back in the boat. There was Dennis the Chairman, a City Hall guy, a translator and the pilot. The pilot opened up the outboard and we were going fast back towards our entry point. The second boat ahead had



long since disappeared. Suddenly the boat tipped to the right, to the left, to the right even further then to the left and capsized. My left hand had hold of the pro HD video camera which because we were going so fast was yanked from my hand and my left arm twisted back violently. The next thing I knew was bubble noises round my head, no life jacket as it had come off, and the sun shining through the water above. Upon arrival at the surface, Task one was to rescue



the lifejacket under my chest. Task 2 was everybody else ok? They all appeared to be alive and floating. Dennis the Chairman was floating on his back. He was, I found out afterwards, regaining his breath after the boat had come down

on his back. I swam towards my camera bag with all the accessories and the tape from the day before floating some feet away. You try swimming fully clothed and with your shoes on!

After what seemed like an age I got to the bank and climbed out. Dennis had gone into the field behind to get his breath back. It was a good job the previous day's translator wasn't helping us as he couldn't swim! Time was marching on and the sun was getting

lower. No-one came to rescue us.

Looking at the situation in front of us, the boat was upside down and the pilot now had hold of the rope attached to its front. The City Hall man had two nasty scrapes down the insides of his legs and he found it difficult to walk. I got back in the river and we managed

to get the boat upright. We got to the stage where I couldn't get the back end of the boat up far enough because of the water inside and the weight of the outboard motor. Having tied it off to rethink the next move the other boat returned and rescued us.

Our host Luiz Borba was shaking his head in disgust at what had happened. Later he told us that the first boat had returned to the slipway and it was put on the

trailer. When we still didn't turn up, all the mobiles were tried, but of course they were full of water. Luiz then said get that bl....y boat back in the water and go and look for them.

When we were riding home we were told, "Oh by the way, there were aligators in that river" hey thanks! The left arm being very painful was X-Rayed but luckily no break. The City hall man had to go to hospital to have his legs treated. On return home my legs turned purple with a rash, but I am pleased to say that has now cleared up although the left arm still can't hold a pint of beer - but I am right handed. I am now getting stuff replaced on insurances.

They have told me that when I go back to see the project completed in 3 years time NO BOATS!

Mike Sanders

THE PLAYS THE THING

As some of you know, I am a member of The Farnham Playwrights Collective. We have a 1½ hour slot at The Maltings on Saturday 9th May as part of Farnham Creates a Festival.

Our brief this year is "Lonely Spaces" and we have chosen some zany spaces in and around The Maltings, eg, the downstairs Ladies toilet off the courtyard, the Book Store, the space at the bottom of the stairs leading to the Great Hall. Several actors will be performing five minute monologues between 3.00-4.30. My piece will be in The Dressing Room at approx 4.00. Details of other Lonely Spaces will be listed on the day.

A small piece I wrote for a competition called "What use is 'Any' generation?" is going to be performed at the Charles Cryer Theatre, Carshalton on 29th and 30th May by the Savvy Theatre Company.

They wanted very short monologues and duologues which would be woven into a devised theatre piece that will also use a combination of physical theatre, object theatre and Mask. I'm looking forward to seeing the performance.

Rita Wheeler

THE ALBANY

Sunday the 19th was the big day for Portsdown Videomakers. Having won the trophy for the Albany competition in 2008 they were the hosts for this years competition. So it was that 90 or more people turned up, (sadly, including only 4 from SBFVM), on a lovely sunny day to The Newell centre in Chichester.

There were 9 entries from six clubs.

Two acting awards of merit were issued, one to the wife in Southdown's "Missing Peace" and the second to Dicks granddaughter Karen, in Surrey Border Film and Video Makers' "Last Prayer".

Last Prayer was very well received by the judges and the audience too. Nine Lives didn't score too much with the judges, but the audience enjoyed it and laughed in all the right places.

The results were:

The Sid Mitchell Best Comedy trophy was awarded to "Last Prayer" by Dick Hibberd, The Editing trophy was awarded to "The Missing Peace" by Southdown Film Club,

The Best Use of Sound was awarded to "The Picture" Chichester Film and Videomakers The Runner Up Trophy to "Gone but not Forgotten" Chichester Film and Videomakers.

The Albany Trophy was taken by Southdown Film Club and "The Missing Peace."

Other entries were

"Betts Off" by Portsmouth Film and Moviemakers.

"Nine Lives" by Surrey Border Film and Video Makers.

"Make the Most of It" by Portsmouth Video Makers.

"Seeds for Life" by Haywards Heath "Christmas is Coming" by Mid Sussex

The evening finished with "Michael Winds The Clock" a film made by Eddie Trussler a former member of Surrey Border Film and Videomakers to keep the audience amused, whilst the judges had their heads together. So SBFVM made quite a contribution to the event, if not to the audience!

Pennyj

SIR PAUL HOLDEN CITATION

Following is the official Citation for the presentation of my IAC Fellowship at BIAFF on 25 the April 2009, at the Gala Dinner in Chesterfield. I would just liked to express my heartfelt thanks to all those in the Club who put their heads together to recommend me for this great honour - I think it also gives an unusual fillip to the movement that on this occasion the award went to a journeyman grass-roots Club Member, rather than people who have given great service to the movement by organising festivals and serving on County, Regional and National Committees, etc.

“SIR PAUL HOLDEN CITATION FOR PRESENTATION OF FACI AT BIAFF 2009, CHESTERFIELD, 25th. APRIL 2009

Sir Paul Holden has been making films since 1934, when his uncle gave him a redundant 1920s hand-turned Pathéscope Baby 9.5 mm camera for his eleventh birthday. It was obviously the right present for the right boy at the

right time, because film-making became his lifetime hobby ever since.

At an IAC Festival Paul was encouraged to start a new club in the Farnham area. In 1984 he founded Surrey Border Film & Video Makers in his living room with 8 members who responded to a newspaper appeal. Under his keen stewardship, the club has expanded to nearly 60 members with an enviable reputation for making quality films in support of local community activities.

Paul has served on the committee throughout the 25 years of the club and is now President. Although he is now in his mid-80s, his enthusiasm and energy are boundless. He is involved with all aspects of film making, and actively encourages new members to get involved in film projects. He takes Surrey Border programmes out into the community with film shows to local camera clubs, Lions Clubs, Rotarian meetings, WI gatherings and local Retirement and Old People's Homes.

He is a keen supporter of local IAC activities and has been a driving force in encouraging inter-club liaison across a wide area of Southern England.

Over the years, Paul has been Producer for many community filming projects that have helped good causes – such as hospices, Meals on Wheels, or struggling local charities. At the same time these have proved a major incentive for many new members to take up serious film making and subsequently to become individual members of the IAC.

Paul represents the very best of grass-roots effort that keeps the IAC afloat. His major contributions over 25 years have been selfless, tireless and extremely successful both on an individual basis and in the attraction of many members both to Surrey Border and into the IAC proper.

He richly deserves formal recognition by the IAC and we are delighted to award him a Fellowship.”

IS BIG BROTHER WATCHING?

In these days of terrorists I am reassured that someone, or more correctly some device, is in operation, monitoring all the world wide Email traffic. What key words chosen by various Governments around the world might be will be significant. When the wrong, or perhaps right word is typed, then it is automatically flagged up for someone to check its origins, its destination, etc.

Gillian Directed two excellent inserts for “Last Prayer”, and their execution (should I have typed that word?) was excellent. Gillian worked entirely on her own, and all I did was to suggest what shots might be used for the ‘executions’.

Consequently I was often sending Emails to Gillian along these lines:

“Dear Gillian

The two strands that I mentioned to you last night, are the demises of Granddad, and Grandma. Granddad is seen walking out of a local Post Office, counting his pension, and such is his concentration that he unfortunately steps off the kerb, into the path of an oncoming big lorry. Grandma meets her end by falling down the stairs, having come out of the bathroom, trying to get her dentures into place, misses her footing on the first step, falls the length of the stairs, and ends up at

the foot in her nightie and dressing gown, carpet slippers, and in an unnatural position. Dick”

**“Hi Dick,
I hope to kill off Granddad on Friday, weather permitting, Grandma will be easier as it's indoors, but any luck re the wig?
Gill”**

**“Dear Val’,
I think that the Grandparents are still living !!! I haven't been in touch with Gillian recently. I'll copy this to her, and await a response. Maybe she has killed them off by now !!!!!!!!!!!”**

**“Dear Gillian,
Delighted to learn that Gran is for the chop this Friday.
Dick”**

**“Hi Dick
Well Gran is departed. I found it harder than Granddad, actually, hope it's OK.
Gillian”**

Well if you don't see Gillian or I ever again, you will know that BIG BROTHER is watching, very carefully.

Dick Hibberd

LEARNING ZONE

CONVERTING CINE TO DV TAPE

Following on from the Technical Group's February meeting, Gordon Sutton, Don Bray, Sir Paul Holden, and Al and Rita Wheeler met at Dick Hibberd's barn studio. Gordon brought all the necessary equipment to convert cine to mini DV. The purpose of all this? To make a film to show how to get your Cine films on to mini DV tape.

Gordon was filmed as he worked his way through the process of checking the cine film for splits or splicing problems, while also removing as much dust as possible from the film. He then set up his cine projector, aligned his camera and attached a piece of white cardboard to the wall which was to be the screen. He then concentrated on correcting the focus and balance of light before playing his cine film and recording it onto mini DV.

It may sound complicated, but as with everything, it's 'fairly' easy when you know how. Hopefully when our Training DVD is ready it will show you how.

Rita Wheeler



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.

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

May 31 Closing date for Guernsey Lily June- Sept

October 16-18th Guernsey Lily Festival. Oct 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

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

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'

4 Sep Tana Fletcher and 'The Dolphin Puppeteers'

DIARY DATES

9 May Farnham Creates a Festival at the Maltings

23 May Surrey Border will in the Old Foyer of Farnham Library from 10am to 4pm. Helpers welcome.

23 May The Library Gardens, Farnham. The Secret Garden Music Festival. Irish folk, jazz, blues, rock, electro, acoustic, soul and country. From 2pm to 10.30pm

30 May Croatian 1 min competition

5 Jul Summer Social

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.

IMPORTANT CONTACTS

Name:

Telephone:

Email: