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## CHAIRMAN'S CHAT

I would like to welcome Dave and Jan Watterson who have driven up from Bath to judge our club competition tonight. I am sure you all read Dave's article in last month's Border Post. Dave has spent many years as a member of the Council of the IAC in several roles including Treasurer and Webmaster of the IAC website. Both Jan and Dave are highly sought after as international judges and have traveled world wide. We are honoured to have them both as judges.

I am sure we all enjoyed the November film night which was a Retrospective of films made by John and Joan Woolmer in their days of being involved in the Centre Film Unit. The night ran smoothly but what you did not know is what had been going on behind the scenes that lead up to that night.

We had hoped to show the films as they were originally made, on a 16mm projector. Unfortunately the sound section of the one John used to use was broken. Peter Matthews tried his hardest to fix it but couldn't, which means it really was not fixable. Jim Attew volunteered his old 16mm projector, but this had the same problem. I contacted The Barn in West Street, next to the old Woolworths, and spoke to Marios who would gladly have lent us his 16mm projector, but that had no sound either. Paul contacted the University of



the Creative Arts and found they had six 16 mm projectors, all with the same problem with the sound. However, they did have one which was permanently in place in a lecture hall but it would have cost us a small fortune to use the hall. So in the end David Jackson took the time and trouble to convert the films onto a DVD for the evening.

For me November, as well as being a month full of gold and browns with all the falling leaves, is a month of nights drawing in and one of remembrance. So it was fitting that Val Hitchman chose this evening to show her reminiscent film about the Great War. A poignant mix of fact and fiction which I am sure will do well in film festivals.

So, the year is drawing to a close. What do we have to look forward to in the new year? David Fairhead, editor of "In the Shadow of the Moon" as well as many television shows including The Bill will be presenting an evening based on the importance of the use of sound in films. Basingstoke Film Video Makers will be presenting an evening of their films. Due to all of our interest in making holiday films, Gillian Gatland will be presenting an evening of holiday movie Do's and Don'ts.

The Committee wishes you all a Happy Christmas and a successful New Year to come.

**Rita Wheeler**

## UNSUNG HEROES

I would like to extend a warm heart felt thank you to all the club members who so generously donate their time to showing films to various residential homes in and around the Farnham area. Christmas time is especially busy. Although most of these homes have large flat screen televisions, for the residents there is something special about having a film shown to them on a big screen. It is the nearest they get to going to the cinema. As well as being a

rewarding thing to do, it earns the club a lot of money which helps to subsidise the membership fees for all of us.

To keep track of the equipment needed for each show, who will need to use it, where they should collect it from and where they should return it to has been a logistic exercise which Paul has logged and recorded with his usual untiring energy, and an excellent job he has done too. Now he has passed this essential



## THANK YOU

Dear Sir Paul

Once again you have given Rowledge Good Companions a lovely afternoon's entertainment for which we thank both you and Paddy most sincerely.

We so enjoy your films and always look forward to your visits.

We all send our best wishes and look forward to further visits in the future.

Yours sincerely

**Dorothy McGuigan**  
(Programme Secretary)

role on to David Tate, Vice Chairman.

After Paul's last appeal for volunteer projectionists for the shows leading up to Christmas, for the first time we actually had more volunteers than dates. If anyone wants to learn how to become a projectionist or wants to volunteer to project please contact either Fred Hawkins, for those wanting to learn, or David Tate for those wanting to volunteer.

**Rita Wheeler**

# NOVEMBER CLUB NIGHT

Surrey Border Film & Video Makers were treated to a Retrospective of some of the films made by John and Joan Woolmer in the 60's and 70's in their days of being involved with the Centre Film Unit. Joan explained that the films were made on 16mm. The club wanted

to show the original films but unfortunately could not find a working 16mm projector, so the films were digitalized and shown on DVD.

"Escape" was a beautifully filmed evocative story of a

young boy who, abused by his father, found refuge in a church then was killed by a car on his way home, his last thoughts were of the family life he wished he had had. One of the special effects used in the film showed a scene revolving rapidly. When asked how it had been achieved, Joan answered that they had mounted a camera onto a turn table.

Joan explained she had an idea for a film but was told she needed to get

the funds herself. They then had an opportunity to make a commercial film and used that money to make "Pauline" a short film about a young man who fancied Pauline but didn't have the courage to talk to her. A chance rain storm brought them together.



The final film of the evening was the award winning "The Golden Medallion". As part of this was filmed in Scotland one of the challenges was to

send the undeveloped film on the fast train to London each evening and wait to receive the rushes the next day to see if anything needed to be re-shot.

"Escape", "Pauline" and "The Golden Medallion" were all shown at the National Film Theatre as part of The Ten Best from the Movie Maker International film competition.

**Rita Wheeler**

## WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING ...

Work has been proceeding flat out on preparations for filming "Cecil's Law", The Club's Albany Competition Entry.

- Paul Holden, Dick Hibberd, Roger Gould and Ivan Dally have been busy contacting and inspecting possible locations for the planned scenes, some of which have now been finalised;
- Rita Wheeler has been updating the script to take in various suggested improvements from the Team;
- Val Hitchman has rounded up some AmDram volunteers to be auditioned for the various parts in our small cast (traditionally the weakest point in many Surrey Border movies, when we try to fill those vacancies from our own ranks!);
- Team availability has been collected and co-ordinated, and dates for the various shoots are now postulated, for confirmation by those concerned. Shooting starts in mid December, hopefully to be completed before Christmas.

**Paul Holden (Producer)**

## CLUB FILM SHOWS

Vice Chairman David Tate has been busy co-ordinating the volunteer projectionists and assistants for running our traditional Christmas shows to the three Abbeyfield Extra care units in Farnham, and on Friday 27th November Paul Holden and John Widdecombe presented their 11th quarterly show of Club Films to residents of Clare Park (where Paul now lives.) As Paul found he was running out of Club films that they haven't already seen in his personal library (which he has collected over the years for these purposes), he called on a couple of hours of David Jackson's time to trawl through the extensive Club Archives that he keeps on his hard drives; and David came up with a very varied programme of short films by Club Members, some of which Paul had no recollection of ever seeing before – and then created the necessary Mini-DV showreel, which lasts just over an hour. None of them are more than 6½ minutes long (and most are much shorter!)

The programme comprises:

A Good Start in Life; One Way; Birth of a Dream; You Can't Beat Wellington; Skipper Brown; Dorset Steam Fair; Making of the Clare Park Web Video; My Dad's War; Cloisonné; Same Again; Wood Fired Pots; A Dog's Life; Lady Cassandra Goes to Sea; and Clare Park Newsreel – Autumn 2009. Paul would like to express his thanks to all members who regularly allow him to include their films in these shows to Derby and Joan Clubs, etc. (You Can't Beat Wellington? a wonderful film from Harry Newland, won the 'Best Photography Award' in 2005 and is a very skilful edit of extremely varied holiday footage to a popular song).

This would make an excellent showreel to fill in half a Club evening, if ever we were let down at the last moment – I'm sure that there are many other members who will never have enjoyed some of these films, either!

**Paul Holden**

## UPDATE ON THE ALBANY

It was thanks to Penny and her enthusiasm that got the club involved in the Albany competition. Now it has become one of our annual 'exercises' and each year, as well as getting new members involved in making a film, it is also a way of giving people the opportunity to try out different roles or to learn about a different aspect of film making. With the deadline being in April it gives members a film making opportunity during the winter months which is often a quiet time for actual filming.

**Rita Wheeler**

# WHAT IS A PRODUCER?

One of the questions I asked when I first joined the club was "What is a Producer and what does a Producer do?" I asked several industry Producers and never got a satisfactory answer. Of course, as amateur film makers who work to a Low to No Budget, a Producer's role is slightly different from one with a commercial budget. However, since I first asked the question I have had the good fortune to work on several films where Paul has been the Producer and this is what I have surmised.

Of course, this is just my opinion but for me, the Producer's role is rather like a Conductor. He doesn't play an instrument but he keeps the orchestra together, bringing in different sections as and when

needed and keeping the group going in the right direction.

So, what comes first? The story or the crew?

First, he needs a willing crew. Then a storyline followed by a brainstorming session. Then the script. Now we're getting somewhere. Actors? Locations? Delegation. Who wants to Direct? Do the Sound? The Lighting? The Producer delegates and co-ordinates the people who know actors, who can find locations who know how to light a set, who have an eye for detail – continuity is all important. Having got his crew together, he lets them get on with the filming.

**Rita Wheeler**

## SAD NEWS

It is with sadness we have to report the death of Jerry Plowman. He and his wife Gillian had just returned from a holiday in South Africa. Jerry enjoyed going to Africa and whilst there loved going on safari. His film "Incident in the Bush" won the Ron Clements Trophy in the 2002 Club Competition. and has been included in our shows of Club Films to all our Derby and Joan Clubs, etc., and has always been voted a top favourite .

# FILM SCHOOL IN YOUR LIVING ROOM

A great way to improve your skills as a filmmaker is to watch the best filmmakers do what they do best-make films. You won't need to travel to the Smithsonian or Modern Museum of Art. You won't need a tour guide. And, best of all, you can experience everything from the comfort of your sofa. While the best movie going experience is usually in a theatre it doesn't take much equipment to have a great viewing experience at home. Real film schools are expensive - this film school will only cost the price of a few rentals at your local video store, or asking a friend with a well-stocked DVD library to borrow a few movies.



### Keep an Eye AND an Ear Out

Simply watching a film is not good enough if you aspire to be a great filmmaker. If you want to learn something, you'll at least need to turn on your critical thinking skills. Settle yourself down to watch your film, and with a notepad and pen by your side, continuously ask yourself why the filmmaker has made the decisions that have lead to these following changes:

- Camera angle  
Shot type (e.g., close-up, wide angle, extreme long shot, etc.)
- Depth of field  
Playback speed (e.g., slow motion, time lapse)
- Pacing (i.e, the time between shots)
- Music

Look at these changes in the film and think about whether or not you can explain why the filmmaker has edited the film in this

way. Consider other observations, too. What are the actors doing and how does that have an effect on the story? Make note of how you feel during the film as a viewer. This is the best way to gauge the filmmaker's intentions. For example, if you are feeling anxious and frightened you can expect a certain set of editing decisions to take place. In this scenario, one would expect to find a chilling set of sound effects and maybe some unusual camera angles. Make note of all these things and the pieces of the puzzle start to come together.

### What to Watch

Many people like to study a particular director. This is a great idea as you can become familiar with a director's style. Many times you'll find that a particular director doesn't fit your fancy. That's perfectly acceptable. It's a good idea to give something a try and learn from it.

Luckily for you, the following list has been created of some films which are ideal for the aspiring filmmaker. This is in no way a comprehensive list. Nor is it required reading for being a successful director.

This list is just a good sampling of what's out there. It is recommended, that since film genres spread far and wide, personal recommendations from friends are best. Nonetheless, here's the list:

### Jaws (1975)

This is a film school 101 class in the form

of a 124-minute thriller. There are many lessons a filmmaker can learn about pacing and building suspense. Also important, this was considered a rather low budget film (at least, by Hollywood standards). Yet, Spielberg was able to build a movie with considerable "bang for its buck" with some creative directing decisions.

### The Godfather (1972)

This is a classic. And, the genesis of a very impressive series. If you like the first, you'll love the rest of The Godfather movies and they are each impressive in their own right. Keep your eyes focused on the lighting and how that adds to character. There are also some pretty good time manipulations at work in this film.

### Citizen Kane (1941)

This is another classic. There are a lot a great qualities to look for in this film. Keep an eye out for camera angles, specifically on the protagonists and antagonists of this film. This film also features some time manipulation techniques. And, it has one of the most famous movie lines of all times.

### Star Wars (1977)

Star Wars is a classic example of all the decisions a filmmaker can make to enhance the antagonist's character in the film. Count the techniques that George Lucas uses to make Darth Vader more and more sinister. And, then creatively apply them to your next film.

### Behind the Scenes

When buying or renting DVDs, look for those that have Behind the Scenes or Director's Commentary on the bonus material. You'll learn a lot about why the director staged a particular shot, made a technique work, or had to work-around a difficult, (or expensive) procedure. Yes, even Hollywood blockbusters have to consider budgets.





**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.



## COMPETITION

### BIAFF (British International Amateur Film & Video Festival)

Closing date: 31 Jan 2010, Festival: 16-18 Apr 2010

The greatest amateur film festival in the British Isles. There are no limits on length, topic or style. Every entry received written comments from the judges and is graded.

### The Guernsey Lily International Film & Video Festival

Closing: 31 May 2010, Festival: 15-17 Oct 2010

The Guernsey is the friendliest festival in the British Isles - and it takes place on the Channel Island of Guernsey. Entries up to 30 mins in length

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.

### A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

The 2010 Albany competition will be hosted by South Downs Video & Film Makers on 25 April 2010. The venue will be the Ferring village hall, Ferring, West Sussex.

## CLUB DATES

- 4 Dec** Club competition
- 8 Jan** Festival winners' films or club competition films not shown in December 09
- 6 Feb** AGM and 'Gone Fishing'
- 5 Mar** 'Finding Esther' 45 min film with discussion
- 2 Apr** Creative film making of 30 second ad or 1 minute epic

## DIARY DATES

- 6 Dec** Christmas Lunch at Farnham House Hotel

## IMPORTANT NOTICE

**JANUARY CLUB NIGHT  
WILL BE HELD ON  
FRIDAY 8TH JANUARY  
AND NOT THE 1ST, AS  
WOULD NORMALLY BE  
EXPECTED.**

## ONE-2-ONE TUITION

Don't forget, One-2-One tuition is always available at the club, and currently Gordon and Val are helping folk with the basics of Final Cut Express.

We have quite a few mac owners now - yay! - and some are struggling to make the transition from iMovie to Final Cut. So make your needs known to Gordon or Val so that help can be arranged for you.



## IMPORTANT CONTACTS

Name:

Telephone:

Email: