

*Download your Border Post direct from [www.surreyborder.org.uk](http://www.surreyborder.org.uk)*

## CHAIRMAN'S CHAT

At last the nights are getting shorter, meaning more daylight for filming. With spring around the corner it reminds me that the Spring Festival, now called the Surrey BAFTAs will be taking place next year, please read the article The Surrey BAFTAs (p2) for more information.

Have many, or any, of you made a 30 second

ad or 1 minute epic for the Creative Film Making competition next month? There will be a small trophy for the winner to keep, based on an audience show of hands vote. The idea behind this

exercise is to concentrate your minds. How do you tell a story in 30 seconds? How do you tell an epic story in 1 minute? It takes lots of thought but not that long to actually film.

Still not sure of an idea? Ellie Wood, Competition Secretary has found details of a 29 second ad called King of Ads, organized by Doritos. Details can be found on: <http://kingofads.doritos.co.uk> There's lots of money up for grabs for the successful one.

Don't be shy, if you've never made a film before, try it out, what have you got to lose and you may surprise yourself.

We have had several enquiries this month from organizations in the area who are keen to make films about their particular interest. We shall let you know further when the

discussions have taken place.

In the mean time start thinking of ideas for the Film in an Evening event on Friday 2nd July. We usually have the subject for the North vs South competition as our theme - the idea being

that these short films can then be developed into more rounded films to be entered into that competition later in the year. The theme this year is "Now and Then." If a great idea springs to mind, write it down before you forget it! Don't share it with anyone until you know which Film in an Evening team you are in. Roll on spring!

**Rita Wheeler**

**APRIL CLUB NIGHT**  
**AS OUR APRIL MEETING FALLS ON GOOD FRIDAY, IT WILL BE PUT BACK TO 9TH APRIL**

## GETTING THE SHAKES IN NZ

Last week we were awoken by an earthquake, strength five about 30 miles away, just a little worse than the shakes I get when handholding the camera.

Travelling out here, we were scheduled for a two hour refuelling stop at LA which entails being put into a secure transit room, photo'd and fingerprinted. The incident at Detroit on Christmas Day has caused the Americans to impose greater restrictions on carry-ons, the tripod wouldn't fit the hold baggage but I could squeeze in a hitherto unused unipod.

The unipod is a great help, but is not a substitute for a tripod. If you can get into a position where it can be braced between the knees as well it will steady up considerably. If you want a close up, move in, don't use the zoom it just accentuates any shake. Lean against anything that gives support.

Lastly if your unipod has a panning handle, take it off, its just asking to be accidentally knocked.

**From our reporter Harry Newland on location in New Zealand**

## THE GUILD OF TELEVISION CAMERAMEN

I don't suppose you will have noticed, but often at the end of a television programme, all the Production Team are credited, with the exception of the cameramen. This is particularly the case with the BBC. Don't ask me why, and I have asked them, but so far they have no answer. They suggested that to find the answer to my question would be a waste of the Licence Payers money!

Who wants to read the credits anyway, they are mostly squeezed to illegibility. Well I do, because, as many of you will already know, for a large part of my career I was a television cameraman, and I am very proud to have been one.

For a number of years, I have been

invited to make the presentation of awards to the cameramen and women from around the world, whom in the



eyes of their peers, deserve to be publicly acclaimed.

Last year in October 2009, at the Guild's International Television Cameramen's Awards ceremony at the British Film Institute in London, much to my surprise it was announced that I had been elected to Life Presidency of the Guild.

Well I can hardly remain anonymous and at the same time champion the cause of credits for all the production team, including the cameramen, can I? So as they say, 'I am coming out', and I don't care who knows it. I am Life President of the Guild of Television Cameramen.

Oh, I do feel so much better now that everyone knows!!!!

**Dick Hibberd**

# THE SURREY BAFTAs

This is an advanced notice that the Surrey BAFTAs are due to take place in 2011. The Surrey what...? I hear you say. Let me explain. In 2004 the then Chairman, Bryan Harrison, suggested we have an awards ceremony every two or three years to give due praise to film makers and actors who have made and/or appeared in outstanding films made by members of our club.

Taking on this challenge, in 2005 we held the first Surrey Border Spring Festival and after reviewing 79 films, awards were presented to individuals in three categories, scriptwriting, directing and acting.

In 2008 the then Chairman, Gordon Sutton, organized the second awards ceremony, now called The Surrey BAFTAs, That is, Surrey Border Artistic Film Tributes Awards and the winners were presented with OSCARS - Outstanding Surreyborder Creative Arts Reels. The award categories were the same: Scriptwriting, Directing and Acting, except we increased the scriptwriting to two awards, one for Drama and one for Non Drama. The only criteria to be considered with a chance of an award is that the film should have been made between January 2008 and

December 2010 and must have been shown to the club. It may surprise you that 133 films were considered for the 2008 awards which were made between January 2005 and December 2007.

I am sure you would all like to be a contender for an OSCAR. To be in with a chance your film needs to have been shown at the club. So, if your film has been entered into the Film in an Evening, then that film is included, if you have entered your film into the Club Competition, it is included. If you have made a film and haven't shown it yet, it needs to be shown to be in with a chance. The films can be about anything, documentaries, dramas, holiday films, comedies, they don't have to have been entered into any competitions.

Any time you have a film ready, bring it along to the club night and we shall endeavour to show it. These films can be 30 seconds long or 30 minutes (except we would need advance warning in order to show a long film).

We hope the 2011 Surrey BAFTA's will be an occasion to remember.

**Rita Wheeler**

# FEBRUARY CLUB NIGHT

We met for our Annual General Meeting on Friday 5th February. This was a chance for members to review the clubs year in films and plan for the future, and to thank retiring officers **Josephine Jones** and **Fred Hawkins** in typical SBFVM tradition..



Once the business of budget and other pressing issues were addressed the AGM was brought to a close.

After the coffee break Gordon Sutton showed a selection of archived shorts, three 30 second adverts and three 1 minute epics were shown to members as inspiration for the upcoming competition, Creative Film Making, which takes place in April. He then showed the award winning short film *Gone Fishing* followed by a film he made called *Steam Dream*, which was shot on a Lumix TZ7 Digital still camera with video captured in HD using Motion JPEG.

**Ellie Wood**

## WEBSITE EARNS £50

The club website carries advertisements chosen by Google to suit the page being viewed and the interests of the viewer. Yes, Big Brother Google is watching your every move! Well, thanks to interest in the advertisements, our earnings have reached a milestone £50 nearly a year after we started advertising. If you would like to help, then how about some technical articles that can go in Border Post and on the web?

**Neil Cryer**

## FOR SALE

The following items are from Jerry Plowman's editing suite and his wife would like to sell. Pricing any secondhand item is always difficult so the prices shown are for guidance only. Any reasonable offer would most probably be acceptable to Gillian. Her telephone number is: 01428 712828.

Panasonic SVHS Video Recorder, Model NV-HS820	£50
Sony VHS " " " SLV-E90, Hi-Fi Stereo	£20
Time Base Corrector, ACT Electronics, used with VHS Tapes	Offer
Colour Video Processor ACT	Offer
Sony Video Sketch Titler XV-T33F	Offer
Canon EX2 Pro Hi-8 Camcorder	£55
Lervia Laminating Device	£15
Cambridge Audio AZUR 640A Hi-Fi Amplifier	£150
Switch Control, Radio Shack. 4 Way Unit	£10
Cambridge Phono Pre-amplifier MM 540P Model	£30
Audio Mixer 4 channel Phonic MM1002	£50
B & W Hi-Fi Speakers 100 Watt Model DM601	£100
Twin Cassette deck tape Player Recorder Marantz SD555	£45
Technics CD Player, Model SLPG 570A	£50

## HOLLYWOOD CAMERA TRAINING

It all started in Nov 2007 and here we are in 2010 with what we thought was going to be the last session in January. No so, as one thing leads to another and oops, we've run out of time again. Lets make a date for the 2nd attempt at the final session. About 20 of us started in 2007 but now we are down to around 6 or 7, with

the stalwarts exclaiming that this is now really coming together. Did we finish when we met in February under Mike Sanders brilliant and endless guidance? Well no, but the final final final session is now booked for the 15th March. Good on yer Mike.

**Rita Wheeler**

# NORTH vs SOUTH GRAND FINAL

On Sunday 29th November, Vivien and I attended the Grand Final of the North vs South competition, where we were shown not only the five competing films from both the North and the South, but also the nine entries from the North which didn't make the final five. These were mostly to a very good standard, although I personally thought one far too long for its subject (although very well filmed and edited), and one where the editing needed, in my opinion, tightening up a lot.

The ten competition films had been pre-judged by Christine Williams and Malcolm Dickinson, two very experienced ITV professionals, chosen this year by the Newcastle on Tyne Club, who were

masterminding a simultaneous show in the North. As usual, the audience were also provided with voting slips for each member to choose his or her best five films, with a prize for whoever comes closest to the official Judges' decision, bearing in mind the competition theme "Trapped".

I was amazed to find that I had chosen the same top two films as the judges (although in the wrong order), and we also chose the same film as fourth or fifth – but I demonstrated my usual incompetence at judging by marking the Judges' third choice as absolutely the bottom of my list! But it was a very impressive and enjoyable show – and I was surprised (and secretly pleased) to find that there were NO wide

screen format or High Definition films amongst the 19 films on offer. I can't believe that this sort of position can last much longer – with all new equipment providing both as standard – although at present not really geared up to be edited, as we would understand the term!

Sadly, I have to report that the judges awarded the trophy, once again, to the North. (But of course, that is obviously because our Southern Heat judges didn't include Dick's Surrey Border film in the final five from the South to win it back, after about five unbroken Northern victories!)

**Paul Holden**

## LESSONS LEARNED FROM OUR ALBANY FILMING

At the time of writing, our competition entry is still in the post-production phase – but the shooting was accomplished on three shooting days, which were hard work, but good fun – especially thanks to the very professional Am Dram cast which Val recruited for us.

As Producer, I would like to record my sincere thanks to everybody who took part – Cast, Shooting Crew, and Editors – but also to suggest some lessons that I think we learned on the job, and should apply to future projects:

1) The use of Am Dram actors, capable of memorising and reproducing exactly their words and actions (as modified sometimes by the Director) in successive shoots from different camera angles, gave the Director and Editors a whole new freedom of action, which has never, in my experience, been possible with the average Film Club member pressed into service in front of the cameras!

2) As I should have realised, but didn't sufficiently, actual experimentation and

planning of the camera angles on site, before the shoot, is absolutely essential, if cast and crew are not to be kept hanging about whilst the Director and Cameraman try to work it out on the hoof. Our failure to do this, and record it in some sort of storyboard which can communicate these planning decisions to the crew, led directly to the need for three shooting days, instead of the planned two. BUT:

3) It is absolutely no use anybody else but the Director developing this storyboard, if the Director is going to ignore it completely on the day – that just leads to confusion all round, and is probably worse than not having a storyboard at all!

4) I think that, for our amateur productions at least, there is tremendous value in the Editor(s) being involved with the storyboarding, and being present during the filming.

Would anybody else involved like to comment on, or add to these suggested lessons learned?

**Paul Holden**

## DORITOS COMPETITION

Doritos is launching a new user-generated advertising campaign called 'King of Ads', encouraging anyone with a video camera to create the next big Doritos TV ad and win up to £200,000.

The crowdsourcing ad, which breaks today (16 February) will encourage users to come up with ideas and film them on a video camera to create a 29 second commercial to be uploaded online.

The makers of the Top 15 adverts will then be invited to pitch their Doritos TV ad to a panel of specially selected experts,

which includes Bafta award-winning actor, director, and screenwriter Noel Clarke, TV and radio presenter Lauren Laverne and ad director David Shane.

The top three ads, as selected by the panel, will then be put to the public vote to decide whom the true King of Ads is.

The winning ad director will win £100,000 and will win an extra £1 for every vote they receive up to an additional £100,000.

The advert will be aired across British national television from 12 June to 11 July.  
**Ellie Wood, Competition Secretary**

## RITA'S BITS

### VISIT TO BVE

Dick was kind enough to transport Mike, Peter and myself for the annual day out to BVE (Broadcast Video Expo) at Earls Court on the 18th Feb, the final day of a 3 day show. Although our arrival was severely delayed by road works we all had plenty of time to meet our respective objectives. The 3D demos were technically amazing but the consensus was NOT FOR US. I managed to pick up a bargain in the form of a camera lanc zoom controller and saved myself £90 on the best internet price. An excellent day out for anyone wishing to get hands-on experience and highly recommended.

### POWERPOINT TO DVD

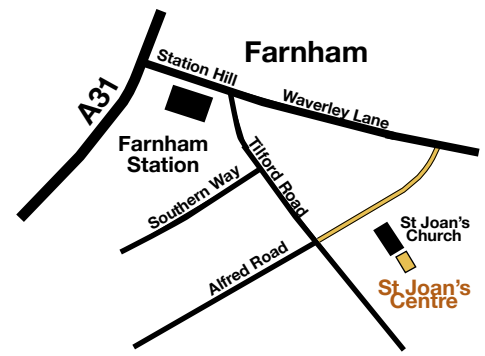
Following on from my involvement in presenting Bisley History (mentioned in BP Nov 2009) I have now successfully converted it to DVD with a total running time of 198 minutes with each evening conveniently split between two discs. The process consisted of editing the narration in Cool Edit 2000 to eliminate excessive pauses etc., converting the slides in PowerPoint to photo images and bringing the two together in the video editing programme. The fun part was devising means of highlighting the picture according to what the presenter was pointing out at the time so that comment of e.g. "over here" would then have some relevance. Producing the DVD with a user friendly menu so that one could jump to the subject of your choice was yet a further stage in the process. In total a rather time consuming project but now the packaging artwork is complete we hope to sell copies and make more money for the church extension fund.



**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

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

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

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

### **SERIAC Film Festival**

Closing date: 20 Feb 2010, Festival: 1 May 2010

Don't miss a fantastic day out. Book this date in your diary now. Festival to be held at the Oast Theatre, Tonbridge.

### **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

### **The IAC**

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.

The theme for 2010 is "In the Hot Seat", and our club entry is now in the can and editing will shortly be completed.

## CLUB DATES

**5 Mar** "Finding Esther" a 45 minute drama with discussion after. Members, please bring any films you want to show or if you are stuck with a film, show us and ask the members for suggestions on what to do next.

**2 Apr** Creative Film Making – your challenge is to make a 30 second ad or one minute epic, or both, as many as possible. Let your imagination run free!

**7 May** David Fairhead will be presenting an evening regarding the importance of music and film.

**4 Jun** Gillian Gatland will be presenting an evening of advice and tips on How to Make a Holiday Movie, the type your friends actually want to watch.

**2 Jul** Film in an Evening

## APRIL MEETING

**AS THE FIRST FRIDAY  
IN APRIL IS GOOD  
FRIDAY, OUR APRIL  
CLUB NIGHT WILL BE  
HELD ON FRIDAY 9TH  
APRIL & NOT THE 2ND**

## IMPORTANT CONTACTS

Name:

Telephone:

Email: