Message from your Chairman - John Mills:  

Happy New Year!

I hope you all had a very happy and merry Christmas with all your wishes being granted. There are lots of competitions coming up and many opportunities for us all to make films this year.

Time is the only element we all need more of but with some careful planning, hopefully films will be made.

I am looking forward to making use of the various new pieces of equipment I purchased throughout last year, and having practised with each element, Sound, Camera, Software, Lights etc I am now trying to galvanise myself and anybody else who is interested to get down and put in the research and development to generate a film or two.

We also have the AGM in February and I would just like to thank the committee members for the sterling work they have all down on your behalf during 2015.

For newer members if you need help or have an idea for a film, talk to a committee member* who will be able to direct you to the right person to make your dream into reality.

The website is now linked to Facebook, so if you would like to have instant updates when something happens just search for Surrey Border Movie Makers on Facebook and like the site and you will be connected.

Happy Filming!  

John

*(Committee Members wear blue badges - Ed)

A Rewarding Evening

from Kathy Butcher’s December Press Release

Official Judges Jan and Dave Watterson were invited to Surrey Border Movie Makers December club meeting to present awards to the winners of the Annual Members Film Competition. Several weeks preceding the club visit, the judges had watched and scrutinised the eleven films submitted by club members. On the club night all of the films were watched by the audience and the judges gave very valuable critique, advice and compliments to the film makers.

Jan and Dave Watterson are both official British International Film Festival judges and have judged films in many European countries. Dave Watterson is the President of UNICA the international body for amateur film makers. Dave commented that he is impressed that Surrey Border Movie Maker members are always keen to discuss their films and he also finds the club very friendly.

‘Sarah’s War’ written, produced and directed by Brian O’Connell made its debut as a very successful stage show in Guildford this Summer, Brian is now making it into a film and the first preview won him two awards, The Dick Hibberd Trophy for Best Camerawork and the Jackson Trophy for Best Overall film.

The full line up of films awarded were:

Best Holiday Film  
Gillian Gatland -  Waimangu Volcanic Valley

David Good Trophy  
Colin Lewis -  Cap Ferrat

Commended  
Best Editing  
Sir Paul Holden -  The One Minute Project

Best Photography  
Peter Ives -  Our Hidden Heros

Best Documentary  
Penny Johnson Trophy  
Arthur English Trophy

Best Creative Film  
Elliott Stanley -  Definition of Love

Clements Shield  
Best Commentary

Sir Paul Holden -  The One Minute Project

Pat Doherty Cup  
Best Camerawork

Brian O’Connell -  Sarah’s War (preview)

Best Overall  
Brian O’Connell -  Sarah’s War (preview)
There are two morals to this little tale: Firstly, that a good film lives on, even if still in 4x3 format. And secondly, if you have a good idea for a film, bring it to the Club and seek a cast and crew to help you make it! *(Read below, right! Ed)*

*or ‘Raiders not Lost in the Arc-hives’*

by Sir Paul Holden with photos from the film

When Gordon Sutton was preparing the programme for our show of Club Films to the Farnham Homemakers last month, he dug out from his archives a film made in 2003 by Alex Dove, sadly no longer with us, who created an outstanding Comedy Drama, ‘Raiders’, with the help of seventeen Club Members, as cast and crew (and sometimes both!)

It was an outstanding success, both with the Homemakers, and subsequently when I included it again in my November show of Club Films to Clare Park Residents, with the strap-line “A solid Gold Egyptian artefact has gone missing, and everyone is after it!”

There are two morals to this little tale: Firstly, that a good film lives on, even if still in 4x3 format. And secondly, if you have a good idea for a film, bring it to the Club and seek a cast and crew to help you make it! *(Read below, right! Ed)*

The Show Must Go On

by Sir Paul Holden

Last month, I was (all too predictably, unfortunately) in a panic, right against the deadline, trying to complete the editing of my Clare Park Newsreel, and the creation of a programme for my 3-monthly show of Club Films to Clare Park Residents. To solve my problem, I called on a couple of Club Members, Gordon Sutton and Peter Frost, to lend me some of their films, urgently and at the last minute, to make up the programme.

Gordon Sutton obliged, by dropping whatever he was doing, and motoring over, some 30 miles or so, to bring me his programme tape that he had created for our show to the Farnham Homemakers the previous month. All I could offer him in exchange was a cup of tea, and a preview of the newsreel!

Peter Frost responded by downloading two of his films onto DVD for me, and popping them into the First Class Post. (I had hoped that he could just lend me the media he had prepared for the November Club Meeting – and didn’t mean him to go to all that trouble for me!) Unfortunately, because I had left it so late to ask, it arrived too late for inclusion, but his films will be available in good time now for my next film show!

Wazzeeuptoo?

by Pete Frost  Photo Brian O’Connell

Could it be that Brian O’Connell has cast away his video cameras, the time line has become the fishing line and he’s taken up this more relaxing hobby? If so, it seems that his eyesight is diminishing to the extent that he needs a rather large float to see when he gets a bite!

No, Brian is on a mission to bring sequences from his 1 hour 40 minute stage play ‘Sarah’s War’ to the screen. It’s still a huge challenge but his competition entry, a 6 minute teaser for the epic, deservedly gained him two awards: Best Camerawork (Dick Hibberd Trophy) and Best Overall Film (Jackson Trophy).

Bringing a story based in the 1940’s to the screen with a miniscule budget and reasonable authentic props, let alone actors, is the sort of ambitious project that Brian goes for.

The next sequence is set on the water at night when the boat we saw in the extract weaves its way through a minefield. There’s an article on the challenge of making a mine in this edition of *BP*. 

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Club Christmas Lunch

Photos by Brian O’Connell

Photos of the Christmas Lunch gathering at the Farnham House Hotel, an enjoyable and convivial start to the season’s festivities thoroughly enjoyed by twenty six members and partners.
Ed: As film makers, we should be aware of the diversity of material that is out there and in our club Geoff Bentley is an advocate of the less mainstream in film and video and this one used digitized grainy 8mm film as its basis and a bold music track. Asked about his club competition entry ‘Untitled’, he told me the following:

Geoff: “I had nearly all my old super 8 films transferred to digital professionally, about 4 years back, this film was amongst those. I re-edited and added music. It’s a self indulgent effort and devoid of any meaning because it really was just a holiday film with bold camera work.

I find the combination of music and image very refreshing because it’s different from most media and there’s so little of this kind of thing about. It took me a day to do and I’m glad I did it”.

Ed: The fact is that we all make films for our own enjoyment and satisfaction and if they find favour in a competition, that’s an added bonus.

Geoff added: “The fellow in the flowering Rhododendron Ponticum is perhaps a teaser for next years competition, so people have something to look forward to. But more importantly I hope to make more films between now and then”.

“Are there any titles to work on for club films if ideas are needed?”

Moody shots from the film which contrasts man made turbines with rolling sheep pastures.

This time we’re catching up with Jacqueline Escolme, our excellent script writer, who is another with demanding family and business commitments.

Jacqueline told me that she’s flat out with work and launching an e-book in Jan. As she says: “I can’t seem to stop!”

She’s uncertain whether her busy lifestyle will allow her to continue with the club as she’s been able to attend so few meetings in 2015 and even then hasn’t had the time to be involved in the films, much as she would have liked.

Jacqueline’s e-book is titled ‘Rebuild Your Health’ explaining the process of how she rebuilt herself from serious illness over a ten year period, in a format that people can replicate to achieve the same vibrant health that she now enjoys. She has a more light hearted and racier e-book planned for 2016 which is all about balance. We’ll have to wait and see.

Boys Video Escape

The annual members pilgrimage to the British Video Exhibition to see, touch, play with and drool over equipment that is way beyond the reach of most and to sit in on the demos and presentations, will soon be upon us. In truth, this is really a boys’ day out and a worthy excuse to escape from home chores and possibly be lured into spending the holiday money!

Although the BVE runs for three days, a few members have already decided to go on Wednesday 24th February as it can be fun to meet up together, either at lunch time 1.00 -2.00 or on the journey home.

You can of course go whenever you like, but if you are planning to be there on the Wednesday please let Brian know by email: brianpoconnell2@gmail.com. Brian says: “It would be especially helpful to have a few extra hands to assist Peter Frost with all the freebies he will gather”.

The BVE is held at Excel London from the 23rd to 25th February 2016. Tickets are free if you register on line or at the door.

MEDIA AND ENTERTAINMENT FROM CREATION TO CONSUMPTION

Historically, “Film in an Evening” (FIAE) has been good for people working in teams and under pressure but rarely results in a film good enough for a competition.

To see if it works FIAE will be replaced by “Movie in a Month” (MIAM) where MIAM groups will be announced, along with a theme, one month before the MIAM evening.

This will then give everyone one month to script, film and edit before bringing the finished and polished product to the club to be shown on the night. This way there would still be pressure to get the film made but plenty of time to make a decent film.

This new approach to making Films in MIAM groups will hopefully produce some competition quality films.

So, the evening of the showing of the films will no longer be the mad scramble we have been used to as now members can bring their partners for a social occasion. (Good idea - Ed)
Bringing sequences of his 1hr 40min play, **Sarah’s War** to video presents some tricky challenges for Brian O’Connell. One of these was to create a prop mine that would look reasonably authentic. Brian tells us how he went about it.

**The Problem is all Mine**

Making a sea mine represents a number of problems. First of all it is a very difficult shape to find as there are very few objects that are this size and shape. You then have the problem of flotation. In addition the buoyancy must be such that it is at least half submerged in the water. How do you get the spikes to be positioned on to it without puncturing the air lock? etc.

**My Buoy**

I had been looking out for an object for quite a while. I telephoned Peter Matthews who at the time happened to be walking through a boat yard near his boat on the Hamble river. He noticed a deflated buoy and made some enquiries. He sent me a picture on his iphone (pic 2) and the next day I jumped in the car to pick it up. Peter very kindly pumped it up in order to give it shape.

I realised it had to be weighted down, so a heavy lump of metal was attached (pic 3).

I called Peter Frost and we took it down to the water (pic 4).

Even with a massive heavy weight on it the buoy hardly sunk at all. So it was back to the drawing board. I tried to think of a way to get water inside the buoy using two taps but there is no way to put a tap on it without having access to its inside, which would perforate the skin.

After some thought I decided that the only option was to cut two holes in the underside to allow water to flow in and air to flow out, but this would make the mine lose its shape (pic 5).

How could we get the mine to retain it’s shape without pressurised air inside it? Three long pieces of plastic tubing were inserted inside and these pressed against the side to bring it back to a spherical shape (pic 6).

The airlock at the top would enable air to be locked into the top to enable the mine to float.

Some black electrical conduit fittings (pic 9) were used for the spikes. However these had to be attached to a disk (pic 10/11) otherwise they would not keep position with respect to the spherical surface (pic 12/13/14).

So back to our testing area (which happened to be The Anchor pub at Pyrford lock) and this time the buoyancy began to look much more realistic. It was possible to control the degree of flotation by temporarily shifting the mine from its vertical axis allowing water to flow in.

The difficulty then was getting it out of the water which was quite a slow process as the water had to be allowed to drain out.

An additional modification was considered for next time, which was to put empty plastic water bottles inside the mine to ensure some buoyancy in case the air lock became too small or was punctured.

So a degree of success regarding the buoyancy but the next thing to do was to think more about the appearance in terms of colour and the characteristic spikes.

**Buoy to Mine**

The second thing was to make it appear dark. An old rugby shirt was tailored to fit the shape (pic 7). Sewing skills were stretched to the limit during this operation with some circular patches filling in the arm holes (pic 8).

Some black electrical conduit fittings (pic 9) were used for the spikes. However these had to be attached to a disk (pic 10/11) otherwise they would not keep position with respect to the spherical surface (pic 12/13/14).

Concludes on next page
Mine Afloat
The complicated process of making the mine now complete, it was time to launch it into the ‘sea’.
At this point extra help was needed and Gordon Sutton kindly agreed to be the low angle floating cameraman. It was a dull day which would be ideal for later conversion into a moody night time.
The job of arranging the boat, small outboard craft and the people required was, in itself, a reasonably involved task.

What Next?
Brian is considering the scene where Klaus, the German commando, is captured and arrested. He thinks that eight to ten club members, including re-enactment actors, will be required to fulfil his vision of the sequence.

Hmmm ! I just wonder what the public make of all this??

The shots were edited and were then converted using ‘Day to Night’ in Final Cut Pro and finished off with ‘Cold Steel’. They look convincing enough for an old buoy! Well done, Brian.

Border Post-Its
There have again been no requests for Border Post-Its, so it’s been dropped from this issue and will resurface when it’s needed

NEW YEAR’S RESOLUTION
Border Post features articles about films present and past in this issue. They tend to be from the same contributors that always support your newsletter, so as a New Year Resolution, make sure you get your production or new gizmo news in to the editor for inclusion in 2016, with pictures preferably - we are a visual medium!

Your Club is on Facebook
Members who are not already aware of the fact should know that we now have a Facebook Page.
To go to this page you can use https://www.facebook.com/SurreyBorderMovieMakers/ or if you are already a Facebook User, then you merely need to do a search and make a Request to be a Friend. Once accepted, off you go. Unless you are officially a friend, you will not be able to be interactive, such as leaving Likes or making Comments.
If you unfamiliar with the use of Facebook, do as many of us seniors have previously done, ask a 7 year old or a grandchild for help!

Films for Club Competition
In order to promote more films that can be shown during the year and also entered into the Club Competition, it is proposed to amend the rule for showing club films.
In future a film can be shown to the club up to September and as long as it is re-edited, the improved version can then also be entered into the Club Competition for December.

(Another good idea - Ed)
Dates for your Diary 2016

Friday 8th January: (NOT 1st January!)
A selection of Seriac Films and Discussion.

Friday 6th February: First half is the AGM. After tea it’s Member’s Films and a talk by ex-BBC cameraman (awaits confirmation).

Wednesday 24th February: Some club members visit the BVE at Excel London (see p3 article). Runs from 23 - 25 Feb.

Friday 6th March: Showing of the Edit Exercise films

Friday 1st April: A tribute to the late Dick Hibberd, one of the club’s long time members and an ex-pro cameraman.

Sunday 3rd April: SBMM hosts Albany Competition, 2.00pm in Chichester

Friday 6th May: Showing of ‘Strong Arm of the Law’ (winner of our Interclub Comp) and a talk by the writer Paul Vernon on its making

Meetings are held at St Joan’s Centre, 19 Tilford Road, Farnham GU9 8DJ on the 1st Friday of each month at 7.30pm for 7.45pm. Meetings close around 10.15pm. New members are very welcome, please email: secretary@surreyborder.org.uk 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.

For Single Membership:
Bring Spouse - £4
Bring Friend - £4
Bring Prospective Member - Their 1st visit FREE
Their 2nd visit £4 or can join
Country Member - £4 each visit or
Family Membership - entitles two people at same address

MEMBERSHIP REMINDER!

The club subscription runs from January to December each year. We have an anomaly in that we ask members to pay their fees after the AGM which is in February. So, usually a reminder will be sent for fees to be paid by March!

If you have a Single membership and then bring your spouse, you need to pay £4 at the door. If you bring a friend along, you need to pay £4 at the door. If you are bringing a friend who intends to join the club, then their first visit is free, however if they come along again as your friend, they need to pay. If you are a Country member, then you need to pay £4 each time you visit. Or you take out Family membership which entitles two people at the same address. Quick recap opposite:

Prizes and 50th Birthday Cake for Albany?

As you all know, Surrey Border Movie Makers are hosting the Albany Competition film in 2016. It will be the 50th year the festival has been held. We shall be holding a raffle on the day of the festival, Sunday April 3rd, so if anyone wants to donate a prize, please let Gillian or Rita know.

The event will be held at The Newell Centre, Chichester, 2.00 for a 2.30 start. We shall need volunteers on the day to man the door, sell raffle tickets, pour tea/coffee and serve the cream teas and cakes. We shall also need volunteers to make some cakes. Again, contact Gillian or Rita.

Your contributions for inclusion will be appreciated together with photographs if possible. Please send them to the Editor for the February issue at: editor@surreyborder.org.uk

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