

Message from your Chairman - *John Mills*



Hello Everyone,

Its great to hear about members using their mobile's to make films, I am really looking forward to the competitions to see some of the results. Over the last couple of years one of the key things I have learned about making films is that scriptwriting and planning are without doubt, probably the most important parts of the filmmaking process.

Assuming one has a script and then carefully planning shot by shot and producing a list, the actual act of filming a script becomes infinitely easier than attempting to do it on the fly and rely on memory. It also makes the whole filmmaking process much more relaxed and the developmental side can be almost as much fun as actually filming the script.

I was recently emailed by Chris Jones who runs the London Screenwriters' Festival, and having attended one of his presentations previously, I am now considering doing this one next year. If anyone else is interested the website is www.LondonSWF.com.

Do not forget to submit your videos for the end of year competitions by the Night of Friday 6th November.

Happy filming.

Editors Note: Rita has been attending the LSW Festival for the past 5 years and recommends it.

Press Release - by *Kathy Butcher*

Surrey Borders Host Inter Club Film Competition

Two members of Surrey Border Movie Makers Jacqueline Escolme a script writer and Paul Redman who produces and edits films had the challenge of judging whose film was going to win the 2015 Inter Club Competition which was held at this month's club meeting. Four films were entered all of a very high standard. The Vice Chair of South Downs Film Makers Eileen Godfrey was present to defend the trophy which they won last year for their film 'Life's a Circus'. This year they were pipped at the post by Southampton Video Camera Club who produced an outstanding film with a Wild West theme. Shot in Arizona the film held the audience's attention with its storyline, sound, camera work and costumes which were all outstanding. The other entrants were Ealing Film & Video Makers Club and Epsom Movie Makers who both produced excellent films with very complimentary comments from the audience and judges.

Several new members were present at this month's meeting and it gave them an opportunity to see amateur film makers in action. The clubs next meeting on 6th November will have an interesting talk by Peter Matthews about the 'Cinema Effect' followed by a selection of club member's films.

If you are interested in film making we always welcome new members. You can find out more about us by visiting our website www.surreyborder.org.uk or email secretary@surreyborder.org.uk. We meet on the first Friday of the month at St Joan's centre, 19 Tilford Road, Farnham GU9 8DJ there is plenty of parking and your first visit is free.



Jacqueline Escolme and Paul Redman

Australian Widescreen Film Festival Entries Delayed by Snail Mail!

In the October edition of Border Post we advised of the submission of three films by Surrey Borders into the Australian Widescreen Film Festival in 2014, and following an invitation from the organisers to submit films for the 2015 Festival we despatched another three films. The films submitted were: *Spitfire Restoration* (by Sir Paul Holden), *Cube* (written by Jeremy Bayne-Powell and Jacqueline Escolme, and directed by Jeremy B-P), and *Breaking News* (made in 2014 by the Odd Bods).

Unbelievably, it actually took 13 days for our films to arrive at their destination, clearly not a marvel of modern air transport or a highly efficient postal system, with the net result that our entries arrived one day too late to be included. A film tracing this journey would no doubt make fascinating viewing! The organisers now intend to include our films in the 2016 Festival which means that our films have now arrived one year early! We hope that they do not lose them in the meantime.

The Dorking Film Festival - Colin Lewis

I was the only SBMM member, following Rita's email announcement, to attend the first Dorking Film Festival held on 17th October 2015. The idea was to show films with a local flavour, so I entered a film about a Guildford event and heard nothing until the rejection! Despite the comfy seats and the amazingly good value ticket price, there were relatively few people in the auditorium. The day started with archived industrial films from the North Downs, followed by 14 entries for the UK Junior Short Film Competition. I came in the afternoon to see the UK filmmaker Adult Short Film Competition (under 30 minutes duration and made in 2014 or 2015) with 14 films shown. My favourite (but didn't win) was "**Bus Stop**" a light romantic comedy featuring a couple who met at a bus stop, and who enjoyed a tour around Woking (yes, it is possible). The Winner was "**Watch**" a sensitive poem about the personal relationship between the daughter (poet and movie writer) and her father who was suffering from dementia. This was a cleverly crafted film using multiple video overlays of old family footage, and behind shots of the daughter walking. At the results presentation, the delight on Leah Thorn's face at winning was palpable and it was interesting to hear her thoughts on the film's production with other directors, at the filmmakers panel discussion that followed. I learnt a lot.



Later there were 3 full length feature films:

Little Pieces brought together 2 brothers, their alcoholic father, and an old-school security guard in a non-linear movie filmed entirely in Guildford. (www.imdb.com/title/tt3112264) **Marshland**, a Spanish film with subtitles, featured a little known village in the deep south of Spain, in the 1980's, whilst 2 utterly different detectives investigate a murderer who has terrorised the community for years. The aerial photography was breathtaking. (www.imdb.com/title/tt3253930)

Exhausted at this stage at 10 pm I decided to forsake the final **Berberian Sound Studio** film, and wend my weary way home instead. However my day was made when David, one of the organisers, on hearing my name and home town was able to instantly recall the title of my rejected entry out of a total of 950 submissions (was it so memorably awful?).

Congratulations to Robert McCaffrey and David Perilli for all the hard work in organising the event, previewing all entries, and presenting on the day at the Dorking Halls.

Make sure you enter your masterpiece and attend the 2nd Dorking Film Festival next year. More information, results and films can be seen at www.dorkingfilmfestival.com

Editors Note: According to the latest information on the Festival website, the organisers are now currently planning for the 2nd Dorking Film Festival to take place in early 2017.

YouTube Settings - Mike Sanders

If you want a really good quality export of a film to YouTube, the following tips should help you achieve this.

Firstly make sure you start with a 1920 by 1080 (assuming an HD file), or a SD wide 1024 by 576. Do not trust on-line players to get the anamorphic - 16 by 9 in 4 by 3 - aspect ratio correct, or 720 by 576 for 4 by 3.

The format/codecs should be H264/AVC, in the file exporter or share settings.

You should have two options Flash F4V or H264/AVC, select H264/AVC.

In the Frame rate drop down menu, set the output Frame rate to 50p (to get smooth pans).

Set the Bit Rate average to 18 Mbits/sec High profile and make the file.

Save it in the project folder in a new folder called "Exports"

I think Apple users might find that some of this stuff is automatic, although you might want to persist in finding the manual settings.

For your information, YouTube re-encodes your file on the fly so think of each frame of your video as getting a flock of sheep through a gate one at a time, which is a lot slower than your actual upload speed.

A 4 minute video takes me about 12 minutes to upload, but I am on superfast broadband here at 10 Mbits/sec upload. Without high bandwidth transmission capability yours may take much longer.

When I used to have a broadband capability of 0.9Mbits/sec upload, and 5.6Mbits/sec download it used to take a couple of hours.

After your upload, YouTube will process your file into multiple streams 240p, 480p, 720p, 1280p, 1920p and even 2160p; the latter 3 only if an HD or Ultra HD file is uploaded.

This is the "processing" phase of your upload. If you go to your video immediately after processing appears complete you will only get 240p, the other higher quality streams will appear later.

So why use an online player service such as YouTube?

Well, the answer to this is that when a device calls for a video to play, YouTube will interrogate the device and ascertain its playback capabilities and tests the delivery speed; it then auto selects the frame/bitrate/stream appropriate for smooth delivery.

Google promotes YouTube, not Vimeo, so you will get a Web page further up the Google rankings by using YouTube.

Inter-Club Competition - Winning Entry



Those members attending the October Club Night would have seen the entries from the four clubs competing. The winning entry "STRONG ARM OF THE LAW" by Paul Vernon of Southampton Video Camera Club attracted a number of questions which could not be answered on the night as no-one from Southampton was in attendance.

The film was nine months in the planning, and Paul shot the film in just five days on location in Arizona. He took on most of the behind the scenes and post production roles, and the project was self-financed, using a small cast and crew of volunteers and with the help of individuals in the local communities.

Paul Vernon of Southampton Video Camera Club has provided the background to the making of this film, and writes:

"I have been a fan of film and TV westerns ever since the early 60s, having been brought up on a diet of Bronco, Cheyenne, Lawman, Bonanza and the like. Even way back then I thought that it would be great fun to make a western of my own.



Ten years ago I heard this track from Texas country music artist Aaron Watson called Strong Arm Of The Law. It was locked away in my brain for future reference as it was perfect if ever I should decide to make that western!

In September 2012, as I hit my 59th birthday and my 60th year, I decided that I would love to mark the anniversary of my 60th birthday by having made my own short western – in Arizona – cowboy country.

I am an amateur photographer, and photography and video is a hobby of mine. So one can understand when many of my friends and family members thought I was mad – a hobbyist Brit going to make a western in Arizona!



Planning started that October. I had already established friendships with a couple of western enthusiasts in California and Arizona who shared common interests in most things western. Dan who lives in Camp Verde, knew of a few good possible locations and was in contact with some stunt actors down in Phoenix. Phil lives in California, and was keen to help out with props, some expenses and looking after the welfare of our actors – if we found any!

The script was drafted using the lyrics of Aaron Watson's track as my major inspiration. An ex-work colleague and friend, Carol, helped "cross the t's and dot the i's" on the script and worked on the storyboard.

Permission was granted to use the track for purely private use and possible festival entry, and as long as I did not reap any financial gain from the project".

We placed ads in the Arizona free press and on the internet for potential cast members and I went out on a scouting mission in March 2013 to look further for suitable locations and to meet up with my potential cast.

In late May 2013, with script, storyboard, costumes, props, locations, accommodation, transport, cast, crew and equipment all sorted, I stepped off the aeroplane at Sky Harbor Airport in Phoenix, confident and with the sun shining. This was going to be fun. And fun it was! And the result? Strong Arm Of The Law – a short video western."



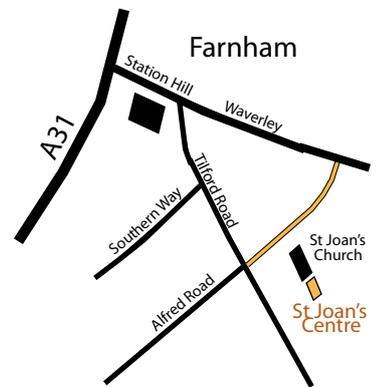
Digital Storytelling - Colin Lewis

I have just completed a 4 week online course about digital storytelling and filmmaking for the web. Run by the University of Birmingham and the BBC Academy, they claim: "We'll explore what elements you need to tell a great story, to produce a great film, and to get that film out there in the world." For each week there were about 20 modules covering all aspects of writing, filming, and publishing a short film on the web. Each section gave a brief introduction with either a video instruction or illustrative movie clip, audio clip or simply a text narrative, following which, comments were invited "to join the conversation". I particularly liked the modules on sound, lighting, smartphones and legal aspects.

I was able to dip in and out as I wished, and it involved a couple of hours each week. After engaging with the modules, the comments ranged from beginner's aspirations to the advice of experts, often with some useful further links (I spotted some sensible comments from our Rita). There was no homework, and no videos to produce, and one could skip sections! It was enjoyable and worthwhile. The course will continue to run for some months so that one can still register at www.futurelearn.com/courses/digital-storytelling. Best of all, it is free, and there are many other online courses to tempt you.

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



Dates for your Diary

Friday 6th November 2015: Peter Matthews will talk about the "Cinema Effect", followed by members films.
Deadline for December Club Competition.

Friday 4th December 2015: Club Competition

Sunday 6th December: Christmas Lunch

Friday 8th January 2016: A selection of Seriac Films and Discussion. Please note that the January 2016 Club Night will **NOT** be held on New Years Day - 1st January!

Christmas Lunch - Rita Wheeler

Christmas Lunch will be held at the Farnham House Hotel on Sunday 6th December.

Please note that this event is not solely restricted to members, you can bring your partner along too.

The cost of lunch is £23 per person which includes a tip but no wine. Rita will be sending the menu by email.

Please note that for those attending, if not already done so, the balance is to be paid at the November club night.

Are you an Aspiring Filmmaker?

Take Part in the Nikon European Film Festival.

Whether you're an enthusiast or a film professional, this is your chance to win the Grand Prix of a Nikon D810 film kit plus a trip to the Cannes Film Festival. Enter by submitting a short film of up to 140 seconds filmed in HD on any device.

Submissions close on 15 January 2016.
www.nikonfilmfestival.com

AD Competition

Can you write a Script for Maggie Gyllenhaal?

Visit www.jamesonfirstshot.com and first watch her promotional video for this opportunity, then take it from there.

With a little help from Kevin Spacey and Dana Brunetti, three writers/directors will be selected to have their scripts made into short films by the award-winning Trigger Street Productions. Don't be shy, give it a try.

