

...and an opening word from your Retiring Editor:

The March issue of Border Post is the first of this year's which fully features club members' articles, well one member's articles, and it's a lively issue as a result. Keep those items coming and Border Post will continue to thrive with a varied input from across the club.

Alternatively Dave

Written and photographed
by Dave Skertchly

At one time I too aspired to owning a top of the range camera; that is until I went to adjust the colour balance on my number 1 fan's TV.

My Mum will loyally watch and actually enjoy everything I make. She watches on an old 18 inch TV which is all out of adjustment; "Don't change it" she exclaims, "I like it bright and cheerful". It was then that it dawned upon me that for some people it is the content and story of a film rather than picture quality that counts.

At about the same time the video club I belonged to back in those olden days, introduced a "fair and balanced" marking scheme for competitions which included camera work. To me that was a challenge, could I make a winning film without using a camera?

To this day I have minimal equipment, my HD camcorder cost less than £150.00. For many years I stuck to low definition to reduce the load on my editing computer and instead relied on the dithering algorithm on the superb club projector to sort it all out.

The most obvious genre for camera-less production is animation. I use the scanner,



You don't need a camera for animation. These films can be great fun and I use limited animation techniques to speed up production, although my latest effort has been in production for 10 years!



Dave's new brand of "Alternative Productions" highlights his rather different approach to filmmaking.



Only in animation could you get away with a picture of the Club Chairman in the nude, here laid out on the forensic scientist's slab with a whole host of "lost part" gags on the shelf behind.

built into my printer to scan the drawings which are then finished off in Paint.net (free) and animated in Tupi (also free) or simply panned and zoomed in layers using my editing software. I use Pinnacle 18, which you will be relieved to know I paid for, a painful sum of about £85.00 I seem to recall.

Another genre is documentaries. With the proviso that you only exhibit to a private audience, such as Surrey Borders, capturing and using video from the web is perfectly legal, and in the context of illustrating a documentary which you have written yourself can not be classed as plagiarism.

It is thought that the limited amateur use of film for the purposes of illustration to a wider audience may be covered by creative commons rights, but I would personally prefer not to be the test case. My first documentary in this "nil Camera" format

was the "**Great Hovercraft Scandal**". It was intended to be, and may well actually be, a hard hitting documentary blaming the 2008 recession on Britain's strategic financial reluctance to back engineering. I threw everything at it from Iconic newscasts to sound bites from politicians



This was my first effort at a hard hitting political documentary, again made without camera work. It was a systematic criticism of the Government's failure to encourage young people to take up engineering by instead backing simple low technology, cheap, projects, rather than hi tech space projects.



In the Great Hovercraft Scandal the head of the FSA complains about people's love of "financial innovation" leading to the recession of 2008.

including Margaret Thatcher and Michael Gove. It didn't win because it scored zero for camera work, but I had made my point!



Iconic shots of the destruction of Britain's engineering industry as a result of Government Policy.

Since then I have found a rich source of subjects in my family archive. Biographies of family members go down well with my core audience of one! **"Who Do I think I Am"** is a family History of the Skertchly family back to the age of the Vikings



Family History movies based on family photographs and 8mm film have provided some excellent story lines with minimal camera work. In "Who Do I think I Am", Dave tells the story of his family in a format fairly obviously inspired by the BBC series "Who Do You Think You Are". It explains how his great, great Grandfather Joseph became Prince of Whydah.

and has been well received by Surrey Borders since it has been cut down from 45 minutes to 20 minutes. It mostly uses family photographs complemented by some digitised 8mm films.

I have also told the story of my Mum in a film entitled **"Who Do I think You Are"**. Born into poverty in Tooting in 1927, Mum becomes one of the first "working class" girls to go to Grammar School in upper crust Wallington. She meets and falls in love with my Dad at a speedway race and the rest as they say is history.



In effect it is the rather stiff upper lip middle class love story of my Mum and Dad written through times of massive social, moral and technical change as they rose from poverty in a 2 up 2 down cottage in Rainham, Kent to relative comfort in Southampton. My Dad worked in the early computer industry and my mum became a teacher.

Most of these family films are too long to be shown at the club but have pleased the subjects nonetheless. I also made a biography of my Auntie Betty, my Mum's much younger sister.

She was and still is even in her 80s) very like an elder sister to me. It was Betty who took me to the Cartoon Theatres and musicals, introduced me to Beachcomber and Jacques Tati, taught me to draw and to think differently. So maybe that explains it, we can all blame Auntie Betty.



So for most of us, yes, we will indeed have a camera but regrettably for myself I have to think twice about investing my meagre pension in a camera and edit suite costing many thousands of pounds. In context most of my films do not need this level of equipment, especially when I can make the films I like with no camera at all.

Let's face it, those who get great pleasure from the technology and pleasure of using expensive equipment are always keen to help with a top notch club production, so perhaps it's a win-win after all.

f FACEBOOK!

Dave Rayers has suggested that it would be very valuable for club members to share and comment on Facebook because of its potential to introduce others to the club. All clubs need a flow of new blood.

Border Post Clippings

Compiled by Peter Frost

New Editor for Border Post!



AGM Appointment

Written by Peter Frost

My tenure as Editor ended with the February Edition of Border Post but I will continue as Guest Editor for this March and April issues.

At the AGM, Paul Saban offered to take over and do his best to keep the publication going. Paul said he'd need to discuss with his nephew who might be able to help him initially and he will have to feel his way.

I would ask you all to submit items and pictures for him to use when he can as that will make his job a whole lot easier and it also continues using the journal as a member contact and information medium.

I want to thank Paul and wish him every success and plan to write up the odd contribution myself from time to time.

P.R. SUCCESS!

Once again Kathy has scored a success with the Farnham Herald for this superb write up and two pictures featuring stills from Alan Brown's excellent documentary, **Blackdown Air Crash**. Through Kathy, the club is being well supported by the Herald, and long may it last.



The Great Gothic Picture Show

Written and illustrated by Dave Skertchly

It was supposed to be a family Christmas get together and gossip over a pizza, but for a treat, cousin Sarah had booked a magic lantern show by the famous Jeremy and Caroline Brooker accompanied by silent film accompanist Costa Fotopoulos.

The magic lantern was developed in the 17th Century (approx. 1650) by Christiaan Huygens and was probably derived from the camera obscura. Pre-dating the invention of photography the projector slides were painted on glass.

The magic lantern can be seen to pioneer most of the special effects and animation techniques we use today, including travelling mattes (green screen), cell layers, glass painting, superimposition, and even using persistence of vision to give the illusion of movement, a technique which eventually lead to the invention of movies.

Yes our movies are truly Gothic in origin and as always there is nothing new. We can even see the roots of limited animation as used to make so many low cost cartoons today. It turns out Jeremy and I are both fans of the late Peter Firmin!



The animated effects for which we would use a computer are achieved by mechanical mechanisms. All the basic effects we use today can be seen built into so many of these 150 year old slides.

Jeremy and Caroline treated us to a circus, a volcano erupting and lots of visual one liners. Jeremy had even made his own sequence of slides showing some whimsical beasts such as a giraffe in a top hat. The finale was a firework display with the children sitting on and bursting balloon to provide the sound effects.

As for scripts and story lines there were stories told in a sequence of slides many of which included integrated visual "one liners" which would do credit to a one minute sting video. Maybe a live narrator to wind up the audience in a darkened medieval hall would be all it would take to create a true Gothic Movie experience.



Caroline Brooker shows the size of the 3 projector system used for the show. The original lime lights had been substituted with LED lights.



Magic lantern experts Jeremy and Caroline Brooker.



A great afternoon was had by all the family and I felt that I had learnt even more about creating first class entertainment and film shows using basic low cost equipment and techniques, no cameras just great art.

You can find Jeremy's web page on <http://www.jeremybrooker.com/>

Border Post Clippings

Compiled by Peter Frost

AGM Evening

Written by Peter Frost

Our last meeting was on the 15th February instead of the 1st due to snow and ice causing a cancellation. The AGM took the first part of the evening when all the committee were re-elected apart from me, but as you've read, Paul Saban is your next Editor of Border Post.

John Thompson had a number of questions about the club accounts which were answered and Jim Reed felt that the club should have a record of why people



who come to sample our club don't always reappear or take up membership.

Jim pointed out that, in business a salesman who had a client introduction, would get a warning if he didn't 'convert' them to a sale. Jim said this should be true of the club and records of these reasons should be kept to better guide our promotions and what we offer. He was offered a role to record these reasons. He could help the club in this position. Jim is a member of two other clubs, so has experience of how they do it, from the inside.

In the second part of the evening we had two SERIAC films to comment on.

P.R. SUCCESS!

Once again Kathy has scored a success with the Farnham Herald for this superb write up and two pictures featuring stills from Alan Brown's excellent documentary, **Blackdown Air Crash**. Through Kathy, the club is being well supported by the Herald, and long may



Topics for Border Post

from Peter Frost - nearly ex-Editor

I've been asked what sort of things would be suitable for publication in Border Post, so I've set down some ideas for you.

Actually, if you look back through the issues, you'll get a good idea of what's needed but in truth, any video related experience, equipment, disaster, problem and so on can be published.

Prompts for articles:

Club film making experiences

Background information about your approach to video

Equipment you have or are considering

Editing shortcuts for PC or Mac

Humorous happenings when making family films

Making films that the family enjoy

Converting them so that the club would enjoy them (i.e. of more general appeal)

Interesting locations for a story

Your preference for documentary or story film

The most useful piece of kit you have

There you are - once you get going the ideas will flow!

Think of a Border Post article as a conversation like one you might have at the club. Chat about what interests you.

Border Post Contributors!

These members kindly helped me by contributing to this issue of Border Post:

Dave Skertchly,
Rita Wheeler

COPY DEADLINE!
April 2019 edition will be
14th of March with

no extensions.

Late copy will be carried over to the next month. Thank you for your co-operation - Ed!



NEXT MEETING

Friday 1st March Annual Edit Exercise. Adding Foley Effects. Found footage provided.

MORE DATES 2019

- ▶ **Monday 4th March REFRESHERS FESTIVAL.** SBMM have a stand at this event from 3.00pm to 8pm, The Maltings, Farnham - stand helpers needed.
- ▶ **Friday 5th April** Groups formed for Film in an Evening. Brainstorming exercises + previous FIAEs
- ▶ **Friday 10th May** (NOT 3RD!!) Foley Edit results + some previous examples
- ▶ **Friday 7th June** Programme TBC
- ▶ **Friday 5th July** Film in an Evening. Groups have 3 hours to film and edit then show the results at the club.
- ▶ **Sunday 7th July** Summer Social at Rita and Al's
- ▶ **Fri 2nd August** A selection of films to enjoy

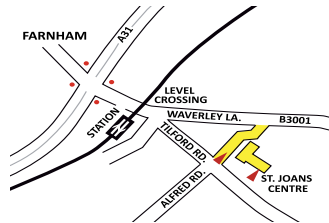
NOTE DOWN THESE DATES!

COME AND SEE WHAT WE DO!

See what other movie makers are up to and you may get some inspiration for your own projects. We always welcome new members and you can sound us out for free, too. You can find out more about us by visiting our web site www.surreyborder.org.uk or email the secretary: secretary@surreyborder.org.uk We are also on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/SurreyBorderMovieMakers/timeline>

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. When coming for the first time, 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.



REMEMBER!
Your first visit is free!

Our members range from beginners to ex professionals, shooting video with DSLR Cameras, Camcorders and Phones, editing on both Mac and PC platforms. But that's not all, we welcome those who want to learn or participate in all aspects of film making, including script writing, storyboarding, producing, directing, lighting, editing, props making, acting, learning about equipment, helping out as crew or simply improving your family and holiday films. Whatever you are interested in, you are welcome to take a look at us as detailed above.

Border Post