



Yes, the Sun's shining and the Bunnies are on the Beach, so it's time to think of sitting in the dark and EDITING!

by Peter Frost

Well, maybe you don't think so but at the last meeting we had the **EDIT EXERCISE** Competition for films shot on phones, in which a 30 second Advert, a One Minute Epic or a conventional movie up to 6 minutes could be entered.

We had a diverse range of entries for which **Border Post** has bludgeoned some stills and behind-the-scenes explanations from the entrants (thank you!) and they are published below, in the order of showing.

30 Second Adverts

Bottled Water - Peter Stratford DOCU-COMEDY

My niece left the bottle of "smart" water featured in the Ad at my home after a family visit. I was curious to investigate why it was so "smart" and concluded that it was a masterpiece of devious product promotion. My challenge was to condense a healthy dose of scepticism into a 30 second message.



My first scripted commentary lasted over a minute and it took over two hours of rewrites and trial voice-over recordings to squeeze it down to around 30 seconds.

I wanted to incorporate a parody of the gambling advert - "Bet Now!" - whilst sending out the message about plastic pollution popularised by the BBC's "Blue Planet" programme. The video edit was driven by the voice-over.

The iBoob - Colin Lewis COMEDY

The ultimate implant for the lady who wants to be attached to her music and in control! I liked the original idea and the sequence showing how it all worked.



Sausages - Peter Ives

Unfortunately, Peter's two entries could not be shown as they could not be extracted from his laptop, despite Mike's best efforts in the break.

Ajax - Vic Stroud HEADLINE VISUALISATION

Ajax was based on one of my own poor jokes about a detergent container lorry turning over in Staines High Street and the local paper the next week had the headline **AJAX BLEACHES STAINES!**



Welcome to the Caribbean - Vic Stroud

HOLIDAY EDIT This film was knocked up out of movie clips on my editing programme with my own made up title.



The Winner of the 30 Second Advert was Peter Stratford's **Bottled Water**



1 Minute Epics



The Visitor - Jim Reed DRAMA

My grandchildren were over at Christmas, and they were keen to make a film. So, with a hastily thought out idea, we used their bedroom to record the film.

It was about mid-day on Boxing Day and within 20mins we were all called for lunch, so it was four quick takes and away. By this time the boys had decided that they

had done their bit, so it was left to me to try to turn the giggling into a one minute epic.

The editing took much longer than the filming, but the boys were very pleased with the result - particularly since the star actor was paid £2 for his appearance, as was his younger brother for helping with the camera!



Star Wars Confusion.com - Peter Ives

The second of Peter's entries that failed to transfer for projection.



Leap of Faith - Colin Lewis DOCUMENTARY

Filmed at Beachy head with overpowering wind which ruined any recorded sound! Solution? - put in a commentary with background music.

Good to be in the action of take off and landing. Nice self-contained story with plenty of action



Pancake Day - Ivan Daly DOCUMENTARY

My daughter was away at Uni so wouldn't be home for my annual pancake fest (my only culinary skill).

Having succeeded in making a passable attempt at using iMovie I decided to have another go and send her the visual of the process, if not the benefit of the output (pancakes).



Izzy Goes to Pinewood - Ivan Daly DOCUMENTARY

This was the first iPhone movie I made of a visiting friend's dog, "Izzy".

I had taken the footage and decided to have a go at iMovie just for fun so I could give the result to the friend. As it was fairly short and simple it proved a good learning opportunity.



The Winner of the 1 Minute Epic was Jim Reed's **The Visitor**.



6 Minute Video



CU3A Walking Group - Ivan Daly DOCUMENTARY

We witness some wonderful sights and scenes on our walks. Usually there isn't enough time to spend taking photos or movies.

This particular walk was fairly relaxed so out came my iPhone 6 to capture the views. This was made available to the group on Youtube and shown to a new members meeting to give them a taste of what our group is all about.



Park, Pancakes, Party and Play - Colin Lewis COMPOSITE DOCUMENTARY

Mobile phone competition proper: A good test of the versatility of the mobile phone (LG G3) with close-ups and long shots, covering 4 very different events -



Kensington Gardens, London set to rhyme. Quirky members of the public enjoying themselves.



Pancake Races in Guildford High Street, taken in pouring rain which messed up the auto focus, disabled the touch screen, and finally stopped working! The spirit of the occasion was there though!



Royal Honeymoon Street Party, Onslow Village: A quintessentially British event with the mayor, dog show contest and cakes for sale.



Rugby at Twickenham: Oh for a mobile camera with optical zoom! Lots of live roars and sound with excited spectators jumping up and down around me giving plenty of action.



Chobham Fliers Assoc - Ivan Daly DOCUMENTARY

While out with a pal to see model aircraft of his club being flown on Chobham Common I took some unplanned footage (hence the poor sound) and put it up on Youtube for the group to view.

It proved difficult with no ability to zoom and viewing on a screen rather than using a viewfinder making it difficult to follow the subject matter and needing a lot of guesswork.



Yateley Mens' Shed- Ivan Daly DOCUMENTARY

Once again, this was a spur of the moment opportunity and the footage was put up on the website to promote the shed.

The group started early in 2018 but without a shed. The old cow shed, come bicycle shed in the grounds of Yateley village hall was earmarked by the founding members with the intent of refurbishing it with a £30K grant from the council.

In reality the building proved "too far gone" which wouldn't be cost effective to refurbish so it was demolished and a timber framed building put in its place.



Man needs his shed, but to get the council to stump up for a new one is really rather amazing!
- Ed

The Winner of the (up to)6 Minute Video was Colin Lewis's **Park, Pancakes. Party and Play**



DAVE RAYERS ON

AUDIO **LEVELS**

Text and Photo
Kathy Butcher



At the June club meeting, club member Dave Rayers gave a talk and presentation on how to use audio correctly when film making.

The discussion covered many aspects of audio including the importance of getting the sound level correct and distortion free whilst filming so that the projectionists do not have to make corrections. You cannot presume that the sound from your camera is ok, it is best to use a dedicated microphone designed for the type of film you are making.

There are no set standards for audio, it depends where you are filming and the many other ambient factors around you. Amateur film makers often cannot afford the luxury of expensive audio kit that the professionals use but they can, with a little care, produce very effective sound for their films.

Dave explained that when editing sound on your computer, choose a quiet room, use good 'near field' speakers level with your ears. Keeping an eye on the red 'overload' light on your audio level indicator will help you to keep a constant steady sound level.

Sound is one of the most important factors of a film, it needs to be correct and Dave's Audio presentation was well received by the audience.

The Second Half

After tea break, the programme continued with some interesting videos. First up was the return of the two old codgers:

Brian and Peter had a day by the sea to recall one of many locations Brian had found for Sarah's War - Bracklesham Bay, West Sussex.

Bracklesham, The Return

by Pete and Brian

This film featured the ramblings of the two in a flowery deck chair and on a sun bed, all under a pretty floral umbrella, with sun hats on heads. You could almost see the zimmer frames!

Scantly clad young ladies in swimwear negotiated the painful pebbles on the way to the sea and surf boarders tried to find a 'good' wave.

How idyllic but as Peter asked Brian: "Do you think this is the most boring video we've ever made" And it was! The SBMM audience were kind enough to laugh, though.



Jim Reed showed three more films that he'd made - without a camera! All images had been sourced off the internet as Jim explains:

Having received numerous scam phone calls, I started to try to wind up the callers with my replies. Ultimately, one caller ended his call by saying I had wasted his time. I told him that it his fault, because it was he who had called me!

Finally, I used a small Olympus recorder to record the conversations. Putting the phone on hands free meant I could get both sides of the conversation and in reasonable quality.

All the words in both Scammer videos were from the call, nothing was added later.

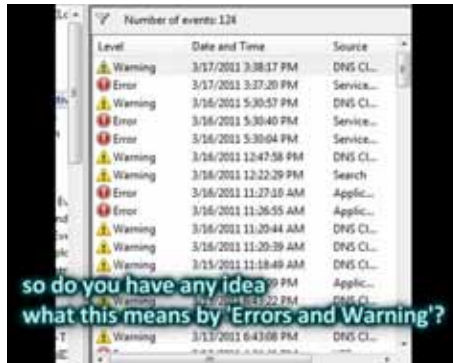
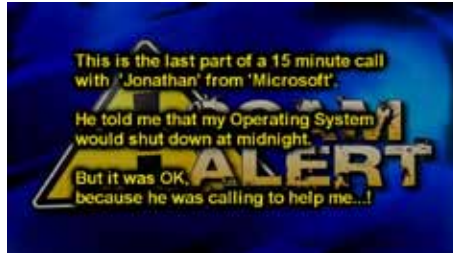
The Scam Alert

by Jim Reed

This was the first one I'd recorded, and I only started recording after about 10 minutes.

I was in our kitchen at the time and didn't even have a computer with me. This video

contains pretty much the full recording, with some slight editing to remove repetition.



The Santa Scammer Call

by Jim Reed

The next time I was more prepared, and decided to act as if I was Santa, and had thought through some of the dialogue in advance. It was about 15mins in total, but I had spent the first 4 minutes searching the house for my recorder - which is why I was out of breath!

I managed to record about 11mins, which was edited down to the 4 minutes used in the video.

One good thing about this was that it meant whilst he was on the phone to me, someone else wasn't being scammed.

And I have to admit it was also very, very satisfying!



Womens' Suffrage

by Jim Reed

Like many things in life, the inspiration for the Suffrage documentary came when least expecting it.

Sheltering in a hotel lounge from bitterly cold weather and 25mph winds in late February, I came across a news story suggesting that the Suffragettes were terrorists.

My first reaction was to think that it was nonsense. I had always thought that the Women's Suffrage movement was led by

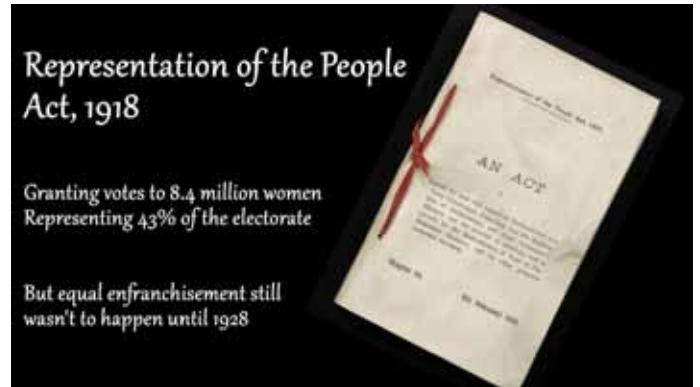
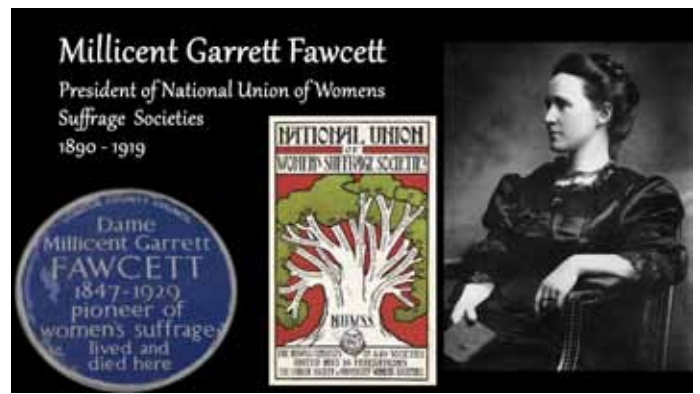
the Pankhurst family; that they campaigned for women's votes and equality; that they were pacifists during the 1st world War; that they supported working class women; that were badly persecuted by the authorities for civil disobedience – like chaining themselves to railing and vocal outbursts; and that their campaign finally resulted in votes for women 1918.

As I Googled this 'nonsense' story, I was stunned to discover how easy it was to find even more of these uncomfortable claims about the Pankhurst's.

This snowballed to eventually become weeks of research into a history which has seemingly been ignored, and so the idea for documenting this forgotten piece of history in a video was born. I used as many reputable sources as I could in that time, including the British Library and Hansard - the rest are listed at the end of the film.

Soon it was clear that the unavoidable conclusion was that I had been wrong on all counts:

1. The Suffrage movement (NUWSS) which was non political and had over 100,000 members was led by Millicent Fawcett, who campaigned for women's equality and equal suffrage.
2. Emmiline Pankhurst, with her daughters led a much smaller splinter political group, the WSPU, which had only a few thousand members, but which had received very significant funding.
3. The WSPU didn't campaign for women's equality – just 'votes for women on the same basis as men', and didn't see any value involving poor working class women in their movement.
4. The WSPU actively supported the war, and Emmiline Pankhurst was very prominent in the 'White Feather' campaign.
5. Sylvia Pankhurst was expelled from the WSPU in 1913 by her mother and sister after she started supporting working class women in London's East End and Sylvia later campaigned against the 1st world war.



6. The WSPU campaign went far beyond civil disobedience. Their terror tactics included attacks on postal workers, arson and bombings. They only stopped with outbreak of war.
7. In 1918, votes were given to all men over the age of 21, but only to women who were over 30 and met a property qualification.
8. Votes for all women over the age of 21 were finally granted in 1928.

FROM THE SOLENT

*Text from a note by Philip Morley
Photos: John Mills and Solent Movie Makers*

Three SBMM members managed to attend **Solent Movie Makers' 1st Inter Club Competition** in Eastleigh and Philip Morley dropped a note to their Chairman Jeremy Holder about the experience:

"A note to thank you for a great evening.



Your organisation was impeccable, even down to the Meet and Greet member at the door!

All the movies were of a high standard and the one that won was certainly a worthy winner. I understand that it was filmed by Ex BBC cameramen. You certainly see the difference!! Ah well... It gives us something to strive for. WELL DONE! to you and your team".



SERIAC Commendation

Text and Photo Kathy Butcher

Alan Butcher with the Commended Certificate for his **Hogs Back Brewery Revival Hop Field Documentary Film** which was entered into the SERIAC Film Festival 2018.

FROM THE CHAIR

By Mike Sanders

Filmmaking: Can I wish all the groups well for Film in an Evening, and I look forward to seeing the results. I have volunteered to accept the pressure of editor in the Odd Bods team again this year.



SBMM Presentation Kit: I have ordered and replaced the failed Lilliput cuing up monitor which went wrong last month and as the main chip had died it had to be replaced at a cost of about £160.

The BenQ projector lens raise and lower adjustment we use at each meeting to line it up with the screen won't now lock off so my next task is to open that and find out what's happened to that. More anon.

Welcoming: I would also like to ask everyone to ensure that new visitors are talked to before the meeting and during the drinks break to ensure they felt welcome. Also if you see any member on their own do go and chat to them.

Back in September last year, I thought that I would attempt to record my own voice-overs and started looking for an inexpensive setup for my PC.

Looking through YouTube, I came across this comparison of several USB mics for under \$100, and quite liked the sound of the **Samson** (not Samsung!) **Meteor** - it was also rated elsewhere quite highly for voice-overs.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Muw4G_-s5m0

I had been advised to look out for a large diaphragm microphone and this is 25mm.

<https://www.amazon.co.uk/Samson-Meteor-USB-Microphone-Chrome/dp/B004MF39YS>

Today it's only £42 - but I paid over £60 for it then!

First results were a bit patchy - I needed a proper stand and my voice sounded somewhat 'Sssy' and 'Pppy' (there must be some technical term for these but life's too short to worry about it!), so I invested in an inexpensive stand with Pop filter (£13):

https://www.amazon.co.uk/gp/product/B01GRMF5ZE/ref=oh_aui_detailpage_o07_s00?ie=UTF8&psc=1

I still thought my voice was not quite right, so I next bought a (very) cheap windshield (£1)

https://www.amazon.co.uk/gp/product/B000LB11QA/ref=oh_aui_detailpage_o03_s00?ie=UTF8&psc=1

After a couple of weeks of experimentation, all of this seemed to have done the job!

I have the stand bolted to my desk, and adjust the scissor arm so that the microphone is about 4 inches away from my mouth. I've also found that offsetting the microphone by about 30 - 40 degrees means that I'm not speaking directly into it and this helps to reduce the 'S' and 'P' problem.

Finally, I use a heavy blanket over the desk and monitors to reduce reflected sounds, but arranging it so that I can still read my script from the screen! I'm pretty bad at reading from text and regularly add or remove words, or simply fluff up. However, I found it best to just carry on, repeating the sentences or paragraphs as needed, so it can be edited later, and complete the recording in just the one take.

I record directly into Sony Sound Forge Pro 11, and then take the output (without any processing or editing) directly into my Sony Vegas Pro 13 video editing suite. There I can edit out any errors and include a few tweaks that I think add to the overall effect.

First, I clip out all the duff bits so that I've

Microphone and VO Editing Tricks

Written and photographed by Jim Reed



got a version that flows and that I'm happy with - if not I'll redo the whole thing.

Secondly, I use the filters to reduce the over emphasised 'S' and 'P' (if required), and then I use some level of compression to give a 'richer' tone to the voice. I'm not much of a sound editing expert, so I just play around until I'm happy with the result!

Thirdly, is the tip that I think contributes most to the overall effect, and overall they seem to produce a quite pleasing result. There is no scientific evidence to support this, but it just seems to work!

I'm aware that I tend to take an audible sharp breath just before saying words, sometimes even breaking a sentence to breathe, which isn't good for a voice-over when the listener is trying hard to focus on the message.

Since this breathing pattern of mine is quite noticeable on video and deciding that stopping breathing altogether isn't a good plan, I found that simply editing out the sounds that could otherwise be distracting worked well. However, it also produced three other results that were both positive and somewhat unexpected:

1. It created uninterrupted dialogue - in that I could say a sentence (or more) completely breathlessly. I believe that this allows a message to be conveyed more easily to the listener. Some of the sentence in Women's Suffrage couldn't normally be spoken without pausing for breath, and I think this works in a very positive way by giving all the information in one hit.

It does mean however that suitable pauses also need to be added, to give the listener

'natural' breaks to take in what they've just heard before the next message, so that its not perceived as just being a continuous barrage of words.

2. It seems to create a sense of urgency to the commentary, which I think helps convey the narrators seriousness about the subject.

3. Finally, it reduces the overall time quite considerably, clipping out well over a minute during the making the 'Women's Suffrage' video.

So, in summary, this is the system I used for my Voice-over - not particularly expensive, but I'm very pleased with the results. And I think the breathless sentences add so much more to the overall effect.

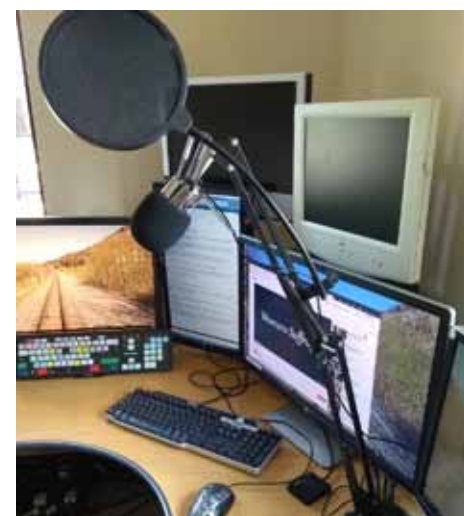
I used Sony Sound Forge for the recording because it was included with Vegas Pro, but there is no need to invest in expensive software. Audacity is very popular for sound recording, and its free:

<https://www.audacityteam.org/download/>

Several club members had asked on the night about what microphone I'd used, and hopefully this information, together with the editing tips, might encourage others to try it for their own voice-overs.

I'm still very new to video making, only starting with any great seriousness last year, but I'm keen to make up for lost ground and whilst there's loads that I've learned so far, I'm aware that there is so much more to know.

Hopefully these tips will help others, and I look forward to learning so much more from other club members!



Photos: Top - the mic and pop filter; Above - Jim's set up; Below - His sleeping partner.



No Ken do!



Written and photographed by Peter Frost

Exactly a year ago, as I write this, Dick Grainger asked me to help him take some footage of his Kendo Class in Carshalton, the **Tsubaki Kendo Club**, for a potential video contrasting the controlled but violent battles of Kendo with the peace of Carshalton's old village.

Dick is still working to finish the film, which needs additional footage but it has to fit in with his many other interests. Meanwhile, I'm going to recall the morning spent in fear of my life from thrusting and parrying kids of 7 years up to adult fighters. Dressed in their black outfits, they already looked pretty threatening.

As I came to understand it, Kendo is a Japanese marshall art, taught as part of the main school curriculum in Japan. It requires great mind control, etiquette and very traditional moves and rules. The senior teacher is *Kyoshi 7th Dan* (a very senior Kendo grade) who watched closely as the students learned their craft. I couldn't help being amazed that the very young children, girls and boys, stayed with it as they had to repeat their practice moves over and over and over again, what to me would have been considered boring at their age. It was clear that their training had taught them mind control.

The training involved running round the gym bare footed while practicing moves with their 'swords' (bamboo); practicing the specialised way of running at their opponent, with one foot forward, bring the other level, then the first foot takes another



Photos: Left column - Youthful Kendo students; swordsmanship practice. Middle column - Young swordsman; instruction circle; Teacher explaining the 'sword' and its symbolism; kneeling, the stance; Kyoshi 7th Dan overlooks everything. Right column - The running attack; the 'cantering' feet; feet positions; girl fights the dummy opponent; masked and in battle; masked face and protected shoulders for safety from flying swords.



pace and so on, never crossing their legs, so it's a sort of canter. This needs a great deal of muscular and mind control. There was also a dummy opponent to attack, which swung round for the next opponent to have a go, repositioning itself in the process.

A three hour session consisted in the main of stages of the conflict which was saved for the last 30 minutes. Now, they all donned their full protective armour and rather menacing helmets, took up their swords (bamboo ones for the class) and parried and thrust back and forth, trying to gain the upper hand over their opponent in a one to one battle. Filming this meant that you needed eyes front for the shot, but eyes left and right to make sure you were not in the way of an approaching conflict and were about to be removed from the planet!

As Dick is now retired, he hopes to find the time to complete the video.

See more at: <http://www.tsubakikendo.co.uk>

RITAS NOT PSYCHIC!

SUNDAY 8TH JULY

Coming to the Summer Social? If yes, don't forget to contact Rita - **she's not psychic!** You also need to pay. £8 per head for lunch which includes wine, beer and soft drinks.

Friday 7 September

DOCUMENTARY COMP

Can be on any subject but should be no longer than 20 minutes. Completed entries to be brought to the club on Friday 7th September. Please let Rita know title and length before the evening so the programme can be organised.

5th October

SCREEN SAVER COMP

Photos of club members making films to Rita by the 5th October, of good quality – TIFF, jpeg, psd. Centralised main subject to allow for clipping Results shown at November club night. There may be more than one set of photos chosen. Peter Frost will select photos and overall design. The prize is just pride.

Friday 2nd November

CLUB COMPETITION

Takes place in December. Entries to be handed in on Fri 2nd November. Max 6 mins.: All types of film and subject allowed but should not have been shown to the club before, unless re-edited. Submit electronically or bring to club by 2nd November for pre-judging by external judges. There are many Trophies as well as a First Time Winner award.

NEXT TWO MEETINGS

Fri 6th July (for Club Members only)

Film in an Evening. Theme will be **Too Close to Call** (as the Albany Competition). Start time now 6.00pm, edited screening latest 9.15pm.

Fri 3rd August

Technical Evening: Three areas will be set up to cover: Lighting; Green Screen; Sound with demonstrations and discussions about the equipment on display.

Border Post CONTRIBUTORS

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

Peter Stratford; Colin Lewis; Victor Stroud, Jim Reed, Ivan Daly, Mike Sanders, John Mills, Philip Morley, Rita Wheeler, Kathy Butcher, Dick Grainger.

Thank you all - Ed!

All these competitions are FREE but you have to be a member of the club to enter.

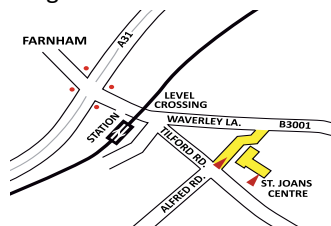


COME AND SEE WHAT WE DO!

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