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The Journal of Surrey Border Movie Makers
www.surreyborder.org.uk

Wey-Hey-Hey!

Race at a slow pace!



Written and photographed by Peter Frost
There I was, enjoying a nice Christmas lunch with a walking group, when one of my co-walkers said "You shoot video, don't you? Will you film the Guildford Charity Raft Race?" It must have been the alcohol, because I stuttered "Yes".

So, in last month's Border Post on the back page, I left you with this teaser and the heading 'The Start of Something Big'. (photo top left) And it was! Twenty six rafts, all with a Movie Theme and rafters in carnival atmosphere, 'racing' from



Guildford's Town Lock downstream to the Watercraft Centre. This is about 2 - 2.5 miles for rafters to cover, setting off from Guildford town in close stages, some with the energy to cover the distance in about 35 minutes, others in a good hour or more. If they didn't sink on the way - and some did!

I appealed for help through Border Post and John Ivil and Philip Morley came on board (so to speak!). It was then a matter of several meetings on location so I could decide the best tactics for reasonable coverage. Emails followed and we were as ready as we'd ever be.

Luckily, it was a dry sunny day and warm, as long as you didn't end up in the river. Gradually rafts arrived and were assembled

Photos working from left to right down the page: The George Abbot Pub's raft in its embryo state. Cheeky young rafter. The lady in red from the Cask Aways. The Cask Aways in action. The Smurfs looking blue. Baywatch 'girls' needing a shave!

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and titivated prior to Mayoral inspection and judging for 'Best Decorated'. Some of the most interesting shots were of rafts being carried over the narrow pedestrian bridge to the grassy 'island' where they'd be launched. Wide rafts and narrow bridge were something of a challenge but they all made it.

Film Themes such as The Smurfs, Baywatch (very popular as there were three of those!), The Lion King, The Flintstones, Rock School, The Cask Aways (good pun) and Dad's Army which was constructed and entered by a group of new Dads, and one of them had the surname of Pike!

Without too much warning, they were off and now the crowds were at least three deep all along the bank and the footbridge was virtually blocked as people leaned over both sides, watching. Some were crossing one way with pushchairs and others in the opposite direction. It was exceptionally difficult to struggle over the bridge or get a view of the rafts from either the bridge or the bank but between the three of us, we have good footage. Editing, as I write this, is a thing of the future.

There was a plan. We all shot the assembly point from different positions, then John and I stayed at the start as rafts set off while Philip followed the early ones down stream. John and I would then drive down to pick Philip up and drop me off. I would walk downstream with the rafts, John and Philip drove down to the finish. Here, John waited for arrivals to shoot while Philip walked back up river getting more coverage and to meet me coming down.

The carnival atmosphere at the start followed the rafters down the river. From bridges, banks and gardens, they were pelted with water bombs and squirted with large water pistols. Although they had munitions on board, as they had to paddle, they were less able to retaliate and if their raft didn't sink, it certainly felt as though they were under water!

And as they neared the end of their journey, there was a massive barrage of bombs and water from two gardens.

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Photos down the page from left to right:
Raft portorage nearly put one boy in the drink.
A more compact raft carried over the foot bridge.
The busy preparation area.
Lions ladies line up.
Guildford's Mayor, gets in on the act.
Dad's Army - they don't like it up 'em!
Start - and they're off, well the Mystery Machine is.
Baywatch and Cask Aways vie for position.
Chaotic scenes at the start.
Across the bottom: A daring launch from a high bank for an unusual folding raft - well maybe it wasn't at first! Seems okay going under the bridge with a cheery wave more on this one, over



Some rafters had been sitting in water all the way as their rafts turned out to be less buoyant than planned. Painted faces, raft graphics, and the rafters themselves looked rather less colourful and decidedly more drenched when they reached the finish line.

One of the most useful pieces of equipment for this project, was the HiViz vests that I had printed up for each of us. These identified us and gave us authority to barge in. I don't know how many times I heard "we're on TV" or was asked when it was in TV. So we must have looked the business!

It's all for the Lions Charity and is one of their biggest fund raisers of the year. Prizes were awarded and cups handed to the winners by the Mayor, followed by a welcome barbecue and drinks.

Between the three of us we have a good coverage of the event. Our hours of footage have been edited down to about fifteen minutes. I've just heard that this is too long they and need about 30 seconds for a commercial to encourage next year's entrants? Does that mean that all the rest was unnecessary? Please say no!



*Photos down the page from left to right:
..... Folding raft with that sinking feeling!
The Flintstones car raft heading down to Bedrock.
The bankside bombardment - just look at the aggression of the kid with the green water gun!
Pirates of The Black Pearl soaking a competitor.
Mayor getting a wetting?
Rather pallid Smurfs, having been washed of their blueness.
The best investment I made - HiViz jackets helped us barge in.
Dad's Army receive their Cup for 'Best Decorated Raft'*

DOCUMENTARY COMPETITION

1st September 2017

Don't forget to enter your Documentary videos in our annual competition. Max 20 mins, on any subject. To be brought to the club night on Friday 1st September. Judging by audience vote.

Remember! (yet another plea)

Your contributions for Border Post are needed to prevent it from shrinking to two pages or becoming a bimonthly. Every member owns and uses video equipment or has used film equipment in the past. There are numerous factors that can create 'news' of today or past glories and they can be included in future editions! I will particularly need contributions for September and November as I have holidays coming up. Thank you.

FOR SALE!

iPad 4 mini, 200GB storage with iCloud and case. £375 ono. Please contact: peter@papercourt.co.uk



**Message from
your Chairman
John Mills:**

The BBQ at Rita and Als ranch was a great success, great food, (Als BBQ skills are becoming legendary) and excellent company. Thanks to Rita and Al for hosting and all those that contributed and organised. Great day.

With sound in mind, some time ago I booked myself onto a course at the London Film School, (not as grand as it sounds) entitled "Location Sound". The write up seemed just what I needed to give my sound recording a boost.

On the day before I went, Brian mentioned that I might be surprised at my existing level of knowledge. How true that was.

The course did answer some questions I had about the setting up of recording equipment, and on the good old basis of "you don't know, what you don't know" I was really looking forward to being stretched.

Unfortunately it was more of an introduction to sound recording with only two hours of actual practical location recording. So I was a little disappointed. However I did make a point of getting answers to burning questions I had. Although not all the answers came from the instructor!

It really did come home to me that the skills and the depth of knowledge we have in the club is significant and could possibly be better tapped into, as I am sure someone knew the answers to my questions had I asked around.

The weekend just passed I formed part of a crew filming a Wedding - Brian, Philip and myself on sound and camera. Quite a large event with multi cameras, but a very well organised wedding. We had great fun shooting it, although very tiring and a long day. Weddings are always great fun as everybody is determined to have a good time. Looking forward to seeing the film once edited.

Onwards and upwards, don't forget to enter your documentary film for next months competition.

Happy Filming!

Film in Four

Written by Peter Frost, Rita Wheeler, Philip Morley and Kathy Butcher.

All photos for this article were shot from the club screen during projection by Peter Frost



At the brainstorming session it was decided that the local dignitary at a Garden Fete with his flies undone (or 'the cuckoo clock is about to chime', as our Austrian character Herr Von Schlossen so nicely pointed out) would be a good story. Everyone noticed but did not directly mention it until Mrs BusyBody, excellently played by Jo Jones, came out and said it.

It was rewarding to see that Mike Sanders has done well for himself since he appeared as a tramp in **Cube3**, and has taken up the word of the Lord as a very presentable Vicar, the stalwart of any Village Fete.

Ivan Dally was Mayor Alderman Buttons and managed to track down a proper Guild Chain of Office for the OddFellows Guild which was thought very apt for the Oddbods. While Fred Hawkins as the Austrian, looked as though he'd break into a yodel and knee schlappen of de lederhosen, and Jo was resplendent with a bird on her head. Gillian, Al and Rita were the 'other parts' played by members of the cast.' What other parts of the cast were they playing?

All in all, a jolly good time was had in the dressing up box.

Dave Skertchly wrote the script and was persuaded (i.e. no one else put their hand up) to Direct. This was his Directorial debut and he did an excellent job. New member, Peter Stratford, who has only worked on documentaries before, was roped in, given a camera and was told to 'shoot'.

Dressing up seemed to be the key to cracking this theme, It stumped my group (**Weyfarers**) but other commitments knocked our group on the head, as was the case with the **Klondikes**.

Lost in Translation

by Philip, Kathy and Peter

The **Pioneers** also found the time to squeeze out an entry, **Lost in Translation**, with a little help from that dressing up box and internet meetings using John's 'Go to Meeting' site, rather than travelling across their very spread geographic area.

After many failed attempts to come up with a credible exposure of the concept, they hit on the idea of a spoof of the Miracles of Jesus.

Film in Four maybe, but only two groups and one wild card managed to find the time and members to produce their humorous entries for the Competition, which this year had the theme of '**An Elephant in the Room**', decided upon at last year's Albany competition. It's a metaphorical idiom for an obvious problem or risk no one wants to discuss.

Zipadee Doo Dah

by Rita and Peter

The Oddbods comprised of Rita and Al Wheeler, Ivan Dally, Mike Sanders, Gillian Gatland, Fred Hawkins and Jo Jones (and was that Dave Skerchley appearing as an ostentatious Uncle Sam?) and new member, Peter Stratford, came up with a story based around the Village Fete.

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Film in Four - continued

A Priest, just back from Rome, and three Vicars are meeting at the Bishop's house to discuss the possibility of allowing "pole dancing" in the Church Hall, as you would.

During the somewhat disjointed conversation with each member having a different take on the word 'Pole', Brutus appears and attempts to be recognised, but no matter how many Miracles he tries, the Vicars, especially Peter Ives who he swipes on the head, all ignore him.

Brutus becomes more and more frustrated and finally advises his father to "rub out the world" (portrayed by a clever piece of animation created in Photoshop) he has created and start again. Only this time to allow twice the time to create it.

Vicar Listeria (John Mills), a retired pole dancer, now a Vicar (!), looked radiant in long blond wig, pin stripe suit and cowboy boots, plus a liberal application of lipstick! Geoff Bentley's vicar had a bag of plums in his mouth, so posh was he. But it was Philip's Italian vicar, Alphonso, that stole the show, as he looked and sounded uncannily like Peter Sellers in one of those Pink Panther films. His innocent and yet rather hilariously Italianesquely way of expressing himself led to suggestive misunderstanding.

The final edit of the script was passed to Philip who used a new piece of software called **Storyboard 6** to develop a detailed shot list and storyboard. Armed with this, the somewhat depleted team of 4 pitched up at Philip's home to shoot the entire film in one day. With the whole team acting and being the film crew at the same time, they soon ran into logistical problems.

Their first mistake was to film the scenes out of sequence to enable Philip and Geoff, who were playing two parts each, to continuously record their parts so as to take over the filming and sound when the



• Listeria, played by John, looking glorious in his long blond wig. • Alphonso, played by Philip, recounted his exploits at a local hotel which got him into trouble due to his unwittingly suggestive and rather amusing English. • Geoff Bentley's nose-in-the-air vicar. • Priest Peter Ives, despite internet problems during the planning meetings, in resplendent form • Oi! Look at my Miracles, demands Brutus, resorting to get God to rub out the World in his frustration.

other two moved in front of the camera.

Technical difficulties, continuity errors, editing nightmares (until 3.00 in the morning, Philip's favourite editing time of day!) worked around and they were finally happy with their efforts. However, their excellent sound recording by John was marred by the poor reproduction of the club speakers. New speakers are currently under consideration by the committee.

Colin Lewis's 'Wild Card' that he only thought of editing and entering on the very afternoon of the Competition, was of a **Ruby Wedding Celebration** that he was filming, which turned into a Sound Engineer's nightmare when a demanding child's loud voice completely drowned the speeches. With no chance of a re-take on this once in a lifetime event, this was a real *Elephant in the Room* situation, a very small but very loudly trumpeting one.



Lost in Translation was the popular winning entry by the club audience vote.

All had a lot of fun making their films and it is a shame that just three could manage it. By renaming the competition *Film in Four* from *Movie in a Month* and previously *Film in an Evening*, each group had four months to create their masterpiece, but when it comes down to it, even getting together for one day is a challenge. As it was, the Oddbods were shooting theirs on the day of the BAFTA show and arrived at the club somewhat frazzled.

BBQ

Text by Peter Frost.
Photo Alan Butcher

Brian manned Al's 'new' (new to Brian, anyway) Bar in what was once the detective's sitting room in **Cube3** and is now a 'proper bar' and Al's BBQ capabilities continue to be excellent. Marquee cover was provided as well and the atmosphere was as convivial as usual.

A vote of thanks to the Wheeler hosts who always put a lot of effort into this Club Social.

Ed: I have two questions: 1. How much food did this lot eat? Look at the gas cylinder line up!
2. Just what did Brian say to John before stuffing in a sausage that caused him to gesticulate so?



Simon beyond Klaus

Written by Peter Frost

Simon Christian has been the male lead, Klaus Bergman, in Brian O'Connell's World War 2 project, *Sarah's War*, now reaching a rough edit stage.

Austrian born Simon was a talented horse rider at the age of sixteen, and was competing for the Austrian National Equestrian Team at European and World Championships. But after an accident, decided to direct his performing talents towards acting and came to the UK for the best opportunities. This has evolved into the formation, with Melissa Dalton, of their theatre company, 'Outland Theatre'.

They have devised, co-written and are performing their inaugural play 'Towers of



Eden' which gives a glimpse of the world of tomorrow as it would be if we don't act on what we know today about climate change (#towersofeden). Their concern is that there is insufficient action being taken world wide and they want to bring this to the attention of a wide audience through drama.

They are paying for this enterprise by 'crowd funding' (65% achieved at the time of writing) and will be performing at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival from August 21st to 26th.

Photos:
Simon as Klaus in
Sarah's War.

The two Outlanders.

Publicity for their play
Towers of Eden.

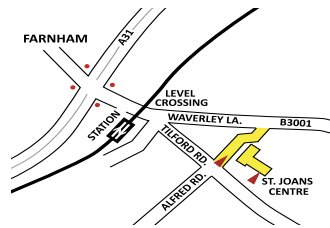


COME AND SEE WHAT WE DO!

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.



Why not come along and see what other movie makers are up to and you may get some inspiration for your own projects. We always welcome new members. 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>

Your first visit is free!

NEXT MEETING!

Fri 4th August As a lead in to the Documentary Competition, Peter Frost shows a programme of his documentary shorts and the club film enquiry that he ended up making himself, followed by the very latest from SERIAC 2017.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Fri 1st September Documentary Competition entries will be shown followed by a selection of films.

Fri 6th October Inter Club Competition

Fri 3rd November To be confirmed. Deadline for Club Comp

Fri 1st December Club Competition

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, acting, 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