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The Journal of Surrey Border Movie Makers

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## Message from your Chairman - *John Mills*



It is with great sadness this month that we announce the passing on of Sir Paul Holden, our Club President and very good friend following a short illness.

Sir Paul started Surrey Border Movie Makers with a small group of friends in 1984 and the club grew from strength to strength under his careful leadership. Sir Paul loved life and lived it to the full, having only recently taken a diving holiday in the West Indies. The club he founded and loved is a great beacon of stability and fun in society, he was always first to welcome new and established members, put out the chairs and assemble the equipment. We must as members make sure that we follow in his footsteps in these strange times and keep the club an all inclusive, friendly and welcoming organisation in the community.

## Obituary - Sir Paul Holden (3rd March 1923-22nd June 2016) - *by Rita Wheeler*



**Sir Paul Holden**

In August 1984 Paul Holden put an ad in the Farnham Herald to see if there were any filmmakers interested in starting a club. Seven people, eight including Paul had their first meeting on 17th September of that year in Paul's home and resolved to start a club which they called Surrey Border Film & Video Makers.

However, Paul had started to make films from the age of 11 when his uncle gave him his old 1920's hand-turned 9.5mm PathÉscope baby ciné camera. He was still actively making films in May this year.



**Paul on location**

Paul went up to Oxford in 1941 to read chemistry, where he joined the University

Air Squadron and went solo on Tiger Moths in September 1942. Soon afterwards he left the university to join the RAF and was sent to No1 British Flying Training School in Texas to train on Stearmans and Harvards.



**Cadet Holden in 1943**

On return to the UK he was initially seconded to Air Traffic Control duties on the Pathfinder's airfield at RAF Wyton. He received further flying training and was posted to No 287 Squadron at North Weald where he flew Hurricanes over London to provide a target for training anti-aircraft batteries. With the advent of the V1 flying bomb, Paul was moved onto Spitfires in 1944 and then Tempests in 1945 to provide anti-V1 training for coastal batteries by flying flat out at 500 feet above the sea directly at the guns, a task which required very accurate navigation because adjacent batteries were still 'live'.



**Paul in WWII Flying Helmet**

After that Paul was lucky enough to convert to the jet-powered Meteor fighter and was posted to Colerne, where he was employed part time on flying and part time as an Air Traffic Controller.

After the war, Paul was demobbed and joined Guide Dogs for the Blind as a trainer. This is where he met Vivien. During this time he also joined the RAF Voluntary Reserve and flew Tiger Moths and Chipmunks from Exeter.

The 1948 Berlin Airlift saw Paul recalled to flying duties in the RAF where he refreshed on Harvards before flying Spitfires and Vampires.

On leaving the RAF once again, Paul returned to the Guide Dogs before becoming a Civil Air Traffic Controller, during which time he travelled the world helping to set up Air Traffic Control facilities as civil air transport spread into new territories. After that he spent his remaining career with Software Sciences involved with high-integrity real-time computing.

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## *Obituary - Sir Paul Holden - continued from Page 1*

During his working life what little spare time he had was spent making family movies and occasional documentaries. On a trip to India with Vivien to see the work of Lions Eye Camps, which she had raised thousands of pounds for, Paul took plenty of footage. On his return this formed the basis for four films which themselves have raised thousands for Sight Savers International. We shall be showing one of these at the July Clubnight. This particular film was instrumental in the formation of Surrey Border. It was entered into the Surrey Film Festival and on winning an award Paul was encouraged by the IAC to start a film club in the Farnham area.



**Paul and Vivien**

In 2003 Paul became Sir Paul Holden when he became the 7th Baronet Holden, of Oakworth House, Keighley, Co. York [U.K., 1893].

In November 2004 the club celebrated its 20th anniversary and made Sir Paul our President. At BIAFF in Chesterfield on 25th April 2009 Sir Paul's contribution to amateur film making was recognised and he was made a Fellow of the IAC, or FACI. We do not know the exact number but we suspect that he made about 80 films, and was involved in the making of many others. He has raised many hundreds of pounds towards club funds by giving film shows to 22 different organisations over the years. Since he and Vivien moved to Clare Park Residential Home he gave 32 film shows to the residents, making up a show reel each time featuring the particular season and the



**Paul with new member Philip Morley**

people from the home. The last one was on 14th April this year.

Outside of the club he was a keen supporter of Lions and always helped at Beerfest, their main money raising event each year. Although in his 90's he still scuba dived and windsurfed, most recently in Jamaica. He reduced his involvement in choir singing to only one group. He also helped on the technical side with Newspaper for the Blind.

For the last few years when the club held its Film in an Evening exercise, Paul was always keen to head up the group with the newest members and was keen to share his knowledge along with his enthusiasm. We shall all miss Paul for his wisdom, great energy and zest for life. An example to us all.

## **Press Release** *by Kathy Butcher*

### **Local Locations used in Film**

Seale and Sands Royal British Legion and 101 Collectors Record shop in Farnham were both used as locations last month to make a film by Surrey Border Movie Makers group the Klondike's. The film with the theme of Drama Queen and the title of 'Winner and



**Filming in Farnham**

Losers' was one of three group entries into the clubs annual competition Movie in a Month. Musician Nigel Coombs took the lead role in the film appearing with band members Alan Apps, Susie T and Peter Neary-Chaplin who is a talented writer and member of Haslemere Thespians.

The two other competition entries were 'It Will Be Alright on the Night' by the Oddbod's group, a comedy with an hilarious final scene and the winning film 'Royal Flush' made by the Weyfarer's club group, again a comedy with the 'Queen' en- route to a street party complete with a loaned Corgi.



**RBL Seale and Sands**

Surrey Border Movie Makers also have a Documentary Film Competition and entries will be viewed and judged at the July meeting. This is always a popular competition with an interesting and varied selection of films.

We always welcome new members. If you are interested in any of the many aspects of film making you can find out more about us by visiting our website [www.surreyborder.org.uk](http://www.surreyborder.org.uk) or email [secretary@surreyborder.org.uk](mailto: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.

We are also on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/SurreyBorderMovieMakers/timeline>

## **What is a Producer?** *- by Rita Wheeler*

One of the questions I asked when I first joined the club was "What is a Producer and what does a Producer do?" I asked several industry Producers and never got a satisfactory answer. Of course, as amateur film makers who work to a Low to No Budget, a Producer's role is slightly different from one with a commercial budget. However, since I first asked the question I have had the good fortune to work on several films where Sir Paul has been the Producer and this is what I have surmised.

Of course, this is just my opinion but for me, the Producers role is rather like a Conductor. He doesn't play an instrument but he keeps the orchestra together, bringing in different sections as and when needed and keeping the group going in the right direction.

So, what comes first? The story or the crew?

First, he needs a willing crew. Then a storyline followed by a brainstorming session. Then the script. Now we're getting somewhere. Actors? Locations? Delegation. Who wants to Direct? Do the Sound? The Lighting? The Producer delegates and co-ordinates the people who know actors, who can find locations who know how to light a set, who have an eye for detail – continuity is all important. Having got his crew together, he lets them get on with the filming.



Written by Peter Frost  
Photos: Brian O'Connell,  
Paul Redman

# Marie in a Month



MIAM, Movie in a Month, a whole month to produce a film instead of that mad, frantic affair FIAE, Film in an Evening!

This year's theme was 'Drama Queen' and had to include a picture of the Queen and a lipstick. Simple enough.

Come in the eight strong team Weyfarers! First step, find out who's available and when. Gordon sent out a new idea - a Doodle - on which you enter all your dates and times, morning, afternoon and evening. Presented with this, it soon became clear that there were very few days when more than half of us would be around.

The first meeting opportunity was the 11 May. Meeting venue booked and all set. But Dave couldn't make it, Margaret was off on holiday until the 27 May, Neil and Gordon became stuck in heavy traffic, I became ill, Steve was late from work which left Brian and Paul, so we cancelled but too late to stop Paul who actually made it all the way from Arundel on time!

The next opportunity when a few were available was 17 May, over half the month gone and nothing done!

Neil, Gordon, Paul (he forgave us!). Brian, Steve and I made it. And a few ideas surfaced. Earlier, Brian had shot footage at the East Clandon Street Party, held to celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday. We decided that this was a great basis, especially as we'd been delayed. At the meeting Steve came up with an idea to tack onto it. But he was buried at work, so I had to write a shooting script.

I wrote a story involved the Queen arriving unannounced at the Street Party and sent it out for urgent comment. Silence! I had to move on in the meantime and started on the Props List, Equipment List and more emails flew. It seems that our group don't spend as much time in front



of the computer as I do, so responses could be painfully slow in a rather urgent situation.

Jeremy Gooding had agreed to join us for this film and I cast him as the Queen's Chauffeur. Margaret managed to receive an email from me with wifi access on a quayside in Serbia and was pleased to see that she was to play the part of the queen, rather than a murderer like last year.

I'd been rooting around for a suitably queenly limo and was rather amazed that a neighbour offered me his much loved and polished Jaguar with a white leather interior. Terrific! I took it for a try out, put my foot down gently and fired up its 4.2 litre engine - wow! Lift off! I told the troops but before we had a chance to use it, my neighbour's plans changed and he needed the car. Script rewrite.

The next date we could assemble in anything like force was Sunday 28th May which had to be our Shoot Date. No rehearsal, no tech discussion, no time.

Dave returned from holiday a few days before and Margaret arrived back only the day before. She could now read the script for the first time as she had had no connection while travelling. But she was concerned about some aspects of her role as I learned at 9.00pm the night before. Help! Dave had an idea! Script amended again at 10.30pm and I still had to get my kit together.

By 9.30am the next day, Sunday, we were gathered in East Clandon Hall, planning over a coffee. The limo was now a taxi, Jeremy's bright yellow Skoda! East Clandon, a peaceful small village, no end of cars and bikes were passing this way



and that. The road was closed in the footage we were matching to, so we had never ending retakes and false starts.

We'd shot a sequence in the front garden of a neighbour of Brian's when we noticed him on the phone asking her if we could use her garden to film in! Fortunately, she said we could. The shoot went well and the sun broke through to help match with the sunny party footage shot previously.

Movie in a Month has been condensed into two days plus emails and phone calls with three days in the editing chair and is **still as exhausting as ever!**



Photos: Top - Motley crew. Right top down: Filming the car from a field. The weed gathered in long grass. Detective Chivers (Dave) and Queen Margaret. Shoot in the neighbour's garden. Queen Margaret and Dylan. Bottom left to right: Inspector Neil - ask him about Cilla Black!!. Uber Driver Jeremy Gooding

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](mailto: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.



## Dates for your Diary - Your Year at a Glance

<b>1st July</b>	Documentary competition. Films no longer than 20 minutes.
<b>3rd July</b>	Summer Social.
<b>5th August</b>	Viewing and Critiquing Films.
<b>2nd Sept</b>	New film competition – “Who Do You Think You Are?” See article below for details.
<b>TBA</b>	Date to be confirmed BUT now expected to be late summer, a visit to a local film studio. See noticeboard for details.
<b>7th Oct</b>	INTER CLUB COMPETITION – 4 clubs will be invited to enter films, we host and judge.
<b>4th Nov</b>	Paul Vernon will be returning and wowing us with his Scottish Western. This date is also the deadline for entry to the Club Competition.
<b>2nd Dec</b>	Club Competition. No film longer than 6 mins.
<b>4th Dec</b>	Christmas Lunch.

## Competition Reminders

### Who Do You Think You Are?

This is a new competition we are trying out this year which was suggested by one of our members. The challenge is to make a film along the lines of “Who Do You Think You Are”? You can interpret this in any way you like.

Max 8 minutes.

Deadline: to be shown at the 2nd September club night. To be judged on the night.

### Summer Social Reminder

It is this Sunday (3rd July) at Rita and Al's. starting at 12:00 and finishing 5:00'ish.

We hope to eat about 2:00 p.m.

As it is the middle of summer - bring waterproofs, thick jumpers, woolie hats as we shall be outside.

### The BAFTAs - *by Rita Wheeler*

Get ready! The BAFTAs are coming in 2017.

The Surrey Border BAFTAs take place every 3 years. Only films that have been shown to the club and have been made by a club member/members are eligible. It is important that each time a film is shown at the club, the producer makes sure Gillian Gatland gets a copy to put in the archives. This is the source for the BAFTA selection committee.

### Club Competition

This is open to everyone. It is free.

Any type of film but no longer than 6 minutes. It should be brought to the club on Friday 4th November.

The reason for the early deadline is that these are then sent to the judges who will critique them and we shall then show the entries and award the trophies at the December 2nd club night.