

*Holiday Home with
Butler Service?
You Deserve It!
(but don't make a hobbit of it!)*

Header Design: Peter Frost

Lusting for Gear? Try Fat Llama....

By Brian O'Connell



I think there are number of us in the film club that suffer from various degrees of gadget lust.



Gadget Lust

You hear about a new gizmo or a camera and after watching a number of YouTube videos about it, you feel that you really want it. New technology is arriving at an ever increasing pace, and the biggest expenditure for film makers is often a camera.



Red Camera This one may set you back £100K

They say you only date your camera but you marry your lenses. It is fair to say that the life of a camera nowadays is only about five years and after that time it is old tech. However lenses can be used for decades provided you stick with the same lens mount system that is usually dependent on brand.

For example Sony lenses are not compatible with Canon lenses, and although there are adapters available, sometimes the auto focus does not work as well, or they affect the image in some way.

So there comes a point when the buy button is pressed and you have just shelled out a shed load of money on that camera that is just perfect for you.



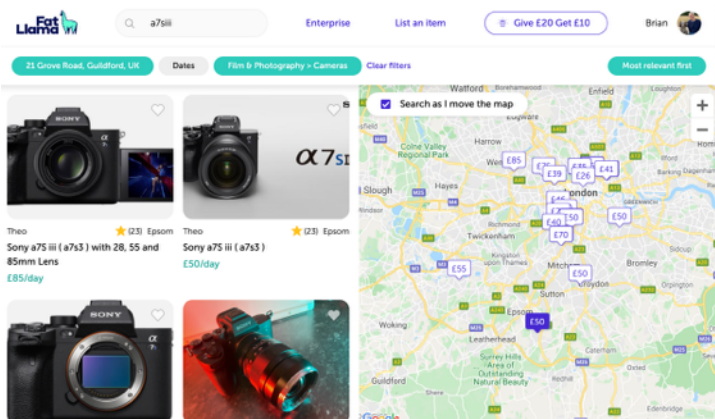
Lost your case of gadget lust?

Then after owning it for a year you realise that you have only used it for about 10 hours and a couple of years later it appears that you might have paid £200 per hour for the privilege. You have looked at the hire rates and expensive as they are, you realise that buying, is far more than what you would have paid if you hired it. There is of course the inconvenience of sometimes going a long way to a hire shop to pick it up, and you also need to have it for a few additional days, so that you know how to use it. But there is now a good and somewhat cheaper alternative.

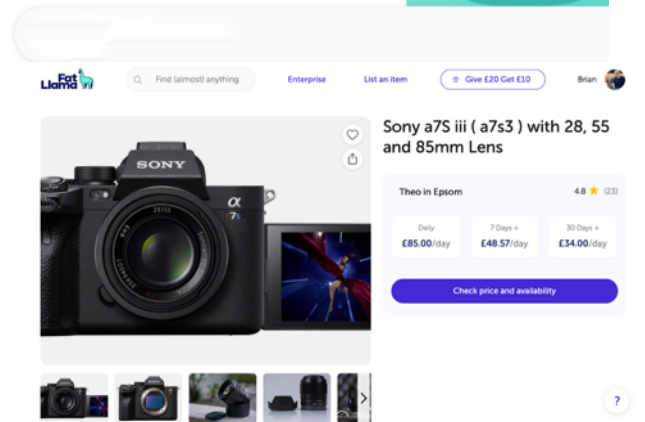
Enter a company called Fat Llama.

This enables you to find a personal hirer in your local area. That is someone like you who owns some expensive gear that they do not use a lot, and they are prepared to hire it out.

Here is an example. I would love to own a Sony A7S3. It is a recent low light camera that is amazing for narrative film with an astonishingly good auto focus. Assuming I know someone with the ability to use it let's go to their website and see what we can do. I type in 'A7S3' and this is the image I get.



Bearing in mind this is a £3,800 camera with lenses costing around £1000 each I find that there is someone called Theo in Tadworth about 20 minutes up the road from Guildford with one for hire for about £50 per day and £85 per day with some lenses. It also shows the locations of some others in Croydon or around London for a similar price.



There is one in Tadworth !

By clicking the blue button you can also check the availability of the items too.

This also works the other way around. If you have some expensive gear and you would like to off set the cost of it, you can set yourself up to 'List it' and hire it out to others. But perhaps there are risks? Who knows what may happen to your gear, and indeed what is the condition of the equipment you might want to hire. Like Airbnb the company has been going for a few years, so probably builds in some safeguards to protect both renters and hirers.

I'll let you know if I get around to using it but on the face of it looks like an attractive proposition. Have a look at the website yourself by searching for a gadget you wish to use. You might be able to afford it after all, and it won't end up cluttering up some valuable cupboard space for a couple of decades. And sometimes even a 'Try before you buy' is a wise choice.

Our Zettabyte World

By Philip Morley

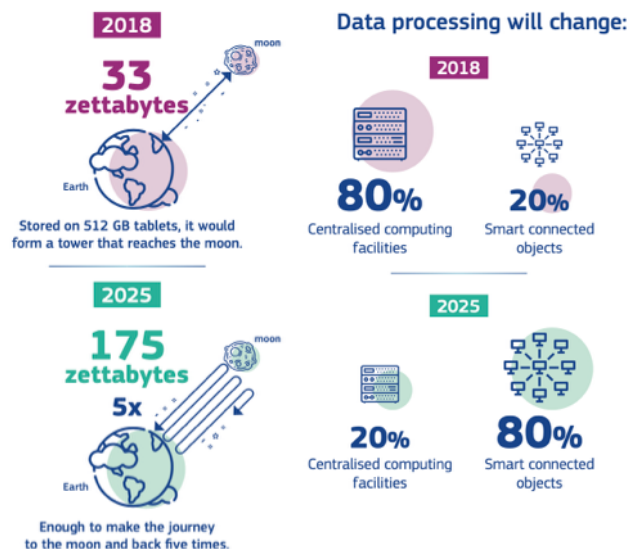
Have you ever wondered how much data passes along the billions of internet channels every year?

According to European Union Data Strategists, it's set to explode in the next 5 years. This will be fuelled by a massive increase in "smart computer peripherals" not to mention the effect on communications caused by the Pandemic.

To avoid untold zeros, we need to talk zettabytes. One of these is a trillion gigabytes.

Interestingly, the way data is processed is also changing dramatically as our smart devices become more powerful.

Look out for the 1 zettabyte iPhone50 with 60k movies!





Estate Agent / A State Agent

Test Shoot on Sunday 27th June 2021
by Brian O'Connell

A couple of years after the financial crash of 2008 I wrote and staged my first full length play called Estate Agent / A State Agent. (The second was Sarah's War). In the back of mind I have wondered if this first play had filmic possibilities.

The purpose of this shoot at The Spike in Guildford was to create some test footage that could be used if this play was made into a feature film. Professional actors were involved and our fantastic SBMM crew consisted of Philip Morley, Gordon Sutton and Steve Michell.



Philip Morley and Steve Michell discuss camera angles



Gordon Sutton grapples with 6 audio inputs

The lead actor Clive Ward was the same person who played the role ten years ago.



Clive Ward as Geoffrey

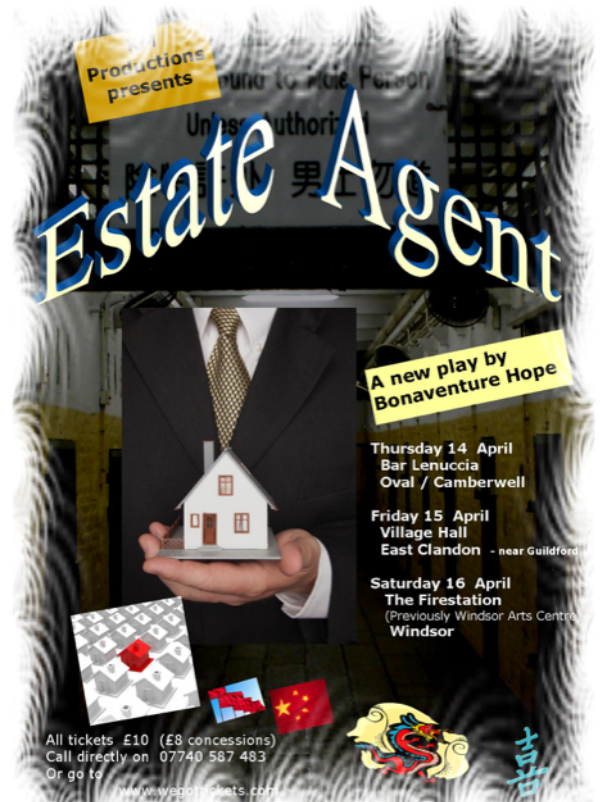


Rui Shang and Bo Wang as Prison Guards

There were some tough challenges not only because the two day shoot had to be compressed into one, but the tiny space with the 'prison cell' and extremely difficult lighting conditions made camera work very hard.



The story involves a middle class couple who face losing their home as England is unable to repay the national debt to China. England, like most of Europe and USA, is in economic meltdown. Law and order has broken down as energy and food becomes more difficult to obtain. China owns and controls most international corporations, but faced with it's own mounting environmental and economic problems at home, it is seeking to resettle Chinese workers to assume managerial and senior roles abroad.



Productions presents

Estate Agent

A new play by Bonaventure Hope

Thursday 14 April
Bar Lenuccia
Oval / Camberwell

Friday 15 April
Village Hall
East Clandon - near Guildford

Saturday 16 April
The Firestation
(Previously Windsor Arts Centre)
Windsor

All tickets £10 (£8 concessions)
Call directly on 07740 587 483
Or go to www.westendtickets.com

In order to 'repay' the English national debt and to avoid starvation, homeowners Geoffrey and Lorna are encouraged to 'sell' their properties to the Chinese Government. The situation is made worse by the fact that they are dealing with some corrupt negotiators who are not afraid to use their powerful position to obtain extra favours and falsely associate them with 'anti-government' sympathisers. One of their neighbours happens to be involved.

Geoffrey and Lorna both end up in different prisons leading to this scene which demonstrates some harsh conditions in the prison.



Roberts played by Jeff Raggert

You may well recognise one of the inmates as Steve Michell, giving up his weekend to break rocks within the prison.

Over the coming weeks we look forward to reviewing the footage!



Steve Michell plays prisoner 3

Our thanks goes to John Redpath at The Spike for allowing us to make the movie on location.

Power Vision S1

Is this the next generation of Smartphone gimbals?

By Philip Morley



In my continued search to minimise the size of my kit and maintain leading edge technology advancement I came across the latest in smart phone gimbals.

The one I have now, made by DJI, although compact, is still not pocket sized and does take a while to set up.

Power Vision S1 marks the next step in miniaturisation while maintaining the enhanced features we have come to enjoy from DJI's continued development.

Cleverly developed by a small group of electrical engineers known as The PowerVision Group, founded in 2009 which is a company with a clear mission to innovate the future. It pushes the boundaries of possibilities, with the aim to change the world through innovative artificial intelligence.

At the heart of the company is a corporate culture that prides itself on continuous learning, innovation, and technological excellence. PowerVision boasts that it is the only company in the world producing aerial, water surface, and underwater robotic devices.

With mobile phones continuing to challenge the more traditional cameras, this innovation looks very attractive. You can find more details on the smartphone gimbal [HERE](#)

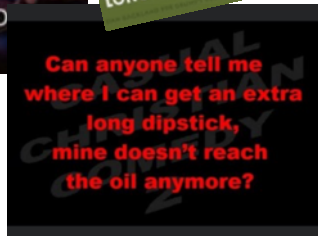
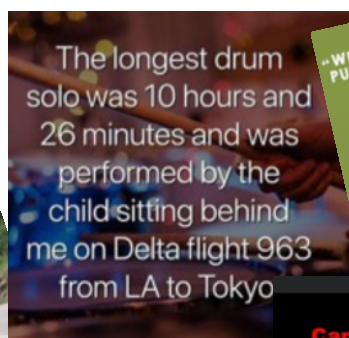
The same magnet that connects your phone to the PowerVision S1 connects to these accessories.



Price: £144



Rita's Rib-Tickers



EDIT In TWO HOURS!

Written and Illustrated by Peter Frost

With no limit on when filming could take place except that it had to be completed and organised for editing by 1st July when editing must take place within a two hour period between 7 and 9 o'clock, the Weyfarers settled down to this challenge stating on 8th May with initial emails and arrangements for the first Zoom meeting.

From this it became clear that personal commitments and the current Covid Rules at the time would make the challenge questionable.

However, we had an idea that would enable us to each write a script, perform and film it independently of each other.

Having been over two years since our group had made a film together and more like four years since there had been any club production, as a group we decided that the competition should be used as a stimulus to making a film rather than a hindrance, in our case, to completing it.

Much later on after we had completed the majority of our shots and individuals had edited their own sequences, it was announced that the Pioneers needed another month and the closing date was extended because of the Covid difficulties. But we decided to complete on the original date and pushed on to do so under our own rules.

This has resulted in a film of over 15 minutes which every one of us has contributed to and we feel that we have achieved a very overdue result - we've made a group film!



TECHNICAL: Special tripod for the DJI Pocket camera balanced on a chair in a flower pot on top of a can of slug killer. Left Columns: Our performers in the hat parade (sorry Steve!)



MARS X - professional monitoring for the rest of us.

By Philip Morley

Whenever we all gather to make a movie, there is often the problem of providing a monitor for the Director and continuity person. This is so they can be sure all the camera settings and focus are correct.

An easy solution is a TV set connected by a long HDMI cable to the camera. This will provide a basic picture and assist in framing the shot. This is OK on a big set with lots of space and someone making sure the HDMI cable is not a trip hazard. With multiple locations for different scenes this is very time consuming. It also needs mains power.



Until recently the next best alternative was to buy a basic camera monitor, usually 5 to 7 inches and connect this to the camera via HDMI cable. These are more portable and powered by batteries hanging from the back of the monitor. These monitors cost between £150 and £1,000



depending on the maker and screen resolution. All of them require power and direct connection to the camera.

If you are seeking the ability to monitor aspects like focus, light and sound levels and to be able to record directly to the monitor, the price rises again into the £1,000 + bracket.

Going wireless is another big jump up with the need for a



transmitter connected to the camera and a receiver connected to a monitor.

For the likes of Club Members this sounds like hard work and difficult to set up. It becomes even more difficult if you are operating in a confined space.

I found the answer to be a new little device from Hollyland (normally known for their excellent robust wireless microphone kits) called a Mars X. This clever device creates a strong wifi signal that can be accessed by up to 3 smartphone/iPad devices at once and gives a clear 1080p picture and sound (note: it can't broadcast a 4K picture). It has a range of 100m in clear line of sight, but also works well for up to 30m through walls etc.

It ticks all the boxes:

1. Has a built in battery (with 1 hours use). A flashing red light gives you a 10 minute warning to plug in a power bank that will run it all day with no drain on the battery.
2. If you have a new iPad or iPhone, the screen resolution is much better than many of the more expensive monitors.
3. You can check all the vital components of the shot. Focus, colour, exposure and even preview S-Log shots with a built-in Lutt.
4. With the touch of a button you can record a movie of the shot onto your IOS/Android device, for instant review or simply take a picture (which can be anotted) to be sure of your continuity in return shots.
5. Its metal construction gives it a feel of a well built piece of kit that will last a long time.

I tried it out on a film shoot a few days ago and it proved invaluable and enabled the shoot to proceed much faster than normal, when shots can only be reviewed in the camera monitor or even worse by removing the chip to show on a computer.

So what's the price of this clever piece of tech?. It can be found for as little as £130!

See a full review of the Mars X [HERE](#)

Interesting camera angles

by Rita Wheeler

I came across an article I wrote several years ago after attending a Camera Angle course run by previous member Dick Hibberd. Dick was trained by and worked for the BBC. Here are some of the things I learned:

The function of the cameraman is to convey a story through the medium of a camera. The audience sees what the camera shows.

They are taken into the world of the story by the images presented to them.

They should not be aware of the camera unless there is a dramatic reason. If, for example, you wish the audience to think the action is being watched by a hidden observer,

then the camera is moved slightly erratically, possibly goes behind a shrub or other object to partly obscure the action then back to give a clear if somewhat shaky shot.

However, if this type of camera operation is used without there being a dramatic reason, then the audience are mystified and this detracts from the story.

Zooming in to something of interest is acceptable, as long as it is a smooth zoom. Hosepiping, that is waving the camera in every direction like a hose when watering the garden, is to be avoided.



Profile



Rear view



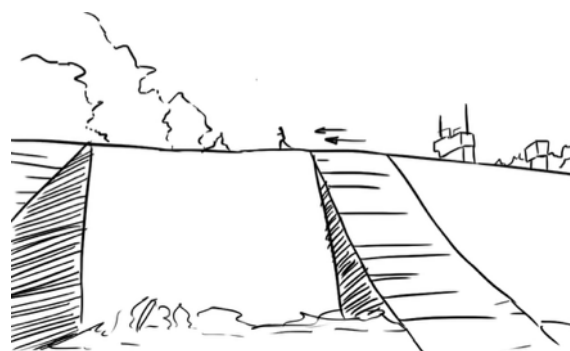
medium wide shot



3/4 over the shoulder



high view



extreme wide shot

Importance of Walking

by Rita Wheeler

This enables you, at 85 years old to spend an additional 5 months in a nursing home at £4,000 per month.

My grandpa started walking five miles a day when he was 60. Now he's 97 years old and we don't know where he is.

I like long walks, especially when they are taken by people who annoy me.

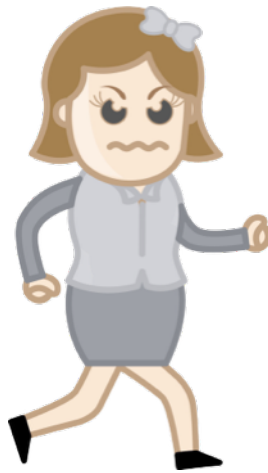
The only reason I would take up walking is so that I could hear heavy breathing again.

I have to walk early in the morning, before my brain figures out what I'm doing..

I joined a health club last year, spent about £400. Haven't lost a pound. Apparently you have to go there

Every time I hear the dirty word 'exercise', I wash my mouth out with chocolate.

Walking 20 minutes can add to your life.



I do have flabby thighs, but fortunately my stomach covers them.

The advantage of exercising every day is so when you die, they'll say, 'Well, he looks good doesn't he?'

If you are going to try cross-country skiing, start with a small country.

I know I got a lot of exercise the last few years..... just getting over the hill.

We all get heavier as we get older, because there's a lot more information in our heads. That's my story and I'm sticking to it.

AND

Every time I start thinking too much about how I look, I just find a Happy Hour and by the time I leave, I look just fine.



**You could run this over to your friends
But just e-mail it to them!**

SBMM-Reporters needed!

By Brian O'Connell



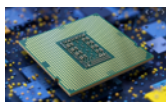
Do you fancy a role within Border Post as a Special correspondent?

Since we have had a flood of applications we have shortlisted some candidates and asked them to submit a short sample article.

Candidate 1 - **Technical** correspondents.

Sample article.

A new chip from Unintel Corporation?



Unintel Chip

This enables the new Pro Stat 6k format (that can be shot in limited Gamma H 285s) to introduce a



delineated cross scanned data stream package. It can be efficiently handled by most editing suites except Pi Casso but only if the hybrid package envelope is Delta nuanced, and supplemented by Acrid 3 firmware.

An Acrid spokesman said that they had no intention of developing it for their editing suite as it would be superseded by a full res colour corrected 6K interlaced H248 codec in coming months. Both Intra and Long Gop would not show compromises by non convective thermally passive cameras. We look forward to these exciting developments.

Would you like to see more articles like this?

At this stage the candidate will not be named to ensure feedback is impartial. Send comments to the Editors.

STOP PRESS One early comment is 'Get your head around that one, Sanders!'



For Sale - Canon 600D with some lenses:

Canon EOS 600D Body only

Body only £150

Kit lens 18 -55 mm (3.5 to 5.6)

£50

50 mm prime f 1.8 II

£45

All of the above are hardly used and in almost new condition.

Sold with battery and charger.

If sold together:

600D Body and kit lens £170

600D Body, kit lens and prime £200



Contact Brian O'Connell 07766 978 051



Looking to sell your kit in order to upgrade? Why not advertise in Border Post? Just send me details of the item and price you are seeking and we can do the rest.



Having just joined the heady heights of the iPhone 12 Pro Max Club, Mike Sanders is looking to sell his iPhone 6 Plus for £150 o.n.o.

**If you are interested please contact Mike at :
chairman@surreyborder.org.uk**



Editor's Note



Well, they say this Covid thing is going to be over in just 16 days time!
 We thought we would have a little taste of the good life to come last weekend (see page 3 - Estate Agent). We went to an old work house to make a film about a man being shot in the rain. The location and the weather were sure to depress, but "oh boy" did it feel good to be behind the camera again!! Even better still, being shouted at by the Director and making snide comments to the sound man about the actors shoes. Even the tea tasted better!!
 No excuses now, Film, Film Film and good luck with your edit in an evening exercise.
 Happy post Covid filming!
 Philip and Brian.



Next Meeting

2nd July 2021 Another completely virus free, on line meeting.

More Dates

- 2nd July - SERIAC 2020 films.
- 6th August - Edit-in-an-Evening.
- 3rd September - Documentary Comp.
- 1st October - Inter Club Comp.

Your Club Contacts

	Name:	Email:
Chairman	Mike Sanders	chairman@surreyborder.org.uk
Vice Chairman	Philip Morley	
Hon. Secretary	Rita Wheeler	secretary@surreyborder.org.uk
Hon. Treasurer	Gillian Gatland	
Webmaster	Dave Rayers	
Competition Officer	Tim Stannard	
Digital Engagement Officer	Jim Reed	
Public Relations Officer	Kathy Butcher	
Editors - Border Post	Philip Morley & Brian O'Connell	
Social Events	Committee	

STAYING UP-TO-DATE



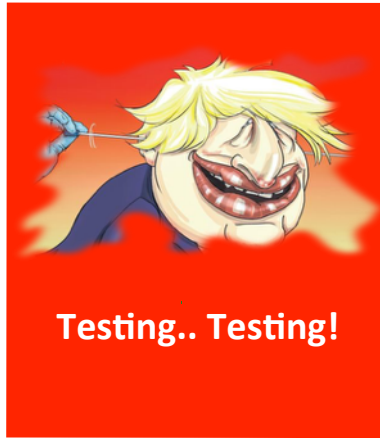
If you come across any little gismo or invention in the movie making world that you think our members may be interested to know about, just let us have the link and we'll include it in "Kit Corner".

Thanks Eds!

Contributors!

Thanks to all members who helped us by contributing to this issue: Peter Frost, Brian O'Connell, Philip Morley, Rita Wheeler.

COPY DEADLINE! August 2021 issue will be 14th of July so keep it coming. Late copy will be carried over to the next month. Thank you for your co-operation - Eds!



Come and see what we do!

See what other movie makers are up to and you may get 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:

www.facebook.com/SurreyBorderMovieMakers/timeline

Pre-coronavirus, meetings were held at St Joan's Centre, 19 Tilford Road, Farnham GU9 8DJ, however until further notice meetings will be held on-line on the first Friday of the month, starting at 8.00 pm and finishing at 10.00 pm. If you are interested then email: secretary@surreyborder.org.uk

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



Your contributions for inclusion will be appreciated together with photographs if possible. Please send them to The Editor Border Post for the next issue: editor@surreyborder.org.uk

