

Welcome to 2014 - a Happy New Year to our Readers

Message from the Chairman - Mike Sanders

Happy New Year everyone. In December I also wanted to be the first to wish you all a Happy Easter, and I was right, the Easter Eggs are already in the shops as I suggested they might be! At the time of writing (Thursday before club-night), at last the sun is shining, hooray! A warm welcome too, for any new members, you will undoubtedly learn a lot with the Club by asking questions and getting stuck in to a project, and there is plenty of help and expertise available, so please don't be backward in coming forward.

I received an unwelcome surprise on Sunday night, with a variation of "Welcoming in the New Year with a Bang!". I arrived home from a community meeting about the potential doubling of our village size by the building of an additional 1,852 houses, and there was a big bang when I put the key in the front door and the power went off.

Whether it was a power surge or just coincidence I know not, but I have externally connected "Leisure" batteries on the various Uninterruptable Power Supplies (UPS) which give me about 2.5 hours of computing use at full load if the power goes off.



The "exploded" battery in all it's glory

Each one works on 48 volts so there are 4, 12-volt batteries. These were Varta Leisure batteries. When I got into my Radio and TV transmission room it was filled with smoke, and I discovered one of the batteries had completely exploded leaving just the top and base (see pic) soaking the carpet tiles with acid, and a second one had a hole in the side. I put my waterproof trousers on and some rubber gloves and had the job of cleaning up the mess. Well the carpet tiles went in the sink, and seem to have survived, but the waterproof trousers have an acid burn in them, but at least it's not a burn on me. I have now replaced the exploded ones with some Numax CX series 110 ampere hour batteries which have been fine in the office.

Have a good non explosive year.

Mike



Press Release

The Surrey Border Movie Makers annual Club Competition took place on Friday 6th December. This year there were 15 entries which included drama, comedy, travelogue, documentary and a promo for a local beer company.



The Wayfarers receive their award for Best Overall

Staines Video Makers agreed to judge the films. Tim Stannard, (Chairman), Geoff Rippingale and Graham Large viewed the material, wrote useful critiques and decided on the winners for the trophies. New member John Mills won the First Time Winner with his film, 1 Minute Tickler. The Best Overall Trophy was won by the newly formed film group, the Wayfarers with their film 'A Shot In the Dark'.

The next club meeting will be on Friday 10th January. This will be a premiere evening to thank all the cast and crew who took part in the making of our film "Frequency Hertz". This was made for the North -v- South competition where northern film making clubs compete against southern ones. The theme was 'Revolution'. We came first in the Southern heat but third overall, with Chesterfield Film Makers gaining first place.

Border Post-Its

This is your forum for posting your production needs. If you're planning an epic and you need others to join and help, let the editor know. We'll post it if you email it (at the editors discretion) or you can contact any member of the committee - see back page!

Contributors Wanted

In a previous Border Post, the Editor put out a call for members to contribute to your Newsletter with human interest stories. Many of the articles printed in Border Post originate from only a handful of members. We would love to hear from more members on their filming exploits.



For February 2014 Issue, email to: editor@surreyborder.org.uk

Unsung Heroes - by Rita Wheeler

Behind every successful club is a hard working Committee. Within our club we have a number of hard working members as well. In this article I am only going to cover one aspect of 'behind the scenes' activity, however, it is a big money earner for the club and helps to ensure we can continue to afford to meet in such a pleasant place as the St Joan's Centre.

Once a month on a Saturday afternoon, for six months of the year, David and Vicky Jackson earn the club money by setting up our equipment for a local art club. The club projector is used with a camera and a portable screen so that everyone in the hall can clearly see the visiting artist as they work with their particular medium. For this we receive a donation to club funds.

For those new to the club, Sir Paul Holden founded the club in 1984. It started with eight members, and now has almost sixty. He has worked tirelessly over the years, and is still doing so. He presents film shows to Rowledge Good Companions, the Barley Group as well as to Clare Park Residents. For these film shows he earns a contribution which goes towards the cost of running the club. He is helped at various times by John Widdecombe, Gordon Sutton, Fred Hawkins and David Jackson. Paul has always been very active, and for those who may be unaware, he trained and flew as a pilot during the 2nd World War. He is now 90, and as it becomes increasingly more difficult to carry so much equipment around to these film show venues, he would welcome some additional help from other club members.



Paul kindly put on his WWII Flying Helmet for a photo.

Results of the 2013 Club Competition

Staines Video Makers were the judges for the Club's 2013 Film Competition. The judges were Tim Stannard (Chairman), Geoff Rippingale and Graham Large.

The Wayfarers won the Jackson Trophy for Best Overall Film for their comedy 'A Shot in the Dark'.

Gillian Gatland won the David Good Trophy for Best Holiday film, 'Phang Nga Bay'.

Alan Brown won the Arthur English Trophy for Best Photography for his documentary 'The Joy of a Lotus'.

Brian O'Connell and Peter Frost won the Clements Shield for Best Creative Film with their comedy drama 'Gold Prospect'.

Steve Michell won the Pat Doherty Cup for Best Use of Sound and Commentary with his advert/promo film '1917'.

Neil Cryer won the Moorey Documentary Trophy for Best Documentary with his 'The Making of a Club Film'.

John Mills won the Jack Stribbling Trophy for Best First Time Winner for his short comedy '1 Minute Tickler'.

Gordon Sutton won the Penny Johnson Trophy for Best Editing with his documentary 'It's Up and Away'.

The Pioneers received a Highly Commended for their comedy 'Parrot Fashion'.

Christmas Lunch 2013

On Sunday 8th December, thirty members of SBMM assembled at the Farnham House Hotel for our annual Christmas Lunch.

During pre-lunch drinks in the bar, Mike Sanders took the opportunity to present new member John Mills with the First Time Winner Trophy for his short comedy '1 Minute Tickler'.

The lunch was of the usual high standard and everyone seem to enjoy their crackers and party favours, but a number of groans were heard when it came to reading the cracker jokes. Who makes these jokes up? We need to hunt them down!



John Mills (right) receives his Trophy from Mike Sanders

Club Night Premiere

Those intending to come to the Club night on Friday 10th January will be in for a treat. This is the Club Premiere showing of our entry into the North versus South Competition which placed first in the judging of the films from the south, but finally came a commendable third in the N-v-S judging. This will be followed by the winning film "Revolution" which was entered by Chesterfield Film Makers.

Due to popular demand, we will be selling off some of the props that were used in the making of our film "Frequency Hertz". Please bring your wallets in case you might be interested in buying some of these items, which also have highly practical uses.

In My Shoes

Reported by
Peter Frost

Video grabs from
footage by Brian O'Connell



Above: Emma Stevens explains the huge influence of her mother, who sadly died of cancer, in her music to Della Edwards.

Below: Emma performing at the Maltings

Brian O'Connell's been busy again with a pre-Christmas production furthering his experience as sole cameraman / director / gaffer / sound engineer and editor. This time I couldn't join him and Steve Michell stepped in for a shoot in the Raddison Blu Hotel Bar in Guildford but prior to that, Brian did a one hander at the Farnham Maltings.

The project is a furtherance of Della Edwards' interviewing skills with Emma Stevens, local girl and successful performer, whose music has been featured on BBC Radio 2.

The Maltings shoot used his two Canon cameras, Zoom H1 recorders and Lavelier microphones, a tried and tested method which delivers as long as he remembers to remind the performers to switch on the recorders and switch off after the take to avoid miles of unwanted recording.

Shot on just two occasions, 'In My Shoes' took approximately a week to edit (fourth edit is currently under consideration) and runs for about 20 minutes.



A Recent Show of Club Films *by Paul Holden*

This January, David Jackson and I presented our second "annual" show to the Barley Group – some 60-odd ladies who meet once a month at the Maltings for coffee and some kind of talk.

We showed them examples of each kind of film Club Members make, ranging from 30-Second Adverts and One Minute Epics, Comedies (including *Dead in Bed* and *A Point of view* from WriteAngle), Community Films (*A Canal Reborn* and *Victoria Garden*), a Drama Film (*A bright Thread*), and a Documentary Film (*Five Fingers*).

Both David and I were quite impressed with the standard of camera work and editing of some of these Club Classics, and so were the audience – we shall definitely be asked again!

Transferring Video to Others *by Paul Holden*

Many people think that, if they want to contribute some video to a project, or to get comments on a draft edit, for example, they should burn it onto a DVD, and post it – but the compression used in creating a DVD inevitably degrades the image quality.

To maintain the maximum image quality, it is better to copy the actual output file from your camera or editing system, as data, onto a CD or DVD – in data, not film playing, mode. I don't know anything about your editing system, but probably there will be an "Export" or "Print to File" instruction, for your whole timeline, after rendering it – with the options of choosing the format. (If possible, go for PAL 50i or AVCHD) but definitely not NTSC - and, if given the choice, 25 fps (Frames per Second) not 30.) So you save, or print, that file to a chosen address on your hard disc – and when it has been successfully exported, you copy that file onto a CD or Data DVD, or memory stick, to transfer it to another member. They then copy that onto their hard drive, and they can then enter that file into their editing system, or simply play it on their computer, with the original image quality maintained.

Alternatively, since video files are usually far too large to be attached to e-mails, you could choose to put the file into the SBMM Dropbox, and send your correspondents a link to access it. To do this, you need to subscribe to Dropbox.

So what is Dropbox I hear you ask? Well, Dropbox is a free service that enables you to transport all your photos, documents and videos anywhere. Any files that you save to your Dropbox will automatically save to all your computers, and even to your Smartphone (if you have one). Simply, after you install Dropbox on your computer, a Dropbox folder is created, which is similar to any other folder on your computer, with the exception that it shares the files with your other computer devices, phones, and the Dropbox website. Sharing files with others is by invitation.

Editors Note: For further information, visit the Dropbox website at <https://www.dropbox.com/> , or if all else fails they say "ask a teenager to help"!

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.



Dates for your Diary

Friday 10th January 2014: (Club Night) Please note the date change. It is the 2nd Friday of the year. This will be the premiere of our entry to the North –v- South Competition, "Frequency Hertz". We will also be showing the winning film from this competition. This is also your chance to submit any other films that you would like to be considered for the Surrey BAFTAs.

Please contact secretary@surreyborder.org.uk if you have any films to be included.

Friday 7th February 2014: (Club Night) AGM.

Friday 7th March 2014: An evening with Terence Patrick, rescheduled from 1st November 2013.

Competition News

BIAFF Competition Reminder

The BIAFF 2014 Competition is still open for entries, closing date 31st January 2014. Go to www.theiac.org.uk for online entry and download forms.

Seriatic Film Festival Reminder

The Seriac Film Festival is open for entries. Closing date: 31st January 2014. It takes place at the Oast Theatre, Tonbridge, Kent on 5th April 2014. Go to: www.seriatic.org.uk for more information and to download an entry form.

Opening Lines BBC Radio 4 Showcase

Twiddling your thumbs, wondering what to do? The next window for sending in material to Opening Lines - BBC Radio 4's showcase for short stories is January 6th – February 14th 2014. The team are looking for original short stories which work being read out loud i.e. with a strong emphasis on narrative and avoiding too much dialogue, character description and digression. Pay particular attention to how the story opens and closes. Check their website for more details.

The UK Film Festival and Irresistible Films are still receiving scripts for this year's 3 Minute Script Competition. The winning script will be produced by Irresistible Films and the UK Film Festival, and will be screened as part of the Festival as well as being featured online and passed to Channel 4's Creative Diversity for consideration. In addition the runners-up i.e. the top 5 Scripts will also be read by Channel 4's Creative Diversity as part of a search for new ideas and new writing talent. The Script Competition's Postal Deadline is now extended to 21st January 2014. Check out www.ukfilmfestival.com for more information on how to submit scripts to the competition.

Your Club Contacts

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Border Post

Your contributions for inclusion will be appreciated together with photographs if possible. Please send them to the Editor, Alan Wheeler, for the February 2014 issue at this email: editor@surreyborder.org.uk