

Message from the Chairman - *Mike Sanders*

Hello everyone, spring marches on with the promise of a cold snap. Brrrrr bring on the sun.

The North v South film team are getting together. The script is nearly complete. Props are being sought and locations tested out. Any more would be giving the game away to the competition so the rest of the information is in shhhhhhhhhhh mode.

I hope the BAFTAs go well, where 3 years of films are put forward to be judged, selected nominations made, and winners elected. Are your films there? Many thanks to the judges for their diligent hard work.

Now for a couple of little technical annoyances that everyone needs to be aware of.

Firstly, the great British public have been shouting at the Disk player manufacturers to put memory retention in on their players. Our Blu-ray player is no exception. So the SBMM projectionist puts in the memory stick into the front and tries the film just to make sure it's OK. It plays. Remove the memory stick. Put it back in later after playing some other films and it starts from where it left off last time it was played. NOOOOOOO, (Bash Manuel round the head, then John Cleese style bunny hop walk at this point whilst sucking thumb), that's just what we don't want and we can't turn the feature off either. We can press the "go to the beginning button" on the remote but that's messy, as it keeps starting to play. The solution is that if you want us to cleanly play the beginning of your film we are back to putting a countdown clock on the front of the file. So can you remember to do that for us please?

Secondly, as experienced at the Film in an Evening, Ollie had output his film as an Apple QuickTime Movie onto Disk. Firstly our player is one of the few that will play QuickTime so that was a stroke of luck, however, so concerned about quality was he, he burnt a Data CD using a 12 Mbit/sec data rate. Unfortunately a CD/DVD cannot produce data that fast. 5-9Mbits/sec is the maximum data rate achievable otherwise it will pause and buffer which is what it did on that occasion.

So, for burning onto a CD/DVD, 8.5Mbits/second on disk maximum, and for all films for club projection please help the projectionists by including a countdown clock on the front of the film please.



Press Releases *by Geoff Baier*

The following details were passed to the media during the month of April.

"Mission Impossible" for Film Club Members.

Their task is to shoot and edit a short film in two hours; ready to show it in a competition the same evening. The film must be loosely based on a set theme. This year the theme is : 'Two sides to every story'. To meet this challenge the five rival groups of club film makers are allowed to script and rehearse their films in advance but the rules state that they must actually be filmed between 7.00pm and 9.00 pm on the evening of the competition.

Elstead to Elstree, Bourne Wood to Hollywood: Check out the Surrey BAFTAs.

If you enjoy watching or making short films you are invited to attend Surrey Border Movie Makers triennial event: the Surrey BAFTAs on Friday 2nd May 2014. Awards will be presented to the makers of the best films made by club members during the past three years.

Dress code for this event - smart casual please.

As with the Oscars and London BAFTAs, diverse eminent guests will open the envelopes and present the awards. These include media academic, Dr Max Sexton, professional cameraman John Collins, founder of the Surrey BAFTAs, Bryan Harrison, and Merlynda the Monster Poet. A new special category award will also be announced on the night.

Surrey Border Movie Makers monthly meetings give members a chance to meet and discuss all aspects of movie making as well as to enjoy the more formal programme of activities, lectures, workshops, film shows and competitions to stimulate and encourage more successful movie making. Topics have run from writing of film scripts to aspects of film production. Members use camcorders, pocket 'still' cameras and even iphones to make films.

Surrey Border's Success at SERIAC Film Festival *by Paul Holden*

Colin and Susie Lewis, and Vivien and Paul Holden attended this Festival at the Oast Theatre at Tonbridge on Saturday 5th April, and were rewarded by seeing both films entered by Surrey Border included in the projected programme, out of 58 entries this year from Clubs all over the South East of England. Inevitably, many of these had to be left out of the programme, through shortage of time.

Parrot Fashion by the new Pioneers Group, was rewarded by the audience's happy laughter at the punchline; and at the end of the evening, it was awarded one of the very few "Commended" Certificates issued this year. Well done, this crew of recently joined New Members!

The Judges awarded our main Club entry, **Frequency Hertz**, the Southern Sound Trophy for the Creative Use of Sound, which will be held for the year by Maggie Ledwidge, who so successfully organised this project on behalf of the Club. Hopefully, she will be presented with this at the next Club Meeting.

Former and very productive Club Member Alex Dove had presented a trophy – The Alex Dove Plate - to SERIAC years ago. This was to be awarded to the favourite film of the audience, as determined by written slips collected at the end of the show – because he felt that the Judges' selections were not always popular with those attending, and representative of the coalface workers of the movement. Most unusually this year, the audience voted for the Judges' overall winning film Enid Blyton – the Beckenham Years, a well-researched and brilliantly edited documentary from Mike Shaw and Footprint Productions. Vivien showed her expertise as a judge, by voting for this film – my vote went to Second Chance, an extremely well made drama from the Haywards Heath Movie Makers, to which the Judges awarded the SERIAC Cup for the best runner-up. (I almost never agree with Judges' decisions – which shows what a hopeless judge I am. I must have been on good form yesterday!)

It's a pity that more Club Members don't make the effort to attend these festivals – it is really interesting to see what other members of the movement are creating – even if only to learn, as an outside audience, what works and what doesn't! Inevitably, this rubs off, with the potential to improve your own future editing decisions!

50 Shades of Blue - *by Rita Wheeler*

Last months "Film in an Evening" which took place on Friday 4th April lead to some creative face painting for the OddBods film "Breaking News." The script required the appearance of two aliens at the very end of the film as part of the "punchline". Whilst their appearance on camera was to be short, makeup still had to be done, and this can take a long time to do it properly. This will be borne out by the makeup which is often done for actors in blockbuster films, where makeup and dressing of some characters may take anything up to 7 hours before each day's filming. In total the make up for the Odd Bod's film took 4 hours. Al's makeup took less time as he is already part alien!!

To illustrate the sequence of preparation, photographs were taken at various stages of the makeup process.



1. Getting started



3. Finishing touches (2 hours)



5. Not forgetting the ears



2. Part way there (1 hour)



4. Al's turn



6. Fully made up aliens with their creator, 17 year old Jack Potts.

Video for U3A Courses

by Peter Frost

It has been a busy period for Bob Lambert's U3A Video Group members as we continue to record the activities of the various courses available through Guildford's U3A (Uni of the 3rd Age).

With only the odd course left to record as I write, the emphasis now turns to editing. Bob is using iMovie as this is what most members will use and it enables those who want to take part to obtain practical skills in editing in the best way possible - hands on with guidance.

Some 50 years ago I was involved in a very similar project for an Adult Education Film Course using my 8mm movie camera (Bolex P2) to film the local adult education classes. Most memorable was the 'Ladies' Keep Fit' as one of our group, a gentleman from an indeterminate foreign shore, made his own film accessories, in this case a lighting unit on a stand.

Our tutor, who we thought only ran the course to have access to 'free' film and processing and who knew rather less than his pupils about the subject, made the distinct mistake of moving the lighting unit, his hand clamping itself to it with an

electric shock which fused the centre's power supply, immediately plunging all the jumping, bouncing wobbly bits into gloom - something of a blessing!

There was no sound in those days, so things were rather easier as I have found that concentrating on good shots while remembering that when the camera stops so does the sound track, has been far more of a challenge at the editing stage to maintain acceptable sound continuity. Okay, so you 'cheat' with cut-aways and dub in some music when it all gets too fraught but authenticity is really needed.

Each course has brought its own challenges. 'Line Dancing' was tricky as the entire room was full of wall to wall kicking, turning, bouncing people with little room to negotiate round them and the problem of musical continuity, which was also a factor of the 'Ukelele' course.

I've edited my various shoots and they stand up pretty well under the circumstances, so now it's a matter of pulling the whole presentation together. Should be interesting due to the different cameras used.



Right top: Line Dance instructor Andrea and dancers concentrating.
Right bottom: Ukelele group plucking along with Martin's guidance
Left: SBMM's Bob Lambert, Colin Lewis and me recording the U3A Music Ensemble (right)



Making the Most of the Club - by Rita Wheeler

Members often ask about opportunities for film making throughout the year; the following is a brief list of events where you can focus your individual film making skills or to get involved in making films in a group.

April is **Film in an Evening** – using the theme for the Albany Competition with a year to polish the result.

September is the **Edit Exercise** – this year the challenge will be to make a 30 second ad and/or a 1 minute epic. Use your imagination. These can be done as individuals or in groups. Make as many as you like. Entries are judged on the night.

December is the **Club Competition**. Films should be a maximum 6 mins. They should not have been shown to the club, so no re-ramped Film in an Evening films. Entries are to be given to Mike at the November club night.

During the year we also make a film for the **North –v- South** competition. The theme is given to us in January, and the deadline is mid October the same year. We like as many club members as possible to get involved.

In addition to the above, members can usually bring a film along to a club night to get feed-back, suggestions for music or just to see what it looks like on the big screen. If you would like to show your film please let Rita know first as we might have a full programme organised and may not have time to show your film.

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 2nd May 2014: Surrey BAFTA. Surrey Border Artistic Film Tributes Awards.
An evening of celebration with OSCARs (*Outstanding Surreyborder Creative Arts Reels*)

Friday 6th June 2014: A selection of short films, with discussion.

Friday 4th July 2014: The Young Members Committee Meeting present an evening of entertainment.

Saturday 5th July 2014: Summer Social

Summer Social

It's almost that time of year again, to sit down with food, drink and convivial company to talk about filming or just about anything else.

Rita and Al will be hosting the summer social again this year. Put Saturday 5th July in your diaries. We usually ask for people to bring a salad or a pudding or cake but we'll be in touch nearer the time. £7 per person includes food and drink.

Amazon Associate

Please support your Club. For those members who are not already aware of it, our Website now advertises Amazon, with a link to the Amazon site.

So if you are going to use Amazon to shop, please pause before you do so, go to our site first, and then click on the link to Amazon.

This will not cost you anything but will help to pay for our club website.

The Albany Competition - by Maggie Ledwidge

The Albany competition took place on Sunday 27th April in Plumpton Green. Surrey Borders entered two films: "*Spiritual Knowledge*" made by Write Angle and "*Bird and Peacocks Exciting Discovery*" made by the Odd Bods. The judges were from Orpington and were looking for: relevance to theme, reaction to story, no need to mention theme in film (one did twice).

The audience were amused by "Bird and Peacocks Exciting Discovery" and loved the ending.

"Spiritual Knowledge" was considered to have a good script on the theme, good music, camera angles were good and well acted but felt it was let down by the ending. Despite that it won the Albany Editing Trophy! Well done, Write Angle.

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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 June 2014 issue at this email: editor@surreyborder.org.uk