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

## Message from the Chairman - Mike Sanders

No technical stuff this month, but it only seems appropriate, in keeping with the British past time of talking about the weather, that I should make a short reference to it from a film making perspective. As the autumnal evenings draw in, no doubt some of us will start thinking less about film-making and more about sitting back with feet up in front of the TV, drinking a glass of wine or perhaps even cocoa!

As the weather is relatively mild, there is still a lot of opportunity for some outdoor filming before the snow and ice arrives, especially at the moment with the leaves on trees changing colour, or piling up on the ground. It's nice to film, although perhaps a bit of a pain to sweep up from our lawns.



A bit of trivia that may be of interest to some of you, according to recent news, a survey has shown that on average the baby boomers of the 60's drink more alcohol and have more fun than the younger generation of today's world. We may all be shocked at this revelation, but I am sure that some of us can attest to that.

In addition to the showing of *Cube<sup>3</sup>* at the next Club night (Friday 7th November), please note that it is also the Chairman's evening.

## Press Release by Geoff Baier

The October meeting of Surrey Border Movie Makers was the annual Inter-Club film competition. Reading Film & Video Makers were defending the trophy from last year; Orpington Film & Video Makers, South Downs Film Makers and Chichester Film & Video Makers made up the other clubs.

The only rule of the invitational Inter Club Competition is that no film should be longer than 20 minutes. Both Reading



Judges Kathy Butcher and Geoff Baier

and Orpington submitted dramas, *Oh Mother!*, and *Visa Versa*, while Chichester and South Downs submitted documentaries, *My Dear Murray*, which was commissioned to commemorate the life of Vice Admiral Sir George Murray

KCB, and *Life's A Circus*, which showed life behind the scenes as well as circus acts.

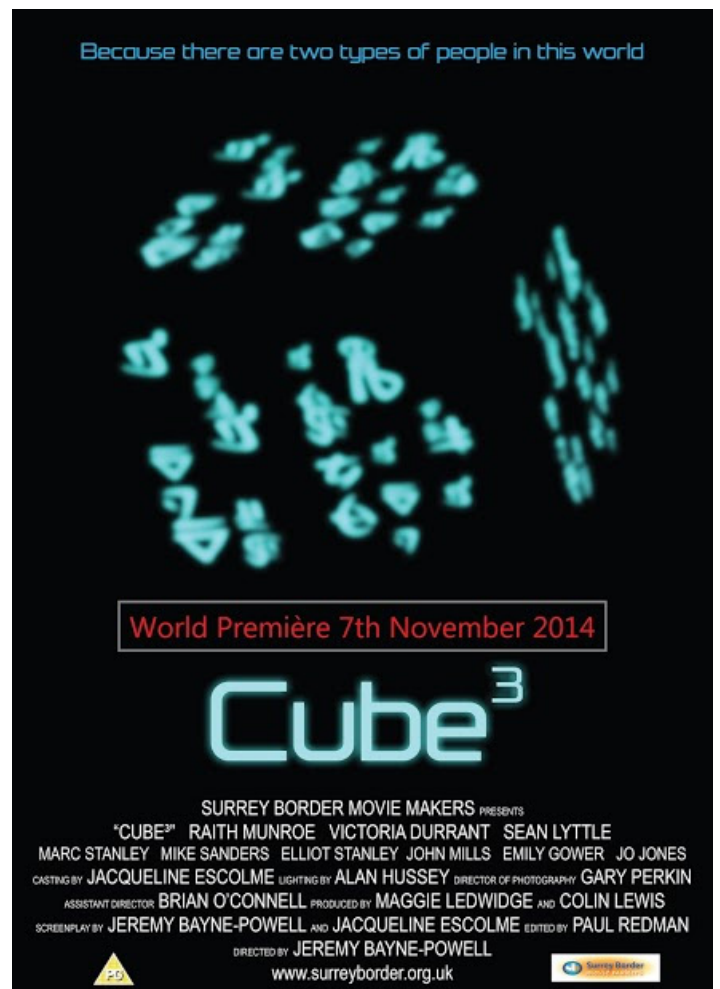
The standard of films shown was extremely high and the two Surrey Border judges, Kathy Butcher and Geoff Baier had a hard time deciding on a winner. After much deliberation South Downs Film Makers were awarded the trophy for their documentary *Life's a Circus*. They will be invited to defend the title next year with a different film.

Surrey Border Movie Makers meet on the first Friday of each month to see and discuss each other's films and plan club filming activities. We have a good mix of people, interests and experiences including retired professionals who enjoy passing on their skills either informally or in training sessions.

## Premiere of Cube<sup>3</sup>

This month's Clubnight will include the World Premiere of *Cube<sup>3</sup>* which is our entry for the North Versus South Competition. Members attending will have a treat in store.

A poster advertising this film has been created by Jeremy Bayne-Powell. A reduced size copy is shown below.



# KEMPTON MUSEUM'S NIGHTMARE

Written and photographed by Peter Frost

Perhaps this article should be titled 'Brian's Nightmare' as it was he who dreamed it all up, the other fifteen of us did our best to follow in his wake.

Planned as an 'entertainment' for visitors while offering club member's filming opportunities in public view and member Vince Barnes' rock band '**Freedom From Gravity**' a most unusual performance stage and a music video, this was a major undertaking. Step up Mr, O'Connell!

The '**Nightmare**' story involves the band sneaking into the building while inside indoctrinated humanoids are under the control of 'The Master', a sort of Hitleresque type who has brainwashed his minions - Brian took the role.

In zombie like unison, the humanoids follow commands until the band starts to play, gradually loosening the Master's grip as the music slowly infiltrates. The Master gets his come upance and music releases those under his control.

**Preliminaries:** Let's wind back a little. On the 15th September, following earlier discussions, Brian and I again visited Kempton for a meeting with Peter and his colleagues, to explain the script ideas, check on access, plan preliminary layouts and get to know who would be our contacts.

Now to the 11th October and the club members' planning meeting at the Horse and Groom in Merrow when Brian outlined his ideas to the twelve attendees. Alan Brown and Gordon Sutton took on support roles and Vince Barnes was there to hear how the group would be involved.

**The Filming Weekend:** Saturday at 9.00am



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and we had all arrived. The Museum is a great backdrop but hardly the best place for a video on an open weekend, rather a logistical nightmare! The main problem was sound as there was nothing to suppress echo in this huge void; public were on tours that took them into shot on occasion; the massive pumps were steamed up and run every half hour and all filming had to stop for the period due to noise; even during filming, there were sirens and announcements to contend with. On top of this, we were trying to get the visitors to take part when they had really just come to look round the site itself. So you might wonder how we managed.

The Turbine Floor was our stage with the lower floor access covered to provide a good operating space. Lights had been set up in advance by Peter Matthews and his colleagues - two blonds and three red heads (the lights, not the colleagues!). There were four sessions of three quarters of an hour for each day. The first fifteen minutes were for preparation, allowing about 30 minutes max for recording. After a little practice it became a pretty slick operation.

Maggie Ledwidge proved to be very effective at recruiting 'willing' participants, whisking them up to the top office before divulging fully what they had to do - good move! She then had them don their humanoid onesies (disposable decorator's overalls) and explained how they had to perform - essentially as morons!! As there were not enough visitors involved for each take, club members had to step in.

Only Bob Lambert, Alan Butcher, Alan



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Brown and Gordon Sutton managed to evade this honour by being 'vital' as camera crew. Hmmm!

After learning their fate, participating extras were taken down to the set and further talked through their performance by Brian, who must have lost pounds chasing up and down between performers and crew.

Saturday started at 9.00am with a tour of the site and explanation of our aims and roles followed by a necessary caffeine injection.

Before too long The Master (Brian) was up on his high vantage point booming his doctrine to the gathered humanoids (and the entire museum without any need for amplification) while they chanted in response, eyes fixed upon his all commanding, high level balcony. We then shot the Master's demise but he wasn't going without a struggle!



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Later, Vince's group arrived and were initially filmed outside by Steve Michell for their undercover entry shots before setting up in the performance area for the third session, after lunch break.

A sound test with them playing a song shot recording levels off the scale and brought Kempton staff down to ask them to 'turn down the volume' as hearing aids were blowing fuses.

At reduced volume, the group gave several great performances during two sessions, repeating their song for different camera angles and shot variety. Each time, more extras were roped in to gyrate in wild

Photos:

1. Merrow Meeting
2. Brian briefing humanoids
3. Ready for the dance
4. Bob on camera

continues



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abandon to the rock music - more pounds were shed as those onesies were very hot, although you could see through them.

Finally, some extra footage was shot with the four group members on different levels of the pump engine platforms, miming in time to their track.

Throughout, Bob Lambert, Gordon Sutton and Alan Butcher were filming while Alan Brown was calling the shots - "Run sound, roll cameras, mark it, action!" through the megaphone. In other words, the shoot was run in a professional manner for visitors.

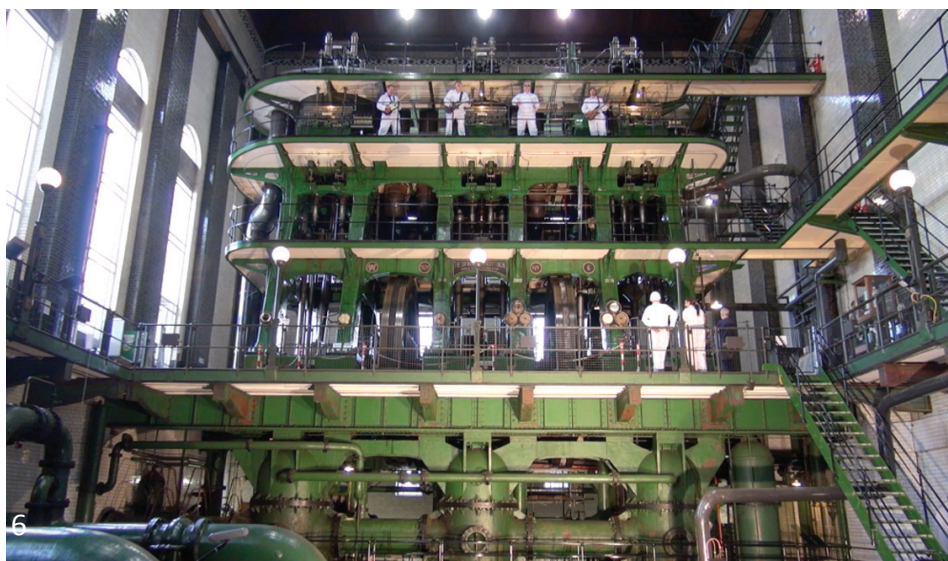
Sunday and a late start (9.30am). Today - no music, just cut aways and additional chanting and dancing to an imaginary beat. It was busier and we soldiered on. Each time we thought we'd finished, Brian came up with 'just one more shot'! He does suit his role of The Master rather well, come to think of it.

Kathy was busy making her own film-of-the-film. Sorry Kathy for walking into your shots! Colin Lewis was desperately trying to find a quiet place to carry out some interviews of visiting families but found the ambient sound a real problem.

With so much club effort going into the *Kempton Steam Museum's Film Making Weekend*, it was very rewarding to hear that the visiting public enjoyed this extra themed experience while taking in the massive scale of the Museum itself.

In traditional Hollywood style, there are many 'thank you's' but let's not bother. Our thanks were a successful event, very well prepared by The Master, Brian, and extremely well supported by us lot. Well done us!

Photos:  
5. Vince and the group miming on the steps  
6. Miming on the top deck  
7. Drooling over Peter's camera  
8. Alan with his Steadicam



## New QR Code

Reported by Peter Frost



Surrey Border Movie Makers is now really up to date thanks to Ivan Dally who generated this code to take you, via your smart phone, directly to SBMM's Home Web Page! I've reproduced the code at 'normal' reproduction size. Try it and tell us if you find any reading difficulty with your smartphone.

This code should gradually be introduced into any publicity; notices; Border Post prints and perhaps even into our club badges, especially when we are on location.

It would be possible to generate a code to take anyone to a specific page on the website, perhaps one that deals with a particular subject such as how to find us. But first, give it a go.

## A nice bit of kit!

Reported by Peter Frost

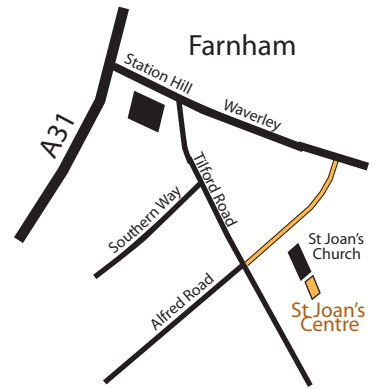
During our Kempton extravaganza, Alan Butcher was using his Steadicam to weave amongst the dancers and band.

He gave Elliot a chance to try it down the walkways for a test run. I asked Elliot whether he had enjoyed the day and he told me that he had learned a lot, taking his experience level well beyond his current course.



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

**Friday 7th November 2014:** Chairman's Evening, to include the Premiere of Cube3. This is also the deadline for handing in Club Competition entries.

**Friday 5th December 2014:** Club Competition.

**Sunday 7th December 2014:** Christmas Lunch at Farnham House Hotel

## Australian Widescreen Festival 2014 by Rita Wheeler

The club was invited to submit some films to the Australian Widescreen Festival 2014 held in Melbourne. You'll be pleased to know that 'Frequency Hertz' came 8th out of 31 entries.

We also entered 'Buzz in the Boardroom' and 'Spiritual Knowledge' which were both enjoyed. Interestingly the one that came last was called 'If'. I wonder if that is a contender for the North -v- South or possibly the title is just a coincidence? As well as entries from Australia and England there were entries from America and Portugal. The festival is currently on tour in Australia.

## Border Post-Its

This is your forum for posting your needs for production, equipment or advice. 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!

There were no Postings or Requests for Help for this month's edition of Border Post, but this is just a reminder that this section is here for the use of members. Please do not be afraid to use it.

For December Issue, email to:  
[editor@surreyborder.org.uk](mailto:editor@surreyborder.org.uk)

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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 December 2014 issue at this email: [editor@surreyborder.org.uk](mailto:editor@surreyborder.org.uk)