



Hey Guys! Video Opportunities in the Dark!

Header Creation: Peter Frost

Original Photo: Gordon Sutton
Image Manipulation: Peter Frost



Your Sit-in Editor
this month,
Peter Frost

Back despite public protest but Philip has needed time for pressing matters so here we go - November already!

Let's kick off with something very close to my heart - **FOOD!**

Rita's in charge, and this is what she has sent me for Border Post:

It's (almost) that time of year again....
by Rita Wheeler



I know, I know, we've only just set the clocks back yet we are talking about Christmas.

The trouble is that if we leave it too long everywhere decent will be booked up. So, put Sunday 3rd December in your diaries for the Surrey Border Christmas lunch.

We've enjoyed going to The Barn attached to the Hen and Chicken, Upper Froyle, for the past two years so we have decided to go there again.

I sent you an email with the menu on 13th October but if you've lost it you can see it again here. You'll need to choose your food and pay by 16th November and I'll

In this issue (in page order):	
CHRISTMAS LUNCH - Rita Wheeler	The Venue and the Menu
HEADERS UP - Peter Frost	An insight of what goes into creating a Lively Header using your photographs
A BACKWARD GLANCE - Kathy Butcher	Kathy's Report for August, featuring: Wedding Woes solved (Mike Sanders); Two movies to assess (Peter Frost); New Member Mike Logan's Cartoon Animations
AUDIO UPGRADE TO ZOOM F6 - Jack Visser	Jack describes his reasoning and results of his new sound recording approach
DOCUMENTARY COMPETITION - Kathy Butcher	A round up of entries with details
THE SOUND OF SILENCE - Peter Frost	Garden video shoots battling with the neighbours
RITA'S RIB TICKLERS - Rita Wheeler	The funny side of life for a bit of a laugh, so much needed right now
TAIL ENDERS - Kathy Butcher and Peter Frost	Introduction to October's meeting on Film Judging. Club Information, Future Meetings; Committee Members; Club Location and Details

be sending you a reminder at the beginning of that month. In the meantime, I do need a show of hands, or a reply to my email will do, so that I have a good idea of the numbers.

We are in The Barn. Lunch at 1.00 pm, you can get there earlier for pre-lunch drinks.
CHRISTMAS MENU AT HEN AND CHICKEN Upper Froyle, Alton GU34 4JH

Three courses for £30.00 per person which includes a tip.

You can see the menu over the page.



STARTERS

- Chipotle sticky pork belly *GF
With smoked chilli jam, toasted sunflower seeds
- Panko crumbed brie wedges *V
Served with cranberry and orange chutney
- Grilled goat's cheese and beetroot tart *V
Served with an apple, walnut and rocket salad
- Smoked salmon, cherry tomato and avocado bruschetta *GF
With a lemon dressing
- Butternut soup *VG *V *GF
With crispy sage leaves and apple croutons



MAINS

- Traditional Christmas carvery *V *GF
Served with all the festive trimmings. Nut roast available.
- Braised Brisket of beef *GF
Served with dauphinoise potatoes, honey roasted root vegetables,
pearl onion, thyme and red wine jus
- Salmon Wellington
With buttered new potatoes, wilted spinach,
tomato and red pepper sauce
- Cheesy celeriac, leek and rosemary gratin *V *GF
Served with Tenderstem broccoli
- Jerusalem artichoke, roast garlic and truffle ravioli *VG *V
With parsley pesto and crispy shallots



DESSERTS

- Traditional Christmas pudding *GF
Served with brandy cream
- Apple, cranberry and mixed spice crumble *VG *GF
Served with custard or ice cream
- Pistachio and chocolate pavlova *GF
Chocolate torte *VG
Served with vanilla ice cream
- Cherry brûlée
With almond shortbreads
- Selection of 3 cheeses (£3 supplement)
Served with chutney and biscuits

*VG = *vegan on request*
*GF – *gluten free on request*

HEADers UP! by Peter Frost

Thanks to those members who have so far provided their own photos for the header and come on all the others, I'm sure there are nice pics, month or video or image appropriate out there for inclusion.

I have created Header imagery in what I hope you feel has been at least mostly suitable for the criteria, principally eye catching as all 'advertising' should be, Border Post being a window into our club for current and future members, which is month or video relevant. Once the attention is caught, it leads into the impressive content produced by Editors Philip and Brian and their contributors.

I will always decide as Header editor whether submitted photos are deemed suitable or need some theming treatment. So I am showing you Brian and Gordon's lovely original photos and the subtle changes for Brian's September one or more dramatically themed modifications I have made for Gordon's November and will continue to do this for future submission.

You can always let me know if you agree with this approach or not.



Brian was first off the mark with this photo which I received as far back as the 22 May and held it for an opportunity to use to arise. He thought it might be a good one for a header which gave me the idea to ask for members' photos for Border Post.

I felt it was a lovely, relaxing photo of his wife, Alyson, who is not identified, is very nicely framed and has a delightful wistful feeling. But it wasn't until I was working on September's Header that this photo came to mind and clicked with an idea for a theme - that of summer's end, but it didn't, did it?

The photo needed no work apart from writing a caption, choosing a font, colouring it sympathetically to the chair and giving it a key colour to lift it off a little. Fitting it between the two back supports evenly was surprisingly fiddly.

So I may not use any submissions that I select immediately but will wait until an idea for use hits me.



Gordon sent in a 'possible' for November which, when I saw it I thought it had a great atmosphere and interesting colours cast onto background trees from deep orange to blue green, so I just had to use it.

Gordon felt that it had plenty of clear area in which to set the BP title etc. which it does. However, my approach to Header design has been to make impact, so I set about finding a way of giving it the jazzy treatment.

It needed a big bang which I found on line and added but to blend it in to Gordon's image I had to remove the area outside of and around the explosion spark, change the colour tone of the firework from screaming pinkish red to a more orangey glow to work with the orange glow of the fire.

The person on the right in the foreground of Gordon's photo was too much of a black lump, so I removed them and created more individual small silhouettes. What about a Guy? Well that turned up as a flame face for which I created a hat and having cut laboriously and carefully around and inside to remove any black areas of no flame, I colour blended it and had a Guy.

Now I had the whole image and applied text but it didn't work and I could see that by reversing Gordon's composite background it would be better. I know that this means text is over what might be considered as a 'busy area', but to me it is now just right.

The saying that 'a picture speaks a thousand words' is very true.



Having seen what others have provided and how they have been modified, please search through your stashed years of photos, not family specific, so I don't

always have to create my own.

I have images from Rita for December and will work out how I will use them, so watch out for that!

I would welcome suitable New Year photos or photos for any other time of the year that I can store for later use.

Email your photos with your name to: frost.memento@gmail.com by the 10th of the month before the month of publication

Another very interesting meeting was held in August by Surrey Border Movie Makers.

Unwanted Chatter

The evening started with Chairman Mike Sanders discussing a recent wedding which he filmed using several cameras and an iPhone rig. He explained that the footage had picked up several people talking near the cameras which overpowered some of the shots. Mike discussed how he resolved the problem using a software package called Filmic Pro which produced very good results.

Music Composer's First Video

The evening continued with Peter Frost showing two versions of a 7 min. film called 'Mariupol' by composer Paul Foss who he knows. It was Paul's first attempt at video using free downloaded imagery and set to his music. Peter had been asked to view the two different versions and advise which he thought was best suited. For a wider experience club members were included and gave a number of critical points to address.



'Mariupol' by Composer Paul Foss

The image above appeared several times to represent family ties during war and Peter later learned that its metallic, statuesque look had been created in AI software from a sketch by one of Paul's more technically proficient band members.

Inspired to try the interesting special visual effects in 'Mariupol', Peter made and showed a short film of two minutes called 'A Boy of Our Time' which was also created from free downloads. It was edited to another of Paul Foss's music compositions and was well received.



'A Boy of Our Time' by Peter Frost

Kathy Butcher regularly produces a press article about our SBMM club meetings for local newspapers. This serves to spread the word about our club and has resulted in many new visitors and members over the years. Here are her articles for June and August. Eds

New Member: Mike Logan - Animator

Mike Logan recently joined Surrey Border Movie Makers, he is a keen maker of animated films and was a stills photographer for many years. Mike showed several of his short animation films, the first film he showed featured a game of Chess titled 'Fools Mate', this was followed by 'Polar Bears' which was a comedy and the art of creating very convincing and successful animated water and lip sync were discussed.



The next film shown was called 'William Penn – A Forgotten History' which was an animation about the influential Quaker



'Polar Bears' by Mike Logan



'William Penn, a Forgotten History' by Mike Logan

born in 1644. The final film shown was 'Waverley Abbey', this was created using still photography which was then animated to produce a short film of the historic local landmark. The audience enjoyed the questions and answers about Mike's films and look forward to seeing more of his work.



'Waverley Abbey' by Mike Logan

Scoring BAFTA Entries

The final part of the evening covered the audiences own scoring of films which had been entered into the recent BIAFF (British International Amateur Film Festival), the three films shown an animation, a documentary and a drama all achieved high scores at BIAFF, it was an interesting exercise to compare the scores and analyse the films from a different perspective.

Most week-ends I am involved in filming a Sunday talk. Up until a few weeks ago, I used a Tascam DR60 which took a feed from the audio mixer auxiliary output, which of course was a balanced line. The DR 60 then recorded direct sound but it also gave an output to the Rode Filmmaker transmitter.

The transmitter is required due to the fact that the PA system is remotely controlled by an iPad, therefore the main inputs and outputs are by the stage area. However, the recording on the Tascam DR 60 was there only as a back up in case the transmitted signal corrupted, although it did act as an audio interface for the Rode transmitter.



DR60 connected to Rode TX

This signal was then picked up, of course, by the receiver mounted on my Black Magic Pocket Cinema Camera, which is situated about half way down the hall.

The problem, although not a big one, was having a good signal level but one that wouldn't distort should the speaker raise his or her voice. The DR60 of course does have a limiter on the input but this didn't help where the camera was concerned.

My Audio Upgrade to a Zoom F6

by Jack Visser

I considered the answer to be in using a recorder with Timecode Output and 32 bit float recording, highly desirable features that are increasingly included in budget recorders.

This led me to buy a Zoom F6 which has Timecode Output, giving me the advantage of being able to 'jam' the timecode on the BMPCC. (Jamming is over-riding the internal timecode on the camera). The BMPCC recognises a timecode input coming directly into the audio jack and so prior to filming I take the timecode output from the F6 and insert into the audio jack. This means I no longer need to transmit the signal to the camera as the sound stays in perfect sync with the video.



Zoom F6 xlr ports

The recorded sound from the Zoom F6 is of course superior to the camera audio or the DR 60.

When the sound and video are brought into Da Vinci Resolve software, they can be selected in the media pool, and on the drop down menu there is an option to 'sync using audio timecode'. The sound on the camera is then ignored and good quality sound from the F6 is used instead.

I have found the F6 to be a good solid little recorder, although I'm not overly keen on the menu system. Never the less, once one becomes familiar with it, it's easy enough to navigate.



Zoom F6

Apart from 32 bit float recording, it can also record in 16 and 24 bit linear. It can then make use of the built-in limiters. However, the limiters are digital and not analogue and therefore still have the potential of being over-riden by very loud sounds. The 32 bit float recording system also can suffer from digital error but I have to say that so far, I have never noticed it. Overall, I have been very pleased with Zoom F6, and if I purchased the available dongle for it, I could control it with an iPad, which adds to its flexibility.

FOR SALE!

Manfrotto MVH 502 AH Video Fluid Head

£60 or nearest offer Please contact **John Ivil** johngivil@gmail.com



(Ed: Currently £199 new on Amazon or £140 'used like new')

2023 CLUB DOCUMENTARY COMPETITION

September Club Meeting

by Kathy Butcher

This year there were four excellent films entered into the Documentary Competition by members. The films were shown at the September meeting in the following order:

'Great Cockrow Railway'

by Peter Frost

Peter produced an excellent fact filled, fascinating film about this 7-inch gauge railway in Chertsey which was created in 1946 by John Samuel.

The railway has evolved and extended over 15 years to become two 1-mile routes complete with a tunnel and stations. When passengers alight from their journey, they can visit a café for tea and cakes.

Peter was fortunate enough to be allowed behind the scenes to visit the workshops and sheds and took the opportunity to interview several of the drivers and an engineer and view some of the steam trains, the one on the left below is 100 years old.



The Great Cockrow Railway

'Outer Hebrides'

by Peter Stratford.

Peter never fails to produce very interesting documentaries and this film was no exception. The opening shots of the film captured the bleak, cold and windy winter months of the Outer Hebrides but soon moved on to the warmer summer months where wildlife and tranquil beaches abound.

Peter visited several locations including Stornoway, Isle of Lewis, Benbecula, South Uist and the Isle of Harris, home of the famous Harris Tweed.

The many single-track roads with passing places presented some filming challenges for the more remote areas, but Peter managed to create a very comprehensive history and travelogue of this beautiful area.

'The Making of... The Fall and Rise of Mr. Punch'

by Peter Stratford and Jack Visser

This film was originally entered under a Surrey Border Movie Makers group filming project by the 'Oddbod' team. Club member and keen animated film maker Dave Skertchly decided he wanted to write a script and make a humorous 'whacky and stupid' satirical type film based on Mr Punch of the Punch and Judy Show fame.

The film involved a lot of green screen shots, one of which even enabled Mr Punch to appear in the Kings Coronation celebrations. This and many of the other scenes were made possible by the expertise of Jim Reed and Mike Sanders' very knowledgeable input in the production.

This 'Making of' film was created to explain how and when the green screen was used, how some of the issues were resolved and also featured club members Jo Jones and Gillian Gatland being filmed for their parts as interviewers. The film was made as an interesting and informed insight into the 'behind the scenes' activity when making a more challenging film.



The Making of - The Fall and Rise of Mr. Punch

'Whitehaven'

by Peter Stratford

This documentary highlighted the town and port of Whitehaven on the NW Coast of Cumbria, which forms part of the Lake District National Park. Peter took the audience on a tour of this historical area which he explained is part of the Wainwright Hiking Trail.

Superb footage was taken of St Bee's Head, Solway Firth, Galloway and in the distance the Isle of Man. Peter explained some of the history of the area including the closing of the Haig Coal mine in 1986 which was then developed into a museum in 2013 but had to close in 2016 due to lack of funds. He also touched on the subject of the nearby Nuclear Power Processing Plant at Sellafield, which remains a controversial subject for many.



Whitehaven



The 2023 Documentary Competition winner was announced as 'Outer Hebrides' by Peter Stratford

After the tea break three films which had been entered into BIAFF (British International Amateur Film Festival) were shown and discussed.



Outer Hebrides



The Sound of Silence

Written and Illustrated by Peter Frost

Over the years I have enjoyed making videos locally, very locally in the garden and these included part of our Weyfarers film of 2020 *The Bric-a-Brac Roadshow* and prior to that *Springing into the Garden* plus various other sequences.

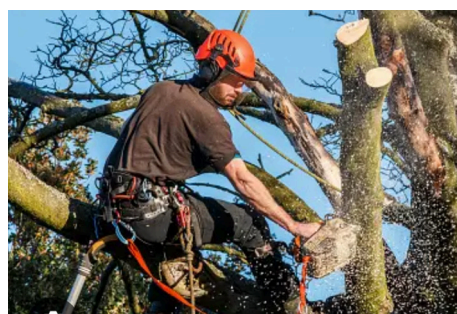
We are fortunate to live in a quiet area so sound for these films, usually chat to camera style, has never been an issue. During this beautiful summer, excluding the school holidays virtually at the start of which the weather went rapidly downhill, I wanted to do some more personal videos around the garden and still do as I write this in the unseasonal heat of early October.

But the usual peace has simply not existed this summer and it's not the predictable sound hazard of lawn mowing. This year we have been treated to a nearby new neighbour demolishing the large conservatory he inherited and building an extension the full width of the house. I have never heard so much noise as this project generated for 3 months. Huge crane lifts of materials, diggers heaving rubbish and soil onto lorry after lorry followed by the joyful sound of construction and yelling builders.

Then there's the weekly gardener for two very local houses. And right on cue, there goes his strimmer. His professional equipment is structured to destroy everything in its path in a dreadful whining way, not least your ear drums. But his 'piece de resistance' is his mobile leaf blower which achieves decibels strapped to his back that defy description. I've never quite understood the principle of leaves being blown from one place to another while destroying any possible chance of my wife and I enjoying a conversation in our garden. A rake is quiet and gives excellent upper body exercise by comparison. But then men love gizmos with motors, the noisier the better it seems, Could it be to compensate for inadequacies in their personal characteristics?

And who could deny the joy of the tree surgeons' sawing followed by the impressive branch crunching machine that ingests branches and spits them out as chippings, with a deafening sound track? There seem to have been a lot of tree branches demolished this year judging by the regular sound barrier being broken.

We have a neighbour with a garage full of smaller motorised equipment that likes to use. Smaller does not mean quieter, though, but rather higher pitched and screeching. Whether he is sawing, drilling, sanding or anything else, the only benefit to us is that the noise levels, pitches and style of the noise generation differs from one piece of kit to another - a delightful musical variety.



Two doors away bought their kids a swimming pool and this attracted other children. What good fun until the screaming started, and continued unchecked, on and on until our very quiet next door neighbour who works from home came into his garden and yelled words of death through the hedge to add to the furore. Ah, the joy of summer, and that's not even mentioning the planes; the Sunday school football close by where father's yell encouragement or the clay pigeon and pheasant shoot in Clendon Park in the opposite direction!

I'm sure the tech members of the club would say that microphones and software to deaden or remove unwanted background sound are available but I want the simple life and already have a mountain of equipment that is either unused or so occasionally called on that it is deep in dust. So why buy more? Get out and shoot videos in the middle of nowhere. Yes I've done that only to find foresters clearing land, a flying club nearby or a house deep in the forest doing everything I've just escaped from!

Instead here's a little

ODE TO THE SOUND OF SILENCE

The song of the saw isn't so good
Screaming its way through planks of wood,
Screeching sounds of an electric plane
Fighting the noise of a huge crane
Lifting soil in massive sacks
And hauling up concrete stacks.

The leaf blower revving up next door
To deafen us to the core
No single leaf goes unturned
While all peace is totally spurned
And rhythmic hammering sounds
Are heard repeatedly all round.

I have to give up, my kit goes away
What chance have I of recording today?
It's time for me to be unkind
With all the electrics I can find
Hedge trimmer, mower, chainsaw too
If you deafen me I'll do it to you.

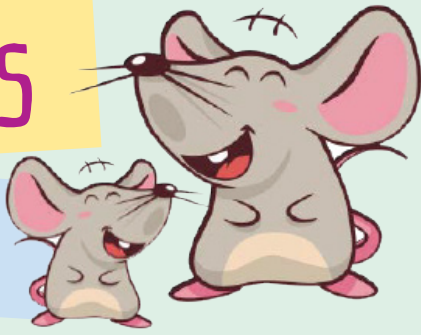
I created my own impressive din
And that's just how wars begin!



Rita's

Rib

Ticklers



Why does mineral water that's trickled through mountains for centuries have a 'use by' date?



I've just made a satellite dish out of a dustbin lid, and now all I'm getting on the TV is a load of rubbish.....

I see people my age out climbing mountains and zip wiring, and here I am feeling good about myself because I got my leg through my underwear without losing my balance.

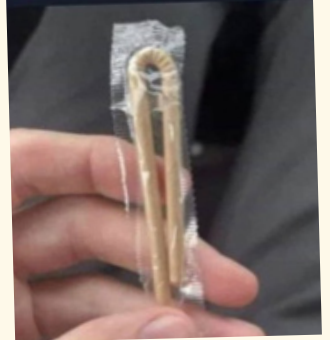
The 3 stages of life:
Wanting stuff.
Accumulating stuff.
Getting rid of stuff.



What do hospital gowns and some insurance policies have in common? You think you're covered, **butt you're not.**.....

PAPER STRAW IN PLASTIC WRAP

The green movement in a single photo.



"Mum, what's the WiFi password?"

"Clean your room first"

Then, 30 mins later

"Mum, I've cleaned my room, what's the WiFi password?"

"It's cleanyourroomfirst in lower case and no spaces."

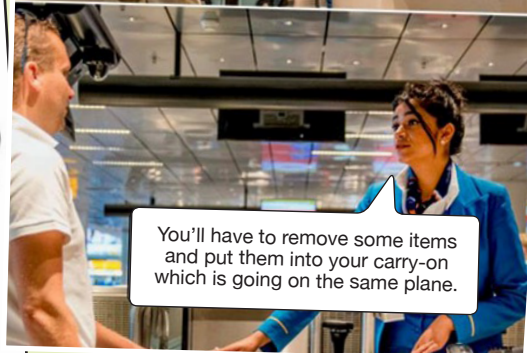


Rita's
FLIGHT
FUNNIES

What airlines think humans look like:



I'm sorry, it looks like your baggage is too heavy for the plane.



You'll have to remove some items and put them into your carry-on which is going on the same plane.



OMG, Susan! Can you imagine how luxurious planes in 50 years will be?

Tail Enders

CONTRIBUTORS!

Thanks to those who jumped to it and helped me by contributing to this issue: Kathy Butcher, Brian O'Connell, Rita Wheeler, Jack Visser and er - Me.



Surrey Border
movie makers

WHAT'S NEXT?

3rd November – Zoom meeting. Inter Club Competition

1st December – Results and awards for the Club Members' Competition at the St. Joan Centre

3rd December – Christmas lunch in The Barn at The Hen and Chicken

2024

5th January – Zoom meeting. An Evening of Film Analysis and .. (tbc)

2nd February – AGM plus Jim Reed and Dave Skertchly "More Animation" from 4000BC until today" at the St Joan's Centre.

Your Club Contacts

Chairman
Vice Chairman
Hon. Secretary
Hon. Treasurer
Webmaster, Slack and The Brain
Competition Officer
Digital Engagement Officer
Club Film Projects Co-ordinator
Public Relations Officer
Editor - Border Post
Social Events

Name:

Mike Sanders
Philip Morley
Rita Wheeler
Gillian Gatland
Jim Reed
Tim Stannard
Jim Reed
Dave Kershaw
Kathy Butcher
Philip Morley & Brian O'Connell
Rita Wheeler and Gillian Gatland

Email:

chairman@surreyborder.org.uk
secretary@surreyborder.org.uk

Your contributions for inclusion in Border Post will be appreciated together with photographs if possible.

Please send them to the Sub Editor.

Email address:

brianpoconnell2@gmail.com

COPY DEADLINE

December 2023 issue will be 14th of November so keep it coming. Late copy will be carried over to the next month. Thank you for your co-operation - Eds!



JUDGING FILMS PRESENTATION

October Meeting

Introduced by Kathy Butcher
Expanded by Peter Frost

Our October meeting was dedicated to the interesting subject of being a Film Judge and Film Judging with Tim Stannard and special guest Tom Hardwick. Tim and Tom have judged many films for a variety of competitions and have developed a technique.

It is the nature of Competitions that they include films of different types - for example documentary, drama, comedy, animation and so on, all of varying lengths and technical abilities. Achieving a balanced judgement across these different genres can be challenging.

This is just an introduction. See next month's Border Post for a fuller report on this Presentation.

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

Meetings are held at St Joan's Centre, 19 Tilford Road, Farnham GU9 8DJ, usually 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

FREE parking.

Border Post