



January/February 2017

FAST FORWARD

Chairman's Chat

From the Editor

The Portsdown 50/50

Christmas Dinner

Cinematography

Holiday Competition

Christmas Quiz

Dates for your Diary

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Although, articles for club nights will be produced by the Editorial Team we would love to receive any film related articles and photos from you, particularly about your filmmaking experiences.

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COVER PHOTO

The Italian Chapel, Orkney as seen in 'A Cruise Around The Islands' by Mike Morris.

IN THIS ISSUE

PAGE 3 **Chairman's Chat**
by Mike Morris

PAGE 3 **From the Editor**
by Clive Hand

PAGE 4 **The Portsdown 50/50**
by Alan Hepburn

PAGE 4 **Christmas Dinner**
by Robbie Grieve

PAGE 5 **Cinematography**
by Ren Curtis

PAGE 6 **Holiday Competition**
by Rupert Marks

PAGE 8 **Christmas Quiz**
by Clive Hand

PAGE 9 **Dates for your Diary**

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CHAIRMAN'S CHAT

by Mike Morris

Well, Christmas is over, the CFVM Dinner at the Robin Hood went well, food good and promptly served. We had table puzzles prepared by Alan, even though he couldn't be there, to while away any spare time – thank you Alan.

And now we are well into the New Year and have had our first meeting, and this brings me to the main theme of my chat.

The January 4th meeting was organised and run by Clive and Kevin and was a workshop on the subject of Visual FX. Clive took the first half and Kevin took over after the break. There will be a write-up elsewhere in Fast Forward so I won't say too much about the detail except that Kevin gave us a long-awaited explanation how he and James filmed "The Ball".

Visual FX was the third Workshop evening in Clive's 2016-17 programme. The first, on October 5th, was an interactive one on Animation when those present had the opportunity of making plasticine models and using stop motion to make a short cartoon film. At 25 frames a second we managed only very short productions during the evening and it reminded us of the patience needed to produce features like the adventures of Wallace and Grommit.

Kevin and James ran a Workshop on Cinematography for the second Workshop,

using a selection of commercial clips which made for a stirring and stimulating evening.

There are two more Workshops to come; on February 1st we have a practical evening dealing with one of the banes of the amateur filmmaker, narration and sound. Modern technology makes good exposure and focussing easy so the image onscreen is good but many amateur films are let down by poor sound quality. I'm particularly looking forward to learning something from this one.

Finally on April 26th comes the Post Production Workshop, another practical evening where, to quote our programme, "members working in groups will have the opportunity to edit raw footage, create visual FX, add music and sound FX".

Why do I devote this chat to this series of Workshops? Simply to illustrate why CFVM is such a thriving and productive club. The Workshops are the initiative of Clive, supported mainly by Kevin and James, with the intention of getting us all back into making some films ourselves. Remembering what the M in our abbreviated title stands for we should try and avoid becoming simply a film appreciation society.

Secondly I wanted to remind everyone how much time and effort is put into preparing these evenings and to record our thanks to Clive, Kevin and James in this column.

In the last Chat I mentioned the disappointing lack of support we are getting from some other clubs for the Albany

Competition. The usual reason is that membership is dwindling, aging and unable to produce suitable films to enter. This is a shame and we may have to change the Albany rules in future to keep the competition alive.

FROM THE EDITOR

by Clive Hand



First of all I would like to wish all our members a Happy New Year!

In the past when we have talked about writing a script for club productions we have stressed the need to consider the club's capability and resources, one or two actors, easy locations, etc. But the resulting films have perhaps lacked a little bit of production value.

Over the last few months we have been turning the winning script from our earlier screenplay evening into our Albany production. I was recently reflecting on that production and it occurred to me that totally ignores any previous advice given. We have 12 actors appearing in the production, filmed at 4 very challenging locations. Plus the story is also set in the recent past with all the challenges that presents in terms of props and costumes.

The film has been a challenge to make but the members involved have risen to that challenge. Without giving too much away before the Albany I know that with the hard work and effort that everyone has put into the making of the film the production value will far exceed anything previously produced by the club. It has been an absolute pleasure to have been part of it and I can't wait to see the finished film. Well done to all those involved.

THE PORTSDOWN 50/50

CHRISTMAS DINNER



On previous occasions this meeting had been a challenge between the two clubs, but this year it was decided that we would have a social evening with each club providing a film programme of about 40 minutes of films. So we welcomed 10 members from Portsdown to view 5 films from each club viewed alternately.

First to be shown was our Albany entry for 2016 "Three Little Words". All was going well until about three quarters of the way through when the film froze. We of course knew the outcome, but our visitors were left in the dark. Did Alfie succumb or recover from his stroke? It was decided that we would show the final few scenes after the break.

Portsdown's "Memories of Childhood" was next. This was a very interesting story of Havant War Memorial Hospital, and in particular the tiled panels which had decorated the children's wards. These had been hand painted by William Rowe and manufactured by Royal Doulton and depicted nursery rhymes. They were saved and restored and are now in Havant's Museum.

Greg's "Legend of King Canute" was then shown with the humour being well received and appreciated.

And so we came to the break. This was an opportunity for members from Portsdown to quiz CFVM members on the outcome of our first film as we all partook of the various refreshments which had been provided by CFVM members and ably organised by Paula.

The second half of the programme started and Portsdown eagerly awaited the climax of "Three Little Words".

But alas the second disc froze also so we had to suffice with explaining the ending to our visitors.

"Jack's Bike" had its own problems, but these were in the making and resulted in a nice humorous film. Jack tried to explain why his old motorbike which he had restored had a different number on the plate at the front to the one on the back. All very confusing, especially the way that he kept getting himself mixed up.

Mike explained that our next film was called "Jumpers Again" because originally there had been a film called just "Jumpers".

"Freedom March" from Portsdown showed the men and women of HMS Collingwood and the Band of the Royal Marines marching through Fareham. The vantage points taken by the cameraman contributed to a very well constructed, entertaining and informative film.

"Crossing the T" was very well received, and held the attention of the audience as it did when we first saw it.

Finally "Southern Shores" from Portsdown entertained us with the delights of Eastney, Lulworth Cove and Brixham. The camerawork was exceptional with very detailed close ups of wildlife.

In closing, both Mike Morris and Roger Newell the Portsdown chairman agreed jokingly that it might have been the wrong decision to make it a non competitive evening and Stewart thanked us for our hospitality and looked forward to their hosting the event next year.

by Alan Hepburn

This year the club held their Christmas Dinner at the Robin Hood, Shripney, where we enjoyed a festive three course meal and lively company. Besides the traditional turkey for the main course there were plenty of other options for those who either don't like it or wanted to save the experience for the big day.



The evening was enlivened with a couple of fiendish quizzes devised by Alan which kept our brains ticking over while providing a great deal of amusement. Matching the real names of Hollywood stars to their pictures was a mix of the easy and downright impossible. The Dingbats – those mixes of words, numbers and symbols representing well known phrases – were even harder. With much conferring my table managed to get 21 out of 24.

The evening ended with a vote



of thanks by Mike to Paula for organising the evening and him wishing us all a Happy Christmas and a safe journey home.

A big thank you to Paula for organising the evening.

by Robbie Grieve



CINEMATOGRAPHY

At the opening of this Club meeting Mike Morris, our chairman, informed those present that 4 films had been entered for the Holiday Competition to be held in two weeks' time. He also reminded everyone of the arrangements for the Annual Xmas dinner to be held at the Robin Hood Pub, at Shripney, on Wednesday 21st December. To date 22 folks will go along which should make it a fun filled festive time for all.

He then introduced James and Kevin who would present a workshop entitled Cinemaphotography to include demonstrations and some practical work.

James began by describing Cinematography as an art of Photography and Camerawork in the making of films.

This was followed by an extremely interesting history of Cinematic Development from 1830s. It all began with moving images being first produced on revolving drums and the first successful camera, invented by Francis Ronalds in 1845, which could produce continuous recordings. The earliest surviving motion picture, entitled Roundhay Garden Scene, was filmed by Louis Le Prince in 1888.

This form of entertainment

became so popular it led to Movie theatres being opened in France, Italy, Belgium and London in 1896.

He moved on to the first commercially successful projector in 1896 and the invention of mercury lamps which made it practical to shoot films without daylight. The first animated cartoon was produced in 1906 and in 1915 Bell and Howell invented a camera which allowed directors to make close-up shots without moving the camera.

Progress was such that by the 1920s, films were produced with live sound and by the 1973 most films were being shot in colour. The worldwide distribution of films became commonplace and the making of "blockbusters" came to the

fore. In 2013, Paramount were the first major film company to distribute films in purely digital format which eliminated the usual 35mm film altogether.

He then explained what aspects contributed to the art of Cinematography and included Framing, Composition, Filters, Lens, Depth of Field and Focus, Lighting and Camera Movement.

The Cinematographer or Director of Photography, is the person in charge of shooting the film. He is involved in pre-production, story boarding and shot selection throughout. He will study the Script in every way to plan the camera work. Importantly he must be a good communicator to get the best out of those under his direction on the set, including other technicians and the actors. The complexities in the making of films is enormous and the styles of doing so are widely different. Examples of these different styles adopted by famous Cinematographers were Michael Bay, Steven Spielberg and David Fincher.

It was clear that one should always think of the Cinematographer as a complete artist in the field of Movie Making.

Continued on next page.....



CINEMATOGRAPHY HOLIDAY COMPETITION

....Continued from previous page.

Kevin explained a floor plan using "Masters". Three cameras were set up to in this configuration and he demonstrated how it was used in basic cinema photography. One of the cameras being the 'Master' and took in the whole scene while others were placed to take a variety of different shots relative to the production.

He also demonstrated focusing, framing and depth of field along with foreground and background movement. The use of different lenses for specific takes and the positioning of lighting for the best effect was included. The method of using multiple cameras was quicker and cheaper in shooting films and made the editing process easier.



All this involved 'hands on' for members which made for a most interesting session. The emphasis throughout centred on trying to develop your own style in film making.

Clearly, Kevin and James had put a great deal of hard work into the workshop for us and it such a great pity that technical problems were experienced. Never-the-less their efforts were very much appreciated as was demonstrated by the warmth of applause by all members present.

By Ren Curtis



Tonight's programme was billed as 'Whether your travels have taken you home or abroad this is your opportunity to show what you have been up to this summer (Guideline 15 minutes)'.

Well, going by the number of entries, it appears that not many people this year have done very much. More importantly, if members have been on trips out, however near or far, however exotic or mundane, either they are not telling us, or they have not been filming their journeys, excursions and adventures for the rest of us to enjoy!

There were only four films in tonight's show, all judged beforehand by Rodney Reeder, Alan Hepburn and Greg Birkenshaw, and with a total running time of 33 minutes and 16 seconds. The judges' comments on these films were varied, some fair, some harsh and some humorous. The feedback was very balanced, with some focusing on the technical production of the films, whilst others seemed to prefer to concentrate on the actual content – not just what they saw, but also what they thought was missing and what

they would have liked to have seen included.

Although there were not many films, there seemed to be a very watery theme to the proceedings, with three out of the four films taking place on cruises.

First up was the only land-based entry, 'Furry Dance', by Richard Plowman. Filmed in Helston, it told of a tradition that takes place in the town, usually on 8th May each year. It is part of the ancient May festival to welcome spring, with many people from around the world coming to watch and enjoy the many bands and dances taking place on the day. The judges enjoyed this film but did comment on the seemingly endless processions which they said could have been broken up with the use of more than one camera to capture what was going on.

Next up was God's Waiting Room. On hearing the title, I made the same mistake as Mike Morris, who was presenting the evening, into thinking that this would be a film about Bognor Regis or some other sleepy location with a high elderly population which, because of this nickname, had

HOLIDAY COMPETITION

Continued from previous page.

automatically been given an unfair reputation. It was, in fact, a New Year's Eve Party aboard the QEII as enjoyed by Ray and Paula Puleston. The judges did comment that there was a sequence, at the start, of lots of posters, 16 in all, set to a suitably nautical musical arrangement. There was a nice change of music for the internal scenes, and all in all, made for a very interesting travelogue of their voyage for them to remember and for others to enjoy.

The third film was Sail Away Party, a cruise on the Oriana, as filmed and edited by Ren Curtis. Featuring a great party taking place on board, with shots filmed from above from a curved balcony. According to judge Greg, 'it made me feel great, it was a window into enjoyment', although he also commented that he would have liked to have seen something else happen.

The final film of the competition, but not the final film of the evening was A Cruise Around The Islands, which was a travelogue by Mike Morris. This cruise was not on the same scale as the



Screenshot from 'Sail Away Cruise' by Ren Curtis.

previous two we had seen, but, nevertheless, made for an interesting and informative travelogue, including shots of a flypast by the Red Arrows, which, as the judges said, demonstrated the difficulties of filming such subjects. After all, Mike couldn't very well ask them to fly by again so that he could film another take!

The evening was finished off with a showing of 'Valleta', by Alan Hepburn. Yes, this was a holiday film, but as a judge for the competition, Alan was not allowed to include a film of his own, a message repeated once again - if you don't want to be a judge, make a film, enter it into that particular competition, and you won't be 'volunteered' to do so!

By Rupert Marks



St Colman's Cathedral, Cobh as seen in 'A Cruise Around the Islands' by Mike Morris.

HOLIDAY COMPETITION 2016

FIRST PLACE

'A CRUISE AROUND THE ISLANDS'
Mike Morris

SECOND PLACE

'GOD'S WAITING ROOM'
Ray Puleston

THIRD PLACE

'FURRY DANCE'
Richard Plowman

FOURTH PLACE

'SAIL AWAY PARTY'
Ren Curtis

As usual, the winning film was shown again.

CHRISTMAS QUIZ

The Christmas Quiz has become somewhat of a tradition in the club and is always good fun. This year was no exception and our quizmasters Alan and Kevin had produced some interesting rounds to challenge members.

Members had to draw numbers from the 'metaphoric hat' to determine which of the four teams they would be in. A table quiz had been distributed to get us started and ready for the first round.



There were 6 rounds in total, including the table round. The first round an 'easy starter' round of 20 questions about films. With the scores ranging from 17 to 19 the round lived up to its name.

The second round was a music round where we had to name movie themes. This was a great round but a couple of teams did struggle with this one. By the end of this round teams 2 and 3 were moving into a solid lead.

It was then time for a break and the traditional mulled wine. Paula very kindly provided a plate of goodies for each team including minced pies and lovely Stollen cake. Thank you, Paula,! It was then back to the quiz.

The next round was called 'true and false' and designed to get us up, moving about and working off some of that Stollen

cake. One member from each team was selected to go out the front. They were then presented with a question and had to determine if it was true and false. For true they moved to the left side of the room and for false to the right side of the room. If you answered incorrectly you sat down. The more you got correct the more points you got. Each member of the team took their turn at the front. Rupert was the star of this round and was up there on his own answering questions for some time.

Round 5 was a 'Musical' round. Our quizmasters played a DVD which consisted of a song from a musical and a photo of a different musical. The teams had to name which musical the song was from and the name of the musical depicted by the photo,

The final round was a 20 question general knowledge round to finish off the evening. This was a closely fought round with only one point separating



all four teams.

The final scoreboard showed that Team 4 (Rupert, Mathias, Hugo & Clive) were the winners with 87 points. The team was presented with the usual generous prize consisting of Maltesers, Zingy Orange Matchmakers and chocolate money.

It really was a fun evening and Alan and Kevin deserve a big thank you for all the preparation and hard work they put into making it such an enjoyable evening.

Great job guys!

by Clive Hand



The winning quiz team (L to R) Rupert Marks, Clive Hand, Matias Hale and Hugo Purchase.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

8th April 2017

2017 SERIAC FILM FESTIVAL

The Oast Theatre, Tonbridge
Website: www.seriac.org.uk

9th April 2017

2017 ALBANY COMPETITION

Theme: Drama Queen
The Newell Centre, Chichester
Hosted by Chichester Film & Video Makers

21st to 23rd April 2017

BIAFF BRITISH INTERNATIONAL AMATEUR FILM FESTIVAL

Closing date 31st January 2017
Market Harborough, Leicestershire
Hosted by CEMRIAC
Visit the IAC website for full details: www.theiac.org.uk

19th—22nd October 2017

IAC CONVENTION & AGM

Sittingbourne, Kent
Hosted by SERIAC
Visit the IAC website for further details: www.theiac.org.uk

