

September/October 2015



# FAST FORWARD



**Chairman's Chat**

**From the Editor**

**Workshop No: 3**

**Sunset Drinks**

**Welcome Back**

Registered Charity No. 1110816

[www.cfvm.org.uk](http://www.cfvm.org.uk)

## COPY DEADLINES

Nov/Dec Issue	4th November 2015
Jan/Feb Issue	6th January 2016
Mar/Apr Issue	2nd March 2016
May/Jun Issue	11th May 2016
Jul/Aug Issue	6th July 2016
Sept/Oct Issue	7th September 2016

Copy to Clive Hand

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## DUTY SCRIBE

Here is a short rota for the Duty Scribe. If you can't make your due date, ***please make your own arrangements*** for your substitution with another member. To just not turn up, means a meeting does not get recorded and the information is lost for ever. Copy should be forwarded to the editor as soon as possible after the event.

**Plain text, no indents, no formatting, Arial font 12 points please.**

Nov 4th	Alan Hepburn
Nov 18th	Tina Keller
Dec 2nd	Mike Pepper

## TEA ROTA

Please note the tea rota has dropped to one person per meeting to assist Paula who is happy to organise for each meeting.

If you can't make your due date, ***please make your own arrangements*** for your substitution with another member or the rest of us do not get any tea!

Nov 4th	Stan Harvey-Merritt
Nov 18th	Anderina Morris
Dec 2nd	Not Required

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## COVER PHOTO

A 'selfie' of Chairman Mike Morris and Programme Secretary Clive Hand at the recent sunset drink. Like the hat Mike!

# CHAIRMAN'S CHAT



Following our very successful summer programme our new season started with the traditional welcome back evening with wine and nibbles to accompany a stimulating programme of 11 prizewinning films from the British International Amateur Film Festival. We were also pleased to welcome four guests, one of whom came all the way from New Zealand, and even the most zealous of us were surprised to learn that our fame had travelled that far.

The next meeting will be run by John Bradshaw who will be showing "The Quest", his very ambitious film based on the story of the Holy Grail. Two years ago at one of our meetings devoted to kicking around some ideas for new films John outlined his plans for this and described the planning which had gone into it and the difficulties that the project presented.

Last year we saw some rushes and learned of the challenges John had met and overcome and also the problems still to be solved, costumes, weather, continuity, locations, all the usual problems of filmmaking but on an almost professional level. From talking to John I believe "The Quest" will produce as much credit for the reputation of CFVM's members as "My Dear Murray" has done.

After that, and by popular request, we see the return of our Film in a Night evening when we hope as many members as possible will join in to shoot a film in two hours, and then take a DVD of the camerawork home and produce their own edited versions for showing in February. The success of this

type of evening depends very much on how many members get involved and there is no doubt we can all learn something new from putting our names down as actor, director, cameraman or –woman, sound, lighting, continuity, costumes, set dressing etc.

I have been chairman of two camera clubs, Windsor and Bognor, several times over the last 25 years and I know very well how important the support of a good committee can be. Recently we have lost two very able chairmen and committee members in Harry Page and Keith Baker and it took us a while to recover from that. We persuaded a relatively new member, Kevin, to come on to the committee and he has quickly become a very valued addition.

At our last committee meeting I raised my concern that one of our logos, the strip of film, was inappropriate for us. The film format was not even cine film but 35mm snapshot film – hardly appropriate now even for camera clubs where digital imaging has virtually taken over – and if we changed it to cine film format we would seem to be taking a step backwards.

Different ideas were discussed; mini DV tape and SDHC cards don't make exciting logos and then someone had the bright idea of using a clapperboard. Just the right thing to show we are an active filmmaking club we all agreed. Now who is going to progress that? Kevin offered and two days later he circulated to the committee a draft for comment – and eventual approval. The result can be seen on our website and in some of our new publicity.

It is no surprise that Kevin in his first year as a committee member received an almost unanimous vote for the Pearman Award for clubmanship. His work on our website and Facebook are invaluable and not forgetting, of course, his contribution to the club's reputation by his films. When not working for CFVM he ensures that the patients and staff at Bognor Regis Memorial Hospital are fed.

Ex chairman and current programme secretary Clive has now developed the successful summer programme this year into something even more exciting for next summer, a series of "Introduction to Filmmaking" workshops, open to members and prospective members, and is working on the Course Book. More of this later.

So to all the committee, but particularly to Kevin and Clive, I say a heartfelt Thank You for making my job easier, and almost a pleasure.

## 10 COMMON MISTAKES AMATEUR FILMMAKERS MAKE

1. Weak story
2. Bad sound
3. Poor casting (acting)
4. Poor shot composition
5. Poor Lighting
6. Too many pregnant pauses
7. No blocking (movement)
8. Too much chit chat
9. Clichés
10. Generic music

## FROM THE EDITOR by Clive Hand



Since taking over as Editor of Fast Forward there have been ongoing changes to the format of the magazine and this issue is no exception.

The changes in this issue have in the main been driven by our fantastic new website, developed by Kevin. You will also have read in the Chairman's Chat about the new logo which has also been designed by Kevin. It has given the website a much needed modern look and I wanted to continue this theme in our magazine and hopefully give it a more modern feel. It will be interesting to hear your views.

You will recall that at the AGM we discussed moving towards a small editorial team. We now have a proof reader on what is now a team of two and I am now looking for a third person to join the team.

At the request of a member I included a short 'techy' article on 3 point lighting in the last issue and it would be good to have this as a regular feature. So I am on the lookout for someone to join the editorial team and produce a technical article for each issue. If you are interested and are up for the challenge please let me know.

Also any suggestions on what technical articles they would like to see please email your thoughts.

# WORKSHOP NO:3

## by Clive Hand

It was time for last workshop of the summer and a chance to see the results of all the hard work and effort of the two teams, tasked to produce a film incorporating objects provided by yours truly.

The challenge was to produce a film from a storyboard produced as part of the first workshop. The two storyboards brought along to this final workshop were really good and it was clear that the storyboard artists had picked up on the tips from the first evening.

There was also an opportunity for members to have a go at editing their own version of the film from the raw footage. A couple of members were unable to produce their 'cut' in time due to time constraints and technical difficulties. Despite only three films being produced, the evening turned out to be an extremely enjoyable, interesting and educational evening.

On the night members were split into 4 groups. Following each film there was a period of 15 minutes for each group to discuss and critique each film. There were two simple questions to be answered for each film, 'what worked well' and 'what didn't work so well'. Following feedback from each group a general discussion took place picking up on any learning points.

The first film to be shown was called 'The Day that went Wrong' edited by Alan



Hepburn. The story followed two villains wanted for armed robbery who dispose of evidence, namely the masks they were wearing, throwing them in an unsuspecting elderly gentleman's car as they drove by. When they realise they have also disposed of some incriminating evidence they unsuccessfully try to retrieve it. Unfortunately, a policeman comes onto the scene, sees the evidence in his car and it's a case of mistaken identity with the elderly gentleman being arrested.



The general views for the critiques were in the main positive. However, an issue with sound levels was noticed and in some places the dialogue was difficult to hear and the editor had difficulties resolving the issue. Dealing with sound issues in post-production is something that all amateur filmmakers struggle with and it generated quite a lot of discussion and turned into a very good learning point. Suggestions from members for increasing volume and depth included increasing 'gain' and 'doubling' or duplicating the sound track.

**Continued on next page....**

### **..Workshop No: 3 continued**

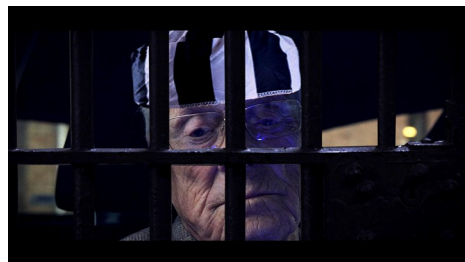
The second film was called 'The First Lady' edited by James Keller. This told the story of the President of the United States who was being blackmailed by a journalist who discovers he is a cross-dresser!

I think that most groups found it a little difficult to follow the story but generally members were positive in respect of the technical aspects including the binocular effect, which everyone thought was really good. So a really good effort despite filming on location in a local park with the challenges of the ambient sound, including wind noise.

The last film was 'Crime Stoppers' and edited by Kevin Prichard. This used exactly the

same footage as the first film 'The Day that went Wrong' but it was amazing to see the difference with a completely different choice of shots by the editor. It was no surprise to see some excellent special effects with Kevin choosing to pay homage to the movies. A one liner, "You were only supposed to throw the bloody masks away" was instantly recognised as a tribute to Michael Caine in the 'Italian Job'. There was a classic transition between two shots as used in the original 'Batman' series. And at the end members were in fits of laughter when following the arrest of 'Rodney' a prison cap dropped on his head and the jail bars dropped down to the theme music from 'The Great Escape' and reminiscent of the cooler scene with Steve

McQueen. All positive feedback on this one really, with the sound issues from the first film resolved in post productions and excellent use of Foley sounds.



I thought it was a really excellent evening and despite only three films we still managed to run overtime due to the interest and great amount of discussion from the members. So a big thank you to all members who took part and made it such a successful workshop.

# SUNSET DRINKS

by Jacquie Clarke

For the first time in my memory, the annual get together for Sunset Drinks took place inside the Walnut Tree at Runcton instead of in its usually sun-filled garden.

Undeterred by the inclement weather 11 members turned up for a catch up of summer activities and film projects for the coming club season.

Now it's a welcome return of our regular first Friday in the month lunchtime visits to the Walnut Tree for informal chats on all things to do with filming.



# WELCOME BACK

## by PAM BAKER



In the first official evening of our new season we were rewarded with an unexpected treat. Clive announced a showing of a selection of the BIAFF 2015 award winning films. Is this a gentle push into upping our game I wonder?

Mike read out the necessary notices and greeted our new visitors and then we went on with the show. The films were as follows:-

### POPPING THE QUESTION

by Kingsley Hoskins

*Best Story and IAC Diamond Award*

The story of a hopeless romantic who tries to find inventive ways of proposing to his girl friend and fails with each attempt! Brief scenes, with flashes of comedy throughout to keep up the pace. The star appears sweet and sincere but also comes across as a little dopy as he attempts to ask his girlfriend to marry him in many ways. One bright idea playing scrabble made me wonder how many takes were made to get that scrabble board to flip up and over? A very enjoyable film and not a word was spoken and he did win the girl in the end.

### SUPERDOG

by Jacob Crow

*Imagen Music Sponsors Award and an IAC 4 Stars*

A mysterious scientist kidnaps dog, bombards him with rays and makes him Superdog, who flies, rescues people from fires, foils crooks ... but the treatment does not last for long. This film opened in the Hollywood style with 'CRANLINGTON'.

Students at the local primary school were asked to design storyboards for short 3-minute

films, and the best 3 were then actually produced. Follow that ...well they did and Jacob Crow created an ingenious animation film with Superdog getting superpowers from a mysterious scientist, and was out to save the world!, all constructed from Lego. A fast paced film, very ingenious and could, no doubt, have a sequel!

### FALL

By Angus Bentham, Bysshe Harkavy, Cloe Crolla-Maas, Hugh Nelson, Jack Clare, Jack Simmons, Joe Morris, Maggie Stanaszek, Robert Blythe, Samuel Coliduck, Sarah Carroll, Shelley Maddock, Stephanie Cowley, Georgina Howarth-Evans & Tremayne Taylor

*Best British Young Filmmaker and IAC 5 Stars.*

Jim struggles to come to terms with the loss of his partner. Isolated in his house, he tries to ignore his inner conflict, burying his thoughts and emotions deep within. Opening shots show Jim developing prints of his lost partner in deep despair, listening to the voice of his partner's father thanking Jim for his friendship to his son. Jim struggles to accept what happened when they were both attacked and his partner died, not being able to go out through the front door until he sees the tree surgeons through the window and forces himself outside to say goodbye to the tree where Jim and his partner had taken photos and has shared many happy moments. A very moving film, very well acted. I'm sure we will be seeing more films from this group.

### ALFIE

by Jack Spring

*Best 60 Second MOVIE and IAC 4 Star Awards*

Alfie writes to his younger self, watching him grow up, studying too hard at school and losing his friends; then a few years on to have some FUN (of the carnal type) and on to a more mature Alfie courting for real. But alas Alfie looking back over the years has reached a point in adult life where his wife has cheated on him, he's lost his babies through 'recreational' drugs and wishing he could start over. His advice to his younger self is to not think too hard about the future, for fear he'll end up.... well, back in the same place. A very well constructed story which seemed longer than 60 seconds and told a good story.

### ACID RAIN

by John Roberts

*Best Music Video, Award IAC 4 Stars.*

Music video commenting on the state of the environment and the world we live in, suggesting that there really is no escape. Unfortunately the words to the song were not easily understood and, although the theme came across, this was mainly due to the visuals. The shots where the band was playing were, in my opinion, very well edited and on numerous occasions changed on the beat of the music.

Perhaps not everyone's cup of tea but I personally liked the sound and thought it told the story.

*Continued on next page....*

....**Welcome Back continued**

## **BORNEO JUNGLE SOUNDSCAPE**

**by John Grey**

*Most Creative use of Sound, IAC 4 Stars*

The sights and sounds of Borneo's jungle Opening shots led us into a feast of beautifully sharp photography and a fascinating subject. Painstaking photography, with incredible close up shots of animals, insects and the forest itself emitting an amazing atmosphere. The sounds of the forest that accompanied the film ran smoothly through, changing without notice. Where did those 6 minutes go. I really liked this film.

## **WRITER'S BLOCK**

**by Bob Lorrimer**

*Best Comedy and IAC Diamond Award*

A renowned Poet struggles with his latest composition as he wanders along with pencil and paper struggling to find the right words, offering all manner of alternatives to fit into his sentence – finally, as totally predicted, coming up with a sentence from another poem all too familiar to his audience, and being attacked in the final shots by a field of sunflowers.... or was it daffodils. As ever, a film by Bob Lorrimer offers great expectations and this does not disappoint. He has a wonderful sense of humour and acts the part exquisitely, another gem.

## **THE QUESTION**

**by Jack Spring**

*The Carlin Production Music Sponsors Award, IAC 5 Stars Award.*

A challenge. A puzzle to be solved. A question to be answered ... but is it real? This film kept us guessing from start to finish. Waking up from a captured state and thrown into challenge only to find you are not the only one, searching

for the answer! Did they get it, not sure. Did I get it, absolutely not. Whilst well filmed and acted, maybe I wasn't supposed to 'get it'.

## **THE PATIENT FISHERMAN**

**by Jill Lambert**

*AKM Music Sponsors Award, IAC 5 Stars*

Good morning – the opening line in the film, a line which is always used by Scots as they doff their hats when they share their fishing with the Grey Heron. This film led you through the behaviour and breeding pattern of the Grey Heron in an extremely informative way. It draws you in with beautiful photography and a very easy narration. Everyone appreciates how long it takes to capture such shots from the mating to the chicks with their parents – then to taking off on their own. Delightful to watch, with lovely photography, good sound and the 9 minutes flew by! That's not a pun.

## **RANSOM NOTE**

**by Colchester Film Makers Club**

*Best Entry Affiliated Club, Best Editing Award and IAC Diamond Award*

This film started in an interesting way. Good titles. The shots were all in blocks, horizontal, vertical, in blocks of one, two or three, very different to normal format of full screen. And so it continued in this way to the end of the film. There were no faces nor voices, we were led through the film as though we were watching a news report, only this time, at the end, the 'truth' is revealed. The story was of a mysterious ransom note which provokes strange reactions and leaves the viewer to solve. Did I solve it, unfortunately not but maybe that is missing the point. It was very unusual film which obviously appealed to the judges.

## **COPY THAT**

**by Kingsley Hoskins**

*Daily Mail Challenge Trophy as Best Film of Festival, Best British Entry and IAC Diamond Award.*

In any office the copier room is where people meet, gossip and sometimes fall in love, but this copier is no ordinary copier, it has the ability to read minds and give the answer to make things happen. The story of two young people both looking for more in their life, one looking for love the other not so sure, but both devastated. However, the copier gave them the answers. The actors in this film were exceptional, especially the young girl. The storyline was clever and very well executed and, of course, everything came right in the end. It's always amazing how the minutes fly by when the film holds your interest, a great film. I enjoyed this very much.

The evening was helped along with the usual first night wine and nibbles and I wonder how many people watching the films through the programme had thought I could do that. We have some very talented film makers but I really think the answer lies with the actors, it was clear this evening that all those films had very good actors scooping up all those brownie points. A lovely evening.

## **WANT TO SEE MORE**

If you would like to see more films like those in this article you can find a vast number of similar films from amateur filmmakers by going online.

Either go directly to YouTube and Vimeo or via the IAC Website at [www.theiac.org.uk](http://www.theiac.org.uk)

# DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

**Sunday 4th October 2015**

## **SUSSEX FILM FESTIVAL**

Wivelsfield Village Hall, Eastern Road, Wivelsfield Green RH17 7QH

**Sunday 3rd April 2016**

## **ALBANY COMPETITION**

Newell Centre, Tozer Way, Chichester PO19 7LG

**Saturday 9th April 2016**

## **SERIAC FILM FESTIVAL 2016**

**CLOSING DATE FOR ENTRIES 31ST JANUARY 2016**

The Oast Theatre, London Road, Tonbridge, Kent TN10 3AN

Send your entries to:

Rita Hayes, 70 Eglinton Hill, Woolwich, SE18 3NR

Freddy Beard, 56 Rookesley Road, Orpington BR5 4HJ

**14th to 17th April 2016**

## **BIAFF**

## **BRITISH INTERNATIONAL AMATEUR FILM FESTIVAL**

**CLOSING DATE FOR ENTRIES 31ST JANUARY 2016**

Cairn Hotel, Harrogate HG1 2JD

Visit the IAC website for full details: [www.theiac.org.uk](http://www.theiac.org.uk)

