

March/April 2016

FAST FORWARD



C F V M

Chichester
Film & Video Makers

Chairman's Chat

From the Editor

The Keith Baker One Minute Competition

Turning Holiday Films into Documentaries

Turning Holiday Films into Documentaries Part 2

Documentary Competition

Screenplay Evening Part 1

Registered Charity No. 1110816

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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.

Apr 27th	Alan Hepburn
May 11th	Tina Keller
May 25th	Paula Puleston

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!

Apr 27th	James Keller
May 11th	Mike Rice
May 25th	Not Required

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COVER PHOTO

Director Kevin Prichard and Assistant Director James Keller preparing to shoot a scene during our latest club production.



CHAIRMAN'S CHAT by Mike Morris

was difficult and it made us rethink the structure of these aspects of our club. We realised that currently our website and Facebook page are the main ways we make contact with members, potential members, other clubs and the public at large.

It therefore seemed appropriate to accept the need to come into the 21st century and make the website and Facebook our prime means of publicising our activities. Some social events will still need arranging in the usual way and this will be handled by me and the committee members as necessary.

I hope this will be seen as a progressive and eminently sensible idea by all members, some of whom probably share my general distrust of change.

As I write this we have had a preview of our entry for the Albany and we await with great anticipation the competition on Sunday April 3rd. This is being hosted by Surrey Borders Movie Makers, last year's winners, and will be held in the Newell Centre, our home ground so I hope CFVM will be strongly represented. And if the judges agree that our film is as good as we think it is, we could be hosting the Albany next year.

Whatever the result we have entered a serious and thought provoking film and everyone involved should feel proud of their achievement.

It's probably something to do with advancing years but I find it difficult, and sometimes irritating, to accept change. The pace of change of technology, particularly digital communications, is mind-blowingly fast and it's hard to keep up.

No sooner have I got to grips with some innovation – got to grips merely means I recognise the word and have a vague idea what it means, not that I have been and bought the novelty – than I find it is already last week's gizmo. The amount of money I've saved by being slow on the uptake is considerable.

I also get irritated in supermarkets when the wily marketer keeps moving things around so it takes longer to find what I want. I just want to get in, get what I want and get out again but he wants to confuse me and make me waste time looking for it in the hope I'll buy something I had no intention of buying.

But sometimes even I have to admit that the old way, the tried and trusted way, may no longer be the best way.

This was brought home to me recently when we were faced with the need to find someone to take over the post of Social Secretary and Publicity. Finding a successor to Jacque

FROM THE EDITOR by Clive Hand



The year is quickly flying by, and by the time you read this the AGM will have come and gone.

There are still some good things to look forward to on the programme.

Bob Lorrimer has very kindly sent us a selection of his films and so on the 30th March we will have a very full evening. I had thought that I had seen most of Bob's films but there are a number of new titles for me, so it should be a fun evening.

The following meeting is the Annual Competition and as in previous years we would ask members entering films to provide two DVD's so we can get a copy off to the outside judges the following day to ensure sufficient time to get the results for Kevin to work his magic for the Oscars on 25th May.

Don't forget there is also the annual challenge with the South Downs Movie Makers on 18th May at Ferring.

Unfortunately, due to the work involved in the Oscars presentation and holiday, Kevin will be unable to prepare his evening on 'The Making of the Ball' so there will be a change of programme and we will update you on that by flyer once arrangements are made.

THE KEITH BAKER - ONE MINUTE COMPETITION

by Richard Plowman

The previous meeting Clive Hand was worried that there may be only five films but he need not have been concerned for 13 films were submitted.

Unfortunately Mike Rice had some technical problems with his two films so they weren't able to go into the competition but we did get to see the films played through the lap top computer during the tea break. The sound seemed to be elusive for a while as well. They were two good films "The Clarinet" and "I'm only here for the weekend".

So back to the eleven remaining entries for the one minute competition. First up was "That Puzzled Look" from Ren Curtis. A jigsaw puzzle magically appears over a back ground of the ocean. Most of us didn't realise it was a painstaking animation over a green screen until Ron explained it after the break. Second came a clever "how to do it" Camcorders Not Required was filmed almost entirely on a smart phone by Clive Hand who, judging by the final shot, thought he was a bit of a lemon. Third, in true Michael Caine style, was "Now Not Many People Know That" by Mike Pepper on how a giraffe manages with its long neck to reach the ground. Fourth was Mike Morris's "Dick Slexia and Arthur Ritis", an amusing play on words between husband and wife.



Fifth was another Clive Hand film "The Appointment" with me acting the role of making an appointment with the dentist with a mean twist at the end. Sixth was "Captain Cook" from Paula Puleston. I just wish she had brought the cake along. Seventh was Alan Hepburn's "Wha's Goin' On", a fast acting action robbery but I still didn't know what was going on at the end! Eighth was a time lapse film of a skip by Hugo and appropriately called "Skip".



Ninth was my own offering "Percy's Day Out" based on Thomas and friends using my own 'n' gauge model railway. Next came, James Keller with a superb animation with Lego figures called "Jumpers Again". Finally a lovely photographed film of the final flight of the Vulcan bomber by James Keller called "The Lady of the Sky".

There was an excellent variety of good one minute films and it made choosing the best film quite difficult for us all. Voting

slips were handed out and marked giving 5 points for the first choice and so on until 1 point for the fifth choice. These were handed in and then randomised and handed out for the audience of 21 to read out. Clive Hand prepared a spreadsheet projected onto the screen and in true Eurovision style, the points were allocated and the tension rose. Early on "Jumpers Again" took an early large lead followed by "The Appointment". "The Lady of the Sky" coming third at the early stage. The early pattern carried on but with the Appointment (65 points) closing the large lead from "Jumpers Again" (71 points). Percy got up a late head of steam to finish much to my amazement joint third with "The Lady of the Sky" (33 points each). These four can now go forward to the Annual Club competition on April 13th.

It was a great competition and all felt Keith Baker would have approved of all the entries.

The real treat and highlight of the evening was to see the Master, Keith, in some of the award winning one minute films he had made and starred in including the international winner "Benefit", truly great films and what an end to a thoroughly enjoyable evening.

TURNING HOLIDAY FILMS INTO DOCUMENTARIES

by Robbie Grieve

Clive started his talk at the meeting on February 3rd by asking 'what is the difference between a holiday film and a documentary?' He then went on to illustrate this with a showing of several films from his own archive starting with the very first film he made of a trip to New York made in 2000.

Before starting the film Clive paid tribute to late members Harry Page and Keith Baker who set the standard and inspired him. He defined a documentary as a factual story – the key word being 'story'. Whereas a holiday film is usually just a series of shots of interesting places visited. The documentary comes with the treatment and development of an idea sparked off by the places visited.

You could see this in the New York film in which the camera just went from place to place showing the well known landmarks but telling us nothing about them in depth.

Clive said that to make a successful documentary rather than just a record of a holiday, he researches the location in depth beforehand.

He took 4 holiday locations provided by members at the previous meeting and did 15 minutes research on each to illustrate how he came up with ideas.

The first location was Vienna where he concentrated on one of its most famous residents, Sigmund Freud, and with a visit to Santorini he told us a bit about the volcano that created the famous crater in the middle of the island and suggested a story about volcanoes perhaps with animated diagrams. Lake

Garde was next where Clive found a story about a World War 2 US mission where an amphibious vehicle sank and has recently been located at the bottom of the lake.

We then returned to New York and the story of Ellis Island and the thousands of immigrants who passed through there in the 19th century on their way to a new life. It was all backed up by facts and figures and old photos.

Back home comes the hard part – the editing - when facts and figures and diagrams are added to back up the filmed locations and make the 'story' more interesting.

As Clive said, 'It is all about the research you do before the holiday'.

Clive said that for the next films he would explain how he came with the idea and the thought process behind the film. After each film he would ask for members to discuss and compare with the judges actual comments.

The next film was 'Shakespeare's Stratford' charting the playwright's life through the houses connected with him in his birthplace, all lovingly preserved by the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust.

'Rome: city of Angels and Demons' was a look at the city through the pages of Dan Brown's book, wonderfully narrated by Harry Page and dressed up with mysterious cowed figures prowling the ancient corridors. Clive advised those not familiar with the book



to read it and make up their own minds as to its accuracy.

'The Pilgrims' told the story of the early settlers who arrived in America on the 'Mayflower'. Clive filmed the re-enactors at the replica of the early settlement. He added old prints of the 'Mayflower' and its passengers to simulate the voyage which added up to an interesting story.

After the refreshment break it was time for some more films showing Clive's development from holiday film maker to skilled documentary maker. But sadly it was not to be. A technical hitch had four members clustered round the equipment trying to get things going again but in the end it was decided to 'call it a day'.

Clive apologised for the breakdown and assured us that all would be OK for the next meeting when he hoped there would be time to show the remainder of the films planned for that night.

Despite the abrupt ending to the evening, it was an interesting and instructive meeting which hopefully has provided our film-making members with some ideas for future documentaries based on this year's coming holidays.

"Documentary filmmaking is the art of telling REAL STORIES in imaginative, entertaining, and insightful ways".

**Barry Hampe
Documentary Filmmaker**

TURNING HOLIDAY FILMS INTO DOCUMENTARIES 'Part 2'

by Rupert Marks

Thanks to a few technical difficulties experienced at the last club night, this evening was rebranded as part two of a masterclass by Clive Hand, in which he illustrated how you can turn your holiday footage into an award winning documentary.

Before the main event of the evening, Mike Morris introduced the Club's entry into the Albany Competition. We were treated to two screenings of this film, as an appreciation of the hard work and effort that had gone into the production, and, also, for the stars of the show – many of whom were welcomed along tonight to see themselves in action.

Describing tonight as 'a journey through my mind' was how Clive finished tonight's presentation, but it is also how I wanted to start my write-up of the evening, in which we explored his first steps, inspirations, considerations, the approaches he takes and the techniques he uses when he comes to produce his own documentaries. Clive told how he puts a lot of thought into his films and that there is a lot which you too could think about for your own documentaries.

Clive covered a lot of topics in his talk, which, continuing his 'a journey through my mind' idea, I have decided here to call 'thought-stops'.

To begin the 'journey', Clive traced his steps back to the thought-stop of the previous session, when he had started to talk about the use of images in documentaries. Clive carried this on tonight, by detailing with how images are covered by copyright, and how to search on the internet for images that are copyright-free.

Clive's next thought-stop was

how to think about image size, and the importance of finding the right image size on Google which can then be imported into your software.

At the next thought-stop, consideration was given to usage rights for any image that you have found on Google, and making sure that the image you want has a label to show that it is for non-commercial use. Clive explained that he uses Wikimedia images or Wikipedia images for this purpose.

At the next thought-stop, there was an explanation of how to think about using images which are in the public domain, and the process to check the licence of the image you have chosen.

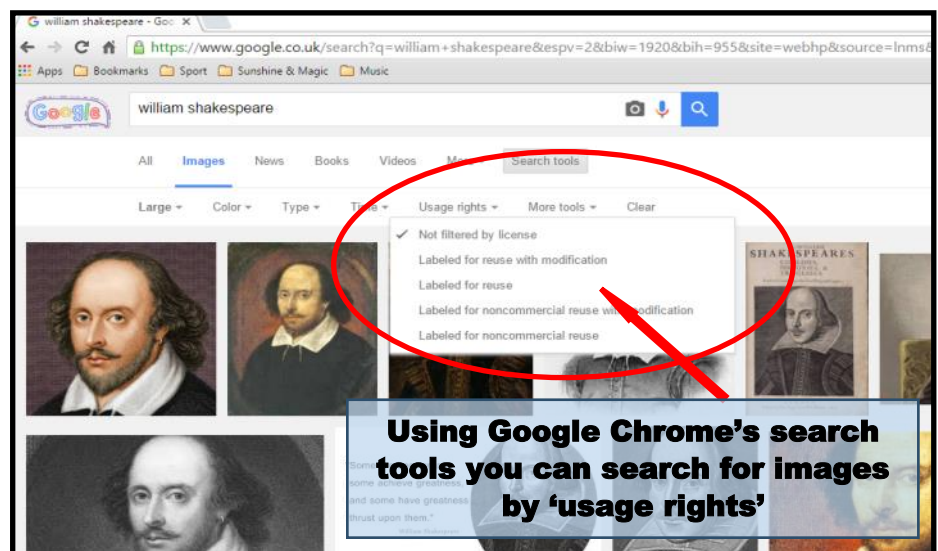
Using animated images in your documentaries was the next thought-stop. Clive used an image of a volcano to describe the process he goes through which uses 'before' and 'after' shots, which are then animated within Photoshop.

A slight detour on Clive's planned journey came with a question from Richard Plowman who asked what to do if you want to use archive footage in your own films.



Clive responded that you can try asking for permission, if you explain that it is for non-commercial use, permission may be granted. This led on to discussing fair usage, the use of a small percentage of archived film, and, when appropriate, specifying that it is for educational use.

Clive's journey resumed when he talked about his film, 'Rome – City of Angels', and, at the time, thought he had made some mistakes during production. However, he was able to use the same footage from that film in his next production: 'Rome, Blood, Politics & Religion'. Clive explained how he made use of the IAC's Copyright scheme to use music from the original soundtrack of Ridley Scott's movie 'Gladiator'. The film won 4 Stars in the BIAFF competition, and Clive learnt from previous mistakes and purposefully slowed the pace of this film down. (continued on next page)



WASHINGTON SHOT LIST

US Capitol

- The Dome
- The Columbus Doors
- The House Chamber
- The Senate Chamber
- Various shots around the grounds
- LS across the lake

Ulysses S Grant Memorial

- Grant statue
- Grant engraving on plinth
- LS Artillery Group
- BCUs Artillery Group
- LS Infantry Group
- BCUs Infantry Group
- LS of statues across the lake

White House

- Shots from Pennsylvania Ave
- Shots from Constitution Ave
- Shots from Lafayette Square
- Treasury Building
- White House Visitor Centre
- West Wing from Pennsylvania Ave

Washington Monument

- Shot from Vietnam Memorial
- Flags
- Shot from base looking up
- Tilt – bottom to top

Arlington National Cemetery

- Tomb of the Unknowns
- Confederate Memorial
- Arlington House
- Grave of JFK
- Grave of Robert Kennedy
- Rough Riders Memorial
- Challenger 7 Columbia Shuttle Memorial
- 9/11 Memorial
- Lockerbie Memorial
- Women's Memorial
- Sea of Graves

US Marine Corps Memorial (Iwo Jima)

- Various shots of soldiers
- US Flag
- Tilt – Feet to Flag
- Various BCUs
- Shots of inscriptions
- Shots of wreaths & tributes

World War Two Memorial

- Freedom Wall
- Freedom Wall Inscription
- Ceremonial Entrance Shield
- Rainbow Pool
- Pacific Pavilion
- Atlantic Pavilion
- Shots of the 56 granite pillars
- Bronze Wreaths of pillars
- Shots of Bas Relief Panels at entrance

Vietnam Veterans Memorial

- Shot of Lincoln Memorial
- Shot of Washington Monument
- LS Vietnam memorial
- Shots of visitors taking rubbings of names
- BCUs of tributes left at base of memorial
- Shots of Statue of 3 Soldiers
- Shots of Vietnam Women's Memorial

LIGHTS CAMERA ACTION

CFVM members in action during our latest club production.



A simple shot list prepared in advance ensures you get the footage you need to tell your story.

(Turning Holiday Films into Documentaries Part2)

It is very difficult to avoid camera movement on shots that are supposed to be still when you are filming on holiday without a tripod. Clive thought to avoid this by taking separate still shots and adding motion in post-production.

Another quick detour came with the question - How long should narration be? Clive responded that he writes his narration, and then gives it to the person he has chosen as narrator, who may then even rewrite the piece to make it easier for them to read.

Stopping next to talk about 'On Top of the World', Clive explained this could just have been a holiday film about a family balloon ride. However, he chose instead to do a documentary about how hot-air balloons work.

Clive then stopped to think about his film, 'The Knights of

St John's'. This was made as a result of Clive, Harry Page and Keith Baker wanting to enter a film in every competition just so that they were not asked to judge!

In his most recent documentary, 'Freedom is Not Free', Clive used footage from a six-day visit to Washington DC. He used guide books to list and jot down what he needed footage of, to then create a simple shot list. This was Clive's first film shot with an HD camera, and used sound effects downloaded from iTunes. Using the IAC Licence, Clive was able to take music from 'Gettysburg' and 'Saving Private Ryan'.

Throughout his presentation, Clive emphasised how there is no right or wrong way to make documentaries, that this is just a journey through his mind, your films may take different directions, but will need similar steps along the way.

The evening was rounded off with a screening of a film in a night, edited by Ren Curtis, which Mike Morris introduced as filming what happens when you lace the members' coffee one club night!



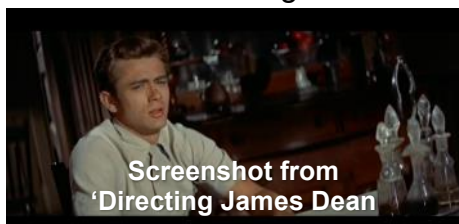
Screenshot from 'Freedom is Not Free'

THE DOCUMENTARY COMPETITION

by Ren Curtis

Mike Morris, the Club Chairman, warmly welcomed the 19 members present being the evening set aside for the Documentary Competition. Four entries had been submitted and had been prejudged by a very abled-bodied panel. Throughout the evening these films would be expertly shown on the projection equipment by Mike Pepper.

The first entry was by new member Mark Gunston, entitled **'Directing James Dean' (1931-1955)** 8 mins. It was explained in the production that Dean had starred in just three major films in his short lifetime. Rebel Without Cause, East of Eden and Giant. It was indeed a fresh approach to a documentary for us with clips of these films put together with good effect. It highlighted the relationship this deep and troubled young actor had with his co-stars and in particular with Directors. His method of acting had a profound effect on those around him and with the cinema goers of similar age. The nature of his style of performance made him a cinema icon. In technical terms there was reference to the 'Dutch Angle' used in making of these films and the explanation in the use of distinctive colours was most interesting.



Screenshot from
'Directing James Dean'

The Second Entry was **'Crossing The T'**, 10mins. This was a group entry under the



A spectacular mock Battle of Trafalgar in 'Crossing the T'

name Town Crier Productions. It was Directed and Edited by Clive Hand, with Richard Plowman the narrator and Ren Curtis, Second Camera Unit. It was a re-enactment of the Battle of Trafalgar by the Portsmouth Model Boat Display Team on the Chichester Basin last summer. The intriguing title was clearly explained through the narration and graphics. It was the tactics used by Admiral Nelson to defeat the French and Spanish Fleet off the Cape of Trafalgar in 1805. The visual effects and music were both powerful and inspiring throughout.

The third film was **'Yorkshire Waterfalls'** 15mins, entered by Richard Plowman. The film centred around the many waterfalls in the Yorkshire Dales, particularly those on the river Ure at Wensleydale. The Hardraw Force and the Aysgarth Higher, Middle and Lower Falls to name a few. It was clear to all that this was a subject of real passion and indeed of much pleasure, derived on walking visits to this rugged part of the Country. The waterfalls and fast flowing water was extremely dramatic throughout. The inclusion of paintings of some of the falls,

painted by Richard, put a unique personal touch into this production. Included in this documentary was a short visit to a rope making factory which was of great interest too.



Screenshot from
'Yorkshire Waterfalls'

The Fourth film was **'Death of a Hero'** 7mins by Clive Hand and appearing Richard Plowman. Set in Chichester, February 1819, the Town Crier announces the sad death of Admiral Sir George Murray. After retiring to the George Inn the Town Crier recounts the story of George Murray over a pint. It highlighted Murray's friendship with Nelson and the events and successes against the French and Spanish Fleet. The story teller (Richard in disguise) gave emphasis to these dramatic events and is considered one of the greatest sea battles in the history of the Royal Navy. The narration and graphics telling the story was very clear, informative and to good effect. (continued next page)



Screenshot from 'Crossing the T'

(Documentary Competition continued)

The members demonstrated their appreciation of the efforts made by the film makers by generous applause.

After the coffee break the three member Judges, Kevin Prichard, James Keller and Alan Hepburn, made ready their results of the competition. They had met previously at home to judge the entries and having enjoyed the films they thanked the members who had submitted them. Taking each entry in turn they explained their observations along with favourable comments and suggestions. These were openly discussed by members and were written out by the panel for each entrant to take away with them for future reference. This was something that had not happened at Club level in the past and the initiative was welcomed by all.



Town Crier announcing the death of Admiral Sir George Murray in 'Death of a Hero'

The winning film **'Crossing The T'** was shown again and received generous applause. Clive said that the film had been entered in the SERIAC and BIAFF competitions and he was hopeful of a positive result.

The Chairman thanked the judging panel for their valued contribution to the meeting. It was certainly not the easiest thing to do but their input was most appreciated. He also reminded everyone again that the best way of not being a

judge was to submit a film on every occasion.

The Albany Competition this year would be hosted by Surrey Borders Movie Makers from 2PM on the 3rd of April 2016. The venue being in the Newell Centre next to the St Pancras Church Hall with an entrance fee of £8 and includes a cream tea. The theme this year being **'Behind Closed Doors'**. Our Club entry will be among the entries and we have high hopes for it after all the hard work carried out in its production.

The members were reminded that the Club Annual General Meeting will be held on the 16th March 2016 Any propositions and/or nominations should be submitted to the general secretary well in advance of the due date.

The meeting came to a conclusion when the Chairman again thanked everyone for coming. He hoped that they had enjoyed the evening and wished all a safe journey home.

SCREENPLAY EVENING PART 1

by Clive Hand

There was no duty scribe for the Screenplay Evening so here is a quick summary of what happened.

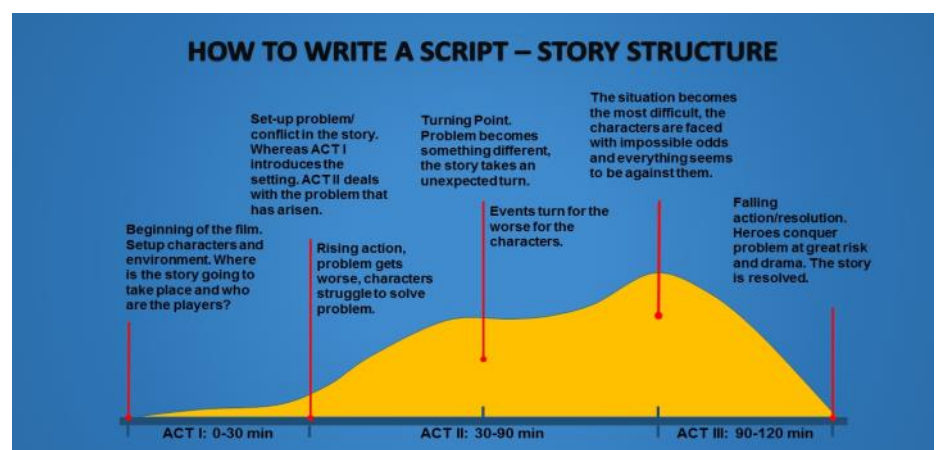
The evening, run by Clive and Tina, was in two parts. The first part of the evening was some short input providing members

with some tips for writing and formatting screenplays. This focused on the 'Three Act' story structure. This is important as a film can technically be excellent, but if the story line is weak and not well structured it will fail to capture the audience's attention.

The second part of the evening was a workshop, with members working in four groups. Each group was given a different 'logline' based on the the 2017 Albany Theme 'Drama Queen'. Their task, to develop this into an outline story based on the 'three act' structure. At the end of the evening each group had an opportunity to present their outline story, with some extremely interesting results.

At the end of the evening the members were briefed on their 'homework'! The challenge was to develop their outline story into a full screenplay. To add some incentive and competitiveness there was to be a competition. The prize for the winning screenplay, a copy of the book 'Making Short Films—The Complete Guide from Script to Screen' by Clifford Thurlow with the screenplay being progressed into a club production.

Looking forward to the second screenplay evening members will be invited to read and discuss their finished screenplay. This will be followed by a 'secret' ballot to determine the winner!



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sunday 3rd April 2016

ALBANY COMPETITION

Hosted by Surrey Borders Movie Makers
Doors open 2:00pm for 2:30 start
Newell Centre, Tozer Way, Chichester PO19 7LG

Saturday 9th April 2016

SERIAC FILM FESTIVAL

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

14th to 17th April 2016

BIAFF BRITISH INTERNATIONAL AMATEUR FILM FESTIVAL

Cairn Hotel, Harrogate HG1 2JD
Visit the IAC website for full details: www.theiac.org.uk

Sunday 9th October 2016

SUSSEX FILM FESTIVAL

Closing date for entries TBA but probably August 2016
Wivelsfield Village Hall, Eastern Road, Wivelsfield Green RH17 7QH
www.seriacy.org/sussexfilmfestival.html

