

May/June 2017

# FAST FORWARD



**WE DID IT!**  
**Curtain Call**  
**wins Albany Competition**

# YEAR COPY DEADLINES

1st January	for	Jan/Feb Issue
1st March	for	Mar/Apr Issue
1st May	for	May/Jun Issue
1st July	for	Jul/Aug Issue
1st September	for	Sept/Oct Issue
1st November	for	Nov/Dec Issue

**Copy to Clive Hand**

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Fast Forward is published on the 14th day of each of the above publication months. Articles for inclusion in Fast Forward should be forwarded to the Editor by email.

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 stars from Albany Winner 'Curtain Call' - Tracy Gibbons, Richard Plowman, Alan Hepburn, James Keller & Nick Clark.

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## CHAIRMAN'S CHAT by Mike Morris

Since I last wrote a lot has happened. We've had our AGM and the committee have been voted back in, lock, stock and barrel. We would like to think this is because you are so pleased with us that you think nobody else could do a better job of running the club so we might as well be allowed to get on with it for another year..

But I think it is more likely that the dreaded inertia has affected you all. It is a common problem with committees and it is for this reason that most constitutions, including our own, stipulate that certain offices have a limited timespan. In our case the post of chairman must be changed every three years. This subject will become more urgent as March approaches, and we've started looking.

Other things that have happened since my last Chat are our successes in competitions. Firstly the Albany where we carried off the Best Editing trophy again (well done Kevin) and the Albany Trophy for Best Film (well done everyone involved,

cast and crew, and Kevin, again). Only two trophies to have engraved this year though against South Downs three.

So we host the Albany again next year which shouldn't give us too many qualms next time since everything went so smoothly this year. I would like to take this opportunity to thank, once again, everyone who played a part in making the event so successful, projection, screen build, raffle, catering, seating and clearing up afterwards. With a team like that we could host the event every year.

Other awards came from Seriac where our 2016 Albany winner "Three Little Words" was commended and Clive's "Hero in Bronze" received the Runner-up award and also Best Documentary, Best Edited and Best Use of Sound awards.

At BIAFF both "Three Little Words" and "Hero in Bronze" were awarded 4 Stars which is given for technical excellence, creativity and cinematic quality, a rewarding accolade for Clive, Kevin, cast, crew and everyone at CFVM, in fact.

We were lucky that one of the judges at the Albany from Southampton Video Camera Club, Paul Vernon, is an accomplished filmmaker himself (Diamond Award at BIAFF) and Clive has booked him to show and talk to us about his 60-minute western "Vermijo" which is being premiered in the US this summer. Wednesday November 1<sup>st</sup> is the date for that and judging by the trailer I've seen, we ought to have a packed hall.

Onwards and Upwards, folks.

## FROM THE EDITOR by Clive Hand



As already mentioned by Mike in his Chairman's Chat April was an exceptionally successful month, which is fantastic for the club. So, hopefully you will forgive me for indulging in that success in this 'bumper' issue of Fast Forward.

I thought it would be nice to take a little journey behind the scenes of our latest Albany winner, 'Curtain Call'. As you will see in the report this production was a massive challenge and required a significant amount of hard work and effort. I know a couple of our members, that are no longer with us, that would be really proud.

Reflecting back over the last season and with the annual competition now 'done and dusted' it has been great to see an increase in the quality and number of entries. It is particularly pleasing to see the number of filmmakers that are getting more adventurous in post production. It makes the workshops that are organised worthwhile.

Lastly, a quick update on next season's programme. This is still work in progress with a couple of evenings still to fill. This is due to the South Downs and Portsdown evenings being 'away matches' leaving two meetings free. Once the programme is complete and approved by the Committee we will circulate copies to all members.

# ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Before we got down to the serious business of the A.G.M. there was a preview of our entry for this year's Albany Competition. This was a calculated way of ensuring a good turn out of members for the A.G.M. All present were impressed with the quality of all aspects of the film and although comments were welcomed afterwards few were of a critical nature.

Following the departure of our guests (actors in the film) some 22 members were present when our Chairman Mike opened the proceedings.

Opening his Chairman's Report, Mike lamented the sad loss of one of our longest serving members and prolific film maker Geoffrey Claridge.

He then went on to give credit to Clive for his educational evenings during the year and his Training Course during the summer which resulted in a number of new members. As Mike reminded us, the most important letter in our title is 'M' which stands for makers.

It was then that the Town Crier (Richard in all his regalia.) arrived! The bell ringing shook up the proceedings, but Mike quickly settled back into his report.

Mike thanked Clive for his support as Vice Chairman, as Programme Secretary, and Editor of the club magazine. He thanked John for looking after the club's money as though it was his own, Rupert for recording the minutes of meetings and opening up and closing the hall on club nights, Alan for organising competitions, Mike Pepper for operating our projector and Kevin for keeping our website up to date. Last but not least, Mike thanked Paula, assisted by Pam and Tina for

their work in organising our refreshments.

Treasurer John then gave us a brief insight into the intricacies of balance sheets and income and expenditure which I for one did not completely understand, but suffice to say, John then announced that subs would be the same as last year – that I did understand.

On the completion of John's report, Clive raised the question of club insurance covering the use of privately owned expensive equipment e.g. cameras. John replied that the responsibility of appropriate insurance lay with the relevant member.

As Competition Secretary, Alan reported that in the year since the last A.G.M. the club had had five in-house competitions in which 41 films were entered by 12 members. He thanked members for their involvement – without them there would be no competitions. He also thanked those who had acted as judges – without them there would be no results.

In interclub competitions, the Portsdown Challenge was a non competitive 50/50 and the South Downs Challenge was won by CFVM by 19 points to 13 points.

'Three Little Words' has been entered in this year's SERIAC and BIAFF.

He also gave credit to Kevin for his work on his film 'Three Little Words' which won us three out of five trophies in the Albany competition last year.

Then we came to the elections. Rodney abdicated his presidency as he felt that he wasn't able to be involved as much as he wished. Mike thanked Rodney and bestowed on him honorary life membership. Stan Harvey-



**Our new President Stan Harvey-Merritt**

Merritt had agreed to become President and Pam would continue as Vice-President.

All other members of the Committee and other officers had agreed to continue in their present positions, although Mike re-stated that this would be his last year as Chairman.

At the end of the meeting we still had time for another showing of "Curtain Call". It was even better than the first time.

**By Alan Hepburn**

## **ELECTED OFFICERS**

### **President**

Stan Harvey-Merritt

### **Vice President**

Pam Baker

### **Chairman**

Mike Morris

### **Vice Chairman**

Clive Hand

### **Treasurer**

John Harvey

### **General Secretary**

Rupert Marks

## **COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

### **Competition Secretary**

Alan Hepburn

### **Programme Secretary**

Clive Hand

### **Webmaster/Social Media**

Kevin Pritchard

## **NON-COMMITTEE POSTS**

### **Club Magazine**

Clive Hand

### **Catering**

Paula Puleston



*Halas & Batchelor*

# AN EVENING WITH ROD WLLERTON

What a wonderful evening about animation from the very early days coming towards present day. After Mike our chairman had reminded us that the Annual competition entrances had to be in and that he wanted to take photographs of our new President Stan and the other new members that have joined recently, Paula gave an announcement that Rodney wanted to give thanks to everyone who sent their good wishes while he wasn't well by paying for everyone's refreshments. Mike then introduced Rod and he took to the floor.

Rod had come from the Hayward's Heath club to give us a talk on animation and it's beginnings. He started by talking about the couple famous for their animation John Halas and Joy Batchelor. They are a husband and wife team who had their own studio from 1940 through to 1990.

He started by showing two quotes about animation. One by John Greason and the other by Nick Park. Then he took us through their story from 1940 to 1979, telling us about commercials they made, one of which was for Kellogg's cornflakes.

He then talked about the importance of one of their most famous animations "Animal Farm" made in 1954, showing a few pieces from it. On screen was Tony Robinson explaining the film was about the revolution and the animals represented major people in the revolution. It is said this film defined British animation.

They also made propaganda



films during the war, these were known as the "Charley Series" and were seven in all. These were shown in cinemas, one of which was about the beginning of the National Health Service.

We were told in 1952 Halas and Batchelor decided to independently make films and they produced a 3D film called "The Owl and the Pussy Cat" which was the first stereo cartoon version. To do this they needed more space so expanded from London to have another studio in Slough.

Rod then moved on to 1960 when they made an animation called "Foo Foo" which was made for ABC TV. Rod then showed us "The Stowaway" which was a black and white cartoon of a stowaway being found and set to work to pay for his passage. A lovely amusing little cartoon.

On to 1963 when "Automania 2000" was made. Rod explained that it was about how in 1963 they saw the future to be and they weren't too far off the mark. (Cheaper power coming from the wind or water. Mass production with a different car for every occasion and spaghetti junctions with overcrowded roads etc). This animation won more awards than any other of the time.

Rod moving on showed us about the Hoffnung Series, made in 1964 using the drawings from their cartoon books of "The Orchestra" which was very clever and amusing. We then broke up for refreshments and after friendly chats we resumed our seats.

Rod then showed us "The Birds Bees and Stork" with Peter Sellers playing the voice of a father who got very embarrassed trying to tell his son about the birds and the bees. It was very amusing and had us all laughing.

Then Rod explained that in 1964 John and Joy made for television "Ruddigore", an animated opera and we were shown extracts from the original trailer. This soon



became Internationally famous.

Moving on to 1974 he showed us "Butterfly Ball" by Alan Aldridge and told us that he was the animator who did some illustrations on Beatles albums. The film showed this style by being very psychedelic.

In 1979 John and Joy made "Autobahn" which was an epic animation with many psychedelic colours and patterns in. Seemed to me as if it was a representation of someone on a LSD trip. Apparently this was thought to be the first animation to be released on video in the early 80's.

To end with Rod showed us a 1950 film "The History of Cinema" which took us from a pin hole experiment showing everything upside down, through Lumiere pictures and the birth of cinema in Hollywood, westerns and talkies, then colour TV and wide screen. All very comical in the animation it was presented in.

Rod finished at 1979 and commented we are still striving for perfection up to the present day. Thank yous were given to Rod and his wife for a very entertaining evening.

Then Clive made the announcement that the BIAF results were in and "Three Little Words" won 4stars. Also "Hero in Bronze" which none of us has seen yet also won 4stars. Well done to everyone who contributed to the films.

**By Tina Keller**

# ALBANY COMPETITION 2017

Following on from the success of 'Three Little Words' in last year it was Chichester Film and Video Makers' turn to host the 2017 Albany Competition. At midday on Sunday 9th April members of the club arrived at the Newell Centre, Chichester to set up for the competition and prepare to greet our guests.

The theme for this year's competition was 'Drama Queen' and seven entries were received for the competition and approximately 60 filmmakers and members attended from 5 clubs. A good attendance after earlier concerns regarding club entries. Doors opened at 2pm with proceedings starting at 2:30pm.



Our Chairman, Mike Morris was MC and started by welcoming everyone who attended and introduced the judges. The judges who travelled from Southampton Video Camera Club included their Secretary Roger Brenton, BIAFF Diamond Award Winner Paul Vernon and Robert Malbon.



With the formalities out of the way Mike handed over to the projectionist Mike Pepper and Greg Birkinshaw. The competition began with a film from Surrey Borders Movie Makers called 'Winners and Losers'. A rock group get more than they bargained for when they take on an objectionable lead guitarist who changes everything so nothing will detract from his performance.

Next up was the first of 2 films from South Downs Film Makers. In 'The Picture' a man finds a wallet with nothing in it but a single photo of his wife. An old flame from the past turns up and arranges what turns out to be a confrontational meeting with the husband.

The entry from Haywards Heath Movie makers was 'Shock Treatment' which followed a paranoid wife who seems to overreact to everything that happens in her life. She even worries she is seriously ill when she gets hiccups but the husband's 'shock treatment' does the trick.

The entry from East Sussex Movie Makers was a documentary, fairly unusual for the Albany Competition. This followed actress Natasha Grey, who was called in with 4 days' notice to take a leading role in the pantomime 'Snow White' at

Eastbourne. The film gave a behind the scenes look at the challenge preparing for her performance.

Next on the big screen was our own entry 'Curtain Call', a period murder mystery. The dismembered body of a pantomime dame is found by the Stage Manager. Russet Police spring into action but whodunnit?

The second film from South Downs was 'The Travel Companion'. A very funny film about a wife determined to go on an unusual holiday when she sees an advert promoting holidays in a genuine disused prison in Russia. But the husband has other ideas and plots to go away with his next door neighbour.

The final film of the competition was a second film from Surrey Borders called 'Royal Flush'. Her Majesty the Queen and her detective on her way to a surprise birthday party in an 'Uber' taxi? An unusual and funny story where it turns out the Queen and Detective are con artists!

It was then time for the judges to adjourn and deliberate with the Chairman's meeting also held during the break. Time to enjoy a cream tea and catch up with our friends from the other clubs. Following the break the raffle was drawn.

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





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Then it was time for the judges' feedback and results. The judges commented on the high standard of filmmaking and the wide selection of films that had been produced from a single theme. It was then time for the moment we had all been waiting for as the results were announced....

### **2017 Albany Competition Results**

**The Albany Trophy  
For the Best Overall Entry  
'Curtain Call'  
Chichester Film & Video  
Makers**

**The Runners Up Trophy  
'The Travel Companion'  
South Downs Film Makers**

**The Albany Editing Trophy  
For the Best Edited Film  
'Curtain Call'  
Chichester Film & Video  
Makers**

**The Greenyer Trophy  
For the Best Use of Sound  
'The Picture'  
South Downs Film Makers**

**The Syd Mitchell Trophy  
For the Best Comedy  
'The Travel Companion'**

To wrap up a successful afternoon Mike Morris thanked the judges and all those involved in organising the day. He reminded the members from the attending clubs that the theme for 2018 is 'Elephant in the Room', and also announced that the theme for 2019, selected by email ballot, is 'To Close to Call'. He wished everyone a safe journey home and looked forward to welcoming everyone back to the Newell Centre next year.

**by Clive Hand**



# CURTAIN CALL

## Behind the Scenes by Clive Hand

What is it we normally say when advising on screenplays for club projects? Keep it simple, keep actors to a minimum, just two or three! Simple locations and don't make the screenplay too challenging, keep the story within the capability of the club! Well, with 'Curtain Call' we broke all those rules and more!

The story for Curtain Call evolved from two screenplay evenings, which culminated in a competition for the best story that fitted the theme 'Drama Queen'. The competition was won by Richard Plowman who had come up with a murder mystery. So far, so good. The difficulty was this story was set in the late 1960's and required a theatre, police station, costumes and props of the period. By the time the screenplay had been adapted we required 12 actors and extras. Nothing like a good challenge!

But members of CFVM rose to

the challenge and over an eight-month period took the original story and turned it into the Albany Competition winner. The challenges that had to be overcome with locations, obtaining appropriate costumes, finding and making the props was all worth it when we watch the film on the 'big screen'. Production value was high, thanks to the location chosen and it was great to hear comments from other club members that "it made a change to see a film not filmed in someone's house".

As well as co-producing, Tina worked wonders with the costumes, hairstyles and makeup. Hours were spent in Photoshop producing authentic looking pantomime posters, police files, reports and photos. Kevin worked his 'wizardry' with the visual FX and you always know they have worked when someone comes up and asks, "how did you manage to get hold

of the police car in the film". The score, written by Richard's son Ed Plowman added to the atmosphere and the cinematic look of this 'noir' style film was apparent.

As this stage I should say a special thank you to Hazel Latus (Executive Producer) Alexandra Theatre, Bognor Regis and Martin Baker (Headmaster), Brian Dempster (Bursar), Alex Dichmont (Director of Music) and Glenn Mepham (Site Manager) Westbourne House School, Chichester. Without their generous help and assistance the production value provided by the locations would not have been possible.

The judges said this was a serious film with the odd moments of humour and that is exactly what was intended. It was a magnificent team effort and the hard work of all involved was evident on the screen. Well done to everyone involved!

## THE CAST



**Tracy Gibbons**  
as DI Jean Marlow



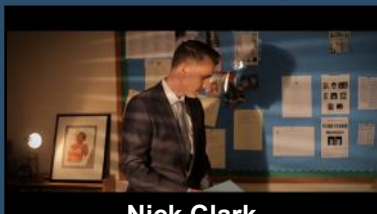
**Richard Plowman**  
as DS Bernie Badger



**Alan Hepburn**  
as Nick Haley



**James Keller**  
as The Stage Manager



**Nick Clark**  
as DC Dave Smith

## EXTRAS

Removal Men	Rupert Marks
	Greg Birkinshaw
Poster Man	Clive Hand
Young Girls	Freya Peake
	Lois Peake
Partygoers	Sam Peake
	Tina Keller
Mrs Badger	Lynne Plowman



## LOCATIONS

Alexandra Theatre, Bognor Regis  
*Theatre scene*



Westbourne House School, Chichester  
*Police Station internal/external scenes, Stage Manager's Office internal scene & Theatre external scenes.*



Bognor Regis War Memorial Hospital  
*Party scene*



A considerable amount of time and effort was required to create an authentic 1960s feel and look to the film.

## MAKEUP



## COSTUMES



## PROPS



## VISUAL FX



**Visual FX by Kevin Pritchard played a key part of post production to create a late 1960s feel. Visual FX included rain to show the passing of the seasons, cigarette smoke, Police crest on the building and 'Panda' car for the Police station external scene.**

## ON SET



## FILM CREW

Director & Editor – Kevin Pritchard  
 Assistant Director – James Keller  
 Producers – Clive Hand & Tina Keller  
 Written – Richard Plowman  
 Musical by – Edward Plowman & Kevin MacLeod  
 (incompetech.com)  
 1<sup>st</sup> Assistant Director – James Keller  
 Director of Photography – Kevin Pritchard  
 Screenplay Adaptation – Kevin Pritchard  
 Script Supervisor – Alan Hepburn & Tina Keller  
 Sound & Boom – Ren Curtis  
 Sound Design – Kevin Pritchard  
 1<sup>st</sup> Assistant Camera – James Keller  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Assistant Camera – Clive Hand  
 Lighting – Kevin Pritchard  
 Gaffer & Grip – Sean Pritchard  
 Clapperloader – Greg Birkinshaw  
 Costumes – Tina Keller  
 Visual Effects – Kevin Pritchard  
 Makeup & Hair – Tina Keller  
 Props – Clive Hand  
 Set Design – Kevin Pritchard & Tina Keller  
 General Crew – Rupert Marks



# ANNUAL COMPETITION 2017

This evening kicked off with an announcement from our Chairman (with a very big smile on his face) that for those who were not aware and didn't attend – we again won the Albany with thanks to all those concerned with the making ; but he never stopped there, he went on to announce a volume of awards won by Clive Hand for his film Hero in Bronze which Clive entered into Seriac, well done Clive a worthy winner.

Tonight is the showing of the Annual Film entries and our participation into the infamous 'Swindle', the results to be made on our fish and chips supper evening. The films were judged by our friends at Copthorne and it's anyone's guess as to the results.

We began with Save our Swimming Pool - a short but very funny film with an unexpected end, well edited and acted.

Computer Conundrum - a cleverly rhyming narration accompanied a pacy film of building a computer. Many really nice closeups and tight editing kept the interest throughout. I can't say I learnt anything but I really enjoyed the film.

Don't Look Back - a short film where gran and granddaughter reminisced over the family photograph album. Gran pointing out and naming the various members of the family as they shared the photos, with a surprising end when pointing out 'Uncle George' in his dress. Very funny.

Always Listen to Your Doctor – Another funny whereby Doctor and Patient shared a telephone conversation to determine how well the patient was doing on her diet plan. Well, the result was amazing – skipping her way to an incredible 20lbs. A clever film with good acting and a good joke.

Fancy that – This film was a clever idea, filming in an open market which was bright and

colourful with the narration in rhyme. Appropriate music accompanied and overall very enjoyable.



**Hero in Bronze by Clive Hand**

Hero in Bronze – A beautifully edited film depicting the skills of Vincent Gray who was commissioned to create a bronze statue of Nelson and Sir George Murray. Details of how he would create the pose and action of the 2 figures together with the intricate creation of the figures from the drawings through to how he creates the armature of the wax figures before casting the mould. Using photographs for likeness and hours of work to perfect the figures before finally painting on the colour. The result was a true likeness in a strong pose. Clive captured every stage of the process with very good close ups and expert filming with the addition of Vincent who was clearly skilled and passionate, an exceptional film.



**The Potato by Richard Plowman**

The Potato – potato, potato, potato, sorry I'm singing along with the opening animated choir, singing the praises of the humble potato!, very catchy. But not so humble as this film went on to tell us. I'm sure many of us were not aware that the Potato was grown in the Andes and through evolution several varieties have evolved. With many diagrams we were shown the journey of the Potato from the Andes, across to



**Hill 62 & Beyond by Ren Curtis**

Europe being brought to England by Sir Francis Drake and then to Ireland where it became their main produce. Shots taken in the Andes, in the markets showing the several varieties of the potato along with the diagrams and narration were all very informative and well shot. An enjoyable film.

Hill 62 & Beyond – A good opening to this film with Google Earth Pro zooming in on the precise location, A World War 1 site in Ypres, with some good footage and narration and a visit to Sanctuary Wood, describing the German onslaught. Inside shots of the Museum of Artefacts. But nothing quite prepared you for the emotive visit to Hill 62 where, with some excellent effects, some haunting music we were cast back into those trenches with those men. Heart wrenching. We then went on to learn of a particular soldier who turned out to be the filmmaker's father. An extremely well put together film which, without a doubt, touched everyone.

Love Story – A short funny about the passing of Grandad, though not through normal circumstances! Grandma's sex life coming to a halt through the ice cream man's chimes.

**by Pam Baker**

# DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

## THE GOLDEN KNIGHT

### MALTA INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL

Closing date 30th September 2017

Screenings 24th—25th November 2017

Website: [www.goldenknightmalta.org](http://www.goldenknightmalta.org)

8th October 2017

## 2017 SUSSEX FILM FESTIVAL

Closing date 4th August 2017

Wivelsfield Village Hall, Eastern Rd

Wivelsfield Green RH17 7QG

Website: [www.seriatic.org.uk/sussexfilmfestival.html](http://www.seriatic.org.uk/sussexfilmfestival.html)

19th—22nd October 2017

## IAC CONVENTION & AGM

Sittingbourne, Kent

Hosted by SERIAC

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

## BIAFF

### BRITISH INTERNATIONAL AMATEUR FILM FESTIVAL

Early closing date 21st December 2017

Late closing date 31st January 2018

Festival will be 12th—15th April 2018

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

