

# WIMBORNE MINSTER Cine & Video Club

## NewsLETTER 58

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### *First Forum...*

Ray Joyce conducted his first Digital Forum, now incorporated into our Friday club programme, on 26th September, in front of a much larger audience than previously. Entitled "Using Stills In Video", his presentation was perfect (well, almost) and illustrated his mastery of PowerPoint.

The subject covered ways in which a mundane image – photographed or scanned – could be enhanced to sit more comfortably on a video timeline. Some very sophisticated software programmes exist that can be used to do all sorts of lovely things to a still image but Ray's emphasis was on simplicity. He explained how good effects can be achieved with a video camera, traversing or zooming in or out whilst filming the image. His supporting illustrations proved how effective this could be.

The audience were invited to ask questions during Ray's talk and this made the evening much more interesting than just sitting listening to a lecture, although the height of hilarity that sometimes predominated at the Tuesday meetings was not attained.

After the break a Q & A session based on Ray's theme produced some lively and educational exchanges. Have a look in your Programme at future Forums – you'll find them interesting, entertaining and educational! *G.C.*

### *From The Chair*

*by Ray Joyce*

Well it seems impossible to believe that by the time you read this we will be nearly two months into the 2008/9 season. So far we have had great attendance numbers and our membership is only just short of our 50 maximum.

The first new style Digital Forum went well with lots of interest in Photoshop. If you feel like some self tuition why not log on to [www.myJancee.com](http://www.myJancee.com) where you will find lots of free tutorials which are very easy to follow.

"Montague Jack" is going a storm at present and I would like to repeat my thanks to all of you who took the trouble to come and help or watch at our first two filming sessions. This has been a great learning exercise for all of us and it reinforces the old truth that the best way to learn is to go out there and do it.

Auditions for the main roles are underway and most of Michael Medwin's voiceover has been recorded.



Our next filming will be some interiors which are planned for early November. Here again we will need lots of help. Also, we should be using our new Autocue which will make life easier on some of the longer speaking parts.

Another project which has provided a great opportunity to learn whilst doing has been Heather Bell's Dorset Choir DVD. This provided a big challenge in all aspects of filming. Here we had to film a large choir and band which had to be lit and recorded in a difficult church environment. There were huge contrasts between dark and light and as well as recording the band and choir there were numerous speakers dotted around who had to be clearly recorded.

Heather did a superb job of organising filming and now has the equally difficult job of pulling the whole thing together in edit.

I must also mention Ossie Morris's night which as always was superb. This year was especially good as he talked and showed us extracts from "Scrooge" which he worked on with our President Michael Medwin who was tickled pink.

Also, one last piece of news. Jane Adams has got our new website [www.wimbornevideoclub.com](http://www.wimbornevideoclub.com) up and running and we will be developing it over the coming weeks and months. Unlike previous attempts we will be able to easily update it and hopefully get you all to regularly log in for the latest news and any late programme changes. Many thanks Jane.

All in all a great start to the year. I just hope that we can sustain it until May.

### **Who Gets The Gong?**

The club's first competition of the season, the MINI, provided good entertainment to a full house on Friday, 3rd October. There were seven entries which was very good considering that, in the past, it had sometimes been a struggle to get three to make a competition. In order of play, the entries were:-

***Vancouver's Sea Otters*** by Rory Morrison depicted the antics of these charming creatures in captivity, with an interesting commentary sometimes drowned (!) out by an over-loud SF of water being sloshed about in a bathroom washbasin.

***Birds*** by John Cossins. A record of visitors to a bird table in the garden. A good musical accompaniment, but a gentle commentary about some of the birds would have enhanced the movie.

***The Thirty Nine Steps*** by Doug Redpath. Opening with a very slow title sequence fronting a static background, and with sinister music bringing an expectation of dark and dirty deeds, it transformed into a continuous shot of wildly swinging images as Doug walked along a street counting his paces having left his camera switched on. Hilarious and much applauded.

***The Falkirk Wheel*** by Brian Cope was an excellent short documentary about the huge rotating boatlift which carries narrow boats 79 ft up and down between the Firth & Clyde and Union canals.

***Big...Is Beautiful*** by Trevor Guess. Another interesting piece dealing with the huge 19th-century steam driven

pumping equipment housed in the Kempton Pumping Station.

**A Flying Visit To Swakopmund** by Marion Westcott. A flight in a light aircraft along the Namibian Skeleton Coast followed by a short tour of the town.

**Lazy Sunday Afternoon** by Paul French. Messing about in boats on a river with the title song as accompaniment.

The judges were George Beesley, David Barnes and John Wilcox and they had no difficulty in selecting the winners which were:-

**1st: Big...Is Beautiful**

**2nd: The Falkirk Wheel**

**3rd: A Flying Visit To Swakopmund**

Congratulations to all who entered.

G.C.

### **Film of the Year**

*BY Doug Redpath*

Once again our gallant friends from Frome, Southampton and Bournemouth have sat through sixteen films to decide best edit, best sound, best photography and, of course, Film of the Year.

I burn two DVDs for the presentation which normally project with no trouble. Not this time though. The last few films froze and pixillated. We waggled, shook and kicked everything without success and ended up jumping in the car, driving to my place and finishing the viewing on my (fortunately) new 32 inch wide screen television.

Then back to the hut for the judges' secret conclave while I paced up and down outside waiting for the emission of the white smoke signaling the acceptance of our new best film maker.

Now I can take the trophies to be engraved in time for the annual dinner augmented this year by three additional trophies for the best Advanced, Interim and Novice overall performance. All that remains is to produce a DVD of short excerpts from the first place winners' films to present at the dinner.

Now here is an intriguing thing: for the first time since I have been competition secretary, two of the four "Best" awards have gone to second place films. You will have to come to the dinner where all will be revealed!

I have been thinking how this job has changed since a couple of years when most entries were on tape in standard 4:3 format. Now we have entries on miniDV both 4:3 and 16:9 and DVDs in both formats. Some of the widescreen entries are 16:9 and some anamorphic. This means that I have to put some into my editor and change the format. For example, for the dinner presentation I need to change anamorphic images to true 16:9 to cover the width of the standard screen with black bands top and bottom.

To do this I use a ripper to convert DVDs to AVI films. Most DVDs rip successfully but occasionally I have to request a tape from the entrant. I also produce DVDs for

showing films to other clubs. At the moment, these assume that standard format screens are used. I suppose the day will come when widescreen will prevail and I will have to reverse the process. Or perhaps I need to burn both types. Please NO!!!! We recently had an evening by a club from Newcastle and they took back some of our films. Guess what, they want them on miniDV!

### **Another Full House...**

The auditorium was packed once again for our Patron's Night on Friday, 10th October. Ossie Morris, assisted by Ray, gave an enthralling presentation about his profession as Director of Photography in the world of Cinema.

The first half of the evening was devoted to Ossie taking us through various scenes from "Scrooge", starting with the title sequence which featured delightful images created by Ronald Searle. Here Ossie emphasised the importance of relating the background visuals to the theme of the movie. In the following clips he described locations, set building, special effects, actors' behaviour, and lighting.

After the break we watched three more film title sequences, each of which clearly defined the mood of the movie thus ensuring continued interest by the audience.

Thank you Ossie for giving us such an entertaining and educational evening.

G.C.

### **Forthcoming Events...**

**31st Oct: Newcastle Video Club.** A presentation and visit by two club members.

*Note: entries for The SILENT comp.*

**7th Nov: The SILENT Competition** (see rule 9 in your programme).

**14th Nov: Moving Graphics.** Digital Forum looks at simple animation of stills.

**21st Nov: AWARDS NIGHT DINNER.** Our premier social event of the year – not to be missed!

**28th Nov: Nick Lera** talks about a distinguished career with Movitone and the BBC.

**The  
ANNUAL DINNER  
And  
AWARDS PRESENTATION  
On  
FRIDAY, 21st NOVEMBER 2008  
In The  
ALLENDALE COMMUNITY CENTRE  
7 pm for 7.30 pm  
Dress: Smart Casual  
BOOK NOW with Dennis Sanders**

## TREVOR'S PAGE

### Another Take



Well, wasn't it interesting to see films from another club. The people from Weymouth certainly had a variety of goodies on offer. Now I don't profess to be an expert, but for me, something didn't quite gel. For example the "Albert Bridge" ( perhaps it wasn't Albert, but you know, the one about the new footbridge over the railway). I felt it was back to front. I feel the taking down of the old bridge should have come first, followed by the erection of the new one, and how many minutes of acetylene metal cutting do you want to watch anyway? Now, Melvin's "four mile crow" would have probably been better as a slide show, because, while the scenery was undoubtedly very attractive, virtually all the shots were static and we didn't really know what we were looking at. Sutton Poyntz, again, a pretty village, but the film could have been half the length, with a little more commentary. As for the Salsa/GoGo dancing by the hotel(?) pool. Was it a hotel or was it a holiday camp, where was it and what was the point of it anyway ?

Am I being really bitchy? I don't know, but once one has tried making films, it is perhaps easier to criticise, and in fairness, the Weymouth group had a considerable number of films to show, but it does make me realize how very fortunate I am to belong to the Wimborne Cine & Video Club. We have a number of people in our club with a vast experience of making films both professionally and semi-professionally, and more importantly those people are very willing to share their knowledge. As a result I am sure we all benefit . I know I have, and hopefully will continue to do so.

### *Notes From An Enthusiastic Member.*

The 3rd October saw the first competition of the new season, and I hope it gave renewed hope to our beleaguered competition secretary, as seven entries in total was an excellent start for the Autumn programme. Let's hope these kinds of entry numbers can be maintained for the rest of the year. As I have probably said many times before, ours is the kind of club where experience and knowledge is pretty extensive, and it is there for everyone to take advantage of, and benefit from. Now, that doesn't mean we can all be the next David Lean or Steven Spielberg, but it does give us an edge compared with Mr Average out there taking holiday and family videos. I find it very reassuring when relations/friends visit us and say "do you have any more films we can see". They never used to say that in my early days of film making, so I know I have benefited from being a member of an excellent club.

The seven entries for the "Mini" reflect the diversity of the films being made by us in the club. I thought they were all both good and interesting, and I did not envy the job of the judges in having to place them in a winning order, but as usual, the judges provided constructive comments as to how each entry could have been improved.

Heather Bell, who is making a film about a local "quire" in Swanage , brought along a commercial DVD ( yes a commercial DVD ) about another choir that was given to her

to give some idea of what was wanted!!!! Having watched this DVD, I felt virtually everyone in the club that night could have made a better job of it. So, let's carry on giving the judges a challenge when the next competition comes around.

That same evening Ray gave us an update on the "Jack The Ripper" saga, and I must say, that even though I am only involved on the fringes of this project, I think it is going to be something of a mammoth undertaking.

But then to see an ambitious project like this taking shape is one of the benefits of being a member of a club like ours.

### An Evening With Harrow

With a total of ten films, having a combined running time of around one hour and twenty minutes, the Harrow evening, proved quite interesting. I missed out on the ten minute "Home Wine Making", ( I was doing the tea ) which was a shame, as I was once into home made wine, and found it quite satisfying, but other hobbies seem to have taken over, and anyway, until recently, wine was comparatively cheap to buy.

I felt it was significant, that for most of the compilation, we, the audience did not have any really strong views about the quality or construction of the various films except for the more general comments like " some clips a little too long and the use of stills" although our chairman did surprise me when he expressed his liking for the Magic Sand entry. We are supposed to be "video" clubs, and I recall an entry in one of our own club holiday competitions, that used "stills", which received quite strong criticism at the time from our chairman for not being a "real video".

The one entry that stood out for me was "Simple as ABC" which everyone seemed to enjoy, I think, because it was so informative. The St John Ambulance man spoke very clearly and his description of resuscitation was very easy to understand. As someone who has tried to resuscitate a "dummy" I can confirm how surprisingly tiring it is. It is probably worth reminding everyone of the steps involved. So, if you find someone collapsed on the floor;

- 1-Clear the airways
- 2-Check for breathing
- 3-Shout for help or call the emergency services
- 4- Make sure the front door is open if indoors
- 5- Then start thirty chest compressions ( don't

worry about breaking the odd rib or two ), followed by two mouth to mouth lung inflations, followed by chest compressions, and so on until you are relieved by someone else, or you collapse from exhaustion. 1,2 & 5 are the A,B,and C of course.

Well with the emergency lesson over, it did take our chairman to express the view, that for him, the film didn't work, as the "eye line was all wrong". He's right of course and if one is going to be picky, I thought the colours between the two cameras on the speaker were not quite matched either. But hey, the video was very educational, and you never know, one day you might just be grateful you have seen it, especially if you are ever confronted by someone lying very still on the ground!!!!!!

*Trevor, many thanks for your input. No-one else has yet offered so much. Keep it flowing. Ed.*