



# Medway Film Makers

(Incorporating Medway Camcorder Club)

Meeting fortnightly at:

Davis Estate Community Centre, Chatham, Kent

[www.medwayfilmmakers.com](http://www.medwayfilmmakers.com)



## This Newsletter . Issue One 2011

This is my first newsletter of 2011, so it's not too late to wish you a Happy New Year. I would like to thank those people who gave me Christmas cards which was a nice gesture: apart from close family we do not send cards but I made donations to Pilgrims Hospice in Thanet and the Dogs Trust at Chestfield.

Editor.



## The new website

The website [www.medwayfilmmakers.com](http://www.medwayfilmmakers.com). Is still attracting hits from prospective members and an enquiry about another filming project that I hope will be followed up. We still need up-to-date photos and film footage. Please speak to Peter if you have material that can go on.



## MY DVD/VCR WILL NOT PLAY

The title to this article is one that is often expressed after purchasing a modern **LCD Free view** flat screen **TV**. There are various reasons for not working on this type of TV, although it did function ok on the old set. Sales persons will rarely, if ever, explain this problem at time of purchase, I can only assume they don't know or do not think of it at the moment of sale. I tried to find out, in a popular store, what the term, **H.D. Ready**, was all about, the answer was to put it politely, vague, and loss of custom could result from the correct answer.

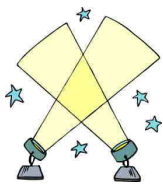
I investigated my question and very quickly found the reason for this term. HD Ready TVs will only display High Definition images from a HD accessory such as Blu-Ray Player, to display HD OFF AIR programs you will have to buy a free view HD box or invest in a SKY box. To confuse the issue even more, you can buy a FULL HD TV that does not require a free view+ box, it's built in. This can push up the price by quite a large amount due to the fact that the TV has a free view HD TUNER However, should you need recording facilities with a FULL HD set you will have to either obtain a SKY box OR **Free view + HD** unit, this enables you to **Pause LIVE TV** in what is called Catch Up, Record at least TWO programs whilst watching a THIRD or Play a Recorded Film whilst recording another, it is a minefield.

Now, to get back to the original problem of why MY DVD WILL NOT PLAY, the output of most DVDs and certainly the older ones is analogue, therefore simply switch your TV to analogue and select the AV input for the DVD or VCR play back, bobs your uncle, **DVD Playback**, all sweetness and light. Of course if you DVD/VCR are in anyway faulty it will not play on anything.

Yet another question that I am often asked is, why can't I see good pictures when viewing the screen at an acute angle, they are more than poor, well, I do not know the technicalities concerning this problem but my TV is very good at it, not perfect however but a slight twist of the set and perfect results. I can only assume as in many cases, you get what you pay for, the price often indicates the quality of a product and is not all down to the Manufactures name. One more thing before I sign off, there seems to be varied ideas regarding the progress of Blu-Ray as a standard.

I realise that to display Blu-Ray the requirements are up market if you wish to appreciate its very high quality, this will incur mega bucks, as is said, to invest in TVs that have a resolution of 1080p or higher. I would like to read in the newsletter any comments that members have on the subject of Blue Ray together with tips etc. on surround sound systems. Good hunting and spend wisely,

John Ling



### **World Fame ( Well Kent anyway)**

*Peter Hughes sent me the following message for publication:*

"I have received a Christmas card from the Girl Guides - Kent East.

Which reads:

To All members of the Medway Film Makers.

May I express our grateful thanks to you all for such a magnificent DVD. It has already been appreciated by many of our members all saying what a glorious keepsake we now all have of our Cathedral Service. A copy has been sent to our president, HRH Countess of Wessex and the Chief Guide!

Thank you so much.

Sue Sherlock, County Commissioner - Kent East



### **Blu-Ray Discs v DVD 'S**

Following John Ling's article, 'Which' magazine has run a test on picture quality of commercially bought DVD's and equivalent Blu-Ray disks. The test used two identically set up televisions.

The results were surprising. Only a small percentage of films tested had improved picture quality when using a Blu-Ray disk. The majority showed no improvement over DVD's.

The conclusion is stay with DVD's. Use the up-scaling feature in the DVD player to maximise picture quality. This will save you money.

Peter Hughes  
2 Dec.2010



## **Film Competition**

It's competition time!!

Those nice people from Dream Scene, who have helped create such films like Toy Story, have given us a CD with 60 digital animated backgrounds.

To win this you must make a film no longer than 3 minutes 30 seconds, including titles and must be titled "A Day In The Life OF" .....

Now this could be a day in the life of you, your car, your work, it's up to you.

So put your thinking caps on and get filming. I'm really looking forward to see what you come up with.

John Wallage.

Editor's note: I think Alan gave until the end of February for entries.



## **A Message from Your New Chair**

"It is some seven years since I last started an evening meeting of MFM with my rallying call of 'Gather Ye Up'. I'm out of practice!

I know most of you well and I look forward to catching up with those folk who are recent new Members: I hope you'll find MFM membership informative and, more importantly, enjoyable.

May our videoing be ever more an inventive and satisfying hobby. The club is surging forward and with your assistance, involvement and suggestions I intend to foster and encourage that situation.

To *all* Members I extend a hearty New Year Greeting and thank you for all your past endeavours.

Alan D Whippy  
Chair MFM"



## **The AGM**

The AGM Was held on Thursday 18th November 2010. Nominations have been received for all three Triumvirate positions. The outgoing Triumvirate members presented their reports. It was attended by almost (except our little sailor boy who apologised for his absence although he wasn't on the briny this time!!) the entire membership. The results of the elections were Chair; Alan Whippy; Treasurer Peter Hughes; Secretary; Beryl Hughes. Congratulations to all three.



## **The Programme for the first Quarter of the Year**

<b>13<sup>th</sup> January</b>	<b>Animation</b>	Rod Smith is presenting a tutorial on this subject.
<b>27<sup>th</sup> January</b>	<b>Chroma Screen.</b>	The Kartchers Continued; Second episode. David J, Pat and John. Cameras cables etc.
<b>10<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<b>Film Directing</b>	actors, cameras and the clapper board. Ron Jarrett cameras and cables. Clapper board, monitors?
<b>24<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<b>Judging</b>	The elements of being a judge in Film Competitions Alan Whippy. Members participate in judging films.
<b>10<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>Sound</b>	Adding voice over, Background music and setting the volume.
<b>24<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>1 minute film competition</b>	Followed by Members films.
<b>7<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>Chroma Screen</b>	The Kartchers Continued. David J, Pat and John and Bryon's Script.



## **Directing a film 10<sup>th</sup> February**

I shall be directing this evening and I would like to make it a workshop evening for all members. I have acquired the services of two actors from the Medway Little Theatre and they will be acting an excerpt from the play 'The Dresser'. I will need 4 cameras: 3 for the action, one for documentary purposes. Sound Engineer and Continuity with clapper board. I would like all cameras to be on monitors. My aim is to remind us all of the techniques of filming dramas and have a fun evening. So volunteers please by email to me at [henry.jarrett@btopenworld.com](mailto:henry.jarrett@btopenworld.com) ASAP.

Ron Jarrett

## **The Triumvirate**

**Chair:** Alan Whippy 01634 371570

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**Secretary:** Beryl Hughes (as above)

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If you want to write an article or post a photo in the newsletter please email me at the email address above.  
The next newsletter will be March 2011.

A henry dachydog Production for Medway Film Makers.  
Plushpaws Studios  
Cliftonville Kent.

Ron Jarrett

