



Medway Film Makers

(Incorporating Medway Camcorder Club)

Meeting fortnightly at:

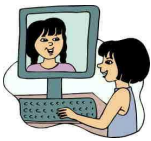
Davis Estate Community Centre, Chatham, Kent

www.medwayfilmmakers.com



This Newsletter . Issue Six

Once again I am having difficulty writing this newsletter because of the lack of content; I seem just to reiterate what has been happening at club night which is ok for those other than club members, who must find it pretty boring! The only articles that have been helpful with technical aspects of filming, editing etc. I have begged from authors from outside the club.



The new website

The new website www.medwayfilmmakers.com is attracting some hits and we have had some enquires about membership arising from this. Peter has asked me once again for you to search your archives for photographs for the gallery as this is an important of the site for visitors and gives an insight in to what we are and what we do. Perhaps you could lift some frames from past films to put in the gallery.



All England Police Dog Trials

I know that some of you are concerned about what appears to be a lack of progress on this project. There is however 14 hours of tapes to be watched and logged. John Hooker and I have been doing these spending whole days at a time. Anne Hooker with infinite patience a sense of humour with her foot in plaster and without a kitchen has been providing snacks and meals for us all, this is above and beyond the call of duty for a non club member and I think the club owe her a debt of gratitude.

I have spoken to the Officer who arranged the commissioned and have agreed a timetable and we are on target. Both John and I have to fit this into whatever else is happening in our 'other' lives.



Format and Ratio

I have seen many articles on the above subject. It must be very confusing for anybody new to the hobby.

When cameras and televisions all worked on 4:3 ratio, editing on a timeline was easy. Now we have older televisions on 4:3, newer ones are widescreen. Cameras have the possibility of filming in 4:3, cinema and widescreen. Computer timelines can be either 4:3 or widescreen. Oh dear, what a mixture!

Here is my simplistic answer.

1. Decide which camera format to use. Note, cinema format on most cameras are actually 4:3 with black bars top and bottom to give a widescreen impression.

2. If computer editing, use same format as camera for timeline.
3. Your final film will have kept the correct aspect ratio. However, it is advisable to mark your DVD with the format used, i.e. 4:3 or widescreen.

For those of you, who want to mix formats, use the widescreen timeline on the computer? This will give correct height of frame and width for the widescreen portion while 4:3 will have black vertical bars on either side or correct frame height.

Hope this helps.

Peter Hughes



Wooden Flowers

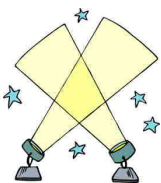
On Thursday 29th October we were visited by Ike Jackson, who is a Romany gipsy who demonstrated making wooden flowers. While he demonstrated the old craft, Ike told us about his childhood as a member of a family of gipsies. During the summer they would travel around Kent doing field work and in the winter they would return to their camp. It was now time to make the wooden flowers and pegs to sell from door to door, Ike said that he had little schooling and that is why he cannot read or write. Members brought their cameras and David Jelley set up the blue screen so that we could make our own versions of the evening using chroma key. It was nice to see Ken Drury doing the sound for this evening and if anybody wants a copy of the sound please contact him on 01634 27123



Ike preparing for his talk



Glen tries his hand at making wooden flowers



World premiere 'Not Enough Rope'

Thursday the 5th of November MFM members, their families and members of the Medway Little Theatre were treated to the first ever showing of the film 'Not Enough Rope' there was a large appreciative audience. And the end result was worth waiting for, Alan and Gwen had toiled many months over this film, screenplay and direction was by Gwen and the unenviable task of editing, under the watchful and artistic eye of the director was done by Alan!. The showing followed by a light supper provided by the members.



Courtroom scene



Rowdy Crowd Scene



Gwen directing



Also in the spotlight

Ron Jarrett showed his film 'Dancing Feet 2' a series which only shows dancers feet, but in this case the audience were taken by surprise when the couple executing the quick step with such ease, grace and skill turned out to be the immediate past Chair Rod Smith and his wife Phyll who are consummate ballroom dancers. Club members gasped in admiration when they were revealed in their dancing finery at the end of the film.



Rod and Phyll in all their splendour



It's a Fair Cop Gov'nor!

It all started when Medway Film Makers were out filming a year in the life of our Mayor of Medway. She and Medway Council asked MFM to do an archive piece, covering the whole year, on the different activities that fall to the incumbent Mayor to perform. Gwen Whippy, as team leader, with husband Alan, split the group into teams, and found themselves covering, among other things, an overnight charity sleep-out in cardboard boxes. Among the "dossers" were a couple of coppers whose cardboard box even sported a flashing blue light. They asked Alan and club member Dave Curling if they would do a promo on Community Policing.

A few weeks later, Gwen and Alan were contacted by the police – who turned up at their house in their colourful yellow, white and blue police van – the neighbouring curtains twitched! Diaries were co-ordinated and a rough pattern of weekly call-outs was planned. These calls were genuine – no question of staging, rehearsal, or composing the shots – the instructions was "If we stop, you jump out at the double and start filming" The vehicle which collected us each day was another of the large coloured ones. Inside, at the back, there was a fixed mesh cage, which proved to be where the criminals were put when they were arrested. From our seats, also at the back, we often had the dubious pleasure of being watched by the latest prisoner – in fact we sometimes wondered which of us was under arrest!

In the course of that summer, we saw drug arrests, night driving offences, with no tax or insurance; stolen motor cycles, pub raids, traffic controls, knives being confiscated, – in turn with police officers playing with young children, giving them rides in the wagon, and acting "goodies and baddies" – all part of the unrelenting work being done by community police men and women, and all aimed at enhancing good community relations.

It was fun, informative and often surprising – with ample opportunity for some unusual camera footage, often in difficult circumstances.

The friendship we made with the Kent Police has continued, and has been very valuable. We gained the Laser Rush Trophy for the best film on a Kent subject in the recent Kent Film Festival, but the best part of it all was the tremendous experience in impromptu camera work that we gained.

Gwen Whippy



Traffic control

The AGM

The AGM will be held on Thursday 19th November 7-30 for 7-45 sharp please. Nominations have been received for all three Triumvirate positions. The outgoing Triumvirate members will be presenting their reports. Please make sure that you attend and have your say.



The Programme for the rest of the year and January

Thurs. 19th Nov.

AGM Night

Starts 7.45pm. Any time left over we will be showing club films.

Thurs. 3rd Dec.

Five Minute Competition

Last chance to enter this year.

Thurs. 17th Dec.

Christmas Party / Social

Thurs. 31st Dec.

No meeting tonight

2010

Thurs. 14th Jan.

SOCO Archive Films

An evening of award winning films from the Southern counties of the IAC. **Note date change.**

Thurs. 28th Jan

HMS Birmingham

Bob Horn is giving us a film evening on the commissioning of this boat.

The Triumvirate

Chair: Ron Jarrett 01843 294644

Email: henry.jarrett@btopenworld.com

Treasurer: Peter Hughes 01634 360401

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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 January 2010.

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

Ron Jarrett

