



# 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 3 (2011)**

This is my third newsletter of the year, its difficult one for me to write as for various reasons I have not been at club this year as much as I would like, however from the end of September things will get easier I hope and you may see more of me, of course some of you may think this is a mixed blessing!. I still need contributions and rely heavily on people who are regular contributors but even they will start to flag soon.

Ron Jarrett  
Editor



## **Chair Chats**

During the past few meetings we have again been regaled by another of John and Pat's evenings of reminiscences so well put across and enjoyed by all. It was just one of those things influenced by Murphy's Law but I missed it-again. John Hooker, in spite of on-going personal concerns has remained a stalwart of our little club and, although having a respite from setting the programme, seems to be as busy as ever! How he manages to fit so much into so little time never ceases to amaze me.

John Hallett's evening of impromptu film making and editing *in camera* was successful and we had hopes he would knock up another session. Alas, John has not been with us recently so another exercise is still something to look forward to. One other thing-John & Pat suggested a night out at a most unusual Public House the Shipwright's Arms near Faversham. Approached by a narrow lane, a little unkempt surface wise, with occasional speed bumps between the odd potholes, the venue was great. Well worth a return visit but apparently not at the weekend when it is SO busy the few of us who did turn out enjoyed ourselves and muttered what a treat others missed. Thank you J & P for introducing it.

Now since the AGM looms over the horizon I have taken stock of my own circumstances and reluctantly concludes I can't pull my weight as I did all those years ago when last I was chairman. I therefore have decided that I should not continue as your chairman for another term of office. I have enjoyed trying to make dear Mavis jump when using my gavel with the exhortation to 'Gather Ye Up'. Sorry, Folks, but our increasing involvement with both the IAC and The Little Theatre now conflicts seriously with MFM matters.

I look forward to my, and Gwen's, continuing membership of Medway film makers and will give my successor our very best support.

Thank you for the privilege of having me as Chair again: I enjoyed it but my conscience niggled me for not being able to do more for you.

Alan



## **Workshop 8<sup>th</sup> September Please note!**

The next meeting the 8<sup>th</sup> September will be in two parts, namely “Steady shots without a Tripod” & Composition of your shots

The first section “Steady shots without a Tripod”. The object is for me to give a clear description of the type of shot I want, then a selected member will try and film this shot, which should be as stable as possible and include all the lessons learnt in the WALLDO & camera height demonstration recently.

**There are 5 different shots** and are all to be inside the Hall. Although the projector and screen will be setup in the standard summer position (Opposite the twin incoming doors) the audience will have to swing their chairs round 180 degrees to face the above mentioned doors. This is so they can clearly see what the selected member is doing. A 32 inch LCD TV to show the audience live pictures from each selected member will be placed on a table in the middle of the hall ( Just in front of where the audience are sitting but not spoiling any of the great shots I have got planned )

After the volunteer has completed his / her shot, I will then use their camera and show how I would do it, explaining how to keep the camera steady with available props within the hall, plus of course the WALLDO Pro-touch

The shots once set up, are all very short 10 seconds or less. Each camera person is to record this shot then I will record my version on their camera afterwards.

[Playback on the big screen if we have time at the end] Some of the shots require audience participation, so 3 or 4 volunteers who I hope will be readily forthcoming.

Second section - “Composition” requires a change round of the audience seating position.

The audience will turn their chairs round to the standard layout facing the screen. Using training DVD's I propose to show how to “Frame - up a shot”. Examples :- Rule of thirds, Crossing the line, Tripod / Handheld, Backgrounds and anything else that will entertain and be useful.

This program will not work if people don't bring the correct equipment: - Camera, Tape, Battery and most importantly their A.V.leads

With only 2 or 3 cameras I will have to ask those who have brought their cameras to do more than one shot location, but hopefully if enough cameras arrive then each person will only have to do one session themselves.

This program has been designed to keep people more active, share their comments and experiences. Practice these skills and most of all help show the “New members”  
Camera Skills

John Hooker  
Programme Secretary.



## **The website**

The website is continues to flourish under the webmastership of Peter and as well as photos there is now a video link so if you want to add a video it should be not more than a couple of minutes long. Send it to Peter in an AVI file format and he will add it.



## **Editing High Definition – HD**

Those of you who have been at our summer meetings will know about my first adventure into editing HD files. I thought it would be a good idea to summarise the aspects of HD.

Sony and Panasonic jointly developed the AVCHD (H264) file format for HD. The files are compressed to allow small hard drive or chip cameras to be used.

To remove these files and load onto a computer, you will need a piece of software, which interacts with camera and computer. The Sony software is called PMB. The PMB programme will 'suck' files from camera and load into a folder. This part fairly is straightforward providing you follow the camera's manual.

Next stage is editing and now gets complicated. Depending on your editing programme, assuming it is designed for HD and when you bought it. The very latest programmes with fast processors will handle 'raw' AVCHD files. Slightly older programmes will need a 'plug-in' to massage the raw AVCHD files. For those using Edius, Grass Valley issued a plug-in at the end of 2010, which works very well. I assume Adobe will have a similar plug-in.

Programmes able to work with raw files, editing is straightforward. For those with a plug-in will need to convert the files before editing can take place.

Once you understood the requirements before editing started, the work was very similar to SD editing. However, I have some unanswered questions and thoughts on HD.

When working in SD, we had a compressed file format called MPEG and this did lose quality from original tape. For HD files they are made smaller than MPEG, how do they not lose quality?

Next point is do you make a DVD with your HD footage or Blu-Ray? Personally I would only convert files to make a DVD unless you set the camera recording format to the ultra-high recording level to maintain definition, otherwise you are wasting your money.

If any of you are interested in HD, then Tom Hardwick who writes in the FVM is giving a talk on the subject on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> October 2011 in Woodford Green. More info from [ericgranshaw@thekeys.plus.com](mailto:ericgranshaw@thekeys.plus.com)

Peter Hughes  
1<sup>st</sup> Sept. 2011



## Kent Film Festival 2011

Thanks to those who have already bought tickets for this year's festival on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> September at Christ Church University, Canterbury.

We had 50 entries this year covering a wide range of subjects. It is a good time to come and see what other filmmakers are doing. Make it a social day out.

I still have advance tickets available at £5 each. On the day they are £7.50.

See you there.

Beryl Hughes  
1<sup>st</sup> Sept. 2011



## Wanted

I am looking for a small camcorder that takes mini DVD tapes to use to upload to my PC. John Hallett kindly gave me one but it has given up the ghost. I was told by a High Street chain that I would not find the like in high street stores anymore as the storage facility had moved on! Will pay a reasonable price or hopefully someone can point me to a source.

Thanks  
Ron Jarrett



## BIAF results 2011.

Only two awards in Kent out of the countless international successes – and those two are from MFM, and one Toby Milburn Pinn!

He's gained two 2 star awards, "the Tip of the Iceberg" and "When HMS Chatham Came to my Town" and Toby is the only winner from Kent. It is such a prestigious competition, and you will see that entries come from as far as South Korea and Germany.

Well done Toby

Gwen Whippy.



## The Programme

**Thurs. 8th Sept.**

### **Steady shots without a Tripod & Composition**

Practical evening to practice hand held camera techniques. We will also look at composition. Please bring cameras, tapes, batteries and A/V leads.

**Thurs. 22th Sept.**

**Be a Film Judge**

Tonight we are having evening on how to judge films. Discover the elements of judging. Could be quite lively!

**Thurs. 6th Oct.**

**Filming for History**

Bob Horn will show us some archive films from Chatham Dockyard.

**Thurs. 20th Oct**

**To be announced**

**Thurs. 3rd Nov.**

**Five minute Competition**

**Thurs. 17th Nov.**

**A.G.M.**

**Thurs. 1st Dec.**

**To be announced**

**Thurs. 15th Dec.**

**Christmas Social**

A night off to celebrate Christmas.

**Thurs. 29th Dec.**

**No Meeting - see you in 2012.**

**The Triumvirate**

**Chair:** Alan Whippy 01634 371570

**Email:** [adgp@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:adgp@blueyonder.co.uk)

**Treasurer:** Peter Hughes 01634 360401

**Email:** [wigmore.films@btinternet.com](mailto:wigmore.films@btinternet.com)

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

**Email:** [wigmore.films@btinternet.com](mailto:wigmore.films@btinternet.com)

**Other contacts**

**Publicity:** Gwen Whippy 01634 371570  
David Curling 01634 362795

**Email:** [adgp@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:adgp@blueyonder.co.uk).  
**Email:** [davidcurling@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:davidcurling@blueyonder.co.uk)

**Newsletter Editor:** Ron Jarrett 01843 294644      **Email:** [henry.jarrett@btopenworld.com](mailto:henry.jarrett@btopenworld.com)

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 in December 2011

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

Ron Jarrett

