

STORYBOARD



June 2008

FROM THE CHAIR

The AGM has come and gone and we are no nearer to choosing a new name for the Society than we were a year ago. By a 20 to 13 majority the membership decided at the AGM that they wished to change our name, but when it came to voting for the proposed name - Staines Movie Makers - which was put forward by the Committee after considering all your suggestions it was rejected by 21 to 14. So what now? Whatever name we go for it is quite clear it won't satisfy everyone. Some members want Video in the new name. Some don't like the word 'Society'. We all have different preferences. So until we can somehow resolve this 'name change' issue we will remain Staines Ciné & Video Society.

At the AGM you re-elected the same Committee and our first task is to organise the programme for the 2008-09 season. A number of suggestions have been made by members and we will be taking these on board when planning the programme. We could well be trying out some new ideas including a competition for the Best One-Minute Movie. It has also been decided that our 4-Minute Competition will not have a theme next season. By lifting this restriction we hope to get more entries. It's up to you!

This month we have an extra meeting at the hall because on Friday 20 June we are giving a special show to commemorate the

centenary of Laleham Village Hall. Roy and I have been putting together a selection of films which include those with a local Laleham interest as well as some of our best short comedies. All the hall's users have been asked to do something to celebrate the opening of the hall back in April 1908, and so this will be our Society's contribution.

Admission to the public will be free, and will give Laleham residents an opportunity to see what we do, and who knows, it might even attract some new members. We need two volunteers to be on tea/coffee duty that night please. I hope you all make every effort to attend this special Society event. The show starts at 8pm and we will need help to set the hall up from 7pm. It's also interesting to note that for 50 of the Hall's 100 years it has been our venue. We started to regularly meet here on Friday 26 September 1958.

I'm happy to report that Stoke Ciné & Video Society very much enjoyed our latest Showreel and they have kindly sent me various comments about the films they saw. These will be of particular interest to those who made them.

Just to remind members that our next meeting at LVH is on Friday 4 July. Hope it's a good summer for all and keep those cameras busy!

Ken Ferguson

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Friday	6 Jun	Group Comedies Discussion
Tuesday	10 Jun	Management Committee Meeting
Friday	20 Jun	SPECIAL SCVS SHOW at LVH starting at 8pm (open to the public and members)
Friday	4 Jul	Summer Meeting
Tuesday	8 Jul	Management Committee Meeting
Saturday	2 Aug	Helen's Annual Barbecue (from 7.30pm)
Friday	8 Aug	Summer Meeting
Tuesday	12 Aug	Management Committee Meeting
Friday	5 Sep	New season preview / Screening of 10 to 4 Clips

COMMENTS FROM STOKE

For the very first time members of Stoke Ciné & Video Society were given the chance to see the work done by our Society members (also known as SCVS!). Their Secretary, June Edwards sent me the following letter a few days after our films were shown.

Dear Ken

We had a good attendance for your Showreel which was on the last evening of our season. The programme was much enjoyed and various comments were noted for your members' possible interest. These are in the order in which they were viewed.

KEEPING THE FLAME ALIVE

A very good intro. Comments were made about the fades to black which tended to fragment the story. The event was most unusual and quite new to all of us. The parallel between the two events - The Gunpowder Plot and The Burning at the Stake - were difficult for us to relate to.

PASSING THE TIME

All very familiar situations to 'most of us' at the club! Well put together with good audio. Must have been fun to make.

FOUR ELISE

This play on words was quite ingenious. Good F/X...split screen with a difference, and of course the use of the Beethoven music fitted well!

FAMILY HISTORY

An entertaining project of a subject that would not usually be seen as 'general appeal'. Nevertheless, in this case the film was very well received, particularly by some of us who are 'family historians'. Perhaps a little too long (some of the shots/sequences could have been shorter). The framing/composition was not always ideal for the wide screen format. The music was perhaps too intrusive at times. On the whole, a most interesting and enjoyable film.

WEIR HERE

An excellent film extremely well edited with no shot held too long and with good camera angles and viewpoints. Good sound continuity. This was thoroughly enjoyed by all our members. (I realised later that this film has been very successful in Regional and National competitions).

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THAT'S THE WAY TO DO IT

A most interesting subject explained in some detail. We would have liked to have seen the interviewer at the start or at some point (it is always disconcerting to see the interviewee but not the person asking the questions!). The swazzle was explained but not shown, a pity. There was some variation in sound levels which we corrected in projection, only minor irritations in an otherwise excellent film.

AUBREY'S SEAT

This film created good atmosphere with the excellent slo-mo sequences adding to this. An ideal setting for this project. Very good choice of music. Everyone enjoyed this film which was just the right length for the subject matter.

DUBROVNIK

It was interesting to see this city as it is now after all the devastation caused in recent years. Some of the shots were 'clipped' before the end of zooms, always disconcerting. Some of the narration was not always relevant to the shots on view. An interesting travelogue capturing the colourful scenes and buildings of today.

EYE IN THE SKY

An interesting trend of modern surveillance! We all think that this should be everywhere!!! Some of the sequences were rather repetitive, perhaps a little 'over the top', but very enjoyable.

Well Ken, once again thank you and we look forward to maybe seeing a Showreel from your club again in the near future.

Ken Ferguson

TEA ROTA



5 Sep	Geoff & Ann Clark
12 Sep	Geoff Conway & Colin Hignett
19 Sep	Tony & Norma Valvona

NEXT SEASON

SPCVS NAME CHANGE

At a recent meeting, Spring Park Ciné & Video Society decided to change their name. Many of their members didn't like Ciné or Society. So on the night they changed it. They considered Spring Park Movie Makers and some other suggestions, but in the end decided on Spring Park Film Makers.

If only our name change could be so speedy.....

Jill Carr

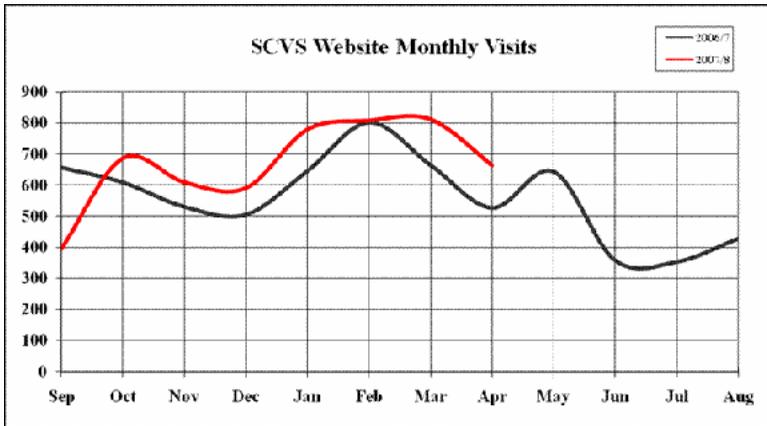
NEW SUBSCRIPTION RATES

for next Season

Full	Joint	Retired Full	Retired Joint	Associate	Junior <18
£23	£28	£20	£23	£9	£15

FROM THE WEBSITE

Jeremy 3.5.08: Although the website statistics are reported monthly at committee meetings, I thought some of you would like to know that activity on the site this season continues to exceed last year. In March there were 813 'visits' to the site which generated nearly 20,000 'hits'. A 'visit' means one person entering the site and a 'hit' is registered each time a visitor clicks onto a page. In the graph below the black line is last season and the red, this season.



Roger 4.5.08: Well it's all happening a little sooner than expected. Since exploring the subject a few days ago Argos now have the HD boxes for sale starting at around £120.00 and they can arrange installation with dish at reasonable prices. The official launch date is being shown as 6th May on some sites and 7th May on others. The launch appears to be low key and so there may not be the initial rush I expected.

Roger 3.5.08: I was speaking to Jeremy the other day about his new flat screen telly and I asked if he had an HD source. Like me he said not yet. It seems a shame that these super TVs now commonly available are not operating to their full potential in most homes unless you have a lot of money to burn on expensive Blu-Ray HD discs or costly SKY subscriptions. Jeremy thought my recent findings might be of interest to you.

These new TVs and ancillary equipment are constantly being updated and improved and you may think it best to wait until the optimum is reached. I think we would wait forever and most of us have not got forever to wait! Flat screen tellys have been around for almost 10 years now and they have improved enormously with prices tumbling to the point where you can buy a quality 42" TV now for the same as you would have paid for a Sony 28" nearly 20 years ago.

Choosing the best equipment for your money can be tricky. Reviews in magazines are useful but by no means reliable. I have followed recommendations for Hi Fi and video cameras in the past only to find serious shortcomings or faults. I have also been a participant on a review panel for What Hi Fi magazine and opinions are not always faithfully reproduced. Also a short test is not sufficient to properly determine a product's quality.

Most of you will have heard my complaint about a particular Canon video camera purchased about 3 years ago. It was highly recommended in the magazines and the advertisements for the camera sung its praises. The suggestion was that the camera could be used with good results in almost any situation and the advert depicted two pictures of scenes in subdued lighting. I found

that the camera, whilst sharp and with good colours produced jerky pictures when the lighting was subdued - not very good for any indoor situation. I complained to Canon for over a year and they eventually replaced it with one of their top models (I say replaced - they actually let me keep the offending camera as well!).

My most recent experience of unreliable magazine reviews and shop recommendations was with the purchase of my Sharp 42" TV. In making comparisons in the shops always check that the pictures for the different sets are coming from the same source and that the connections to the sets are with the same type of cable. A scart connection will be inferior to an HDMI or component connection. Some shops will put the best connection on the sets they are trying to promote. I chose my TV after visiting a number of shops. The picture of this set caught my eye in three different shops. I knew I wouldn't be watching high definition immediately and this set seemed to be the best using a standard digital signal. I read two magazine reviews and one said it was tops and the other condemned it saying its pictures and sound were poor. I relied on what I'd seen and went ahead with my purchase as soon as the price came down on an internet site. I was delighted with my choice and the sound is the best I've heard on a TV. What Hi Fi must have reviewed a different set to me! If you are buying a flat panel now you will find those with the latest techno are the most expensive. I would suggest you just make sure it has 1080p definition, check movement scenes and picture quality.

Returning now to the issue of a high definition source; by the time you read this the situation will have changed but my current findings and thoughts are these - if you enjoy films then go for the Samsung BD-P1400/XEU Blu-Ray DVD player which costs £199.00 at play.com. Yes the discs can be expensive (£15.00 upwards) and are only worth buying if it's something you want to watch repeatedly such as a musical programme or a documentary with exceptional picture quality and attractive scenery. The most sensible way of viewing feature films would seem to be by joining Lovefilm.com. There are various Blu-Ray plans - I would choose the 2 discs a month package for a monthly premium of £3.99 including postage. On returning the disc to them they will send another of your choice, up to two per month. There are other options at different prices.

For a more permanent and, in the long run, cheaper alternative there is a new satellite service with high definition being launched very shortly by the BBC and ITV (other stations are joining them). This will be a free service called FREESAT (pay for installation and box only). The prices presently suggested are £75.00 to £100.00 for installation with dish and £150.00 to £200.00 for a high definition box. The service uses the same satellite as SKY and so anyone with SKY can simply hook up a new box and avoid SKY's charges for high definition. At first only one or two channels will have HD but standard digital TV can also be watched on this box. For those without SKY I anticipate there could be a rush for the installations and costs could go up? In preparation and to avoid the rush, I popped into Currys this week and purchased SKY's present standard definition offer with the idea of just buying the free high definition service box later when released. The cost of the SKY package is cheap at £75.00 which includes the SKY standard definition box, the dish and installation. The only slight catch is that, initially, you have to give your credit card number to SKY - this is in their hope that you will want to continue with their £19.00 monthly package after the initial free 4 months. They tell you on the packaging that providing you call them to cancel the arrangement within three months you can continue without cost to watch the SKY free channels. At about that time you may be hooking up the new HD box to work with the SKY box or you may decide just to use the new HD box.

Roy 6.5.08: I checked in Comet today and found Freesat boxes Humex and Grundig at £149.99 and a dish installation priced at £79.95 but more interesting is that the Panasonic Website is now advertising large screen TVs with the Sat tuner built in and released today. I believe plans are afoot to put Sat tuners in all their TVs and they will still have the usual Freeview tuner as well. Also www.freesat.co.uk have updated their site and have lots of more interesting info which is well worth a look. I have recently bought at a knockdown price a Panie SD1 (Managers Special)

and like Ken D has said when played back through the HDMI socket of my high def set, the pictures are quite stunning so let's see how HD on Freesat looks.

Barrie 8.5.08: I went to Argos to check on Freesat box only to find out they will not be having them for sale until the end of May. If you phone the store phone and go though the 'press this press that' you should get the price over the phone. I asked for the price of the Bush HD box and the price came back as £999.99.

Roy 9.5.08: If you fancy a bit of DIY, then Maplin are selling a Satellite dish for Freesat £39.99 (supply your own cable). This is a 43cm Dia dish and the part No is A69GG - you can do a search on www.maplin.co.uk There is also a PDF file on how to assemble it which looks very simple and it's not rocket science. This would halve the cost of the installation.

Roger 11.5.08: Have a laugh on me! From my previous notes you will know that I took advantage of the Sky package with a view to installing the FREESAT HD box when it became available. Well before the installers arrived I obtained a Humax FREESAT box from Comet. I was so excited the next day (7th May) as the Sky installer was due. I kept my Freesat box quiet and asked him for a dual LNG (for two signals from the dish) saying I might upgrade to Sky plus in the future. 'That's no problem' he said. He spent an hour with me scratching his head and then declared 'you need the Heights Team because of the trees.' The Heights Team arrived on 9th and I couldn't understand why their pole was no longer than the previous chap's pole. They said I had been misled as the 'Heights' means fitting dishes on tall buildings, not tall poles on short buildings. 'Oh' I said. 'Where do we go from here?' He advised me to obtain a 10 foot mast and he's due to call back this Thursday 15th. Watch this space for the next 'instalment'. Roger also mentioned on 12 May that members might like to know that an HD box with recorder built in is on the way (he doesn't know when but someone suggested July/August).

Roy 14.5.08: I found that Maplin in Hounslow had just one Dish left (none round my way) so took a trip there and bought it together with a signal finder and am now up and running. The pics on HD are excellent but as yet not much choice from only BBC which are mostly repeats of recent programs so waiting for ITV due in a couple of weeks. The HD box I bought from Currys at the current price tag of £150 was the Humax Foxsat-HD which has a very good write up and certainly does perform very well and is simple to set up. I'm a little concerned about the heat generated by the box when switched on for any length of time so have given it some space underneath for ventilation with some half inch spacers but once in standby then its quite cool. So time will tell if Freesat will take off but it must be good for those who can't get Freeview anyway.

Roger 18.5.08: Re Freesat. I thought I should just end on a happy note – 3RD TIME LUCKY! The third lot of installers called last Thursday and successfully installed the Sky dish on my 10ft pole. I've attached both the Sky box and the Humax HD box side by side using the two leads coming from the LNG. The result? - super detailed pictures and dolby digital sound as well - all without any subscription payment. BBC and Luxe are the present HD channels but it will quickly expand starting with ITV1 in a few days. In chatting to some members the other day it was suggested that the current Panasonic HD box would be better proposition than those lesser known makes being advertised for Freesat. I should mention that it will not be possible to view ITV HD and possibly some other HD channels (when they come along) on the current Panasonic box. Whilst it may be possible to view these stations on certain free to air boxes it would probably be best to make sure the box you buy has the FREESAT HD logo on it. Relying on a well known make is not always the best policy.

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Ann 21.5.08: I found the comments from Stoke that were read out by Ken on our film Family History were helpful. This is something that is missing from our present voting system.

Jeremy 30.5.08: In case some of you haven't spotted this, Pinnacle has now brought out their Studio Ultimate Version 12. The upgrade for existing Pinnacle users is £69.99 if you buy before 24 June. I haven't found out what the actual price will be for first timers yet.

SUMMER BARBECUE

Hopefully you will all have Saturday 2 August marked in your diary for our Annual Barbecue, which once again Helen is kindly hosting at her Weybridge home. Kick off is 7.30 pm.

Food and drink is included in the price but it is always useful if you could bring a chair.

So fingers crossed for fine weather.

Jill Carr

WIDESCREEN FORMAT

Please could as many members as possible go out and film something (preferably interesting or beautiful please) with their cameras set to Widescreen / 16:9 format. Then bring your tape to the Hall so that we can see how it projects on the screen.

Jill Carr

JOKE SECTION

Policeman: I am sorry to have to tell you this Mr Brown, but your wife has just fallen into the wishing well and drowned.

Mr Brown: It works!

Man to marriage counsellor: "My wife and I can't agree on our vacation. I want to go to Bermuda and she wants to go with me."

Bigamy: one wife too many;

Monogamy: same thing.

A man stopped at his favourite watering hole after a hard day's work to relax. He noticed a man next to him ordered a shot and a beer. The man drank the shot, chased it with the beer and then looked into his shirt pocket. This continued several times before the man's curiosity got the best of him.

He leaned over to the guy and said, "Excuse me, I couldn't help but notice your little ritual, why in the world do you look into your shirt pocket every time you drink your shot & beer"?

The man replied, "There's a picture of my wife in there, and when she starts lookin' good, I'm headin' home"!

A man was walking along a California beach and stumbled upon an old lamp. He picked it up and rubbed it and out popped a genie. The genie said "OK. OK. You released me from the lamp, blah, blah, blah. This is the 4th time this month and I'm getting a little sick of these wishes so you can forget about three. You only get one wish!

The man sat and thought about it for a while and said, "I've always wanted to go to Hawaii, but I'm scared to fly and I get very seasick. Could you build me a bridge to Hawaii so I can drive over there to visit?" The genie laughed and said, "That's impossible. Think of the logistics of that! How would the supports ever reach the bottom of the Pacific? Think of how much concrete . . . how much steel!! No, think of another wish!" The man said OK and tried to think of a really good wish.

Finally, he said, "I've been married and divorced four times. My wives always said that I don't care and that I'm insensitive. So, I wish that I could understand women . . . know how they feel inside and what they're thinking when they give me the silent treatment . . . know why they're crying, know what they really want when they say, 'nothing' . . . know how to make them truly happy . . ." The genie said, "You want that bridge with two lanes or four?"

My wife made me join a bridge club. I jump off next Tuesday.

John's dad picked him up from school to take him to a dental appointment. Knowing the parts for the school play were supposed to be posted today, he asked his son if he got a part.

John enthusiastically announced that he'd gotten a part. "I play a man who's been married for twenty years."

"That's great, son. Keep up the good work and before you know it they'll be giving you a speaking part."

STAINES CINÉ & VIDEO SOCIETY

Founded in 1955

President : Dennis Valkhard

Vice President : Ken Ferguson

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