

# STORYBOARD



December 2008

## FROM THE CHAIR

A Happy Christmas and a great New Year to all our members. Can't believe we're almost at the end of another year. They go by so quickly!

Many thanks to our Technical Secretary Roy for the way he organised his recent demonstration of camerawork and the 16.9 night which highlighted the various problems faced by the projection team when we have a mixture of 16.9 and 4.3 movies. Tim followed up with some interesting comments on our website and concluded that the only sensible way in which we can show a mixed programme with our current setup is to set up the projector and screen for 4.3. This will mean that every time we show a mixed programme a widescreen film is always going to be smaller in area than a 4.3.

We will shortly be running our new competition for the Best One-Minute Film with the winner being presented with The Alan Davies Trophy which takes the form of a pewter tankard. We're combining the competition with the Travelogue on Friday 9 January. You will need to get your entry forms to Tim not later than Friday 2 January. Because of the Christmas break you have an extra week for entering!

I'm sure we're all looking forward to our Christmas Social taking place on Friday 19

December and which is being organised by Helen and Sheila. You'll need to bring your own cutlery and anything you want in the way of drinks, and glasses! No need to bring plates, bowls or napkins. Games and quizzes are being organised and this year there will be a hot first course followed by a selection of mouth-watering desserts. Barrie is again running a raffle with some great prizes. Members are also invited to bring their Christmas Cards for other members to save on your postage. Forget all your Credit Crunch worries and have a fun time.

2009 promises to be another busy, hectic year for the Society. In the coming weeks we'll be holding various competitions, and seeing the results of the Studio Groups comedies - how's yours coming along? They need to be ready for showing on Friday 6 February. Not too long to go! We've had some very good efforts in the past and worthy winners of the Alan Phipps Comedy award.

With 2008 on the way out I would like to thank all our members and the Committee for making it another good year for us. Sadly we have lost some familiar faces, but gained some new ones and so we go into the New Year full of confidence. In the meantime I do hope you all enjoy the Festive Season.

*Ken Ferguson*

**The Society regrets to announce the death of Pam Gibbins who has been an Honorary Member since the death of Malcolm.**

**The funeral service was held at Hanworth Crematorium on Thursday 11 December.**

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

<b>Friday</b>	<b>12 Dec</b>	Margaret's Casablanca Night
<b>Friday</b>	<b>19 Dec</b>	Christmas Social from 7.30pm
<b>Friday</b>	<b>26 Dec</b>	NO MEETING
<b>Friday</b>	<b>2 Jan</b>	Vic Stroud's Night
<b>Friday</b>	<b>9 Jan</b>	<b>Travelogue and One-Minute Competitions</b>
Tuesday	13 Jan	Management Committee Meeting

The next issue of STORYBOARD will be out on Friday 9 January.

## THE ARMCHAIR FILM MAKER

I was watching *Newsnight* a couple of evenings ago on which a trio of 'experts' were discussing the growing popularity in Government circles of using coal as a power source again, despite the proven dangers to the environment of burning fossil fuels.

Just before I lapsed into unconsciousness, I heard one of these pro-coal people say that power stations could be fitted with technology to drastically reduce smoke emissions by the year 2020. Had I heard correctly – 2020! By then the polar ice caps will have been reduced to a couple of slushy ice rinks and the sea will have engulfed everywhere except for Snowdon and Scafell Pike. I felt so enraged at this demonstration of official complacency that I had to go and make a cup of cocoa to calm me down.

But what has my environmental concern got to do with amateur film-making, I hear you cry? Well, while sipping my cocoa and with the telly firmly switched over to something more sensible like 'TV's Rudest Bloopers' or something similar, I thought that this fellow's timescale was not a million miles away from mine, when it came to bringing film ideas to fruition.

I personally haven't made a film for about nine months and it's starting to worry me. Not because I haven't had any ideas or plots to work on, but because I haven't actually taken the camera out of its bag, which makes it a bit tricky to shoot anything. Because, there's the rub, I have plenty of ideas, but find a plethora of excuses not to start filming – the light's bad; it's too wet; it's too cold; when really, I'd rather sit somewhere warm and watch other people's efforts... Is this a sign of advancing years or just additional proof, if it were needed, of my habitual sloth? Probably a bit of both.

But in my state of decrepitude that's the last thing I should be doing. With the sands of time forming mini pyramids on my kitchen floor, I should be writing scripts, sorting out locations and begging people to do me a favour and do some acting. I have one idea for a 'comedy' about guests coming to Christmas dinner, and planned to use the real occasion to commit some images to tape, but am in danger of letting the chance slip for another year, having shelved it the year before.

As it happens, by writing this article I may just have reawakened some enthusiasm for the project and the old Panasonic may be seeing the murk of a December day quite soon when it's dragged out of its case and screwed to a tripod. Once that happens I'll be up and running again, but first I've got to prise myself out of this armchair. No, wait, *Strictly Come Dancing's* just coming on, so maybe tomorrow...

*Graham Large*

## TEA ROTA



12 Dec	Tony and Norma Valvona
19 Dec	Bert Lee & Helen Mills
2 Jan	Roger Crunden and Graham Large
9 Jan	Jill Carr & Jeremy Holder
16 Jan	Ken and Sheila Harding

## THE CHRISTMAS PARTY

FRIDAY  
19 DECEMBER

BRING



PLUS YOURSELF

## FROM THE WEBSITE

**Margaret 9.11.08:** I have recently bought a TV with Freeview and HD-ready. It gives an excellent picture, but I doubt whether I am seeing HD yet. Question: What extra hardware will I need to view BBC and ITV HD programmes when available (I'm not interested in Sky and satellite dishes, and I note that there is an HDMI socket on the set), and how will I know if HD is being broadcast? The screen is 1280x800 pixels incidentally. Thanks for any answers and comments.

**Jeremy 9.11.08:** I have the same problem as Margaret. I have an HD ready set with Freeview built in and don't want to use Sky. But I don't know what I should be doing to receive broadcasts in HD now that some are being made.....

**Roy 9.11.08:** Well Margaret and Jeremy - if you go to [www.freesat.co.uk](http://www.freesat.co.uk) you will see all the information you need which is a satellite dish and a satellite tuner box (I have the Humax one) which will give you all the normal Freeview channels (but not CH5) plus a few others and you will then be able to receive HD channels on BBC1 and ITV. To receive BBC HD they're a dedicated channel which is CH 108 and to get ITV HD you just have to press the red button when the transmission is in HD for which you will get a prompt on the screen. I would point out however that HD is very limited and you have to look in the paper each day to see what's on that day marked HD. The Remembrance service today was in HD and the pics were really excellent. The Chelsea flower show this year was good and the Olympics were also in HD. ITV however do mainly football and some drama. But dramas and anything without much detail in the picture is a bit wasted. 'Sharp' is HD tonight on ITV for instance. To make the connection to your set you will need an HDMI cable (another one I'm afraid) and a Freesat box will be about £140 'one off payment' the dish is about £80 I think and is the same dish as you would have installed for Sky which would point towards the same Astra Satellite. You cannot record in HD unless you have a very expensive Blu-ray HD recorder. So you would still record your programs on Freeview in the normal way that is of course if your DVD recorder has a Freeview tuner and anything you buy now would record Freeview anyway. Hope this clarifies things a bit and if you speak to me on Friday I will endeavour to answer any more question you might have. Things are moving on though, if a bit slow and Panasonic now put Freesat tuners in their latest TVs so you would only have to attach a dish to the correct socket.

**Jeremy 15.11.08:** I'm very pleased to let you know that John Clarke has very kindly agreed to

take on the further development of our Website. It's hoped that the new version of the site will incorporate some videos and be completed by the beginning of next season. John will be working on this with Matthew (Roy's grandson), so if any of you have any suggestions in this regard, please have a word with John.

**Tim 22.11.08:** 16:9 Conclusions. Thanks to all who brought DVDs and tapes of 16:9 footage. It was very useful and has enabled us to reach definitive conclusions:

1. ALL DVDs (4:3 and 16:9) need the projector set to 4:3
2. 4:3 Mini DV tapes require the projector to be set to 4:3
3. 16:9 Mini DV tapes require the projector to be set to 16:9

Irrespective of the above, when we switch the projector between 16:9 and 4:3 the WIDTH of the projected image remains the same (though there's some suggestion that a bit might be chopped off each side). If we set up the screen and projector optimally for 16:9 but then show a 4:3 film, the top and bottom of the 4:3 film will not fit on the screen. If however, we set up the screen and projector optimally for a 4:3 film but show a 16:9 film, the 16:9 film will fit the screen horizontally, but have black bars top and bottom.

Conclusion: The ONLY sensible way in which we can show a mixed program with our current setup is to set up the projector and screen for 4:3. The ONLY time we would need to adjust anything would be to set the projector to 16:9 when showing a 16:9 Mini DV tape. This is exactly how we have been setting up for previous competitions and it worked fine for the Gateway.

The alternative would involve changing the setup whenever we move between 4:3, 16:9, Mini DV and 16:9 DVD (three different settings – each requiring different combinations of aspect ratio on the projector, zoom and physical positioning of the projector) – impractical. So, sadly, all the time we show a mixed program, a widescreen film is always going to be smaller in area than a 4:3.

**Roy 23.11.08** Ref my article on HD on 9 November, I see that Channel 5 is now transmitting on Freesat, so there is now a full complement of programs and you would not have to go back to Freeview to get it (I thought you would all like to know that).

**Roy 23.11.08:** Tim's comments are quite correct and I think if we make the 4.3 screen larger if possible, that would enable us to show a reasonable size 16.9 picture so long as we don't upset the quality of 4.3. We will try this out at the first opportunity. May I also thank all those who bought in tapes and DVDs on the night to give us some material to work with. I had a lot of comments after saying that it was a very worthwhile exercise - so thanks again.

**Margaret 24.11.08:** Thanks Tim for summarising the complex 16:9 situation with its rather sad conclusion. Having had my enthusiasm for 16:9 suddenly ignited (combo of buying a new telly and last Friday's show), I now feel like Tantalus! Maybe we should consider a special evening just to show members' mini DV 16:9 films with the glory of the full width screen - and perhaps even a new competition? Or perhaps we could all get anamorphic spectacles. Hmmm.

# STAINES CINÉ & VIDEO SOCIETY

Founded in 1955

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Vice President : Ken Ferguson

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to the



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