

# STORYBOARD



February 2009

## FROM THE CHAIR

Our website has a new man at the helm. John Clarke has taken over as Webmaster from Jeremy who with Roy's grandson Matthew launched the site in September 2006. Jeremy has done a great job and we must thank him for all the work he has done building it into a really great site, one we can all be proud of.

John tells me he has several ideas which he wants to work on for the future and these of course include moving visuals such as clips from members' movies, and the commercial which is now being produced. John will need your support for items for the Forum page. Members like to read the views of other members.

Nice to report that a Staines member has won the Surrey Film-Video Festival Documentary Cup for the second year running. Last year Laurie won it for 'Weir Here' and now Graham recently won it for 'Keeping The Flame Alive'. Graham also won the George Sewell Cup for 'Aubrey's Seat'. This award is for the Best Film made by an Individual member of the IAC. Tim and Steve were awarded Commended Certificates – Tim for 'Eye In The Sky' and Steve for 'Westfield'. There is a report from Tim inside.

Jeremy has become the first winner of our new One Minute Competition. He

came out on top of the five entries with his 'Building A Summer House'. Margaret was the runner-up with 'Just A Minute' (one of her two entries). Steve and Vic were the other entrants. More details inside this issue together with the breakdown of the Travelogue contest. This was won by Tim with his film about a holiday visit to the island of Majorca. David entered a film about the attractions of Heligan and Eden while Vic made 'Kenyan Heritage'.

The Society takes part in the North Thames Region's Triangle competition on Sunday 15 February. We are drawn away at Walthamstow and Tim will be taking our judge Colin Pain there. We are also up against Luton. We have decided that 'Keeping The Flame Alive', 'Passing The Time' and 'Eye In The Sky' will be our contenders.

It appears that all has gone quiet on the 'name change' front. I mention this because that very well established club Westcliff (which numbers our Laurie as a former member) have taken the plunge and are now called South Essex Film Makers. You can read of their reasons why on our website (reproduced inside this issue). Personally I think it's rather sad that 'Westcliff' has now disappeared from the Region's 'Club Directory'.

*Ken Ferguson*



## TEA ROTA



13	Feb	Mike and Diana Hurcombe
20	Feb	Ken and Diane Dalston
27	Feb	Margaret Stedman & Vic Stroud
6	Mar	Colin Hignett &
13	Mar	Tony and Norma Valvona

## NEAT ONE TIM

Generally, most amateur travelogue films centre on the maker's holiday, either with a partner and/or with a group of other folk.

So often the film's narrator peppers their commentary with remarks such as "we arrived", "we went to", "we this" and "we that..." Yet, throughout the film the audience isn't made aware of who the 'we' are!

Occasionally a film may contain a brief shot of someone, slowly and slightly self consciously, walking away from the camera past a shop where they've been tinkering with a souvenir or picture postcard and we might assume that they are the 'we' referred to in the commentary, but it's just a guess! Why does this happen? It's so irritating and it drives me potty!

So, recently, I was delighted to view an amateur travelogue film where it was clear from the start who the 'we' were; they were the Stannard family holidaying on the island of Majorca. The film? Tim Stannard's 'A Day Out in Mallorca'.

The main objective of Tim's film was to chronicle a family day out, away from their main base, to visit the northern part of the island. Tim neatly coupled this with a record of their resort, holiday hotel, immediate surroundings and the activities enjoyed by the whole family and these elements were well blended. The structure of a beginning, a middle and an end still has much merit!

Yes, there were a few slightly wobbly shots and Tim's voice-over; particularly at the beginning, sounded a bit hollow, as if it had been recorded in a tiled area – the bathroom maybe! Also, Tim did commentate at quite a pace throughout the film – there were a few welcome pauses but a couple more would not have come amiss!

But hey, I'm nit picking! The film encompassed so many good features, none of the shots outstayed their welcome, thereby observing the long established cinematic story telling convention to 'let a part represent the whole' – in today's parlance, 'less is more'. Editing was crisp and the overall pace of the film was just right. I thought that Tim's treatment of the various evening stage acts was very smoothly done; the short excerpts ensured that this section of the film avoided the common pitfall of being tediously long.

The commentary was clear, informative and augmented the visuals. Thankfully there was none of that other boring irritant, so often heard in amateur films, e.g. "...and the church (or such like) was constructed with 3 million, 2 hundred and five bricks" Or, "...it measures 3 miles, two furlongs, seven feet, four and one thirteenth of an inch". We've all heard it at some time, ad nauseum!

During my membership at our club I've seen many holiday/travelogue films and there's no doubt the standard of these has improved year by year. Tim has certainly raised the bar this season with 'A Day Out in Mallorca'. A very enjoyable, engaging and entertaining film, full of vitality – a worthy winner of this year's club Travelogue Competition. Well done Tim!

*Laurance Miller*

FEBRUARY 2009

## DVD'S SHOWN AT THE CLUB

This is a plea from your Projection team to all members who give us DVD's to show on their behalf at the club. PLEASE PLEASE start your films with a 4 second BLACK, and no more, before the film commences. This is to enable us to give you a smooth presentation of your treasured work. It will give us 4 seconds to set the projector going without showing the uninteresting menu. And please DO NOT put a 'Countdown' on DVD's as this is not required by virtue of the way they work if you follow the above rule. Any queries please ask me to clarify. Many Thanks.

*Roy Bowley*

## SURREY FILM-VIDEO FESTIVAL 2009

On 18th January Graham, Jeremy, Laurie, Steve and I visited Guildford to watch the Surrey Film-Video Festival. The Electric Theatre is a 600 seater with comfortable raked seating, which is just as well as we sat through 25 films over three sessions. It was fascinating to see our films on a considerably larger screen than at Staines, and the excellent sound system certainly emphasised all the strengths and weaknesses in entrants' audio.

There was a mixed bag of films on show, both in content and quality and in my opinion the trophies went to the right people. A couple of winners that Staines' members may remember having seen last year were Phil Martin's "In the National Interest" – a well written & acted drama about Cabinet decisions after receiving a first-hand account of Auschwitz, which picked up The Surrey Acting Award and The Surrey Fiction Award, and Reading's "A Bad Day at the Office" – which won the Roy Pullen Trophy for an entry outside Surrey.

I was pleasantly surprised to meet James Webber of Fingercuff Productions, a filmmaker whose acquaintance I had made via [www.videoforums.co.uk](http://www.videoforums.co.uk) and who walked away with Best Senior Film for "Commitment" – an effective drama about jealousy and paranoia, and Best Comedy for "Tent Boy".

A number of Staines' films were shown. Jeremy's "Vietnam" was very well received and Steve's "Brighton" raised a good few laughs. Steve's other entry "Westfield" received a Commended Certificate as did Elstree Group's "Eye in the Sky".

But our most successful entrant was Graham Large who won two trophies – the Surrey Documentary Cup for "Keeping the Flame Alive", and the George Sewell Trophy (for an individual IAC member) for "Aubrey's Seat". Let's hope Graham finds the inspiration and incentive to make some more films soon.

*Tim Stannard*

# STAINES CINÉ & VIDEO SOCIETY

Founded in 1955

President : Dennis Valkhard

Vice President : Ken Ferguson

Affiliated  
to the



Film & Video  
Institute

Chairman

Ken Ferguson

Editor : Jill Carr

Tel:

Mobile:

email

## FROM THE WEBSITE

**Roger 11.1.09:** The 5/6 year computer editing saga continued - this latest cure might be of use to others? In response to my wife's plea on my behalf, my son came over for the weekend again (my daughter-in-law is sick of it!). Told him about the latest episode. He turned on the computer and said although the fan is coming on it is not making the noises associated with booting up and as I had identified previously, there was nothing on the screen. He said he would try removing some bits and putting them back. He removed the graphics card and the 2 memory cards, put them back and the computer worked. I don't believe it! We will see how things go now and I must be careful not to turn anything on or off whilst using the machine.

**Barrie 14.1.09:** Glad to hear you have got the PC running again. Roger, computers are like vacuum cleaners and do get a lot of dust inside them. I would recommend a good clean after 6 to 9 months. Please remove the mains lead from the PC before hoovering and do not touch the motherboard with the hose end - use a fine paint brush to help remove dirt. One other tip is if your PC is standing on a carpet the PC can sink into the pile and block the flow of air. Stand it on hardboard cut to the size of the base. Remember even with the mains lead removed there is a small battery on the motherboard. WARNING when removing memory cards etc make sure your body is not full of static, as this can do a lot of damage and even blow chips on boards etc.

**Tim 21.1.09:** As a bit of an experiment I've stuck a couple of films on-line. If any of you have a Facebook account, you can befriend me and there are a few bits and pieces to see there. I've also at long last been brave enough to upload something to YouTube. You've all seen it (Eye in the Sky), but now the world can:

[http://uk.youtube.com/watch?v=2HZ\\_pDZRJuw](http://uk.youtube.com/watch?v=2HZ_pDZRJuw)

I'm only mentioning this on a video makers' forum so that fellow makers can comment, but possibly others will view it and I await comments from the great unwashed with some trepidation ("You suck and your video sucks too" seems favourite)

**Tim 22.1.09:** I've just received an entry for the Inter-Club Competition from the former Westcliff Film and Video Club who last year changed their name to **South Essex Film Makers**. Their Facebook entry below describes their reasons.

<http://en-gb.facebook.com/note.php?note?id=18736646294&ref=mf>

**"At the 2008 Westcliff Film and Video Club AGM the committee had put forward a proposal to the membership to change the name to South Essex Film Makers. The reason for this was because we felt that for attracting new members Westcliff was too localised and we wanted to attract those from a wider area. A few suggestions were put forward but South Essex was the one the majority voted for.**

**As for the Film and Video in the old organisation's name, Video is a technology that is pretty much by today's standard out of date. The reason we kept with Film is, and although most people use digital these days, wherever you look when finding information or footage it is still regarded as Film. People say: "I want to be a film maker" even though they have probably never used 'film' and record their footage on various digital devices. Makers, in the new name, just symbolises what we are: Film Makers"**.

Personally I think the logic behind dropping the Video is flawed – video is NOT a dead format. It is analogue video which is. (We record in digital video – DV, High Definition Video – HDV or Audio and Video Compression for High Definition - AVCHD). However, the "I want to be a film maker" overrides all that as far as I'm concerned with Video Makers a close second.

**Jeremy 24.1.09:** As some of you may know, we are about to embark on the further development of our website. Apart from being modernised from a technical point of view, there will be the incorporation of a 'video' section to enable us to see various film clips including our promotional

film and clips from our best films. It is hoped that the new version of the site will be completed by the start of next season. To this end John Clarke has kindly offered to undertake this task and has taken over management of the site with effect from today.

I have very much enjoyed handling the initial development of the site with all the expert guidance provided by Matthew Bowley and indeed managing the site to-date with updates each week to keep the site alive and interesting. From now on those of you that participate in this 'Members Forum' (hopefully more of you in future) will get your responses from John. So do help and support him in this process by passing on your views about the site as well as posting more comments in Forum. Best of luck John and many thanks!

**Jeremy 25.1.09:** Came across an interesting website today which may be of interest to some of you. Photospain specializes in photography holidays, but I was interested to note that they offer a one week one-to-one video production and editing course. The editing is apparently carried out on Apple Macs using Final Cut Pro 6. So it may only interest Graham and David: <http://www.photospain.org/index.htm>

**Tim 27.1.09:** Thanks, Jeremy (and to Matthew) for getting the website off the ground and running it so very efficiently. You've set a high standard and I don't envy John's task in having to live up to it. I'm sure we all look forward to the enhancements in due course. Good Luck John!

**Irene 29.1.09:** St Austell now has a new state of the art 4 screen cinema - and it is great! So I can go to see films once again - the other nearest cinema is Truro. I went to see "Seven Pounds" starring Will Smith has anyone seen it? - an unusual film quite powerful acting! Would appreciate any comments! Thank you! Hope you do not mind me asking? Also want to see Slumdog Millionaire, there are a lot of good films coming along. Just wanted to say the Competitions on January 9th looked great. Well Done! to the winners. One was on Eden and Heligan, which are both quite near me. Wish I could have seen them! I still miss the Friday film evenings.

## SOMETHING TO PONDER OVER

Common knowledge? Can you imagine working for a company that has a little more than 600 employees and has the following employee statistics:

- 29 have been accused of spouse abuse
- 7 have been arrested for fraud
- 9 have been accused of writing bad cheques
- 17 have directly or indirectly bankrupted at least 2 businesses
- 3 have done time for assault
- 71 cannot get a credit card
- 14 have been arrested on drug-related charges
- 8 have been arrested for shop-lifting
- 21 are currently defendants in lawsuits
- 84 have been arrested for drink driving in the last year

Which organisation is this?

It's the 635 members of the House of Commons, the same group that cranks out hundreds of new laws each year designed to keep the rest of us in line.