

The LINKING SHOT

Haywards Heath Movie Makers

Spring 2021



Members Lunch January 2020
Something not possible this year

David's Deliberations

By now you will have received our programme for the rest of this year and into 2022. We took the decision to continue on Zoom until it is safe to consider meeting up indoors again. Also there is a degree of uncertainty about when the Upper Room where we meet will become available, together with the possible restrictions, cleaning and sanitising procedures that may still be required.

As we have successfully harnessed Zoom, we decided to expand our horizons and reach out to our old friend Willy van der Linden in Belgium with a live hook up. Willy has been making films for many years and has won many awards for his work. He will be showing us some of his films and telling us how and why he made them.

We learned that the SERIAC Film Festival usually held at The Oast Theatre in Tonbridge will not take place as the theatre remains closed. I also learned that there are no plans to hold the Festival "virtually". The entries will be judged as usual and certificates awarded but no public show will take place.

As you know BIAFF has suffered a similar fate, but at least we can take part in the Festival from the comfort of our own armchairs!

I recently opened a long forgotten store cupboard to discover a lot of my old "camera original" tapes, these being a mixture of VHS, VHS-C, SVHS, SVHS-C and DV. I decided to tackle the VHS family first as I only have one player that will handle VHS and SVHS which is now 27 years old and being largely a mechanical device will not last forever!

In order to digitise these analogue tapes, I purchased a package from Magix (Rescue Your Video Tapes) which comprises a USB dongly thing with composite video, SVHS video and audio L & R inputs plus the necessary software. It was very quick and easy to set up and works seamlessly. So far I have digitised around 30 cassettes very successfully which has certainly made some space in my cupboard!

I don't know about you, but I'm finding it very difficult to think of things that could be made into a film. Out of curiosity (and perhaps desperation), I have just purchased a "Trail Camera" in the hopes of catching some wildlife to add another dimension to my repertoire. So, watch out for a "Safari" epic coming soon!

That's all for now.

David

Due to page limitations with all the competition results from December, this article that was submitted in good time for the winter issue was held over for this spring edition. (OK I forgot I had it - sorry) Ed.

A Special Relationship – the inside story

Following the success of our club film as winner of last year’s Albany and the Sussex Film Festivals, I thought it would be of interest to document some of the background that affected the production.

For some years now we have been using stories that have come to us from a writing group. The Lancashire Authors Association (LAA) was established in the 1900’s and is one of the oldest writing groups



still flourishing in England. Last year’s film was no exception, but it was not as straightforward as previous productions.

At the start of our relationship with the LAA, they set up an annual “film challenge” competition where, given our future Albany theme, they invite entries from their members for consideration by us to decide whether any are suitable to be made into a film. Having selected a likely story there is a considerable amount of work for us to turn it into a script suitable for filming, but we have been lucky so far. One of the LAA members, Christine McCherry was responsible for the story we used for a previous Albany winner “Jim’s Dream”.

She submitted a story for last year's Albany (theme – Too Close to Call), but we were unable to film this due to numerous let-downs by cast members. However, with some deft script tweaking by Ron & Joy Prosser, the bones of the original story now fitted this year's theme (A Change of Direction).

I e-mailed the good news of our wins to the LAA secretary and sent a DVD for her to pass on to Christine, who then sent us a message of congratulation via our website, I replied to her expressing the hope



that she didn't mind us altering her story to fit the new theme. Her reply came back revealing a fascinating back story that was uncannily near to our treatment of the original story.

Her email went as follows –

Hi David, I didn't mind at all. You all did a great job and made my story look better than I thought it was. An incredible co-incidence occurred after you accepted my story. I had based it on my own experience as my father was an American Airman who met my mother towards the end of WW2. They had a brief affair before he was sent home to the U.S. Mum never saw him again. I tried for years to find him but with so few facts to go on I gave up in the end. Then, out of the blue my son was researching our family history and got a D.N.A. match to someone in Pennsylvania. He found a sister, a brother and brother-in-law together with loads of other relatives I never knew I had. I was told my father passed away in 1981 aged just 61.

We all met up in London in September last year. I felt an immediate connection to my sister. She is 10 years younger than me and a nurse practitioner in Pittsburgh. To accept me the way she did is evidence of her generosity and kindness. It must have been an awful shock at first; G.I. Trace contacted her on our behalf.

The outcome of all this is my daughter and I were supposed to go to Pittsburgh this September when my sister and her husband would take us to my Dad's grave in Clearfield. Then the Pandemic came. Now we are trying to get there in April 2021. It's a long shot I know but I'm 74 and I don't have the time to hang around. All I want is to put some flowers on Dad's grave and complete the circle of my life.

I am happy for you to share my story. I feel absolute joy that I found my Father though sad he has passed away.

Hope you have a great Christmas and a Covid Free New Year

Best Wishes

Christine

Then Christine wished us a great Christmas and Covid free new year. Well, with the help of the vaccine we are working on the latter.

Alan Early Competition 2021

Although the competition won't be held until November, now is the time to start planning your entry. As always the competition is for a film of no more than 5 minutes in duration, and made to a theme. This year's theme is "My Collection".

Most of us have collected something at one time or another, and with another uncertain year ahead, we may not be travelling far from home. It might therefore be an ideal time to make a film about your collection, and tell us all about your obsession!

For those looking for inspiration I have another suggestion. I still have the green screen material that was shot in the club room a couple of years ago. One of the talks was given by Ray who told us about the collection of cars he has owned over the years. If you would like to have a go at editing this footage, and substituting different backgrounds, let me know and I'll gladly send you a file to work on.

Rod

