

Potters Bar FilmMakers

The Video Club for East Herts.

<http://www.pottersbarfilmmakers.co.uk>



Spring Newsletter 2018

Affiliated Member



The Film & Video Institute
North Thames Region

Andrew Tweed's Favourite Things 11.1.2018

Andrew was born and brought up in Holloway and had a large family and many cousins. The first photograph he showed was with his toy monkey Bepo, his very first favourite thing.



Andrew's Dad was a keen amateur film maker, using his standard 8 camera to film special family events and holidays including family camping holidays at Goff's Oak. Many of the films have been digitalised



very successfully by Tom Hardwick. Andrew continues the family tradition of film making with video and now digital films

to capture family holidays and special events for his children and grandchildren.

Scouting is another of Andrew's favourite things, he was a scout himself along with many of family and his scout camps were a very important part of his childhood. He has both films and still photos of these times which he showed us. Andrew is very committed to the scouting philosophy and considers this of great value to children and has a photo with the 3rd Lord Baden Powel at the opening of



Balls Park Camping & Caravan Site, Hertford on 28th June 1953.

Andrew became a stock broker with a firm and worked on the London Stock Exchange dealing on the old 'floor' before it became an electronic market, trading by computer. He continued to work for them until he retired. Andrew showed us a cigarette box made from the marble taken from the old Lloyds of London interior and he displayed other artefacts from his time as a film maker and a red radio controlled model helicopter which he flew over our heads as he spoke!

During his time at Lloyds of London, Andrew took up race walking as a hobby. We saw film and photos of him competing around Regents Park and also on the Westminster to Brighton Race which took over nine hours to complete! Cycling is now his hobby and he has used a "GoPro" to film his ride from Lands' End to John O'Groats.



Working as a volunteer for the Samaritans has been most fulfilling for Andrew and he showed a film that he was involved with. It explained the operation of the local organisation and the work the volunteers do. This provoked an interesting discussion among the club members. Finally, Andrew showed us some of the films he has made in the past that he is particularly proud of including a film made on the waterways of Vietnam which showed the lives of the people who live there and a bird film "Boobies". He was thanked for presenting such a varied and interesting club night.

Results Of Internal Competition Variable Subject - Weather January 25th 2018

Max Bender - Breezy
Brighton 71%
**Graduate 2nd or Advanced
winner (status to be
confirmed)***
Andrew Saunders - Road
Snow 67%

Graduate Winner

There were only two entries for this year's Variable Subject Competition which was attended by eleven club members.

The first film shown was "Road Snow" by Andrew Saunders. On Sunday 10th December 2017, Potters Bar and the south east of England



had become a snow covered landscape with snow ploughs clearing several centimetres of snow and vehicles sliding on icy roads through thick slush. Andrew ventured out with his camera and recorded the effects of the winter conditions on the local highways and on the M25 motorway. He used two recordings of the day's weather forecasts along with the environmental sounds to accompany the film. In discussion, the film was praised for its interesting shots from different angles. It was suggested that the overlap of sound between the two announcers was too long and that titling needed more accuracy. It received a score of 67%.

Max Bender entered "Breezy Brighton", a short film made on the beach, promenade and pier of

Brighton seafront on a breezy afternoon. Shots of flags blowing in the wind were interspersed with footage of waves breaking on the pebbly



shore, pier stanchions and the stone jetty nearby. The film used both environmental sounds of the waves breaking and guitar music to accompany them. Members commented on the effective late afternoon shots of the water under the pier and breaking on the jetty, along with the use of a good titling font. It was suggested that pans needed to be steadier and that it might have been appropriate to have include some of the microphone wind noise. The film gained a score of 71% and won the Graduate competition.

An evening with John Astin

The club meeting on Thursday 22nd February was led by John Astin who looked at solving common issues for film makers and, after the refreshment break, the use of a “Go Pro” camera for film making. The first issue he addressed was sound recording when background noise is present. Using film clips he had made, John compared voice recordings with consistent background noise using a camera microphone, a Sennheiser external microphone and finally a neck microphone connected to the camera. The recording using the camera microphone had a high level of intrusive background noise, the Sennheiser had slightly less but the neck microphone produced the clearest recordings and the background noise was no longer intrusive. John then showed how his camera microphone had a “Rycote” wind gag of fake fur fabric stuck over it with Velcro strips which helped reduce wind noise when recording outside.

The next demonstration video he showed demonstrated the use of the “Edius” editing program to overlap several short shots with consistent background sound. John said that AKM produce copyright free music CDs and two sound effects CDs that film makers could use.



John next demonstrated using “Edius” to download videos from his computer to Blu-ray or DVD and store image files on the computer in named folders for easy access. He then discussed how video cameras have different settings of quality, “P” is the highest and “T” is slightly lower quality but easier to edit. John

then demonstrated how large finished videos can be sent by email using “Dropbox” and said he had done it very successfully between the UK and America. He then showed a “Double test” video where two recordings of him apparently reciting “Daffodils” by Wordsworth to his “identical twin self” had been edited together seamlessly onto the same video!

The second part of the evening was used to demonstrate a “Go Pro Hero5” camera, linked to a mobile phone by “Bluetooth” app, which then acts as a screen. The “Go Pro” is a tiny 4K camera and battery that records onto mini SD cards which fits into an adaptor to allow the videos to be transferred to a computer for editing. It has four settings; film, still, burst of stills or time lapse and has five field of view settings; the widest two have a “fish eye” distortion on the image, “linear” setting seemed to have least distortion but all have a wider field of view than traditional video cameras. These have to be pre-set before the camera is used. The “Go Pro” is waterproof and records sound to a reasonable quality. The camera is able to focus up to 20cms from the subject. Additional “add-ons” can be purchased to hold it with or clamp it to a moving vehicle, giving a very smooth, wide angled view of scenery on the move. The “Go Pro” also fits on a drone. The evening was both enlightening and entertaining for all those present with many questions discussed and issues explored by club members.



More on My GoPro Hero Black 5

By John Astin 3/3/18

While preparing for my talk to the Club on February 22nd, I realised there was still quite a lot I didn't know about my GoPro.

So, on a beautiful sunny day before the Beast from the East took hold, I did some test filming in the Lea Valley Park.

Firstly, I did some filming in 4K. I immediately learnt that whereas the GoPro has five Field of View settings in 2K(1080) – SuperView, Wide, Medium, Linear and Narrow - in 4K, it has just two if filming at 24 frames a second (SuperView and Wide), and only one (Wide), if filming at 30 or 25 frames a second.

Both these two widest-angle Fields of View create some “fish-eye” lens type distortion, so therefore it's impossible to film 4K distortion-free clips on my GoPro.

I turned next to the 2.7K setting (2704 x 1520 pixels). Oddly, if filming is at 30 or 25 frames per second, all Fields of View except Narrow are available, but if filming is at 24 frames per second or 48 or higher, only Wide, Medium and Linear are available.

But my Go Pro could therefore film distortion-free clips in 2.7K, using the Medium or Linear settings.

Next, I needed to know what would happen when I got these different clips into my computer, where I edit with Edius 5.5, which can only cope with 2K.

Well, as soon as I put a 4K or a 2.7K clip on the editing timeline, the red line appeared above it, indicating it needed immediate rendering. Once rendered, the clips played successfully, though on my 2K monitor screen, they didn't look really special.

I created a short video putting 2K, 2.7K and 4K clips side by side, and downloaded it onto a BluRay.

I played it through a 2K BluRay player into my new 4K TV. If anything, the 2K clips from my Panasonic SD900 looked better! Certainly, the original 2.7K & 4K clips did not stand out for excellence.

On reflection, that was only to be expected. My Edius editing programme cannot cope above 2K, so I can only assume it reduced the 2.7K & 4K clips to 2K during the editing process. And my BluRay player can't handle 4K anyway!

So it's pointless for me to film in 2.7K or 4K? Well, perhaps not. Surely I should be able to view the clips unedited directly from the GoPro on to my 4K TV.

And that's where I've come to a full stop. Despite using an appropriate microHDMI – fullHDMI cable, and following all the connection instructions to the letter, I cannot get a picture on to the TV screen.

I've tried with two different cables and on a friend's TV as well as on my own – all I get every time is “No Signal”.

Could it be a faulty GoPro? In desperation, I'm surfing the internet for advice, e-mailing the GoPro and Sony helplines – watch this space!



POTTERS BAR FILMMAKERS ANNUAL DINNER AND AWARDS EVENING.

THURSDAY
17TH MAY 2018
7pm for 7.30pm
IN THE OLD MANOR
RESTAURANT.

FOLLOWED BY THE AWARDS
PRESENTATIONS IN THE ALEXANDER WILDING ROOM IN THE WYLLYOTTS
CENTRE AT 9.30PM.

TICKETS £22.50 EACH.

This year it will be a two course meal consisting of a main and dessert as several people said they would prefer this, and has enabled us to lower the cost of tickets of course.

Make a note in your diary now so that you don't miss the spectacular Film of the Year event too, and who knows, you may be the one collecting the coveted Film of the Year award.

Friends and family are welcome to join us, (as long as they have a ticket of course), so ask Penny to add you to the list.

The menu for your choice of a main course and dessert will be available nearer the time.

North Thames Region Knock Out Competition

Unfortunately only 8 clubs have entered the competition and therefore the NTR Council has reviewed the workings of the competition. The first round will still be between two clubs, for which please see the draw sheet below. However, with the limited number of participants, we have decided that the winners of the First Round should all proceed to the final. A consequence of this is that we must revert to the **maximum length of programme being 30 minutes and a maximum number of five films.**

Brenda Granshaw -- NTR K.O. Competition Officer.

IAC North Thames Region K.O. Competition 2018 Draw Sheet First Round

This Draw shows the running order, which applies to each round of the competition. Normally the Club that is named first in each Round is regarded as being the Host Club. However, in any round other than the Final, where it would be advantageous for one of the other Clubs to act as host due to geographical location, or for any other reason, this will be acceptable providing that:-

1. All the participating Clubs in the round affected to agree to the change
2. The Competition Organiser is informed in advance of the round taking place.

Round A

Hemel Hempstead Movie Makers
Colchester Film Makers Club

Round B

Wanstead and Woodford Movie Makers
Bourne End Film Makers

Round C

Potters Bar FilmMakers
Staines Video Makers

Round D

South Essex Film Makers
Harrow Film Makers

The Final Round

Will be hosted by Bourne End Film Makers who were the winners of last year's NTR Knock out Competition

The Winner of Rounds -A. B. C. & D.

Will continue to the Final

North Thames Region Knock Out Competition
Round A Hosted by Potters Bar FilmMakers
at
Wyllyouts Centre, Darkes Lane, Potters Bar. EN6 2HN

on Thursday 8th. March at 7.30pm

Judge John Howden FACI.

Referee Brenda Granshaw FACI

Staines Video Makers

The Start of a Big Day	Roger Crunden	Blu-Ray	5 mins
Son of Rome	John Anscomb	DVD	6 mins
The Colour of Alicante	Carolyn Page	Blu-Ray	2 mins
Quick on the Draw	John Anscomb	DVD	1 mins
Miracle on the Mantelpiece	Tim Stannard	Blu-Ray	5 mins

Judges Comments

Potters Bar FilmMakers

City for the Dead	by John Astin	Blu-Ray	11.45 minutes
Speedy	Ed. Kinge	DVD	1 minute
Ingleton Falls	Andrew Saunders	DVD	8 minutes
Evanthia	Christine Collins	DVD	5 minutes
I want it all	Andrew Tweed	DVD	4.20 minutes

Judges Comments

Interval and refreshments

Judges Final Result

Winning Programme Staines Video Makers

North Thames Region IAC KO Competition 2018 Round A.

Potters Bar FilmMakers hosted the competition against Staines Video Makers on Thursday 8th March 2018. John Howden FACI acted as judge and Brenda Granshaw FACI was the referee. Each club had put together a programme of films that would entertain. Staines went first.

“The start of a Big Day” by Roger Crunden was a 5 minute film showing the fashions of Royal Ascot 2017 and concluded with footage of the Queen and Prince Philip in their coach. The judge said it was colourful with good sound but some zooms were unsteady. The



second film “Son of Rome” was a 6 minute animated cartoon by John Anscomb about a local boy who found himself made a Roman Legionnaire. John commented that it had a nice script with humour although voice accents were not always consistent.

Next came “The Colour of Alicante”, a two minute holiday film made by Carolyn Page with scenes from the city. The judge described it as “short and sweet”.

The penultimate Staines film was “Quick on the Draw” a 1 minute film by John Anscomb who drew a cartoon of Donald Trump. John remarked that it was a lovely drawing.

The final film of the programme was “Miracle on the Mantelpiece” a 5 minute film by Tim Stannard

which used live action, animation and “green screen” effects to tell a new version of “The little match girl”



using to Holst’s setting of “In the bleak midwinter”. John described it as a lovely film which was heart-warming and had great editing and use of special effects.

The Potters Bar FilmMakers programme began with “City for the Dead” a 11 ¾ minute film by John Astin telling the history of Brookwood Cemetery in Woking and the Necropolis Railway that served it until WW2. The judge said it had an interesting commentary and good use of stills.

It was followed by “Speedy”, a 1 minute film by Ed. Kinge, which used the music of Pat Boone’s “Speedy Gonzales” and speeded up footage of snails on a wall. John commented that the close up head shot of the snail was very good.

The third film was “Ingleton Falls”, an 8 minute video by Andrew Saunders which he narrated to camera as he walked along the country paths and bridges to Ingleton Falls. The judge liked the narration although some camera pans were unsteady.

The fourth film was “Evanthia” a 5 minute interview by Christine Collins including family photos and archive stills supplied by the Imperial War Museum to illustrate Evanthia’s early life in WW2 central London during the Blitz. John

commented on the well told story, good stills and lovely sound quality.



The final film was Andrew Tweed’s “

I want it all” a 4 minute 20 second film of his visit Abu Dhabi with his family which featured his granddaughters miming the title song. John commented that it was holiday footage with something original put to it and that the “lip sync” worked well.

After giving brief feedback on each film, John said that a programme for entertainment needed to be shaped so it was a journey with highs and lows. He enjoyed both programmes and awarded

Staines Video Makers as the winning club for this round. Finally, John was thanked for judging the competition at relatively short notice and

presented with a gift from Potters Bar FilmMakers.

Distribution Dates for Next News Letter.

Please send your Articles or Comments for inclusion

In the next Newsletter to:-

The PBFM Editor – Ron Jones FACI

By the dates listed below:-

The Summer News Letter

Last dates for Hard Copy Input to the editor 5th. July. 2018.

Last dates for Contributions by e-mail 12th. July. 2018.

e-mail Distribution Date 19th. July. 2018.

HARD Copy Distribution Date 26th. July. 2018.