

*The*  
**LINKING SHOT**

**Haywards Heath MovieMakers**

**Winter 2017**



**Didn't we do well!**

**Full report inside**

## ***From the Chairman***

### **Paul's Ponderings**



We started the new winter program with the Sussex Film Festival at Wivelsfield Green. There were 28 entries of which 24 were shown on the day. I am pleased to say that HHMM won a good number of the trophies this year. Many thanks to HHMM members who helped this year and to Joy Prosser for providing the food and Liz and crew for the endless supply of tea. (*Full report on P3 ed*)

Moving on to October we held the Alan Early and Sixty Seconds competitions and although not a great number of entries were submitted, the films were enjoyed and there was a good laugh at the sixty second. This evening was followed an auction of members spare bits, and pieces. It was a surprise just what did sell, with the proceeds going to the club funds.

Our Annual Movie Showcase was a great success with a record number of visitors. Many thanks to all who helped on the night and well done Graham for spreading the word around the area for which I know you worked very hard.

November saw the return of our old friend Dr Frank Gray from Screen Archive South East. Frank gave us a short update of how the archive is progressing and showed us a number of short films.

I had to miss my evening, so Rod showed a show reel from Chesterfield Film Makers. There were two films from their collection 'Beatles all you need is Love' and 'Starry Night' which were outstanding.

Next week is our Christmas Party this has been moved from our old site at Clare Hall which is shortly to finish as pile of rubble, to the brand new site at the Age UK hall at Lamb House.

We were approached during the year by two families with a relative in their late 90's to film each of their life stories. This required them to be interviewed by a member of the family. Using 4 cameras, sound and lighting, editing and adding family photos and music etc has taken a large amount of work but it has been very worthwhile as we have had two very generous donations which has helped the club funds no end.

Life for me has been very hectic as June and I have been trying to move house which has been on and off over the last month. So as my computer is about to be disassembled I would like to wish all of you a very Happy Christmas and New Year and look forward to meeting as many of you as I can at the AGM which will be the last before I hand the baton on.

May I say it has and a pleasure to be your Chairman for the last 3 years and thank all our members for your support.  
Merry Christmas

*Paul Bailey*

## *From the Editor*

*David Fenn*

Our Albany entry for 2018 to the theme “Elephant in the Room” is scripted, cast and ready to roll. The story this year has come again from Ron’s wife, Joy (ably assisted by Ron) and fits the theme perfectly.

We’ve been lucky this time to secure a very strong acting cast, most of whom we’ve used before in Albany winning films with the exception of the main male lead, a gentleman who has not worked with us before. At the initial “read through” he blew us away with his interpretation of his character. Filming should start early in January.

Looking back through my notes, I noticed that this time five years ago we were getting excited over a set of lights that were on offer for less than £40 for a pair. Ron and I both bought a set each which were used on several occasions. They were umbrella style powered by a special (rather fragile) fluorescent daylight lamp, mains powered of course. In practice they were very cumbersome in tight situations. I have since adapted their stands to fit the more practical LED lamps that became affordable a few years later. Just five years! Technology moves so quickly!



*David*

## *Sussex Film Festival*

There was a very good number of us from HHMM that descended on Wivelsfield Village Hall on 8<sup>th</sup> October to enjoy a varied selection of films. All the entries had, as is usual with this Festival, been pre-judged this year by Bob Lorimer and Dave Whitworth, both highly regarded film makers from Huddersfield.

The doors opened at 2:30 to around 45 people who had no trouble finding a seat with a decent view of the large SERIAC screen in this spacious location.

The programme was split into three segments with a refreshment break followed by a buffet meal break which was again expertly constructed by Joy Prosser who was ably assisted behind the counter by Liz Willerton. There had been 28 entries this year, some of which were 40 to 45 minutes long and the Competition Officer, Jonathan Wilde had put together a representative selection of the entries to fit the running time of the Festival. Not an easy task!

The entire programme had then been digitised with start and finish captions (a la SERIAC Film Festival) by Keith Sayers who as Technical Officer carried out the projection. This method of presentation does make for a very slick show which drew many comments during the breaks from curious audience members.

At the end of the show we had the awards presentations and we were lucky to have Mike Whyman, the IAC Chairman in our audience who agreed to present the certificates and trophies.

Haywards Heath MovieMakers and our members did extremely well and virtually swept the board of the important awards as follows:

Challenge Cup (best in Festival)	Stuck in the Middle	Jack Butler
Editing Award	Stuck in the Middle	Jack Butler
Sound Award	Take the A Road	David Fenn
Documentary Award	Mechanical Things	Rod Willerton
Drama / Story Award	Stuck in the Middle	Jack Butler
Travelogue / Holiday Award	50 Years On	Rod Willerton
One Minute Award	The Anniversary	David Fenn
Young Moviemakers Award	Stuck in the Middle	Jack Butler
Commended	A Year on the Farm	Paul Bailey

Well done to all our winners, especially young Jack who is proving to be a very promising moviemaker with good imagination and production skills.

***David Fenn***



**Paul receives his Commended Certificate**

**June accepts the  
Young Movie  
Maker Award for Jack  
Butler**



**David receives the  
One Minute Award**

**Liz receives the  
Travelogue Award  
for Rod**





**June receives the Drama and Editing Awards for Jack Butler**

**Liz receives the Documentary Award for Rod**



**David receives the award for Best Sound**



June receives the Challenge Cup for Jack Butler

## ***Paraprosdokians***

First time I heard about paraprosdokians, I liked them. Paraprosdokians are figures of speech in which the latter part of a sentence or phrase is surprising or unexpected and is frequently humorous. (Winston Churchill loved them).

Where there's a will, I want to be in it.

Since light travels faster than sound, some people appear bright until you hear them speak.

If I agreed with you, we'd both be wrong.

War does not determine who is right, only who is left.

Knowledge is knowing a tomato is a fruit. Wisdom is not putting it in a fruit salad.

## ***The First Film***

**When was the first film?**

**This hotly debated topic has always been disputed, and has led to controversy. Most film histories will indicate that the first films were made in the 1890s. Some will say that the Lumiere brothers were the inventors of cinema as they gave the first public film presentation in Paris on Saturday, 28th December 1895.**

**However, Max and Emil Skladanowsky, German inventors, used their Bioskop projector to display a moving image to a paying audience on November 1st, 1895, just predating the Lumieres.**



**In America, during the early 1890s, Thomas Edison developed a motion picture camera, or Kinetograph, although it has to be said that his employee, Scottish inventor W.K.L. Dickson, deserved much of the credit.**

**The films were first publicly displayed on May 20th, 1891 using a type of peep-hole viewer, the Kinetoscope.**

In Britain, possibly due to the 1951 film “The Magic Box”, William Friese-Greene has sometimes been cited as the inventor of movies. Certainly his tombstone proclaims him to have been the inventor of ‘commercial cinematography’ and he was a prolific inventor and pioneer in the field of motion pictures.

Since moving to Sussex in the 1980s, and subsequently finding a whole history of filmmaking based on Hove, Brighton and Shoreham this subject has been of increasing interest to me.

George Albert Smith and James Williamson both lived and worked in Hove and it was here that they built their film studios and made some of the most important films in the early history of cinema. Both men saw films for the first time in March 1896 in Leicester Square and, most probably at the Pandora Gallery in Brighton. Smith invented the close-up and both men pioneered film editing.

In nearby Shoreham one of the countries first film studios was developed in 1915. It was a huge glass affair at the end of Shoreham Beach, the location chosen due to the smog free air and the quality of light.



One man, however, who might be called the father of moving pictures has been almost entirely overlooked. His name was Louis Le Prince, a French inventor who arrived in Yorkshire in 1866. He worked as an engineer, chemist and would become known as a cinematographer.

In 2015 I had the pleasure of attending a preview of a new, feature length, documentary “The First Film”. The film was shown at one of my favourite local cinemas, The Picture House at Uckfield.

The cinema itself was opened in 1916, first operating as a garrison theatre for the troops stationed in the local area. Films commenced at The Picture House in August 1920 and have continued ever since.

“The First Film” was made by David Wilkinson who was present to answer questions following the screening.

David, a native of Leeds and a veteran of the film industry as a distributor, producer and actor had long been baffled that Louis Le Prince was little known outside of Yorkshire.

David has been on a 30 year quest to rectify the legacy of Le Prince who he maintains was the first person to capture continuous movement from a single point of view.

This would make him the world’s first cameraman, director and producer of motion pictures.

The film sets out to prove that Le Prince’s films, created in Leeds, pre-date those of Thomas Edison and the Lumiere brothers. In October 1888, Le Prince filmed moving picture sequences *Roundhay Garden Scene* and a *Leeds Bridge* street scene using his single-lens camera and Eastman’s paper film.

These were several years before the work of competing inventors such as William Friese-Greene, Auguste and Louis Lumiere and Thomas Edison.

After perfecting his projection machine, Le Prince arranged to demonstrate his discovery for the first time to the American public, and thus the world, in New York. He had arranged for the screening to take place in 1890 at the Morris-Jamel Mansion, George Washington’s old headquarters in Washington Heights.

Before he could, however, just weeks before he was due to return to New York from Paris, he disappeared after boarding the Dijon to Paris train. Neither he or his personal effects were ever found!

I thoroughly enjoyed “The First Film” and I think club members would also be intrigued by its subject matter. Participants include Oscar winning screenplay writer, Ronald Harwood and actor Tom Courtenay.

“The First Film” is now available on DVD and also available to rent, stream or buy on Vimeo or iTunes. The film was shown on Film 4 recently (early March) and may well be repeated. Keep a look out!



Recommended.

## *Rod Willerton*

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To steal ideas from one person is plagiarism. To steal from many is research.

Women will never be equal to men until they can walk down the street with a bald head and a beer gut, and still think they are sexy.

You do not need a parachute to skydive. You only need a parachute to skydive twice.

I used to be indecisive, but now I'm not so sure.

To be sure of hitting the target, shoot first and call whatever you hit the target.

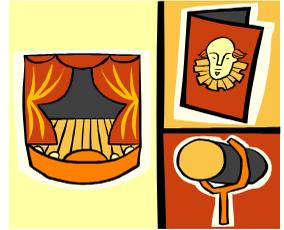
. Going to church doesn't make you a Christian, any more than standing in a garage makes you a Mechanic.

. I'm supposed to respect my elders, but it's getting harder and harder for me to find one now.

## *Ron Prosser via Roy Langley*

## ***Programme Reminder***

Jan 16	AGM
Jan 30	“Edit Your Way” results
Feb 13	Retro Film Night
Feb 27	A zany evening with Merv Huggett
Mar 13	Holiday Competition
Mar 27	TBA



## ***Refreshment Rota***

Jan 16	Allan Tyler & Graham Quantrill
Jan 30	Mike Prince & Tony Pethers
Feb 13	June Bailey & Derek Wright
Feb 27	Brenda & Barry Mack
Mar 13	Paul Bailey & Merv Huggett
Mar 27	Roy Langley & Paul Wood



### ***Remember!***

If you are unable to attend on your night, please change with someone else and update the sheet on the notice board

Please do a stock take at the end of your night and tell Liz if any items require to be replenished

## ***Next Issue Of Linking Shot***

The next issue will be at the end of March 2018

Send contributions to [linkingshot@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:linkingshot@hotmail.co.uk) no later than 1st March please

### ***Photographs in this issue***

Thanks to Keith Sayers

Views expressed by members in the Linking Shot may not be the views of the HHMM committee unless stated