

The
LINKING SHOT

Haywards Heath Movie Makers

Summer 2021



Something we made earlier gets aired on ITV

Chairman David's Deliberations

I expect that by now virtually all of you will have had both doses of the Covid vaccine which has given us some confidence to make a start back to some form of normality. Personally, I am happy to stay as I've been for the last year or so especially as the infection rates are rising again as this dreaded virus mutates. We all need to continue to be sensible after all!

I had a chat with Ron Prosser the other day, who was having problems with writing to a blu-ray disc from his Mac Final Cut pro. Strangely, I was suffering the same problem on my PC based Magix Movie Edit pro. Ron's error message was "media not recognised" and after consulting with our other Mac guru Rod Willerton, it was resolved. My problem was that suddenly I was not authorised to use the blu-ray burning plug-in. It had worked perfectly in the past but, I had upgraded my computer with new motherboard, processor and memory. I had sent a message to Magix customer support but at the time of our conversation I'd had no response from them. A few weeks later when I fired up Magix again, a window popped up which listed my PC hardware, both present and past. This message also inviting me to "decommission" the old hardware. Having done this and re-started the programme again it was now back to normal. Magix obviously has quite strong security systems in place to protect their products.

The "Trail Camera" I mentioned last time was set up in a neighbour's field on a convenient fence post. It has recorded a lot of deer movements both at night and day. There is also evidence that it has been triggered by Bats. However, as it only cost just under £20, the quality of the images is not that great even though it does record in 1080p. But it is probably let down by the camera optics which will be cheap and nasty! The night shots are very grainy too as the gain is increased to be able to record a usable image. It does have the advantage of running happily on 4 AA rechargeable batteries for 10 days or so. The other problem is that it has a 0.5sec trigger time which means that you're lucky if you catch the rear end of a fast moving fox!

So I have upgraded to a camera that has a 0.2sec trigger time, separate day and night cameras and side movement sensors. I haven't yet set this one up in the field as it appears to be quite fussy about the battery voltage. This one requires 8 AA batteries giving an output of 12Volts (1.5V/cell). My NiMH rechargeables

can only muster 9.6Volts (1.2V/cell) which means it only seems to record for roughly 2 days before shutting down. To power it from 8 standard long-life Alkaline batteries every 2 weeks or so would end up being quite expensive. So I have ordered 8 Li-on AA cells plus charger that have a cell voltage of 1.5Volts but these are yet to arrive.

So I'll keep you posted on my progress.

That's all for now.

See you at our next meeting.

David Fenn

The Queen Unseen

The letter was from a researcher at Factual Fiction, a new Yorkshire-based production business specialising in factual and scripted television. It appeared in Projections issue number 102, a magazine for film collectors that I take. The appeal was for unseen/rare footage of the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh for inclusion in a documentary.

Haywards Heath Movie Makers recorded a visit by the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh to the South of England Show at nearby Ardingly in June 2002 so I wondered whether the film might be of interest.

In early February, after some email correspondence with Factual Fiction, I uploaded an unlisted copy of the film to YouTube, and sent a link to them for viewing. The message came back that it could certainly be of interest. Although at that stage they were fairly far along in the production process, they asked me to obtain permission in principle from the club committee to use the film in case they wanted to include any of the footage in the proposed programme.

The committee was shortly due to meet on Zoom, so I was able to bring this to their attention quite quickly. Everyone was happy in principle, but we wanted to see the conditions of any licence before final approval.

The next step in the process was to send an uncompressed video file to Factual Fiction for further consideration. Although the film was only around 10 minutes long, and made in standard definition, the full file size was 2.32 GB, and therefore too large to send via WeTransfer, our normal go-to file

transfer service. I decided therefore to upload the film to Google Drive as this did not exceed their file size limit of 15 GB.

Once received, still in early February, Factual Fiction informed me that they were not far from finishing the project, but someone would be in touch if they wanted to go ahead. They told me that it might be a few weeks before we heard anything as it could take a while for decisions to be made. I was also given to understand that the programme was scheduled to be aired in April.

Whilst waiting, memories were stirred about the making of the original film. A former club chairman, David Chesterfield, managed to obtain three press passes for the day of the visit. He asked for two volunteers to join him resulting in Roy and I getting involved. Although the reputation of the site for being waterlogged is well known locally, the weather forecast had been for a dry sunny day, so we were not surprised to find early rain, wet ground, and lots of glorious mud!

The three intrepid cameramen, suitably wellington booted, were deployed at different parts of the show ground, initially along the route of the carriage procession. We were then assigned to various areas. David went to the main arena, Roy to the cattle exhibition, and myself to the fur and feather marquee. We were all given strict instructions about distancing from the Queen, or the Duke, and off we went.

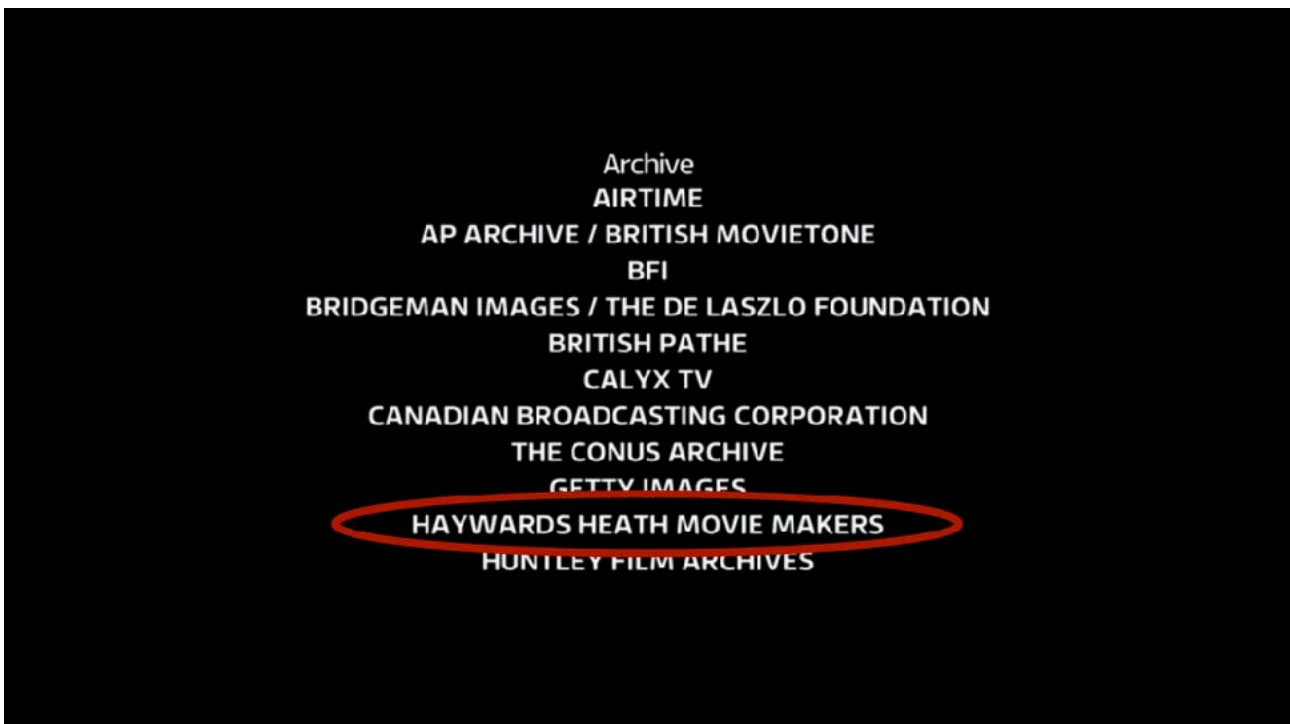


We all found that, despite being kept back by Royal staff, we were able to take some very good close-ups of the Queen. In my section there was a

cacophony of noise from the various hens, cockerels, bantams, etc. It was lovely to film the children all lined up holding their prized exhibits, which also included rabbits and guinea pigs.

The final, 10 minute film was well received when it was shown to a limited audience at one of our club's annual public shows.

By the end of March we hadn't heard anything from Factual Film so we assumed that they were not using any of the material sent to them. Then, suddenly, on March 31st, we were contacted, and asked to sign a materials release form. Now the production company were in a great hurry, and wanted the form signed 'yesterday'! I quickly circulated the form by email to the rest of our club committee, who OK'd everything. Our treasurer, Ray, was particularly happy as a fee of £200 was mentioned. Liz signed the release as club secretary, and the form was scanned and emailed.



So it was that the programme, "The Queen Unseen", was broadcast on ITV on Thursday, 8th April. 24 seconds from our production were used. None of the material that I took in the fur and feather marquee appeared, but that didn't matter. The main thing was that HHMM benefited with the welcome sum of £200, and we obtained national exposure as a mention was made in the programme's credits.

You never know what might be of interest to others lurking in your own archives!

Rod

Forthcoming Programme

Until next April, meetings will be held on Zoom
on the 4th Tuesday of each month
from 7:30pm except where shown

- Jul 27 Club outing to Ham Cottage Gardens (arrive at 2.0 p.m.)
at Hammingden Lane, Highbrook Nr. Ardingly RH17 6SR
- Sat Aug 14 Annual BBQ (Arrive at Noon)
at Quince Cottage, Nuthurst Road, Monks Gate RH13 6LG
- Sep 28 Guest speaker Alan Atkinson explains how he made his latest film
- Sun Oct 10 Sussex Film Festival*
at Wivelsfield Village Hall, Eastern Road, Wivelsfield Green RH17 7QG
- Oct 26 Open Competition. Maximum length 15 mins. Holiday, Non Fiction, Documentary etc.
(All entries will be submitted to external judges for "Best Film" "Best use of Sound" & "Best Editing")
- Nov 23 Alan Early* & 60 second Competitions.
As usual these will be judged "in-house" with results announced at the December evening.

* Theme "My Collection"
maximum 5 minutes screen time

Next Issue

The next issue of Linking Shot
will be at the end of September.
Please send contributions to
linkingshot@hotmail.co.uk
by 15 September.

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