

# The LINKING SHOT

Haywards Heath Movie Makers

Summer 2018



At the Albany Rod chats with Derek Watts the leading man in *The Prodigal* (photo Barry Mack)

## From the Chairman

### David's Deliberations

It's film Festival time again and we have already had The Albany, quite early this year compared to past years. It would have been nice to win but I was pleased that we achieved the Runner Up and Sound Trophy that we were awarded. A congratulation again to Chichester on their win and for equalling our hat trick wins. Next year will be interesting for us both!

We have also had the BIAFF weekend in Harrogate at which Rod Willerton achieved a 5 star award and Best Documentary for his film "Mechanical Things" about the eccentric inventions of the late Roland Emmett also starring our very own Merv Huggett! I do remember as a child, accompanying my Mother on shopping trips to Kingston-upon-Thames. We would take a bus to Hampton Court, walked over the bridge and then boarded the Trolley bus to Kingston. Once there we always went to Bentalls where, in the window, working just as you saw in Rod's film, Emmett's Flying Machine. I seem to recall seeing other Emmett creations in Bentalls window at different times as they were a great crowd puller at the time.

We have just had the SERIAC Film Festival where Rod's film "Mechanical Things" gained a Highly Commended. After the accolade at BIAFF, this in my opinion was a strange decision and may have been down to the personal preferences of the judges. When I've judged films in the past, if I didn't like the subject I tried not to let that influence my assessment. Although I couldn't attend the Festival this year, I was very chuffed to have won the 60 second category with "The Holiday". My two actors were also happy with this result and we have already made another one minute film in the same format but different script. Watch out for it on competition night!

I am struggling to get my head around our "Alan Early" theme for this year which is "The Letter". I've had several ideas but nothing has gelled yet.

We've had two story submissions from our friends in Lancashire on next year's Albany theme "A Close Call". Only one of them has the possibility of becoming a film, but requires a forty something hunky American as the male lead. If anyone knows of such a man, please get in touch.

That's all for now.

**David Fenn**

## The Albany inter-club Competition 2018

This year the competition took place at 2.30 pm on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> April in the Newell Centre in Tozer Way, Chichester and was hosted by Chichester Film & Video-Makers, the winners for the last two years. About fifty people attended as well as the three judges, Malcolm and Eunice Pike from Gosport & Fareham Camcorder Club and Bill Bolton , who was a member of Portsmouth Ciné Club until it closed but is still actively making films with other ex members and together with Gosport.

This year we were down to four clubs as East Sussex Movie Makers did not participate but next year we hope to be joined by The Isle of Wight Video Camera Club and Solent Moviemakers from Southampton.



The audience awaits the show start (photo Barry Mack )

With only four clubs entering this year we had one fewer entry and ten minutes less running time than in 2017 but the afternoon was as usual enjoyed by all who attended.

What struck me very much was how a simple theme, The Elephant in the Room, could give rise to such an imaginative variety of plots. We do have some extraordinarily creative minds in the amateur film making world. However, the judges and some HHMM members found it hard to marry some of the films shown to the theme.

And now to the entries.

**Entry A**, “Lost in Translation”, was by Surrey Border Movie Makers. This was an ecclesiastical gathering with some miracles thrown in. The judges commented on its clear visuals but said that some of the assumed accents made it difficult to follow the plot.

**Entry B** by Chichester Film & Video Makers was entitled “Cardinal Sin”, with a cardinal, a priest and a cast of nuns, one of whom, some attendees spotted, was played by a man. This turned out to be a take on the Immaculate Conception with a pregnant nun, (Nobody touched me) and a vanishing priest (I didn’t touch her) at the end. There was also a special star in the sky. This star scene was filmed at the Chichester Planetarium, which added nicely to the story. The judges praised its good direction and positioning and awarded it The Albany Trophy for the best overall entry.

**Entry C** “Stay for the Raffle” was one of two entries by South Downs Film Makers. The theme was a man having a nightmare about an embarrassing moment in a speech he was to give the next day. This turned out to be an undone zip but I did not see this film as a comedy. However, the judges commented on its good filming angles and awarded it the Best Comedy prize, although most of HHMM members thought that the final entry, South Downs Film Makers “The Elephant”, a spoof on modern art, was more of a comedy.

“Zipadeedoodah”, a short film about a village fête, featuring some very odd attendees, did not win any prizes although it also received a positive comment on its clear visuals. By coincidence, this film had the same embarrassing moment as in “Stay for the Raffle”. The judges and others present queried whether a ceramic elephant on a stall was the Elephant in the Room but maybe it was the undone zip?

Second to last was HHMM’s entry, “The Prodigal”. This was shown again two days later at our regular club evening and I got a lot more out of it at the second viewing. I won’t comment on the plot as most members now have seen it and I am sure that it will soon appear on the club’s website.

During the break when the judges were conferring the buzz of conversation revealed that it would be a close run between us and Chichester to win.

The principal actor, Derek Watts was excellent and very convincing although the judges picked out the young actress playing his niece, Hanna Levene, for a special commendation. With this entry there



Stan Harvey-Merrit, President of the Chichester Film & Video Makers, presents the Runner Up trophy to Liz Willerton (photo Barry Mack).

was no doubt about it fitting the theme. A special element of this film was that the music was especially composed for HHMM by Hans den Turck. The judges complimented HHMM on having such an intriguing story and its excellent direction and editing. "The Prodigal" was awarded the Runners Up Trophy and The Greenyer Trophy for the best use of sound.



Liz Willerton accepts the Greenyer cup for "Best Use of Sound" from Stan Harvey-Merrit president of Chichester Film & Video Makers (photo Barry

Finally, the judges complimented Chichester Film & Video Makers for the way it had organised and run the whole event. Everything indeed went very smoothly.

*Barry Mack*

## Get ready for the Alan Early Competition?

I'm not sure whether Alan was a founder member of our club, but he was certainly making films in 1949, our foundation year, as there are films of his, held by Screen Archive South East, from that time. The two films of his that I've seen are both of excellent quality. They are "Every Thursday (1970)" - showing the history and production processes of the Mid Sussex Times newspaper, and "Treacle Galore (1972)" - a spoof comedy documentary on the mining of treacle at Chailey.

Looking at the club's records, I've found that Alan was Vice Chairman of our club between 1969 and 1975, and a Vice President in 1975. I'm assuming that the Alan Early Competition was instigated in his memory at sometime in the late 1970s or early 1980s.

In the first years of the competition, during the ciné days, the competition was restricted to the length of a 50ft spool of film. In practise this meant a maximum running time of 4 minutes (Standard 8), or 3 minutes, 20 seconds (Super 8). In more recent years we've extended this running time to 5 minutes. In the days of our Inter Club competitions with Mid Sussex and Copthorne, we used to use the winning Alan Early film as part of our three-film programme.

The competition is held each year, usually in the Autumn, and films are to a set theme. This year's competition will be on October 9th, and films are invited to the theme, "The Letter". Films should be no more than five minutes in length.

Although the theme this year might have members searching for an idea, I can assure you that it would be relatively easy to adapt almost any subject to this theme. If you don't know how, just ask, and I'll give you a couple of tips! Everyone should be able to make a film of five minutes or less so let's have a bumper number of entries in 2018.

*Rod Willerton*

## Programme Reminder

- Jul 3            10 minute talk evening  
these will be filmed to provide material for "Edit Your Way"
- Jul 17           Club Outing  
Lunch and tour at the Denbies Wine Estate
- Sep 11           SERIAC show-reel
- Sep 25           An evening with Jack Butler  
A young person's view of film making
- Oct 9            *Competition Night***  
***Fiction, Novice, Alan Early\*\* (theme "The Letter") & 60 second***

## Refreshment Rota

- 3 July            Roy Langley and Paul Wood
- 11 Sept           Allan Tyler and Graham Quantrill
- 25 Sept           June and Paul Bailey
- 9 October        Derek Wright and David Smart

### **Please 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

The next issue of Linking Shot will be at the end of September 2018  
Send contributions to [linkingshot@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:linkingshot@hotmail.co.uk) no later than 1st  
September please.

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