



Issue No. 573 – February 2019

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FORTHCOMING ATTRACTIONS

7th February – Jason Ford

Jason is a young actor and director and is going to tell us about his experiences in professional film making and acting. We are inviting members of Orpington Film and Video Makers to this evening.

21st February – Films from Bristol Movie Makers

It has been some time since we last spent an evening looking at films from another club. It is always good to see the work of other non-professional film makers and possibly get some new ideas.

7th March – Annual General Meeting

Once again we meet to agree on the composition of the Executive Committee and the views of members on the future of the club. One decision that needs to be decided is the finances of Spring Park Film Makers. The Committee will ask the members to agree to an increase in the entrance fee from £2 to £3 later in the year. After the formal meeting is over, members can enjoy complimentary drinks and snacks.

PREVIOUS MEETINGS

13th December - Christmas Lunch at The Railway, West Wickham

As usual, club members celebrated Christmas at the Railway, West Wickham. As well as the food and drink there was a very challenging quiz put together as usual by our Club Secretary, Brenda. Around 20 members were present and a good time was had by all, as can be seen from these 2 photos by Keith S.



10th January – Films to the theme of “Winter”

Any time we ask our members to find films on a specific topic from their vast personal archives we are rarely disappointed. This time, with films about winter required, we got a full programme with one or two films we had not seen before at the club. One of these was “Christmas Tree” by the prolific Roy. By clever cutting and dramatic music, Roy made the tree ornaments remarkably scary. Gerald followed up with “Big Freeze” a film made over 30 years ago showing the effects of heavy snow in Edenbridge in 1987.

Peter Mac showed us “A year at RSPB Rainham Marshes” which of course included the wild birds during winter. This film has not been entered for club competitions nor for the Annual Show and the Chairman encouraged Peter to do this in 2019. “New boy” Allen showed us a well edited film entitled “Winter Cruise to Norway” (another possible entry for our competition this year) with plenty of snow and ice on view. Another new member, Dave, presented a film based on home movie footage of youngsters enjoying sledging locally in the snow. Dave called the film “Broad Oaks in the Snow”.

Graham E brought along his “tribute” to Sir Michael Caine called “Freeze Frame” a “send-up” of the animated film “The Snowman” with the Chairman flying through the sky over a snowy Hayes thanks to some green screen work. Dorothy brought along Pam Smith’s delightful “Crystal Forest” shot in local woodland in the snow with an appropriate poem. Graham E showed some home movie footage from Prague in January 1997. The evening’s finale was Roy’s second offering “A Winter’s Day in Brooklands” showing a recent car rally at the famous car racing circuit.

24th January – Movie-go-round

After such a bumper crop of films brought along to the last meeting, it was a pleasant surprise to find that the same thing happened for Movie-go-round. In fact, such was the abundance of new films that the Chairman had to ration them!

The panel of experienced film makers this time were Gerald, Richard and Keith S.

First off was Graham Ralls’ film “Chaldon Church Restoration” which was made to help raise funds for a church in some disrepair. The panel liked the clever use of a drone camera to show the damage, especially close up shots. Two of the panel thought a voice-over (by the vicar?) might have been better than captions. The photography was praised and they all thought the film would enhance a public show.

Newcomer Peter L showed two films. His first was an animation called “Yellow Duck”. The panel thought this was good fun and a welcome change from the often serious films made by club members. Having said that, they felt that the shots could have been steadier and that occasionally they were out of focus.

Peter L’s other entry was “Pith Helmet”. Again the panel welcomed films with an unusual topic (in this case how these hats were invented for colonists in hot countries) and the innovative approach (the narrator in a pith helmet facing the camera whilst giving the commentary – with jump cuts). Some technical tidying up was required with lighting, but they liked it!

Another recent member, Dave, showed us a family film taken a while back on his Iphone called “I Go Swimming”. The panel found the film entertaining and noted the successful but unusually long pans in this film. They said that it was “very watchable”.

Roger entered “Pila 2018 Skiing” with the great man skiing down a slope with his left hand holding his ski stick whilst the other held “Go-pro” style video camera. The panel felt the results were visually stunning with a well-chosen musical sound track according to the panel but perhaps with more cutaway shots and perhaps removing the shots of apres-ski activities for an annual show entry. It was suspected that the camera shot at 30 frames per second causing the club player to jolt the projection during the fast moving shots.

The prolific film-maker Roy’s entry was called “Pendsey Trust” and was a fund raising film for this charity that helped finance poor families in India who had a child with diabetes. The panel were convinced that the film showed the right balance between the on screen narrator and the

families receiving help. They thought perhaps the audience needed to know more about the disease and its effects on victims to get them to understand the problem.

Dorothy’s film “Penny Hotel” went underground in London again. This time we were literally in deepest Clapham where a purpose built air raid shelter had been constructed during World War Two. The wise men liked the voice over but felt it came in a little too early in the film but the blending of archive material was well done. All in all they thought the film told a fascinating true story with good cine-photography.

Paul brought along another of his short dramas. This time he had produced a short comedy called “Magic Fidget Spinner”. This too was well received with good acting and pace. It was good fun and entertaining. The audience laughed – result!

Allen showed us a travelogue in stunning sunshine and 4K; respect! “Trio of Greek Islands” was a travelogue based on a cruise in this part of the Mediterranean. The panel loved everything about this film including the well written commentary and very steady hand held but stabilised camera work.

The final film of the evening was Richard and Brenda’s documentary “The Crumble Story” about events in and around a section of the Sussex Coast. Gerald and Keith were very complimentary about the well-researched history and commentary as well as the excellent cinematography and choice of background music. It was, they said “a first class” film.

SERIAC COMPETITION CLOSING DATE

Don’t forget that the next film competition coming along is the South East Region of Institute of Amateur Cinematographers (SERIAC) film festival. This will be held in Tonbridge in April and we hope that many members of Spring Park will attend. But more urgently, please consider entering the competition as the closing date is the **28th February 2019**. The full details of how to enter can be found on the SERIAC website. Keith S is the SERIAC competition officer so you can arrange to give him your entry and fee at a club meeting. Good luck.