



# HARROW CINE & VIDEO SOCIETY

www.harrowcinevideo.org.uk

## NEWS AND VIEWS

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APRIL 2012

## Congratulations to Vicky!



We have much pleasure in offering our heartiest congratulations to our oldest Member, Vicky Greene, who celebrated her 100th Birthday on 7th February. According to the club records, Vicky joined the Society with her husband in September 1994 when "The Edgware & Kingsbury Movie Makers" ceased to exist and amalgamated with Harrow.

She had made quite a name for herself making animated story films which she continued to produce until only a few years ago. We picture her here with the floral arrangement presented to her by Jean Biskeborn and Lilian Barrett on behalf of the Harrow Cine & Video Society.

*Photo by Jean Biskeborn*

# Chairmans Shield - Documentary Competition

By Wallace Jacobs

This is one of the most difficult competitions we have. It is very difficult to demonstrate to others the true meaning of documentary.

This year every film was a true documentary!

There were four entries in the Silver Class and three in the Gold Class.

## SILVER CLASS

### **Crossing the Panama - Tommy Kovacs**

A very good explanation of a cruise ship passing through the Panama Canal. The film had history, drama and illustration. Fascinating to watch and enjoy.

### **Bletchley Park Code Breakers - Jeff Jessop**

Very informative story about the "Enigma" code breaking machine. We were taken into the second world war with authentic scenes of the Germans using the code, and the boffins at Bletchley Park breaking them.

### **The Start of the Volvo Ocean Race - John Bartlett**

One of our newer members showed us, with dramatic effect, these ocean going ships in this prestigious race. Being an enthusiast himself he filmed from the inside. The pictures were dramatic and very clear. This is John's second entry into one of our competition and we now know what a good film maker he is. We look forward to future entries.

### **Wowballs - Alan Morgan**

Who has ever heard of Wowballs? We of the HVCS now know what they are. This film taken in Liverpool Docks, showed some intrepid teenagers climbing into a deflated plastic something, which in turn was blown up into a ball and sealed. The participant then starting walking into the waters of the docks. To our surprise it stayed afloat and a great deal of fun was had by all. It did not seem to matter that they fell over, did somersaults and generally had a fantastic time.

The results in this class were: -

1st	Tommy Kovacs
2nd	Alan Morgan
3rd	Jeff Jessop

## GOLD CLASS

We always look forward to our star film makers' movies and we were not disappointed.

### **Curtains - Dave Smith**

For ideas look to Dave. He took us through a total curtain making experience with the curtain maker explaining her every move. After seeing this I wish I could be interested in curtain making.

### **Newspapers - Ludwig Levy**

Ludwig with his amazing commentaries took us through the amount of junk that comes with the Sunday newspapers and looked back to the days when you got just a newspaper and nothing else. Oh happy days!

### **Shrinkwrapped - Ken Mills**

Ken took us on a journey from the days when the railway line was put in from Wembley to Northwood. He showed us the brick arch bridge built at that time and later demolished to make way for the massive iron bridge built in its stead.

We were then brought up to date when this great iron structure had to be cleaned and painted. Just like you wrap food to put in the fridge, the bridge was surrounded with scaffolding and wrapped in a plastic material to protect the public below from messy droppings and to control temperature and humidity.

What a fascinating film.

The results in this class were: -

1st	Ken Mills
2nd	Ludwig Levy
3rd	Dave Smith

A very constructive commentary on all the films was afterwards given by Alan

**Don't forget our**

## ***ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING***

***2012***

Please note that this Year's Annual General Meeting will take place in the Canons Room, Harrow Arts Centre, Hatch End

**On Monday, 14th May commencing at 8.00 p.m.**

Nominations are invited for Officer and Committee Posts.

The new Committee for the next Season will be elected, so be there to vote for the people you want to run the Club.

*Maurice Twelvetrees  
Hon. Secretary*

## **North Thames Region Triangle Competition**

by Alan Colegrave

So, it was late February and what happens every year in February? The first round of the triangle competition. Were we robbed of victory, personally I don't think so. This year Harrow was matched against Hemel Hempstead and Walthamstow. Three Judges were Brian Rose, Denis Kelly and Brenda Granshaw.

The first film was Ken's "**The Glass Doctor**". This generally went down well but Brian questioned the inclusion of music while Brenda wanted more close ups and criticised several unsteady shots. The film was awarded 4 points.

Next was "**Redbournbury Mill**" from Hemel. Firstly, this was Blu-Ray and it showed. The clarity of the shots was superb and this alone went down well with the judges. Dennis thought the film was well storyboarded, while the other judges found the production a

little confusing. It seemed to wander a little. However overall the photography was good and reasonably well put together but it did finish very abruptly. This was awarded 7 points.

Third in this section was "**Cuba**" from Walthamstow. Personally I liked the attempt of using pieces to camera (PTCs) for linking the various sequences in the film but I feel it did not work 100%. However all the judges loved it with comments such as a beautiful film and they even liked the PTCs. This film was also awarded 7 points.

Then we went on the open section and the first film was "**Borderline**" from Hemel. This was a 12 minute drama. Generally this went down well with the judges. They thought the acting was reasonably good and so was the punch line. However they all found

the pace a little slow. Brian was also concerned about one scene where the makers had crossed the line. This film was awarded 6 points.

Next was Walthamstow with **"The Thames Forts"**. The judges thought the film was interesting but Dennis suggested that the film went nowhere. Overall the judges thought it started well but faded away – really lacked a conclusion. This film was awarded 5 points

This section finished with Ian's **"La Venetia"**. In my opinion the strongest film in this section. Dennis suggested that it was a very well put together holiday film and Brian loved the slow pace, the camerawork and great voice over. My only comment is that it was the only 4:3 film in the competition and that format does look a little dated. This production was awarded 7 points

The final section was drama and we kicked off with **"I-Clone"** from Walthamstow. Brenda thought it a brilliant idea. Brian thought it was technically very competent but a little slow at the beginning. I tend to agree but I found the analogue noise on the

soundtrack very annoying. How do you get analogue noise these days when everything is digital? This film was awarded 7 points.

Our **"Doctor's Warning"** was next. At around 1 minute, Brenda described it as a one line gag. Brian was a little worried by the pipe growing out of the doctor's head but thought it was clever. Dennis said that he did not have much to say. The film was awarded 4 points.

Last of the evening was Hemel's **"Tightrope"**. Generally this went down very well amongst the judges although the plot was a little weak. The CGI was great and showed great mastery in that field. This was awarded 7 points.

When the individual marks were added together, the final scores were Harrow 15 points, Walthamstow 19 points and Hemel Hempstead 20 points. There was a fair amount of variation amongst the judges scores which normally indicates a close competition. My overall opinion was that the competition was closer than the scores suggest but the correct club won.

## **PROGRAMME REMINDER**

**Meetings of the Society are held in the Canons Room at the Harrow Arts Centre**

### **APRIL 2012**

16th Presidents Cup Competition - For all silver category members.

*Thurs 19th Spring Movie Show at Pinner Village Hall*

23rd An analysis of the films made by Norman Lewis.

30th Annual Challenge Cup Competition.

### **MAY 2012**

14th Annual General Meeting Plus (Last Club meeting of Season)

### **JULY 2012**

**20th Summer Lunch at Bellair Restaurant, Northwood**

# An Evening with Michael Slowe - Documentary Films

by Derek Lucas

On twelfth of March we were entertained by Michael Slowe with a talk about documentary films, illustrated by examples of his own work.

Michael started by saying that advancing years induced a certain rigidity of mind which inhibited us from exploring new ideas. There were those among us who thought he might be looking at them but mercifully he moved on to his next topic before anyone burst into tears!

In his opinion, Michael said there were only two types of amateur movie: documentaries and others. In the case of drama the professionals had vastly better facilities so that the gulf between them and us was enormous. In the case of documentaries, that was not so. The amateur might easily spot some interesting topic of which the professionals were unaware.

He then called for the first film, which was of a trapeze artiste performing and at practice. I thought the constant cutting between practice and performance added interest. The pictures were excellent (thanks in part to the attractive young lady

who starred!) and the accompanying music was very well chosen. We noticed this in all his films. Michael said that whenever he saw his own work he would wish for tighter editing. Many of us agreed with him there.

There followed a film about painting on silk. Having admired the skill of the artist and the way the stretched silk responded to the brush I thought it a bit repetitious. The next film was about a number of very expensive cars being driven, Worthy of note was that of a car with steerable rear wheels being parked. Very handy! I thought the final shots were rather pathetic: the same smart cars were piled high in a scrap dealer's yard. The lines came to mind:

"Sceptre and crown must tumble down  
And in the dust be equal made..."

Then came a film about dogs and hunting. Michael did admit this might not appeal to "townies" like me for example. Finally came a short commercial advertising the new luxury seating at a Hampstead cinema. A sample seat was dragged round the town, ending up at the cinema entrance.

All in all we enjoyed the evening and profited from it.

## A MOAN

by Dave Smith

**Why Bother** selecting a piece of music, then spend loads of time on the Computer putting together clips, editing the picture to the *beat/mood/words* and when satisfied you have done your best, then add 10 seconds of black leader, plus 10 second count down (when using tape). Then fill in the entry form containing the details of your entry eg. original format D'mini DV, projection format 4x3 ext. Then give your entry form to the Competition Secretary. Next fill in the same details on the tape and box containing the tape, only to have it go pear shaped when it gets to being projected at our club. This is the fourth time this has happened to my entries. I have also noted it happening to other Club Members' films.

Would it be a good idea to scrap the "Movie to a Record" competition?

As synchronizing the sound to the picture is still off, this is frustrating when we spend so much time getting the beat spot on with the action. Talking to another club member about this problem he said it can be rectified fairly easily.

Regarding the summing up of my masterpiece, "MOODS" by Aivar and being told he did not like it was fine by me. I personally would have preferred more constructive remarks on what was wrong with it.

Moan over!

The saving grace of the evening for me was Judy's excellent "Winter", one of the best 'Movie to a Record' I've seen in a long time, in fact, the best.

# **ARE YOU UP IN THE CLOUDS? HAVE YOU USED THE CLOUD?**

**by Ken Gale**

**You probably have if you have accessed your emails through web mail  
maybe whilst on a Saga cruise**

or have a hotmail or Gmail account.

The CLOUD is an umbrella term that covers computer programs and services that rely on the internet to function.

The CLOUD has been around for some time as online storage, but with the availability of fast broadband and wifi almost anywhere in the world a number of software companies have created and now promote over 100 CLOUD based application, for example office based Google docs and Zoho and for videos and photos Windows live movie maker and live photo gallery, of course our Mac members have their own program iCloud.

The idea of the CLOUD is that files and applications are not stored on your computer but on an online server so they can be viewed and edited anywhere in the world and not tied to a specific computer.

## **IS IT FOR YOU?**



Well imagine you are working on a video for a club competition and have not finished it before you go on your Saga cruise, upload it to your CLOUD server and use the ship's computer to finish editing it ready to download and burn to DVD when you get back in time for the competition, or you might have an urge to write an article for the news letter while on holiday. Use your hotel's computer, send it to the CLOUD and Maurice can download it ready to print.

Of course there are many more uses for the CLOUD and a few problems when the CLOUD turns Grey, but this is for another time.

## **DO YOU KNOW YOUR Q.R. FROM YOUR U.P.? HAS YOUR GOOGLE BEEN GOGGLES? ARE YOU STILL LOOKING FOR AURASMA?**

Hopefully the following will explain, they are all APPS for mobile phones with internet connections.

### **QR and UP**



I am sure you have noticed black & white chequered squares popping up in newspapers, advertisement and even on TV. These barcode like designs are called QR - quick response code - and work with your mobile phone's camera to take you to the website of the product or service being advertised. If you are lucky enough to afford an iPhone, go to the Apple APP store and download the free QR code reader. However if you only have a Symbian type phone go to your phones APP store and download an UP code app. It will do the same thing.

## GOGGLES

**This APP unfortunately is only available for iPhones.**

WHAT DOES IT DO?

Well if you have this APP on your iPhone and are on holiday in Barcelona and take a Photograph of a Gouda building within seconds all the information on the building and the area will be streamed to your phone in text photo and video so you don't need a local travel guide.

## AURASMA



Down load AURASMA app to your phone then look for pictures in travel adverts and travel magazine with a little blue capital A in the corner, scan the picture with your phone and a video of that holiday being advertised will be streamed to your phone. Will any of these be of use to you?

I suspect **NOT A LOT!**

## TRIPLE CHAIRMAN'S SHIELD COMPETITION

By Jeff Jessop

In Movie to a Record , the first entry in the Silver Section was by John Bartlett entitled, "I only Went for a Paper". This was a Cycle trip from Lands' End to John O' Groats, by John and his pals to the sound of heavy rock music, I was not sure if I was more impressed with the Film Making or their Stamina.

"Waterloo", by Judy Long was filmed at Waterloo Station, to the music of Abba. The clips were steady and the film was cut to the beat.

A very nice film.

"Winter" by Tommy Kovacs, was Filmed at Yosemite Country Park USA and it was an interesting film that was enjoyable to watch.

Alan Morgan's film was a bit different from the usual films as it was cut to the beat of the Highway Code.

"Almost Ready" by myself was filmed at the Olympic games site in Stratford to the music of Chariots of Fire.

Judy's second film "Winter", was filmed at Bentley Priory Country Park, was cut to the Music and proved to be the Winning Entry.

The first entry in the Gold Section was by Dave Smith entitled "Moods". It was a mixture of clips of Air Displays, Human-Statues, Parachuting, Pottery, etc. All cut to the beat and was an interesting film.

"Merry Christmas" by Ludwig Levy was filmed to the music of Silent Night. It was short but pleasant.

"Mi Amore Vole Fe Yah" by Alan Colegrave was a series of slides, some of Faces, some of The Gay Pride March in London, all of excellent quality.

The Winning Entry was by Ken Mills video entitled "Cruising Down the Rhine" cut to the beat of music. "Cruising Down the Rhine" was an excellent production.

The Three Minute Movie was next. The first entry in the Silver Section was by John Bartlett, entitled, "To The Mark". It was

about a Yacht Race and it had plenty of pace. I found myself willing his Crew to win but unfortunately there was no commentary or other information but it looked great fun.

"Blenheim Palace and Gardens" by myself was well received, but Aivar Kaulins who was making the comments for the evening felt it needed more information.

The winning entry was by Judy Long, entitled "Autumn" filmed at Bentley Priory with nice steady shots. Aivar felt it could do with more close ups.

There was just one entry in the Gold Section and that was "City of Linz" by Ludwig Levy. which involved some ironic humour at the expense of Adolf Hitler, Ludwig's humour at its best.

The first film in the One Minute Silver Section was by John Bartlett entitled "Snowdrops" and was a very well presented production. Alvar noted it had an excellent commentary.

The next film was "Fun on the Ice" and showed people enjoying themselves ice skating in Hyde Park. It was filmed by myself.

The winning entry was by Tommy Kovacs. "Rushmore National Monument", nicely shot, interesting and very funny. (I wondered what they looked like from the rear), again there was just one Gold Entry, The Picture, by Ludwig was all about Ludwig trying to hang a picture without success.

Altogether there were 12 Films in the Silver Section and 6 in the Gold.

## COMPETITION ENTRIES

by Jim Gatt

*(Editor's Note:*

*The projection team have been having difficulties recently because members are using a variety of methods for starting off their video productions. The following are the methods preferred by the projection team for starting your movies to give smooth projection at competitions.)*

### **Tape:**

A few seconds of black at start of tape - Countdown (preferably without sound) to no lower than 2 and followed by two seconds of black then the start of the movie.

The numbers on the countdown should indicate the number of seconds to the start of the movie.

There should be at least 10 seconds of black between movies on the same tape.

### **DVD:**

There should be a simple static menu with no animation or sound.

Titles on buttons should be legible on a small screen.

Selected button to be obvious when using multi button menus.

There should be no countdown - 10 seconds of black should be provided at the start and end of the movie, then return to the menu. There should be no linking or looping of movies.

### **Both Types:**

There should be no long gap between the end of the movie and any credits.

There should be a clear marking of the aspect ratio of the movie. 4:3 - 16:9 - 16:9 letterboxed.

Preferred: Fade from black at start and fade to black at the end.

If sound starts before the vision, this should be noted.

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