

Update from the chair

Today, Friday 13th June, we were pleased to be invited to put on an extended show for Ferring Probus group and received a warm welcome as Howard and myself treated the group to an hour and a half of SDFM entertainment. The group did engage very well and asked some relevant questions about the films. I'm sure we will be invited back and some interest in our club was shown by one or two the audience. I have to thank Roy Powell for all his work in putting together the programmes for us to show and with all his past efforts for getting us to the healthy situation we enjoy regarding the external film shows.

We have been trying to put some new vitality into the film shows we present to various groups around our locality by piecing together some new equipment. This ensures a better value experience to customers. Our new ten-inch powered speakers have made a big difference and are capable of performing well in most of the venues that we show in. To add to the speakers, we have now added a nice little sound mixer and some other small bits and pieces. The next step being to acquire new cabling sets to complete the set-up, which will make things more flexible for us, enabling us to site things out of the way of the auditorium. I'm also pleased to add that the income we've made from the last three shows has gone a long way to offsetting the cost of the equipment, by the end of the year we should have recovered the entire sum that we spent, including the new speakers.

Once again SDFM have figured well with entries into the SERIAC Film Festival 2025. Whilst I was basking in the Spanish sunshine SDFM Members were basking in the glory of awards bestowed on our club and individual members for their efforts.

You can find a report on the event by our Mike Spanton featured later in this newsletter.



Members of Ferring Probus group



Howard Johnson overseeing proceedings

FILMS IN PROGRESS by Howard Johnson

May was a busy time for member John Lowell as he endeavours to complete his film 'Bahamas to Bognor' with the aid of fellow club members, Brian Meetens, Jim Anderson and myself, Howard Johnson. Bad weather and holidays delayed its completion in 2024 and John is now anxious to get things moving once again before he flies off yet again to Tenerife. Its no fun being a globe trotter and even less fun when confronted by 3 masked robbers who are determined to undertake their final heist before retiring to yes you got it the Bahamas. You will have to see if their mission turns out to be successful or whether they wind up in the nick in Bognor.

FILMS IN PROGRESS ‘ Bahamas to Bognor’

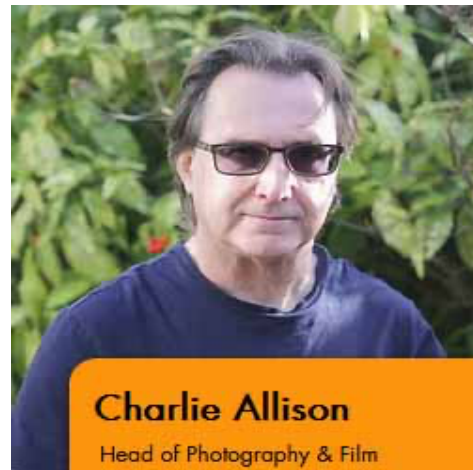


CHICHESTER FRINGE

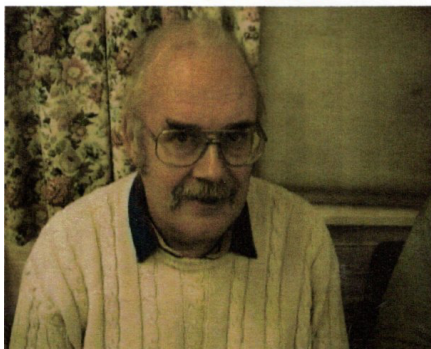
In late May and through early June I was co opted into filming some of the events which made up this years Chichester Fringe. Heading up their film unit is Charlie Allison who I met at our annual Chichester/ South Downs film competition and who is a member of the Chichester Film Club. Charlie lives in Worthing and has offered to talk to our club at a future meeting on his filmmaking exploits. I was fortunate to film the 2 comedy Heats leading up to the Final as well as an afternoon of Shanty songs from the river as performed by the Estuary Men . Two films are in the offing as and when I get round to the editing. All in good time I say but I have been saying that for a number of years and that's why there are numerous projects still stuck on the shelve waiting for completion..



The ESTUARY MEN



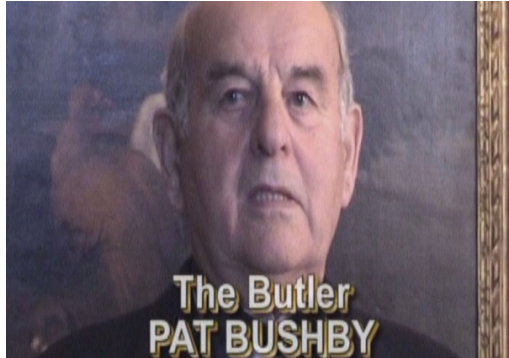
Memories



Those of you who remember Fred Clarke will be pleased to know that he is alive and well and now retired from filming and still living in Lancing. As unofficial welfare officer I paid him a visit to bring him up to date with club activities and to seek his agreement to making available to the Sussex Archive his award-winning animation project which was over 10 years in the making. This was some project and I recall watching a screening of it in the club rooms some 20 years ago and it would be good to rescue it for prosperity. Fred sends his regards but nowadays is unable to visit the

club due to health and vision issues. We wish him well and look forward to a screening of the animation at some future meeting.

I am also saddened to receive news of the death of former member Pat Busby who was recently featured in the Worthing Argus celebrating his 100th Birthday with his colleagues at Broadwater Fire Station. Pat featured in a number of club films made between 2000-2008 the most memorable being 'The Duke Breakfast'



SERIAC Film Festival 2025 by Mike Spanton

As in previous years, the Oast Theatre in Tonbridge hosted the 2025 SERIAC Film Festival.

There was a good turnout this year, with an earlier start time meaning people driving home after the awards ceremony, would be doing so in daylight.

South Downs Film Makers were there in force with 8 members attending and enjoying the screenings.

SERIAC were only able to offer tea/coffee and biscuits for the modest £6 entry fee, but with a Beefeater restaurant right next door, there was no problem getting some lunch in beforehand.

And so began the showing of all 27 entries split into 2 sessions with tea/coffee breaks halfway through and ending up with the awards ceremony.

The only club film entered was our very own – 'The Briefcase'. And guess what, it won the Kent Cup for Best Movie by an IAC affiliated club! All the other films were entered by individuals.

And we did it again with 'The Briefcase' winning the Regional Shield for the Best Film in the show, together with a host of other trophies. Also many congratulations to Chris Morgan and Howard Johnson for their awards.



Chris "Carstairs" Morgan gets his own award for 'Lincoln Prison' and Ian Barber posing as Howard Johnson to receive his reward



The films were all prejudged by Linda and Michael Gough, with the exception of the Alex Dove trophy for the audience choice of Best Film, which was won by Paul Warwick for an amazingly realistic drama about a drug courier titled 'Puff – A Drug Courier's Redemption'. Rita Hayes announced the winners and Linda Gough, President of the IAC presented the awards. Thanks must also go to Amanda Mendzil for helping in the ticket booth and assisting Rita with the teas and coffees, and also to Mike Whyman for doing the projection and for assisting with the organisation of the festival. Some photos are attached.



Our own inimitable Alan Cross creator of 'The Briefcase'



SDFM Members basking in the glory



Members enjoying the event



And now for all the results in the order they were presented on the day:

Certificates of Merit for	No 8	The Ghost of RAD	Graham Ralls
	No 24	The Fresh Water Circle	Rod Willerton
	No 9	The Artist	Roy de Boise
	No 15	Pedway by iPhone	Graham Ralls
	No 25	Lincoln Prison	Chris Morgan
	No 19	Carnival Capers	Howard Johnson
	No 16	The Squid	Peter Wishhusen
	No 3	Boxed in	Roger Fowles

Surrey Border Cup for Special Merit
Boise

No 5 The Visit

Roy de

Mike Shaw trophy for Special Title Graphics
Downs Film Makers

No 7 The Brief Case

South

Southern Sound Trophy for best use of sound Downs Film Makers	No 7	The Brief Case	South
SERIAC 60 Cup for Best 1-minute or less film Willerton	No 22	Just a Minute	Rod
Paterson Cup for Best Animated film Fowles	No 18	Now you see me	Roger
Orpington Cup for Best Comedy Boise	No 20	Sliding doors	Roy de
Open Trophy for films with Professional help Warwick	No 17	Puff–A Drug Courier...	Paul
Mike Coad Trophy for Best Drama Lancefield	No 11	Fast Sale	Steven
JVC Trophy for Best Editing Lancefield	No 11	Fast Sale	Steven
Croydon Trophy for Best Documentary Warwick	No 2	Christian Boxing Club	Paul
Colin Pain Trophy for no Special Category Morgan	No 10	All I Want for Xmas	Chris
Baynes Trophy for Best Photography Ralls	No 21	Sacrilege	Graham
Kent Cup for Best Club entry Downs Film Makers	No 7	The Brief Case	South
Acting Trophy for Best Acting performance Halsey and Neil James	No 11	Fast Sale	Barbara
The Freddy Beard SERIAC Cup (Runner up) Lancefield	No 11	Fast Sale	Steven
The Regional Shield for Best Film in Show Downs Film Makers	No 7	The Brief Case	South
The Alex Dove Trophy for Audience choice Warwick	No 17	Puff-A Drug Courier...	Paul

And Finally

I hope as many of you as possible will turn out to our club meeting tomorrow night. We are endeavouring to have a fun filled evening for you. Jason will be first up and take us up to the break with his article on Iphone filming and editing. I hear some of you already muttering, “but I don’t have an Iphone.” Fear not, a lot of the principles are transferrable to Android. After our tea break chat etc. Howard will present a few films including the excellent tutorial series that the club conveniently owns.

I’m hoping some of the new prospective members are able to turn up and meet us. If they do I know you will make them feel welcome.

See you all there

Ray

