



# VIDEO ON-LINE

The Newsletter of Westcliff Film and Video Club

Summer 2003



**Oh no not him again!** : From the Publicity Officer, Chris Taylor.

What a thought, but as I write this I have been trying to work out just how many years I have served on Westcliff's committees since I first joined in September 1965. Frankly I can't remember exactly, but I have done most of the jobs, except Treasurer and Social Secretary and I reckon it's 18 or 19 years. I was Publicity Officer first, then Secretary, Chairman and President, - continuously through the seventies and in patches in the eighties and nineties. The job of Publicity Officer is probably my favourite, so it's hello again as I take over the production of the newsletter. The paper goes, not only to our own members, but serves to let local papers, the video press and all kinds of others, know what we are up to!

It's amazing how things change so quickly, it wasn't long ago that getting a newsletter out was an exercise on a portable typewriter and persuading the young lady in the photocopy room at work to do me favour! And what now? It's become an exercise on my computer and photocopying the bloody thing myself!

I'm sure that most members reading this, do now have e-mail addresses, so, if you get this by post, but would like it electronically in future, please do get in touch at [chris.taylor1@tesco.net](mailto:chris.taylor1@tesco.net) to be added to the list. As I write I am trying to sort out a means of ensuring everyone gets the newsletter with colour pictures and all, right up there in your browser!

Club communication is always important and the means of letting the outside world know about us has changed greatly with the advent of the web and e-mail. Ken Pratt's good friend Ali J, did a great job in formatting the words and pictures we put together to become our web-site last year, and we hope to make it even more entertaining in the months ahead. If you haven't done so, please pay a visit to [www.wfvc.org.uk](http://www.wfvc.org.uk) It's an interesting browse and I urge you to use the link to let Ken, our webmaster, have your thoughts about updating it from time to time. Pages about movie-making in general, or more specific technical subjects would be welcome.

## It's all change at the AGM

The Club held its AGM in May. A new committee was elected to serve for the 2002/3 season, The retiring Officers gave their reports and these were accepted. All reported that the Club had had a successful year with the following vital statistics. There were 53 paying members - a little down on the previous season, with only 12 ladies among them. The Chairman expressed a wish that the Club should be made more welcoming to lady members. The average attendance was 30 members per meeting. Outside speakers pulled in the biggest audiences with Clive Cobley and Canopus sharing second place with 40 and Val Witter the winner at 43 in the audience. The Club's accounts were explained by Treasurer, Sebastian Procida and members received copies. Whilst income was a little down on the previous year, the Club remains profitable such that, continuing the trend of re-equipping, there are sufficient funds to hopefully buy a new VCR in the forthcoming season. A new professional amplifier and Bose speakers had been bought during the outgoing season.

The fact that competition results had not been announced on the day of each competition during the season, led to some discussion among members. After some deliberation during the AGM it was felt that we should return to the old format next season where results will be announced straight away and entrants given the opportunity to have their work discussed by the judges and audience. The meeting concluded that the past season had been a success programme-wise and that the technical meetings were particularly welcome. The incoming committee were asked to continue the style of programme started last year.

Another resolution which was passed is that we should offer an associate membership category. This puts the associate on the club's data-base/ mailing list, and entitle him/her to attend as a visitor up to four times per season. He/she will not have voting rights nor be able to enter competitions. The subscription will be £5.

The new committee are as follows;-

<b>President</b>	<b>Martin Paterson</b>	<b>01245 287205</b>	<b><a href="mailto:martinjpaterson@btinternet.com">martinjpaterson@btinternet.com</a></b>
<b>Chairman</b>	<b>Gordon Bishop</b>	<b>01702 545947</b>	<b><a href="mailto:gordon308@ntlworld.com">gordon308@ntlworld.com</a></b>
<b>Vice Chairman</b>	<b>Ken Pratt</b>	<b>01245 324930</b>	<b><a href="mailto:ken.pratt@btinternet.com">ken.pratt@btinternet.com</a></b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Lesley Paterson</b>	<b>01245 287205</b>	<b><a href="mailto:martinjpaterson@btinternet.com">martinjpaterson@btinternet.com</a></b>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Vacant - this post is up for grabs - come on someone make an offer!</b>		
<b>Social Secretary</b>	<b>John Eaton</b>	<b>01268 778017</b>	<b><a href="mailto:john.g.eaton@btinternet.com">john.g.eaton@btinternet.com</a></b>
<b>Competition Officer</b>	<b>Geoff Woolfson</b>	<b>01702 472102</b>	<b><a href="mailto:geoff@avdv.co.uk">geoff@avdv.co.uk</a></b>
<b>Technical Officer</b>	<b>Graham Gardener</b>	<b>01702 203350</b>	<b><a href="mailto:g.gardener@btinternet.com">g.gardener@btinternet.com</a></b>
<b>Publicity Officer</b>	<b>Chris Taylor</b>	<b>01702 545207</b>	<b><a href="mailto:chris.taylor1@tesco.net">chris.taylor1@tesco.net</a></b>

## Glittering Awards night reveals the season's best kept secrets....but holds onto one of its own!



May 16<sup>th</sup> turned out to be a very special day for the dozen or so members who came to the Club's Award Ceremony at the Essex County Hotel and went home with a pot or trophy. With one of the best attendances ever, the evening was a great success, even if the number who sat down to the pre-awards dinner was a little down on previous years. Controversial though it may have been, the try-out this year of withholding the competition results until the end-of- season awards night, did pack 'em in!

Those who dined, did so with wine from a mystery donor. The Hotel, sworn to secrecy, would only say that 'it had been dealt with'...so the mystery remains. But from those who enjoyed it to he who provided it we say a very big THANK YOU!  
Our Picture: Chairman Gordon Bishop with special guest, Tom Hardwick, who presented the Awards

The results as announced by Competition Officer Geoff Woolfson are as follows:-

### The Ken Pull Trophy for the best film of a visit to a place or area

3 <sup>rd</sup>	<i>Heritage Park</i>	A visit to the park of the film title	John Parkhurst
2 <sup>nd</sup>	<i>Divine Night 2</i>	Music Video style visit to a raunchy Club	Lester Redding
1 <sup>st</sup>	<i>Garden of Impressions</i>	Monet's Inspirational Garden	Chris Taylor

### The Just a Minute Competition

3 <sup>rd</sup>	<i>Honesty Hurts</i>	Wife finds evidence of her husband's infidelity	Roy Webb
2 <sup>nd</sup>	<i>Meat and no Veg</i>	A pro-vegetarian story which goes wrong!	Geoff Woolfson
1 <sup>st</sup>	<i>Prime Cuts</i>	Ghoulisn buchnry which becomes tender 'bangers'	Lester Redding

### The George Daniels Memorial Shield competition for previous non-winners

2 <sup>nd</sup>	<i>Boys Toys</i>	A motorcycle rally comes to town	Neville Rumsey
1 <sup>st</sup>	<i>Ypres</i>	An emotional visit to the war grave site	John Parkhurst

### Freshman shield for a first year member:

Winner: *Boys Toys* Neville Rumsey

### Roneil Oscar

3 <sup>rd</sup>	<i>Winter Snow, Summer Sun</i>	Contrasting Seasons set to a prose-like narration	Clive Jefferies
2 <sup>nd</sup>	<i>Something Different</i>	A visit to Kew Tropical Gardens	Len Heinrich
1 <sup>st</sup>	<i>Edinburgh Capital of Scotland</i>	; a documentary about Scotland's principal city	Martin Paterson

### The Hilton Cup for holiday films

3 <sup>rd</sup>	<i>A Lakely Tale</i>	A holiday to the Italian Lake, Maggiore	Don Mouatt
2 <sup>nd</sup>	<i>A B C</i>	A holiday in the tropical island of Aruba	Derek & Pam Gorton
1 <sup>st</sup>	<i>City of the Gods</i>	Holiday documentary of Athens - tongue in cheek narration	Graham Gardener

### The Wright Trophy Open Subject Competition

3 <sup>rd</sup>	<i>Firewalk</i>	Documentary with a hot foot theme	Ken & Janet Fuller
2 <sup>nd</sup>	<i>An alternative guide to cruising</i>	; Humorous look at cruising holidays	Don Mouatt
1 <sup>st</sup>	<i>The S-X Files</i>	Classy spoof sci fi about UFO attack	Mike Salisbury

### Individual Awards - These were awarded for the first time for particular skills

*Editing and Sound* Mike Salisbury  
*Photography* Chris Taylor

#### Other Awards

*The Barbara Miller Award* for Timing Lester Redding  
(Presented by John Kennedy Melling)  
*The Enthusiast's Award* presented by Roy Webb: Clive Jefferies  
*The Clubman of the Year Award* Graham Gardener



Picture: Mike Salisbury, winner of The Wright Trophy

## The Club says 'thank you' to Graham and Rae



A special Presentation was made to Rae Thorogood (pictured right) who had been the Club's Secretary for seven years and had made an enormous contribution to the work of Westcliff. President Martin Paterson thanked her on behalf of the Club for the seven years of service and wished her an enjoyable break from committee life. She was presented with a bouquet on behalf of the grateful members of the Club.

As a way of saying a special 'thanks' to Graham Gardener (left) for his hard work as technical officer and doer of many other jobs, Graham was voted 'Clubman of the Year' by his fellow members. Graham is always willing to lend a hand, this year acting as E-mail postman, printer and procurement officer for the Club's new sound equipment.



### Wrinklies to the fore!

This hobby of ours is unbelievably exciting and is moving forward at a vast rate of knots. What a pity then, that the average age of our membership is also advancing in proportion, and the majority of members are, like me, in the wrinkly category. I'm allowed to say that now, because I'm one of them, although, when I joined the club at the age of 20 I was considered to be something of a young radical. I once caused the Secretary to resign, as I said that the poor quality microphone he was using was *crap* and was only good for stirring tea! Simply to use that word in an open meeting was....well, not the done thing, but what it did do though, was to make people sit up and take notice and try to do something to advance the quality of their work.

In welcoming younger members I would encourage them to ruffle a few feathers once in a while. After all, the modern way is to do things in a more 'in-your-face' way as they say in modern parlance, and I wish them lots of luck, hopefully in so doing they will attract much needed young blood to the fold. And don't forget too, that the Chairman is desperate to recruit a lot more women members!

### Ken Teaches at Wansfell!

Our very own Ken Pratt was asked by the IAC to run a two day instruction course recently on Adobe Photoshop and the course took place at the Wansfell residential college in Epping forest. *John Astin*, one of the course members reports.....

So it was that nine IAC members, two ladies and seven men, two from Yorkshire and seven from the Home Counties, arrived at Sunday tea-time for the IAC's first Photoshop Course to be held here. It was led by course tutor Ken Pratt, who has worked with Photoshop since it first appeared in the 1980s, and who turned out to be very much both enthusiast and expert. These two-day IAC courses start after dinner on Day 1, use the whole of day two well into the evening, and end around 4 p.m. on day three. The college has a dedicated computer room, with about twelve computers, each with Photoshop installed, so on this course there was no need to share. Ken brought a lot of his own equipment (I know – I helped to load it all back into his car at the end!), and we were able to watch his workings projected onto a big screen.

As Ken said, Photoshop is a very powerful but not very intuitive programme – it's full of tools with not very helpful names (how do I use a "Sponge" Tool? - I don't make dirty videos!!). He set out to teach us the basic principles of how the various tools work, believing that once we had grasped these, we could then use them to achieve whatever we might want to create. He had prepared for us a CD of lessons (which we were able to take home at the end), and we worked through several of these as he explained what we were hoping to accomplish, and exactly how to do it. So, we went through Image Improvement, using "Auto Colour", "Replace Colour", the "Sponge Tool" (it actually brightens a dull picture), the "Dodge Tool", the "Unsharp Mask", and so on.

In more specifically video-related matters, we learnt how to save items as Alpha Channels, which in Premiere can be used in transparency as masks and frames, with the video showing through. We looked at making picture frames, at putting routes on maps, and at producing and manipulating text, particularly for video covers. Time and again, we were gobsmacked by what can be achieved in Photoshop, once you know how! The group photograph featured with this article was taken by course member Chris Taylor, and he then used Photoshop to place himself into it afterwards. Can you see the join?

The joy of a course like this is that with only nine participants, it's almost as good as one-to-one tutoring. As soon as you get stuck, the ever patient Ken has the time to come over to you, and quickly put you right. Little time, therefore, is wasted in frustrated inactivity. More experienced course members help the less experienced. You work at your own pace, with time to make notes about what you are doing, so that when you get home, you can follow your own notes, and successfully repeat what you were achieving on the course. No need, therefore, to have to remember everything on the course as you go along. Scope for senior moments!!

Continued overleaf.....read on!

All of a sudden Ken would tell us something so simple, a shortcut, perhaps, on the keyboard, that you'd never realised, that would have saved you hours of work, had you known beforehand. And then everyone rushes to their notepad, and hurriedly writes it down - another priceless nugget! At the end, Ken said he hoped the Course had been fun, that we felt a sense of achievement, that Photoshop had been considerably demystified, and that it had been value for money.

Ken will be doing his stuff again at Wansfell later in the year. The IAC will be running a **Premiere** course with some **Photoshop** items in it and any Westcliff members wishing to attend should contact the IAC at [info@theiac.org.uk](mailto:info@theiac.org.uk) or by calling 01372 741057. Alternatively follow the training links from the IAC's website [www.theiac.org.uk](http://www.theiac.org.uk) which is always worth a visit. Ken is also tutoring a couple of courses for Wansfell College itself. The College is in Epping so it's easy to get to and the training comes highly recommended.



## News from The East Anglian Film Archive

Several members have used the services of EAFA over the years. David Cleveland, the Director has been to our Club on a number of occasions and is very supporting of the amateur movie maker. The archive, which houses thousands of valuable films and videotapes of the region, including some from Westcliff members, has been housed for many years at the University of East Anglia, but is soon to move to purpose built facilities at the new Archive Centre in Norwich. In the building will be the Norfolk Record office which will house archive material and records of the region going back over 1000 years and the film archive will hold material dating to the very birth of cinema.

The East Anglian film archive is not only a study resource, but a source of film material for historical based projects. The facility can offer video transfers from cine film, film printing and a host of other services. The archive's own range of video tapes of the region offer a fascinating and nostalgic insight into East Anglian life in days gone by. The new facility will house millions of feet of film and tape in temperature controlled conditions, and provide public access viewing rooms for research. If Westcliff members are interested, I feel sure that we could arrange with David Cleveland for a visit. Please let John Eaton have your thoughts on this. Contact [cafa@uea.ac.uk](mailto:cafa@uea.ac.uk) for more details or visit the website at [www.uea.ac.uk/eaafa](http://www.uea.ac.uk/eaafa).

## Final thoughts

Here are the stars of the awards night, to be one of them next season, keep in touch using one of the numbers on page 2, or E-mail me at [chris.taylor1@tesco.net](mailto:chris.taylor1@tesco.net).

Our new season starts at Wyburns school on September 8<sup>th</sup> at 8pm.

In the meantime, have a great summer and remember....Please do get in touch with any member of the committee with your programme ideas, scripts for the Club's sponsorship scheme or hints and tips for the website or newsletter. Needless to say we are anxious to hear your views on ANY club matter.

Chris Taylor  
Publicity Officer  
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