



**The Newsletter of Westcliff Film and Video Club**

Westcliff Stories from Publicity Officer, Chris Taylor

## Who the heck's Alice?

Well, I think that's what the song says, but in Westcliff's case it's a daft question as it's the most successful film from a Westcliff member for some years. So congratulations to Dave Windle, it's writer/director, not only for his wins in the IAC's BIAFF festival and our own Wright Trophy, but now Dave's film has picked up the 'best actor' award at the Cotswold film festival. More specifically, the award was made to Frank Smith who played the leading role in the film.



The story is that Frank the central character has lived alone for two years now. Ever since Alice, his beloved wife was taken from him.

Frank couldn't accept losing her, and still talks to her each day as if she was still there. He reminisces about their time together. He even tells her about his new lady friend, the lovely Doreen! We spend a day with Frank but this is a day with a difference! Doreen turns nasty. All Frank does is try to cheer her up. He goes straight home and tells Alice all about it. Still confused by Doreen's viscous attack Frank dozes off.....and then the phone rings!

For more watch out for 'Alice' on the 2003-4 'Showreel'. It's sure to be there.

## OUR NEW SEASON STARTS NEXT MONDAY SEPTEMBER 13<sup>th</sup>

Here we go again, another new season is upon us and an exciting one it promises to be. We have a great new line up of speakers to inform and entertain you, and after having your competitive spirit fired up care of Athens this summer, we have our great competition portfolio as always. One of our aims this season is to recruit new blood into the club. That doesn't mean that we are targeting members of a particular age group, but when you think of the huge fun that is to be had from the ownership of a camcorder, and the vast benefits we offer by way of guidance about how to use it, and edit its output, Westcliff has a lot to offer. So if you are one of the new readers of *Video On-Line*, whether you're reading it in colour or black and white, on paper or on-line, please do get in touch with us. There is a panel with contact details on the last page.

## First Night Fuzz!

Please leave, the member who said that that reminded him that it was his wedding anniversary in a couple of days!

The season kicks off on September 13<sup>th</sup> with an evening seeing how the professionals do it. Mike Berners of the Essex Police TV unit from Chelmsford will be coming to show us how video is used in the fight against crime. We all tend to think that the police only use yellow coloured cameras on posts in the pursuit of funds for the summer outing!

But in reality modern technology used for surveillance and scene of crime records plays a vital role in police work. Our county's police has a sophisticated video facility and tonight we will hear all about it, so we look forward to this very interesting meeting.

## Good Service Reports

I have a number of reports of good service to include in this copy of *Video on Line*. The first is in-house and is about the great 'service' the ten of us had, who attended the club's recent Photoshop Course. We learnt a lot, had a lot of fun and really enjoyed the two days under the talented tutorship of our Chairman, Ken Pratt. From all of your students Ken a great big 'thank you.'

**Ken with a colour matching chart. It has a fancy name which I have forgotten! CT**



The next service report is about the work I had done on the cine projector I use for telecine work which had suffered a broken claw. I took it to John White who operates under the name of [www.the8mmshedshop.co.uk](http://www.the8mmshedshop.co.uk)

John is located in North London and as an ex Johnsons of Hendon/Eumig UK engineer knows all there is to know about fixing Eumig and Bolex products, but also understands cine inside- out so that Elmo, Sankyo etc. present no problems as long as he has the spares. I pre-arranged a visit and Ken Pratt and I simply had a 'cuppa' while the job was done. It was efficient, reasonable and very good service. Thank you John.

We also heard that John is a keen cyclist and had just completed 1300 miles peddling around Britain and wasn't even walking funny!.....And I say my bum get's sore when Mo sends me to get a pint of milk from Safeways!

## No funny gags please!

Our other good service report this time comes from Ken Pratt who has treated himself to a new microphone and ordered a Rycote wind-gag for it. He placed the order with an independent supplier. The gag then got lost in transit courtesy of a *next-day* carrier who couldn't manage *next-week* service but eventually Ken got his wind gag only to find that it didn't fit the mike and allowed wind-noise in. Ken

got onto the dealer who disinterestedly said that the right gag was no longer available for Ken's mike and he'd have to manage. In desperation Ken called Rycote themselves ( [www.rycote.com](http://www.rycote.com) ) who confirmed that the right product was indeed still available. Despite not actually supplying Ken, they offered to exchange Ken's wrong one. Not only did they send a replacement but also pre-stamped packaging to send the wrong one back. Great service, so our thanks go to Rycote.

## PC whirled!

A final brief black mark this time goes to a 'chain store' computer place near to me at home and to the plonker who tried to serve me. I asked a simple question. *'Do you have a flat-screen monitor with an S-video input for me to use on the output of a video recorder'*

'Oh no' came the reply, 'you will need a USB input and a hardware box and a bit of software to convert the signal. Plus of course a TV tuner in the PC'. What was this guy on?

*'No I won't'* I said, *'computers with USBs have nothing to do with it. I want to display a bog standard, stand-alone video signal from a VCR.'*

But he still went back to rambling on about USBs until I spotted what I needed and asked for the price of a flatscreen TV set they had on display which indeed had composite and S inputs. Sadly he couldn't find the price for that, and in trying to get it from a computer, crashed a colleague's sale he was half-way through, so they started whinging at one another. I left empty handed!

## Updates on [www.wfvc.org.uk](http://www.wfvc.org.uk)

If you don't visit our website often then I really must urge you to take a look. Graham Gardener our webmaster has been busy updating the picture pages with 'glam' shots of the awards night and all the presentations and also some great shots of our recent Photoshop course and summer outing. There are some new links to other clubs and suppliers of software and services which are also worth exploring. So if you have a few surfing minutes available do have a browse!

Westcliff Meetings are held at Wyburns School,  
 Nevern Road, Rayleigh  
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