



VIDEO ON-LINE

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**Half-Term
Update
November 04**

The Newsletter of Westcliff Film and Video Club

Westcliff Stories from Publicity Officer, Chris Taylor

Eleanor's Quest is almost in the can!



Over the past few weekends a group of members from the Club, led by director Dave Windle have been filming in a number of locations around the area, the principal one of which was Rochford's 'Old House'. (Below)



The film project called *Eleanor's Quest* is what Dave describes, without giving too much of the game away, as a modern fairy tale. Rochford Council and several of the Council staff have given their invaluable help in shooting the film. With a cast of 12 and a shooting crew of 6 the project has been the Club's biggest in recent years. I am sure we all, as members, eagerly await the final cut and wish Dave every success with it on the competitions circuit as well as in our own competitions.

The story was written and directed by Dave Windle and tells of a young girl's quest to free her family from a spell placed on them by a twelfth century warlock. The film will be ready for The IAC's International Festival in the new year and others around the UK and overseas.

Programme Reminders

The programme has got off to a good start and it's amazing to think that we are half way through the pre-Christmas session. Last Monday the Ken Pull Competition had a great list of 8 entries and congratulations to Lester Redding for his winning film of a hot air balloon rally. In joint second place were Terry Mendoza and Dave Windle.

Next Monday, November 8th we have a visit from Mike Lowther of Leigh Film Society. LFS are more heavily involved in the study of the professional cinema and I'm sure there's a lot to learn from looking at our films with that kind of viewpoint. Leigh's programme this season, which usually screens movies on Sunday evenings, includes the controversial Fahrenheit 9/11 on November 7th, the day before Mike's visit to us. Intriguingly, this was shot on digital and issued on film, and it's on film that Leigh are showing it.

In addition to www.leighfilmsociety.org.uk, their lively website, LFS have a very impressive glossy magazine called *The Map* which provides details of what LFS do. On December 5th for example, they turn history right upside down with a Victorian magic lantern show in which their speaker Jeremy Brooker will show hand-painted animated slides using a wonderful three-lensed Victorian projector. The evening will end with a screening of Charlie Chaplin in *The Kid* from 1921.

And yes, before someone else makes the crack, we do have a few members who remember it being released the first time!

Also in Leigh's excellent magazine is an interview with local film animator David Elvin who has worked in the industry for more than 30 years and serves to illustrate the broad spread of Leigh film Society's activity.

LFS Digital

As I am sure Mike will tell us next week, Leigh Film Society are now setting up a digital offshoot and are asking for films for screening. If you have a movie you think they may be interested in please do contact them at digital@leighfilmsociety.org.uk

On November 15th Colchester Film Makers will visit us with a programme of their films. Westcliff have a special link with the Colchester Club going back many years and we look forward to their visit.

The Just a Minute Competition (November 22nd) is always a difficult one for your Committee to plan. Even if we have a film from everyone, when they last only a minute, in theory, we can all go home at tea time! That's why we do hope that you will all do your best to put together a couple of films for the competition. They can be spoofs or straight...err....I mean funny or serious...let's not get the wrong idea....and can be on any subject, but must be NOT MORE THAN 60 SECONDS LONG. It's so simple, so please do get down to it!

The following week is a members film night so again there's a chance for you to get something up there on the big screen for the first time. It doesn't have to be a blockbuster like Ben Hur on Ice or whatever, just an example of what you can do and what you would like to share and discuss with your club friends.

Finally in the run up to Christmas, on 13th December Clive Leedham will be with us for one of his ever popular AV nights, in which stunning images and superb sound combine in their own special way.

JOHN EATON'S FATHER CHRISTMAS

On 20th December, rumour has it that John Eaton will either put on his Father Christmas kit, or borrow an outfit from Dame Edna Everage to host our Christmas Social Evening. It's one of those nights when there's plenty of fun and games and nibbly bits to tuck into. More news on this from Father/Dame John on this very soon.

www.wfvc.org.uk update

Don't forget that the club's website is constantly being updated with news, links and competition results etc, so please do visit regularly!

Bygone Years?



Southend has been given a facelift, and now sports a fancy lift tower and a Pier Hill that gleams with fresh stonework for the first time in years. You can bet your boots that the chewing gum and chip-fat will soon take its place to provide the scene with the finishing touches we all know and in some way love. For those who do remember the good old days with nostalgia, yours truly will be putting on another movie show at The Alexandra Yacht Club on December 3rd, a Friday evening. Tickets are £2 per person.

The programme will be a new compilation of sequences from our local collection of Southend material and, as always, Westcliff members are welcome.

There's a bar, raffle and 'gift shop' as well as the movies, and it should be a really entertaining evening for old Southend-ites.

NEW FEATURE

The WFVC Small Ads

For Sale: Panasonic DVX100 Professional 3 chip DV Camcorder. Unused condition, boxed with warranty-about 6 months from new. With extra battery, charger, all original packaging etc. £1500. (a saving of about £600) Health problem forces sale. Call Chris on 01702 545207

Sales and Wanted

The Westcliff newsletter is published about every two months so if you have any items you want to sell or need something please do get in touch at wfvc@hotmail.com or pass a note to Chris Taylor or one of the Committee during a Monday meeting.