



# VIDEO ON-LINE

News and Stories From Westcliff Film & Video Club by Nigel Woodham

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## An Exciting Year Ahead!

### Halfway There

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Well here we are, over halfway through the season and what a great start. There is still a great deal to come over the next few months, four club competitions including the premier competition, the Wright Trophy. We have a 'Hands On' night where you can have a go at filming, a couple of training evenings and of course Michael Slowe, the highly experienced and successful film maker. Mix those in with the remaining 'members film nights' and we have a great mix lined up through till May, we hope you make it to as many as possible.

### Pulling Together

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But there's even more exciting things being planned for the next twelve months or so. During the many meetings the committee have both during the closed season and while the current season progresses we came back to the same topic of discussion, member participation. Yep! That's you and me getting involved.

Last season we held in Southend Library, our WFVC Digital Day. In terms of attendance by members of the public, for one reason or another, it was not that successful but if looked at as a project which was well planned, executed and organised by the club it was nothing short of outstanding. With input by many members of the club at the planning stage and supported by many more members on the day it just went to show what can be achieved when everyone pulls together. Another couple of examples are the North Thames Triangle finals held at the club last year. Such a professional presentation that was so well thought out and executed. Then we had the two club projects, again showing what the club can do when groups of members get together.

The club has always at some time or another made presentations of films outside of the film making hobby circle to different groups. Chris Taylor regularly gives film shows on behalf of the club to different groups and also recently so has Peter Edwards.

### We Have A Plan.

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So what of these exciting plans for the next twelve months? A plan has been hatching over the last few months that will commit the club, yes the commitment word, into doing something for at least a year. So what is this 'something'?

**Part one:** Over the course of a year we get quite few requests from different organisations to make films to help them out. These could be charities or even art groups and the like. Some we have even replied to with offers to help out. The thought is why not help these groups to help themselves. Part of our forthcoming

plan will be to offer training sessions in the art of film and multimedia creation. By giving instruction, training and possibly even mentoring we could encourage these groups to make their own films or slideshows which they could then use to promote or document themselves.

**Part Two:** Getting out and about in the community. We plan to actively seek groups, for example with limited mobility, and offer them a visiting film or slideshow. The subject matter could be tailored to the specific group, for example if the group were elderly then the most appropriate show might be a 'Southend of Yesteryear' type presentation. We could also make short pieces to include in the shows that are more current. The possibility might then present itself for the making of completely new films. Say for example, that we interviewed the group of elderly people after showing them the 'Old Southend' film to get their personal memories on tape as an archive in itself. The opportunities could be plentiful.

### **Input.**

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What will be required to make the project a success. Input! That's your input. So this is where we would like to know if you would be interested in getting involved in such a project? Any help you can offer would be great. We are not asking you to commit yourself to three days a week for twelve months (would be nice though) but just for you to help by doing something. All the committee have pledged their time to support this project, *but we can't do it without you*. Please give it some serious thought as it is going not only to benefit any group we can help by training or entertaining but also the club, and the club effectively is **you**.

### **Cherry on the Cake.**

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Now there could be a cherry on the cake here. To help us achieve the goals we have set out for the project we are going to need some equipment. To this end we have been preparing for some months, an application for lottery funding under the 'Awards For All' scheme. If our application is successful then the club could receive a healthy boost in equipment that will enable us to make our presentations and training far more effective (more on this at a later date). If we are not successful with our bid and with your support, we would still like to forge ahead with the project as we believe it could be just what is needed to get the club out, about and active in the area again. So please give us your support and let us make the next year a really exiting time at Westcliff, the country's premier and **your** video club.

*If you think you would like to help in anyway please talk to any member of the committee and let them know. We are not going to nail you down to a specific time or date but we do need to get a feel for the support available before we make any definite plans regarding the proposed activities. We will keep you all informed as our plans develop and in respect of our 'Awards for All' application as and when we hear anything. Thank you.*

Nigel Woodham

WFVC Press Officer.