

CHAIRMAN'S AGM Speech 1/4/14

Good evening everyone.

The last year has been a very busy one and as is customary I would like to take this opportunity to look back over it and briefly remember the many highlights there have been.

I will try not to miss anything out but if I do please forgive my oversight.

As well as the many activities that have filled the OVFM calendar I would also like to remind everyone that the club is the sum of its parts and there would be no club without the members whose enthusiasm, dedication and sheer hard work help Orpington Video and Film Makers to thrive.

So here we go, a year in the life of OVFM -

Firstly let's remember the reason we're all here - to make films!

Throughout the year there are plenty of opportunities to make films - there's the Project Evenings, like make an OVFM Advert, Two Words and Silent. There are the various club competitions, for example the Top Ten, the Annual, the Mike Turner Plate, the Kath Jones Cup and the others.

And if that's not enough excuse to get your cameras out and create your very own masterpiece there is also the pinnacle of the year, for some,...The 'My Holiday Film' night!! Just kidding but as you see there is an opportunity for every club member to show their film at the club if they wish to take it

Additionally there are chances throughout the year for members to get involved in making a club film or two. For example last year's David Laker production of 'Power Corrupts'. This was OVFM's entrant for the North v South Competition and a good selection of club members helped make it. Club films are a great way to 'have a go' and perhaps learn a new technique or share your knowledge with others.

Talking about sharing the knowledge, the Coaching Evenings have proved themselves an excellent way to learn something new and get your hands dirty, so to speak. With Ian Menage heading up a team of experienced club members willing to share their secrets, the Coaching Evenings have

covered a comprehensive range of film making subjects From the intricacies of script writing right through to editing the final result.

Members who joined the Coaching Evenings had ample opportunity to handle equipment and try out roles they were unfamiliar with - like director or boom operator. Coaching Evenings are very much 'hands on' and give members new and old a chance to gain invaluable experience.

In parallel with the Coaching Evenings there have been several club nights geared to learning, from the ever popular 'brains trust' night to the secrets of Celtx, thanks to Lee Relph, which if you don't know what I'm talking about I direct you to the website.

As well as entering your films in the Club competitions or bringing them along to the various evenings there are numerous opportunities to have your films judged on the wider stage.

OVFM does not exist in isolation, in fact it is part of a much bigger amateur film making whole. There are organizations like the IAC (The Film and Video Institute) which OVFM is affiliated to. There are festivals locally and around the country - like the North v South, the Kent Film Festival, the Frome Film Festival, and BIAFF and UNICA. Thanks to the keen lovers of film within the club who involve themselves in these wider organizations OVFM benefits hugely from the cosmopolitan perspective that they feed back to us, and an enhanced profile.

Through those club members who are NOT solely OVFM centric we get to see and hear about films from all over the country and all over the world, and that can't help but make us to be better film makers.

And did you know that there are OVFM members regularly involved in judging the work of other clubs with all the time and work that involves?

It's on this wider stage that members of OVFM have had more than a little success over the years. For example in 2013 the Kent Film Festival brought awards for Mike Shaw, Sam Brown, Barbara Darby and Mike and Jo Coad. With accolades for best documentary, best photography, the Kent Award and a commendation between them. I won't detail all the triumphs enjoyed by OVFM club members over the last year but I think you get the idea - we have some excellent film makers in the club, of that there is no

doubt!

Thanks to the work of Mike Coad OVFM is at the forefront of the North V South Competition, a national competition that generates some very imaginative and well made films from clubs all over the country, Mike is instrumental in steering the North V South towards a brighter future and I salute his hard work and diplomacy as he negotiates to make the competition the best that it can be. I am always mightily impressed by the distances people travel to attend the North V South Competition when OVFM hosts it in Farnborough Village and this is in no small way thanks to Mike Coad's tireless efforts.

After all this study and film making we all need time to unwind! And thankfully OVFM has the answer!

I'm sure you'll agree that an important part of the life of the club is it's social side. OVFM has a number of events during the year that allows us to get-together, enjoy each others company and generally relax and have fun. From the Christmas Social with it's delicious refreshments thanks to Peggy and entertaining quiz thanks to Sam, the Annual Dinner thanks to Peggy and Annabelle, the Garden Party, hosted by David in 2013 on a really lovely evening, through to the ramble, which I make no apologies for saying is more of a gentle stroll between cream teas than a ramble!

In the coming year a trip to London is on the cards depending on people's preferences.

On the subject of the social side of the club I'd also like to mention one of the most important parts of any club night...the refreshment break! When we can chat and catch-up. I'd like to thank Peggy and Jo especially and Freddy, Barbara, Annabelle and others who helped, particularly when Peggy was incapacitated with her broken arm.

One of the highlights of the year for me was the Tribute Evening that we dedicated to Mike Turner and Derek Allen. As two members of the club who were part of the DNA of OVFM it was fitting that we revisited some of their great films and shared our memories of them. I was delighted so many club members could attend and I was even more delighted that Sue Turner and Olive Allen joined us, plus family, plus friends and what a great atmosphere of celebration there was! The highest compliment I heard paid

to the success of the evening was from Olive Allen who said that she had laughed for the first time since Derek had died. OVFM has a debt of gratitude to Derek and Mike not least for the wonderfully funny films they made together but also for their enduring influence on the club - thanks to them and others OVFM is a club we can all be proud of and long may it remain so.

Sharing our films with a wider audience is an aspect of the club that I find particularly fulfilling and so I'm pleased with the continuing popularity of our public shows. For the last few years we have had two a year -Spring and Autumn - and thanks to the work of members who publicize the event, sell tickets and generally make it happen OVFM benefits financially AND in promoting it's profile.

At this point I'd like to mention the Newsreel, a very popular element of the Spring Show, which has most recently been edited by Colin Jones with help from Sam Brown and a number of club members who get out and about with their cameras to record local events. Thanks all.

In addition to these large public shows - the recent Spring Show had an audience close to 200 people - there are number of smaller show done throughout the year to clubs and societies around the local area. These shows also bring in money but they also help spread the OVFM word AND they bring pleasure to a wide range of people who might not otherwise have known about us, like the Cray Men's Club, Civil Service Retirement Society, the Sugarcraft Club, ICare, LINK , Bromley Ramblers Group and others.

In this vein let me mention those club members who use their skills in what you might call community or charity based projects. We might not always see the fruits of their labours at the club but they demonstrate a very generous spirit on the part of the film makers that I heartily applaud. John and Ann Epton, Barbara Darby, Brian Pfeiffer, Colin Jones come to mind but I'm sure there are others too.

Talking about sharing brings to mind our recent visit to West Wickham where Spring Park Movie Makers hosted the 50/50 Evening. It was a very enjoyable evening that was only marred for me by the scarcity of OVFM members who attended. It's not like West Wickham is the back of beyond! Or perhaps you didn't know you were invited?

That brings me very nicely to our two modes of club communication -

Firstly the Viewfinder - our monthly magazine edited with skill and a sharp eye by Leo Staggs who is a very busy young man who didn't hesitate to take on the job when he saw there was a need.

And secondly our website, www.ovfm.org.uk, edited and overseen by Lee Relph, another busy young man who never-the-less gives up hours of his time to write articles, update information and generally keep our 'window to the world' looking fresh and interesting. Thanks to you both.

Sadly very few members bother to contribute to either the website or the Viewfinder - even though you can easily do so from the comfort of your own home without breaking into a sweat!

Surely being in a club IS about taking part!

Yet it always seems to be the same people who do everything.

And on that note I'd like to thank the committee who have supported and guided me through this last year.

Brenda Wheatly - our competitions officer - who makes Oscar Night the great event it is and keeps a steady hand on all the competitions.

Andy Watson - he has the thankless job of projectionist but is also a mainstay of the archive with John Epton and David Laker. He produced the discs for the Spring Show.

Lee Relph - as well as the website Lee has helped with publicity and weathered the storms of the committee - what an achievement!

Annabelle Lancaster - no longer press officer since Mike Shaw took that role- but still at the centre of things and helping with printing, pastoral care and a whole lot more.

Ian Menage - the force behind the Coaching Evenings and a valuable contribution to the debates on the committee and to the life of the club generally. He was also responsible for producing this years Oscar Night disc - no mean feat!

David Laker - officially treasurer but has also proved himself to be a film producer par excellence!

Sam Brown - my vice chairman and a very experienced committee man with a very valuable perspective on the club and it's future.

Reg Lancaster - OVFM's president and the backbone of the club - if the club has a secret weapon it's the wealth of knowledge and experience that Reg and others bring to it - you can't buy that!

And lastly Freddy Beard - secretary. As we all know this is the most important job in any club and I personally thank her sincerely for giving up time that she could be spending developing her own film making to keep the committee running smoothly in the right direction..Thank you Freddy!

Special mention to Mike Shaw - press officer - who has plastered the good name of OVFM high and low and tells me he won't cease until we are known throughout the land! It is he who is responsible for our glossy new leaflet.

I have already mentioned some of the names of club members who have contributed to OVFM in various ways, of course there are many others. Like new member Pam Webb, who along with others, sold a fistful of tickets for the Spring Show. It's jobs like this - ticket selling, putting up posters, spreading the word etc, that are vital if our public events are to be a success. Please don't leave it all to someone else to do.

Thanks to Roger for his photography at the Oscars - see his handiwork on the website - I really must get him to give me some tips!

And talking of tips thanks to Colin Jones and Tim Jones who between them treated us to two inspiring evenings of film. Firstly it was very interesting to hear about Tim's film making evolution from child actor to accomplished adult film maker, and to be treated to a preview of his current fascinating work. Colin's animation night was also thoroughly entertaining and I hope his inspiration might turn 2014 into the OVFM Year Of Animation!

AND FINALLY!

Let's think about the coming year and what YOU can do-

Here are a few hints-

THINGS YOU CAN DO -
Tonight-

You can take some leaflets and distribute them amongst interested parties

You can make a decision to volunteer for one of the working groups or sub-committees ie. NvS club film, Newsreel, Ramble / social events, publicity etc.

You can write an article for the Viewfinder or a post for the website.

In the coming year -

You can make a film for the Top Ten Competition, or one of the Project Nights etc

You can get involved in supporting the clubs events. Club members get a free ticket for the public shows so if you can come along and be part of the audience.

Consider standing for the committee.

Try a new film making technique and amaze us all!

Design a OVFM poster.

Come-up with an idea for a club film and develop a script. This years NvS theme is 'If' and we need a film to enter.

In other words...

BE AN ACTIVE MEMBER OF OVFM! And make a contribution.

Simon Earwicker (Chairman OVFM)