

The voice of Spring Park Film Makers

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MAJOR SHOOTING AT WESTERHAM

A large number of Spring Parkers turned up recently at “The Grasshopper” near Westerham to shoot two major scenes of our latest Club Film, “Unfounded Rumours”. Producer/Director Gerald Pecksen worked successfully to get the film crew and a large cast of actors to do their stuff. We were able to use a good number of actors from local amateur dramatic societies as both principal parts and extras. Being a period drama we needed to obtain nineteenth century costumes – many of them loaned by our friends at the Miller Centre. We had excellent outside help too with make-up; Victorian moustaches and side-burns all added to the authentic look and feel of the movie. Pam Martin and Brian Stone helped the Pecksens provide special period props. These were especially useful in the banquet scene. Well done everyone!

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

June 10th – Club Films – Dubbing Music to Films Tapes given to members at an earlier meeting have now been edited to music of their own choice. Now we see (and hear!) the results. After the tea break there will be a.....

SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING

The Spring Park Film Makers Executive Committee has called a Special General meeting which will follow the films (see above) after tea. The main agenda item will be a short discussion, followed by a vote, on a resolution that from January 2011 onwards SPFM should meet fortnightly rather than weekly. The meeting will also discuss a resolution that the usual 2 week Xmas break be extended henceforth to a longer (say 4 week) mid-winter break at this time of year. A vote by secret ballot will then be taken of members present. The Committee are concerned at the burden on the small number of people who plan, set up and run meetings on a weekly basis. Most film making clubs meet less frequently than Spring Park yet still thrive. But you may disagree; come and say what you think.

June 17th – Outside Filming

One or more topics will be given out to members at an earlier meeting who will go outside (weather permitting) and shoot a short

film. Results in the past have often been inspiring (?) and sometimes hilarious. Who says we don't know how to have fun? The results will be shown on August 12th.

June 24th – Showreel from Portsmouth Video Makers

This club specialises in filming local amateur shows using up to four cameras. Let us see what their films are like.

July 1st – Outing to Crystal Palace

NO MEETING IN THE HALL!

Yes we are off to this park (aka Borassic Park) for our first summer outing. Details will be given out in early June.

July 8th – Technical Evening

Details to be announced.

SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE STILL DUE !!!!!!!!!!!

Your subs are now due for the year 2010/11. Rates are £15 per member or £5 for an extra member of the same household or for a student. You can pay your subscriptions by cheque or cash to David Hunt at a club evening.

West Wickham and the Queen's Diamond Jubilee

Like the London Olympics, the Queen's Diamond Jubilee will be celebrated in 2012. Hang on – you might say – that is 2 years ahead. Well, the West Wickham Residents Association (supposedly one of the biggest RAs in England) is ahead of the game. It intends to use the late May Bank Holiday in 2012 (which will have an extra bank holiday Tuesday to commemorate the jubilee), for a 4 day festival or extravaganza. They organised a successful equivalent for the Golden Jubilee. They hope to raise money from Lottery funds, as before. Graham attended a meeting to discuss all this and suggested that Spring Park might show films about West Wickham for one or more days as part of this event. We already have a few films and if members have some we don't know about please tell Graham or Brenda. Beware though, they are looking for volunteers to help set up and run various other events like a carnival, a fair and an open air concert...

THROUGH A LENS DARKLY - PREVIOUS MEETINGS

May 13th – Documentary Footage of our 40th Anniversary Dinner

Graham introduced edited footage of the 2007 Spring Park anniversary dinner. The MC was our previous Chairman, Mike Shaw. We saw highlights of the speeches by Reg Lancaster, Sidney Lavender and Derek Hines. Whilst this was being shown, Graham dashed home to find an alternative DVD to show next as the one he brought would not play. Strangely, Reg Lancaster's recorded speech contained an anecdote about Graham having to dash back home to get a machine to show Orpington's mini-DV tape earlier in the century; spooky! We then saw a delightful DVD about light orchestral music.

May 20th Members' Evening – inside filming (to be shown on August 12th).

The theme was interviews. Interestingly, two volunteer film crews chose a similar approach. Rosemary interviewed hubby Bill about his life after his wartime service. Their cameraman was Alex Stewart. The great man (Bill not Alex) was once employed by the oil industry as a "smeller" (don't ask!). He eventually ended up as a school teacher with a few amusing tales to tell from those times. Dorothy interviewed Pam Smith about aspects of her life with special reference to her artistic talents. In between, Clive directed and

filmed a rather funny joke involving a Pole (played by Lawrie) and an Irishman (played by Sidney). The results of this mayhem will be revealed when we show the final films on August 12th.

We finished by watching a film by Lawrie (who has mastered the art of filming SPFM's club film-making activities) which showed us aspects of how we filmed two major scenes from our latest epic "Unfounded Rumours". It is good that we film and archive our activities in this way. There is very little footage of what Spring Park got up to during the last century, which is a pity.

May 27th Technical Evening – Sound and cutting to music.

Graham warned the members (and a new young guest – Carl) that 90 minutes of him droning on about this topic would be severe overload. Using the new club laptop linked to the screen, we tried to play a DVD about Film Noir.

Unfortunately there were severe lip-synch problems throughout the performance. Lawrie reckons that there is a work-around which can solve this. Huh – DVDs and PCs eh, don't you just love 'em?

After the tea break, with Studio 14 up on the screen, Graham tried valiantly to show some of the basic techniques involved with adding music soundtracks to a movie. In this he was helped by the expertise of Gordon and Lawrie.

KENT FILM FESTIVAL 2010

Our own county film festival will be held on Saturday the 25th of September 2010 at Christ Church University College in Canterbury. This is an event well worth going to, with a big screen, tiered seats and excellent films. If you buy your tickets in advance (Brenda has some to sell) it only costs £5 per person. And please enter your films – because without entries there will be no festival. The closing date is 27th of July. If you are a member of the IAC then you can use the form enclosed in the May/June issue of SERIAC news. If you are not an IAC member (hey, why not?) then copies of the form will be available on the Secretary's table on club evenings.

TEA ROTA

Please come early to set up

10th June – Keith Burrows and David Hughes
17th June – Sidney and Lawrie
24th June – Peter Oszmann and Tony Shepherd
8th July – Marjorie and Dudley
22nd July – Gill Edwardes and Helen Cain