

Cine

Chat

February 2007

The Journal of Edinburgh
Cine & Video Society
23a Fettes Row, Edinburgh,
EH3 6RH



70

YEARS

About ECVS

Some things you might like to know if you are new to Edinburgh Cine and Video Society

The Waverley Cine Society which became Edinburgh Cine Society was founded in 1936, and is the oldest amateur movie-making society in Scotland. The Society has occupied premises in Fettes Row, in the New Town of Edinburgh since its inception. The society met in rented rooms until 1938, at which time, for £500, it purchased both the ground floor and the basement of number 23, Fettes Row to become the only Cine club in Scotland to own its own meeting rooms.

Escalating maintenance costs over the years forced the society to sell the ground floor of the building in 1975, and move downstairs to its existing clubrooms in the basement, which the society still owns. The clubrooms consist of a kitchen, toilets, and four main meeting rooms, one of which is fitted out with cinema seats for viewing video and cine films projected onto the large screen from the clubs video and cine projectors. The other rooms are used as a lounge and two multi-use studios or instructional areas, with video equipment and computer editing facilities installed.

CLUBROOMS

23A Fettes Row, Edinburgh, EH3 6RH
Website: <http://www.ecvs.co.uk>

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To whom all communications in connection with Cine Chat should be sent. Alternatively, members may leave notes in the Cine Chat Post Box, which will be available in the ECVS clubrooms at all times.

POLICY COMMITMENT:

To publish informative and entertaining articles, features, news, comments and opinion about movie making in general and ECVS and its members in particular. Never to cause intentional offence, but not to be afraid of occasional controversy. To publish members letters, comments, rights of reply, and submitted articles, as accurately as possible and to correct in the first available edition, any errors or omissions which may have inadvertently occurred in previous editions. COST: Free to members of ECVS unless and until the Committee decide otherwise.

ECVS OFFICIALS 2006 - 2007

President:	Alan Brown
Vice-President:	Stewart Emm
Past President:	Frank Ramsay
Secretary:	Hugh Trevor
Treasurer:	Vic Young
Subscriptions:	John Henry



EDITOR'S COLUMN

Welcome once again to Cine-Chat, the journal of Edinburgh Cine and Video Society. It's been a while since our last issue I'm afraid, but our Cine-Chat submissions box in the clubrooms remains chronically under-used! I'm sure all our members have something to say on the pages of Cine-Chat, so please send your submissions in! Our production costs are now next-to-nothing, so there's no reason we can't have a more regular newsletter, if we get the material to print!

In this issue, we have a review of the very successful 70th Anniversary night celebrations, which took place on the 9th November. We've also got a bit of a legal slant on this issue, with an article by Hugh Trevor who has been investigating the implications of filming the public. Also John Clark brings our attention to some aspects of consumer law, that everyone should be made aware of. We've got a brief article on the use of chromakey, better known as the 'blue screen' technique, using a recently produced club project as an example, and at last we have publication of last years annual competition winners, which was omitted last issue due to an oversight on my part, apologies for that. The closing date for the forthcoming annual competition is the 16th February, so hopefully by the time you read this there will still be time to get your entries submitted! Films can be on any subject, and will be independently judged and may be awarded any number of trophies! Also please note that the closing date for entries to the Pilgrim Trust competition (Scottish Themed film) is March 9th. Hope you enjoy this issue! ALB

New Tea and Coffee Pricing

The Committee recently reluctantly decided to increase the tea and coffee charge from 50p to £1 a night, with effect from 1st January 2007. The raffle charge of 50p remains unchanged. This decision was made due to rising club costs, and reducing funds. We hope that members will appreciate the need for the increase.

Cine Chat

I WANT YOU

**To contribute articles,
news, comment, etc.**

Please email to alan@benn.co.uk, or leave in the Cine Chat submissions box at ECVS.



ECVS Annual Competition 2007



Edinburgh Cine and Video Society's Annual Competition is open to all members. Films may be entered on any subject, and entries are independently judged. We award prizes in a large number of categories, and these are allocated by the judging panel (i.e. all entries will be considered for an award in each category). A selection of the entries will be screened on Thursday 8th March, and Friday 9th March, where club members will additionally award the Frank Walker Salver (Top award by audience vote) and the Vice Presidents Prize (Runner-up by audience vote)

The **closing date** for entries this year is **Friday 16th February 2007**, please place any entries (with completed entry form) in the box in the clubrooms by this date!

Last Years Winners!

Awards by Judges Decision:

Alan Harper Trophy - Best documentary
Where the Faults Lie - Bob Bell

Douglas Trophy - Best Travel film
Colours of Ethiopia - Hugh Trevor

Brock Trophy - Imagination
Colours of Ethiopia - Hugh Trevor

Bill Walker Trophy - Best use of sound
West Highland Line - Drew Fleming

Reg Carden Scissors - Editing
Where the Faults Lie - Bob Bell

The Scotia Quaich - Best Scottish themed
Partans in his Creel - Sean Groat

Hendry Trophy - Best Family/Holiday film
Take a Break - Ann Sutherland

Lizars Trophy - Top award - all entries
Where the Faults Lie - Bob Bell

50th Anniversary Trophy - Runner up to
Lizars Trophy
West Highland Line - Drew Fleming

Marwick Shield - Judges choice
The English Garden
Frank Ramsay

Awards by Audience Vote:

Frank Walker Salver
Top award by audience vote
Partans in his Creel - Sean Groat

Vice President's Prize
Runner up by audience vote
West Highland Line - Drew Fleming

Consumer Protection

John Clark sheds some light on your rights as a consumer....

What are your current rights?

The main law giving consumers protection is the Sale of Goods Act 1979. This forms the framework for consumer rights. It says that goods must be fit for sale and not damaged at the point when you buy them. They must also be fit for the purpose they were made for and must be as they are described.

In 2003, the Department of Trade and Industry beefed up rights under the Sale of Goods Act by introducing the Sale and Supply of Goods to Consumers Regulations 2002 Act. This gives consumers far more power when it comes to demanding compensation for faulty goods and is a good

Late last year a number of club members set about making a short film using the blue screen facilities we have in the back room. As more of an experiment than an attempt to make a proper film, the script (such that it was!) involved two men in a cafe discussing a strange find - a tiny person only 4 inches high, that one of them has discovered, with this they could make their fortune!

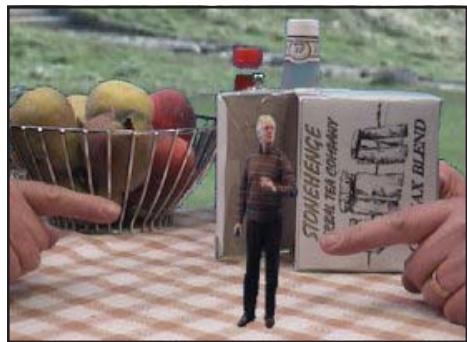
The technique used to edit the film involved layering several video layers on top of one another, each with sections of 'blue' which were set to be transparent, thus revealing the video clip lying underneath. In this short article I hope to outline the process used, and hopefully encourage more members to experiment with the possibilities our blue room provides! **5**



thing all round. It is particularly useful when needing to invoke a manufacturer's original warranty. This will now be legally binding. Consumers will also have the right to request a repair or replacement if goods are found to be faulty. Although this is the usual compensation offered by companies, until now, it has not been enshrined in law.

In addition, if a product is found to be faulty within the first six months, the burden of proof is shifted to the retailer in any dispute. So unless the retailer can prove otherwise, items will be deemed faulty at the time of purchase.

BlueScreen MasterClass



The first stage in the process was to find a photo of a cafe window, we could have filmed in a real cafe, with all the associated problems, but using the blue screen we could hopefully recreate a cafe in the ECVS clubrooms!

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ECVS 70th Anniversary Night

On the 9th November 2007, The ECVS Clubrooms were the venue for a night of celebrations, marking the 70th Anniversary of the Society.

The Lord Provost of Edinburgh, the Rt Hon Lesley Hinds, attended the event as did many current and past members. In the absence of the society President (my apologies for that), Vice-President Stewart Emm presided over the nights programme, which involved a tour of the clubrooms, presentation of long-service awards, and a selection of club films, with plenty of time for food and drink, and chances to mingle with old friends.

Thanks must go to all those who helped organise, cater for, and record what turned out to be a well attended and memorable evening.

We present here some photos from the night, taken by Dr Norman Speirs.



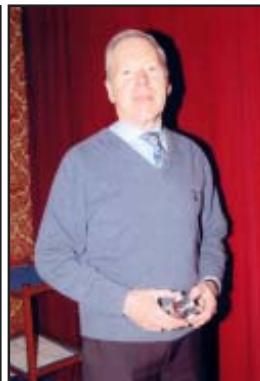
Vice-President Stewart Emm welcomes Lord Provost Lesley Hinds to ECVS



Bob Bell filmed the proceedings, assisted here by John Henry



ECVS 70th Anniversary Night



Long service award recipients (Top, Left to right: Elise Phimister, Elise Lornie, Neil Shaw, Bottom Left to right: Ron McLaren, Douglas Robertson)

To mark our 70th Anniversary, the ECVS Committee thought it would be fitting to recognise the contribution made by some of our long-serving members, Elise Phimister, Elise Lornie, Neil Shaw, Ron McLaren and Douglas Robertson were presented with 70th Anniversary memorial quaichs by the Rt. Hon Lesley Hinds.

A selection of club films was screened, including a special anniversary film produced by Bob Bell and Norman Speirs, detailing the history of the club.

A cake, decorated to represent 70 years of ECVS (1936 - 2006), and the transition during that time from cine film to miniDV tape was kindly donated by Norman and Dorothy Speirs.



Laws and Policies concerning taking Video Footage

Hugh Trevor investigates the potential legal pitfalls of filming the public...

by Hugh Trevor



This summer (2006) I have been involved in two situations where the legality or advisability of taking video footage of children has been raised. First I would like to mention the instances, and secondly what I have been able to learn:

(i) I was invited to make a video of a 10 day Robert Louis Stevenson festival in North Berwick, where children would be involved in some of the planned activities. The organizer and I discussed what we should do concerning this question and decided to put up a number of notices round the harbour area (the most, though

not the only, used area in the Festival) saying that the activities would be videoed, and if any wanted to be excluded from such videos to make their wishes known. (No one

did). However in one beach 'treasure hunt' in Dirleton, where we had not put up such a notice, one family on the beach digging for treasure did object to my taking a video of them, and in spite of my repeated apology, he made a complaint to the Treasure Hunt organizer. (The fault was really mine in that I could have and should have asked permission of that family and others before taking them. It would have helped if I had had some identification of being an of-

ficial cameraman for the Festival – this had been promised by the Festival Committee and had never been forthcoming, and by the end of the 10 day festival I had mistakenly ceased to think much about it).

(ii) I had planned, in conjunction with a number of other cameramen, to video the North Berwick Annual Law Race, but was told at the last minute that we were not allowed to without having got much earlier permission of the East Lothian Council, who are the owners of The Law, and was reminded by their spokesman that it may be an offence to video children as they run - even on the roads, as well as on the Law. So we called off our videoing of that event for this year.

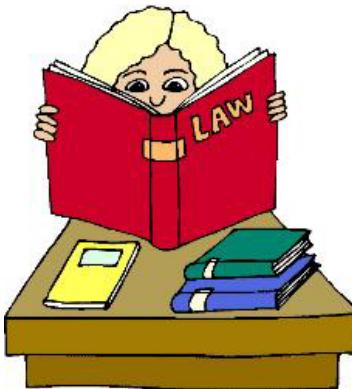


Concerning the second of these situations, a professional photographer, who was one of the cameramen who were going to help with the Law Race, later told me that, in connection with his photographic business, he had had legal advice to the effect that there are no laws prohibiting the taking of video of anyone in public places.

Advised by our ECVS committee, I went to

the North Berwick police station to ask clarification of this matter, and was told by a policeman, who I gather considered himself to be an adequate spokesman on this subject, that he knew of no legislation (by which I understand him to mean an Act of Parliament) concerning this, but that County or City Councils,

schools, etc, have policies about it. Policies of course can change, but any videoing within a constricted area or building, such as a school, library, church, etc must first of all have the permission of the people responsible for the building or event. As to more specific videoing of children, at one time schools were saying that no videoing of children in the school was allowed at all. Also I think it is policy that in such buildings the



specific permission of a parent must be obtained (though this may have been relaxed for Nativity plays and other school events, and in at least one case I have been informed that a particular school was quite ready to let parents video the sports day). The Church of Scotland has very restrictive policies concerning photos and videos of

children, requiring written permission of the parents as the norm. The policeman I asked warned me that (due to recent publicity of paedophile activity) a concerned parent could physically attack someone taking a video of their child, and so wisdom in taking video footage to avoid giving offence was the most important matter rather than observance of any legislation.

ECVS Reclaim Bridges Trophy!

In early November last year, the eagerly anticipated Bridges Trophy competition was held in the ECVS clubrooms.

This yearly competition pits the best 45 minute selection of films from ECVS and Dunfermline Camcorder Club head-to-head, in an evening of high quality viewing, after which an independent judge awards the coveted Bridges Trophy to the club he/she deems to have produced the best film selection.

Having lost this trophy to Dunfermline a couple of years ago, the ECVS committee was determined to reclaim it, and the high quality selection of members films chosen resulted in us successfully reclaiming the award!

Do you use lithium batteries (BP-608) in your camcorder?

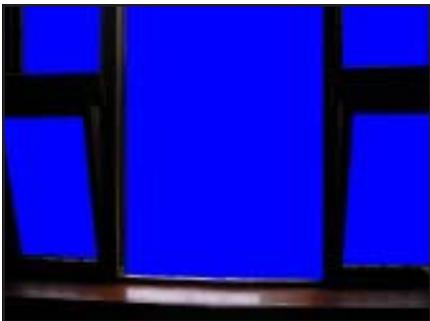


I've three I don't need, as I had to buy a new camera.

Anyone who can make use of these batteries is welcome to them - please contact Margaret Paterson (443 8239)



The above picture was selected as being a convincing enough cafe window for our actors to sit in front of, and using a paint package, all the background was replaced with a uniform blue colour:



Next we filmed our two actors in front of the ECVS blue screen, we added the cafe table with some props on it to try and make it more convincing:



At this point we also filmed our 'wee guy', again against the blue screen:

With the addition of some footage taken from Arthurs Seat, we now have everything needed to create the effect.

The diagram below shows how the different clips were then layered using a computer non-linear editing tool, in this case, Ulead Mediastudio, in each case, the software was set to make the blue colour transparent, allowing the footage behind to show through. Of course, minor adjustments and tweaking of the positioning of the layers, is necessary in order to try to make the movements in one layer match



up with those in another layer, and this is probably the most time-consuming part of the process!



The above effect was produced in a couple of hours, with more time to edit and experiment with our blue screen facility, our imagination is the only limiting factor in creating any environment for our films!

