

Cine Chat

September 2008

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



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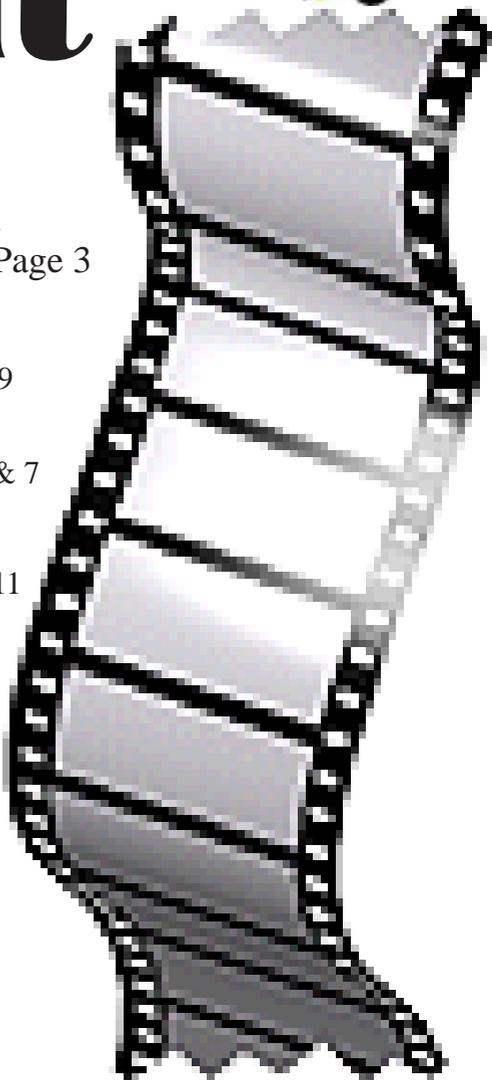
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<http://www.ecvs.co.uk>

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 maintainance 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 it's 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 2008 - 2009

President:	Bob Bell
Vice-President:	Sean Groat
Past President:	Stewart Emm
Secretary:	Hugh Trevor
Treasurer:	Vic Young
Subscriptions:	John Henry

Editors Column

Welcome to the September 2008 edition of Cine-Chat, I hope that everyone has had a productive summer break and there are plenty of new film productions ready for their ECVS Premiere at the start of the new season!

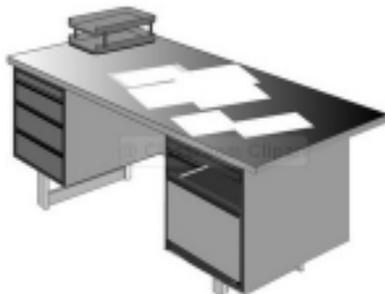
This issue should come accompanied by your ECVS Programme for the forthcoming year. Our Programme Committee feel that they have produced a good balance of hands-on practical events, interesting presentations and entertaining film selections. Hopefully you will agree with them! One of the cornerstones of the ECVS Programme for many years has been our five-minute video nights. This is the chance for our members to show off their film-making skills as well as a chance to get constructive feedback from like-minded film makers, please bring along your films!

Once again this year ECVS will be competing in a number of inter-club competitions - North vs South, Choice of the Clubs, Bridges Trophy, we'll be looking for volunteers for all aspects of film-making for these projects, so please keep an eye on the noticeboard in the clubrooms (or the pages of Cine-Chat) for further details.

This year we've also updated the club website. It's still available at...

www.ecvs.co.uk

.. but has been updated with a new layout, and some new features, including featured films from ECVS members, a club messageboard, an online version of this years programme, and downloadable back issues of CineChat. If you have any sugges-

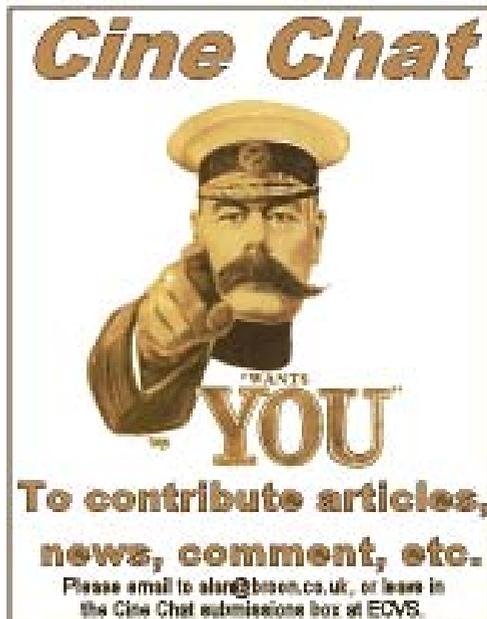


tions for features we could add to our website, please let the committee know.

As always, if you have any articles for inclusion for the next CineChat, please send them in, either by email to alan@broon.co.uk, or alternatively, leave them in the CineChat submissions box in the clubrooms!

Finally, CineChat is sorry to hear of long-standing committee member John Henry's recent admission to hospital. I'm sure all club members will join the committee in wishing John a speedy recovery, and look forward to seeing him back at the club very soon. Hope you enjoy this issue!

ALB



Your President Writes...



August is here and soon the 2008-09 season will be starting at the Cine and Video Society. I look forward to welcoming you all back and perhaps we will find some new members coming along too.

This is my second term as President, my third if we include my stand-in role from Vice President a year or so ago. I'm sure all past Presidents will support me in saying it is an honour to represent the club in this position and that the role is not as onerous as one may think, honestly! I have the support of a good committee and an excellent Vice President, Sean Groat.



Sean is a member of SAM and is a very keen film-maker.

We all know it is important, to keep our cameras running efficiently, to keep using them.

After attending a wedding at the Old Parish Kirk, Corstorphine, my interest was aroused in the history surrounding the Kirk and the village. I did my research via the Corstorphine Heritage Centre at the Dower House and I am now working on a documentary.

Another film I am working on is about the water supply to Edinburgh in the 17th Century. I read a small article in *The Herald and Post* about the Water House at Comiston being declared a listed building and had to take a look.



In July a five strong team of m e m b e r s

filmed the Veteran's Day Parade in Edinburgh The Parade was adjoined to the last event of the Piper's Trail. The Pipers had travelled 480 miles during the previous few months performing in various cities throughout Scotland. This stretch was from Holyrood Palace to Princes Street Gardens. I have been encouraging you all to film any events for inclusion in the year's Newsreel



and the footage is mounting up. Thanks to those who have contributed.

If anyone has any suggestions for increasing the Club's involvement in film-making, please contact any Committee member.



Be In The Picture!

By Ann Sutherland

I should learn to keep my mouth shut! No sooner had I recalled, at the club, Ralph Fusco's interesting ECVS Newsreels of the 1990s, than I'd a phone call from Bob Bell asking if I'd "co-ordinate the Newsreel" - so, all you golden oldies and all you bright young things - and everyone else in between - I need YOUR help, please.

How many of you have fond memories of a night out at the pictures? The old "New Vic", more recently referred to as "The Odeon", used to be one of Edinburgh's finest gala film palaces. Soon, even its architecturally-interesting building and what remains of its once magical interior will exist no more. I need YOU to film it so that its last days can be archived and have a swan-song in ECVS's "2008 - That Was The Year That Was".

During a single year in this burgeoning, capital city an awe-inspiring range of events occurs.

Royal, civic, cultural, historical, mundane, political, local, weird and wonderful, they are all there

What I'd like us all to do is film some of them so that, in future, others can share in them.

I need a short piece of footage recording one aspect, or several, of the subject, on Mini DV tape if possible (which I'll return), although Bob has promised to help with other formats.

Of course footage should be named, dated and give some information about the film content.

I'll need only about 5 minutes of film, edited by you or raw footage which I'll edit into the complete newsreel, but while you're out filming what's happening, what's making the news in Edinburgh, I hope you'll become interested enough in what you're filming to take extra footage and make your own more specialised production.

Many thanks to those who've sent Bob footage to transfer to his dedicated hard drive. As there's still a lot of 2008 left, here are a few suggestions to encourage every member to contribute even one brief item on film to ECVS's Newsreel.

1. Tramway disruptions and road closures - Gogar/Gyle/Leith/Princes' Street etc. - on going;
2. The Royal Museum building closed for £46 million refurbishment project in April, re-opening 2011, although around half NMS will remain open.
www.nms.ac.uk/royalmuseumproject
3. St. Bernard's Well in Leith will be open to visitors every Sunday during the Festival.
4. Housing demolition and regeneration projects in several areas of city. Sighthill flats/Botanic Cottage in Leith Walk/Infirmary Street Baths now new home of Dovecot Tapestry/ St. Andrew's Square Gardens/ Craigmillar/ and also Edinburgh Zoo's new Chimpanzees'

Meet the Committee 2008/2009



Bob Bell
President

Bob has served on the Committee in a range of roles for several years, and is involved in many club projects and events. Bob enjoys documentary film-making and researching local history. Bob can always be relied upon to come up with new and interesting ideas.



Sean Groat
Vice-President

Sean has been an active member of ECVS for several years and has produced a number of excellent, award-winning films. Sean is also always keen to get involved in club film-making projects, and brings some new ideas to the committee this year!



Vic Young
Treasurer

As Treasurer, Vic maintains an iron grip on the purse strings and the finances of ECVS. A keen diver, Vic is our resident authority on underwater filming techniques and is also involved in various club films and projects.



Hugh Trevor
Secretary

Hugh has been a member of ECVS for about 7 years, and has been secretary for about 5 years. The videos Hugh enjoys making are travel films and documentaries. Hugh has produced many interesting travel documentaries from a wide range of locations and has won a number of awards for his excellent films.



John Henry
Subscription Secretary

John first joined E.C.V.S in February 1994. He served as a Committee Member for a number of years and was both Vice President and President. For the past six years has held the post of Subscription Secretary, and is also actively involved in club film-making projects.



Stewart Emm
Past-President

Stewart has been a member of ECVS for several years and as President last year, he becomes this year's Past-President. Stewart does a lot of work publicising the club and encouraging potential new members to join.

Meet the Committee 2008/2009



Peter Wilson
Committee Member

Peter is widely considered one of the leading movie buffs, historians, collectors and presenters of cinema in E.C.V.S. Catch him in action on Friday nights!



Dorothy Speirs
Committee Member

Dorothy is often called upon to utilise her experience of all types of film-making to provide a critique and constructive criticism of less-experienced members films.



Norman Speirs
Committee Member

Norman has an encyclopedic knowledge of all the films ECVS have produced and we often call upon his experience and judgement as well as his video-library of past productions!



Alan Brown
Committee Member

Alan has been a member of ECVS for the past 6 years and is the editor of Cine-Chat. Alan enjoys experimenting with a range of special effects - usually with mixed results!



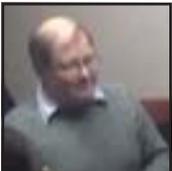
Frank Ramsay
Committee Member

Frank has been making films for many years, his main interest is in documentary style productions, which he finds very satisfying to produce.



Jim Closs
Committee Member

We welcome Jim Closs back to the committee this year. Jim is on this years Programme SubCommittee, so look forward to an exciting and varied selection of evenings!



Peter Dick
Committee Member

Peter is a new member of the committee this year, having been actively involved in ECVS for several years.



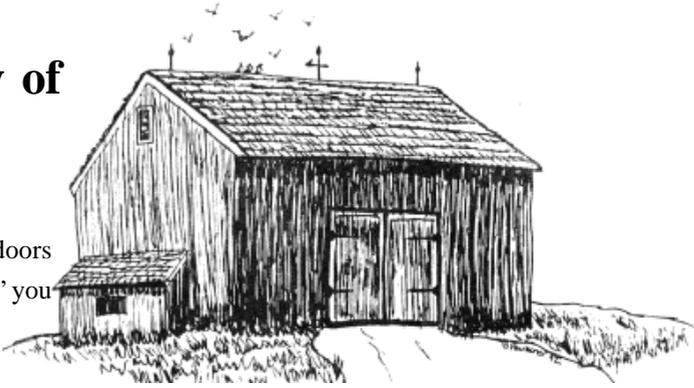
Alan Taylor
Committee Member

Alan is another new committee member this year. He has been actively involved in many ECVS Projects since he joined.

On the Subtlety of Barn Doors

By Jim Closs

No - this is not about barn doors on farms! It's the 'Barn Doors' you might find under the *Transitions* section of your video editing software.

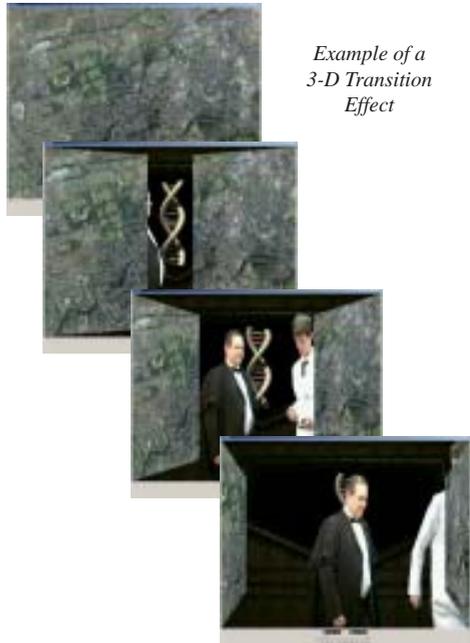


Transitions in videos are effects that we all need when we want to fade from one scene into another rather than use a simple cut. I suspect most film makers stick to a simple 'dissolve' or 'cross dissolve' - the names of these transitions seem to vary from one package to another. Today's video editing software offers a wide range of alternative transitions - such as page turns, peels, fly aways - and so on. Some folk like to play with these in their films but I confess that I belong to the school of thought that sees many of these transitions as intrusions which tend to distract the mind of the audience from a film rather than draw them into it.

The basic reason for using a transition is to indicate some form of discontinuity in the story. If the action is continuous but seen from different camera angles, then simple cuts are all that are required. But if the action changes to either a different time or a different place, then it is no longer continuous - especially in the mind of the viewer. This is when a transition is required and the simple dissolve will fit most such occasions. But there can be exceptions and one I have come across is what prompted this article.

Dissolves, like most transitions, work well when the 'before' and 'after' images are

significantly different. Man jumps into taxi, taxi drives off, man arrives at hotel. A dissolve between the taxi driving off and the man's arrival at the hotel is enough to let the audience know that it took some time for him to get there. But here the taxi and hotel arrival images are very different. If the two images are very similar - almost identical - this convention doesn't work as well.



Example of a 3-D Transition Effect

I came across this problem several years ago in a project for a fund raising video which involved interviews with parents of children

with special needs. I transcribed the interviews and selected the clips to be used to tell their story and, of course, these came from different time points in the interviews. So although the interviewees were in the same basic seated position, their head movements and shoulder movements obviously varied throughout the interview. Assembling clips with simple cuts led to obvious jump cuts. To get round this I used the normal dissolve but found that this was very unsatisfactory. The same person was in the 'same' position and apparently just continuing talking - and this weird dissolve effect interrupted the video image while the voice continued without any apparent interruption. The best option would have been to use cutaways but unless these can be chosen to be obviously relevant to what the interviewee is talking about they can stand out like a sore thumb.

and right from the centre of the image. The speed at which they do this is controllable. Where the before and after images are very different, the transition is glaringly obvious - more so than a dissolve. But where they are almost identical - as in the interviews - surprisingly, the result is quite subtle. The background stays exactly the same and the slight head movements are softened by the wipe effect, not jarring as they would in a cut.



Page Turn Transition Effect

I experimented with other transitions and opted for a 'page turn' - which seemed unobtrusive to me but when the audience of parents saw the film they asked "What was that?" Later I revisited the problem and, under the 'Wipe' class of effects, found the Barn Doors option. This, in my software (Adobe Premiere Pro CS3) consists of two thin vertical lines which 'wipe' out to left



*Barn Door Effect
(mid-transition)*

I can recommend trying this transition in any similar situation where the before and after images are very similar. I have used it to good effect in a number of projects. But I got caught out recently in a project which involved six different interviews, each of which needed such transitions at several points. I was so confident in my Barn Doors effect that I overdid it! So the audience became all too aware of it - thus spoiling the effect. I replaced half the Barn Doors with relevant cutaways and all was well.

So Barn Doors can give you a subtle transition for situations like the above, as long as you don't overdo them as I did.

Competition Results



The ECVS Annual Competition 2008 was held on the 12th and 13th of March, a selection of entries were shown to club members having previously been judged by our independent judges, This year, our judges were: Brian Saberton FACI, Jean McRonald FACI and Ken McRonald FACI. Many Thanks to them for giving their time to judge this years competition, a task made all the more difficult by the high standard, and large number of entries.

Marwick Shield

(Judges Choice)

Look Up (Jim Closs)

50th Anniversary Trophy

(Overall Runner Up)

A Helping Hand in Iquitos (Hugh Trevor)

Lizars Trophy

(Best Overall Film)

Look Up (Jim Closs)

Vice-Presidents Trophy

(Awarded by Audience Vote)

Look Up (Jim Closs)

This year the following trophies were awarded:

George Maran Plaque

(Best Novice Film)

Birds of Eden (Peter Dick)

Presidents Trophy

(Awarded by Audience Vote)

The Scottish Parliament (Jim Closs)

Novice Cup

(Novice Runner-up)

Edinburgh Tattoo (Alan Taylor)

The trophies were awarded at the Annual Awards Night, which was held on April 25th 2008 in the clubrooms. Congratulations and thanks to everyone who took part in this years competition.

Alan Harper Trophy

(Best Documentary)

The Scottish Parliament (Jim Closs)

Pilgrim Trust Competition

The Pilgrim Trust competition is open to both ECVS members and external film-makers, and this year attracted 7 entries. The entries this year were of an extremely high standard, and this years Judge, ECVS President, Stewart Emm, had a difficult task in selecting a winner, and the commended films.

Douglas Trophy

(Best Travel Film)

A Helping Hand in Iquitos (Hugh Trevor)

2008 Winner

“A Cut Above” (Ken & Jean McRonald)

Highly Commended

“The Three J’s” (Daphne Barbieri)

Commended

“Ceres” (Bruce Frazer)

Waverley Plate

(Best Fiction Film)

To Boldly Go (Sean Groat)

Brock Trophy

(Imagination)

To Boldly Go (Sean Groat)

Reg Carden Scissors

(Best Editing)

Look Up (Jim Closs)

Budgie Cup Competition

The 2008 Budgie Cup competition (for still images) was held in the ECVS clubrooms on the 15th February 2008.

This years winner was Norman Speirs, with his photo entitled 'Happiness!'. Peter Dick received three Highly Commended awards for his images 'Another Day', 'Monteviot Bridge' and 'Aground'.

Highly Commended:



Winner: Happiness!
By Norman Speirs



Another Day
By Peter Dick



Monteviot Bridge
By Peter Dick



Aground
By Peter Dick



...continued from page 5

By Ann Sutherland

5. Edinburgh Mela - 25th-31st August
www.edinburgh-mela.co.uk

6. Fireworks Display - 31st August, 9pm.
Best viewpoints- Mound, Inverleith,
Carlton Hill.

7. Festival Fringe Fun - free, High Street.
www.freefringe.org.uk
www.edfringe.com

8. Book Festival - soak up the ambience
and spot the celebrities for free in
Charlotte Square Gardens 9th-25th
August.

9. Superfast Ferry - 13th September -
last crossing to Zbrugge from Rosyth.
Viewpoints - North and South
Queensferry, Cramond, Portobello, Leith.
www.superfast.com

10. Cockburn Association Doors Open
Day - 27th Sept. Free admission (May
need to book a ticket.) to a wide range of
the city's "buildings that enhance our
environment and our lives".
www.ewht.org.com

11. Scottish Water Project - details from
Bob.

12. Festival for Morningside - 4th Oct.
www.morningsideheritage.ik.com

13. Big Fun Run - 5th October

Anyone who has information on
suggested, potential newsreel/archive
footage during the year, please write it
down and pass it on to Bob or me.

Happy filming, and thank you in advance
for your help!