

WALDRON FILM PROJECT

NEWSLETTER JULY 2008

CAMERA ROLLING—ACTION!

The lowering clouds were emptying their burden over Waldron on one of those classic summer Saturday mornings in early July when the sun hadn't bothered to get out of bed and most sensible people were sitting over breakfast with the papers.

The Waldron Film Project looked doomed to a blank day, even though cast and crew members (including the heavy horse and wagon) were assembled and dressed ready for the big scene when unspeakable things were to happen in the woods.

Then suddenly there was a break in the clouds, a spark of sun and spirits lifted. Everyone in position, camera rolling : action! And against all the odds we managed a full day's filming with another two scenes into the can.

Of course, we did have to cut while a police helicopter flew over, possibly drawn by the sounds of thuds and screaming in the woods; and then there was the party disco testing the sound equipment in the middle of a tense scene set in the 1920s, not to mention the sounds of children at 90 decibels on a bouncy castle.

But that's par for the course when you're filming in 2008 and trying to recreate a rural village of eighty years ago. As also is disguising the speed limit signs with an instant bush and covering up street names.

Next day we were outside the pub in the 1970s, rehangng the old Star sign, moving the flower baskets and the newer benches and parking a 1968 Mini Cooper near a 1970s pick-up with a vintage motorbike roaring



It's a wrap! Fred Pitcher (Patrick) and Sorrel Carmichael (Esther) celebrate the end of the first day's filming

through the village.

We have two more weekends to complete shooting our Short Film *Finding Esther* and fingers crossed for fine weather to keep us on schedule.

See below if you'd like to be an extra. What, me?

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Thanks to all of you! If anyone else would like to be an Angel, please contact Valerie Chidson on 01435 812036

VILLAGE CLOSED PSST - WANNA BE AN EXTRA?

We hope to finish filming at the end of July.

On Sunday 27th July, we have asked permission to close the road from the junction with the East Hoathly Road up through the Rocks and into the centre of the village so that we can recreate a scene in which the villagers make their way to the Cattam for the annual Flower and Produce Show of 1927.

The road will be closed from 08.30—12.00 midday. Please can all residents avoid trying to take cars through the centre of the village for that brief period. It would also be very

helpful if you could put off mowing grass or strimming too.

Do come and watch the filming if you wish and should you fancy being an extra and joining the crowd, you are very welcome to be involved.

We are asking all extras to get together their own villagers' costumes. This could include plain skirts and white blouses with a straw hat for the women, dark trousers (no jeans!), leather boots, grandpa shirts, with or without a waistcoat or jacket and flat caps for the men.

Children could wear shorts

and shirts for boys, blouses and skirts or summer dresses for girls, with a straw hat and hair in plaits, if it's long.

If you'd like to be involved as an extra, ring Geraldine Lewis (01435 865072) to discuss your costume and register your name so we can put you into the credits.

It would be tremendous fun if we could make this scene a whole community event. Be prepared for the fact that that there's likely to be a lot of standing about while shots are set up, but please be patient while we get everyone organized.

www.findingesther.org.uk



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THE SUPER-RAFFLE

A number of generous sponsors have given us absolutely super raffle prizes. Buy your raffle tickets to win the following :

- 2 British Airways Euro Traveller tickets from Gatwick (Conditions apply)
- A day's sailing in the Solent aboard a beautiful 43 ft yacht (Ian and Sarah Knight)
- £100 worth of beauty treatments (East Sussex National Spa)
- £100 worth of kitchen equipment (Steamer Trading Cookshop)
- Half a day of Advanced Driving instruction (expertdriver.org)

- Lunch for two at The Star Inn Waldron (Paul Lefort)
- A bottle of Grand Cru Champagne (Martlet Wines)

Tickets are a bargain basement £1 each and can be obtained from 21st July from Valerie Chidson at Hassalls, Whitehouse Lane, TN21 0QX or Barry Russell, Talisker, Vines Cross Road, Horam TN21 0HF.

The draw will take place at the Race Night on September 27 (see below for details and how to buy your tickets.)

HARVEY RIDES AGAIN



Harvey the heavy horse, last seen in the village's community play "The Maid's Story" stars again in "Finding Esther"

AND THEY'RE OFF!

DON'T MISS VILLAGE RACE NIGHT

Race Night is on 27th September at a village centre location.

With our film in the can and editing under way, this is a chance for everyone to relax and enjoy themselves. Join the cast and crew of *Finding Esther* to have a flutter, back a four-legged friend and see how your luck holds out.

Come at 7.00 pm and bring a picnic. Racing starts at 8.00 pm. Tickets are £5 each. Back your choice, watch the race on the big screen and be a winner.

A percentage of the stake money goes to the winner and the rest to the film project,

Tickets are now on sale from : The Star, Waldron or from The Box Office, Brittenden, Brittenden Lane, Waldron TN21 0HR enclosing a cheque made out to Waldron Community Play and an s.a.e.

The draw for our Grand Raffle takes place on that night too so you could be a winner all round (See "The Super-Raffle" article above). Don't miss out on this great chance !



Village men discuss the search for Esther over a hand of cards at The Star

SHOWING THE FILM

Autumn will be the season for a packed programme of new films. There's the latest Bond, the new chapter in the Harry Potter saga and Waldron's Film *Finding Esther*.

And it's due to the delayed launch of the latest Bond movie (now happening at the end of October) that we've had to alter the date of our Première which had been

scheduled for 9th November. It will now take place on Sunday 26th October at the Picture House Uckfield. More details to come in the August issue of the Film Project Newsletter.

Following the Première both *Finding Esther* and its accompanying film *The Oakshott Chronicles* (vintage footage of life in Waldron in the 1920s

shot by Eugene Oakshott at Foxhunt Manor) will be shown in the village hall on several nights.

The films will then be available on DVD and will make the perfect Christmas present for friends, relatives and past members of the Waldron community.

Watch for more details shortly.



Chris Dumper (sound) and John Meakin (camera) on location