

1950s for use by Wimborne Camera Club, before long the Wessex Film Unit sub-group had formed to concentrate on making movies. In 1976 the ciné group took on the clubhouse, installing a cinema-style auditorium with raked seating, projection booth and kitchen as it restyled itself the Wimborne Minster Ciné and Video Club, a name it retained until last year when it became Wimborne MovieMakers.

Weekly meetings in the clubhouse might feature a guest speaker from the boffin who tested Windows 10 to representatives from copyright-free music company AKM, or one of a number of tasks and challenges set for members, frequently taking the form of a 'skit' in which a small group will make a short film that may or may not have been rehearsed in advance. Members then comment on the piece and together the group improves its collective and individual knowledge and the application of it.

'I joined without really knowing too much about making films,' says Trevor, 'and I remember the first time I had a go at making something to show in a club competition...

'Well, nobody actually laughed,' Terry chips in.

'No, but the judge tore it to shreds,' says Trevor. 'He was an ex-*Newsnight* cameraman and, well, he didn't pull any punches. But the important thing was I learned from it.'

'Yes and now Trevor is a serial trophy-taker,' observes Gary, 'whereas I don't really make films any more. I've done all I want to do and I don't keep up with the technology, but my wife and I go along for the social side of the club, which we love.'

Among the club's founding principles was a desire to record events in Wimborne, a remit it gladly fulfilled by filming last year's Mayor's



Terry Hopwood

Above Montague Druitt's mother played by Boo Feltham in a still from *Montague Jack*

Below Terry (second left) in a scene from a club production called *Mr Big's Mistake* that demonstrates the use of the club's green screen

Civic Day. This summer it has been approached to produce a documentary about the inaugural Wimborne History Festival, with camera crews assigned to cover the two Roman legions that will assemble at Vespasian's Fort at Lake Gates, the Saxon village, marauding Vikings, events at the Priest's House Museum and the reminiscence project at Wimborne Model Town.

'It's a massive undertaking and a real challenge for the club,' says Terry. 'We've had to focus down on specific areas to cover, but this is what it's all about really – being set a real-world assignment and putting our skills to use. It's very exciting, a great opportunity for us all.'

And with so much going on it's to be hoped it's a long time before anyone calls 'That's a wrap!' on the Wimborne MovieMakers.

[www.wimbornemoviemakers.org](http://www.wimbornemoviemakers.org)



Terry Hopwood