

## **VIDEO** - A rough rough guide

Many are recording themselves or their groups (individually) at this time, unable to meet in person. This short piece aims to encourage anyone unsure of attempting a video to have a go. It is not a step by step or comprehensive guide, but covers some basics to help get things started.

### **Do I need...?**

You don't need lots of equipment. Smart phones and tablets are capable of producing excellent results. Many pocket and DSLR cameras will also record video.

### **Stability.**

Best steal or borrow a tripod, A tripod will hold your device steady and allow you to precisely frame the image being recorded. Adaptors for holding phones and tablets are readily available in shops or online starting from around £5.

If you can't get hold of a tripod then improvise, tables, the sideboard, stacked books or anything that will hold your device secure and stable. For direct to camera pieces try to get the camera roughly level with your face.

### **Where's the...?**

Know your device, this may sound obvious, but spending some time learning the controls, their location and use will be time well spent, even if it is only the basic controls. Most phones and tablets have built in guides for various functions, including photos and videos. Don't fret though, the automated settings provide very good results.

### **Illumination - let there be light.**

Avoid harsh or very direct lighting, especially from a single light source, this can create a silhouette effect or sharp deep shadows. Using daylight is the best option, aim for an even level of light. Artificial light from tubes, led or older style bulbs etc. can cause colour casts.

### **Click 'n' go!**

Use the built in timer facility to delay and start the recording, this is very useful and will give you a few seconds to take your position and compose yourself.

Alternatively, use a Bluetooth 'clicker' these small devices allow you to remotely start / stop the recording. They can be found for just a few pounds, but check compatibility with your system.

There are also phone apps that let you remotely control tablets and/or digital cameras, should you own more than the one device.

### **It's behind you!**

Check your background, choices may be limited especially if recording at home, but try to avoid anything busy or distracting.

**Can you hear me?**

For most things, the built in microphone will be sufficient, however a good external microphone will give better results. It can also be useful where the camera may be further from the subject - due to needing a wider angle of view.

**Remember.**

On a tablet or phone the rear facing camera is nearly always better than the front facing 'selfie' camera. However, if your working solo using the rear camera requires a little more planning - as you can't see yourself as your recording!

Use the device in the horizontal / landscape position, this means the ratio of the recorded results will be the same or close to those of a modern TV or monitor.

**Go on!**

Don't be afraid to 'have a go', it costs nothing and if the first few attempts or so are not so great, - well, that's what the delete button is for.

**Help!**

Google and YouTube are useful resources for information. Youtube has many 'How To' guides, so many that if you don't like the first one chosen, just try another. Both are also good for finding help relating to specific models of device.

Hopefully the above may be of help, but mostly it's hoped you will be tempted to capture your own or others talents and share them with a wider audience.