



Newsletter 04 - November 2020

Introduction

Welcome to the November edition of the WPS Newsletter and thank you once again to those who have sent feedback, it is always welcome. If you would like to contribute, either via a short article you think would be of interest to our members, or ideas for future club activities, then please drop me a note.

WPS News

WPS Annual General Meeting

This is important! The club AGM is set for 19 Jan 21 and the club Secretary Ian Saunders will be issuing the formal invitation nearer the time. The AGM this year will be held on Zoom, however the committee is aware that many members do not use Zoom so this AGM will be a little different.

The AGM will elect a new Chair (Heather is only acting at the moment) as well as a new Secretary (Ian Saunders is standing down). The committee is always in need of new ideas and new members to contribute to the running of the club and organising events. All clubs rely on its volunteers to drive forward and WPS is no exception. If you feel you can make a difference or contribute to the future success of our club then why not volunteer for the committee? If you are interested, then please contact Ian and he will provide details of the nomination process. Remember your club is reliant on its volunteers to keep it running.

Special Interest Groups - The response to the proposal regarding Special Interest Groups has been mixed, with the most popular being Landscape. With this in mind, we are looking for a volunteer to put the new Landscape Group together and organise the first meeting. The style of the meeting, timings and topics for discussion should be up to those members to decide.

Virtual Coffee Mornings - As we can't meet at the Dell in any great numbers it has been suggested that we trial our monthly coffee mornings on Zoom. This was discussed in the recent committee meeting and it was decided that they could be arranged by individual members and opened up to the club. With this in mind we are looking for a kind volunteer to set up and host our first virtual Zoom Coffee morning at some stage in December.

Forthcoming Programme Changes

The programme is evolving all the time and coming up in November and December we have the following items:

24 Nov 20, Sarah Howard, a professional Landscape Photographer will be giving a talk. Sarah runs Image Seen Photography from her base in the Cotswolds and we can look forward to an interesting outlook on a very popular genre of photography. Two websites to check out:

<https://www.sarahhowardphotography.com>

<https://www.imageseen.co.uk>

1 Dec 20 - The international competition with CAPS near Calagry, Canada has been moved to 2 March 2021 as they were unavailable for this date. Instead, club member Dave Barnes has agreed to present "**An Evening With Dave Barnes**". The content is something of a mystery, but Dave has produced some outstanding composite images in the past so expect a few surprises!

8 Dec 20 - DPI Challenge Night - Reflections. This is a challenge to our members to come up with some images on the subject of "Reflections". This is not a competition, but a chance for you to showcase your images. Ian Saunders has agreed to put together a powerpoint to show your images in a sort of "show and tell", where he will show your images and you will be invited to talk about them. Please send a maximum of 5 images on Reflections to Ian for inclusion in the evenings entertainment. Closing date for submissions is Friday 4 Dec 20 and the address to send them to is :iansaunderswps@gmail.com

15 Dec 20 - (Not so Grand) Christmas Zoom Quiz. This will be a quiz with a number of differences:

1. There will be virtual prizes, i.e they don't actually exist.
2. Members will be unable to form teams, though if gov't. regulations permit, you can invite members of your household/family to join in.
3. There will be no leader board, keeping score will be difficult with 20 plus teams especially on Zoom.

The intention is to try and bring a little light relief before the Christmas break so feel free to bring some Christmas cheer to the evening.

Looking ahead to the New Year programme, on 25 Jan 21, (it is a Monday so be aware), we have been invited to participate in a Tripod Competition with Stowmarket and Framlingham Camera Clubs, which Stowmarket will be hosting. A selection panel will be convened in December to choose the images to go forward. There will still be the usual Zoom meeting on 26 Jan 21 where we have booked Glen Bartley who lives in

Victoria, British Columbia and is a renowned bird and wildlife photographer. His client list is impressive, including National Geographic Magazine so be prepared for some stunning images or rare species. Link to his website: <http://www.glennbartley.com/about.htm>

All details of the future programme are available on the calendar on the club website. <https://www.wymondham-ps.org.uk/calendar/> .

Recent Events

On 3 November we were treated to a talk by Ashleigh Franklin, a Derbyshire based photographer. He gave us a fascinating and humorous insight into his progression from hobby photographer, through a serious amateur phase to professional. A long time member of Derby City Photographic Club, he credited his fellow members with nurturing and mentoring him throughout his "journey", aided in some part by his employers, the BBC, making him redundant in 2001. A quick check on his website revealed an interesting quote from French photographer Elliot Erwitt: "Photography is an art of observation. It has little to do with the things you see, and everything to do with the way you see them."

Chris Upton is a Notts based photographer with a wide portfolio of images and a comprehensive website. On 10 Nov 20 he presented a talk about his project to document the last months before of Thoresby Colliery. The final closure of the pit in July 2015 brought to an end over 900 years of mining in Nottinghamshire, and Chris was able to photograph its last days. It was a fascinating presentation and that, plus the subsequent exhibition he organised for those who worked in the Mine will present historians of the future with an insight into industrial Britain of the 20th and 21st Century. Some of the images are on his website here: <https://www.chrisuptonphotography.com/#/thoresby-gallery/>

A reminder that many of our Zoom talks will be recorded, provided the speaker has granted permission. Any recordings will be available for 1 week after, via a link which Alan will send out after the presentation.

Print/DPI Competition

The second round of the Open DPI competition was held on 17 Nov 20. The judge was Gill Adams of Malden Camera Club. One advantage of being on Zoom is that we can invite judges from outside of our local area. This brings a fresh pair of eyes to our images and can offer a different perspective. There were 24 entries in Tier 1 and 23 in Tier 2 with a wide variety of subjects. It reflects the varying photographic interests within the club. Well done to all who submitted entries and congratulations to all the winners.

Results:

Tier 1:

Commended:

Aquilegia - Lydia Taylor
Paper Abstract - Lydia Taylor

Highly Commended:

Little Terns - Jane Bradstreet
Rat Pack Impersonators - Terry Drury

3rd place - Sun Setting over Old Hunstanton - Fran Grimsdell

2nd place - Chinese Water Deer - John Staines

1st place - Gannets Affection - Terry Drury

Tier 2

Commended:

.....and Lift! - Alan Archer
Barn Owl with Rodent - Gavin Jones

Highly Commended:

Synchronised Sprinting Christine Bulpett
Brown China Mark Moths - Christine Bulpitt
The Chess Players - Patricia Wilden
Blencathra Sunset - David Hazleton
Refuge From The Weather - Philip Tolley
Wine Bar - David Barnes

3rd place - Dragonfly in Flight - Dave Balcombe

2nd place - Tomas Koechlin at the Kayak world Cup - John Bulpett

1st Place - Early Nesting Bumble Bee - John Bulpitt

Once again, congratulations to all nominated entries. The standard continues to improve. If you have never thought of entering our competitions, why not give it a try, whilst we are running DPI only. Instructions to prepare images for entry are under the competition tab on our website.

Meet The Committee

Alan Archer

I guess quite a few of you will think that your personal interest in and journey through photography, as being fairly unique and of course, it is! However, I think my personal photographic journey has certainly had its fair share of twists and turns! Let me explain.....

Nothing particularly unusual to begin with. My first camera (at the age of 11) was the Kodak instamatic 50. I also had a hot shoe flash which took tiny flash bulbs. This flash unit even had a sliding clear Perspex shield at the front to protect the subject from exploding flash bulbs! I can recall saving my pocket money to buy a packet of 10 bulbs so I could be like the press photographers I saw on TV. My "scoop" was to capture a shot of Her Majesty the Queen during her visit to the Isle of Wight in the mid 60's. I was on holiday with my parents at the time and the officials allowed all the children to sit on the monument steps to gain a better view. As the queen approached, me being me, I stood up and grabbed a shot with my trusty instamatic! The resultant blurry image of a distant queen, almost lost in the overall picture, was my pride and joy for many years.

Then, as my early teenage years took hold, Athletics, football, cycle speedway and girls all occupied most of my spare time. I did continue to take photos but it was very much a "high days and holiday" situation. That was, until I became an apprentice toolmaker with Ford Motor Co. in Dagenham, Essex. "What's the link between becoming an apprentice and a reawakening of my interest in photography" I hear you ask. Well, the apprenticeship included a 6 week in 13 stint at the local technical college studying a general engineering course. A small part of the curriculum included the properties of light, prisms etc. After that particular lecture, we headed for the refectory (that's what the college called the canteen!) and over coffee a fellow student mentioned that he found it really interesting as he could relate some of it to his hobby, photography. "Huh" was my response. He then went on to explain how the amount of light falling onto the exposed film is determined by the lens aperture (F stops) the film speed (ISO) and shutter speeds and how they are interconnected in photography. Apologies, I know you are all fully aware of this but to my photographically uneducated ears, it was a fascinating phenomena. I was hooked and made sure that an SLR was firmly at the top of my birthday list. The resulting Zenit E 35mm SLR film camera went with me everywhere, on walks with friends and girlfriends, down the pub and clubs and of course, on holiday with my mates where It accompanied me to Majorca and Ibiza. How it survived the beer drenching, withstood sand ingress and quite a few bangs and knocks I will never know, but it did. Testament to its sturdy build for sure. I was heavily into transparency film in those days and used to develop it myself with the aid of a very clever bit of kit called a "Paterson

Universal developing system". Does anyone remember it? For my 18th birthday I received a really posh remote controlled slide projector plus a projector screen with built in tripod, I was now set up to show slideshows for friends and family. Looking back, I can't help thinking how polite they all were, sitting through 100's of my slides!

Following this personal golden photographic period came, what can only be described as, a prolonged drought as Marriage, modernising our 1st house, children and career took over. My photographic experiences were confined to various point and shoot cameras used on holidays, Christmas and other family events. Money and time were both in short supply. Looking back, I can see I was still making an attempt to frame the shot, getting a decent backdrop etc. but the flame had become a flicker (no pun with a current media platform intended). I thought the final nail in my photographic coffin had been driven home when I was diagnosed with macular degeneration. I had lost the macular sight in both eyes which meant I could only see any detail with the aid of magnification. No longer able to drive and forced to require the help of various magnifying "gizmos" to enable reading and computer work, photography was I felt certain, a thing of the past for me. Then..... about 4 years ago, a close friend proudly showed me his new bridge camera. "what's this and how exactly does it work?" I enquired. He was very good, patiently letting me loose with his new toy. He explained, that with DSLR's you can either make all the settings yourself, let the camera do all the setting or anything in-between. After a few minutes, I realised it could automatically focus on the subject matter!!!. No split image focusing requirement as on the Zenit E. "Eureka" I shouted. "what" he replied. I explained that with this auto focus system I could see (no pun intended here either) a way back into photography. "Where did you get the camera from" I enquired "WEX" came the reply. A lift into Norwich from my better half, resulted in a 2-3 hour discussion and demo from a very patient Wex salesman. I found the Canon viewfinder easier to use with my damaged eyesight so I explored the range of Canon DSLR's within my budget and ended up walking away with a Canon EOS 750D. I was back in the photographic groove! The icing on the cake was to join WPS. I am not being glib but say this with all sincerity. From the moment I joined the club, I was given friendly advice and support and even encouraged to enter into the club competition. I had been a member for just a week or so and had only used my new DSLR for about 6 weeks. I had never seen, let alone been involved in a print competition before and had no idea what size prints were preferred, how they should be mounted and so on. But members kindly explained, pointed me towards the club website which explained in some detail the requirements. So I took the plunge and entered 3 A4 images from my holiday trip to Prague. When I saw the amazing entries the other members had submitted, I could have died with embarrassment. However, the judge was fair and honest with his critique. Definitely not unkind in any way and I realised that although my prints were small and poorly mounted, he focused on the content and technique. I realised that whilst I clearly had much to learn, I was not a million miles away from the other tier 1 entries. I even

received a "special commendation" for a good first effort. Mind you, I did notice that the then club Chairman have a quiet word prior to the judge announcing my special commendation. A very kind gesture I felt.

The rest is history as they say. I have since upgraded my kit to a 5D MkIII but still use the 750 for holidays as its much smaller and lighter. As for the futureonwards and upwards (hopefully).

And Finally.....

ARPS Panel - Malcolm Wood recently shared the images he has submitted to the RPS for his "A" Panel. Produced during lockdown, he described them as a set of abstract landscape images. They are available for viewing on the club Facebook page. The images are quite ingenious and well put together.

STOP PRESS - Malcolm tells me that the RPS has approved the awarding of the ARPS following the submission of his panel, so, Malcolm Wood ARPS, many congratulations and very well done.