



Newsletter - February 2021

Introduction

It is early o'clock I as start to write this introduction, and already I am noticing that the days are starting to draw out, and the evenings starting to lengthen too. This means that Spring is not far away, and there are greater opportunities for photography outdoors, despite lockdown. I am looking forward to our snowdrops appearing very soon and the yellow and white daffodils in early spring. This ties in neatly with our speaker on 23 Feb 21 when Polina Plotnikova will talk about creative flower photography. See below for more information on our programme or check out the calendar on our website.

WPS News

Annual General Meeting

The Society held its Annual General Meeting on Tuesday 19 Jan 21 and 30 members dialled in to the Zoom meeting which was excellent. Thank you to those who joined and indeed to those who also renewed their subscription but for various reasons were unable to join the meeting.

The following committee appointments were made and the new committee will stand up in September at the start of the new season:

WPS Chair - Heather Lindsay. Heather was acting chair but was unanimously confirmed in the role at the meeting and will assume this role with immediate effect.

Treasurer - Alan Archer was re-elected.

Secretary - Ian Saunders is standing down in June at the end of the current season so, if you were unable to attend the AGM and you like the idea of becoming WPS Secretary, have a chat with Ian, he will guide you through the role so you will be up to speed in September.

Internal Competition Secretary - John Edwards

External Competition Secretary - David Hazleton

Other Committee Members elected:

Dave Barnes

Lydia Taylor

John Staines

The following members of the committee are standing down at the end of the season:

David Pelling

Jane Bradstreet

Dave Ryland

Thank you all for your much valued contributions to the Society over your time serving the committee.

Subsequent to the meeting, John Staines, as well as being our Website Manager has taken on the role of Membership Secretary.

Photographic Alliance of Great Britain - E-News

The link to the latest edition of the PAGB E-News (274) is here:

<http://www.pagbnews.co.uk/sites/default/files/newsletters/en274%2015%20Jan.pdf>

Stop Press: Edition 275 arrived in my inbox today (26 Jan 21). This special edition features the Awards for Photographic Merit. Link here: <http://www.pagbnews.co.uk/sites/default/files/newsletters/en275%20extra%20APM%2001%20Feb.pdf>

Specialist Group - Landscape.

The "Any Other Business" section of the AGM gave me a chance to promote the Landscape Group. Some members expressed the fear that the group would become part of an "elitist" section, separate from the club. This is not my intention. There is so much we can learn from each other about our wonderful pastime. I am sure we all want to improve. The remit of the Landscape Group is about Continuous Improvement and learning from each other. I will be sending out more details of the new Landscape Group shortly and publishing details of the first meeting.

Keeping in Touch

As you may know WPS has a private Facebook page which has 33 of our members present. Did you know that the club also has a Flickr account which you are free to join? Upload images for comment by our own members as for Facebook

Link here: <https://www.flickr.com/groups/2952630@N21/>

Recent Events

The week prior to the AGM we held the latest of our DPI competitions. Once again there were some outstanding images put forward for judging by Nick Akers. Winners and runners up are on the club website. Congratulations to those members.

On 25 Jan 21 we joined with Stowmarket and Framlingham for our first Tripod Competition of the year and our first on Zoom. It all worked very well, hosted by Stowmarket and judged by Ben Pike from Biggleswade. Once again the flexibility of Zoom showed through as over 60 members across all three clubs joined the meeting. There were some outstanding images across a wide range of subjects and the overall scores resulted in a victory for Wymondham Photographic Society.

Results were:

Wymondham Photographic Society	282
Framlingham Camera Club	273
Stowmarket Photographic Society	269

Three of the WPS entries scored a maximum 20 points. These were:

Fishing On The Ganges
Hoverfly Approaching a Flower
Wine Bar

I do not have authors as the entries were selected and judged anonymously as usual, but congratulations to those members.

Forthcoming Programme

We have another Monday evening meeting on **1 Feb 21** when Chris Upton returns to talk about his travels in Cuba. Some of you may remember Chris from his outstanding presentation documenting the closure of Thoresby Colliery in Nottinghamshire. He is also a noted Travel photographer and Fuji ambassador and returns to share images of this colourful Caribbean island. Chris's website is here:<https://www.chrisuptonphotography.com>

2 Feb 21 sees something a little different for WPS on Zoom. We have no speaker booked, but the plan is to hold a discussion about Chris Upton's Cuba presentation the previous night. I know many of our members have visited Cuba so it would be great to see your images through the shared screen facility of Zoom, for you to talk about them and hear your thoughts and memories of the place. Also, if you have any other

fun experiences and stories from trips you have taken over the years and are happy to illustrate with a few images it would be great to hear from you.

Our speakers resume on **9 Feb 21** with Elizabeth Jane Lazenby who will be discussing working with Textures. Her website suggests that she is an accomplished artist and equine photographer, amongst other things so this promises to be an interesting presentation. Incidentally Jane's work is the subject of a feature in the latest E-News (275) the link to which is above. Her website is here:<https://www.ejlazenbyphotography.co.uk>

16 Feb 21 sees the next instalment of the DPI competition. This is the DPI version, and John Edwards will inform us when entries open.

On **23 Feb 21** we will be joined by Polina Plotnikova who is a multi-award winning photographer of international renown, noted for her creative flower photography and still life work. Her website is well worth a visit, with some stunning Fine Art images. <https://www.polinaplotnikova.com>

Remember to check out the up to date programme on our website here:

<https://www.wymondham-ps.org.uk/calendar/>

Meet The Committee - David Pelling

I'm David Pelling. Known to my friends as 'Oi you', Grumpy, or DP. I joined Wymondham Photographic Society in 2017

As a 12/13-year-old, my cousin and I would purchase some photo paper, and developer, and develop negatives in his cellar. All just for fun. My first recollections of taking a photo' was I guess about 1949/50 taking snaps of my parents with their ancient Brownie box camera. I graduated to using my brothers Brownie 127, and then about 1956 my father gave me a Coronet camera that he had found some months previously while cleaning buses. Since this was not claimed from the lost property office it was given to him.

My real interest in photography however really began in 1981. I was very much into birdwatching at that time. My wife was on holiday with one of our daughters, and I decided to take myself off to Minsmere RSPB reserve for the day. Sitting in a hide watching a chap taking photographs of a Bittern was the point of ignition. During the following week, I purchased a Pentax SLR, not realising that that was just the starting point. In my ignorance I had failed to appreciate that for bird photography I would need a pretty hefty lens. But I found that out the following week-end. So, not being put off but not knowing what I was doing, I went out and purchased a cheap 200mm lens. 200mm of course proved totally inadequate, so I saved my pennies, and

shortly after purchased a cheap 300mm lens. Results, because I knew beggar all about photography, were, to say the least disappointing - actually, worse than disappointing!! Camera and lenses were consigned to the back of the wardrobe, only to be brought out for holidays!

Fast forward to 2004. A friend, Allan, had purchased a Nikon digital camera to enable him to 'Digi scope' (which for the uninitiated is taking photographs by attaching a camera to a telescope and using the 'scope' as a lens). I followed by purchasing a Kyocera camera to do the same thing, but this wasn't for me. By the time I had focussed on where the bird had been, it had long since moved.

2005 saw Allan, me and another friend off to Thunder Cape Bird Observatory, Lake Superior, Canada, where we spent 3 weeks banding (ringing) migrant birds to aid in the understanding of bird migration. Allan had purchased a Canon 350D, and encouraged me to do the same, as we should have lots of opportunities to photograph birds 'in the hand'. So, I did, and this was the start of my Canon journey. I purchased a 350D thinking that since Allan was a reasonable photographer, he would be able to help me out when things went pear shaped. Which he did. When I couldn't understand why my camera wasn't working, he took a quick look and said 'DP. Lesson no.1. Turn the camera on' !! The trip to Thunder Cape was a success, and I came away with lots of photographs of pretty birds, but nearly all of them 'in the hand'.

Following this, I went on a number of 'birding' trips some with my birding friends (but sometimes without) to lots of lovely far-flung places. Bolivia, Brazil, Costa Rica, Cuba, Trinidad & Tobago, The Gambia, Israel, Ethiopia, Kenya, South Africa, India, Sri Lanka, China, Taiwan, USA to name a few. Some of those countries I have returned to many times. My friends were 'listers', meaning that they wanted to see as many species as possible. See a bird, tick it off the list, and move on. Great trips for birding, but not necessarily photography, which is why I took many trips without them. My interest widened from bird photography to wildlife photography, and latterly to scenery and candid portraiture, although my first love is still wildlife photography. Although I started to get some reasonable results, I knew then that I had (and I still have) much to learn. The original 350D was joined by a 40D, and then through a process of part exchanging I went through 50D, 7D, 7D Mk II, 5D, 5D Mk III, and I now have just two cameras, a 5D Mk IV, and a R6. But with cameras, one needs lenses, and for wildlife photography particularly, it is 'the glass' that makes the difference. I now have quite a nice arsenal of lenses, including Macro, Wide-Angle, and large telephoto including a 300mm f2.8 and a 100-400 mm zoom. Having purchased the R6 I'm now looking at the RF100-500mm zoom. (It's only money! Actually, the lens will cost far less than I would spend on a photo' trip, which is currently out of the question with the present travel restrictions.)

In 2015 I enrolled in a Distance Learning diploma course. It was a really good decision, because I learned so much over the following six months. I obtained my

diploma, and decided that I wanted to take my photography to a new level, so in 2016 I joined the Royal Photographic Society. Later in 2016 I put forward a panel of 10 photographs for assessment at a Licentiate Assessment Advisory day. It was not received well! The advisors trashed every photograph in every way, even down to the paper I had used. My wife was really upset for me, but I pointed out to her that this was all part of the learning curve. I took the advice/criticism on board and submitted a Panel for Assessment in 2017, and obtained my Licentiate distinction. In 2019, I submitted a panel of 12 photographs for Associate Assessment, but sadly some of my photographs let me down. I think I made the mistake of letting my heart rule my head. Unfortunately, owing to the Corona Virus epidemic, and the fact that I cannot 'zoom', and the fact that there have been no face-to-face advisory days, my next application remains a work in progress.

Should anyone wish to discuss wildlife photography with me, or wish for any pointers, I shall be very happy to share what I have learned.

Finally, for anyone thinking of undertaking any expensive trips and/or purchases, the biggest asset one can have is an understanding wife, and I am lucky to have one. She has both encouraged and supported me throughout my journey. Thank you Daphne.

.....**and finally:**

It is apology time. Last month in the "Meet The Committee" slot we had a piece from Dave Barnes. Unfortunately I made an error when copy and pasting his contribution and missed off a paragraph. Please accept my apologies Dave, my error. The full article is reproduced below.

On looking back it appears I've been a member of W.P.S. for approximately 22 years. Gosh, where has that time gone? It seems I'm one of the longest serving members (notice I did not say oldest).

I was in my 40s when my wife, Anthea, asked me to stop playing squash, probably do to a competitor collapsing and dying on an adjoining court!

Anthea bought me a Praktica SLR camera and I've not looked back. After having some pictures and articles published in photographic magazines, I joined the Chrome centre camera club and was introduced to competitions. Joining a club helped my technique improve and was soon doing very well in photo mag. competitions, culminating in a front cover. When the Chrome Centre closed down a few of us members tried to carry on, it was hard work on our own, so we decided to join another club, having researched we decided on the Attleborough and Wymondham camera club as it was then called. I've been on the committee in some form or other, on and off for almost 20 years. We changed the club's name early on to W.P.S as it suited the ethos of the members, that we were more interested in the image created than the equipment used. I hope in some small way I have helped the society form into the friendly, helpful and fun group

it is today. Since joining the club I have achieved notable success, winning several awards and medals at local and national level.

I must admit I am not the prolific photographer I was a few years ago. My summers now taken up by other pursuits such as golf, even that's not competitive anymore, just a few old blokes out for some exercise, putting the world to rights. I still enjoy photography and like to do well in competitions, so watch out!

There's still life in the old dog yet!!