



Newsletter - March 2021

Introduction

The press love labels. In 2018 some areas in the UK endured the "Beast From The East" and last week we endured mark 2 or "mini beast". I read somewhere that this icy blast was christened the "Beast From the Baltic!" What ever it was called, the short cold snap provided some magical opportunities for landscape photography. I look forward to seeing some of them soon. I have also seen some lovely images on our Facebook page from our bird photography fraternity. I do know one or two members have been playing "Hunt The Kingfisher" along the River Tiffey in Wymondham, by the Abbey. Good luck and hope you get some good images of this elusive bird.

The good news is that spring is in the air and hopefully we will soon be able to meet outdoors in small groups outdoors.

WPS News

First, a reminder that on **23 Feb 21** our speaker is Polina Plotnikova, a widely renown flower and still life photographer. Polina has won numerous national and international awards from the RPS, the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) and distinctions from the International Garden Photographer of the Year. As yo can see from her awards Polina is a big name in her area of photography and a glance at her website show why she has gained so many awards and distinctions. We are lucky that we are able to see her presentation on Zoom and it promises to be a very interesting evening.

Her website is here: <https://www.polinaplotnikova.com>

Continuous Improvement - Landscape.

On the subject of Continuous Improvement, I have completed the "Prospectus" for the Landscape Group and will be sending that out to those who expressed an interest very shortly. Our first meeting will be via Zoom in late February or early March, once we have more information from the Government regarding the slow release of lockdown.

Keeping in Touch

Just a reminder that the club has a Facebook page which is private, so only members can post. It is a good source for showing off your latest work, for asking a question

of our members or for raising a discussion point. In addition we also have a Flickr Account which appears not to get that much use. It is a good platform for getting your images out there. Remember to watermark them if you want to retain copyright.

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

Forthcoming Programme

As we move into spring the programme is as interesting and packed as ever. On **2 Mar 21**, we have our annual competition against Central Alberta Photographic Society (CAPS). Each club will submit 24 images for judgement by qualified judges. The following day we will exchange results and decide on a winner. I am looking forward to seeing the images sent over from Canada.

9 Mar 21 sees something new to WPS. Shaun Reynolds is presenting a talk on Astrophotography. Shaun lives in South Norfolk and has, according to his website, "a passionate photographer for 30 years." His speciality is photographing the stars and a visit to his website (see link below) shows some of the magical images he has shot, and the set up he uses. <https://shaunreynoldsastro.com/about.html>

16 Mar 21 sees the latest round of the Open Print (DPI) Comp and on **23 Mar 21**, we have a talk by Roger Hance entitled New Images 2020. Roger is a member of Ipswich and District Photographic Society and after being a long time Canon user, in 2018 he switched to Olympus and in this talk he describes his experiences with his new system and show some of the images across a wide range of subjects. Roger's website is here: <https://rogerhancefrps.com/home>

On **30 Mar 21**, WPS is hosting the annual Tripod Competition between us, Buxton Photographic Club and Lowestoft Photographic Club. In the past these have been hosted at the Dell and there has been keen competition between the clubs. This year the contest is DPI only and on Zoom, but I expect the competition to be equally keen.

There is no meeting on 6 Apr 21 as it is the Easter week but Zoom meetings will resume on 13 Apr 21. More details in the next newsletter.

Remember to check out the up to date programme on our website here:
<https://www.wymondham-ps.org.uk/calendar/>

Recent Events

On Monday 1 Feb 21 Notts based photographer Chris Upton returned for a presentation on Cuba. You may remember Chris for his powerful talk last autumn on the closure of Thoresby Pit. His presentation on Cuba was much lighter and brighter and we were treated to some colourful and entertaining images on his trip.

The following evening we held an open Zoom meeting when we talked about Chris's Cuba presentation and some members showed their images on Cuba and other travel images. This evening worked quite well, given the vagaries of Zoom and we enjoyed a very sociable couple of hours.

Those who attended Jane Lazenby's talk on Textures on **9 Feb 21** were treated to an excellent presentation on her use of textures in her photography. She was entertaining and engaging and gave practical demonstrations of incorporating textures into her images using Photoshop. Jane was so inspiring that I noted one or two members have been trying out her techniques and posting the results on our Facebook page. Well done. Note: This presentation has been extended on Zoom so may still be available if you are quick.

Remember, if you can't make our Zoom meetings for whatever reason, most are recorded and available for a week or so after. Alan usually e-mails the link the following day. It is well worth looking out for.

DPI Competition Results

The latest in the series of DPI competitions was held on 16 Feb 21. There was a good turn out of members for the evening and a total of 51 images across the two tiers were judged by our guest, Marilyn Steward. The results are below:

Tier 1 - 23 Entries

- 1st Mouse on Moss - Lydia Taylor
- 2nd Dreaming of Better Times - Colin Harvey
- 2nd Wind Power - Karl Taylor
- 3rd Simple Beauty - Lydia Taylor
- 3rd Happy Mother's Day - Stephen Bould
- HC Evening Vista after a Flurry of Snow - Jane Bradstreet
- HC Urn, Fruit and Light - Stephen Bould
- HC Orphans of Malawi - John Staines
- C Collision - Terry Drury
- C Almost Home - Gareth Janacek
- C Small flower Overwhelmed - Gareth Janacek
- C Mushroom - Ian Fox
- C Early Morning - John Edwards

Tier 2 - 28 Entries

1st Two Avocets - Heather Lindsay

2nd Disquiet - David Barnes

2nd Deep End - David Balcombe

3rd Barn Owl - Gavin Jones

3rd What the Hell is Piccalilli - Heather Lindsay

HC The road I must Travel - David Barnes

HC Kruger Ranger Happy to be Employed - David Pelling

HC Sailor Beetles - Christine Bulpitt

HC Carrot Wasp, Grooming - John Bulpitt

HC Ely Cathedral - David Ryland

C Barn Owl Poetry in Motion - Gavin Jones

C Twins at a Spanish Wedding - Malcolm Wood

C Though The Dunes - Alan Archer

C Mushroom Splash - David Balcombe

Congratulations to all winners and "placed" entries. Interestingly, a number of you seem to have been doing lockdown projects involving water drips in various guises. Well done to all who tried something different during this enforced period of confinement! There were some interesting and colourful results. The images from the competition are now available on our club website.

Meet The Committee - Lydia Taylor

I was born in Chilliwack, British Columbia, Canada to adventurous English parents. These same parents had ridden horseback over the Rocky Mountains from Alberta to British Columbia the previous year and were hailed in the local press at the time.

At the age of 7 my family and I returned to the UK and lived wherever my father's work took us in the south of England. We finally settled in Norfolk in the late 60's and I have lived here ever since.

I later re visited the place of my birth as an adult.



My only sister emigrated back to Canada more than 20 years ago and lives in Kelowna, BC with her Canadian husband. Even though I

am a dual citizen with a Canadian birth certificate annoyingly new regulations oblige me to obtain a Canadian passport in order to enter the country.

With regard to my working background. My mother had always advised me to work for either the Civil Service or Local Government and I would have a job for life. She was proved right as my career led me to working for both with a brief commercial interlude.

For the greater part of my working life (23 years) I was privileged to work for the Broads Authority as Personal Assistant to the Chief Executive and latterly in HR. The BA is one of the National Park family across the UK.

As PA to the CE I had a real top to bottom overview of everything that was going on but this came with absolute integrity and discretion of course.

Moving across to the HR department for the last 3 years of my career gave me access to the human element of the Authority. Whilst a steep learning curve in terms of day to day tasks I really enjoyed the interaction with the staff. I feel I am a people person in any case.

My very first love in life has to be travel and I have holidayed abroad every year since the age of 18 (apart from 2020!). Whilst I always took a camera of sorts to record my adventures, photography was secondary to the thrill of the new sights and culture.

It was only on early retirement in 2013 when looking for hobbies to pursue that I started submitting photos to the local newspaper via its iWitness submission scheme. I have had great success with 100 and more printed over the past 5 years or so. At the beginning I was only using a compact point and shoot camera. Karl kindly then bought me a 'proper' DSLR and I acquired several different lenses to

go with it over the coming months and years as well as other bits and pieces of equipment as I progressed on my learning curve.

I joined a worldwide web group called Photocrowd in 2017 and I still enjoy submitting my images for the free daily competitions. This site, various workshops and learning situations have given me invaluable help, advice and inspiration. To be able to share my passion with fellow enthusiasts at Wymondham Photographic Society is the icing on the cake! I am lucky that the man in my life also shares my photography interest and we take our cameras both on local walks and abroad when we can.

..... **and Finally:**

Recently Dave Pelling sent me some useful hints and tips about looking after your camera kit which I have shared below.

Thank you Dave

Cleaning your lens glass

I was somewhat aghast recently when I read an article in a magazine advocating that one should clean a lens glass with a tissue or lens cloth, using a circular motion. I was taught by a professional repairer of telescopes NEVER to use a circular motion. To clean a lens glass, first use a 'blower', then a light brush (a fine 'blusher' make-up brush is ideal - but not after it has been used for make up !!), and only then gently use a moist lens 'wipe' (readily available from your local optician/pharmacy/supermarket at a low price). When using the lens wipe, always wipe outwards from the centre. This way, IF you have failed to notice or remove any stubborn gritty dust, you will end up with only one scratch halfway (at most) across the glass, instead of a circular scratch round the whole of the glass. Your camera can cope with a single scratch and it should not impact on your image(s). If you end up with a circular scratch, the scratch probably will be noticeable in your image(s). Do you remember making a vignette with a circular wipe of Vaseline on the glass? Same effect, same result.

Changing you lens.

Before removing your lens, turn the camera OFF. Keep the camera turned off until the new lens is attached. I don't understand the technology involved but apparently leaving the camera turned on while changing your lens can somehow interfere with the electrical signal between lens and camera with a degradation in subsequent images. I have no reason to disbelieve or argue with this since this information (and the following two tips) were given at a seminar by a Canon engineer.

Using an Extender.

Again, when adding an Extender, add it to the lens first, and not to the camera. Again, if this is not done, the lens to camera signal can be interfered with.

In camera sensor cleaning.

If like my camera your camera automatically sensor cleans when it is switched on or switched off, then the advice from Canon is to ensure that the camera is held with the lens pointing forward. When automatic sensor cleaning takes place, the sensor receives a signal to vibrate. Apparently, there is a small strip below the sensor which attracts and retains any dust which is shaken from the camera when the sensor vibrates. If the camera is held any other way, the dust misses the 'magic' strip, and will continue to roll about in the camera.