

THE SOUTHERN COUNTIES PHOTOGRAPHIC FEDERATION NEWSLETTER - JULY 2023

Welcome to the SCPF July Newsletter. I hope that you're having a great summer, even if the weather this side of the gulf stream does seem positively chilly and somewhat wet at times. I recently asked several clubs to talk about their more unusual club evenings or projects. Three clubs took me up on the challenge, so let I will share with you their ideas for an evening's entertainment.

WIMBORNE CAMERA CLUB - HOW I SHOT THAT IMAGE

Our meeting for 17th April had been set aside for presentations by volunteers to each explain the how, why and where of some PDIs they had produced and which they thought would be of interest to the other club members. Each presenter was given a maximum 15 minute time slot although as it transpired not all the planned subjects were able to be shown. Many of the images had not previously been seen by the members and we were treated to a wide variety of subjects and genres - all in all a great way to spend an evening.

Seven members presented twelve subjects using PowerPoint, a summary of some them are described below in the author's own words (not in any particular order). Not included for practical reasons is the final presentation of the evening produced by one of our senior members, Ron Holmes, who submitted a very entertaining AV presentation illustrating the life of a "smoke trail" family. [Note from the president: I'm hoping we're going to see this at our AV Championships in October!]



Run for your life by Kevin Maitland:

Camera Canon 1DXIII Lens 70/200 2.8 1/60 sec, f16, ISO 100.

This was taken in the Greater Kruger National Park South Africa in June 2022.

We were out for a game drive when we heard over the radio that wild dogs had been seen in our area. Shortly afterwards we came across three wild dogs but lost them in the under-growth. Then I saw a small group

of impalas who were very agitated, so there was a possibility that the wild dogs were close by. We drove about 500 meters towards the impala. I decided that if they ran there would be a good chance of a panning shot. My camera settings are customised for wildlife photography and so I was able to quickly select my setup for panning shots. As the vehicle slowed to a stop, I was able to take this image.

Making Tracks by Kevin Maitland:

Camera Canon 1DXIII Lens 70/200 2.8. 2500sec, f2.8, ISO 125. This shot was taken in Kenya in October 2022. We had the opportunity to take a helicopter flight in the mid Rift Valley area. The helicopter had its doors removed to give us a clear view. I saw some giraffes walking across the dry ground below and asked our pilot to circle around them so that I could take a series of images from different directions. The final image that I have selected has been cropped and rotated.



Folly: Hartland Quay, Devon by Louise McKenna

I did a daylight recce and planned the shoot with various apps.

I knew where the cliffs were

It was cold, I had coffee, 2 torches and friends 1 mile away in phone range.

Used a wide-angle lens with a low aperture to capture as much light as possible in manual mode.

Set camera to a higher ISO (1000) with a 20 second exposure.

Used a Sturdy tripod and dew heater on a power bank.

Various trial images to focus on stars and align with Polaris and the arch.

Regularly checked the lens for dew or ice.



Took 4 hours of images, keeping the camera settings the same for each shot. Left with 200 images. Took 30 dark images to reduce noise. Exactly the same settings with the lens cap on! Drank coffee, stargazed and counted all the rabbits eyes in the dark.

Imported the photos. Can be Jpeg but I use RAW. View images in FastStone (Faster for looking at images) Imported into Lightroom You can remove images with planes, satellites, sheep, ghosts and hippies but then leaves gaps in star trails so if not many can remove them in Lightroom/Photoshop. Takes ages and ages. More Coffee. Once done export as Tiff.

Lightroom processing: Adjusted exposure on back ground Used masking on the colours, folly, shadows, stones, stars. Removed red torch light colour. Noise reduction. Drank more coffee



Into the Light (Le Mans Cathedral) by Eric Wallbank

An attempt at a different 'take' on a cathedral interior: wide angle lens, shot from low down, to capture the sense of height and space.

1/50th at f13, ISO 6400

10-20mm Nikon zoom lens at 10mm, Nikon D7500.

In Raw in Affinity, correct the vertical in Lens adjustment. Having corrected the verticals, crop out the edges. Shadows/Highlights to bring out the dark areas. Curves to add more 'life'.

Convert to B&W in Nik Efex: deliberate 'Hi Key' look.

Got rid of the distractions using Inpainting Brush and Cloning.

Added a person from 3 images previous in the sequence.

Final adjustments: Curves, Sharpening and Denoise in Topaz Adjust.



Sky, Sea, Sand by Eric Wallbank

Experimenting in Intentional Camera Movement.

Nikon D7500, 18-200 lens at 32mm. 1/3 of a second, F22, ISO 110.

Developed in RAW in Affinity Photo.

Adjustments to Curves, Clarity. De-haze and adjust Levels. Better, but foreground too dark.

Selective colour adjustment to the foreground: De-saturate, reduce yellows.

Brightness layers to brighten overall image and selective brightness to foreground.

Gradient layer to 'hold down' the top of the image.

Final brighten and de-noise.

Crop top, bottom and right hand side.

Bamburgh Sunrise by Stephen Purdy:

Nikon d750, Nikon 24-70mm F2.8 G lens on tripod)
24mm Iso 200, f8, 0.5 secs, Lee 0.6ND medium
grad filter.

Bamburgh Sunrise, was shot on the last day of our holiday, a clear sunrise was forecast so I was up and out early to try and get my shot. I had planned where I wanted to set up, close to the shore so that the sunrise would be reflected on the numerous rockpools in the foreground. To my dismay I found that a film crew were out shooting a Seat car advert on the beach, right in my line of sight. Fortunately, the tide was out so I hastily moved close to the incoming tide and was blessed with an amazing sky reflected on the incoming tide. Well worth getting my feet wet for!



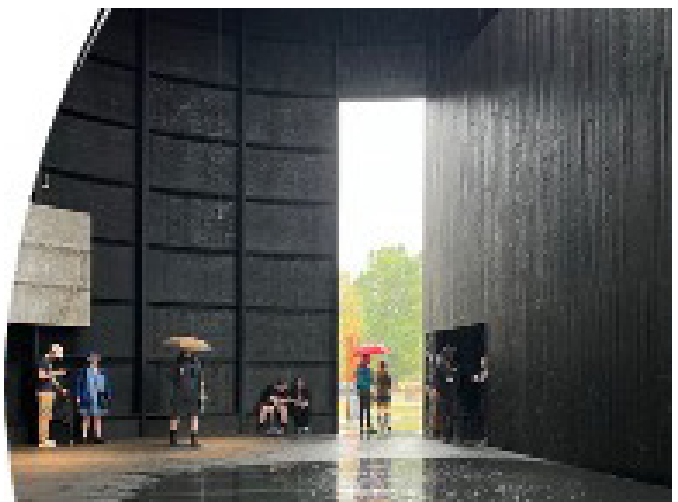
The Black Chapel by Alan Brown

Visited the Serpentine Gallery

Sat the other side of the pavilion.

Noticed the couple leaving with a red umbrella.

Captured this photo using iPhone 13.





Cropped and then Cropped again.

Blurred the image with original layer underneath.
Gently removed top layer to reveal the original image.

Applied Silver Efex for the final image.

Poole Railway Station by Alan Brown:

New App for my phone called "Average Camera Pro"

Automatically takes multiple pictures (immediately or after a timer expires).

No of images can be specified.

Time between taking images can be specified.

App calculates the average picture out of these and normalizes the result.

Intended capturing a moving train.

Set the app to take 8 images at 1 second intervals.



Captured another image of the platform without the train.

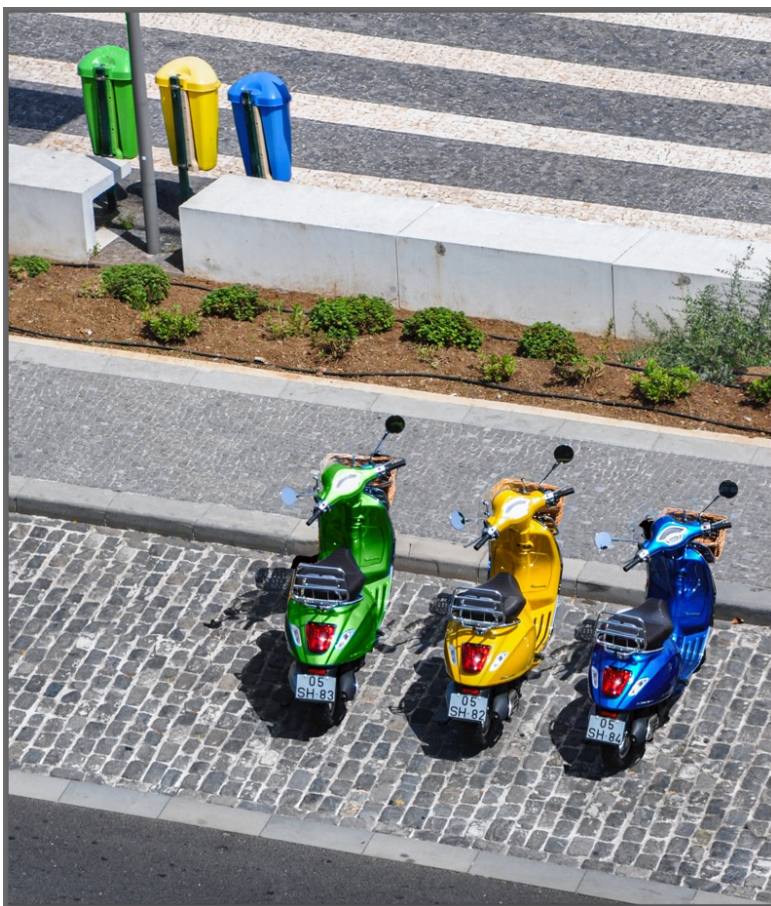
In Photoshop:

Bottom Layer – Image before the train arrived.

Top Layer – Image taken with the app, train arriving.

Top Layer – Deleted everything except the train.

Converted to black & white.



3 Scooters by Richard Frewer

The image was changed to a more portrait orientation to reduce the space between the scooters and the bins by cutting and pasting the scooters to the left of the image using Object Selection.

The lower section of the image was cut and pasted it over the majority of the planting area, as this was too dominant in the image

The colours and the order of the Scooters were changed to match the bins.

As the bins were not fully in the image the canvas was extended using a mixture of Copying and Pasting and Cloning etc. to rebuild the extended area

Dried Azalea by Alan Bentley:

Nikon D810 with Nikon 105mm/1:2.8 Macro prime lens.

The camera was mounted on a tripod and focussing rail, with a remote control and 'mirror up' shutter operation to minimise vibration and maximise stability.

The aim was to produce an image of a dried Azalea with a watercolour, painterly affect.

To achieve this I needed a single image that was sharp throughout the subject's depth (using Focus Stacking) that could then be processed to look painterly.

30 images were created from the subject, front to back in 1mm steps, with an aperture of f/5.6 using artificial light including a back-lighting panel. These images were then used to create the Focus Merged, cropped base image.

A black & white, "sketch" layer was produced from the base layer and Blended with the base layer using Linear Burn. The opacity of the sketch layer was adjusted together with the Saturation of the reds and greens for the desired effect. To finish off a background, vellum texture and border frame were added.



Bracknell Camera Club Picture You.....Picture Me

Take one photo.....pose for another

This is the resurrection of the portrait chain idea from the Bracknell Camera Club's 2011-2012 season, where voluntary participants are randomly paired with another member to take their portrait and a different member who then takes theirs.

This is a good way to introduce new members to the existing membership without the awkwardness usually associated with these introductions. Lifelong friendships are often made as a result of this activity and members find themselves speaking to others who, for years, may only have had a nodding acquaintance.

It is also an excellent way to practice portraiture whilst showcasing their subject's skills or interests in a collaborative way. If they are not keen on showing their face, then be inventive about a way around it! Needless to say, both participants should be happy with the final result.

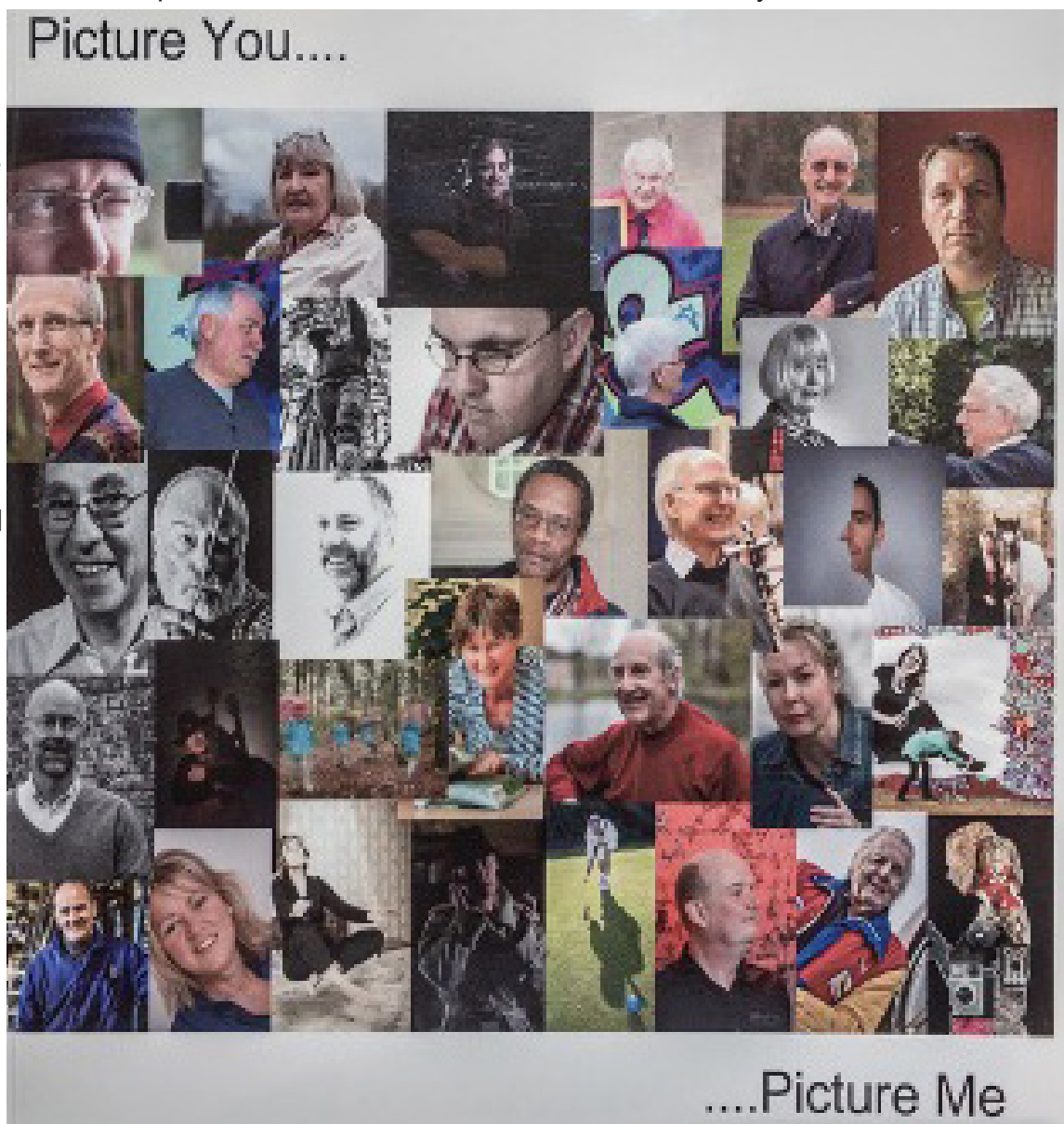
The image is then submitted, along with a document containing a few sentences about their subject. This need to run no longer than 100-150 words, and explains why the image was taken in the way that it was.

The final result can be produced as a book format with a modest cover charge and an injection from the Club's coffers to help, or as a PDF book which can be more widely distributed. Either way, it forms an historical record as snapshot of the membership at the time of the endeavour.

I look at the original book, some 11 years ago now and reflect on the members at the time, those still with the club and sadly, those no longer with us.

I add an image of the original cover that was used in 2012 to help give you inspiration to produce your own 'Picture You.....Picture Me'

Jon Sawyer



One of our popular evenings at Wareham Camera Club is our '10 from 7' where seven of our members are invited to share ten of their favourite images with us and give a brief commentary. These do not need to be competition photographs, or recent work, just images that are 'special' to them. The aim is for each member to have roughly 10 minutes to show their work followed by a few minutes for positive questions/discussions (approximately 15 minutes overall).

On a recent evening the diversity of images ranged from London Architecture, to a portrayal of 'Englishness', from Rescue Cats, to Foxgloves on a Local Heath, from a Lone Ostrich amongst Sand Dunes to Exercises in the Arctic Circle. Finally we viewed our Club President decked out as Father Christmas for a local event - and very jovial he looked too!

This is a great way to involve all members from 'old hands' to new faces; it breaks the ice, promotes friendships, knowledge and understanding. These evenings are enjoyed by members and participants alike - why not give it a go at your Club.

Arctic Circle Manouvres - Stephen Thorne

In 2009 as Commander of the Maritime Reserves I was privileged to join Royal Marine Reservists on exercise in Norway, and this special photograph was taken while there. The Commandos operate in extreme environments including the mountains and Fjords of the Arctic Circle where temperatures can drop to below -35C and their training includes survival skills as well as jumping into the freezing water to test their responses to cold shock!



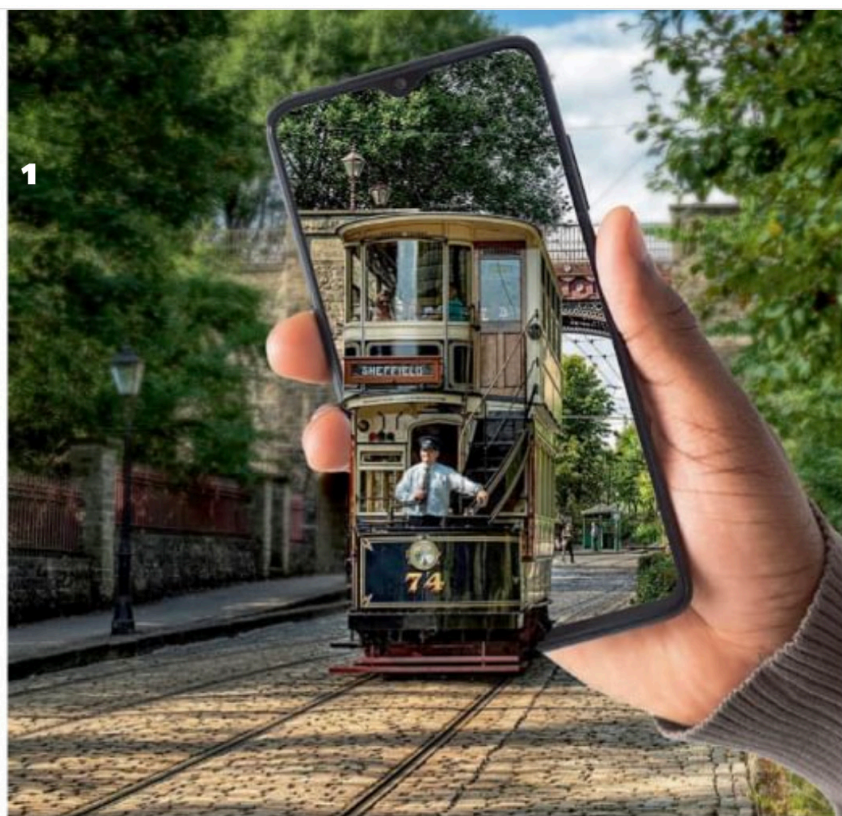
Namibia: Lone Ostrich - Erica Beck



Following a divorce, moving house and making new friends we went on holiday to Namibia - my first holiday for many years. It was amazing and this image of a Lone Ostrich reminds me of a very special time in my life.

A huge thank you to Wimborne, Bracknell and Wareham for sharing these ideas. We'd love to hear from other clubs as well, so if you have other ideas for different members' evenings, please let me know. I know that sometimes programme secretaries struggle for ideas.

CONGRATULATIONS to SABINE TILLIE-DAVIDSON ARPS, CPAGB from Basingstoke Camera Club for her ARPS distinction recently. Hot on her success at the PAGB APMs. Sabine was awarded an RPS Associateship.



1



2

1 TTL Mode by Carl Reeve What a quirky approach to an old-fashioned street scene and subject. Smart thinking!

2 Amy by Simon Gilgallon The model's poise and elegance is great, while the movement in the skirt is well captured



5

5 Fallen into Disrepair by Chris Raymont An unusual find and interesting scene – using monochrome is a good way to bring out the textures



6

6 Fireworks at Winchester Cathedral by James Fox A great blend of fireworks and smoke, the exposure is spot on

Join the Club

This Hampshire club's mantra is to make their weekly meetings fun

When was the club founded?

The formal records of the club's founding have been lost over the years but we do know it was in the 1960s so the club has been running for nearly 60 years. Our oldest member is 94 and still attends Monday evening club meets.

What does your club offer new members?

We initially welcome new club members along to Monday evenings and our Saturday photo walks to see if they enjoy what we do and would like to join. Our events are advertised on local social media groups and via our monthly newsletter which is sent to our membership, who are encouraged to send it to friends and family. We also provide a six-week beginners' course to photography for new members, the cost of which includes an annual membership.

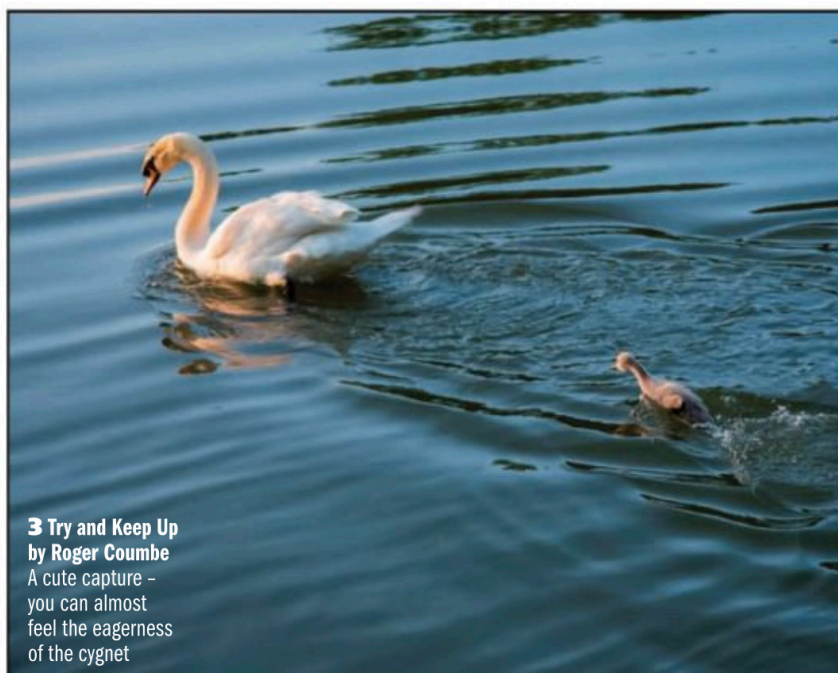
We rotate Monday evenings between talks, practical sessions and competitions. Our Saturday photo walks take in seasonal opportunities such as bluebells, snowdrops and local historical sites and gardens.

Describe a typical club meeting

We meet on Mondays at 7.30pm at the local community centre. Name tags are worn so even new members feel included. Our chairman normally kicks off the evening with an update on events and an observational giggle or two with the members. We also sell raffle tickets at this stage to support the club.

At 7.45pm we get into that evening's events, taking a break around 8.45pm. We are lucky that the community centre we meet at has a bar, so refreshments are available. We then normally finish up around 9.30pm with a closing chat on the evening's events.

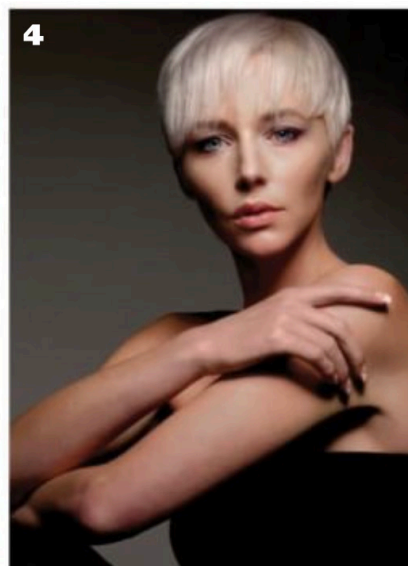
YOUR PICTURES IN PRINT



3 Try and Keep Up
by Roger Coumbe
A cute capture – you can almost feel the eagerness of the cygnet



7



4

7 Represents Lonely, Dead or Alive by Linda Priestley
Poppies are always poignant, this subtle composition evokes that mood well

4 Aime by Terry Harris
Great eye contact, an interesting pose and an excellent use of lighting all add up to make an excellent portrait

Club essentials

Locksheath & Sarisbury Camera Club

Sarisbury Green, Hampshire

Meets Sarisbury Green Community Centre on Mondays at 7.30pm

Membership Annual membership: £55. All potential new members get two taster meetings free of charge

Contact Ron Harckham chairman@lhcsc.club

Website <https://lhcsc.club>

Do you invite guest speakers?

Yes, we find now that most speakers are happy to run these via Teams, which enables members to join remotely if they cannot attend in person. It is also great that many of our speakers now accept food bank donations and charity donations for these talks. RKR Photos recently showed us their sport photo collection in return for donations to a food bank, and Ian Boulton similarly for donations to the Autistic Society. I think this is commendable to give up your spare time and skill for the benefit of a charity.

Do members compete in regional or national competitions?

We compete in SCPF competitions and against local camera clubs, but being a small, close-knit club, we are more interested in enjoying the social aspects of photography

and our own internal competitions.

How many members do you have?

We have 40, up from 29 last year. We are working hard to make the club as inclusive as possible, recognising that we have a wide range of skillsets and interests within our membership. Many of us enjoy the social aspect, with a core of the membership having been in place for many years.

Are any residential trips or outings planned?

The committee are looking at this and currently pricing a potential trip to Scotland. We have done trips in the past so this is why we are looking to get this back into our diary.

Do you have any funny stories about the club?

To be honest we make every Monday fun and it is a mantra for the club.

What are the club's goals for the future?

We set out this year with specific goals, many of which we have achieved. Membership growth was important and not only have we expanded membership to 40 but we've grown our female membership from one to eight. We have also started a monthly newsletter which has been well received. We also want to completely revamp our website, which for now remains on the to-do list. In the current economic climate, it is also important to keep the club financially viable while remaining affordable to our members. The annual membership fee includes all activities and we hope to keep any increase to a minimum. The recent growth of club membership along with some cost-cutting will help here.

NOTICES:

I have been asked to circulate this information a photography competition from Friends of Chichester Harbour and Final Straw Foundation?

First prize is £500 It is for amateurs only. It runs between August 1st. and September 31st. The theme this year is: Celebrating Chichester Harbour

This competition is open to all amateur photographers, regardless of age or experience.

Photographs have to be taken within the Chichester Harbour area and be submitted by September 31, 2023.

Members can pre-register now HERE: bit.ly/43lkktM

To enter, simply find us after August 1st. in Instagram, Facebook or our website here: <https://friendsch.org/>

The prizegiving will be on October 12th. 2023. We will tell you more if you are a finalist.

First Prize £500, Second Prize £250, Third Prize £200, Under 16 Prize £50

You can see the competition rules HERE

This competition is being run by Friends of Chichester Harbour and Final Straw Foundation. Both are registered charities in the UK.

I am delighted to hear that a number of clubs are holding their annual exhibitions this month, so if you get the chance, do pop along. I know you won't be disappointed by any of them.

Wareham Camera Club Annual Print Exhibition

Town Hall
Wareham

FREE
Admission

Saturday August 12th 10am - 4pm

July 30th to Aug 5th

10.00 am to 4.00 pm

Free Admission

The School of Music*

Sudley Road

Bognor Regis

PO21 1ER

Photo by Carolyn de Ruiter

BOGNOR REGIS CAMERA CLUB **ANNUAL EXHIBITION**



bognorregiscameraclub.org

* The Regis School of Music is behind Boots the Chemist



CHICHESTERCAMERACLUB

ANNUAL EXHIBITION 2023

creative action nature landscape portrait street documentary abstract



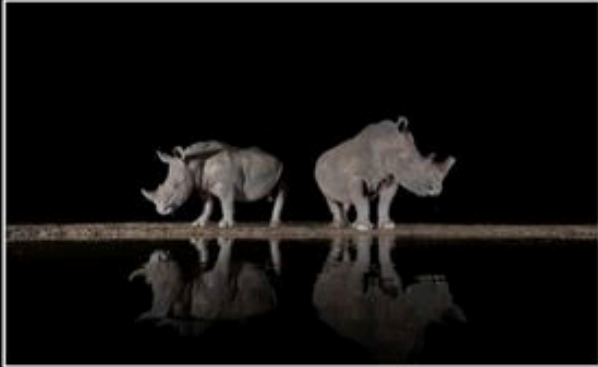
Photo: Lorraine Short

Saturday 5th to Saturday 12th August (closed Sunday)

10am to 5pm - Entry FREE - Refreshments

The Assembly Room North Street Chichester PO19 1LQ

HAYLING ISLAND CAMERA CLUB ANNUAL EXHIBITION 2023



**Our Annual Exhibition is being held from
August 5th and 6th August 2023**

At St. Mary's Church, 24 Church road, hayling Island PO11 0NT.

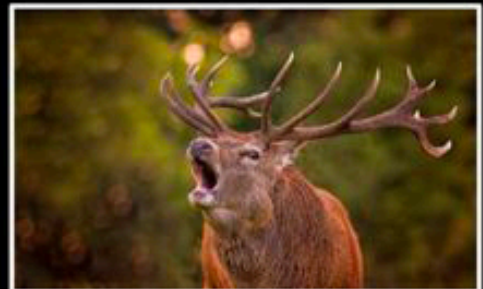
Saturday 5th Open 1000 – 1600

Sunday 6th Open 11.30 – 1600

Some Refreshments will be available to purchase.

For more details scan the QR Code or visit:

www.haylingislandcameraclub.co.uk

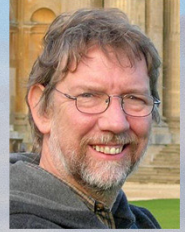


COMPETITION TIME!

The club will be running a competition for the public to vote for their favourite image in the Exhibition Gallery, over the two days.

The winner will be drawn at random and will receive a print of the image they have chosen.
Details of the competition can be found on our website and at the venue during the exhibition.

SCPF Audio-Visual Championship



Martin Fry FRPS FBPE
EFIAP/d2 AV-EFIAP/b
APAGB

Sunday 22nd October 2023

SCPF Audio-visual Championship 2023

It is with great pleasure that we can announce that this competition will be run for the first time since 2014 when Alton CC were victorious. The Oak Leaf Salver is presented to the best club entry and there will also be certificates for the runners-up and the best individual sequences. Even if your club has only one member interested in audio-visual it is still strongly recommended that they enter.

AVs are a set of predominantly still images with an accompanying soundtrack. A limited number of third-party images, graphics and video may be used but most, if not all, of the images should be the original work the author. Up to three sequences of 2 to 5 minutes duration from different authors or co-authors may be entered by a club. Members of any fully-paid up SCPF club may enter. Entries must be received by the 1st of October. Full rules will be published shortly on the SCPF website.

As judge we are delighted to have secured the services of esteemed AV producer Martin Fry FRPS FBPE EFIAP/d2 AV-EFIAP/b APAGB.

The main event is on Sunday 22nd October 2023 at Cliddesden Millennium Village Hall RG25 2JQ, with Basingstoke CC kindly hosting. The pre-judged sequences will be shown between 2 and 5pm with a presentation by Martin who will also present the awards.

For further information email av-info@southerncountiespf.org.uk. The July 2022 SCPF Newsletter contains a useful discussion of the genre with several tips. <https://southerncountiespf.org.uk/2022/08/july-newsletter-all-things-av/>

You might find the work of Mark Allen MPAGB/AV <https://www.youtube.com/@Almarkdotnet> or Ian Bateman FRPS MPAGB AV-AFIAP APAGB <https://www.youtube.com/@IanBateman> of interest as well as tutorial videos from Barry Beckham <https://www.youtube.com/@BarryBeckhamVideos>.

This should once again prove to be a very special championship with entertaining sequences filling the afternoon. Good luck to all the competitors.



**You are cordially invited
to join us online for this
APM/AV Adjudication on
5 AUGUST 2023**

FREE

AWARDS FOR PHOTOGRAPHIC MERIT IN AUDIO VISUAL

Watch FREE and LIVE by Zoom on 5 Aug from 10.15AM.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86246467883?pwd=RjRyWmVuckhTQWVJS1ZjMmpUUGFUdz09>.

Meeting ID: 862 4646 7883 Passcode: 288718

There is no waiting Room but you may be asked for the Passcode

There is no charge for observers to view the adjudication, so please feel free to pass on this link to friends and to other members of your clubs and groups.

**There are applicants at CPAGB/AV, DPAGB/AV and MPAGB/AV
with many entertaining sequences.**

The Assessors are Robert Albright (Chairman of the Adjudicators), Gordon Jenkins, Howard Bagshaw, Richard Speirs and Martin Fry.

After the sequences in each application have been played, the Awards Chairman, Rod Wheelans, will invite comments from selected assessors.

At the end of each session, the Adjudicators will retire to a private break-out room to make their decisions.

All the successful applicants will be announced at the end of the day.



WESTERN

present

RPS Western Region LRPS Advisory Day

on 14th October 2023

at RPS House, 337 Paintworks, Arnos Vale, Bristol BS4 3AR



LICENTIATE
ADVISORY
DAY

WESTERN
REGION

**Saturday 14th
October 2023**

For more information:
<https://events.rps.org/4LrdQ66/4a2N4Lhj1z>

The RPS Western Region is hosting an Advisory Day for the Licentiate level (LRPS) on 14th October 2023

This is the only advisory day we are hosting this year. It is for print and digital submissions, but panels will be limited to 15, so please book soon to avoid disappointment. The day will be held at the Royal Photographic Society, 337 Paintworks, Arnos Vale, Bristol BS4 3AR.

Attending this Advisory day will give you the opportunity to discuss your portfolio with current panel members in a professional friendly atmosphere.

Considering a submission? Observing is a very good way to learn about the distinctions system and to see the advice given. There are plenty of observer spaces.

Link: <https://events.rps.org/4LrdQ66/4a2N4Lhj1z> for more information or to register for tickets.

In the event of a problem registering please email: western@rps.org