

BCC NEWS ISSUE NO 68 DECEMBER 1996

The Newsletter of Basingstoke Camera Club

**MERRY
XMAS**



And a happy New Year!

As 1996 draws to a close with the usual excesses of food and drink, of spending money we haven't got buying things we don't need for each other, why not stop and think...how many of us started photography one Christmas long ago snapping away at our loved ones, getting the results later and thinking - strewth, surely I can do better than that! I did, the rest is history, and who cares anyway?

Don't forget that goodwill to all men includes Judges, Referees, Policemen, traffic wardens, officials at sporting events and theatres and also those nice security guards in the town centre who get upset if they see you taking pictures!



Rainforest

This is your last chance to join Gems' evening at Rainforest Friday 14 February 1997.

The cost will be £4.50, the evening shoot starting at 7.00pm until 9.00pm. Please let me know if you would like to come along. You will need flash and some sort of cover for your gear if venturing into the specialised areas where misting is frequent.



Correc- tion

MODEL DETAILS - in the last issue I printed incorrect details about one of our models. Please note the entry for Roma was wrong - please do not approach her for figure-

The Resourcefulness of the Photographer

As I'm sure many of us feel, what with the cost of photography and all, a little DIY goes a long way in Darkroom Construction. I choose the words carefully, as most of us have no doubt had to "build" a little haven of dark in this bright world of ours.

The worst part is of course creating the dark in spite of the light. I have wrestled with wood, fiddled with fabric, played with plastic, but often to no avail - there was always the unavoidable chink of light helping you to see what you were doing!

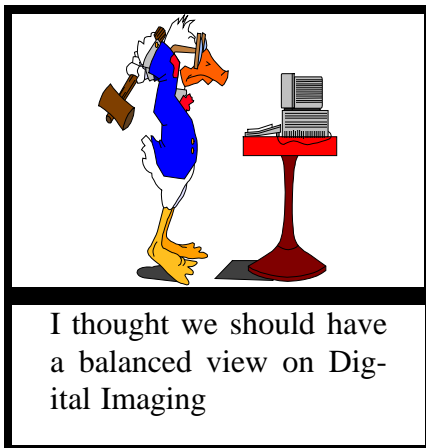
But eventually the answer presented itself to me - old cushions, long since slung up the loft against the day they would come in for something, which attacked me whilst I was shifting stuff looking for something else. These two lumps of discarded foam just fit the window in my bathroom, and when covered in black plastic sheeting are quite impenetrable to light. Been there for years while I struggled!

APS- A threat or a nuisance?

Has anyone crossed lenses with the new film format yet? I was very interested when I heard you could use a scanner to "read" the negatives into a computer from the film canister, and so I determined to discover more. Thinking that some of the innovations could be useful I read up on the new medium and found pluses and minuses, but the biggest cross to bear seems to be the cost, not of changing systems but of processing the film. Such was the surprise to one friend I was advised never to let it darken my door. And then there's the quality - not up to much by all accounts at 6x4, but likely to be no good at all at 16x12. But some of the innovative ideas do have merit, such as Minolta's side on viewing system, the smaller size of the camera bodies and the relative safety of the film in the canister. The index print is a good idea too, as I always do a contact sheet first.

But when it comes down to it,

what danger does this new format actually pose to we "serious" photographers. I can see how it could be a rival to the 126 and 110 cameras used by the snappers of this world, or even the 35mm compact market, but I have a feeling that with the ability to read negatives directly into a PC, APS could help those who want a mixture of prints for the album and digital trickery. Enter the professional social photographer? Amongst my wedding photos is one of my new spouse looking at a butterfly on her bouquet, neatly done by multiple printing all those years ago, but in the present day DI could make this easier and quicker. Perhaps the pros have more to consider than we do?



Gratuitous Digitally inserted
image (copyright free(!))

London Salon

The London Salon of Photography is worthy of a mention here so that the rebels of this world are represented.

The Salon was originally a breakaway group from the RPS as they felt the standard of pictorial photography was slipping in the annual exhibition. It is still a select band of invited members, although any one may enter photographs in their annual exhibition, and relations with the RPS seem much better these days.

Much of the work seen in the Salon is available elsewhere for viewing, so its not exclusive, but it does offer an outlet for photgraphic ideas not finding a home in more conventional areas.

In the final analysis you make up your own mind, but I like their efforts, although I won-

Carried Away

Thats what we shouldn't be about DI. Don't forget the next Print Round is on December 12 th.

*Editor Peter Malcolm
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*Wishing all my readers a
happy and prosperous
New Year for 1997.*