

BCC News No 71 April 1997

The newsletter of Basingstoke Camera Club

The Swanage Trip

by your friendly local editor

For those of you who didn't go to Swanage, boy did you miss a good time! Well, at least I thoroughly enjoyed myself. I don't know too much about what some of the others did as I was staggering up hills and along beaches, lugging my trusty Pentaxes everywhere I went, but I saw lots of sunny English, or should I say Purbeck, as they call it round there, countryside, fulfilled the odds ambition, and I took loads of pictures, too. Well, after all, that was the whole point of the weekend, after all, wasn't it? From the looks of the first couple of films back from Fuji, I might have a few shots with which to confound the judges with my talent for pub-sign photography, brilliant, if somewhat eccentric, landscapes, and of course that unexplainable selection of shots which won't count when the judges have only given them a "3" or a "4"!

So what were these ambitions then, I hear you ask? Well, silly as it may seem, I had always wanted to have a walk along Chesil Beach. It's the kind of place we Northern kids read about in geography books, see on the telly, but somehow never go to. Until now, that is. Having already by that time fulfilled another ambition or two, i.e. dumping the wife and brats for a couple of days, and secondly having climbed the hill opposite Corfe Castle to take a picture of it, I decided to go for the hat trick and nip along the coast to the aforementioned subject of schoolboy interest. I got there with only a couple of wrong turns (must take a map next time!) and clambered up the stony shoreline just in time to see the sun disappear behind a cloud and stay there! Oh well, you can't have everything!

Any accounts of your photo-trips will be welcomed by your clubmates. If you would like to share your experiences, please let me have a few lines.

Not everything you see makes sense in Black and White

To paraphrase the advert for a well known Irish brew!

For a long time now I have been a confirmed addict of Black and White photography. You know, the stuff proper photographers use to take real pictures of world class importance. This of course is not news, not like me actually producing a print that other people admire, now then that would be news, but I digress.

Just lately I have found myself edging bit by bit up to the slide shelf in the local film selling emporium and thence loading up the good old trusty Pentax with.....colour film!

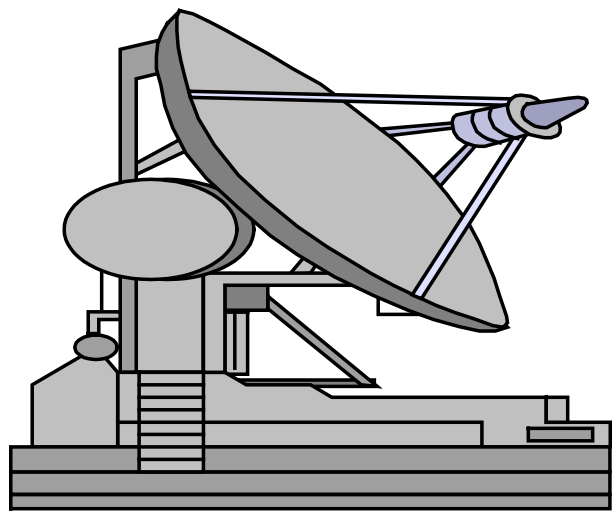
And very nice it has been too. I don't know if I am beginning to lose the knack or whatever you call it of "seeing" in black and white, or whether I have some irrepressible urge to do it in colour, as you might say, but no matter what caused it, I have been more pleased with my colour work than my black and white lately, and have indeed been quite disappointed with my black and white stuff.



I can't help wondering publicly as it were why we have these swings from one form to another, one medium to another in our search for artistic fulfilment. What do you all think? Any offers?

Answers on the back of ten pound notes please, or alternatively on post-it notes stuck to bottles of Guinness!

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HOW TO SNAP THE COMET

I thought that at this point I would show you a wonderful shot of that famous Hale-Bopp comet which passed us by on it's way to nowhere.

Unfortunately, I failed. All I got was a sort of streak, so I thought I would make up for this with a clip-art picture to represent Jodrell Bank.

If we're still here next time it comes our way, then maybe....

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## 1997/98 PROGRAMME

Work is progressing on next season's programme, but there are still some dates which refuse to be filled, so it's not too late to come up with ideas for forthcoming entertainment. So if you have any suggestions, let me have 'em.

### 1997 Programme Change

**Due to those very busy things "Circumstances" a slight shuffle has been required in May's schedule. The AGM is now on 1 May, and the Annual Dinner is on 8 May.**

**BRING AND BUY SALE - - -  
15 MAY**

This much loved event will soon be with us once again, so delve into your cupboards and attics for those pieces of junk, sorry, photographic oddities, to sell to each other on this night of frivolity and rip off.

And try to bring some money on the night. Don't forget the Club coffers need the occasional boost so be generous. But don't forget also that there might be some genuine bargains as well.

## SUMMER PROGRAMME

20 May is the date for this crucial event. In previous years some good evenings have been had, and we are always looking for somewhere interesting to go.

So let's all get our thinking caps on early and come up with some ideas for where to go.

And if there happens to be a pub nearby, so much the better!

## RESULTS '97

The year's results for the print and slide leagues will be issued on a separate sheet which young Keith will provide me with once again.

### THANKS ALL ROUND

*It has come to that time of year when we should offer a vote of thanks to those who keep the club ticking over:-*

*Gillian for the social do's, Keith for the competitions and results, Brian for looking after the funds, and Mike for another fine spell as President.*

*But I could list us all at this rate. Well done, folks.*

## Nature Lovers

This is not really a plug for nudist beaches, as some of our members who went to Swanage might guess, but more a report on something of interest to those who like Ornithology - you know, birds.

On a trip at Easter to the Lake District I came across an RSPB place called Leighton Moss, and I thought a few words might not go amiss.

This place is a sanctuary on the Morecambe Bay coast where a variety of species may be watched and photographed in relative luxury from the well maintained hides, some with wheelchair access.

A longish lens is called for to get close ups (I was using a 500mm + 2x) but the birdies were just queuing up to have portraits done.

There is a little shop which can let you have a map of where the hides are as they are a little spread out, but they are all approachable along good paths and some are quite close to the car parks.

If you're up that way I can recommend a visit.



No D.I. column this month, but I hope you enjoy this photo of a flamingo and young

BCC News is produced by Peter Malcolm for the Basingstoke Camera Club. Any and all offers of articles will be published, also any advertisements members wish to announce. Contributions are always welcome either written, typed or on computer disc (PC HD discs).

Small scale Publishing services are also offered at nominal rates, all takings to club funds.

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