



Basingstoke
Camera Club

OCTOBER 2011

Programme Dates

6th Fred Adnams
British Nature

13th John Wells

20th Practical evening
(Bring lights, subjects)

27th Print League

Last chance

The Club Exhibition at
the Willis Museum
finishes Sat 8th.

Welcome

To more new
members. Welcome
Graeme, Phil, and
Lynne.

On flickr



Glass in Glass
by
Suzette Landau

BCC News No. 157

A New Season

The new season started with the regular Print and Digital Image of the Year competition. This year's judge was Tony Mearman, who took on the difficult challenge of picking the 'best of the best', and provided an interesting and thoughtful analysis. Congratulations to Keith Longman (Print of the Year) and Rob Stephen (Digital Image of the Year). The full results are available on the web site.

The first round of the Digital League competition was also held, judged by Alan Cook. People commented on the wide range of images and subjects, which made for an interesting evening. It was also pleasing to see a number of new members entering, and acquitting themselves well, with several respectable scores.

Scores for Round 1 are included as the last page of this newsletter.

Committee Report

A committee meeting was held on 26th September. Here are some notes on the main items discussed. If you have any questions or comments, contact any committee member.

Open Exhibition. This year the exhibition will be part of the BPE (British Photographic Exhibitions) list. This should bring more interest in the exhibition, but also makes organizing it more work. A sub-committee was formed to help Steve Bright with organizing the exhibition.

Digital Image competition entries. Rob is still receiving images which are wrongly sized and /or named. It

was decided that Rob should return such images to the member concerned for correction and resubmission.

(Don't forget there is a programme you can download from the web site that will do the job for you).

Suggestion box. A suggestion box is to be provided at meetings to provide members another channel for raising issues and making suggestions for improvements to the club. Any suggestions will be discussed at the next committee meeting.

Competition winners on the web site. It is intended to add the top-scoring DI competition entries to a gallery on the web site.

Further developments to the web site were discussed. A member's area, and online submission of competition entries, were items to be looked into further.

Replacement of the current projector screen is being investigated. Also, the possibility of a obtaining a small PA system for the hall is also being looked at.

Print boxes

The Southern Fed are putting in a bulk order for Nomad Print Boxes (the tough black boxes people use for carrying around sets of mounted prints). Closing date for ordering is 22nd October.

For more details about prices and how to order, see the Southern Fed web site:
<http://www.southernfed.org.uk/printboxes.htm>

Newsletters

Currently there is a monthly newsletter (this one) available in printed form at club nights during the season. It is also available on the web site for those happy to read it online. Then there is a monthly E-News that comes in the middle of the month. It feels to me that that's probably more news than people want (or I can regularly fill with something worth reading).

I'm interested in people's views on this:

1. How often do you want a newsletter?
2. How important is having a printed newsletter?
3. If you want at least the current frequency, what do you want to see (and are you willing to contribute)?

Please send any comments by email, or catch me on any club night.

Nigel Norris

newseditor@basingstokecameracub.co.uk



Pigeon propaganda

Rob Stephen sent in this charming picture of a very maternal pigeon. Now I have to confess pigeons are not my favourite birds. They stomp around the garden like they own the place, terrorise the small birds (and run away from anything their own size), tear up my plants to build their nests, and jump up and down on my television aerial. So, I suspect this is a pure piece of propaganda by the pigeon's PR company, but I still couldn't resist including it.

SPF Selections

Congratulations to members who have had work selected by the Southern Fed to represent the region in the Inter-Federation PDI competition.

Stuart Minte, Louvre

Keith Polwin ARPS,
Young Swallows

Practical Evening

We have a Practical Evening on the 20th October. To make this work we rely on people to bring along lighting set-ups and things to photograph. So do think about whether you can bring something along. And of course do bring your cameras.

Digital competition entries

A reminder: Maximum 1400 pixel wide by 1050 pixels high. Email entries should be sent to: digitalcomps@basingstokecameracub.co.uk

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create

Out of the comfort zone



I don't do butterflies. Landscape is more my thing. So the Summer Programme outings to photograph butterflies and other insects had me well out of my comfort zone.

After a few minutes wandering around looking at a patch of grass wondering why I was there, some kind soul took pity on me and showed me that there really were various subjects lurking in the grass if you just looked hard enough. Lesson one - learn how to look.

Having found my subject, and fitted my rather under-utilised macro lens, I set up my camera on a tripod as I usually do so I can work on the composition. Now getting the camera set in portrait mode about six inches above the ground using a big landscape tripod and head was an 'interesting' experience. I've subsequently acquired a short centre column that makes things a bit easier, and an L-bracket is also under consideration. Meantime, the subject had flown

away. Lesson two- take a shot first, then think about a tripod.

Finally, I get to take a shot. Aperture priority as usual - I want a nice soft background, so let's say f5.6? Ok, that's a nice soft background. And a nice soft foreground. And a nice soft subject. Is there anything in focus? Oh, yes - there's a couple of hairs there that might possibly be sharp.

No point putting that in for a competition - I can hear the judge's refrain already - 'It's not sharp enough!' So, what aperture do I need? At my usual f8, and a magnification of 0.5, the depth-of-field is 2.5mm. What? That's less than the thickness of a pound coin! So I need to fit this butterfly into a 2.5mm deep volume, perpendicular to the lens - and that's assuming there's no field curvature in the lens. That reduces the composition options a bit. Is it considered ethical to flatten the butterfly in a book and glue it back onto the plant? Lesson three - you never have enough DOF.

Now I've stopped down to f32, and I'll not worry about diffraction effects. Next shot - everything is still fuzzy. Well - that was 0.5 sec, and the piece of grass with the attached butterfly is waving about in the breeze. What did you expect? Now where's the ISO setting on the camera? How high can I go? ISO 1600 still seems to be acceptable, but still barely enough light. Lesson four - if it's

late enough for the butterflies to settle down and be co-operative subjects, there's not enough light.

Finally I have a working exposure set-up. But now I can't get focus - the lens keeps hunting and picking up the wrong thing to focus on. I've never had to really understand the focussing system on my D300s - landscapes are easy subjects. So back home I study the focussing chapter in my *byThom Guide* (as an aside for you Nikon shooters, if you don't know about Thom Hogan, you should - check his site out <http://bythom.com>). I end up completely rethinking my default focussing set up. Lesson five - understand your camera.

After three evenings shooting, and lots of failures, I end up with a couple of shots that might just be good enough to enter into the Fred Adnams competition without feeling too embarrassed. But I don't think the nature shooters in the club have too much to worry about, and I've come away with an increased respect for the quality of the wildlife work we see on club evenings.

I've also learned a lot from getting out of my comfort zone. We all have particular styles of photography that we pursue, but there is a lot to be gained from going out and trying something completely different once in a while.

Nigel Norris



10% Off offer for members on Vanguard Skyborne backpacks.
Code: SKYBORNE-BCC www.picstop.co.uk

Digital League Round 1						
Name	Title	Score	Name	Title	Score	
A			B			
Brenda Taylor	MallardBabies	10	leena roy	anemone fish	10	
Val Rose	Robyn and son	10	Ann Fryer	Watching	9.5	
Rob Stephen	Peacock Tree Frog	10	Len Osborn	On the Beach	9.5	
Zaid Meherali	End of an Era	10	Dave Cole	Butterfly at window	9.5	
Nigel Norris	A girl's best friend	10	Dave Cole	Poppy	9	
Derek Murrells	Groynes	9.5	Phil Stock	Decanter	9	
Derek Murrells	Winter Tree	9.5	Andrew Summersgill	Time and Relative Reflect	9	
JOC	Sealed Knot	9.5	Stewart Lacey	Queen Mary Promenade Deck	9	
Keith Polwin	Puffin With Sandeels	9.5	Amy West	Butterfly with eggs	9	
Phil Davis	Lone tree Hackwood	9.5	Andrew Summersgill	Blue Moon	9	
Mike Farrow	Fire Exit	9.5	Mike Purt	Reflection	8.5	
Cath Farrow	Lily	9	Brenda Hooper	Helibore	8	
Phil Davis	Daisies	9	Ken Lane	Fungi-	8	
Cath Farrow	Water Drops	9	gbaker	daybreakwaterhole	8	
Lin Osborn	The Windmill	9	Robin White	Castle	8	
Keith Longman	Pelican in flight	9	lorraine milford	Britannia	8	
WV	Mum & Babe	9	Ken Lane	Blooms	8	
JOC	Flower power	9	John Beesley	Salisbury Water Meadow	8	
Len Quinn	HCTAlan	8.5	leena roy	poppy field	8	
Brenda Taylor	Dancer2	8.5	Amy West	Looking out to sea	8	
Dean Bostock	Apple	8.5	Stewart Lacey	Getty Center	8	
Shaun Davis	Going Going Gone	8.5	Suzette Landau	Nature	8	
Brian Chivers	Glen Affric	8.5	Ann Fryer	Thirsty	7.5	
Dean Bostock	Blackpool Tower	8.5	Phil Stock	owl	7.5	
Nigel Norris	A nice walk on the beach	8.5	Robin White	Chain	7.5	
Keith Polwin	White faced Whistling Duck	8	Gina Stead	The Pier	7.5	
Brian Chivers	Test in Winter	8	John Beesley	Odiham Castle	7.5	
Shaun Davis	Plasma Eclipse	8	Brenda Hooper	Malden Quay	7.5	
Lin Osborn	On Duty	8	Mike Purt	Let Me Out	7.5	
Keith Longman	Loving Sunset	8	Paul Crane	Harbour Light	7.5	
WV	Lace making	8	Ed Juon	Greek Odyssey	7.5	
Zaid Meherali	Her Majesty's Ship	8	Ed Juon	Generation Gap	7.5	
Len Quinn	HCTPoppy Dreams	8	Suzette Landau	Fire Buckets	7.5	
Val Rose	Goose	7.5	Gina Stead	Canal bridge	7.5	
Mike Farrow	Yellow kayak	7.5	Paul Crane	Autumn Berries	7.5	
			Len Osborn	Amafi Coast	7.5	

A				B			
Derek Murrells	9.5	9.5	19	Dave Cole	9.5	9	18.5
Brenda Taylor	10	8.5	18.5	Leena Roy	10	8	18
Nigel Norris	10	8.5	18.5	Andrew Summersgill	9	9	18
John O'Carroll	9.5	9	18.5	Ann Fryer	9.5	7.5	17
Phil Davis	9.5	9	18.5	Len Osborn	9.5	7.5	17
Zaid Meherali	10	8	18	Stewart Lacey	9	8	17
Cath Farrow	9	9	18	Amy West	9	8	17
Val Rose	10	7.5	17.5	Phil Stock	9	7.5	16.5
Keith Polwin	9.5	8	17.5	Mike Purt	8.5	7.5	16
Mike Farrow	9.5	7.5	17	Ken Lane	8	8	16
Lin Osborn	9	8	17	Brenda Hooper	8	7.5	15.5
Keith Longman	9	8	17	Robin White	8	7.5	15.5
Wyn Voysey	9	8	17	John Beesley	8	7.5	15.5
Dean Bostock	8.5	8.5	17	Suzette Landau	8	7.5	15.5
Len Quinn	8.5	8	16.5	Paul Crane	7.5	7.5	15
Shaun Davis	8.5	8	16.5	Ed Juon	7.5	7.5	15
Brian Chivers	8.5	8	16.5	Gina Stead	7.5	7.5	15
Rob Stephen	10	0	10	Glynis Baker	8	0	8
				Lorraine Milford	8	0	8