



Basingstoke
Camera Club

DECEMBER 2011

Programme Dates

8th Presidents Evening

15th Christmas Dinner

January

5th SPF Digital

12th Paul Foley FRPS

BCC News No. 159

Congratulations

'L' plates

Congratulations to Ken Lane who recently gained a Licentiate'ship Distinction from the Royal Photographic Society.

Well done, Ken.

PAGB Exhibition

Well done to Keith Polwin, who had his image 'Young Swallows' accepted for the PAGB Annual Projected Image Exhibition.

Despite Keith's best efforts, the Southern Fed only came 12th out of 15 regions.

Webmaster Notes

Front page images

As you may have noticed, the images on the front page of the website, as well as the Welcome page, now change on a regular basis. I select a set of images from those in the competitions gallery, and from member's galleries. So, if you'd like to see your image on the website front page, you need to get them in one of the galleries.

Incidentally, for those who mostly use portrait format, I'm not using those at the moment due to the layout of the pages – portrait format doesn't work so well, I'm afraid. I hope to do something about this at some point.

Details for how to submit images to the galleries can be found on the website (see the Gallery menu).

Exhibition reviews

World Press Photo

Royal Festival Hall, London

Photojournalism is, in my view, the supreme form of photography – everything else is merely adding pictorial footnotes.

World Press Photo is an organization that supports photojournalism, in particular by organising an annual exhibition of the best international work. Each year the exhibition turns up at the Festival Hall, and I usually manage a visit.

This year's exhibition presents a rather bleak view of the world – wars, natural disasters, and the general cruelty of humankind figure large. There are not many feel-good images, however the exhibition is, as always, thought provoking and well worth a visit.

Two images that caught my attention were:



Haiti Aftermath - Riccardo Venturi



Cello player - Andrew McConnell

(click thumbnails to see images)

Unfortunately the exhibition has now moved on, but the images are all available on the World Press Photo [website](#)

Shaped by War

Photographs by Don McCullin

[Imperial War Museum](#), London
to 15th April



If photojournalism is the supreme form of photography, Don McCullin is one of its supreme exponents.

This is the second time I've seen this exhibition – I saw it in Bath last year. It made such an impression then that when it arrived in London I had to see it again.

The exhibition is both a retrospective of McCullin's work, and also something of an autobiography, tracing his career from his first break photographing the gangs in his East London neighbourhood, through the various wars and conflicts he has covered, to his most recent landscape and still-life work.

The exhibition included a very interesting and revealing filmed interview with McCullin which is well worth the 30 minutes run-time.

There is a certain incongruity in viewing these beautifully-crafted images of violence and death. One admires the abstract image, and is repelled by the content. For me, this only makes the effect more powerful.

I challenge anyone to see this exhibition and not have their mind at least slightly adjusted. Highly recommended.

Nigel Norris

Feedback

I'm always happy to get responses to articles, or items that you think may be of interest to members. Just drop me an email – informal comments, or a 'letter to the editor'.

Titles

I had a few responses to the titles article. Most people joined me on the fence – it's getting a bit crowded up here.

One comment was against the use of titles, based on experiences from another club. Nobody came out outright in favour.

A couple of people noted that if we did want to try it out, we could do it on one competition, and that it would be much easier to implement for the digital competitions.

Will Cheung

I thought it was an excellent evening – worth doing something like this next year?

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Here comes the Judge

It seems that, on competition evenings, the Health and Safety announcements should not only point out the fire exits, but should also indicate the nearest A&E department that has facilities for treating bruised egos.

After some recent competition rounds there have been a few of us come away feeling a little aggrieved. The judge just didn't 'get' the picture, or didn't like the wonderful composition, or hadn't read the rules, or was in need of new glasses.

Now I have an excuse - I only joined the club last year, and had no experience of putting my work up for public criticism. However what surprises me is that even long-standing members, who must be used to getting their work criticised, find the experience upsetting.

I guess most of us put a fair bit of effort into creating the images and prints that go into the competition, and come in with high hopes. Having those hopes dashed, and what you thought was a good image taken apart is difficult to take.

Why do we do it? It seems to me that an important skill to develop in improving one's photography is being able to assess and criticise images, especially your own. Competitions give you a chance to get direct feedback on your own

image, and also hear the judge's comments on the other entries.

If you can see the strengths and weaknesses in your own pictures, you then know what you need to do to improve them.

But what happens when the judge gets it wrong? Judges are only human, and sometimes just don't see the image the way it should be seen. Having had this happen to me a few times, I've now come to a rather unpalatable conclusion: the Judge is always right.

Yes, it's an unpleasant thought, but, unfortunately, it's true. The judge is generally a proficient photographer who has a lot of experience assessing images. We give the judge a minute or so to look at image, and ask for his or her opinion. What you get is just that – it's the way one person sees your image. It can't be wrong – that is the way they see it.

Some people yearn for an objective standard in judging, but no such thing exists. There are a few aspects of an image that can be judged in an objective way, such as focus. 'Is it sharp?' is the desperate cry of a drowning judge clinging to the only fragment of objectivity that they can find. However even focus rapidly becomes subjective when considering which parts of the image need to be sharp.

So the real challenge, when you and the judge disagree, is to decide whose opinion to accept.

Having been put into this position a few times, I think this conflict is the most valuable thing that can come out of the judging process. It forces you to think about how other people will see your image, and what you are trying to achieve in your photographs.

As criticism is painful, should judges only say nice constructive things about your pictures? No – a judge should tell it as he or she sees it. You probably already know the good bits of your image, and it's nice to have that confirmed, but telling you about the faults you didn't notice is more valuable.

The good judges adopt a technique named after a certain sort of sandwich, which I'll refrain from naming, this being a family publication. Start with some positive comments, slip in the negative bits, and then finish with more positives. The best judges even tell you how you might fix the problems, but this is asking a lot in the limited time available.

A final thought about judges – these are people who volunteer their time just for the love of photography, who receive no reward, and are essential to make our competition programme work. Be nice to judges (even if it is through gritted teeth).

Nigel Norris



Offers

If you have any photographic items you want to dispose of, whether for sale or for free, I'll be happy to include them in the newsletter. Just drop me an email.

Epson Scanner Nikon-fit 70-300 lens

Epson Perfection 1650 Photo scanner along with software and slide/film accessories.

Perfect mint condition/little used

This scanner is compatible with 32 bit computer and I now have a new 64 bit system, so longer able to use it.

Am happy for a donation to be made to the club in return for this scanner

Nikon fit- Sigma 70-300 1:4-5.6 APO lens

Fitted with a UV filter from new, little used and in excellent condition – with case (not boxed)

Am happy for a donation to be made to the club in return for this lens

Contact Suzette Landau

01256 350504 or

suzette@irlam8192.freereserve.co.uk

A3+ Canon printer

A3+ Canon Pixma Pro printer
£45

Contact Graham Marks

Email:

thefoxgloves@hotmail.com

Canon EOS 450D

For Sale:

Canon EOS 450D camera plus kit 18 - 55 lens, spare battery, software and cables

£250 00

Contact Cath Farrow

cafarrow@dsl.pipex.com

Notices

Stuff that may be of interest.

Advanced Photographer Magazine

The latest issue of the UK Camera Clubs [newsletter](#) includes an offer on Advanced Photographer Magazine, which is Will Cheung's magazine.

A better offer (19p cheaper) is also available on the Advanced Photographer [website](#) till 13th December.

Training

We have received a circular from a new Photography Gallery & Photography training [school](#) in Lacock, Wiltshire.

They are offering a 10% discount to club members on training courses.

Help – negative scanning

Someone contacted the club seeking advice on scanning some old WW1 negatives (larger than 35 mm). Taping to a window and re-photographing was one suggestion – if anyone's got a better solution please contact Pete Malcolm.

PAGB News

PAGB (the Photographic Alliance of Great Britain) is the umbrella body for UK Camera Clubs. We are affiliated to PAGB via the Southern Federation.

PAGB produces a regular newsletter that you can subscribe to [here](#).

In the current [issue](#):

- 2 Awards for Photographic Merit – November 2012
- 3 Awards for Photographic Merit – Audio Visual
- 4/5 Breach of Rules
- 6 Notices
- 7 Fotospeed Advert
- 8 Take a View Landscape Winner
- 9 Illustrations & Advert

Also note this Harman Best of Britain competition. There is a great prize and, so far, very few entries ! (Closes 31st Dec)

<http://harmanexpress.com/page/91/PAGB-Competition-2011.htm>

Digital League Round 2					
Name	Title	Score	Name	Title	Score
A			B		
Nigel Norris	Takeoff!	10	Lorraine Milford	Mykonos cat	10
Brian Chivers	Memories	10	Suzette Landau	Kimmeridge	9
Zaid Meherali	Swiss Cross	10	Graeme Antrobus	Lossiemouth East Beach	9
StuartBoyd	Seal and pup kissing	10	Andrew Summersgill	Heat of Battle	9
Cath Farrow	Pusatilla 2	10	Gina Stead	Triumph	8.5
Derek Murrells	Kimmeridge Sunset	10	Stewart Lacey	Tenaya Lake	8.5
Peter Malcolm	Walking-Past-Autumn-Trees	9.5	Ken Lane	Damselfly	8
Graham Marks	Red kite	9.5	Graeme Antrobus	conker#1	8
JOC	flower power 1	9.5	ann fryer	st michals mount	8
Brenda Taylor	Spray2	9	Susie Scott-Wakeling	Kew Waterlily	8
Nigel Norris	Sentinal	9	Ken Lane	High Wind	8
Peter Malcolm	Main-Line-Signals-at-Dusk	9	robinwhite	Blown away	8
Ernest Bow	Kitty	9	Suzette Landau	Thistle	7.5
Dean Bostock	Eagle	9	TBaker	DurDoor3	7.5
Mike Farrow	Southern Hawker	9	Phil Stock	Brothrs	7.5
John Buttress	Rasta Smile	9	John Beesley	Autumn	7.5
Derek Murrells	Autumn Falls	9	Gina Stead	Swanage High Street	7.5
Peter Malcolm	Swans	8.5	leena roy	poppies at sunset	7.5
Brenda Taylor	FountainsAbbey	8.5	leena roy	leaf reflections	7.5
Dean Bostock	Well worn shoes	8.5	ann fryer	snow	7
StuartBoyd	Pyramidal Orchid-2	8.5	Glynis Baker	LolworthtoDDoor	7
Shaun Davis	Penarth Pier	8.5	Colin Austin	Exotic	7
JOC	Grasses in Lavender	8.5	TBaker	DurDoor2	7
Mike Farrow	Gornergrat Panorama	8.5	lorraine milford	Your job for today is	7
John Buttress	Evening at Porth Towyn	8.5	Colin Austin	Thai Flower	7
Phil Davis	Backlit trees	8.5	Stewart Lacey	Swanage Pier	7
WV	Winter	8	Liz Maple	Kruger sunrise	7
Graham Marks	Roundhead	8	Graeme Antrobus	Kimmeridge Bay#1	7
Val Rose	Gift	8	Colin Austin	Hanging around	7
JIM HILL	CHAFFINCHES	8	Liz Maple	Elephant feet	7
Graham Marks	Water Vole	8	Dave Cole	Ropley	6.5
Shaun Davis	Rusty Hulk	8	Colin Austin	Mauritian Sunset	6.5
Phil Davis	Flower shadows	8	robinwhite	Canadian sky	6.5
JIM HILL	ST PAULS TENT	7.5	Phil Stock	Rhonda	6
Cath Farrow	Rock Pattern 2	7.5	Glynis Baker	lolcovetoDDoor	6
Zaid Meherali	In The Door	7.5	Andrew Summersgill	Darkness	6
John Buttress	Grass Seed Head	7.5	Mke Purt	St Marys Oakley	6
WV	Eastbourne Pier	7.5	Dave Cole	Painted Lady	6
Val Rose	Squirrel	7	Liz Maple	Dark rose	5.5
Keith Polwin	Seven Sisters Rocks	7	Mike Purt	Bulls Bushes	5.5
Keith Polwin	Red Deer Stag	7	John Beesley	Lake Fishermen	5
Ernest Bow	Golden leaf	7			
Brian Chivers	Eve 10	7			
Peter Malcolm	Orchid	6.5			
Ernest Bow	Jerry	6			
StuartBoyd	Bugs-in-bed	6			
Ernest Bow	A Duck's Home	6			

Digital League Round 2					
Name	Rnd1	Rnd1	Rnd2	Rnd2	Total
A					
Derek Murrells	9.5	9.5	10	9	38
Nigel Norris	10	8.5	10	9	37.5
John O'Carroll	9.5	9	9.5	8.5	36.5
Brenda Taylor	10	8.5	9	8.5	36
Zaid Meherali	10	8	10	7.5	35.5
Cath Farrow	9	9	10	7.5	35.5
Phil Davis	9.5	9	8.5	8	35
Mike Farrow	9.5	7.5	9	8.5	34.5
Dean Bostock	8.5	8.5	9	8.5	34.5
Brian Chivers	8.5	8	10	7	33.5
Peter Malcolm	9.5	9	8.5	6.5	33.5
Shaun Davis	8.5	8	8.5	8	33
Val Rose	10	7.5	8	7	32.5
Wyn Voysey	9	8	8	7.5	32.5
Keith Polwin	9.5	8	7	7	31.5
Ernest Bow	9	7	6	6	28
Graham Marks	9.5	8	8		25.5
John Buttress	9	8.5	7.5		25
Stuart Boyd	10	8.5	6		24.5
Lin Osborn	9	8			17
Keith Longman	9	8			17
Len Quinn	8.5	8			16.5
Jim Hill			8	7.5	15.5
Rob Stephen	10				10

Name	Rnd1	Rnd1	Rnd2	Rnd2	Total
B					
Leena Roy	10	8	7.5	7.5	33
Andrew Summersgill	9	9	9	6	33
Stewart Lacey	9	8	8.5	7	32.5
Ann Fryer	9.5	7.5	8	7	32
Ken Lane	8	8	8	8	32
Suzette Landau	8	7.5	9	7.5	32
Dave Cole	9.5	9	6.5	6	31
Gina Stead	7.5	7.5	8.5	7.5	31
Phil Stock	9	7.5	7.5	6	30
Robin White	8	7.5	8	6.5	30
John Beesley	8	7.5	7.5	5	28
Mike Purt	8.5	7.5	6	5.5	27.5
Colin Austin	7	7	7	6.5	27.5
Lorraine Milford	8	10	7		25
Graeme Antrobus	9	8	7		24
Glynis Baker	8		7	6	21
Liz Maple	7	7	5.5		19.5
Len Osborn	9.5	7.5			17
Amy West	9	8			17
Brenda Hooper	8	7.5			15.5
Paul Crane	7.5	7.5			15
Ed Juon	7.5	7.5			15
Tony Baker			7.5	7	14.5
Susie Scott-Wakeling			8		8