



Spring Newsletter

April 2012

From the President

Small Mammals Workshop -

Harvest mice, polecats, water voles, foxes, otters and Scottish wild cats were amongst the models booked in for a day at The Westcountry Wildlife Photography Centre at Broadwoodwidge. Even though the weather was not too kind (an understatement) eleven of our members had an enjoyable day, and all came away realising just how difficult



wildlife photography is. Their efforts will surely be finding their way into critique nights and

future competitions. The images show an otter showing off, and a very active harvest mouse. The only reluctant model of the day was a huge hedgehog who, after lengthy massage, would not completely emerge from his ball!



Well Done Tim & Peter!

Club members, Tim Schofield and Peter Hayes, have had pictures accepted for the RPS 155th International Print Competition. 2800 prints were submitted from 747 photographers and from this

entry 123 were selected for exhibition (from 105 photographers). The competition, organised by The Royal Photographic Society, is sponsored for the fifth year by international legal practice Allen & Overy LLP, which provides monetary awards and supports the opening evening of the Exhibition at their Bishop's Square premises in the City of London in July 2012.

The exhibition tour dates will be announced in due course

Nikon Roadshow - An Introduction to DSLR Video - The Royal Photographic Society has invited Nikon to present their Roadshow on Tuesday 19th June at The Dolphin Hotel, Bovey Tracey. 10.30 am - 2.00 pm. Free for RPS Members and £3 for non-members. This roadshow is not only for Nikon owners but will be of interest to anyone who wants to use their DSLR's HD video facility. You must book your place via email with Jenny Leathes, Regional Organiser - jennyleathes@btinternet.com .

RPS Distinctions - Huge congratulations to Alan Bastin and Colin Yelland who gained their LRPS Distinctions on the 18th April. Well done.

HDR Enthusiasts - For those of you passionate about HDR photography the following are must-haves:

Toad Hollow Photography - This is the place to get tips and tutorials, along with news and free guides. Visit <http://toadhollowphoto.com.about> and subscribe to their free newsletter.

Pro HDR App for iPad - Automatically create stunning full-resolution HDR images with just a single tap. Beautiful filters and frames and lets you add your own captions and all this for only £1.49.

Canon Msia for iPad - Just so Canon owners are not feeling left out this free app is a must for your all., allowing you to easily view the Canon cameras products info, promotion activities and workshops on your iPad.



Editor's Ramblings

After the annual general meeting our new president, Di, asked me to take over the editorship of the club's newsletter hence the change in its title. I joined the club less than a year ago fulfilling a long held ambition to get serious about my photography now that retirement has given me more time. New members tend to be more aware and first impressions should be remembered because they are important. I was fascinated to read, in Fran's final newsletter, how in six years the club had progressed from a membership of 20 to 140. My first impression of the club was of a vibrant group of enthusiasts managing a well run club. I had no idea that it had not always been thus. However, success can breed its own problems and the larger membership has made it more difficult to get to know people. True, Fran and Di wisely created a "New Members Group" before Christmas to help alleviate this problem but even at the Christmas party when I sat with three people who had joined last autumn two of them confided to me that they had nearly dropped out because they had found it difficult to integrate. We should not let that happen. So, how do we alleviate the problem? Not everybody has the confidence, on seeing a new face, to go up to them and say "Hi, my name's Brian. I haven't seen you here before" but it is not as difficult as it seems so try it next time you see a strange face. And don't be put off if you get the response "I've been a member for the last three years". At least you have tried and maybe they found it difficult to integrate too. I have found the table top evenings and the workshops a great way to get to know people too so we must ensure that new members are encouraged to attend these events.

That's enough of me rambling and I haven't mentioned photography yet so what else is going on in the club?



The Black White & Monochrome Group

Next meeting: Tuesday 24th April Cardinal Newman Centre at 7.30pm. Methods using software and techniques to improve your images to be demonstrated and discussed. Resizing landscape and portrait images for digi projection (Mark Haydon). Lightroom for PC and Apple and Aperture for Apple(Andrew Usher) - Silver FX (Peter Kilminster) - Calculations in Photoshop to convert to black and white images (Sandra Barrett). This is the only teaching session we will run this year for the BWM Group. Price £2.50 to attend for all our members.

Tuesday May 22nd final meeting before the summer break: Prepare three of your best images you would like to show in our October exhibition in the Cafe in Topsham - we only need one but then we can help you make a selection. If you have a theme but haven't decided on the image yet you have time and can show some of your ideas. Printing of images 12" x 8", 15" x 10", or 16" x 12" by you or DS Colour labs and mounting and framing for BWM images to be discussed. All to be with us by the end of September for October exhibition. Each member will have one print exhibited. This is the chance to showcase your work for the BWM Group!

Summer Project by Andy Billington, M00 Pa, has organised an innovative project, using instamatic cameras that are going down like hot cakes and even people who aren't members of the BWM group want to get a bit of the action. We have for a small price £2.00+ availability of these throw away cameras. To become more visually aware whilst involved in this project is the main aim, well one can always live in hope! Each one of these 27 shots cannot be revisited as once shot – no delete in camera action is available! This is not the world of digital as one also needs to know the restraints of one's instamatic camera. I like it!!! Andy insists - no to PS (Photoshop) and only - yes to PS for Pritt Stick. The presentation of images using Pritt Stick on a sheet of sugar paper or similar, ready for our first meeting on 25th September. I really like this dexterous derivation from the holy cow of Photoshop! We have 20+ people signed up already!!!

All summer we will go out and about taking pics on a weekly/fortnightly basis. Do all the festivals and meet as a group and have fun! Contact Sandra, Mark, Martin, Andrew, Charlie or anyone in the group for further info on a Thursday evening.

RPS

Twenty two members of the club have now been recognised by the Royal Photographic Society. They are:-

Fellow (FRPS): Lucilla Phelps, Peter Hayes.

Associate (ARPS): Ken Barrett, John Shipman, Mel McLoughlin.

Licentiate (LRPS): Di Wilkins, John Sanders, Robert Frost , Fran Taylor, Di Pell, Jane White, Pete Hendy, Phillip Arthur, Sue Smith, Martin Lovell, Sheila Haycox, Peter Anderson, Sandra Barrett, David Snowden, John Rose, Colin Yelland, Alan Bastin.

Congratulations to those who have newly joined these exalted ranks!

Mark Mumford Photoshop Workshop

There is just one place left on this half day workshop, to be held on the morning of Friday 18th May. For just £30 you can learn some of the technique of the man who is 'probably the best Digital Artist in Wales'. His work can be viewed

at http://web.me.com/markmumford1/Site_2/Welcome.html

For further information contact John Sanders. john@everardsanders.com

RPS Digit Group

From Sheila Haycox:

The RPS Western Centre run every three months a meeting which discuss and demonstrate ideas, tips and hints for Digital Software (usually Photoshop) in the morning and in the afternoon the members are invited to show some of their work. Non members of the RPS are allowed to attend, its £3 for Members of the RPS DIGIT Group and £5 for non members of the RPS and Digit Group. A light Lunch is available at a very low cost. So a good day out.

Please go to this link <http://www.rps.org/group/Western-Centre> for more information. They are always on a Sunday from 10 to 4 and its at Ilton, not far from Taunton.

Your new committee for 2012-2013

- President - Di Wilkins LRPS - dianawilkins15@hotmail.com
- Manager and Newsletter Editor- Brian Rees - brianjrees@me.com
- Vice President - Bryan Radford - bryan.radford@talk21.com
- Honorary Secretary - Graham Cooper - grahamscooper@aol.com
- Membership Secretary - Marija Lees - marijalees@blueyonder.co.uk
- Programme Secretary - John Sanders LRPS - john@everardsanders.com
- Treasurer - Peter Freeman - p.d.freeman@btinternet.com
- Competitions Secretary - Janet Unwin - kierjan@yahoo.co.uk
- Chief Projectionist - Russell Whelan - russell.whelan@gmail.com
- Hospitality - Jenny Phillips - mikeandjenny25@hotmail.com
- Members' Representative - Terry Ward - avensis_tw3@btinternet.com
- Members' Representative - Nigel Cheffers-Heard - su3264@eclipse.co.uk
- Members' Representative - Chaz Madge - chaz.photos@btinternet.com