

Crawley Camera Club Newsletter

We meet every Monday and Wednesday at 8 pm Hut 16, Tilgate Forest Recreation Centre

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July 2005

The Freedom of Choice

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In the past when I met new photographers, the questions which used to arise were simple, are you a colour worker? Or do you prefer monochrome? do you produce prints or slides?. Nowadays there seems to be a new dimension along with the added question which many traditional workers cringe at, do you use film or are you digital?

Personally I work with all media and materials, from the old Victorian processes up to modern day digital imaging techniques, to me they all have their good and bad points and to some it is purely a matter of choice and convenience.

There are also many new photographers who have never experienced the perils and pitfalls of conventional photography, which is probably a shame, so much can be learnt from disciplining oneself to only using one roll of film, correctly compose the image in the viewfinder, check your exposure, and then process according to the manufacturers instructions, the result is a roll of correctly exposed film ready for manipulation in the darkroom, be it print or slide.

The discipline of composition and framing the image on a third, filling the frame to achieve maximum impact with minimum cropping, this is something which digital photographers seem to have either forgotten or never knew about in the first place, they shoot away machine gun style with the latest love of their life, a large memory card and millions of pixels to do what?, they import the image on to the computer crop it, compose it, manipulate it and then throw half of the pixels in the bin.

If you are a staunch traditional worker to me you should shoot on conventional film and process you own negatives and prints having full control over the end result, however if all you do is take your pictures and then put them in to a lab to be printed, there is no reason that you could not take pictures digitally and have any high street outlet print them.

At the end of the day the choice is down to the individual with too much emphasis being placed on whether it's digital or conventional, surely the point of the exercise is the end result.

The image needs to be well constructed and exposed correctly, but most important regardless of what any one else says if you the photographer enjoy the picture then you have won!

Ed



Club Outings

Why are our members not interested in club outings?

Other clubs regularly have days, even weeks sometimes even going abroad. It wasn't so many years ago that our club could fill a mini bus with a dozen or so members and visit places like Snowdonia, The lake District, The North Yorkshire Moors and even Scotland for long weekends and sometimes weeks.

I think every one had a great time, I know I did!
Some of my memories of those outings:

The member who dropped his lens in to the lily pond at Kew gardens.

The time that Mike Syrett asked for early morning tea in bed at our B&B in North Wales and our host brought it in dressed in full riding gear including whip!!!. She did say she was just off to riding school, honestly.

Stalling a well loaded mini bus on the one in three bend of the Wrynose pass in the Lake District when we all had to get out and push the bus to get it started.

The snow ball fight we had on the last few square yards of snow on Mount Snowdon.

Mike Syrett - who could never get his horizons level taking our group picture when we all arranged to lean one way to compensate without telling Mike when he scampered back to get in the group photo, and not realising what we had done until he got his pictures back.

Happy days! so many stories. The bunch of flowers incident. The Chelsea bun affair, you could almost write a book about our outings. Maybe another time.....

By Roger Buckingham



Club Programme

I have taken over after the excellent job done by Roger. I have loads of ideas to develop the programme over the next couple of years. Yes we will still have:

- competitions (but some might be different from now)
- guest speakers
- education and training
- practical night
- probably a club trip or two next summer

In fact I will put together the sort of programme I would really like to see.

If you would like a different sort of programme you need to tell me, or you will get the programme I like. If you don't give me your ideas you can't moan about my programme.

So, please do two things

- steal any programmes you can find from other camera clubs you know about (it will give us ideas)
- tell me what you like , hate, want, will support

You can e mail me via the web, I will put a mailbox in the club so you can write ideas on the back of fag packets, beer mats, or even toilet rolls for all I care, or call me on my mobile 07768 658958

REMEMBER YOU CAN NOT COMPLAIN ABOUT THE PROGRAMME IF YOU DO NOT CONTRIBUTE YOUR IDEAS.

David Eastley

Notification of EGM 5th September 2005

This is early notification that there will be an Extra-ordinary General Meeting (EGM) of the Club on Monday 5th September 2005.

The new committee wishes to raise a number of topics including:-

- change to club competition rules to include digitally projected images
- changes to resolve problems associated with providing milk, making the tea and clearing rubbish on club nights
- looking after potential new members on their initial visits to the club
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Further details to follow.

Diary of a photographer 1

You don't know who I am, and I don't intend to tell you.

I belong to Crawley Camera Club.

I am going to reveal my photography activities for the next year in the club newsletter.

I will keep a diary and send Robin (what a great chap he is for doing the newsletter - you need to support him) each month a short summary of what I have been up to.

At the end of the year Robin will ask you to try to identify me - I am sure there will be a prize

MAY

Did 2 weddings, one in Crawley, one in Redhill. The first was grey and drizzle and a real pain for the group pictures. It went fairly well except one bridesmaid refused to be in any picture- took over 600 pictures and the couple were delighted (almost paid for the Canon 1Ds mark 2 now). The second wedding was an English chap and a Russian lady, the Russians came in force and were great fun, but my Russian is useless and their English was worse - what is the Russian for smile please Vic (You can send the answer to the next news letter). Pictures weren't bad but not as good as the first wedding. We limit ourselves to 5 or 6 each year, three more to go this year.

My wife is training for the Moonwalk (marathon done at night in London to raise money for breast cancer) so while she is training I have been allowed to do some photography, so went to Shoreham for two Sundays, at the same time and took a series of pictures from low to high tide - some will appear in competitions next year.

Finally in May I have been scanning some of the thousands of slides I have, I sell pictures via ALAMY stock picture library and send another 60 off at the end of the month.

I will tell you about June next time, but I am really looking forward to the AGM

Mr or Ms X

Useful Contacts

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