VIEWFINDER

STEYNING CAMERA CLUB Number 16



Skiddaw Ken Scott ARPS



Sail Beck Ken Scott ARPS

The Photo-Hunt

Every year in the summer, usually on a Sunday, members of Henfield and Steyning Camera Clubs meet at a designated location to take 'pictures'. We usually meet for a picnic lunch and then embark on an afternoon of' picture taking'. How does all this work? Well, the winner of the competition has to set the following year's competition; they choose the location and the photographic categories. I have been to Arundel, a Vintage Steam Rally and Paradise Park in Newhaven. After lunch you are given a list of 14 categories that you must take pictures of, the titles might be something like, 'rust', 'something floral', 'a reflection' or'something blue'. It is then up to you to interpret these titles as you see fit. There is a time limit given of usually 3 hours, obviously you have to take all your photos during this time and not sneak back a week later, that would be cheating!

You have your slides developed and then choose what you think are your best 12 categories (1 slide per category), these are then labelled and given to the organiser of the competition. In December the two clubs meet at the organisers' venue and the slides are shown and marked. The winner has to organise the next competition and receives a cup and the highest scorer from the other club also receives a cup. The competition evening is enjoyable, with refreshments, it is interesting to see how the titles have been interpreted and you recognise everything because you were there!

The marking process is carried out without mentioning names, only the letter you were given on the day (nobody knows who anyone else is) so if you are shy about your work no one will know which slides are yours (unless you win!!).

The showing of the slides this year took place on December 15th at Woodmancote Village Hall at 8.00p.m, and the winner from Henfield was Ian Betts, with Dave Sherwin winning our section closely followed by Steve and Jackie Brooks. Henfield always outnumber us by about 4 to 1, so please take part next year and help put on a good show from Steyning.

Jackie

Report on the Wakehurst Place Expedition

The weather gods gave us a rare dry day and even a few glimpses of the sun as we tackled the single use cameras we had all collected from Dave Sherwin in the Wakehurst car park. Many miles were walked during the course of the day and the resulting images were surprisingly good, as we all discovered at our Xmas social.

I think the day was a resounding success and that it should be planned into next seasons programme at some other interesting location.

If you agree, please let Steve know.

Encouraging Broader Horizons

So 2000 has come and gone. At the start of the year, I was looking forward to a number of high profile projects, and such has been their success, and ours, that I'd like to start the year by encouraging everyone to think about what you could achieve this year.

New Year's Resolutions are notorious for falling into murky water by the end of January, but now that our club is represented on a regional and national stage through the Southern Federation, the opportunities you all have to display your work to a much wider audience is so much bigger than ever before.

Did you know :

1. Everyone is eligible and openly encouraged to enter work for selection for the Regnum Print and Crouch slide competitions ? You stand a good chance of having work selected, but only if you put it forward.

2. Everyone can gain qualification points for the PAGB distinctions by entering pictures for the Southern Federation leagues and exhibitions. Unlike the RPS distinctions, which cost £68 per year for me as an individual to maintain, the PAGB distinctions are available to you as a club member. They are highly regarded and would be a major national recognition of the quality of your work. The CPAGB is described as a "good standard of club photography" and I know is within the capability of almost everyone here.

This year we have managed, just, to put out a full entry to every available competition and exhibition, but struggled in the end to find enough work. We are so often complimented by judges on the quality of competition pictures they see, that I find it difficult to understand why we don't see them all put forward for the bigger stage.

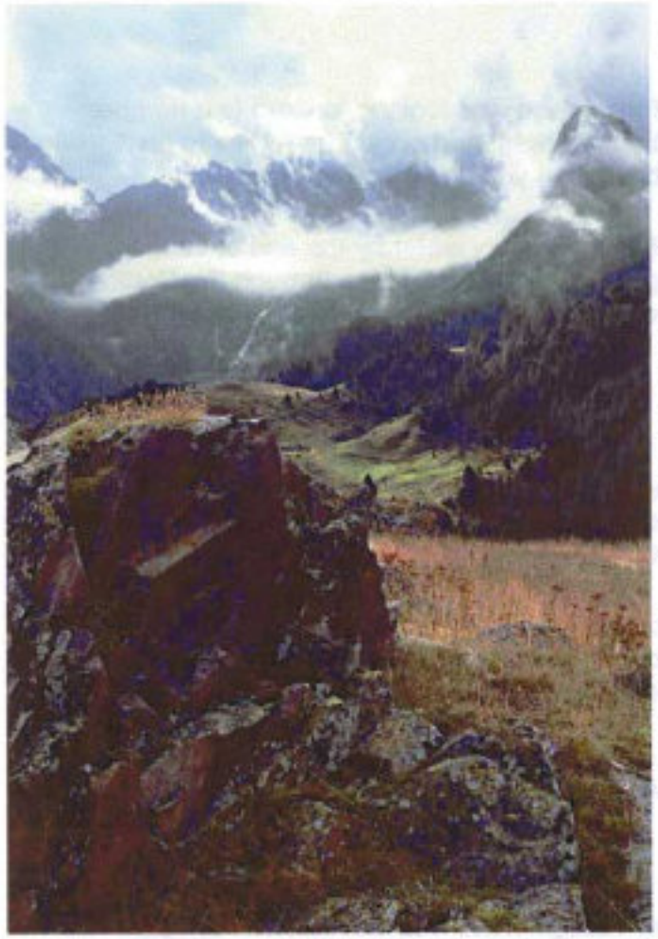
Please be really encouraged by our 4th place in the Regnum print. Please have a day out in Salisbury to see our work on regional display. Please come with us to see the league competition away from home. Please enter your excellent work for the Crouch slide and come and see what a major competition is all about.

You need not worry about feeling shown up. In fact, although Cliff and I did not have any slides accepted into the PAGB finals, Steyning was one of only about a dozen clubs in the whole region where anyone put material forward. The chances of success are much better than you would think.

So for this year, think ahead. What work are you really proud of ? What has got good marks (18+) in our competitions ? Put it forward at every opportunity. It won't always be selected, but one has to try. Who knows ? Any one of you could become a proud CPAGB if you put your minds to it, and our little club will certainly continue to make its name.

Hope you had a good Christmas and best wishes for the New Year to your and your families.

..... Ken Scott



The Steyning Bowl

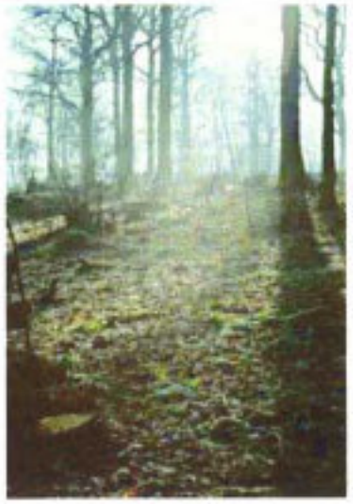
The two images on the front cover and also the two on this page are the four slides that won the Steyning Bowl for Ken Scott ARPS during last season.

I am really pleased to let you all know of Ken's success at the Southern Federation Annual Exhibition at Salisbury with his print titled "A Walk in the Rain", which was placed second overall. Incidentally, this was his first digital print from his new printer and hopefully many more will follow.

The exhibition is running until 27th January in the Salisbury Library Galleries and is well worth a visit. The library is located at the western end of the Market Square with normal library opening times.

Cloudlift Ken Scott ARPS ***Morning Dance***





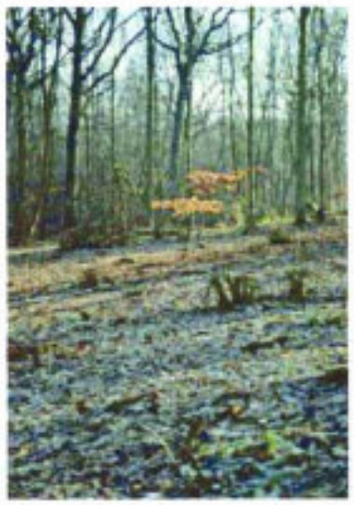
Nymans Woods



These are situated at Handcross on the Staplefield road, the B2114. Nymans is a National Trust property and access can be reached through the main gardens.

For non members there is a public footpath just before the main entrance to Nymans which takes you down to the woods. The wood itself is an ancient natural wood with some planted species.The wood is an ideal place for photography at any time of the year with colour from the wild daffodils in the early spring followed by primroses and bluebells and then on to the other summer flowers.

All the walks are well signposted. The remains of the old iron works can be seen and in what is called furnace field there are orchids and other field flowers, and in other places some of the rarer flowers and plants. In autumn fungi abound.



There is a large lake which used to be the water store for driving the smelting machinery and this is fed by smaller ponds which are fed by cascading streams. Wild life thrives in the wood with deer, badgers, foxes, kingfishers on the lake and several types of owl live there. An old cottage has a colony of bats that use it as a breeding and summer roost. The woods themselves are worth visiting several times a year.

John Mundy

KEN'S NEW WEBSITE

Those of you connected to the internet will be able to see Ken's work online as of early December on his new website "Touching the Light". Developed as a showcase for his own work, Ken wants to expand it to include a Steyning CC page, and it already has a page devoted to "Etched bright with sunlight".

Tune in to

http://www.touchingthelight.dial.pipex.com

Landscape - Top Ten Tips

I've often been asked whether I have a formula for the type of work I do in the mountains, and I have to concede that I don't, except to say that it is a very different approach to the majority of landscape advice offered in textbooks, and it is **"Guaranteed free of all artificial colours and special effects".** If a scene is lacking sufficient light or drama to make a fine image, then I leave it for another time - I certainly do not do what I have seen many photo magazines suggest and slap on a "grad-awfulcolour" filter. Natural light is so infinitely variable in quality and hue and atmosphere that it just seems completely unjust to me to do it any other way.

The list below is **my top ten tips** :-

1. **Photographing the light is like fishing**
   You learn about the right conditions for the fish, and then you patiently wait for it to bite. Sometimes, the damn thing just doesn't play. Think how cheating it feels to buy a fish on the way home.... ???

2. **Keep it simple**
   Photography is about three variables - controlling the intensity of the light (aperture), for how long you expose the film (shutter/film speed) and focus. Can you imagine having 27 custom functions to control bass, treble and volume on the hi-fi ? The best amplifiers don't even have bass and treble knobs. Think about it.

3. **Learn to see**
   Seeing is more than looking. The harder you look, sometimes the less you see. Seeing is about appreciation, connection, discovery. Let things come to you. And then learn to translate them to the 2d world of the frame of film. (I can feel I want to write more - watch this space).

4. **Make light the priority**
   Think light before thing. Things can be interesting in their own right. But light can transform the thing into a magnificent image. American climber/photographer Galen Rowell's approach to seeing fine light and then "searching for something earth-bound" has stuck with me ever since reading his magnificent book "Mountain Light" in 1987.

5. **Get passionate**
   If you're reading this and you are not a landscape person, then apply the ideas to your own passion. And if you are interested in photography but somewhat dissatisfied with your results, I'd lay a bet that you'd improve immediately by making photography an extension of something else you love to do.

6. **Get animated**
   Have you seen how fast light moves ? Some of my pictures were there for just a few

seconds. If you are not intuitive with the camera controls, you'll miss it. And you'll certainly cut down your chances of getting THE image if you're waiting with a tripod and the light happens somewhere else. Run around (though not on Crib Goch please!!), crouch down, become mad in your pursuit when it happens - then relax and enjoy.

7. **Plan**
   None of the above is any good if you are in the wrong place. Yes the advice in the textbooks about pre-planning is OK - look at the weather, think ahead, look for opportunities, **make your own luck.**

8. **Hand hold**
   Or use rocks or your rucksack or something squidgy on top of your ice-axe or a tree or anything. I have occasionally taken a mini-tripod to the hills on a solo trip where I have the time, but consider that all the waterfall images here were "hand-held" at down to 1/2 sec using natural props. Practice.

9. **Do your own thing**
   Bob Ross, the legendary "wet-on-wet, everybody can paint" man said that there is only one rule:- ,**"If it works for you ..... that's the rule."** Do it. Do it your way. Learn from looking at pictures rather than text books. Experiment. Challenge the judge. If you aim at quality and expression, you'll get there.

10. **Mountain light happens everywhere**
    If you **think** light, you will see it everywhere from the beach to the desert to the city, and right on your own doorstep. **Light is a state of mind.**

Forthcoming Events

18th January 2001 Southern Photographic Federation League
Round 3 Chichester C.C & Portsmouth C.C. at Chichester

Friday 2nd February — Digital Evening at Henfield C.C.
Don Mitchell and Sue Webb from Bognor will be leading the evening, come and see how it should be done!

6th February Southern Photographic Federation League
Round 4 Fareham and Porchester C.C. & Worthing P.S. at Fareham
Lifts will be available, please ask.

Films (Slide or Print)

I have a small stock of Fuji Slide and Fuji Print film rated at 400 ASA and 200 ASA. Unfortunately there has been a small price increase but we are still able to offer them at a considerable saving compared with most local outlets. I will take orders at club evenings or any other time. Just give me a call on 01903 813885. It is possible to obtain nearly all the well known brands of film at discount prices - not just Fuji. Kodak, Agfa, Konica and Polaroid are usually available!

Dave Sherwin

Competition Results Update

Lewis Cup, leader at the moment is Rex Peters with a maximum of 40 points, followed by Hilda Metcalfe and Cliff Carter on 39 points, Audrey Leazell and Ron Clay with 36 points.

The Steyning Bowl, Rex is leading again with a maximum of 60 points, Ken Scott with 58, Cliff with 57, Hilda 55, Dave Sherwin 54 and Roger with 53.

The Viewfinder Trophy, Maureen Rayment is top with 55 points, very closely followed by Audrey, Ron and Brenda de Voil with 53 points.

The Matanle Shield, another close battle. Cliff leads with 59 points, Rex and Roger with 58 and Derrick Smith with 51 points.

The Tony Knight Cup, joint leaders at the moment are Audrey and Derrick, with Maureen and Connie chasing, followed by Ann Cheesman.

As you can see all the competitions are really close and all depends on the final rounds.
I hope you are enjoying taking part and picking up some useful ideas as the season progresses.....Cliff.

A big thank you, to everybody, for the images and articles that have been submitted for this edition of Viewfinder.
Cliff