Late Winter 2004

VIEWFINDER



"No Steps" Ken Scott ARPS

Number 27

Forthcoming Events

27th March - Steyning Horticultural Club Spring Show
Please bring along a selection of your favourite prints from **9.30am** for hanging in the Coombe Court Hall.
Bring along all your friends to view our work, the exhibits at the Show and the arrangements by the Steyning Flower Club.
Public admitted to the main hall at **2pm.**

Saturday, 27th March - **1st SPF Semi-Final**

with Beaulieu and Petersfield clubs at Petersfield from **7.30pm**

14th April - "Jessops Camera Club Battle" in the Saxon Room with visiting clubs from Rottingdean, Seaford and Southwick.
Judge for the evening will be Gavin Beesley ARPS from Crawley

Steyning Camera Club News

A group of us visited Storrington Camera Club on Thursday, 18th March for a "Digital Exchange Evening" and during the meeting members from both Steyning and Storrington talked about and showed examples of their work.
I think the evening was informative and enjoyed by all attending, perhaps we can invite Storrington to visit us next season for a similar event.

Hi Ken H, Rex and Cliff
You are probably aware that the PAGB, to which we are affiliated through the SPF, operates an award scheme similar to the RPS distinctions. Qualification to sit an assessment for these distinctions comes from gaining points through supporting SPF events like the league and exhibition. The benefit of the PAGB scheme is that it is a life award, not dependent upon your continued membership and, therefore, free.
Through your support of the club you now have sufficient points to apply for the CPAGB (equivalent to LRPS).
The Sussex Federation are organising an informal pre-assessment day, for anyone thinking of applying for an RPS or PAGB distinction, at Crawley Camera Club on Sunday May 9th.
Cost is £5 if you want work assessed or £2 to observe. I have some forms, or you can reserve a place by contacting Jean Holmwood on sussex.photofed@virgin.net or 01825 765053. It is filling up fast I understand.
I'm not sure when assessments are this year, but be assured that the CPAGB requires only "a good standard of club photography" and you will all pass ...
David Pemberton, Roger Tapner, Mike Jennings and Nina Ellis each require only another 3 points next year to also qualify.
Best regards
... Ken Scott

A Brief Photographic History - Part 8

By the end of the nineteenth century the novelty of capturing images was beginning to wear off, and some people were beginning to question whether the camera was in fact too accurate and too detailed in what it recorded. Painting at the time had a much higher status, which caused some photographers to adapt new techniques and made photography more of an art form. This style became known as Pictorialism, where the actual scene depicted is of less importance than the artistic quality of the image and it is no surprise that current styles of art would be reflected in the images. As impressionism was in vogue at the time, many photographers have more than a passing resemblance to paintings in this style. Such photographers as Robert Demachy along with George Davison and Alfred Maskell began to experiment with print manipulation, as well as using soft focus lenses to blur and soften the image. The final results were by no means pure photography, because the finished result was achieved by using brushwork as well as photography.

Steve Broad



George Davison

Robert Demachy



STEVE BROAD LRPS

PHOTOGRAPHY

Weddings, Portraits and Social Occasions

01903 744776

Glenwood, Georges Lane,
Storrington, West Sussex RH20 3JH

Hints from Steve Broad

Most modern cameras, and especially digital cameras, are totally reliant on batteries to be able to function. Here are a few simple tips, which may help.

Sometimes when battery power is low, your camera will still function, but will "act funny". Try cleaning your battery heads and camera contacts with the eraser head of a pencil. If that doesn't work, try fresh batteries.

When replacing batteries, always replace ALL batteries simultaneously, even if one of the set still reads "strong" when tested. Because of the nature of battery drain, if you have one weaker battery mixed in with fresh ones in your power supply, it will drain the charge of the good ones more quickly.

Try using rechargeables. They're more cost effective, and are better for the environment.

"Day at the Seaside"



Images by
Steve Broad



"Greenfinch"



"Spotted Orchid"
Nina Ellis

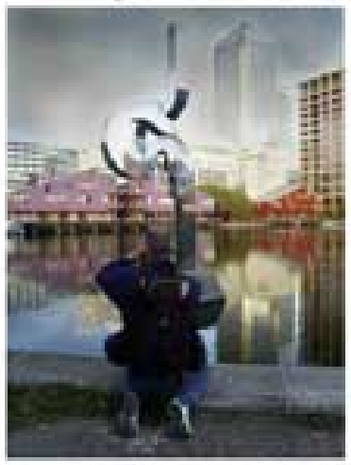
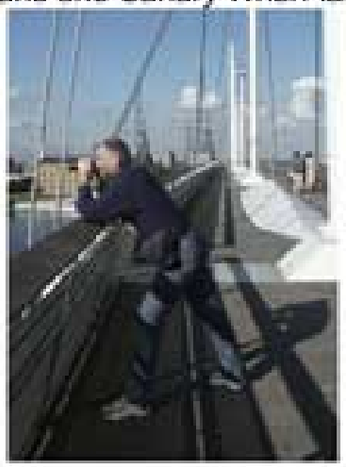
"Taking a Rest"
Nina Ellis







Images from London Dockland and Canary Wharf taken by Ken Scott ARPS


How it should be done, our ace photographer at work.

SET SUBJECTS FOR 2004/05

FIVE

Judges frequently refer to the notion that an odd number is more desirable than two, four, six and so on. Those who like to break the rules would probably disagree but this is a chance to make some judge a happy bunny.

BEACH

Worthing and Brighton are not far away and no doubt some of you will find yourselves in other resorts - at home or abroad.. A chance for those who like the broad sweep of a sandscape or the activity of holiday makers or getting close in on pebbles, shells and seaweed. A wide choice.

BODY PARTS

Steady now! People and animals immediately come to mind but I'm sure someone will come up with an unusual interpretation. Manicurists and chiropodists could have a field day.

Rex

Judging Behind the Image

I was recently referred to someone seeking advice about her photography. In her words: *"… my friend convinced me that I might have some ability for taking photographs, which has led to a wish to educate myself to some degree. I have never had formal training and haven't a clue how to start."*

What would your advice have been?

My instinct was not to say anything immediate about the photographs she sent me. When I critique pictures for clubs I am giving an instant appraisal about the technical and expressive quality, but I am not able to know anything of the photographer; hence my aversion to judges' comments that try to get inside the photographer's head, and my determination to give a personal response that is grounded in my own interpretation. Such an approach is unavoidable, but when this opportunity arose to give a personal critique, I felt I had to know more.

Therefore I started by asking some questions: *"What it is that excites you about the world, gets your emotions running or 'juices flowing'? Can you relate that to what you like making photographs of?"*

Her response was more than enthusiastic. She wrote *"… in no particular order: Experiencing new things excites me, anything from travelling the world … to having a baby, loving relationships, being out in the countryside, reading a good book, achieving a sense of balance in my life, meeting interesting people, creating (anything), meditative exercise (yoga, swimming), great food and wine."*

I sensed someone who is very connected with the world, who appreciates the experience of every moment. She went on to say: *"When I take photographs it is mainly to satisfy the need in me to create something. I want my photographs to be beautiful and balanced. The hard part is trying to explain what I find beautiful and balanced. I don't know that I can do it. I love colourful photographs or photos that invoke some emotion in me. I am also incredibly impatient, so my photographs are all brief moments in time. There is not a lot of planned thought behind it. I see something I like, then I try and find the most interesting but balanced view of what I am looking at."*

Her response gave me a buzz, because her obvious zest for life will take her 90% of the way to being a fine photographer. I meet many enthusiast photographers whose interest in photography is for its own sake, and hence have no real emotional investment in the subjects that they capture. Their images are often mundane or emotionally still, even if technically excellent. However, anyone with a love of life will connect with the world around them in a meaningful way - and be able to reveal that through photography. It is a powerful medium.

I believe that the best photography comes from the heart, from within us somewhere at a sub-conscious level, and in that sense it reveals much of who we are. This photographer said that she wanted her photographs to be beautiful and balanced, and as she seeks that in life, so she is already bringing some of her soul to the creative process. Explaining what it means to be beautiful and balanced is unnecessary if the photographs reveal it. The author Julia Cameron describes art as *"an act of tuning in … as though all the stories, painting, music, performances in the world live just under the surface of our normal consciousness."* When we are in the present moment, open and spontaneous, so images often reveal themselves to us when we are least expecting them. The harder we look, the less we see.

With an insight into the person and the heart behind the images then, I felt that I could appreciate them more deeply, taking the time to appreciate her style for what it is. I am glad I followed my instincts, for it revealed to me how there is more scope for critical appraisal and coaching than even I thought possible, leaving far behind the formulaic approach of most club judging. It was a true privilege.

To conclude then: what is the soul that drives your photography, and how would you feel to receive an appraisal that appreciated you as well as the image?

Ken Scott ARPS

Annual General Meeting 12th May 2004

Election of New Committee Members

As we shall be electing new committee members this year, would members wishing to nominate anybody for office firstly ensure that the nominee has agreed to stand.
If any member wishes to raise a proposal for discussion at the Annual General Meeting, would they please let Peter Penfold know as soon as possible - in writing - either at a club meeting or at his address at:-
16 Saxon Road, Steyning, West Sussex BN44 3FP
Many thanks,
Peter Penfold, Secretary

Coffee Club

After the Christmas break we were looking forward to the new season of the Coffee Club.

The subject of the first meeting, "Light" and Steve demonstrated how spotlights and reflectors can inprove an image.

With the club expanding we welcomed Ken, showing examples of his work, talking about composition, the rule of thirds and discussing the work of Ansel Adams, Leigh Preston and Hugh Milson.

At the next meeting Cliff offered to talk and demonstrate Basic Digital, photography of the future it seems!

With Spring and Summer fast approaching, we are looking forward to "hands on" with outdoor meetings at pre-arranged venues.

"Happy Days" Margaret

On the 16th March nine members of the Tuesday coffee club met at the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust at Arundel. After a cup of coffee we set out for a tour of the reserve in glorious sunshine. As the majority of birds are captive there are plenty of opportunities for taking some close up shots, which will no doubt appear in future competitions.
In one enclosure there is a waterfall, which gave members some practice in using long exposures for creative blur.
Steve

*The **next Coffee Club** will be at **Highdown Gardens**, north side of the A259 on 30th March, meeting at 10.30am in the Coffee Shop.*



"Richard on the Beach"

"Thames"





"Windmill"

This photo of the Windmill was taken during the club workshop at Ditchling organised and led by Steve Broad. We are hoping to run more workshops during the summer. Any suggestions for venues would be appreciated.

Selection of photos taken by Connie Morris.

Ken's BOOK LAUNCH at Birmingham NEC Show



Virginia at Focus on Imaging, 2004 with Ken's new book on the GMC stand.