Spring, 2005 Number 31

VIEWFINDER

Quarterly Newsletter of the Steyning Camera Club



Steyning Bowl Winner - Rex Peters
"African Violet", "Bluebells" and "Sunflower"





Chairman's Message

So we reach the end of another camera club season, indoors at least. It is an important moment for me as I am signing off as your Chairman at the end of my second spell in that role, and I felt that I should write something in addition to my report presented at the AGM.

So it is with a mix of regret and relief that I hand over the reins, regret that I am not able to give the club as much of my time as in the past, and relief that I can concentrate on a number of exciting new directions.

My life has changed quite dramatically over the last three years. Firstly my boys are now at an age where the number one job in the household is neither photography nor earning money but being a taxi driver! I am also studying for a degree, coaching cricket (which is a passion that matches photography and mountaineering for me), running my business and beginning to have photography itself occupying the kind of prominence I have for some while intended. Next winter my schedule of judging and lectures, including Peaks of Experience, extends in a radius extending to Bath, St. Albans and Colchester, and am starting work on a new book project. You never know I might even get a print or two made ...

Which brings me to a short plug for a small display I have of six prints as part of an art exhibition at The Cow Shed Studio at Hammes Farm. This runs through May as part of the Brighton Festival Fringe, and is open weekends from 11-5.

Thanks everybody for all the support you have given me, and best wishes and good luck to my successor.

... Ken

REMINDER for the SET SUBJECTS FOR 2005/6

"People Portrait"

This is specifically set to cover "People" based images, candid, studio, family are all within the scope and originality will be rewarded by the judge.

"Weather"

Rain, frost and snow, lightning, storm clouds, baking sunshine. Try to capture "Atmosphere" on film, this is quite a challenge and we look forward to seeing some interesting interpretations.

"Minimalism"

A subject of much discussion but with minimum content and simple structure? Thinking caps on for this set subject!!!

Forthcoming Events

Summer Workshops

We are lucky to have **Steve Broad** again helping with our workshops and this year we will be having a couple of **Sunday Specials.**
One of these will include the **Disposable Camera** event, with workshops to help members get the most from their film or new digital cameras, Henfield Members will be invited as usual. Please buy your own Disposable camera, any make is OK and join in the fun.
Panels will be displayed at the Xmas Social as usual.

Sunday 15th May at Wakehurst Place
Meet in the car park at 10.30 - Rhododendrons and Azaleas should be at their best.

Evening workshops will be on **Wednesdays**, starting with a meander around the new pond between the bypass and Gatewick Park on the **15th June,** from 6.30pm.
Please bring your close-up lenses and tripods and we will try to find the pond's new inhabitants and plant life.

Sunday, 3 July 2005 - The **Weald and Downland Museum** meet in the car park **at 10.00am** for this Disposable Camera and Summer Workshop bonanza event.
We will then explore and find our subjects to snap, meeting again for a picnic near the top end of the pond between 12.30 and 1 pm.
From.2.00pm onwards.**Groups of Musicians** will perform medieval, Tudor and Stuart pieces in and around the historic buildings, playing 'pop' music from the streets, lively music from the theatre and the court. Costumed dancers will perform both peasant and courtly dances from the 14th to the 17th centuries.
Audience participation is encouraged.

More info at workshops, as available.

Sunday, 21st August - 2pm to 5.30pm - Workshop at Cliff and Virginia's.

Coffee Club

Tuesday 17th May 2005 - **Ashdown Forest Llama Park**, on the A22, 1/4 mile south of junction with A275, half way between Uckfield and East Grinstead.
Meet in the car park at 10.30am
More information about future venues, etc. from Margaret Tully 813525 or John Mundy 812236.

Saturday, 30th July 2005 - Camera Club Coffee Morning

at Dave and Joan's, 3 Coxham Lane starting at 10.30am with small Bring and Buy Stall, Plant Table, Raffle and "Chatter". Let's hope we are again lucky with the weather and we can all enjoy Dave and Joan's beautiful garden. Please feel free to bring along your friends and relations.
Bring along your camera and grab a few "People Portraits"!!
Admission only £1.00 to include Tea, Coffee and Biscuits, all proceeds to club funds.



"Migrant Hawker"



Matanle Shield Winner
Cliff Carter

"Richard Krajicek"



"Tornados at Fairford"



"Specs"

"Morning Light"





Penfold Cup Winner
Harry Pierre

"Gossip"



Slide of the Year

"Tongue and Cheek" - Cliff Carter

Print of the Year

"Cat Rest" - Cliff Carter



A Selection of Images from this season's competitions



"Canary Wharf"

Ken Scott ARPS



"Coniston Recession"

"Beeding Brooks at Dawn"





"Power"

Harry Pierre

"Stormy Seas"



"Rope"



Margret Preece ARPS

"Two Rocks"



Mike Warren *"Falcon"*



Steyning Camera Club Competition Results for 2004/5

Lewis Cup
1st Hilda Metcalfe - 2nd Rex Peters - 3rd Roger Tapner

Viewfinder Trophy
1st Joan Hornsby - 2nd Margaret Tully - 3rd Harry Pierre

Steyning Bowl
1st Rex Peters - 2nd Richard Chinchen - 3rd= Margret Preece and Roger Tapner

Matanle Shield
1st Cliff Carter - 2nd Margret Preece - 3rd Richard Chinchen

Penfold Cup
1st Harry Pierre - 2nd Joan Hornsby - 3rd Connie Morris

The Tony Knight Cup
1st Harry Pierre - 2nd Joan Hornsby - 3rd= Audrey Leazell and Margaret Tully

Print of the Year
1st Cliff Carter - 2nd Graham Smith - 3rd Cliff Carter
Highly commended - Roger Tapner - Mike Warren - Cliff - Harry Pierre - Graham Smith

Slide of the Year
1st Cliff Carter - 2nd Rex Peters - 3rd Cliff Carter
Highly Commended - David Pemberton 2 - Graham Smith 2 - Hilda Metcalfe 2 - Harry Pierre

The Peter Crook Cup - Dave Sherwin

Southern Photographic Federation
South Eastern League – Winners of the Slide Section for the third consecutive year - 3rd in Slide Semi Final at Southampton.
Salisbury Exhibition – Congratulations to Margret Preece for winning the Best Print in this very prestigious exhibition and also gaining a Highly Commended in the Mono Section.
Crouch Slide Competition – We came a close 2nd behind Chichester C.C. with Rex Peters scoring 20 points for his "Pickerell Weed".

A huge thanks to all members who supported the club by allowing us to use their images for outside competitions during the past season. We have had another successful year, so well done and let's hope we can have another enjoyable experience for 2005/6.
One of the great joys for most of us is to see some great, even "original" images both from our own members and especially when we meet with photographers from other areas and clubs.
Have a good summer and hope to see you at some of our workshops and events, these are listed in this Viewfinder. Cliff

Please let the Editor have your images and articles to include in the next copy of Viewfinder as soon as possible. All subjects are needed and your views about the club, competitions, etc would also be welcomed.

Photography to Order? or plus ca change.....!

I have, as you probably know, belonged to Steyning Camera Club since the seventies - a relevant point, I hope, rather than a boast. Founder members, Bo and Kay Lewis had provided the first trophy in the form of a cup he had won decades before for his prowess in sculling, and it was awarded to the club's best slide photographer, who obeyed the constraints of the set subject and in those days all slides and prints entered had to conform, as there was no 'open' category. It didn't seem to matter whether images had been freshly sought out with the subject in mind or selected from recent work as a suitable match and I've no doubt both occurred. Entry numbers varied as now and on one memorable evening some quarter of a century ago, all three entrants were able to gain an award! Yet in those heady days there were no home computers and only three TV channels, and so there had to be more time to pursue your hobby - at least to capture the images. In the same way as the sculling accolade had become a distant memory and the cup was given a new identity, so the concept of the set subject may now need updating. Whether we favour landscape, architecture, flowers, or human interest, we all know how and where we wish to point our camera and surely we need to create subjects which enhance our work, not constrain it. Who could object for example to a season, locality, building detail, land or seascape as a set subject? What about back lighting, contre-jour, or first and last light of the day? Interior provides massive scope. Minimalism, which has prompted much discussion, would seem appropriate, as it focuses on one piece of subject matter, while discouraging clutter, yet it does not stipulate what is to be photographed. And why do we insist on setting limits, which invite those appraising our work to decide how relevant it is, when what we all aim for is a well constructed and creative image? An 'open' set subject is more likely to produce such an outcome.
I well remember those who did not want to be told what to photograph and when and it remains an inexact science, in which weather conditions may permit little and motivate even less, however amenable the participants, so we have to run a 'throw-away' or should I say disposable competition. What seems, however, to have made it a success is the sequence, where the images are strong for their juxta position, rather than in their own right and this is well reflected in audio-visual presentations, which can have the impact of a favourite movie. I expect many of us would see a more flattering image of ourselves if it were depicted in the form of a moving picture instead of a single shot. Can I suggest, therefore, that we limit our set subject competitions to two per season and have one of them focussing on a place in the locality for which there is a sequence of three or four slides from each entrant, taken when is most suitable to them, and that the second might take the form of a carefully considered subject likely to encourage entry whatever the photographer's preference? This may free up an evening or two when we can appraise our own work, a welcome addition, and think..... that's precisely how we tackled every internal competition in those dark and bygone days, and just as some of us were beginning to give voice to our comments, it was decided we needed to enlist the wisdom of a judge. Maybe we need to get our head round an image once again and express our ideas after the examples at least some of our judges have set.
Perhaps the strength of Steyning Camera Club is that we seem to know when to bring about change and when to leave things as they are and I've no doubt the Lewises would have wholeheartedly agreed.

David Pemberton







Lewis Cup Winner
Hilda Metcalfe

"Puffins", "Summer" and "Fishy"

Viewfinder Trophy Winner - Joan Hornsby



"Trim Window"

"Rudbeckia Green Eyes"



"Hibiscus"

