Summer 2005

Number 32

Quarterly Newsletter of the Steyning Camera Club

VIEWFINDER



"Sledging at Jack and Jill", - Clayton by Mike Warren



"Dragonfly at Rest" by Mike Warren

Chairman's Message

We are about to start on a new season of camera club activities but before we do I would like to thank you for electing me as your chairman. Looking through the programme we seem to have an exciting year in front of us, starting with the coffee morning at Dave and Joan's, at 3 Coxham Lane, on July 30th at 10.30am. I look forward to welcoming you all to our first session, which will be the Chairman's Evening. I ask you all to help this go with a swing by bringing some of your holiday pictures to show, because you won't want me to bore you all evening.
John

Forthcoming Events

Coffee Club

Tuesday, 2nd August - Brighton Marina & Sand Sculpture

Meet at 10.30am in Car Park Level 6

*Please contact **Margaret Tully 01903 813525** for more information and details of future dates and venues.*

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!!!







Congratulations to Graham Smith ARPS

This is the panel of digital prints that gained Graham Smith his ARPS Distinction at Birmingham earlier this year.

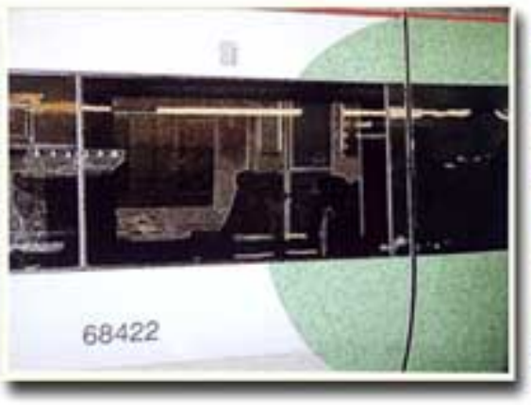












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One of our more recent members has gained his ARPS and this article relating to his outlook on photography is followed on the centre spread by his award winning panel of prints. I am sure you will agree they are very impressive and his creative approach is to be highly commended. Well done Graham.

Images for an ARPS

I know these pictures are controversial, provoking actual dislike among some members. I presume this is because they are different from what has become an accepted norm.

I regard photography as an Art Form. As such, it has no boundaries, though those who see the results must react as their instincts propel them. Beethoven, van Gogh, Henry Moore - most innovators, have encountered similar reactions. Most artists disappear from view. A few, great ones, survive, and become the new norm.

By the standards of the 21st centry, my images are not avant garde. My instincts are close to those of the first half of the 20th century, and I try to achieve with the camera and Elements 3, what I cannot achieve with a brush. I choose not to remove objects, not to overlap two images, not to introduce foreign elements. I crop, as photographers have always done. I alter the light, as darkroom workers have always done, I intensify the colour, feeling like Matisse, and I often use ink outlines, as printworkers and etchers do and did.

Gradually, a pattern has established itself, and a style has emerged, not because I intended that, but because evolution always works that way.

All that matters in the end, is that the results often please and excite me.

Graham

Saturday, 30th July 2005 - Camera Club Coffee Morning

at Dave and Joan's, 3 Coxham Lane with small Bring and Buy Stall, Plant Table, Raffle and "Chatter". We were lucky with the weather, missing all the big showers and we all enjoyed Dave and Joan's beautiful garden.
A big thank you to all who came, those that donated raffle prizes and especially to the helpers.
Latest news is that something in the region of £110.00 was raised for club funds.
Final total will be mentioned at the chairman's evening, our first meeting, on 7th September, 2005.

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.

Competition Rule Changes

As a result of much discussion, several small changes to the rules were agreed at the **Annual General Meeting** by the assembled membership.

Images for competitions can now be **up to 3 years old**, countback is now defined as being **"an image made anytime in 2003 is eligible until the AGM in 2006"** with the exception of **The Slide and Print of the Year.**

All slides and prints for this competition must have **been taken or printed since** the last **Slide and Print of the Year** competitiion.

Each photographer's highest scoring photograph in each category may not be entered again in the same category, but may be entered **once more** in any other class.

An image not carrying points may be entered again **ONCE ONLY** in the same class.

Please also note that the **new set subject print competition, "The WSG Cup"** will have the same subject that has been set for the **Lewis Cup** slide competition.

If you have any questions about how these changes will affect you, please ask Cliff, Ken or John for assistance.

Your committee would like you all to take part and enjoy this season's programme to the full.

Good luck with your imaging, whether it be film or digital - Cliff



SUBJECT MATTER

In July I popped down to Brighton to take a look at the much publicised "Wonders of Ancient Egypt". Sadly there was nothing that had come directly from the Valley of the Kings - more by courtesy of ten thousand tons of sand imported from the Netherlands. It was the Egyptian Sand Sculpture Exhibition. As I threaded my old Canon through the plethora of digitals it was clear I was in a different world from the sand castles of my childhood.

It was while I was taking a close-up of a well rendered model of some long deceased pharaoh that my thinking strayed to competitions and how judges regard sculptured images. On a competition evening you might well hear something like "Ah yes, but the photographer has merely taken a picture of someone else's creative vision". This is true, but gradually other things came to mind. It seemed the same might be said of many an architectural picture, a recording of someone's design and another's building skill. What about close-up shots of cars or motorcycles that started life on a designer's drawing board? It seems many pictures are really a reflection of man's creative ability.

As always it's what you do with the subject matter that counts. Some of you will remember Ken's very successful "Sculpture and Light" which shows how a picture can be created by bringing in another element alongside the sculpture. Often it's not what you photograph, although some subjects undoubtedly have a greater appeal, but it's how you set about it. It might make some judge a happy bunny!!

Cliff would be pleased to receive your comments (adverse thoughts particularly welcome!)

Rex Peters



"Sculpture and Light"
by Ken Scott ARPS

Thanks to Rex for this thoughtful article and the editor would really appreciate any similar pieces, reports, ideas and your images.
Just have a word with Cliff if you think you have something that might interest or help the other members.
You can even email me some ideas and we could work through any submissions.
Have a go, you might be another J.K.Rowling!!

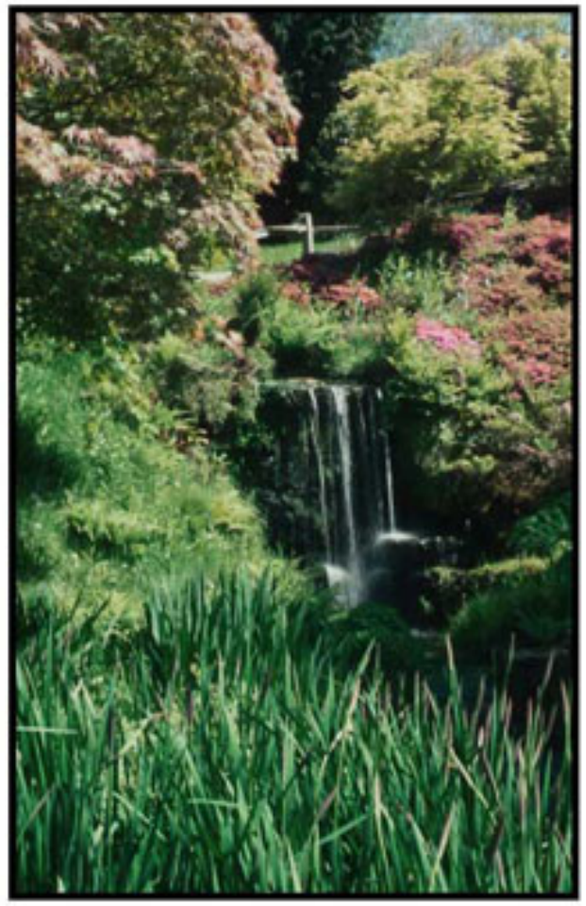
Wakehurst Workshop

On 15th May, 2005 four of us joined Steve Broad at Wakehurst Place for a workshop, as well as being a superb sunny day, we had plenty of opportunities to have Steve help us out with excellent advice on exposure, composition, etc.



We were also blessed with some stunning scenes to photograph and Steve's help was greatlly greatly appreciated by all present.

John Mundy



All photos by John Mundy



Our last **Summer Workshop** will be at Cliff and Virginia's on **Sunday, 7th August** and will be in the garden if fine or in the greenhouse and garage if wet.
Close up, floral, table top, you name it and we will try it - analogue or digital!!
Please bring something interesting and challenging to snap.
Start time 2.00pm with refreshments
£1.00 per member or guest for club funds