Xmas 2005

Number 33

Quarterly Newsletter of the Steyning Camera Club

VIEWFINDER

Penfold Cup - Round 1



"A Touch of Silver" - Joan Hornsby

Penfold Cup - Round 2



"Lily" -Vic Garbett

Congratulations to all the members who have their images featured in this edition of the Viewfinder, as they have all scored twenty points in each of their classes.
In fact we have had a record number of top scoring images and I will be chasing all who have not submitted their work for inclusion.

The Viewfinder Trophy Round 1



"Web On The Gate" - Peter Penfold

Forthcoming Events

4th January, 2006 - Practical Evening

This is an open evening at the moment and we need a few requests and suggestions about the subjects to be covered. Please contact Cliff, Ken or Steve Broad with your ideas and we will try to fill the evening with useful demonstrations.

These practicals have been included in the programme to help all members improve their photographic skill or to share their good ideas but we do need your feedback.

Richard Chinchen has kindly offered to bring his mount cutting equipment along for a demonstration and will be happy to cut mounts for any images you bring with you on the evening. Please buy and bring suitable mount board for him to use for each of the images.

The number of images will obviously be limited, so please select your favourite as your first choice.

Friday 6th January 2006 - A Special Evening

All club members have been invited to the Henfield Camera Club **"New Year Party"** to be held at Woodmancote Village Hall, starting at 7.45pm.
This sounds as though it will be great fun and lifts should be available as parking spaces are limited at the hall.
Please contact Cliff, as soon as possible, to confirm if you are able to attend.

Friday, 3rd March, 2006

4 Way Mix'n'Match at Henfield Camera Club
Another Mix'n'Match has been organised by Henfield Camera Club with Andrew Perry ARPS as the judge. Start time will be 7.45pm and the event will take place in Henfield Village Hall.
Please make sure you put this date in your diary and come along to support our club at this fun event, more details nearer the event

Tuesday, 13th December - Christmas Dinner at the Fox, Small Dole

This event was very well organised by Margaret Tully and was enjoyed by over twenty members and guests.

Seasons greetings and very best wishes for a Happy New Year to all our members and friends.

The judge doesn't understand my work.....!

I've no doubt that I've said this myself as often as I've heard it and even a judge was known more than once to make the admission when appraising prejudged images at that! Those of us who recall the utterance probably remember also the irritation – even outrage at what seemed such an expression of complacent stolidity. Yet perhaps our competitions invite such a response. We ask the judge to select from an array of images small groups or singles representing first, second and third followed by a balance of also-rans. Too many similar scores, which from the judge's point of view may be a bid to 'understand' our diverse images, would from ours be a lack of willingness to commit. The nature of competition does not provide a ready platform for a judge to assess the quality of an image as a type, as he is too busy finding ways of eliminating it in deference to the stronger, or dare I say, to his personal preference – the bottom line in the final distinction. This may well say more about the straitjacket of competition than the adjudicator. Were an experienced visitor to appraise potential entries without the constraints of points and positions, an increasingly informed discussion would be likely to ensue, in which we would all understand better the image before us and sharpen our skills after the original goal of the competition.

David Pemberton

Summer Workshops and Social Events

The committee are already planning events for Summer 2006 and any suggestions for venues and subjects to cover with the workshops would be appreciated.
Have you any preferences for our social events, such as the Disposable Camera Day or have you any ideas that may interest other club members?

Please feel free to contact any committee member or perhaps mention the subject during a club evening.

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.

Please note

If you have slides or prints that have scored 20 points in any of this season's club competitions that have not yet been published in the Viewfinder, could you please give them to Cliff to scan for the next edition.

Many thanks and best wishes to all members for Xmas and the New Year.
Cliff

On Special Places

Ken Scott

Despite my frequent assertions that my photography is not about places or things, I have been noticing recently that there are certain places where I seem to get more than my fair share of photography's most vital ingredients: light and luck.
Now it could be that these places feel special to me because I have encountered more beautiful light there than anywhere else. Equally, I am open to the idea that these special places actually attract wonderful conditions.



Much of this can be attributed to geography; Snowdon, for example, is the highest British mountain south of Scotland and stands relatively isolated from its neighbours, attracting more than its fair share of transient, shifting cloud to its lofty ridges.

Eskdale, in the Lake District is a north-facing glen of Scottish proportions, surrounded by high peaks which attract clouds, yet often clear above. In both cases, I often find myself photographing on the edge of the light and the cloud – the perfect conditions for what I refer to as dynamic landscape photography. Here conditions change so quickly, and new opportunities present themselves so often that photography has to be an intuitive and responsive activity.



There is something else, though. As I get older and experience more places and conditions and the feelings and emotions that go with them, I am aware of some places having a very special energy of their own. For instance, the Rhinog in North Wales is one of the oldest mountain massifs in Europe and has a primal and profound atmosphere that encourages reverence and a feeling of connection with the earth. And a relatively new discovery for me is the area under the warm southern slopes of the Sierra Nevada in Spain known as Las Alpujarras, fabled not only for an unmatched air clarity and wonderful cloud effects, but also for an underlying energy that is very deep, and, in some way, nurturing with a spiritual attraction.



Why is this important, you may ask? Well it says to me that there is more to photography than the physical and the mental processes. The closer and more connected I feel to my subject, the less hard I have to try to make pictures, and the more I can give myself to experience and simply see. In the Rhinog and the Alpujarras, connection comes easily, and so, more often than not, do pictures.



www.touchingthelight.com

Ken's website is well worth bookmarking as a "Favourite" in your web browser. his Galleries are inspirational, there are numerous interesting articles and the links page has been selected with great care.
This is one of the best photographic sites, so check it on a regular basis.

What's in a name?

How much thought do we give to the title of the photograph when entering into club competition? Does the title do justice to our picture or convey to the judge our feelings associated with the image?
Some feel that the picture should speak for itself, and therefore a title is unnecessary, but there are times where a title can convey a deeper meaning associated with the image.
Here is a photograph that illustrates my point. It is by the artist Sam Taylor-Wood, and is one of the first pieces of work she did soon after single mastectomy surgery following the diagnosis of breast cancer.
Despite treatment by chemotherapy, she retained all of her hair. As a way of expressing her feelings she produced this self-portrait with the title " Single Breasted Suit with Hare".
Although I don't think that the titles of all our images should be as deep and as personal as this, perhaps there are times, with all the effort that goes into taking an image, we should come up with something more inspired and individual.



Steve Broad

Coffee Club on Tuesday Mornings

Tuesday, 10th January 2006

Digital Visions with Graham Smith

A visionary guide to digital images, illustrated with slide shows.

Please contact ***Margaret Tully 01903 813525*** *or* ***John Mundy 01903 812236*** *for more information and details of future dates and venues.*



REMINDER for the SET SUBJECTS FOR 2005/6

"People Portrait"

The first round for the Lewis Cup Slide competition was won by Rex Peters with "Self Portrait" and three members received scores of 20 points in the WSG Print competition, Margret Preece, "Self Portrait", Vic Garbett, "Irish Fiddler" and Steve Broad with "Jazz".
Judge for the evening was John Watterson DPAGB and well done to all the members for such a great selection of prints for ths new competition.

"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.
Judge for this evening will be Ian Betts from Henfield C.C.

"Minimalism"

A subject of much discussion but with minimum content and simple structure? Thinking caps on for this set subject!!!
It will be great to welcome Eric Burchell, from Littlehampton Camera Club, as he has not visited us for sometime. He will be appraising our prints and slides.

Southern Photographic Federation League

We have now had two rounds and have not managed to outscore our opponents!! Bognor and Chichester clubs both had excellent prints and slides, Chichester scoring three tens in the prints and Bognormanaged three tens with their slides.

In the next round at Gosport we faired marginally better with second place in the print section and Gosport scored three tens.

Just one more round at Solent Camera Club, with the other club being Hayling Island on Friday, 17th February, 2006.

Photo Hunt Results at Henfield Camera Club

Yet another interesting evening with digital images and slides being projected onto the same screen.
Some very deft finger work, by judge and projectionist Ian Betts, earnt special appreciation from a good audience of Steyning and Henfield members.
As usual we were treated to some excellent images, also some very original ideas about how to interpret the set subjects that were taken in the area of Worthing Pier.
The winner was Christine Stone, her first attempt at the competition and also the first ever to win with digital images.
Very well done and please make sure that you support this fun event next summer.

Matanle Shield Round 1 - *Judge: Chris Burstow*



"September Poppies" - Cliff Carter

"Yellow" & "Glass" - by Mike Jennings also scored twenty points in this competition.

Penfold Cup Round 2 - *Judge: Glyn Edmunds*



"The Geese Man" - Vic Garbett

"Finale" - Connie Morris



Yet again we have had a superb set of prints for this competition and the quality of the images has been rivalling the "A" group.
Well done and I hope that you keep enjoying producing these prints.

Matanle Shield Round 2 - *Judge: Glyn Edmunds*

"Docklands Light Railway" - Graham Smith



"Reeds §3" and "Trees II"- by Margret Preece will be featured in the next Viewfinder.



"Yearning" - Graham Smith