VIEWFINDER

Summer 2007 Number 38



"Penguins plunging into the Antarctic from an iceberg."
Just one of the images from Brenda Mumford's slideshow that will be part of our "Members Present" evening on 19th September.



"Migrant Hawker at Woods Mill"
by Rex Peters

Steyning Camera Club

Editorial

Mike Williams has offered to help me with the Competition Secretary's duties and this means that I will now be able to be your Chairman for this year. Thanks Mike.

Being Chairman has never been one of my ambitions but I will try my best for the club. Please let me know if issues need addressing or if there are things that need to be done.

I would like to thank all our other committee members for their continued support and also to welcome Harry Pierre, Penny Richardson, Mike Williams and Malcolm Bull to the ranks.

This is a sign that the future of the club looks increasingly healthy and hopefully the new programme that has been prepared by Ken will prove to be popular. Margret Preece and Malcolm Bull, our incoming Programme Secretaries, have been working closely with Ken to ensure a smooth change and already have plenty of new Ideas for producing their first Programme for the club.

Many thanks to Ken for all his hard work on our behalf, including designing and maintaining our web site. I know just how busy he has been lately, with three growing lads, running his own business, studying for an Open University course, giving talks and Audio Visual Shows over a large area, together with his love of cricket and coaching. Probably still missed something out, but a huge thanks on behalf of all our members.

Our grant application for new digital equipment has been sent to Awards For All and we would also like to thank Derek Deedman for his support as our referee.

We will be hosting the Regnum Crouch Digital projection competition in Coombe Court Hall in the Steyning Centre on Wednesday 12th March, 2008, the first time that this will use digital projection for showing the images.
This is quite a challenge as we may well be setting the standards for future competitions and the other clubs taking part will no doubt be making notes of where we succeed and where improvements may be needed.
If we have our new digital projection equipment, hopefully it should be well tried and tested by this time and an enjoyable evening will result.

This is just a coincidence but you will be reading an article later by David Pemberton appreciating the joys of traditional slides and encouraging the continued use of the medium. Many thanks to David for this contribution and any articles or features that may be of interest to our members would be most welcome. This may be the place to start your publishing career!!

Trips to Kew and Hampton Court Palace Flower Show organised Margaret Tully have both been very successful and enjoyed by our own members and friends. Very well done and thank you Margaret.

Harry Pierre organised a special lunch at Cromwells for members to say thank you and a fond farewell to John and Audrey Mundy, who will soon be moving to Cambridge to be a bit closer to their relatives.

Reminders and reports about our summer programme will appear later in this Viewfinder.

Hopefully the next editorial will be shorter and maybe we might enjoy the "Summer" at sometime!

Cliff

Please read page 7 for the latest competition information

SUMMER PROGRAMME

Wednesday, 20th June

Evening Walk at Swanbourne Lake, Arundel. Good weather and a band of members enjoyed a leisurly stroll around the big pond and then some liquid refreshment at The Black Rabbit on the banks of the Arun.

Saturday, 14th July

We were again lucky with the weather for our annual ***Club Coffee Morning*** in Joan and Roger's lovely garden in Dawn Crescent, Upper Beeding.
The raffle, plant stall, bring and buy table all helped to raise funds for the club and we enjoyed the place identification quiz devised by Joan and the Croquet Challenge from Roger. "Honey" the Bear was won by Mary Pierre and a grand total of nearly £100.00 was raised. Thanks also to Reg Richardson for donating his stock of mounting board for sale to club members, all of which had been sold before the end of the morning.
Many thanks to Joan and Roger for all their hard work organising the morning and supplying the cakes, biscuits, tea and coffee.

Saturday, 4th August

Summer Workshop at Cliff and Virginia's was attended by a small band of enthusiastic snappers and hopefully a few new techniques were mastered.

Also the **Gay Pride event in Brighton**
for those that wanted to photograph the style and colour of the Parade.

Wednesday, 15th August

Evening Walk - Margret led members around the Amberley Brooks, except for the late arrivals, who conducted a tour in the opposite direction!!

Saturday, 15th September.

Photo Hunt with Henfield CC at the West Grinstead and District Ploughing and Agricultural Society Show at ***Aglands Farm, Picts Lane, Cowfold.***
Meet at 12 noon **for picnic lunch.** The Photo Hunt will ***start at 1.00pm*** and finish at 4.00pm. The actual event starts at 9.30am and many interesting activities, including the setting up of the old ploughs, preparing the horses, hedge laying, etc begin early in the day and are well worth watching. My advice is to be there as early as you can and make a whole day available, especially if the weather is good!

Please note that the date for the **American Supper, Saturday, 28th July at 7.30pm,** has been changed to **Saturday, 8th September and will now start at 12noon.**
Perhaps we should now call it the ***American Lunch.*** It will still take place at Margaret and John Tully's at "Seasons", Sopers Lane, Bramber. Please bring a plate of a sweet or savoury dish, not forgetting liquid refreshment! Wine, beer, etc. etc. A garden chair if possible. Husbands, wives, partners are welcome.
Please contact Margaret for more information: telephone 01903 813525

RPS, SPF, PAGB, Regnum/Crouch and all that Jazz

This is probably mainly of interest to newish members of the club who hear talk of RPS, SPF and so on and have very little idea what it is all about. Let me try and explain.

RPS stands for Royal Photographic Society and is an organisation to which any photographer can belong if they so wish. It is most popular in the UK but there are branches all over Europe, in the USA and in the Far East and Australia. It was founded in 1853 'to promote the art and science of photography'. To this purpose it encourages its members to work towards so called distinctions where a photographer presents a sample of his or her images to a panel of experienced photographers who will adjudicate it. There are three stages: LRPS (Licentiate), ARPS (Associate) and FRPS (Fellow). To give an example, for the LRPS you prepare and present a panel of 10 images; at this stage the main criterion is that you are confident and proficient in using your camera and that you are aware of rules of composition. To assist you the society runs workshops which are dedicated to helping you achieve the distinction that you are aiming for. Obviously for the ARPS and particularly the FRPS the standard is much higher

Looking at camera club level, all clubs in the UK belong to a regional federation, in our case the Southern Photographic Federation or SPF, which looks after the interests of club photographers in their area. The SPF runs inter-club competitions, the SPF League, where groups of clubs compete against each other in a number of rounds until finally there is an overall winner. This winning club (and the runners-up) will then have the opportunity to compete against the winners of similar competitions from all the other federations. The SPF also organises an annual exhibition (in Salisbury) where each club in the federation has the chance to display 6 prints and 6 slides; this exhibition usually runs for two weeks in January and is open to the public.

The SPF and the other federations in the UK are united in the PAGB, the Photographic Alliance of Great Britain which organises various events, mainly competitions and exhibitions. These give clubs in the UK the opportunity to show their best work and compete against each other. The individual photographer can only belong to the PAGB through their club.
The PAGB also runs a program of awards. In this case not a cohesive panel of work (as for the RPS) but a collection of individual images is required for a Certificate (CPAGB), a Distinction (DPAGB) or a Master (MPAGB) respectively. In addition, and before being able to apply, each applicant has to represent their club in competitions against other clubs and collect a certain number of points in this way.

Lastly, you will hear the names Regnum and Crouch competitions mentioned, these are once a year events where a number of West Sussex clubs compete against each other in digital projected images (Crouch) as well as in prints (Regnum).

This has been a very brief summary of organisations in the UK which represent the interests of photographers and also allow them to improve their photography by working toward and gaining a recognised award. On top of this there are a number of national and international exhibitions, mostly sponsored by FIAP (Federation Internationale de l'Art Photographique) which invite entries from individual photographers – and believe me it is a great feeling when one of your images has been selected for an international exhibition.

I hope that I have given a rough idea what these abbreviations are all about, but it is very general and if you want to know more please come and ask me, I will be only too happy to explain (and I have personal experience of all of these organisations).

Margret Preece ARPS

Camera Club Coffee Morning at Joan and Roger's





Sunshine once again for our annual Coffee Morning. Audrey Leazell's granddaughter with her dog and Roger showing how to wield the croquet mallet. This challenge was won by Mike Williams by getting closest to the bottle of wine





Please note that we will be helping to organise a Special Dance Event to raise funds for Steyning Camera Club and Steyning In Bloom

"Rock'n'Roll" with The Zimmers

Saturday 10th November 2007

Octagonal Hall at Steyning Grammar School, Shootingfield

Steyning Grammar School will running the bar and supplying the food

Please invite as many of your family and friends as possible.

This should be a great fun evening and tickets will be in short supply.

A 200 ticket restriction applies

Advance Information available from Mike Warren

Digital Guidelines

A new revised Digital Guidelines leaflet will be available at the first meeting. This has information about File Formats, File Names for Competitions, Hardware and about providing Demonstrations for those who may need assistance with the new technology.

What's in a bit of celluloid.....?

"Suppose he means a slide," I hear you say, with a shake of the head at the notion of a twenty first century digital world leaving any room for this medium. We have been taking transparencies for seven decades and have we now consigned them to a niche market for photographic has-beens? I had always hoped the slide would be considered a classic, untouched by other modern means of image-making, a parallel to traditional music, remembered and listened to long after the comings and goings of much of what is more modern, or maybe the cargo pants as a passing alternative to the 501s. Increasingly alone, it would seem, I marvel still at the properties of film, which can recreate so faithfully the moment when the spirit of an image presented itself. Having zoomed, focussed, turned the polariser to optimum filtration and waited for sun to emerge from behind clouds to give oblique illumination to the scene, metered and released the shutter, there is every chance the result will be infinitely greater than the sum of each stage – a result which, while not immediate, will have been worth the wait.

My own slide photography may struggle to compare with that of our visiting speakers, not least this season's, their creative spark and special relationship with light having pushed slide film to a stunning optimum and inspired me to continue in this medium, on my own if I have to, until I have used the final roll. And slides have been a part of me since childhood, when relatives showed me family photos, in days when less sophisticated film depicted the slightly artificial world of heavy greens and slaty greys, or an ill-aimed 'Weston' left the subject pale and the sky with a distinct lack of opacity. I then discovered the joys of the 'superslide', a square two by two format of twelve images on a 127 film, yielding a screen-filled flood of wide skies and mellow colour, some mark of the heyday of the long extinct Agfa CT18! No images have immortalised a photographic expedition as these did, their dimensions serving to enhance what the viewfinder had shown. However, in almost forty years of slide photography, I can recall many a disappointment and would have longed for today's 'proof' image to ensure I came away with exactly what my eye saw and my heart felt. Yet after the processing interval, where success is proved, the joy and surprise at seeing what I have created, may even outweigh that smug feeling of knowing on the spot that I have a workable image in my pocket.

When the new millennium saw digital tendrils begin to attach themselves to club photography, it was said in defence of a medium which lent itself so effectively to colour prints that the image mattered far more than its provenance. And no one can say that our judges have ever wasted a moment wondering what may have gone into producing our prints. However, where projections are concerned, I have observed with disappointment a widening gulf of distinction. Digital projection is bound to generate enthusiasm, but surely the very medium cannot in itself guarantee a better image. Occasions during this season have led me to wonder whether it is the image or the medium which is up for appraisal. Is it that slides are just plain 'old-hat' or is there a touch of mild irritation that the definitive image produced by this tried and tested method can never be improved upon by the variables of manipulation or superior projection yet to be accessed? If I select a slide to enter, I have no more concern about the projections with which it may be competing than I have for the score it may obtain. I can see how digital photography has brought a new spontaneity, the chance to be certain of your image and then to alter it at will - the benefits to those who like action shots must be infinite. Yet for all a traditional camera is useless when the film runs out, you are equally stranded if your memory card is full, not to mention your battery flat! And might it just take a slide to prove that there are shots to be had at midday, away from dawn and dusk? Light and luck can even then combine to give a sumptuous 3D effect, fit to give digital a run for its money! So let's not discourage the traditional while there is still the choice, rather promote and include both media, and enjoy the merits of each. To my mind the more we are ready to embrace both in the name of photography, the stronger is Steyning Camera Club.

David Pemberton

Competition Information for the New Season

At the last AGM members voted to return to the system for marking competition images out of 20 points and for the committee to decide on the exact format at its next meeting.
After a long discussion it was agreed that, in addition to this change, the judge would be asked to choose the favourite image from each round of the competition and this would be awarded 21 points as the round winning image.
Should there be equal scores after the three rounds, the result will be decided by adding the collective score of each author's entries for that competition and the highest total will be declared the winner.
A new cup or trophy will be acquired for the new **Annual** digital projected image competition and will be called the **Steyning Digital Trophy**, unless a suitable sponsor is found prior to the start of the new season.
Further to this, it was also requested by members that there should be an annual end of season competition solely open to slide entries (traditional transparencies) and the committee decided to keep the **Colour Photographer of the Year Shield** as the appropriate trophy.
This would only be open to images exposed using film and that there should be no digital input at any stage of producing the transparency.

The Lewis Cup will be for digitally projected images only.

The Steyning Bowl will be for traditional slides only, with no digital enhancement allowed. Slides may be sandwiched or masked.

The **West Sussex Gazette Cup** and the **Viewfinder Trophy** will be, as before, the competitions for digitally projected images derived from digital cameras, digital scans of colour, black and white negatives or transparencies and scans from flat bed scanners but all must be photographically based.

The Matanle Shield and **Penfold Cup** for prints will stay in the same format but with the new scoring system

The **Tony Knight Cup** for enprints will be unchanged.

Trophies and Shields will be as below:

Competitions run over 3 Rounds
The Lewis Cup - Set subject competition for digitally projected images, for all club members to enter, ie both A and B Groups.
The Steyning Bowl - Traditional Transparencies only, for both A and B Group members.
West Sussex Gazette Cup - Open Subject Digital Projection - A Group
Viewfinder Trophy - Open Subject Digital Projection - B Group

Matanle Shield - Open Subject Prints - A Group
Penfold Cup - Open Subject Prints - B Group
Tony Knight Cup - Open Subject Enprints - B Group

Annual End of Season Competitions
Colour Photographer of the Year - Open to all members - Traditional Slides (Transparencies)

Steyning Digital Trophy - Open to all members - Digitally Projected Image

Print of the Year - Open to all members





PHOTOHUNT with Henfield C.C.

Ideas for Set Subjects at the West Grinstead & District Ploughing & Agricultural Society Annual Show??
This fun event will take place at Aglands Farm. Cowfold and all members are encouraged to join in.
Picnic at 12 noon, the "Hunt" starts at 1.00pm and finishes at 4.00pm.
Please ask for reduced price entry tickets from Cliff.





John and Audrey Mundy with their leaving gift from club members, presented after a special lunch organised by Harry Pierre at Cromwell's Restaurant, Golding Barn. We all wish them well in their new home in Cambridgeshire.