Steyning Camera Club



LOTTERY FUNDED

These are the top scoring digitally projected images from the first round competitions in this season's club programme.

WSG Cup
"Stop Lights in the Rain"
by Ken Henry
Winning image from Round 1



Lewis Cup - Round 1
"Customs and Traditions"
Top marks to Gail Bell for this well seen and composed image titled **"Harvest Festival"**



Viewfinder Trophy - Round 1
"Kite Surfer" by Pete Etheridge
was judged by Trevor Gellard as the best image in the first round.

VIEWFINDER

Autumn 2007 Number 39

Editorial

It is with the greatest of pleasure that I can confirm that we have been awarded a grant for new digital equipment from the Awards For All and the Lottery. We will now be able to purchase a laptop, various other essential equipment and software to enable us to help all members with digital teaching, projecting our competition images, promoting our club to the citizens of Steyning and surrounding area.
We have already purchased the Full HD digital projector and a suitable protective case for storing and transporting it. We will be using this to project the images in the inaugural ***Crouch Digital Projection Competition*** when we host the event for the Regnum Crouch group on ***Wednesday 12th March.***

We will be expected to make the most use of this equipment to help and to educate local clubs, societies and groups about digital imaging and to present slideshows where applicable. A small sub committee has been set up to co-ordinate such events and all sugestions will be welcomed for discussion. Please contact any committee member with your ideas.

On ***Wednesday 13th February 2008*** our Key Lecture for the year will be presented by ***John Beatty***, a truly inspirational photographer and audio visual producer. Ken has managed to persuade him to visit our camera club and this is quite an achievement as camera clubs are not high on his list of international commitments. Please have a look at his web site when you get the opportunity and I think you will see why this show should not be missed.
We are almost certain the title will be ***"Wild, Spirit in the Land"*** and this is billed as a Multi Media Show. It has already been shown at the Telluride Mountain Film Festival in Colorado, the Banff International Mountain Film Festival, British Mountaineering International Festival and a special showing in Sheffield Galleries among many others.
Fantastic landscapes, natural history, mountains and an internationally acclaimed presentation is guaranteed.
This evening will be open to friends, mountaineering and trekking adventurers, other camera clubs and the general public, it will be widely publicised and we think it might be wise to reserve your tickets as soon as possible.
Tickets will be available in early January 2008 and we are sure that this will be a fully booked extravaganza.

May I take this opportunity to thank all of our committee members for their hard work and commitment since being made acting Chairman, it really has helped during some difficult times. Also thanks to all those who have helped with the refreshment breaks, I know what a rush it can be to get everything prepared and then tidied up during the short interval.
My very best wishes for the forthcoming Festive Season and for a Happy and Healthy New Year.
Cliff

Thanks to all who submitted items for ***Viewfinder 39.***
All contributions for this newsletter, either in the form of images or articles, would be most welcome, it is your way to communicate with the rest of the club and without your input will be in danger of becoming extinct! Gosh that sounds dramatic, hope it works!

Should we re-join the SPF League?

Do you like looking at photographs? Do you like looking at other people's photographs? We at Steyning see a lot of each others images – and enjoy the experience. But do we know what the rest of the country is up to photographically? How about photographers in our own small part of the country – how do we find out what they are doing??

There is help at hand: the Southern Photographic Federation (SPF) runs a Photographic League and if we were part of it we would get a chance to see what photographers in neighbouring clubs are doing. We would be able to compare the quality of our images to the work done elsewhere. Personally, I believe that my own work improves and gets more diversified by looking at other people's work. And I have to produce my very best if it is to be shown in the big wide world.

And how does this League of the SPF work? Participating clubs are divided into regional groups of 3 or 4 clubs each who compete against each other, each club hosting one of the rounds. Each of these clubs may use 8 prints and / or 8 slides which have been selected at the start and which may not be changed throughout the competition. At each event these images will be appraised by a different judge. In the end a winner has been found for each region and through various elimination rounds, semi-finals and finals the overall winners (one for prints and one for slides) is eventually established.

Steyning Camera Club once was a part of this League but withdrew because of the travelling involved to the other clubs in our section, interest generally is low when travelling is involved. When it is our turn to be host we would for instance expect no more than two or three members of each of the other clubs in our group to visit us (but all of their images).

That is the disadvantage. And the advantage: we get to see what other people in other clubs are producing, we get the chance to compare our images with the work of other clubs.

At the moment we have the Regnum / Crouch and we have the Sussex Federation but overall our exposure to outside influences is very limited. The work we produce is very good – but will it remain good if we are too inward looking?

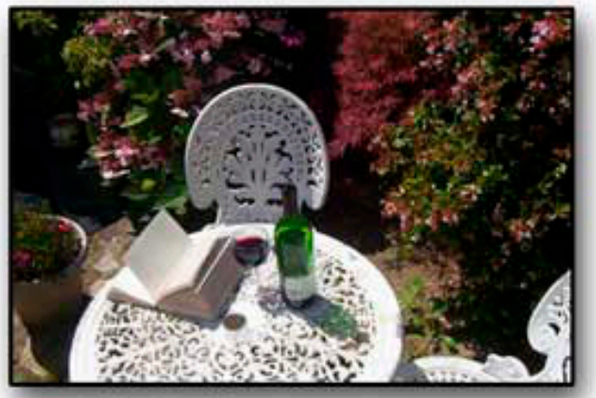
It is too late this year but I believe we should rejoin the League next year and profit by being exposed to the best work of many more photographers in the South of England. If you agree, please let me know. We have until the end of this year to decide

Margret Preece.

PLEASE NOTE - An important change to our programme
Wednesday, 30th January 2008 - *"Ken, the Web and Us"*

Thanks to broadband internet connections, photography on the internet is growing at an astonishing pace. To ensure that enthusiast photographers don't get left behind in this revolution, Ken is presenting a talk (as recently given to the ADIG) on the latest web technology, designed to help all photographers find a presence with a minimum of fuss.

He'll give an in depth demonstration, give useful hints as to where you can find the very best photography currently out there, and inspire you to get involved yourselves. This replaces the discussion group evening, which will now be rescheduled for the following season.



"Me Time" by Penny Richardson

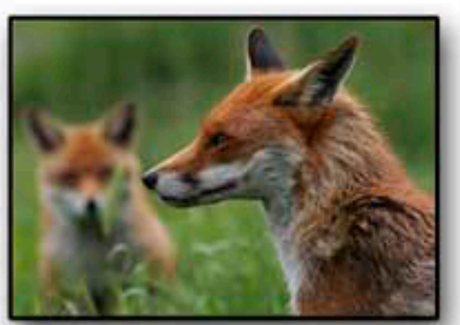


"My Spring Summer" by Penny Rihardson

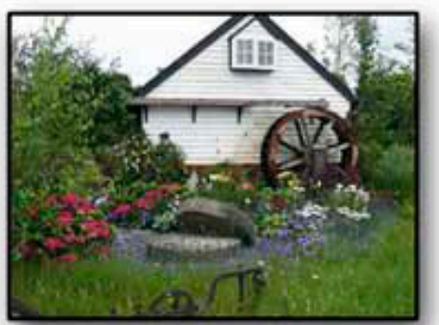
Thanks to Penny Richardson for submitting these images as digital files.
The photo of the Royal Air Force Hawk trainer and the British Airways Boeing have special significance as one of David and Penny's sons is piloting the airliner. Is this what they call a "close-up"shot.



Please contact Cliff if you have any images or articles you would like to see published in Viewfinder, we can use text sent as an e-mail as the basis for a feature and even the.jpg images can also be forwarded now that many of us have Broadband.
If you need advice or help please have a word with your desperate Editor.
Cheers, have a great Christmas and New Year.



"Mother & Cub" - Mike Warren



"Watermill & Stones" - Vic Garbett



"Firework Night" by Malcolm Bull

A few more images from this years competitions.

Steyning Camera Club

Our **Special Lecture** for this season will be presented by internationally renowned photographer **John Beatty**

on Wednesday, 13th February 2008

The venue will be the Coombe Court Hall in the Steyning Centre
Parking in Fletchers Croft Car Park next to the Centre

John has been showing his outstanding Audio Visual presentations to international acclaim and this is one of his rare camera club visits.
Please make sure that you book early as we anticipate a full house for this event.

Since his outstanding audio-visual debut in 1984 with the slow dissolve choreography of "Touch the Earth. A Celebration of Wild Places", John Beatty has been widely acclaimed as one of the most exciting and stimulating nature, travel and adventure photographers to have emerged in recent years.
John's work is chiefly concerned with the timeless rhythms of the natural environment, its beauty and simplicity and man's place within it. Now in his twenty first year of business, he has travelled throughout the world. Major expeditions include seven months spent in Antarctica, a winter in Spitzbergen, a four hundred mile traverse of the Greenland Icecap.



He has been to the Himalayas, the Pacific Islands, East Africa, the American Deserts, the Galapagos Islands and the Andes, Namibia, Alaska, the European Alps and has photographed almost all the woodland locations in Britain from the windswept tors of Cornwall

It is suggested that you visit his web site for a better idea of the content of the Show.

www.john@wild-vision.com



More information will be published shortly, by e-mail, on the club website and with posters.
Please contact:
Ken Scott - 01903 812834 - www. touchingthelight.co.uk or e-mail: ken.scott@touchingthelight.co.uk
Cliff Carter - 01903 812579 - www.cliffccd.com or e-mail: cliff.ccd@mac.com
Peter Penfold - 01903 812092 or e-mail: peter.penfold@virgin.net
for the latest details

Posters, flyers and e-mail attachments will be available for anybody that can help the club to publicise this event. The committee are confident that this will prove to be a very popular Show and early booking of tickets would be wise.
Please ask any committee member for more information.
Tickets available from early January, 2008, priced at only £5.00 each.

Steyning Camera Club – Digital Guidelines (Revised August 2007)

A few hints and tips for saving digital images for this season's new digitally projected competitions.

File Format

Files should be resized to a maximum of 1920 pixels width and 1080 pixels height, with a resolution set to 72 pixels/inch and must be submitted in high quality jpeg or jpg format. All image management programs will have a resizing facility, even the most basic and we will demonstrate the procedure during club sessions, if requested. Examples: landscape could be 1920w x 800h pixels and a portrait 750w x 1080h, sizes will be adjusted automatically if the constrain box is ticked and selected in the resizing dialogue box of Elements or whichever program you are using. In most programs, set the resolution first, and then set the image dimensions in pixels. You can safely ignore print size. Make sure you save your image as a separate copy using the file naming convention below, so as not to overwrite your original file.

Brief reasons for working to this system are as follows:
Any image that is projected will be displayed on the screen at 72p/i, even though your original and working images may have a much higher resolution. Pixel sizes are to correspond with the number of pixels that can be found on the club's new high resolution projector and we can downsize the image if necessary without losing image quality.
NOTE that resizing digital images that have previously been saved at lower resolution or with more compression would result in poorer quality projected picture.

File names for competitions

Each digital competition will have a code (initials of West Sussex Gazette Cup for example would be - WSG), followed by R1 (for Round 1), then 01 (for the your preferred order of projection), next will be your title for the image and finally your initials. Please include dashes - in the places shown below.
Example should look like this:- WSG-R1-01-This Is My Title-YI.jpg YI should be your initials and the .jpg refers to the previously mentioned file format.
Other competitions will be: Lewis Cup entries will be LC - Viewfinder Trophy will be VT - Steyning Digital Trophy – (new Annual award Digital Projected Image) will be SDT-.

Hardware

You may burn your image files to CD - any discs are suitable for this purpose as they can now be bought incredibly cheaply and these will not be used for archiving your precious images, only transfer to the competition secretary. All will be returned to the authors as soon as is practicable.
Alternatively, USB data sticks or pens, floppy discs and those small 16 or 32 Mb memory flash cards, so often supplied with cameras, are to be preferred as they are all re-usable.

The image file must be renamed in the way described and dragged from its existing folder on your computer onto an empty compactflash, smartmedia, SD, etc. memory card that has been inserted into a card reader or USB data pen.
Please note -The competition secretary can download from the following memory cards at present:- Compactflash - Smartmedia - Secure Digital (SD)/MMC or Memory Stick and - XD.
Please check with the Competition Secretary if you wish to send your entry by Broadband e-mail.

Demonstrations

We will try to help any members with the procedures mentioned and many will already be using similar features as part of their digital imaging system, so don't be afraid to ask for help.

Jottings from the Assistant Competition Secretary

I once described myself as Cliff's apprentice and that is exactly my experience over the last few months. A steep learning curve for the administration side of the job and also what makes a good print/image in the eyes of a discerning judge. I have yet to crack the latter!

The article from Margaret Preece in this edition points out the benefits of looking beyond our own club to learn from the work of other photographers. This I can whole heartedly recommend and recent trips out have been well worth the effort and fun. From time to time we all have something to say about Judges and how their opinions vary (even on the same print). But more often than not there is a common thread highlighting the most critical 'Do's & Don'ts'

Steyning Camera Club will, with your help, aim to compete in new and challenging areas. Digital projection makes this a whole easier and less expensive on the pocket. For a start we are entering a competition organised by the Photographic Alliance of Great Britain (PAGB) and is titled 'The Great British Cup'. Twenty digital images will be entered and I am already scanning the club archives and looking out for what we will be presented at the next digital competition in January. The club has also entered the Southern Federation Inter-Club Print Championship which is to be hosted by Chichester Camera Club on the 24th February 2008. More details to follow on both of these competitions.

Regnum Print Competition, Wivelsfield Green, 30th November 2007

Chichester came 1st with 113 points, followed by Mid Sussex with 111 points and Steyning was a very respectable 3rd with a total of 110 points. Only 3 points between the top three!

Sussex Photographic Federation Slide Competition, Wivelsfield Green, 2nd December 2007

Steyning was placed 11th out of 16 participating clubs with a total of 82 points. The winning club was Eastbourne with 97 points, followed by Storrington C.C. with 95 points.

Southern Photographic Federation

Print and Slide Competition/Exhibition Salisbury (Slide results not yet published.)

Congratulations to Margret Preece who was awarded a 'Highly Commended' for her print - 'From a Bygone Age'. Chichester won the competition with 57 points (out of 60). Steyning scored 50 and the lowest scoring club gained 40 points.

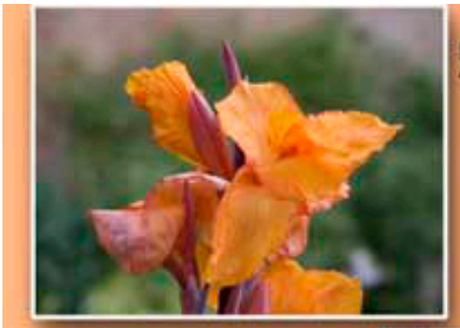
Our own internal competitions are progressing well and once again it promises to be a thrilling and very close finish. Up to date results are published at each club meeting so look for the blue folder on the notice board table.

Work has already begun on trawling for ideas on next seasons **'Set Subjects'**. Please let me know if you have some thoughts on likely topics so that the committee can create a short list for member's selection at the AGM.

Michael Williams

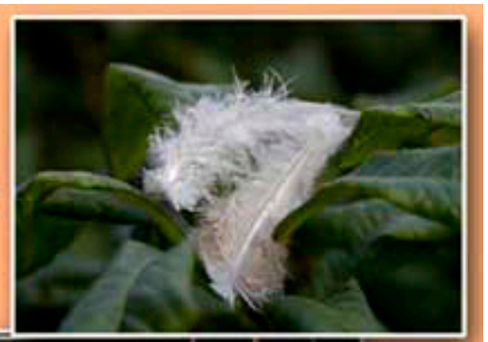
Viewfinder Number 40

The next Viewfinder will be our 40th Edition and I would really like to make this one a bit special, so please help by submitting ideas, articles, images or anything that you think may be of interest to your fellow members..



Round 2
"Floral Colour"

Round 3
"Feathers"



Round 4
"Something Polished"

PHOTOHUNT 2007
with Henfield C.C.

The cancellation of the Ploughing Match resulted in a frantic search for another venue for this event. We were very grateful to the owners of Leonardslee Gardens for allowing us to use their grounds and the many attractions for the 2007 Photohunt.





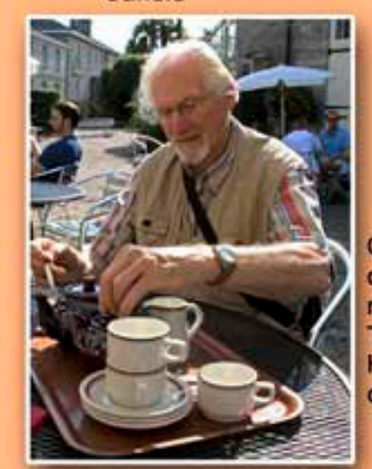
Round 5
"Old Machinery"

Round 6
"Reflection"





Round 9
"Candid"



Round 7
"Something Black"

Round 10
"World in Miniature"



Congratulations to Mike Williams for coming third overall and for scoring maximum marks in round 4.
The winner was David Barrett from Henfield Club and he has the honour of organising next year's Photohunt!