

HIGHLIGHT – Alton Camera Club Newsletter – August 2009

Hello, I do hope you are all enjoying the summer break and are busy capturing trophy winning images ready for the 2009/2010 season which will begin with an **Open Evening on Friday 11th September**. On this evening various committee members will explain the changes that have come about as a result of the proposals voted on at the last AGM. There will also be an EGM in order to approve the accounts for the 2008/2009 season. This will also be used to vote on the following proposal:

Any motion submitted at the AGM which is likely to make a change or alteration to Club Rules or Constitution, MUST be submitted in writing with names of proposer and seconder to the secretary at least seven days before the AGM or an EGM for inclusion in the published agenda and a copy is to be posted on the Club notice board at the same time. The proposer or seconder must be present at the meeting or they must have briefed a member of the committee as to why the proposal is being submitted.

The 2009/2010 Programme.

The programme for the 2009/2010 Season is now on the website. So look out for it along with some new images from the 2008/2009 season.

Competition Evening

Those of you who attended the AGM back in May or read the last edition of Highlight will know that there will be no Competition Evening this coming season.

The proposal put forward was that many of the competitions held on this evening should no longer be judged internally. That is to say that they should be assessed by an independent judge. One of the problems on this evening is that we know which entry has won but we don't know why. Also adding up the marks given by each and every member present sometimes takes longer than the process of marking. There is also the question of whether each entrant should, or shouldn't be allowed to mark their own entry. Individual assessment of competition rules can also play its part. At least with an independent judge any interpretation or misinterpretation of the rules will apply to all entries.

After much discussion it was agreed in principle to remove Competition Evening from next year's programme and tack several of the competitions, where possible, onto the bimonthly print and PDI competitions. Study your programme, which will be available on the first evening and now also on the website and you will see that the Children in View Competition will take place on the same evening as the 1st Print Competition on the 23rd October 2009. The judge on this occasion will be Caroline Colegate LRPS.

Finals Day

This item is included again, having appeared in the May edition of the Newsletter because I mistakenly awarded a certificate to Steve Kirkby. You will see that it should have been the other Steve. My apologies.

The Final of the Southern Photographic Federation League Competition was held at Overton on Sunday 26th April. On this day the two top clubs in both the Print and Slide sections of the league meet in the Final. This year the Print Competition was between Bracknell and Winchester. While the Slides were contested between Bracknell and Southampton.

There is another competition for the best prints and slides in each club's panel. Congratulations go to Steve Emmerson and Sid Newman who were awarded H.C. Certificates in this competition.

Alton Camera Club Safari. - 10th May 2009

Those of you who took part in the Alton Camera Club Safari will of course have remembered what pictures to submit. Well, in case you haven't remembered here is a list.

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|------|-----------------------------|------|------------------------|
| P1. | A Railway Footbridge | P11. | A Black Horse |
| P2. | A Power Distribution Centre | P12. | A Doorway with Pillars |
| P3. | A Waterwheel | P13. | A Narrow Passage |
| P4. | Out of Focus Photo | P14. | Oast House Roofs |
| P5. | A River Footbridge | P15. | Terraced Cottages |
| P6. | A Detail of the Church | P16. | An Arch within an Arch |
| P7. | A Canal Bridge | P17. | The Pest House |
| P8. | A Narrow Boat | P18. | A View of the Church |
| P9. | A Dilapidated Structure | P19. | A Georgian House |
| P10. | A Laid Hedge | P20. | An Old Prison |

Dave is looking forward to receiving your images at the first meeting of the season. Submit them in a similar way to those PDI's you enter for the bimonthly competitions.

Title them as follows: Your Name_A Canal Bridge_Safari See pages 8 and 12 of your current handbook.

Digital images for the Safari Competition may only be re-worked to crop, rotate, remove dust, change the white balance, saturation, contrast (including curves and levels adjustments) and apply sharpening in an image converter or a raw converter but the image must not be manipulated. All balance, saturation, contrast and sharpening changes must be to the image as a whole and no selective corrections on portions of the image are allowed. All other digital projected image rules will apply.

A secondary competition for black and white prints is sometimes held and judged by popular vote when the main results are announced.

All entries should be submitted as a digital file on a CD or similar medium. Members working from slides, without scanning facilities, may have their slides scanned by another member.

In case you've mislaid your handbook the relevant rule on the submission is given below.

Digital Images. *This applies to PDI's in general. Reprinted from the current Handbook.*

These must be submitted on CD, DVD, plug-in USB memory stick or by email. The email address is available at club meetings or upon request to the Competition Secretary.

Digital images for the League Competitions should be submitted at the meeting 7 days prior to the competition to allow time for uploading to the computer.

Images must be in *JPEG* (.jpg) or 8-bit *TIFF* (.tif) format. TIFF files must not contain layers. It is advisable to use the sRGB colour space. It is not necessary to re-size the files for showing although the optimum size is 1400 x 1050 pixels. It is the entrant's responsibility to ensure that the media can be read and that the files are identifiable.

The member's name, image title and class (C: Colour, M: Monochrome) must be contained in the filename, such as:

My Name_My Image Title_C.jpg

Advice, assistance and equipment is available to enable members to meet these requirements. The club uses PC computer equipment.

Check with Dave whether he is happy to have your safari entries emailed to him.

Answers to Safari Questions.

- Q1. Which of the Greek gods boards in the station car park? Titan.
- Q2. What can't you get between the hours of 6.00 am and 6.00 pm Mon to Friday? ... Cigarettes.
- Q3. What costs £800? ... Annual season ticket for the car park.
- Q4. What is 460 down 3? ... Electricity cable.
- Q5. How many 7's in the car park? (Excluding number plates and telephone numbers) ... 10.
- Q6. Where is 'Canine Defence' evident? ... Duffy Cottage – beware of the dog sign on the gate.
- Q7. What is upside down in Durham? ... 8 – House Number
- Q8. How many elephants are there between the car park and the church? ... 15 excluding horse
- Q9. Where is there still a Victorian dolly? ... Pumphouse Cottage
- Q10. In the churchyard there are the remains of a W.C. Who's? ... William Cobbett.
- Q11. What was the occupation of the beloved person who died aged 73? ... Physician
- Q12. Cold hearted. Where? ... Galleon Marine – ice cream sign.
- Q13. Where is Friday Street? ... Old Bank House.
- Q14. Who is working for you? ... James Arbuthnot poster in notice board.
- Q15. What number should be called for a falcon's journey? ... 01256 703474 – Peregrine Travel
- Q16. Do the butchers live here? ... Monks Cottage.
- Q17. I fancy a chocolate party! Where do I get one? ... Swirleeze Sweet Shop.
- Q18. Who can accommodate my private functions? ... George Hotel.
- Q19. Where are you instructed not to smoke wearing a crash helmet? ... Barclays Bank.
- Q20. Barred from scrumping. How many? ... 6 bars on the gate of Orchard House.
- Q21. Accept that you can get a hot stone massage while wearing Hopi ear candles here! Where?
Let's Face It – beauty parlour.
- Q22. What guards Santa's weekend cottage? ... Lion – doorknocker on Christmas Cottage.
- Q23. Sailing to Scotland. Where in Scotland and what number? ... Angus Cottage No. 51.
- Q24. Who lives in a hive? ... Mole.
- Q25. What are the dates below the castle? ... 1894 – 1994.
- Q26. Should this house not be in Greater Manchester? ... Bury Cottage (The house in the Bury)
- Q27. Don't drop a clanger here. Where? ... The Bell Inn.
- Q28. 'To encourage Virtue and discourage evildoers.' What and When? ... Stocks 1376.
- Q29. Whose office is at RG29 1NB? ... The Vicars (police)
- Q30. Who sat here for 41 years? ... The Appleton Family 1963 – 2004.

Beer and Skittles.

A beer and Skittles Evening took place at the Jolly Millar pub in North Warnborough on Friday 17th July. An enjoyable evening, good skittles, good food and good company. Numbers were a little down on previous years and if it were not for 7 members from Winchester Photographic Society the event may have had to be cancelled. If we don't get a little more support from members for these events then we may decide that it's not worth the effort of trying to stage one in the first place.

The Monday Club

Following the success of the Monday Night Beginners Evenings, there are plans afoot to run these again next season. Don't forget that these evenings are open to both members and non-members, so if you're new to the digital scene, do come along and perhaps if you have a friend or neighbour who you think would be interested then bring them along as well. Details should appear on the website early in the season. www.altoncameraclub.org.uk

May 29th to June 1st, 2009, Weekend to SOUTHPORT and LANCASHIRE

Elaine Dicker

Weather-wise, this was the best weekend we had enjoyed for many years, as no coats or umbrellas were needed the whole of the time, we were in Southport. This town which is a traditional seaside resort, is ideally situated on the Fylde Coast at the edge of a vast area known as the Lancashire Plains,

From our last 'pick up' at Littleton for our Winchester friends, we made our way to Chieveley Services, for a 'comfort stop'. Leaving here, we carried on to the City of Litchfield, where the 7th century Cathedral is the only medieval Cathedral in Britain with three spires, which are often referred to as '*The Ladies of the Vale*'. In the early years of the 19th century, the Cathedral acquired two famous treasures, one of which is the magnificent Flemish stained glass from Herckenrode abbey, bought by Sir Brooke Boothby, and placed in the Lady Chapel. The city in earlier centuries was the home of several famous people, including Samuel Johnson, David Garrick and Erasmus Darwin.

We arrived at The Prince of Wales Hotel about an hour later than scheduled, due to an accident on the motorway. According to their website, the Prince of Wales, is a reminder of our Victorian Heritage, with its elegant building and landscaped gardens. Combining elegant and stylish character with modern luxury, its 148 en-suite bedrooms have been tastefully designed to preserve the Victorian style of this Southport hotel. Several of us would definitely disagree with the comment regarding bedrooms, but we won't say anymore on that subject. After our evening meal, some of us took a leisurely walk to get our bearings. We returned to the Hotel and did the usual socialising, with a *glass in hand!*

Breakfast at eight, we'd been told for Saturday morning and we arrived at the restaurant at about two minutes to eight, where we were greeted, just like children, by a very disagreeable female member of staff, '*you should have been here at 7~30 a.m., make sure you are here at that time tomorrow morning*'. Our wrists had been well and truly slapped! After breakfast we made our way to the shopping area of Southport, and generally had a good '*mooch round*', before looking at the seafront gardens and amusement area. As we were going to the Martin Mere Wildfowl and wetlands Centre at 1-00 p.m., we decided to have a snack for lunch. Toasted sandwiches were ordered, but we had to wait so long, that when we finally received them, we hastily ate one, put the others in serviettes, to have later as we were then pushed for time.

On arrival at Martin Mere, we were put into two groups and had a guided tour, which lasted much longer than we had expected. Our guide was very pleasant and knowledgeable, and amongst the areas of interest he showed us, was the duckling nursery, as it was *downy duckling week*. The remainder of the time was our own to wander as we wished. This wildlife reserve is home to over 100 species of the world's ducks, geese, swans, cranes, flamingos and beavers. Many images were taken on this beautiful afternoon, including, which was a first for us, baby flamingos that are born grey, and greatly protected by their elders. After a very enjoyable visit we left to make our way back to the hotel. The same pattern followed as the previous evening, but this time Mike told us it would be 7~30 a.m. for breakfast next morning.

On arrival for breakfast the next morning, we were greeted by one young man, with *'everyone's up bright and early this morning'*, to which we replied *'we didn't want to get told off again'*. To which the person from the previous day had the grace to blush and give us a watery smile.

Sunday was to be a full day, leaving the hotel at 9~15 a.m. for Pendle Heritage Centre, our first port of call. Here we saw exhibitions depicting 17th century Lancashire. Over tea/coffee and biscuits we were shown a presentation about the notorious *Pendle Witches*, which resulted in their famous trial in 1612. By paying a small fee one could walk around the garden which has been restored to its original late 18th century design and contains plants which were common in that period. Several of us purchased jars of home-made preserves at the shop.

From here we travelled along the Ribble Valley to the edge of the Yorkshire Dales, to Settle. Lunch was taken here in this bustling market town in the foothills of the Pennines, amongst some of the most picturesque scenery in North Yorkshire. The town stands beside the largest outcrop of limestone in Britain – in a region of scars, cliffs, caves and potholes. The centre is dominated by the *Shambles*, a historic three storey building with shops on two levels and houses above, and the town Hall, built on the site of the toll-booth which was pulled down in 1820. Leaving Settle we travelled towards the Forest of Bowland by way of Wigglesworth and Tosside to Slaidburn.

For centuries Slaidburn was the Administrative centre for the beautiful Forest of Bowland, and is unique in that it has remained in the ownership of the same family for over two hundred years. The local landowners are only just beginning to open the area for walkers. It also has its own Heritage Centre and is welcoming visitors from all over. Several of us took a walk up the hill to the church and took images of the War Memorial. Back at the pretty village green with its scattering of stone cottages set in an idyllic spot on the banks of the River Hodder, we had ice creams, (how indulgent!) We also walked along here for a short while, and took more images from the bridge, taking in the tranquillity of a lovely afternoon, being enjoyed by so many people. Once again, after a very pleasant day, we made our way back to the Hotel, where the evening was more or less similar to the others.

So soon, Monday morning had arrived for us to start our journey back home. We left at 9~15 a.m., with our main stop of the day being *Trentham Estate*, near Stoke-on-Trent, currently undergoing a £100 million regeneration project aimed at creating a unique visitor destination of national significance. By the entrance is *The Potters Wheel*, supported by Stoke City. The Wheel is a graceful giant, which will lift you in the air, in a fully enclosed climate controlled, capsule. The ride, which we did not take, lasts for around 13 minutes, and gives a spectacular 360° panoramic view over the 750-acre site, which is one of the country's largest Garden Centres, including a Shopping Village of 60 attractive shops, including Edinburgh Woollen Mill; Thorntons and Portmeirion. The Italianate Garden is one of the largest in the UK, and is flanked by the Trellis Walk; Floral Labyrinth, and many other areas of great interest. Here was a great opportunity for those *'ten out ten'* images to be enjoyed during the club's next season! New this year is the *Monkey Forest*, which covers 60 acres of beautiful woodland and meadows where 140 monkeys

live in total freedom. You are plunged into the Barbary Macaques fascinating world as you hear rustling in the trees, chattering in a strange language of sounds and mimicry, and chasing one another through the branches. You can also walk around the lake, take a train or actually take to the water by boat. After spending several hours here, it was time to leave and continue our homeward journey. Perhaps another time we shall explore the acres we did not visit?

We had our usual comfort stops before arriving at Littleton to drop off our Winchester friends, stopping again at Alresford and reaching Alton at about 6~45 p.m. Again we had a lovely weekend, made all the better for the weather which had been so kind to us. Many thanks to Mike again for driving us over the weekend with his usual courteous and pleasant manner, and many thanks to Jennie and Eric for organising this trip, which again was 'new ground' for us.

Elaine and Mick
Ivy and Sid 2009

Club Competition Results for the 2008/2009 Season

These results have been available for viewing on the website for some time now but for those of you who do not have access they are reproduced below.

League Competition Winners.

Monochrome Prints. (The Norman Rogers Cup).....Ron Streeter
Colour Prints. (The Colour Print Tankard).....Ron Streeter
Colour Slides. (The Jack Bolton Cup).....Sid Newman
Monochrome DPI's (The Shirley Finden Cup).....Ron Streeter
Colour DPI'sChris Pearce

List of Entries for Meadows Photo Presentation Award.

1st Red riding Hood..... Anne Streeter
2nd Airshow..... Steve Kirkby
3rd February Snow..... Chris Pearce

A Visit to Marwell Zoo..... Chris Pearce
Black Country Museum..... Jack Cruttenden
Painshill Park..... Jack Cruttenden
Haslemere & District Dog Training..... Norman Pettet
A Day at the Races..... Nicky Gavin
My Brother.....Eric Bennett
Calgary Stampede..... Colin Vincent

Alton Camera Club Competition Evening 13th February 2009

Face of Alton (Print).....Colin Vincent
Mary Bisset Cup

Children in View.....Sam Green

