

HIGHLIGHT – Alton Camera Club Newsletter - May 2009

Alton Camera Club Safari. - 10th May 2009

This is to take place this coming Sunday May 10th. I do hope that none of you forgot the change of date and turned up last Sunday. The starting time and place: **10.30 am, Alton Railway Station Car Park.**

Please try to give this event your support. Treat it as a fun day out. Bring the wife, the kids, grand- kids. You may need their help after all, to answer some of the questions.

Beer and Skittles.

This item appeared in the last edition of Highlight but as far as I know there has been no response. It is therefore reprinted below:

Do we want a Beer and Skittles Evening this summer? If you have enjoyed these evenings in the past then how would you like to organise such an evening? All you have to do is find a suitable venue and then notify the members. Check with the treasurer regarding numbers, costs, etc. Publicity is paramount during the summer recess and you may perhaps like to use this Newsletter to publicise the event.

Finals Day

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 Kirkby and Sid Newman who were awarded H.C. Certificates in this competition.

Maurice Lockyer

Another piece of sad news, we learned earlier this April that Maurice Lockyer had died. Maurice was a founder member of the club and was treasurer from 1958 – 1968. He was made a life member on the occasion of the club's 40th birthday in October 1997. Although in recent years, Maurice didn't do much in the way of competitive photography, he was a very loyal member, coming along to meetings and regularly helping out in the kitchen during the tea breaks. A member of the Rambler's Association, older members may remember his guided walks around the town and district during our summer breaks a few years ago.

Maurice came into his own, when a few years back, we staged a digital projection of the 'Face of Alton' pictures. Having lived and worked in the town all his life, Maurice treated us to quite a number of interesting facts on the changes that had taken place in Alton over the years. Maurice will be missed. We extend our deepest sympathy to his family.

The 2009/2010 Season.

The first meeting of the 2009/2010 season will take place on Friday 11th September. You will note that this is the second Friday in the month. The first month's programme will be published in a pre-season edition of Highlight which you should receive in mid August.

AGM

Twenty-four members attended the Annual General Meeting held on Friday 1st May

Election of Officers.

Chairman - Chris Pearce
Vice Chairman - Dave Robinson
Hon Secretary - Elaine Dicker
Hon Treasurer - Anne Streeter
Programme Secretary - Glynis Larter-Whitcher
Competition Secretary - Steve Kirkby

Committee.

Steve Emmerson
Ivy Newman
Colin Vincent
Eric Bennett
Jack Cruttenden

Committee Meeting – Monday 18th May. Details from your Secretary at a later date.

Several proposals were discussed during the second half of the meeting and these are summarised below. Full details will appear in a later edition of Highlight after they have been discussed in committee.

Slides – The bimonthly Slide and PDI competition will become purely a PDI Competition involving just the two open classes: - Open Monochrome and Open Colour.

To accommodate those of you who are still producing slides, there is to be a single Slide Competition Evening slotted into the programme next season.

Competition Evening – Proposal put forward 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. Details will be worked out in committee.

The Meadows Photo-Presentation Award – This competition has been a feature of the club programme since 1964 and although the original idea was to allow presentations which could be either prints or slides to be shown along with musical accompaniment, spoken or recorded commentary, it has over the years become an AV Competition. The proposal put forward at the AGM was that it should have an external independent judge.

The arguments for and against an independent judge are very similar to those put forward for competitions held on Competition Evening. Again, after much discussion it was decided to keep the Meadows as it is but there will be an additional AV competition with an independent judge, added to the programme next season. Full details in a future edition of Highlight.

Prize Winners.

Somebody raised the point at the AGM that although a picture of this season's trophy winners had appeared on the website and a report had appeared in the local paper, there had been no list of names attached. There was also a reference to the fact that these would be published on the website. Not a lot of good if you don't have access to the web. To rectify this I will endeavour to produce a full list of trophy winners in the next edition of Highlight.

Brian Shardlow

We have heard from Ron Gafney of the Bracknell Camera Club that Brian Shardlow has died. Brian was a member until about two years ago, regularly coming along on Friday evenings with several other members from the Bracknell area. During his latter years he had a severe mobility problem due to two, 'dodgy knees', as he put it. In fact despite the fact that he must have been in a great deal of pain at times he still managed to treat his problem as a bit of a joke.

He came along on several of the club weekend holidays and many of us will

remember how he would stay in his seat at many of the short stops so as not to inconvenience other members in keeping them waiting while he went through what must have been the painful process of getting on and off the coach. On behalf of the club I extend the deepest sympathy to his wife, Betty.

The Monday Club

Following the success of the Monday Night Beginners Evenings, there are plans afoot to run these again next season. Full details will appear in a pre-season newsletter and on the website. 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.

Club Archive.

During this season I have needed to consult the club archives on a number of occasions in search of facts and figures on club membership, competitions, officers etc. This need arises when various testimonials or citations are required as in the case of Jennie Pearson's Roll of Honour Award and the rather sad occasions when information for an obituary is required. The only club archive material available to us are old copies of Highlight, the club magazine and newspaper cuttings. The problem with newspaper cuttings is that they are in the main just reports of club meetings and often suffer from severe editing. In some cases they never see publication, so in the main anyone requiring this sort of club information usually gleans it from old copies of the club magazine.

The problem for the future is that the club magazine ceased publication in 2006 to be replaced by this newsletter which deals mainly with forthcoming events. The reasons for the change were well documented at the time, but did we lose a valuable archive source? This came to light on Presentation Evening when I was presented with the Member of the Year Award, for which I thank you all. At the end of the evening Elaine informed me that she had obtained the various facts about my membership for our chairman's introduction to the award from a fortieth anniversary copy of Highlight.

At the end of our fiftieth anniversary season Jennie compiled a 50 year anniversary record of the club's 50 year history. It has never been published. The perception is that there is very little interest in such a publication. Food for thought?

