

## **HIGHLIGHT – Alton Camera Club Newsletter** **October 2009**

### **October at the club.**

**2nd** “A Falklands Spring” An illustrated talk by Tim and Margaret Carr. Tim and Margaret have made several trips to the Falkland Islands. This should be an interesting evening.

**9<sup>th</sup>** “Art and Pixels” by Cliff Carter. Cliff, as many of you may remember, gave us a talk on Digital Panoramas a few months ago. He was also the man that introduced our Mac users to ‘Boinx’, a piece of AV software.

**16<sup>th</sup>** Practical Evening. On this evening we should have several ‘set ups’ in order to allow members to try their hand at Still Life, Macro etc. If you’ve not tried this branch of photography then come along and find out what it’s all about.

**23<sup>rd</sup>** 1<sup>st</sup> Print and the Children in View Competition - Judge: Caroline Colegate LRPS. Do please note that the Children in View Competition is to be held on this evening and will be judged by Caroline. In previous years it has been held as part of Competition Evening and judged internally.

**30<sup>th</sup>** “Wiltshire and The London Horse & Carriage Show” by Peter Symes. Peter has visited us on several previous occasions and in my book has always been very entertaining. One of those speakers whose humour and slides make for a good evening, whatever the subject.

### **Safari Images**

If you’ve yet to hand your Safari Images in to Dave then you have until 16<sup>th</sup> October. Dave won’t be at the club for the next two weeks, but if you bring them along before the 16<sup>th</sup> then hand them to Elaine.

### **Southern Photographic Federation League Competition.**

We are to host one of the Semi-Finals of this competition which will be held at our clubroom in late March. Details will appear in this newsletter and on our website later in the season. Note it will not be held on a Friday our normal club evening.

## **The Monday Club.**

Details of the programme for the Monday Club can be found on the club website; [www.altoncameraclub.org.uk](http://www.altoncameraclub.org.uk), but for the benefit of those of you who don't have access to the internet the programme for the three meetings up until Christmas are given below.

Photography workshops for members and non-members are held in the clubroom, 100 Normandy Street, Alton on the second Monday of each month. Photographers of all abilities including absolute beginners are very welcome as are those who came along to our similar sessions last season. Bringing along your camera is essential as every evening will contain practical exercises. There is a small charge of £3 per person for each session and this includes tea and coffee during the interval.

## **Monday Club Programme for 2009**

### ***OCTOBER***

#### **CAMERAS AND LENSES**

- 12<sup>th</sup>** Aperture, Shutter, ISO, Exposure, Practical Exercises, Lenses.  
**Oct.** Depth of Field. Top 10 Digital Tips.

### ***NOVEMBER***

#### **COMPOSITION**

- 9<sup>th</sup>** Basic Rules, Colour, Shape, Proportions, Art, Practical Exercises.  
**Nov** White Balance, Monochrome, Camera Care and Sensor Cleaning.

### ***DECEMBER***

#### **PEOPLE**

- 14<sup>th</sup>.** Portraits: Individuals and Groups, Formal and Informal, On Camera and  
**Dec** Studio Flash, Street Photography, Practical Exercises.

The full season up until April 2010 can be found on the club website.

## Club Projector

Those of you who came along to the 1<sup>st</sup> PDI Competition of the season will have noticed that the projector had been repositioned for the evening. Up until now the projector has always been placed on a low table and angled upwards towards the screen. This tilting results in a trapezoidal image whereby the width of the image at the top of the screen is wider than at the bottom. In the past this has been corrected electronically using the 'keystone' correction facility. This produces a rectangle but softens the image and can create unwanted pattern effects. The greater the angle of projection, the greater the problem. To eliminate distortion all together you have to project along an axis normal to the screen, as we do with the slide projector. The layout of the room and position of the projector obscured the view of many members and we apologise for that. A compromise will have to be devised as the projector cannot be positioned at the back of the audience and nor will rear projection or ceiling mounting be viable in our petite venue. Alternatives could include tilting the screen downwards, moving the projector further back, putting the image lower on the screen, a more amenable projector stand, or just accepting a less than perfect image. Sadly any of these might not be acceptable for our external competitions.

There were also problems with the calibration software which had worked correctly on the club's other laptop - this is being investigated. Perfect colours are almost certainly unattainable but feedback from members indicates that we still need to improve on the current situation.

Unfortunately, over half of the images sent in needed adjustment in some form or another. The projection software does require accurate filenames for its images. Your name is needed for the scoring and the misspelled titles will be spotted by the entire audience. TIFF users should also bear in mind that we only accept 8-bit images with no layers or alpha channels. Sending your images in early ensures that any problems can be fixed in good time and get the competitions starting promptly. Please remember that your club's best images go on to external competition against other clubs and those rules are much more strict. Resized and sharpened images do look better and often score higher too.

A plea from the scorers and treasurer: Your entries *must* have a completed entry slip and the appropriate entry fee handed in before the competition starts. If the titles on the slips could be even remotely similar to the titles on the images that would be a bonus.

It was good to see some of the new members' entries scoring well and it looks as though the PDI competitions will be as closely fought as ever. Busy evenings are in prospect for the 3rd and 4th rounds when we also have the set subject (Weather) and Daisy Parratt (Homes & Gardens) competitions too.

Every option is being investigated to produce the best viewing experience so suggestions and feedback are welcomed by your Committee.

## **Children in View Competition.**

Please note that this will take place on the same evening as the 1<sup>st</sup> Print Competition which is to be held on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October. The judge on that evening will be Caroline Colegate LRPS.

## **Club Weekend**

Norwich, The Broads and the North Norfolk Coast.

Friday 14<sup>th</sup> – Monday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2010.

For full details of this weekend ask Jennie for a leaflet and booking form.

## **Club Handbook.**

The 2009 edition of the handbook should be discussed and approved at the committee meeting on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> October and should appear on the website very soon after. Copies will also be available at the club. Because the 2009 handbook may not appear before you have mounted your competition prints the reminder is printed below.

There is a Print Competition on 23<sup>rd</sup> October. Remember that: Mounts must not exceed 400mm x 500mm. A print must not overhang any edge of the mount.

Note; for those of you who mount your prints on a mount other than the standard 400mm x 500mm. The moment you make one side greater than 400mm it then becomes the longest side limiting the other side to 400mm. I'll leave it to you to work things out should you wish to use a triangular or circular mount, but just remember that your finished print should fit inside a rectangular frame whose internal dimensions are 400mm x 500mm. It's worth perhaps pointing out that some exhibitions are now insisting that all prints have to be mounted on a 400mm x 500mm mount regardless of the print size.

**Looking Ahead** - some dates in the programme to look out for.....

**6<sup>th</sup>** November - Portrait Evening - Bring your Cameras

**20<sup>th</sup>** November - Epson Event - A visit by a representative of EPSON (UK) Perhaps a chance to ask the question: "Why do I appear to use more ink cleaning nozzles than actually producing prints.

**4<sup>th</sup>** December - 2nd Print Competition of the season and the Challenge Set Subject Competition. Subject: "WORK."

The judge for the evening is Barry Day ARPS CPAGB.

