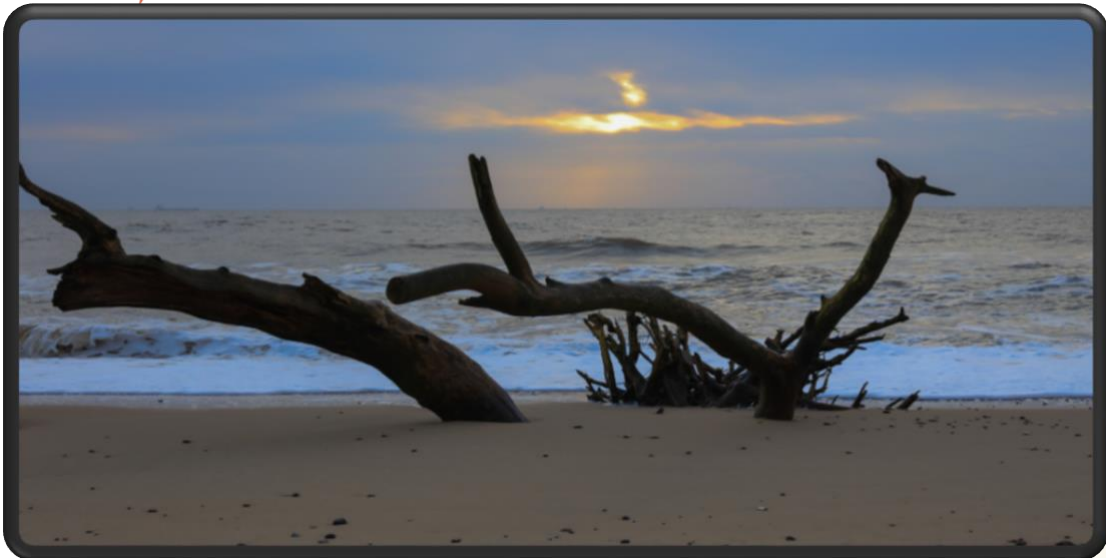


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The Lowestoft Photographic Club

Newsletter

Issue 14



Picture by Robert Bilbie

Message from the Chairman

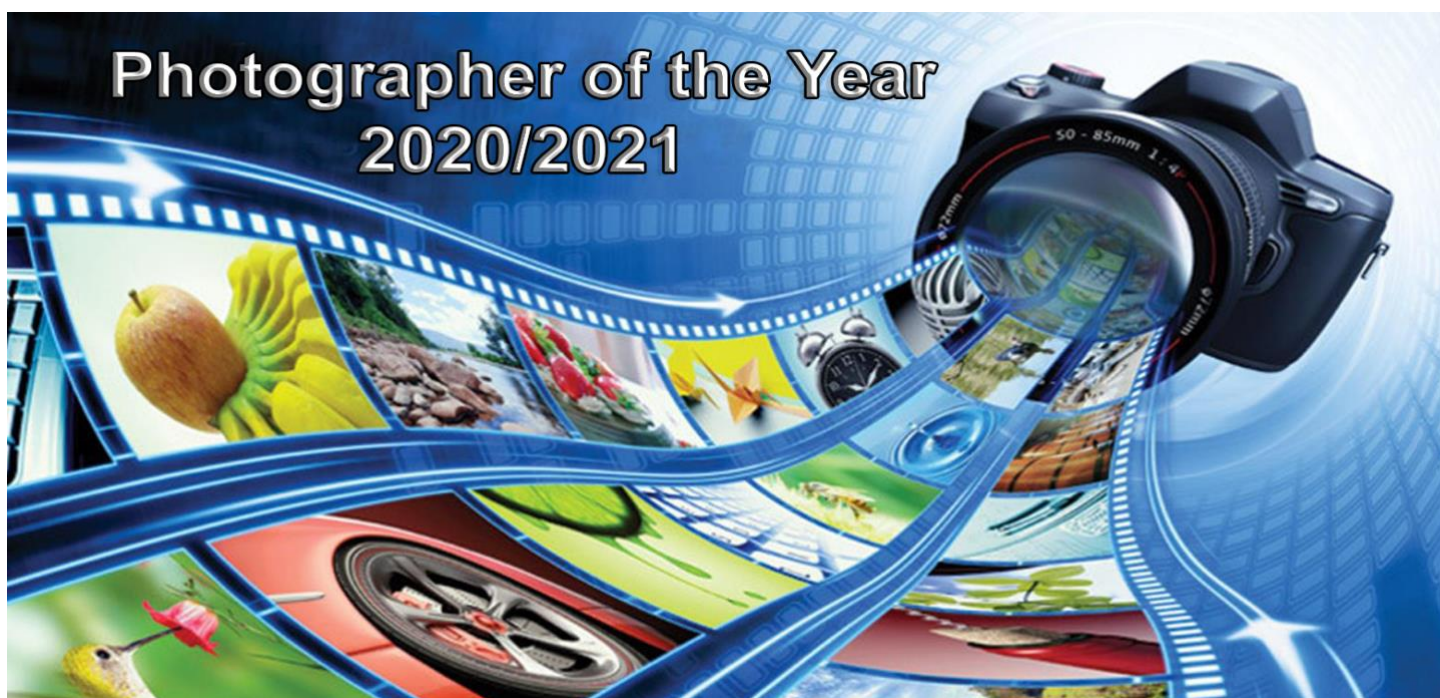
I hope you are all enjoying our season so far and it's nice to see some of our other photographic friends from other clubs who have decided to join us for the zoom presentations, I think you will all agree we have had some excellent speakers to date, I particularly enjoyed the Photographic Sublime by Thomas Peck.

The judging of the competitions has however been a different matter, to combat this we are putting together a list of judges that we feel are entertaining, consistent and fair with their scoring, with the intention of only using these judges in the future.

Looking ahead we are planning more photographic outings, these of course gives us all the opportunity to have a chat face to face albeit socially distanced, and perhaps get some great shots. We will announce the dates and venues in due course.

I've decided on the theme for the Chairman's night on the 5th May. I want to see your favourite three images taken in 2020. I'll attempt to comment and judge them and announce the winner at the end of the night. There will be a prize for the winner...

Glenn Long
Chairman



LPC: PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR SCORES FOR 2020-2021															1st Place Colour			2nd Place Colour			3rd Place Colour					
															TOTALS BROKEN DOWN											

How I got involved in Judging Photographic Images by Derek Leak

On 20th June 1983, I took the first picture on my first Single Lens Reflex camera - I am sure of the date because it is written on the transparency, together with the subject's title. My generous Mother had set me up with a "Canon AE1 Programme" body and two "Canon" zoom lenses. Having been a member of what was then "The Lowestoft Photographic Society" for a decade I thought I had learned enough to justify the expense of a "proper" camera. The LPS had been a regular oasis of calm from the rigors of earning a living. I greatly enjoyed the meetings every Wednesday night. Despite often feeling tired at the outset, I usually went home refreshed. The Society provided interesting and varied company and taught me almost everything I knew about the hobby.

This elevation in equipment status seemed to turn me into appropriate material for Committee fodder and over the next 30 years was elected to every office within the LPS, except the Programme Secretary. However, my wife, Judy, did that job for several years. By the way, this is not bragging. I was not the best person to do these jobs, but simply the mug who was prepared to have a go. While acting as Chairman, I first understood what the "East Anglian Federation of Photographic Societies" was and how it operated. I discovered that the LPS was a member and this came with lots of benefits. One of these was "Judging Courses" - concentrated, one day affairs where an attempt was made to explain the techniques used for judging images.

I with other LPS members attended these courses and several of us were offered the opportunity to become EAF Judges at the lowest of three levels. For a time the LPS had the largest number of judges listed by the EAF of any club in its catchment area.

My first effort at judging a club competition was on Thursday 16th October 1997. It was for the North Norfolk Camera Club and was held in the Village Hall at Cley-next-the-sea.

I remember it vividly and immediately discovered that it was a good idea to chat to as many members as possible - and NOT ONLY to the "important" ones. Judy almost always accompanied me to these events. Together we had already been giving "Lectures" to East Anglian Clubs, mainly in the form of Audio-Visual shows, which in those days involved humping around large amounts of equipment - and so Judy was there to do all the heavy lifting! We became a duo, sometimes judging Exhibitions and Competitions together "live" on the night. This "Judy and Derek show" became very popular with some clubs in Norfolk. Judy had been offered EAF Judges Status, but declined to take it, so she knew what to do.

After a year or two I was elevated, first to level "B" and then the top EAF level "A" for judges. Altogether we judged and lectured 318 times and enjoyed every minute. In 2018 we decided to give up Judging and Lecturing. We had both seen people carry on for too long and decided to try to avoid that pitfall. As clubs continued to try to persuade us to come back and do more, we probably succeeded.

Now to the point of all this rambling!

This is a summary of what we have learned in judging and entertaining Photographic Clubs.

1. Entertaining is EXACTLY what you should do - the punters need to go away happy.
 2. It follows that the worst thing a judge can do is cause the club to lose members.
 3. Consequently NEVER heavily criticise an image because to the author, it plainly has some merit. It is up to the judge to find that first and then perhaps make suggestions for improvement.
 4. No judge can ever be DEFINITELY RIGHT about what he decides.
 5. It must be made clear that the scores given represent the judge's opinion at the time and in the company of the other images submitted.
 6. An attempt should be made not to overuse any word or comment. This is always obvious to the audience, but rarely to the judge himself.
 7. In order to do this, a wide vocabulary is needed.
 8. To achieve this, there is no disgrace in reading other people's criticism - I sometimes used the Arts Column in the "Guardian" for new ideas of saying the same thing using different words.
 9. In Open Competitions it is important to praise all types of Photography.
 10. Consequently, where it was merited, I would score highly - give a ten - to what I thought was the best Landscape, Natural History Image, Record Image, Creative Image, Portrait, etc.
- At the end, if asked for a winner of the competition, I would look again at the best pictures and say to the audience, "You see how difficult it is to judge one of these against another and if you ask me for a winner, it will be my personal preference".
11. It is my belief that, "putting a picture to one side" shows a lack of conviction. It is much better to give several images 10 marks - and if required put into operation point 9.
 12. At least once in the evening be overwhelmed by an image. "This is wonderful! 10 marks!", always goes down well.
 13. Always judge what you SEE. Don't fall into the trap of studying metadata to form your opinions.

I sometimes wonder why competitions are so popular and have come to the conclusion that it is mainly so that the judge can be pilloried for his decisions, by those who know they can do it better!

Derek Leak



How is your memory these days?

I thought I'd take a moment to ask you to have a think about how you store your digital images. In the (distant?) past, storage was a cardboard box containing your photos / slides / negatives and if the box broke then at worst it meant a few bent photos. Nowadays we all transfer our digital images from our cameras to our computers without a second thought. However, most computers still use mechanical hard drives that have spinning discs inside. These can 'crash' (the read head - think record stylus - can hit the spinning discs causing data loss) or electronically fail (ask Glenn!). What would you do then? Do you have any backup plan if you lost your computer's hard drive?

Can I suggest that at least you have an external drive that you copy your precious information onto. Another thought would be to copy your digital photos to the 'cloud'. This might sound daunting, but think of it as a remote hard drive somewhere at the other end of the internet - one that doesn't fail! Its advantage is that in the event of something catastrophic (theft / fire), the information in the cloud would be unaffected. Also it can be accessed from other computers and devices - such as your mobile phone.

If considering using Cloud storage, have a shop around as there is a big price difference between companies. If you intend to store RAW files and JPGs, then you could use more cloud space than you think, so pick a provider that is generous - also pick one that will be around for a long time!

Something worth considering is that if you are an Amazon Prime member, then you already have a photo cloud store. What's more it is unlimited - and includes the storage of RAW files!! In fact, as Amazon Prime membership costs either £7.99 a month or £79 a year (equates to £6.58/month), then it may be worth considering joining even IF you could use their other services (deliver, music and video).

Else something like Google gives 200GB @ £25 a year or 2TB at £80/year - with unlimited storage of up to 'high quality' images (not FULL resolution and not RAW files).

Of course there are a whole host of other providers out there. Some food for thought for you.

Andy Biglin

Items for Sale

John Pitts has the following items for sale

Jessops Canon fit auto extension tubes. £15/20

Jessops Canon fit auto 2X converter. £15/20

Seagull angel finder assume Canon. £20/30

Hoya 72mm circular polariser. £15/20

Please email pitts57@yahoo.co.uk

Pictures from the Landscape group photoshoot at Covehithe



The landscape group photoshoot was well attended with 13 members joining us at 6am on the day. It was a lovely morning with wispy clouds around adding to the impact and drama of the pictures.

Everyone seemed to come away with some fantastic pictures many of which have been posted on the Facebook members page, even some had a dramatic sunrise that I seemed to have missed!



The November landscape group shoot which was due to be an afternoon shoot at Dunwich Heath will have to be cancelled as we are moving into the 2nd Lockdown but hopefully we will be able to plan another landscape shoot in December.

Pictures by Derek Leak and Rob Howarth