

AUGUST 2020

The Lowestoft Photographic Club

Newsletter Issue 11



LOWESTOFT PHOTOGRAPHIC CLUB

Message from the Chairman Glenn Long

As we fast approach the start of the new season, we are still in the grip of the Covid-19 pandemic. The committee has a plan of action that will see us still functioning as a club for the new season, regardless of how it pans out, so rest assured we can still enjoy our Wednesday nights as members of the LPC. Thanks to Barrie we have an exciting programme of events coming up for the new season. I sincerely hope to see each one of you at some point during the coming months, be it at the club, on Zoom or on a field trip.

On a lighter note we now have a new and modern Logo, designed by Rob Howarth, seen above on this on the newsletter, so thank you Rob.

In the meantime stay safe.

Glenn Long

Message from the Treasurer Frank Blyth

We are getting close to the new season starting and membership fees will soon become due.

This is a very challenging time for the club and our survival depends on the membership income. Once again Barrie has put together an excellent and varied programme with outside speakers and our own talented members, something to suit all types of photography.

Membership fees remain the same this season £38 for one person £64 for a couple and £20 for a student.

It is still excellent value for money at about £1 per evening and then a free meal provided as well.

Until the club resumes at the church hall we will continue to use Zoom to hold our meetings which incur costs.

I hope that you will all renew your membership and as usual you can pay in the most convenient way to yourself.

You can if you wish pay by direct payment into our bank account the details I have listed below. Please use your name as a reference so I will easily know who has paid.

I will be emailing you all with my details if you need to get it touch with me.

Account Name: Lowestoft Photographic Club

Account Number: 30633917

Sort Code:20-53-06

Winter of discontent

As August heralds the last of the summer months, and the nights slowly close in giving way to a new dawn with a slight nip in the air, I am reminded of my favorite time of year, Autumn. Summer photography can be challenging to say the least with harsh shadows, silly o'clock starts and late sunsets. I find myself looking forward to a more socially acceptable time of day to set the alarm, and of course the shorter days makes it easier to sleep when an early night is required. Gone will be the lazy hazy days that seem to go on forever, but the regret of not doing more photography will linger as it does at the end of every summer, Covid-19 or not. The realisation that the new club season is almost upon us, I now find myself in panic mode with no decent competition shots and a talk to do! Will I ever learn, I do this every year!

I remind myself it is only August and this year there are four meteor showers in this month alone, that must yield something good, plus I'm on holiday and I've been planning shots all summer long, I finally realise now is my winter of discontent, time to act, shift up a gear and get back on track with what should have been done already.

Sounds familiar anyone?

Glenn Long
LPC Chairman

Photographer of the Year 2020/21 Themes

The following photographic themes were chosen at our last AGM. The themes will appear, one at a time in our Photographer of the Year DPI competitions throughout the 2020/21 season, so keep a sharp eye out for pictures that could fit the themes listed below.

Composite Photography

Transport

Waterfalls

Portraiture

Castles

Re-enactments

Two images per member may be entered into each of the "Theme" category's & two images may be entered into each of the "Open" category's per DPI competition.

The DPI Image size remains the same as last season 1920 x 1200 pixels

As we may be projecting the pictures over the internet via zoom it is important to save the images in the sRGB colour space.

Lowestoft Photographic Club's Annual Exhibition 10th October - 24th October 2020

To keep you all up to date, the Annual Exhibition has been put back from its usual dates and will be between 10th and the 24th October 2020. This is to give it the best chance of going ahead given the current Covid restrictions. As last year, it will be held at the Lowestoft Library with prints going on display in their foyer. To allow for the images to be labeled and then judged prior to display, the deadline for submissions has been set for Wednesday 23rd of September 2020. Please email your DPIs (PDIs as some know them by) by that date the email address below.

If you are entering Prints, please email me and let me know so I can arrange collection / delivery of your images, as we may not be back to physical meetings at the hall by then.

As a recap, each member is allowed a maximum of 2 colour prints, 2 monochrome prints and 4 DPIs.

Monochrome is defined as black and white or coloured in one single colour - e.g. sepia.

The DPIs should not exceed 1920 x 1200 pixels. Please ensure you name your DPIs with their TITLE followed by your NAME in brackets e.g. "SUNSET (Andy Biglin).jpg"

Prints ideally be mounted, with the mount not exceeding 50cm x 40cm. Please ensure your prints have a label on the top left corner of the rear, with the image TITLE and you NAME on it. The position of the label will be used to dictate which way up the image is displayed.

In a bid to raise funds for the club, it was suggested that we offer copies of our prints for sale during the weekends at the exhibition. This would involve a printer being at the library so that people could take away a print immediately. Only prints would be offered and not digital copies. As such we seek the support of members to give their permission for their images to be sold in this way will all profits (less printing costs - ink and paper - supplied at cost price) going to the club. It would mean that digital copies of prints would be needed to facilitate this.

Please could all images be sent to andy@bos-net.co.uk - any problems, please feel free to email me or if needs be call on 07917128039. Many thanks, Andy Biglin

Evening Landscape Group Shoot at How Hill, Norfolk -Saturday 29th August 6.30pm

Providing Government guidelines relating to Covid 19 allow, I am planning an evening Landscape group shoot to How Hill on Saturday 29th August at 6.30pm for a 7.50pm sunset. We will meet at How Hill Rd, Ludham NR29 5PG at 6.30pm and set off on a short walk keeping the 1meter social distancing from each other at all times. All members are welcome to join us and please remember to bring camera's tripods and your own refreshments.

Please email me if you have any concerns or further questions

reederhowarth@aol.com

Many Thanks

Rob Howarth



Each month I would like to publish club members insights into their photographic journeys.
If you have a photographic story to tell please email me at reederhowarth@aol.com



My life in photography so far

By Club Secretary Barry Smith



On my 18th birthday I woke up and opened my gifts and one present from my parents was a Kodak Instamatic kit that included a film and flash cubes. I could not wait to get out and go over to Leathes Ham at the bottom of Normanston Park that was close to where I lived in Lowestoft.

It was a lovely sunny day, the trees were in full leaf and the Ham was full of birds of all types. I suddenly made friends with my camera as I liked what I saw through the view finder.

When my Uncle Gordon came round, who incidentally was an established freelance semi-professional photographer, he said straight away that my pictures were very good, and that I had an eye for a photograph.

After a few months of enjoying my camera my Uncle came round and he said he hoped that I did not mind, but he had bought me a camera from John Wells photography shop in Lowestoft, as he felt it would improve my photography even more. It was a second hand Zenith E camera which turned out to be a very good beginner's camera. I was very pleased that he had done this for me; although the camera was very heavy in comparison to the instamatic I soon got used to it.

I had now progressed from a 126 cartridge to 35mm and my new journey into photography had begun.

Many films went through that new camera and each time I took my photographs to my Uncle to critique, and this type of mentoring really helped move my photography on. He would say things like I should have been in slightly closer, or when I take a meter reading in certain circumstances point it slightly down and set the camera accordingly, or I needed to

take it later on in the afternoon, when the light was not so contrasty.

It was always really exciting sending my film off in the post and waiting every day for the results to be returned.

I found that the Zenith E had its limitations, and I purchased a brand new Yashica TL Electro X. This was a lovely camera but I then found it had its limitations too as it did not have automatic exposure, and it was still taking too long, and difficult to take a grab shot. My girlfriend, who is now my wife Bev, treated me to a Canon A1 and I never looked back.

I then started to get enlargements done and before long I had somehow arranged an exhibition in the Lowestoft Library. A journal reporter came and gave me a lovely review the following week in the newspaper and as you can imagine I was over the moon.

The best thing that I then did was to join the Lowestoft Photographic Society at the Lowestoft Library, as this took me to another level. The people in the club were so kind and supportive to me, and I made many lovely photographic friends.

The club were using slide film as well as prints from negatives and I remember being taken aback at seeing photographs being displayed massively on the big screen, I was then hooked on Kodachrome 64 slide film. I found Kodachrome to be the best after trying Agfa, which I found too be very grainy, and Fuji which I felt that the colours did not look accurate.

I then started to work on Saturdays for Studio 161, photographing weddings. I really enjoyed doing this at the time as it seemed special to me to be part of someone's wedding. It was very stressful as I soon realised that a wedding photographer's job was so much more than just taking photographs. It soon became apparent that if you did not take charge it was chaos and you would never get any photographs. You had to organise people in a kind polite fun way throughout the whole church service. You were under great pressure to not take too long either as there would be another wedding soon starting, and that was the way it was in those days.

You then had to deal with the management at the reception and you had even more pressure, as they wanted to serve the meal at a certain time.

I did this for many years but the novelty started to wear off as times started to change especially when a bride said to me casually 'You photographed my last wedding'. And on another occasion I had to put up with a drunken groom who

was singing rugby songs in the church yard with his mates, and a coach load of guests refused to get off the coach until they were in the church.

I then had a problem trying to get a good picture of the groom because he kept closing his eyes.

Another time I did a wedding for myself where the bride's mother refused to go into the church because her ex-husband had turned up. After much persuasion she went in the church, but then refused to be photographed in the family group pictures, and the bride ended up in tears.

I had enough by this time, and only did the odd wedding for family and friends, although reluctantly.

I tried my luck with International Exhibitions encouraged by Sidney Reynolds who was a top British award winning photographer and club President, who kept bringing me entry forms. I will never forget Sidney's kindness as well as his one liner when he said to me 'If the light aint right don't take it'. Those few words are so powerful and stayed with me as you can learn so much from that one sentence. He said that he waited several hours for the light to be perfect for many of his Gold medal award winning photographs.

I achieved ten acceptances at National and International exhibitions and one in particular that I was really pleased about was the 17th Wellingborough Open Colour Slide Exhibition in 1995, where they printed my picture in the brochure.

I somehow lost interest in going to the club, which was a mistake, although I carried on taking pictures, but I needed to be in a club to keep my interest up.

I did many AV colour slide and print shows as I was listed in the PAGB brochure. I had to stop this after a few years as the PAGB brought in a rule that if you wanted to be in the book you had to be a member of a photography club.

I also went on a judge's course and received a C level grade, and for a time judged several clubs competitions. However, I found it quite stressful as I found it difficult analysing a photograph in a few seconds, and then thinking of the words to say about it, although I felt confident the best photographs won.

A few years later I went back to doing prints again and joined the Phoenix club and stayed with them for a couple of seasons, but then again drifted away.

About three years ago I joined the Lowestoft Photographic Club and instantly felt at home again after being made very welcome. However, the world had moved on to digital photography in a big way and I had to change with the times, as I was still using negative film. My wife again treated me to another new Camera which was a Nikon P60 digital bridge camera. It felt so good in my hands and I was off again. When I am out with that camera I just cannot stop seeing photographs to take.

I also have a Canon 5D professional camera, but I tend to only use it when the Nikon P60 is not up to certain types of photography, as it has its limitations as the aperture only goes up to F7.5, and it does not have a flash sync for studio work.

When I was younger I looked forward to the club competitions with great anticipation to see if I had done well. However, I still want to do well but I genuinely look forward to the competitions for another reason as I love seeing what other people are doing, and I am always impressed by what is being achieved.

I feel that I am now part of a great club with many excellent photographers that motivate and inspire me, and the club can only move forward to a higher level.