

Rugeley and Armitage Camera Club Newsletter

Saturday 3rd October 2015

Web: www.rugeleyandarmitagecameraclub.co.uk



Retrospective

Leigh Preston (FRPS) visited us on Monday night - and his presentation "Five Essays" not only entertained us, but also inspired - with some fantastic images - and great stories to go with them.

Starting with Northern Skylines - we were shown what is possible with scenes that you might just walk past without giving a second look, and also that a judicious bit of editing can remove satellite dishes from buildings - making the image look more like it would have in the 30s or 40s. Of course - the line was drawn at trying to Photoshop out solar panels from roofs!

Ratcliffe Power Station also featured - with the hint that a 4min exposure in the winter when there is more steam, would aid getting a great image.

From the North we headed to the Eastern Block and Georgia - where purchasing a little local produce gets you in the good books of the people and you can take photographs with a lot of willing subjects.

What was most fascinating was the life story - exposed by focussing on the eyes - as these images showed that the eyes really are the window to the soul - and also that the interaction really plays a part in being able to get the shots that you want.

From Georgia - the sombre effects of war were brought home in "The Eleventh Hour, of the Eleventh Day, of the Eleventh Month". Haunting images reflecting the sacrifice and brutality of the World Wars - taken with the upmost of respect.

We then visited the Coal Coast, with images taken in the North East - showing the remaining traces of the coal industry - and also the backdrops to the film locations of 'Get Carter' (cue some dodgy Michael Caine impressions!)

To conclude - we returned to Northern Skylines - this time in Winter. Most of the images Leigh tries to get right in the camera - and hinted that the best lens you'll have is a tripod! As there is no better way to ensure sharpness. Dull foregrounds can be livened up by using fill-in flash to really improve an image. When shooting waterfalls - it's actually better to not have much water flowing, and have a slow shutter speed (e.g. 1/4s to start with - then slow down until you get the effect you are after) - and the final tip was that the view from halfway up a mountain - is usually as good as from the top.

An absolutely fantastic night - and judging from member feedback he's certainly going to be invited again. We received a lot of member feedback, which can be viewed on page 3.

<http://www.leighpreston.co.uk/>

Christmas Meal - 14th Dec.

If you'd like to secure a place - last chance to place a deposit is Monday 5th Oct. Please see John Sylvester on Monday night.

[Click HERE for menu](#)

Birthday Celebrations

Best wishes to the following member for their upcoming birthday!



**Kim Jones - 9th October
Rob Ings - 10th October
Have a great Day!**



RUGELEY PHOENIX PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP QUIZ NIGHT

Phoenix Photography group have kindly invited us to join them for a quiz night! They have space for 2 or 3 teams, each team being 4 to 6 people. Including a fish and chip supper in with the price, it's an illustrated quiz of the decades 1950s to 2000s

Saturday October 17th at 7:30 pm.

Tickets per head £5.00

Teams of up to six people.

Bring your own drinks.

For tickets please contact Geoff Allsop waiving a suitable number of £5.00

notes. geoffallsop@yahoo.co.uk

Found on the web

Wex Photographic Website has a nice article about photographing in the Lake District. Inspiration for anyone interested in this area of the UK.

[Wex Photographic](#)

Congratulations!

The club would like to offer its best wishes to Janet and Jim Boden - who celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary on the 2nd of October.

Also congratulations to Roy Hodgkiss who entered the "Disabled Photographers Society" competition. He achieved a 1st Place and 2 Highly Commended places in the nature prints section, and a 3rd place in Nature DPI's. Well Done!

Upcoming Events

5th of October - Club Competition

The first of our club competitions will see Tony Winfield join us to judge - in what is bound to be an informative night.

7th October (Weds) - Trip to Yoxall Camera Club

We would love to have as many members as possible join us for our Roadshow to Yoxall. Please let Carole or George know if you'd like to go.

Their evenings start at 7:30pm - so we should aim to be there around 7:15.

Anyone wishing to present - please contact George ASAP so he can fit you in.

Westonbirt Arboretum Trip

Anyone still interested in this trip on the 25th of October are asked to contact Carole or Kay ASAP - the coach has now been booked and there are a few spaces remaining for what should be a very interesting day out.

<http://www.forestry.gov.uk/westonbirt>

Frame 15

There is a trade show with companies such as Calumet, The Flash Centre and the RPS attending (entrance is free) and special discounts on the day, plus a great exhibition of three top Midlands photographers from the 1950's and 1960's.

These photographers documented the changes in the Black Country, did a lot of product and promotional work for the Midlands automobile industry and took portraits of the Royal Family.

Further details can be found at

<http://www.framecreatives.com/frame15.html>

**A selection of some of the feedback for Leigh Preston evening
(apologies but I couldn't fit all in)**

Leigh gave a thoroughly entertaining and enjoyable talk. His themed "essays" were not only made up of good (much better than mine) photography, but they were also thought provoking. This applied not only to the Great War essay, but to the essay on English northern towns, highlighting economic and social changes. Especially as these changes took place in the recent past. His delivery on these subjects was respectfully humorous, with dodgy jokes and suspect regional accents.

An excellent night. Thank you for booking Leigh and Thank you to Leigh for being himself. - Eugene Kiernan

Great inspirational photographs of places which you would not normally consider were photogenic. Made me want to get out in our own industrial landscape. - Karen Kreft

I have been called all sorts of names in the past when I have commented that most of the highly respected photographers charge a fortune to come and show you their holiday snaps. This is because I learn nothing from their presentation and find a succession of photographs boring – however good they may be. After their presentation I realise that I would have gained as much by looking on their website for free.

I did say "most" and Leigh Preston is one of the exceptions. I learned that good photographs can be taken in what would be considered boring locations, and, in awful weather without the cost of travelling to exotic locations. His presentations were accompanied by entertaining descriptions and stories – certainly kept me awake.

Leigh is not only a talented photographer, but also an entertainer and a comedian. Combining these talents results in superb presentations, which would be appreciated even by a non-photographic audience.

I look forward to the next opportunity to see, and in particular, hear another of Leigh's presentations. - Peter Thomas

"What a refreshing way of looking at photography!! I really liked the way Leigh Preston encouraged us to think about what the photos we take mean to us, rather than what they might mean to a judge! - such a great approach! His photos were inspirational." - Sue Hartley

"Leigh's light hearted but informative manner was a joy to listen too and his voice impressions were great. He really transported you into his world with his pictures and narration. Without being rude, the talks can sometimes go on too long. His didn't go on long enough!! I'm hoping he can make a return trip to the club in the future. More entertaining than Live at the Apollo! George Lamb deserves double brownie points for finding him." - Andrea Paget

"An exceptional evening. Leigh was informative, and witty and presented a very professional set of pictures that were full of atmosphere and interest. One of our best nights" - Paddy Ruske

An excellent evening and I like his work and the way presented to us it made the night - Roy Westwood

Really enjoyed it especially the mining bits, the orangey bits in the water is Acid Mine Drainage water, a pollutant left from the coal mining industry, which still causes significant problems in UK and worldwide actually. I'm now thinking about all my AMD shots, I took for work not pleasure!! Now there is a pause for thought. One of my first jobs was AMD remediation at Cap House colliery as it was transferring to become the mining museum you see today. Amazing how a dull day can become a work of art, lots of times I have not gone out with the camera because it was a murky day. - Christine Blackmore