



Rugeley & Armitage Camera Club Newsletter

26th October 2019

www.rugeleyandarmitagecameraclub.com

Put Your Clocks Back

It's that awful time of year when we have to make the dark cold evenings even worse by putting the clocks back to GMT. Even at the end of my 40 years of power station shift work, I never worked out if it was best to move the clocks back at the beginning of the shift, in the middle or wait until the end. Either way an hour longer on a night shift felt like a week.

Last Week - CLUB 10 YEAR ANNIVERSARY EVENING

It's a shame we've got to wait another ten years for our next milestone anniversary. Must find an excuse for one next year. We were treated to an excellent look back over the clubs history thanks to Graham Caddick producing a wonderful audio visual presentation. Graham had obviously spent many hours cooped up in his little room pouring over past newsletters and photographs. It certainly brought back many memories. I'd like to say most of us haven't changed one bit, but

We also enjoyed a plentiful excellent buffet. All members were then presented with an engraved flash drive & pen.

This Week - 2nd Monthly Competition - PDI Subject 'open'

I believe we've had another excellent entry for our 2nd Monthly Competition. As last time it's always good to see lots from the Elementary Section. Entering competitions is an excellent way to improve your photography. Judge is Mike Sharples.

Wednesday 13th November - Staffordshire Photographic Clubs Annual PDI Competition

It's that time again when we pit ourselves against the best of Staffordshire [*actually that depends on how you define best*]. In this instance of course it's the standard of photographic excellence. There will be twelve clubs taking part so once again it promises to be an excellent evening with 120 images for the very experienced judge Roger Evans to wade through. Come along and support our club and the event. Venue is here at Lea Hall so not far to travel. Start time is 7.30pm.

Amateur Photographer Magazine - 'Join the Club'

If you're going to get into a magazine, don't just pick any old magazine, pick not only the oldest but probably the most well known photography magazine in the world. Each week in Amateur Photographer they showcase a camera club with a two page spread titled 'Join the Club'. This week it is us, and on our 10th Anniversary as well. How good is that? A little info: For the article AP sent us a list of questions to answer. Which we did. They usually print about 7-8 images but obviously required more than that made up of different formats for page layout. We sent them 20 images from 20 different members in landscape, portrait and square format. We had to remember that a fantastic landscape image which looks good printed at 16"x12" won't look good at only 3"x2" in the magazine. Therefore we needed to choose images which would still look good when small. We had no control over which of the images they used.

We hope all members have seen the magazine and the article meets your approval. Amateur Photographer Magazine is seen all over the world and now so is our club. We've come a long way in ten years. Spode Cottage to Tristan da Cunha . . .

Alcame Photographic Printing

Has anyone had pictures printed there?
Based in the centre of Cannock. An A3 size print is £4.85p. That's more expensive per print than DSCL for example but works out cheaper if you take away the postage if you only want one print. See here: [Alcame Photographic Printing](#)

Permajet Open Day - Sunday 3rd November

Permajet is hosting its annual open day where you can find the latest products, demonstrations and advice from knowledgeable and friendly faces [*their words*]. The event is free but you'll need to pre-register for tickets.

For full details click here: [Permajet Open Day](#)

Birthday Wishes this week go to:

Oct 31st: Steve Setterfield
Have a great day Steve



Stafford Gatehouse Theatre - Wednesday 27th November

Sir Chris Bonington - Life & Times



Chris Bonington is one of the people I'd love to meet in a pub over a couple of pints or three. Whenever I'm in the Lake District I hope every pub I go in he'll be propping the bar up. I very much doubt if I'll get my wish tonight, but I'll be listening to him all the same. As well as being an expert mountaineer, Chris is also a very accomplished photographer.

Sunday 1st December

Doug Allen - 'Wild Images, Wild Life'



Another good evening at Stafford Gatehouse Theatre, Doug Allen the multi award-winning wildlife cameraman with 5 Bafta and 8 Emmy Awards to his credit.

For full info and tickets see here: [Stafford Gatehouse](#)

Panels - 3 of a Kind

Our Monthly Competition on 24th February is 'Three of a Kind'. A few members have asked what this means. Below is a description. Hope it helps.

A photographic panel for our competition will consist of 3 images. Each image is to be separately mounted up to a maximum mount size of 40cm by 50cm each (or 16in x 20in).

Images within a panel must work together as a set, they can tell a story, be images of the same item taken in different seasons for example, or a model in different outfits or in varying locations. The images have to have a relationship in some way to each other.

The Images will be displayed in a row so each one needs to indicate the order of display i.e. A, B and C or Left, Centre and Right.

Why a Panel?

A lot of Panels tell a story. This is best described as where one image could not tell the whole story. For example it could be the progression of a child growing up, so the images could have been taken over a long period of time. Storytelling panels are quite popular. A lot of photographers also use a panel to show different aspects of a subject. It could for instance be a Car. You may show it in pristine condition as per the selling brochures, but then show some details, such as the badge, lights etc. You may opt to show it at night, or moving, the options are only limited by your imagination. You will find it best to have an idea for a panel and roughly sketch out how you will see it together. You can then set about getting the images you require. Post processing can help in balancing things like exposure and cropping etc. Often you may decide to do a panel on the spur of the moment, e.g. the situation you are in can sometimes be hard to capture all aspects with just one image. In such situations you need to think 'Panel' and get creative.

Many things need to be considered when working on a panel; these are just food for thought;

- Relationship of the images.
- Does it tell a story?
- Do the images work together?
- Is the exposure similar across all the images (or massively different of course?)
- Are they all printed on the same paper?
- Has the post processing 'style', 'plug-in' been applied to all the images?
- Are they all mounted in the same format (borders/mount colour/window/flush etc)?
- Diagonals work better pointing into the centre of the panel.
- Portraits work better facing into the panel.
- Don't have images that are too similar.
- Landscape and Portrait formats can be mixed but the Panel needs to be balanced.
- The use of leading lines, diagonals etc is to keep the interest within the panel and to prevent the viewer's eye wandering off at a tangent.
- Consider flipping/rotating images during processing to get angles/faces pointing the right way. Use all the tools you have in your box to help achieve impact and balance.
- Keep images the same size if possible; it's easier to view in this way.
- There will always be a weak image in a panel, it's unavoidable.

And finally, remember these are just guidelines, not rules, and are meant to be broken should the panel improve by so doing.

Remember:

All entries should be titled and indicating the order images should be displayed (A, B, C.)

To get an idea of Panels, have a look at last years MCPF Panels Catalogue here:

[MCPF - 3 of a Kind Panels Exhibition 2018](#)

Many thanks go to the Stratford Photo Group for this write-up.