



Rugeley & Armitage Camera Club Newsletter

25th January 2020

www.rugeleyandarmitagecameraclub.com



This Week - Guest Speaker Chris Upton 'Essential Composition'

Please see Page 2 for a more detailed preview of this weeks Guest Speaker Chris Upton.



3rd February 'Presidents Trophy' [Closing Date 27th January]

Entries are required in THIS MONDAY 27th JANUARY

Our 2nd named competition of the season is the Presidents Trophy.

This trophy is donated by our President Roy Hodgkiss ARPS DPAGB

This is a print competition and the subject is 'open'. Judge for the competition is Dave Tucker.

There are no competitions groups for this competition. Everyone is lumped together.

Images which have been previously entered into other club competitions [*but not into previous Presidents Trophy Competitions*] may be entered.

10th February 'Practical Evening'

Another information packed evening. Please put your choices down on the start sheets on Monday night. Groups include:

Landscapes - Margaret Beardsmore

Ask the Panel Q&A - Brian Wheatley & Paddy Ruske

Very Basic Photoshop - Carole Perry

Basic Photoshop - Rob Cross

Producing an A/V - John Ford

Producing Competition Images - Graham Orgill

Know Your Camera - Dave Hanmer & Roy Westwood

Our last Practical Evening was a huge success and we're sure this one will be as well. As always many thanks to the willing volunteers for donating their knowledge. We couldn't do the Practical Evenings without you.

MidPhot 2020 'The Best in Midlands Photography'

A reminder that **THIS MONDAY** is the last day to bring your prints in if you wish the club to submit your print entries.

If you wish to enter and deliver your prints yourself the closing date for entries is **SATURDAY 8th FEBRUARY**.

If you are entering Projected Digital Images then you will have to complete the process yourself using the online entry form available here: [MidPhot Online Entry Form](#) Full MidPhot rules available here: [MidPhot 2020 Rules for Entry](#)

Note: When you submit your prints the organisers now also want a PDI copy of your image for a printed catalogue.

If you wish the club to enter your print then please also supply PDI's on a memory stick.

Lichfield Cathedral Photo Shoot Tuesday 28th January

The upcoming visit to Lichfield Cathedral is fully subscribed but if you would like to put your name down on the reserve list should someone drop out please drop Margaret an email on margaretbeardsmore@gmail.com

'Improvers Group' This Monday Night

We will be holding an Improvers Group session starting at about 6.15pm to 7.15pm. Please bring 1 or 2 prints mounted or unmounted. Beginners through to Advanced. We can all learn through practical help and comments from each other.

Backpack For Sale

Margaret Beardsmore has the following backpack for sale:

Vanguard Alta Sky 45D Backpack

Brand new condition. Never been used. No packaging.

Current price on WEX & Amazon £149.00p

Margaret will accept £80.00

If you are interested please give Margaret a ring on:

07581794111 or email: margaretbeardsmore@gmail.com

See details of the bag here: [Vanguard Alta Sky 45D](#)

Yorkshire

Over the years I've got to know quite a few Yorkshire folk. Some of the best engineers I've ever worked with came from Yorkshire. To them engineering was simple. If it didn't move but was supposed to, WD40. If it moved but was wasn't supposed to, Duct Tape. On those rare occasions where these methods didn't work the deft application of a 4lb lump hammer usually sorted it.

Eventually I even also got to understand what they were saying. Yorkshire speak is easy when you know how. They simply miss out every third word and substitute it with a 't'.

But there's one thing about Yorkshire folk I've never really understood. When they meet anyone for the first time, or in fact when they meet anyone at anytime, why do they always insist on saying "I come from Yorkshire y'nor". I never worked out whether they were after praise or sympathy.....

Birthday Wishes this week go to:

26th Jan: Geoffrey Setterfield

29th Jan: Linda Shaw

Hope you both have a great day





This Week - Guest Speaker Chris Upton 'Essential Composition'

Our Guest Speaker this week is Chris Upton. Chris you may have remembered has visited us a couple of times in the past. We tend to only invite speakers back more than once if they are good, and Chris certainly is good. Chris's talk last year was his photographic documentary of 'Thoresby, The End of the Mine'..... Now you remember him.....

Chris's presentation this week is titled 'Essential Composition'.

In Chris's words:

20 Ways to Improve your images Many photographers cite composition as the most difficult aspect of photography to master. Whether you are perplexed and confused about the subject, need to refresh your technique or want a burst of creativity this presentation will help you improve your image creation.

I've done a bit of Googling and found this from Wakefield Camera Club. It explains quite well what we can look forward to.

On the evening of Monday 15th January a packed meeting room was treated to a an entertaining and informative evening on the subject of "Essential Composition". The talk was presented by Chris Upton who is a travel, landscape and social documentary photographer based in North Nottinghamshire. He is also a Fujifilm X photographer and works for the Tourism Authority of Thailand amongst others. He had brought some of his Fuji kit along with him for people to see.

Chris started the evening with a general introduction highlighting the fact that as digital cameras have developed they can do most things automatically but the one thing that they cannot do at all is composition. Some believe that you are simply born with the skill but he believes it can be learned and that was what the evening was focused on. Chris felt you must be clear about what you are trying to communicate to the viewer and to think about it when you compose an image and what response or emotion you are trying to evoke in the viewer. He always uses a tripod as he feels this slows him down and makes him think about what the image is about. He felt that there are a whole series of compositional guides rather than actual rules as you can still decide to do different things and have a successful image.

He then set about his "20 Ways to Improve Your Pictures". These were:

1. Rule of Thirds 2. The Golden Mean 3. Viewpoint 4. Foreground 5. Leading Lines 6. Framing 7. People 8. Angle 9. Background 10. Numbers – (particularly 3's) 11. Balance 12. Negative Space 13. Colour 14. Cropping 15. Lens Effects 16. Focus 17. Shapes 18. Patterns & Textures 19. Symmetry 20. Cautionand possibly 21. Break the Rules!

I could write quite a lot about each one from Chris's presentation but it would almost become a book. Suffice to say that every single one of the topics was well explained and supported by a seemingly endless stream of well-chosen superb images which amply conveyed the ideas Chris was putting forward. It was all very practical with techniques and ideas that everyone could use. The images were drawn from both this country and from Chris's many overseas trips. Throughout Chris was both clear and entertaining and the audience was engrossed all the way through. Even at the interval Chris had no respite as he explained the Fuji gear he had brought along to a substantial group.

At the end of the evening everyone had gained something from the talk as was indicated by the strength of applause at the close of the talk. I think we can all look forward to seeing some compositional improvement in the competitions this year. An excellent evening enjoyed by all.

Thank you very much Chris. You can see some of his images on his website [Chris Upton Photography](#)

Many thanks to the editor of Wakefield Camera Club for the above write-up

**Monthly Competition No.3
'Monochrome'
Judge Louise Hill**



2nd
Marble Staircase
Mary Eaton

Elementary



1st
Cards on the Stairs
Mary Eaton



3rd
End of the Line
Graham Phillips

Intermediate



2nd
The Instructable Duo
Phil Beale



1st
The Bandstand
Andrea Wheatley



3rd
Window Shopping
Stephen Frost

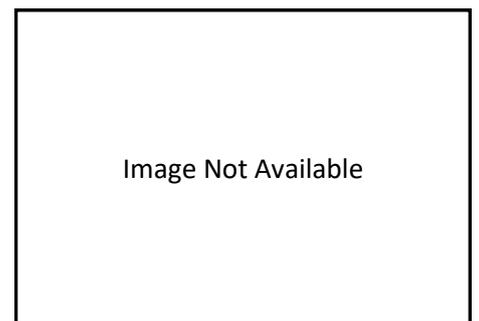
Advanced



2nd
Old West Pier
Brian Wheatley



1st
Joel
Graham Orgill



3rd
Old Sea Dog
Richard Moore