



HIGHLIGHT – Newsletter of the Alton Camera Club

October 2018

October's Programme

Wednesday 3rd: PDI (Projected Digital Images) Competition: League 1

Judge: Kev Sandall

10th: “How to Judge, or Not to Judge”

This is a PAGB recorded lecture. Hopefully, it will endeavour to explain the arcane processes going on in our judges' heads.

Tuesday 16th: Workshop - Portraits

Shooting portraits with an emphasis on lighting (including on & off-camera flash in the Gavin Hoey style) in the first half. We'll be editing in the second half with Lightroom/Photoshop. You'll need to bring your camera, some props, and your laptop if it has editing software on it (+ card reader!).

Attendees: £5 to cover hall hire, includes tea/coffee.

17th: Music and Sports Photography

An illustrated talk with Michael Berkeley LRPS

24th: Print Competition: League Round 1

Judge: Chris Hutchinson.

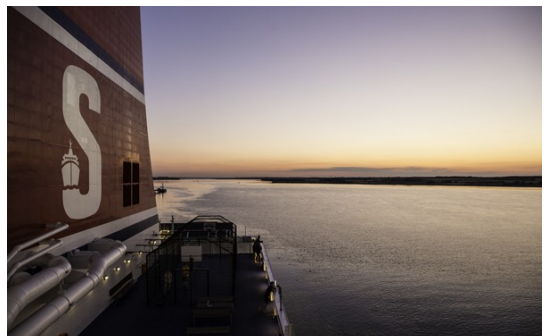
31st: A Hampshire Diary

An illustrated talk with author Gerald Ponting.

Netherlands Trip: May 2019

The club hasn't done a foreign trip for some years; it's about time we rectified that.

The current plan is for a 3 day (4 nights) trip to the province of Utrecht in the Netherlands on the third weekend in May next year. Travel is easy by car which allows us have 3 full days and to carry our gear including tripods. Castles are slightly out of town so easier to visit by car. So far there are 3 drivers willing with suitable large vehicles – you should just be able to enjoy the view. The intention is to stay Friday and Saturday nights at a hotel in Utrecht itself but initial research indicates that the nearby historic city of Amersfoort could be a better option. Partners of members are welcome.



Our itinerary will be:

Leave Alton late afternoon on Thursday 16th May to catch the overnight ferry from Harwich to Hoek van Holland. Have dinner/drinks on the ferry and sleep in a cabin (en-suite).

Friday 17th: Have an early breakfast, clear customs and arrive at approx 10am at our first destination: [Kasteel de Haar](#), then spend the rest of day around Utrecht or Amersfoort.

Saturday 18th: [Utrecht](#) including the [Dom tower](#), [cathedral](#) etc.

OR [Amersfoort](#) including the [Onze Lieve Vrouwetoren](#) (tower) and St Joris Kerk.

OR Amsterdam ([Rijksmuseum](#), [Begijnhof](#) or [De Wallen](#) perhaps)

Exploring by bike should be possible (sometimes chaotic, but fun) if we hire them (£15 or thereabouts).

Sunday 19th: [Muiderslot](#) castle and/or [Naarden Vesting](#) fortified town.



Early Sunday evening: catch the overnight ferry from Hoek van Holland to Harwich. Have dinner/drinks on the ferry, en-suite cabin, early breakfast, take longer to clear customs and arrive back in Alton late Monday morning.

The current *back-of-an-envelope* estimate is approximately £350pp including breakfasts and all travel (except public transport and journeys to adjacent cities by train). Lunch/dinner, entry fees, insurance not

included. There will be a discount if sharing a room. It is difficult to be certain around pricing because of the GBP/Euro exchange rate and, dare I mention, Brexit.

I've visited all these places and can highly recommend them. If you are interested, please let me know by [email](#) or at a meeting by Weds 10th October latest please. Only when I have numbers can I give a more precise cost and start formalising arrangements.

[Steve Kirkby](#)

“A Question of Photography”

At the start of the new season the photography themed quiz was hosted by our Chairman, Steve Kirkby. It was an opportunity for the new members to get to know the club membership, realise just how little or much everyone knew, and how welcoming everyone is. As was expected, the fiendish host produced many challenging questions, spread across numerous themes. Some of the themes involved guessing; the object from a close-up shot, location from around Alton, which famous photographer took the picture, and the name of photography related movies. The two best, or least worst, teams made it to the final and a University Challenge style shoot-out followed. Our eventual winners, Derek, Phil and Barry (above), scoring 240 points won by a comfortable margin of 120 points, beating runners up Clive, Jane and Simon. The winners were awarded with a prestigious Alton Camera Club mug each, followed by bragging rights at the White Hart pub afterwards. It was an evening enjoyed by everyone with light-hearted fun and some much needed education.



Simon Richards

EGM: Club Accounts and Committee

Thanks to outgoing Treasurer Michael Sayers the accounts for the previous season were presented and approved at the meeting. Kelvin Perry and Becky Robinson were also thanked for their services as examiners of those accounts.

As there was a vacancy to fill, we are delighted to welcome new member Kirsten Barnett on to the committee; she will be hoping to improve the publicity of our club around the town and in the local media.

Safari

If you took part back in May, please remember that your images must be presented to the Chairman at any meeting up until Wednesday 17th October. Full instructions are on the [Safari page](#) of the website.

After organising at least half-a-dozen of these exciting, intriguing and often frustrating photographic treasure hunts your Chairman is taking a break this season. The Safari would be held on the Sunday 11th of May 2019, however it has been left out of the programme as no-one has yet volunteered as organiser. Many members and their families enjoy participating but few members step up to putting one together. It does take a little effort and creative talent to work out the route and formulate the questions but many examples from previous years exist. Help can be given to whoever could take this on and there is free reign to organise the day as you wish.

[Steve Kirkby](#)

PDI First Themed Competition: 7th November

At the meeting on 22nd the theme chosen by the audience was "Song Titles". This was suggested by Sue Snelson. As for last season's "Film Titles" challenge the audience will be invited to guess the titles from the images.

The themed competition is in addition to the second round of the PDI League held on the same evening.

Print Boxes

You may have seen an email about Eric's next order for Nomad Print Boxes. Please order online and note that they will be available to collect from a future club meeting or by other arrangements with Eric.

Refreshments

If you are volunteering to do the teas and coffees, please remember that the raw materials for the evening - tea, coffee, milk and biscuits - will be provided.

Print mounts

These are the standard 50cm by 40cm window mounts for A4 and A3 prints in off-white and a few in black. We have plenty in stock at £2.50 each (special offer: 4 for £10) – see Dave Hedley.

Events

30th October at Eastleigh on Wildlife Photography

<https://www.hiwwt.org.uk/events/2018-10-30-wildlife-photography-home-away>

13th October, Beginners tutorial on photography

<https://allevents.in/events/digital-photography-an-introduction-module-1/20002593797040>

London Nights at Museum of London until November

<https://www.visitlondon.com/things-to-do/event/47155981-london-nights-at-the-museum-of-london>

Courses

How to get off auto settings, Winchester, October 6th

<https://www.goingdigital.co.uk/photography-workshops/beginners-photography-courses>

Macro photography course, Winchester, October 7th

<https://www.goingdigital.co.uk/photography-workshops/macro-close-up-courses>

Portrait photography course, Winchester, October 13th

<https://www.goingdigital.co.uk/photography-workshops/portrait-photography-introduction>

Photoshop course, PhLearn, online, year round.

Anyone wanting to learn more about Photoshop should consider signing up to PhLearn. Simon Richards has and finds it incredibly useful. There are various voucher codes available if you search Google to get a discount. It covers from novice to expert users with hundreds of tutorials.

<https://phlearn.com/>

Parking

Please park on London Road; preferably down the hill facing Alton and avoid parking in the narrow Church Rd.

Sorry, but as we have only a couple of spaces, the parking at the hall can only be for disabled parking, the judge/speaker and anyone bringing cumbersome equipment.

Field trips

We are always on the lookout for good ideas for field trips; they are often posted at short notice on our Facebook group.

Contact Jed: fieldtrips@altoncameraclub.org.uk