



Newsletter - December 20



Introduction

As Christmas approaches it is usually time to reflect on the year gone by, successes achieved, and the not so successful and what can we learn from these. What a year it has been and one I think most of us would like to consign to history. Despite lockdowns, many of us have managed to get out and about with our cameras. Sadly Norfolk's placing in Tier 2 restrictions post the second lockdown means we will not be back at the Dell any time soon, but with the recent news on progress of a vaccine let us hope we can meet up again before too long, even if it is only outdoors. Nevertheless despite the doom and gloom we can look forward an exciting programme in 2021 even though much of it will only be on Zoom.

WPS News

Annual Subscription

As you may be aware, our annual subscription normally falls due on 1st Sep each year. This year however, in response to the Covid-19 virus and the subsequent restrictions which prevent us from meeting safely at the Dell, the committee agreed to suspend subscriptions for the period Sept-Dec 2020 inclusive. Unfortunately, despite the gradual roll out of the new vaccine, it is unlikely we will be able to safely meet as a group for the remainder of the season ending 30/06/20. With this in mind, your committee has put together a full Zoom based programme including internal and external competitions and a number of high profile guest presenters. With all this in mind, a reduced subscription of £25 has been set to run from 1 Jan 21 to 30 Jun 21. This still represents excellent value at around £4 per month. It is hoped that things will be able to return to normal in September 2021 and we will be able to recommence our Dell meetings.

From Alan the Treasurer: Please note - subscription payment is now due and the preferred method of payment is by Bank Transfer (BACS). Please ensure your name is placed in the "Reference" section so that I can account who has paid. Payment details are -

a/c - Wymondham Photographic Society (or as much as fits in)

Sort Code - 40-47-27

a/c No. - 51104004

Alternatively, if you can only pay by cheque, please post them for my attention, Alan Archer, 13 Atling Way, Attleborough, Norfolk, NR17 2NS. Again, making it clear who the payment is for.

Thank you for your consideration and continued support for the club.

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of Wymondham Photographic Society will be held on 19 Jan 2021. It is an important gathering this year because the Society needs to elect a new Chair (Heather is only acting Chair at the moment) and Secretary. There are also three places to be filled on the committee. All clubs thrive on new ideas and new faces on its committee and WPS is no exception. If you feel you have something to offer, or would like to contribute to the running of our club, then why not volunteer for the committee, there is still time for you to put yourself forward. If you are interested, then please contact our Secretary, Ian Saunders, who can advise you on the nomination process.

Special Interest Groups.

As I reported last month, the most popular group request for establishment was the Landscape Group. After some thought I have put myself forward to lead this group so look out for updates early in the New Year and news of the first meeting.

These groups cannot run without volunteers, so if you are interested in helping to set up and lead another group, please drop me a line and we can discuss ideas. On the subject of Groups, an idea has been suggested to set up a post processing (Photoshop/Lightroom etc) group to help members who think they lack skills in this area of photography to develop. Again, we can't do this without volunteers so if you are "super-slick" with PS, Lightroom or Elements and feel you can help under the "Continuous improvement" heading, then please let me know.

As with other groups we cannot run it at the moment, but it would be good to get them established so that when we are "released" and it is judged safe for unrestricted meetings they can be ready to go.

Forthcoming Programme

As I write this, there is only one meeting left in 2020. We have an almost full programme into 2021, filled mainly with guest speakers, with one or two club members stepping up to share experiences. There are still one or two slots left so if you feel that you have an idea or topic you think other members would be interested in hearing about, then please let Heather know so she can programme you in.

Coming up:

15 Dec 20 - Not so grand Christmas Quiz.

The Christmas quiz is something of a tradition in WPS and even though we will be sat in the comfort of our own homes, there is no reason why we can't enjoy a quiz. The only difference is that this years will have to be set up within the Government guidelines on people mixing and bubbles. For most of us that means that the wide knowledge base on which many teams rely will be much reduced. That still doesn't mean you can't participate as I have tried to include something for everyone. Sadly there will be no prizes as it will not be possible for me to deliver. Regardless of that, please join in your "Bubbles" and enjoy a quiz with a difference on Zoom.

As with many other institutions, WPS will be taking a break for Christmas and the New year and will return on 5 Jan 2021 with an exciting programme of events. Some of the highlights in January:

5 Jan 2021 - Distinctions

As many of you will already know, Malcolm Wood was recently awarded his ARPS. He has agreed to talk about this and RPS awards in general, what is required and how you go about preparing a submission. For those considering trying for an RPS award, this will be essential listening.

12 Jan 21 - Open DPI Competition Round 4

19 Jan 21 - AGM (See above)

25 Jan 21 - Tripod Competition with Framlingham and Stowmarket, via Zoom. **Note this is a Monday evening.** Look out for the zoom invite in the New Year from Stowmarket.

26 Jan 21 - Glen Barclay - Nature photographer - more details to follow next month.

Recent Events

On 24 November the club had the pleasure of the company of Sarah Howard, a Cotswold based Landscape photographer. Sarah's presentation was full of interest and content and was enjoyed by all.

Dave Barnes is a longstanding member of WPS and has done presentations to the members before. On 1 Dec 20, Dave came up with a new one, entitled "How we see Pictures". Unusually for a Zoom presentation the first part was interactive, whilst also serving to illustrate how people see things differently. He also demonstrated the development of Composite images from ideas he has whilst out and about. His

latest, Wine bottles and Glasses saw Dave explaining about the use of "Rim Lighting" to highlight the outline and the "rig:" he used to set up the base image. A fascinating talk.

Our penultimate meeting of the year saw a number of members submit images under the theme of "Reflections." The evening was curated by our Secretary, Ian Saunders and we were treated to a varied collection of images from mountain lake reflections to garden pond images. Thanks must go to the contributors who talked about their images and to Ian for hosting and organising all the images into an excellent powerpoint show.

Meet The Committee - Jane Bradstreet

I lived in Wymondham not far from the Dell until marrying and moving to Attleborough. My family had one of the first Brownie's, followed by a "modern sleek" version which I still have. Later during my teens "wealthy" family friends who were upgrading, gave me their Brownie 127, with which I enjoyed taking landscapes and family snaps.

While working as a school Laboratory Technician, for 6th form A Level students, I attended college part time. Part of the "outdated" course was photography, including developing our prints. The practical exams combined several parts of the course. We had to make a piece of measuring equipment in the wood and metal work section, use it in the physics practical, photograph and develop it, showing the equipment being used to measure the physics experiment result. The results and image were sent to the board with all the practical and theory papers, each section having to work to pass the course.

I applied for a photography post at the A.R.C Food Research Institute, they said I was too interested in Chemistry. Later they sent a telegram for an interview in the Chemistry Department, wow I must be in with a chance! I was doing post mortem rigor research on chickens, for the new EEC regulations when we joined the EU, life comes full circle! I later transferred to the Plant Division, where I was doing research on fibre in asparagus and chemicals in tea. The head of the photography, (whom I didn't get to work with), took our wedding photographs. My other half was upset his suit came out brown, oh for Photoshop! I liked it there but left when we started our family. In those days part time work wasn't allowed for women at the Institute, so I didn't return!

When the girls were very young I attended classes in Furniture Restoration, for many years as there was always more to learn. The hobby quickly developed into a business, restoring furniture for the public and selling examples of my work at fairs and in 3 centres. A friend gave me his Zenit SLR camera enabling me to advertise the business with photographs of my work and furniture for sale on trade stands. Additionally I started privately teaching restoration, and later also as part of my business set up a social group for antiques enthusiasts, along with local related history. Single handed arranging monthly pub lunches with talks by knowledgeable speakers, guided visits and away trips. Self employment lasted 37 years, (the best hobby ever), alongside 20 years running the talks group. Insight from this inspired me to join the WPS committee.

My husband bought me a 35mm point and shoot camera for my first trip abroad, over six weeks touring Australia. How glad I was that I resisted getting the 27 rolls of film developed before flying home! I was disappointed the images didn't all look up to the wonderful scenes. Once digital was established I bought a Panasonic Lumix DMC-FS3. I really enjoyed trying to frame my compositions with its zoom lens and trying to use its settings, e.g. sunsets and sports to freeze water, only being a fan of milk in coffee!

I came across a photography group, (which closed many years ago), also a course in Photoshop. I was thinking of joining both, then friends told me the group wasn't at all inclusive and the course far too in depth for ordinary photographers! I'll never know if that was a huge mistake or had I joined I may have been put off and not found WPS.

In Autumn 2016 I visited a village history display having heard they had some woodwork on display. Several display boards full of photographs captured my eye, especially one particular unforgettable image. A member now a friend said; "They are all for sale". I replied; "I don't want to buy them, I want to be able to take them". He said, "Come along to our club". That was it the start of a new hobby just when I needed one, restoration and sales of period mahogany furniture were out of fashion.

One day in January 2017 my husband noticed an advert for the WPS first open day. I went along and on walking in I saw a wonderful display of photographs. I received a very warm welcome, especially from Doug, who I have to thank for my joining and for his cheery generous encouragement. I enjoy both clubs in their very different ways.

My first evening at WPS was a print competition; they were fantastic, though it felt impossible and completely unobtainable. Then came my favourite talk presented by a wildlife photographer, showing herds of wild deer crossing the M25 at night - I joined. Members were very friendly and helpful, though many were talking numbers, all of which I had forgotten from college days. At my first coffee mornings I met many more friendly photographers who helped with my little Panasonic. After about 2 months, I took the leap and bought my Nikon DSLR and love it. It had excellent reviews in all the magazines, is very light weight and easy to use and several members helped me with it. I find camera tuition evenings and fun set ups at the village group and WPS continuous improvement evenings (presented by members) are very helpful. WPS has such interesting speakers and I enjoy the competitions and learning from the critique, with the buzz it gives if it goes well, but most of all the friendship and support is wonderful.

One of my first evenings at WPS I said I wouldn't attend the next week, as it was a studio event, imagining I would wish the ground would swallow me up! They said come, Lee will help you out. Nervously I came and immediately warmed to the model. Though I admit I have only enjoyed photographing her and one other model. Studio nights aren't so much my scene, though they are a chance to chat with friends. I enjoy landscapes, nature and pictorial. Having a go at most things is enjoyable and a real learning curve.

I won't forget the joy I felt on receiving my first commended. It felt far better than any other results since. It had its faults and isn't my favourite image, however, it was really good to have that recognition of effort and encouragement to keep on trying.

I've enjoyed being on the committee; however, I'm having to step down at least for a year or two to sort out my workshop and store and catch up at home after being ill. If anyone, especially beginners, needs help or wants to chat, I will try my best or point you to someone else better able. It was to put forward the points of view of beginners that I stood for the

committee. So there will be a vacancy in January for someone else, who hopefully has more time than I, to help the committee care for all WPS members.

I'm looking forward to when we can meet again, hopefully safely vaccinated back at the Dell; in the mean time I hope to see you on our Zoom meetings. Thank you for all your help, encouragement and friendship. Best wishes for Xmas and brighter times ahead.

.....and Finally.

Julian Gillett

Many will remember Julian Gillet, a longstanding WPS member and servant of many clubs and societies in Wymondham- including the "Town Team" - who passed away earlier this year. The club has been approached by members of the Wymondham Town Team, who are raising funds to place a bench in Wymondham in memory of Julian. They are hoping to site the bench on the path down to the Abbey. The Town Team have stated that anyone donating will have their name inscribed on the bench. If you would like to donate, please contact the Wymondham Town Team directly. Wymondham Photographic Society will be making a small donation directly.

I hope you all have a very safe and peaceful Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Dave Hazleton

