

Kingsclere Photo Club

Newsletter – February / March 2012

Hi and welcome to the first newsletter of 2012

There is already a meeting under our belts as we outlined the fine detail for our exciting calendar project. Over the next few months our critique sessions will begin with the opportunity to ask for advice and guidance on any prospective calendar shot or idea. Please don't be inhibited about showing an image or ask for any help you need in relation to this project.

This newsletter sees the first member interview. My thanks go to Sheilah for volunteering to be the first.

Ray

February Meeting

This month it is "Before and After" hosted by Gareth. The idea is to show an image straight out of the camera and the post processed version. The processing can have been done in the software of your choice and it doesn't have to be Photoshop.

There will also may be time for images showing the way along the processing path and for those looking for help and guidance to complete it. The club laptop has Photoshop and Elements if you require them.

This will be followed by the usual critique session, providing there is time after discussing any matters relating to the calendar project. Please respect the three photos only per member for the critique session.

March Meeting

On 7th March we welcome Rosie Armes as a guest speaker. Rosie will talk about her travels to Ladakh. Her website describes the talk as follows:

“Ladakh as a Travel workshop is aimed at showing people how to approach travel photography and what we can reasonably expect when visiting areas so very different from our own culture.

The talk will be approached as a travelogue although appropriate images will be shown with their relevant shutter speeds, apertures, or the manipulation of the image to obtain the maximum potential of the shot.”

Rosie Armes's work can be viewed at <http://rosiearnes.com>

Tips & Wrinkles

I came across a couple interesting links last week. For those of you who are Lightroom users can I recommend www.slrlounge.com. This is an excellent resource as there are free tutorials covering the whole spectrum of this software. They are short and well done in my opinion.

For the Photoshop Elements users amongst us; the link below is a very useful resource for developing your post processing skills.

<http://www.photoshopelementuser.com/elementsuser-starter-kit/>

You Tube, of course, is also an invaluable resource for video tutorials.

Since the last meeting I have discovered a number of free e-books on photography. There are ten and if anyone is interested please e mail for details. rayfidler@hotmail.co.uk

Another recommendation this month is an excellent article on shooting panoramas on Doug Chinnery's website. <http://www.dougchinnery.com/> and go to his Blog page.

And last, but not least, a money saving tip. Poundland and 99p Store sell Duracell AA batteries pack of 2 for 99p. Just what you need for your off camera flash. For the volume user, 7 Day Shop have boxes of 40 Duracell Ultra AA batteries for under £15 delivered.

Sheilah Openshaw

As a photographer, in the early days, and for that matter the later days in some cases, it is a constant technical challenge to capture acceptable and maybe, if lucky, a few really good images. If there is not enough to think about, Sheilah adds the additional degree of difficulty by shooting underwater.

In her early twenties Sheilah's early interest in photography waned as life in general got in the way. A number of years later Sheilah's father gave her a small, very compact, film camera which rekindled her interest in photography. This camera suddenly expired one day due to condensation after being left in a dry bag on a boat. The bag was so effective it not only protected it from the sea but also didn't allow condensation to escape! This in turn proved to be a blessing in disguise; the following Christmas Sheilah was given a Sony P7, a whopping 3.7 megapixel, camera with underwater housing. When finally Sheilah took the camera underwater it ignited an instant love affair.

Sheilah had reached a point where just pointing and shooting was not enough to produce images. With the help of a friend they successfully encouraged Gareth to run a six week photography course, which led to Sheilah joining Kingsclere Photo Club. This greater understanding of photography has been reflected in the images Sheilah has subsequently captured. From this point in time photography added another dimension to her passion for diving. There now are days when Sheilah just dives to take photographs.

Over the years Sheilah has dived in Australia, South Africa, Thailand and the Galapagos Islands. However, even after 18 years of diving she is at her happiest diving off the Dorset coast. Here Sheilah, along with her husband, love to explore new areas off the Dorset coast using an ocean bed map to locate potential locations.

Wildlife is another major passion for Sheilah. As the choice of Mark Cawardine as favourite photographer demonstrates. The trips to South Africa and Galapagos Islands consisted of half dive and half wildlife. This is reflected in the wealth of images that adorn the walls of Sheilah's home. When asked to name her favourite image in each sphere of her photography Sheilah chooses a wonderful image of two male lions, brothers, drinking. Their buttocks were touching and their reflection showed clearly in the water. The favourite diving image was of a glorious British Fan coral.

Today Sheilah's kit consists of a Canon 450D EOS and an Olympus 7070Bridge camera along with housing and a strobe each side. Out of the water this is quite a weight but underwater there is neutral buoyancy. Photography will be a major feature in Sheilah's life during 2012. In late spring there is a trip to the Scilly Isles. During this summer there is a project in her mind to photograph the five species coral that flourish off the Dorset coast. Hopefully all of us will see the results at this year's exhibition.